

**Apple revamps iPad lineup, updates pencil, keyboard**

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Schnell: Memoir recounting fear and despair will help readers see world differently. **In Sports**

**MET GALA** Everything you missed

Zendaya's stunning dresses and Usher's romantic look among highlights from fashion's biggest night. **In Life**

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# USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024



E2

## Porn star testifies against Trump

Judge denies mistrial request by defense

**Aysha Bagchi, Kinsey Crowley and Bart Jansen**  
USA TODAY

NEW YORK – On the 13th day of the first-ever criminal prosecution of a former president, after all the dreary testimony about ledgers and bookkeeping, Stormy Daniels got to the heart of what Donald Trump is accused of wanting to hush up: a night in his hotel room. It was a tawdry account of gold

tweezers and silky pajamas, punctuated by a defense demand for a mistrial that the judge rejected.

Trump is charged with 34 counts of falsifying business records for allegedly trying to hide a \$130,000 hush money payment to Daniels through his lawyer Michael Cohen. Trump denies having had sex with the adult film actor and has pleaded not guilty.

See **TRUMP**, Page 4A



**IN MONEY**

Trump vows to crush "anti-white" racism, DEI if he wins 2024 race. **4B**

**Donald Trump denies he had sex with Stormy Daniels, says he was unaware of a payment to her and has pleaded not guilty to falsifying business records.** WIN MCNAMEE/POOL VIA REUTERS

## Israel seizes border crossing

Military says offensive in Rafah will press ahead

**Kim Hjelmgaard and John Bacon**  
USA TODAY

Israel's military said it took control of the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt on Tuesday as leaders vowed to push ahead with a plan to pursue Hamas in the enclave's southernmost city and as cease-fire talks resumed in Cairo.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the military advancement a "very significant step toward destruction of remaining military capabilities of Hamas."

In a briefing, Israel's military said its troops established "operational control" of the Rafah border crossing "following intelligence it was being used for terrorist purposes." The crossing is a crucial gateway for humanitarian aid between Gaza and Egypt.

It was not immediately clear whether the presence of Israeli tanks and soldiers at the crossing had halted the flow of aid. The Israeli government issued a statement saying aid was still flowing and blaming hunger in Gaza on Hamas, but the U.N. humanitarian agency OCHA said it was denied access to the crossing.

Hamas called on the U.S. and the rest of the world to put pressure on Israel to "stop this escalation that threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians" across Rafah and the entire Gaza Strip.

The Israeli advance confirms the intention to disrupt cease-fire talks and

See **RAFAH**, Page 4A



Israel's military says its troops have "operational control" of the Rafah crossing, a gateway for aid to Gaza. Israel says its intelligence shows it's being used for "terrorist purposes."

PROVIDED BY ISRAELI MILITARY VIA REUTERS

With furry friends increasingly part of their family, Americans are running out of doctors to care for them



Veterinary access has not kept up with the popularity of pets, advocates fear. One study says the U.S. will need as many as 55,000 additional veterinarians by 2030 to meet the demand. PROVIDED BY PATRICK BROTHERS/HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

## Our pets may be lost in a 'veterinary desert'

**Phaedra Trethan** USA TODAY

Pets are part of our families. • That's how 97% of pet owners in the U.S. feel, according to Pew Research Center, which also found a majority of Americans, 62%, own at least one pet. • They're our companions and our friends, showing up at the door with wagging tails or snuggling in our lap with a deep purr, giving us unconditional love and making us smile just by being themselves. And like human family members, they need love, nourishment, socialization – and health care. See **VETERINARIANS**, Page 3A

"We know there's a shortage, and it's worsening."

**Barbara Hodges**  
Humane Society of the United States

## Why is cancer deadlier in Black women?



**Karen Weintraub**  
USA TODAY

A cancer diagnosis is terrifying for anyone, but Black women have an extra reason to be afraid. Although Black women have a slightly lower risk of developing cancer, once they've been diagnosed they are more likely to die and die faster than non-Black women.

"We always say cancer affects everyone, but it doesn't affect everyone equally," said Alpa Patel, a senior vice president at the American Cancer Society.

To understand why, the American Cancer Society on Tuesday launched the largest-ever study of cancer risk and outcomes in Black women.

See **CANCER STUDY**, Page 3A

New study to examine risk and outcomes

"We always say cancer affects everyone, but it doesn't affect everyone equally."

**Alpa Patel**  
A senior vice president at the American Cancer Society



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RICHARD BURKHART/USA TODAY NETWORK

# Tornadoes slam into Oklahoma again

Forecasters see threats for other areas in nation

**Anthony Robledo, Christopher Cann and Doyle Rice**

USA TODAY

More violent weather is forecast for Wednesday in the Ohio Valley and mid-South after severe weather pounded the Midwest on Monday and Tuesday, targeting tens of millions of people with tornadoes, large hail and strong winds.

On Monday, strong storms spun up at least 17 tornadoes across the Plains region. The most damage occurred in Oklahoma, where multiple people were injured. One person was killed in Barnsdall, a small community about 40 miles north of Tulsa.

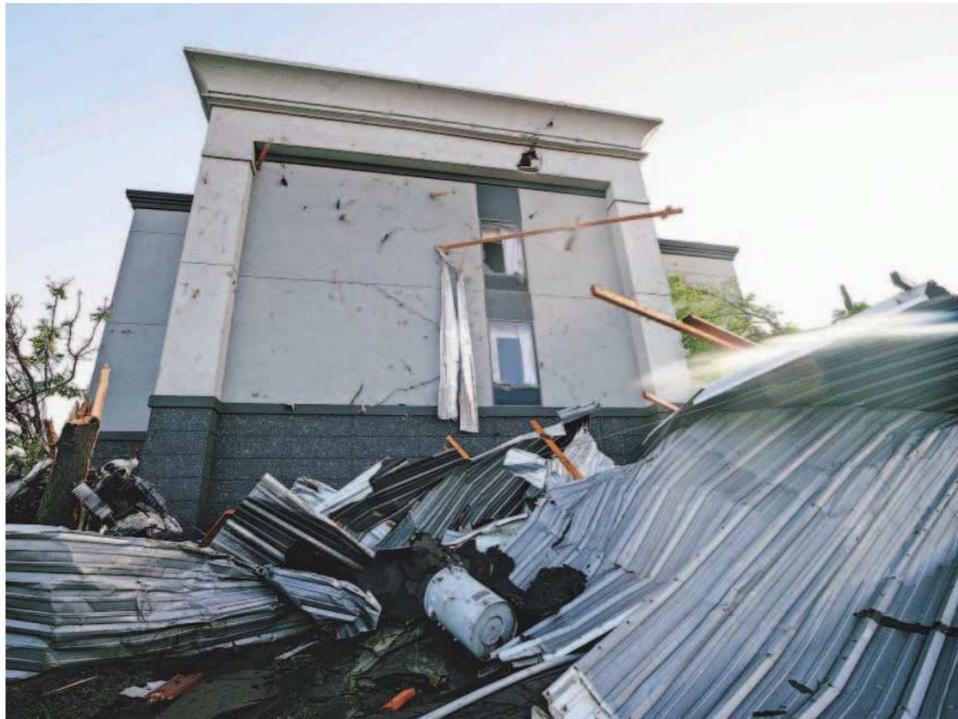
Oklahoma Highway Patrol reported that 30 to 40 homes were damaged in the Barnsdall area. Nearby Bartlesville also was hit.

A possible tornado hit south Oklahoma City after midnight. Information about damage or injuries was not immediately available.

At a news conference Tuesday, Barnsdall Mayor Johnny Kelley said 25 people were rescued during an initial search, including children. One or two people were unaccounted for, he said. Seven or eight people reported injuries.

It was yet more devastation for a state that has already been ravaged by tornadoes this spring. Oklahoma just last week experienced tornadoes that devastated some parts of the state, leaving at least four dead and 100 injured. Barnsdall was hit by a tornado on April 1, according to the state's Department of Emergency Management.

Crews from numerous jurisdictions responded to areas throughout north-



The Hampton Inn in Bartlesville, Okla., was damaged during severe weather on Monday. The building, shown Tuesday with roof debris stuck in the side, lost much of its roof in a possible tornado. ANDY DOSSETT/USA TODAY NETWORK

east Oklahoma to assist with medical transport, traffic control and search and rescue operations. Other counties reported flash flooding and damaged structures.

The Bartlesville and Barnsdall school districts canceled classes Tuesday, citing power outages and road closures.

Two tornadoes each struck in Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota and one each in Missouri, Nebraska and Tennessee, according to preliminary information

from the Storm Prediction Center.

More than 43,000 people across Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri had no power Tuesday morning, according to a database maintained by USA TODAY. Oklahoma had the most outages with more than 17,000.

Forecasters warned that more than 12 million people in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky were at "enhanced risk" of storms capable of unleashing "very large hail" and strong tornadoes.

The stormy weather pattern was forecast to continue across the Ohio Valley region on Wednesday before expanding to the Tennessee Valley and mid- to lower Mississippi Valley when another strong system arrives, the National Weather Service said.

*Contributing: Doyle Rice, Dinah Voyles Pulver USA TODAY; Jana Hayes, Dale Denwalt, Cheyenne Derksen and Alexia Aston, The Oklahoman*

## How to stay safe

Though there's no such thing as guaranteed safety, the weather service says there are things people can do to increase their chances of surviving a tornado.

- Protect yourself from flying or falling debris, the single biggest life-threatening hazard.
- Seek shelter in the closest, safest interior or underground room.
- Always avoid windows. Don't go to the windows or doors to look outside.
- Protect yourself with coverings such as mattresses, sleeping bags or thick blankets.
- Wear a helmet if you have one.

# Police break up Chicago encampment

In New York, protesters target board of trustees

**Christopher Cann, Eduardo Cuevas and Minnah Arshad**

USA TODAY

NEW YORK – Demonstrations at college campuses over Israel's offensive in Gaza continued on Tuesday across the United States and Europe as police at the University of Chicago cleared an encampment and demonstrators picketed outside the homes of Columbia University trustees.

Police on Tuesday raided an encampment that had been set up on the main quad of the University of Chicago for at least a week, according to the university. Video of the police response shows officers in riot gear tearing down posters and disassembling tents.

University President Paul Alivisatos, who cited safety concerns, said in a statement that no arrests took place, but "where appropriate, disciplinary action will proceed."

Encampments at universities in Europe increasingly became the site of police action, with dozens of protesters arrested at campuses in Berlin and Amsterdam.

Like their American counterparts, students were galvanized in opposition of Israel's seven month offensive in Gaza.

Meanwhile, protesters at the Rhode Island School of Design continued to occupy a building they took over on Monday, forcing the university to relocate some of its classes.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, demonstrators remained Tuesday at an encampment they had cleared Monday afternoon following an ultimatum from university President Sally Kornbluth to disband or be barred from classes, exams and commencements. Four hours later, the protesters had re-occupied the encampment.

"We have much work still to do to resolve this situation," Kornbluth said Monday night.



Pro-Palestinian protesters confront police at the encampment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., on Monday. JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Protesters target trustees

Sueda Polat, a Columbia graduate student and one of the former campus protest negotiators, chanted Tuesday morning outside a Manhattan skyscraper, home to the law offices of Columbia board of trustee Jeh Johnson.

She was one of dozens participating in protests outside the homes and offices of members of Columbia's board of trustees. Polat said many of her fellow classmates will continue to protest outside the Columbia campus as the New York Police Department has agreed to maintain a presence there until after graduation ceremonies next week.

"We're still going strong," she told USA TODAY. "I mean, campus being closed doesn't mean that we don't have anything to do."

A few dozen Columbia students also picketed outside the posh Upper West Side apartment building of university board of trustees co-chair David Greenwald.

## NYPD investigates driver

Columbia student organizers said a driver hit at least one pro-Palestinian protester on New York City's Upper East Side on Tuesday morning during a rally outside the home of a university trustee.

The New York Police Department told USA TODAY an argument broke out between protesters and a driver about 9 a.m.

As the group of roughly 25 demonstrators walked away, a driver hit one person with his Volvo, the police said.

The driver and two demonstrators have been taken into custody, including the injured person who was hospitalized.

The NYPD declined to release their names.

## Masked students risk felonies

In a letter sent Monday to Ohio's public university presidents, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost warned of an obscure

law that could affect students arrested during on-campus protests.

Ohio Revised Code 3761.12, enacted in 1953, makes it a felony to commit a crime – "Even a misdemeanor, such as trespass," Yost said – with two or more people while wearing white caps, masks or other disguise. The law originally was aimed at preventing Ku Klux Klan rallies.

Yost said it is likely that some Ohio students would be unaware of the "anti-disguise" law, as he called it – the violation of which is a fourth-degree felony punishable by six to 18 months in prison, up to \$5,000 in fines, and up to five years on community control.

Nineteen Ohio State students were arrested late last month during several on-campus protests and some were wearing medical masks and other face coverings when they were arrested.

## Columbia alumni boycott reunions

A group of Columbia University and Barnard College alumni will boycott school reunions later this month, saying they disapprove of how the school used police to respond to peaceful pro-Palestinian protests on campus.

The alumni group said they stand with students and faculty who were expressing their voice to call on the university to disclose and divest endowment money from companies supporting Israel's government.

Until protest demands are met, the alumni group said it will disassociate from school-sponsored celebrations.

"We are unable to reconcile the university's recent actions with the values and principles that defined our education," the Columbia Alternative Reunion Committee said in a statement.

The Columbia Alternative Reunion Committee said it will be hosting its own events in New York on May 31 and June 1, and ticket proceeds and alumni donations will go to Palestinian aid organizations, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Palestine Children's Relief Fund and World Central Kitchen.

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## Cancer study

Continued from Page 1A

The Society, which has run other large, long-term studies over the last 70 years, aims to enroll more than 100,000 Black women between the ages of 25 and 55 who are cancer-free and follow them over three decades. They are focusing enrollment in 20 states and the District of Columbia – areas where the majority of Black American women live.

Previous long-term studies by the Cancer Society solidified the link between smoking and lung cancer, tied obesity to a variety of health problems and showed that regular aspirin use can reduce the risk of colon cancer. So organizers are hopeful that 30 years of data on Black women will reveal important insights.

“This study has so much potential to change what cancer means to generations of Black women,” said Patel, an expert in population science.

The ACS chose to launch the study because the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted health disparities by race and because over the last decade, Black women have become more interested in health issues, said Lauren McCullough, co-principal investigator of the study.

“We’re trying to engage a community that is already activated and really wants this opportunity to understand why they have disproportionate rates of cancers and other diseases,” she said in a Monday call with reporters.

Participants will be asked to fill out an initial questionnaire, that takes about 15 minutes, followed by an hour-long, more detailed questionnaire about their lives and family histories, and their mental and emotional health, McCullough said.

Then, there will be a 30-minute online follow-up survey every six months for the next 30 years. Anyone is eligible to participate as long as they identify as Black, were assigned female at birth or self-identify as a woman, don’t have a history of cancer (except basal or



Singer Mary J. Blige, left, and first lady Jill Biden speak about fighting cancer in the State Dining Room of the White House on Oct. 24, 2022. The event launched the American Cancer Society’s National Roundtables on Breast and Cervical Cancer. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

**“We’re trying to engage a community that is already activated and really wants this opportunity to understand why they have disproportionate rates of cancers and other diseases.”**

**Lauren McCullough**  
Co-principal investigator of study

squamous skin cancer), are between 25 and 55 and live in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia or Washington, D.C.

More information about the Voices of Black Women study and how to participate is available at [voices.cancer.org](https://voices.cancer.org).

Patel said the answers will begin coming once large numbers of Black women join the study. “The faster we get to 100,000, the faster we get to the first wave of answers,” Patel said.

Participant information will be de-identified and the Cancer Society has been careful to center Black women in developing the study to help build relationships with participants and combat historic mistrust, she said.

Overall, about 10% of all breast cancer falls into the most aggressive category, called triple-negative, because it lacks receptors for any hormones. Among Black women, however, 20% of breast cancers are in this category, but it’s not clear whether that’s because of genetics, environment, diet, the stress of enduring racism, or some other factor.

“This is something we really need to

be able to learn to find successful ways to intervene,” Patel said.

Black women also experience higher rates of colon and endometrial cancer and at earlier ages. The study will collect tumor samples if a study participant is diagnosed with cancer.

“We’re at a point in time where we have to say we can’t keep talking about it, we have to solve it,” she said.

In an unrelated study published May 4, researchers at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute found that their peers had been too focused on identifying racial disparities rather than investing in efforts to reverse them.

Cancer deaths have fallen substantially over the last three decades, the study noted, but those benefits have not been spread equally.

Most of the federal funds available for addressing disparities have been spent on public education and research rather than on efforts to reduce differences in care, the study found.

“What is the use of developing new therapies if the communities that could benefit the most are the very ones that cannot access them?” study author Dr. Christopher Lathan, Dana-Farber’s associate chief medical officer, said in a statement.

To try to reduce racial and socioeconomic health disparities in cancer diagnoses, real estate developer Bruce Ratner announced Monday he would help fund increased lung and breast cancer screening across New York. The Ratner Early Detection Initiative will invest in better early detection tools, patient navigation and practices to increase screenings in underresourced areas, in collaboration with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and MediSys Health Network, which includes Jamaica Hospital Medical Center and Flushing Hospital Medical Center.

Ratner, who co-wrote a new book “Early Detection: Catching Cancer When It’s Curable” with science writer Adam Bonislawski, has been interested in the early detection of cancer since his brother Michael Ratner died of the disease in 2016.

## Veterinarians

Continued from Page 1A

But as pet ownership numbers skyrocket across the U.S., the number of vets has lagged well behind. Advocates fear there soon won’t be enough veterinary doctors to give our fur babies vaccines, mend their injuries, treat their illnesses and even help us say goodbye when the time comes.

“We know there’s a shortage, and it’s worsening,” said Barbara Hodges, a veterinarian and director of advocacy and outreach for the Humane Society of the United States.

### What’s causing the shortage?

According to a report by Mars Veterinary Health, which has a network of 3,000 veterinary clinics worldwide, the nation will need as many as 55,000 additional veterinarians by 2030 to meet the increasing need for companion animals’ health care. That comes as spending on pets’ health care is expected to increase 3% to 4% past the rate of inflation over the next decade or so.

Mars Veterinary Health estimates that by 2030, there may be a shortage of as many as 24,000 companion animal veterinarians, even accounting for students who will become vets over the next decade.

There are a few factors driving the shortage, said Hodges, a veterinarian since 2001.

More people own pets than ever before, fueled in part by the forced isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic and in part by the rise of remote and hybrid work. But the number of veterinarians is holding steady – meaning companion care vets are seeing more animals and are busier than ever.

“There are more constraints and pressures,” Hodges said. “They have to work longer hours or see more patients; work-life balance is a big issue. So some veterinarians are leaving the profession, changing how they work or shifting to part-time work.”

### More specialized care

Becoming a veterinarian takes time: four years of undergraduate education and an additional four years of veterinary school. Eight years’ college tuition means some graduates enter the workforce with a substantial student loan burden.

That can delay their ability to open new, independent practices. Some choose disciplines with a better work-life balance, such as research, product development, teaching or pharmaceutical



Staff members from RAVS (Rural Area Veterinary Services) attend to patients last year at the Cheyenne River Reservation in Eagle Butte, S.D. The special clinic was part of the Humane Society of the United States’ program to bring veterinary access to underserved communities. PROVIDED BY MEREDITH LEE



**Partly because of the isolation amid the pandemic, more Americans share their homes with pets than ever before, which could make veterinary care increasingly harder to find.**

PROVIDED BY MARIA SAUCEDO/HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

icals. And, much like human health care, veterinary medicine has become more specialized, so there aren’t many general-practice vets.

A study by the American Veterinary Medical Association identified “veterinary deserts,” using criteria including accessibility (such as transportation and distance), affordability (the pet owner’s income level compared with the costs of care in their area) and availability (how many providers are in a given area).

“In a rural community, the closest veterinarian might be an hour away,” said Amanda Arrington, vice president of access to care at the Humane Society of the United States. “And if you don’t have transportation, accessing care can be nearly impossible.”

People in urban areas might face different barriers to veterinary services,

but they’re no less daunting, she said.

Redlining and disinvestment have created pockets of poverty, and racial and economic segregation touch all aspects of peoples’ lives, including their ability to access care for their pets.

Public transportation might be available for some people but limited to service animals or smaller animals. And in densely populated areas, there might be longer waits for veterinary care at busy practices.

No matter where they live, elderly people or those with disabilities or mobility problems might find it difficult to travel to veterinary offices. People struggling with their own food or housing insecurity may have a hard time affording food for their pets, let alone veterinary care, grooming and other needs.

“There can be layers of barriers and challenges,” Arrington said. “Rarely is someone living a one-challenge existence.”

### ‘Open doors’ for new vets

Rena Carlson, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), said many students are choosing to pursue veterinary medicine, a good sign given the expense and rigors of the discipline. New veterinary schools are being created, funded and accredited as well, from Puerto Rico to Arkansas, Florida to Utah, South Carolina to southern New Jersey.

“Nationwide, we’re asking: How do we help open doors?” said Carlson, a veterinarian. “How do we guide (students) in making decisions about financing their education?” The group

**“I hope more people will realize how important access to care is. It’s truly one of the defining issues of pet care. Pets mean so much to us.”**

**Amanda Arrington**  
Humane Society of the United States

recognizes concerns about student debt, about providing opportunities for students from different backgrounds and about making sure graduates enter a veterinary discipline that’s the best fit for them.

The AVMA is working to address those concerns and others through advocacy, scholarships and resources for vets and veterinary practices. It’s also addressing burnout and increasing access to mental health care.

Pointing to a Merck-AVMA study, Carlson noted that 80% of vets and their staff believe what they do makes a positive difference in people’s lives and their job satisfaction is generally high.

“They have a sense of purpose,” she said.

### Possible solutions

The Humane Society’s Hodges said more people could access veterinary care through telemedicine. And she said veterinary technicians should be empowered to offer more standard care. Some advocate allowing technicians to give rabies vaccines and neuter male cats, freeing veterinarians for more complex medical care.

The Humane Society offers scholarships for veterinary students and advocates for loan forgiveness programs for graduates who work for shelters, nonprofits or in underserved communities.

The Humane Society also is working to increase access in areas lacking it, Arrington and Hodges said. Its Pets for Life and Rural Area Veterinary Services initiatives seek to address inequities in access to care through outreach, advocacy, free and low-cost veterinary care, free pet supplies and other services. Pets for Life partners with organizations in 65 urban and rural communities and tribal nations across the country.

“I hope more people will realize how important access to care is,” Arrington said. “It’s truly one of the defining issues of pet care.”

“Pets mean so much to us; they are part of our families and everyone should be able to enjoy that love without being limited by geography or income.”

# Trump

Continued from Page 1A

With Trump's son Eric looking on, Daniels unspooled a salacious and unflattering tale.

Daniels said she was 27 years old when she met the reality TV star, then 60, at a celebrity golf tournament in Lake Tahoe in July 2006.

Jurors were shown a photo of Daniels and Trump together. Trump wore a red cap and a yellow polo shirt.

At the tournament dinner, a Trump bodyguard named Keith approached Daniels, inviting her to meet the real estate mogul for dinner.

Daniels said she went up to Trump's hotel suite for the meeting. It was three times the size of her apartment, she testified.

## 'What about your wife?'

Trump greeted Daniels wearing silky pajamas, she testified. She made a joke, asking if Hugh Hefner knew that Trump was wearing his clothes. She told Trump to go change and he obliged, she said, putting on a dress shirt and dress pants.

They made getting-to-know-you chit-chat, she said. Trump asked if she had a boyfriend; she didn't. He asked business questions about the adult film industry: Were there unions, was there testing for sexually transmitted diseases, how did she get paid. He asked if she had ever tested positive for an STD; no, never, she told him.

She commented on a photo of Melania Trump that was in the suite: "She's very beautiful – what about your wife?" Trump told Daniels not to worry about that, that he and his wife didn't sleep in the same room, Daniels testified.

The light conversation continued. Daniels said she grew annoyed by Trump's frequent interruptions and asked him, "Are you always this arrogant and pompous?" He dared her to spank him with a magazine, and she did.

"That's bullshit," Trump appeared to say.

"He was much more polite after that," Daniels said. Trump said he might be able to get her on "The Apprentice," she said.

At this point, Judge Juan Merchan told the prosecution to limit the detail.

Daniels used the restroom, noticing Old Spice and gold tweezers. When she came out, Trump was on the bed posing in his underwear, she described. She said she thought, "Oh my God," and asked herself what she had misread.

She laughed nervously, she said, and at first tried to make a joke and step around to leave. She said she didn't feel physically threatened.

Daniels said she "blacked out" despite consuming no drugs or alcohol, and woke up on the bed naked. She did not tell Trump to stop. "I didn't say anything at all," she said. "I was trying to think about anything other than what was happening there."

She made a reference to their sexual position and the defense objected, which the judge sustained. Asked by the

## They made some getting-to-know-you chit-chat, Stormy Daniels said. Trump asked if she had a boyfriend; she said no, she didn't.

prosecution whether Trump wore a condom, Daniels said no.

As Daniels was readying to leave the suite, Trump said that they were "fantastic together" and that she should be gotten onto his show.

Daniels said she later met Trump on other occasions and discussed "The Apprentice." At one point he made passes she declined, saying she had her period. Eventually, Daniels said, Trump told her he couldn't get her on the show. She didn't talk to him again, she said.

She decided to keep the incident private after she said she was threatened in a parking lot in 2011 but changed her mind during Trump's 2016 presidential bid, when he faced multiple accusations of sexual misbehavior, she testified.

## 'You hate President Trump'

After lunch, the defense demanded a mistrial, saying Daniels' testimony was unduly prejudicial.

Aside from "pure embarrassment," the only purpose of her comments was

"to inflame this jury to not look at the evidence that matters," lawyer Todd Blanche said.

He was particularly furious that Daniels seemed to raise the possibility that the encounter was nonconsensual.

Such testimony is "impossible to come back from," Blanche said.

Merchan declined to grant the mistrial. Some of Daniels' statements would have been "better left unsaid," he said, but "the court has done everything that I can possibly do to protect both sides and to ensure fairness."

Then the defense began grilling Daniels. "Am I correct that you hate President Trump?" lawyer Susan Necheles asked.

"Yes," Daniels said.

"You've been making money by claiming to have had sex with President Trump for more than a decade, right?" Necheles asked.

Daniels responded that she's been making money by telling the story of what happened to her. "It has also cost me a lot of money," she said.

She clarified that Trump did not force her into sex.

Necheles asked Daniels to confirm she started shopping her story in 2016 because wanted to extort Trump.

"False," Daniels said.

"Well, that's what you did, right?" Necheles asked.

"False," Daniels repeated, putting emphasis on the word.

Wednesday is an off day for the trial. Daniels' cross-examination is expected to resume Thursday.

Contributing: Reuters

# Russia holds two more Americans – one a serving US soldier

Tom Vanden Brook and Dan Morrison  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Russian authorities said Tuesday they had detained two U.S. nationals – including an active duty U.S. soldier – in separate criminal cases on either side of the country.

The soldier, Staff Sgt. Gordon Black, was arrested Monday on theft charges and ordered held by a court in Vladivostok in Russia's Far East, U.S. and Russian officials said.

Black made an unauthorized personal trip from South Korea, where he had been stationed, to Vladivostok, the U.S. Army said. Russian officials said he'd gone to meet a woman he'd met in South Korea.

U.S. officials said they didn't consider Black, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who joined the military in 2008, a deserter. The Russian Foreign Ministry said that Black's case had no political element and that there were no allegations of espionage.

The Vladivostok court said Black would be detained at least until July 2, according to the RIA news agency.

## Without US Army permission

Black was being "out-processed" from U.S. Forces Korea to Fort Cavazos, Texas, when, instead boarding a flight to the U.S., he traveled "through China to Vladivostok, Russia, for personal reasons," Army spokesperson Cynthia Smith said in a statement.

"Black did not request official clearance and DoD did not authorize his travel to China and Russia," Smith said, referring to the Defense Department. She said there was "no evidence Black intended to remain in Russia" when his time off ended.

The Russian interior ministry in Vladivostok said a 32-year-old woman had filed a complaint against the 34-year-old suspect.

Black had come to Vladivostok to visit her, the two had an argument, and she later filed a police report accusing him of stealing money, the court said. He was arrested in a local hotel, having bought a plane ticket to return home.

## Public nudity in Moscow

Separately, Moscow's court service said on Tuesday that a court had remanded a U.S. citizen whom it named as William Russell Nycum in custody for 10 days for "petty hooliganism."

It said he had been found naked outside after drinking alcohol in an incident it said "expressed obvious disrespect to society, citizens and public order."

Contributing: Reuters



Palestinians inspect the aftermath Tuesday of an Israeli strike on a house in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. The Israeli military is advancing on the city after weeks of appeals from the U.S. and other countries to hold off. HATEM KHALED/REUTERS

# Rafah

Continued from Page 1A

the release of prisoners for the "personal interests" of Netanyahu and his extremist government, the Hamas statement says.

"The storming of the occupation army to the Rafah border crossing with Egypt at dawn today is a dangerous escalation against a civilian facility protected by international law," the Hamas statement says. It adds that closing the border crossing "aims to exacerbate the humanitarian situation in the Strip by ... preventing the flow of emergency relief aid through it to our besieged people."

## Warnings to flee city

After warning Palestinians to evacuate eastern parts of Rafah on Monday, Israel carried out strikes on the city as it appeared to ramp up its preparations for a bigger military offensive in the area, where more than 1 million Palestinians have been sheltering.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to Israel and Hamas to work toward a truce and warned Israel that a full assault on Rafah would "be a strategic mistake, a political calamity and a humanitarian nightmare." Guterres, in a social media post, said he was "disturbed and distressed" by Israel's latest military activity.

"I reiterate my appeal for Israel and Hamas to show political courage and spare no effort to secure an agreement now," he wrote. "To stop the bloodshed. To free the hostages. To help stabilize the region. This is a critical

opportunity we cannot afford to miss."

A diplomatic push to reach a cease-fire seven months into the war was in flux. Israel sent a delegation to Cairo after Hamas leaders said Monday that they would accept a recent proposal for a deal. But it was not clear whether the proposal Hamas said it would accept met Israel's requirements. Egypt warned that Israel's operation in Rafah threatened cease-fire efforts.

The Biden administration said it was reviewing Hamas' cease-fire agreement and would be discussing it with its partners.

Netanyahu is facing intensifying pressure to accept an Egyptian-Qatari cease-fire proposal and avert the planned full Rafah ground invasion.

Aid groups and Israel's international partners say that a humanitarian crisis for civilians in the Gaza Strip would be further exacerbated by any such invasion and that there is no credible plan to protect them.

## Hostage families dial up pressure

The families of Israeli hostages held by Hamas are demanding their loved ones are given priority.

"At this crucial moment, while a tangible opportunity for the release of the hostages is on the table, it is of the utmost importance that your government manifest its strong support for such an agreement," said the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a group that represents hostage families, in a statement Tuesday.

Netanyahu also is trying to appease far-right nationalist partners in his ruling coalition who have appeared to signal that they would withdraw support for his government if the Rafah

invasion, aimed at rooting out what Israel has characterized as Hamas' last stronghold in Gaza, does not happen.

OCHA spokesman Jens Laerke said aid agencies in Gaza have only one day of fuel on hand. If no fuel comes in, "it would be a very effective way of putting the humanitarian operation in its grave," he told the Times of Israel.

"The two main arteries for getting aid into Gaza are currently choked off," he said, referring to the Rafah crossing from Egypt and the Kerem Shalom crossing from Israel. The World Health Organization said Israel also is not allowing patient transfers through Rafah.

## Groups say food is running low

Though some non-fuel supplies have entered Gaza via the northern Erez crossing in recent days, the U.N. agencies said they were insufficient and difficult to deliver to Rafah because it meant crossing active combat zones.

"Erez will simply not be enough," said James Elder, a spokesperson for the United Nations' children's agency. "If Rafah gate closes for an extended period, it's hard to see how famine in Gaza can be averted."

The World Food Programme said later on the social media platform X that its stocks would last only one to four days for southern and central Gaza.

Even before the latest escalation in the 7-month-old conflict, the United Nations has repeatedly accused Israel of restricting aid access despite international pressure. Faced with growing international pressure, Israel had pledged to improve access but says U.N. agencies are to blame for not distributing aid more effectively within the enclave.

Contributing: Reuters

# Man linked to two deaths, baby's abduction

## Suspect in custody, baby rescued

**Saleen Martin**  
USA TODAY

A man was taken into custody in connection to the abduction of a 10-month-old baby girl in New Mexico as authorities try to figure out what led to the deaths of the girl's mother and another woman, as well as her sister's injuries.

Alek Isaiah Collins, a 26-year-old from Houston was taken into custody in connection to the deaths of two women, an injured child and the abduction of a 10-month-old baby girl that took place Friday, said Deputy Chief Trevor Thorn of the Clovis Police Department at a news conference Monday afternoon.

The FBI and law enforcement in Abilene, Texas, have Collins in their custody, he said. He was arrested while staying at a home in Abilene, where the baby girl was rescued.

Thorn said the baby is recovering at a hospital, but no injuries were reported.

He said he does not think Collins is related to the baby, her older sister, her mother, or the other woman who was found dead at the scene Friday.

### No motive yet for 'heinous crime'

Thorn said authorities are still following leads about the case and they haven't found any motive for what he called "this heinous crime."

Quentin Ray, the Ninth Judi-

cial District Attorney, said Collins will be charged with two counts of first degree murder, a first degree kidnapping charge, as well as two counts of child abuse.

"We just want to make sure the person is held accountable for his actions," Ray said.

"You take a big sigh of relief because you're happy because she's back," said Raul Bujanda with the FBI. "In that same moment, you feel the pain of the souls that we have already lost."

USA TODAY is not naming the baby because she is a minor and has been recovered.

### Authorities began searching for baby after mother was found dead

The baby girl was reported missing Friday out of Clovis, New Mexico, about 220 miles east of Albuquerque. Someone called police just before 4:30 p.m. that day and said they'd found the bodies of two women at a park.

When officers arrived, they found two women with gunshot wounds, later identified as Samantha Cisneros and Taryn Allen, both 23 and from Texico, New Mexico. The women were on the ground next to a silver Dodge minivan.

A young girl was also found at the scene suffering from a head injury. Officers helped the girl until EMS eventually took her to a hospital, then she was transferred to a second hospital

in Lubbock, Texas.

While at the scene, officers found a car seat for an infant, as well as a stroller and a small baby bottle. They searched for the baby to no avail.

Once the 9th Judicial Major Crime Unit got involved in the investigation and spoke to family members, they learned Cisneros is the mother of both children involved in the case, including the 10-month-old.

Police issued an Amber Alert

and by Monday, she was found and Collins was arrested.

Bujanda, with the FBI, said the agency was prepared to search internationally if the investigation required it, but luckily Collins was only a state away.

Now, the community can mourn, he said.

"But we will continue to do our part to investigate to make sure that this person pays for the crime they committed and

doesn't harm anyone else in New Mexico or anywhere else in this great country of ours," he said.

He stressed that authorities would not answer individual questions as the investigation is ongoing. He asked that members of the public call 575-763-9472 if they have information about the case.

It was not immediately clear who is representing Collins in the case.



Independence, Mo., police arrested Ronnie Wiggs on a second-degree murder charge after they say he admitted strangling his ailing wife in a hospital bed because he reportedly could not afford to pay for her medical care.

PROVIDED BY INDEPENDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Man charged with murder for strangling wife in hospital bed

**Natalie Neysa Alund**  
USA TODAY

Police in Missouri arrested a man after they said he admitted to strangling his ailing wife in a hospital bed because he reportedly could not afford to pay for her medical care.

Ronnie Wiggs, 76, is charged with second-degree murder in connection to the death of his wife, who died Saturday in Independence, a Kansas City suburb, Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker announced.

According to a probable cause affidavit filed in Jackson County, Wiggs told police he killed the victim while she was at Centerpoint Medical Center for a new port for dialysis.

Neither police nor prosecutors have released the victim's name.

### Wife found with no pulse, is revived

While in the hospital on Friday, staff found Wiggs 72-year-old wife unresponsive with no pulse, but were able to revive her and transport her to the intensive care unit, an Independence Police Department officer wrote in the affidavit.

In court papers, the officer wrote that hospital staff told police that they heard Wiggs say "I did it. I killed her. I choked her."

After police said Wiggs allegedly choked her uncon-

scious, he left the hospital.

Police reported she died the following day.

USA TODAY has reached out to prosecutors and police.

### Police: Wiggs covered her nose and mouth to keep her from screaming

During an interview with detectives, police wrote, Wiggs said he choked his wife in the hospital bed, covering her nose and mouth to keep her from screaming.

Wiggs claimed he couldn't afford to pay his wife's medical bills and take care of her any longer.

He also reportedly told detectives he was depressed.

### Affidavit: Wiggs said he tried to kill his wife once before

According to the affidavit, Wiggs told police he tried to strangle his wife on a previous occasion while she was at a rehab facility, but "could not follow through with it."

Court papers show Wiggs told police the victim woke up after he choked her and "told him not to do that again."

On Tuesday, Wiggs was being held on \$250,000 bond, prosecutors said, and was set to appear in court Thursday for a hearing.

It was not immediately known if he had obtained an attorney.

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The HV.1 variant still tops the chart as the widest-spread strain of COVID, but JN.1 is quickly catching up.

ISMAGILOV/GETTY IMAGES

## COVID-19 variant FLiRT is popping up

Gabe Hauari

USA TODAY

A new set of COVID-19 variants, nicknamed FLiRT, has been detected in wastewater surveillance, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

From April 14 through April 27, the variant, labeled KP.2, makes up about 25% of the cases in the United States, according to the CDC. That makes it the new dominant variant in the country, overtaking JN.1. The JN.1 variant, which spread globally over the winter, made up 22% of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. in the same two-week span.

KP.1.1, another FLiRT variant that is circulating, made up about 7.5% of COVID-19 cases in that two-week span, according to CDC data.

Megan L. Ranney, dean of the Yale School of Public Health, told WebMD that FLiRT has some concerning features, like changes in the spike protein, which play a role in helping SARS-CoV-2 colonize the body and make people sick.

The CDC says only 22.6% of adults reported having received an updated 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccine since September 2023. Data shows that vaccination coverage rose by age and was highest among adults 75 and older.

"We've got a population of people with waning immunity, which increases our susceptibility to a wave," Thomas A. Russo, chief of infectious disease at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Buffalo, told WebMD.

### Symptoms of 'FLiRT' variant

The "FLiRT" variant appears to have similar symptoms to those from JN.1, which include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- New loss of taste or smell
- "Brain fog" (feeling less wakeful and aware)
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (upset stomach, mild diarrhea, vomiting)

The CDC notes that the list does not include all possible symptoms and that symptoms may change with new variants and can vary by person.

In general, the agency says, people with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms, ranging from mild to severe illness. Symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure.

### Latest COVID-19 guidance

In March 2024, the CDC updated its COVID-19 guidance so people who test positive for the virus will no longer be directed to isolate at home for five days.

Health officials unveiled a new policy focusing on actions people can take to reduce spreading a variety of respiratory viruses, such as influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19. Those actions include staying home when sick, staying up to date with vaccines, practicing good hygiene and improving indoor air quality.

The change marked the first time the agency has revised its coronavirus guidelines since 2021. It is intended for people and employers, not for hospitals or nursing homes that have separate guidance, the CDC said.

CDC officials called the change a streamlined approach that's easier for people to understand and more in line with circulating respiratory viruses.

Contributing: Eduardo Cuevas, Adrianna Rodriguez, Ken Alltucker, Mary Walrath-Holdridge and Mike Snider

# Democrats say 2024 electors are afraid of political violence

## Officials 'on high alert' with security plans

Phillip M. Bailey and Erin Mansfield

USA TODAY

When it came time to cast his ceremonial Electoral College vote for Joe Biden in 2020, Democrat Khary Penebaker had to keep things hush-hush.

He wanted to bring his girlfriend at the time but wasn't allowed a guest. He couldn't even walk through the front door of Wisconsin's statehouse.

Instead, Penebaker and other Badger State electors met at an undisclosed location. Law enforcement escorted the group through tunnels to arrive at a room in the statehouse, which had been closed to the public.

The 46-year-old Democrat, who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2016, called the experience "terrifying." He was scared after seeing stories of election workers being harassed in other swing states.

Penebaker, who is Black, said he thought back to how civil rights activists more than half a century ago had crossed Alabama's Edmund Pettus Bridge knowing they would be beaten by police officers on the other side. He said if they could survive that, he could muster the courage to cast an electoral vote.

Democrats, scholars and election watchdogs are keenly vigilant about the safety of people such as Penebaker, who sign up to cast votes for their political parties on behalf of the Electoral College a month after Election Day, and who typically assemble at statehouses as a key part of the Constitutionally mandated ceremonial process of choosing the next president.

Political violence can slow down the process of electing the president because officials end up needing to evacuate buildings and halt proceedings to shore up security, such as what happened on Jan. 6, 2021. The additional time can give bad actors time to sow doubt in the democratic process.

