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THE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS MARKET

Read more on
PAGE 3

INSIDE: SAN DIEGO'S BEST LAW FIRMS PAGE 4

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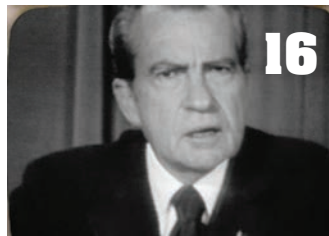
COVER STORY:
FROM LEMONADE STANDS TO LITTLE CEOs
San Diego's upcoming entrepreneurs show their stuff.
By Marlise Kast



HALFTIME FOR STOCKS
CBS Business Analyst Jill Schlesinger provides three crucial investing steps.



OVERCOMING INNOVATION OPPONENT
Communication expert Daneen Skube shows how you turn your opponents into allies.



BIDEN'S NEXT STEPS
Columnist Daniel McCarthy details why the president should follow Richard Nixon's lead.



GUARANTEED INCOME
It's proliferating across California. By Lynn La of CalMatters



1968 & LBJ
California History Professor and bestselling author Luke Nichter details President Johnson's struggle and the similarities to President Biden when contemplating the calls to drop out of this year's election.

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From Lemonade Stands to Little CEO

The next generation of entrepreneurs is setting up shop with their own Children's Entrepreneur Market in Valley Center



Farmers markets might be common around San Diego County, but have you ever heard of a farmer's market run entirely by kids?! Well, we've got some big news about little people making a huge impact right here in Valley Center.

Brick n Barn, located at the historic Betty Crocker Estate, has been chosen as the pioneer location for the Children's Entrepreneur Market taking place on Sunday, July 21 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Since its 2017 inception in Utah, to sold-out markets across 24 states, this award-winning program is finally making its way to the Golden State. Brick n Barn is beyond honored to be the first location in San Diego to host this groundbreaking nonprofit initiative that has been transforming the lives of children through entrepreneurial experiences.

Unlike traditional craft markets, here, kids are in charge. Parents are encouraged to take a step back so that young people can build confidence, learn financial literacy, and utilize creativity by selling their own products to paying customers. Adults can assist from the sidelines, but this event is about empowering kids to engage with customers, handle money, and earn profits from their craft.

From personalized artwork and gluten-free snacks, to braided bracelets and dog treats, the product possibilities are endless for these little vendors. Through the process, children develop valuable life skills as they practice the fundamentals of running a small business, all while having fun.

"We believe the Children's Entrepreneur Market can positively influence a lot of young lives," said Lynée Fife, Director of the program. "The principles of innovation, leadership, and hard work are lessons that will stay with them throughout their lives."

Children are offered additional support including a video course on how to set-up their business, scholarships for growth, and a blog series to share lessons and experiences from kids, for kids.

At the July 21 market held at Brick n Barn, 50 lucky children are getting a chance to showcase their talents and learn what it takes to run a "business."

Registration costs \$25 per booth, with 100% of the proceeds helping to spread the vision for these markets to reach all 50 states by 2026. Proceeds also benefit the Children's Entrepreneur Market Scholarship Fund that enables selected applicants to grow their business.

You can help kids reach their full potential on Sunday, July 21 from 10 to 1, as the best and brightest young minds in North County come together in one place. The 3-hour Children's Entrepreneur Market will take place at Brick n Barn located at 29200 Miller Rd in Valley Center.

Learn more and register at the link below.

childrensentrepreneurmarket.com/event/valley-center-jul-21-10am-1pm/

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Manatt has deep roots in the region and has long represented significant clients in the industries and companies driving San Diego's thriving economy, including real estate, technology, health care, and land use, among others. CEO and Managing Partner Donna Wilson spent formative years of her career clerking for Judge David Thompson of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Diego, and San Diego Office Leader and Partner Randy Grossman served as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California, prosecuting federal crimes throughout San Diego and Imperial counties immediately before joining Manatt. Grossman's arrival signaled the official unveiling of Manatt's San Diego office. Manatt's roster of clients and team of talented dealmakers and top-tier litigators have established the firm's reputation as a go-to advisor for clients navigating the challenges and opportunities in the region. Manatt's longstanding and high-impact litigation work in San Diego also extends the firm's commitment to pro bono efforts.

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Fisher Phillips is an international labor and employment law firm, representing employers. It recently received the “Innovations in Knowledge Management” award from Law.com in its Legal Week Leaders in Legal Tech Law Awards 2024. The award recognizes law firms that have implemented technology to innovate the attorney and law librarian research process or reinvent the role of knowledge management in the firm, including case and regulation research, judicial and court analytics, competitive intelligence, and more. Fisher Phillips became the first law firm in the country to fully deploy Case text Co-Counsel, the world’s first reliable AI legal assistant, powered by GPT-4, to perform efficient legal research and drafting so the firm can focus on its clients more complex and pressing issues. A major

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The Golden State Burn: Climate's impact on homeowners and their wealth

By Douglas Page

California burns, with more than 3,300 wildfires and 150,000 acres charred so far this year, Cal Fire reports, while 1,100 plus tornadoes, says AccuWeather, tore up the landscape from the Central Plains to the Midwest, the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, plus one – for the first time in 20 years – in Alaska.

Along the country's 3,700-mile eastern seaboard, which includes communities from South Padre Island, Texas, up to Lubec, Maine, meteorologists forecast many destructive events this year: Nearly 33 million homes risk wind damage at the cost of \$10.8 billion in what could be one of the country's stormiest hurricane seasons.

About 8 million of them, reports Irvine, Calif.-based CoreLogic, are threatened by storm surge, ocean water thrust ashore by powerful typhoon winds.

The forecast, from a variety of weather services, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is that this will be an "above normal" year, with eight to 16 hurricanes, and four to eight of them being "major hurricanes," meaning they'll likely have wind speeds of at least 110 mph, perhaps faster.

In fact, Texas's Gulf Coast already experienced one – Beryl – which came ashore the Monday after this year's July 4th holiday as a Category 1 hurricane with top sustained wind speeds as high as 80 mph. Insurance losses from Beryl are expected to be between \$750 million to \$1.2 billion, Artemis reported.

AccuWeather estimated damage and economic losses higher –

between \$28 to \$32 billion. Most of the damage was in rural areas, early reports said.

As for California's wildfires, there could be some good news.

"Most of California had near to above normal rainfall this year," said Matthew Shameson, a Riverside, Calif.-based meteorologist with the U.S. Forest Service. "And normally during wet years, we have below normal significant fires.

