



MOURNERS carry the body of a Gaza journalist killed Monday in what some see as a “double-tap” strike.

5 journalists among 20 dead in Israeli attacks on Gaza hospital

Strikes follow Aug. 10 attack that killed 6 in a tent for reporters

By NABIH BULOS

BEIRUT — Two Israeli strikes on a hospital in southern Gaza on Monday killed at least 20 people, including five journalists, four healthcare workers and a civil defense worker, according to Palestinian health authorities, the World Health Organization and video taken from the hospital.

Coming two weeks after Israeli strikes killed six journalists in the enclave, the attacks add to a tally that has seen Gaza become the dead-

liest conflict ever recorded for media workers and healthcare personnel, advocacy groups say.

The strikes targeted the top floor of the Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, with the first attack coming sometime after 10 a.m. Roughly 10 minutes later, as a live broadcast from a local news channel zoomed in on civil defense workers sifting through the wreckage with journalists filming nearby, the second missile hit.

“The civil defense is gone! They [Israel] killed the people!” shouts a journalist

from Al-Ghad TV as the scene is engulfed in smoke and rubble.

Other video taken inside the medical complex depicts a dust-covered man dragging himself on the floor away from the blast, while a bloodied cameraman is escorted to a nursing station. Hadil Abu Zaid, a British doctor with the charity Medical Aid for Palestinians visiting the intensive care unit, in a statement described the scene as “unbearable,” with “trails of blood” across the floor.

The Gaza Health Min-

istry condemned the attacks, characterizing them as “a continuation of the systematic destruction of the health system and the continuation of genocide.”

In a statement on X, World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said 50 other people were injured in the attacks, including “critically ill patients who were already receiving care.” He said the hospital’s main building, which houses the emergency department, inpatient ward and surgical unit, was

[See Gaza, A4]

Trump might cut aid over bail laws

Funding from D.C. to L.A. is threatened. Some see cash bail as biased.

By MICHAEL WILNER AND REBECCA ELLIS

WASHINGTON — President Trump took executive action Monday threatening to cut federal aid to cities and counties that offer cashless bail to criminal defendants, a move that could place Democratic jurisdictions throughout the coun-

try under further financial strain.

Trump’s first executive order specifically targeted the practice of cashless bail in the District of Columbia, where the president has sent National Guard troops to patrol the streets. His second action directed the Justice Department to draw up a list of jurisdictions that have “substantially elimi-

nated cash bail as a potential condition for crimes that pose a clear threat to public safety and order” — a list that would then be subject to federal funding cuts, the White House said.

“That was when the big crime in this country started,” Trump said. “That was when it happened. Somebody kills somebody, they go and don’t worry

about it — no cash, come back in a couple of months, we’ll give you a trial. You never see the person again.”

“They thought it was discriminatory to make people put up money because they just killed three people lying in the street,” he added. “We’re ending it.”

Trump does not have the power to unilaterally change

[See Bail, A8]



TYRONE Huntley, center, a Hollywood Bowl usher, in “Jesus Christ Superstar.”

He’ll show you to your seat, then take the stage like a ‘Superstar’

By MARIELLA RUDI

By day, he helps audience members find their seats. By night, he’s onstage, commanding them. For actor Tyrone Huntley, the hustle is part of the role in Los Angeles.

Less than 48 hours after raising his voice to the heavens as Simon in the Hollywood Bowl’s electric, week-end-only production of “Jesus Christ Superstar,” Hunt-

ley was back at the iconic amphitheater — not under the lights, but beneath them — wearing a white polo and usher’s badge, guiding concertgoers to their seats.

“It was surreal getting back to work and being on the other side of the stage,” Huntley said, overhearing people talk about the early August show days later. “They didn’t know who I was, so I was just listening and smiling and knowing that we certainly made an

impression.” Even marketing staff at the Bowl noticed, posting him on TikTok in a clip seen by some 30,000 viewers so far.

Huntley is one of many working actors caught between ambition and survival. As film and TV production in the region drops to historic lows, many industry workers have turned to service jobs or side gigs to stay in the entertainment capital. The region’s slowdown has

[See Usher, A8]

Musk’s xAI sues Apple and OpenAI

By WENDY LEE

Elon Musk on Monday ramped up his legal feud with OpenAI as his companies filed a new lawsuit against OpenAI and Apple accusing both of anti-competitive behavior in the artificial intelligence industry in a growing clash of tech titans.

Apple and OpenAI announced a partnership last year that would allow Apple customers to connect with OpenAI’s chatbot, ChatGPT, on iPhones. Musk’s social media firm X and artificial intelligence company X.AI LLC say that the deal has hindered their ability to compete and has locked up markets to maintain what they describe as Apple and OpenAI’s monopolies.

“Plaintiffs bring this suit to stop Defendants from perpetrating their anti-competitive scheme and to recover billions in damages,” according to the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Texas on Monday. Musk’s companies, Bastrop, Texas-

[See Musk, A12]

’26 governor’s race is wide open, poll says

For president, voters in California prefer Newsom over Harris in 2028, survey shows.

By SEEMA MEHTA

Former Vice President Kamala Harris’ decision to forgo a run for California governor has created a wide-open race in next year’s election to run the nation’s most populous state, according to a poll released Tuesday by UC Berkeley and the Los Angeles Times.

Nearly 4 in 10 registered

voters surveyed said they are uncertain about whom they will support in the 2026 contest to replace termed-out Gov. Gavin Newsom.

“It’s very unsettled. Most of the voters, the plurality in this poll, are undecided,” said Mark DiCamillo, director of the poll, which was conducted by UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies and co-sponsored by The Times. “They don’t really know much about the candidates.”

Among those who had a preference, former Democratic Rep. Katie Porter of Irvine had a small edge as

[See Races, A14]

Issues of greatest concern

The top five issues for groups are in **BOLD**.

	Statewide	Dems	Reps
Cost of living	36%	34%	36%
Housing affordability	25%	27%	21%
Homelessness	18%	18%	19%
The state of democracy	18%	27%	5%
Crime and public safety	12%	4%	27%
Taxes	11%	4%	26%
Jobs/economy	10%	10%	10%
Immigration	10%	7%	17%
Climate change/environment	10%	16%	1%

Respondents could choose multiple issues
Berkeley IGS poll

LORENA INIGUEZ ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

California seeing new COVID wave

Health agencies report jump in cases of Stratus variant tied to Omicron strain.

By RONG-GONG LIN II

COVID-19 is once again climbing to troubling levels in California — a worrying trend as health officials attempt to navigate a vaccine landscape thrown into uncertainty by delays and decisions from the Trump administration.

Public health departments in Los Angeles and Santa Clara counties have reported jumps in the coronavirus concentrations detected in wastewater in re-

cent weeks. L.A. County also has reported a small increase in patients hospitalized with COVID.

“There is a lot of COVID out there,” said Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious disease expert at UC San Francisco. “COVID is coming a little bit later than last year.”

The rate at which COVID lab tests came back positive in L.A. County is 12.6% for the week that ended Aug. 16, up from 7.6% a month earlier. In Orange County, it’s 14.4%, up from 8.1%.

“We are seeing outpatient cases increase,” said Dr. Elizabeth E. Hudson, the regional physician chief of infectious diseases for Kaiser Permanente Southern

[See COVID, A14]



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH Associated Press

EX-DEPORTEE HELD

Kilmar Abrego Garcia joins a Baltimore rally. He faces renewed deportation efforts. **NATION, A6**

Monsoons bring lightning, storms

Late weather pattern, which sparked fires amid hot conditions, will linger a bit longer. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Mostly sunny; warm.
L.A. Basin: 86/66. **B6**

Markets **A12**
Opinion Voices **A13**

Hoops at Venice is their jam

A pickup basketball league marks 20 years of colorful competition at famed beach spot. **SPORTS, B10**

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PERSPECTIVES

North Korea test-fires new anti-air missiles

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of two types of new anti-air missiles, state media said Sunday, displaying his expanding military capabilities as the South Korean and U.S. militaries carry out joint drills.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that the test Saturday proved the missiles effective in countering aerial threats such as drones and cruise missiles, and that Kim assigned unspecified "important" tasks to defense scientists ahead of a major political conference expected early next year.

The report did not specify the missiles that were tested or where the event took place. It did not mention any remarks by Kim directed at Washington or Seoul.

The test coincided with new South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's trip to Tokyo for a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, where they vowed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and their trilateral partnership with the United States to address common challenges, including North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Lee departed for Washington on Sunday to meet with President Trump.

Kim's government has repeatedly dismissed calls by Seoul and Washington to restart long-stalled negotiations aimed at winding down his nuclear weapons and missiles programs, as he

continues to prioritize Russia as part of a foreign policy aimed at expanding ties with nations confronting the United States.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Kim has sent thousands of troops and large shipments of weapons, including artillery and ballistic missiles, to help fuel President Vladimir Putin's war fighting.

That has raised concerns that Moscow could provide technology that strengthens Kim's nuclear-armed military, with experts pointing to North Korea's aging anti-air and radar systems as a likely area of cooperation.

South Korea's previous conservative government said in November that Russia supplied missiles and other equipment to help strengthen air defenses of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, but did not specify which systems were provided.

Kim held a ceremony in Pyongyang last week to honor North Korean soldiers who fought in Ukraine, awarding state "hero" titles to those who returned and placing medals beside 101 portraits of the fallen, state media reported.

According to South Korean assessments, North Korea has sent about 15,000 troops to Russia since last fall and about 600 of them have died in combat. Kim has also agreed to send thousands of military construction workers and deminers to Russia's Kursk region.

Kim writes for the Associated Press.



KHALIL HAMRA Associated Press

PAVLO TOVSTYK and Oleksandr Dashko, left, joined a third Ukrainian in Sunday's Bosphorus Strait race.

Ukrainian war vets' liberating swim

By EVGENIY MALOLETKA AND HANNA ARHIROVA

ISTANBUL — During a pool training session months ago, Ukrainian war veteran Oleh Tserkovnyi was struck by an idea: What if a group of veterans swam across the strait of Bosphorus, between Turkey's European and Asian shores? And if they did it on Aug. 24, Ukraine's independence day?

The symbolism of the day would draw attention to the toll and devastation inflicted by Russia's all-out war on Ukraine, now in its fourth year.

When the 34-year-old pitched the idea to fellow veterans in their One for Another support group, none raised injuries, particularly their amputations, as a barrier. Two joined him right away.

They trained for months, with the support of Superhumans Center, a veterans rehabilitation clinic in Ukraine, and coached by CapitalTRI, an amateur triathlon team in Kyiv, the capital. They agreed their race would have another goal — to raise money for prosthetics, which remain costly and urgently needed by many of Ukraine's wounded.

"We're not asking for pity," Tserkovnyi told the Associated Press shortly before the competition. "We're asking for support."

After months of rigorous training, discipline and physical challenges, the three Ukrainian veterans on Sunday joined more than 2,800 swimmers from 81 countries in the four-mile crossing from Asia to Europe.

The Bosphorus Intercontinental Swimming Race is an open-water event held each year in Istanbul, organized by the Turkish Olympic Committee since 1989.

On Monday, coast guard

and maritime police vessels in Istanbul were searching for a Russian swimmer who went missing during the race, Turkish state-run media reported.

The swimmer, named by the Anadolu news agency as Nikolai Svechnikov, failed to complete the race from Istanbul's Asian shore to the European side.

A statement from the Istanbul governor's office said security camera video and a chip worn by the participants showed the 30-year-old professional swimming coach had started the race but "had not exited the sea at the finish line."

Sunday's event is considered one of the world's leading open-water races.

Swimmers face strong currents and choppy waves in the waterway, which links the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara and divides Turkey's largest city. The strait was closed to maritime traffic for the event.

All three Ukrainians completed the crossing, each swimming for more than an hour. The two veterans with amputations faced setbacks even before the start — the organizers initially barred them from competing, insisting they have to be in a separate category for people with disabilities.

But they persevered and swam the race, alongside the others.

For the Ukrainians, it wasn't just about endurance but about reclaiming control over bodies transformed by war — and sharing their recovery with a world that often seems indifferent to the injuries they carry.

Sports had always been a part of Tserkovnyi's life, but war and injury pushed him to use it as a survival tool after two severe, life-changing concussions — a bridge back to life for war veterans with disabilities.

"Sport itself heals — we've seen that firsthand," he said. "And the communi-

ty, it pulls you through. It pushes you, it disciplines you."

When he speaks, he's quick to point out the changes he sees in himself — the stutter, the involuntary twitch in his eye.

"It's what's left over. It used to be much worse," he said.

Both of his concussions were the result of prolonged exposure to artillery fire while serving on the front line. He was a sniper when the second one hit. Afterward, he said, it felt as if he had lost his sense of balance entirely.

"There were times I could walk, but then suddenly I'd just tip over like a pencil," Tserkovnyi said. "I have third-degree hearing loss on one side, no peripheral vision."

The sense of being "a sick person," he said, felt so foreign to him that he threw himself into recovery with everything he had. For a long time, he also had PTSD symptoms, including dramatic flashbacks to the war.

But it was in the pool that he found a way to recognize the warning signs. "I began to understand what triggers them, when they come, and how to stay ahead of them," he said.

Engineer Pavlo Tovstyk signed up as a volunteer in the early days after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Serving as a driver in an intelligence unit, he stepped on a land mine in June 2023.

The blast took his foot, and subsequent surgeries led to a partial amputation of his left leg.

The 47-year-old, who used to be an active swimmer as a child, never thought swimming would become a lifeline. He was still recovering from his injury when he began sneaking into the swimming pool, keeping it a secret from the doctors.

"Water became a kind of savior for me," he said. "At

the time, everything felt disoriented. But in the water, my thoughts, my strength, my body — it all came together again. I became myself again. Just ... different."

The idea to swim the strait in Turkey started almost as a dare, then became a plan.

"To cross the Bosphorus, you need not just physical strength, but a certain mindset — a state of determination that all of us managed to find within ourselves," he said.

Oleksandr Dashko discovered swimming only after losing his left leg.

The 28-year-old had joined the military at the start of the Russian invasion and served in the infantry in various front-line areas.

In June 2023, a mine exploded near him and shrapnel tore into his knee.

"I didn't take it very graciously, let's say," he said as he recounted the conflicted feelings that tormented him. Adjustment to life with an amputation has been slow and mentally taxing.

It was only over the last year that he was able to focus on physical rehabilitation — and swimming, he said, has become the activity that brings him calm.

The challenge of swimming the Bosphorus became a purpose for Dashko.

"When I do nothing, I slip back to that state right after the injury — depression, apathy, the feeling that the amputation is winning," he said. "But when something like this shows up on my path, it gives me a jolt — to live, to move forward, to motivate others."

Physical goals, he said, help anchor him. He hopes for more such challenges, not just for himself, but also for other veterans.

Maloletka and Arhirova write for the Associated Press and reported from Istanbul and Kyiv, respectively.



Korean Central News Agency

NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un, left, supervises the test-firing of anti-air missiles on Saturday.

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By MICHELLE L. PRICE

WASHINGTON — France has summoned the U.S. ambassador to Paris after the diplomat, Charles Kushner, wrote a letter to French President Emmanuel Macron accusing the country of not doing enough to combat antisemitism.

France's Foreign Ministry announced in a statement Sunday that it had summoned Kushner to appear Monday at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and that his allegations "are unacceptable."

The White House did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott on Sunday evening said the department stood by Kushner's comments, adding: "Ambassador Kushner is

our U.S. government representative in France and is doing a great job advancing our national interests in that role."

The summoning of the ambassador is a formal and public notice of displeasure.

Kushner, a real-estate developer, is the father of Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and a former White House advisor.

The French Foreign Ministry, in its statement, said that "France firmly rejects these allegations" from Kushner and that French authorities have "fully mobilized" to combat a rise in antisemitic acts since the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas on Israel, deeming the acts "intolerable."

The contents of the letter were not released.

Kushner's allegations violate international law and the obligation not to inter-

fere with the internal affairs of another country, the French ministry said, and "they also fall short of the quality of the transatlantic partnership between France and the United States and of the trust that must prevail between allies."

The dust-up follows Macron's rejection last week of accusations from Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that France's intention to recognize a Palestinian state is fueling antisemitism.

France is home to the largest Jewish population in Western Europe, with an estimated 500,000 Jews — approximately 1% of the national population.

The diplomatic discord comes as French-U.S. relations have faced tensions this year amid Trump's trade war and a split over the future of United Nations

peacekeepers in Lebanon. France in particular has objected to the U.S. push to wind down the peacekeeping operation known as UNIFIL, with a vote on the issue set for the end of the month by the U.N. Security Council.

France and the U.S. also have been divided on support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, but the split has eased with Trump expressing support for security guarantees and a warm meeting with Macron and other European leaders at the White House last week.

Trump at the end of his first term as president pardoned Charles Kushner, who was imprisoned years earlier after pleading guilty to tax evasion, illegal campaign donations and witness tampering.

Price writes for the Associated Press.



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THE WORLD

Will cartel boss spill corruption secrets?

By KEEGAN HAMILTON

NEW YORK — For more than four decades, Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada ruled from the shadows. While other top Mexican drug traffickers were killed or extradited to the United States, Zambada remained comfortably ensconced atop his empire, exporting cocaine, meth, heroin and fentanyl around the globe from his stronghold in the state of Sinaloa.

Long after the downfall of his Sinaloa cartel partner, Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, Zambada continued to operate with impunity, always a step ahead of the law — until eventually it caught up to him too.

Now the question is whether he’ll take others down with him.

Before a federal judge in a Brooklyn courtroom on Monday, Zambada, 75, pleaded guilty to an array of charges for leading a “continuing criminal enterprise” from the late 1980s until his arrest last year. He admitted to money laundering, racketeering and smuggling massive quantities of drugs.

In a courtroom packed with journalists and U.S. law enforcement officials who spent years hunting him, Zambada appeared dressed in blue-and-orange jail scrubs, with silver hair slicked back and a neatly trimmed beard.

Asked by U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan whether he understood the implication of his guilty plea — which carries a mandatory life sentence with no chance for parole — Zambada addressed the court, reading prepared remarks in Spanish.

He said that he quit school after the sixth grade and got his start selling marijuana at age 19 in Sinaloa. He graduated to cocaine, trafficking an estimated 1.5 million kilos over the years, “most of which went to the U.S.”

He described himself as the creator of the Sinaloa cartel, which involved a network of Colombian cocaine traffickers, logistics coordinators, wholesale distributors across the U.S., and “a large number of armed men in charge of security” in Mexico. He admitted ordering gunmen to kill rivals and acknowledged that “many innocent people also died.”

But Zambada’s remark that hung in the air in the courtroom had to do with the Mexican officials he paid off over the decades.

“The organization I led promoted corruption in my home country by paying police, military commanders and politicians that would allow us to operate freely,” he said. “It goes back to the very beginning when I was a young man starting out, and it continued for all those years.”

Zambada’s stunning downfall began in July 2024, when he arrived on a private jet at a small airport near El Paso. In the immediate aftermath, rumors swirled that Zambada may have orchestrated his surrender in order to undergo medical treatment or reunite with his brother and several sons who are believed to be living



RODRIGO OROPEZA AFP/Getty Images
ISMAEL “EL MAYO” ZAMBADA of the Sinaloa cartel, seen on Mexican newspaper covers in 2024, has pleaded guilty in a U.S. court.

under witness protection after pleading guilty and cooperating with U.S. authorities to resolve their own criminal cases.

Zambada, however, has vehemently denied that his arrival in the U.S. was prearranged. A few weeks after he was taken into custody, he alleged he was set up and kidnapped by one of El Chapo’s sons, Joaquín Guzmán López, a leader of the cartel faction known as Los Chapitos.

Zambada claimed in a letter released by his lawyer that he was lured to what he thought would be a meeting between Sinaloa’s governor and another prominent politician, only to be ambushed, zip-tied, forced onto the plane by Guzmán López and delivered to U.S. authorities.

Guzmán López, 39, is facing his own federal case in Chicago, where he has pleaded not guilty to drug and conspiracy charges. His younger brother, Ovidio Guzmán, recently pleaded guilty to similar charges, with court filings revealing that he has agreed to cooperate with U.S. investigators.

Zambada’s lawyer, Frank Perez, denied Monday that his client is cooperating.

“The agreement that he reached with the U.S. authorities is a matter of public record,” Perez said in a statement, adding, “I can state categorically that there is no deal under which he is cooperating with the United States Government or any other government.”

But despite the denial, Zambada’s family’s history, combined with the fact that he has agreed to plead guilty rather than take his case to trial, is fueling speculation that he could be prepared to spill secrets about high-level corruption.

Paul Craine, the top official in Mexico for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration from 2012 to 2017, said of Zambada: “He knows more than anybody.”

Craine, who retired from

the DEA and now runs a private security firm, said it’s unlikely that federal prosecutors would ever agree to a deal that gives the kingpin anything less than life in prison.

Zambada was already spared the death penalty, but the government could dangle other benefits, he said, such as relocating family members to the United States for their safety or allowing him to serve his time somewhere cushier than the Colorado “supermax” prison where El Chapo and others deemed extreme security risks are held in near total isolation.

Zambada, Craine said, has knowledge about “40 years of the top leadership of the military and the government [in Mexico] that he was directly paying and had co-opted.”

“He’s the godfather,” Craine said. “He’s the consistency across everything.”

Zambada’s case is playing out during a delicate moment in U.S.-Mexico relations, with President Trump using tariffs as a cudgel to force action against the Sinaloa cartel and others responsible for shipping fentanyl and other drugs north across the Rio Grande. Trump designated Zambada’s group and others as terrorist organizations earlier this year, and has floated the possibility of the U.S. military taking action on the Mexican side of the border.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has sought to appease Trump by handing over dozens of reputed high-ranking cartel figures for prosecution by U.S. authorities, but Craine said those offerings may not be enough.

“There’s more value now in being able to target a high-level corrupt criminal political figure than there is in the biggest drug trafficker in Mexico,” he said.

Other former federal law enforcement officials echoed that assessment. Adam Braverman, a former U.S. at-

torney in San Diego who oversaw the indictments of Zambada and several of his sons, called Monday’s guilty plea “a monumental day for the Department of Justice.”

Braverman, who now works in private practice, said if Zambada were to cooperate, merely giving up other cartel figures would not be enough to make it worth the bargain.

“When you’re at the top of the chain, there’s nobody else to cooperate against,” he said. “You’re talking about generals, governors — potentially presidents of Mexico.”

Speaking at a news conference Monday after Zambada’s hearing, U.S. Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi called Zambada “one of the most prolific and powerful drug traffickers in this world.”

“El Mayo operated with impunity at the highest levels of the Mexican drug trafficking world, by paying bribes to government officials, by bribing law enforcement officers,” she said. “He controlled corrupt officials and officers who protected his workers and his drug shipments that traveled from Mexico into our country.”

Terry Cole, the head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, spoke after Bondi and hammered home the significance of Zambada’s admission of guilt.

“This is just not another plea,” Cole said. “It’s a collapse of a myth that leaders of cartels are beyond the reach of American justice.”

Cole then hinted that another shoe might be dropping in the near future. He referenced “a large cash seizure” associated with Zambada that would be announced soon.

Past court proceedings have offered tantalizing glimpses of the type of dirt Zambada could dish on Mexico’s most prominent politicians. During the trial of El Chapo, court filings revealed that Zambada’s brother, Jesús “El Rey” Zam-

bada, alleged to U.S. authorities he had bribed “an individual associated with the failed presidential campaign” of Andrés Manuel López Obrador in 2006. López Obrador took office in 2018 after winning that year’s election.

A similar allegation — which López Obrador has vehemently denied, citing a lack of evidence — surfaced again in 2023 when Zambada’s brother was called to testify against a former top Mexican security official who was convicted of secretly working on behalf of the Sinaloa cartel.

Asked on cross-examination about a \$7-million payment that he allegedly gave to an attorney in Mexico, El Rey replied: “I do remember paying him some money, that according to him was for the campaign.”

Testimony about the alleged 2006 payment to López Obrador’s campaign was limited by judicial orders in both trials, and neither case offered a smoking gun to prove Zambada had paid off the former president, who is from the same ruling Morena political party as Sheinbaum.

But the events surrounding Mayo’s alleged kidnapping by El Chapo’s son have only added to speculation that the ex-president — who coined the slogan “hugs not bullets” to tout his hands-off approach to combating organized crime — and his party may have something to hide.

Zambada claimed in his letter last year that he was invited to a meeting near Sinaloa’s capital, Culiacán, where he expected to help mediate a dispute between the city’s former mayor, Héctor Melesio Cuén, and his political rival, Sinaloa’s current governor, Rubén Rocha Moya.

Melesio Cuén turned up shot to death on the day of Zambada’s arrest. Rocha Moya, a Morena party member, has denied any knowledge of the kidnapping plot, pointing to flight records that show he took a family trip to Los Angeles as the events were playing out.

Mexican federal authorities have cited several suspicious irregularities in the investigation into Melesio Cuén’s killing by Sinaloa state authorities, including the abrupt cremation of his body.

With tensions already running high, Guillermo Valdes Castellanos, a former head of the national intelligence agency that is Mexico’s equivalent of the CIA, said Zambada’s plea means some of Mexico’s political elites must now be sweating bullets.

“[The Americans] are going to concentrate on receiving information about all of the politicians who protected [El Mayo], who helped him from the army, the police, etc.,” he said. “The fact that he may have more solid information to accuse the Mexican politicians and authorities involved is what’s making people very nervous here.”

Zambada, for his part, acknowledged the damage he created by creating and leading the Sinaloa cartel in his remarks Monday. In addition to the life sentence his guilty plea will bring, he was ordered by the judge to forfeit \$15 billion in illicit cash.

Zambada said he was sorry for “the human toll” of the violence he caused.

“I take responsibility for all of it,” he said. “I apologize to everyone affected by my actions.”

Since Zambada’s arrest last year, fighting between a cartel faction led by one of his sons, known as Mayito Flaco, and Los Chapitos has turned Sinaloa into one of Mexico’s most violent states. After the hearing concluded in Brooklyn, his lawyer issued a plea for peace.

“My client ... calls upon the people of Sinaloa to remain calm, to exercise restraint, and to avoid violence. Nothing is gained by bloodshed,” Perez said.

Airstrikes by Nigerian military free 76 hostages

By DYEPKAZAH SHIBAYAN

ABUJA, Nigeria — At least 76 hostages, including children, have been freed after Nigeria’s military targeted militants with airstrikes in the country’s northwest, local authorities said.

The airstrikes were launched on targets around Pauwa Hill, in the Kankara area of Katsina state, in the early hours of Saturday, Nasir Mu’azu, the state’s commissioner for internal security, said in a statement. The air assault was launched in a manhunt for a notorious kidnapper.

The rescued hostages include some of those abducted during an attack on a mosque in Unguwan Man-

tau that led to the death of at least 50 people, the commissioner said.

“However, it was regrettably noted that one child tragically lost his life during the ordeal,” Mu’azu said.

In recent months, there has been an uptick in attacks on communities in the northwest and north-central regions of Africa’s most populous country, where farmers often clash over access to land and water. An attack last month in north-central Nigeria killed 150 people.

The conflict has become deadlier in recent years, with authorities and analysts warning that more herds-men are taking up more sophisticated arms.

The commissioner said the air assault is “part of a broader strategy to disman-

tle criminal hideouts, weaken their networks and put an end to the cycle of killings, kidnappings and extortion that have plagued innocent citizens.”

The West African country is also dealing with an insurgency in its northeast region that has resulted in the death of around 35,000 civilians and the displacement of more than 2 million others, according to the United Nations.

Also on Saturday, separate airstrikes in the northwest of Nigeria killed 35 militants in a targeted attack.

Despite the efforts by the government to curb jihadi attacks, the militancy has persisted.

Shibayan writes for the Associated Press.



SUNDAY ALAMBA Associated Press
NIGERIAN soldiers patrol along the Kaduna Birnin Gwari area in March 2024.

U.S. working on security pledges for Ukraine, Trump aide says

By ILLIA NOVIKOV

KYIV, Ukraine — President Trump’s special envoy Keith Kellogg said in Kyiv on Monday that officials are “working very, very hard” on efforts to end the three-year war between Russia and Ukraine, as a lack of progress fuels doubts about whether a peace settlement could be on the horizon.

Officials are “hoping to get to a position where, in the near term, we have, with a lack of a better term, security guarantees” that address Ukraine’s fears of another invasion by Russia in the future, Kellogg said.

“That’s a work in progress,” he said of the potential security guarantees after attending Ukraine’s annual national prayer breakfast along with politicians, business leaders and diplomats.

A week ago, Trump said he had set in motion arrangements for direct peace talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky. But Russian officials have signaled that such a summit won’t happen anytime soon.

Trump said Friday that he expects to decide on next steps in two weeks if direct talks aren’t scheduled.

A stream of high-ranking visitors to Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, in recent days reflects concerns about the U.S.-led peace drive.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney visited Kyiv on Sunday for meetings with Zelensky, pledging 2 billion Canadian dollars in aid, and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte was in the Ukrainian capital on Friday. Germany’s vice chancellor and finance minister, Lars Klingbeil, arrived in Kyiv on Monday to discuss “how Germany can best support Ukraine in a possible peace process.”

Putin spoke by phone Monday with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, the Kremlin said. Russia and Iran have close relations, and Putin has also deepened ties with China, India and North Korea as Western nations have sided with Ukraine in the war.

Putin and Pezeshkian are expected to meet next week when China hosts the Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s annual summit, in Tianjin.

Germany, Norway promise more help

Klingbeil, the German vice chancellor, told Zelen-

sky that Ukraine’s allies have to “talk about what happens if President Putin does not relent, if he wants to continue the war.”

Germany will continue to stand by Ukraine, he said, echoing sentiments by Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store earlier in the day.

Norway’s multibillion-dollar military and civilian support for Ukraine’s fight to defeat Russia’s invasion will stretch into next year, Store said in Kyiv.

Store, whose country borders Russia, said at a news conference with Zelensky that Ukraine is “defending a critical principle on the European level” by refusing to accept Moscow’s seizure of territory.

Analysts say Putin thinks he can outlast Western governments’ commitment to Ukraine and use his bigger army to capture more Ukrainian land while peace efforts are under discussion.

Norway on Sunday pledged about 7 billion kroner (\$695 million) toward air defense systems for Ukraine. Norway and Germany are jointly funding two U.S.-made Patriot antimissile systems, with Norway also helping procure air defense radar, Store said.

Drone strikes by both sides continue

Ukraine’s air force said Russia launched 104 strike and decoy drones overnight, targeting the country’s north and east. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

Ukraine has continued long-range drone attacks on Russia, hitting oil refineries, armories and transportation hubs and causing commercial flight disruption during the summer vacation period.

On Sunday, an Egyptian plane carrying Russian tourists from Sharm el Sheikh to St. Petersburg diverted to Tallinn because the Russian city’s international airport had temporarily closed due to a drone attack, the Estonian daily Postimees reported.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry reported intercepting 23 Ukrainian drones overnight and Monday morning over seven Russian regions, both on or near the border with Ukraine and deeper inside Russia.

Novikov writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

Israel accused of targeting journalists

[Gaza, from A1] struck.

“While people in #Gaza are being starved, their already limited access to healthcare is being further crippled by repeated attacks,” he wrote. “We cannot say it loudly enough: STOP attacks on health care. Ceasefire now!”

Activists in Gaza said journalists often congregated on the upper floor of the hospital and the emergency staircase outside so as to get a phone signal. Five journalists were killed in the attacks, Gaza health authorities and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate said.

The latter identified the slain media workers as Mariam Abu Dagga, a visual journalist who freelanced for the Associated Press; Husam al-Masri, a contractor cameraman with Reuters; Moaz Abu Taha, a freelancer who also worked on occasion with Reuters; Ahmed Abu Aziz, who reported for Middle East Eye; and Al Jazeera cameraman Mohammad Salama.

Another contract photographer with Reuters, Hatem Khaled, was also injured, the news agency said.

The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate denounced the journalists’ killing, saying in a statement that “without a doubt [Israel] is waging war on free media.”

The Israeli military confirmed in a statement that it carried out the strikes and that it “regrets any harm to uninvolved individuals and does not target journalists as such,” and that it would conduct an “initial inquiry.”

Later, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement describing the attacks as a “tragic



JEHAD ALSHRAFI Associated Press

MARIAM Abu Dagga, shown in 2024, was among the journalists slain Monday.

mishap.”

“The military authorities are conducting a thorough investigation,” he said.

“Our war is with Hamas terrorists.”

Rights groups accused Israel of conducting a so-called double-tap strike, where a second strike follows several minutes after the first. During that pause, rescue workers and medical personnel will assemble. A July investigation by the Israeli news outlets +972 Magazine and Local Call found that double-tap strikes had been adopted by the Israeli military as standard procedure when operating in Gaza.

Monday’s strikes come amid growing international criticism of Israel’s campaign in Gaza, which over

the last 22 months has led to the deaths of hundreds of healthcare personnel and media workers, and carried out routine attacks on healthcare facilities and infrastructure.

Israel insists that Hamas militants are hiding inside or near healthcare facilities, or that the group’s cadres disguise themselves as medical personnel, civil defense crews and journalists. It has rarely provided evidence proving those accusations.

In June, a group of civil society organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Doctors Without Borders and others said more than 1,500 health workers and 460 aid workers have been killed since Oct. 7, 2023,

after Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing around 1,200 people and kidnapping about 250 others, most of them civilians. Health authorities in Gaza put the Palestinian death toll at nearly 63,000, the majority of them civilians.

Israel has barred international journalists from entering Gaza, except on tightly controlled tours with its military. Meanwhile, it routinely vilifies local reporters as Hamas apologists or operatives.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said in a tally published before Monday’s attacks that at least 192 journalists have been killed in Gaza since the war began. Health authorities in Gaza put the toll at 244.

Abuse of Belarus female prisoners alleged

By YURAS KARMANAU

TALLINN, Estonia — Antanina Kanavalava says her four years in a Belarusian penal colony as a political prisoner were filled with fear and anguish that still haunt her.

She nearly lost parental rights to her two young children when she was initially arrested. Her eyesight deteriorated from sewing military uniforms in a dimly lit room. Denied access to even basic needs such as feminine hygiene products, she used rags or whatever she could find amid unsanitary conditions.

“Women in prison go through hell and can’t even complain to anyone,” Kanavalava, 37, told the Associated Press after her release in December. “The head of the prison told me straight out that people like me should be put against the wall and shot.”

Belarus has nearly 1,200 political prisoners. While all endure harsh conditions such as unheated cells, isolation and poor nutrition and healthcare, human rights officials say the 178 women behind bars are particularly vulnerable.

Pavel Sapelka, a lawyer with the Viasna human rights center, says women are often singled out for abuse and humiliation, threatened with losing their children, and have had medical problems ignored.

Sapelka cited the case of Hanna Kandratsenka, 30, who died of cervical cancer in February, months after getting her freedom. She was diagnosed in prison but denied early release for treatment, he said.

Independent experts appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council describe “appalling” conditions for women in Belarusian prisons, with “a blatant lack of accountability for the ill treatment.”

Authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has ruled Belarus for over three decades, living up to his nickname of “Europe’s last dictator” by silencing dissent and extending his rule through elections the West calls neither free nor fair.

A harsh crackdown followed a disputed 2020 vote, when hundreds of thousands took to the streets. More than 65,000 people were arrested, thousands were beaten by police, and hundreds of independent media outlets and non-governmental organizations were closed and outlawed.

Opposition figures are either imprisoned or have fled abroad. Among those be-



RAMIL NASIBULIN Pool Photo

IMPRISONED opposition figures include Maria Kolesnikova, shown in Minsk, Belarus, in 2021.

hind bars are Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski, the founder of Viasna; and Maria Kolesnikova, an opposition leader.

Although Lukashenko has freed over 300 political prisoners in the last year, still others are arrested in a revolving door of repression.

President Trump said recently on social media that he spoke with Lukashenko and encouraged him to release more. On Friday, Lukashenko responded: “Take them, bring them over there.”

Of the harsh conditions, Lukashenko says Belarus treats inmates “normally,” adding that “prison is not a resort.”

The government has refused to allow international monitors and independent observers into the prisons.

Kanavalava was a confidant of opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who challenged Lukashenko in the 2020 election and later fled the country amid the subsequent crackdown.

With her husband also jailed, Kanavalava was convicted of “participating in mass riots” and sentenced to five and a half years. Authorities threatened to send her 6-year-old son, Ivan, and 4-year-old daughter, Nasta, to an orphanage at the start of her sentence.

“For a mother not to see her children for four years is real torture,” she told AP. “The authorities know this and rub salt into this maternal wound every day, demanding I sign confessions and cooperate.”

The United Nations experts said female prisoners in Belarus were subject to “arbitrary punishment, including solitary confinement and incommunicado detention without contact with their children.”