Democrats did not disclose the specifics of their security plans, but a top official with the Democratic National Committee said they had one in 2020 and have one for 2024. When electors are placed, which is happening all over the country, the party will hold a security briefing for them.

The concerns about electors' safety are similar to the ones about election workers, which a survey released this month by the Brennan Center for Justice shows 38% of whom have experienced threats, harassment, or abuse for doing their jobs, forcing many to quit.

Secretaries of state have said it's getting harder to recruit and retain poll workers, and Democrats say people are less willing to sign their names to be electors. Even when they do, they experience anxiety.

USA TODAY spoke with five Democratic Party officials in four swing states — Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, and Nevada — who all said electors are feeling apprehensive. The Republican National Committee and presumptive 2024 GOP nominee Donald Trump's campaign did not respond to requests for comment about security concerns. Efforts to reach Republican officials in Pennsylvania were unsuccessful.

This chorus is likely to intensify in the coming months, especially given Trump's refusals to explicitly rule out political violence in multiple interviews should the former president lose this fall and his previous attempt to fraudulently replace those slates in 2020 to overturn his election loss.

Tolulope Kevin Olasanoye, executive director of the Georgia Democratic Party, pointed to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol — which pressured then-Vice President Mike Pence to reject the legitimate electoral votes from people such as Penebaker so that Trump could win the election — as an example of what could happen.

"We'd be foolish not to take the security of electors and everyone involved in our presidential electoral process very seriously — for good reason," he said.

### Security concerns based on 'credible threats' in 2020

Penebaker said he received hundreds of emails threatening him with lynching if he didn't change his 2020 electoral vote from Biden to Trump.



Law enforcement officers restrain a member of the Proud Boys at a "Stop the Steal" rally on Jan. 6, 2021 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. Hundreds of supporters of President Donald Trump came to protest the certification of the 2020 election.

JOSHUA A. BICKEL/USA TODAY NETWORK

He had panic attacks, fearing something could happen at any minute. He said he'll never sign up to be an elector again.

"They took what should be the pageantry, the majestic feel of being an elector," Penebaker said. "You're one of (538) people in the country who get to do this, and that's a huge honor, and to have it robbed of you ... it's unfair."

Michael McDonald, a University of Florida political science professor who wrote a book about the 2020 election, said the fears are legitimate.

He pointed to actual violence that occurred on Dec. 14, 2020, the day electors across the country assembled in their respective states and that served as a preview of the attack on the U.S. Capitol a few weeks later.

"There were examples of actually people being physically hurt," he said. "There was a person shot in Washington State and there were people stabbed in Washington, D.C. So there was violence on the day that the electors met."

On that day Delaware relocated its electors ceremony to a gymnasium so they could provide better security at that location when they cast their votes for Biden, for example.

Similarly, Michigan Republicans, who at the time still controlled the state legislature, closed the capitol on Dec. 14, 2020. They had urged legislative staff to work remotely, "based on credible threats of violence."

Similar prudent steps were taken in the Biden-won states of Wisconsin and Arizona amid protests happening across the country fueled by Trump's rhetoric.

Ken Martin, vice chair of the Democratic National Committee and head of Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor party, said this has made it harder to recruit people to do the job in 2024.

"It's had a little bit of a suppressive effect because now people who went through that four years ago, of course, aren't willing to do it again, and the new people coming in have expressed some concern about their own physical safety," Martin said.

### Dems discussed elector security at pre-convention meeting

Ahead of the 2024 election, state Democrats have established security plans for their electors, according to multiple officials.

It was at the forefront of a discussion with state-level leaders who gathered in Chicago in April for a pre-DNC convention huddle, USA TODAY has learned.

"We have talked about security plans for electors, and we did have a whole plan in 2020 after the threat level increased on our electors to keep them safe," Martin said.

"There are conversations that have happened, that continue to happen, to help protect the safety of people who administer elections."

Georgia leaders in particular expressed apprehension given how Peach State poll workers were targeted by Trump and his allies in the weeks leading up to the U.S. Capitol attack. State Democratic officials told USA TODAY they have specific worries about electors facing doxing, online harassment and physical harm.

The Georgia party officials declined to provide details about their security plans but emphasized there are real-world fears about ensuring their 16 electors — who were selected by the party chair earlier this year — are protected.

"I remain hopeful that that is not going to be the place that we find ourselves in after Nov. 5, but we'll have to wait and see how people behave and what happens," said Olasanoye, the Georgia

Democratic executive director.

"But I think I would be lying if I did not say that we are certainly on high alert, and figuring out and thinking through how would we respond," he added.

### Experts warn of 'weak points' in picking the president

As part of the Electoral College, each state gets two electors per senator, plus the number of congressional districts. That means California, the most populous state, has 54 electors. Wyoming, the least populous, has 3 electors. It takes at least the votes of 270 electors to win the White House.

There are general requirements under the U.S. Constitution for the electors. They cannot be members of Congress, hold high-level federal positions, or have engaged in an insurrection or rebellion against the U.S. They must convene a month after the November election to select the presidential and vice presidential candidates who won their respective states. Each state can also have additional procedures.

For decades, electors largely had a bit part in a presidential race, playing a role that flew under the political radar until Dec. 14, 2020. That's when the ceremonial assemblies were met with varying degrees of altercations and the shuttering to the public of state legislative buildings in a few key battleground states.

What happened in 2020 has changed how the job was once viewed by both parties, and it also explains the Democrats' apprehension going into 2024, McDonald said.

Unlike poll workers and other election officials, he said, electors tend to be more partisan and experienced players, whose selection often reflects longstanding civic service or political stature.

"So, at the outset, I think people who were going to be electors have their eyes wide open and understand that they're going to be involved in a very political process," McDonald said.

"Given our heightened polarization and rhetoric that we have around elections now I would reasonably assume that if you were an elector you could imagine that you could have your life threatened in some way," he added.

In terms of protecting electors, very little has been accomplished to codify their safety.

Democratic officials underscore how even attempts to create guardrails against fake elector schemes have also been thwarted by GOP opponents.

Nevada Democrats, who control both chambers of the state legislature, for instance, tried that last year when they proposed a bill that would have carried a penalty of up to a decade in prison for those found guilty of signing elector certificates falsely claiming a losing candidate had won.

Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo said he agreed there "should be strict punishments" for those who "engaged in schemes to present slates of false electors." But he still blocked the measure, saying the punishments were too severe.

Congress did address some legal holes by enacting the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act, which was a bipartisan idea requiring states to follow rules in place before the election, such as electors respecting a state's popular vote.

Anyone who decides to be an elector should follow the safety guidelines from the party and make sure to keep them quiet because "you don't know who's going to turn on you," Penebaker said. He also advised that electors come up with individual safety plans for themselves.

Kermit Roosevelt, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, said electors tend to be obscure players.

"It used to be the case that most people wouldn't even know who the electors were," he said.

Roosevelt, a great-great-grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt, said that safeguarding against threats to the country's democratic process, including security for the 2024 electors, stands out among the unresolved issues from the last presidential race.

"I would be worried that the people who tried to subvert the election in 2020 have more to experience and understand the weak points in the system better so that they're going to be more sophisticated and more effective," he said, adding: "I am not sure our attempts to protect the system have kept up."

## OPINION

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## Colleges punish seniors over campus protests



Sara Pequeño  
USA TODAY

For weeks now, students across the country have been protesting in support of Palestinians during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

They have been met with police officers, who have arrested more than 2,500 people nationwide, and widespread criticism.

Now, some colleges are going so far as to punish graduating seniors.

### Overreaction compared with 1968 Columbia, 1970 Kent State

On Monday, Columbia University in New York City announced that it will cancel its main graduation ceremony due to security concerns related to weeks of protests on its campus. It isn't the first school to make this decision. The University of Southern California canceled commencement in Los Angeles last month, and Emory University in Atlanta is changing the location of its ceremony.

There will still be department ceremonies at Columbia and USC; both will have "celebrations" for the graduates. That isn't the same as turning the tassel with hundreds of classmates.

It's a shame that universities are so scared of protesters that they ruin the year for everyone. It's also an overreaction that is a different response from previous protests.



An advertisement outside the main campus at Columbia University celebrates recent graduates Monday in New York City, but the main commencement ceremony has been canceled. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Columbia still managed to have its 1968 spring graduation at a new location despite antiwar and civil rights protests that mirrored the ones we see today.

Kent State University even managed to hold a ceremony in 1970 after four antiwar college students were killed and nine injured by the Ohio National Guard.

Perhaps the administrations of Columbia and USC aren't trying to emulate past decisions despite acting in ways that evoke memories of previous protests. Perhaps they were made nervous by protests at Indiana University and University of Michigan graduations.

Either way, it seems unfair to the majority of students who did not partici-

pate in any wrongdoing.

USC's decision feels particularly shameful. The administration initially canceled the valedictorian address from Asna Tabassum, an engineering student and Muslim American who was criticized for having a pro-Palestinian hyperlink in her social media bio.

Columbia's decision to cancel graduation is the final say-so on a tumultuous semester, one that university leaders exacerbated by having a large police presence on campus, even before Hamilton Hall was overtaken by protesters.

It's not surprising that their decisions have continued to disappoint in the aftermath.

Actions should have consequences,

and I doubt that any of the students involved in the Hamilton Hall break-in would disagree.

It makes sense that those students would face punishment from the university. It does not make sense for the entire 2024 class to lose out on college graduation.

### Hamas, cease-fire proposal and Israel attacking Rafah

Meanwhile, Hamas leaders have said that they will accept a cease-fire proposal from Egypt and Qatar.

This news came hours after Israel announced plans to attack Rafah, a city in Gaza that has become a refuge for more than 1 million Palestinians since Oct. 7.

A cease-fire would likely quell some of the angst we've seen on college campuses, but it won't change the events of the past few weeks.

How university administrations have reacted to these protesters will follow them for years and create strained relationships with their alums.

For students who have protested, this is all a formative experience. They should remember some victories, like the universities' commitment to meeting with students to discuss divesting funds from Israel. Even that is a huge step toward the collective goal shared by Gen Z protesters.

I hope it doesn't destroy the spirit of these young people who want to see a world unlike the one we grew up in.

Follow USA TODAY elections columnist Sara Pequeño on X, formerly Twitter, @sara\_pequeno and Facebook facebook.com/PequenoWrites

## Parents like me need the Kids Off Social Media Act



Nicole Russell  
USA TODAY

Parents worry about a lot of things.

But one of our persistent concerns is our kids' smartphones. We justify their use by embracing their necessity. How else can we communicate about school pickups and sports practices?

With that comes access to various minefields, from gaming to social media. As they go off to school and other activities, we wonder if they see things they shouldn't, talk to people they shouldn't or rot their brains with excessive screen time.

The remedies are obvious, just hard to implement: Don't get kids a phone, ban social media or allow social media with boundaries and parental controls. A new federal bill might help parents find a solution.

### Parents, children face challenges with social media and smartphones

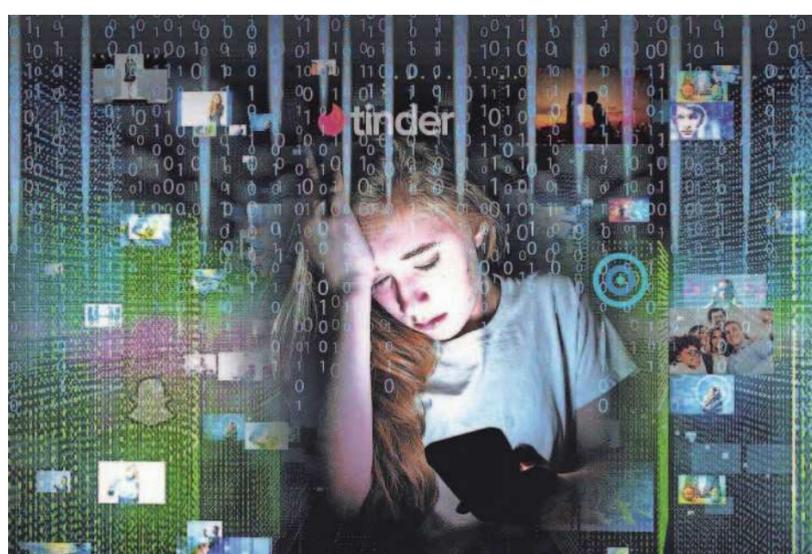
We know now that excessive social media use increases depression and anxiety. A 2023 surgeon general advisory found that 40% of children ages 8 to 12 are on social media.

Social media and smartphone use have become so commonplace and ubiquitous that it truly does seem hard, if not impossible, to police, given everything parents have going on, including working a full-time job, maintaining relationships, and caring for themselves and their children.

I have four children, and I'm constantly ruminating over the question: What is more important than my child's physical safety and emotional well-being?

Three of my children have phones, so I've banned social media altogether. They also have limits on their screen time and can't keep their phones in their rooms overnight.

I still check their phones regularly but confess that constant surveillance has become an omnipresent task that provides endless questions and few solutions.



Excessive social media use increases depression and anxiety. A 2023 surgeon general advisory found that 40% of children ages 8 to 12 are on social media. TAKE UDA/USA TODAY NETWORK

### What's the best way to help our kids navigate technology?

There are ways to hide social media apps and bypass parental controls. Once kids become teenagers, they're not sitting in the living room 24/7 under parental supervision. They're often in school, with friends, working a job, on an athletic team or maybe playing an instrument. They're busy but still on their phones.

Most parents know that social media use, especially multihour daily use, isn't great for their teen's emotional health, but they still feel ill-equipped to help their teen handle something as big as social media has become. "Did you see that TikTok?" has to be one of the most common refrains in high school now. In fact, fitting in with their peers is probably the only upside to social media if conformity is a plus (it's not).

The downsides are worse than most parents realize.

In January, Congress grilled the CEOs of Meta, TikTok and others and revealed that sexual predators are rampant and other negative behaviors like bullying and eating disorders are magnified. Worse, all the executives knew this existed, and while they seemed to be genuinely trying to curb it, their own efforts fell short.

### Bipartisan proposal could give parents the help they need

This issue is so pressing that it spurred a Republican and a Democrat to co-sponsor legislation that would essentially ban social media for young children.

If passed, the Kids Off Social Media Act would prevent kids younger than 13 from accessing social media, prohibit social media from programming algorithms for teens under 17, and give schools the ability to block access to social media.

It's part of multiple attempts by lawmakers to place guardrails around the internet for children, including the Kids Online Safety Act.

Sens. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, both dads, have paired up to unveil the Kids Off Social Media Act in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. "It's really hard to be a teenager today. And it is incredibly frightening to be a parent today," Cruz told The Washington Post. "This legislation is trying to take a meaningful step to protect our kids."

If passed, it's easy to see how parents everywhere, as well as school administrators and teachers, might sigh a breath of collective relief. However, it seems well within their purview to ban smart-

phones during class and block access to social media on district Wi-Fi – something that schools in Florida have already done and more are considering. The legislators say they haven't met a parent who doesn't support the bill because they feel pressure for their kids to be on social media.

"The reality of life is there's a moral hazard. And no parent wants to be the one that forces his or her child to be excluded from the school social scene, to be ostracized from their friends," Cruz told me. "And so I've had multiple conversations with moms and dads who are frustrated. They don't want their kids using these devices on these social media sites. ... But I think parents as a whole would much prefer that all the kids be protected. And this bill was designed to strike a compromise."

### As a parent, I welcome a federal social media ban for kids

Parental rights advocates on the left might argue that social media helps marginalized children or is their only outlet, even at a young age. Others on the right might balk at a bill that intervenes with their own role as a parent. It's also antithetical, some might say, for a Republican to sponsor a bill allowing a government bureaucracy to intervene in a child's daily habits.

Social media companies won't like the bill, either; they'll claim it's unconstitutional. Cruz, like many conservatives, has departed from the more libertarian, live-and-let-live stance.

As a parent, I have yet to see how rampant social media use for kids under 13 is helpful or good for them, so I welcome a targeted and carefully crafted ban. It takes the issue out of parents' hands, just like laws about driving, alcohol consumption or tattoos. The Federal Trade Commission's enforcement of the ban is tied to the bill, so the FTC couldn't deviate from the text, preventing a slippery slope of additional bans.

Parenting is already challenging. Figuring out how to balance a tool that has become necessary and harmful makes it more so. Kids like mine wouldn't need an adjustment period, and if the bill passes and 11-year-olds become distraught because it's enforced, that might underscore its importance.

Nicole Russell is an opinion columnist with USA TODAY. She lives in Texas with her four kids.

# Tenn. firm fined \$650K for hiring kids

## Children hired to clean meatpacking facilities

Thao Nguyen  
USA TODAY

A Tennessee-based cleaning company has agreed to pay nearly \$650,000 in civil penalties after federal investigators found the company employed at least 24 children at two slaughtering and meatpacking facilities, the U.S. Department of Labor announced.

A federal court in Iowa approved a consent order and judgment Monday with Fayette Janitorial Service LLC, which requires the company to pay \$649,304 in civil penalties, the Labor Department said in a news release. The company must also hire a third party to implement company policies to prevent the illegal employment of children and create a program for reporting concerns about child labor violations.

The Labor Department obtained a preliminary injunction against Fayette Janitorial in late February after an investigation discovered that the company employed at least 24 children, including children as young as 13, on overnight sanitation shifts at two slaughtering and meatpacking facilities in Sioux City, Iowa, and Accomac, Virginia.

Under U.S. law, children under 18 are prohibited from being employed in dangerous occupations such as meat and poultry slaughtering, processing, rendering and packing operations. According to the Labor Department, Fayette Janitorial had minors “clean dangerous kill floor equipment such as head splitters, jaw pullers, meat bandsaws, and neck clippers.”

“The Department of Labor is determined to stop our nation’s children from being exploited and endangered in jobs they should never have been near,” Regional Solicitor Christine Heri said in a statement. “Children in hazardous occupations drove the Fair Labor Standards Act’s passage in 1938. Yet in 2024, we still find U.S. companies employing children in risky jobs, jeopardizing their safety for profit.”

The Labor Department reported last February that child labor violations have increased 69% since 2018. During



The Seaboard Triumph plant in Sioux City, Iowa. PROVIDED BY GOOGLE EARTH

**According to a federal complaint, the Labor Department’s investigation “found that Fayette employs minors under the age of 18 whose job is to clean the killing floor.”**

the last fiscal year, the department said its investigators found that more than 5,800 children had been employed in violation of federal child labor laws.

Fayette Janitorial, which is headquartered in Somerville, Tennessee, employed dozens of children at Seaboard Triumph Foods LLC in Iowa and Perdue Farms in Virginia, according to the Labor Department.

According to a federal complaint, the Labor Department’s investigation

“found that Fayette employs minors under the age of 18 whose job is to clean the killing floor.” In the complaint, the department says the company employed 15 children in Virginia and at least nine children in Iowa on its overnight sanitation shifts.

The department said investigators witnessed children hiding their faces and carrying “glittered school backpacks” before starting their shifts at the Iowa facility. The children used “corrosive” cleaners to clean kill floor equipment.

At the Virginia facility, the department said at least one child, who was identified as a 14-year-old, suffered severe injuries after the child tried to remove debris from machinery.

On Feb. 27, the department obtained a preliminary injunction against Fayette Janitorial to halt the company’s employment of children.

The company provides contract sanitation and cleaning services for meat and poultry processing facilities in more than 30 states and employs more than

600 workers, the department said.

The company agreed to nationwide compliance six days after the department filed its temporary restraining order and injunction. The Iowa and Virginia facilities also said in February that they had terminated their contracts with Fayette Janitorial.

In recent years, federal authorities have been cracking down on child labor violations across the country, promising to hold employers accountable.

In March, a Tennessee parts supplier was fined for illegally employing children as young as 14 in dangerous jobs and subjecting them to “oppressive child labor.” In the same month, a Baskin-Robbins franchisee in Utah was fined for allowing 64 employees ages 14 to 15 “to work too late in the day and too many hours in a week while school was in session at eight locations,” the Labor Department said.

Federal investigators said in January that inadequate safety standards at a poultry processing plant in Mississippi led to the death of a 16-year-old sanitation worker.

The teen died on July 14, 2023, after he was pulled into dangerous machinery while cleaning equipment. It was the second fatality at the facility in just over two years.

A Southern California poultry processor and several related poultry companies, which supplied grocers including Aldi and Ralphs, agreed to pay \$3.8 million last December for violations including illegally employing children as young as 14 to debone poultry with sharp knives and operate power-driven lifts to move pallets.

In May 2023, three McDonald’s franchisees with a combined 62 restaurants in Kentucky, Indiana, Maryland and Ohio paid fines totaling more than \$212,000 after the Labor Department charged them with violating the labor rights of 305 minors, including two 10-year-olds who were not paid.

A Wisconsin company paid a \$1.5 million fine in February 2023 after the Labor Department found it employed 102 minors ages 13 to 17 in “hazardous occupations” at 13 meat processing facilities in eight states.

*Contributing: Keenan Thomas and Mike Snider*

### PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## Thick, Full, Youthful Looking Hair Means Better Looks, More Confidence, More Fun

*Clinical study shows this new hair loss breakthrough can help both men and women enjoy a thick, full head of hair*



**SENSATIONAL HAIR BREAKTHROUGH:** A thick, full-looking head of real hair is finally within reach

America’s top anti-aging specialist, Dr. Al Sears, recently discovered a game-changing nutrient that’s giving men and women a next-level boost in confidence thanks to the groundbreaking power of plant stem cells.

For decades Dr. Sears has stayed at the forefront of anti-aging technology. And he uncovered this exciting solution to thin, dull, lifeless hair while researching a unique nutrient called *malus domestica*. Extracted from one type of rare apple, found only in Switzerland, it produces a powerful form of plant stem cells shown to help give a once sad-looking scalp a total transformation.

Introducing **Re-Nourish**, an exciting new solution that harnesses the power of plant stem cells to help men and women go...

### “From Grandparent to Gorgeous” in a Matter of Weeks

“When you look at a crisp, shiny, red apple or a lush, vibrant rose in bloom, there’s absolutely no way to tell if the plant that produced them is five years old or 105 years old,” says Dr. Sears. “And that’s because plants produce these powerful stem cells that ensure that year after year their fruit and flowers look just as ageless as they ever did.”

Dr. Sears told us he’s able to tap into the power of those plant cells so **Re-Nourish** could offer that same lush, vibrant, ageless appearance for millions of men and women who are tired of their dull, withered-looking hair.

### The Dawn of a New Era in Naturally Luxurious Hair

Dr. Sears couldn’t be more excited about the many benefits of natural plant stem cells and the hope they offer for our future. And this naturally inspired plant-based approach makes **Re-Nourish** a unique and powerful breakthrough that’s not only creating remarkable results...

But the men and women who’ve had a chance to try it are spellbound.

Like April W. who had been grappling with a sad, scraggly, confidence-crushing head of hair, “Conditioning treatments, vitamins, fancy blow dryers, special wet brushes and other expensive solutions never helped.” But then she tried **Re-Nourish**. “I’m seeing noticeable results with my hair thickness and length!”

John S. said he’s had better-than-expected results. So, when he sat in the barber’s chair, he was pleasantly surprised “My barber that I have been going to for years noticed, and I didn’t tell him I was using the product **Re-Nourish!**” he continued “My hair feels and looks much fuller. That’s all the evidence I need to know that this product is legitimate and useful — Great product.”

And Elizabeth B. from West Palm Beach told us, “I was worried that it would leave my fine, light hair feeling heavy or looking greasy, but it hasn’t done either. It also has a lovely natural botanical smell!”

For men and women with dull, thinning, or receding hairlines, **Re-Nourish** offers a new, exciting, and extremely easy way to achieve the appearance of a full, healthy-looking head of hair without expensive treatments and from the comfort and privacy of your own home.

### The Secret Sauce Behind Re-Nourish

What sets **Re-Nourish** apart? Well, in addition to *malus domestica*, **Re-Nourish** harnesses the power of targeted botanicals like the legendary Burdock Root. Rich in anti-

oxidants and used for centuries for radiant skin and luxurious-looking hair, Burdock was a must-have for a product like **Re-Nourish**.

Another secret to **Re-Nourish**’s incredible success is Rosemary. Extracts of this aromatic, evergreen shrub are well-researched for their anti-aging properties. Making it an exciting addition to **Re-Nourish**’s unique, naturally inspired formula.

While Black Cumin, known for its beautiful white and purple flowers, has been used for thousands of years to support the appearance of thick healthy hair, it was also added to the formula for its natural moisturizing properties.

These thoughtfully selected ingredients are combined with a targeted array of antioxidant vitamins and vital minerals for a revolutionary experience that’s safe, easy to use, and naturally inspired. With a pleasant scent that doesn’t linger and won’t leave your scalp itchy, flaky, greasy, or uncomfortable.

### Now It’s Your Turn for Gorgeous Looking Hair

You could be just weeks away from having the appearance of such thick, luscious hair – the kind of hair you just can’t help but run your fingers through. Feeling confident, vibrant, self-assured, and youthful. So, get ready for the admiring glances and compliments. Because that’s the power of **Re-Nourish**.

It doesn’t just mean soft, lush, luxuriant hair. It can transform your life, boost your self-esteem, supercharge your confidence – and it comes as no surprise that surveys show men and women alike prefer the look of a dense, silky, head of hair.

It’s really no wonder that **Re-Nourish** is quickly gaining popularity. It’s making waves in the industry and creating a buzz among those who are fed up with a sparse, limp, wispy head of hair.

And because **Re-Nourish** is only available through Dr. Sears’ partners at Pure Ra-

diance, demand is so high the company is having a tough time keeping up. Stocks are running out faster than they can be replenished.

And that’s probably because Dr. Sears is currently offering readers a risk-free trial of **Re-Nourish**.



### How to Get ReNourish

“It’s not available in retail stores yet,” says Dr. Sears. The reason? Dr. Sears doesn’t want profit-driven third-party retailers raising the price on a unique, revolutionary product that has the power to truly transform people’s lives.

“Plant stem cells offer so many exciting benefits for our future. But right now, there’s nothing like this available anywhere else. And that’s why we want to keep **Re-Nourish** affordable for anyone who wants to try it. And this way not only can we ship directly to the customer, but we’re also able to get their orders in the mail within 24 hours.” And for the outliers who still feel skeptical, Dr. Sears is backing every order with a risk-free, 100% money-back guarantee.

To take advantage of this special offer, simply call the Sears Toll-Free Health Hotline at **1-800-910-7351** now. Use Promo Code **USAREN28** when you call.

[EDITOR’S NOTE]: Due to recent media exposure for **Re-Nourish**, Pure Radiance is experiencing unprecedented demand. If the phone line is busy when you call, please try again to avoid missing this exclusive one-time-only offer.

## MONEYLINE



CHEVY EQUINOX PROVIDED BY MOTORTREND

### ONLY SUBARU FORESTER GETS GOOD CRASH RATING

Would your SUV ace a front crash test? Odds aren't great. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said Thursday that only the Subaru Forester received a good rating in the agency's newly updated test that assesses vehicle-to-vehicle front crashes at high speeds. The insurance institute tested 2023-24 cars at various speeds up to 43 mph, while previous tests only went as high as 25 mph, the agency said. Here are the rest of the ratings: Average: Honda CR-V; Toyota RAV4. Moderate: Ford Escape; Hyundai Tucson; Jeep Compass. Poor: Chevrolet Equinox; Mazda CX-5; Mitsubishi Outlander; and Volkswagen Taos.

### USDA RECALLS GROUND BEEF OVER RISK OF E. COLI

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Wednesday that more than 16,000 pounds of ground beef has been recalled over potential E. coli contamination. Cargill Meat Solutions recalled ground beef packages with an establishment ID of "EST. 86P" produced between April 26 and 27. The packages, which does not have the Cargill brand on its top packaging, had been shipped to Walmart stores in 11 states and Washington, D.C., according to Cargill. The USDA said that there have been no reports of people falling ill.

### EX-STARBUCKS CEO SCHULTZ HAS ADVICE FOR THE CHAIN

Former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz has a few words for his former company. While commenting on its disappointing quarterly earnings, Schultz said the coffee chain needs to improve the experiences at its U.S. stores. He urged the company to reinvent its mobile ordering and payment platform to make it the "uplifting experience it was designed to be." And he called for executives to overhaul its "go-to-market strategy" and boost coffee-forward innovation to create differentiation in the marketplace.



PROVIDED BY HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

### HOLLAND AMERICA OFFERS A GLACIER GUARANTEE

Glaciers are a major draw for many Alaska cruise passengers. But on the chance you don't see one as advertised during your voyage, Holland America Line will give you money back. The cruise line is adding a Glacier Guarantee for its cruises and cruises around the Last Frontier through September 2025. If Holland America doesn't visit one it planned to, passengers will get a future cruise credit worth 15% of their fare. The guarantee applies when a visit to a glacier on a published itinerary is canceled, according to its terms and conditions. Guests must be at least 21 years old and complete a form within 30 days of their trip ending in order to claim the credit, one per guest.

# Apple lets loose with iPad updates, thinnest device yet

Event reveals new tablet features, redesigned Magic Keyboard, more

Felecia Wellington Radel  
USA TODAY

With its online "Let Loose" event Tuesday morning, Apple unleashed what CEO Tim Cook called "the biggest day for iPad since its introduction."

A new iPad Air with a 13-inch display, more storage and more color options led off the announcements, with Apple already accepting orders and the device available as early as next week. The new iPad Pro is the thinnest



Apple announced a new iPad lineup. APPLE SCREENSHOT

Apple product to date and introduces a new display called Tandem OLED with two organic LED panels and an updated chip that gives the tablet a huge boost in processing speed.

The unveiling included a chance for users to accessorize both iPads with the new Apple Pencil Pro and Magic Keyboard. The price of the existing 10-inch iPad also got an update, lowering its starting point to \$349.

Apple livestreamed the event on its YouTube channel, as well as on the company's website.

Here's a closer look at the devices and features revealed during the event.

See **APPLE**, Page 2B

Survey says consumers give nearly \$500 a year more than they'd like

# TIPPING POINT

Betty Lin-Fisher USA TODAY

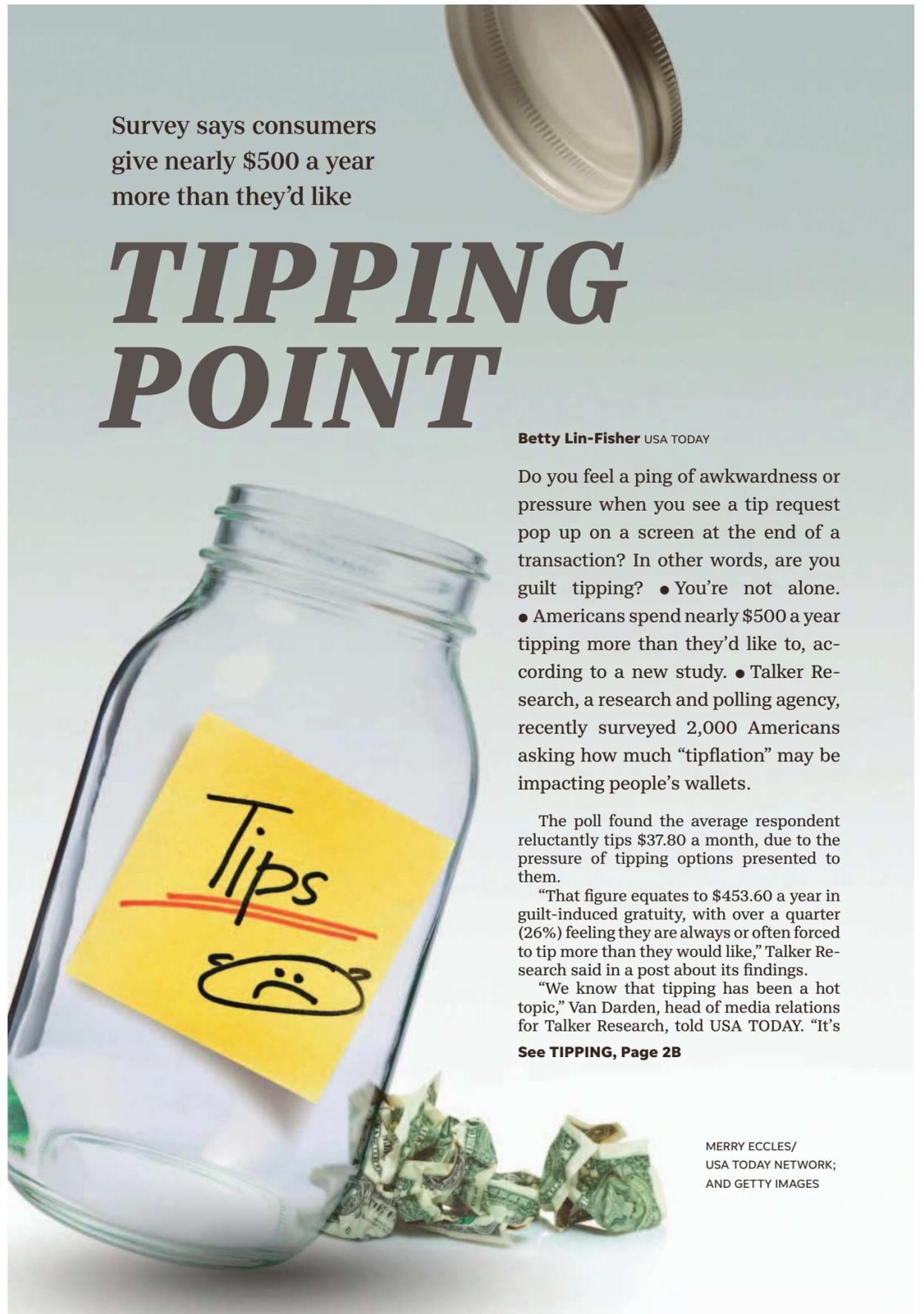
Do you feel a ping of awkwardness or pressure when you see a tip request pop up on a screen at the end of a transaction? In other words, are you guilty tipping? • You're not alone. • Americans spend nearly \$500 a year tipping more than they'd like to, according to a new study. • Talker Research, a research and polling agency, recently surveyed 2,000 Americans asking how much "tipflation" may be impacting people's wallets.

The poll found the average respondent reluctantly tips \$37.80 a month, due to the pressure of tipping options presented to them.

"That figure equates to \$453.60 a year in guilt-induced gratuity, with over a quarter (26%) feeling they are always or often forced to tip more than they would like," Talker Research said in a post about its findings.

"We know that tipping has been a hot topic," Van Darden, head of media relations for Talker Research, told USA TODAY. "It's

See **TIPPING**, Page 2B



MERRY ECCLES/  
USA TODAY NETWORK;  
AND GETTY IMAGES

# Real ID card needed, if you plan to fly in 2025

Amaris Encinas  
USA TODAY

If you plan on flying around the country in 2025 and beyond, you might want to listen up.

You have about 365 days to make your state-issued driver's license or identification "Real ID" compliant, per the Department of Homeland Security.

The Real ID compliance is part of a larger act passed by Congress in 2005 to set "minimum security standards" for the distribution of identification

materials, including driver's licenses. This means that certain federal agencies, like the Transportation Security Administration or DHS, won't be able to accept state-issued forms of identification without the Real ID seal.

It's taken a while for the compliance to stick, with DHS originally giving a 2020 deadline before pushing it back a year, then another two years and another two years after that due to "backlogged transactions" at MVD offices nationwide, according to previous USA TODAY reports.

You won't be able to board federally regulated commercial aircraft, enter nuclear power plants or access certain facilities if your identification documents aren't Real ID compliant by May 7, 2025.

Here's what we know about Real IDs, including where to get one and why you should think about getting one.

**Do I have to get a Real ID?**

Not necessarily.

See **REAL ID**, Page 2B

## Tipping

Continued from Page 1B

trended on TikTok, there's all kinds of online conversation about it, it's been in the news as people transitioned out of the high peaks of COVID and delivery services."

Darden said Talker Research noticed that a lot of businesses have kept the automatic gratuity that was popular during the pandemic.

Talker Research wanted to get reactions from consumers on their feelings about tipping, including how people of different generations feel, he said.

### Do we really need to tip?

According to the survey, the average respondent tipped more than they'd like on six occasions within the past 30 days.

"Whether it's the watchful eyes of a barista, the hastily swiveled tablet or the waiter handing you the card machine, more than half (56%) of respondents note that pressure to tip higher is a regular occurrence," Talker Research said in its post about the survey.

Only 24% said it was a rare experience for them to feel put on the spot when tipping.

Here are some other results from the survey:

- Forty-nine percent of respondents said they'd noticed their options for tipping on tablets and digital devices increased in value in the past month alone.

- Nearly a third (31%) answered that they had been asked to tip for a service they wouldn't normally consider tipping.

- Men feel pressured to tip higher more often than women (28% vs. 25%).

### Do people of different generations feel differently about tipping?

There are generational differences in how people feel about tipping.

- Gen Z (16%) and millennials (16%) "were almost twice as likely to say they 'always' feel pressure to tip than older generations," the study said.

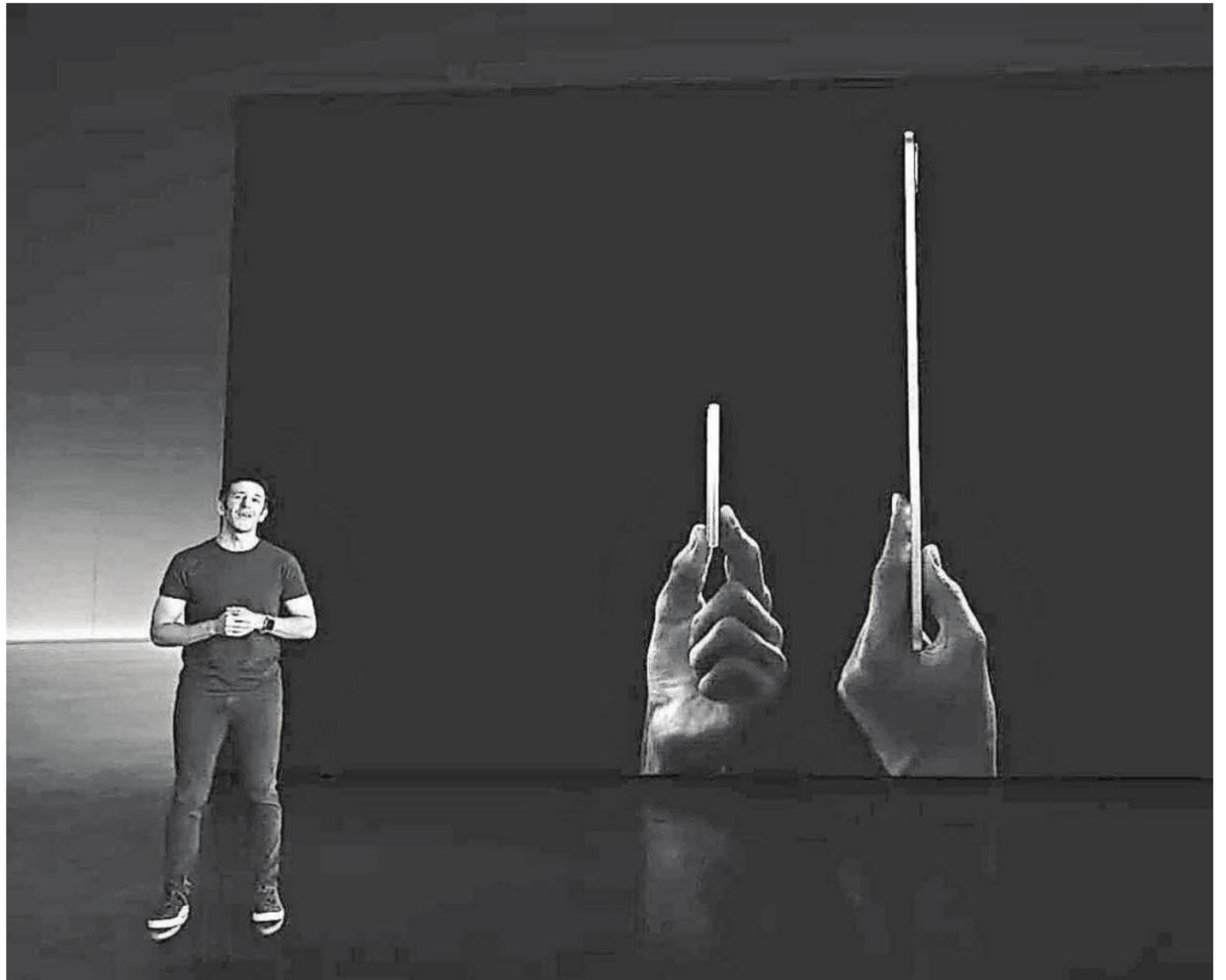
- Just 9% of Gen X and only 5% of Boomers felt the same constant tipping obligation.

- When tipping in-store, a third of Gen Z (33%) and millennials (33%) always or often feel pressured or were made to feel guilty when tipping. That compares to 23% for Gen X and 13% for Boomers.

### Should you tip a machine?

The pressure to tip also doesn't require service from a human: "23% of all those surveyed said they would likely leave a tip for service that required no human interaction, such as a vending machine or a self-checkout kiosk at the grocery store," Talker Research reported.