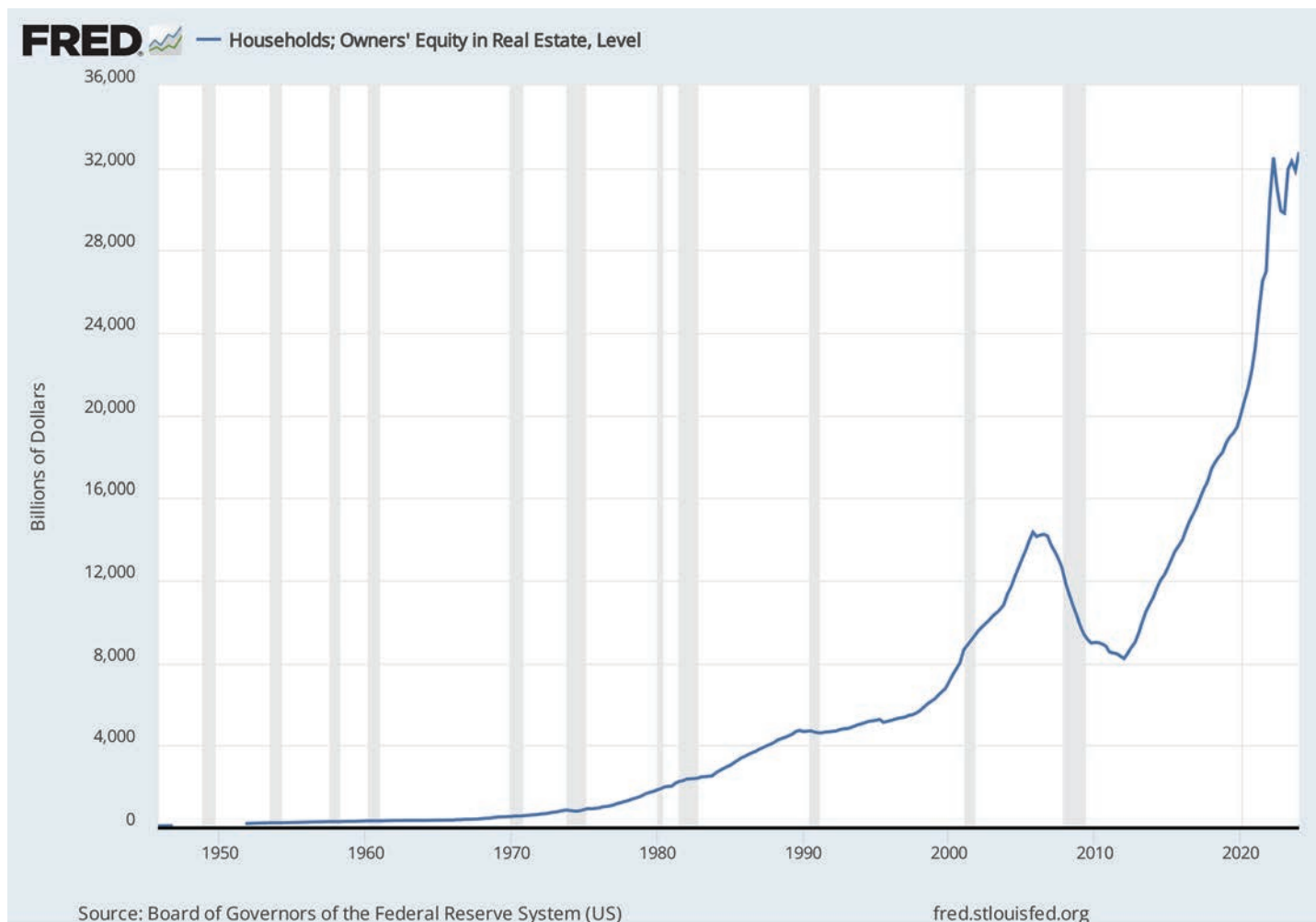
"We get about the same number of fires, but the significant ones go down," he added.

CalFire, however, warns that due to new vegetation growth, "dryness may increase ... potentially leading to more small fires, with the chance of larger fires depending on wind conditions.

"While there are no immediate signs of drought or dryness, this could change as temperatures rise and conditions dry out," the organization said in a statement.

"Tornado Alley," consisting of a line of states from South Dakota down to Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and parts of Texas, once saw many tornadoes. But they're no longer the epicenter. Twisters are moving east and are just as likely to strike portions of the Midwest and Southeast.

"People just need to realize that tornadoes can occur outside of these areas, and although the area has shifted in the last 35 years from the Plains to the Southeast, it may shift again," said AccuWeather Meteorologist Jesse Ferrell in a story posted on the



forecaster's website.

The forecaster also warns that tornadoes can happen anywhere, including California.

The National Weather Service says about 800 tornadoes strike each year, killing about 80 people.

But AccuWeather Meteorologist Paul Pastelok says the annual number of tornadoes is closer to 1,400. In the 21st century, so far, 2004 and 2011 hold the record for the most tornadoes, 1,817 and 1,700, respectively.

While it remains early in the year for tropical storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, hailstorms, thunderstorms, and wildfires, these events – even the threat of them – could make for lasting consequences for homeowners, especially their wealth.

Homeowner risk

The U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Financial Research said in a December 2023 report, "it is becoming increasingly challenging for real estate owners ... and related parties to protect themselves from the financial impact of adverse weather events via insurance."

The risk isn't limited to just an owner experiencing a decline in

their property's value due to a storm or wildfire or the risk of one.

Also at stake is the impact on banks and other real estate lenders because properties with a reduced value also suffer diminished loan collateral value – or fair market value – which is often used to secure a mortgage. In other words, the property could be underwater, a situation where the property's value is less than its mortgage.

In addition, the report says, state and municipal governments could see a decline in the taxes they receive from homeowners because their properties are worth less than they were previously due to being either caught up a climate event or located in an area that's at risk of being hit with floods, hurricanes, severe thunder and hailstorms, tornados, wildfires or tropical storms.

In another report, from February, the U.S. Treasury's Office of Financial Research estimated houses could lose 6.1% of value and 61% of home equity due to expected losses from a climate event – even the threat of one.

"Climate shocks may devalue real estate, increasing the default risk on mortgage loans and mortgage-backed securities," the report said. "However elevated default risk does not require the occurrence of an adverse climate event.