Kanavalava likened it to being a “hostage,” saying she was forced to cooperate with authorities because “I wanted to survive for the sake of my children.” Their grandmother ultimately

took them to Warsaw, where they were reunited with their mother after her pardon and early release in January.

Former political prisoner Palina Sharenda-Panasiuk, 50, spent more than four years behind bars in several detention centers and penal colonies, serving 270 days in solitary confinement.

Held in a Belarusian KGB detention center with no hot water, she used warm tea that she was served to wash herself, Sharenda-Panasiuk said, describing unsanitary conditions where illnesses “become chronic due to the constant cold.”

“The authorities deliberately exploit women’s vulnerabilities to humiliate them and create unbearable conditions,” she added.

The U.N. experts expressed particular concern for Viktoriya Kulsha, who was initially sentenced to two and a half years for moderating a Telegram messaging channel that urged drivers to block streets during the 2020 protests. Four more years were tacked on for allegedly disobeying prison officials.

Human rights groups say the 43-year-old has gone on at least six hunger strikes protesting abuses in Penal Colony No. 24 in Zarechcha. The U.N. experts said in May her condition “has been life-threatening for some time now.”

Sharenda-Panasiuk, who was in the same penal colony, said she saw a guard in 2023 punch Kulsha in the back, causing her to fall. The same guard later choked her by grabbing her from behind, she added.

“Viktoria slit her veins and went on hunger strikes in protest against the tyranny of the prison authorities and this slaughterhouse, but it kept getting worse and they are driving her to the brink,” Sharenda-Panasiuk said. “Her illnesses have worsened. ... She has problems with her breasts, with the thyroid gland.”

Conditions in Penal Colony No. 24 are among the harshest, she said, describing stints in solitary confinement as torture. Women often work 12 to 14 hours a day, including Sundays, to meet quotas. They are under 24-hour surveillance, are not allowed walks outside, must wear the same clothes constantly and often have no opportunity to bathe.

Strip searches are conducted by both male and female employees, Sharenda-Panasiuk said, and “during a transfer from place to place, it was mainly men who searched me.”

Natalia Dulina was arrested in 2022, convicted of extremism — a common charge for dissidents — and sentenced to three and a half years. She was pardoned and released in June with 13 other political prisoners and taken to Lithuania after a visit to Minsk by U.S. special envoy Keith Kellogg.

The 60-year-old Italian teacher at Minsk State Linguistic University described particularly harsh treatment at Penal Colony No. 4, including the installation of a “shame cage” in the courtyard. Women are forced to stand in the cage for hours, in all weather, to punish them for disciplinary violations, she said.

No such cages exist in men’s penal colonies, Sapelka said, and “the authorities will come up with new ways to abuse women in particular.”

U.N. experts called this punishment “inhuman and degrading.”

“I decided that if someone ever tries to put me in this cage, I simply will not go there — I’ll go straight into solitary confinement,” Dulina said in an interview from Vilnius.

She described arbitrary punishment, adding that she once lost visitation rights for feeding bread to a pigeon. Despite the harsh conditions, she said she refused to admit guilt or request a pardon.

Kanavalava, who lives in Warsaw with her family, admits that “prison is not over yet” for her because her husband still has nearly two years left on his sentence.

Neither is the anxiety. She said that “the fear of losing my own children haunts me even in my dreams.”

“It is impossible to get used to the tyranny of the Belarusian authorities, but it is even harder to explain to children and to yourself the high price that Belarusians pay for their desire to be free,” Kanavalava said.

Karmanau writes for the Associated Press.

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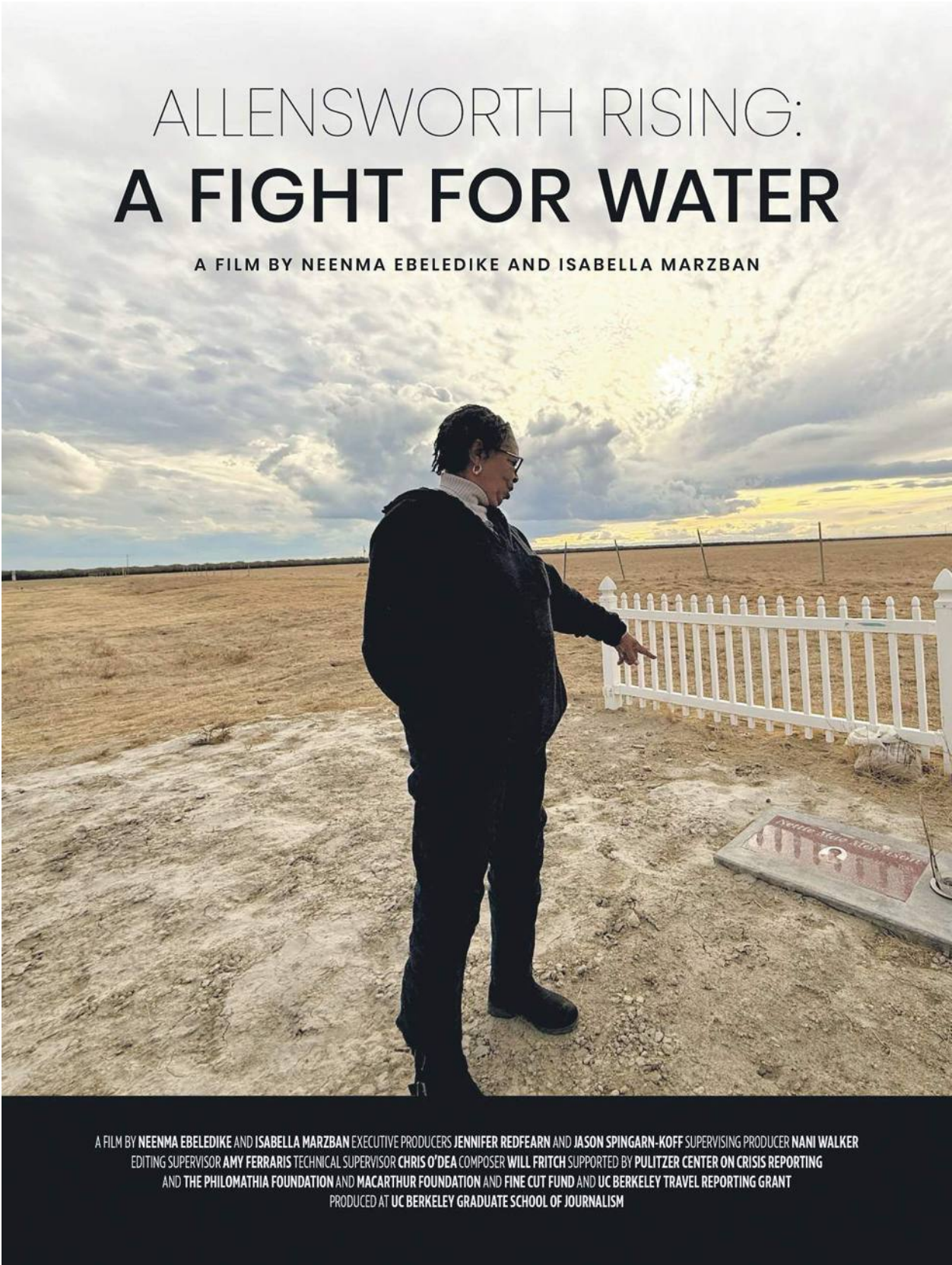
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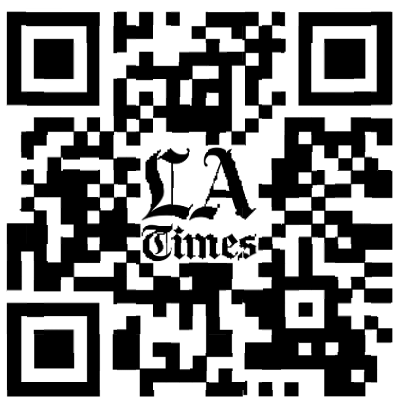
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Wrongfully deported man detained again

BY BRIAN WITTE,
TRAVIS LOLLER,
MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
AND BEN FINLEY

BALTIMORE — Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whose case has become a flash point in President Trump’s aggressive effort to remove noncitizens from the U.S., was detained by immigration authorities in Baltimore on Monday to face renewed efforts to deport him after a brief period of freedom.

Abrego Garcia’s attorneys quickly filed a lawsuit to fight his deportation until a court has heard his claim for protection, stating that the U.S. could place him in a country where “his safety cannot be assured.”

The lawsuit triggered a blanket court order that automatically pauses deportation efforts for two days. The order applies to immigrants in Maryland who are challenging their detention.

Within hours of Abrego Garcia’s detention, his lawyers spoke with Department of Justice attorneys and a federal judge in Maryland, who warned that Abrego Garcia cannot be removed from the U.S. “at this juncture” because he must be allowed to exercise his constitutional right to contest deportation.

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis said that overlapping court orders temporarily prohibit the government from removing Abrego Garcia, and that she would extend her own temporary restraining order barring his deportation.

Drew Ensing, a Justice Department attorney, told the judge that he understands Abrego Garcia’s “removal is not imminent” and that the process often takes time.

Abrego Garcia, a 30-year-old Maryland construction worker and Salvadoran national, spoke at a rally before he turned himself in.

“This administration has hit us hard, but I want to tell you guys something: God is with us, and God will never leave us,” Abrego Garcia said, speaking through a interpreter. “God will bring justice to all the injustice we



ANNA MONEYMAKER Getty Images

KILMAR ABREGO GARCIA, center, with his wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, walks into ICE offices in Baltimore to turn himself in Monday.

are suffering.”

About 200 people gathered, prayed and crowded around Abrego Garcia while he walked into the offices for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Baltimore, where he was detained. When his lawyer and wife walked out without him, the crowd yelled, “Shame!”

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem posted on X that Abrego Garcia was being processed for deportation. U.S. Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi told Trump during a meeting in the Oval Office that Abrego Garcia “will no longer terrorize our country.”

Abrego Garcia lived in Maryland for years with his American wife and children and worked in construction. He was wrongfully deported in March to a notorious prison in his native El Salvador because the Trump admin-

istration believed he was a member of the MS-13 gang, an allegation that Abrego Garcia denies.

His removal violated an immigration judge’s 2019 ruling that shielded him from deportation to his native country because he had “well-founded fear” of threats by a gang there.

Abrego Garcia’s wife sued to bring him back. Facing a U.S. Supreme Court order, the Trump administration returned him in June. He was subsequently charged in Tennessee with human smuggling. He has pleaded not guilty and asked a judge to dismiss the case on ground of vindictive prosecution.

The allegations stem from a 2022 traffic stop in Tennessee for speeding. Abrego Garcia was driving with nine passengers in the car, and officers discussed

among themselves their suspicions of smuggling. He was allowed to continue driving with a warning.

The Trump administration has said it wants to deport Abrego Garcia before his trial, alleging he is a danger to the community and an MS-13 gang member.

A federal judge in Tennessee determined that Abrego Garcia was not a flight risk or a danger. He was released from jail Friday afternoon and returned to his family in Maryland.

Video released by advocates of the reunion showed a room decorated with streamers, flowers and signs. He embraced loved ones and thanked them “for everything.”

Federal officials argue that Abrego Garcia may be deported because he came to the U.S. illegally and that the immigration judge’s 2019

ruling deemed him eligible for expulsion, just not to his native El Salvador.

Attorney Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg told reporters Monday that Abrego Garcia is being held in a facility in Virginia. His lawyers don’t know when he’ll have a reasonable-fear interview, where he can express fears of persecution or torture in the country the U.S. wants to send him. Officials have said it’s Uganda.

Abrego Garcia’s attorneys have raised concerns about human rights abuses in Uganda as well as his limited ability to speak English in a country where that’s the national language. There are also unanswered questions about whether he could be imprisoned or sent on to El Salvador. A judge blocked the U.S. from sending Abrego Garcia back in 2019 because he faces cred-

ible threats from gangs.

“We don’t know whether Uganda will even let him walk around freely in Kampala or whether he’ll be inside of a Ugandan jail cell, much less whether they are going to let him stay,” the attorney said.

Abrego Garcia informed ICE over the weekend that Costa Rica was an acceptable country of removal because he had “received assurances from Costa Rica that they would give him refugee status, that he would be at liberty in that country, and that he will not be re-deported onto El Salvador,” his lawyer said.

“Costa Rica is not justice,” Sandoval-Moshenberg said. “It is an acceptably less-bad option.”

Witte, Loller, Kunzelman and Finley write for the Associated Press.

Trump ran on a promise of revenge, and he’s making good on it

BY NICHOLAS RICCARDI

Donald Trump ran on a promise to use the powers of the government for revenge against those he claims have wronged him. He now appears to be fulfilling that campaign promise while threatening to expand his powers well beyond Washington.

On Friday, the FBI searched the home of John Bolton, Trump’s first-term national security advisor-turned-critic, who in an interview this month called the administration “the retribution presidency.”

Trump’s team has opened investigations of Democrat Letitia James, the New York attorney general who sued Trump’s company alleging fraud for falsifying records; and Sen. Adam Schiff of California, another Democrat who as a congressman led Trump’s first impeachment.

The Republican administration has charged Rep. LaMonica McIver (D-N.J.) over her actions at an immigration protest in Newark, N.J., after arresting Mayor Ras Baraka, also a Democrat. Under investigation, too, is former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a longtime Democrat now running an independent campaign for New York City mayor.

Trump has directed prosecutors to investigate two other members of his first administration: Miles Taylor, who wrote a book warning of what he said were Trump’s authoritarian tendencies, and Chris Krebs, who earned the president’s wrath for assuring voters that the 2020 election, which Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden, was secure.

The actions look like the paycheck Trump said he would pursue after being hit with four separate sets of criminal charges during his four years out of office. Those included an indict-



ROD LAMKEY JR. Associated Press

FBI AGENTS carry boxes from John Bolton’s office in Washington on Friday.

ment for his effort to overturn the 2020 election that was gutted by the U.S. Supreme Court, which said presidents have broad immunity from prosecution for official acts while in office. The remaining case was dismissed after Trump was elected in November, a consequence of Justice Department policy not to bring charges against sitting presidents.

The Trump team has countered by accusing the president’s foes of politicizing the legal process against him. “Joe Biden weaponized his administration to target political opponents — most famously, President Trump,” Abigail Jackson, a White House spokeswoman, said Saturday. Trump, she said, “is restoring law and order.”

In addition to making good on his promises of retribution, Trump has deployed the military into American cities, which he says is needed to fight crime and help with immigration arrests. He has sent thousands of National Guard troops and federal law enforcement officers to patrol

the streets in the nation’s capital, after activating the guard and Marines in Los Angeles earlier this year.

Taken together, the actions have alarmed Democrats and others who fear Trump is wielding the authority of his office to intimidate his political opponents and consolidate power in a way that is unprecedented in U.S. history.

“You combine the threat of prosecution with armed troops in the streets,” said Brendan Nyhan, a political scientist at Dartmouth College. “The picture is pretty clear for anyone who’s read a history book what kind of administration we’re dealing with.”

Trump began his second term as the only felon to ever occupy the White House, after his conviction last year on fraud charges related to hush money payments to a porn star during his 2016 presidential campaign.

He promptly pardoned more than 1,500 people who were convicted of crimes during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot and insurrection at the U.S. Capitol — including people found guilty of sedition and

of assaulting police officers.

His Justice Department, meanwhile, has fired some federal prosecutors who had pursued those cases. Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi ordered a grand jury to look into the origins of the investigation of his 2016 campaign’s ties with Russia, and Trump has called on her department to investigate former President Obama, a Democrat.

The government’s watchdog agency has opened an investigation into Jack Smith, the special counsel who investigated Trump’s efforts to overturn the 2020 election results and the classified documents stashed at his Florida estate. Those cases were among several that dogged Trump in the years between his presidential terms, including the New York fraud case and charges for election interference in Georgia brought by the Democratic prosecutor in Fulton County.

All those investigations led him to claim that Democrats had weaponized the government against him.

“It is amazing to me the number of people the Trump administration has

gone after, all of whom are identified by the fact that they investigated or criticized Trump in one way or another,” said Stephen Saltzburg, a former Justice Department official who is a George Washington University law professor.

On Friday, Trump used governmental powers in other ways to further his goals. He announced that Chicago could be the next city subject to military deployments.

And after his housing director alleged that one of the governors of the independent Federal Reserve had committed mortgage fraud, Trump demanded she resign or be fired. He took to his social platform on Saturday to highlight the claims, as he tries to wrest control of the central bank.

Vice President JD Vance denied in a television interview that Bolton was being targeted because of his criticism of Trump.

“If there’s no crime here, we’re not going to prosecute it,” Vance said Friday in an interview with NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Trump said he told his staff not to inform him about the Bolton search ahead of time, but he emphasized that he has authority over all prosecutions.

“I could know about it. I could be the one starting it,” the president told reporters. “I’m actually the chief law enforcement officer.”

Bolton occupies a special place in the ranks of Trump critics. The longtime GOP foreign policy hawk wrote a book published in 2020, after Trump had fired him the year before. The first Trump administration sued to block the book’s release and opened a grand jury investigation, both of which were halted by the Biden administration.

Bolton landed on a list of 60 former officials drawn up by now-FBI Director Kash Patel that he portrayed as a

tally of the “Executive Branch Deep State.” Critics warned it was an “enemies list.” When Trump returned to office in January, his administration revoked the security detail that had been assigned to Bolton, who has faced Iranian assassination threats.

The FBI is investigating Bolton for potentially mishandling classified information, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly. In contrast, Trump condemned the FBI’s search of his own Mar-a-Lago resort in 2022, which prosecutors say turned up a trove of classified documents, including nuclear data and other top-secret papers.

Trump has also targeted institutions that have defied him. The president issued orders barring several law firms that were involved in litigation against him or his allies, or had hired his opponents, from doing business with the federal government. Trump cut deals with several other firms to do free legal work rather than face penalties.

His administration filed a judicial misconduct complaint against a judge who ruled that Trump officials probably committed criminal contempt by ignoring his directive to turn around planes carrying people being sent to a notorious prison in El Salvador.

Such actions seem to be intensifying. Trump’s Defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, has fired several military leaders perceived to be critics of the president or not sufficiently loyal, and last week the administration revoked the security clearances of about three dozen current and former national security officials.

Riccardi writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report.

‘No magic fixes’ as Democrats work to regroup

By STEVE PEOPLES

MINNEAPOLIS — Ken Martin is in the fight of his life.

The low-profile political operative from Minnesota, just six months on the job as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is charged with leading his party’s formal resistance to President Trump and fixing the Democratic brand.

“I think the greatest divide right now in our party, frankly, is not ideological,” Martin told the Associated Press. “The greatest divide is those people who are standing up and fighting and those who are sitting on the sidelines.”

“We’re using every single lever of power we have to take the fight to Donald Trump,” he said of the DNC.

And yet, as hundreds of Democratic officials gather in Martin’s Minneapolis hometown on Monday for the first official DNC meeting since he became chair, there is evidence that Martin’s fight may extend well beyond the current occupant of the Oval Office.

Big Democratic donors are unhappy with the direction of their own party and not writing checks. Political factions are fragmented over issues such as the Israel-Hamas war. The party’s message is murky. Key segments of the Democratic base — working-class voters and young people, among them — have drifted away.

And there is deep frustration that the Democratic Party under Martin’s leadership is not doing enough to stop the Republican president — no matter how tough his rhetoric may be.

“There are no magic fixes,” said Jeanna Repass, the chair of the Kansas Democratic Party, who praised Martin’s performance so far. “He is trying to lead at a time where everyone wants it to be fixed right now. And it’s just not going to happen.”

At this week’s three-day summer meeting, DNC officials hope to make real progress in reversing the sense of pessimism and frustration



KEN MARTIN speaks in February after being elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

ROD LAMKEY JR. Associated Press

that has consumed Democrats since Republicans seized the White House and control of Congress last fall. It may not be so easy.

No-confidence vote won’t move forward

At least a couple of DNC members privately considered bringing a vote of no confidence against Martin this week in part because of the committee’s underwhelming fundraising, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation who was granted anonymity to share internal discussions. Ultimately, the no-confidence vote will not move forward because Martin’s critics couldn’t get sufficient support from the party’s broader membership, which includes more than 400 elected officials from every state and several territories.

Still, the committee’s financial situation is weak compared with the opposi-

tion’s. The most recent federal filings reveal that the DNC has \$14 million in the bank at the end of July compared with the Republican National Committee’s \$84 million. The Democrats’ figure represents its lowest level of cash on hand in at least the last five years.

Martin and his allies, including his predecessor Jaime Harrison, insist it’s not fair to compare the party’s current financial health with recent years, when President Biden was in the White House.

Harrison pointed to 2017 as a more accurate comparison. That year, the committee struggled to raise money in the months after losing to Trump the first time. And in the 2018 midterm elections that followed, Harrison noted, Democrats overcame their fundraising problems and won the House majority and several Senate seats.

“These are just the normal pains of being a Demo-

crat when we don’t have the White House,” Harrison said. “Ken is finding his footing.”

Martin acknowledged that big donors are burned out after the last election, which has forced the committee to turn to smaller-dollar donors, who have responded well.

“Money will not be the ultimate determinant in this [midterm] election,” Martin said. “We’ve been making investments, record investments, in our state parties. ... We have the money to operate. We’re not in a bad position.”

Debate over Gaza could get ugly

Although Martin is broadly popular among the DNC’s rank and file, internal divisions may flare publicly this week when the committee considers competing resolutions about the Israel-Hamas war.

One proposed resolution

would have the DNC encourage Democratic members of Congress to suspend military aid to Israel, establish an arms embargo and recognize Palestine as a country, according to draft language reviewed by the AP. The measure also states that the crisis in Gaza has resulted in the loss of over 60,000 lives and the displacement of 1.7 million Palestinians “at the hands of the Israeli government.”

The DNC leadership, led by Martin, introduced a competing resolution that adds more context about Israel’s challenges.

One line, for example, refers to “the suffering of both Palestinians and Israelis” and notes the number of Israelis killed in Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel. Martin’s version calls for a two-state solution, but there is no reference to the number of Palestinians killed or displaced, nor is there a call for an end to military aid or an arms embargo.

Meanwhile, another proposed resolution would reaffirm the DNC’s commitment to “diversity, equity and inclusion.” Many Democrats, businesses and educational institutions have distanced themselves from DEI programs after Trump and other Republicans attacked them as Democrats’ “woke” policies.

Ultimately, Martin said the party needs to focus its message on the economy.

“There’s no doubt we have to get back to a message that resonates with voters,” he said. “And focusing on an economic agenda is the thing that brings all parts of our coalition and Americans into the conversation.”

“We have work to do for sure,” he added.

Presidential prospects to speak

The DNC is years away from deciding which states vote first on the 2028 presidential primary calendar, but that discussion will begin in earnest at the Minneapolis gathering, where at least three presidential prospects will be featured speakers: Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Martin said the DNC is open to changes from the 2024 calendar, which kicked off in South Carolina, while pushing back traditional openers Iowa and New Hampshire. In recent days, Iowa Democrats have publicly threatened to go rogue and ignore the wishes of the DNC if they are skipped over again in 2028.

The DNC’s Rules and Bylaws committee this week is expected to outline what the next calendar selection process would look like, although the calendar itself probably won’t be completed until 2027.

“We’re going to make sure that the process is open, that any state that wants to make a bid to be in the early window can do so,” Martin said.

Peoples writes for the Associated Press.

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Off stage, the show goes on for a working actor

[Usher, from A1]
been brutal: the twin strikes of 2023, studio belt-tightening, productions lured out of state and wildfires that shuttered work this year. The result is fewer auditions, shorter runs and a scramble for survival jobs — even for performers who’ve just taken center stage.

The U.K.-born actor knows both sides. Trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, Huntley leaped immediately into a U.K. tour of “Sister Act” — alongside his future co-star Erivo — spending more than a decade in London original casts such as “Memphis,” “Dreamgirls” and “The Book of Mormon.”

Coincidentally, his breakout role came in 2016 when he landed the co-lead as Judas in “Jesus Christ Superstar” at Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre. The performance earned him an Evening Standard Theatre Award and a Laurence Olivier Award nomination. “It gave me the confidence to think big,” Huntley said. He later reprised Judas on the North American tour in 2021 after the previous lead was arrested for his role in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

Huntley moved to Los Angeles in 2022 with an eye on the silver screen but found himself arriving in a city still wobbling. “Artistically, it just feels like everyone is struggling,” he said. For the last three years, Huntley’s flown back and forth to London — most recently for an acclaimed “Hello, Dolly!” revival with Imelda Staunton — using steady West End paychecks to bankroll life in L.A. And being a member of Actors’ Equity Assn., the stage actors’ union in the U.S., helps cover health insurance costs here, not a consideration he may have in the U.K. where coverage is free.

For actors like Huntley, the financial backdrop is hard to ignore. California nearly scrapped its new Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund, which subsidizes nonprofit programs, this year before lawmakers restored it. L.A. County trimmed back its arts grants, forcing small theaters to do more with less. And in Washington, the Trump administration has moved to roll back federal arts funding, leaving some local companies without crucial National Endowment for the Arts support.

Determined to stay in L.A., Huntley auditioned for the Bowl’s “Jesus Christ



USHER Tyrone Huntley helps people to their seats at the Bowl, where just a few weeks earlier he performed in “Jesus Christ Superstar.” Photographs by JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times



“THEY’RE very flexible in giving us time to pursue our careers,” says the L.A. performer of the iconic venue.

Superstar” 2025 production, this time as Simon Zealotes, the fiery apostle with one of the show’s most rousing anthems. The casting was headline-making: Erivo, fresh off “Wicked,” as Jesus,

and Adam Lambert as Judas. The production was hailed as “the musical theater version of the Avengers,” with theater critic Charles McNulty praising the supernova of talent that lighted up

the Bowl like a rock concert.

A few months before opening night, Huntley picked up usher shifts at the same venue. The Bowl granted him three weeks off for rehearsals in July, where

he also understudied as Erivo’s Jesus. He also got time off to fly back across the pond for a series regular spot on Channel 4’s upcoming “A Woman of Substance.” He described work-

ing at the Bowl as fair, easy-going work that keeps him close to live performance, with the added perk of watching Bob Dylan, Earth, Wind & Fire, and the L.A. Phil.

“They know a lot of us are working actors, musicians, writers, so they’re very flexible in giving us time to pursue our careers,” he said.

At the Bowl, ushers perform the invisible choreography that keeps the night in motion — steering picnic baskets and seat cushions toward the right rows and soothing the occasional ticket snafus or crises. It’s common for the ushering job to be summer gigs — or even first jobs. There are anywhere from 300 to 400 ushers for the season, with more than 100 working per night.

Huntley sees his dual roles as emblematic of the life of an artist here.

“I have to support myself, that’s the case for most of us, especially in L.A.,” he said. “Sometimes you can have a proper job and do the acting as well. It’s not all showbiz parties and award shows. Sometimes incredible opportunities come along, you do them, and then you get back to normal. You can do both — and the pressure isn’t always to be on the stage.”

Trump signs an order on flag burning

[Bail, from A1]
D.C. law. But administration officials hope the threat of significant financial pressures on the city will force local lawmakers to change it.

Similarly, his second order could ultimately result in cuts to federal grants and contracts with Los Angeles County, where courts use cash bail only in the most serious criminal cases.

Studies have not shown a correlation between cashless bail policies and an increase in crime.

As of October 2023, nearly everyone accused of misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies in Los Angeles County is either cited and released or freed on certain conditions after their case is reviewed by a judge. The judge can offer other conditions for release, including electronic monitoring or home supervision by probation officials.

“A person’s ability to pay a large sum of money should not be the determining factor in deciding whether that person, who is presumed innocent, stays in jail before trial or is released,” then-Presiding Judge Samantha Jessner said at the time.

A spokesperson for the court said recently released data showed the system “protects public safety more effectively and provides a fairer, more rational alternative to money bail.”

Some advocates who pushed for the new bail policies said they saw Trump’s executive order as a purely retaliatory move against the region’s liberal politicians.

“L.A. County is being retaliated against by President Trump for a number of reasons that have absolutely nothing to do with public safety,” said Janet Asante, a spokesperson for Justice LA



EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

TRUMP SIGNS order Monday on cashless bail, which he blames for “big crime.”

Coalition, which pushed for the bail reform. “Regardless of if L.A. County had zero bail or not, we would be facing significant fiscal retaliation from President Trump.”

The county policy has proved controversial, with some cities saying they believed the lack of cash bail would make their communities less safe.

Twelve cities within the county sued unsuccessfully to block the cashless bail reform, arguing it would lead to higher crime rates and violated the court’s responsibilities to uphold public safety. Sheriff Robert Luna told the supervisors in 2023 that some communities were alarmed at the “lack of consequences for those who commit crimes.”

The sheriff’s office and the public defender’s office did not immediately respond to a request for com-

ment.

The county had initially begun a zero-bail system during the pandemic to prevent crowding in jails. A report to the Board of Supervisors found instances of re-arrest or failure to appear in court remained relatively stable despite the change.

In the fall of 2022, six people sued the county and city, arguing they spent five days in custody solely because they could not afford bail, leaving them in “dismal” conditions. Demanding cash bail created a “wealth-based detention system,” the plaintiffs alleged. The suit led to a preliminary injunction barring the city and county from enforcing cash bail requirements for some people who had yet to be arraigned.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill in 2018 to end cash bail across California. Voters

nixed it after the bail bond industry spearheaded a campaign to send the measure to voters. The referendum was defeated in 2020 with 56% voting “no.”

Trump also signed an executive action directing the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute individuals for burning the American flag, calling it an act of incitement, despite standing Supreme Court precedent that doing so is an expression of free speech.

They were the latest steps in a spree of executive actions from Trump ostensibly targeting crime, following Trump’s deployment of Marines and the National Guard to Los Angeles in June and his federalization of the National Guard in D.C. earlier this month.

Wilner reported from Washington, Ellis from L.A.

Lawmakers subpoena estate of Epstein

House panel responds to clamor for more disclosure about the disgraced financier.

BY STEPHEN GROVES

WASHINGTON — The House Oversight Committee subpoenaed the estate of Jeffrey Epstein on Monday as congressional lawmakers try to determine who was connected to the disgraced financier and whether prosecutors mishandled his case.

The committee’s subpoena is the latest effort by both Republicans and Democrats to respond to public clamor for more disclosure in the investigation into Epstein, who was found dead in his New York jail cell in 2019. Lawmakers are trying to guide an investigation into who among Epstein’s high-powered social circle may have been aware of his sexual abuse of teenage girls, delving into a criminal case that has spurred conspiracy theories and roiled top officials in President Trump’s administration.

The subpoena, signed by Rep. James Comer, the Republican chair of the oversight committee, and dated Monday, demands that Epstein’s estate provide Congress with documents including a book that was compiled with notes from friends for his 50th birthday, his last will and testament, agreements he signed with prosecutors, his contact books, and his financial transactions and holdings.

Comer wrote to the executors of Epstein’s estate that the committee “is re-

viewing the possible mismanagement of the federal government’s investigation of Mr. Jeffrey Epstein and Ms. Ghislaine Maxwell, the circumstances and subsequent investigations of Mr. Epstein’s death, the operation of sex-trafficking rings and ways for the federal government to effectively combat them, and potential violations of ethics rules related to elected officials.”

The Justice Department last week began handing over to lawmakers documentation of the federal investigation into Epstein. It has also released transcripts of interviews conducted with Ghislaine Maxwell, his former girlfriend. But Democrats on the committee have not been satisfied with those efforts, saying that the some 33,000 pages of documents they’ve received are mostly already public.

“DOJ’s limited disclosure raises more questions than answers and makes clear that the White House is not interested in justice for the victims or the truth,” Rep. Robert Garcia of Long Beach, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, said in a statement.

Pressure from lawmakers to release more information is likely to only grow when Congress returns to Washington next week.

A bipartisan group of House members is attempting to maneuver around Republican leadership to hold a vote to pass legislation meant to require the Justice Department to release a full accounting of the sex trafficking investigation into Epstein.

Groves writes for the Associated Press.

LEARNING

WHY CHRONIC
ABSENTEEISM MAY
BE HERE TO STAY

Students started missing more school with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and attendance is far from fully recovered. Is this a permanent change?

BY JILL BARSHAY

Five years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most surprising ways that school has profoundly, and perhaps permanently, changed is that students aren't showing up. A recent symposium at the American Enterprise Institute, where scholars shared research on the problem of widespread absenteeism, offered insights into the nationwide issue. Here are the key takeaways:

1. Chronic absenteeism has decreased from its peak in 2021-22, but it's still 50% higher than before the pandemic.

Roughly speaking, the chronic absenteeism rate nearly doubled after the pandemic, from 15% of students in 2018-19 to a peak of almost 29% in 2021-22. This is the share of students who are missing at least 10%, or 18 or more days, of school a year. Chronic absenteeism has dropped by about 2 to 3 percentage points a year since then, but was still at 23.5% in 2023-24, according to the most recent AEI data.

Chronic absenteeism is more than 50% higher than it used to be. There are about 48 million public school students, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Almost 1 in 4 of them, or 11 million students, are missing a lot of school.

2. High-income students and high achievers are also skipping school.

Absenteeism cuts across economic lines. Students from both low- and high-income families are often absent, as are high-achieving students. Rates are the highest among students in low-income districts, where 30% of students are chronically absent, according to AEI data.

But even in low-poverty districts, the chronic absenteeism rate has jumped more than 50% from about 10% of students to more than 15%. Similarly, more than 15% of students in the highest-achieving school districts, the top third, are chronically absent, up from 10% in pre-pandemic years.

"Chronic absenteeism affects disadvantaged students more often, but the rise in chronic absenteeism was an unfortunate tide where all boats rose," said Nat Malkus, deputy director of education policy studies at AEI.

The data show large differences by race and ethnicity, with 36% of Black students, 33% of Latino students, 22% of white students and 15% of Asian students chronically absent. But researchers said once they controlled for income, the racial differences were not so large. In other words, chronic absenteeism rates among Black and white students of the same income are not so disparate.

3. Moderate absenteeism is increasing.

Everyone is missing more school. Jacob Kirksey, an associate professor of education policy at Texas Tech University, tracked 8 million students in three states (Texas, North Carolina and Virginia) from 2017 to 2023.

Half had "very good" absentee rates under 4% in 2019. By 2023, only a third of students were still going to school as regularly. Two-thirds were not.

"A lot of students who used to miss no school are now missing a couple days," said Ethan Hutt, an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who noticed the same phenomenon in the North Carolina data that he studied. "That's just become the norm."

4. Many students say they skip because school is "boring."

Kevin Gee, a professor of education at UC Davis, analyzed surveys of elementary, middle and high school students in Rhode Island from 2016 to 2024. He found that more students are reporting missing school for traditionally common reasons: not getting enough sleep and illness.

After the pandemic, parents are more likely to keep their kids home from school when they get sick, but that doesn't explain why absenteeism is this high or why physically healthy kids are also missing so much school.

Gee found two notable post-pandemic differences among students in Rhode Island. Unfinished homework is less of a reason to skip school today than it used to be, while more elementary



L.A. SCHOOLS SUPT. Alberto M. Carvalho, right, exits an electric school bus in Boyle Heights.

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

How one fourth-grader found his way back to school

BY HOWARD BLUME

Adrian got off to a rocky start in fourth grade last year, missing school frequently, setting him down a path that, research suggests, would lead to academic struggles — and, in the long term, a less successful career and possibly worse health.

But Loma Vista Elementary and the South Whittier School District were tracking Adrian's attendance and moved in quickly to provide positive attention and family help, an approach overwhelmingly favored by most experts.

Students across the nation have been missing a lot of school. In California, the percentage of students chronically absent was on the rise before the COVID-19 pandemic — and then it soared, from 12.1% in 2018-19 to 30% in 2021-22. A student is considered chronically absent for missing 10% or more of a school year.

The numbers were worse in school districts where more students already were struggling and where COVID hit hardest in terms of economic impact, illness and death.

In Los Angeles Unified, which serves mostly low-income families, the chronic absenteeism rate spiked to 46% in 2021-22.

L.A. schools Supt. Alberto M. Carvalho, upon his arrival in February 2022, notably reversed cautionary messaging that had been advising parents to keep sick children home to avoid spreading COVID. Mild, cold-like symptoms should not keep kids off campus, he said, while also ramping up outreach promoting good attendance.

The chronic absenteeism rate for L.A. Unified last year was well below the pandemic peak, about 29%. That's still far above what it was less than 10 years ago, when it was under 13%.

How one school district took action

In South Whittier, Adrian's school was having a difficult time connecting with his single father, who was juggling work and parenting. But the school's attendance team got to work. Such teams typically include the principal, school secretary, community liaison, a child welfare and attendance clerk, and a social worker.