*Betty Lin-Fisher is a consumer reporter for USA TODAY. Reach her at [blinfisher@USATODAY.com](mailto:blinfisher@USATODAY.com) or follow her on X, Facebook or Instagram @blinfisher.*



Apple announced a new iPad Pro, which is the thinnest Apple product to date.

## Apple

Continued from Page 1B

### iPad Air

The iPad Air will now come in two sizes: an 11-inch display and a 13-inch display. Both will have the updated M2 chip.

Apple is adding 512MB and 1TB options for storage, and the iPad Air will work with the Magic Keyboard.

Other key changes include the front-facing camera being moved to the landscape edge and the inclusion of spatial audio. New color options include blue and purple, in addition to the existing starlight and space gray finishes.

The 11-inch iPad Air starts at \$599, and the 13-inch starts at \$799. Apple began accepting orders Tuesday and said the devices will be available next week.

### iPad Pro

Both the 11-inch and 13-inch versions of the new iPad Pro, which will be available in silver and space black, will feature the new Tandem OLED display.

The iPad Pro will also now have the M4 chip – also introduced during the presentation – jumping all the way from the M2, which Apple said will make the device "four times faster."

The updated camera can help with document scanning.

The new iPad Pro models will be available next week. The 11-inch starts at \$999 and the 13-inch at \$1,299.



Apple introduced new versions of accessories for the iPad, including a keyboard and pencil. APPLE SCREENSHOTS

### Magic Keyboard

The Magic Keyboard has been redesigned to be thinner and lighter, Apple said, to work with the thinner iPad Pro.

It will come in two colors to match the new Pro, have a row of function keys and an aluminum trackpad.

The Magic Keyboard will come in two sizes; the 11-inch starts at \$299 and the 13-inch starts at \$349.

### Apple Pencil Pro

Users can squeeze the pencil to bring up a selected tool, and the pencil will have a gyroscope for precise control of the tool being used.

Apple Pencil Pro will also now support FindMy so users can locate it if they've misplaced it. Similar to the previous Pencil, Pencil Pro carries and charges magnetically.

The new Apple Pencil Pro starts at \$129 and will be available next week.

### Final Cut Pro and Logic Pro updates

Updates to Final Cut Pro and Logic Pro are a treat for creators.

For Final Cut Pro, Apple introduced a live multicam feature, in which a user can connect up to four cameras. The company also announced a new app for iPhone and iPad – Final Cut Camera – which will allow users to connect four iPhones or iPads for video shoots.

Updates to Logic Pro include new drums and effects, and it can now use machine learning to model sound in detail.

### More from Apple

Tuesday's event came about a month before the company's annual Worldwide Developers Conference, which will be online June 10-14. Apple often announces new features and updates for its operating systems across devices.

## Real ID

Continued from Page 1B

If you have another form of identification that TSA accepts, there probably isn't an immediate reason to obtain one, at least for travel purposes. But if you don't have another form of identification and would like to travel around the country in the near future, you should try to obtain one.

Here are all the other TSA-approved forms of identification:

- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License

- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)

- U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents

- Permanent resident card
- Border crossing card

- An acceptable photo ID issued by a federally recognized, Tribal Nation/Indian Tribe

- HSPD-12 PIV card
- Foreign government-issued passport

- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card

- Transportation worker identification credential

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration



Chuck Griep, a TSA officer, checks the identification of a traveler at security in Terminal Four at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport on June 3, 2021.

DAVID WALLACE/USA TODAY NETWORK

Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)

- U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

However, federal agencies "may only

accept" state-issued driver's licenses or identification cards that are Real ID compliant if you are trying to gain access to a federal facility. That includes TSA security checkpoints.

Enhanced driver's licenses, only is-

sued by Washington, Michigan, Minnesota, New York and Vermont, are considered acceptable alternatives to REAL ID-compliant cards, according to DHS.

### What can I use my Real ID for?

For most people, it's all about boarding flights. You can only use your Real ID card to obtain access to "nuclear power plants, access certain facilities, or board federally regulated commercial aircrafts," according to DHS.

The cards can't be used to travel across any border, whether that's Canada, Mexico or any other international destination, according to DHS.

### How do I get a Real ID?

All you have to do to get a Real ID is to make time to head over to your local department of motor vehicles.

Every state is different, so the documents needed to verify your identity will vary. DHS says that at minimum, you will be asked to produce your full legal name, date of birth, Social Security number, two proofs of address of principal residence and lawful status.

The only difference between the state-issued forms of identification you have now and the Real ID-compliant card you hope to obtain is a unique marking stamped in the right-hand corner. The mark stamped on your Real ID compliant cards depends on the state.

## 50★States

News from across the USA

**ALABAMA Montgomery:** Gov. Kay Ivey gave final approval for the creation of the Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences. The purpose of the school is to grant educational opportunities to high school students in science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine and health care sciences fields.

**ALASKA Palmer:** The state's top public safety official said plans to grant expanded arrest authority to Chickaloon tribal police officers is being halted, Anchorage Daily News reported.

**ARIZONA Phoenix:** Technology aimed at improving road safety in metro Phoenix will get a boost from federal grants awarded to Phoenix and the Arizona Commerce Authority.

**ARKANSAS Little Rock:** Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed an executive order objecting to aspects of an updated set of rules related to Title IX – the federal law which bans sex-based discrimination at any schools that receive federal funding.

**CALIFORNIA Palm Springs:** After past reviews by the Environmental Protection Agency found the Desert View Power Plant had repeatedly emitted illegally high levels of mercury and other dangerous pollutants in the eastern Coachella Valley, its operator announced that the plant will immediately pause its operations as it seeks a path forward.

**COLORADO Denver:** A University of Colorado study showed some of Colorado's native pollinator populations have declined by 50% over the past 35 years. The state-commissioned Native Pollinating Insects Protection Study to determine the health of Colorado's pollinators showed imperiled species of butterflies and bumble bees – and it indicated those species are likely the tip of the iceberg and a huge underestimate of the true scope of imperiled pollinator species.

**CONNECTICUT Hartford:** As legislators learned state budget surpluses would top or approach \$1 billion through 2026, leaders said Connecticut must scale back an aggressive savings program that critics say is choking core programs, The CT Mirror reported.

**DELAWARE Rehoboth Beach:** The 50-foot fin whale that beached itself at Delaware Seashore State Park on Sunday died overnight.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington:** A driver was found dead after crashing into an outer perimeter gate of the White House complex, according to the U.S. Secret Service.

**FLORIDA West Palm Beach:** Two teens turned themselves in and were charged with felonies after a video went viral of people dumping two barrels of trash from a boat into the ocean during the April 28, Boca Bash event, reports say.

**GEORGIA Atlanta:** Gov. Brian Kemp signed a controversial cash bail bill into law in a move that bail reform advocates see as unraveling decades of progress on criminal justice policies. The law takes effect on July 1.

**HAWAII Honolulu:** Airbnb listings and other short-term vacation rentals in Hawaii are one step closer to being phased out as the state grapples with a housing crisis exacerbated by last year's wildfires on Maui. A bill with the potential to reshape vacation rental regulation across the state passed the Senate and the House and now awaits Hawaii Gov. Josh Green's signature – who already promised to sign it if it hits his desk. If signed, the new law will go into effect on July 1.

**IDAHO Banks:** Officials said a traffic citation was issued to the driver of a school bus that crashed in 2023 while traveling from a YMCA camp, KTVB reported.

**INDIANA Bloomington:** Faculty from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business called for the Board of Trustees to terminate the employment of President Pamela Whitten and Provost Rahul Shrivastav, the latest in a growing number of college-wide votes calling for a change in administration.

**IOWA Des Moines:** Iowa cyclists and wheelchair users will now have greater protection when using crosswalks under a law signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds. The law, House File 2568, requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to cyclists, people using wheelchairs and other crosswalk users who aren't on foot.

## HIGHLIGHT: ILLINOIS



**A limestone slab bearing the fossil of the ancient bird Archaeopteryx will go on display at the Field Museum.** DELANEY DRUMMOND/FIELD MUSEUM VIA REUTERS

**Chicago:** An exquisitely preserved fossil of the earliest-known bird Archaeopteryx, a pigeon-sized specimen revealing new anatomical details of a creature whose 19th century discovery lent support to Charles Darwin's ideas about evolution, has been acquired by the Field Museum and will go on public display. The museum announced on Monday the acquisition of the fossil, which it said had been in the hands of a series of private collectors since being unearthed in Germany sometime before 1990. It has the best-preserved skull, vertebral column and soft tissues of the 13 known Archaeopteryx specimens, the museum said.

**KANSAS Topeka:** Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach told higher education officials that pro-Palestine protesters at the University of Kansas are making an illegal demand. Kobach referred to the protesters as "uninformed, petulant loudmouths" who "have not done their research" and whose "views are reprehensible."

**KENTUCKY Louisville:** Since 2020, Louisville has been losing residents, while surrounding counties' populations have grown – a trend some say is troubling as the city seeks to attract more businesses and talent. New estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show a 1.4% decline – just under 11,000 people – in Jefferson County's population between April 2020 and July 2023. And while the number might seem small, it represents a sizable dent when considering the county added about 42,000 people between 2010 and 2020.

**LOUISIANA Houma:** At the Dulac-Pontoon Bridge, about 30 well-wishers were gathered as the U.S.S. Kidd sliced northward, headed for a year-long overhaul in Houma. The Kidd, a 370-foot Fletcher-class destroyer, saw major action in WWII, was later deployed in the Korean War, and has been in Baton Rouge since 1982, where it serves as an integral component of its namesake veterans museum and memorial. The destroyer completed a 315-nautical-mile voyage from its Mississippi River berth to Houma's Thoma-Sea Marine Constructors shipyard, where it will undergo an overhaul and restoration for almost a year.

**MAINE Portland:** Authorities are investigating after two people were injured in a crash on Interstate 295, News Center Maine reported.

**MARYLAND Bel Air:** A bus with dozens of people onboard crashed on a Maryland highway and resulted in one death and multiple injuries.

**MASSACHUSETTS Boston:** Massachusetts's highest court on Monday weighed whether ballot proposals that would redefine the relationship between app-based companies like Uber Technologies and Lyft and their drivers should be allowed to go before voters in November.

**MICHIGAN Farmington Hills:** Deer are a reality of life in Michigan's urban areas, but communities throughout metro Detroit are hoping to find a way to reduce their numbers in the coming years. Farmington Hills, in conjunction with others, has been working in recent years to establish a regional plan across metro Detroit.

**MINNESOTA Eden Prairie:** A fire department is mourning after one of its own was killed in a shootout over the weekend, police said. Eden Prairie Firefighter Joseph C. Johns "died tragically" while off duty on Sunday morning, the city of Eden Prairie said in a Facebook post.

**MISSISSIPPI Oxford:** Viral footage of a University of Mississippi student appearing to mimic a monkey toward a Black woman who was part of pro-Palestinian protests has resulted in the school launching a probe into his actions.

**MISSOURI St. Louis:** A former Boy Scout volunteer was sentenced to 22 years in prison for hiding cameras in bathrooms at a Missouri camp. David Lee Nelson, 41, was also ordered to pay \$61,810 in penalties, a portion of which will go to a fund for victims and prevention programs. More than \$6,000 of that money will also pay for his victims to receive counseling, a federal judge ordered, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

**MONTANA Missoula:** A new exhibit that shines a light on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People crisis has opened at the Missoula Art Museum, the Missoulian reported.

**NEBRASKA Decatur:** Officials said a fire severely damaged the historic Decatur Museum and most artifacts are likely destroyed, Sioux City Journal reported.

**NEVADA Carson City:** The Nevada Wildlife Commission voted to allow hunters to kill 42 bears a year, more than twice the number permitted to be slaughtered in the first decade of the hunt, which began in 2011.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE Exeter:** A broad cross-section of Exeter citizens and civic leaders turned out Saturday morning to unveil a Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire Historic Marker honoring Exeter's Black Revolutionary War community.

**NEW JERSEY Trenton:** Despite improvements in the state's beleaguered unemployment system, over 700,000 New Jerseyans still face barriers to jobless benefits, a new report says. Now the activist group Make the Road New Jersey – emphasizing the results of that report – is putting forward several solutions it says could close that gap.

**NEW MEXICO Las Cruces:** The Las Cruces Police Department arrested the co-owner of a now shuttered daycare facility after investigators learned the 78-year-old man allegedly sexually assaulted a young child.

**NEW YORK Albany:** New York state's top prosecutor sued Heartbeat International, an anti-abortion group, and 11 crisis pregnancy centers, accusing them of misleading and potentially endangering women by claiming that they can provide a treatment reversing the effect of the abortion pill mifepristone.

**NORTH CAROLINA Wilmington:** A pop-off satellite tag belonging to one of the great white sharks in OCEARCH's global shark tracker research program has washed up on the shores of Ocean Isle Beach in Brunswick County. The tag has a year's worth of data that can provide insight on shark Umi's offshore movement along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard.

**NORTH DAKOTA Grafton:** The National Rural Rating System has awarded Unity Medical Center a four-star rating, KVRN reported.

**OHIO Cleveland:** An Amazon delivery driver shot and killed an alleged 17-year-old carjacker in Cleveland over the weekend, prompting an investigation, according to multiple reports.

**OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City:** Attorneys for state schools Superintendent Ryan Walters and the Oklahoma State Department of Education have asked an Oklahoma County judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by two teachers who each received a \$50,000 bonus in error.

**OREGON Scio:** The Oregon Department of Agriculture has pulled a water permit for a proposed Foster Farms chicken complex, putting on hold for at least six months the controversial confined animal feeding operation for some 3.5 million chickens a year.

**PENNSYLVANIA Butler:** A Pennsylvania nurse connected to the deaths of 17 patients who were given fatal doses of insulin was sentenced to hundreds of years behind bars. Heather Pressdee of Natrona Heights pleaded guilty in a Butler County courtroom to three counts of first-degree murder and 19 counts of criminal attempt to commit murder, Attorney General Michelle Henry's office said in a news release.

**RHODE ISLAND Providence:** The expected price tag for tearing down the doomed westbound Washington Bridge and building a new one has climbed by at least a third to more than \$400 million, Gov. Dan McKee's administration said.

**SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia:** South Carolina's U.S. Rep. James Clyburn received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. President Joe Biden presented the medal to Clyburn and 18 other recipients at the White House on Friday.

**SOUTH DAKOTA Pierre:** The South Dakota Board of Regents has recently agreed to pay a former international student adviser at the University of South Dakota \$100,000 to settle a lawsuit she brought, alleging sexual harassment, sex discrimination and retaliation.

**TENNESSEE Nashville:** Environmental groups are suing to stop the construction of a 32-mile natural gas pipeline to the Tennessee Valley Authority's Cumberland power plant. The pipeline, which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved in January, would cut through Dickson, Houston and Stewart counties to reach the plant in Cumberland City. TVA announced last January that it is transitioning the facility from coal to a gas-fired plant.

**TEXAS Fort Worth:** A young child was found dead on Sunday near Fort Worth and hundreds have been rescued from floodwaters as the state was hit by extreme weather which included severe storms, heavy rainfall and flash flooding over the weekend.

**UTAH Hurricane:** Authorities said an 18-year-old man from Nevada drowned at Sand Hollow State Park, KSL reported.

**VERMONT Burlington:** University of Vermont Medical Center researchers found a 900% increase over two years in blood infections linked primarily to people who injected drugs, most of whom were also experiencing homelessness.

**VIRGINIA Richmond:** Former president and presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump's campaign sees Virginia as "in play" for the November election, despite losing the commonwealth in 2016 and 2020.

**WASHINGTON Port Orchard:** Long-time theater group Western Washington Center for the Arts is moving after 22 years, and going out in celebratory style before settling into a new location.

**WEST VIRGINIA Charleston:** Sen. Joe Manchin announced that Raleigh and McDowell counties will be receiving federal funds to enhance the health services in the two regions, WV News reported.

**WISCONSIN Neenah:** Government spending on Neenah infrastructure and equipment is projected to rise sharply next year. The city's newly approved capital improvement plan lists \$105.6 million in expenditures in the next four years, including \$42.7 million in 2025.

**WYOMING Cheyenne:** "Yellowstone" actor Jefferson White will visit the city in July for the 10th annual Wyoming International Film Festival, Wyoming Tribune Eagle reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

# Trump vows to crush 'anti-white' racism

Former president says it 'can't be allowed' in US

Jessica Guynn  
USA TODAY

Lending his voice to anti-diversity, equity and inclusion fervor sweeping the Republican Party, Donald Trump telegraphed a dramatic shift to America's approach to civil rights if he wins a second term as president, vowing to focus on "anti-white" racism, not on racism against people of color.

Asked about supporters who believe anti-white racism now represents a greater problem than anti-Black racism, the former president told Time magazine: "I think there is a definite anti-white feeling in this country and that can't be allowed."

In the exclusive interview, Trump also said he would use the U.S. military to deport 11 million undocumented immigrants, deploy the National Guard to quash protests and gut the U.S. civil service.

## Trump on board with plan to curb 'affirmative discrimination'

Led by the Heritage Foundation think tank – which has helped mold the policies of Republican administrations since the Reagan presidency – conservative activists have drawn up an expansive plan known as Project 2025 in anticipation of Trump's return to power.

One of the goals of the presidential transition plan is reversing "the DEI revolution" by eliminating policies and programs such as affirmative action, which Project 2025 calls "affirmative discrimination."

The plan broadly reflects where Trump's policy stood at the end of his presidency in 2020. In September of that year, his administration issued an executive order prohibiting racial sensitivity training by the federal government and government contractors.

The order had an immediate chilling effect on efforts to reverse historical patterns of discrimination and exclusion in the workplace. President Joe Biden rescinded the order after taking office in January 2021.



Former President Donald Trump speaks to the press before his trial for allegedly covering up hush money payments linked to extramarital affairs, at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York City, on Tuesday. WIN MCNAMEE/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Trump aides, allies attack 'DEI revolution'

During the Biden administration, conservative activists picked up the mantle, claiming white workers are being unfairly disadvantaged by diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives that benefit minorities.

GOP-led legislatures have introduced dozens of bills to restrict diversity, equity and inclusion in education, state government, contracting and pension investments.

Last year's Supreme Court decision striking down affirmative action in college admissions set off a wave of legal challenges from former Trump administration official Stephen Miller and anti-affirmative action activist Edward Blum. Billionaires Elon Musk and Bill Ackman have also assailed DEI efforts as "racist."

These efforts have gained momentum. In 2021, a federal judge in Florida

blocked a debt relief program for Black farmers. Last month, a federal judge in Texas ruled that a government agency created to boost the fortunes of minority-owned businesses was discriminating against white people and must now serve everyone, regardless of race.

Civil rights advocates reject the notion that America has a problem with anti-white racism.

Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League, said conservative activists are "advocating for the return of white privilege."

"They're advocating for the policies that were used during a segregated America," Morial told USA TODAY in March.

## Corporate America has a diversity problem

Alvin B. Tillery Jr., director of the Center for the Study of Democracy and Diversity at Northwestern University,

told USA TODAY that conservatives vilify diversity, equity and inclusion and advance false charges of anti-white racism in an attempt to convince Americans that the nation has solved anti-Black racism.

"These are just codewords they are using to talk amongst themselves about reconstituting the racial order they want," Tillery told USA TODAY in March.

As the nation grows more diverse and research studies suggest that diverse companies outperform more homogeneous peers, businesses are working to make their workforces and leadership better reflect the communities they serve. After the 2020 murder of George Floyd forced a historic reckoning with race in America, corporations redoubled those efforts.

Racial parity in the business world is a long way off. A USA TODAY investigation of the nation's largest companies found that the top ranks are predominantly white and male, while women and people of color are concentrated at the lowest levels with less pay, fewer perks and little opportunity for advancement.

Corporate diversity efforts are broadly supported by the American public. A vast majority of adults – 81% – believe that corporate America should reflect the nation's diversity, according to a recent study by The Harris Poll.

## Trump vows to reverse Biden 'woke equity' programs

Trump has promised to reverse the Biden administration's "woke equity" programs and said he will call on Congress to establish a restitution fund for those "unjustly discriminated against by these destructive policies."

"Every institution in America is under attack from this Marxist concept of 'equity,'" Trump said last year.

Most white voters supporting Trump believe that racial minorities are favored over white people, according to a CBS poll in November.

"If you look right now, there's absolutely a bias against white (people) and that's a problem," Trump told Time.

During his spate of legal troubles, Trump has frequently claimed he, too, is the target of anti-white racism.

## Disney World, Disneyland's Halloween plans begin in Aug.

Nathan Diller  
USA TODAY

Halloween may not be until the fall, but at Disney theme parks, the spooky season starts in August.

Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party is coming back to Walt Disney World and Oogie Boogie Bash – and A Disney Halloween Party will return to Disneyland Resort. The after-hours events – which are not included in regular theme park admission – will take place on select dates at Magic Kingdom and Disney California Adventure Park from August through October.

Kids and grown-ups alike can see their favorite characters dressed up, don costumes of their own and go trick-or-treating in the parks. Here's what to expect this year:

### When is Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party 2024?

The celebration will run from 7 p.m. to midnight on the following dates:

- Aug. 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30
- Sept. 2, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29
- Oct. 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31

Tickets go on sale May 15, but guests staying at select hotels can get advance access beginning on Wednesday (a full list is available on Walt Disney World's website).

### What's new at Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party?

This year Disney Parks will introduce a new DescenDANCE Party inspired by the film "Descendants: The Rise of Red," coming to Disney+ in July. The rave will take place at Tomorrowland's Rocket-tower Plaza Stage.

Mickey's party will also feature other firsts, including a debut appearance from Bruno Madrigal. "For the first time during the party, you can meet the clairvoyant character from 'Encanto' alongside Mirabel at their Casita in Fairytale Garden," Disney Parks said in a blog post.

There will also be more villain sight-



Disney theme parks' Halloween celebrations will kick off a couple months early. PROVIDED BY DISNEY PARKS

ings, new neon spiderweb-themed looks for Mickey and Minnie and an earlier start time for Mickey's Boo-To-You Halloween Parade – 8:15 p.m., an hour earlier than past years – allowing younger guests to attend before bedtime. There will be plenty of familiar programming, too, including Disney's Not-So-Spooky Spectacular fireworks show, the Hocus Pocus Villain Spelltacular stage production and more.

Reservations for Disney's Not-So-Spooky Spectacular Dessert Party – which offers the chance to watch fireworks from Tomorrowland Terrace or Plaza Garden – will be available June 7.

### How much does Not-So-Scary Halloween Party cost?

Tickets range from \$119 to \$199 per ticket – before tax – depending on the date. Disney Vacation Club members and annual pass holders can get a \$10 discount on each ticket for August and September dates.

Ticketholders can enter Magic Kingdom beginning at 4 p.m. and do not need a separate day theme park ticket or reservation.

### When is Oogie Boogie Bash – A Disney Halloween Party 2024?

The event will take place on the following dates:

- Aug. 25, 27, 29
- Sept. 3, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29
- Oct. 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31

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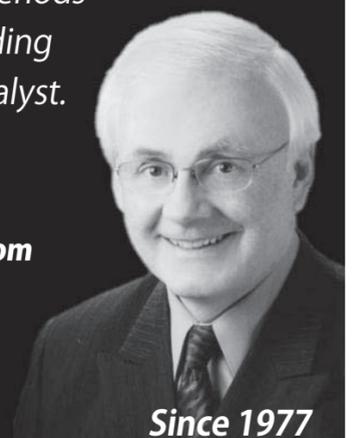
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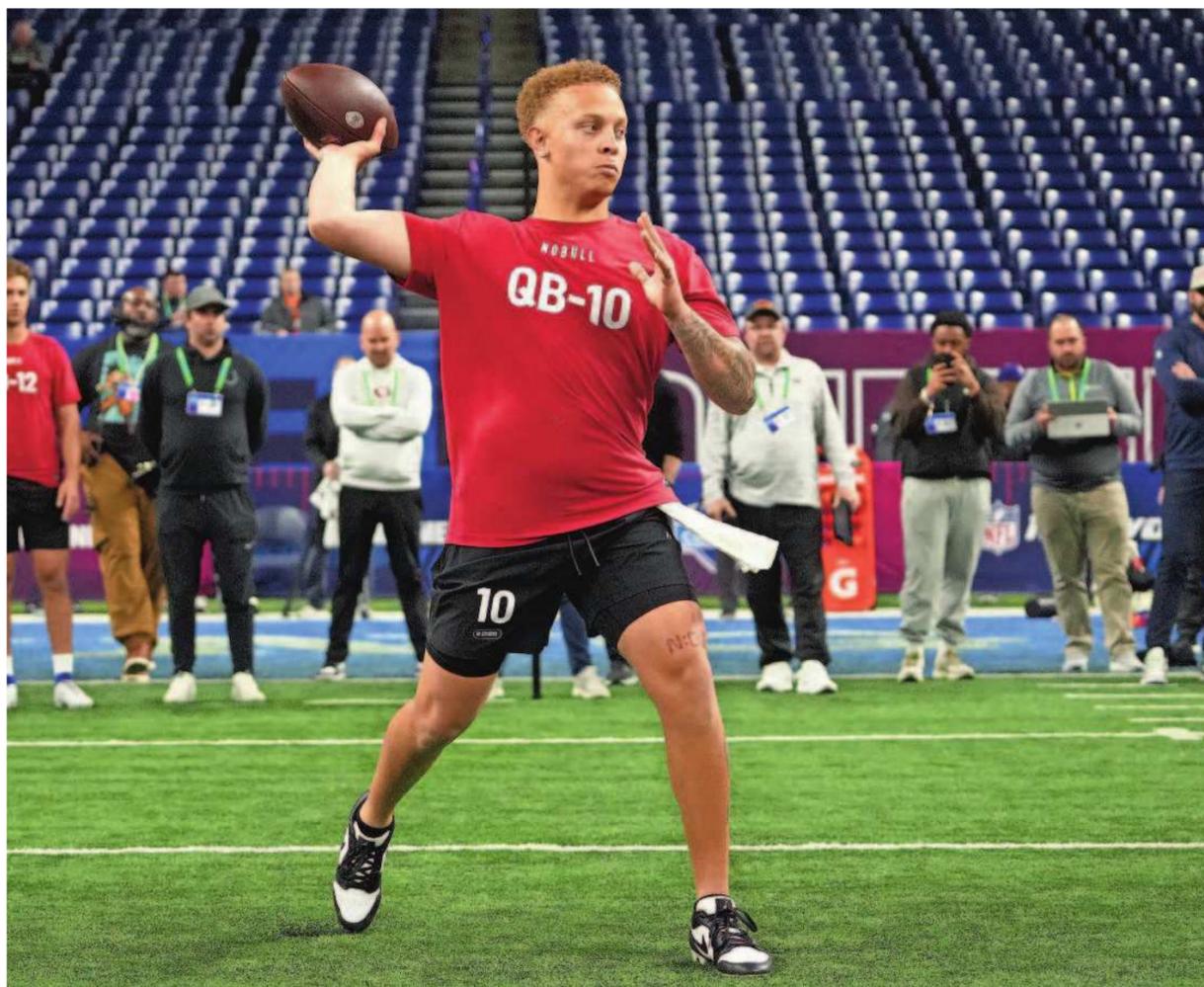
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"It does make (Rattler) look pretty bad, but in the same breath, there's not a lot of context to it. The reason why they put that clip together the way they did was to make him look bad and to create exactly what they created."

J.D. Johnson



Spencer Rattler was chosen 150th overall by the Saints. Figures from his past think the predraft process gave detractors a chance to re-examine a clip from a show he did in high school and misconstrue his character. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

# DRAFT REALITY

## NFL rookie QB criticized by some for HS reality show

Chris Bumbaca USA TODAY

Six quarterbacks were taken in the first 12 picks of the 2024 NFL draft. The seventh, Spencer Rattler, waited five rounds and two days to be drafted at 150th overall – a record gap between passers in the draft – by the New Orleans Saints.

What NFL Network insider Ian Rapoport reported about a dozen picks earlier, as the Los Angeles Chargers were on the clock at No. 137, is why figures from Rattler's past feel that the predraft process was another opportunity for his detractors to misconstrue his character.

"This is kind of weird to say, honestly. Spencer Rattler did a reality show in high school. It's called, 'QBI: Beyond the Lights,'" Rapoport said on the NFL Network draft broadcast. "It did not make him look great, and it is unbelievable how many different teams mentioned to me the image of him in that show, and how they can't get it out of their heads. Which I think would be a public service announcement to all 17 year olds, but it is fascinating as teams weigh whether or not to draft him."

Rattler began his college career at Oklahoma only

to lose his starting job to Caleb Williams (the No. 1 pick in the draft) amid a tumultuous sophomore campaign, later calling the events surrounding his departure a "toxic" situation.

In high school, though, Rattler appeared on the third season of the documentary series directed and produced by "Friday Night Lights" TV show creator Peter Berg. The episodes aired in 2019 and chronicled Rattler's senior season the previous year at Pinnacle High School in Phoenix.

One clip from the show, which has nearly 775,000 views on YouTube, shows Rattler laying into receivers during practice and also getting into an argument with junior quarterback J.D. Johnson.

"What did you do in one-on-ones?" Johnson asked Rattler.

"I blamed it on you," Rattler replied. "Because you sucked."

While Rattler told him later in the clip he "made him better," he also called him "soft" and "a girl."

See **ROOKIE**, Page 2C



Lindsay Schnell  
USA TODAY

## Griner memoir is a raw look at fear, despair

Midway through her book "Coming Home," Brittney Griner is informed of fellow American Trevor Reed's release from a Russian penal colony. It is April 2022, and Reed is finally going home after being wrongfully detained for nearly three years. The news both elevates Griner's spirit and breaks her heart, bringing her to tears.

"Only someone who has lived, prayed, cried and slept in a Russian prison can truly comprehend the daily indignities, the deep isolation that weighs on your spirit," Griner writes.

The memoir, which went on sale Tuesday, is a detailed accounting of Griner's harrowing journey through a Russian legal system known for its corruption. Griner describes it as "a rigged system where the house always won." In February 2022, just a week before Russia invaded Ukraine, Griner was detained at the Moscow airport on her way back to UMMC Ekaterinburg, the Russian team she'd played with for nearly a decade during the WNBA off-season.

In her carry-on, Griner had forgotten to remove two small vape pens with cannabis oil, a minor infraction in the U.S. but a major violation in Russia, a country known for draconian drug laws. Back home in Phoenix, a doctor had prescribed Griner medical marijuana for a litany of lingering sports injuries. Griner owns the mistake of leaving the cannabis oil in her bag, writing "I didn't deserve the hell I was put through, and yet my forgetfulness on that February morning had cost us dearly."

If you followed Griner's plight in real time, you'll be familiar with all the major plot points. The details she shares are

See **SCHNELL**, Page 2C



Brittney Griner played last season in the WNBA and is set for another season tipping off next week.

JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY SPORTS

## Roger Penske: Suspensions for Indy 500 'right thing'

Nathan Brown

The Indianapolis Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

INDIANAPOLIS – After a pair of tumultuous weeks inside his IndyCar team and a week of independent internal review by Penske Corp.'s general council, Roger Penske maintains no members of Team Penske had any "malicious intent" in its push-to-pass scandal that led to a pair of disqualifications, \$75,000 in fines and now four multiple-race suspensions that will include this month's Indianapolis 500.

Tuesday, the team announced two-race suspensions for team president Tim Cindric, managing director Ron Ruzewski, race engineer Luke Mason and data engineer Robbie Atkinson, following Penske's visit Monday to the team's Mooresville, North Carolina shop to make final decision on how the team would move forward.

"Through that process, it was obvious

there was no malicious intent with anybody," Penske told IndyStar on Tuesday morning of the coding error from hybrid testing last year and that was left in software of all three of Penske's cars for the season-opener, giving them the use of push-to-pass on starts and restarts that their competitors didn't have. "Nothing was done on purpose, but unfortunately, it was left in the car and used during the St. Pete race by Josef (Newgarden) and Scott (McLaughlin). We determined that the people involved would be penalized, and the leadership said they had to take responsibility too."

In clarifying, Penske noted that the decisions for Cindric and Ruzewski, who also serve as race strategists for Newgarden and Will Power, respectively, to sit out the 500 rested on the shoulders of the two veteran team officials.

"(Tim and Ron) led like real leaders should lead," Penske said. "There was a process and communication failure, and



Roger Penske says the suspensions his team announced were the right thing to do. MIKE DE SISTI/USA TODAY NETWORK

they certainly weren't going to leave two people out on an island. They felt they needed to take responsibility also."

Atkinson, Penske said, had been in involved in inserting the software in the drivers' setup profile software last Au-

gust, with the implication that he should've removed it ahead of regular-season competition this year. Cindric told IndyStar on April 25 that the coding ended up in the three cars due to a "copy-and-paste" error. On race weekends, Atkinson also serves as Power's data engineer.

Mason, Newgarden's race engineer, was part of the No. 2 crew that Newgarden said during a press conference at Barber Motorsports Park two days after the punishments were levied that had convinced themselves that rules on overtake use on starts and restarts had changed for the 2024 season – rather than just the \$1 Million Challenge.

When asked Tuesday how that rule change misreading could've taken place solely on the No. 2 car, when Cindric leads the entire team and when Newgarden said at Barber that he asked

See **PENSKE**, Page 2C

## Schnell

Continued from Page 1C

both jarring (she was forced to strip in prisons more than once, as Russian guards photographed her body) and bizarre (during her trial, as the court broke for judge deliberation, the prosecutor asked the American superstar for some photos). She passed time, and kept her sanity, by playing Sudoku and scribbling notes in the margins, a makeshift diary. She talks frankly about how often she's felt other'd in her life – “when you're born in a body like mine, a part of you dies every day, with every mean comment and lingering stare,” she writes – and how her time in Russia was merely the latest, and cruelest, version of that reality.

It is a raw recounting of a hellish 10 months that ended with her release Dec. 8, 2022. Her shame, fear, hopelessness and heartache are evident. And that's why everyone should read it.

As Griner's story played out in the national media, many people – loudly and publicly – picked sides. Some fought for Griner's release, posting daily to social media about how President Joe Biden's administration needed to do whatever necessary to bring her home. Others railed against the idea of an openly gay, Black woman's freedom being prioritized, especially if it came at the expense of trading a notorious Russian arms dealer, Viktor Bout, who was serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. Some were furious that a basketball player was released while military and longer-term political prisoners, including Paul Whelan, were left behind. Wasn't this just one more example of a sports star receiving special treatment?

Polarization might make headlines but the truth is, the majority of Americans probably are somewhere in the middle.

It's likely that there are thousands of Americans across the country who are happy Griner is home, but aren't quite sure how they feel about the finer points of the situation – about if the trade was “fair,” about if she needed to go to Russia in the first place, about if she deserved her punishment for possessing the cannabis oil.

But read her book, a 300-plus page deep dive on an experience many of us wouldn't have been able to recover from, and I suspect your empathy will grow – for her and all of humanity.

Maybe you won't be lining up to get season tickets to the Phoenix Mercury or purchasing a purple Griner jersey, but I bet you'll see the world differently. Especially if you followed the story only tangentially and know bits and pieces but not all the horrifying details. I'm thinking it will make you say out loud, “I've never thought of it that way.”

Maybe your thoughts on Griner will remain complicated. But maybe your thoughts on other issues related to her – pay equity, the reality of being Black and gay in both Russia and America, protesting the national anthem in the name of social justice – will broaden. Maybe you won't subscribe to WNBA league pass, but you'll decide to support your local high school team. Maybe you'll speak up at the Thanksgiving table when someone says something crass about the LGBTQ community. Maybe the next time you see a tall, awkward kid who is obviously struggling to fit in, you'll offer them a kind smile and encouraging word.

It's rare that change happens overnight, for a major event to immediately turn the public consciousness. But the ripple effect in life is real, and if Griner's honesty helps even a dozen readers see the world differently, that impact, her impact, will be felt for years.

Griner's book will get people talking to each other, and that's when real change begins.



“Coming Home” is on sale now. COURTESY KNOPF

## Penske

Continued from Page 1C

during St. Pete to be reminded of the change, Penske noted that a “failure in communication” was a major part of the findings of his general council.

Power and McLaughlin told reporters at Barber that there had been no teamwide discussion about season-long push-to-pass rule changes, and both were perplexed as to how Newgarden and his crew had come to that conclusion. His competitors – drivers and team owners alike – were similarly confused and weren't shy publicly and privately to levy claims of an outright cover-up by the No. 2 entry.

“I can't put words in the mouth of people in the paddock. They'll make their own comments on the actions we took, but I stand 100% behind Josef,” Penske told IndyStar.

Penske, too, was adamant – as he was to team owners in a private meeting held inside his motor home ahead of qualifying at Barber – that he was and is deeply sorry on behalf of the team, that he remains disappointed and that he knew nothing of Team Penske running afoul of the rules until it was caught during warmup at Long Beach last month.

“I can look you and anybody else in the eye and say we've done a proper investigation on this,” Penske said. “This was a process and communication failure. You could decide however many races you wanted (for the suspensions) based on the circumstances, but certainly with the Indy 500 coming up and the impact that has on the team and everyone else, we thought this was something we had to do now, rather than wait and make it some other time to try and skip over the 500.”

“I felt that wouldn't be the right thing to do. I can look you in the face and say I wasn't involved with this. I'm disappointed, and I know many people have their own thoughts on the situation, but I can tell you from my perspective that we've taken the action that I think was needed, and we're going to move on.”

Those suspended will not be at the track or in the Indianapolis-area for the Sonsio Grand Prix (May 10-11) or any activity around the 500, practice for which starts May 14, Penske said. They also won't have any contact “with the cars or people” during any on-track ac-



Josef Newgarden celebrates with team owner Roger Penske after winning the Indianapolis 500 in 2023. MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

tivity, Penske said – including practice, qualifying and races. When asked whether they may be allowed to have communication with team members while cars aren't on the track – i.e. texting and talking on the phone ahead of and after on-track activity for typical debrief sessions – Penske said he wasn't certain.

He also didn't yet know who would take over any of the four temporarily vacant roles.

When asked why no drivers – namely Newgarden, who played the most active role in the failures among his teammates – received any internal penalties (suspension or otherwise) and why he opted not to fire anyone – as Michael Andretti said last week that he would have – Penske affirmed he thought the decisions were fair and fitting of the investigation's findings and that the drivers deserved nothing more than points penalties that series leadership handed down.

He also pushed back against any idea of a culture of stretching rules too far, after his NASCAR driver Joey Logano was found wearing an illegal webbed glove during qualifying this year at Atlanta to gain a competitive aerodynamic advantage. Last year, his IMSA GTP program with Porsche was stripped of a win at Watkins Glen after the car's skid plate was less than 1 millimeter out of tolerance at the completion of the six-hour endurance race.

“There was nothing on-purpose (in IMSA), and Joey's situation with the glove was obviously something he did that I didn't like, and he understands that. But to think we're on some route

here to circumvent the rules, I would say that's not the case,” Penske said Tuesday. “I don't think there's anyone out there who hasn't had some issues that have affected their race or qualifying or their car going through inspection more than once.”

“I don't want to get into what other people have or haven't done. I have to look at our own situation, but my conscience is very clear on this situation that, going forward, we'll put the processes in so that this cannot happen. This was a process failure and communication failure.”

As to whether there would be any consideration toward selling IMS, IndyCar or his race team among concerns of a conflict of interest – which Penske shot down during his initial acquisition press conference Nov. 4, 2019, but which have cropped back up in recent weeks – Penske was perhaps his most resolute.

“I will do nothing different than I've ever done since we bought (IMS) and owned the series and acted as the owner of the race team. My head is high, and we've taken action. It's unfortunate, and I'm going to move on,” Penske said. “I've operated as the owner of IMS (and IndyCar) since the sale and haven't been in the pits at any races and certainly haven't been in race control. I feel I've honored my responsibility during the last four years.”

“I can say to you that the track and series are not for sale. I feel if my reputation and actions I've taken the last 50 years aren't good enough for people to understand how we do business, then I'm obviously disappointed.”

## Rookie

Continued from Page 1C

“You never lift me up,” Johnson said at one point in the nearly two-minute video.

Reality TV also has a way of distorting perspectives.

“It does make him look pretty bad, but in the same breath, there's not a lot of context to it,” Johnson told USA TODAY Sports. “The reason why they put that clip together the way they did was to make him look bad and to create exactly what they created.”

USA TODAY Sports' request for comment to Berg's production company, Film 45, was not returned.

### ‘Clickbait’ to some, not the full story to others

The image of Rattler in “QBI” as a combative teammate with nefarious leadership tendencies followed him around to his early enrollment with the Sooners and his transfer to South Carolina. And it was something NFL teams mentioned during their interactions with Rattler's high school coach, Dana Zupke, and his trainer, Rube Oliver.

“I think that's clickbait,” Zupke said of “QBI” being a reason why Rattler waited a while to hear his name called in the draft. “I don't think that that had much bearing at all on where he ended up in the draft.”

Based on the feedback he received in his discussions with teams, Zupke – who provided teams with written evaluations and also spoke directly with a handful – said he's “really confident that was not an issue.”