“Growing concerns about future climate episodes may devalue home prices today, wiping out homeowner equity and raising default likelihoods,” the report added.

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis reports homeowners in the United States, as a whole, have nearly \$33 trillion in equity in their homes as of the year’s first quarter.

According to a Pew Research Center report from 2021, homeowners in the United States derive 45% of their wealth from the equity of their primary residence.

The conundrum

As one researcher sees it, towns and cities, which rely on property taxes to fund a variety of services, including schools, police and fire departments, face a dilemma.

“Local governments rely on property taxes, whether that’s from existing properties or the development of new ones,” said Urban Institute Senior Researcher

Andrew Rumbach. “There are development dollars that come when you build a new place. And then you’ve got these climate hazards.

“It’s a vicious cycle because there’s a lot of considerations besides climate when we make housing (zoning) decisions. It’s very easy to push off concerns about the long-term risk in favor of the short-term benefits of more developments in hazard-prone areas,” he added.

Plus, he said, “It’s very difficult to get around these issues when a lot of local government folks want to be re-elected.”

Adding to the pressure to rebuild, especially in areas that suffered a climate event, is competition.

“There’s always a nearby town that may be willing to allow that development if the other town doesn’t,” Rumbach said. “And they’re going to get the jobs, the houses and the tax revenue. So, the local government doesn’t exist in a vacuum.



Jimi Grande.



Andrew Rumbach.

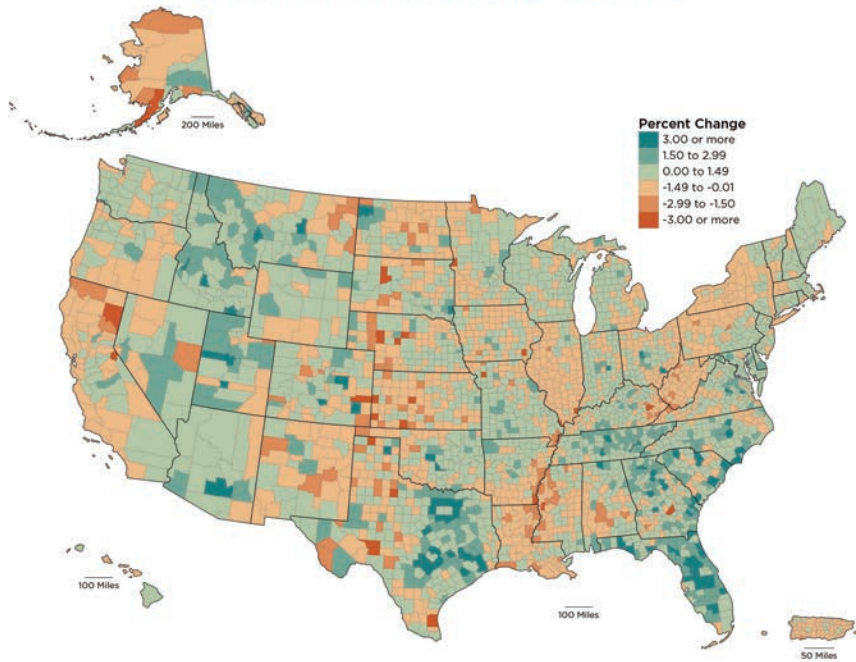
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Percent Change in County Population: July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2023




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Source: Vintage 2023 Population Estimates

"In some ways, it's a race to the bottom to see who will allow development in risk-prone areas," he added.

A recent U.S. Census Bureau report shows recent population growth in some areas of the United States most vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms, starting on the Atlantic Ocean coastline in North Carolina down to Florida's Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico shorelines, around to Texas, including some counties in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

It also shows population growth in some counties on the Atlantic coastline between Virginia and Maine. In comparison, the graph shows, there's been a decrease in California's population along the Pacific Ocean.

One insurance executive, requesting anonymity, framed the issue this way: "If you derive your revenue in your state or town in

a coastal area, you absolutely want expensive housing in that dangerous area."

SD METRO last year reported on a similar development in California, reporting that 4.4 million homes were built in the Golden State's Wildland Urban Interface, an area where housing and human development interact with undeveloped land and vegetative fuels, which can increase the chances of a wildfire.

The University of California Los Angeles, the story reported, in a study, said much of the growth is due to the state's Proposition 13, which passed in 1978, which restricts the annual increase on property taxes, resulting in local governments allowing more homes to be built to boost tax revenue.

How does San Diego see the issue of property taxes and development? SD METRO sought out Mayor Todd Gloria for an answer.

"The property tax rolls are not a consideration in our land-use planning," Mayor Gloria told SD METRO. "San Diego needs housing, and we are looking to maximize housing in developed areas with access to public transit, some of which is near the coast.

"The City is concurrently anticipating the impacts of climate change and has extensive climate resiliency planning to protect infrastructure and property," the mayor added.

As for how housing impacts property tax revenues of California's municipal governments, SD METRO's calls to the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers seeking comment were not immediately returned.

Insurance Issues

With the exception of California, which is experiencing insurance coverage problems due to wildfire threats and state government regulated annual premium increases, elsewhere around the country, where there's development, there's an insurance company willing to write a policy – no matter where it's located.

"As an industry, we don't view any region as uninsurable," said Karen Collins, a spokesperson with the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, a Washington-based industry group consisting of home, automobile and business insurers.

But there's a result, she points out: Annual premiums are increasing.

"The risk on the ground is what the insurance prices are going to reflect," she said. "And as we (the insurance industry) have more losses, insurance prices have to reflect those costs.

"Our industry has seen a significant increase in premiums to try to realign with what this loss exposure has been in recent years, and that's becoming a wake-up call to all who are impacted," she added.

Jimi Grande, a spokesman for the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, an Indianapolis-based

association representing about 1,400 mutual insurance companies, concurs.

"Nothing is uninsurable," he said. "There's always a price for a risk, but if the risk goes up, the cost to insure it goes up."

The industry is also seeing increased costs for repairing damaged properties.

"Building materials and labor are up by about 38% for each one," Collins said.

The cost of reinsurance – insurance for the insurance industry -- also jumped. According to the Guy Carpenter On Line Index, reinsurance costs spiked more than 100% from 2017 to 2023 and increased again by just over 1% between 2023 and 2024, which is causing insurance premiums to increase, too.

Nancy Watkins, a consultant to the insurance industry in Milliman's San Francisco office, says increasing annual premium costs can cause consumer problems.