Adrian did not go unseen because his school analyzes data, sets goals and intervenes early with incentives and supports.

"The team built trust and listened to the father's needs," said South Whittier Supt. Gary Gonzales.

Adrian's father, because of his work schedule, had trouble getting his son to school. The solution was to help Adrian's father arrange for other family members and also other families with children at the same school to give Adrian a ride as needed.

Meanwhile, the school involved Adrian in a school-wide attendance challenge, which allowed him to connect with adults.

"He knew he was valued and seen every day he was on campus," Gonzales said.

More empathy pays off

The attendance crisis at L.A. Unified and South Whittier has been mirrored in many places. And many school systems have responded aggressively in concert with state and county officials.

"People got used to staying out of school," said Pomona Unified Supt. Darren Knowles.

The county education office, working with the county health department, has released a new toolkit to help schools plan campaigns to improve attendance. The state also has released new guidance.

"Improving attendance is everyone's responsibility," the toolkit asserts. "A whole-child, all-hands-on-deck approach isn't optional, it's essential for creating lasting change."

"Every day that a student misses school, they miss out on the opportunity not only to learn, but to connect, to receive care," said Debra Duardo, superintendent of the L.A. County Office of Education, which provides services for the county's 80 school districts. "Students miss meals. They miss mental health support that is provided at schools — and those trusted adults that they get to engage with."

County health Director Barbara Ferrer called attendance "a critical public health issue."

"Decades of research confirmed that education is one of the strongest predictors of long-term health," Ferrer said.

The messaging and strategies have changed dramatically since educators and policymakers began focusing intensively on attendance in the mid-1970s. For decades, there was a frequent emphasis on punishment. Students faced grade penalties for missed days or assignments. Older students faced fines or a suspended driver's license for truancy. Parents were fined and even prosecuted for not getting children to school.

The current prevailing view is that those methods may have had short-term effects — but were long-term failures.

"Every absence has a story, and sometimes it's a student who misses the bus because Mom is working two jobs," said Maggie Cunin, a child welfare and attendance specialist for the Folsom Cordova Unified School District.

State officials this month recognized her school system, just east of Sacramento, for reducing chronic absenteeism from 23.5% to 14.5%.

"Sometimes it's a family that's struggling to find stable housing, or a student stepping in to care for siblings," Cunin said. "These aren't statistics; they are lives. And when we really stop and listen, what we hear isn't a lack of caring. ... Families want their students in school, and it's our responsibility to walk alongside them and help remove the barriers."

school students said they skipped school because "it's boring."

Researchers at the symposium debated what to do about school being boring. Some thought school lessons need to be more engaging for students who may have shorter attention spans. But others disagreed.

"I think it's OK for school to be boring," said Liz Cohen, a research fellow at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy. "We need to adjust expectations that school should be as exciting as 'Dora the Explorer' all the time."

5. Mental health issues contribute to absenteeism.

Morgan Polikoff, a professor of education at USC, has also analyzed surveys and noticed a "strong connection" between mental health struggles and chronic absenteeism. It was unclear if the increase in mental illness was triggered or exacerbated by the pandemic, or if it reflects anxiety and depression issues that began before the pandemic.

He's interviewing families and teenagers about why they're absent, and he says he's seeing high levels of "disengagement" and mental illness. Parents, he said, were often very concerned about their children's mental health and well-being.

"A lot of these kids have really severe traumas," he said. "Lots of very legitimate reasons for missing school. Really chronic disengagement. The school is not serving them well."

6. Showing up has become optional.

Several researchers suggested that there have been profound cultural shifts in the importance of in-person anything.

Seth Gershenson, an economist and associate professor of public affairs at American University, suggested that in-person school may seem optional to students in the same way that going to the office feels optional for adults.

"Social norms about in-person attendance have changed, whether it's meeting with the doctor or whatever," Gershenson said.

At the same time, technology has made it easier for students to skip school and make up the work.

In Polikoff's interviews, 39 of the 40 families said it was "easy" to make up for being absent.

"People like that everything is available online and convenient," he said. "And also, there is absolutely no question in my mind that doing that — which is well-intentioned — makes it much easier for people to be absent."

The numbers back that up. Gershenson calculated that before the pandemic, skipping 10 days of school caused a student to lose the equivalent of a month's worth of learning. Now, the learning loss from this amount of absenteeism is about 10% less; instead of losing a month of school, it's like losing 90% of a month.

Gershenson said that's still big enough to matter.

And students haven't felt the most severe consequence: failing. Indeed, even as absenteeism has surged, school grades and graduation rates have been rising. Many blame grade inflation and an effort to avoid a high school dropout epidemic.

7. Today's absenteeism could mean labor force problems tomorrow.

Academic harm may not be the most significant consequence of today's elevated levels of chronic absenteeism. Indeed, researchers calculated that returning to pre-pandemic levels of chronic absenteeism would erase only 7.5% percent of the nation's pandemic learning losses. There are other more profound (and little understood) reasons for why students are so far behind.

More important, the experience of attending school regularly doesn't just improve academic performance, researchers say. It also sets up good habits for the future. "Employers value regular attendance," Gershenson said.

Jill Barshay writes for the Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education.

‘Every absence has a story, and sometimes it’s a student who misses the bus because Mom is working two jobs.’

— MAGGIE CUNIN, a child welfare and attendance specialist

BUSINESS



JUSTIN SULLIVAN Getty Images

PEET'S Coffee will be owned by a new company, Global Coffee Co. Above, a store in San Francisco, one of more than 220 in California.

Owner of Peet's Coffee sold for \$18 billion

U.S. buyer Keurig Dr. Pepper will be split into two firms after the purchase.

By CAROLINE PETROW-COHEN

A new coffee giant could be brewing.

The American beverage firm Keurig Dr. Pepper plans to buy JDE Peet's, the European parent company of California's gourmet coffee trailblazer, Peet's Coffee, in an all-cash transaction worth about \$18 billion.

Keurig Dr. Pepper will be split into two independent companies, one of which will focus on coffee, according to

a Monday release.

The new coffee company will be called Global Coffee Co. and will be publicly traded in the U.S., as will the beverage company, which will be called Beverage Co. Global Coffee Co. will have about \$16 billion in combined annual sales and Beverage Co. will have more than \$11 billion in annual net sales, the release said.

"Today's announcement marks a transformational moment in the beverage industry," said Keurig Dr. Pepper Chief Executive Tim Cofer in a statement.

"Through the complementary combination of Keurig and JDE Peet's, we are seizing an exceptional opportunity to create a global coffee giant."

Under the terms of the deal, Keurig Dr. Pepper will pay JDE Peet's shareholders 31.85 euros per share in cash, equivalent to about \$37 per share. The value is a 33% premium to JDE Peet's 90-day volume-weighted average stock price.

After the deal was announced, JDE Peet's shares climbed more than 15%. Keurig Dr. Pepper shares fell more than 10%.

According to JDE Peet's half-year report released in July, sales for the company grew more than 19% over the last year.

Along with Peet's Coffee, JDE Peet's owns popular brands including Stumptown Coffee Roasters and German coffee name Jacobs. Peet's Coffee has made a

name for itself as a San Francisco-based destination that helped bring dark, gourmet coffee to American consumers.

After working at his father's small coffee company in the Netherlands, Alfred Peet moved to the United States and in 1966 opened the first Peet's Coffee shop in the Bay Area, near UC Berkeley.

"I came to the richest country in the world, so why are they drinking the louisiest coffee?" Peet used to say, according to the Peet's Coffee website.

By 1971, Peet was training three young entrepreneurs and provided them with the roasted beans to open their new venture, Starbucks. There are now more than 220

Peet's Coffee shops in California and more than 40 in other states.

After the acquisition closes, Global Coffee Co. will have the world's most expansive coffee portfolio, the release said, including \$1-billion-plus revenue brands Keurig, Jacobs, L'OR and Peet's.

The acquisition and split into two companies will unwind the merger between Keurig and Dr. Pepper that closed in 2018.

"We are excited to join forces with Keurig to chart the future of global coffee by leveraging our combined portfolio of the world's most beloved coffee brands," JDE Peet's Chief Executive Rafa Oliveira said in a statement.

When Netflix Houses will open

By WENDY LEE

Netflix House will soon open its doors.

The streaming video giant on Monday announced when it will open its first shopping, dining and entertainment complexes to the public.

The Los Gatos, Calif.-based company will open its first Netflix House in the Philadelphia area on Nov. 12. The company's Philadelphia area location is located at King of Prussia shopping center, while its second Netflix House at Galleria Dallas will open on Dec. 11. A third location in Las Vegas will open in 2027.

The more than 100,000-square-foot space will offer fan experiences, merchandise and food inspired by Netflix content, in an effort to capitalize on its popular shows, movies and franchises.

For example, fans will be able to take selfies with Queen Charlotte, see screenings of "KPop Demon Hunters" and enjoy Netflix-themed food and cocktails, the company said in a statement.

The Netflix House complexes will be free for people to enter. Some fan experiences, such as Top 9 Mini Golf and immersive VR games in the Philadelphia location, will cost money.

Netflix House is part of the company's push to expand further into in-person entertainment. The firm hosted balls similar to those featured on Regency-era romance "Bridgerton" and worked with retailers and brands to sell clothing and other merchandise inspired by "Squid Game" and "Stranger Things."

Such experiences also serve as marketing for the shows and movies.

The streamer could eventually have 50 or 60 Netflix House locations globally, said Netflix Co-Chief Executive Ted Sarandos last year at the WSJ Tech Live conference.

State Farm's handling of fire claims draws rebuke from lawmakers

By LAURENCE DARMIENTO

Legislators representing Altadena-area fire victims called Monday for Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara to crack down on alleged misconduct by insurers and to halt any rate increase for State Farm General.

In a news conference held at an Altadena library, the legislators, led by Assemblyman John Harabedian (D-Pasadena), said too many fire victims were still grappling with their insurers more than six months after the Jan. 7 fires.

"They are facing unavoidable hardships caused by insurance delays, denials and

underpayments. These are problems that can be mitigated and solved if the right reforms are implemented immediately," Harabedian said. "Commissioner Lara, families need your swift leadership to ensure insurance companies fulfill their legal responsibilities."

The legislators, including state Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Alhambra) and Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger, singled out in particular State Farm General, California's largest home insurer, which is seeking a homeowners rate hike of 11% on top of an emergency rate hike of 17% that Lara approved in May.

"We demand that investigations into companies like

State Farm be completed swiftly within the next 60 days, and rate hikes frozen until survivors are made whole," Pérez said.

After mounting complaints over how the insurer has handled smoke damage and other claims, Lara announced in June that his department would be conducting a market conduct exam of State Farm.

However, he has refused to link the claims handling issues to the rate hike request, maintaining the rate issue is a separate legal proceeding. Critics have accused Lara of being too chummy with the insurance industry, which he has denied.

"Our goals align with fire

survivors. We want individuals to recover on their own terms. I launched a thorough investigation into State Farm's wildfire claims, but holding up rate filings without a legal basis affects the integrity of our entire market, including wildfire survivors who need access to insurance options," Lara said in a statement Monday.

State Farm spokesperson Bob Devereux disputed the insurer was mistreating its customers and said in a written statement an "overwhelming majority are satisfied with our service."

"Our goal at State Farm is to work with customers to resolve any of their concerns," he said.

The insurer has said it expects claims payments to top \$7 billion from the Jan. 7 fires, but losses under \$700 million due to reinsurance agreements with its parent company. The insurer said it has received more than 13,000 claims and paid over \$4.5 billion.

The news conference amplified complaints about State Farm made by the Eaton Fire Survivors Network, a community group that claims more than 7,000 members. The group distributed a report Monday that said while some insurers were honoring their obligations, others were lowering benefits by "secretly" re-writing loss estimates prepared by field adjusters.

It also claimed insurers are making illegal cuts in payments for temporary housing and criticized how the state's insurer of last resort, the California FAIR Plan, is handling smoke damage claims.

It called for the Department of Insurance to be more transparent about the complaints it receives by issuing an online monthly report by insurer, type of complaint and imposed fines, among other data.

"What should be a safety net has instead become a wrecking ball, wrecking our finances, health and the future that we have worked so hard to build for our families," said Joy Chen, the group's chief executive.

Share of unionized state residents is steady as U.S. numbers fall

By SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

The share of working Californians represented by unions has held relatively steady, bucking national trends of an overall decline in union membership, according to a report released Monday by labor researchers at UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC Riverside.

The report, which analyzed data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, found that the percentage of Californians covered by a union has hovered between 16% and 18% in the last two decades.

In 2024, the most recent year analyzed by researchers, the Golden State's 2.67 million union-represented workers amounted to 16.3% of its labor force.

Unions have only been

able to sustain those numbers through consistent new organizing, said Enrique Lopezlira, director of the Low-Wage Work Program at the UC Berkeley Labor Center and a co-author of the report.

"Unions are very active in California and have really tried to continue organizing workers, and that is showing up in the data," Lopezlira said.

Successful new organizing was concentrated in the medical industry — at large hospitals — as well as at Starbucks and other snack and nonalcoholic beverage establishments, with many new members represented by the Service Employees International Union, according to the report.

For example, a drive at Sharp Metropolitan Medical Campus in San Diego, the second-largest group of



JULIANA YAMADA Los Angeles Times

MCDONALD'S worker Imelda Rosa leads a rally with SEIU members in Los Angeles in February.

workers that filed for union representation in 2024, held a successful election covering about 2,100 workers.

Some unions, however, reported declines. United Food and Commercial Workers reported a sharp drop in

employee staffing due to automation in grocery stores, the report said. And contractions in television and film production in the state has slowed, hitting below-the-line crew members represented by International

Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Nationwide union membership saw steep declines in the 1980s and early 1990s, brought on by automation, massive layoffs in heavily unionized industries such as automobiles and steel, the increasing success of employers' anti-union efforts, and the sharp growth in service industries that unions had little success in organizing.

The share of all workers who were union members fell precipitously in the 1980s and 1990s.

And a gradual decline has continued in recent decades, with the share of workers represented by a union nationwide dropping to 11.1% in 2024 from 13.8% in 2004, according to data analyzed in the report.

Although the U.S. overall has continued a steady de-

cline, California and several other states have managed spurts of organizing to keep membership somewhat level since then.

There are ebbs and flows. The state's union density numbers rose to 17.6% about five years ago, invigorated by successful organizing campaigns across occupations as varied as nurses, electricians, animation artists, scooter mechanics and university researchers.

Since then it has fallen by more than a percentage point, to 16.3%, but overall density has generally held steady, the report said.

This year, unions could face more declines, with the second Trump administration moving to hobble federal regulatory agencies, including the National Labor Relations Board, and firing tens of thousands of federal workers.

BUSINESS

Health insurance price forecast

Patients may pay more next year, but coverage may shrink, according to experts.

By Tom Murphy

Pricey prescriptions and nagging medical costs are swamping some insurers and employers now. Patients may start paying for it next year.

Health insurance will grow more expensive in many corners of the market in 2026, and coverage may shrink. That could leave patients paying more for doctor visits and dealing with prescription coverage changes.

Price increases could be especially stark in individual coverage marketplaces, where insurers also are predicting the government will end some support that helps people buy coverage.

“We’re in a period of uncertainty in every health insurance market right now, which is something we haven’t seen in a very long time,” said Larry Levitt, an executive vice president at the nonprofit KFF, which studies healthcare.

What’s hitting insurers

In conference calls to discuss recent earnings reports, insurers ticked off a list of rising costs: More people are receiving care. Visits to expensive emergency rooms are rising, as are claims for mental health treatments.

Insurers also say more healthy customers are dropping coverage in the individual market. That leaves a higher concentration of sicker patients who generate claims.

Enrollment in the Affordable Care Act’s insurance marketplaces swelled in the last few years. But a crack-down on fraud and a tighten-



ERIC THAYER Getty Images

EXPECT prescription coverage changes next year because of high prices for medications, experts say.

ing of eligibility verifications that were loosened during the COVID-19 pandemic makes it harder for some to stay covered, Jefferies analyst David Windley noted.

People who use little care “are disappearing,” he said.

Prescription drugs pose another challenge, especially popular and expensive diabetes and obesity treatments sometimes called GLP-1 drugs. Those include Ozempic, Mounjaro, Wegovy and Zepbound.

“Pharmacy just gives me a headache, no pun intended,” said Vinnie Daboul, Boston-based managing director of the employee benefits consultant RT Consulting.

New gene therapies that can come with a one-time cost of more than \$2 million also are having an impact, insurance brokers say. Those drugs, which target rare diseases, and some newer cancer treatments are part of the reason Sun Life Financial covered 47 claims last year that cost over \$3 million.

The financial services company covers high-cost claims for employers that pay their own medical bills. Sun Life probably had no claims that expensive a decade ago and maybe “a handful at best” five years ago, said Jen Collier, president of health and risk solutions.

Some of these drugs are rarely used, but they cause overall costs to rise. That raises insurance premiums.

“It’s adding to medical [cost growth] in a way that we haven’t seen in the past,” Collier said.

Pain is in the forecast

Price hikes will be most apparent on the Affordable Care Act’s individual coverage marketplaces. Insurers there are raising premiums around 20% in 2026, according to KFF, which has been analyzing state regulatory filings.

But the actual hike consumers see may be much bigger. Enhanced tax credits that help people buy coverage could expire at the end of the year, unless Congress renews them.

If those go away, customer coverage costs could soar 75% or more, according to KFF.

Business owner Shirley Modlin worries about marketplace price hikes. She can’t afford to provide coverage for the roughly 20 employees at 3D Design & Manufacturing in Powhatan, Va., so she reimburses them \$350 a month for coverage they buy.

Modlin knows her reimbursement covers only a slice of what her workers

pay. She worries another price hike might push some to look for work at a bigger company.

“My employee may not want to go to work for a large corporation, but when they consider how they have to pay their bills, sometimes they have to make sacrifices,” she said.

Employers may shift costs

Costs also have been growing in the bigger market for employer-sponsored coverage, the benefits consultant Mercer says. Employees may not feel that as much because companies generally pay most of the premium. But they may notice coverage changes.

About half the large employers Mercer surveyed earlier this year said they are likely or very likely to shift more costs to their employees. That may mean higher deductibles or that people have to pay more before they reach the out-of-pocket maximum on their coverage.

For prescriptions, patients may see caps on those expensive obesity treatments or limits on who can take them.

Some plans also may start using separate deductibles for pharmaceutical and medical benefits or having patients pay more for their prescriptions, Daboul said.

Coverage changes could vary around the country, said Emily Bremer, president of a St. Louis-based independent insurance agency, Bremer Group.

Employers aren’t eager to cut benefits, she said, so people may not see dramatic prescription coverage changes next year. But that may not last.

“If something doesn’t give with pharmacy costs, it’s going to be coming sooner than we’d like to think,” Bremer said.

Murphy writes for the Associated Press.

Levi aims to reach blue-collar shoppers

By Lily Meier

While Levi Strauss & Co. prepped its fashion-forward Beyoncé Cowboy Carter collection, its designers were quietly working on functional staples for real cowboys.

Like a lot of retailers, the San Francisco company has leaned into western style trends, though mostly through trendy, high-end products, including crystal-studded jackets, denim corsets and \$325 jeans made in Japan. Now, America’s first denim brand is rolling out new products aimed at the blue-collar shoppers who first helped Levi become a household name for affordable workwear.

In 2022, Levi set a goal of hitting \$10 billion in annual revenue. While other specialty retailers’ shares have plunged this year, Levi’s shares are up more than 23%. The company has been able to drive sales, which have been up on a year-over-year basis for the last five straight quarters. But it’s still more than \$3.5 billion short of that ambitious revenue goal.

Investors “want to see Levi’s grab a larger share of wallets,” said Neil Saunders, managing director at GlobalData. And they’re specifically looking for continued growth in the company’s core U.S. market, he said.

As part of its push to get to \$10 billion under Chief Executive Michelle Gass, Levi has identified blue-collar men in rural areas as its next big customer opportunity. The brand launched in the 19th century as a line of workwear catering to miners and ranchers, but over time, much smaller competitors such as Ariat, Carhartt and Wrangler have become the go-tos for this demographic.

Just over 93 million Americans, or about 61% of the labor force in 2023, were

considered working class, according to a recent analysis by the left-leaning think tank Center for American Progress.

“There are a ton of cowboys in the world, but the big market is the blue-collar everyday electrician, plumber, farmer, rancher,” said Anthony Scholl, head of U.S. western accounts. “This is a major market share opportunity for Levi.”

Levi has released two new cuts, the western boot cut and western straight, which are both able to fit over work boots, to better appeal to this customer profile. The jeans will be \$59, about \$10 below most of its other core styles.

The price tag also puts the jeans below similar products from competitors Wrangler and Ariat.

To capture shoppers looking for workwear, Levi is bringing its full assortment to the majority of Boot Barn stores, where it used to only sell about 10% of its products. In addition, Levi is going to be sold at Cavender’s, a Texas-born western retailer, said Scholl, who added that the plan is to put the product in all of its doors. The brand has also been sponsoring rodeos with plans to amp up its presence at Cowboy Christmas, a trade show held annually in Las Vegas.

Shaboozey, a country and hip-hop singer, and chef and actor Matty Matheson are the faces of a new men’s campaign, which features both on horseback.

Even the Levi leadership team is getting into the spirit of the launch. At a recent meeting in Dallas, executives went line dancing, and Gass picked up a pair of red cowboy boots from a Boot Barn.

“This is the core of our business,” she said of the men’s category.

Meier writes for Bloomberg.

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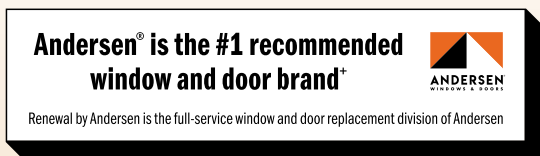


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BUSINESS

Cars are so pricey that buyers need 7-year loans

By JADE THOMAS
AND KEITH NAUGHTON

Shirria McCullough so loved her new, black Honda Pilot SUV that at first she didn't pay close attention to the loan terms. It was only after someone online pointed them out that the panic set in.

McCullough, a licensed clinical social worker in North Carolina, has been trying to eliminate debt from her life while documenting the process on TikTok. After she posted about the \$45,000 Pilot, bought in 2023, a viewer commented that they'd never heard of Honda Motor Co. offering loans lasting seven years. McCullough hadn't realized the loan's length. The thought of her and her husband paying interest for so much time — adding thousands of dollars to the overall cost — made her “feel sick to my stomach,” she said.

“That was like the nail in the coffin on us making sure we were going to get this car paid off within the next year,” said McCullough, 42. First, they refinanced the loan for six years through a credit union, then they paid it off in June to be free of it. “It was not a financially wise decision, but thank God it's paid off now,” she said.

Once rare, seven-year car loans are fast becoming the norm. They're often the only



CHARLES KRUPA Associated Press

THE AVERAGE price for a new ride has risen 28% in five years to nearly \$50,000.

way buyers can afford new rides, with average sale prices surging 28% in five years to approach \$50,000. Compared with a five-year loan, they can make the difference between a \$1,000 monthly payment and a \$780 one. In the second quarter of 2025, seven-year loans represented 21.6% of all new-vehicle financing, according to Edmunds.com. Six-year loans, at one time considered the upper end of the range, are now the most common, accounting for 36.1% of loans in the second quarter. Some buyers are even going for eight-year loans, although they're still a tiny fraction of the market.

“As a consumer, when

you're negotiating a car and you're trying to figure out your monthly payment, the only lever you really have to control that payment is the term,” said Tyson Jominy, senior vice president of analytics at research firm J.D. Power.

But they come with steep downsides, for buyers and dealers alike. A long-term loan means the buyer builds equity in the car more slowly, so they may delay replacing the car, a problem for dealers who need repeat customers. And when drivers do trade in, they're more likely to find themselves “upside down”: owing more on the loan than the car is now worth.

“We try to steer custom-

ers away from that,” said Mike Schwartz, vice president of dealer operations at Galpin Motors, a major Los Angeles dealership that sells Fords, Hondas, Volvos and several other brands. “We don't want to put our customers in a position where, when their life changes and they come back in to trade it in, they're heavily upside down. It doesn't do them any good, and it doesn't do us any good.”

Longer loans also add to the total cost of the car. The average interest paid on an 84-month loan is \$15,460, said Ivan Drury, director of insights at Edmunds.com. That's \$4,600 more than the average on a five-year loan,

which used to be standard.

“People get wrapped up in thinking, ‘I can afford this right now, and things will get better for my situation, which will make this more affordable,’” Drury said. “But while your monthly payments stay the same, your other costs can be variable. And that's where it can get dangerous, if there's more inflation once we see tariff costs come through.”

Shorter-term loans haven't gone away. But now, they're mostly used by wealthy buyers who can afford to put down tens of thousands of dollars on a new vehicle, Drury said. Five-year loans represent about 19% of new-car financing, while four-year loans are about 6% of the total, and three-year loans are 4%.

There is an obvious alternative: leasing. It may require slightly larger monthly payments, but customers won't have any difficulty getting out of the car at the end of the lease agreement. Leasing, however, comes with its own calculations.

Chris Johner had to decide between a long-term loan and a lease after a hailstorm in St. Louis severely damaged his 12-year-old Audi A8. The divorced dad of four had just drained his savings to buy a house that could accommodate his kids. He didn't have much left for a down payment on the Ram pickup he wanted.

Johner, an information technology security specialist, didn't want to lease. He planned to haul tools and home improvement supplies in the truck bed and didn't want to be on the hook for any dings and scratches once the lease was up.

“I don't want to, I really don't want to,” said Johner, 48, speaking about the loan. “But at the same time, I can't have a \$1,200 car payment and buy a house and pay child support and eat and all of those other fun things.”

Johner ended up leasing a Ford F-150 pickup truck with a monthly payment of \$638 — below the \$900 to \$1,000 he would have had to pay on an 84-month loan for the more expensive Ram. He decided the three-year lease was better than possibly being upside down on the loan.

Despite the risk of owing more than the car's worth, some lenders are pushing even longer terms. Schwartz, who used to work for Ford Motor Co.'s lending arm, said he's amazed to see the return of eight-year loans, which first appeared shortly before lax lending practices triggered the Great Recession of 2009. Such 96-month loans account for fewer than 1% of auto loans, but they are on the rise. And for years lenders avoided them altogether.

Thomas and Naughton write for Bloomberg.

Musk's xAI alleges ‘anticompetitive scheme’ by OpenAI and Apple

[**Musk**, from A1] based X and Palo Alto-based xAI, are seeking a permanent injunction against Apple and OpenAI and more than \$1 billion in damages.

The lawsuit adds to a long-running fight between Musk and OpenAI's Chief Executive Sam Altman. Musk was an early investor in OpenAI but later left its board and started a rival AI business, xAI. Musk has an ongoing lawsuit against OpenAI and Altman, accusing them of fraud and breach of contract over OpenAI's efforts to change its corporate structure.

“This latest filing is consistent with Mr. Musk's ongoing pattern of harassment,” OpenAI said in a statement.

Musk's companies' lawsuit claims ChatGPT has at least an 80% market share in the generative AI chatbot market, whereas xAI's chatbot Grok has just a few percentage points in market share.

“As a result of Apple and OpenAI's exclusive arrangement, ChatGPT is the *only* AI chatbot that benefits from billions of user prompts originating from hundreds of millions of iPhones,” according to xAI's lawsuit. “This makes it hard for competitors of ChatGPT's generative AI chatbot and super apps powered by generative AI chatbots to scale and innovate.”

xAI has asked to integrate Grok directly with Apple's software ecosystem, iOS, but hasn't been allowed to do so, Musk's companies said in their lawsuit. While

users can access other AI chatbots on iPhones by using a web browser or downloading an AI chatbot's app, “those options do not provide the same level of functionality, usability, integration, or access to user prompts as ChatGPT's first-party integration with Apple,” the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit also accuses Apple of deprioritizing the AI chatbot apps of OpenAI's

competitors in the App Store.

Apple did not immediately respond to The Times' request for comment.

Earlier this month, Musk said on X that he planned to take legal action against Apple, causing a sparring match on the social media platform between him and OpenAI's Altman.

“Apple is behaving in a manner that makes it im-

possible for any AI company besides OpenAI to reach #1 in the App Store, which is an unequivocal antitrust violation,” Musk wrote on Aug. 11.

Altman later posted on X: “This is a remarkable claim given what I have heard alleged that Elon does to manipulate X to benefit himself and his own companies and harm his competitors and people he doesn't like.”

Apple previously told Bloomberg that it collaborates with many developers “to increase app visibility in rapidly evolving categories” and features thousands of apps in charts, algorithmic recommendations and curated lists by experts using objective criteria.

“The App Store is designed to be fair and free of bias,” Apple told Bloomberg.

Apple has also faced backlash and criticism from some developers and the Department of Justice over the way it operates its App Store. Last year the DOJ sued Apple, accusing it of engaging in practices that prevented other companies from offering apps that compete with Apple's offerings.

At the time, Apple said that if the government's lawsuit was successful, it would hurt its ability to create the type of technology people expect from Apple “where hardware, software, and services intersect.”

“It would also set a dangerous precedent, empowering government to take a heavy hand in designing people's technology,” the company said.

Times staff writer Queenie Wong and Editorial Library Director Cary Schneider contributed to this report.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks slip after big gains last week

By DAMIAN J. TROISE
AND ALEX VEIGA

Stocks on Wall Street closed broadly lower Monday, giving back some of the big gains the market notched last week on hopes for interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve.

The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 0.4% and remains near its all-time high. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 0.8% lower after setting a record high on Friday. The Nasdaq composite closed 0.2% lower.

The selling was widespread, with health care stocks among the biggest drags on the market. Pfizer fell 2.9% and Eli Lilly and Co. slid 2.3%.

Gains for several big technology stocks helped temper the market's losses. Alphabet, Google's parent company, rose 1.2%. Technology heavyweight Nvidia rose 1%.

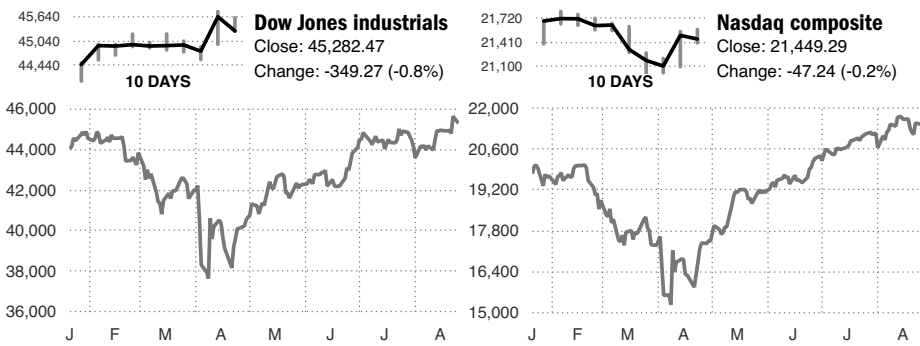
Treasury yields rose in the bond market following their big drop on Friday amid expectations that the Fed will cut its benchmark interest rate in September.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.28% from 4.25% late Friday. The two-year Treasury yield rose to 3.73% from 3.70% late Friday.

“Markets are just digesting Friday's news and kind of the increasing odds that we're going to see a September rate cut from the Fed,” said Anthony Saglimbene, chief market strategist at Ameriprise.

Wall Street is still overwhelmingly betting that the Fed will cut interest rates at its next meeting in September. Traders see an 84% chance that the central bank will trim its benchmark rate by a quarter of a percentage point, according to data from CME Group.

The Fed has been maintaining rates at their current level since the end of 2024 amid worries about inflation heating up as tariffs work



StocksRecap

	NYSE	NASD		HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR	YTD
DOW			DOW	45,605.25	45,273.09	45,282.47	-349.27	-0.77%	▼	▲	▲	+6.44%
DOW Trans.			DOW Trans.	16,070.32	15,796.92	15,814.56	-287.45	-1.78%	▼	▲	▲	-0.51%
DOW Util.			DOW Util.	1,108.58	1,094.39	1,095.75	-13.73	-1.24%	▼	▼	▲	+11.50%
NYSE Comp.			NYSE Comp.	21,151.44	21,000.38	21,000.56	-149.55	-0.71%	▼	▲	▲	+9.97%
NASDAQ			NASDAQ	21,572.18	21,400.08	21,449.29	-47.24	-0.22%	▼	▲	▲	+11.07%
S&P 500			S&P 500	6,466.89	6,438.06	6,439.32	-27.59	-0.43%	▼	▲	▲	+9.48%
S&P 400			S&P 400	3,252.32	3,231.02	3,231.39	-24.59	-0.76%	▼	▲	▲	+3.54%
Wilshire 5000			Wilshire 5000	64,699.20	64,396.87	64,398.57	-300.63	-0.47%	▼	▲	▲	+9.21%
Russell 2000			Russell 2000	2,357.39	2,339.07	2,339.17	-22.78	-0.96%	▼	▲	▲	+4.89%
Vol. (in mil.)	3816	3961										
Pvs. Volume	4752	4989										
Advanced	853	1169										
Declined	1748	2263										
New Highs	39	56										
New Lows	2	41										

their way through the economy to businesses and households.

The central bank has grown increasingly concerned about the state of the job market in the U.S. Its two main focuses are keeping inflation low and supporting conditions for strong employment.

Recent signals have shown that the job market is seemingly stagnating and could possibly weaken, which could prompt the central bank to cut rates. Lower interest rates make borrowing easier, helping to spur more investment and spending, but that could also potentially fuel inflation.

So far, consumer confidence remains mostly solid, though concerns about inflation linger. Wall Street and the Fed will get an update on consumer confidence in the U.S. when business group the Conference Board releases its monthly survey for August on Tuesday. Economists expect overall confidence to remain mostly unchanged from July.

The bigger update will come on Friday, when the government releases an inflation report that is closely monitored by the Fed. An update on inflation earlier in

August showed that consumer prices remained modestly higher in July, compared with a year ago. The government's report on Friday, the personal consumption expenditures price index, is expected to show a similar result.

Economists expect the PCE to show that prices rose 2.6% in July, compared with a year ago. That's unchanged from the rate in June and hovering just above the Fed's preferred target of 2%.

Among other big movers on Wall Street Monday: Keurig Dr Pepper, which sank 11.5% after saying it will buy Peet's Coffee owner JDE Peet's in a deal worth about \$18 billion.

Railroad stocks also fell following a report that Warren Buffett informed CSX management that he is not looking to buy the railroad. Shares in CSX fell 5.1%. Union Pacific dropped 2% and Norfolk Southern gave up 2.5%.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 27.59 points to 6,439.32. The Dow lost 349.27 points to close at 45,282.47. The Nasdaq slid 47.24 points to 21,449.29.

European markets mostly closed lower after Asian markets finished lower overnight.

Wall Street has a few more corporate earnings updates this week, essentially wrapping up the latest round of profit reports and forecasts from U.S. companies.

Nvidia will report its latest results on Wednesday. The company's role as a key supplier of chips for artificial intelligence and its heavy weighting give it outsized influence as a bellwether for the broader market. It has been a driving force for much of the market's gains, along with other tech giants with pricey stock values.

“There's more doubt around the AI theme building,” Saglimbene said. “So I think what Nvidia has to say is going to be very impactful for not only the whole AI space, but the broader markets in general, because it's such a large holding in the major indexes like the S&P 500 and Nasdaq.”

On Thursday, Wall Street will get earnings updates from electronics retailer Best Buy and discount retailer Dollar General. Retailers are being closely watched as Wall Street tries to gauge the current and potential future impact on costs and prices from tariffs.

Troise and Veiga write for the Associated Press.

Waymo gets OK to test robotaxis in NYC areas

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York City is allowing the robotaxi company Waymo to test a few of its autonomous vehicles in Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn as the technology picks up in popularity in other metro areas.

The company will start with a pilot program to test up to eight autonomous vehicles in the city until late September, officials said. The vehicles won't be picking up passengers because that's not currently allowed by local rules and are required to have a test operator behind the wheel while they zip around the city's busy streets.

Waymo's robotaxis are already in place in Los Angeles; San Francisco; Austin, Texas; Phoenix; and Atlanta. Annabel Chang, a policy head for the company, said Waymo is “pleased to have reached this next step in New York City.”

New York officials last year launched a set of safety requirements governing the testing of autonomous vehicles, saying that the city “presents some of the most challenging urban street environments.”

In a statement Friday, Mayor Eric Adams said, “As we continue to implement responsible innovation, we will always prioritize street safety.”

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DANIEL R. DEPETRIS
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

No military strategy can stop cartels in Mexico

ON AUG. 13, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration corralled 26 narcotraffickers onto planes destined for the United States, where they will be prosecuted for a litany of drug and violent offenses. One was wanted in the killing of a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy nearly two decades ago. This wasn't the first prisoner transfer from Mexico to the United States. In February, Sheinbaum handed over 29 cartel figures to the U.S. Justice Department.