“It came up, but I don't think there was a lot of concern about how he was portrayed on ‘QBI,’ to be honest,” Zupke told USA TODAY Sports.

The microscope of “QBI” exacerbated Rattler's suspension due to an eligibility rule violation toward the end of his final high school season. That Rattler and his parents first tried to mask the suspension as an injury didn't help and put Zupke in a difficult situation since he knew Rattler was healthy.

But the Rapoport report was the first time Oliver had heard “QBI” rubbed people wrong at the NFL level. Rattler's

people-handling skills and leadership abilities have only improved since then, Oliver said.

“He was a kid, man. A lot of kids act like that,” Oliver told USA TODAY Sports. “But he was the No. 1 QB in the country. So it's highlighted. Doesn't make it right.”

While the interaction might appear cruel to a viewer outside the Pinnacle locker room, what the clip does not account for is the relationship behind the words. Rattler and Johnson were friends. And like most people, Zupke said, Rattler isn't the same person he was in high school.

“He was one of my good friends and I can confidently say he's one of the most competitive guys I've ever met,” Johnson said.

The animosity in the clip, Oliver said, is “like brothers bickering, ‘Hey, man, I'm better than you.’”

They hung out away from school and football. Rattler would drive Johnson to their private quarterback workouts. And everything was a competition.

“The clip didn't show me giving anything back to him, but there was days I was ... screaming at him, ‘You suck, Spencer!’ That's what we did,” said Johnson, who committed to Michigan but had to medically retire and became a student-coach. “Honestly, that's what made both of us so good, in my opinion.”

No NFL teams contacted Johnson during their vetting processes.

### ‘Come out the other side a really good dude’

Rattler was the consensus seventh quarterback in the class and placed in a tier below those who went off the board before him.

There are many football-related reasons to explain Rattler's fall to the fifth round. Teams that needed quarterbacks got them early. On “The Pat McAfee Show,” ESPN insider Adam Schefter said the two teams most interested in Rattler heading into the draft were the Atlanta Falcons, who took Michael Penix at No. 8 overall, and the Denver Broncos, who got their guy in Bo Nix at No. 12.

“Those are all good players, good quarterbacks,” Rattler said in a news conference regarding the crop of quarterbacks picked at the top of the draft. “Whatever team felt like they needed to make that pick, they did. You got to con-

trol what you can. That's something I live by. I knew my time would come.”

Multiple teams leaping their concerns regarding Rattler to Rapoport because of the documentary troubled Johnson. “I think that's pretty (expletive) to do to a kid in high school and ultimately have a long-time effect on what people think of him,” Johnson said.

Rattler's college career began auspiciously. As a redshirt freshman in 2020, he completed 67.5% of his passes in Lincoln Riley's offense for 3,031 yards with 28 touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Williams arrived in 2021, though, and Rattler – who measures at 6-foot, 211 pounds – was benched during the “Red River Rivalry” game against Texas. He never regained his starting role and transferred to South Carolina in 2022.

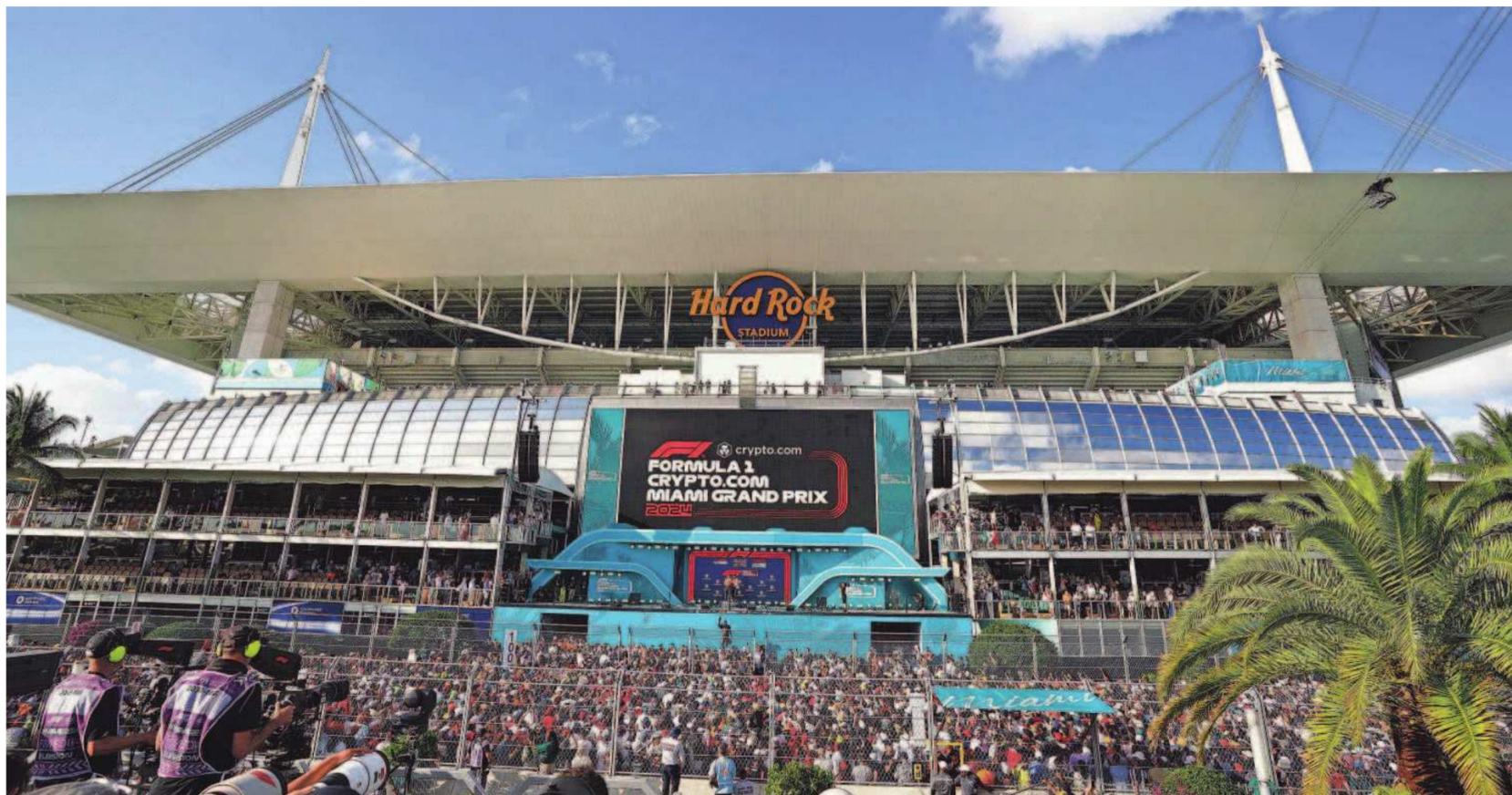
Gamecocks coach Shane Beamer raved to NFL Network analyst Daniel Jeremiah about Rattler's growth while playing with the Gamecocks; the quarterback was a two-time captain and started all 12 games in 2023, throwing for 3,186 yards, 18 TDs and eight interceptions with a 70.1% completion percentage.

“For the immaturity that he got tagged with from the show when he was in high school, and maybe some of the early stuff at Oklahoma, he's made it through all that stuff,” Jeremiah said last month on the “Mina Kimes Show.” “He's come out the other side a really good dude on top of somebody who's gotten better throughout his college career.”

And for all of the baggage Rattler has had to check because of “QBI,” the idea itself wasn't misguided. Quarterbacks such as Justin Fields, Jake Fromm and Sam Hartman also appeared on the show. Zupke and Rattler's parents had to be the ones who agreed to allow camera-crew access, and Zupke said he still sees more upside than downside because of the national recognition for the program that came with the show.

“I don't know if anyone would ever want a camera crew following them around like that for the rest of their life, but for six to eight months, it's a good experience,” Johnson said, adding it was good publicity for the vast majority of the team.

But not for Rattler. “The ones closest to him understand him and know who he is at heart,” Oliver said. “And he's always known who he is at heart. He's just now reflecting it.”



Formula 1 race fans take in the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday at Miami International Autodrome. JOHN DAVID MERCER/USA TODAY SPORTS

# Fast cars but not your fast food prices

## Suite menu aside, Formula 1 watches costs for race fans

Safid Deen  
USA TODAY

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Formula 1 race organizers in Miami and Las Vegas are aware of the negative reaction expensive ticket and premium food options yield but hope lower price points can entice aspiring fans wanting to experience F1 in the United States.

Business reporter Darren Rovell shared a picture on social media showing the \$180 platter of carne asada nachos, \$190 for chicken wings, \$280 for Maine lobster rolls, and the \$400 option to add an ounce of caviar to any food item. The tweet, understandably, received plenty of comments over the weekend.

"I think what he missed on that one was that's actually a suite menu. So, it's lobster rolls for like eight to 10 people. So, \$280 for lobster for 10 people in a suite is still a lot of money. But it's lobster. It's not a hot dog," Miami Dolphins

CEO and Miami Grand Prix managing partner Tom Garfinkel said Sunday during an interview with select media before the race.

Still, Miami and Las Vegas race organizers want to ensure fans they do not have to break the bank to experience F1 in the second year the country will host three races.

McLaren's Lando Norris earned his first career win in Miami over the weekend, and F1 will return this year for the United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas (Oct. 18-20) and the Las Vegas Grand Prix (Nov. 21-23).

The Las Vegas race offers a \$150 opening-day ticket and \$600 general admission for the three-day weekend. They are also adding 10,000 more general admission tickets, some including food and beverage, with new bench seating in some areas for fans to experience the action.

"(We're) trying to get that ticket price down for some people who really want to join that entry-level seat on the track," Renee Wilm, Las Vegas Grand Prix CEO, told USA TODAY Sports. "These new GA sections will also include a bench to grandstand for viewing. It won't be assigned seating, but it

will allow our fans to be able to find a place to sit and watch the cars fly by."

The United States Grand Prix, held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, offers a \$389 three-day general admission ticket before fees.

Miami reduced the price of its general admission campus pass from \$590 to \$450 for the three-day race weekend this year. Some fans also took advantage of the 305-day promotion, ending on March 5, which offered the campus pass for \$305 (Miami's area code).

The campus pass allowed fans to experience the activations around Hard Rock Stadium and stand on risers at various points along the racetrack to get as close to the action as possible.

Fans could also walk around the 300 level of the stadium with an overhead view of the track on the concourse, and open seating inside the stadium where they could look down onto team hospitality areas to catch glimpses of their favorite drivers, team principals and celebrities during the weekend.

"I've never watched a race on television with someone and been able to turn them into a fan. And I've never taken someone to an event, and not turn them into a fan," Garfinkel said. "I think a lot

of times people will come to an event like this, may not know much about the racing. They come for a great event. And then they learn about it and fall in love with racing, and start watching TV. So, I think it's all great for Formula 1."

Miami also offered concessions from more than 65 local food vendors, bucking the trend of traditional stadium food, with meal prices ranging around \$20 — far from the \$280 lobster rolls.

"It's not lost on me that the tickets are expensive. So, I'm always talking to the concessionaire about trying to keep concession prices lower. With inflation, cost of goods has gone up, not just the cost to operate," Garfinkel said. "We do have significant, over 65, independent kitchens on site. We have a lot of different vendors, a lot of different purveyors. We have to run power to all these sites, water, all these things. It's expensive, but we try not to pass that off on the consumer in terms of crazy prices. People have to be able to come out and be able to eat, drink and have a good time. And so we try to focus on those things."

"So, for \$150 a day, I think you can have a great experience. And then there's \$15,000 for the highest end with lobster from Carbone."

# Boredom led to Deion's social media posts

Brent Schrottenboer  
USA TODAY

Colorado head football coach Deion Sanders explained his controversial remarks on social media last week, saying he needs to do better but was bored, didn't mean any harm and was misinterpreted in one case.

Sanders made two remarks last week on social media that gained more than 37 million views combined on X, formerly Twitter, while also triggering commentaries on "SportsCenter" on ESPN and "Undisputed" on Fox Sports about whether his conduct was appropriate.

"I gotta do better on that and not ride with it, but I was bored," Sanders said in an interview published over the weekend on Thee Pregame Show, one of Sanders' favored YouTube channels. "I was bored, and I didn't say nothing hurtful. I don't attack people."

## What was Deion Sanders' explanation?

In one case, Sanders said he was coming to the defense of his quarterback son Shedeur. A person on X with fewer than 300 followers had instructed Deion Sanders to "Tell yo son stop act like he the coldest out here then put up a 4-8 season."

Sanders responded to that last Wednesday in front of his 1.8 million followers.

"He will be a top 5 pick," wrote Sanders, whose team finished with a 4-8 record in his first year last year. "Where yo son going? Lololol I got time today. Lololol."

Deion Sanders didn't apologize for that remark, saying "that was real" in the interview published over the weekend. Shedeur Sanders is expected to be a first-round NFL draft pick in 2025.



Colorado head coach Deion Sanders looks on during the Buffaloes' spring game event at Folsom Field. RON CHENOY/USA TODAY SPORTS

## What did he say was misinterpreted?

In the other case, Sanders appeared to express amusement with a put-down remark made by somebody else (not Deion Sanders) to a player at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee named Jaheim Ward.

"Lawd Jesus," Sanders wrote in response last Wednesday.

Sanders said he didn't mean to ridicule Ward but was following the verbal exchange on social media after Ward had mocked the statistical production of Colorado walk-on receiver Kaleb Mathis.

"Bruh you had 38 yards last year stop

trying to down play somebody," Ward wrote to Mathis on X.

Another party then jumped in to defend Mathis and posted Ward's own stats from 2023, which included only eight solo tackles.

"Man go take a seat," the Colorado supporter wrote as he posted Ward's stats.

That's when Sanders jumped in and responded to the latter remark with "Lawd Jesus."

He explained this in the recent interview.

"I try my best to refrain, but like when you posted like stats, I said, 'Lawd Jesus,' like dang, he really went at him, he really shot him," Deion Sanders said

in the interview. "That's really what I meant, and I think that was taken wrong. I think that was taken sideways or something else."

## What triggered all of this?

An article in The Athletic last week revisited how Sanders overhauled his roster last year after he inherited a 1-11 team from 2022. One of the many Colorado players Sanders effectively ran off was Xavier Smith, who transferred to Austin Peay and was quoted in the article criticizing how Sanders handled the situation. He said Sanders was "destroying guys' confidence and belief in themselves."

Shedeur Sanders then came to his dad's defense on X, saying he didn't remember Smith and that "Bro had to be very mid (average) at best."

Mathis also jabbed at Smith on X, leading Ward of Austin Peay to defend his own teammate.

Deion Sanders said he didn't understand why the article was revisiting this a year later with Smith, whom he said he barely remembered.

"You go find somebody to badmouth us that ain't there with us — why you ain't talking about the team you with or getting ready to go to?" Deion Sanders asked in the interview. "Why us?"

Sanders said he never trash-talked on the field as a player. "But every once in a while I want to play, you know, and then, I get petty, you know, every once in a while," Deion Sanders said.

He said he's used to the outside noise.

"I don't lose no sleep over it," he said in the interview. "I could have a tumultuous day in the eyes of others but to me it was a good day. Because you know why? They talking. They talking. They talking."

# Notre Dame men lead favorites in NCAA lacrosse tournament

Eddie Timanus  
USA TODAY

Comic legend W. C. Fields might have meant “I’d rather be in Philadelphia” as a putdown of his birth city. But Philadelphia is the ultimate goal for the nation’s top men’s lacrosse teams as the quest for Championship Weekend and the right to play for the NCAA Division I title on Memorial Day is officially upon us.

The 17-team bracket was unveiled Sunday night. The road to Philly officially gets underway Wednesday as Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference champion and first-time tournament participant Sacred Heart visits America East champ Albany in a play-in game. The top eight seeds will then host first-round contests this weekend, with the winners advancing to quarterfinal sites in Hempstead, New York, and Towson, Maryland, a week later.

Whether you’re a longtime follower or are new to the sport, here are a few things to know about this year’s championship field.

## The favorites for the men’s tournament

Notre Dame claimed the program’s first national title a year ago, and the top-seeded Fighting Irish appear to have every intention of repeating. They enter this year’s tournament on a 10-game winning streak, having just blown through the ACC tournament with routs of Virginia and Duke. Those familiar with the sport’s history won’t be surprised to see traditional names like Johns Hopkins and Syracuse near the top of the bracket, but both those storied programs will be seeking their first national crowns in well over a decade.

## Who are the top players in NCAA tournament?

The brother tandem of Pat and Chris Kavanagh are still at Notre Dame terrorizing opposing defenses. They enter the NCAA tournament with 59 points each, 22 goals and 37 assists in Pat’s case and 29 and 30 for Chris. Veteran goalie Liam Entenmann, the 2023 championship weekend MVP, is also back for the Irish.

## NCAA LACROSSE MEN’S TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**Play-in game**  
**Wednesday, May 9**  
Sacred Heart (13-4) at Albany (9-7), 7 p.m. EDT

**First round**  
**Saturday, May 11**  
Saint Joseph’s (12-3) at No. 6 Virginia (10-5), noon  
Utah (12-4) at No. 2 Duke (12-5), 2:30 p.m.  
Michigan (10-6) at No. 5 Denver (11-3), 5 p.m.  
Princeton (11-4) at No. 7 Maryland (8-5), 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 12**  
Lehigh (9-6) at No. 3 Johns Hopkins (10-4), noon  
Penn State (11-4) at No. 8 Georgetown (12-3), 2:30 p.m.  
Albany-Sacred Heart winner at No. 1 Notre Dame (12-1), 5 p.m.  
Towson (13-3) at No. 4 Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.

**Quarterfinals**  
**Saturday, May 18**  
**At James M. Shuart Stadium, Hempstead, N.Y.**  
Albany-Sacred Heart-Notre Dame winner vs. Penn State-Georgetown winner, TBA  
Utah-Duke winner vs. Princeton-Maryland winner, TBA

**Sunday, May 19**  
**At Johnny Unitas Stadium, Towson, Md.**  
Saint Joseph’s-Virginia winner vs. Lehigh-Johns Hopkins winner, TBA  
Towson-Syracuse winner vs. Michigan-Denver winner, TBA

**Semifinals**  
**Saturday, May 25**  
**At Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia**  
Saint Joseph’s-Virginia-Lehigh-Johns Hopkins winner vs. Utah-Duke-Princeton-Maryland winner, TBA  
Towson-Syracuse-Michigan-Denver winner vs. Albany-Sacred Heart-Notre Dame-Penn State-Georgetown winner, TBA

**Championship game**  
**At Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia**  
**Monday, May 27**  
Semifinal winners, TBA

Duke attackman Brennan O’Neill (49 G, 25 A), the reigning Tewaaraton Award winner, also seeks a return trip to Philly with the Blue Devils.

Other names to know include Virginia attackman Connor Shellenberger, Maryland defenseman Ajax Zappitello and Georgetown midfielder Aidan Carroll.

# Northwestern leads way in NCAA lacrosse women’s tournament

Eddie Timanus  
USA TODAY

The women’s NCAA lacrosse tournament bracket is out, with the 2024 champion set to be crowned on Sunday, May 26, in Cary, North Carolina.

The 29-team field was announced Sunday, with first- and second-round games slated to start this weekend. Like their counterparts on the men’s side, the women’s field is heavily dominated by the power leagues, with the ACC receiving six bids and the Big Ten claiming five. On the whole, however, the women’s field is more nationally representative than the men’s tournament with more schools in the western half of the country fielding varsity programs at the sport’s top level.

A quick look at the tournament:

## Who are the top women’s teams?

Defending champion Northwestern is the top seed. The Wildcats, longtime powers in the Midwest under head coach Kelly Amonte Hiller, will be seeking their ninth title. Boston College and Syracuse earned the next two seeds, and those three have first-round byes. The rest of the field, headed by fourth-seeded Maryland and No. 5 Virginia, must win their way into the round of 16.

## Who are the top players in the tournament?

Northwestern features reigning Tewaaraton Award winner Izzy Scane, the school’s all-time scoring leader who has added 70 goals and 17 assists to her ledger this season. She’s hardly alone on the Wildcats’ devastating attack unit, however, as Madison Taylor (66 G, 27 A) and Erin Coykendall (35 G, 44 A) are just as dangerous.

Pacing Boston College is the attack trio of Rachel Clark, Mckenna Davis and Emma LoPinto. Syracuse has an Emma of its own, midfielder Emma Tyrrell (58 G, 18 A), hoping to lead the Orange to their first championship after several near misses in recent years.

Florida attacker Maggi Hall, Loyola (Md.) goalie Lauren Spence and Stanford goalie Lucy Pearson are other potential difference-makers.

## NCAA WOMEN’S LACROSSE SCHEDULE

**First round**  
**Friday, May 10**  
Stanford (13-4) at Denver (15-3), 4 p.m. EDT  
Duke (10-8) at Loyola Marymount (17-2), 4 p.m.  
Richmond (13-5) at No. 8 Penn (13-4), 7 p.m.  
Long Island (11-7) at No. 6 Virginia, 3 p.m.  
North Carolina (10-6) at Florida (17-2), 6 p.m.  
James Madison (13-5) at Penn State (11-7), 3 p.m.  
Robert Morris (8-11) at No. 4 Maryland (12-5), noon  
Niagara (16-3) at Stony Brook (17-2), 2 p.m.  
Fairfield (16-2) at Johns Hopkins (11-7), 4 p.m.  
Binghamton (12-6) at No. 6 Yale (15-2), 1 p.m.  
Coastal Carolina (14-5) at No. 7 Notre Dame (15-3), 1 p.m.  
Mercer (14-5) at Michigan (14-3), 4 p.m.  
Drexel (13-5) at Princeton (10-6), 4 p.m.

**Second round**  
**Sunday, May 12**  
Stanford-Denver winner at No. 1 Northwestern (15-2), 2 p.m.  
Duke-Loyola Marymount winner vs. Richmond-Penn winner, 1 p.m.  
Long Island-Virginia winner vs. North Carolina-Florida winner, 1 p.m.  
James Madison-Penn State winner vs. Robert Morris-Maryland winner, 12:30 p.m.  
Stony Brook-Niagara winner at No. 3 Syracuse (14-5), 2 p.m.  
Fairfield-Johns Hopkins winner vs. Binghamton-Yale winner, 2:30 p.m.  
Coastal Carolina-Notre Dame winner vs. Mercer-Michigan winner, noon  
Princeton-Drexel winner at No. 2 Boston College (16-3), noon

**Quarterfinals**  
**Thursday, May 16**  
Stanford-Denver-Northwestern winner vs. Duke-Loyola Marymount-Richmond-Penn winner, TBA  
Long Island-Virginia-North Carolina-Florida winner vs. James Madison-Penn State-Robert Morris-Maryland winner, TBA  
Stony Brook-Niagara-Syracuse winner vs. Fairfield-Johns Hopkins-Binghamton-Yale winner, TBA  
Coastal Carolina-Notre Dame-Michigan-Mercer winner vs. Princeton-Drexel-Boston College winner, TBA

**Semifinals**  
**Friday, May 24**  
**At WakeMed Soccer Park, Cary, N.C.**  
Quarterfinal winners, 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

**Championship game**  
**Sunday, May 26**  
**At WakeMed Soccer Park, Cary, N.C.**  
Semifinal winners, noon

# Snoop Dogg gets his own bowl game in Arizona

Jordan Mendoza  
USA TODAY

Snoop Dogg is ready to “bring the juice” back to college football. Gin and juice that is.

The rap icon is getting into the bowl sponsorship game, and the Arizona Bowl will officially be known as the Snoop Dogg Arizona Bowl presented by Gin & Juice By Dre and Snoop.

Launched in February, Gin & Juice By Dre and Snoop is a nod to the famous song with Dr. Dre off Snoop’s 1993 album “Doggystyle.” As the presenting sponsor, it marks the first time an NCAA-

sanctioned bowl game will be presented by an alcohol product.

“It’s time that we get back to the roots of college football. When it was focused on the colleges, the players, the competition, the community, the fan experience and the pageantry,” Snoop said in social media video. “It’s only fitting that I step up and help get this thing right. I’m ready to bring the juice back to college football.”

The game, previously known as the Barstool Sports Arizona Bowl, matches a team from the Mountain West Conference and Mid-American Conference at



Snoop Dogg

Arizona Stadium in Tucson, home of the Arizona Wildcats. The deal with Snoop is a multi-year sponsorship, according to bowl organizers, and was brought together by the game’s consulting partners, Playfly Sports.

“We’re thrilled about our groundbreaking partnership with Snoop and Gin & Juice By Dre and Snoop,” Kym Adair, executive director of the Arizona Bowl, said in a statement. “This year, the Arizona Bowl is bringing sports, libations, and entertainment into a singular bowl game, and we are changing

the definition of what a brand partnership is in the NCAA.”

Snoop has long been part of football, including the launch of his Snoop Youth Football League in 2005. He was frequently seen at Southern Cal games during the program’s dominance in the 2000s, and his son Cordell Broadus was a member of the UCLA football team before stepping away from the game.

In addition to the game, a “SNOOPER Bowl” will take place, which will bring “the top California and Arizona youth football teams to battle it out.” The Arizona Bowl will take place on the afternoon of Dec. 28.

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<p><b>NOTICES</b></p> <p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p><b>GovMVT Government Purchasing Cooperative</b> Master Agreement for EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM Issue Date: May 2, 2024 Proposals Due: June 4, 2024, 2:00pm EST RFP # 24-33</p> <p>The University of North Florida (herein "Lead Public Agency") on behalf of itself and the GOVMVT Government Purchasing Cooperative, the members of the Advisory Council and all states, local governments, school districts, and higher education institutions in the United States of America, and other government agencies and nonprofit organizations (herein "Participating Public Agencies") is soliciting proposals from qualified Suppliers to enter into a Master Agreement for a complete offering of Equipment Maintenance Management Program. Interested vendors (also herein referred to as "Contractors" or "Suppliers") will execute and submit all information in accordance with the RFP's General Conditions and Instructions. The resulting contract may be awarded to multiple suppliers. Proposals are due no later than June 4, 2024 at 2:00pm EST.</p> <p>Pre-Proposal Meeting: Scheduled for May 14, 2024 at 3:00pm EST. See Pre-Proposal Meetings on UNF Bid Portal</p> <p>Additional Information: UNF Procurement Services website at: <a href="https://bids.sciquest.com/apps/Router/PublicEvent?CustomerOrg=UNF">https://bids.sciquest.com/apps/Router/PublicEvent?CustomerOrg=UNF</a></p>	<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p><b>GovMVT Government Purchasing Cooperative</b> Master Agreement for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Equipment, and Related Products and Services Issue Date: May 2, 2024 Proposals Due: June 10, 2024 at 3:00pm EST RFP # 24101</p> <p>Hillsborough County Public Schools "HCPS" (herein "Lead Public Agency") on behalf of itself and the GovMVT Government Purchasing Cooperative, the members of the Advisory Council and all states, local governments, school districts, and higher education institutions in the United States of America, and other government agencies and nonprofit organizations (herein "Participating Public Agencies") is soliciting proposals from qualified Suppliers (or "Manufacturer(s)") to enter into a Master Agreement for a complete offering of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Equipment, and Related Products and Services (herein "Products and Services"). Interested vendors (also herein referred to as "Contractors" or "Suppliers") will execute and submit all information in accordance with the RFP's General Conditions and Instructions. The resulting contract may be awarded to multiple suppliers.</p> <p>Proposals are due no later than June 10, 2024 at 3:00pm EST. Last day for technical questions: May 16, 2024 at 12:00pm EST Additional Information: <a href="http://www.myvendorlink.com">www.myvendorlink.com</a></p>	<p><b>CAREERS</b></p> <p><b>EMPLOYMENT</b></p> <p><b>ASSOCIATE GENERAL DENTIST</b> Opportunity. Full-time. \$700.00 - \$800.00 Daily guarantee or % of Collections (whichever is greater); Earnings expected to be \$150k to \$250k per year plus signing bonus! Ideal candidate will be understanding and patient. Candidate will be given full clinical autonomy. Mentorship is available. <b>Please contact us at RecruitmentServices@henryschein.com. AD CODE: DDSIL3025.</b></p> <p><b>BEAUTIFUL SMILES BY DESIGN</b> is in Dalton and Calhoun, GA. We are looking for a General and/or pediatric Dentist at our Dalton location to lead our Practice growth. Our Practices are ultra-high tech, designed to provide premium dentistry to all our patients. We offer excellent compensation and benefits package. Mentorship for implants, Orthodontics, Molar Root canals available. Beautiful Smiles by Design. Tel: (919) 423 6386. E-mail: <a href="mailto:elinahc@beautifulsmilesdentistry.com">elinahc@beautifulsmilesdentistry.com</a></p>	<p><b>EMPLOYMENT</b></p> <p><b>MODERN FAMILY DENTAL OFFICE</b> with an amazing team is seeking a full-time general dentist. Our well-established practice is located on the southern Outer Banks of North Carolina in the highly sought-after Crystal Coast area. Email CV and references to <a href="mailto:Kirsten@crystalcoastdentistry.com">Kirsten@crystalcoastdentistry.com</a>. NC state license is required.</p>	<p><b>REAL ESTATE</b></p> <p><b>REAL ESTATE</b></p> <p><b>PRORealEstate Disposal.COM</b> \$\$\$ OFFER 48 HR 1-800-699-0972</p> <p><b>TRAVEL</b></p> <p><b>CAMPGROUNDS</b></p> <p><b>"The Happiest Place in Montana"</b> <b>Boulder Creek Lodge</b> The Premier Family Vacation Destination</p> <p>"The Happiest Place in Montana" - Boulder Creek Lodge in Hall, Montana is the premier family destination vacation location in Southwest Montana. The resort is located between Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park. Highlights within an hour of Boulder Creek Lodge include a glimpse into the Wild West by visiting the amazing Garnet Ghost Town where you can walk around a town frozen in time since 1900. Plan on spending the day visiting the western legends of outlaw at the Territorial Prison with a stop at the Antique Car Museum down the road from the Grant-Kohrs Ranch, a historical farming legend of the West in Deer Lodge, Montana. In nearby Phillipsburg, Montana, you can pan for gems and sapphires like those in the Wild West did 150 years ago at Montana gems located on Main Street. Be sure to visit the Sweet Palace, an incredible candy store featuring salt water taffy made on site, sure to be a family favorite.</p> <p><b>Boulder Creek Lodge Montana</b> Call 406-859-3190 <a href="http://www.bouldercreeklodgemontana.com">www.bouldercreeklodgemontana.com</a></p>
<p>To advertise in USA TODAY, call: 1-800-397-0070</p>				

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# 2 rich, opinionated owners want to fix racing



**Dan Wolken**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A short path through the Churchill Downs backstretch connects the barns of Todd Pletcher and Brad Cox, trainers who annually come to the Kentucky Derby with some of the top 3-year-olds in America.

On a typical Derby-week walk between those two barns, which are always constant hubs of activity, you'll hear no shortage of opinions about who's looking good, who's been training poorly and who's going to win the race.

But last week, if you know where to look, a more interesting conversation was taking place between regularly dressed, highly successful businessmen with insanely deep pockets, unbridled ambitions and a plethora of opinions on how to reverse horse racing's decades-long decline.

One of them is Mike Repole, who rose from an entry-level job in the beverage business to co-founding the companies that pioneered vitaminwater and Body Armour. His passion project as a Thoroughbred owner has led to large-scale success at the highest level of the game — except in this race.

The other is John Stewart, who progressed from an hourly line worker at Toyota to management and eventually private equity. After years in the game as a serious handicapper and gambler, he decided last year to jump into horse ownership and has spent tens of millions in a short period of time to build Resolute Racing, with more purchases coming at a head-spinning pace. At last year's Breeders' Cup, he met Sheikh Fahad Al-Thani of Qatar Racing, a relationship that led to Stewart purchasing 25% of Just a Touch shortly after his debut in January. In the Derby, Just a Touch finished last.

Both talk bluntly about the problems in horse racing. They both have lots of ideas about how to fix them. And at the end of the day, they have both invested massive amounts of money into this because they truly love the sport.

They just see things through a different lens.

## Trash talk on social media

How did their beef begin?

Repole has jokingly (or maybe not so jokingly) appointed himself "commissioner" of horse racing while announcing last October that he was launching and funding a National Thoroughbred Alliance in an attempt to unify various factions of the sport.

In March, Stewart posted a long essay on X, formerly Twitter, saying that racing's problems can't be solved by a single person or a "commissioner."

Repole responded on X by calling Stewart an "arrogant, free spending new kid on the block" and "shallow rich guy." From there, their public back-and-forth devolved into more nicknames, sarcastic poems, talk of \$8 haircuts and photo-shopped pictures of the two of them interacting in strange ways: Just a couple of regular loudmouths with an affinity for social media who happen to have millions upon millions to play among the world's elite.

"What I have against Mike is he's going down this approach like Donald Trump and Elon Musk have, like you know, creating controversy and attention, and I don't think that's what the sport needs," Stewart said. "It's not like the sport got in trouble with like one thing. It's been years of things and it's actually just lack of sophistication. I've been, like, overwhelmed with lack of sophistication on certain aspects of the sport."

Said Repole: "I've had backlash before for things I've done,

but this is just, like, common sense. There's no systems and processes in the sport. Nobody has figured out how to put it together. I think there's like 10 major spokes on the wheel of racing, from breeding to sales to racing, and everybody wants 90% of the spokes fixed — but don't fix mine. Nobody wants to be the first spoke that gets replaced or repaired.

"And getting to the next step has been tough. I think it takes someone who's vocal. I think it has to take someone who is obviously a big player in the game. And then someone who doesn't give a (expletive) whether he's liked or not — because I don't care. I know I'm doing this for the right reasons."

The thing is, horse racing needs both of them to be leaders and innovators — not just because of their purchasing power or social media prowess but because they did not come from and are not beholden to the Thoroughbred industry's stodgy, elitist old guard.

And maybe, at least on the big-picture stuff, their ideas actually aren't that far apart.

In lengthy conversations with both last week that centered on the future of the sport, it was interesting that they both brought up Formula 1.

During Derby week, Repole was walking around with a documentary film crew for an unspecified, self-funded project that could maybe turn into something akin to the "Drive to Survive" series on Netflix.

Repole has talked for years about horse racing having a public relations problem and thinks the focus on horse deaths — as tragic as they might be — is out of balance with the reality of what happens on the backstretch, the care that is given to these majestic animals and continued improvements in safety. "Part of how you improve racing is you try to show a different side of racing that people don't see," he said. "Here, nobody wants to do it."

But as Stewart points out, F1 didn't turn around its business just because of a TV show or publicity but rather a holistic change in the way the sport engaged with fans after being purchased by Liberty Media in 2016. One small example: If you go to an F1 track, you can buy merchandise associated with your favorite driver or racing team. Why isn't horse racing doing the same, he wonders? And F1 doesn't have the biggest inherent advantage that horse racing does: gambling.

Imagine, for instance, different kinds of prop bets or parlays where you could go to the track and wager on how many races your favorite jockey, trainer or owner might win on a certain day. It's not just about money; it's little ways to get your small dollar or young fans emotionally invested in people.

"There's lots of issues, but lots of opportunities," Stewart said. "The industry doesn't have one problem. The industry has 1,000 problems and it needs 1,000 tiny solutions."

Contrary to most new owners who want quick satisfaction from the auction ring to the racetrack, Stewart's buying philosophy has focused primarily on broodmares and regenerating strong bloodlines in American racing that he says have been depleted by sales to overseas interests.

He has lots of other ideas he's pursuing, too, from the development of a portable CT scan machine that could quickly look at a horse's legs before and after they run; using AI to help identify precursors to breakdowns, to individually packaged meals for his horses that would potentially eliminate contamination issues that cause positive drug tests.

"These are athletes, right?" Stewart said. "If you have a Grade 1 winning stakes horse and you have a claimer, they're getting the exact same nutrition. It makes no sense. This could end up being a whole



**Fierceness makes a face as racehorse owner Mike Repole helps clean him after a workout last week at Churchill Downs.**

MATT STONE/THE LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL

business, right? I look for industries all the time where things are disrupted. A good investor doesn't go where everybody else goes to make money. They go where everybody else thinks they can't make money, and that's where they go to make money."

## The 'board game that comes with no instructions'

Beyond the social media barbs and personal rivalry,

there's real substance and value to having both of them in the game at the highest level.

What Repole has that Stewart doesn't are the scars of an industry that has been undeniably difficult to change and a sport that has seen its share of billionaires come and go.

"Horse racing is this incredible board game that comes with no instructions," he said. "Sometimes an owner will come in here with money and latches on to somebody and wants to spend \$10 million, and

two years later gets nothing and says, 'Man, I should have bought a yacht.'"

Repole has not walked away despite plenty of heartbreak and frustration — especially here, in the race he most wants to win. Not only are Repole-owned horses 0-for-8 in the Derby with fifth place being his best finish after this year's favorite Fierceness finished 15th, he's had to scratch the favorite twice the day before the race.

Given their passion for racing and affinity for disruption, Repole and Stewart are both likely to be part of the Derby picture — and the sport's political future — for years to come.

Last month at a horse auction in Lexington, Kentucky, they took a smiling picture together and posted it to X, where the "commissioner" introduced Stewart as the "Repole Stable fan of the month" — a light-hearted nod to their disagreements. In turn, Stewart announced that Repole had made a significant donation to the poker tournament he was organizing for Derby week to support Thoroughbred aftercare.

Maybe together they can figure out how to fix horse racing after all.

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### NOTICES

#### LEGAL NOTICE

#### If You Received This Notice You May be Eligible for Payment from a Class Action Settlement

A proposed Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit known as *Moure v. DialAmerica Marketing, Inc.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-00625-OAW (D. Ct.). This lawsuit arises out of a data breach that was discovered by DialAmerica Marketing, Inc. ("DialAmerica or Defendant") on or about July 4, 2021 and announced on or around April 6, 2022 (the "Data Incident"). The information that may have been accessed in the Data Incident includes full names, addresses, Social Security numbers, employer-assigned identification numbers (collectively, called "PII"), and in some instances, personal health information ("PHI"). Defendant disagrees with Plaintiff's claims.

#### WHO IS INCLUDED?

If you receive Notice of this Settlement, the Claims Administrator has identified you as a Settlement Class Member and individual whose PII was potentially accessed as a result of the Data Incident.

#### WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

Settlement Class Members can receive the following benefits from the Settlement: (1) up to \$600 for documented out-of-pocket expenses, which includes reimbursement for up to five (5) hours of lost time spent dealing with the Data Incident (\$15 per hour), and (2) for a Settlement Class Member who was the victim of actual documented identity theft reimbursement for extraordinary losses up to \$6,000 for documented expenses. Defendant also agrees to update business practices and enhance security. Defendant will pay a \$50 cash benefit to Settlement Class Members who resided in California between February 2, 2021 and July 9, 2021 and who submit a timely claim. These settlement benefits are subject to an aggregate cap as set forth in section 2.9 of the Settlement Agreement. Settlement Class Members may also claim 2-years of credit monitoring through IDX.

The only way to receive benefits from the proposed Settlement is to file a claim. Claim Forms may be submitted online or mailed to the Claims Administrator at: DialAmerica Claims Administrator, 1650 Arch Street, Suite 2210, Philadelphia, PA 19103. The deadline to file a claim is July 30, 2024.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

- **Do nothing.** You will not receive any benefits from the Settlement. You will be legally bound by decisions of the Court and you give up your right to sue the Defendant relating to the claims resolved by this Settlement.
- **Exclude Yourself.** If you do not want to be included in the Settlement, you must submit a written request to the Claims Administrator, Settlement Class Counsel, and Defendant's Counsel by **June 30, 2024**. You will keep your right to sue Defendant about the claims in this case, but you will not receive money. Detailed instructions on how to exclude yourself are found at [www.DialAmericaDataSettlement.com](http://www.DialAmericaDataSettlement.com).
- **Object/Comment.** You have the right to object to or comment on the Settlement and still get benefits. If you want to object to or tell the Court what you think about the Settlement, you must submit your objection/comment in writing by **June 30, 2024**. Detailed instructions on how to object or comment are found at [www.DialAmericaDataSettlement.com](http://www.DialAmericaDataSettlement.com).

The Court has scheduled a Final Fairness Hearing for the Settlement of this case on **August 19, 2024** to consider: 1) whether to approve the Settlement; 2) any objections; 3) the requests for awards to the Settlement Class Representatives; and 4) the request for an award of attorneys' fees of up to \$600,000 and class representative costs of \$2,000 each. You may attend the Final Approval Hearing and ask to be heard by the Court, but you do not have to attend.

This is only a summary. For more information about the settlement and benefits, visit [www.DialAmericaDataSettlement.com](http://www.DialAmericaDataSettlement.com), or call 1-844-777-8861.