"I think people understand that if they have an insurance policy, they are transferring risk," she said. "What doesn't make sense is the assumption that they're entitled to an insurance policy at a price they're able to afford or that is very closely related to the price they assumed it would be when they bought the property – or both."

Land-use policies

Collins says where housing is zoned and developed needs to be reviewed.

"There's not going to be a sudden stop in development," she said. "But we need to be smarter about how we approach this, making sure we include mitigation and consideration for the risks of the area that we are building in."

"As a country, we've never taken land use as seriously as we should have, which, historically, has put the insurance industry and some environmental groups in the same pool together, where they'd say, 'Hey, Mother Nature put that grassland around the coast for a reason. It's like a sponge when storms come in. If you build houses there, the safety spot is gone. It's a bad spot to develop,'" Grande said.

"But now we've developed them and then we (the insurance industry) undercharged, and now the weather's getting worse, and so what are you going to do? Take the entire community and move it?" he added.

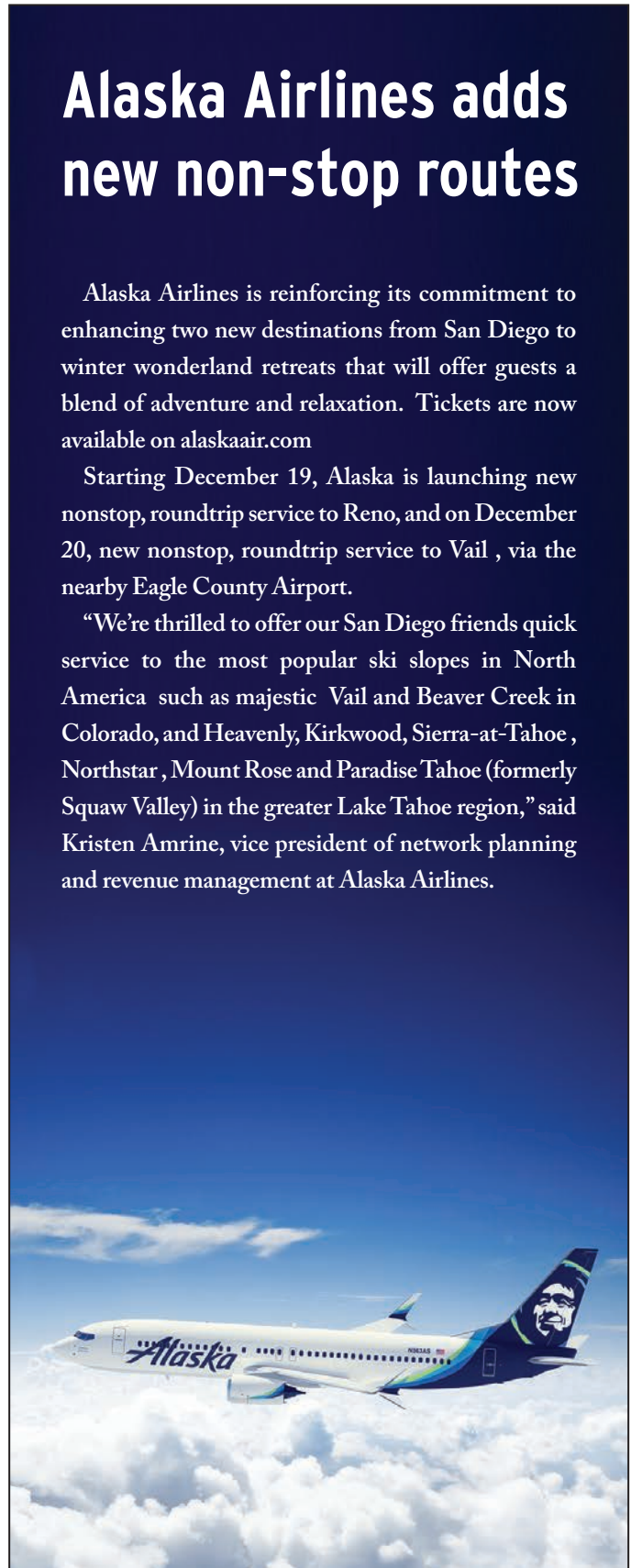
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Alaska Airlines adds new non-stop routes

Alaska Airlines is reinforcing its commitment to enhancing two new destinations from San Diego to winter wonderland retreats that will offer guests a blend of adventure and relaxation. Tickets are now available on alaskaair.com

Starting December 19, Alaska is launching new nonstop, roundtrip service to Reno, and on December 20, new nonstop, roundtrip service to Vail, via the nearby Eagle County Airport.

"We're thrilled to offer our San Diego friends quick service to the most popular ski slopes in North America such as majestic Vail and Beaver Creek in Colorado, and Heavenly, Kirkwood, Sierra-at-Tahoe, Northstar, Mount Rose and Paradise Tahoe (formerly Squaw Valley) in the greater Lake Tahoe region," said Kristen Amrine, vice president of network planning and revenue management at Alaska Airlines.





Halftime for Stocks

By Jill Schlesinger

There's nothing like a soaring stock market to make a summer break more enjoyable. The S&P 500 index's near 15% return for the first half of the year ranks as the 13th best start since 1950, according to Comerica Wealth Management.

Before you break out the confetti, it's notable that the entire universe of stocks did not rise equally over the past six months.

You probably heard a lot about the generative artificial intelligence – better

known as “AI” – stock market boom, underscored by the rocket ship performance of chip maker Nvidia. This one company accounted for almost a third of the S&P's first-half performance. If you add four other companies — Microsoft, Apple, Amazon and Meta – the five contributed about 60% to the S&P 500's more than 25% increase in value between Jan 1 – June 30 this year.

To understand how narrow this performance is, it's helpful to compare the

S&P 500 with its sibling, the S&P 500 Equal Weight Index (EWI).

In the EWI calculation, each company of the S&P 500 index is given an equal weight, versus a weight based on the company's market capitalization (the number of shares outstanding multiplied by the price of the stock). With an equal weight, the performance drops to about 4% for the first half of the year. Of course, had you put all of your eggs in the Nvidia basket, you would

have been up by more than 150% this year!

All of these numbers are a great reminder that you do not need to feel the pressure to identify the next Nvidia. In fact, the beauty of owning a diversified portfolio of index mutual or exchange-traded funds is not sweating about whether or not you or your financial adviser is a great stock picker.

