

FERNANDO VALENZUELA :: 1960-2024



Associated Press

**TOAST OF THE TOWN**  
Fernando Valenzuela raises a magnum of champagne as the Dodgers drink to their National League Division Series victory over the Houston Astros in 1981. Behind their Cy Young Award-winning rookie, the Dodgers won the World Series that year.

## He forged enduring bond

Born to humble roots as one of 12 kids in Mexico, pitcher came to define Dodgers for new generation of fans

By ED GUZMAN

His journey from a small town in Mexico to rousing success in Major League Baseball inspired generations of fans and created a seismic shift in the demographics of the Dodgers fan base.

His unorthodox pitching motion, distinct physique and seemingly mysterious aura left an indelible mark on people from all walks of life, whether it was Los Angeles' Latino community grappling with the displacement created when the Dodgers built their stadium, Mexican immigrants and their families or artists inspired by his wizardry on the mound.

Dodgers legend Fernando Valenzuela died Tuesday at age 63. The cause of death was not disclosed. He is survived by his wife, Linda, four children, seven grandchildren and ex-

### He put Los Angeles before the Dodgers

Valenzuela was a friendly soul who forged a strong bond with city, writes Bill Plaschke. **SPORTS, B10**

### Pitcher's quiet pride amplified his dignity

Dodgers legend carried himself with virtue until the end, writes Dylan Hernández. **SPORTS, B10**

### Full coverage on passing of folk hero

For tributes, appreciations and photographs of Fernando Valenzuela, go to [latimes.com/sports](https://latimes.com/sports).

tended family.

Valenzuela's impact endured for so long and so powerfully that the Dodgers retired his jersey number last year despite a long-standing rule that the team did so only for those who were in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

It was a fitting bookend to a public baseball life that had an unprecedented beginning, a surprising and stirring stretch in 1981 that became forever known as "Fernandomania."

And though the left-hander never quite reached those heights in his playing career again, Valenzuela remained a beloved and enigmatic hero who was never far from fans' hearts, as evidenced by the preponderance of No. 34 Dodgers jerseys in the stands and ovations he received at home games when shown on the scoreboard while working at Dodger Stadium as part of the Spanish-language broadcast [See **Valenzuela, A6**]

## Ex-aide: Trump is unfit, 'fascist'

Former Chief of Staff John Kelly warns that his old boss praises Hitler and wants to govern as a dictator.

By HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

Retired Marine Gen. John F. Kelly, who was Donald Trump's longest-serving White House chief of staff, has warned that his former boss, if elected again, would govern like a dictator, that he lacks empathy, and that he has no understanding of the U.S. Constitution.

While other Trump administration officials have criticized the former president, including from the stage of the Democratic National Convention in August, Kelly is perhaps the most high-profile, telling the New York Times in an interview published two weeks before election day that he had grave concerns about Trump's fitness for office.

"Certainly the former president is in the far-right area, he's certainly an authoritarian, admires people who are dictators — he has said that. So he certainly falls into the general definition of fascist, for sure," Kelly said.

In the interview, the former chief of staff said he had admonished Trump multiple times for making admiring statements about Adolf Hitler, such as, "You know, Hitler did some good things, too."

Kelly told the New York Times [See **Kelly, A5**]

## UCLA surveys say hate persists on 2 sides

By JAWEED KALEEM

To one group, UCLA has become a hotbed of anti-Semitism and anti-Israeli bias, a campus led by an administration that has not taken enough action to address pro-Palestinian demonstrations that violate university rules and veer into anti-Jewish tropes and slogans.

To another, the university has become a site of repression against Muslim, Arab and Palestinian American voices, with excessive security patrols and strict free expression rules that clamp down on pro-Palestinian protesters and their demands that the university divest from ties to Israel's military.

More than a year after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel and the nation's retaliatory war in Gaza ignited campus protests — and nearly six months since a violent mob stormed a UCLA pro-Palestinian encampment — dueling university task forces and divided students and faculty have painted contrasting pictures of the Westwood campus still reeling from its tumultuous [See **UCLA, A5**]

### CAMINOS DEL SOUTHWEST

## The massacre we quickly forgot

Anti-Latino shooting shook the nation in 2019. But now in El Paso, some are also weary of migrants.

By GUSTAVO ARELLANO

EL PASO — I never go to Walmart in Southern California. It's declass and too far from where I live.

On the road, it's a godsend.

Air conditioning. Bathrooms. Usually a McDonald's, maker of the greatest fast-food breakfast of them all, the Egg McMuffin. All the toiletries, snacks and clothes — reasonably priced — a traveler can ever need.

My wife and I plan our road trip stops around Walmarts. There's the one in Gallup, N.M., perpetually packed with buses from the nearby Navajo and Zuni nations. In Danville, Ky., we once bought rain boots while waiting for a flat tire to be fixed. A



Walmart Supercenter in Weatherford, Okla., is near a Braum's, the state's delightful cross between In-N-Out and Trader Joe's.

Walmarts dot the road from Clifton, Ariz., to El Paso — in New Mexico, one is in Deming, a few are in Las Cruces, then there are a bunch as Interstate 10 enters Texas.

El Paso is one of my favorite cities, a place so Mexican it makes Los Angeles feel like Mission Viejo. It also has a long tradition of sending residents to Southern California who still maintain ties to their hometown. Through more than a dozen visits, as well as conversations closer to home, I've been impressed with their pride in being from a place where Mexico and the United States meet.

I wasn't looking for good times or a rest [See **Arellano, A9**]

## Teenager confessed to murder in '07, but is he innocent? D.A. says yes

Interrogation tactics used then are now considered flawed. Gascón seeks freedom for two prisoners.

By JESSICA GARRISON AND ANITA CHABRIA

The teen slumped in a chair, sobbing, in a Los Angeles Police Department interrogation room.

"I wasn't there," he said, again and again, according to a video of the interrogation reviewed by The Times. "Please."

"You were there," one homicide detective responded, a point the detectives would make over and over. "Let's get past that right now."

The teenager kept crying and telling the detectives: This was wrong. He was innocent. Hours earlier, just before dawn, he had been awoken by officers who had stormed into the small Hollywood apartment he shared with his mother and sister. They had dragged him out of bed, brought him here and told him he had been identified as the shooter in a gang-related murder that had taken place on Sunset Boulevard a few months [See **Convictions, A9**]

### N. Korean troop report confirmed

U.S. says Pyongyang has sent 3,000 to train in Russia, possibly for war in Ukraine. **NATION, A4**

### Homes may hide a quake flaw

Those built before 2000 with living space above a garage have a risk of collapse. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Regulators target financial lenders

Novel types of firms will be required to register with state and provide data. **BUSINESS, A8**

### Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 82/55. **B6**

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