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, ALEXANDRIA DIVISION  
In re: ENVIVA INC., et al., Chapter 11, Case No. 24 - 10453 (BFC)  
Debtors. (Jointly Administered)

**NOTICE OF DEADLINES FOR FILING PROOFS OF CLAIM**  
**THE GENERAL CLAIMS BAR DATE IS JUNE 14, 2024**  
**THE GOVERNMENTAL CLAIMS BAR DATE IS SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**Deadlines for Filing Proofs of Claim.** On April 12, 2024, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (the "Court") entered an order (the "Bar Date Order") establishing certain deadlines for the filing of proofs of claim, including requests for payment under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code, in the chapter 11 cases of the following debtors and debtors in possession (together, the "Debtors"): Debtor, Case Number, EIN # (Last 4 Digits): Enviva Aircraft Holdings Corp., 24 - 10460, 3879; Enviva Development Finance Company, LLC, 24 - 10469, 5445; Enviva Energy Services, LLC, 24 - 10462, 8414; Enviva GP, LLC, 24 - 10463, 3583; Enviva Holdings GP, LLC, 24 - 10465, 7930; Enviva Holdings, LP, 24 - 10470, 8506; Enviva Inc., 24 - 10453, 7730; Enviva Management Company, LLC, 24 - 10461, 0857; Enviva MLP International Holdings, LLC, 24 - 10464, 0965; Enviva Partners Finance Corp., 24 - 10472, 8925; Enviva Pellets Bond, LLC, 24 - 10466, 7437; Enviva Pellets Epes Finance Company, LLC, 24 - 10473, 3359; Enviva Pellets Epes Holdings, LLC, 24 - 10454, 8672; Enviva Pellets Epes, LLC, 24 - 10471, 5521; Enviva Pellets Greenwood, LLC, 24 - 10455, 0482; Enviva Pellets Lucedale, LLC, 24 - 10456, 9073; Enviva Pellets Waycross, LLC, 24 - 10457, 3402; Enviva Pellets, LLC, 24 - 70505, 9073; Enviva Port of Pascagoula, LLC, 24 - 10458, 8852; Enviva Shipping Holdings, LLC, 24 - 10459, 4873; Enviva, LP, 24 - 10467, 5617.

**The Bar Dates.** Pursuant to subject to the Bar Date Order, all entities (except governmental units), including individuals, partnerships, estates, and trusts who have a claim or potential claim against the Debtors that arose prior to March 12, 2024, no matter how remote or contingent such right to payment or equitable remedy may be, including requests for payment under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code, MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM on or before **June 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Prevailing Time)** (the "General Claims Bar Date"). Governmental entities who have a claim or potential claim against the Debtors that arose prior to March 12, 2024, no matter how remote or contingent such right to payment or equitable remedy may be, MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM on or before **September 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Prevailing Time)** (the "Governmental Bar Date").

**ANY PERSON OR ENTITY WHO FAILS TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, INCLUDING ANY REQUEST FOR PAYMENT UNDER SECTION 503(B)(9) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE ON OR BEFORE THE GENERAL CLAIMS BAR DATE OR GOVERNMENTAL BAR DATE, AS APPLICABLE, SHALL NOT BE TREATED AS A CREDITOR WITH RESPECT TO SUCH CLAIM FOR THE PURPOSES OF VOTING AND DISTRIBUTION ON ANY CHAPTER 11 PLAN.**

**Filing a Proof of Claim.** Each Proof of Claim must be filed or submitted, including supporting documentation, by electronic submission through KCC's website at <https://www.kccf.net/Enviva>, or if submitted through non-electronic means by U.S. Mail, other hand delivery system, which Proof of Claim must include an original

signature, or other overnight mail, so as to be **actually received** by KCC on or before the applicable bar date, at the following address: Enviva Inc. Claims Processing Center, 222 N. Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 300, El Segundo, CA 90245.

**PROOFS OF CLAIM SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE OR ELECTRONIC MAIL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Contents of Proofs of Claim.** Each proof of claim must: (i) be written in English; (ii) include a claim amount denominated in United States dollars; (iii) clearly identify the Debtor against which the claim is asserted; (iv) conform substantially with the Proof of Claim Form provided by the Debtors or Official Form 410; (v) be signed by the claimant or by an authorized agent or legal representative of the claimant on behalf of the claimant, whether such signature is an electronic signature or is ink; and (vi) include as attachments any and all supporting documentation on which the claim is based. **Please note** that each proof of claim that is not authorized to be filed as a master proof of claim must state a claim against only one Debtor and clearly identify the specific Debtor against which the claim is asserted. To the extent that more than one Debtor is listed on the proof of claim, and the claimant is not authorized to file a master proof of claim, such claim may be treated as if filed only against Enviva Pellets, LLC, or if a proof of claim is otherwise filed without identifying a specific Debtor, the proof of claim may be deemed as filed only against Enviva Pellets, LLC.

**Electronic Signatures Permitted.** Proofs of claim signed electronically by the claimant or an authorized agent or legal representative of the claimant may be deemed acceptable for purposes of claims administration. Copies of proofs of claim or proofs of claim sent by facsimile or electronic mail will not be accepted.

**Section 503(b)(9) Requests for Payment.** Any proof of claim and/or priority asserting a claim arising under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code must also (i) include the value of the goods delivered to and received by the Debtors in the 20 days prior to the Petition Date; (ii) attach any documentation identifying the particular invoices for which such 503(b)(9) claim is being asserted; and (iii) attach documentation of any reclamation demand made to the Debtors under section 546(c) of the Bankruptcy Code (if applicable).

**Additional Information.** If you have any questions regarding the claims process and/or wish to obtain a copy of the Bar Date Notice, a proof of claim form or related documents you may do so by: (i) calling the Debtors' restructuring hotline at (888) 249-2695 or (310) 751-2601 (international); and/or (ii) visiting the Debtors' restructuring website at: <https://www.kccf.net/Enviva>.

**/s/ Jeremy S. Williams, KUTAK ROCK LLP,** Michael A. Condyles (VA 27807), Peter J. Barrett (VA 46179), Jeremy S. Williams (VA 77469), 901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1000, Richmond, Virginia 23219-4071, Telephone: (804) 644-1700, Facsimile: (804) 783-6192. Email: [michael.condyles@kutakrock.com](mailto:michael.condyles@kutakrock.com); [peter.barrett@kutakrock.com](mailto:peter.barrett@kutakrock.com); and **VINSON & ELKINS LLP,** David S. Meyer (admitted pro hac vice), Jessica C. Peet (admitted pro hac vice), The Grace Building, 1114 Avenue of the Americas, 32nd Floor, New York, New York 10036-7708, Telephone: (212) 237-0000, Facsimile: (212) 237-0100, Email: [dsmeyer@velaw.com](mailto:dsmeyer@velaw.com); [jpeet@velaw.com](mailto:jpeet@velaw.com); and Matthew J. Pyeatt (admitted pro hac vice), Trevor G. Spears (admitted pro hac vice), Trammell Crow Center, 2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 3900, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone: (214) 220-7700, Facsimile: (214) 220-7716, Email: [mjpyeatt@velaw.com](mailto:mjpyeatt@velaw.com); [tspears@velaw.com](mailto:tspears@velaw.com), Proposed Co-Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

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WESTERN CONFERENCE

Table with 6 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Lists teams like Real Salt Lake, Houston, D.C. United, etc.

Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Saturday's Games

Noronto vs. New York City, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia vs. Orlando City, 7:30 p.m. NY Red Bulls vs. New England, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's Game

Portland vs. Seattle, 4:45 p.m.

Champions League SEMIFINALS

First Leg Tuesday, April 30 Bayern Munich 2, Real Madrid 2 Wednesday, May 1 Borussia Dortmund 1, PSG 0

Europa League SEMIFINALS

First Leg Thursday, May 2 AS Roma 0, Bayer Leverkusen 2 Wednesday's Games Houston vs. Gotham FC, 8 p.m.

NWSL

Wednesday's Games Houston vs. Gotham FC, 8 p.m. Seattle Reign vs. KC Current, 10 p.m.

NBA

Playoffs SECOND ROUND (Best-of-7; x- if necessary) Eastern Conference New York Knicks 1, Indiana Pacers 0

Western Conference Los Angeles Lakers 1, Memphis Grizzlies 0 Tuesday's Games

Monday's Game Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games Fulham vs. Man City, 7:30 a.m.

Monday's Game Arsenal 3, Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games

Monday's Game Arsenal 3, Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games

Monday's Game Arsenal 3, Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games

TBD, TNT x-Saturday, May 18: Thunder vs. Mavericks, 5:30, ESPN

NHL

Playoffs SECOND ROUND

(Best-of-7; x- if necessary) Eastern Conference New York Rangers 1, Carolina Hurricanes 0

Western Conference Colorado Avalanche vs. Dallas Stars Tuesday: Avalanche vs. Stars, 9:30, TNT

Wednesday's Games L.A. Angels at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.

Thursday's Games Baltimore at Washington, 6:45 p.m.

Friday's Games Houston at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.

Saturday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Sunday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

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Sunday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Monday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Tuesday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Chicago 5, Milwaukee 0 Miami 12, Oakland 3

Monday's Scores

Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 1 Cleveland 2, Detroit 1 Pittsburgh 4, L.A. Angels 1

Tuesday's Games Detroit at Cleveland Arizona at Cincinnati

Wednesday's Games L.A. Angels at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.

Thursday's Games Baltimore at Washington, 6:45 p.m.

Friday's Games Houston at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.

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Tuesday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.



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WNBA to allow charters for all teams this season

The WNBA will begin charter travel for all 12 teams this season "as soon as we logistically can get planes in places."

The change in the way the best women's basketball players will travel to games will end the league's long-standing policy of mandated regular-season commercial flights.

"We intend to fund a full-time charter for this season," Engelbert said. "We're going to as soon as we can get it up and running."

The WNBA's decision comes as the league is seeing unprecedented growth, ticket sales and interest as the most recognizable rookie class in WNBA history, led by Caitlin Clark.

This season, the league was already planning to allow teams to charter when playing back-to-back games as well as during the playoffs but otherwise fly commercially.

SOCCER

English Premier League

Table with 7 columns: Team, GP, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Lists Arsenal, Manchester City, Liverpool, etc.

Monday's Game Crystal Palace 4, Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games

Monday's Game Arsenal 3, Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games

Monday's Game Arsenal 3, Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games

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Monday's Game Arsenal 3, Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games

Monday's Game Arsenal 3, Manchester United 0 Saturday's Games

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Table with 6 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Lists Real Salt Lake, Houston, D.C. United, etc.

Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Saturday's Games Toronto vs. New York City, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's Game Portland vs. Seattle, 4:45 p.m.

Monday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Tuesday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Wednesday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Thursday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Friday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Saturday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Sunday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Monday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Tuesday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Wednesday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Thursday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

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Saturday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Sunday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Monday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Tuesday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Wednesday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Thursday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Friday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

Saturday's Games Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:40 p.m.

MLB

American League East Division

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Baltimore, N.Y. Yankees, Boston, Tampa Bay.

Central Division

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Cleveland, Minnesota, Kansas City, Detroit, Chicago.

West Division

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Texas, Seattle, Oakland, Houston, L.A. Angels.

National League East Division

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Philadelphia, Atlanta, Washington, N.Y. Mets, Miami.

Central Division

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Milwaukee, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis.

West Division

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists L.A. Dodgers, San Diego, Arizona, San Francisco, Colorado.

Sunday's Scores

Washington 11, Toronto 8 N.Y. Yankees 5, Detroit 2

Pittsburgh 5, Colorado 3 Cleveland 4, L.A. Angels 1

Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Mets 6 Seattle 5, Houston 4

Texas 3, Kansas City 2 Boston 9, Minnesota 2

Chicago 5, St. Louis 1

Chicago 5, Milwaukee 0 Miami 12, Oakland 3

Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 1 Cleveland 2, Detroit 1

Tampa Bay 8, Chicago 2 Kansas City 3, Milwaukee 2

GOLF

PGA Tour Statistics

Through May 7 Season Points 1, Scottie Scheffler, 3,915. 2, Wyndham Clark, 1,892.

Scoring Average

1, Scottie Scheffler, 68.74. 2, Billy Horschel, 69.86. 3, Alex Noren, 69.92.

Driving Accuracy Percentage

1, Shane Lowry, 81.55%. 2, Sepp Straka, 79.74%. 3, Tommy Fleetwood, 79.10%.

Greens in Regulation Percentage

1, Scottie Scheffler, 74.76%. 2, Alex Noren, 73.02%. 3, Corey Conners, 72.09%.

Total Driving

1, Rory McIlroy, 41.2. Ryan Palmer, 60.3. Carl Yuan, 64.4.

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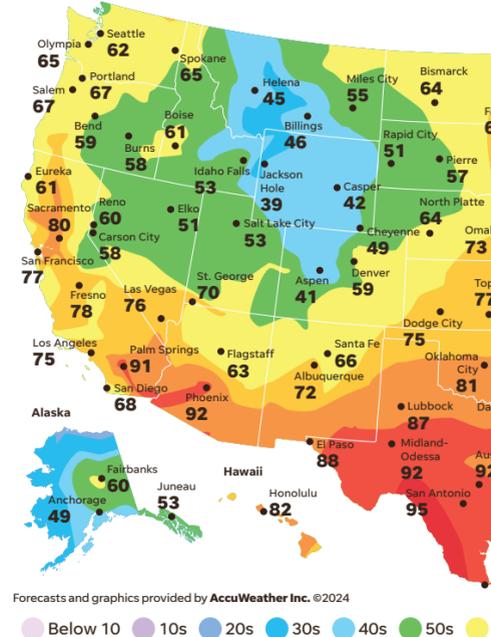
TODAY'S FORECAST

Another significant day of severe weather is forecast for today with the main focus across the Ohio, Tennessee and mid-Mississippi valleys.

Farther south, spotty afternoon thunderstorms are in store across the mid-Atlantic and the Southeast while much of the Gulf Coast will remain dry.

Meanwhile, a storm will continue to spread low-elevation rain and high-elevation snow across the northern Rockies while showers dot the northern Plains.

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



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PRECIPITATION FORECAST

T-storms Rain Snow Ice/mix



EXTREMES

Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday. HOTTEST: 91° Plant City, Fla. COLDEST: 18° Dakota Hill, Colo.

TOP TRAVEL CITIES

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Air quality index (AQI). Lists Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Honolulu, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles.

TODAY THU

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Air quality index (AQI). Lists Cincinnati, Cleveland, Colorado Springs, Columbia, S.C., Allentown, Pa., Amarillo, Texas, Anaheim, Calif., Anchorage, Alaska, Aspen, Colo., Atlantic City, N.J., Augusta, Ga., Austin, Texas, Bakersfield, Calif., Baton Rouge, La., Billings, Mont., Birmingham, Ala., Bismarck, N.D., Boise, Idaho, Buffalo, N.Y., Burlington, Vt., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Charleston, S.C., Charleston, W.Va., Cheyenne, Wyo.

TODAY THU

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Air quality index (AQI). Lists Hartford, Conn., Indianapolis, Ind., Islip, N.Y., Jackson, Miss., Jacksonville, Fla., Jacksonvilleville, Fla., Kansas City, Mo., Key West, Fla., Knoxville, Tenn., Laredo, Texas, Lexington, Ky., Little Rock, Ark., Long Beach, Calif., Louisville, Ky., Lubbock, Texas, Madison, Wis., Manchester, N.H., Memphis, Tenn., Milwaukee, Wis., Mobile, Ala., Modesto, Calif., Montgomery, Ala., Myrtle Beach, S.C., Nags Head, N.C., Nashville, Tenn., Newark, N.J., New Haven, Conn., Norfolk, Va., Oakland, Calif., Oklahoma City, Okla., Omaha, Neb., Palm Springs, Calif., Pensacola, Fla., Pierre, S.D., Pittsburgh, Pa., Portland, Maine, Portland, Ore., Providence, R.I., Raleigh, N.C., Rapid City, S.D., Reno, Nev., Richmond, Va., Rochester, N.Y., Sacramento, Calif., San Antonio, Texas, San Jose, Calif., Santa Fe, N.M., Sarasota, Fla., Savannah, Ga., Scottsdale, Ariz., Shreveport, La., Sioux Falls, S.D., South Bend, Ind., Spokane, Wash., Springfield, Mo., Springfield, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., St. Petersburg, Fla., Syracuse, N.Y., Tallahassee, Fla., Tampa, Fla., Toledo, Ohio, Toledo, Kan., Tucson, Ariz., Tupelo, Miss., Tulsa, Okla., Virginia Beach, Va., Wichita, Kan., Wilmington, Del., Winston-Salem, N.C., Worcester, Mass.

TODAY THU

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Air quality index (AQI). Lists Saratoga, Fla., Savannah, Ga., Scottsdale, Ariz., Shreveport, La., Sioux Falls, S.D., South Bend, Ind., Spokane, Wash., Springfield, Mo., Springfield, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., St. Petersburg, Fla., Syracuse, N.Y., Tallahassee, Fla., Tampa, Fla., Toledo, Ohio, Toledo, Kan., Tucson, Ariz., Tupelo, Miss., Tulsa, Okla., Virginia Beach, Va., Wichita, Kan., Wilmington, Del., Winston-Salem, N.C., Worcester, Mass.

TODAY THU

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Air quality index (AQI). Lists Beijing, Buenos Aires, Cancun, Mexico, Dubai, UAE, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, London, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Mumbai, India, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto.

U.S. CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists Akron, Ohio; Albany, N.Y.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Allentown, Pa.; Amarillo, Texas; Anaheim, Calif.; Anchorage, Alaska; Aspen, Colo.; Atlantic City, N.J.; Augusta, Ga.; Austin, Texas; Bakersfield, Calif.; Baton Rouge, La.; Billings, Mont.; Birmingham, Ala.; Bismarck, N.D.; Boise, Idaho; Buffalo, N.Y.; Burlington, Vt.; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Charleston, S.C.; Charleston, W.Va.; Cheyenne, Wyo.

TODAY THU

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists Cincinnati, Cleveland, Colorado Springs, Columbia, S.C., Allentown, Pa., Amarillo, Texas, Anaheim, Calif., Anchorage, Alaska, Aspen, Colo., Atlantic City, N.J., Augusta, Ga., Austin, Texas, Bakersfield, Calif., Baton Rouge, La., Billings, Mont., Birmingham, Ala., Bismarck, N.D., Boise, Idaho, Buffalo, N.Y., Burlington, Vt., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Charleston, S.C., Charleston, W.Va., Cheyenne, Wyo.

TODAY THU

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists Hartford, Conn., Indianapolis, Ind., Islip, N.Y., Jackson, Miss., Jacksonville, Fla., Jacksonvilleville, Fla., Kansas City, Mo., Key West, Fla., Knoxville, Tenn., Laredo, Texas, Lexington, Ky., Little Rock, Ark., Long Beach, Calif., Louisville, Ky., Lubbock, Texas, Madison, Wis., Manchester, N.H., Memphis, Tenn., Milwaukee, Wis., Mobile, Ala., Modesto, Calif., Montgomery, Ala., Myrtle Beach, S.C., Nags Head, N.C., Nashville, Tenn., Newark, N.J., New Haven, Conn., Norfolk, Va., Oakland, Calif., Oklahoma City, Okla., Omaha, Neb., Palm Springs, Calif., Pensacola, Fla., Pierre, S.D., Pittsburgh, Pa., Portland, Maine, Portland, Ore., Providence, R.I., Raleigh, N.C., Rapid City, S.D., Reno, Nev., Richmond, Va., Rochester, N.Y., Sacramento, Calif., San Antonio, Texas, San Jose, Calif., Santa Fe, N.M., Sarasota, Fla., Savannah, Ga., Scottsdale, Ariz., Shreveport, La., Sioux Falls, S.D., South Bend, Ind., Spokane, Wash., Springfield, Mo., Springfield, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., St. Petersburg, Fla., Syracuse, N.Y., Tallahassee, Fla., Tampa, Fla., Toledo, Ohio, Toledo, Kan., Tucson, Ariz., Tupelo, Miss., Tulsa, Okla., Virginia Beach, Va., Wichita, Kan., Wilmington, Del., Winston-Salem, N.C., Worcester, Mass.

TODAY THU

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TODAY THU

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists Beijing, Buenos Aires, Cancun, Mexico, Dubai, UAE, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, London, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Mumbai, India, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto.

# Jalen Brunson lifts Knicks to dramatic win over Pacers

Chris Iseman

NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW YORK – The New York Knicks and Indiana Pacers have intense NBA playoff history, and if Game 1 of the latest chapter is any indication, this series has a good chance to live up to that rich past.

The Knicks overcame a nine-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Pacers 121-117 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Monday night before another raucous and rollicking Madison Square Garden crowd.

Donte DiVincenzo drained a huge 3-pointer with 40.1 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter that put the Knicks up by three and they hung on from there.

Game 2 will be Wednesday (8 p.m. EDT, TNT) at Madison Square Garden.

Nothing about the Knicks' Game 1 came easily, but they again relied on grit and tenacity to pull out the victory.

They had a poor second quarter, getting outscored 31-22 by the Pacers.

And that would've been worse had Isaiah Hartenstein not made a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from beyond half-court as the final seconds of the first half expired. Hartenstein's heave sliced the Knicks' deficit to six points at the break.

The Knicks looked like they were taking control midway through the third quarter, but the Pacers reeled off a 10-0 run to go up by five to get a five-point lead of their own.

Indiana later took a nine-point lead early in the fourth quarter, but the Knicks climbed back, cutting it to one on a 3-pointer from the left wing by DiVincenzo.

Jalen Brunson later drained a pair of free throws to tie it at 109 with 3:29 remaining in the fourth quarter before OG Anunoby got a steal and a fast-break dunk to push the Knicks ahead by two.

Along with DiVincenzo's three, the Knicks made key shots late to stay ahead.

After a tight series with the Sixers in the first round, the Knicks had yet another tight game with the Pacers.

They came out on top in Game 1.



The Knicks' Jalen Brunson (11) scored 40 points for the fourth game in a row. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

## TAKEAWAYS

### Jalen Brunson hits 40 points ... again

The Knicks star guard finished with 43 points on 14 of 26 shooting (1 of 4 from long distance) with six rebounds and six assists.

It was Brunson's fourth consecutive 40-point game.

He again was serenaded with "MVP!" chants throughout the night.

### Josh Hart's all-around game

Hart was fantastic for the Knicks to do a little bit of everything.

He finished with 24 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Hart made a tough layup and drew the foul. He missed the free throw attempt but managed to grab the rebound and got the put-back to cut the Knicks' deficit to one point.

### Tyrese Haliburton not much of offensive factor for Pacers

This was a close game despite Haliburton not providing much scoring for Indiana.

Haliburton finished with 6 points on 2 of 6 shooting. He also had two rebounds, eight assists and four steals.



Bruins defenseman Brandon Carlo moves the puck against the Panthers during the first period of Game 1. SAM NAVARRO/USA TODAY SPORTS

# Bruins player rushes to arena after son's birth, scores goal

Mike Brehm  
USA TODAY

Boston Bruins defenseman Brandon Carlo had quite the day during Game 1 of the NHL Eastern Conference second-round playoff series against the Florida Panthers.

He became a dad to a son around 3 in the morning, flew to Florida and scored a goal in the Bruins' 5-1 victory on Monday.

Carlo missed the team's morning skate in Sunrise, Florida, because of the birth of son Crew, days after he had assisted on David Pastrnak's overtime goal as the Bruins knocked off the Toronto Maple Leafs in Game 7 in a first-round series. It was the second child for Carlo and his wife, Mayson.

The team said it was holding out hope that Carlo would make it to Amerant Bank Arena in time for the 8 p.m. EDT start.

He did. The Bruins social media account showed him arriving about two hours before the game and receiving hugs and congratulations from his fellow players and coach Jim Montgomery.

Carlo, 27, gave teammates more reasons to hug him when he scored with 21 seconds left in the second period. He wristed a shot past a screened Pan-

thers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky for a 3-1 lead.

It banked off the crossbar and in.

"I'm so proud of her," Carlo said to ESPN about his wife. "Bringing that little boy into the world was a super special thing for me and to score tonight for him is something I'll remember forever."

The Bruins and Panthers are meeting in the playoffs for the second consecutive season. Last season the Panthers stunned the record-setting Bruins by coming back from a 3-1 series deficit and winning in Game 7 in overtime.

Florida's Matthew Tkachuk, who had 11 points in last year's series, opened the scoring Monday, but the Bruins responded with goals by Morgan Geekie, Mason Lohrei, Carlo, Justin Brazeau and Jake DeBrusk.

Boston goalie Jeremy Swayman made 38 saves. Carlo skated nearly 19 minutes in the game as Boston beat Florida for the fifth time this season.

"A pretty busy night, didn't know if I was going to make it in time, but sure happy I did," he said.

Game 2 is at 7:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday on ESPN.

In Wednesday's other NHL playoff action, the Edmonton Oilers play at the Vancouver Canucks in the opener of a Western Conference semifinal series at 10 EDT on ESPN.



Kamilla Cardoso poses with WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert after she was selected with the No. 3 pick by the Chicago Sky. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

# WNBA rookie Cardoso will be out 4-6 weeks

Nancy Armour  
USA TODAY

CHICAGO – Kamilla Cardoso, the No. 3 pick in last month's WNBA draft, will miss at least four to six weeks with a shoulder injury.

The Chicago Sky initially announced Cardoso would miss Tuesday's home exhibition against the New York Liberty. But a short time later Monday the team said the rookie center would be sidelined indefinitely and will be re-evaluated in four to six weeks.

Cardoso's injury is a huge blow for the Sky, who were hoping she and Angel Reese would give Chicago one of the WNBA's most formidable front courts. Cardoso and Reese, the No. 7 pick overall, are also proving to be early fan favorites in Chicago, which is trying to rebuild after losing all of its big names from the team that won the WNBA title in 2021.

Brynna Maxwell, taken 13th overall in

the draft, also will miss several weeks. Maxwell has a knee injury, the team said, and will be re-evaluated in three to four weeks.

Cardoso led unbeaten South Carolina to the NCAA title last month, earning Most Outstanding Player honors after finishing with 15 points and a career-high 17 rebounds in the championship game win over Iowa. A two-time All-American, she led the Gamecocks in points (14.4 per game), rebounds (9.7 per game) and blocks (2.5 per game).

Cardoso's injury was announced the same night as the premiere of Full Court Press, a four-part docuseries by Peyton Manning's Omaha Productions and ESPN+ that followed Cardoso, Caitlin Clark and UCLA's Kiki Rice last season. The first two episodes of Full Court Press begin airing Saturday with the remaining two airing Sunday and available after that on ESPN+.

# Dale Jr. joining Amazon and TNT as NASCAR commentator in 2025

Jordan Mendoza  
USA TODAY

With NASCAR set to enter its new media rights deal next season, one of racing's greats will be joining the new TV teams.

Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt Jr. will be joining Amazon Prime Video and TNT Sports as a commentator for both networks when NASCAR's new TV deal begins in 2025. The two-time Daytona 500 winner has been an analyst for NBC's coverage of NASCAR since 2018, but his contract with the network was set to expire by the end of 2024.

TNT Sports will be airing NASCAR races for the first time since 2014, and Earnhardt will be an on-air commentator for Cup Series races. He will also be a contributor to a Bleacher Report content series where he will "capture the thrilling NASCAR experience as he interviews special guests while driving each of TNT's five NASCAR Sprint Cup Series tracks with them in the passenger seat."

"It is such an exciting time to welcome TNT Sports back to NASCAR," Earnhardt Jr said in a statement. "I remember watching the races on TNT back in the day, and it's so nostalgic to see them return to the sport and to be a part of their team."

With Amazon Prime Video joining the NASCAR world next year, it gives the streaming service another big-time name to its live sports coverage.

When Amazon began streaming the NFL's "Thursday Night Football," it nabbed notable announcers Al Mi-



NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt Jr. currently is on NASCAR broadcasts on NBC. ADAM CAIRNS/THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

chaels and Kirk Herbstreit to call games.

With Amazon, Earnhardt will be a broadcaster for races and he will have other roles that have yet to be announced.

"I'm honored to be a part of Prime Video's entrance into NASCAR," Earnhardt said in a statement. "It is an exciting opportunity to have the chance to give our NASCAR fan base yet another way to watch the sport. It will be exciting to see the innovation that Prime Video is going to bring to our sport and the fans."

NASCAR's new media rights deal will run from 2025 to 2031 and still includes NBC and Fox Sports in addition to TNT Sports and Amazon.

NBC and Fox Sports will each have 14 Cup Series races, while TNT Sports and Amazon will split 10 midseason races.

Amazon will also get the rights to air practice round and qualifying events to start the year, and TNT Sports will air the final practice and qualifying rounds of the season on Max and truTV.

# Star arrives for surprising Nationals

Gabe Lacques

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – It may someday be known as the Shortstop Class of 2019, a draft haul baseball enthusiasts evoke as fondly as football fans speak of the 1983 quarterback class, which produced three Hall of Famers.

The No. 2 overall pick: Bobby Witt Jr., who already has a 30-homer, 49-steal season to his credit and totes a .926 OPS for the surprising Kansas City Royals.

Anthony Volpe heard his name called at No. 30, and he now occupies one of the most cherished roles in sports: Batting leadoff, playing shortstop for the New York Yankees.

At No. 42, the Baltimore Orioles selected Gunnar Henderson, who is threatening to add an American League MVP trophy to the Rookie of the Year crown he claimed last year. He's tied for the major league lead with 10 home runs, paired with a .914 OPS.

Now, the sixth overall pick that year has turned the terrific trio into a considerable quartet, while proving that development isn't always linear, that prized prospects are sometimes forced to pack their bags, that an unexpected twist can lead to a golden opportunity.

CJ Abrams has methodically seized that chance, ever since the blockbuster eight-player, trade in August 2022 that sent him from San Diego to Washington in a package for Juan Soto.

He joined a club on its way to 107 losses, that would lose 91 more games the next year, yet would offer him things San Diego could not: a major league job, a runway to fail, a high ceiling for growth.

Less than two years later, both team and player have made startling gains.

Now 23, Abrams, in this early portion of the season, is on pace for a 30-homer, 30-steal season while maintaining a .914 OPS and playing consistently dynamic defense at shortstop.

The Nationals? This week, they'll take their sixth shot at climbing above the .500 mark, a modest but appealing goal in light of their past three seasons and what's to come.

"I think we're going to be really good, really soon," says Abrams.

"I think we're already good."

Going into Tuesday, Washington has won five of its last eight series and led the major leagues with 14 comeback wins. While playoff contention in a loaded National League might prove unrealistic, the Nationals certainly rate somewhere between general pain and significant challenge for opponents.

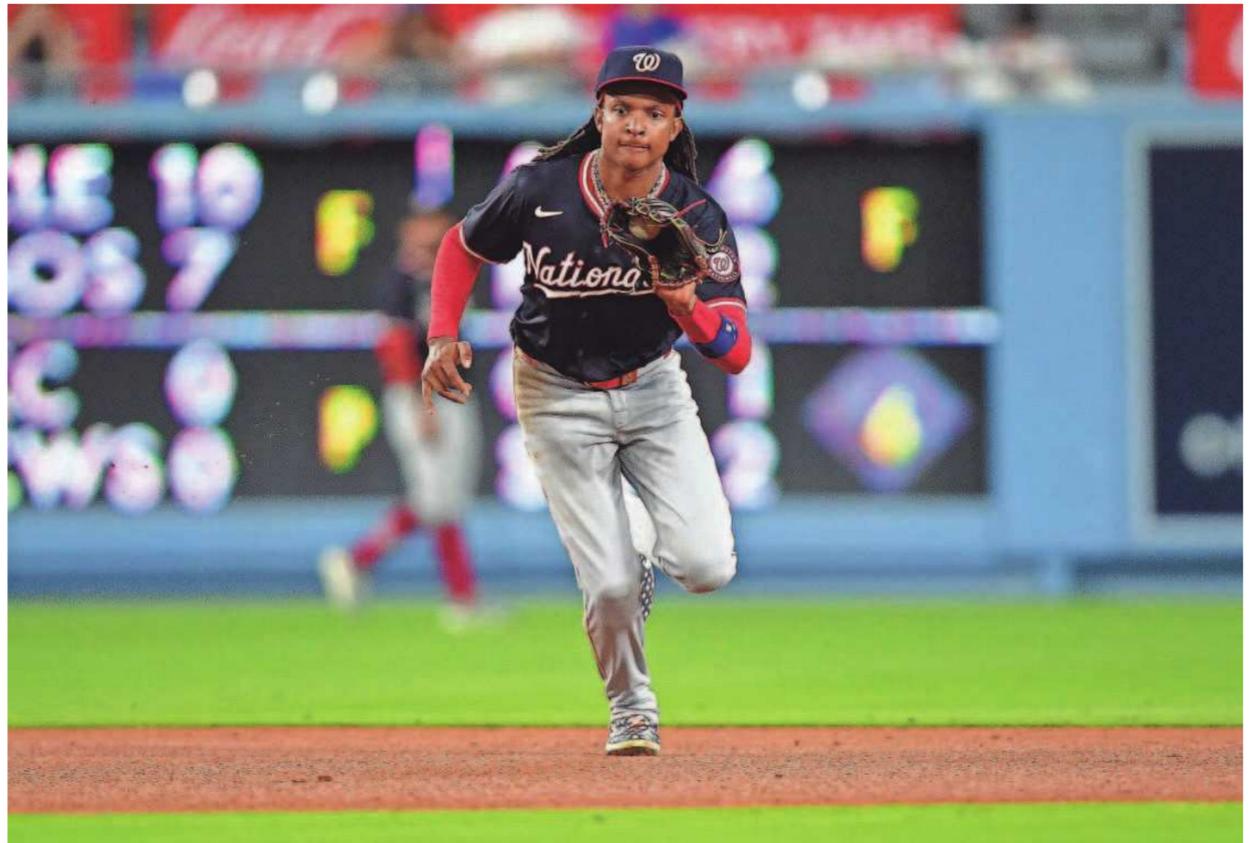
For now, a mix of short-term veterans and long-term talent is blending wonderfully. Yet few doubt they'll eventually align behind their 6-foot-2, 191-pound shortstop.

"He's playing well right now," says left-hander and emerging ace MacKenzie Gore, who came to Washington with Abrams in the Soto deal, "but he's not satisfied."

"And it's kind of a situation where we're going to go as far as he goes."

## 'I knew he was going to be great'

That might have never been the case in San Diego, where uber-aggressive general manager A.J. Preller and late owner Peter Seidler admirably burned assets in pursuit of the Padres' first World Series title. The 2022 Soto deal brought quick gratification – a trip to the NL championship series, where they lost to the Philadelphia Phillies. But a desultory 82-win season followed, and the former Nationals slugger was flipped



CJ Abrams has been playing consistently dynamic defense at shortstop for the Nationals. GARY A. VASQUEZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

to the Yankees last winter.

Abrams was drafted two months after Fernando Tatis Jr. debuted at shortstop and was about to embark on his first season above A ball when Tatis signed a 14-year, \$340 million deal in February 2021.

Shortstop would be blocked for the foreseeable future – Tatis actually moved to right field after shoulder surgery and a PED suspension in 2022 – and the go-go Padres certainly had no time to develop the skinny kid from Georgia.

Though he played 46 games for San Diego in 2022, his old teammates sensed change would open doors for Abrams. They still hold him in high regard.

"I knew he was going to be a great player," says Tatis. "He didn't get a lot of chances here in the big leagues, and didn't get a lot of at-bats, but you could tell that guy was going to be a baller."

"I'm so happy for him."

Says Padres first baseman Jake Cronin: "He's still so young, too. It's incredible to see, and he's gotten to a place where he has an opportunity to play every day. I'm super happy for him."

In Washington, Abrams and Gore represented a second wave of the rebuild, which began in earnest with a six-trade, eight-player implosion in July 2021 that closed the book on nearly a decade of consistently contending.

Abrams spent about a week at Class AAA Rochester (N.Y.), and played 44 games with Washington, quietly taking in the clubhouse and trying to tread water on the field, where he drew just one walk in 163 plate appearances.

"I just kind of went with it," he remembers. "Everything happens for a reason. I'm a firm believer in that."

It was a good reason. Abrams, ranked No. 9 by both Baseball America and MLB Pipeline on 2022 prospect lists, would get a major league apprenticeship, with all the quiet contact and fielding misadventures that came with those early days.

"It was clear they were going to give him the reins and allow him to grow in front of our eyes," says pitcher Josiah Gray, acquired in 2021 in the deal that

sent franchise icons Max Scherzer and Trea Turner to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"With that, it offered a sense of, 'I can mess up and come back the next day and learn from that mistake.' Because if you're not able to learn from your mistakes, you can continue spinning that wheel over and over."

"For him and a lot of the young guys in this clubhouse, we were able to learn from our mistakes, to come back and be better baseball players the next day, the next week. Being allowed those chances means a lot for the progression of CJ Abrams or MacKenzie Gore or (starter) Jake Irvin."

"Because of how much experience matters so much in fulfilling potential."

Says Gore: "Reps help. As frustrating as that is, it's probably the most important thing."

## Getting right, up the middle

It's happening all over the diamond. Abrams has developed significant rapport with second baseman Luis Garcia Jr., who was a top prospect debuting in 2020 and spent his first four seasons falling maddeningly in and out of favor, up and down to the minor leagues.

Manager Dave Martinez has called Garcia his personal project this year on more than one occasion, and Garcia and Abrams spend significant pregame time fielding grounders and working on timing with Nationals infield coach Ricky Gutierrez.

"It's a tight group," says Abrams. "Me and Luis put in work every day together, hit in the cage together, do our ground balls together. His work is paying off as well; it's amazing to see."

Garcia is batting .337 with a .891 OPS and six steals. Abrams has stolen eight bases in 10 attempts and the Nationals shared the major league lead of 57 with Cincinnati.

Martinez is fond of telling his charges that they lead the majors in doubles – which they do if you give them extra credit for every stolen base.

Center fielder Jacob Young ranked fifth in the majors with 12 steals – he began his career 25-for-25 – and his .357

OBP prompted Martinez to lead him off, sliding Abrams to the No. 2 hole.

"There's something really special happening in the middle of the diamond here, between CJ, JY and Luis," says veteran outfielder Jesse Winker. "So cool to see. So cool to just watch them put the work in every day, and not get knocked off the road they're on."

"Because they all have such bright futures, they all play this game really hard, they play it the right way."

## 'It's night and day'

On Tuesday, the Nationals welcomed Henderson and the Orioles for a two-game series. For Abrams, it will revive memories of 2018, when he shared a field with Henderson, Witt and Volpe at the Under Armour All-American Game.

A year later, the quartet heard their names called very early in the draft process, and to this day recall their high school years when they meet up in competition.

"2019's got some good ballplayers," Abrams modestly notes. "And we're gonna put on, for sure. Every time we're out on the field, we have a good time together."

And now, Abrams can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with his peers. His 18 extra-base hits trailed only Witt (19) and Shohei Ohtani (25) in the major leagues. He and the Nationals eagerly await the arrivals of more Soto trade assets, such as slugging outfielder James Wood, who could form a dynamic combo with No. 2 overall pick Dylan Crews.

Yet the foundation is settling. Abrams' regard in the clubhouse is growing along with his slugging percentage, his voice and his bat getting louder, with room to turn the knob further up.

"It's night and day," says Gray. "When he got here you could see the talent and see what it all could be, full picture."

"I think he's just touching that surface now. He put in the right work in the offseason, defensively and offensively. He came back and was lighting the world on fire."

Contributing: Bob Nightengale

# Manfred gives update on Ohtani translator probe

Paul Skrbina

The Nashville Tennessean  
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW YORK – Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Monday the league doesn't "feel a lot of pressure" regarding a timeline in relation to its investigation into the Shohei Ohtani gambling scandal.

Ohtani's now-former interpreter Ipe Mizuhara was indicted by federal prosecutors last month and charged with bank fraud after allegedly stealing more than \$16 million from the baseball pitcher-hitter superstar to pay off gambling debts.

The legal process, Manfred said, likely will provide more information and insight than an MLB investigation could.

"The indictment kind of provides insight into exactly what happened there," Manfred said Monday during his annual



Shohei Ohtani stands with former interpreter Ipe Mizuhara last winter at Dodger Stadium.

KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

meeting with the Associated Press Sports Editors. "Realistically, what makes the most sense for us is just to kind of let the criminal process play out a little bit."

## Why MLB is taking wait-and-see approach to Ohtani situation

Manfred cited law enforcement's subpoena power and access to information as main reasons why the league is taking something of a wait-and-see approach.

"Rarely are we fortunate enough to find ourselves in a position where a criminal process plays out in a way that cannot be the need for us to do the investigation," he said. "This could be one of those."

"Law enforcement officials have tools available at their disposal that are a lot more powerful than what we have."

## Does MLB monitor gambling?

Yes and no.

The league works with gambling regulators, sportsbooks and independent

monitors to monitor legal bets in and around ballparks and enforce MLB gambling policies.

Manfred, who said the league was "dragged" into legalized gambling before adding that it has actually put the sport in a "better position" from an "integrity perspective," said there's not much the league can do about illegal gambling.

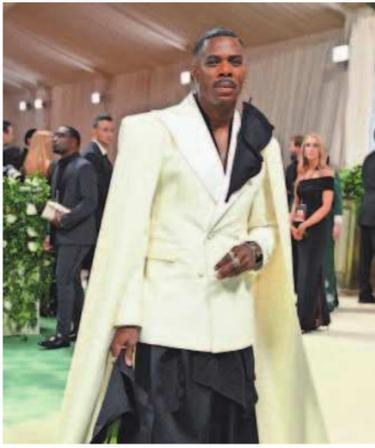
Educate and investigate are the only choice, he said.