Sure, if you want to have a small “fun money” account, where you experiment with individual stocks, go for it. Just make sure that what you have allocated to that account is less than 5-10% of your total dollars invested. And if you are going to actively trade, you may want to do it within a retirement account, so you don’t generate a tax liability or fail to take a gain because you are afraid of taxes.

Whether you are a seasoned investor or just starting out, it’s helpful to remember three simple, but crucial steps necessary to keep your head on straight, regardless of the market climate.

Step 1: Remind yourself why you are investing. Most of us are saving for a long-term goal, like retirement or college, which is likely years or decades in the future.

There are going to be more ups than downs but try to temper your emotions at the extremes. The objective is to avoid bailing out when

the dark days of a bear market arrive or piling in when the bull is running, and it seems like nothing can go wrong. Unless something shifts in your personal life, put your head down and stick to your plan.

Step 2: Determine whether you need cash within the next 12 months. If so, keep that amount in a high yield savings account, a money market account, or a short-term certificate of deposit.

Step 3: Understand how much you are paying. The past decade has seen a huge reduction in investment fees. You may be able to save money by replacing managed mutual funds with index funds or by ditching an investment “professional” and moving to an automatic investment platform.

If you are working with a financial planner who is managing your investments, make sure they adhere to the fiduciary standard, meaning they are required to act in your best interest, at all times.

Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. A former options trader and CIO of an investment advisory firm, she welcomes comments and questions at askjill@jillonmoney.com.

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Overcoming opponents of innovation

By Dr. Daneen Skube

Question: I'm interested in emerging exciting areas in my field. However, I have coworkers who think we should stick with the status quo. Why do people resist innovation? How do I get opportunities for these new skills? How can I propose projects that let me work with emerging areas?

Answer: Some people resist innovation because they see it as a threat. You'll get opportunities by proposing projects with concrete benefits to your boss and management. Management, in most companies, is receptive – if there's a profit-based outcome.

But keep in mind your fellow employees scared of change will not be cheerleaders for innovation. Charles Darwin, the 19th-century English naturalist, summarized the evolution of species as, "adapt or die." People who run organizations know this is true, but individual employees may prefer familiar routines.

There's a joke that points this out: "The only difference between a rut and a grave is the dimensions." The wisdom in this humor is that it is beneficial to evaluate whether our habits are effective routines or refuse us opportunities for growth and learning.

Many may remember Apple was dying. Steve Jobs creatively and

aggressively overhauled it back to life, observing that "innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity, not a threat." By all accounts he was a challenging and difficult personality, but in the innovation department he was top notch!

Innovation and creative breakthroughs do not require a difficult person to shepherd them through an organization. Diplomacy works better because in the long run, we shouldn't step on people we may need on the way back down if there's trouble. And since innovation requires collaboration, leaders with strong interpersonal skills garner broader support.

The irony about resistance to change is that it's more rapid now than at any other time in recorded history – and it's speeding up. If we refuse to anticipate change, we'll end up with tire tracks on our backs from the highway of progress.

We may grieve over what we were accustomed to, and we may get anxious about how change will affect us. But leaning into change is the safer and more effective response.

Realize that since most people are creatures of habit, change may threaten many of your coworkers' sense of safety. The more familiar

and non-threatening you make change, the more interest and support you'll generate. Be willing to send email links to articles to coworkers. YouTube is also a decent source of education. Talk in simple words about your ideas so team members don't feel overwhelmed.

Also be willing to listen to concerns. Even car salespeople know to ask customers about their concerns in buying a car. Buying an idea can be even more daunting and require more knowledge. Be willing and capable of filling your team's information gap with easy explanations. People always fear what they don't understand.

Arthur Schopenhauer, the 19th-century German Philosopher, sagely noted: "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed; second, it is violently opposed; and third, it is accepted as self-evident."

Until your emerging areas become self-evident, be willing to be the shepherd who is patient with coworker anxieties while articulating the benefits of change.

The last word(s)

Question: I have a coworker who claims that he's just telling the "truth" while he insults everyone on my team. Do you think truth that harms others is useful at work?

Answer: Truth has many facets and useful truths always travel with kindness. A truth stated to harm is abuse. As William Blake, an English Poet, remarked: "A truth that's told with bad intent can beat all the lies you can invent."

Daneen Skube, Ph.D., is a Seattle-based executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker, also appears as the FOX Channel's "Workplace Guru" each Monday morning. She's the author of Interpersonal Edge: Breakthrough Tools for Talking to Anyone, Anywhere, About Anything (Hay House, 2006). She can be reached at interpersonaledge@comcast.net

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- San Diego Magazine- Top Attorney 2016
- San Diego Business Journal- Best of the Bar 2014, 2015 & 2016
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Joe Biden Faces Richard Nixon's Choice

By Daniel McCarthy



Joe Biden has come to the same dead-end Richard Nixon arrived at half a century ago.

His presidency can't go on, and the choice now is what kind of exit to make.

Nixon could have clung to power, fighting impeachment over Watergate all the way to a Senate trial.

He might even have won.

Impeachment has never removed a president -- the two failed attempts against Donald Trump, one right after the Jan. 6 riot, show how high the bar for removal is.

But if Nixon could have remained in office, he couldn't have served effectively as president.

He did the right thing: On Aug. 8, 1974, Nixon resigned for the good of the country.

Does Biden have the courage to do likewise?

Like Nixon, Biden can hold on by his fingernails, if he wishes. He might even win reelection: Polls show Biden is still competitive, despite public exposure of his age-related debilities.

No one can wrest the Democratic nomination from Biden if he won't give it up. And the party has no obvious, more electable alternative. The likeliest substitute for Biden is Vice President

Kamala Harris.

But she polls no better than he does, and Harris has little incentive to push for his replacement when she can count on becoming president if Biden's reelected -- because he won't be able to serve for long.

The truth is he isn't able to serve now, whether or not he can bring himself to admit it. Reports from inside the White House say Biden is unable to put in a full day: He's only "dependably engaged" between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., according to Alex Thompson of the news site Axios.

Journalists themselves have to work much longer hours than that.

In a panic, Biden's campaign is trying to take events after 8 p.m. off his calendar: CNN says the president told a conference call of Democratic governors he needs more sleep.

Never mind the campaign: There is simply no way Biden can fulfill his duties as president on such a schedule.

Yet it's all his stamina and diminished ability to concentrate will allow.

Americans have seen what happens when a senescent politician refuses to relinquish power.

By the time she died last September, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) had become wholly a creature of her staff, unable so much as to walk the halls of the Senate without a guide.