All of this is coming at a time when the Mexican security forces are accelerating counter-narcotics operations throughout the country. According to Mexico's secretary of public security, homicides have declined by more than 25% during Sheinbaum's first 10 months; more than 1,200 drug labs have also been dismantled.

If the Trump administration is impressed with the progress, officials haven't shown it. In fact, Washington is enlisting the U.S. military to help with the problem of cartel violence next door. President Trump signed a directive ordering the Defense Department to begin using force against Latin American drug cartels that Washington previously designated as foreign terrorist organizations. Six of those cartels are in Mexico. As if to underscore the point, the Pentagon ordered 4,000 Marines and sailors to the waters of Latin America and the Caribbean, alongside Navy destroyers, reconnaissance aircraft and a nuclear-powered missile cruiser.

None of this is exactly a surprise. Trump, after all, flirted with bombing cartel fentanyl labs in Mexico during his first term. His senior advisors, from Vice President JD Vance to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, have broached the possibility of using U.S. military force to degrade the cartels' power. And the Central Intelligence Agency, with the co-operation of the Mexican government, has increased surveillance flights over cartel-dominated territory to better map the terrain.

But let there be no mistake: pulling the trigger on U.S. military force inside Mexico would be about as effective as putting a Band-Aid over a gaping wound.

We can say this with a high degree of confidence because military force has already been deployed against the cartels for years, with no discernible impact other than more violence, death and a continuation of the very drug trafficking the United States wants to stem. Successive Mexican govern-



MANUEL VELASQUEZ Getty Images

HOMICIDES have declined by more than 25% during Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum's first 10 months in office.

ments since the turn of the century bought into the notion that, with the right amount of military pressure, the cartels would either fold up shop, bargain with the state or collapse under their own weight.

In 2006, Mexican President Felipe Calderón declared a full-scale war against narcotraficking organizations, complete with the deployment of tens of thousands of Mexican troops to the country's most violent states and looser rules of engagement. Calderón's successor, Enrique Peña Nieto, had implemented the same strategy with a special emphasis on targeting the cartels' leadership structure. Even Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who campaigned on a "Hugs, Not Bullets" approach, came to rely on the Mexican army during the latter years of his presidency.

The result was precisely the opposite of what Mexico hoped to achieve. Although some high-profile narcotraffickers were captured, the cartels as a whole increased violence against the state and did so more brazenly. Politicians, police officers, soldiers and senior government officials have all been targeted by the cartels, and the massacre of civilians is now the norm. Last year, Mexico experienced its deadliest election campaign in history, with around 200 politicians, candidates and public servants murdered in the lead-up to June elections.

The so-called kingpin strategy, centered on neutralizing cartel leadership, has also fractured Mexico's cartel landscape, making it even more difficult for the state to contain the problem. As my colleague Chris McCallion and I wrote in a new paper, taking out senior cartel figures tends to cause intense internal competition within the targeted group and between replacements who fight among themselves for power. Smaller groups affiliated with larger cartels may use the absence of authority at the top to go their own way.

As a consequence, more people have died; areas of Mexico previously insulated from the cartels are now on the front lines. And states like Sinaloa that have been at the epicenter of the drug trade have seen an exponential rise in killings. In 2006, when Calderón declared war on the cartels, Mexico registered approximately 10,000 homi-

cides; today, the figure has more than tripled.

If the Trump administration green-lights military operations, the United States is unlikely to mimic the Mexican government's heavy-handed strategy entirely. U.S. troops won't be patrolling on Mexican soil anytime soon. It's more likely the United States will stick with airpower; indeed, U.S. military officials have already discussed the option.

Airstrikes, however, won't be any more effective at degrading the cartels or diminishing the flow of drugs into the United States than ground operations would be. Bombs can destroy labs and kill cartel members but are highly unlikely to alter the profit motives these criminal organizations operate on.

The drug business is, in a word, big. The cartels rake in billions of dollars every year from the trade. The rate of return, particularly on fentanyl, is huge; according to a 2023 indictment, hundreds of dollars in precursor chemicals can net profits 200 to 800 times larger. It's very difficult to believe the Sinaloa cartel, the New Jalisco Generation cartel or any other criminal group would give all of this up, particularly when competitors are waiting in the wings to increase their own market share.

There is no magic bullet to stopping the drug trade. Washington has been pursuing a war on drugs for decades now, and the verdict is pretty clear: The drugs have won.

This doesn't mean the United States should be complacent. For instance, the Drug Enforcement Administration should come out of Washington's budget fights adequately resourced. Border control officers need more technology to detect drug shipments. Washington and Mexico City must strengthen their bilateral intelligence cooperation, which has already picked up during the first 10 months of Sheinbaum's term. And while sanctions aren't a panacea, they can deter some Americans from working with the cartels.

Bombing Mexico, however, won't do anything but jeopardize the very relationship with Mexico the Trump administration needs to contain the problem.

DANIEL R. DEPETRIS is a fellow at Defense Priorities.

Voices **JESSICA LIPAZ** GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Students losing key mental health care

Federal budget cuts slashed the Wellbeing Centers set up to fight a crisis among L.A.'s high schoolers.

AT 8:05 A.M. a student ran into my classroom with tears in their eyes. We talked together until the bell rang, after which they headed to their first-period class no longer wanting to go home and certainly more prepared to learn.

So it began, my first student interaction on my first day of a new job, all before school started.

This is why I am here, I thought. In 2024, Planned Parenthood Los Angeles hired and trained 16 health educators to expand the Wellbeing Center project, a program designed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to bring mental and sexual health services to public high school students right on their campuses. I was in that new cohort of educators, working with others to staff more than 20 centers at L.A. high schools, with plans to expand to 50 in the coming years.

Our Wellbeing Center classrooms had an open door four days a week, accessible to any student who walked in with a pass. My job was to be a trusted adult with resources, information and a non-judgmental listening ear.

I know critics of such programs think students shouldn't get to take mental health breaks at school because it isn't what happens in the "real" world. They miss the point. Wellbeing Centers are about what the world *could* be like. They are places where young people have agency to ask questions without fear, where they find mentors who don't grade or discipline them, where they can practice self-regulating their emotions instead of cutting class and storming off campus.

I sat across from students who told me about being sexually assaulted, and about having suicidal thoughts. Others had been cheated on, were nervous about exams, were being bullied by their peers or were grappling with the news they weren't going to qualify for graduation. One student came to the WBC to call her father for the first time in her life, and another came to talk after learning her father was leaving. Students told me I was their safe person, that I was who they'd come out to first, that no one else in school listened like the staff at the Wellbeing Center.

WBCs are an urgent response to problems that we need to take seriously. The reality is that 90% of my interactions with students involved helping them through different stages of mental health cri-

ses. It was not always the easiest job, but I never doubted that we were needed. Then, because of the Trump administration's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, I lost my job on July 16.

That budget bill targeted Planned Parenthood, ending its eligibility for Medicaid reimbursements. In California, Planned Parenthood estimates that losing the reimbursements will cost the statewide system \$300 million. It is fighting the cuts in court, but in the meantime, clinics across the state are closing entirely. For Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, the effort to stabilize itself not only means the loss of clinics, but also sharply downsizing the education department.

Los Angeles is losing Planned Parenthood educators who worked on health initiatives in the Black and Latino communities and in a variety of school-based programs, including the Wellbeing Centers. We're talking about educators who led workshops for parents about how to have sexual health conversations with their children, who connected foster youth with health insurance and who presented comprehensive sexual education classes in our schools.

These community workers aren't being laid off because they aren't effective in their jobs. They've been laid off because the government doesn't value Planned Parenthood and the mental and sexual health education it has provided.

I can describe the ways the real world intruded on the high schools where I worked — school shootings, the pandemic, the January wildfires, immigration raids — but just writing those words raises the question: Is now really the time we want to cut mental health programs for kids?

When I told my grandmother I'd been laid off, she said she didn't think President Trump knew his budget would eliminate roles like mine, jobs that provided direct help for students who needed it so badly. She said he wasn't a nice man, just a businessman.

And of course, he didn't know who he was laying off, not that my employment status is what is important here. Yes, the layoffs are bad news for me and my colleagues, but they are bad news for everyone. For my students, for Los Angeles and for the country.

Telling people I lost my job is painful, not because I'm embarrassed to be unemployed, but because it means that there will be fewer WBCs in L.A. schools, staffed with fewer trusted adults. Not every Wellbeing Center will vanish, but the gaps in access will be real. For that, I'm devastated.

JESSICA LIPAZ is an interdisciplinary educator and writer in Los Angeles.

LETTERS



LA Aerial Rapid Transit

A RENDERING of the proposed gondola that would go to Dodger Stadium.

A reminder of local inefficiency

Re "Gondola project can't get off the ground," Sports Voices, Aug. 20

This story was yet another example of our frustratingly inefficient local government. I couldn't believe what I was reading. If our leaders can't even fix basic infrastructure (broken sidewalks, streetlight repairs) in a timely manner, what hope is there for bigger issues like housing? I, for one, would like to challenge City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez to focus her efforts on some of the more pressing issues hurt-

ing our city.

JOSE LUIS SANCHEZ
Los Angeles

::

2028 is going to come and go and the city won't have gotten any further on this. It's sad to see the benchmarks our local politicians are setting for themselves. We don't need another two-year traffic study to understand the obvious: Traffic to Dodger Stadium is bad, anything that gets cars off the road is good. We can't keep holding up progress with endless studies and delays.

REINA
ROCIO DOMINGUEZ
Los Angeles

City Council needs state help

Re "L.A. council opposes state bill on denser housing," Aug. 21

When the Los Angeles City Council opposed Senate Bill 827 in 2018, the average rent for a two-bedroom was \$1,663 and there were 31,285 homeless people in L.A. city.

When the City Council opposed Senate Bill 50 in 2019, the average rent for a two-bedroom was \$1,791 and there were 35,550 homeless people in L.A. city.

The City Council opposed Senate Bill 79 last week. The average rent for a

two-bedroom is \$2,625 and there are currently 43,699 homeless people in L.A. city.

Los Angeles has opposed every major bill that would build housing in crucial areas and decrease the number of homeless people in our city. And now we have Councilmembers Katy Yaroslavsky, Monica Rodriguez, Traci Park, Imelda Padilla, Tim McOsker, John Lee, Ysabel Jurado and Heather Hutt and Mayor Karen Bass to blame for rising rents and the inevitable continuing rise of homelessness to follow.

These council members and the mayor have shown that they cannot fix L.A.'s housing problem on their own. This is exactly why the state needs to preempt local control from them and other cities like Los Angeles.

JOSH ALBREKTSON
South Pasadena

Crowley ousting was justified

Re "Ex-fire chief claims unjust removal," Aug. 21

How can holding a fire chief responsible for poor decision-making lead to a potential taxpayer-funded bonanza for her lawyers? The Los Angeles Times' own investigative reporting

uncovered the truth.

She reportedly had "roughly 1,000 available firefighters and dozens of water-carrying engines" that could and should have been pre-deployed. The quick reaction of these fire crews and equipment to spot fires could have made all the difference.

The fire chief was obliged to act upon the weather information provided to her. Kristin Crowley's demotion is entirely justified.

LEE MEISTER
San Pedro

::

Crowley has a very valid claim against Mayor Karen Bass and the city. Bass must be held accountable for this unjust demotion.

She must give Crowley her job back and avoid a multimillion-dollar settlement.

CHUCK TRUDEAU
Nipomo, Calif.

Solis has an unfair advantage

Re "Seat isn't official, but it may be reserved," Aug. 22

In light of the news that L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis intends to run for Congress should Cali-

fornia create a new district, it is important to highlight a serious concern.

Solis has a distinguished career of public service at the local, state and federal levels, and I admire her many achievements.

At the same time, she now has her name on a wide range of taxpayer-funded facilities across L.A. County: two schools in East L.A., a park in Baldwin Park, the new Hilda L. Solis Aquatic Center in West Puente Valley and even the Hilda L. Solis Care First Village for people experiencing homelessness.

The schools, park, pool and housing development are community resources meant to serve residents, not to promote the political brand of any one official. If Solis is considering another run for office, it may be time for her to remove her name from these facilities and remove the incumbency advantage that echoes the Donald Trump style of branding everything with his name.

ADAM BRAY-ALI
Alhambra

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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Ex-Rep. Porter has slight edge in governor’s race, poll says

[**Races**, from A1]

the top choice, with the backing of 17%. Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, a Republican, was the only other candidate who received double-digit support, winning the backing of 10% of respondents.

DiCamillo said Porter's unsuccessful 2024 U.S. Senate campaign boosted her recognition among California voters, but cautioned that she had a small, early lead more than nine months before the June 2 primary. Bianco's support was driven by voters focused on crime and public safety, taxes and the budget deficit, perennial concerns among GOP voters, according to the survey.

Other top candidates for governor — former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, former state legislative leader Toni Atkins, current California Supt. of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, former state Controller Betty Yee, wealthy businessman Stephen Clooback and conservative commentator Steve Hilton — received single-digit support as voters' first choice in the poll. A few potential candidates also had single-digit support, including billionaire Los Angeles businessman Rick Caruso, former Trump administration official Ric Grenell and former GOP state Sen. Brian Dahle.

The survey is among the first independent public polls since Harris announced in late July that she would not run for governor in 2026, dramatically reshuffling the calculus in a crowded race that the former vice president was widely expected to dominate if she mounted a campaign. The poll also took place after Lt. Gov Eleni Kounalakis dropped out of the contest this month to run for state treasurer instead.

“It’s pretty wide open,”

DiCamillo said. “And when you look at the second-choice preference, first and second together, it’s bunched together.”

When voters were asked to rank their top two choices, Porter received 22% as the first or second choice, Becerra got 18%, Bianco notched 15% and Hilton won 12%, according to the poll.

None of the politicians running are well known by Californians compared with the state’s last three governors: Newsom, the former mayor of San Francisco and lieutenant governor, who during his two terms as governor has positioned himself as a foil to President Trump; former two-term Gov. Jerry Brown, who along with his father left an indelible imprimatur on California’s history; and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a global celebrity who returned to the Hollywood limelight after he left office, along with launching efforts to fight climate change and support independent redistricting nationwide.

A pressing question is whether anyone else enters the race, notably Caruso, who has the ability to self-fund a campaign.

Whoever is elected as California’s next governor will face the difficult task of contending with a hostile Trump administration and an electorate looking to the state’s next leader to address its most pressing concerns.

Economic issues are top of mind among all registered voters, with 36% saying the cost of living is their greatest concern and 25% focusing on the affordability of housing, according to the poll. But there were sharp partisan disparities about other issues. Democrats were more concerned about the state of democracy, climate change and healthcare, while Republicans prioritized crime, taxes and immigration.



DEMOCRATIC gubernatorial candidates speak to union members at a conference in Sacramento in May.

Preferences in 2026 California governor race

	1st choice	2nd
Katie Porter (D)	17%	5%
Chad Bianco (R)	10%	5%
Xavier Becerra (D)	9%	9%
Steve Hilton (R)	6%	6%
Antonio Villaraigosa (D)	4%	4%
Rick Caruso (D)	4%	3%
Betty Yee (D)	2%	4%
Brian Dahle (R)	2%	4%
Richard Grenell (R)	2%	4%
Tony Thurmond (D)	1%	2%
Tony Atkins (D)	1%	2%
Stephen Clooback (D)	*	3%
Other	3%	3%
Undecided	38%	50%

* Less than ½ of 1%.

Berkeley Institute of Government Studies poll administered online in English and Spanish Aug. 11 – 17, 2025, among a stratified random sample of 4,950 California registered voters. Sampling error of about +/-1.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Funding for the poll was provided in part by the Los Angeles Times.

LORENA ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

Two of California’s most prominent Democrats, Newsom and Harris, are longtime friends grounded in their Bay Area roots and both viewed as potential 2028 presidential candidates.

As a potential White House hopeful, Newsom has

an edge over Harris among Californians overall as well as the state’s Democrats, according to the poll.

Roughly 45% of the state’s registered voters said they were very or somewhat enthusiastic about Newsom running, compared with 36% who expressed a similar sentiment about Harris.

Additionally, nearly two-thirds of registered voters and 51% of Democrats said Harris should not run for president again after two unsuccessful White House bids — in the primary in 2020 and in the general election in 2024.

“She lost, which is always a negative when you’re trying to run again,” DiCamillo said. “It’s interesting that even after Harris bowed out of the governor’s race, most Californians don’t really think she should run for president.”

While he described Newsom’s support as a “mixed bag” among the state’s registered voters, DiCamillo pointed to his strength among Democrats. Nearly 7 of 10 registered Democratic voters in the state said they are very or somewhat enthusiastic about Newsom running for president, compared with 54% who expressed similar feelings about Harris.

The poll took place during a tumultuous period as Trump’s far-right policies begin to hit their stride.

Drastic cuts to healthcare, nutrition, reproductive

rights and other federal safety-net programs are expected to disproportionately affect Californians. The Trump administration’s aggressive immigration raids in Los Angeles and across the state and country have caused the nation’s partisan divide to widen, driven by the president’s decision to deploy the military and target all undocumented immigrants, including law-abiding workers. Higher-education institutions across the nation have been targeted by the Trump administration, including UCLA, which is being threatened with a \$1-billion fine.

Californians were surveyed shortly before Democratic state lawmakers, trying to fight the Trump administration’s agenda, voted Thursday to call a special election in November to redraw the state’s congressional districts.

The action was taken to counter gerrymandering efforts in Texas and other GOP-led states as both parties fight for control of Congress in next year’s midterm elections.

The Berkeley IGS poll surveyed 4,950 California registered voters online in English and Spanish from Aug. 11 to 17. The results are estimated to have a margin of error of 2 percentage points in either direction in the overall sample, and larger numbers for subgroups.

COVID is rising in California, fueled by Stratus variant

[**COVID**, from A1]

California. “With back-to-school season in full swing ... we are expecting to see an uptick in COVID in children over the next few weeks and this is already being seen in some parts of the country.”

In a blog post, Dr. Matt Willis, former public health officer for Marin County, wrote that “California’s in the middle of a COVID-19 wave, and statewide rates are among the highest in the nation.”

Among senior-age residents in Orange County, emergency room visits for COVID-like illness, as well as hospitalizations for COVID, are also on the upswing, said Dr. Christopher Zimmerman, a physician with the Orange County Health Care Agency’s Communicable Disease and Control Division, and Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong, the county’s health officer.

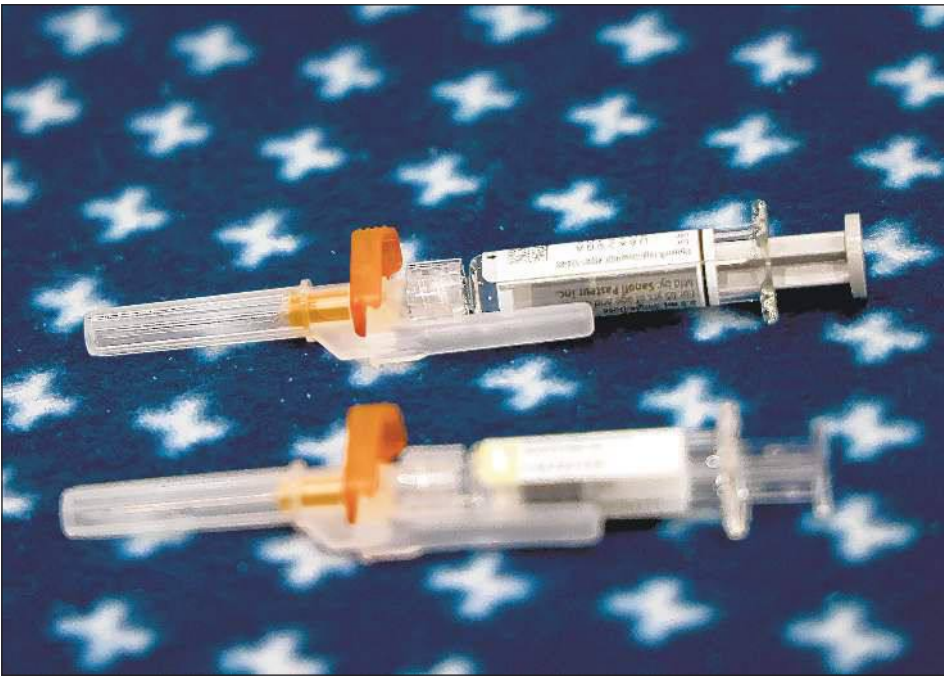
Hudson said the coronavirus subvariant XFG, nicknamed Stratus, accounts for the vast majority of variants seen in wastewater.

“This is another Omicron subvariant, so previous infections with other Omicron variants may offer some residual protection, but, as we know, that protection is not complete, so you can certainly be reinfected,” Hudson said.

It does seem that this summer, COVID season has been less intense than last year.

In L.A. County, for instance, current COVID hospitalizations for the week that ended Aug. 16 are about half the level seen during the same week last year. And in Orange County, emergency room visits related to COVID-like illness are less than half what they were last summer.

“Last summer’s COVID surge was the largest since 2022, so this year’s surge is more on par with our less-severe summer surges,” Hudson said. “People are definitely getting COVID this



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

THE SURGE comes as the Trump administration delays the fall vaccine’s rollout.

summer, but the intensity is much less than in 2024.”

The rise in COVID comes as the Trump administration has delayed the rollout of the updated vaccine for the fall.

Last year, the federal government had fully greenlighted the annual reformulation of the vaccine by June, in time for a rollout that began in September.

This year, however, the Department of Health and Human Services led by vaccine skeptic Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has in effect delayed the rollout of this fall’s COVID shot.

“Updated COVID-19 vaccines have been delayed this year due to federal policy changes, and we are awaiting [Food and Drug Administration] licensure of this season’s products,” the L.A. County Department of Public Health said in a statement to The Times. “This means availability in September may be later than what people experienced last fall.”

County health officials noted that the FDA could

further revise or limit who can get an annual COVID shot — as the agency signaled in May — “though current evidence continues to show that the vaccines are safe and effective across all ages.”

The California Department of Public Health also warned that because the federal government hasn’t made decisions on licensure approvals and recommendations, “availability and timing of specific COVID-19 vaccine products may be more limited and occur on a later schedule.”

“We’re in an unfortunate limbo, created by an administration that’s uncommitted to vaccines, between the slow shutting down of ‘24-’25 vaccine availability and access to the ‘25-’26 version,” Willis wrote in the Your Local Epidemiologist in California blog.

Chin-Hong said that the timing of the vaccine rollout is in such flux and he recommends anyone at risk for severe complications from COVID who hasn’t been vaccinated in more than a year

to get inoculated now.

People at severe risk for COVID illness include those 65 and older, those who have compromised immune systems, those who are pregnant, and all infants and children age 6 months to 23 months. (Children age 2 to 5 are also at greater risk for complications from COVID compared with older children.)

“If they haven’t gotten it in a year, just go ahead, maybe, get it now,” Chin-Hong said. “Because also, the vaccine that’s being proposed [for this fall] is relatively the same formula as last year. ... It’s less important to wait.”

It might also be easier to get the COVID-19 vaccine now ahead of potential changes in federal recommendations and approvals later this year.

Chin-Hong called the delay in formulating a COVID vaccine game plan for this fall “just weird,” as “usually in public health, preparation is everything.”

At this point in previous summers, health officials typically already would be

urging people to make plans to get a fall COVID vaccine.

But this time around, “Nobody knows details about who’s going to be eligible, exactly,” Chin-Hong said, except for those age 65 and up and younger people with chronic health conditions.

“We have a whole new discussion, like, ‘When is it coming? Who is it going to be eligible for? ... Do kids have to talk to their pediatrician first? Would pharmacists actually allow them to get it? ... Would healthy pregnant people [be able] to get it?’” Chin-Hong said.

It’s as if officials are talking about a new vaccine and a new illness, but the COVID-19 vaccine has been around for more than four years, Chin-Hong said.

But the federal government’s treatment of COVID shots is not happening in a vacuum. Kennedy has maligned mRNA vaccine technology — the basis for the most commonly administered COVID shots — and ordered the firing of all 17 experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s influential vaccine advisory committee.

One person who will lead a committee to review the safety of COVID vaccines for the CDC has described the shots as “the most failing medical product in the history of medical products,” the New York Times reported Friday.

COVID-19 vaccinations averted 2.5 million deaths globally from 2020 to 2024, according to a report published in the journal JAMA Health Forum in July.

The vaccine-skeptic leadership of Kennedy over the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the FDA and CDC, has prompted such a split in the medical community that mainstream organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics are issuing their own recommendations concerning vaccines.

The CDC, for instance, earlier this year asked that parents talk with a health-care provider before getting the COVID vaccine for healthy children. That’s an extra step parents may need to take to get their children vaccinated, and could end up being a “super big barrier” for vaccination, Chin-Hong said.

Previously, the CDC recommended everyone 6 months and older get an updated COVID vaccine in the fall.

The CDC also recently offered “no guidance” as to whether healthy pregnant women should get the COVID vaccine.

On Friday, by contrast, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommended that people “receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine or ‘booster’ at any point during pregnancy, when planning to become pregnant, in the postpartum period, or when lactating.”

“The COVID-19 vaccines are particularly effective at reducing morbidity from COVID-19 complications in pregnant patients and their infants,” the organization said. “Data also support the benefit of vaccination in reducing pregnancy complications, such as severe maternal morbidity, preterm birth, and stillbirth.”

And the American Academy of Pediatrics on Aug. 19 recommended that infants and children age 6 months to 23 months get the updated COVID vaccine, since they “are at high risk.”

The group also said that children ages 2 and older should be offered the latest COVID vaccine if their parent or guardian wishes.

“The COVID vaccine situation is unsettling. ... Differences in guidance from the CDC and other medical professional groups will be challenging for the public,” the Orange County communicable disease control team said.

CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

LAW enforcement officers surround the Cabazon home Friday of Jake and Rebecca Haro, who were arrested on suspicion of killing their 7-month-old son. Rebecca Haro reported the boy missing in Yucaipa on Aug. 14.

Search continues for body of missing baby

Emmanuel Haro's father, in custody since Friday, was seen over the weekend in a field with sheriff's investigators and cadaver dogs

BY NATHAN SOLIS

The search for baby Emmanuel Haro expanded to a dusty field in Moreno Valley over the weekend, where San Bernardino County Sheriff's investigators were joined by the boy's father, Jake Haro, wearing a jail jumpsuit.

Haro, 32, and his wife, Rebecca Haro, 41, have been in Sheriff's Department custody since they were ar-

rested Friday on suspicion of killing their 7-month-old son, Emmanuel. The infant's mother reported him missing Aug. 14 after she said she was attacked in a Yucaipa parking lot near a Big 5 sporting goods store, knocked unconscious, and discovered her baby was gone when she woke up.

Investigators say that story was made up.

Since then questions have swirled around the baby's whereabouts, even as

the parents appealed to the public to help them find their son. Investigators deemed the disappearance suspicious early on, saying Rebecca Haro offered contradictory statements about what happened the evening her child disappeared. An attorney who spoke on behalf of the parents said she was simply emotional and declined to take a polygraph.

On Sunday, news helicopters captured sheriff's in-

vestigators and Jake Haro in a bright orange jumpsuit in a dry-grass-covered shoulder of the westbound 60 Freeway near Gilman Springs Road, joined by cadaver dogs. Sheriff's investigators declined to say what led them to the area or why Haro was with them.

"During yesterday's search, Jake Haro was present with detectives; however, Emmanuel's body was not found despite an ex-

[See **Baby**, B2]

Monsoonal storms hit Yosemite, spark fires

Wild weather across the West upends Burning Man. Officials say pattern isn't over.

BY GRACE TOOHEY

In Yosemite National Park, hikers were surprisingly soaked this weekend as summer storms blew through the area. Meanwhile, thunderstorms across California's mountains launched rapid-fire lightning strikes that sparked several forest fires. And as Burning Man kicked off in Nevada's desert northwest, a major dust storm forced traffic to a halt as attendees tried to avoid the desert's wrath.

The impetus for this widespread, wild weather was a late-arriving monsoonal pattern, fueled by the region's lingering heat that pulled atmospheric mois-

ture north — and with it, instability.

"When you add in moisture and a lot of heat, that's when you get the potential for these thunderstorms," said Edan Lindaman, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Reno.

Forecasters had warned that a "monsoonal surge" kicking off Saturday would bring a strong chance for thunderstorms that could create gusty winds, dangerous dry lightning and even some brief downpours. And that's exactly what played out, particularly across California's interior mountains and into the eastern deserts.

On Saturday, major winds threw dust and debris across Nevada's remote deserts, creating hazards from Boulder City in the south up to the Black Rock Desert in the north, where thousands of creatives and others from around the world had started gathering for Burn-

[See **Weather**, B2]



NOAH BERGER Associated Press

A FIREFIGHTER battles the Pickett fire in Napa County. Several fires were blamed on late monsoons.

Study: Air pollution from oil and gas hits people of color hard

Report is the first to quantify health effects from every stage of fossil fuels' life cycle.

BY TYRONE BEASON

Iretha Warmlesley was born and raised in South L.A.'s Black community, and for as long as she can remember, air pollution from oil and gas has been both a fact of daily life and a harbinger of death and disease.

"My father died of cancer. My uncles died of cancer. My grandfather — most of family died of cancer, or they have some type of asthma or lupus," Warmlesley said. "I feel like more of us are contracting these diseases."

A new study from Europe offers fresh evidence of an injustice that Warmlesley and many other people of color who live near polluting industries and traffic-clogged freeways in Los Angeles and across the U.S. have long suspected: Black, Latino, Indigenous and Asian Americans are more at risk than white Americans from air pollution generated at every stage in the life cycle of oil and gas — from exploration, drilling and refining all the way to "downstream" pollution that comes from the burning of fossil fuels in factories and vehicles.

Air pollution from fossil fuels causes an estimated 91,000 premature deaths per year, with the greatest burden falling on Black and brown communities, ac-

cording to the study, published Friday in the journal Science Advances by a team from University College London and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

The researchers also found that air pollution contributes to 10,350 preterm births and 216,000 new cases of childhood asthma a year nationwide, as well as scores of instances of cancer.

It's the first study to comprehensively quantify the health effects of air pollution from every stage of oil and gas activity across the U.S. and analyze the racial inequities associated with them, said the study's lead author, Karn Vohra, a geologist who's now at the University of Birmingham in England.

"Our study is able to put numbers to this health burden," he said, noting that most other studies have focused on health outcomes from burning fossil fuels or were focused on specific geographic regions. "This shows us how bad it is from exploration, extraction and refining all the way to consumption."

The greatest harm came from the latter stages in the life cycle of oil and gas, the researchers found, such as exhaust from factories and vehicles, a type of air pollution that alone accounted for 96% of the incidents they linked to the oil and gas sector.

California ranked at the top of the list of the states most affected, followed by Texas, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Even

[See **Pollution**, B5]

Parts of California and the U.S. are banning kratom. Here's why

O.C. is latest to bar a form of the herbal supplement that has opioid properties.

BY KAREN GARCIA

An herbal supplement that's marketed as a cure-all for chronic pain and sold in gas stations and smoke shops is getting banned in communities across Southern California and the nation.

Kratom is derived from the leaves of *Mitragyna speciosa*, a tree native to

Southeast Asia, and is commonly made into a powder or pill.

Researchers say in the United States, people are using kratom to alleviate anxiety, treat chronic pain or as a remedy for the symptoms associated with quitting opioids, among other uses.

But recently, public health officials have raised alarms about a component of the leaf called hydroxymitragynine, also known as 7-OH, an alkaloid that has the potential for abuse because of its ability to bind to opioid receptors in the body.

7-OH is a naturally occurring substance in the

kratom plant, but researchers are seeing a proliferation of concentrated 7-OH products that potentially have enhanced amounts of the chemical, according to a report by the Food and Drug Administration.

The use of kratom in any form has not been approved by the FDA, but the agency is particularly scrutinizing 7-OH. It also is not regulated at the state level in California.

In the absence of regulation, this month the Orange County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale, distribution or possession of syn-

thetic kratom products in any form in the county. The ban comes after similar ordinances approved in Newport Beach, San Diego and Oceanside, among other cities.

Some states, including Arizona, Minnesota and Texas, prohibit the sale of products with 7-OH to minors. Other states are working on legislation that would tighten kratom regulations that include testing, age restrictions and labeling.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is reviewing the Orange County ordinance and

[See **Kratom**, B4]

ER doctors see 'invisible tsunami' in heat waves

The link to heart, respiratory and kidney illness is often missed, they say.

BY MARCOS MAGAÑA

Across Southern California, emergency room workers are primed for the wave of patients that pour in as heat waves like the current one drag into their second, third and fourth days.

Heat takes an accumulating toll on the body, especially when people cannot cool down at night with air conditioning.

Dr. Jennifer Roh, medical director of the adult emer-

[See **Heat**, B5]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

HEAT is a "threat multiplier" for other conditions. Above, a worker on a hot day.

Missing boy’s mom defends husband: ‘He would never hurt a baby’

[**Baby**, from B1] haustive effort,” the department said in a statement Monday. “The Sheriff’s Department would not, and did not, describe Haro’s presence at the location as providing assistance.”

Rebecca Haro, meanwhile, continued to maintain her innocence and her husband’s in a brief interview with a reporter on Sunday.

“I will not give up. I will not give up on my baby,” she told a reporter from the Southern California News Group. “I want to be out looking for my baby.”

After Emmanuel Haro was reported missing, Riverside County child protective services removed a 2-year-old girl from the Haro home. County officials would not disclose why the child was removed, citing state confidentiality laws.

According to court records, Jake Haro was convicted in 2023 of willful cruelty to a child after an incident in which a baby in his care suffered multiple bone fractures in 2018. He was still on probation in that case when he was arrested last week.

In her interview Sunday, Rebecca Haro said that she still supported her husband.

“He’s a good dad,” she told the news outlet. “He would never hurt a baby.”

The couple were arrested

at their home in Cabazon on Friday as investigators served a search warrant and combed the property for evidence.

San Bernardino County sheriff’s investigators in plain clothes searched the property, passing by a colorful kid’s bicycle leaning against a fence and a baby swing on the porch.

Investigators entered three detached buildings on the property, including a single-story home and a tin-roofed barn. Helicopters circled over the neighborhood and showed footage of investigators parsing through scattered items in the home’s rear while multiple people recorded the scene with their phones from the street.

“It is believed Emmanuel is deceased and the search to recover his remains is ongoing,” the Sheriff’s Department said in a statement. “While these arrests mark a significant development, our focus remains on finding Emmanuel.”

It was not immediately clear what, if anything, detectives took from the home. Both parents remain in custody and jail records show they are due in court Tuesday morning.

Riverside County prosecutors said they are still reviewing the case from investigators.



NOAH BERGER Associated Press

A HELICOPTER makes a drop on the Pickett fire. The wave of storms was fueled by the hot and dry weather.

Late monsoonal pattern will linger until Wednesday, forecasters say

[**Weather**, from B1] ing Man. The ferocious dust storm around the event’s temporary Black Rock City forced organizers to shutter the event’s gates and its nearby airport as the weather service warned of a “wall of blowing dust.” There were several reported injuries.

The storm produced winds up to 50 mph Saturday and just below that Sunday, Lindaman said.

To the southeast in the Sierra Nevada, rare August rain fell across parts of the range this weekend, with one-tenth of an inch falling in the Yosemite Valley and more than 2 inches at some of the park’s higher elevations, according to the weather service. There were also reports of minor flooding near Lake Isabella in Kern County that temporarily closed at least one road.

In many areas, the thunderstorms dropped little or no rain but brought lightning strikes flashing across the sky from interior Southern California to the northern Sierras over the weekend. The U.S. Forest Service reported more than 10,000 lightning strikes within a 24-hour period Saturday and Sunday, but said “thanks to aggressive initial attack we only have one new significant fire.”

That major blaze, the Garnet fire, took off Sunday



OnScene.TV

THUNDERSTORMS doused California’s mountains. In many areas, storms brought only lightning strikes.

afternoon in the Sierra National Forest, surging to almost 4,500 acres as of Monday morning, according to fire officials. Officials have not yet determined its cause.

In the Angeles National Forest, officials recorded at least five lightning-sparked fires over the weekend, though none grew beyond an acre. David Gomberg, a weather service meteorologist in Oxnard, attributed that to preparation before the storms by forecasters and fire officials.

“When these events do happen and we get these small fires that are kept small, that’s the ideal situation we’re hoping for,” Gomberg said. “With the fuels being dry and the fact we haven’t had much rainfall [in Southern California] ... the

vegetation is extremely receptive right now.”