Manfred said the league has a training program that exposes players and team personnel "to issues that can end their careers in baseball."

## Are MLB players allowed to bet on sports?

They can bet on professional sports, but not baseball or other "diamond sports," such as softball.

**LIFELINE**



ANGELA WEISS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**STYLE STAR COLMAN DOMINGO**

★ Colman Domingo stunned at the 2024 Met Gala as he honored two late Black style icons: actor Chadwick Boseman and Vogue editor-at-large André Leon Talley. The "Rustin" star, 54, stepped out on the red carpet Monday in a white and black suit by Willy Chavarria. His look was complete with a cape, which Domingo said was a nod to looks worn by Boseman and Leon Talley at previous Met Galas. "They both wore capes when they were at the Met," Colman told E! News on the red carpet. "Everything I do, I feel like it's gotta be for the culture. It's gotta be more than just for me." Keeping with this year's dress code of "The Garden of Time," the actor had a pair of black fabric calla lilies pinned to his lapel and carried a bouquet of white calla lilies wrapped in black fabric.



**IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY**

Enrique Iglesias is 49. Olivia Culpo is 32. David Attenborough is 98.

**HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY**  
More: [www.sanctuaryworld.com](http://www.sanctuaryworld.com)

**Aries** (March 21-April 19). Making gains? Financial luck comes your way as the moon and Jupiter align. Consider ways to reinvest.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20). Magnetic personality? You're praised for your charm and positivity. The compliments keep coming!

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21). Feeding your imagination? Your inner world is vibrant and alive.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22). Today's alignment is ideal for joining groups or getting involved in your community.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22). Earning praise? Positive recognition at work is a morale booster.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Doing some research? The moon's alignment with Jupiter is great for tackling schoolwork, academic projects or spiritual studies.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Lucky break? Prepare to receive a windfall. Shared property or resources feature.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You and a partner enjoy quality time. Single? You could meet someone new today!

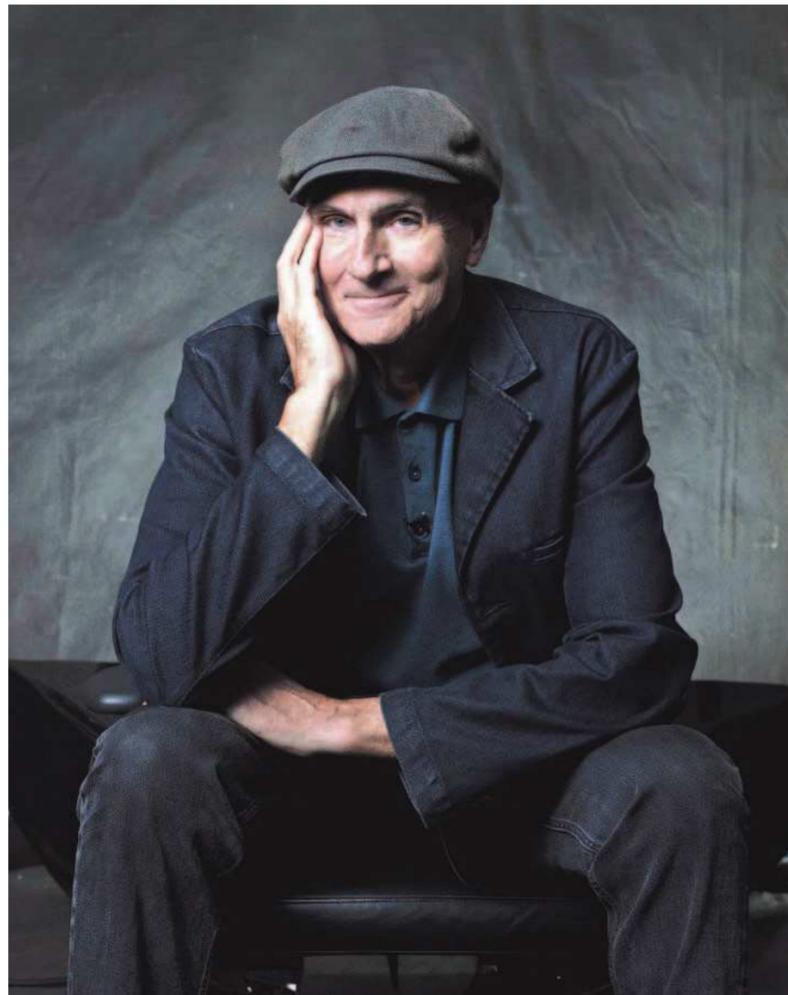
**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Enjoying workplace camaraderie? You are an office favorite. You catch flies with honey.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Woke up on the right side of the bed? You're in a great mood.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Harmonious moments with (chosen) family? Fortune finds you close to home.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20). Learning something new? The moon's alignment with Jupiter finds you trading intel with those in the know.

**MUSIC**



James Taylor starts a U.S. tour on May 29. PROVIDED BY NORMAN SEEFF

# 'Slow and steady' seems to work for James Taylor

Melissa Ruggieri USA TODAY

It's nearly midnight in Australia when James Taylor pops onto the screen, casual in a T-shirt and omnipresent baseball cap. ● He's in the midst of a tour of the country – which he's visiting for the first time in seven years – and indulges immediate questions not about his legendary career, mellifluous songs, or his upcoming U.S. tour. It's about koalas. ● A photo on his Instagram page showcased the soft-spoken Taylor cuddling a native marsupial and he was, indeed, smitten. ● "They give off a very calm vibe," Taylor says. "They're lovely little critters, and they eat one food. One plant. That's it. It's very dialed down."

Given the soothing tone of so many of Taylor's staples – "Fire and Rain," "Your Smiling Face," "How Sweet It Is" and his signature rendition of Carole King's "You've Got a Friend" – it's not surprising he found a kindred spirit in a placid (this one, domesticated) koala.

Taylor and his All-Star Band will leave Oz for a summer run in America, starting May 29 at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and traveling through cities including Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, Denver and Lenox, Massachusetts, for 50th anniversary performances July 3-4 at Tanglewood.

The gregarious Taylor, 76, happily

eschewed sleep to talk about the "gravitational attraction" of touring, what music he turns to for comfort and the "little scraps of music" that will likely morph into songs for his next album.

**Question: When "American Standard" came out in 2020, you became the first act to have a Top 10 album in each of the last six decades and it won your sixth Grammy. Does it stun you when things like that happen at this stage of your career?**

Answer: Yeah, to me it feels like just continuing and carrying on. I feel as if I'm always in the process of learning

See **TAYLOR**, Page 2D



Taylor performs at an event celebrating the Inflation Reduction Act at the White House on Sept. 13, 2022. ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

**BOOKS**

# Selleck's in the 'Know' in his good-natured memoir

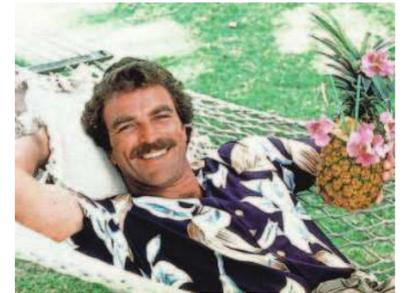
Bryan Alexander USA TODAY

"Magnum, P.I." star Tom Selleck pours out fond memories as thick as his famed mustache in "You Never Know: A Memoir" (Harper Collins, 339 pp., out now).

Selleck, 79, working on his final "Blue Bloods" season, writes about life lessons, his charmingly accidental Hollywood career and the global superstar ride spurred on by his iconic 1980 "Magnum" role as the famed red-Ferrari-driving Hawaiian private investigator.

"You Never Know" dishes nice, doesn't settle scores or talk politics, and the "Magnum"-heavy memoir doesn't dwell on Selleck's movies such as 1987's "Three Men and a Baby" (or even discuss his long-running "Friends" role as Courteney Cox's much-older boyfriend).

Here are Selleck's best "You Never Know" revelations.



Tom Selleck starred in "Magnum, P.I." PROVIDED

**Selleck won despite being a double 'Dating Game' loser**

A University of Southern California basketball player and underachieving student, Selleck got his Hollywood start on the blind date competition show "The Dating Game." Selleck's first TV appearance, pitted against two other bachelors, was a disaster with nervously bumbled responses to the female contestants' flirty questions.

"I had lame answers, and I lost. I wasn't funny. I didn't enjoy it," he writes. The producers called for a return appearance. "For some bizarre reason, I went back. I was still terrified. I still wasn't funny, and I lost again."

The double loss somehow turned into key career moves. Selleck got a Pepsi commercial and was noticed by a casting director.

**Selleck tips fedora to Harrison Ford after losing Indiana Jones**

After shooting the promising "Magnum" pilot, Selleck was the unknown actor Steven Spielberg and George Lucas wanted to play Indiana Jones in 1981's "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Selleck wasn't allowed to see the script before his first high-pressure reading.

But "the hat and leather jacket helped me understand the period," Selleck writes.

Reading along with actress Sean Young as Marion Ravenwood (that part went to Karen Allen), Selleck was called back for a second meeting.

"We want you to play Indiana Jones." I think it was Steven who told me," Selleck writes. "Look, I don't have a clue how I responded. I hope at least I said 'Thank you.' This was a new franchise and they thought it needed a new face. I guess I was it."

But after "Magnum" was sold to CBS, the network president wouldn't release his star, fearing "that if he let me do 'Raiders,' I wouldn't want to do 'Magnum,' and I would try and get out of it," Selleck writes. "I, of course, knew I would never do that."

Friends warned him not to watch "Raiders." Selleck bought a movie ticket and Jujufruits. "Indiana Jones was Harrison Ford.

"The one errand thought that never entered my mind was 'That coulda been me,'" Selleck writes. "Somehow it didn't bother me. It was such a good movie."

See **SELLECK**, Page 2D

## MUSIC

# 'Let It Be' gains context after 'Get Back'

Kim Willis

USA TODAY

In the most basic terms, "Let It Be" is the abbreviated version of "Get Back," with fewer takes of "Don't Let Me Down" and no toast.

But that oversimplification of what's wrongly remembered as The Beatles' breakup documentary doesn't convey how different Michael Lindsay-Hogg's 1970 film and Peter Jackson's 2021 docuseries are as viewing experiences.

"They were different animals in a way, but they really are looking at the same period of time through different lenses," says Lindsay-Hogg, whose 80-minute movie about the making of The Beatles' final album arrives Wednesday on Disney+. The film, largely unavailable for the past 50-plus years, has been newly restored by Jackson's team from a muddy 16 mm negative.

"I wanted to put in what I was noticing was going on, which was that (the four Beatles) had started to go their separate ways," Lindsay-Hogg says. "Not musically so much, but they were starting to live different lives. They weren't 22 or 23 anymore, they were nearly 30. They were different, and consequently, the music was different. So that's what I wanted to show."

The 84-year-old director says the movie has been unfairly maligned for magnifying the widening divisions within the band, and he's not wrong. "Let It Be" sometimes plays like a greatest hits cut of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr squabbling, minus the context afforded by the almost eight-hour docuseries.

By contrast, in "Get Back," the four friends pull off a miracle on deadline, sweating out new songs through repetition, seemingly fortified only by trays of tea and dry bread. There's a distinctly different vibe, even though the source material is the same. "Let It Be" is more



Paul McCartney (from left, seated), George Harrison, Ringo Starr and John Lennon begin the work of roughing out The Beatles' "Let It Be" in Twickenham Studios. PROVIDED BY ETHAN A. RUSSELL/2024 APPLE CORPS LTD.

easily understood after seeing "Get Back." And it underscores the need for a tighter, theatrical-length cut of Jackson's docuseries.

"The new version, looking and sounding so great, too, is maybe going to help (fans) see it in a different way," Lindsay-Hogg says.

Here's what else to expect from "Let It Be" if you've already seen "Get Back":

## George Harrison doesn't quit The Beatles in 'Let It Be'

McCartney and Harrison have a squirm-inducing conversation about George's guitar work in both versions of the story, but in the longer docuseries, the friction culminates in Harrison quitting the band. Why is that left out of "Let It Be"?

"They never said, 'Whoa, I don't think the audience is going to like us doing that' because that was the kind of discussion that takes place in many creative instances," Lindsay-Hogg says.

"Everybody doesn't see things from the same point of view all the time."

He points out: "When we started making the movie, there were four Beatles. When we finished shooting it, there were still four Beatles. George had gone off for, let's call it a little holiday because he was frustrated, but he came back."

Starr, who has suggested he prefers Jackson's take on the story, still thinks the re-release of "Let It Be" is a good thing.

"We did have rows," he acknowledges to USA TODAY. "George did leave and 'What is (John's future wife) Yoko (Ono) doing here?' and all of that stuff did go on. That's how it was with four guys in a room."

## Yes, there are many moments of joy in 'Let It Be'

Lennon and McCartney cheerfully team up on a single mic to run through "Two of Us," and their clear chemistry, even at this late stage, is electrifying.

And when Harrison breaks out "I Me Mine," John and Yoko engage in an extended, heartfelt waltz around the studio.

"I have always thought it's uplifting, and the perception was colored by when it came out the first time," says Lindsay-Hogg.

## The rooftop concert is transformative at 15 minutes

What "Let It Be" lacks in connective tissue is forgiven by Lindsay-Hogg's brilliant insistence on a live performance to tie a bow on the footage, which gave rise to one of the most iconic shows in rock 'n' roll history.

The director remembers that the four bandmates agreed at one point to stage a concert in an amphitheater in Libya for the film's big finale. "I had this idea that 5 a.m. comes and the roadies start to lay out the instruments, and as the sun is coming up, The Beatles come out and start to tune up." When nighttime rolls around, "you have the whole world there and The Beatles doing 'Let It Be' torchlit."

In the end, "they wouldn't go to the Mediterranean, but they would go up two floors in their own building. We only had one shot ... so I knew it was a concert which I had to get right."

When the Fab Four warily step out for their lunch-hour show on that frigid January day, the tensions evaporate when the first chord is played.

"There was really joy in their playing and their connection to each other, the way they looked at each other and bounced off each other," Lindsay-Hogg says.

"Did anyone know they were going to break up and it would be the last concert? No.

"But I knew we had something magical which showed them at their very best."

Contributing: *Melissa Ruggieri*

## Selleck

Continued from Page 1D

### How much did Frank Sinatra bill for expenses for his 'Magnum' shoot?

Frank Sinatra, a friend of "Magnum" star Larry Manetti (Rick White), had one condition about shooting a Season 7 guest appearance: "Just make sure I get to beat somebody up."

The ailing Sinatra, then 70, committed to the part of a NYPD sergeant searching for the men who murdered his granddaughter. Even from his bed after being hospitalized for colitis, Sinatra assured: "Don't worry. I said I'll be there, I'll be there."

Sinatra's energy was limited in the shortened six-day shoot, making every moment count — especially for the final fight scene that Sinatra insisted on performing. Somehow a forbidden on-set camera flash ruined a key scene of a power Sinatra punch.

"Frank was not happy. We were not happy," Selleck says. "Our eyes landed on Larry, holding his Polaroid camera with a photo sticking out of it. I didn't do it; was Larry's defense. The picture developed of Frank throwing a perfect punch."

The scene eventually worked. The landmark episode was the highest-rated "Magnum" in two years. It was a huge score even if production bosses were "shocked when they got the bill for Frank's expenses," Selleck writes. "I don't know the exact number, but it was in the six figures." Still a bargain.



Tom Selleck meets Princess Diana at a White House state dinner in 1985. Selleck refused to cut in on the princess when she was dancing with John Travolta. TOM SELLECK/YOU NEVER KNOW

### A license flub nearly derailed Selleck's top-secret Reno wedding

Selleck and his partner, British actress Jillie Mack, were intent on a secret family-only wedding. The clandestine event in Reno, Nevada, in August 1987, before shooting the final season of "Magnum," was a super-feat in paparazzi-fueled time. Mack hid her wedding dress in her handheld garment bag and Selleck flew in with only a carry-on to avoid suspicion. The star hid in his car as his father sized his wedding ring at a quickie Reno wedding store.

Selleck eventually had to exit his car and take off his sunglasses-and-baseball-hat disguise to identify himself to the shocked county clerk for the wedding

license. But the operation to Reverend Dave's wedding chapel on the second floor of a strip mall was conducted with "commando-like precision." The "Magnum" fan organist was even ready with her surprise wedding music, taken from TV's nighttime soap opera "Dynasty."

"I didn't have the heart to tell her that 'Dynasty' was our Wednesday night competition," Selleck writes.

There was a major problem. A frantic search revealed the wedding license was left behind in the rush of leaving the clerk's office.

"None of us knew what to say. We were stuck," Selleck writes.

Rev. Dave agreed to perform the wedding and pick up a new license himself as the family celebrated. The "Magnum" su-

perstar's marriage to Mack was not reported until late the next month and has lasted 36 years.

"In Celebrityland, keeping our secret for a month might be a record," Selleck writes.

### Selleck refused to 'cut in' on John Travolta's dance with Diana

John Travolta is a tough act to follow on the dance floor.

So Selleck and Clint Eastwood steered clear as Travolta famously danced with Princess Diana at a White House state dinner thrown by President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan in November 1985.

"We slipped away from all the dancers and moved to a spot slightly around the corner. By now John and Princess Diana were dancing to an up-tempo number and rocking out. Everybody else stopped dancing and formed a circle around them, clapping their hands," Selleck writes. "Clint and I stood our ground."

A British woman urged action from the two stars as Travolta's second dance could "start rumors."

"Clint and I said nothing. 'Mr. Selleck, you must step in and replace him,'" Selleck recalls the women saying.

"I'M NOT CUTTING IN ON JOHN TRAVOLTA!" was my reply, probably in too loud a voice. She was not pleased."

Selleck gallantly stepped in for a third dance, working his way through a thankfully slow song.

"Princess Diana was lovely, and there was a very shy quality about her in spite of her being well-schooled in the art of conversation," Selleck writes.

## Taylor

Continued from Page 1D

how to do this, how to make records, how to tour and how to best do this kind of work and live this kind of life. The unusual thing is it's been so consistent. Partially when something works, you don't tend to change it. My evolution has been slow and steady.

### On that album, you tackled songs from the American standards canon. Is there another period of music that you would like to do?

I keep recorded notes, little scraps of music and ideas and when I get into a pre-writing phase, I'll start putting those around. And I'm due for one of those sessions. I'd like to think there is another batch of songs in there. And of course, it used to be that musicians like me, composers like me, would write in

batches of 10 or 12 songs and that would make up an album. But now it's altogether possible to work up five or six songs and let that be it. It used to be that a record deal was necessary to have a career and you used to do all you could to get in the door. Now it's easy to get in the door, but once you walk through, there are a million people in the room.

### I think most people would say they find comfort in your music. What or who do you listen to for comfort?

My comfort music is still Brazilian music. I love choral music and since I met (wife) Kim, I've had a renewed exposure to classical music and that was an eye-opener for me too. I still have my old favorites that I still love to pieces, Ray Charles is still my favorite, Marvin Gaye, Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin, Ry Cooder and Bonnie Raitt. I love salsa and Eddie Palmieri and the Cuban musician Arsenio Rodríguez. I'm still very connected with the musicians who in-

fluence me. I happened across a great record the other day by The Coasters — "Shopping for Clothes." It's fantastic.

### With this tour coming up, do you have to psych yourself up to go on the road or is it just part of your DNA?

I think both. It's familiar. I feel the gravitational attraction of a tour and feel it grab hold. As I approach it, there is some anxiety and you need to prepare yourself physically and emotionally for it. I work on my voice for about a month ahead of time. I'll pick up my guitar and start playing every day and try to get my chops and technique back and then we start looking at the set and how we might want to change it from the last time we played that city.

### Have you ever had a conversation with Taylor Swift about her being named after you?

Yeah, I met her perhaps it was 15-16 years ago. We did a benefit for (the Candie's Foundation), an organization that

tries to help with teenage pregnancy, and it was interesting. We were both just there with guitars and played a couple of songs. I was performing with my wife and may have had a friend of ours playing cello and Taylor was there just playing by herself. She was just a teen. She told me she had listened to my music a lot and that her folks had named her with me in mind.

### I know you had a documentary with Carole King a couple of years ago ("Just Call Out My Name"). But will we ever see a definitive James Taylor documentary?

I did an autobiographical piece for Audible ("Break Shot: My First 21 Years") a few years ago and it covers my experience up until getting signed with Apple and then moving on to Warner Bros. It's just an audiobook, really. I sort of feel as if everything after that has been so public that there is nothing left to share.

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Jared Goudsmit BY Bruce Haight

HI THERE! (FREESTYLE)

- ACROSS 1 Lie adjacent to 5 Rainbow flag letters 9 Guy with an em-inspired aesthetic 13 Not stereo 14 "You win the game" 16 Stare in astonishment 17 Do a somersault 18 Louisiana's state nut 19 Annoying insect 20 Personification of nature 23 "Moonlight" actor Mahershala 24 Had some kedjenou 25 Greet at the door 27 Items on presents that say "To:" and "From:" 32 Wyndham hotel chain 35 Messenger molecule 36 Improvised remark 38 Sealed, like a present 39 Tippy-top 41 Place to get a pixie cut 43 Vulcan mind (telepathic link in "Star Trek") 44 Capital near the Great Sphinx 46 "When in \_\_\_\_, throw it out" (food safety motto) 48 12/24, e.g. 49 Sign up 51 Caused to jump 53 Affirmative responses 55 "Houdini" singer \_\_\_\_ Lipa 56 Fast plane 58 How public statements are made 64 Bronie's Jane 66 Pageant headpiece 67 Old-timey "you" 68 Like James Earl Jones' voice

Crossword grid with numbers 1-73 and some pre-filled letters.

© Andrews McMeel

DOWN

- 1 Radio toggle letters 2 Cowpoke's necktie 3 Ampere or acre 4 Headwear for Zatanna or Mr. Peanut 5 Interprets speech without audio 6 Great joy 7 \_\_\_\_ Raton, FL 8 Bygone Russian autocrats 9 Easter \_\_\_\_ 10 A slapstick comedian might slip on one 11 "Fire" or "matrix" gem 12 Himalayan monster 15 Key similar to Return

- 21 "At Last" singer James 22 What a campfire provides 26 Muslim leader 27 Apt name for an elegant person 28 Like Machu Picchu 29 Diagram with ancestors 30 Delighted 31 Towers on farms 33 \_\_\_\_ into (investigate) 34 Found a sum 37 Boxing match 40 The "E" of HOMES 42 Event where the Pacers and Pelicans pick players 45 \_\_\_\_ buco 47 "You're so right" 50 Circus structures 52 Bit of strategy 54 Pippens 56 Knight who uses the Force

Tuesday's Answer grid with words: PITTS, DEST, ARG, MANOR, SMOG, SOAK, PICKETLINE, MONA, GRAYER, TATER, TROT, OPAL, RIM, SEE, POV, OPEN, TBY, SWIMS, MOD, OHBOY, INDIEMUSICSCENE, SEN, ARE, PAS, TEA, OUSTS, TECHS, BAGELS, LINDA, ELATE, MESA, NDAS, ATME, EQUAL, PAYACT, RAE, PULSE, KOREA, DRS, SOLES, ANTSY

ON YOUR PHONE get our crossword app

TXTPERT

Small crossword puzzle grid.

- Across 1. 747837 4. 626 5. 766 7. 725 8. 9433
- Down 1. 7484453 2. 776873 3. 7359 4. 666 6. 6263 7. 738

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Today's theme Friends and family

Phone keypad puzzle grid with letters.

Yesterday's solution grid.

Numbers

More puzzles: puzzles.usatoday.com Want solutions? answers.usatoday.com Feedback: feedback@usatoday.com



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

5/8

ON YOUR PHONE puzzles.usatoday.com

© Andrews McMeel

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

3x2 grid puzzle with some numbers pre-filled.

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

Tuesday's Answers

Grid of numbers for Tuesday's answers.

5/7

KENKEN

KenKen grid with arithmetic operations in cages.

1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Yesterday's KenKen solution grid.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo Difficulty: MEDIUM

Kubok 16 grid with circled numbers and empty cells.

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

Solution grid for Kubok 16.

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Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

- Find and Circle: Four U.S. states Three five-letter fruits Three words with Y in the middle Three countries with rainforests One of the Monkees (first/last name)

Tuesday's answer: DRUM GONG OBOE HARP LUTE TUBA / SNEER SMILE FROWN GRIN / HAMSTER GERBIL BEAVER / PLUTO CERES ERIS / NOUN VERB

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

5/8

QuickCross puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

5/8

Up & Down Words puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Sharp pain 5 Tree liquid 8 High point 12 "— Croft: Tomb Raider" 13 Very small distance 14 Pro — (perfunctory) 15 Prayer ending 16 Robots at work 18 Most diluted 20 Ray flower 21 Give a grade to 22 Mouthful 23 Flavorful 26 Take it on the — 27 Remove printed matter 31 Island 32 Not talking 33 Fellow 34 Follow in secret 35 World-weary 36 Dangle 37 Go — out 38 Town in Oklahoma 39 Peter's — 40 — -do-well 42 Calendar abbr. 43 Skids 44 Out of town 46 Goad 47 Strictness

DOWN

- 1 Cabbage salad 2 Easy to manage 3 Length times width 4 Cash wad 5 Fry 6 Islet 7 Paid athlete 8 Like some houseplants 9 Western Indian 10 Love personified 11 Neighbor of Neb. 13 Hurried 14 Eat no food 17 Made crippled 19 Man of rank 22 With — breath 23 "Paradise Lost" figure 24 "— of Two Cities"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

Grid of words from a previous puzzle.

© 2024 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

- 25 Translucent fabric 26 Sensational 28 Antelope 29 Surgeon's knife 30 Inches 32 "Take the — and Run" 35 Word of caution 36 Family relic 39 Purple color 41 In tatters 43 Worked undercover 45 News 46 Lustrous fabric 47 Make turbid 48 About (2 wds.) 50 Isle of exile 51 Opening 52 Retail event 53 Taxi 54 Chasm 55 Org. for physicians

DON'T QUOTE ME

Folk singer Joan Baez offers this advice.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote. DECIDE DIE GET GOING HOW NOW ONLY YOU YOU DON'T \_\_\_\_ TO CHOOSE \_\_\_\_ YOU'RE \_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_, OR WHEN. \_\_\_\_ CAN \_\_\_\_ HOW YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE

Tuesday's Answer: "Close don't count in baseball. Close only counts in horseshoes and grenades." - Frank Robinson

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words that match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution.

- CLUES 1 actor turned U.S. president (6) 2 produced by humans (7) 3 it gets you into the bottle (9) 4 not very large (8) 5 interruptions in continuity (4) 6 indirect suggestion (8) 7 spangles (7)

Word bank for 7 Little Words puzzle.

Tuesday's Answers: 1. GRANITE 2. CONFIDENCE 3. NECKTIES 4. SWEDEN 5. STASHING 6. HEARTS 7. CREAMER

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square.

Jumble puzzle grid with words: TFYAT, LUVTA, LANTEY, RLODAL.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXUDE GRAFT MINION COUPLE Answer: The customers waiting to pay using their Visas, Master Cards, etc., formed a — LINE OF CREDIT

## MET GALA

# Zendaya fans get to do a double take

Anika Reed USA TODAY

NEW YORK – The Met Gala was in full bloom on Monday. The steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, lined with white roses and greenery to match the colors of the carpet itself, came to life for fashion's biggest night. • Stars took the gala's "The Garden of Time" dress code to heart at the invite-only event, creating floral bliss at the annual Met ball, which doubles as a fundraising dinner for the latest exhibit at the museum's Costume Institute, featuring fragile and treasured garments for its 2024 theme, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion." • From Zendaya's two dresses and Usher's "romantic" look to Lana Del Rey's ethereal ensemble and all the things you didn't see, USA TODAY has an insider's view of the highlights from before, during and after the Met Gala.



## Zendaya opens – and closes – Met Gala red carpet with multiple looks

The night belonged to Zendaya, who hasn't been seen on the steps of the Met since 2019's "Camp: Notes on Fashion."

Following the sartorial shine of her "Dune 2" and "Challengers" press tours, all eyes were on Zendaya as one of the co-chairs of the evening.

"Hopefully, with the Met, since I've been away for so many years, maybe this time around I won't be so stressed," Zendaya told USA TODAY before the 2024 event.

If she was stressed, she didn't show it in not one but two stunning looks to help open and wrap up the Met Gala carpet. Along with celebrity stylist and self-proclaimed "Image Architect" Law Roach, Zendaya posed for her life in a deep blue and forest green Maison Margiela by John Galliano gown, topped with a plumed hat to match the peacock sensibilities of the look.

Murmurs rose as screams and fanfare erupted from the base of the carpet: Who could it be? Zendaya again, of course, in a more dramatic silhouette for her billowing black Victorian-style Givenchy dress by John Galliano and a bouquet of roses for headpiece. Though she didn't stop for interviews, Zendaya flashed a shy smile before heading back into the party.



The wide receiver was recently traded to the Houston Texans and said his new state is "amazing. Roads are a little crazy! But I'm getting used to them. The weather is amazing, the people are amazing; I'm excited for this year."

**Zendaya wore a deep blue and forest green Maison Margiela by John Galliano gown and plumed hat.**

## Usher, Gigi Hadid, Mindy Kaling: Met Gala 'Garden in Time' dress code gets a rose

Fans lined up for hours across Fifth Avenue to catch a glimpse of the hand-crafted designs and star power that USA TODAY got to see up close – and talk about with the celebs.

Gigi Hadid told us about her Thom Browne gown's interpretation of the theme: "There's a lot, but there's some beautiful, 3D beaded flowers that seem like the book," she said, referencing J.G. Ballard's 1962 short story of the same title that inspired the night's theme. "Well those are glass, but you know."

For a soulful singer such as Usher, romance is key.

"Alexander McQueen, it's a one-of-one. (The brand's creative director) Seán McGirr and myself decided to put this amazing thing together. Exotic, romantic, but still within the garden theme," he told USA TODAY.

"There's all different types of gardens – some of them get a little dark, but you've got to have fun, right?" he said with a wink and a devilish grin.

Mindy Kaling took the theme of the night literally, wrapped in a flowing tan gown from Gaurav Gupta, with a large swirling flower detail on the back.

NFL player Stefon Diggs, one of the many celebs dressed by H&M, said "they put together an amazing look, so I'm very happy."

"It's an honor to go" to the Met Gala, Diggs said. "And then to be around such amazing people, some of the best people in the world, some of the best people at what they do as well."

## Tyla gets help in her Balmain sand dress

South African singer Tyla traded in "Water" for the sands of time with her sculpted Balmain gown and matching hourglass purse, complete with real sand. A small group of helpers had to hoist the 22-year-old and her flowing train up the last few stairs of the carpet as she delicately held onto them.

## Kim Kardashian and Lana Del Rey share a Met Gala moment

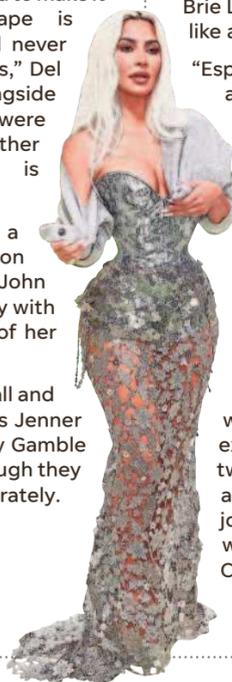
Lana Del Rey channeled a glowing fairy nymph of the forest for her Met Gala moment, and she didn't have to branch out too far to find a friend, sharing an embrace with Kim Kardashian.

"Well, first of all, we needed to make it McQueen, so the shape is McQueen. And we would never do butterflies, not for this," Del Rey told USA TODAY alongside McGirr, who said, "We were inspired by this idea of Mother Nature ... everything is hand-embroidered."

Kardashian, who wore a bluish silver floral Maison Margiela dress by John Galliano, talked animatedly with Del Rey through the veil of her thorny ensemble.

Kardashian's sisters Kendall and Kylie Jenner and mom Kris Jenner alongside boyfriend Corey Gamble made it a family affair, though they all walked the carpet separately.

PHOTOS BY JAMIE MCCARTHY/  
GETTY IMAGES



Donald Glover

## Brie Larson and Ariana Grande, Donald Glover and Colman Domingo reunite

More reunions and special guests marked the night.

Two of fashion's most daring and exciting men found their way to each other: Donald Glover and Colman Domingo shook hands, chatting it up and posing together. Teyana Taylor and Jon Batiste fawned over each other, sharing a hug.

Jeff Goldblum served as a hot-ticket invite, earning excitement from Ariana Grande and Queen Latifah, among others. Grande, who arrived to chants from the crowd with "Wicked" co-star Cynthia Erivo, also received adoration and a big hug from friend Brie Larson: "I saw you and (you) look like an angel!"

"Espresso" singer Sabrina Carpenter and "Saltburn" star Barry Keoghan found each other at the top of the stairs.

Lea Michele glided up the stairs in a teal blue Rodarte gown with a special guest: her baby bump, which she cradled as she posed for photos.

Sarah Jessica Parker, who paired her pearls and fascinator with a sparkling silver and nude Richard Quinn dress, arrived with close friend and "Bravo" extraordinaire Andy Cohen. The two chatted and laughed as they ascended the stairs, and Cohen joked to reporters that Parker would be "taking over the role of Che Diaz" in "And Just Like That."

## Celebs hit afterparties, including Cardi B and Offset

The Mark Hotel served as another red carpet for the celebrity attendees, who returned from the carpet to screams from fans hoping for a glimpse. It was a prime spot for star spotting – and for after-hours caviar and drinks with The Macallan. Rosalía, Zoe Saldña, Doja Cat, Cardi B and more made their way through the entrance of the hotel, right next to the Macallan afterparty, where designer Edvin Thompson of Theophilio and Albert Ayal of Up Next Designer were spotted in the intimate room.

At an after-hours party with Revolve that went into the wee hours of the morning, Cardi B and Offset arrived shortly after 2 a.m. at Midtown hotspot Silencio. Cardi B opted for a red, figuring-hugging dress and a blinding diamond necklace, a far cry from the cascading, dramatic gown she wore on the carpet (the train of which took a team of people to carry through the Mark).

Contributing: Patrick Ryan

## STREAMING

# 'Unfrosted' gets a little A-list ad men pop with a 'Mad Men' reunion

Brian Truitt  
USA TODAY

*Spoiler alert! We're discussing surprise actor cameos in the Netflix movie "Unfrosted" (streaming now), so beware if you haven't seen it yet.*

Directing and starring in the new Netflix comedy "Unfrosted," Jerry Seinfeld revisits some of his favorite things (cereal, Pop-Tarts, NASA and the 1960s) with some of his favorite people.

A slew of actors and fellow comedians are sprinkled throughout the outrageous, semi-true origin story of Pop-Tarts, from Cedric the Entertainer, Bill Burr and Dan Levy to Amy Schumer, Peter Dinklage and Hugh Grant, plus "Saturday Night Live" alums such as Fred Armisen and Bobby Moynihan. The best cameos, however, come in Seinfeld's unexpected "Mad Men" reunion.

Seinfeld says he's "a gigantic fan" of the Emmy-winning AMC drama and is

"friendly" with the show's stars Jon Hamm and John Slattery, who reprise their respective roles as Don Draper and Roger Sterling in "Unfrosted."

In the movie, Kellogg's employees Bob Cabana (Seinfeld) and Donna Stankowski (Melissa McCarthy) are ready to mass-market their toaster pastry, but they need a snazzy name to sell it. Head honcho Edsel Kellogg III (Jim Gaffigan) calls in two "can't-miss Madison Avenue ad men" to help.

Enter Jon and Roger, who pitch the idea for "Jelle Jolie" as the name with art of a wife in a negligee holding an oversized Pop-Tart – which is sexier than the Kellogg's folks are expecting. "I've been in your town for six hours, you know what I see? Dead trees and sad lonely women," Roger quips, while Don gives them a choice: "Raisin Bran and irrelevant, or provocative and revolutionary."

Edsel wants more time to think about it and the ad men get, well, mad. "I'll be



**Bob's (Jerry Seinfeld, left) dream team – Tom Carvel (Adrian Martinez), Steve Schwinn (Jack McBrayer), Harold Von Braunhut (Thomas Lennon), Chef Boyardee (Bobby Moynihan) and Jack LaLanne (James Marsden).** PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

retired on a bluff overlooking Stinson Beach while you're still genuflecting before the god of mediocrity," Don says aimed at Bob, though he takes the time to flirt with McCarthy's Stan before leaving. (The two "Mad Men" characters also are seen after the Pop-Tart gets its official name. "That's gonna sell," Roger says as Don rips up the Jelle Jolie mockup.)

Seinfeld had the idea to bring the "Mad Men" personalities into his movie because he figured they'd be around then. ("Unfrosted" is set in 1963, within the show's timeline.)

"Maybe these Michigan guys were thinking, 'Hey, why don't we get some slick New York guys in here to help us with this?' And our favorite thing of 'Mad Men' was how hostile the agency would be to the potential clients," Seinfeld says.

"We wanted to re-create that hostility: 'You'll never swim the English Channel and drown in champagne.' All these kind of lyrical putdowns. 'Mad Men' is just the best. So that was a dream come true to be in a scene with those guys. To travel to that time and place for me was fantastic."

# NATION & WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE

TikTok lawsuit to block U.S. ban could set up landmark showdown. **4NN**

## CEASE-FIRE IMPASSE BREAKABLE, U.S. SAYS

Israeli forces block important Rafah aid route



Following a nighttime advance, the Israeli military announced on Tuesday that it had taken “operational control” over the Gaza side of the border crossing, which connects the blockaded territory to Egypt and is one of the main access points for aid into Gaza. AMIR LEVY/GETTY IMAGES

**Mohammad Salem and Nidal al-Mughrabi**  
REUTERS

RAFAH, Gaza Strip – The U.S. said negotiations on a Gaza cease-fire should be able to close the gaps between Israel and Hamas while Israeli forces seized the main border crossing in Rafah on Tuesday, closing a vital route for aid.

Hamas official Osama Hamdan, speaking to reporters in Beirut, warned that if Israel’s military aggression continued in Rafah, there would be no truce agreement.

The Palestinian militant group accused Israel of undermining cease-fire efforts in the seven-month-long war that has laid waste to Gaza and left



Palestinians crowd a street as smoke billows nearby from Israeli strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

hundreds of thousands of its people homeless and hungry.

The truce comments came as Israel invaded Rafah, a southern Gazan city where more than 1 million displaced Palestinian civilians have sought shelter from Israel’s offensive throughout the tiny territory.

White House spokesperson John Kirby said Hamas offered amendments on Monday to an Israeli proposal aimed at ending the impasse. The deal text, as amended, suggests the remaining gaps can “absolutely be closed,” he said. He declined to specify what those were.

Israel on Monday said a three-phase proposal that Hamas approved was unacceptable.

See **IMPASSE**, Page 8NN

## Trump documents trial delayed; no date set yet

Odds it will start before election have diminished

**Andrew Goudsward**  
REUTERS

Donald Trump’s trial in Florida on charges of illegally keeping classified documents after leaving office has been indefinitely postponed, a judge decided on Tuesday, greatly reducing the odds he will face a jury in either of the two federal criminal cases against him before the Nov. 5 election.

Trump, seeking to regain the presidency, previously had been scheduled to go to trial on May 20 in the documents case brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith, but the prosecution and defense had both acknowledged that date would need to be delayed.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, who was appointed to the bench by Trump in 2020, said on Tuesday the trial would no longer begin May 20 but did not set a new date. Cannon scheduled pretrial hearings to run through July 22.



Donald Trump’s lawyers have worked to delay all four criminal cases he faces. BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS FILE

Trump has pleaded not guilty to 40 federal counts accusing him of retaining sensitive national security documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida after leaving office in 2021 and obstructing U.S. government efforts to retrieve them.

See **DOCUMENTS**, Page 7NN

## Idaho seeks to revive its ‘abortion trafficking’ law

**Brendan Pierson**  
REUTERS

A lawyer for the state of Idaho on Tuesday urged a federal appeals court to revive a 2023 state law making it a crime to help a minor cross state lines for an abortion without her parent’s consent, which a lower court judge had blocked in November.

“The law is narrow and, one would think, unobjectionable,” Idaho Deputy Solicitor General Joshua Turner told the three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Seattle.

“It prohibits strange adults from recruiting, harboring or transporting unemancipated minors within Idaho to procure an abortion, but only when that act is done with the specific intent to conceal it from the unemancipated minor’s parents or guardians.”

A federal judge in Boise had blocked enforcement of the law in November while she considers a lawsuit brought by Lourdes Matsumoto, a lawyer and advocate who works with victims of sexual violence, and the Northwest Abortion Access Fund and Indigenous

“The law is narrow and, one would think, unobjectionable.”

