

AMELIA Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, climbs into a cockpit in an undated photo.

## Did these explorers locate Earhart's watery grave?

Deep Sea Vision team set out to solve aviation's greatest mystery: the pilot's disappearance in 1937

By Thomas Curwen

fter nearly 100 days at sea, the crew had given up. Since early September, they had logged nearly 12,000 miles aboard the Offshore Surveyor, crisscrossing the equator near the 180th meridian. Now a few days past Thanksgiving, the time had come to move on.

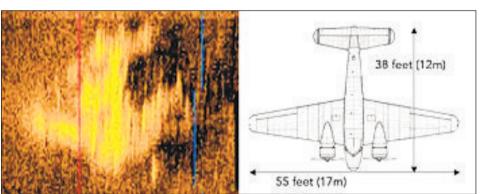
They had worked hard under a tropical sun, days becoming weeks, a familiar routine offloading their unmanned submersible and watching as its sonar became their eyes on the ocean floor, recording all that it saw.

There'd been hiccups along the way. Crew had gotten sick. The underwater camera had broken, and after one dive, the data had come back presumably corrupted. But the team of Deep Sea Vision hadn't let any of that get in the way. They were out to solve the greatest aviation mystery of all: the disappearance of Amelia Earhart on July 2,

1937, during her epic flight around the world. Never mind that over the years others had tried in vain to find some evidence of her fate: a

faded photograph perhaps, a long-lost letter, some scraps of her plane.

Deep Sea Vision's chief executive, Tony Romeo, a former real estate entrepreneur out of Charleston, S.C., had a plan. [See Earhart, A8]



Courtesy of Deep Sea Vision

AN IMAGE of what might be Earhart's plane, a twin-engine Lockheed Electra. Though it would have no material worth, its discovery would be momentous.

# Arizona and Nevada poised for outsize role in '24 rematch

Voters in West's key battlegrounds weigh in as Biden and Trump fight for advantage.

By Benjamin Oreskes AND JAMES RAINEY

LAS VEGAS — When President Biden flies into Nevada on Monday and to Arizona the following day, he's likely to compliment the West's natural beauty, pay homage to the unmatched political power of the Culinary Workers Union and nod to local Democratic elected officials.

Another truth about his visit to the two Southwestern states may remain unspoken: Though together they are home to only about 3% of the U.S. population, Arizona and Nevada are expected to have an outsize influence on the outcome of the 2024 presidential race.

With Arizona's 11 electoral votes and Nevada's six, the states collectively hold more voting power than Georgia, another closely contested state that both Democrats and Republicans believe they can win as Biden and former President Trump engage in the first rematch of presidential contenders in nearly 70 years.

Having secured enough delegates last week to become their parties' presumptive nominees, the two oldest major-party candidates in American history are facing off in a presidential rematch that most people saw coming and many hoped to avoid.

The race pits a president languishing in the polls [See Election, A6]



CARLIN STIEHL For The Times

INFLUENCER Dave Fink has spotlighted the role of brokers selling tee times on Los Angeles golf courses.

### Brokers' tee time fees incite golf rage in L.A.

By Matt Hamilton AND ASHLEY AHN

Golfers at Los Angeles municipal courses have complained for years that it is nearly impossible to score a tee time.

Many have long suspected that forces more sinister than excess demand and limited supply were gobbling up coveted foursomes. But they had little to back up

their claims.

Enter Dave Fink, a 35year-old golf teaching pro and L.A. native, who this month popped off to his 200,000 followers on Instagram about a booming black market where brokers charge up to \$40 as a booking

So began a movement known as #FreetheTee.

Fink grew up playing on city courses and said one of [See Golf, A7]

## Fewer inspections at food facilities

L.A. County public health employees, whose ranks are shrinking, say they're pushed to the breaking point trying to keep restaurants safe

By Rebecca Ellis

It was the worst kind of

conference lunch. In late August, more than 30 people departed a threeday event at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles sick from shigella, a bacterium that can spread through infected food. At least four ended up in the hospital, including one who said she was told by a doctor that her kidneys were shutting down.

To prevent outbreaks from contaminated food, the L.A. County Department of Public Health aims to inspect "high-risk" facilities -



ALISHA JUCEVIC For The Times

AN INSPECTOR gives a restaurant its score. "If you don't do the jobs, people die," a union rep said.

typically those with fullservice kitchens that handle raw meat — three times a year, according to pro-cedures reviewed by The

But that rarely happens. Of the roughly 18,000 "high-risk" food facilities that should have been inspected three times last year, fewer than 2% were. internal county records reviewed by The Times show. Roughly 3 in 10 - 5,365 -weren't inspected at all. A well-reviewed Hollywood taqueria hasn't been visited since the spring of 2021.

"It seems like a ridiculously high number," said [See Inspections, A10]

#### Cease-fire talks planned in Qatar

Stalled negotiations in the war between Israel and Hamas are expected to resume in earnest on Sunday. world, A3

#### Home insurer of last resort is busy

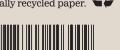
State's FAIR Plan experiences an enrollment surge, raising questions about its financial stability. CALIFORNIA, B1

### Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 69/50. **B10** 

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