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), born the same year as Biden, is retiring from Senate Republican leadership after the election, yet his party is suffering for his delay in stepping down: GOP efforts to retake the Senate aren't helped by uncertainty about who its leader in the chamber will be -- nor by the lack of a vigorous captain to assist colleagues and new candidates in their campaigns.

For a senator to reach a point where he or she can't function in office is disturbing -- for a president, it's outrageous.

Already Biden's administration is stage-managed heavily by staff and family, including, as critics have long warned, the president's influence-peddling and criminal son, Hunter. A party serious about democracy can't field a scarecrow for a second term.

The only person medically qualified to be president on the ticket Democrats are set to nominate next month is Kamala Harris. She owes voters a forthright account of what she will do as president, not vice president, if her ticket wins in November.

Harris may be prepared to wait out Biden's decline and fall, and the party might believe he's a better nominee than she is despite his compromised condition -- which is a damning judgment on Harris's abilities.

Trump and the Republicans, too, might prefer Biden stay in office and in the race, no matter how confident they feel about defeating Harris. This is the fight they've rehearsed, after all, with Biden's age and infirmity part of their battle plan.

But more than partisan advantage is at stake.

Political calculations did factor into Nixon's decision to resign: He knew if he hung on, Republicans would pay an enormous penalty in the 1974 midterms (as they did anyway) and face annihilation in the '76 presidential contest.

He also, however, understood he had a responsibility to end America's agony and give the country a president who could get on with the job.

Biden has that responsibility, too, and it's the last one he's prepared to meet. He should bring his presidency to a dignified conclusion and let the country make an open choice about its future.

Like Nixon, Biden must now write his last chapter -- for one way or another, he's reached the end of the book.

Daniel McCarthy is the editor of *Modern Age: A Conservative Review*.
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Beefed Up IRS Scrutiny of Corporate Jet Travel Will Have Terrible Consequences

By Mark DiLullo | The California Globe

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has recently declared its intention to conduct more rigorous audits concerning the reported value of corporate CEOs' travels on company planes. This move comes amid concerns that such trips are being systematically underreported as part of executives' compensation packages. As the proprietor of a company catering to the needs of corporate jet and private aviation users, I am reminded of Ronald Reagan's famous assertion that the "nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the Government, and I'm here to help.'"

The ramifications of such heightened scrutiny are manifold and potentially severe. Not only is there the specter of unintended consequences looming, but the mere prospect of increased oversight from one of the most formidable government agencies is likely to cast a chilling effect on the private aviation industry. This, in turn, could precipitate a notable loss of jobs within the sector.

This isn't the first time governmental rhetoric has impacted

the private aviation industry. A seemingly innocuous remark by President Barack Obama in 2009, cautioning against the use of corporate jets for leisure, had a pronounced adverse effect, contributing to a downturn in the sector known as "Aviation's Great Recession." Should the IRS persist in targeting individuals based on their corporate jet usage, a similar negative reaction from both industry stakeholders and end-users is all but inevitable.

It's crucial to recognize that jobs within the aviation industry are not only numerous but also tend to offer above-average wages. Moreover, many positions within this sector do not necessarily require specialized skills. Indeed, many employees within my company began in roles such as customer service or aircraft maintenance and have since ascended to skilled positions, enjoying rewarding careers along the way.

At Threshold Aviation, we take particular pride in fostering an environment where advancement is not only possible but encouraged. Both my daughters have risen to significant roles





within the company, breaking barriers in what has traditionally been a male-dominated industry. With my wife also playing a pivotal role in the business, Threshold Aviation has become both a familial and entrepreneurial endeavor.

Drawing from my experiences flying high-net-worth individuals across the globe, I can attest to the ceaseless nature of their work. Even during ostensibly leisurely trips, CEOs and business owners are invariably engaged in professional matters, often accompanied by personal assistants who ensure business continues uninterrupted. The efficiency afforded by private jet travel is indispensable to these high-performing individuals, enabling them to maximize productivity even during travel.

Consider the scenario of someone like Elon Musk. For an individual of his stature, the conventional rigmarole of renting cars, navigating airports, and enduring security checks represents not just a waste of time but a loss of valuable productivity. The societal cost of such inefficiency is considerable, given the substantial contributions such individuals make to innovation and economic growth.

Yet, despite the tangible benefits of private aviation, there persists a sentiment among certain factions that begrudge the success of others. This reflexive resentment, often observed among those on the political left, is regrettably short-sighted. Rather than seeking to impede the success of others, it would be far more beneficial for society if such success were celebrated and emulated.

As someone who employs over a hundred individuals in my Chino, California operation, I am acutely aware of the potential consequences should the IRS continue down this misguided path. It is not the wealthy who will suffer most, but rather the hardworking individuals who form the backbone of the private aviation industry, including my own dedicated employees. Therefore, it is imperative that we resist the urge to penalize success and instead foster an environment where achievement is encouraged and rewarded.

Expanding New Children's Museum is not just for kids

By Kate Murphy | Axios

The New Children's Museum — a contemporary art museum with interactive exhibitions for kids — is undergoing a major expansion.

Why it matters: The renovations turn existing museum space, mostly administrative offices, into new art-making spaces that are more accessible for kids and adults.

It also increases the museum's capacity by 50% to about 900 guests.

Zoom in: The upgrades include new gallery space, a pottery studio, classrooms and an outdoor patio open to visitors to make art.

The Innovators LAB will move into an expanded art studio, which will be able to host up to 200 people instead of 15-20, with multiple classes at once.

There will also be new programming for toddlers, teens and adults.

The big picture: The museum's art installations are designed for play.

Kids can climb through a giant crocheted sculpture called a Whammock!, put on a puppet show or circus act in the colorful Teatro Piñata, use slides instead of stairs, and explore a treehouse-like labyrinth.

Visitors can also meet famous artists, gaze at murals and sneak away to relaxing, low-sensory spaces.

Follow the money: The \$2 million project has so far been funded by individual donors and a couple local partner organizations, according to the museum.

They still needed to raise \$500,000 for the expansion.

What's next: The spaces are under construction and will open in phases this year, starting with a new gallery space in August.

If you go: Visit the museum near the downtown waterfront from 9am to 4pm any day except Tuesday.