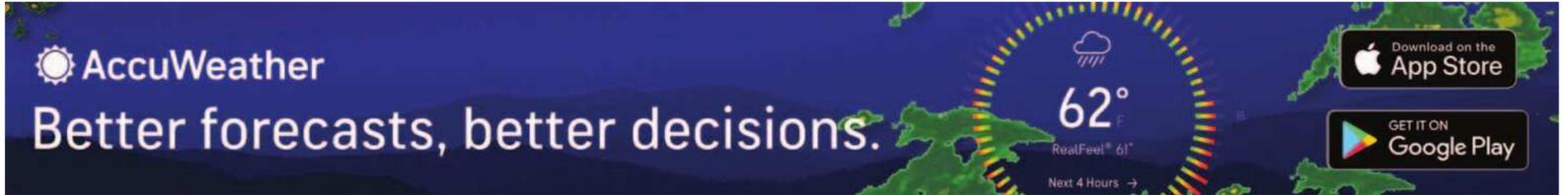
**Joshua Turner**  
Idaho deputy solicitor general

Idaho Alliance, which helps people in Idaho access abortion. They argued that the law interfered with their right to free speech under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Their lawyer Wendy Olson said the panel should uphold that order, saying the law “seeks to criminalize an unclear amount of undefined assistance to minors” and amounted to regulation of protected speech and expression because it prevents plaintiffs from telling minors about getting abortions.

Circuit Judges M. Margaret McKeown and John Owens, who were both appointed by Democratic presidents, appeared open to reviving at least part of the law. Circuit Judge Carlos Bea, an

See **IDAHO**, Page 6NN

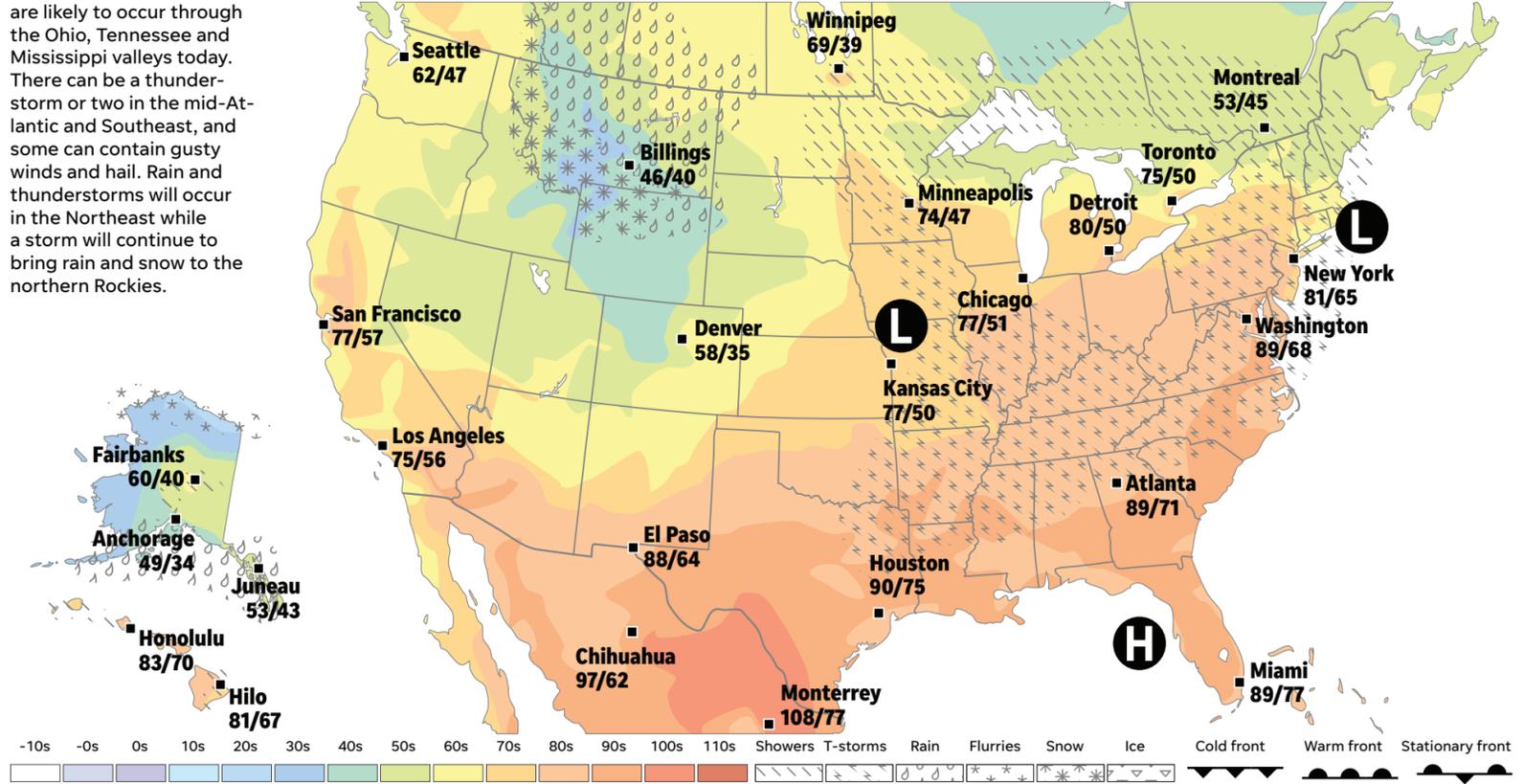


**NATIONAL SUMMARY**

Severe thunderstorms are likely to occur through the Ohio, Tennessee and Mississippi valleys today. There can be a thunderstorm or two in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast, and some can contain gusty winds and hail. Rain and thunderstorms will occur in the Northeast while a storm will continue to bring rain and snow to the northern Rockies.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Wednesday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



**TUESDAY EXTREMES**

**NATIONAL** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
**High:** 101 at Del Rio, TX  
**Low:** 18 at Dakota Hill, CO  
**Precip:** 2.86" at Branson, MO

**INTERNATIONAL** (excludes Antarctica)  
**High:** 116 at Mongo, Chad  
**Low:** -8 at Grise Fiord, Canada  
**Precip:** 4.09" at Catbalogan, Philippines

**TODAY IN HISTORY**

A rare late-season snowstorm on this date in 1803 ruined many of Philadelphia's shade trees. Snow accumulated from Indiana to New England during the storm's two-day trek.

**WEATHER TRIVIA™**

**Q:** What state holds the greatest number of U.S. temperature records?

California: 1

**NATIONAL CITIES WEDNESDAY**

City	High/Low/W	Air Quality	City	High/Low/W	Air Quality	City	High/Low/W	Air Quality	City	High/Low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	71/45/c	23	Evansville, IN	86/64/t	24	Levittown, PA	88/60/pc	66	Rochester, NY	76/48/t	52
Abilene, TX	93/60/s	62	Fall River, MA	59/52/r	52	Lincoln, IL	83/57/t	52	Rockford, IL	79/51/t	54
Accomac, VA	85/64/t	59	Farmington, NM	61/30/s	56	Louisville, KY	87/67/t	34	Ruidoso, NM	71/46/s	55
Adrian, MI	79/49/pc	60	Fayetteville, NC	93/69/t	58	Lubbock, TX	88/55/s	62	Salem, OR	67/43/s	40
Akron, OH	80/54/pc	58	Fond du Lac, WI	71/48/s	29	Manitowoc, WI	61/45/s	25	Salina, KS	76/45/s	44
Alamogordo, NM	85/54/s	57	Fort Myers, FL	93/73/s	36	Mansfield, OH	81/54/pc	54	Salinas, CA	74/49/s	53
Alexandria, VA	90/67/t	47	Fort Smith, AR	84/59/t	45	Marshall, NC	79/60/t	32	Salisbury, MD	89/64/t	56
Alliance, OH	80/54/pc	57	Framingham, MA	65/53/r	37	Marshfield, WI	69/44/pc	31	San Angelo, TX	97/59/s	53
Amarillo, TX	81/47/s	61	Freeport, IL	77/50/t	44	Massillon, OH	82/56/pc	54	Sarasota, FL	88/74/s	45
Ames, IA	74/52/t	41	Fremont, OH	81/54/pc	59	McLean, VA	89/66/t	43	Savannah, GA	94/70/s	39
Anderson, SC	89/66/t	32	Fort Collins, CO	58/40/pc	66	Melbourne, FL	90/71/s	55	Sheboygan, WI	61/46/s	26
Appleton, WI	67/47/s	25	Gadsden, AL	87/67/t	33	Memphis, TN	85/68/t	43	Shelby, NC	86/63/t	38
Asheville, NC	83/61/t	34	Gainesville, FL	93/68/s	42	Middletown, NY	83/50/t	52	Sherman, TX	90/65/t	41
Ashland, OH	81/54/pc	53	Galesburg, IL	78/51/t	47	Milford, MA	65/53/r	40	Shreveport, LA	92/71/t	44
Athens, GA	89/67/t	29	Gastonia, NC	88/64/t	40	Milwaukee, WI	71/49/pc	39	Silver City, NM	78/44/s	58
Augusta, GA	90/67/pc	37	Glen Rose, TX	92/67/t	49	Monroe, MI	79/50/pc	58	Sioux Falls, SD	70/48/t	52
Austin, TX	92/72/c	102	Gonzales, LA	92/76/c	44	Monroe, LA	91/72/t	38	Somerset, PA	78/58/pc	41
Bartlesville, OK	81/47/t	56	Great Falls, MT	39/33/sn	31	Montgomery, AL	93/75/t	39	Somerville, NJ	86/55/pc	65
Battle Creek, MI	77/50/pc	35	Green Bay, WI	67/46/pc	24	Muncie, IN	85/59/pc	38	South Bend, IN	78/54/pc	35
Bedford, IN	84/63/t	31	Greenville, SC	89/67/t	35	Murfreesboro, TN	83/67/t	35	Spartanburg, SC	87/66/t	38
Binghamton, NY	79/52/t	51	Hackensack, NJ	84/61/pc	67	Naples, FL	91/75/s	33	Springfield, IL	83/57/t	56
Bluffton, SC	88/73/s	44	Hagerstown, MD	87/64/pc	40	Nashville, TN	82/67/t	34	Springfield, MO	74/49/t	40
Bremerton, WA	64/40/s	30	Hattiesburg, MS	91/74/t	32	Neptune, NJ	78/60/sh	70	St. Augustine, FL	91/72/s	49
Brockton, MA	62/53/r	48	Henderson, KY	83/64/t	24	New Bedford, MA	59/50/r	51	St. Cloud, MN	72/42/c	53
Brownwood, TX	97/63/pc	47	Hendersonville, NC	83/62/t	33	New Bern, NC	92/70/s	55	St. George, UT	70/48/s	54
Burlington, IA	77/53/t	46	Herkimer, NY	76/52/t	46	New Philadelphia, OH	82/56/pc	52	Staunton, VA	89/57/t	40
Burlington, NC	88/67/t	41	Hillsdale, MI	77/49/pc	45	Newark, OH	83/57/pc	47	Stevens Point, WI	70/45/pc	28
Burlington, VT	62/47/r	23	Holland, MI	62/51/pc	28	Newton, NJ	86/52/pc	54	Stockton, CA	81/50/s	47
Cambridge, OH	83/60/pc	47	Hornell, NY	79/49/t	49	New York, NY	85/65/pc	67	Stroudsburg, PA	85/52/pc	56
Camdenton, MO	79/51/t	47	Houma, LA	88/77/c	43	Norwich, CT	65/51/c	47	Stuart, FL	90/71/s	47
Canandaigua, NY	77/48/t	46	Howell, MI	77/47/pc	57	Ocala, FL	93/70/s	48	Sturgis, MI	77/51/pc	30
Canton, OH	81/56/pc	55	Hutchinson, KS	75/46/s	49	Oklahoma City, OK	80/54/s	81	Tallahassee, FL	91/71/pc	37
Carlsbad, NM	90/56/s	70	Hyannis, MA	57/51/r	42	Opelousas, LA	88/75/pc	48	Thibodaux, LA	89/75/c	49
Chambersburg, PA	86/62/pc	45	Indianapolis, IN	84/61/t	34	Oshkosh, WI	69/48/s	25	Topeka, KS	79/49/pc	54
Cherry Hill, NJ	89/62/pc	69	Iowa City, IA	76/54/t	49	Palm Beach, FL	88/77/s	42	Tuscaloosa, AL	91/70/c	40
Cincinnati, OH	83/63/t	42	Ithaca, NY	78/49/t	50	Palm Springs, CA	91/66/s	67	Utica, NY	73/51/t	45
Clarksville, TN	81/66/t	27	Jackson, MS	92/72/c	35	Panama City, FL	84/76/sh	41	Ventura, CA	65/51/pc	52
Coldwater, MI	77/51/pc	38	Jackson, TN	83/66/t	30	Pekin, IL	83/56/t	51	Victorville, CA	74/42/s	61
Columbus, OH	84/59/pc	51	Jacksonville, FL	95/70/s	56	Pensacola, FL	87/77/sh	40	Vineland, NJ	89/60/pc	67
Corning, NY	81/49/t	52	Jacksonville, NC	91/69/c	55	Peoria, IL	82/56/t	56	Visalia, CA	78/50/s	45
Corpus Christi, TX	93/78/pc	112	Kent, OH	80/53/pc	62	Petersburg, VA	90/67/t	46	Washington, DC	89/68/t	48
Daytona Beach, FL	92/72/s	56	Keweenaw, IL	79/52/t	48	Phoenix, AZ	92/63/s	72	Watertown, SD	65/45/t	23
Deming, NM	84/49/s	55	Keyser, WV	85/61/pc	44	Port Huron, MI	78/45/pc	57	Wausau, WI	68/45/pc	29
DeRidder, LA	88/75/pc	41	Kinston, NC	93/70/t	60	Portsmouth, NH	58/49/r	26	Waynesboro, PA	87/64/pc	42
Des Moines, IA	75/52/t	49	Knoxville, TN	83/67/t	25	Poughkeepsie, NY	84/76/t	55	White Plains, NY	78/59/pc	62
Detroit, MI	80/50/pc	66	Lafayette, IN	82/57/pc	37	Providence, RI	60/55/r	47	Wichita Falls, TX	85/57/s	52
Devils Lake, ND	61/43/r	28	Lafayette, LA	88/76/pc	42	Pueblo, CO	67/42/pc	62	Wilmington, DE	87/63/pc	65
Elmira, NY	83/50/t	49	Lakeland, FL	96/72/s	49	Quincy, MA	63/53/r	45	Wilmington, NC	93/71/pc	57
Erie, PA	74/48/pc	54	Lansing, MI	77/47/pc	56	Redding, CA	81/60/s	54	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	72/45/pc	29
Eugene, OR	67/40/s	38	Las Cruces, NM	86/55/s	51	Reno, NV	60/43/s	64	Wooster, OH	81/54/pc	59
			Lebanon, PA	87/58/pc	44	Ravenna, OH	81/53/pc	61	Worcester, MA	64/54/r	41
			Leesburg, FL	95/73/s	47	Richmond, IN	83/61/pc	39	York, PA	88/62/pc	51

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

**INTERNATIONAL CITIES**

City	Wednesday High/Low/W	Thursday High/Low/W	City	Wednesday High/Low/W	Thursday High/Low/W	City	Wednesday High/Low/W	Thursday High/Low/W	City	Wednesday High/Low/W	Thursday High/Low/W
Acapulco	86/71/s	86/69/pc	Cape Town	69/48/s	67/54/s	La Paz	62/35/c	60/37/pc	San Jose	85/70/t	85/69/t
Addis Ababa	73/58/sh	73/57/sh	Caracas	91/77/t	92/76/sh	Lagos	92/80/t	92/80/pc	San Salvador	91/72/c	88/72/t
Algiers	73/51/s	74/49/s	Casablanca	86/58/pc	84/60/pc	Lima	73/64/pc	71/65/pc	Santiago	61/34/s	64/39/s
Amman	79/58/s	90/66/pc	Colombo	91/82/t	90/81/t	Lisbon	86/60/pc	81/59/pc	Sao Paulo	88/68/pc	89/67/pc
Amsterdam	60/45/c	65/48/pc	Copenhagen	58/45/pc	61/51/c	London	70/51/pc	73/52/c	Sarajevo	73/55/r	62/52/r
Ankara	76/43/s	77/49/c	Damascus	81/51/s	89/55/s	Madrid	78/48/pc	81/52/pc	Shanghai	75/52/pc	76/58/pc
Asuncion	88/62/sh	71/64/pc	Dublin	63/48/c	65/50/c	Manila	95/82/t	96/82/c	Singapore	89/80/t	90/81/sh
Athens	75/64/pc	70/61/c	Geneva	66/49/pc	67/46/s	Mexico City	89/62/s	91/59/pc	Stockholm	38/36/sn	54/42/c
Auckland	61/44/s	61/39/s	Guatemala City	88/66/c	86/67/pc	Milan	74/55/c	77/56/s	Sydney	67/59/c	65/57/sh
Baghdad	87/64/pc	88/65/pc	Hanoi	86/76/t	86/76/t	Mombasa	85/75/r	87/75/r	Taipei	86/67/c	82/69/pc
Bangkok	98/83/t	95/80/t	Harare	85/50/s	81/51/s	Montevideo	65/44/sh	59/42/s	Tegucigalpa	92/71/pc	89/69/t
Beijing	86/61/s	87/66/s	Havana	94/72/sh	93/73/pc	Montreal	53/45/sh	57/46/c	Tehran	73/55/s	74/57/t
Beirut	73/64/s	83/70/pc	Helsinki	44/34/s	44/40/pc	Moscow	43/28/sn	45/31/sn	Tokyo	71/53/r	62/55/pc
Belgrade	72/56/t	65/54/sh	Hong Kong	84/76/pc	81/72/pc	Nairobi	75/61/t	75/60/t	Toronto	75/50/pc	56/49/r
Berlin	65/41/c	68/49/pc	Jakarta	92/77/pc	92/77/sh	New Delhi	104/80/pc	103/81/pc	Tunis	70/58/sh	68/61/sh
Bogota	69/52/c	66/52/r	Jerusalem	77/61/s	87/66/s	Panama City	87/76/r	88/76/sh	Vancouver	59/46/s	67/50/s
Brussels	60/45/c	67/48/c	Johannesburg	80/54/s	78/57/s	Paris	66/48/pc	71/51/c	Vienna	60/50/r	69/46/s
Bucharest	68/52/c	64/48/sh	Kabul	81/54/s	81/54/pc	Port-au-Prince	92/73/t	94/74/s	Warsaw	64/43/pc	67/44/pc
Budapest	69/51/r	72/48/pc	Khartoum	103/78/pc	106/80/s	Rio de Janeiro	86/74/s	88/75/pc	Yerevan	62/43/sh	65/48/s
Buenos Aires	64/46/pc	59/53/s	Kyiv	60/40/s	56/40/pc	Riyadh	98/71/s	96/69/s	Zagreb	68/53/r	70/49/c
Cairo	87/67/s	96/79/s	Kingston	89/80/sh	89/80/pc	Rome	70/57/c	76/56/c	Zurich	61/46/c	66/44/pc

Denotes possible travel delays Wednesday

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



## AFGHANISTAN

## Cultivating poppy wars

Farmers and residents in Afghanistan's northeast staged unprecedented public protests over the weekend against a ban on opium poppy cultivation, a move met with military crackdowns by Taliban leaders, Voice of America reported.

The Taliban banned poppy cultivation in early 2022, months after they took over the entire country. Their anti-narcotics campaign contributed to a \$1.3 billion loss in Afghan farmers' income.

After Taliban forces started destroying poppy crops in Badashkan province, farmers and local residents took to the streets, with social media footage showing people chanting slogans against Taliban Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

The rare expression of public outrage was met with a violent response from security forces. Sources told VOA that law enforcement used firearms to disperse crowds and killed two people.

Army chief Qari Fasihuiddin, a native of the region who investigated the incident, warned that further demonstrations would be suppressed.

Meanwhile, angry residents said they were awaiting answers to their complaints.

Afghanistan was once the world's largest opium poppy producer. Akhundzada's religious decree banning the plant's cultivation has aggravated the poverty levels in Afghanistan which have increased since the Taliban retook control three years ago.

The Taliban's ban on opium cultivation has seen the sector contract by 90%, according to a recent World Bank report, costing 450,000 jobs at the farm level.

Meanwhile, Badashkan and nearby provinces were not controlled by the Taliban when the group led the country in the 1990s. Analysts said that last weekend's protests signaled obstacles to the Taliban's control.



## ITALY

## Tell it to the judge

Italy's right-wing government has been moving to silence intellectuals through defamation lawsuits, and the latest example is a philosopher being sued by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's brother-in-law, according to the Guardian.

The case centers on statements made in April 2023, when Agriculture Minister Francesco Lollobrigida, who is married to Meloni's sister, addressed Italy's demographic decline at a trade union conference, saying his country was at risk of "ethnic replacement."

Donatella di Cesare from Rome's Sapienza University, who has written books on the link between Nazi thinking and modern-day conspiracy theories, said on television later that day that such a statement could also be found in "Mein Kampf" and Nazi ideology in general.

Di Cesare's remarks, however, were "solely aimed at destroying a person and smearing both myself and my associates," Lollobrigida said in the court filing. He has called the statements "defamatory" and "shameful." The professor, who will

appear in court on May 15, said that all of this was part of a political strategy to sideline opponents of the right: "What we are seeing here is legal proceedings against a historical comparison ... The aim of defamation trials like mine is not just to intimidate, but to push left-wing intellectuals outside the public discourse."

Meanwhile, the case is just one of a growing list of legal proceedings Meloni and her right-wing allies have launched against progressive pundits criticizing their political agenda.

Historian Luciano Canfora is facing prosecution for aggravated defamation for saying in 2022 that Meloni was a "neo-Nazi at heart," a comment that the prime minister claimed could "falsify her political identity." And writer Roberto Saviano was fined \$1,077 for calling Meloni and her power-sharing partner Matteo Salvini "bastards" for crusading against ships rescuing migrants in the Mediterranean Sea.

Italy hands some of the European Union's harshest sentences for defamation – up to six years in jail.

Despite calls for reform, Meloni's administration has pushed back a debate on a bill aimed at protecting journalists and writers from defamation cases.

## DISCOVERIES

## Rise of the protector

Earth's magnetic field has long played an important role in preserving life on the planet. Now, scientists are shedding some new light onto its early origins, Popular Mechanics reported.

The magnetic field is powered by our planet's iron core and protects all life from being blasted by dangerous cosmic rays from the Sun and other parts of outer space.

There is still debate about when it was first formed, but a new study on iron rocks discovered the earliest known evidence of the field's existence.

An international research team analyzed well-preserved rocks collected from Greenland's Isua Greenstone Belt dating some 3.7 billion years ago. They explained iron content in these samples matters because it can lock in the direction and strength of a magnetic field when it crystallizes.

To probe the magnetic information, the team first demagnetized the rocks in a lab and then remagnetized them.

The findings show that the early magnetic field from the Eoarchean period – around 4 billion to 3.6 billion years ago – had a strength of 15 microteslas, which is nearly half as strong as today's field.

The study puts the time-frame around 200 million years earlier than previous magnetic field evidence, which also brings up questions about when the earliest lifeforms emerged.

The team suggested that life was still possible some 3.7 billion years ago despite a weak magnetic field and extremely harsh conditions – when Earth was getting bombarded by powerful solar winds.

Still, the study further reinforces the case that magnetic fields are necessary for life to emerge and an eventual increase in strength allows lifeforms to flourish.

# Brazil floods leave 150,000 homeless

## Scores reported dead or missing

Amanda Perobelli  
and Leonardo Benansatto  
REUTERS

ELDORADO DO SUL, Brazil – Rescuers rushed to evacuate people stranded by devastating floods across the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul on Tuesday, with at least 90 dead, thousands left homeless and desperate survivors seeking food and basic supplies.

On the outskirts of Eldorado do Sul, 10.5 miles from the state capital of Porto Alegre, many people were sleeping on the roadside and told Reuters they were going hungry. Entire families were leaving on foot, carrying belongings in backpacks and shopping carts.

"We've been without food for three days and we've only just got this blanket. I'm with people I don't even know, I don't know where my family is," said a young man who gave his name as Ricardo Junior.

The flooding has hampered rescue efforts, with dozens of people still waiting to be evacuated by boat or helicopter from stricken homes. Small boats crisscrossed the flooded town searching for survivors.

The state's Civil Defense agency said the death toll had risen to 90 with another four deaths being investigated, while 131 people were still unaccounted for and 155,000 homeless.

The heavy rains that began last week have caused rivers to flood, inundating whole towns and destroying roads and bridges.

Rain is forecast to let up on Thursday but then continue through the weekend.

Climate experts attributed the extreme rainfall in Rio Grande do Sul to the confluence of a heat wave caused by this year's El Niño phenomenon, which warms the waters of the Pacific and brings rain to southern Brazil; a weaker cold front with rain and gales coming from the Antarctic; and unusual warmth in the Atlantic also raising humidity.

Global warming exacerbates these phenomena and intensifies the effects



A drone shot shows a cargo plane at the flooded Salgado Filho International Airport in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on Tuesday. WESLEY SANTOS/REUTERS

between such systems, making weather unpredictable, said Marcelo Schneider, a National Meteorology Institute researcher.

### Electricity cuts

In Porto Alegre, a city of 1.3 million inhabitants, downtown streets were under water after the Guaiba River breached its banks with record water levels.

Porto Alegre residents faced empty supermarket shelves and closed gas stations, with shops rationing sales of mineral water. The city distributed water in trucks to hospitals and shelters.

The floods have also impacted water and electricity services, with more than 1.4 million affected overall, according to Civil Defense.

Almost half a million people were without power in Porto Alegre and outlying towns as electricity companies cut



Tourists view Brazil's Iguazu Falls, which were at full water capacity Tuesday due to the rains in the country. KIKO SIERICH/REUTERS

off supplies for security reasons in flooded neighborhoods. National grid operator ONS said five hydroelectric dams and transmission lines were shut down due to the heavy rains.

The city's airport, its apron under water, has suspended all flights since Friday.

Fuel shortages were reported as state-run oil company Petrobras said it was having trouble moving diesel from its refinery in badly-flooded Canoas within metropolitan Porto Alegre, a senior government official said.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on a government television program that the extent of the damage will not be known until the waters subside. He promised federal aid for the state in what is considered its worst-ever climate disaster.

JP Morgan economists projected that the impact of the floods on Brazil's economy would be a modest dent in GDP growth and a marginal increase in inflation, mainly due to higher prices for rice that is largely produced in Rio Grande do Sul. The government said Brazil will import rice to stabilize the market.

# Probe finds widespread sexual misconduct at FDIC

## Republican calls for chair's resignation

Douglas Gillison and Pete Schroeder  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation must make sweeping changes to address widespread sexual harassment and other misconduct, according to an independent report released on Tuesday that raises questions about the future of the banking regulator's leadership.

The report, prompted by a Wall Street Journal investigation, cited accounts from more than 500 people, including some who alleged FDIC Chair Martin Gruenberg had engaged in bullying and verbal abuse.

Overall, the report by law firm Cleary Gottlieb paints a picture of an agency at which sexual harassment, racial discrimination and bullying were pervasive at every level and tolerated by senior leaders for years, while complaints about misconduct were met with retaliation.

"For far too many employees and for far too long, the FDIC has failed to provide a workplace safe from sexual harassment, discrimination, and other interpersonal misconduct," said the report, adding that those accused of misconduct were frequently reassigned new roles.

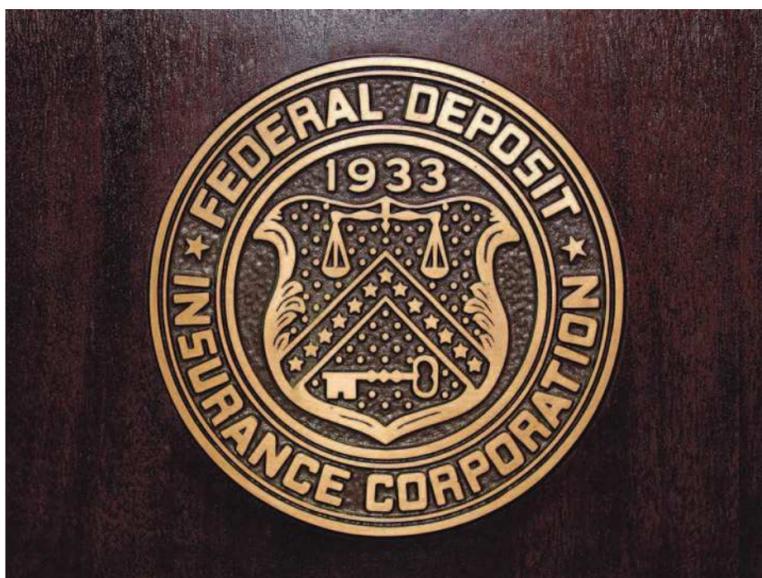
Underscoring the agency's toxic culture, officials tasked with addressing the problems exposed by the WSJ reports were themselves the subject of misconduct claims, the Cleary Gottlieb report found.

The findings sparked renewed calls for the ouster of Gruenberg, a Democrat who has been a senior leader at the agency for nearly two decades.

Rep. Patrick McHenry, a Republican who chairs the House Financial Services Committee, called for Gruenberg's resignation following the report, saying it made clear the agency needs new leadership.

"The FDIC needs to be fixed. The women and men who work there deserve better," Sen. Sherrod Brown, chair of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, said in a statement. "Chair Gruenberg must accept responsibility and must immediately work to make fundamental changes to the agency and its culture."

Some employees described Gruenberg as "harsh" and "aggressive," as well as prone to losing his temper, the report said. In speaking with investigators, Gruenberg said he never recalled acting inappropriately. The report said some employees reported positive interactions with him and saw his nature as



The FDIC must make sweeping changes to address sexual harassment and other misconduct, according to an independent report released on Tuesday.

JASON REED/REUTERS FILE



The findings sparked renewed calls for the ouster of FDIC Chair Martin Gruenberg, a Democrat who has been a senior leader at the agency for nearly two decades.

ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

more "prosecutorial."

In a statement to staff, Gruenberg said the report was "sobering" and he vowed to implement its recommendations.

He said he was ultimately responsible for everything that happened at the agency and apologized for any shortcomings. "I again want to express how very sorry I am," he added.

### Leadership cloud

The report recommends the appointment of new officials devoted to changing the FDIC's culture and hiring

an independent third party to assist in the transition, although it did not consider whether top leaders should resign.

It also called on the agency to establish an anonymous hotline to report misconduct and abuse, develop a more timely and transparent process for handling complaints, and take steps to ensure victims are protected and supported.

While the report found that Gruenberg's aggressive conduct was not a root cause of the more severe issues at the agency, it was skeptical of his ability to oversee the necessary dramatic overhaul.

"As the FDIC faces a crisis relating to its workplace culture, Chairman Gruenberg's reputation raises questions about the credibility of the leadership's response to the crisis and the 'moral authority' to lead a cultural transformation," the report stated.

The departure of Gruenberg, who was appointed by President Joe Biden in 2022, could imperil the administration's efforts to impose stricter financial rules, including a pending regulatory proposal on bank capital requirements, which has sparked a backlash from Republicans and industry representatives.

A White House spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

If Gruenberg steps down or is removed, agency bylaws stipulate that FDIC Vice Chair Travis Hill, a Republican, take over, and the agency's board would be evenly split between Republicans and Democrats.

## ANALYSIS

# TikTok lawsuit tees up novel court fight

## Critics spot potential weakness in US's case

Mike Scarcella  
REUTERS

TikTok's new lawsuit to block a U.S. law forcing the social media company's Chinese parent to divest it or be banned could spark a landmark clash over free speech, government power and the balance between open commerce and national security, experts told Reuters.

ByteDance has until Jan. 19 to sell TikTok's U.S. assets. The legislation, signed by President Joe Biden last month, was spurred by fears that China could use the popular video-sharing app to spy on its 170 million American users.

TikTok's lawsuit called the measure an "extraordinary and unconstitutional assertion of power." The company, which has denied sharing U.S. user data, said the law unfairly singles out TikTok but puts all media at risk by circumventing free speech protections.

Promoters of the law have said it has nothing to do with speech but merely regulates a commercial activity. Some civil liberties advocates like Jameel Jaffer, executive director of the Knight First Amendment Institute, counter that the U.S. effort against TikTok is "censorship – plain and simple."

"The First Amendment means the government can't restrict Americans' access to ideas, information, or media from abroad without a very good reason for it – and no such reason exists here," Jaffer said. He said the law resembles measures by repressive foreign regimes to stifle citizens' access to media.

The U.S. Justice Department, which will defend the law in court, declined to comment on Tuesday.

TikTok's petition asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to apply the highest form of review in U.S. constitutional cases, called "strict scrutiny." That standard would put a greater burden on the government to show that the new law does not trample core speech protections, at least not unavoidably.

Legal experts said the government would likely argue that national security or some other compelling government interest is at stake and that the law was "narrowly tailored" to address it, with no lesser option available.

Critics spot a weakness in the government's potential case on this point: Washington thus far has seemed unconcerned about abuse of users' data by other social media platforms.

Companies such as Meta Platforms' Facebook collect, store and share users' data, but the government has never treated that activity as a national security threat or enacted data protections.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation's David Greene has said that if the U.S. were really concerned about China and data privacy, it would push legislation that applies to all social media companies, not just TikTok.

The government might argue that TikTok could continue to operate and U.S. users continue to use it, just not under Chinese ownership, so the law's effect on speech was "incidental" and permitted. Showing a compelling national security risk could sway the court, legal experts said, but so far details driving those concerns have not been made public.

Cornell Law School Professor Gautam Hans, who teaches First Amendment law, said the "problem now is we are taking a lot on faith." It was difficult to imagine the court upholding the divest-or-ban law without evidence of "what exactly the risks are," Hans said.

TikTok said in the lawsuit that "speculative concerns fall far short of what is required when First Amendment rights are at stake." The law's national security premise was undermined by the "continued use of TikTok by President Biden and Members of Congress," it said.

TikTok has already foiled, for now, a more localized U.S. effort to ban the app outright.

In November, a U.S. federal judge in Montana preliminarily blocked the state's effort to ban TikTok within its borders, after TikTok and some users sued on First Amendment grounds.

Montana, backed by Virginia and 18 other states, is challenging the order on appeal.

## FINANCIAL MARKETS

# S&P, Dow extend streaks despite Disney drag

David French  
REUTERS

The S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both clung onto gains to end slightly higher on Tuesday, extending recent winning streaks fueled by renewed expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this year.

The advances pushed the S&P 500 to a fourth straight higher close, and its best winning run since March. For the Dow, it is now on its longest positive run since December 2023, gaining for the fifth session in a row.

The benchmark performances came despite Walt Disney slumping 9.5%, its biggest percentage fall since November 2022, as a surprise profit in its streaming entertainment division was eclipsed by a drop in its traditional TV business and weaker box office.

Despite Disney's drag, markets have been generally buoyed by a weaker-than-expected labor market report last week, which fueled bets that the U.S. central bank will cut rates.

The Nasdaq Composite has also benefited, but it slipped lower in afternoon trade on Tuesday and closed slightly lower, snapping its own winning run at three.

"I think the market is in this little holding pattern until the big data comes next week," said Garrett Melson, portfolio strategist at Natixis Investment Manager Solutions, referring to the Producer Price Index due on May 14, and the Consumer Price Index scheduled for May 15.

Generally, the Federal Reserve and policymakers have been consistent in

their message in recent weeks that rate cuts will come but the central bank is going to be cautious in implementing them.

This meant, on a day lacking major data announcements, markets shrugged off comments from Minneapolis Federal Reserve President Neel Kashkari that the Fed may need to hold rates steady for the remainder of the year due to stalled inflation and housing market strength.

Overall, Friday's payrolls data and better-than-expected earnings reports have helped soothe investor jitters around sticky inflation and a robust economy that have kept the rates elevated.

Traders are anticipating rate cuts of 46 basis points from the Fed by the end of 2024, according to LSEG's interest rate probabilities app, with the first pivot to rate cut seen in September and another in December. They were expecting only one cut before the labor report last week.

"The market is far more hypersensitive to the data than the Fed is," said Natixis' Melson, adding that "the bar for the Fed to abandon the easing bias is extremely high."

The S&P 500 gained 6.96 points, or 0.13%, to 5,187.70 points, while the Nasdaq Composite lost 16.69 points, or 0.10%, to 16,332.56.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 31.99 points, or 0.08%, to 38,884.26.

Megacap stocks Alphabet and Meta Platforms rose 1.9% and 0.6%, respectively, boosting the main indexes.

Nvidia fell 1.7% after the Wall Street

**Traders are anticipating rate cuts of 46 basis points from the Fed by the end of 2024, according to LSEG's interest rate probabilities app, with the first rate cut seen in September and another in December.**

Journal reported that Apple was developing its own chip to run artificial intelligence software in data centers.

Apple gained 0.4% as it introduced a new chip called the M4, but put the new chip in an iPad Pro model rather than a laptop.

Tesla fell 3.8% after data showed the U.S. automaker sold 62,167 China-made electric vehicles in April, down 18% from a year earlier.

Palantir Technologies tumbled 15.1%, its sharpest one-day decline since May 2022, after the data analytics firm's annual revenue forecast fell short of analysts' estimates.

The S&P 500 posted 49 new 52-week highs and 2 new lows while the Nasdaq recorded 155 new highs and 69 new lows.

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

## Alleged NKorean missile use causes alarm

REUTERS

KYIV – Ukrainian state prosecutors say they have examined debris from 21 of around 50 North Korean ballistic missiles launched by Russia between late December and late February, as they seek to assess the threat from Moscow's cooperation with Pyongyang.

In previously unreported details of an investigation underway into the missiles, the office of Ukraine's top prosecutor, Andriy Kostin, also told Reuters that the failure rate of the North Korean weaponry appeared to be high.

"About half of the North Korean missiles lost their programmed trajectories and exploded in the air; in such cases the debris was not recovered," Kostin's office said in written answers to Reuters' questions.

North Korean missiles account for a tiny portion of Russia's strikes during its war on Ukraine, but their alleged use has caused alarm from Seoul to Washington because it may herald the end of a nearly two-decade consensus among permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on preventing Pyongyang expanding its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

In addition to providing North Korea with an opportunity to test missiles, Russia has taken steps that will make it harder for the U.N. to monitor sanctions imposed on Pyongyang in 2006.

Steve Holland

## Russia, Ukraine trade allegations of chemical weapons use

AMSTERDAM – Russia and Ukraine have accused each other at the global chemical weapons watchdog in The Hague of using banned toxins on the battlefield, the organization said on Tuesday.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said that the accusations were "insufficiently substantiated" but added: "The situation remains volatile and extremely concerning regarding the possible re-emergence of use of toxic chemicals as weapons."

Neither Russia nor Ukraine has formally asked the OPCW to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons, it said.

Last week, the U.S. said Russia had violated the international chemical weapons ban overseen by the OPCW by deploying the choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian troops and using riot control agents "as a method of warfare" in Ukraine.

It followed Ukrainian assertions in April that Russia had increased its use of tear gas in the trenches.

Anthony Deutsch and Max Hunder

## US, allies sanction leader of LockBit cybercrime gang

LONDON– Britain, the U.S. and Australia have sanctioned and unmasked a senior Russian leader of the notorious cybercrime gang LockBit, the British government said on Tuesday.

Dmitry Khoroshev will face asset freezes and travel bans after being identified as one of the leaders of LockBit, the ransomware group which has digitally extorted over \$1 billion from victims worldwide, it said.

"These sanctions are hugely significant and show that there is no hiding place for cybercriminals like Dmitry



Parts of an unidentified missile, which Ukrainian authorities believe to be made in North Korea, are photographed in Kharkiv. VYACHESLAV MADIYEVSKYY/REUTERS FILE



The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said that the accusations of chemical weapons use by Russia and Ukraine were "insufficiently substantiated." PIROSHKA VAN DE WOUW/REUTERS FILE

Khoroshev, who wreak havoc across the globe. He was certain he could remain anonymous, but he was wrong," Graeme Biggar, Director General of Britain's National Crime Agency, said in a statement.

LockBit was first disrupted by the NCA, U.S. Department of Justice, FBI and Europol in February, in an unprecedented campaign that saw the gang's dark web site hijacked by police and used to leak internal information about the group and the people behind it.

Ransomware is malicious software that encrypts data; Lockbit and its affiliates make money by coercing its targets into paying ransom to decrypt or unlock that data with a digital key. The gang's digital extortion tools have been used against some of the world's largest organizations.

James Pearson and Sachin Ravikummar

## Russia declares US Freedom House an undesirable organization

MOSCOW – Russian prosecutors said on Tuesday they had designated U.S. nonprofit group Freedom House as an "undesirable" organization in Russia.

The move, amounting to a ban, could put anyone working for or collaborating with the NGO at risk of punishment by the authorities.

In its 2024 report, Freedom House assessed Russia as "not free," awarding it a Global Freedom Score of only 13 points out of 100.

"Since the regime launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, authorities have intensified restrictions on individual rights and liberties in order to stifle domestic dissent," it said.

Russia's prosecutor general said on Telegram that Freedom House was involved in promoting "the so-called 'dominant' role of the United States in the world", discrediting the Russian army, and advocating for assistance to Ukraine and sanctions against Russia.