Though storms fueled by monsoonal moisture are normal for California’s interior and surrounding deserts this time of year, it’s unusual for the first one of the year to arrive this late in the season, experts say.

“Normally the monsoon pattern for Southern California is most prominent anywhere from July to early September,” Gomberg said. “It’s been very slow to start this year, but now we’re in August and we’re finally getting some activity.”

This wave of storms was fueled by the hot and dry weather over the U.S. Southwest, which brought record-setting heat to the region for almost a week. Even as the heat is forecast to continue

letting up over the next few days, officials warn that the humid, monsoonal pattern has not yet passed. Elevated temperatures will remain across the region until at least Wednesday, as will the threat for thunderstorms, which can bring dry lightning, erratic winds and the chance for flooding.

“We really have probably two more days, today and tomorrow, that look like pretty good chances for monsoonal thunderstorms,” Gomberg said Monday. He said scattered storms are possible across the Southern California interior, but no formal advisories have been issued.

Farther north, the weather service has warned of flooding concerns. The Yosemite Valley, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Mammoth Lakes and much of the Sierra foothills remained under a flood watch Monday, as the chance for additional heavy storms persisted.

The Tahoe basin was under a flash flood watch Monday with the chance for “excessive rainfall” that could cause flooding or debris flows, especially along burn scars, the weather service warned.

In northwestern California and into Central Oregon, the storms created red flag conditions until late Monday, according to the National Weather Service.



RMG News

JAKE HARO, left, in a jail jumpsuit, stands with deputies Sunday at a search site near the 60 Freeway.

Suits accuse Newport Beach philanthropist of fraud scheme

Jeweler Mordechai ‘Moti’ Ferder resigned from his corporate position in May.

By SARA CARDINE

A Newport Beach businessman has been named in numerous lawsuits alleging he engaged in fraudulent and illegal actions involving the diamond business he founded in 2005 and the private-equity firm he sold the outfit to for \$256 million in 2021.

Mordechai “Moti” Ferder, founder and chief executive of Newport Beach’s Lugano Diamonds & Jewelry, resigned from his position with parent company Compass Diversified effective May 7 and, according to one lawsuit, is living abroad and transferring his assets out of California as legal threats mount.

Well known in local philanthropic circles, Ferder was touted as the man behind the \$2.5-million donation that allowed the Orange County Museum of Art to offer free admission for a decade after its grand reopening in 2022. Just three weeks before his resignation, the jeweler was profiled by Forbes on his many charitable causes.

Multiple complaints filed in county and federal courts since early June contend Ferder entered into unpermitted outside contracts with wealthy individuals, soliciting funds to either acquire interest in or, with additional Lugano funds, purchase diamonds with the agreement the parties would split the profits.



DOUG GIFFORD

MOTI and Idit Ferder attend a Guilds of Segerstrom Center dinner in 2017. He is being sued by parties including Lugano Diamonds & Jewelry, which he founded.

Some of the transactions provided the third parties with initial returns, which Lugano alleges in its own lawsuit against Ferder were charged to the company as business expenses. But at some point, the funds ran out, leaving multiple investors holding the bag, suits allege.

Lugano’s filing accuses Ferder of fraud, concealment, civil theft and breach of fiduciary duty, claiming he not only illegally procured outside investments without approval from Compass Diversified but falsely recorded at least \$100 million in liabilities as incoming revenue.

“He forged invoices and sale documents, sent out

empty box shipments, falsely recorded the money from the third-party individuals as revenue for Lugano, and concealed the repayment obligations from Lugano’s books,” the company’s legal team alleges.

Ferder could not be reached for comment.

An attorney with Brown Neri Smith & Khan, the Los Angeles law firm representing Lugano Diamonds & Jewelry, declined to speak with the Daily Pilot about the lawsuit. But the complaint claims Ferder has fled the country since resigning in May.

“He is currently staying in Tel Aviv, Israel, and appears to be in the process of moving his assets out of the

United States and to Israel,” according to the complaint.

While it is unknown how many ventures Ferder may have engaged in, the activity is suspected to have taken place over several years, going back at least as far as 2020, according to one lawsuit.

Attorneys for Barry Aronoff, president of Costa Mesa-based Aronoff Capital Inc., maintain that between June 19, 2020, and Nov. 16, 2023, Ferder approached the plaintiffs more than 15 times after an initial transaction, offering higher returns on investment.

“The value of the diamonds Ferder proposed acquiring on behalf of Lugano Diamonds increased over

time to induce plaintiffs to give defendants more money in subsequent transactions,” the complaint reads.

The suit contends Aronoff Capital is owed nearly \$4.6 million in outstanding payments, and plaintiffs are seeking treble damages — an amount estimated to be more than \$13.7 million.

Beyond the many side deals allegedly brokered, Lugano’s attorneys claim Ferder falsely claimed the transactions were ordinary sales and “manipulated Lugano’s internal accounting records to characterize the incoming funds as revenue.”

“By doing so, Moti misled internal stakeholders and auditors regarding Lugano’s actual performance and valuation,” the business’ attorneys argue.

The jewelry retailer’s suit against Ferder also describes an instance in which a New York diamond dealer, Scarselli Diamonds, was asked to furnish a gem to Lugano by Ferder, who claimed a buyer in Miami wanted to see the diamond.

After the object was shipped, however, Ferder allegedly rerouted it to another Florida address belonging to an entity called VAD & Co., though the transaction was never reported on Lugano’s records.

Lugano’s suit further maintains Ferder’s fraud and concealment of the outside contracts has exposed the company to numerous lawsuits from the third parties and caused “substantial reputational harm.”

“Some of the third parties have shown up to Lugano boutiques, yelled at and harassed Lugano staff

and even threatened to call the police on Lugano employees,” it continues.

Meanwhile, the fallout on the Newport Beach retailer and its parent company appears vast, as Lugano’s interim chief executive previously told the Orange County Business Journal the company was actively engaged with potential buyers and looking to downsize its workforce by 25%.

Compass Diversified Holdings is meanwhile a named defendant in a class-action complaint filed with the U.S. District Court by attorneys representing shareholders who purchased publicly traded Compass securities between May 1, 2024, and May 7, 2025, under false pretenses.

“Had [class members] been aware that the market price of the company’s securities had been artificially and falsely inflated ... they would not have purchased the company’s securities at the artificially inflated prices that they did, or at all,” the class action complaint reads.

In the same May 7 statement in which Compass announced Ferder’s resignation, officials disclosed nonreliance on the company’s 2024 financial statements and announced that “amid an ongoing internal investigation into its subsidiary Lugano Holding, Inc.,” that it would delay its first-quarter filing for 2025.

“What has been uncovered through the investigation thus far does not reflect who we are as a business and the values we uphold,” said Chief Executive Elias Sabo.

Cardine writes for Times Community News.

CITY & STATE



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

INCOMING

Roderick Gano, right, assembles a bed for his freshman daughter Mirabel Zisk, left, as her roommate Kennley Benefield looks on at Cal State Northridge on Friday. Fall weekday classes began Monday.

Inquiry sought after immigration agents fire at truck in San Bernardino

Lawyers release video that they say disputes feds’ claim that the driver injured officers.

BY MELISSA GOMEZ

Attorneys for a San Bernardino man who was stopped by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers on Aug. 16 are calling for an investigation after masked immigration agents shot at his vehicle during a stop.

They also released surveillance video of the incident, which appears to dispute a key claim by the Department of Homeland Security — that the man drove his truck toward agents and injured them.

The man, Francisco Longoria, was driving to work around 8 a.m. on Aug. 16 with his 18-year-old son and 23-year-old son-in-law, his attorneys said. Longoria’s truck bed was full of party rental supplies because they were on their way to drop them off, a job he does for a living.

In surveillance video captured from across the street, the interaction begins when a white truck veers into the far right lane in front of Longoria’s truck, forcing him to stop.

Agents appear to then surround the car, with two more vehicles parked behind Longoria’s truck.

Video from inside the truck taken by Longoria’s passengers shows masked agents surrounding the vehicle, as Longoria says in Spanish, “Don’t open it” to his son in the passenger seat.

“Francisco! Roll down the window!” one agent says in the video, addressing Longoria.

One video shows a masked agent, wearing a “CBP” baseball cap, slipping on gloves right before another



CARLOS DEL HOYO

FRANCISCO LONGORIA’S truck had two bullet holes after the Aug. 16 incident, his attorneys said.

er agent shatters the car window on the driver’s side.

Longoria then speeds off, and three shots ring out. The truck was found with two bullet holes, his attorneys said.

Now, attorneys Jason Sanchez and Robbie Muñoz of the Simon Law Group are calling on local and state officials to investigate the incident, which appears to be the first instance in California of agents firing a weapon during an immigration enforcement operation.

They have forwarded the videos to the state attorney general’s office, as well as the San Bernardino city attorney’s office, seeking accountability for what happened. Homeland Security never produced a warrant in the attempt to stop Longoria, who does not have a criminal record or ongoing deportation proceedings that would have put him on Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s radar, his attorneys said.

“Who’s going to police DHS when something like this happens?” said Sanchez, who is representing Longoria.

As of Monday, the attorneys have not received any answers as to whether an investigation has been launched by federal, state or local officials. The state attorney general’s office declined to comment.

On Monday, Homeland Security said it is a “developing situation” and did not answer questions about the officers it said were injured or their conditions. The agency said in a statement that officers were injured when the driver tried to “run them down” in what it referred to as a targeted enforcement operation.

“The suspect drove directly at the officers, striking two with his vehicle,” Homeland Security said in a statement. “In response to this violent act, a CBP officer was forced to discharge his firearm in self-defense.”

“Later, the San Bernardino Police Department, who were contacted by a federal official assigned to the operation regarding the assault, located the suspect at a residence and briefly had him in custody — only to release him,” the agency said. “This reckless decision came despite the subject’s outright refusal to comply and his wounding of two federal officers.”

Surveillance video, however, appears to contradict that claim. The moment Longoria drives away, agents on both sides of the truck remain in sight of the video, and they then pile into their vehicles and pursue Longoria’s truck down a side street.

Sanchez questioned the claim by Homeland Security

that agents were injured.

“If an officer was injured, what were his injuries?” he said. “They claim these things and nothing else happens.”

Two bullet holes were found on the passenger side of the truck, Sanchez said, and his firm shared videos of remnants of the bullets being collected from inside the vehicle, where shattered window glass remained.

After Longoria drove off, the family called 911. While San Bernardino police were questioning Longoria, the immigration agents arrived, and family members identified the officer they believed had shot at the truck. The officer denied firing at the truck.

In a statement, the San Bernardino Police Department confirmed it responded to a call from someone who said “masked men had tried to pull him over, broke his car window, and shot at him.”

The department said that at the time, it was unclear what the suspect was wanted for and, because of state law, did not get involved.

Later that same day, around 1:15 p.m., San Bernardino police responded to a call from federal agents after they attempted to detain Longoria at his home for a charge of assaulting an officer. A large crowd had formed to protest the arrest, Muñoz said, but Longoria was ultimately not detained or arrested.

Muñoz said it’s important not just to get answers for Longoria’s family but also to try to prevent a similar situation from happening again.

“What world are we living in where it’s now OK and acceptable for a masked agent — who’s not provided any identifying information — to shoot into the back of a civilian’s vehicle?” Muñoz said.

Man charged in slaying; video yields clues

BY SUMMER LIN

A husband accused of killing his wife then dumping her body in the Angeles National Forest before fleeing the country with their children has been officially charged with murder, paving the way for his arrest and possible extradition back to the United States.

Here’s what we know so far.

The investigation

Jossimar Cabrera, 36, who investigators believe fled to Peru after the death of his wife, Sheylla Cabrera, was charged with one count of murder, according to the Los Angeles County district attorney’s office.

Prosecutors have filed an extradition arrest warrant for Cabrera and a court date is expected to be scheduled.

The remains of 33-year-old Sheylla Cabrera, also known as Sheylla Lisbet Gutiérrez Rosillo, were found Aug. 16 by the Mon-

trose Search and Rescue Team, according to a statement from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Surveillance video

On Aug. 12, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Lancaster Station took a missing persons report on Sheylla, officials said.

The next day, authorities found video surveillance of Jossimar Cabrera allegedly dragging a large object from the apartment complex in the 500 block of Lancaster Boulevard, where the couple lived with their three young sons.

Officials suspected foul play and homicide investigators began conducting their investigation, according to authorities. The couple’s three children were also entered into the missing persons system.

On Aug. 16 in the Angeles National Forest, authorities found Sheylla’s body wrapped in material that ap-

peared similar to what was seen being dragged in the video, though the department didn’t specify what the material was.

A cause of death has not yet been established and is being investigated by the L.A. County medical examiner’s office, authorities said.

Children found safe

Jossimar Cabrera allegedly fled the country with the couple’s three children, the Sheriff’s Department said. On Aug. 16, the children were found safe and taken into protective custody in Peru.

Cabrera was detained twice after leaving the country — once in Mexico and once in Peru — but was released because he hadn’t yet been charged with a crime, according to Lt. Michael Modica, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

The family

The Cabrerass are originally from Peru and immi-

grated to the U.S. in search of a better life, according to Peruvian news outlet Latina Noticias.

Helga Rocillo, Sheylla Cabrera’s mother, told the publication that Sheylla is a victim of domestic violence and that Jossimar abused her physically and verbally. Rocillo also said that Jossimar told her that his wife had been taken by U.S. immigration authorities.

Rocillo told the outlet that she spoke with her daughter on a video call a few days before she was reported missing. Sheylla told her that she was going to report her husband for domestic violence.

“She told me that Jossimar Cabrera Cornejo hit her, mistreated her, and even slapped my youngest grandchild, who is 3 years old,” Rocillo said.

“I called my daughter, but she didn’t answer. I spoke to Jossimar on Sunday, and he told me that immigration had taken my daughter.”

Newsom on why partisan redistricting is necessary

The governor says the state must fight Trump, who is ‘trying to rig the election.’

BY MELODY GUTIERREZ AND LAURA J. NELSON

SACRAMENTO — Moments after California lawmakers passed a plan designed to undercut attempts by the president and fellow Republicans to keep control of Congress, Gov. Gavin Newsom said the state’s proposed partisan redistricting that favors Democrats is a necessary counterweight to President Trump’s threat to American democracy.

Trump’s assault on vote by mail and decision to send the military into U.S. cities are evidence of his authoritarian policies, and California must do its part to keep him in check, Newsom said.

By deploying federal immigration agents in roving street raids and activating thousands of members of the National Guard in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., Newsom said, Trump is amassing “a private army for Donald Trump.”

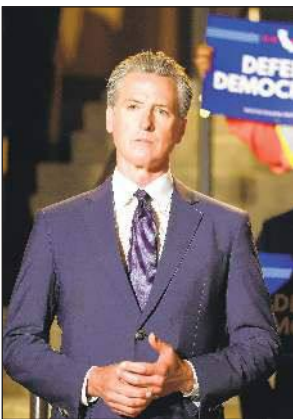
“He’s trying to rig the election, he’s trying to set up the conditions where he can claim that the elections were not won fair and square,” Newsom said. “Open your eyes to what is going on in the United States of America in 2025.”

The argument is a preview of the messaging for the ballot measure campaign that Newsom and his Democratic Party allies will be running over the next few months.

On Thursday, California lawmakers signed off on a Nov. 4 special election that will put partisan redistricting in front of voters.

The ballot measure, called Proposition 50, will ask voters to discard the congressional boundaries drawn by the state’s independent redistricting commission in 2021 in favor of partisan districts that could boot as many as five California Republicans out of Congress.

“When all things are equal, and we’re all playing by the same set of rules,”



ALLEN J. SCHABEN L.A. Times

“**WE’RE** giving the American people a fair chance,” Newsom said.

Newsom said, “there’s no question that the Republican Party will be the minority party in the House of Representatives next year.”

California is “responding to what occurred in Texas, we’re neutralizing what occurred, and we’re giving the American people a fair chance,” Newsom said.

National Republican Congressional Committee Chair Rep. Richard Hudson of North Carolina accused Newsom of trying to “rig” the system to advance his own political career.

“Instead of fixing the homelessness, crime, drug, and cost crises crushing the Golden State, Gavin Newsom is tearing up California’s Constitution to advance his presidential ambitions,” Hudson said in a statement.

California’s new lines would neutralize efforts in Texas to redraw its congressional district maps to help elect five more GOP candidates in 2026.

The other option, Newsom said, is for California and Democrats to “roll over and do nothing.”

“I think people all across the country are going to campaign here in California for this,” Newsom said.

“They recognize what’s at stake. It’s not just about the state of California. It’s about the United States of America. It’s about rigging the election. It’s about completely gutting the rules.”

Times staff writer Seema Mehta contributed to this report.

Man is accused of luring girl into van and molesting her

The San Bernardino resident posed as an animal control officer, sheriff’s officials say.

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

A San Bernardino man has been arrested on suspicion of molestation after he allegedly posed as an animal control officer in a white “ambulance-style” van to lure a young girl searching for her missing dog into his van, authorities said.

At about 8:50 p.m. Aug. 19, San Bernardino County sheriff’s deputies responded to reports of a kidnapping in Highland after an 11-year-old girl briefly went missing and returned home in the evening, according to a news release. Earlier that day, the girl was searching for her missing dog near San Francisco and 14th streets when Guillermo Cascante, a 57-year-old San Bernardino resident, allegedly approached her in an older white van and posed as an animal control officer to lure her into his vehicle, according to the release.

Deputies said that once

inside the vehicle, Cascante allegedly used a handgun to threaten the girl and proceeded to molest her as he drove around the city. Cascante then stopped the vehicle, dropped the girl off near Cunningham and 9th streets and fled the scene, according to the press release.

Deputies conducted an area search and located a vehicle matching the victim’s description parked near Cascante’s home at 18th and Guthrie streets, authorities said.

The next day, deputies issued a search warrant for Cascante’s home and made the arrest, deputies said. Cascante was booked on suspicion of kidnapping, lewd acts with a child under 14 and lewd acts with a child using force or fear.

Detectives said they believe other victims may exist and plan to redraw photos of Cascante and his vehicle to the public. Individuals who may have been victimized by Cascante or have information regarding the incident are asked to contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department’s Highland station at (909) 425-9793 or the anonymous tip line at (800) 782-7463.

Use of kratom raising concern in U.S.

[**Kratom**, from B1]
“is committed to continuing our efforts to inform residents about the dangers associated with kratom,” the department said in a statement.
“Its availability is a cause for concern since Los Angeles residents might use kratom without a full understanding of its risks,” the statement read.

What are side effects of kratom?
The drug has stimulant effects, in low doses, so people have reported feeling alert, physically energized and talkative, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.
In high doses, it can have opioid effects such as sedation.
Because of kratom’s opioid effects, those who use it can develop opioid use disorder, which seriously affects “the health and wellness of our community and increases the risk of people using higher-potency opioids associated with significant overdose risks,” the Los Angeles County Department of health stated.
Poison control centers in the U.S. received more than 3,400 reports about the use of kratom from 2014 to 2019, according to the Mayo



LAUREN DE CICCIA Getty Images

KRATOM side effects can include nausea, dry mouth, hallucinations, depression, delusions and trouble breathing. Above, kratom leaves for sale in Bangkok in 2021.

Clinic. The side effects reported included high blood pressure, confusion, seizures and death.
According to the FDA, there were 11 deaths from 2011 to 2017 connected to kratom exposure, but almost all of them involved other drugs or contaminants.
General physical side effects of kratom can include nausea, constipation, dizziness and dry mouth. Side effects related to the nervous

system include hallucinations, delusions, depression, confusion and trouble breathing.

Why isn’t kratom regulated?
In July, the FDA recommended that the synthetic ingredient 7-OH, not the plant itself, be placed on the federal government’s restrictive list of illegal drugs.
The ingredient is being used in products that are becoming increasingly available to purchase online and at smoke shops, the agency warned.
The FDA is particularly concerned with the growing market of 7-OH products that may be especially appealing to children and teenagers, such as fruit-flavored gummies and ice cream cones that aren’t clearly labeled as having 7-OH content.
The federal agency’s recommendation will be reviewed by the DEA, which ultimately has the authority to categorize the chemical as an illegal drug, but not without a draft of its findings, followed by a public comment period.
Last year, California was on its way to having state-

wide regulation for kratom products.
Assemblymember Matt Haney (D-San Francisco) proposed Assembly Bill 2365 that would require kratom products be registered with the public health department. It also would regulate the product’s chemical content, mandate labeling with alkaloid amounts and warnings that kratom may be habit forming as well as bar kratom sales to anyone under 21.
The bill was well-constructed for consumer protection but disappointingly shelved last year, said Matthew Lowe, executive director of the Global Kratom Coalition.
“Without regulation, these bad actors push synthetic products onto the market without any legal or scientific justification,” Lowe said. “Consumers who responsibly use natural kratom leaf fear losing access because of the reckless actions of those selling dangerous synthetics falsely marketed as natural kratom.”
The coalition supports putting federal regulations on 7-OH so it can provide a legal framework for local governments, Lowe said.

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(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):**
Ohio Security Insurance Company; West American Insurance Company

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT
9425 Penfield Ave.
CHATSWORTH, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Sally Noma, Esq. - NOMA LAW FIRM A P.C.
1901 Harrison St, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
415.493.0755

Date: (Fecha) 3/18/2024

DAVID W. SLAYTON Clerk
(Secretario)
M. VARGAS Deputy
(Adjunto)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A PARTIALLY RECIRCULATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), as the Lead Agency, has prepared a Partially Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (the Act), Senate Bill (SB) 54 (Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022), Implementing Regulations (Proposed Program). The Proposed Program would implement the requirements of the Act for producers of covered materials to source reduce plastic covered material and meet recyclability and compostability targets; for producers to establish a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) for the purpose of developing and implementing an Extended Producer Responsibility program for covered material; reporting and fee requirements for producers; and requirements for local jurisdictions and recycling service providers. It is reasonably foreseeable that meeting the Act's source reduction and recycling rates will require the development of infrastructure to optimize recycling and disposal waste streams, including collection, sorting, and processing facilities. A Draft PEIR was previously released for public comment on November 4, 2024. The Partially Recirculated Draft PEIR reflects changes to the Implementing Regulations and updates information in the environmental analysis to be consistent with the changes.
The Partially Recirculated Draft PEIR will be circulated for a forty-five (45) day public review period, beginning on August 26, 2025, and ending on October 10, 2025. An electronic copy of the Notice of Completion and Availability and the Partially Recirculated Draft PEIR is available at: <https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/Project/2024070487>
CalRecycle is requesting that anyone wishing to submit written comments on the Partially Recirculated Draft PEIR limit their comments to the revised portions of the Draft PEIR. CalRecycle is accepting comments on only the revised text contained in the Recirculated Draft PEIR (the text that is either underlined or struck through) during a 45-day review period (CEQA Guidelines, § 15088.5(f)(2)). CalRecycle is not accepting additional input on non-recirculated chapters of the Draft PEIR, or portions thereof, that remain unchanged, and was previously circulated for public review. Please send your written comments to CalRecycle by one of the following delivery methods. In your comments, please include your name and contact information and "SB 54 Implementing Regulations CEQA" at the top of your comment.
Electronically: <https://calrecycle.commentinput.com?id=JQCvBSREg>
E-mail: Packaging@CalRecycle.ca.gov
Post: Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
13th Floor - Fidan Aghayarova
P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025
All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2025.

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

**SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)**
**CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso):
25NNCV04398**

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**
JAMES HU, an individual; HSU KUN FU, an individual; CALIFORNIA ESCROW GROUP, a California corporation; CHICAGO TITLE COMPANY, a California corporation; AITON CAPITAL INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1-20

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE)**
OAKHURST OPPORTUNITY LENDING FUND I, LP, a Delaware limited partnership

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
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Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extintos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
GLENDALE COURTHOUSE, 600 EAST BROADWAY,
GLENDALE, CA 91206

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Andrew J. Ditlevsen (SBN: 284911) / Lucas R. Coe (SBN: 331569) 408-286-9800
Lathrop GPM, LLP
70 S. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113

Date: 06/24/2025

David W. Slayton Executive Officer/
Clerk of the Court
(Secretario)
D. Gallegos Deputy
(Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times

What if I don't go to my court date?
If you do not go to your court date, the judge can grant a restraining order that limits your contact with Andrew Cohen. Having a restraining order against you may impact your life in other ways, including preventing you from having guns and ammunition. If you do not go to your court date, the judge could grant everything that Andrew Cohen asked the judge to order.
¿Qué pasa si no voy a la audiencia?
Si no va a la audiencia, el juez puede dictar una orden de restricción que limita su contacto con Andrew Cohen. Una orden de restricción en su contra puede tener otras consecuencias, como prohibirle tener armas de fuego y municiones. Si no va a la audiencia, el juez puede ordenar todo lo que pide Andrew Cohen.

How do I find out what Andrew Cohen is asking for?

To find out what Andrew Cohen is asking the judge to order, go to the courthouse listed. Ask the court clerk to let you see your case file. You will need to give the court clerk your case number, which is listed above. The request for restraining order will be on form CH-100, *Request for Civil Harassment Restraining Order*.

¿Cómo puedo entender lo que pide Andrew Cohen?

Para entender lo que pide Andrew Cohen, vaya al tribunal en la dirección indicada arriba. Pida al secretario de la corte permiso para ver el expediente de su caso. Tendrá que darle al secretario el número de su caso, que aparece arriba. La solicitud de una orden de restricción se hace en el formulario CH-100, *Solicitud de órdenes de restricción por acoso civil*.

Where can I get help?

Free legal information is available at your local court's self-help center. Go to www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp to find your local center.

¿Dónde puedo obtener ayuda?

Puede obtener información legal gratis en el centro de ayuda de su corte. Vea www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-selfhelpcenters.htm?rd=LocalAttr para encontrar el centro de ayuda en su condado.

Do I need a lawyer?

You are not required to have a lawyer, but you may want legal advice before your court hearing. For help finding a lawyer, you can visit www.lawhelpca.org or contact your local bar association.

¿Necesito un abogado?

No es obligatorio tener un abogado, pero es posible que quiera consejos legales antes de la audiencia en la corte. Para ayuda a encontrar un abogado, visite www.lawhelpca.org/es/homepage o contacte al Colegio de Abogados local.

Date: Aug 06, 2025
By: David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By: I. Alarcon, Deputy

Published in the Los Angeles Times

love is...

...living a life together.

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Harms of air pollution from oil, gas quantified

[Pollution, from B1] when the rankings are adjusted for population, California came in at No. 4.

“It still means that Californians have a high vulnerability to all of these pollutants,” Vohra said.

The researchers used advanced computer models to map air pollution that stems from oil and gas activities around the country. With this information, along with health data from government agencies and other sources from 2017 — the most recent year for which comprehensive data were available — they developed estimates of the number of early deaths, preterm births, asthma cases and other outcomes.

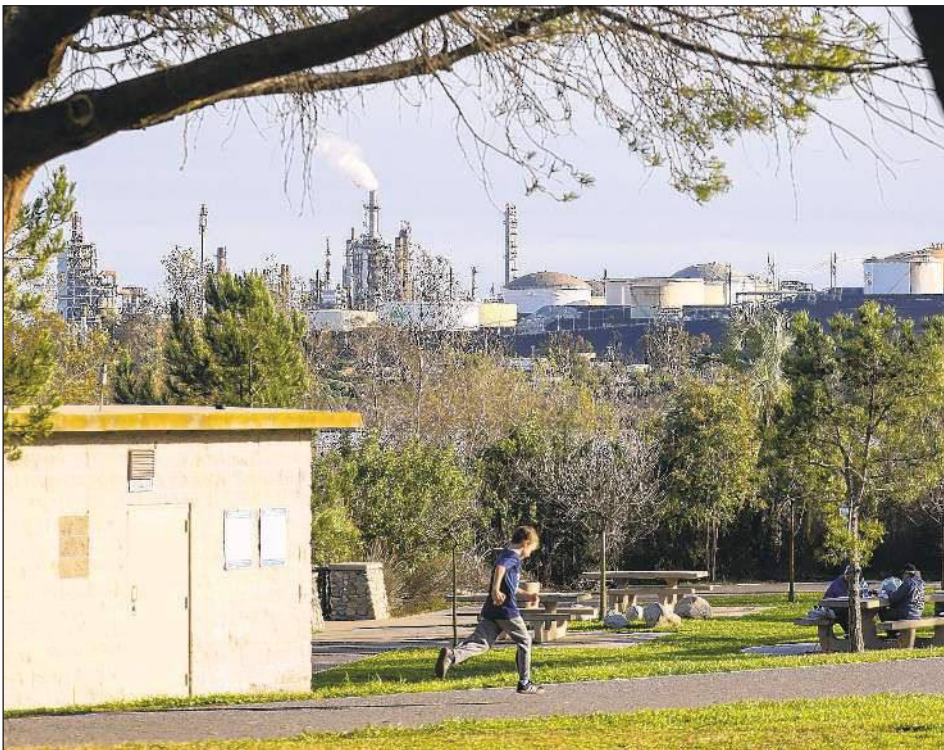
The data allowed the scientists to give estimates only down to the county level in each state, so the findings can’t be used to compare one neighborhood with another within those boundaries.

In California, Los Angeles County sits at or near the top of the list in each category of harm measured, Vohra said.

■ Among adults age 25 and older, there were 10,022 early deaths due to fine particles from oil and gas emissions in California, 3,674 of which were in L.A. County.

■ Among California seniors age 65 and older, there were 7,273 deaths from illnesses linked to nitrogen dioxide, mainly vehicle exhaust. Of those, 2,815 were in L.A. County.

■ For preterm births linked to particles from oil and gas activities, there were 2,319 in California and 867 in L.A. County.



JULIANA YAMADA Los Angeles Times

THE RESEARCHERS found that air pollution contributes to 216,000 new cases of childhood asthma a year in the United States. Above, a refinery in Harbor City.

■ Ozone-related chronic obstructive pulmonary disease led to 137 early deaths in California. Of those, two were in L.A. County.

■ There were 40,974 new cases of asthma in children in California in 2017. Of those, 14,452 were in L.A. County. (The study found that 90% of new childhood asthma cases in the U.S. were linked to nitrogen dioxide from oil and gas sector air pollution.)

■ The researchers also linked 298 cancer diagnoses statewide to a lifetime of exposure to hazardous air pollutants in 2017 — 130 of which were in Los Angeles County.

The data, Vohra said, also revealed broad racial disparities.

For example, the researchers found that upstream air pollution from oil and gas, such as from drilling, disproportionately hurt Native Americans and Latinos, while the health harms from latter-stage pollution, such as from combustion engines, disproportionately affected Black and Asian American communities.

“Much of the disparity in exposures and health outcomes stem from a legacy of zoning practices, such as

‘redlining,’ that relegated certain populations to live near pollution hotspots such as industrial areas or high-traffic roadways,” the research team said in a statement. “Permitting of large factories that produce products from oil and gas is another contributing factor.”

Warmsley has been working to raise awareness about how air pollution from oil drilling hurts residents in South L.A. since 2000. She’s currently the co-chair of the oil drilling committee for the nonprofit advocacy group Strategic Concepts in Or-

ganizing and Policy Education, which is part of a coalition of anti-drilling groups called STAND-LA.

Warmsley grew up around West 59th Street and South Vermont Avenue — a densely populated residential district sandwiched between the 110 Freeway and the 1,000-acre Inglewood Oil Field, the largest urban oil field in the U.S. She remembers being awakened by the rumble of freight trains each night, seeing plumes spilling from nearby smokestacks and smelling a mysterious foul odor.

Warmsley still lives in the area.

“You wake up and there’s always dirt on your car — even after washing it — or there’s fuzz on the windows,” she said. “They need to clean up our environment.”

One of the reasons that the researchers in Europe chose to study air pollution and inequality in the U.S. was to equip residents such as Warsmsley with science-based information that they can use to persuade elected officials to see long-standing environmental problems as a public health crisis, said Eloise Marais, a professor of atmospheric chemistry and air quality at University College London and a senior author on the study.

The other goal, Marais said, was to help make the case for ending America’s reliance on polluting fossil fuels.

The study comes as California performs an about-face on the subject of oil extraction and fossil fuel consumption.

After accusing oil compa-

nies of gouging motorists at the gas pump, pushing to cap oil company profits and calling for an end to the state’s reliance on fossil fuels, Gov. Gavin Newsom, facing shifting political winds in the U.S., has softened his tone of late.

“We are all the beneficiaries of oil and gas,” he said at a recent news conference. “So it’s always been about finding a just transition of pragmatism in terms of that process.”

Even with the more measured rhetoric, Newsom and other state Democrats have pushed back against new projections from USC showing that gas prices could surpass \$8 a gallon by 2026. The increase, the USC team said, would come as a consequence of state regulations, tax policies and reductions in refining capacity that would result from shutting down oil refineries in Los Angeles and other parts of the state, USC professor Michael A. Mische wrote in the analysis.

Warmsley said that although she welcomes the new report from the European researchers, she’s not convinced that oil companies are sensitive to the dangers their industry poses to communities like hers.

“They’re making millions at the expense of our loved ones,” she said of oil companies.

She’s also frustrated with city officials in Los Angeles, who have banned new oil wells and set their own 20-year timeline to phase out oil extraction in L.A.

“That’s too long,” Warsmsley said. “It’s time to go.”

Training is needed on role heat plays in illness, doctors say

[Heat, from B1] igency medicine department at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, said preparation means hydration supplies, ice packs and other cooling devices at the ready.

Emergency room doctors, nurses and technicians see the obvious cases of heat illness and heat exhaustion, of course, with fainting and cramps among the symptoms.

Heat stroke is the most severe version of heat-related illness and can be life-threatening.

But some doctors say their profession is less adept at recognizing that heat may be the reason some patients come in presenting with other illnesses.

Heat waves are like an “invisible tsunami,” said Dr. Marc Futernick, an emergency physician in Los Angeles. They can exacerbate heart disease, kidney problems and respiratory illnesses.

A patient with diabetes who can’t keep insulin refrigerated during a power outage, for example, could land in the emergency room in critical condition without anyone making the connection.

When they arrive, they may also be confused because of the compounding effects of heat exposure, leaving physicians to try to piece together what happened.

That, says Roh, makes it hard to be certain what role heat has played in an ER patient’s symptoms.

The most vulnerable patients during heat waves are older adults, people with chronic conditions and those taking medications that impair how their bodies self-regulate when it’s hot.

“There’s so much illness beyond heat illness that even doctors who are taking care of those patients aren’t recognizing it,” Futernick said.

Dr. Sam Torbati, head of the emergency department at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said most conditions he sees in the ER during heat waves are largely preventable.

The health issues fall disproportionately on communities with fewer resources.

“Heat in L.A. affects everybody, but it does not affect everybody equally, and some of the people who are the most affected are the most vulnerable people in our community,” said Dr. Alex Gregor, who works at the ERs at Los Angeles General Medical Center and USC.

“Skid Row is a heat igency medicine department at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, said preparation means hydration supplies, ice packs and other cooling devices at the ready.

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Obituaries

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Pearle Rae Levey
November 28, 1929 -
August 22, 2025

Pearle Rae passed away peacefully on August 22, 2025, at the age of 95, in Rancho Mirage, California.

Pearle Rae was born in Denver, Colorado on Thanksgiving Day, 1929, to Rose and Jess Kortz. She cherished six generations of her family. She attended East High School in Denver and obtained her undergraduate degree in vocal music from the University of Colorado. She had a successful show business career, singing for national business conventions and with symphony orchestras. Pearle Rae was a recording artist and also hosted radio and television shows. She entertained at events for charities including Rose, Children’s, and Craig hospitals in Denver. Following her singing career, Pearle Rae stewarded the family real estate and investment business.

Pearle Rae’s civic activities included serving on the Board of Central City Opera in Colorado and the Boards of Cedars-Sinai Hospital and the JVS SoCal scholarship fund in Los Angeles. She especially enjoyed selecting and mentoring the scholarship recipients.

Pearle Rae is survived by her son Ken (Barbara) Laff, her daughter-in-law Lisa (Alan of blessed memory) Laff, her grandchildren Laura Laff, James (Liz) Laff, Emily Laff, David (Maddy) Laff, and Izzie (Nate) Gall, and her great-granddaughter Rose. She was predeceased by her loving husband of twenty-five years, Mark B. Levey, and is survived by family members son-in-law Alan (Deborah) Levey, daughter-in-law Nancy (Jeff) Cherry, grandchildren Jeremy Levey, Justin (Ashlee) Levey, Matthew (Alex) Cherry, Jenny (Graeme) Rothe, Xander Oltmann, and great-grandchildren Jackson, Charlotte, and Myles.

Services will be held at the chapel at Hillside Memorial Park in Los Angeles on August 25, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. The service will be live streamed on Hillside’s website and will be available for viewing afterwards as well.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any donations be made to Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles or to a charity of choice.