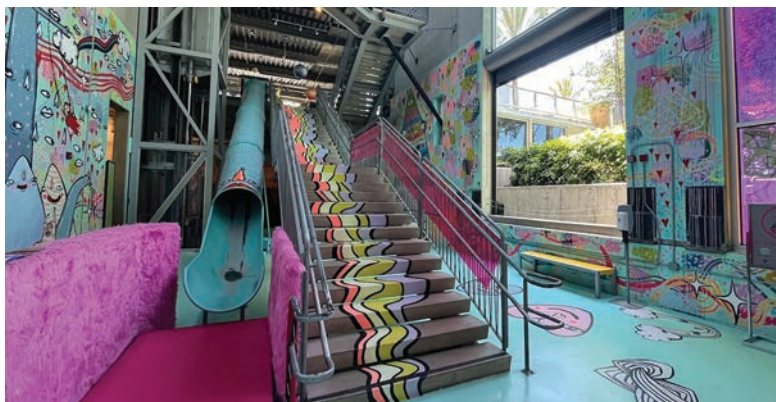
Admission is free for members and babies; \$20 for kids, military, educators and seniors; \$24 for adults; and \$2 for low-income individuals.



"El Más Allá" is an immersive art installation at The New Children's Museum. Photo: Kate Murphy/Axios



The expansion allows for multigenerational programming and studio spaces. Renderings: New Children's Museum



Slide into this playful street-art installation. Photo: Kate Murphy/Axios



A mother picks up her son from daycare in Richmond on Sept. 26, 2022. Photo by Marissa Leshnov for CalMatters

Guaranteed basic income programs proliferate across California

By Lynn La | CalMatters

Beginning Monday, 150 households in Fresno County are expected to receive a \$500 prepaid card to spend on anything they'd like — no strings attached. It will be the first of 12 monthly recurring payments those Southwest Fresno and Huron residents will receive as part of a guaranteed basic income program for low-income families.

For Andy Levine, an advisor at the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission that is handling the financial disbursements, it marks a big milestone. In 2022, the state launched its own \$25 million guaranteed income pilot program, but no region in the Central Valley, including Fresno County, was selected to participate. That's despite 20% of the county living below the federal poverty line — almost double the percentage for California overall.

Levine was “genuinely surprised and disappointed” that Fresno didn't make the cut. But after philanthropic organizations stepped in, the commission raised about \$1 million to launch the program. Researchers at Fresno State will study the effect the money will have on families, which similar programs have shown to improve health, reduce stress and can lead to full-time employment, according to Levine. They'll also analyze the impact on the families' children, and whether the money helps improve early childhood outcomes and boost parental involvement.

Levine: “You can spend some money on the front end to provide stability. Or you can pay extra in public services for the consequences for people not having enough. Is it more cost effective to just provide people ... what they need to be productive, self-sustaining and resilient?”

Other regions in the state are also experimenting with guaranteed income programs. Sacramento County's Department of Child, Family and Adult Services is planning a year-long pilot with money from a \$7.3 million state block grant. It will give \$725 a month to 200 Black, American Indian and Alaska Native families living below the federal poverty level.

And in Pomona, applications closed earlier this week for a program that will give \$250 eligible residents 18 monthly payments of \$500.

Sean Kline, the former director of the Stanford Basic Income Lab and current advisor to a behavioral science nonprofit, says basic income programs have proliferated in the last four years in California because of the convergence of three factors: decades of widening income disparities, the pandemic's impact on economic inequalities and a public urgency to address racial injustice following the 2020 murder of George Floyd.

These programs have the potential to influence state and federal policies, according to Kline, not only because they give cash directly to those who need it with little bureaucratic red tape, but also because they can reshape harmful narratives about poverty. Giving money unconditionally signals a sense of trust to a population whose spending decisions are often heavily scrutinized, said Kline.

Kline: “We give tremendous tax benefits to the middle- and upper-class. The mortgage interest on my house, I can deduct. And no one is asking me how I'm spending that money or to provide a urine sample. We have a tremendous double standard here.”

How LBJ Stepped Back

By Luke Nichter

Most of us observe politics from the cheap seats – a kind of kabuki theatre that does not really tell us how it actually works behind the scenes. Preconceived ideas and political commitments exaggerate our blind spots. The more white-hot the political moment, the worse our judgment gets. Instead, we must remember that much of what happens in Washington happens not for policy reasons or partisan motivations, but for selfish, personal ones. If it is true that politics makes strange bedfellows, it is especially true when it comes to the crafting of political legacies.

Consider the precarious political position of Joe Biden after his recent disastrous performances that have inspired calls for his withdrawal from the presidential race. History can be a useful guide. In the run-up to the 1968 presidential election, Lyndon Johnson was under pressure from the left wing of his party, primary challengers and the media to not run for re-election amid the war in Vietnam. Johnson had been the hardest-working Senate majority leader in modern American history, and brought that same work ethic to the White House where he worked to complete not only John F. Kennedy's unfinished legacy but also that of his mentor, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Yet LBJ was never fully embraced as president by his own party and America's war in Vietnam distracted from his domestic successes with the Great Society. Johnson faced a difficult choice as the 1968 election neared. It is a story I tell in my book, *The Year That Broke Politics: Chaos and Collusion in the Presidential Election of 1968*.

The questions Johnson faced were strikingly similar to the ones Biden now faces. How does a president withdraw from an election? What precedent is there? What process is used to make such a decision? What considerations are there for the nation – political, economic, national security – and, for the president, in terms of personal or legacy concerns?

'Well, what do you think? What shall I do?' LBJ asked Lady Bird Johnson the day of his last State of the Union address. It was 17 January 1968. That evening he would deliver the least hopeful and most defensive of his annual messages to Congress. The question going over and over in his mind was whether he should use the occasion to announce that he would not run again. Up until the moment he delivered the speech, those closest to him were not sure what he was going to do.

Even as he gave his State of the Union address, Johnson had a secret. In his jacket pocket, he carried a piece of paper that contained an alternate ending: 'Accordingly, I shall not seek and I will not accept the nomination of my party for another term as your President.' Having these words on a separate piece of paper would allow him to maintain the element of surprise since the ending was

not part of the prepared text given to the press in advance. Johnson was free to pull out the piece of paper and use the statement whenever the moment felt right.