Tatyana Russell (nee Chwat)
August 26, 1926 -
February 24, 2024

Born in Leipzig, Germany Tanya came to the United States with her parents Chonon and Mathilda Chwat in 1939. Living in New York City, she moved to California with her husband Tony Russell and their daughter Gail in the mid-1960’s. Tanya attended City College of New York and Pierce College. She retired as a Financial Aid Supervisor for the Los Angeles Community College District. Forever reading, knitting, and going to the swap-meet, she supported the visual and performing arts. As a member of the Ethical Culture Society, Humanistic Judaism, and Girl Scouts of America, Tanya believed in the respect, honor, and possibility of every human being. She is missed and loved by her daughter Gail (Michael), grandchildren Clayton (Elizabeth), Jacob (Virginia), and Anna (Seth) and great-grandchildren Daniel and Abigail.

Please consider donations to the Holocaust Museum LA (<https://www.holocaustmuseumla.org/>) or the American Ethical Union (<https://aeu.org/>)



Delores Morene Wise

December 10, 1924 -
July 26, 2025

Delores lived a full life, at the age of 100 she went to join her husband Kenneth Eugene Wise in heaven. They were married for 76 years.

Delores was very involved in her community, volunteering with the PTA and the Centinela Medical Center for many years. Delores loved playing golf, shooting her age at 86. In addition, she served a term as the president of the Westchester Women’s Golf Association. She passed that love of golf to her family. She is survived by her sons Ron and Paul (Judith), grandchildren David, Richard, Alisa, Dustin (Kelly), Spencer and her great grandchildren Alexis, Jacob, Noah, Austin, Avery & Nora. She enjoyed giving of herself to others.

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Lou Anne Johnston Insprucker

Lou Anne Johnston Insprucker was born March 14, 1942, in Los Angeles and died August 8, 2025, in Pasadena. Lou Anne was the eldest of the 13 children of Louis and Ann Johnston.

Lou Anne began her many years of Catholic education at St. Mary Magdalen and later attended St. Bede the Venerable. She went on to Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy on a full academic scholarship before continuing her studies at Mount St. Mary’s College, Chalon Campus. At just 21 years old, she began her career in education, teaching sixth grade at St. Bede.

During this time, Lou Anne met and fell in love with Glenn Insprucker, a Loyola High graduate and Loyola University student in the ROTC program. They married on December 28, 1963. Upon Glenn’s graduation, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, and together they began their life as a military family, first in Quantico, Virginia, and later at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. Lou Anne loved being a military wife and took great pride in supporting Glenn—even down to perfectly ironing his uniforms.

In August 1966, Glenn was deployed to Vietnam. Shortly after his arrival, he was killed in action during an ambush on September 17, 1966. At just 23 years old, Lou Anne became a widow. She never remarried.

Always an avid learner, Lou Anne briefly left teaching to pursue a new field: computer programming. She taught herself COBOL and, true to her nature, her very first program ran without one mistake. But Lou Anne was looking for something more fulfilling and the rest of Lou Anne’s career was largely dedicated to her work for the Catholic church.

Lou Anne became the secretary at St. Andrew’s Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery in Valyermo, CA. It was here that she met some of the most influential people in her life. Saint and scholar Fr. Vincent Martin OSB, the founder of the Abbey, became her friend and mentor. She also shared a lifelong friendship with Fr. Blaise Brockman, who remained a treasured companion until her death.

In 1986, Lou Anne returned to the classroom as a teacher at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Pasadena. Three years later, she became principal, where she introduced advanced math, Latin, and a partnership with the Pasadena Shakespeare Company. After 17 years, she was recruited by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to serve as Director of Elementary Personnel, overseeing 220 schools. She held this position until her retirement in 2017.

Lou Anne was the perfect eldest child, big sister, and loving aunt. She knew everything important happening in everyone’s lives and cared deeply. She was wise, generous, kind, funny, determined, and had the family’s welfare always at the heart of everything she did. In times of trouble it was, “Have you talked to Lou Anne?” Good news? Make sure Lou Anne was told first. She shared her big heart with her little dogs, particularly Jack Russells, Maggie and Maud, and Chihuahuas, Bill and Belle.

Lou Anne is survived by her family: Mike, Mary, Pat (Yvonne), Tom, Joe (Rosemary), Gigi, Bernadine, Louie, Gaby (Jim), Geri, and Rob (Juliet). She was a beloved “Aunt Lou Anne” to her many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, 1st LT Glenn Insprucker, USMC, her parents, and her youngest sister, Annie Johnston Skibinski.

Lou Anne, we miss you and love you. We are thrilled you are reunited with your Glenn.

Per Lou Anne’s request, a private family funeral will be held.

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to
latimes.com/guestbooks

Los Angeles Times

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

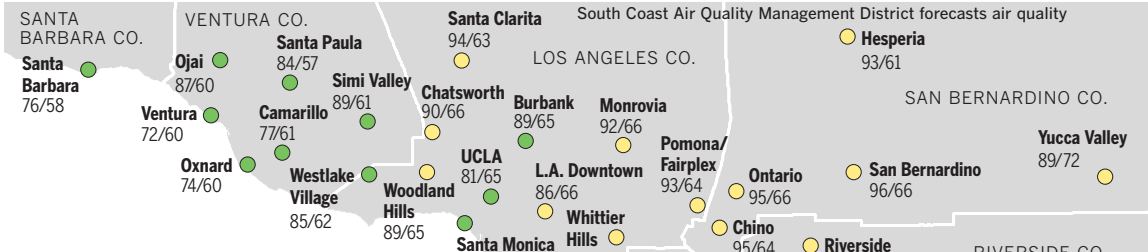
Monsoonal moisture; heat stays tamed: Monsoonal moisture will remain in play Tuesday, with some of the inland low spots having a thunderstorm with little, if any, rain. The threat of wildfires being sparked by lightning will also remain in place across the mountains and deserts, though the storms may also bring flooding downpours. More places along the coast will start Tuesday morning with low clouds.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	86 66		90 66		78 66		71 43		97 79	
	Mostly sunny; warm		Mostly sunny; warm		Mostly sunny; humid		A t-storm around		A stray t-storm	
Wednesday	Sunny		Sunny		Clouds early		Stray t-storm		Storm	
Thursday	Sunny		Sunny; warm		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny		Partly sunny	
Friday	Mainly cloudy		Mostly cloudy		Mostly cloudy		Some sunshine		Inc. clouds	
Saturday	Some sunshine		Partly sunny		Partly sunny		Showers		Clearing	

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO
Inner waters: Wind light, becoming west 10-20 knots. Seas 2-4 feet. Swell west 2 feet at 6 seconds and south 2 feet at 15 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of rip currents is low at Santa Barbara County beaches and moderate elsewhere.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	6 sec	SW	67
Ventura	2-4'	6 sec	SW	68
Los Angeles	2-4'	6 sec	SW	70
Orange	2-4'	5 sec	SW	70
San Diego	2-4'	5 sec	SW	72

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	11:49a	5.0 Hi	5:29a	0.8 Lo
	11:51p	4.4 Hi	5:58p	1.4 Lo
Wed.	12:13p	5.0 Hi	5:49a	1.3 Lo
	----- Hi		6:44p	1.5 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 25	Phoenix, 25
Los Angeles, 25	San Francisco, 25

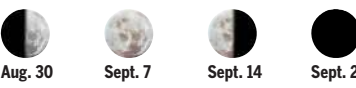
California cities*

City	Mon.*			Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	
Anaheim	86	67	--	86	66		87	64	
Avalon/Catalina	81	63	--	75	63		81	67	
Bakersfield	102	76	--	100	73		100	70	
Barstow	95	75	--	94	71		98	74	
Big Bear Lake	73	46	.04	71	43		72	49	
Bishop	93	55	--	86	54		89	53	
Burbank	91	67	--	89	65		91	63	
Camarillo	79	62	--	77	61		79	60	
Chatsworth	98	66	--	90	66		92	67	
Chino	93	65	--	95	64		95	61	
Compton	85	67	--	84	67		84	65	
Dana Point	73	65	--	75	65		76	66	
Death Valley	110	86	.11	105	93		106	90	
Del Mar	77	66	--	72	65		74	66	
Escondido	91	63	--	85	60		88	63	
Eureka	62	54	.01	61	56		60	54	
Fallbrook	89	63	--	85	60		86	61	
Fresno	104	72	--	101	69		98	66	
Fullerton	86	68	--	85	66		86	65	
Hemet	98	66	.05	94	63		94	62	
Hesperia	92	64	--	91	64		90	62	
Huntington Beach	79	67	--	76	68		76	70	
Idyllwild	80	67	--	78	67		82	67	
Irvine	84	67	--	83	66		83	66	

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

Los Angeles Co.		Orange Co.		Ventura Co.	
Sun	6:23a/7:27p	6:22a/7:25p	6:26a/7:31p		
Moon	9:39a/9:09p	9:37a/9:08p	9:43a/9:13p		



Almanac

Monday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura*
High/low	89/67	85/69	74/62
Normal high/low	85/65	87/66	76/58
High/low a year ago	82/61	85/63	74/59
Record high/date	102/1926	97/2005	83/1988
Record low/date	52/1909	58/2002	48/1949

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura*
24-hour total (as of 2 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	.796	3.93	6.50
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	22.15	16.59	24.79
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	14.15	11.75	16.01
Humidity (high/low)	89/66	87/50	93/63

City	Mon.*			Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	
L.A. D'town/USC	90	67	--	86	66		87	65	
L.A. Int'l. Airport	76	67	--	77	66		77	63	
Laguna Beach	73	67	--	75	66		76	68	
Lancaster	100	66	--	96	66		95	63	
Long Beach	82	67	--	82	66		85	65	
Mammoth Lakes	74	44	.01	67	43		67	36	
Mission Viejo	87	64	--	84	65		86	63	
Monrovia	92	68	--	92	66		92	67	
Monterey	69	38	--	70	56		71	55	
Mt. Wilson	79	61	--	67	61		66	59	
Needles	96	81	.23	96	80		101	82	
Newport Beach	75	68	--	76	68		77	69	
Northridge	97	66	--	90	65		92	65	
Oakland	72	60	--	74	61		75	62	
Oceanside	79	64	--	80	62		82	62	
Ojai	91	63	--	87	60		89	61	
Ontario	98	68	--	95	66		95	66	
Palm Springs	102	83	--	97	79		103	80	
Pasadena	91	67	--	89	66		89	67	
Paso Robles	93	55	--	89	52		89	50	
Redding	105	73	--	101	72		97	68	
Riverside	99	68	--	96	64		96	64	
Sacramento	95	61	--	92	61		91	60	
San Bernardino	100	69	--	96	66		96	66	

City	Mon.*			Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	
San Diego	76	67	--	77	66		78	68	
San Francisco	70	59	--	73	60		74	58	
San Gabriel	91	68	--	90	66		89	66	
San Jose	84	61	--	82	60		82	60	
San Luis Obispo	78	57	Tr	78	56		79	54	
Santa Ana	81	67	--	79	66		82	65	
Santa Barbara	76	62	--	76	58		76	57	
Santa Clarita	97	65	--	94	63		94	60	
Santa Monica Pier	76	67	--	78	66		76	66	
Santa Paula	85	61	--	84	57		84	59	
Santa Rosa	80	54	--	79	53		79	53	
Simi Valley	94	62	--	89	61		89	62	
Tahoe Valley	75	43	.04	71	45		71	41	
Temecula	97	63	--	90	60		91	61	
Thousand Oaks	88	62	--	84	61		85	60	
Torrance	79	68	--	77	68		75	67	
UCLA	79	66	--	81	65		82	64	
Van Nuys	96	67	--	92	65		94	63	
Ventura	74	62	--	72	60		73	60	
Whittier Hills	88	68	--	88	67		89	65	
Woodland Hills	99	66	--	89	65		90	63	
Wrightwood	78	61	--	76	63		76	61	
Yorba Linda	89	65	--	87	64		90	64	
Yosemite Valley	87	57	.22	80	57		78	50	

CITY SECTION FOOTBALL RANKINGS



Steve Galluzzo / For The Times

JACK THOMAS (10) will lead Palisades in its opener on Thursday.

By Eric Sondheimer

Rk.	School (W-L)	Comment (last week's ranking)
1	BIRMINGHAM (1-0)	Jimmy Renteria caught a touchdown pass and scored on a fake punt, and quarterback Kevin Hawkins rushed for 150 yards in a win over Hart.
2	CARSON (0-1)	Colts dropped a close game to Villa Park in opener, showing promise.
3	PALISADES (0-0)	Dolphins ready to unleash the passing duo of Jack Thomas and Demare Dezeurn in opener on Thursday against Harvard-Westlake.
4	SAN PEDRO (0-1)	Pirates were surprisingly flat in defeat to Torrance and play Kennedy on Thursday.
5	GARFIELD (0-0)	New field, new coach and new expectations for the Bulldogs.
6	DORSEY (0-0)	Dons get tested with season opener at Carson on Thursday night.
7	KENNEDY (1-0)	Quarterback Diego Montes was magnificent in 59-56 win over Eagle Rock.
8	EAGLE ROCK (0-1)	Liam Pasten had a school-record seven touchdown passes in loss to Kennedy.
9	BANNING (1-0)	Pilots start with 44-14 win over South East.
10	KING/DREW (1-0)	Big test vs. Culver City on Thursday night.

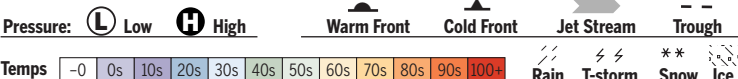
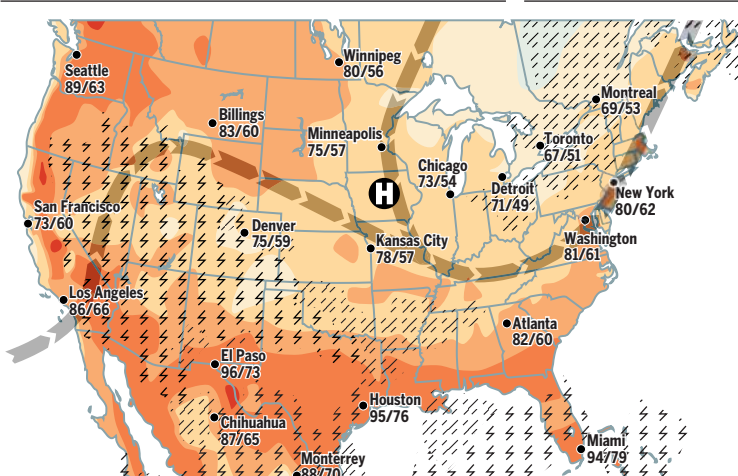
Bowl
Bolsa Grande at Ocean View
Brea Olinda at Cypress
Brentwood at Hueneme
Burbank Burroughs vs. Hart at College of the Canyons
California at Sunny Hills
Canyon Country Canyon at Buena
Carter at Don Luis
Cerritos at Gahr
Chaffey at Fillmore
Chino vs. Summit at Miller, 7:30 p.m.
Claremont at Diamond Bar
Corona del Mar at Santa Barbara
Crescenta Valley at Knight
Damian at Jerra
Del Sol at Viewpoint
Diamond Ranch at Bonita
Downey at Orange Vista
Duarte at Glendale
Eastside at Mary Star
Eisenhower at Colton
El Modena at Dana Hills

El Monte at Alhambra
El Toro at Aliso Niguel
Esperanza at Fountain Valley
Estancia at Costa Mesa
Etiwanda at Chino Valley
Gabrielino at Whittier
Garden Grove Pacifica vs. Garden Grove at SoFi Stadium, 8:30 p.m.
Godinez at Westminster La Quinta
Golden Valley at Crespi
Grace at Arrowhead Christian
Granite Hills at Patriot
Hacienda Heights Wilson at Rowland
Hawthorne at Firebaugh
Hemet at Silesian
Hesperia at Jurupa Hills
Huntington Beach at Trabuco Hills
Indio at Fullerton
Irvine at Portola
Jurupa Valley at Fontana
Kaiser at Heritage
King at San Jacinto
La Cañada at Santa Paula

La Habra at Northview
La Palma Kennedy at Woodbridge
La Quinta at Yucca Valley
La Serna at Schurr
La Sierra at West Valley
Laguna Hills at Orange
Lakeside at Talhquitz
Lancaster at Newport Harbor
Littlerock at St. Bernard
Long Beach Wilson at Marina
Los Amigos at Silver Valley
Loyola at Millikan
Magnolia at Compton Early College
Mira Costa at St. Francis
Mission Viejo at St. Paul
Montclair at Walnut
Murrieta Mesa at Vista Murrieta
Murrieta Valley at Servite
Norco at Colony
Northwood at Sonora
Oak Hills at Bishop Ann
Palm Springs at Grand Terrace
Palmdale at Leuzinger

Today in North America

Storms from the West through the Plains: Showers and thunderstorms, heaviest in the mountains, from Oregon and California eastward through the central and southern Rockies will bring flash flooding and gusty winds. A taste of early fall will continue in most of the East.



U.S. cities

MONDAY'S EXTREMES AS OF 2 P.M. FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 105 in Imperial, Calif.					Low 32 in West Yellowstone, Mont.				
City	Monday*	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today
Albany	80	66	.05		75	54		Pc	
Albuquerque	87	67	.01		88	66		Ts	
Anchorage	64	57	--		64	55		Cy	
Aspen	69	51	.36		70	51		Ts	
Atlanta	85	68	--		82	60		Cy	
Austin	98	69	--		97	74		Pc	
Baltimore	84	66	--		80	58		Su	
Boise	83	71	.10		89	67		Pc	
Boston	77	65	Tr		81	60		Su	
Buffalo	71	59	Tr		69	51		Ts	
Burlington, Vt.	80	64	.61		73	54		Ts	
Charleston, S.C.	89	74	.02		87	67		Su	
Charlotte	87	70	--		81	61		Cy	
Chicago	67	55	--		73	54		Su	
Cincinnati	72	54	--		71	51		Pc	
Cleveland	70	56	.34		69	52		Ts	
Columbia, S.C.	90	70	Tr		85	63		Pc	
Columbus	77	56	.05		72	51		Ts	
Dallas/Ft.Worth	97	77	--		91	71		Ts	
Denver	72	59	.02		75	59		Ts	
Detroit	70	55	.01		71	49		Pc	
El Paso	97	73	--		96	73		Su	
Eugene	97	64	--		96	60		Cy	



THE VENICE Basketball League’s final game on Sunday. “We’re a legendary place, the most iconic basketball courts in the world,” said Veniceball CEO Nick Ansom. Photographs by JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

Holding court in ‘the hoopers’ paradise’

[Veniceball, from B10]
“Look where we are. We’re a legendary place, the most iconic basketball courts in the world. I call it the hoopers’ paradise.”

Hoopers’ paradise started with Ken Hicks, who helped start organized Venice basketball in the 1970s. Hicks, who grasped the microphone to share words of wisdom on Sunday, was handed his literal flowers from Ansom midway through the day’s events. Venice, Ansom said, represents a basketball culture that remembers its past while also honoring its present.

Ansom, who is French, moved to Venice from France when he was 13 years old in 2000. He learned English on the boardwalk, finding solace on the basketball courts, carving his way into a community he hoists on his shoulders today.

“Basketball is a universal language all over the world, and we ball here 365 [days],” Ansom said. “I was here at midnight, playing last night and playing with somebody from Australia, a couple of drunk guys living in Venice, and it’s just the beauty and magic of basketball that unites us. It transcends colors. It transcends borders.”

Sunday’s events included a youth basketball all-star game, a Venice legends five-on-five game, a vertical jump contest, a three-point contest, a dunk contest, a celebrity game and lastly, the VBL men’s finals. Each event provided its own flair.

Rasheed Smith, a Venice basketball player who played in the Legends game Sunday, has been hooping on the boardwalk for 48 years. Two months ago, Smith pulled into a gas station and caught sight of a 1989 black Cadillac limousine. He walked up to the owner and handed him his phone number, asking that if he ever thought of selling, Smith wanted to be the first call.

Two weeks later, the owner called. Smith purchased the limo. There was a purpose. He knew it was the best fit for one of Venice’s high-flying dunkers to jump over to create a new signature dunk for Legends Weekend.



TY JACKSON leaps over a player in the dunk contest. Chris Staples’ winning slam earned 10s all around from judges who included ex-Laker Cedric Ceballos, now VBL commissioner.

“Doesn’t that sound awesome?” Smith said before the dunk contest.

Sure enough, the dunk became a spectacle, just as Smith predicted. Chris Staples, a basketball social media star known for his out-there dunks, took Smith up on the challenge — winning the dunk competition with a leap and slam over the limousine.

“I did not think that was the plan,” Staples said when asked if he ever imagined a limo would be a part of his dunk repertoire Sunday. “But [Legends Weekend] always brings out the adrenaline, the energy, and I just want to be able to get my fans and supporters a live show.”

Staples’ dunk earned 10s all around from judges Josiah Johnson, Rafer Alston, Craig Smith and former Lakers player Cedric Ceballos, who is also the commissioner of the VBL.

Johnson, a former UCLA men’s basketball player and the son of Marques Johnson — who was featured on the L.A. courts in the 1992 film “White Men Can’t Jump” starring Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson — said Venice is the closest you’ll find to street basketball in New York.

“It’s got that West Coast Rucker Park kind of vibe,” said Johnson, who once sponsored Legends Weekend with his short-lived 2016 Comedy Central show, “Legends of Chamberlain Heights.”

Alston, who earned his “Skip to My Lou” nickname during pickup basketball runs at Rucker Park as a teenager before embarking on an 11-year NBA career, recognizes the culture on display in Venice.

Much like Smith, who touted the physical nature of the courts that built a competitive atmosphere while also building a family, Alston understands the way basketball fosters camaraderie.

“I grew up in around this type of community, so I know what it means to a community like this, man,” Alston said. “It’s a day every time they have this event. Everyone’s having a good time. Everyone’s happy when we’re all together here.”

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Major champion Keys upset in first round of U.S. Open

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Australian Open champion **Madison Keys** was undone by 89 unforced errors and was upset in the first round of the U.S. Open 6-7 (10), 7-6 (3), 7-5 by **Renata Zarazua** of Mexico on Monday.

The sixth-seeded Keys, who was the runner-up at Flushing Meadows in 2017, made so many mistakes, including 14 double-faults, that Zarazua needed to produce just eight winners to earn the biggest victory of her career.

The 82nd-ranked Zarazua had lost in either the first or second round in all eight of her previous Grand Slam appearances.

With her left thigh heavily taped, the big-hitting Keys struggled for stretches in Arthur Ashe Stadium

against the 5-foot-3 Zarazua, who came into the day with a 0-6 record against opponents ranked in the top 10.

“I’m a little bit small in height, so coming in here, it was like: ‘Oh, my God. This is huge,’” Zarazua said about the largest stadium in Grand Slam tennis, which holds nearly 24,000 spectators.

Coleman Wong became the first men’s player from Hong Kong to win a Grand Slam singles match since the Open era began in 1968 when the 21-year-old defeated **Aleksander Kovacevic** 6-4, 7-5, 7-6 (4). ... Brazilian teenager **João Fonseca**, who turned 19 on Thursday, won his U.S. Open debut, defeating **Miomir Kecmanovic** 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-3. ... Two-time Wimbledon winner **Petra Kvitova**, 35, played her

last match before retirement, losing to **Diane Parry** 6-1, 6-0, and 2022 U.S. Open semifinalist **Caroline Garcia**, 31, also exited the final tournament of her career, eliminated 4-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 by **Kamilla Rakhimova**.

ETC.

Texans’ Mixon to miss four games

Running back **Joe Mixon** will miss at least the first four games of the regular season after the Houston Texans announced that they’ll place him on the reserve/non-football injury list this week.

Mixon has been on the active/non-football injury list since the start of camp after he sustained a foot injury this offseason while

away from the team. With Mixon out, the Texans will start **Nick Chubb**.

All-Pro edge rusher **Trey Hendrickson** and the Cincinnati Bengals have agreed on a new one-year contract, ending his hold-in, three people with knowledge of the deal told the Associated Press. Hendrickson will receive a \$14-million raise for this season, increasing his salary to \$30 million. ... The Washington Commanders and top wide receiver **Terry McLaurin** have agreed on a three-year contract extension worth \$96 million, according to AP. ... Wide receiver **Jakobi Meyers** has requested a trade from the Las Vegas Raiders after failing to reach an agreement on a contract extension, according to AP. Meyers has one year left on a three-year, \$33-million contract.

Bryce Underwood, the nation’s top-ranked recruit last year, will be the starting quarterback for No. 14 Michigan, coach **Sherrone Moore** announced. ... Wake Forest will start transfer **Robby Ashford** at quarterback in **Jake Dickert**’s coaching debut on Friday. ... South Carolina received confirmation that transfer running back **Rahsul Faison** has been granted an additional year of eligibility and will be available to play this season.

New York Mets right-hander **Reed Garrett** was placed on the 15-day injured list because of right elbow inflammation after an MRI scan showed no ligament damage. ... The Milwaukee Brewers placed reliever **Grant Anderson** on the 15-day IL with tendinitis in his right ankle. ... **Kyle Bradish** will make his 2025 debut on

the mound for the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday night in his return from Tommy John surgery.

The UCLA men’s basketball team will open the season against Eastern Washington on Nov. 3 at Pauley Pavilion as part of its 11-game nonconference schedule announced Monday.

The Bruins will then host Pepperdine on Nov. 7 and West Georgia on Nov. 10 before facing Arizona on Nov. 14 at the Intuit Dome. UCLA will face Gonzaga on Dec. 13 at Climate Pledge Arena in Seattle.

—BEN BOLCH

New York Liberty star **Breanna Stewart** returned to action Monday against the Connecticut Sun after she missed a month with a bone bruise in her right knee.

BASEBALL : SUNDAY FLASHBACK

STANDINGS

Through Sunday

NATIONAL LEAGUE					
West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	74	57	.565	—	6-4
San Diego	74	57	.565	—	5-5
Arizona	64	67	.489	10	5-5
San Francisco	63	68	.481	11	4-6
Colorado	37	94	.282	37	5-5
Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Milwaukee	81	50	.618	—	4-6
Chicago	76	55	.580	5	8-2
Cincinnati	68	63	.519	13	5-5
St. Louis	64	67	.489	17	3-7
Pittsburgh	57	74	.435	24	6-4
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Philadelphia	76	54	.585	—	7-3
New York	69	61	.531	7	5-5
Miami	61	69	.469	15	3-7
Atlanta	59	71	.454	17	7-3
Washington	53	77	.408	23	5-5

AMERICAN LEAGUE					
West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	72	59	.550	—	4-6
Seattle	70	61	.534	2	3-7
Texas	66	66	.500	6½	5-5
ANGELS	61	69	.469	10½	3-7
Athletics	60	72	.455	12½	6-4
Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Detroit	78	54	.591	—	8-2
Kansas City	67	64	.511	10½	7-3
Cleveland	64	65	.496	12½	2-8
Minnesota	59	71	.454	18	2-8
Chicago	47	83	.362	30	3-7
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Toronto	76	55	.580	—	6-4
Boston	71	60	.542	5	5-5
New York	70	60	.538	5½	6-4
Tampa Bay	63	67	.485	12½	5-5
Baltimore	60	70	.462	15½	6-4

Today's games

Dodgers vs. Cincinnati	7 p.m.
Angels at Texas	5 p.m.
Boston at Baltimore	3:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami	3:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Cleveland	3:30 p.m.
Washington at New York (AL)	4 p.m.
Minnesota at Toronto	4 p.m.
Philadelphia at New York (NL)	4 p.m.
Arizona at Milwaukee	4:30 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago (AL)	4:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis	4:45 p.m.
Colorado at Houston	5 p.m.
San Diego at Seattle	6:30 p.m.
Chicago (NL) at San Francisco	6:45 p.m.
Detroit at Athletics	7 p.m.

Dodgers look formidable ... and vulnerable

[Hernández, from B10] enigma.

Who were they? The team that trampled the Padres in the series finale? Or the team that rolled over in the two previous games of the series?

"They're gettable," said a scout from a rival NL team who was in attendance.

The kind of game the Dodgers played on Sunday, however, prompted the same scout to attach this qualifier: They can't be counted out.

One of baseball's worst offensive teams over the last two months, the Dodgers blasted four home runs, including two by Freddie Freeman. The Dodgers claimed the lead on a three-run blast in the seventh inning by Dalton Rushing.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto did his part on the mound, picking up his 11th win by limiting the Padres to two runs over six innings.

The Dodgers have 31 games remaining in the regular season and they expect a number of their injured players to return over that period. The form they take will dramatically affect their chances in October.

Winning their division could position them to secure a top-two seed in the NL, which would grant them a first-round bye. Failing to do so would subject them to a dangerous best-of-three wild-card series.

Because of the alarming number of injuries they have sustained this season, the Dodgers have already cycled through a variety of identities, from a team without starting pitching to a team without a reliable bullpen to, most recently, a team without a consistent offense.

In their previous two games, the Dodgers scored a combined two runs, leading Roberts and some players to question the team's collective approach at the plate.

Just a week earlier, the division race looked as if it could be over. The Padres entered a three-game series at Dodger Stadium as the hottest team this side of Milwaukee. The Padres had bolstered their lineup, rotation and top-ranked bullpen at the trade dead-



DERRICK TUSKAN Associated Press

FREDDIE FREEMAN and the Dodgers are "gettable," but don't count them out, one scout says.

line while the Dodgers had almost nothing.

The Dodgers still swept them. But their inconsistency on offense kept them from protecting the two-game lead they'd built. They inexplicably dropped two of four games against the last-place Colorado Rockies. By Saturday, after their second loss to the Padres in as many days, they were in second place.

Just as the Dodgers looked as if they could be written off, just as they looked as if they could relinquish control of the division to the Padres, they responded with a performance worthy of their \$320-million payroll.

"Today was a game we couldn't

drop no matter what," Yamamoto said in Japanese, "so I went into the game with more focus than usual."

The hitters also went into the game with a heightened focus, resulting in more extended at-bats that gradually wore down the Padres' pitchers. The Dodgers scored seven of their runs in the last four innings.

The Dodgers don't play the Padres again this season but Freeman said his team should be more concerned about their improvement rather than what its division rivals do.

Asked when he would start to scoreboard watch, Freeman replied, "Maybe in mid-Septem-

ber."

Reminded only 31 games remain in the regular season, Freeman replied, "It is a sprint. I'll be honest with you there. It's a sprint now. You can't worry about other teams if, like the last couple games, we don't fix our offense, how our at-bats were going the last couple days. We fixed it today, we did better today. If you're worrying about other things, that's just not conducive, it's not going to lead to quality things in the clubhouse. So maybe mid-September. When I turn 36, we'll start scoreboard watching, all right?"

Freeman's birthday is on Sept.

12. Will the Dodgers know who they are by then?

DODGERS 8, SAN DIEGO 2											
Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ohtani dh	4	2	1	1	.280	Tatis rf	3	0	0	0	.264
Betts ss	4	1	3	0	.248	Arachno lf	4	0	0	0	.285
Freeman 1b	4	2	2	3	.302	Machado 3b	4	0	1	0	.292
Hernández rf	4	0	1	0	.247	O'Heam dh	4	0	0	0	.255
Dean cf	0	0	0	0	.000	Bogaerts ss	3	0	0	0	.262
Freeland 3b	4	0	0	0	.226	b-Wagner	1	0	0	0	.000
Pages cf-rf	4	1	1	0	.273	Sheets if	4	0	2	0	.256
Conforto if	2	1	0	0	.183	Laureano cf	3	0	0	0	.325
a-Call if	1	0	1	0	.386	Cronrthw 2b	2	1	1	0	.239
Rojas 2b	4	0	0	0	.252	Diaz c	3	1	1	2	.198
Rushing c	4	1	1	3	.287	Totals	31	2	5	2	

Dodgers	100	001	501	-8	9	0		
San Diego	002	000	000	-2	5	0		
a-doubled for Conforto in the 8th. b-grounded out for Bogaerts in the 8th.								
Walks —Dodgers 4: Ohtani 1, Betts 1, Freeman 1, Conforto 1. San Diego 2: Tatis 1, Cronenworth 1. Strikeouts —Dodgers 9: Ohtani 2, Hernández 2, Freeland 1, Pages 2, Conforto 1, Rushing 1. San Diego 8: Machado 1, Bogaerts 3, Sheets 1, Laureano 1, Cronenworth 1, Diaz 1. LOB —Dodgers 5, San Diego 4. 2B —Call (3), Sheets 2 (20). HR —Freeman (17), off Pivetta; Rushing (3), off Estrada; Freeman (18), off Peraza; Ohtani (45), off Matur; Diaz (6), off Yastrzemski. RBIs —Hernández (7), Freeman (3), Rushing (3) (19), Ohtani (48), Diaz (24). SB —Hernández. Runners left in scoring position —Los Angeles 2 (Rojas, Pages); San Diego 2 (Diaz, Tatis). RISP —Dodgers 1 for 5; San Diego 1 for 6. GIDP —Aranae, DP—Dodgers 1 (Rojas, Betts, Freeman).								
Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yamamoto, W, 11-8	6	4	2	2	6	92	2.90	
Dryer	12	3	0	0	1	1	12	3.00
Truitt	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	3.77
Palencia, S, 20-22	1	0	0	0	0	6	6	4.05
Yates	1	0	0	0	0	13	13	1.48
San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pivetta	6	2	2	2	3	93	2.82	
Estrada, L, 4-5	3	4	4	1	1	25	3	3.30
Peraza, H, 2-1	2	1	0	1	1	26	3	3.03
Matsui	2	1	1	1	0	20	4	4.66
Inherited runners scored —Treinen 1-0, Peralta 1-1, U—David Rackley, Chad Whittier, Edwin Moscoso, Chris Guccione. T—2:33. Tickets sold—43,827 (40,222).								

BALTIMORE 3, HOUSTON 2											
	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Correa 3b	3	1	2	0	.349	Jackson rf	4	0	1	0	.333
Altuve dh	4	0	0	0	.276	1-Johnson fr	4	0	0	0	.143
Walker 1b	4	0	1	0	.237	Hentstie 1b	4	2	2	1	.283
Diaz c	3	0	2	0	.257	Mtenciste 1b	4	0	0	0	.259
Urias 2b	3	0	0	0	.248	Beasly dh	2	0	1	0	.261
a-Carroll	0	0	0	0	.000	Bassett lf	3	0	0	0	.296
Melton cf	0	0	0	0	.000	A-Jackson c	3	0	0	0	.222
Dubin if-2b	4	0	1	0	.252	Machin 3b	3	0	0	0	.125
Smith fr	3	1	0	0	.242	Vázquez 2b	3	1	1	1	.156
McCormick of	4	0	0	0	.206	Totals	30	3	8	3	
Totals	33	2	8	2							

Houston	001	000	010	-2	8	0		
Baltimore	100	001	10x	-3	8	0		
a-sacrificed for Urias in the 8th. 1-run for Jackson in the 8th.								
Walks—Houston 3: Correa 1, Diaz 1, Smith 1. Baltimore 1: Basallo 1.								
Strikeouts —Baltimore 12: Peña 3, Altuve 2, Walker 1, Diaz 1, Urias 1, Smith 2, McCormick 2, Houston 6: Cowser 2, Henderson 1, Mountcastle 1, Bevens 2.								
LOB —Houston 8, Baltimore 4. HR —Henderson (16), off Arrighetti; Vázquez (2), off Rooney. RBIs —Peña (50), Carroll (43), Henderson (59), Mountcastle (23), Vázquez (2). SB —Peña (38), Smith (6), Henderson (25). CS —Johnson (1). SF —Carroll. Runners left in scoring position —Houston 5 (McCormick, Dubon, Walker 3); Baltimore 2 (Bevens 2). RISP —Houston 3 for 11; Baltimore 1 for 3. Runners moved up —Correa, Smith, Altuve. GIDP —Dubon, Jackson. DP —Houston 2 (Correa, Urias, Walker; Diaz, Peña, Diaz; Baltimore 1 (Machin, Vázquez, Mountcastle).								
Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti, L, 1-5	5	6	2	2	0	97	6.21	
Rooney	1	1	1	1	1	23	6.75	
Kimble	1	1	0	0	0	2	16	000
Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rogers, W, 7-2	7	5	1	1	3	93	1.40	
Gasschall, 2b	3	1	1	0	1	10	3.60	
Akin, S, 3-8	1	0	0	0	0	21	3.12	
Inherited runners scored—Rooney 1-0, Akin 3-1, U—Brian O'Nora, Mike Estabrook, Laz Diaz, Erich Bachus. T—2:33. Tickets sold—19,746 (45,971).								

CHICAGO WHITE SOX 8, MINNESOTA 0											
	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Buxton cf	3	0	1	0	.270	Taillon fr	4	2	2	0	.277
Outman of	1	0	0	0	.182	Bachman fr	1	0	0	0	.239
Larnach dh	4	0	1	0	.242	Vargas 1b	3	2	1	0	.234
B.Lee ss	2	0	0	0	.249	Teel dh	4	2	3	2	.283
a-Fitzgidd ss	1	0	0	0	.000	Robert cf	4	1	1	0	.225
Keaschall 2b	3	0	1	0	.337	Mintny ss	3	2	2	0	.230
Clemens fr	4	0	0	0	.214	Querc	4	0	2	0	.285
Jeffers c	3	0	1	0	.261	Berndt lf	4	0	1	0	.229
Gasper c	1	0	0	0	.115	Melindr 2b	4	0	0	0	.252
Lewis 3b	3	0	0	0	.230	Mead 3b	4	0	1	0	.273
Justin 1b	4	1	0	0	.200	Totals	36	8	12	7	
A.Martin if	3	0	0	0	.228						
Totals	32	0	5	0							

Chicago	340	000	10x	-8	12	0	
a-grounded out for B.Lee in the 8th.							
Walks—Minnesota 4: Lee 1, Keaschall 1, Lewis 1, A.Martin 1. Chicago 1: Varga 1. Strikeouts —Minnesota 10: Buxton 1, Lewis 1, Taillon 1, Keaschall 1, Clemens 2, Jeffers 1, Lewis 2, Justin 1, A.Martin 1. Chicago 4: Tauchman 1, Urias 1, Robert 1, Benintendi 1. E —Keaschall 2 (4). LOB —Minnesota 9, Chicago 5. 2B —Larnach (19), Jeffers (23), Keaschall (8). HR —Montgomery (13), off Rafaela. RBIs —Teel 2 (21), Quero 3 (34), Montgomery 2 (36). Runners left in scoring position —Minnesota 6 (Keaschall, Lewis 2), Gasper, Larnach 2; Chicago 2 (Benintendi, Melidroth). RISP —Minnesota 1 for 7; Chicago 5 for 10. Runners moved up —B.Lee, Clemens. GIDP —Melidroth. DP —Minnesota 1 (B.Lee, Keaschall, Justin).							
Minnesota	10	1	0	0	0	NP	ERA
Bradley, L, 0-1	5	9	7	7	1	88	12.60
Ohl	3	3	1	0	1	4	5.66
Baltimore	10	1	0	0	0	NP	ERA
Miller, H, 1-1	4	2	0	0	3	89	3.50
Eisert, W, 3-5	1	1	1	1	1	24	4.20
Vasil	2	2	0	0	0	2	36.24
González	1	0	0	0	0	12	1.80
Inherited runners scored—Eisert 2-0, WP—Bradley, Vasil. U—Dan Merzel, Derek Thomas, Stu Schewerdt, Jordan Baker. T—2:39. Tickets sold—18,723 (40,241).							

CHICAGO CUBS 4, ANGELS 3											
Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Busch 1b	5	1	1	0	.262	Neto ss	4	1	0	0	.264
Tucker fr	3	1	1	0	.262	Troitt dh	4	0	0	0	.235
Suzuki dh	4	0	1	0	.243	Ward lf	4	2	2	2	.235
Crow-Arm cf	4	0	0	0	.254	Adell fr	4	0	1	0	.236
Kelly c	4	0	0	0	.261	Regillo 3b	4	0	1	0	.249
Happ lf	2	1	0	0	.226	d'Arnaud c	4	0	0	0	.201
Hoerner 2b	4	0	2	0	.291	Kavadas 1b	2	0	0	0	.143
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	.246	a-Peraza 1b	1	0	0	0	.133
Shaw 3b	4	1	2	0	.229	b-Moncada	0	0	0	0	.234
Totals	34	4	8	4		Moore 3b	0	0	0	0	.238
						Luogo 2b	4	0	1	0	.186

Washington had bypass surgery

Angels skipper makes announcement while visiting team for first time since operation.

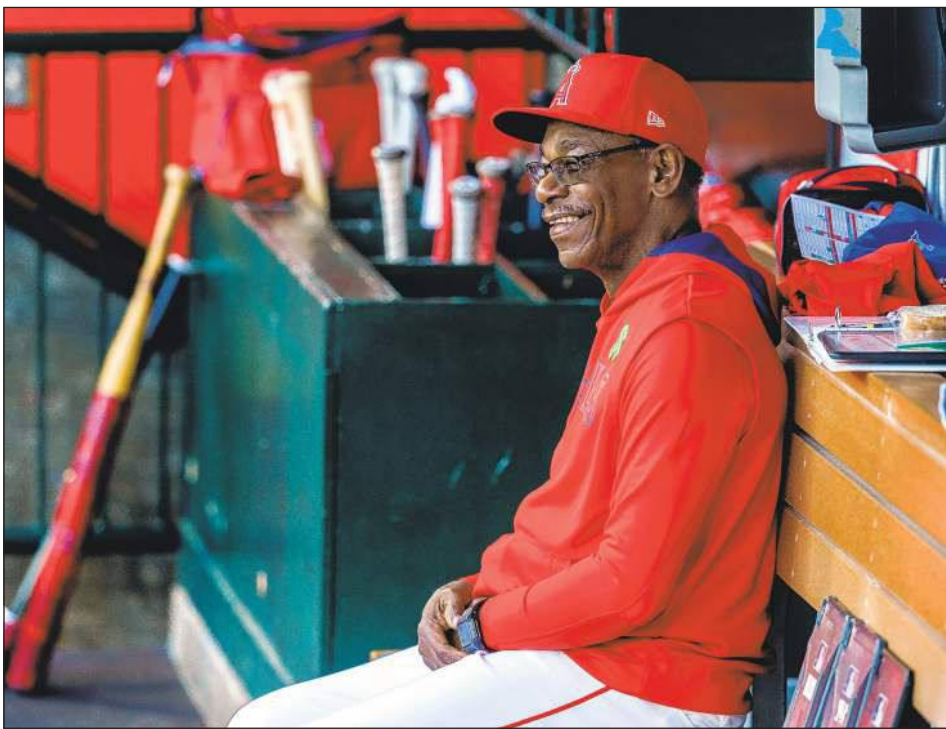
By Stephen Hawkins

ARLINGTON, Texas — Angels manager Ron Washington said Monday he is recovering from quadruple bypass heart surgery, the first time he has publicly addressed the health issues that have sidelined him since late June.

He made the announcement while visiting the Angels for the first time since the operation eight weeks ago in California. He is not returning to manage this season but hopes to have that opportunity next year.

Washington, at 73 the oldest manager in the majors, was last in the dugout in the Angels' 7-3 loss to the New York Yankees on June 19. The following day, the team said Washington was out indefinitely because of health issues after experiencing shortness of breath and appearing fatigued toward the end of that four-game series in New York.

"This happened fast," Washington said. "I wasn't feeling very good on our last trip to New York ... and I finally decided to go to the trainer and let him see what was going on. My ankles were swollen. And he called



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

RON WASHINGTON is hopeful to be with the Angels when they return home.

the doctors in from New York and they knew right away what was going on, why my fluid was going into my ankles."

He was cleared by Yankees doctors to fly home with the team and underwent tests after getting back to Southern California. The Angels announced on June 27 that he was going on medical leave for the rest of the season. Washington had surgery three days later.

Washington said the Angels were on a road trip when

he was released from the hospital on July 7, so he got clearance to fly home to Texas where his wife could assist him with his recovery.

The well-liked Washington revealed the details of his medical issues before the Angels opened a three-game series in Texas. He plans to continue on to Houston before skipping the final stop on the road trip in Kansas City. Washington hopes to be with the team the rest of the season after the Angels return home.

Washington is the Rangers' winningest manager with a 664-611 record from 2007 to 2014. He led them to their first two World Series appearances in 2010 and 2011.

Rangers manager Bruce Bochy, who led them to their first World Series title two seasons ago, is the second-oldest manager in the majors. The four-time World Series champion turned 70 in April.

Hawkins writes for the Associated Press.

Rams' air attack is coming together

McVay is hopeful that Stafford and his primary protector will be ready for Week 1.

By Gary Klein

Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford appears on track to start the season opener against the Houston Texans — and now perhaps his primary protector will join him in the preparation.

Left tackle Alaric Jackson, who has been sidelined because of blood-clot issues in his legs, will participate in full-team drills for the first time next week, coach Sean McVay said Monday.

"We've got a good plan in place," McVay said.

Jackson, 27, signed a three-year, \$35-million ex-

tension in March. But in June, he was diagnosed with blood-clot issues for the second time in his career, and the Rams hurriedly signed veteran tackle D.J. Humphries.

Whether Jackson can play in the Sept. 7 opener against the Texans, or any time this season, will be determined by how he responds to the increased workload while managing the condition.

McVay and the Rams are hoping Jackson's trajectory is similar to Stafford's.

Stafford, sidelined all of training camp and several weeks of practice because of a back issue, returned last week and completed three workouts and a jog-through with no setbacks. He was on the field Monday and continued to look sharp.

"He's doing a heck of a job taking care of himself with a

lot of different things," McVay said of Stafford, adding, "I can't see into the future, but if you look at what the last week has entailed, feel really good.

"There's nothing that would lead me to believe, unless we have an unforeseen setback, that he's not going to be ready to roll against the Texans."

Having Jackson available to protect Stafford's blind side would be a plus for a Rams team regarded as a Super Bowl contender.

The Rams have experience dealing with Jackson's issue.

In 2022, the season of the Rams' historic post-Super Bowl collapse, Jackson sat out eight games because of a blood-clot issue.

Since training camp began, Jackson has been doing individual work with trainers. But he has lined up with

starters during jog-throughs. Jackson's participation in full-team drills starting next Monday will be another milestone for the fifth-year pro.

"I'm really happy for him that all things are pointing to him being ready to go and being able to manage this," McVay said.

"There's been a lot of work behind the scenes of being educated on how many people have really been able to deal with this. ... Feel really fortunate that that's the direction that we're trending in."

Etc.

Initial 53-man rosters must be set by Tuesday at 1 p.m. McVay said the Rams already have made their decisions. ... Rookie outside linebacker Josaiah Stewart is in concussion protocol, McVay said.

PRO CALENDAR

	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI 29	SAT 30
 DODGERS	CINCINNATI 7 SNLA	CINCINNATI 5:30 SNLA		ARIZONA 7 SNLA	ARIZONA 6 SNLA
 ANGELS	at Texas 5 FDW	at Texas 5 FDW		at Houston 5 FDW	at Houston 4 FDW
 RAMS	SEASON OPENER: SEPT. 7 VS. HOUSTON, 1:25 P.M., CBS				
 CHARGERS	SEASON OPENER: SEPT. 5 VS. KANSAS CITY*, 5 P.M., YOUTUBE				
 GALAXY		SEATTLE 7:45 Apple TV+			
 LAFC	NEXT: SUNDAY VS. SAN DIEGO, 7:45 P.M., APPLE TV+				
 ANGEL CITY	NEXT: MONDAY VS. BAY FC, 6, CBSN				
 SPARKS	PHOENIX 7 SpecSN			INDIANA 7 Ion	

*Game in Sao Paulo, Brazil Shade denotes home games. Times Pacific.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
4 p.m.	Philadelphia at New York Mets	TV: TBS, truTV
5 p.m.	Angels at Texas	TV: FDW R: 830, 1220
7 p.m.	Cincinnati at Dodgers	TV: SNLA R: 570, 1020
7 p.m.	Detroit at Athletics	TV: MLB
BASKETBALL: WNBA		
4 p.m.	Seattle at Indiana	TV: CBSN
7 p.m.	Phoenix at Sparks	TV: SpecSN, NBA
COLLEGE SOCCER		
4 p.m.	Men, South Carolina at Clemson	TV: ACC
PRO SOFTBALL		
3 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited, Team Netz vs. Team Coffey	TV: ESPN
5:30 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited, Team Ricketts vs. Team Kowalik	TV: ESPN
SOCCER		
7:15 a.m.	African Nations Cup, semifinal, Senegal vs. Morocco	TV: beIN
9:45 a.m.	UEFA Champions League, Kairat vs. Celtic	TV: Paramount+
Noon	English Cup, Sheffield Wednesday vs. Leeds United	TV: CBSN
Noon	UEFA Champions League, Pafos vs. Red Star Belgrade	TV: Paramount+
Noon	UEFA Champions League, Sturm Graz vs. Bodo/Glimt	TV: Paramount+, TUDN
6 p.m.	Mexico, women, Guadalajara vs. Monterrey	TV: Universo
TENNIS		
8:30 a.m.	U.S. Open, first round	TV: ESPN, ESPN+, ESPND
4 p.m.	U.S. Open, first round	TV: ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN+, ESPND

Marking MLS' anniversary with league's top 10 signings

[Baxter, from B10] most important signings in MLS history:

1. David Beckham
Galaxy, 2007-12

Beckham did more than anyone to change the trajectory of MLS and, by extension, soccer in the U.S. By leaving Real Madrid for the Galaxy in 2007, he put the league on the international map and forced it to make room in its salary structure for high-paid "designated players" — an exception to the payroll cap still known as the "Beckham Rule." More important, he was bullish on MLS, helping recruit other international players such as Robbie Keane, Kaka, Frank Lampard and, as an owner, Messi and Suárez.

2. Zlatan Ibrahimovic
Galaxy, 2018-19

If the proper and reserved Beckham, who was subsequently knighted by King Charles III, brought pomp and class to MLS, the brash and entertaining Ibrahimovic was the troublemaking media-friendly prankster who made the MLS must-see TV. In his short stay with the Galaxy, he scored 52 goals and had 13 assists in 56 games. And he did it all with a smirk on his face and a chip on his shoulder, relentlessly chiding the league over its salary cap, the level of play, travel and officiating.

3. Lionel Messi
Inter Miami, 2023-present

Landing the greatest player in history would have been a coup for any league at any time; MLS acquired Messi less than eight months after he won the Golden Ball while leading Argentina to a World Cup



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

LIONEL MESSI signed with Inter Miami fresh off his World Cup triumph and made MLS relevant.

title. If Beckham built the foundation for the league and Ibrahimovic brought it international attention, Messi made it relevant. His pink Inter Miami jersey is the best-selling shirt in MLS history and he's been successful, too, winning a Leagues Cup and a Supporters' Shield while notching 40 goals and 26 assists in 44 regular-season games.

4. Son Heung-min
LAFC, 2025-present

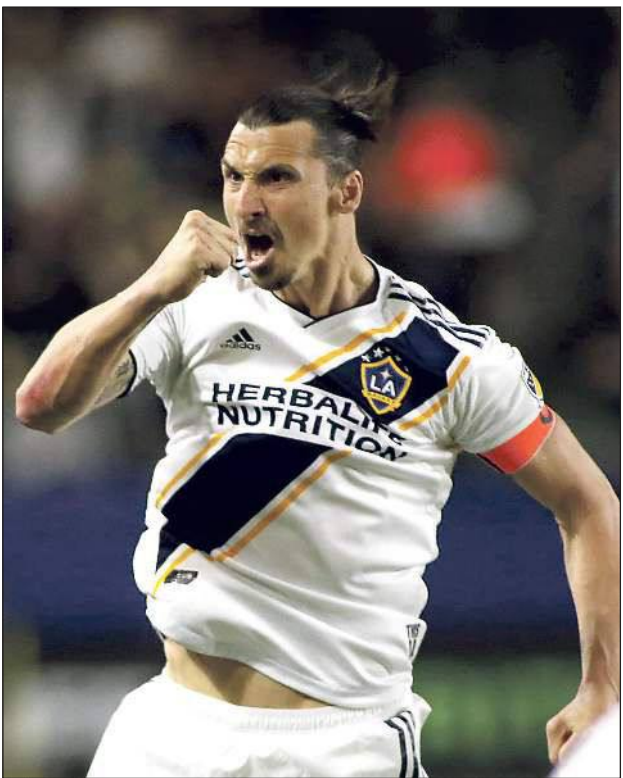
Son, who either scored or set up a goal in each of his three games with LAFC, finished in double digits for goals eight times and in assists three times at Tottenham, making him a playmaking double threat. For MLS, however, the addition of the greatest

player in South Korean history opens up a whole new continent of marketing and sponsorship possibilities, which could make his league-record \$26-million transfer fee a bargain.

5. Landon Donovan
San Jose Earthquakes, 2001-04; Galaxy, 2005-14, 2016

Clint Dempsey
Seattle Sounders, 2013-18

MLS was fighting to avoid bankruptcy when Donovan, who would soon become the best player in American soccer history, grew homesick in Germany and returned home to play domestically, giving the league a shot in the arm when it needed it most. Clint Dempsey, who would match Donovan's U.S.



KATHARINE LOTZE Getty Images

ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC brought his colorful personality to the league while scoring 52 goals for L.A.

record with 57 international goals, left the Premier League for Seattle a season before Donovan's first retirement. By then the league's survival was assured, but having the country's top two players in MLS helped the league grow into maturity in the post-Beckham era.

6. Thierry Henry
Red Bulls, 2010-14

Henry, a world and European champion with France and widely considered the best player in Arsenal history, was the first major player Beckham recruited to MLS. He joined the team in the league's biggest market immediately after the 2010 World Cup and would go on to score 52 goals, still third all time for the fran-

chise.

7. Robbie Keane
Galaxy, 2011-16

When AEG president Tim Leiweke brought Beckham to the Galaxy, he knew that was only half the equation. Beckham was a superb passer but without a talented striker to get on the end of those crosses, they meant nothing. Keane, then one of a dozen players to score 100+ goals in the Premier League, was the answer to Leiweke's prayers. Added in the summer transfer window in 2011, Keane scored 21 minutes into his MLS debut and didn't stop, finishing with 104 goals in all competition and winning three MLS Cups, a Supporters' Shield and a league MVP award.

8. Carlos Vela
LAFC, 2018-24

John Thorington's decision to make Vela the first major signing for LAFC's inaugural season is arguably the best ever made by an expansion team's general manager. Vela, a Mexican national team star in his prime, broke the MLS single-season scoring record with 34 goals in his second season and helped LAFC to two Supporters' Shields and two MLS Cup finals.

9. Sebastian Giovinco
Toronto FC, 2015-19

Beginning with Beckham and Henry, who were both 32 when they joined MLS, the early designated-player signings tended to be older, big-name players who were more useful selling tickets and jerseys than in winning games. Italy's Giovinco was an exception, joining Toronto from Juventus in 2015 at age 28. He went on to record 68 goals and 40 assists in 114 MLS matches, including a league-best 22 in his first season when he was named MVP. Two years later he led Toronto to an MLS Cup title, a Supporters' Shield and the Canadian Championship, the only treble in MLS history.

10. Jorge Campos
Galaxy, 1996-97

Campos, Mexico's flamboyant, eccentric and colorfully dressed goalkeeper, is often left off the list of the most important MLS signings. But he was among the first international stars to join the league ahead of its first season in 1996 and he proved especially popular with the Galaxy's Latino fan base. On the field his contributions were more meager, with Campos allowing 51 goals in 43 games over two seasons.



CHRIS STAPLES, a former Harlem Globetrotter and world slam dunk champion, competes in the dunk contest during Legends Weekend in Venice.

TIME TO REALLY HOOP IT UP

Veniceball marks 20 years of pickup court competition

By Benjamin Royer

Venice Beach carried all the traits of a party Sunday evening: '90s R&B tunes from DJs, social influencers — with tripods in tow — showing up to get a view of the basketball courts to find out what the fuss was all about and enough flashing lights to grab any European tourist's attention.

Much of what you would have found during Legends Weekend in Venice — celebrating 20 years of basketball culture and community — had the classic hallmarks of the antics found on the boardwalks, down to the crowds surrounding performers such as “2K The Clown” and his posse dancing in clown makeup at the



MARCUS HENRY spins the golden ball he received for winning the three-point contest. Each competition provided its own flair.

half-court logo as the blue-and- orange sunset faded from day to night.

At the center of all the madness — a weekend honoring Kobe Bryant (who broke his wrist in 2000 attempting a dunk at the courts) and many other late street-ball icons who made their impact on the boardwalk — was Nick Ansom. Ansom, who rollerskated up and down the basketball court with a plastic orange top hat, is the founder and chief executive officer of Veniceball.

Ask the legends — who have been playing physical, hard-nosed basketball on the courts for half a century — or up-and-coming basketball players who have made Venice their own with their slick style on the courts: Ansom is the heart and soul of modern-day Venice basketball, the man who's kept the mission — of basketball and family — moving and growing year by year.

“This is the goodness of people right here,” Ansom said before the finals of the Venice Basketball League kicked off on Sunday night. [See Veniceball, B7]



SHOHEI OHTANI greets a Padres heckler in a light moment reminiscent of L.A.'s joyous title run.

Voices DYLAN HERNÁNDEZ COLUMNIST

Hard to tell if they'll get last laugh

Uneven Dodgers equal parts contender and enigma going into final stretch

When he was finished rounding the bases at Petco Park on Sunday, Shohei Ohtani made a detour on his return to the Dodgers' bench.

Seated by the visiting dugout was a fan in a San Diego Padres cap and brown Fernando Tatis Jr. jersey. The

spectator had spent most of the afternoon reminding Ohtani of how much he'd stunk in the three-game series.

Ohtani initiated a high-five with his tormentor, who playfully bowed in deference.

Manager Dave Roberts howled with delight. Teoscar Hernández showered Ohtani with sunflower seeds.

These were like scenes from the good old days, the Dodgers hitting bombs and laughing as they celebrated.

But was this a mirage?

Even after avoiding a sweep by the Padres with an 8-2 victory, even after moving back into a tie with them for the lead in the National League West, the Dodgers continued to be an

[See Hernández, B8]

ANALYSIS

They're the marquee signings that helped put MLS on the map

By Kevin Baxter

LAFC's signing of South Korean star Son Heung-min earlier this month is a major coup not just for the team. It's also the latest in a spate of acquisitions that has brought an unprecedented level of talent and attention to MLS as the league nears the end of its 30th anniversary season.

Since Lionel Messi joined Inter Miami shortly after winning the 2022 World Cup, MLS has welcomed more than two dozen global standouts, from World Cup

champions Hugo Lloris, Olivier Giroud, Rodrigo De Paul and Thomas Mueller to Germany's Marco Reus and Uruguay's Luis Suárez.

Some were a bit past their prime but others, including Messi, have proved to be dominant MLS players. The addition of Son, arguably the best Asian player of all time, opens a new chapter for the league and U.S. soccer as the country prepares to welcome the World Cup back next summer.

With that as a backdrop, here's one man's list of the 10 [See Baxter, B9]



Son Heung-min landing with LAFC opens up global marketing and sponsorship possibilities.

Los Angeles Times

SPORTS EXTRA

A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE :: TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025



CARLIN STIEHL Los Angeles Times

DODGERS SLUGGER Andy Pages capped his two-homer, four-RBI game with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning of a 7-0 win over the Reds on Monday night.

Pages, Sheehan flash championship form

By KEVIN BAXTER

The Dodgers continued their season-long celebration of last year's World Series triumph by handing out championship rings Monday. The 49,702 people who bought tickets got replicas while Gavin Lux, who played for the Dodgers last season and is now with the Cincinnati Reds, got a real one.

If the team hopes to win more jewelry again this fall, the next five weeks will be key. Because after Monday's 7-0 win over the Reds, the Dodgers lead the Padres by a game in the National League West with 30 left in the regular season for both teams.

And if the Dodgers (75-57) continue to play as they did Monday, when Andy Pages homered twice,

driving in four runs, and Emmet Sheehan threw a career-high seven scoreless innings, they'll be tough to catch.

The Reds nearly went ahead in the second after Lux doubled to the wall in right-center with one out. But Michael Conforto took extra bases away from Spencer Steer with a leaping catch in left field and Teoscar Hernández made a running catch of Ke'Bryan Hayes' drive to the foul pole in the right-field corner to end the inning. Sheehan was never in danger again.

Pages, meanwhile, got the offense started in the third by driving a 102-mph fastball from Hunter Greene into the bullpen in left field for his 22nd home run of the season, second most on the team behind Shohei Ohtani's 45.

Pages struck again in the fifth inning, following Conforto's double into the right-field corner with another first-pitch homer into the seats next to the Dodgers bullpen to make it 3-0.

Greene (5-4) made it into the sixth but left after giving up a lead-off double to Freddie Freeman and a walk to Will Smith. Hernández followed by drawing a walk from reliever Scott Barlow, and two outs later a grounder from Pages got under shortstop Elly De La Cruz's glove, scoring two more runs.

Mookie Betts' homer, his second hit of the game, with one out in the seventh and Pages' sacrifice fly in the eighth closed out the scoring.

Sheehan (5-2) didn't throw as hard as Greene but he pitched much better, holding the Reds (68-

64) to two hits.

Sheehan also matched a career high with 10 strikeouts to win his third straight decision while relievers Jack Dreyer and Anthony Banda completed the shutout, the team's fourth in the last 23 games.

The Dodgers had only three shutouts in their first 109 games.

The team is getting healthier. Over the weekend, reliever Tanner Scott and Kirby Yates returned from the injured list and utility player Kiké Hernández was activated Monday. Third baseman Max Muncy and infielder/outfielder Hyeseong Kim could be back by the next road trip, if not before. Utilityman Tommy Edman and pitcher Roki Sasaki likely aren't far behind.

Kiké Hernández almost didn't make it, he said Monday. After go-

ing on the injured list July 6 with left elbow inflammation, he tried three injections and non-invasive rehab procedures, but nothing seemed to work.

"I got to a point where I didn't know if it was going to happen. We were pretty close to it not happening," he said of his return. "There are some procedures that I went through that didn't do anything. I went through four shots in a month, and first three didn't do anything, and luckily the fourth one was the answer."

"After the last shot, I was pain-free."

Hernández, who has played every position but catcher and right field this season, watched Monday from the bench but said he would start Tuesday in left field, wearing a brace to protect his left elbow.

With Washington watching, Angels shut out the Rangers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zach Neto homered on the game's first pitch and the Angels, with manager Ron Washington present for the first time in more than two months, beat the Texas Rangers and All-Star pitcher Jacob deGrom 4-0 on Monday night.

José Soriano (9-9) struck out six over 5½ innings and gave up four hits in his first start since coming off the paternity list. Four relievers finished off the Angels' sixth shutout this season.

Washington hasn't managed the Angels since June 19, and revealed before the game that he is recovering from quadruple bypass heart surgery eight weeks ago. He won't return to managing this season but wants to be with the Angels, and he watched from a booth upstairs after being with them pregame.

DeGrom (10-6) is 0-4 in five starts since his last win July 22, and the right-hander was pitching for the first time in 10 days after Texas skipped his last scheduled start because of shoulder fatigue. The two-time Cy Young Award winner struck out seven, walked two and hit a batter over five innings. He gave up two runs and three hits.

Travis d'Arnaud had an RBI single in the Angels' fourth, and Luis Rengifo had an RBI double in

the sixth. Logan O'Hoppe led off the ninth with his 19th home run.

Texas was coming off consecutive shutout wins and a three-game sweep over Cleveland before Neto's leadoff homer extended his single-season franchise record to nine. He has 22 homers overall.

Soriano faced the minimum 12 batters through the first four innings, benefiting from double plays after surrendering leadoff singles in the third and fourth innings.

TENNIS

Venus Williams, 45, loses in Open return

Even at age 45, even after two years away from Grand Slam tennis, Venus Williams displayed some big serves and powerful groundstrokes at the U.S. Open on in front of a supportive crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York before losing 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 to Karolina Muchova.

Williams was the oldest singles player at the hard-court tournament since Renee Richards was 47 in 1981.

"She's such a legend of our sport," 2023 French Open runner-up Muchova said about seven-time Grand Slam singles champion



LM OTERO Associated Press

THE ANGELS' José Soriano (9-9) struck out six and gave up four hits in his first start since coming off the paternity list. Zach Neto gave him a quick lead by homering on the game's opening pitch.

Williams, adding that it was an honor "to share a court with her."

In just the fourth match of a comeback that began last month after more than a year off the tour, Williams didn't exactly get to ease into things Monday: Muchova, a 29-year-old from the Czech Republic, was seeded 11th in New York and made it to the semifinals there in both 2023 — when she lost to eventual champion Coco Gauff in a match interrupted by a climate protest — and 2024.

So perhaps it wasn't surprising that Williams started slowly, ceding 11 of the initial 13 points and falling behind 2-0. With members of the crowd shouting, "Let's go, Ven-

us!" and roaring after her winners — and her fiancé, Andrea Preti, leaping out of his seat — Williams took three games in a row to go ahead 3-2.

Being back in the arena meant so much to her — and to those watching.

"I don't think I've ever had a crowd that much on my side," Williams said. "I knew going into this match that people in this stadium, people in the United States, people around the world, were really rooting for me, and that felt great."

Muchova grabbed the next four games to claim that set, which ended with Williams hitting four of

her evening's 10 double-faults to get broken. But Williams, who smacked serves at up to 114 mph and finished with just one fewer winner than Muchova, broke to begin the second set on her way to tying the match.

In the third set, though, as the contest reached two hours, Muchova was simply too good.

When the match ended, Williams left the court with a wave as fans rose to salute someone whose first U.S. Open title arrived a full quarter of a century ago. More recently, Williams was off the tennis tour for 16 months until entering a tournament in Washington last month.

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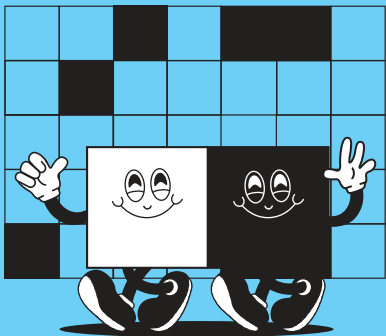
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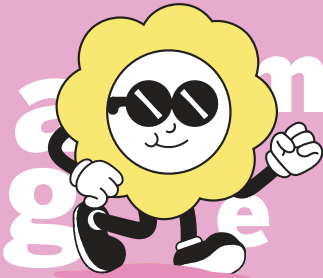
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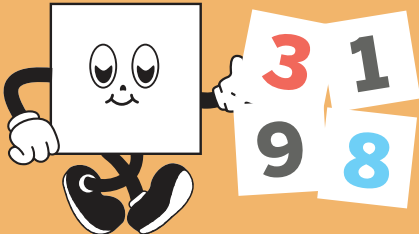
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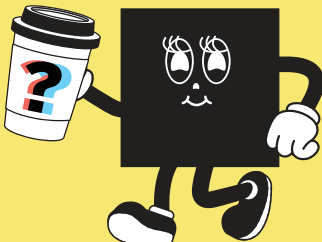
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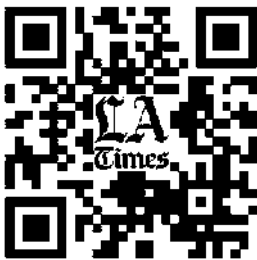
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ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

STAND-UP COMEDIAN Ralph Barbosa is working on new material and, to take his mind off that, he's working on old cars too.

Welcome to his ‘Planet’

From the outside, it appears that Ralph Barbosa has it all. Aside from A-list comedian status hanging with superstars like Dave Chappelle, he's known to show off his garage full of his favorite cars (even a few that actually run, he says), and he has a brand new comedy special on Hulu, “Planet Bosa,” that premiered earlier this month. But following the release of his new hour, Barbosa claims he's “broke.” For comedians, specials aren't just a celebration of your success, they're also a funeral for your best material. Though he's dubbed his latest trek across the country the Bean Without a Cause Tour, he's also back to square one — a comic without new material, or at least not much of it. “I've got about 10 minutes [worth of jokes] to my name, I'm

Ralph Barbosa's latest special is on Hulu, which excites him for what's next: Writing new jokes

By Nate Jackson

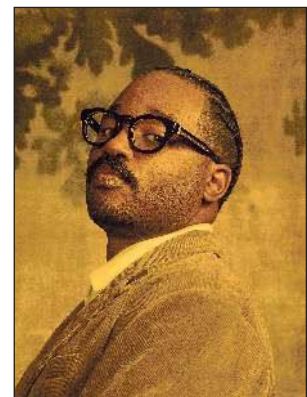
broke — comedy-wise, I'm broke,” he says with a sly grin. “It's the funnest place to be.” It's a feeling most comics can relate to, though few in the last couple years have been on the ride Barbosa's been on. Coming out of relative obscurity from the Dallas comedy scene, he garnered viral fame by being dissed and then apologized to by comedy legend George Lopez, who didn't know who he was at the time despite Barbosa being at the forefront of the next wave of Latin comics, thanks in large part to a breakout set on Don't Tell Comedy. Garnering nationwide buzz since his debut Netflix special “Cowabunga,” his latest hour on Hulu finds the 28-year-old reaching the top of his game. Aside from getting more comfortable on stage, the spark of energy in this new phase of his career is a welcome surprise from a guy whose schedule [See Barbosa, E2]

LACMA to laud Ryan Coogler

‘Sinners’ director and artist Mary Corse are honorees of museum’s Art+Film Gala.

By Jessica Gelt

Director Ryan Coogler and artist Mary Corse will be honored at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's 14th annual Art+Film Gala, the museum announced Sunday. The splashy, high-fashion dinner is co-chaired by LACMA trustee Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio, and is scheduled to take place Nov. 1. It will be the last such event to occur before the museum opens its new Peter Zumthor-designed building next spring. Los Angeles is uniquely suited for the gala, which seeks to highlight and strengthen the connections between film and visual art by bringing the two communities together in grand style. Last year's honorees were Baz Luhrmann and Simone Leigh, and per usual, a host of celebrity guests attended the party including Blake Lively, Kim Kardashian, Laura Dern, Viola Davis, Andrew Garfield and Sarah Paulson. Charli XCX closed out the night with a banger. LACMA Director and Chief Executive Michael Govan called last year's event, [See LACMA, E6]



THE TYLER TWINS For The Times
RYAN Coogler's new horror film, “Sinners,” is a blockbuster hit.

XOXO, ‘Blood of My Blood’

“Outlander” prequel showrunner Matthew B. Roberts divulges the inspiration behind those love letters. **E3**

There's trouble in this paradise

Ron Howard's “Eden,” about disenchanted Europeans moving to a tropical island, is a hoot. Review, **E6**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E5**

Oasis mania's opening crescendo

Fans descend on a Hollywood pop-up to snap up merch ahead of Brit rockers' shows.

By Pamela Chelin

With just a couple of weeks to go before Oasis storms the Rose Bowl for two sold-out shows in September — its first Los Angeles concerts in over 15 years — anticipation reached a fever pitch in Hollywood last week. By 8 a.m. Wednesday, fans were lined up outside the W Hotel, home to the band's debut North American Oasis Live '25 pop-up shop full of exclusive merchandise. Some wore old Oasis T-shirts, while others [See Oasis, E6]



VIVIEN KILLILEA

PEOPLE crowd into the Oasis Live '25 pop-up shop at the W Hotel in Hollywood.

Scottish rocker shares his Parkinson's journey

Del Amitri lead singer Justin Currie opens up about living with the disease in a new book.

By Stuart Miller

When Scottish rock band Del Amitri set out to tour America in 2023, its main songwriter and lead singer, Justin Currie, had just endured a devastating blow. And then another. And then another. In the wreckage, the horizons of his life were shrinking rapidly. This would be his last major tour with the band. As Currie chronicles in “The Tremolo Diaries,” his journal of that journey started when a neurologist

informed Currie, then 58, that he had Parkinson's disease — Currie dubs it the Ghastly Affliction and refers to the shake in his right hand as Gavin, writing that he's “a traitor who comes and goes ... an underminer and an intermittent reminder that I'm ill and unsteady.” Then his mother died, three years after his father had succumbed to COVID-19. On the heels of that loss, Emma, his life partner for decades, suffered a debilitating stroke that has left her in constant need of professional care with limited hope for the future. (She has since been walloped by more setbacks.) Seeing her decimated (and her son reeling) was harder to handle than his own ill- [See Currie, E3]

Punk rocker details his life with Parkinson's

[Currie, from E1] ness, leaving Currie feeling helpless.

Currie had already suspected Parkinson's — tremors suddenly made playing guitar and bass parts challenging and even walking and singing required more conscious effort — but the confirmation was a blow anyway.

"A suspected diagnosis keeps the crack in the door open, but this was grim," he recalls in a video interview from his home in Glasgow, Scotland. "I immediately went into a psychological shock."

His initial depression lasted a couple of months, followed by a dose of denial. "A year ago I'd still be bubbling with nervous energy and be a bit more dismissive about the psychological impact of going through three horrible things at once," he says.

But the sledgehammer of enduring what he calls "the semi-grief" of watching his beloved lose not just her mobility but "huge parts of her personality" finally hit home a year after her stroke while Del Amitri was in limbo between that American tour opening for Barenaked Ladies and a European and United Kingdom leg opening for Simple Minds, which comprises the second half of the book.