Leading up to the State of the Union, Johnson shared his intentions with only a close inner circle, including his wife Lady Bird and outgoing governor of Texas, John Connally, who had come to Washington in 1937 as one of LBJ's first staffers after Johnson won a special election to Congress. The first lady, Johnson's underappreciated strategist, was perhaps the only person in Washington who really knew what he was thinking. She judged the withdrawal statement beautifully written. 'Lyndon handed me a piece of paper, a letter from John Connally with his recommendations that he go with the statement tonight,' she wrote in her diary, 'because he would never have a bigger audience... the occasion of the State of the Union was a noble time to make an announcement. Lyndon had to weigh this against the fact that the whole 1968 program of action would thereby be diluted, if not completely ignored.'

However, Johnson could not go through with it. He delivered his State of the Union address without the alternate ending. Some aides were surprised since it had been discussed with his speechwriters in advance, but the timing did not feel right to LBJ.

What goes through a president's mind at a time like that? How do you know when it's the right time to step down? How do you do so in a way that does not seem like a response to the media, your critics, and those who would prefer you let someone run who is younger or more in tune with the future of the party? How do you do it on your terms, with your head held high? It is a difficult needle to thread; otherwise, stepping down in response to critics' signals they must have been correct.

In contemplating withdrawal, Joe Biden is not defending a single debate performance or even a four-year term. The stakes are much higher for him than we might realise. He is defending half a century in political life that goes back to his first election to the Senate in 1972. He will not allow this final chapter to define his entire career.

No matter how many critics Biden has, the American people elected him for a full term of office. No president wants to be a lame duck a moment earlier than necessary. Biden feels he has a duty to defend the presidency and carry out the agenda he was given the mandate to fulfil. Short of impeachment and removal from office, no one can take that away from him unless he voluntarily withdraws.

LBJ ultimately withdrew at the end of a nationally televised address on the Vietnam War on 31 March 1968. Johnson said he would not 'devote an hour or a day of my time' to anything other than his duties as president and he would not accept the Democratic

Party's nomination again. He publicly supported his vice president, Hubert Humphrey, as his successor.

Johnson had asked aides to study how Harry Truman withdrew from a run for re-election on 29 March 1952, when Truman was hesitant to face a strong opponent, General Dwight Eisenhower. Biden, born in 1942, is old enough to remember those two precedents. It might even have been a reason why the date of his 2024 State of the Union was fixed so late in the calendar to March. From a historical standpoint, March was the month to watch – and it came and went without fanfare.

We now know that Johnson's health played a more prominent role in his decision to disengage in 1968. He was 59 at the time and would reach the age of 60 – the same as his father, who died prematurely following an earlier stroke – on 27 August, the day the Democrats planned to nominate their presidential candidate. It was no coincidence that the date was the same as LBJ's birthday. Four years before, in 1964, he had been nominated on his birthday at the convention in Atlantic City.

Lady Bird might have been the only one who knew his true thinking. Her diary reveals LBJ's preoccupation with his health, but there was also another reason he thought it might be time to step down. 'I think what was uppermost – what was going over and over in Lyndon's mind,' she wrote in her diary, 'was what I've heard him say increasingly these last months: "I do not believe I can unite this country."' She saw the strain he was under from 'the growing virus of the riots, the rising list of Vietnam casualties, criticism from your own friends, or former friends, in Congress' and noted that 'most of the complaining is coming from Democrats.

First Lady Jill Biden might now be the only one who really knows her husband's thinking. If Biden withdraws he will, briefly, be a hero to his party and the nation. In 1968, LBJ's act of self-sacrifice was seen as virtuous and about putting the country ahead of his political future. As with Johnson, a withdrawal from the ballot is not necessarily a withdrawal from politics. LBJ simply shifted his political energies from the ballot to focus on the war in Vietnam and influencing the choice of his successor.

Following a president's withdrawal, however, the excitement shifts to the challengers. Alternative candidates – governors and senators – will emerge. Biden will immediately endure defections – from his Cabinet and staffers who flock to others out of a desire to work in the next administration. In 1968, the Democrats were divided over the Vietnam War, and prominent candidates like senators Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy challenged the establishment.

This year, divisions over Israel threaten to splinter the party further, although Biden has had no serious primary challenger. Millions watched the chaos of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on television from their sitting rooms in 1968. The violence in the streets outside the International Amphitheater, which Mayor Richard Daley's police joined in, spelt doom for the Democrats. Richard Nixon campaigned on the platform of 'law and order' in contrast to the chaos facing his

opponents. In 2024 the Democrats are headed back to Chicago for what has the potential to be a very lively convention.

Biden's replacement will be defined from the outset by their distance from the incumbent but they will never quite be able to escape that shadow. As the Democratic nominee, Hubert Humphrey learned in 1968, it is very difficult to quickly organise a campaign around a meaningful theme, balancing between presenting both continuity and change, under such conditions. Like Vice President Kamala Harris, Humphrey was not the strongest candidate but rather the one who could most easily be inserted into what was left of Johnson's campaign infrastructure. Another option in 1968, such as Eugene McCarthy on the left, or a John Connally on the right, each representing one half of the New Deal coalition of northern liberals and southern conservatives, might have caused lasting division in the party – a serious danger, especially in a year that favoured the Republican candidate.

If Biden's primary concern is his own legacy, there is another role that he could play in the election, however. As I explore in my book, the more that LBJ was pressured to not run, the more he found common ground with his long-time political nemesis, Richard Nixon. Despite his notional party loyalties, Johnson quietly supported Nixon's election over his vice president, Hubert Humphrey. They were each the best of their generation on their side of the aisle, but, when not facing each other on the ballot, Johnson and Nixon came to realise they needed each other. It was not so much what they had in common that led LBJ to support his successor's election, but that they had so many of the same critics.

Whatever Biden decides, he has examples to guide him, with LBJ's decision in 1968 being the best in recent history. For now, the real question is whether he has a piece of paper at the ready in his pocket.

Editor's Note: This column originally appeared in Engelsberg Ideas (engelsbergideas.com) Engelsberg Ideas is home to great writing from leading thinkers on history, culture and geopolitics, featuring essays, notebooks, reviews, and historical portraits as well as regular podcasts.

Luke A. Nichter is a Professor of History and James H. Cavanaugh Endowed Chair in Presidential Studies at Chapman University. He is the New York Times bestselling author of eight books including, most recently, *The Year That Broke Politics: Collusion and Chaos in the Presidential Election of 1968* (Yale University Press, 2023), which was chosen as a Best Book of 2023 by the Wall Street Journal. He is now at work on a book tentatively titled *LBJ: The White House Years of Lyndon Johnson*.

Luke Nichter interviewed with SD METRO late last year about the 1968 election. That interview can be found on SDMETRO.com.

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