That depression "was different and hit much harder. I couldn't organize my thoughts or think straight," he says, adding that it's only now that he feels more "clearheaded." (Positive remains too upbeat a word.)

While the book includes his morbid thoughts, like the

vague hope to die "before it gets too bad" perhaps via "a gentle drowning," Currie says that he's not experiencing suicidal ideation, just "fantasizing about the ultimate escape from worry, pain and anguish."

Indeed, "Tremolo Diaries" doesn't diminish Currie's woes, but it is not a wallowing — he never averts his gaze from how his body betrays him and what that does to his music and his soul, but he also delights in roaming streets, shops and museums between gigs, offering a running commentary on modern life.

Currie says that while Scots can be dour and cynical, underneath there's often "a romantic optimism that the world is a beautiful place and that there is poetry in the world." He treasures that trait even as he has hidden it beneath armor to avoid "being too badly mauled by the vicissitudes of life."

He's especially sharp in the first half of the book when the band's in America, savaging the unfettered capitalism even as he admires the hustle and individuality, and frequently mocks his own judgmental attitude and ignorance.

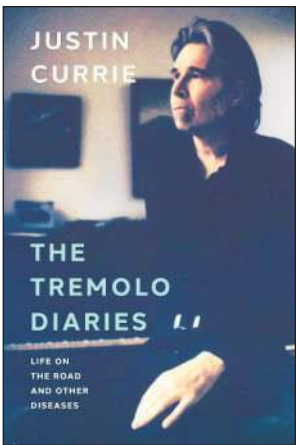
"I know I'm cynical about America in the diaries, and I'm going to be honest about the absurdities," he says, but adds that as the country has lurched rightward he feels compelled to remind his friends in the U.S. that "it's an amazing place, the only country in the world replete with opportunity and a freedom that you don't find anywhere else."

Currie didn't write seek-



ANDREW BENGE Redferns via Getty Images

JUSTIN CURRIE performing with Del Amitri in Leeds, England, last December.



New Modern

The Tremolo Diaries

By Justin Currie
New Modern: 240 pages, \$17

ing catharsis but found the process therapeutic. "It allowed me better ways of articulating how the disease feels rather than boring my mates off," he says.

He eschewed a memoir because he had a "happy

and culturally rich, privileged childhood so it wasn't terribly interesting." Glasgow is proud of its shipbuilding working-class heritage, but Currie's father was a classical musician and choral conductor while his mother had done some acting, and he remembers seeing her in Noël Coward plays.

"I acted in school plays and joined a drama club because I wanted to meet girls, and I got cast in lead roles because I was quite brazen, but then I realized I can show off but I'm a terrible actor," he says. "But with music I could get my rocks off standing on stage and being looked at, and writing songs was much better self-expression than reading lines from a play."

The Beatles and Bob Dylan shaped his songwriting as did his mom's tape of "Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Cole Porter Songbook." He also loved prog rock, but that had made a music career seem unattainable. "Punk rock changed my life because it allowed you to form a band without really being able to

play and told you to just get on a stage and sing whatever you want to sing," he says.

Del Amitri only charted three singles in America and is largely defined by its one Top 10 hit, "Roll to Me," but in the United Kingdom it's had six Top 10 albums and 11 singles that broke the Top 30. It started with their second album, "Waking Hours," which went platinum in the U.K. in 1989 and yielded the hit single "Nothing Ever Happens." An elegiac hymn to the dead end of hometown life, the song captures Currie's ability to wrap melancholy lyrics in a catchy melody.

Currie says the band never got bigger in America partly because "the huge artistic compromises didn't hold much appeal for us." (For starters, he disdained the requirement of scantily clad women in music videos.) "Perhaps a terrible flaw but we felt perfectly satisfied with playing to a few thousand people and we were a bit snooty about it also," he says.

Parkinson's has made

Currie even more grateful for what he does have. He's still writing new songs on his own and with lead guitarist Iain Harvie, the band's other original member. (He knows he may have to moderate the melodies because Parkinson's affects the muscles he uses to sing.)

"Playing live is much more difficult, but I really enjoy just getting through the gigs, and now when people say afterwards, 'That was great,' it's much more satisfying and confidence boosting than it used to be."

The disease also forces him to live more in the present. "I was never particularly nostalgic but I always lived in the future — thinking or worrying, 'Can I write a better song? Can we play a gig we've never done before?'" he says. "Now I can't afford to because the future is unknown and that makes it frightening. So now I'm living in my current space and enjoying what I'm doing and the fact that I'm working."

He recently celebrated his 60th birthday with a big party that featured a band and where all the guests sang Beatles B-sides or Scottish pop songs. He performed Pilot's "January" (the songwriter was playing bass that night) and the Beatles' "I Am the Walrus."

Del Amitri has a couple of gigs planned in Scotland and Currie is managing his decline well enough, for now. Yet he can't think ahead to next year, much as he'd love to plan more. "I can ask, 'Can you tell me when I won't be able to do up the buttons on my shirt or operate a phone?'" he says. "Those questions are quite desperate but also quite sensible. But they won't know."

Still, he hangs on tightly to that romantic optimism about finding joy in just being here. "I'm not looking forward to my disease getting worse, but I'd rather experience that than not experience it at this point," he says. "It's not that everything's going to be alright, but that life is an extraordinary adventure and it's really worth being in life."



HEIDI HARTWIG Bleeker Street

ASH (Riz Ahmed) helps whistleblowers flee from, or settle with, their pursuers.

Review **ROBERT ABELE**

Sympathetic fixer best watch his back

If history has taught us anything, it's that no one is truly safe. That gathering dread fueled some great '70s paranoid thrillers, such as "The Parallax View" and "The Conversation," but it's been difficult to replicate that eeriness in today's extremely online world, when our devices explain and obfuscate with abandon, conspiracies are lifeblood and we feel persecuted one day, invincibly anonymous the next.

The nifty premise of "Relay," a new white-knuckle ride from "Hell or High Water" director David Mackenzie, is that a certain type of tech-savvy hero can, if not completely ease your anxiety, at least navigate a secret truce with those out to get you. And Riz Ahmed's solitary off-the-grid fixer, Ash, who hides in plain sight in bustling New York, can do it without ever meeting or talking to you: His preferred mode of traceless communication is the text-telephone service that hard-of-hearing people use in conjunction with message-relaying operators. Like a ready-made covert operation, it keeps identities, numbers and call logs secret.

For the simple fact that "Relay" is not about an assassin (the movies' most over-romanticized independent contractor), screenwriter Justin Piasecki's scenario deserves

kudos. Rather, Ash's broker helps potential whistleblowers escape the clutches of dangerously far-reaching entities — unless, of course, they want to settle for cash. It's a fascinatingly cynical update: Should we make an uneasy peace with our tormentors? (Hello, today's headlines.)

Before those questions get their due, however, "Relay" sets itself up with clockwork precision as a straightforward big-city nail-biter about staying one step ahead. Seeking protection from harassment and a return to normal life, rattled biotech scientist Sarah (Lily James) goes on the run with incriminating documents about her former employer. When she's rebuffed by a high-powered law firm, she's provided a mysterious number to call.

Ash, armed with his elaborate vetting methods, puts Sarah through the paces with rules and instructions regarding burner phones, mailed packages and a detailed itinerary of seemingly random air travel. It doesn't just test her commitment, though — it's also a ploy to scope out the corporate goons on her trail: a dogged surveillance team led by Sam Worthington (who should maybe only play bad guys) and Willa Fitzgerald.

As the story careens through airports and post

offices and New York's hidey-holes, the cat-and-mouse chase is dizzyingly enjoyable, worthy of a Thomas Perry novel. We wait for the missteps that threaten everything, of course, and they begin with learning that Ash is a failed whistleblower himself, one who is beginning to question his chosen crusade. Another vulnerability, recognizable in the occasional cracks in Ahmed's commanding stoicism, is the loneliness of the gig. So when a restive Sarah, on one of their protected calls, gently prods for a smidgen of personality from her mysterious unseen helper, one is inclined to shout, "No feelings! Too risky!"

But that, of course, is the slippery pleasure of "Relay," which pits individuals against venal institutional might. Flaws are the beating hearts of these movies, triggering the peril that makes the blood pump faster. Some of that effectiveness is undercut by some off-putting music choices, but McKenzie's command of the material is rock solid, Giles Nuttgens' cinematography achieves a sleek, moody metallic chill and Matt Mayer's editing is always fleet. In a year that's already given us one superlative case of adult peekaboo — Steven Soderbergh's "Black Bag" — "Relay" proves there's still more room for smart, punchy cloak-and-dagger options.

How 'Blood of My Blood' found its love language

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL

"Outlander" meets "How I Met Your Mother"? Not quite.

But "Outlander: Blood of My Blood" is a prequel to Starz's romance epic that focuses on the parents of both protagonists from the original series, Jamie Fraser and Claire Beauchamp.

The series alternates between World War I-era Scotland and the Scottish Highlands of the 18th century, often intertwining as it chronicles the courtship and obstacles faced by Jamie's parents — Brian Fraser (Jamie Roy) and Ellen MacKenzie (Harriet Slater) — and Claire's — Julia (Hermione Corfield) and Henry Beauchamp (Jeremy Irvine).

Here, showrunner Matthew B. Roberts discusses the inspiration for the show's swoon-worthy love letters and reveals which TV drama he recently watched that echoes themes explored in "Outlander" through a modern lens.

What do you find intriguing about each couple's story and what it telegraphs about Claire and Jamie's connection and their attitudes on love?

With Brian and Ellen, it's the rush of first love — all passion, risk and discovery, which foreshadows Jamie's all-in devotion to Claire. With Henry and Julia, it's the strength of a tested love — the daily choice to stay together. Both show that true love requires surrender and courage, the same foundation that Claire and Jamie build their lives on.

The original series has delved into the complexities of PTSD. How did what you've explored there, particularly as it relates to Claire and her experiences as a combat nurse, inform how you shaped Henry Beauchamp's journey? Are there connections you wanted to draw between father and daughter?

Warscars everyone differently. Henry's wounds are visible, Claire's more contained — but both live with that same survival instinct. Even though Henry leaves when she's young, Claire inherits his resilience. That



Photographs by SANNE GAULT Starz



"BLOOD of My Blood" shows how two couples, and future parents to "Outlander" characters, fell in love. Actors Jeremy Irvine and Hermione Corfield, top; and Jamie Roy and Harriet Slater, above.

ability to keep going when the world tries to break you is in her DNA.

Love letters are a hallmark of the "Outlander" universe. And the correspondence between Claire's parents, Henry and Julia, are a key narrative element in their quest to be reunited — the declarations within have to be top tier. Any interesting references or sources of inspiration?

The inspiration came from my father, who fell in love with someone online before ever seeing her face. He said, "It doesn't matter, I already love her." He did meet her, they married, and they stayed together until his passing. That experience taught me how love can bloom through words alone. That's what we aim for with Henry and Julia's letters — each one has to feel like a real step deeper into their hearts. Everyone in the room weighs in, but the test for me is always the same: Does it feel authentic, does it honor the magic of falling in love?

What have you watched recently that you are recommending to everyone you know?

I really don't recommend shows or movies. Everyone

has their own tastes. But I did recently watch "The Better Sister" [Prime Video]. It's a sharp look at family — love, betrayal, loyalty — all the same themes we explore, but in a modern world with cell phones and social media. The technology changes, but the struggles don't. Families still compete, hide secrets and fight for trust. [It has] some great acting.

What's your go-to "comfort watch," the movie or TV show you go back to again and again?

When "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" [VOD] or " Fargo" [Tubi, MGM+] come on, I'm in — they just never get old. "Butch Cassidy" has that perfect mix of charm and tragedy; and " Fargo" is dark, funny and somehow still feels authentically real. For TV, my go-tos are "The Sopranos" [HBO Max] and "Seinfeld" [Netflix] — totally different, but both perfect at what they do. And true-crime shows are always in the mix. They are research. It's the human condition on full display.

This article was taken from the Aug. 22 Screen Gab newsletter. Sign up at latimes.com/newsletters.

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



PICKLES By Brian Crane



CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



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CURTIS By Ray Billingsley



CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



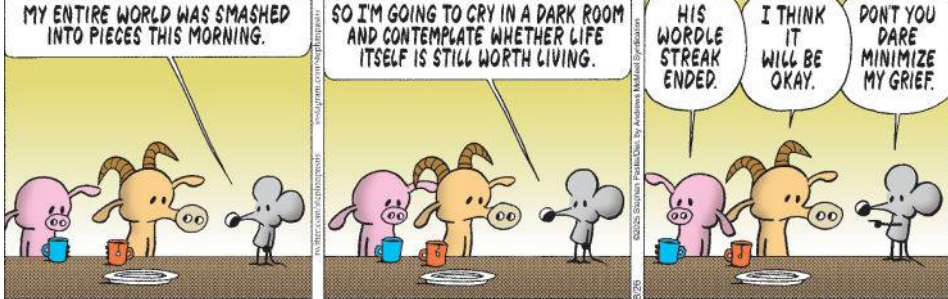
LOOSE PARTS By Dave Blazek



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong



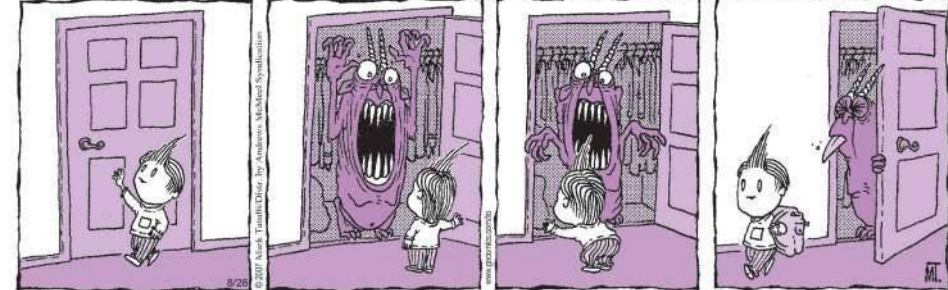
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



MACANUDO By Liniers



LIO By Mark Tatulli



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy



TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



SIX CHIX By Bianca Xunise



BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



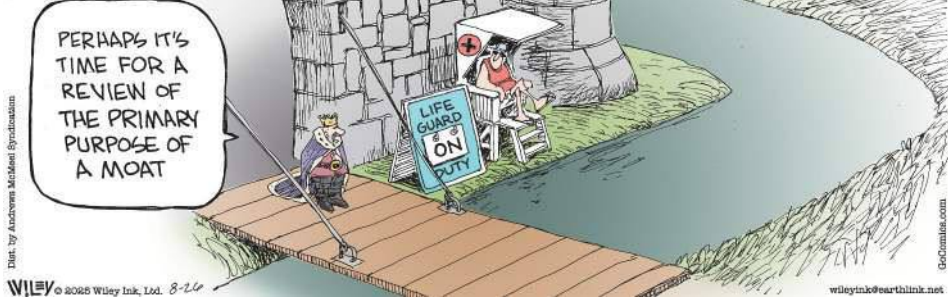
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



COMICS

SUDOKU

381
28
1584
948
8649
417
7512
34
671

Level: Gentle

4
15
126
632
6324
1342
5632
134265
251634
463521
615342
342156
134265
526413

Level: Gentle

5 2 6 4 3 9 7 1
7 9 8 1 3 6 2 4 3
1 3 8 1 9 2 6 8 5
9 5 7 4 3 9 1 2 8
3 8 2 9 6 1 4 5 7
4 8 1 2 7 5 3 9 6
8 5 3 2 4 7 6 9
6 4 9 5 1 7 8 3 2
2 7 3 6 8 9 5 1 4

8/26/23

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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.

2-
7+
8x

EASY

6-3-1-3+2-
60x
12+5-48x
4-2
2-2-2-5+6+
3-

CHALLENGING

3 1 4 2
2 3 1 4
4 2 3 1
1 4 2 3
4 2 3 1 6 5
6 3 5 2 4 1
3 6 4 5 1 2
1 5 2 6 3 4
5 4 1 3 2 6
2 1 6 4 5 3

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

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8/26/25

HOROSCOPE

By HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): There's been a lingering idea or goal quietly sitting in your mind. Now, it's front and center. Take the first step.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): A dynamic is getting tense. Don't micromanage or fix the surface issues. Look past symptoms and go straight to the root.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Liking yourself is one thing. But today, there's room for something deeper — something like admiration.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): The thrill of what's next will overtake the drag of what was. You'll get absorbed in the pace.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You've already lived through chapters that forced emotional growth most never touch. Here come even more blossoms on your branches.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You've experienced inner

conflict before.. That tension can slow a person down, but not you, not today.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Yes, you prefer the low-key setting now because you value the company you seek there, even if it's the company of your own soul.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Intimacy is the issue. Should you let them glimpse the beautiful world of you? Or let them catch up if they can? That is the question.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You said yes to something thinking it would be temporary or simple. Nope! It's grown weighty. Still, now it has new surprising benefits too.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Just like moths are drawn to the flame, people naturally gravitate toward the hot topic. Today's juicy indeed.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your way is the way of gentle curiosity. You nudge with curiosity; you connect

in humor.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Peace lands in your circle. No dramatic breakthrough, just soft adjustments that let things feel livable again.

Today's birthday (Aug. 26): In this year of abundant love, do not forget for a moment how the deepest, best relationship of your life is with you. Prioritize the commitment to yourself, as it will keep you making choices of vibrant vitality. More highlights: You'll say yes to love, no to obligation. You find fun instead of problems, freedom instead of friction. Your body becomes your companion. Your solitude is lush. Your friendships are delicious. No guilt, no drain — only glow. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Lucky numbers: 3, 20, 1, 12 and 5.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol
By Susan Gelfand

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brother of Chico, Harpo, and Groucho
 - 6 1965 Alabama march site
 - 11 Draft animal
 - 14 Earth Day month
 - 15 Starting 11 in soccer, e.g.
 - 16 Org. for Sharks and Ducks
 - 17 "Easy!"
 - 19 "willikers!"
 - 20 Obama daughter
 - 21 Shirt with a button-down collar
 - 23 Scoreboard figs.
 - 25 Gold, in Mexico
 - 27 Makes a wrong choice
 - 28 "Easy!"
 - 34 Jungian inner self
 - 35 Set up for solitaire
 - 36 Quick learner
 - 39 Pan-frying hazard
 - 43 Doesn't make the podium
 - 45 Around about
 - 46 "Easy!"
 - 50 Sulky mood
 - 51 London lavatory
 - 52 Right on —
 - 53 Build some muscle
 - 56 Seize by force
 - 59 Museum collection
 - 60 "Easy!"
 - 65 Happy hour haunt
 - 66 Cedar Rapids resident
 - 67 Movie legend Greta
 - 68 Rainbow's backdrop
 - 69 Flip-flop
 - 70 Inception
- DOWN**
- 1 Thaw in the microwave
 - 2 Prefix for a lifesaving "Pen"
 - 3 Promotional packet released to the media
 - 4 Printing measure
 - 5 Cheers at the Bienal de Flamenco
 - 6 Serengeti adventure
 - 7 "The list goes on," briefly
 - 8 & Perrins steak sauce
 - 9 Fastest known shark
 - 10 Discover or MC alternative
 - 11 Soft sweater wool

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16
17 18 19
20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31 32 33
34 35 36
37 38 39 40 41 42
43 44 45
46 47 48 49
50 51 52
53 54 55 56 57 58
59 60 61 62 63 64
65 66 67
68 69 70

12 Fortified wine from Andalusia

13 Winter coasters

18 "I got it! I got it!"

22 Soft pen type

23 Details shared before a night out

24 Rock legend Turner

26 "I was today years — when ..."

29 Try to equal

30 "O Holy Night," for one

31 Plaines, Illinois

32 Sticky stuff on a tree

33 Finish second in a horse race

37 Inquire

38 Hula dancer's garland

40 Farm vehicles

41 Light beige

42 Leaf gatherer

44 Skit show with musical guests, briefly

46 Outerwear suitable for cold, frosty, and snowy conditions

47 Cold, frosty, and snowy

48 AAA service

49 Car instrument

50 Uninformed guesses

54 Group of troops

55 Eeyore's pal

57 Frozen waffle brand

58 Baseball Hall of Famer Musial

61 Number needed to tango

62 "To All the Boys" series creator Jenny

63 "May — excused?"

64 Youngster

ASPCA DAME ALBA
CARAT ALEX PIAF
ELENA WISPRENT
LAYTON I HELINE
ADS RVS DEL
TOU ODIN MGM
DONT MAKE ASCENE
MAHC PAM ALAN
CLEANUP YOUR AGT
SIS ANTS PAN
ETC WOW ACH
COM OUT AND PLAY
COMB VCRS CATUP
DINE FIAN LASS
SLID HAPPY LA SEH

8/26/25

BRIDGE

By FRANK STEWART

Maneuvering the lead between your hand and dummy is a key to good declarer play.

In today's deal, South would have "balanced" with two spades on a weaker hand, so North's invitational raise to three was bold. South had a clear acceptance.

West led the king of hearts, and declarer took dummy's ace, cashed the A-K of trumps, and next led the queen and a second diamond. West took the ace, cashed his jack of hearts and led the queen.

Declarer ruffed with the queen of trumps and led a high diamond, pitching a club. West ruffed for the defenders' third trick, and

South still had a club loser.

South was right to save the queen of trumps as a dummy entry, but when West leads the queen of hearts, South must throw a club from dummy instead of ruffing, preserving his entry. He can win the next trick, go to the queen of trumps and pitch clubs on the high diamonds.

You hold: ♠ A K J 9 2 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A 6 5. Your partner opens one diamond, you bid one spade and he jumps to three diamonds. You rebid three spades, and he tries 3 N T. What do you say?

Answer: Slam is possible. Partner suggests a hand with six or seven good diamonds and about 16 points. If he has only 8 7, A 8 3, A K J 10 6 5, K 4 2, he will have a good chance at six diamonds. Bid four diamonds,

West dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 7 6
♥ A 9
♦ K J 10 7 6
♣ 9 8 4

EAST
♠ 8 5
♥ 8 3
♦ 9 4 3 2
♣ K Q J 3 2

WEST
♠ 10 4 3
♥ K Q J 7 6 4
♦ A 5
♣ 10 7

NORTH
Pass
3 ♣

EAST
Pass
Pass

SOUTH
♠ A K J 9 2
♥ 10 5 2
♦ Q 8
♣ A 6 5

SOUTH
2 ♠
4 ♠

Opening lead — ♥ K

Tribune Content Agency

ASKING ERIC

Dear Eric: My wife has three living adult kids from three different fathers — ages 22, 29 and 32. The 32-year-old has a husband and two kids of her own. I allowed all of them to live with us since they couldn't get along on their own.

Last year, my wife's fourth adult child died so I inherited her 3-year-old.

We had nine people in our home. I am not their father but tried to give them an opportunity in life until I realized they didn't want help getting on their feet, they wanted to be taken care of.

So I filed eviction on all of them. This obviously created some hard feelings and things got very ugly. I've decided to cut all ties with my wife's family, which obviously causes problems for her because I will not attend family functions, holidays, etc. Do you think I am wrong to do so?

STEPFATHER

Dear Stepfather: My first question is, where is your wife in all of this? I don't know the financial setup of your marriage, of course, but the home you live in is also her home so one would think that she gets a say in who gets to live there and who gets evicted, particularly if they're her own children. And maybe there was more joint discussion about the adult children not contributing enough to the house-

hold, but it reads like some of these decisions were unilateral and that can cause a lot of conflict.

There are many people who don't have smooth relationships with in-laws. Sometimes that's unavoidable. But your wife is your family, and so her family is your family. Refusing to engage with them puts her in an impossible position. Who is she supposed to choose?

You don't have to let them live with you, but more conversation will be helpful here. Getting into the habit of making joint decisions with your wife, even if it requires more compromise than you'd ideally like, will help your marriage. And finding a way past some of the animosity with her adult kids will help everyone.

Dear Eric: I'm writing in response to "No More Reminders" because I actually believed one of the women in our lunch group could have written it.

I have been having lunch with three other women for the past four years with the same issue. This one woman in our group would write the date and location down for our next meeting and despite regular reminders via text and emails, would show up extremely late or not at all without notice. It was really frustrating and impacted the gathering. Unfortunately, as time

went on, we discovered our friend was suffering from some kind of memory loss that she was trying to hide from everyone, her family included. Despite now being under a doctor's care, it is progressively getting worse.

We try to remember the person she was and what she meant to us from long ago. We go out of our way now to text her about a half-hour before our lunch date to remind her and we also call her to make sure she's on her way. Dementia is isolating enough without losing your friends in the process.

I guess what I am asking is for this person to make sure there's not more to this behavior. I fully admit that we were quick to judge and be impatient with what we originally viewed as being inconsiderate or irresponsible actions.

FRIEND

Dear Friend: This is a great reminder. While we can't diagnose our friends and loved ones from afar, we can reflect back what we're seeing to them and offer help. And, perhaps of equal or greater importance, we can extend empathy to them. I find that compassion goes a lot further than cutting off most of the time, and it keeps the friendship healthier.

Email questions to eric@askingeric.com.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



FREE RANGE By Bill Whitehead



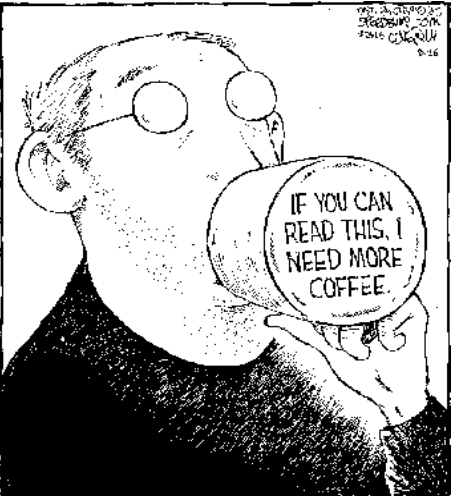
MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



BLISS By Harry Bliss



SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly



Oasis pop-up store draws fans eager for merch

[**Oasis**, from E1] planned outfits around purchases they would soon make.

For a band whose history in Los Angeles stretches from catastrophic to triumphant, the pop-up's Hollywood setting feels intentional. The shop sits across the street from Amoeba Music, a stone's throw from the iconic Capitol Records Building, where Oasis recorded sessions in its legendary studios for the 2005 album "Don't Believe the Truth," and just blocks from the Palace (now Avalon), where it performed in 1995.

When fans were finally welcomed inside at 10 a.m., it felt less like a store opening and more like a pilgrimage. This certainly wasn't retail therapy to chase away a bad mood. It was very much the opposite, with fans brimming with joy, eager to get first dibs on the collection.

The space blended past and present — along with exclusivity — as Oasis tunes poured from the speakers. Lining the shelves were special-edition colored vinyl formats, including mint green copies of "Definitely Maybe," the band's supersonic 1994 debut album, and burnt yellow pressings of "(What's the Story) Morning Glory?," the record that gave the world "Champagne Supernova," "Don't Look Back in Anger" and "Wonderwall."

"Wonderwall" was my yearbook quote in high school," said Oasis fan Billy Horn, wearing a decade-old Oasis T-shirt and clutching a white "Heathen Chemistry" vinyl to add to his record collection.

Many shoppers left with armloads of items, including T-shirts, jackets, sweatshirts and those much-coveted Liam-style bucket hats, with prices typically ranging from \$45 to \$100. Some fans were already wearing their purchases before checking out. The extensive merch collection also includes tote bags, coffee mugs, key chains and jigsaw puzzles.

Some dedicated fans made a road trip to check out the shop. Jennifer Wyatt

and Joanne Manahan drove up from San Diego and plan to make the trek again for both Rose Bowl shows on Sept. 6 and 7. For Wyatt, these will be her first-ever Oasis concerts.

"Growing up in the early '90s, Oasis is all I listened to," she said, before explaining why she never saw them during their original run. "I thought I had time to see them, and figured they'd be around forever." Now, she's planning her outfit around the burgundy Oasis Adidas jacket she purchased, finally getting the chance to see the band she grew up loving.

Among shop-goers, Oasis' Adidas collaboration is a major draw. Fans eagerly explored the merchandise, immediately assembling outfits from head to toe and checking themselves out in the full-length mirrors scattered around the store. After a career marked by a meteoric rise, legendary spats, a celebrated breakup and a globally acclaimed reunion, Oasis has certainly earned its rock-and-roll stripes, making the partnership with Adidas feel especially fitting.

One fan who especially embodied the Oasis-Adidas crossover was Shane Yamada. Not only did he attend one of the Wembley Stadium reunion shows, and secure tickets to both Rose Bowl dates, but he was also sporting an Adidas tattoo. He was shopping with his wife Jewel and their 2-year-old daughter Paisley, for whom he's buying Oasis children's gear, a sweatshirt and T-shirt.

There's a certain irony in the famously feuding Gallagher brothers selling clothing for the whole family, including Oasis onesies for babies. Yet Oasis' cross-generational appeal was on full display at the pop-up. At the older end of the spectrum, longtime Oasis devotee Jeff Zoleta brought his 78-year-old mother Nila, who became a fan through her sons' love of the band. She was buying two bucket hats and a tote bag for herself.

Fans' enthusiasm about the merchandise naturally



Photographs by VIVIEN KILLILEA

PEOPLE SHOW off their merchandise, above and below, Wednesday at the Oasis Live '25 pop-up shop in Hollywood. The rockers are headed to the Rose Bowl.

spilled over into the rest of the pop-up, designed to fully immerse customers in Oasis' universe. At a "Definitely Maybe" backdrop, shoppers posed for photos, with some even stretched out on the ground to mimic Liam's position on the album cover. Digital maps in the store chronicle the band's history. Click on a city and every local show appeared, including Oasis' infamous inaugural Los Angeles performance in 1994 at the Whisky a Go Go — a substance-fueled disaster defined by technical difficulties, clashing set lists and Liam launching a tambourine at Noel, who temporarily quit and fled to San Francisco.

"They rolled in f— up beyond belief," Mikeal Maglieri Jr., the Whisky's owner who was 15 at the time, recalled over the phone. "By the time the show happened, they were falling apart. They started the wrong song multiple times ... one guy was playing one thing while the others were playing something else ... It was definitely a nightmare of a show."



INDAH DATOU

HONOREE Mary Corse is known for experimenting with materials such as in her "White Light" series.

LACMA to fete director and artist

[**LACMA**, from E1] which raised \$6.4 million, its most successful ever. Proceeds go toward LACMA's mission of making film more central to its programming, as well as toward funding exhibitions, acquisitions and educational programming.

Other previous honorees include artists Helen Pashgian, Betye Saar, Catherine Opie, Mark Bradford, Robert Irwin, James Turrell, Barbara Kruger, David Hockney, Ed Ruscha and John Baldessari. On the film side there has been Park Chan-wook, Alfonso Cuarón, Guillermo del Toro, George Lucas, Kathryn Bigelow, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese, Stanley Kubrick and Clint Eastwood.

Coogler — who directed "Black Panther," "Creed" and "Fruitvale Station" — is having a stellar year. His gory Southern-vampire horror film "Sinners," which was released in mid-April, has been a massive hit. The film, which had a budget of \$90 million, grossed \$48 million in ticket sales in the U.S. and

Canada during its opening weekend, and has gone on to gross more than \$365 million worldwide.

Topanga-based painter Mary Corse is known for her connection to Southern California's Light and Space movement, but her career has been defined by her willingness to experiment with form and various materials, including ceramics and acrylic on canvas.

Corse devoted much of her life to her "White Light" series, which involves layering tiny glass beads — called microspheres — over white acrylic paint for a constantly shifting, reflective effect.

"Mary Corse has continually expanded the possibilities of painting in her exquisite works, which invite us to think deeply about the nature of perception," said Govan in a statement. "Ryan Coogler's films do something equally transformative. Through masterful storytelling and visual innovation, he reframes history, redefines narratives and opens new worlds of possibility."

Review ROBERT ABELE

Utopia devolves into a habitat of inhumanity and deceit in 'Eden'

Ron Howard's new film "Eden" is a true story about disenchanting Europeans, who, in the 1930s, escaped from their society and decamped on a lonely rock in the Galapagos, only to see their handmade utopia devolve into petty power struggles and murder. It's also lurid proof that Charles Darwin missed out on the truly juicy survival-of-the-fittest action by about a hundred years.

This is certainly unusual material for a mainstream stalwart like Howard, who knows his way around heroic problem-solving narratives ("Apollo 13," the Thai cave rescue movie "Thirteen Lives"). But in screenwriter Noah Pink's melodramatic imagining of incidents both well-documented and mysterious, one can see this Hollywood veteran on a mission to loosen the shackles of his reputation and have some nasty, brutish fun. To wit: A perma-sneering Jude Law greets intruders naked; a wild-eyed Ana de Armas insults and tries to seduce everyone; Vanessa Kirby lets foreplay include the pulling of her diseased tooth; Sydney Sweeney gives birth alone while growling at a pack of wild dogs.

The result may not be terribly illuminating about the (sub)human condition, despite the shout-outs to Nietzsche and Schopenhauer. "Eden" is probably closer to an expensive reality show about mismatched survivalists. But as August fare goes, it's a sticky, sweaty hoot, well cast and paced like a disreputable beach read, even if you might sporadically wish Werner Herzog had gotten first crack at this material. (It was also covered in a 2013 documentary.)

The first transplants to the uninhabited island of Floreana were German botanist Dr. Friedrich Ritter (Law) and his devoted, ailing partner, Dore (Kirby). Scolds who glorified suffering against the world's wrong turns, the pair sought a radical reboot of society in



JASIN BOLAND Vertical

JUDE LAW and Vanessa Kirby in the Ron Howard-directed "Eden," which is based on a real-life experiment in the 1930s on a remote island in the Galapagos.

rugged isolation, save the inconvenient fact that Ritter's grandstanding philosophical missives back home were published in newspapers, turning them into eccentric folk heroes. Soon, their precious suffering took the form of new neighbors: idealistic war veteran Heinz Wittmer (Daniel Brühl) and his wide-eyed young wife, Margret (Sweeney), who are looking for a new, self-sufficient way of life for their budding family.

It's difficult to imagine a worse addition to this oil-and-water mix of high-minded nonconformist cranks and hard-toiling middle-class settlers than a capitalist sybarite. Enter the grandiose Baroness Eloise (De Armas), carried like Cleopatra onto the beach by her male lovers (Toby Wallace and Felix Kammerer), and ready to claim Floreana as the future site of an exclusive luxury resort called Hacienda Paradiso. Her first

order of business, however, is pitting the scowling Ritter and bland, industrious Wittmers, who had managed a bearable distance so far, against each other.

The island, given an appropriately sickly, uninviting sheen by cinematographer Mathias Herndl, clearly wasn't big enough for all of these new-world experimenters. But the movie's two hours offer plenty of room for their portayers. Howard's generosity with his actors keeps this ensemble a charged group of clashing molecules. You wouldn't mistake anybody's turn for a full-throated or, conversely, subtle characterization — there's a messiness to the cutting that prioritizes motion over stillness — but the broad strokes of personality are fun.

At its most raw (or is it overcooked?), when De Armas' loaded-gun vibe veers toward camp or Law peacocks his pomposity with a

Yet Oasis more than made up for its chaotic Los Angeles debut, returning repeatedly to the city and filling ever-larger venues until the final Staples Center show in 2008. The following year, the band imploded when Noel walked out on Aug. 28, following a backstage fight with Liam at a music festival just outside Paris, departing just before their scheduled headlining slot.

"I was devastated when they broke up. I thought maybe they would just fight and get back together in a year or two. I didn't know it was going to take 15 years," said Danny Winebarger, who attended one of the band's recent Manchester shows and also has Rose Bowl tickets. He came to the pop-up on the hunt for a football shirt that had sold out in his size at Oasis' U.K. shops.

Stories like Winebarger's illustrate a devotion that spans decades, and an enduring passion that's echoed by everyone who entered the shop. Roy Kim, a self-described "superfan" who has seen Oasis in concert at least half a dozen times, reflected on the British rockers' enduring appeal: "There's a timeless quality about their music. It really reaches into the heart of humanity and the human condition. There's something for everyone."

Beyond the discography, Kim said he has long-admired Oasis' brazen attitude. That trademark boldness was on full display when the band announced U.S. tour dates: "America, Oasis is coming. You have one last chance to prove that you loved us all along." The response was immediate. Tickets for the concerts sold out within an hour.

That same excitement now filled the Hollywood pop-up, with fans buzzing as if the band were just about to take the stage. With just two weeks before full Oasis mania descends on Los Angeles, if this warm-up act is any indication, September's sure to be electric.

'Eden'

Rated: R, for some strong violence, sexual content, graphic nudity and language

Running time: 2 hours, 9 minutes

Playing: In wide release