## Zelenskyy: Cape Verde first African state to agree to summit

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday that the island state of Cape Verde had become the first African country to agree to attend a world "peace summit" aimed at finding a solution to Ukraine's more than two-



Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva's Cape Verde island state become the first African country to agree to attend a world "peace summit," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/POOL VIA REUTERS/FILE

year-old war against Russia.

The summit, to which Russia has not been invited, is to take place in Switzerland on June 15-16, and Ukraine hopes to marshal broad support to persuade Moscow to agree to terms that Kyiv deems acceptable.

Ukraine has been deploying great efforts to bring countries from the Global South onside, though Russia benefits from longstanding ties with Moscow from Soviet times.

In a post on the Telegram messaging app, Zelenskyy said he thanked Cape Verde Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva during a telephone conversation.

"Every continent will be represented at our summit in Switzerland, different nations, small or large, those who have clearly shown their support for international law and those who will do so," he said.

Zelenskyy stands by a peace plan calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops, the restoration of Ukraine's post-Soviet borders and a process to bring Russia to account for its actions. He hopes more than 80 countries will attend.

Russia says the plan takes no account of "new realities" in Ukraine and dismisses the summit as meaningless if Moscow is not a party.

Ron Popeski

## US soldier bucked Army rules before arrest in Russia

Idrees Ali and Phil Stewart  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Before his arrest in Russia, U.S. soldier Gordon Black not only broke Army rules by traveling to the Russian city of Vladivostok without authorization, but he did so after passing through China, the Pentagon said on Tuesday.

Details about Black started to emerge on Tuesday of risk-taking behavior that saw the 34-year-old Army staff sergeant's luck run out after he followed his girlfriend to Russia while he was on personal leave from military service.

Russia has charged him on suspicion of theft. His mother says she thinks he was set up by his Russian girlfriend.

The case presents yet another diplomatic headache for the United States, which has warned U.S. citizens against travel to Russia and has been wrestling with other high-profile detentions there.

That includes a drugs case against basketball star Brittney Griner, who was freed last year in a prisoner swap, and

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who has been detained on espionage charges, which he and his employer deny.

Black enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in 2008 and had been assigned to Camp Humphreys in South Korea. He was set to return to Fort Cavazos in Texas, the U.S. Army said in a statement.

"Instead of returning to the continental United States, Black flew from Incheon, Republic of Korea through China to Vladivostok, Russia, for personal reasons," the Army added.

The Army said there was no evidence that Black planned to stay in Russia after his personal leave ended.

Black's mother, Melody Jones, told ABC News that she had a conversation with her son before he left and told him that she was uncomfortable with him going to Russia, but he went anyway.

"I knew something was going to happen. I felt like he was being set up by her," Jones said.

Black's case is the latest headache for the U.S. Army, after U.S. Army Pvt. Tra-



Gordon Black, a U.S. serviceman detained in Russia, poses for a selfie in this picture obtained from social media. GORDON BLACK VIA REUTERS

vis King was held in North Korea for over two months after his surprise dash across the heavily militarized border dividing the Korean peninsula. King is now back in the United States.

The Army said the Russian Interior Ministry informed the U.S. Embassy in

Moscow on May 3 that Black had been arrested in Vladivostok the day earlier for "theft of personal property."

Black, who has deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, is currently in a pretrial detention facility, the Army said.

"He will remain in detention until his next hearing pending determination," it added.

The Russian Interior Ministry in Vladivostok said a 32-year-old woman had filed a complaint against Black.

The two had met in South Korea, the ministry said. The American had come to Vladivostok to visit her, the two had an argument, and she later filed a police report accusing him of stealing money, it said. He was arrested in a hotel, having bought a plane ticket to return home.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the case had no political element and there were no allegations of espionage.

Separately, Moscow's court service said on Tuesday that a court had remanded a U.S. citizen whom it named as William Russell Nycum in custody for 10 days for "petty hooliganism."

## IN BRIEF

**Republicans allege Iran envoy mishandled classified material**

Two Republican lawmakers believe the security clearance of Rob Malley, who is on unpaid leave from his post as U.S. special envoy for Iran, was suspended because he allegedly sent classified documents to his personal email account and downloaded them to his personal mobile phone.

Sen. Jim Risch, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul did not provide any source for the allegations in a May 6 letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The letter was first reported by the Washington Post and reviewed by Reuters on Tuesday.

"We understand that Mr. Malley's security clearance was suspended because he allegedly transferred classified documents to his personal email account and downloaded these documents to his personal cell phone," said the letter, which gave the most detailed potential public explanation to date for the suspension of Malley's security clearance.

"It is believed that a hostile cyber actor was able to gain access to his email and/or phone and obtain the downloaded information," they added, criticizing the Department for not providing more information about Malley's case.

A State Department spokesperson said Malley remains on leave.

**First crewed test flight of Starliner targeted for May 17**

The target date for the next attempt to launch Boeing's Starliner space capsule on its first crewed test flight has been pushed back to no earlier than May 17, to replace a pressure valve on its booster rocket, NASA said Tuesday.

The CST-100 Starliner's debut voyage carrying astronauts to the International Space Station has been highly anticipated and much-delayed as Boeing scrambles to compete with Elon Musk's SpaceX for a greater share of lucrative NASA business.

The test flight was called off on Monday night with less than two hours left in the countdown after a pressure regulation valve malfunctioned on the upper-stage liquid oxygen tank of the Atlas V rocket that was to launch the new capsule into orbit.

The rocket, a separate component from the Starliner capsule, was furnished for the mission by United Launch Alliance, a Boeing-Lockheed Martin joint venture.

**US revokes some export licenses for firms supplying Huawei**

The U.S. on Tuesday said it revoked some licenses that allow companies to ship goods, such as chips, to sanctioned Chinese telecommunications equipment maker Huawei Technologies.

Some companies were notified on Tuesday that their licenses were revoked immediately, according to one person familiar with the matter. The move comes after the release last month of Huawei's first AI-enabled laptop, the MateBook X Pro powered by Intel's new Core Ultra 9 processor.

The laptop launch drew fire from Republican lawmakers, who said it suggested to them that the Commerce Department had given the green light to Intel to sell the chip to Huawei.

The move comes after concerted pressure by Republican China hawks in Congress who have been urging the Biden administration to take tougher action to thwart Huawei.

"This action will bolster U.S. national security, protect American ingenuity, and diminish Communist China's ability to advance its technology," Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik said in a statement.

**AstraZeneca says it will withdraw COVID-19 vaccine globally**

AstraZeneca said on Tuesday it had initiated the worldwide withdrawal of its COVID-19 vaccine due to a "surplus of available updated vaccines" since the pandemic.

The company also said it would proceed to withdraw the vaccine Vaxzevria's marketing authorizations within Europe.

"As multiple, variant COVID-19 vaccines have since been developed there is a surplus of available updated vaccines," the company said, adding that this had led to a decline in demand for Vaxzevria, which is no longer being manufactured or supplied.

According to media reports, the Anglo-Swedish drugmaker has admitted in court documents that the vaccine causes side-effects such as blood clots and low blood platelet counts.

Reuters

# Lawmakers revise legislation to ensure quick airline refunds

David Shepardson  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – U.S. House and Senate negotiators agreed late Tuesday to revise language in an aviation reform bill to ensure quick refunds for airline passengers whose flights are canceled and who are not seeking alternative flights.

On April 24, the U.S. Transportation Department finalized new rules that later this year will require automatic cash refunds for canceled flights when passengers choose not to take a new flight.

A bipartisan proposal in Congress released last week that said passengers must request the refunds had raised concerns the law could undercut a rule that would ensure people who bought non-refundable tickets got reimbursed for canceled flights.

But under revised language first reported by Reuters and made public Tuesday, refunds would be automatic in many instances. Automatic refunds would not apply if passengers rebooked and accepted a new flight.

Senators hope the revised bill will win approval before a Friday deadline



**The U.S. Transportation Department last month finalized new rules that will later this year require automatic cash refunds for canceled flights when passengers choose not to take a new flight.** RICARDO B. BRAZZI/LL/AUSTIN

AMERICAN-STATESMAN FILE

to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration for five years.

Senate Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell, a Democrat who led the talks on the revised language, said, "Statutory rights to refunds are a big win for consumers in this bill. Passengers can reject vouchers or alternative flights, and without hassle, get a refund."

Democratic Sen. Ed Markey called the refund bill "a victory for airline consumers everywhere."

A spokesperson for Sen. Ted Cruz, the panel's top Republican, said he and Cantwell had agreed to add a "clarifying point affirming the right of consumers to get a refund if that is their preference."

Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Josh Hawley had proposed an amendment to make the refunds automatic and "crack down on burdensome corporate processes put in place to maximize airlines' profits." The new provision is similar to what Warren and Hawley had sought.

Neither the rule nor the legislation mandates compensation for delays – as is required for some lengthy waits in the European Union.

President Joe Biden said last May that the Transportation Department would propose new rules requiring airlines to compensate passengers with cash for significant controllable flight delays or cancellations.

The nearly 1,100-page, \$105 billion bill would also boost air traffic controller staffing and hike funding to avert runway close-call incidents.

# Florida suing Biden administration over new transgender health care rule

Brendan Pierson  
REUTERS

Florida's top prosecutor and a Catholic medical group on Tuesday sued the Biden administration in an effort to block a rule that they say will force doctors to provide gender transition care against their judgment or face heavy penalties.

The lawsuit by Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody and the Catholic Medical Association, filed in federal court in Tampa, takes aim at a new rule published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Monday that would ban discrimination in health care on the basis of gender identity.

The rule is based on an anti-discrimination provision within the Affordable Care Act, the national health insurance law better known as Obamacare, which forbids sex discrimination.

In their complaint, Moody and CMA say the new rule goes beyond the anti-discrimination law. They say it would force doctors to provide, and insurance to pay for, treatments including puberty blockers, hormones and surgeries for transgender minors and adults against their medical or ethical judgment.

They also said the rule conflicted with a Florida law banning such treatments, which are known as gender-affirming care, for minors.

"These rules trample states' power to protect their own citizens and we will not stand by as Biden tries, yet again, to use the force of the federal government to unlawfully stifle Florida's effort to protect children," Moody said in a state-



**A new Department of Health and Human Services rule would ban discrimination in health care on the basis of gender identity.** OCTAVIO JONES/REUTERS FILE

ment.

The plaintiffs claim that the rule is "arbitrary and capricious" under a federal law governing agency rulemaking, and violates doctors' right to free speech and freedom of religion under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. They are asking the court for an order blocking its enforcement.

HHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The agency and major medical organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics have said that gender-affirming care is medically necessary and potentially lifesaving.

President Joe Biden in a 2022 executive order instructed federal agencies like HHS to ensure access to gender-affirming care and prevent discrimination against transgender people.

Republican-led states, meanwhile, have passed a flurry of laws directed at transgender people, including bans on gender-affirming care for minors and restrictions on transgender students' participation in sports.

Last week, a group of Republican states sued the administration over a rule that would bar schools and colleges receiving federal funds from discriminating against transgender students.

# Idaho

Continued from Page 1NN

appointee of Republican then-President George W. Bush, did not speak during the argument.

McKeown asked several questions during the argument questioning how transporting someone could be speech protected by the First Amendment.

She also asked both sides whether the part of the law against "recruiting" could be blocked, on the grounds that it interferes with speech simply telling minors about accessing abortions, while upholding the prohibitions on harboring and transporting.

Turner said it could, while Olson said that harboring and transporting could still be protected by the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of association.

Idaho bans almost all abortions, with narrow exceptions to save the mother's life and for rape or incest that is reported to police. However, it borders Washington, Oregon and Montana, which allow them.

Under its law, adults who help girls obtain abortions without parental or guardians' consent would face a minimum of two years in prison if convicted.

The case is one of several challeng-



**The U.S. Supreme Court in 2022 overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 ruling that had established a nationwide right to abortion. Idaho now bans almost all abortions, with narrow exceptions.** KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS FILE

ing laws that criminalize helping residents travel to states where abortion is legal. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2022 overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 ruling that had established a nationwide right to abortion.

A group of Alabama health care providers and a fund that helps people in

the state filed lawsuits last year seeking to block anyone from being prosecuted under state law for helping someone travel out of state for an abortion. The state's Republican attorney general had suggested that Alabamans who did so could be prosecuted as criminal accomplices.

# Biden says peaceful protests are welcome

Trevor Hunnicutt  
and Andrea Shalal  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden welcomes peaceful protests at college commencement ceremonies where he and other administration officials will speak, the White House said on Tuesday as pro-Palestinian protests spread around the country.

Columbia University on Monday canceled its main graduation ceremony after weeks of unrest roiled the Ivy League college's campus, but it will still hold smaller, school-based events.

The protests at Columbia have inspired similar demonstrations at dozens of universities around the country. Students have called for a cease-fire in Gaza and have demanded their schools divest from companies with ties to Israel.

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden welcomed peaceful protests on campuses and elsewhere, but would continue to condemn hate speech, antisemitism or violence.

"It doesn't matter where he is, where he's speaking. It doesn't matter if it's a commencement or one of his events. He welcomes peaceful protests," she said.

"We have been very clear. We believe all Americans should have the right to peacefully protest," she added. "What we don't want to see is hate speech, violence."

Biden is due to give a commencement speech at Morehouse College in Atlanta on May 19.

Biden warned on Tuesday that the threat of antisemitism is growing in the United States, including on college campuses, joining a heated American debate about Jewish security, Zionism,



University police are confronted by protesters as they block access to the Main Quadrangle on the University of Chicago campus on Tuesday. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

free speech and support for Israel, in the country with the largest Jewish population after Israel.

Biden last week address the campus unrest, saying Americans have the right to protest "but not a right to cause chaos" through vandalism, breaking windows or shutting down campuses.

Jean-Pierre reiterated the White

House position that it should be up the universities to decide how to respond.

She condemned behavior captured in a video at the University of Mississippi over the weekend as "undignified and racist," after a student was accused of mocking a Black protester by making monkey noises during an anti-war demonstration.

"The actions in the video are beneath any American," Jean-Pierre told reporters.

The Democratic president, seeking reelection in November, has walked a careful line of denouncing antisemitism while supporting young Americans' right to protest and trying to limit longer-term political damage.

## Columbia Law School voices confidence in grads

Nate Raymond and Karen Sloan  
REUTERS

The head of Columbia Law School backed its graduates on Tuesday, saying they were "consistently sought out," in response to an announcement by 13 conservative federal judges that they would not hire students from the Ivy League university.

The judges announced the boycott on Monday, citing the university's handling of pro-Palestinian protests and calling the Manhattan campus an "incubator of bigotry" in a letter to Columbia President Minouche Shafik and Law Dean Gillian Lester.

Lester said in a statement on Tuesday that Columbia Law graduates were "consistently sought out by leading employers in the private and public sectors, including the judiciary."

The lead signatories on Monday's letter, who were all appointees of former President Donald Trump, included U.S. Judges James Ho of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Elizabeth Branch of the 11th Circuit, who previously urged judges to similarly boycott hiring clerks from Yale and Stanford following disruptions of events at those law schools with conservative speakers.

But figures suggest the boycott will have limited real world impact.

Columbia Law School is not a major feeder into federal clerkships, with the



Columbia University students and pro-Palestinian protesters march in front of Hamilton Hall in Manhattan on May 1. ROSELLE CHEN/REUTERS

**"I have had many outstanding law clerks from Columbia. I do not boycott any law school or its students."**

**Jerry Smith**  
U.S. circuit judge

vast majority of its graduates going into associate jobs at large law firms. Just 21 of the Manhattan law school's 427 juris doctor graduates in 2023 went into fed-

eral clerkships – about 5% – according to the latest employment data from the American Bar Association.

By contrast, the University of Chicago Law School, Yale Law School and Stanford Law School each sent 20% or more of their 2023 graduates into federal clerkships. Columbia was 39th out of 195 U.S. law schools for the percentage of the graduating class that went into federal clerkships.

A law school spokesperson did not provide comment on Tuesday on whether any of the 13 boycotting judges had ever hired a Columbia Law grad as a federal clerk.

Federal judges hire two or three law grads annually for yearlong clerkships that can lead to prestigious and high-paying legal jobs.

**'See no reason to punish them'**

There was little sign of the boycott gathering significant steam on Tuesday.

U.S. Circuit Judge Jerry Smith, a colleague of Ho's on the 5th Circuit appointed by former President Ronald Reagan, noted that so far only two of the approximately 170 active federal appeals court judges had announced plans to join the boycott.

"I have had many outstanding law clerks from Columbia," Smith said. "I do not boycott any law school or its students."

Chief U.S. District Judge Randy Crane of the Southern District of Texas said he would not hire a student who participated in "antisemitic or pro-Hamas protests" but that he would also not support a blanket boycott of the school.

"Some of those law students are likely Jewish and have been the subject of threats and harassment," said Crane, who was appointed by former President George W. Bush. "I see no reason to punish them."

However, U.S. District Judge Lee Rudofsky, a Trump appointee in Little Rock, Arkansas, said in an email on Tuesday that he was considering joining the Columbia boycott.

Judges need to "step up to the plate as leaders of the bar to help stop the spread of the virulent Jew hatred that is being normalized on college campuses and elsewhere across the country," Rudofsky said.

Retired federal judge Jeremy Fogel, who heads the Berkeley Judicial Institute at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, said on Tuesday that federal judges have "wide latitude" in clerk hiring and that the judges' boycott letter does not violate their code of conduct.

"That said, reasonable minds may differ as to whether statements of this nature are consistent with the dignity of the judges' office and the obligation of judges to be impartial," Fogel said.

## Documents

Continued from Page 1NN

Trump is the Republican candidate challenging Democratic President Joe Biden, who defeated him four years ago.

Smith faces significant obstacles to getting either federal case against Trump to trial before the election. Cannon is yet to rule on several legal issues crucial to the documents case and has signaled support for Trump's defense on some matters.

In a separate case brought by Smith involving Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss, the U.S. Supreme Court seems poised to recognize that former presidents have at least some immunity from prosecution over official actions. That outcome mostly likely would further delay Trump's election-related case as lower courts determine which allegations against him are covered by that legal shield.

Trump's lawyers had said a trial in the documents case should not start until after the election, but also suggested an Aug. 12 date in response to an order from Cannon to propose a timeline for the case.



Stacks of boxes in a bathroom and shower appear in the Lake Room at Mar-a-Lago, former President Donald Trump's private club, according to an undated file image released by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/ AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Smith proposed a July start date. Trump's lawyers have worked to delay all four criminal cases he faces.

"We're in this absolutely unprecedented situation where a defendant is potentially going to have the power to shut down his own prosecution," said

George Washington University law professor Randall Eliason, an expert in white-collar criminal cases. "That's an argument for getting the case to trial before the election."

Trump has been on trial in New York state court since April 15 on charges he unlawfully sought to conceal hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels before the 2016 election. He has also been charged in state court in Georgia over his attempts to overturn the 2020 election.

Trump has sought to portray all the legal cases against him as politically motivated.

The charges in the Florida case include violations of the Espionage Act, which criminalizes the unauthorized possession of national defense information, as well as conspiracy to obstruct justice and making false statements to investigators.

In an April Reuters/Ipsos poll, nearly a quarter of Republican respondents and more than half of independents indicated they would not vote for Trump if a jury convicts him of a felony.

If either federal case reaches a jury before the election, it would likely be in the weeks immediately before Nov. 5, an outcome sure to draw accusations of

election interference from Trump's legal team.

"Any judge would take pause with the idea of trying a presidential candidate a month before the presidential election," said attorney Kel McClanahan, who specializes in national security issues and has represented members of the intelligence community.

But a Trump win in November may mean that neither case ever reaches a jury. As president, Trump could direct the Justice Department to drop the federal charges or seek to pardon himself.

Smith's team has pushed aggressive deadlines in the Florida case, arguing that the public has a right to a speedy trial. Prosecutor Jay Bratt told Cannon during a hearing that an autumn trial would not violate Justice Department guidelines that prohibit taking investigative steps close to an election that could impact the outcome of the vote.

Cannon has denied two bids by Trump to dismiss the charges, but several remain pending. She also has signaled that Trump's claims that the documents were personal records may be relevant to how she instructs the jury at a future trial, a decision that could lead to an appeal by prosecutors and more delays.

# US report on Israel won't meet deadline

Many of Biden's fellow Democrats call for shift in long-standing policy

Patricia Zengerle, Humeyra Pamuk and Jonathan Landay  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The Biden administration will miss a Wednesday deadline to report to Congress on whether Israel is violating international humanitarian law in Gaza, four sources said on Tuesday, findings that could fuel concerns over its use of U.S.-supplied weapons against the Palestinian enclave.

A National Security Memorandum, known as NSM-20, that President Joe Biden issued in February requires the State Department to report to Congress by May 8 on whether it finds credible Israel's assurances that its use of U.S. weapons does not violate U.S. or international law.

Four sources said on Tuesday the administration had informed congressional committees that it would not make the deadline, but hoped to present its findings within days. Two congressional aides said they had no indication the delay was tied to political concerns.

Reuters reported last month that some senior U.S. officials do not find Israel's assurances credible. The Reuters report, along with investigations by outside organizations like Amnesty International, has prompted some lawmakers to call on the Biden administration not to tilt the report toward Israel.



An injured Palestinian boy awaits treatment at a hospital following Israeli strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"I've had a lot of conversations... with folks in the administration, really urging them to make sure that this report is credible, that it's seen to be based on facts and law and not based on what they would wish it would be," Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen told reporters.

Washington's provision of military assistance to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has prompted protests across the U.S. demanding that universities and Biden withdraw sup-

port for Israel, including sending weaponry.

## 'Not credible'

In Washington, many of Biden's fellow Democrats have called for a shift in long-standing U.S. policy of providing unconditional military support to Israel.

Israel's assurances of compliance with U.S. law are "not credible," said Rep. Jason Crow, who last week organized a letter to Biden from more than

"I've had a lot of conversations... with folks in the administration, really urging them to make sure that this report is credible."

Sen. Chris Van Hollen  
D-Md.

80 Democratic lawmakers saying there is sufficient evidence that Israel has violated international law and obstructed U.S. aid deliveries to Gaza.

On Tuesday, sources told Reuters that Biden's administration has been holding up certain arms shipments to Israel.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told a news briefing on Tuesday the NSM-20 report was not yet finished but the department was working "very hard" to complete it. "It's possible it slips just a little bit but we're still, at this point, trying to get it done by tomorrow," he said.

The memorandum bars any recipient of U.S. military assistance from restricting the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The report deadline comes amid concern about famine in Gaza and calls from the United States, other governments and international bodies for Israel to hold off from a big offensive against Rafah, a city in Gaza Israel calls Hamas fighters' last stronghold but is also the refuge of more than 1 million displaced Palestinian civilians.



An aerial view of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt in the southern Gaza Strip is shown Tuesday. SATELLITE IMAGE ©2024 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Impasse

Continued from Page 1NN

Kirby said mediators from Qatar and Egypt along with U.S. and Israeli officials were gathering in Cairo. Hamas separately said its delegation was in Cairo as well.

### Israel on the offensive

Israel's seizure of the Rafah crossing came despite weeks of calls that the U.S., other nations and international bodies hoped would deter a big offensive in the Rafah area – which Israel says is Hamas fighters' last stronghold.

Israeli army footage showed tanks rolling through the Rafah crossing complex between Gaza and Egypt, and the Israeli flag raised on the Gaza side.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said seizing the crossing was a "very significant step" toward Israel's stated aim of destroying Hamas's military capabilities.

Residents reported heavy tank shelling on Tuesday evening in some areas of eastern Rafah. A Rafah municipal building caught fire after Israeli shelling, residents and Hamas media said. Medics said one Palestinian was killed and several wounded in the building while an Israeli strike also killed two Palestinians on a motorcycle.

Health officials said Abu Yousef Al-Najar, the main hospital in Rafah, closed on Tuesday after heavy bombardment nearby led medical staff and around 200 patients to flee.

"They have gone crazy. Tanks are firing shells and smoke bombs cover the skies," said Emad Joudat, 55, a Gaza City resident displaced in Rafah.

"I am now seriously thinking of



An Israeli tank maneuvers near the Gaza border in southern Israel on Tuesday. AMIR COHEN/REUTERS

heading north, maybe to the central Gaza area. If they move further into Rafah, it will be the mother of massacres," he told Reuters via a chat app.

Many of those in Rafah were previously displaced from other parts of Gaza following Israel's orders to evacuate from there.

Families have been crammed into tented camps and makeshift shelters, suffering from shortages of food, water, medicine and other essentials.

The U.N. and other international aid agencies said the closing of the two crossings into southern Gaza – Rafah and Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom – had virtually cut the enclave off from outside aid and very few stores were available inside.

Red Crescent sources in Egypt said shipments had completely halted. "These crossings are a lifeline... They need to be reopened without any delay,"

Philippe Lazzarini, head of U.N. aid agency UNRWA, said on X.

Separately, Jordan said Israeli settlers attacked a humanitarian convoy on its way to a crossing in northern Gaza.

The White House said it had been told the Kerem Shalom crossing would reopen on Wednesday and fuel deliveries through Rafah would resume then too.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to Israel and Hamas to spare no effort to get a truce deal. "Make no mistake – a full-scale assault on Rafah would be a human catastrophe," Guterres said.

### 'Panic and despair'

Israel's military said it was conducting a limited operation in Rafah to kill fighters and dismantle infrastructure used by Hamas, which runs Gaza. It told

civilians to go to what it calls an "expanded humanitarian zone" some 12 miles away.

In Geneva, U.N. humanitarian office spokesperson Jens Laerke said "panic and despair" were gripping the people in Rafah. Civilians did not have enough time to prepare for evacuation and no safe route to travel, he said. The roads are "littered with unexploded ordnance, massive bombs lying in the street. It's not safe," he said.

Critics of the Gaza war have urged U.S. President Joe Biden to pressure Israel to change course. The U.S., Israel's closest ally and main weapons supplier, has delayed some arms shipments to Israel for two weeks, according to four sources on Tuesday.

The shipments, which have been delayed for at least two weeks, involved Boeing-made Joint Direct Attack Munitions, which convert dumb bombs into precision-guided ones, as well as Small Diameter Bombs.

The White House and Pentagon declined comment. The news of a delayed arms shipment was first reported by Axios over the weekend and Politico first reported on the types of arms delayed and the reasoning on Tuesday.

Without addressing whether there had been a holdup in arms shipments, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre reaffirmed that Washington's commitment to Israel's security was "ironclad."

Israel's offensive has killed 34,789 Palestinians, most of them civilians, in the conflict, the Gaza Health Ministry said.

The war began when Hamas militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and abducting about 250 others, of whom 133 are believed to remain in captivity in Gaza, according to Israeli tallies.

# SPORTS **EXTRA**

RANGERS 4, HURRICANES 3 (2OT) NEW YORK LEADS 2-0

## Trocheck delivers in 2OT for Rangers

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Vincent Trocheck scored a power-play goal 7:24 into double overtime as the host New York Rangers beat the Carolina Hurricanes 4-3 on Tuesday night in Game 2 of an Eastern Conference semifinal series.

New York took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series and improved to 6-0 in the postseason.

Less than a minute after Trocheck drew a cross-checking penalty on Carolina defenseman Brady Skjei in the offensive zone, the former Hurricanes forward won the four-plus-hour marathon by going to the crease and redirecting a cross-ice pass from Mika Zibanejad past goaltender Frederik Andersen.

"On the goal, I couldn't tell you what happened, it went in," Trocheck said after netting his fifth marker of the play-

offs. "Typically those games, whenever they go into overtime, double overtime, anybody can win those games."

Alexis Lafreniere scored twice for the Rangers, and Chris Kreider scored the game-tying goal on a power play 6:07 into the third. New York's Artemi Panarin collected three assists, and Trocheck had two points.

Carolina's Jake Guentzel scored twice for his eighth career multi-goal playoff game, three of which have come against the Rangers. Dmitry Orlov also tallied for the Hurricanes, while Sebastian Aho matched a playoff career high with three assists.

"We're right there," Guentzel said. "It's a small margin for error in the playoffs. We got to buckle down on the power play and find a way to get one there."

See RANGERS, Page 3NS



Rangers center Vincent Trocheck, left, celebrates his game-winning goal with defenseman Adam Fox on Tuesday in New York. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

NBA PLAYOFFS



Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) dunks on Cleveland Cavaliers forward Isaac Okoro during the third quarter of Game 1 of a second-round NBA playoff series on Tuesday at TD Garden in Boston. WINSLOW TOWNSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

## CELTICS, THUNDER CRUISE IN OPENERS

- Jaylen Brown scored 32 points while leading the Boston Celtics to a 120-95 victory over the visiting Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander produced 29 points to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 117-95 win over the visiting Dallas Mavericks in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series on Tuesday.

COVERAGE, 2NS

GOLF PGA TOUR

## Lowry hopes good times keep on rolling

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Shane Lowry won't soon forget his victory at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, nor the celebration that ensued with playing partner Rory McIlroy.

Lowry teamed up with his friend and one of the best players in the world for the first time at the PGA Tour's only two-man team event, and they promptly won the trophy. There was some partying involved – don't ask about McIlroy's rendition of "Don't Stop Believin'" – and Lowry revealed that it didn't end Sunday night.

Speaking to reporters in Charlotte, N.C., ahead of this week's Wells Fargo Championship, the Irishman said he and his buddy got back together the Wednesday after the Zurich.

"Yeah, we had a pretty good night Wednesday night," Lowry said Tuesday. "We drank some nice stuff and had a good time and we celebrated our win, which you should do. ... I've been playing 16 years and I've only won seven times. You've got to celebrate the good times, too."

Lowry has the Zurich to thank for his entry into the Wells Fargo in the first place. This week's \$20 million signature event is a closed-field tournament; Lowry was not qualified for the signature events to begin 2024, though he played his way into the Arnold Palmer Invitational via the Aon Swing 5 pathway on the strength of good performances in other tournaments.

See LOWRY, Page 6NS



Shane Lowry watches from the green on the 18th hole during the final round of the Zurich Classic on April 28. STEPHEN LEW/USA TODAY SPORTS

## NBA PLAYOFFS

**CELTICS 120, CAVALIERS 95 BOSTON LEADS SERIES 1-0**



Celtics guard Derrick White (9) drives on Cleveland Cavaliers guard Caris LeVert during Tuesday's game in Boston. WINSLOW TOWNSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

# Brown, Celtics crush Cavaliers in Game 1

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Jaylen Brown scored 32 points while leading the Boston Celtics to a 120-95 victory over the visiting Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Derrick White made 7 of 12 3-point attempts and added 25 points for the Celtics, who had a 55-38 edge in rebounding. Jayson Tatum contributed 18 points and 11 rebounds but had a poor shooting night. Tatum went 7 of 19 from the field, including 0-for-5 from 3-point territory.

Boston's Payton Pritchard logged 16 points, Jrue Holiday had 14 points and Luke Kornet grabbed 10 rebounds.

"It starts with defense," Brown said. "We wanted to set the tone on defense and kept them under 100, but we feel like we have an answer for everything (on offense). We just play the game the right way. We see what they want to take away and we play after that."

Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell led all scorers with 33 points. Mitchell also had six rebounds and five assists.

"It's one game at the end of the day," Mitchell said. "Jaylen Brown is an All-NBA player. He makes 300 million dollars for a reason. It's not the first time he's scored 30 on somebody."

"They're a high-powered team. We'll look at the film and be better on Thursday. It sucks that we lost, but it's good to see where we can improve."

The Cavaliers received 17 points and a game-high 13 rebounds from Evan Mobley. Darius Garland finished with 14 points, and Isaac Okoro had 11.

Jarrett Allen, Cleveland's starting center, missed his fourth straight game due to a rib injury. Allen averaged 17.0 points, 13.8 rebounds and 1.3 assists in

31.8 minutes per game during the first four games of Cleveland's first-round series against the Orlando Magic.

"Player safety," Cleveland coach J.B. Bickerstaff said. "We're not going to put him out there if he can't protect himself. That's where he's been at to this point."

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is scheduled for Thursday in Boston.

As expected, the Celtics didn't have center Kristaps Porzingis, who is rehabbing a strained right calf that could cause him to miss the entire series. The Celtics improved to 23-4 in games where they have not had Porzingis this season.

Boston led 40-34 after one quarter and 59-49 at halftime. The Celtics led by 13 points three times in the second quarter.

White scored 14 points in the third, when the Celtics were up by as many as 16. Pritchard made a 3-pointer that just beat the buzzer at the end of the quarter to give Boston a 92-77 advantage. Mitchell kept Cleveland close by putting up 16 points in the third.

The Cavaliers trailed by 26 with just under four minutes to play in the game.

### Boston 120, Cleveland 95 CLEVELAND (95)

Okoro 4-11 0-0 11, Strus 2-8 0-0 5, Mobley 8-12 1-2 17, Garland 6-15 0-0 14, Mitchell 12-25 5-5 33, LeVert 2-6 0-2 4, Merrill 0-5 0-0 0, Thompson 2-3 0-0 4, Morris Sr. 1-3 0-0 3, Niang 0-2 4-4 4, Totals 37-90 10-13 95.

### BOSTON (120)

Brown 12-18 4-4 32, Tatum 7-19 4-4 18, Horford 3-7 0-0 7, Holiday 6-14 0-0 14, White 9-16 0-0 25, Pritchard 5-12 2-2 16, Kornet 1-3 2-2 4, Hauser 0-1 0-0 0, Tillman 1-1 0-0 2, Brissett 0-0 0-2 0, Queta 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 45-92 12-14 120.

CLE 34 15 28 18 - 95

BOS 40 19 33 28 - 120

3-Point Goals: Cleveland 11-42 (Mitchell 4-11, Okoro 3-8, Garland 2-8, Morris Sr. 1-2, Strus 1-5, Niang 0-2, LeVert 0-2, Merrill 0-4), Boston 18-46 (White 7-12, Brown 4-6, Pritchard 4-10, Holiday 2-7, Horford 1-5, Hauser 0-1, Tatum 0-5). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Cleveland 38 (Mobley 13), Boston 55 (Tatum 11). Assists: Cleveland 19 (Garland, Mitchell 5), Boston 22 (Tatum, White 5). Total Fouls: Cleveland 18, Boston 13. A: 19,156 (18,624)

**THUNDER 117, MAVERICKS 95 OKLA. CITY LEADS SERIES 1-0**

# SGA, Thunder overpower Mavericks in series opener

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander produced 29 points, nine rebounds and nine assists to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 117-95 win over the visiting Dallas Mavericks in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series on Tuesday.

Gilgeous-Alexander shot 8 of 19 from the floor but 11 of 13 from the free-throw line in his first career second-round playoff game. The Thunder became the youngest team in NBA history to win a conference semifinal game.

Kyrie Irving scored 19 points and Luka Dončić finished with 19 points and nine assists for Dallas.

Less than five minutes into the third quarter, the Mavericks cut a 12-point Thunder lead to one on Irving's 3-pointer off a feed from Luka Dončić.

Oklahoma City outscored Dallas 51-30 the rest of the way.

"I think it's a muscle we've built at this point," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said of the poise his team showed in responding when Dallas cut his team's lead. "We've had to endure a lot of those situations during the course of the season. I think a lot of it comes from respect for your opponent."

The Thunder quickly answered Irving's trey out of a timeout, with Isaiah Joe draining a 3-pointer to kickstart a 14-4 run over the next three minutes.

Gilgeous-Alexander assisted on two of the Thunder's four 3-pointers during the run, then added the exclamation point on the stretch by sinking a 3-pointer from the top of the key to send the home crowd into a frenzy.

Before the game, Dončić heaped praise on Oklahoma City's Luguentz Dort, calling him one of the top perimeter defenders in the NBA.

Dort showed why during the key sequence, knocking the ball away from

Dončić near midcourt, diving to collect the ball before quickly finding a streaking Joe, who fed it up to Jalen Williams for a dunk.

Dort helped the Thunder hold Dončić to 6-of-19 shooting, including 1-of-8 from beyond the arc.

"They're a great team, great defensive team, great offensive team, so it's not going to be easy at all," Dončić said. "We've got to play very good basketball - focused basketball - for 48 minutes."

The Mavericks went nearly four minutes without a field goal late in the third as Oklahoma City stretched its lead as high as 15 before Dallas cut it back to 10 with two baskets in the final 30 seconds.

Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren had 19 points, seven rebounds and three blocks, Williams added 18 points and Aaron Wiggins had 16 off the bench, including 12 in the second quarter.

The Thunder scored 22 points off Dallas' 16 turnovers.

The Mavericks shot just 39.3 percent, while the Thunder hit 44.9 percent.

Game 2 is scheduled for Thursday in Oklahoma City.

### Oklahoma City 117, Dallas 95 DALLAS (95)

Jones Jr. 3-5 0-0 7, Washington 4-7 0-0 10, Gafford 5-12 6-8 16, Dončić 6-19 6-10 19, Irving 7-14 3-3 20, Green 4-9 0-0 11, Hardaway Jr. 1-5 0-0 2, Lively 11-13 0-0 2, Exum 1-5 2-2 5, Hardy 0-3 0-0 0, Lawson 1-2 0-0 3, Powell 0-0 0-2 0. Totals 33-84 17-25 95.

### OKLAHOMA CITY (117)

Dort 2-9 1-2 7, Williams 6-15 4-6 18, Holmgren 8-16 1-1 19, Giddey 1-4 0-0 2, Gilgeous-Alexander 8-19 11-13 29, Wallace 2-5 1-2 7, Wiggins 5-7 3-4 16, Williams 5-7 0-0 11, Joe 2-4 0-0 6, Hayward 0-1 0-0 0, Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Dieng 1-1 0-0 2, Waters III 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-89 21-28 117.

DAL 23 30 26 16 - 95

OKC 23 39 27 28 - 117

3-Point Goals: Dallas 12-35 (Irving 3-4, Green 3-8, Washington 2-3, Exum 1-2, Lawson 1-2, Jones Jr. 1-3, Dončić 1-8, Hardy 0-1, Hardaway Jr. 0-4), Oklahoma City 16-35 (Wiggins 3-4, Joe 2-3, Gilgeous-Alexander 2-4, Wallace 2-4, Williams 2-5, Holmgren 2-5, Dort 2-5, Williams 1-2, Williams 0-1, Giddey 0-2). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Dallas 39 (Gafford 11), Oklahoma City 52 (Gilgeous-Alexander, Williams 9). Assists: Dallas 19 (Dončić 9), Oklahoma City 29 (Gilgeous-Alexander 9). Total Fouls: Dallas 21, Oklahoma City 18. A: 18,203 (18,203)



Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) works against Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving on Tuesday in Oklahoma City. ALONZO ADAMS/USA TODAY SPORTS

**PACERS VS. KNICKS NEW YORK LEADS SERIES 1-0**

# Pacers looking to slow Knicks' Villanova trio

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

The "Villanova Three" hit plenty of big shots Monday night for New York. Indiana didn't benefit from last-minute officiating calls.

In other words, Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals went exactly as the Knicks and Pacers expected.

Second-seeded New York will look to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series on Wednesday night when it hosts sixth-seeded Indiana.

The Knicks earned a 121-117 win in Game 1 Monday. Donte DiVincenzo put New York ahead for good by draining a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 40.1 seconds left and just 12 seconds after Pacers guard Aaron Nesmith was erroneously whistled for a kicked ball violation.

DiVincenzo, Jalen Brunson and Josh Hart, all of whom played on Villanova's national championship-winning team in 2016, combined to score 92 points for the Knicks. Brunson finished with a game-high 43 as he became the fourth player in NBA history - along with Michael Jordan, Bernard King and Jerry West - to score at least 40 points in four straight playoff games.

"He's the engine," Hart said. "We're going to go as far as he goes."

DiVincenzo, Brunson and Hart were especially effective in the fourth quar-



The Knicks' Jalen Brunson, top, Josh Hart, bottom, and Donte DiVincenzo (0) all played on Villanova's 2016 national championship team. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY

ter, when they combined for 34 of the Knicks' 39 points. New York trailed 94-85 with 10:28 left before the trio scored the next 24 points for the hosts over a span of seven minutes.

"Go out there and just figure out how to win," Brunson said. "We knew we had to play better tonight. They had our number for most of the night. We just

made a couple plays down the stretch."

The Pacers acknowledged they were displeased with the officiating down the stretch but also lamented their inability to close out the Knicks.

New York shot 65.0 percent from the field (26 of 40) from the field in the second half, including 63.6 percent (7 of 11) from 3-point range. The Knicks shot just

42.9 percent (18 of 42) from the field in the first 24 minutes, including 4 of 12 from beyond the arc.

"It's right after the game - I'm a little fresh and open with my emotions about it, but we know at the end of the day that we can't get into that position," Turner said. "I think the Last 2 Minute Report, we're all looking forward to that coming out. There were two controversial calls."

Crew chief Zach Zarba said following the game that the kicked ball call on Nesmith was incorrect. Replays showed Brunson's pass glanced off Nesmith's hand and toward Pacers guard Andrew Nembhard.

"On the floor, we felt that would be a kicked ball violation," Zarba told a pool reporter. "Postgame review did show that it hit the defender's hand, which would be legal."

DiVincenzo helped to ice the win with 12.1 seconds left, when he drew a moving screen against Myles Turner. DiVincenzo was defending point guard Tyrese Haliburton when he fell as Turner set a pick. The Pacers challenged the call, which was upheld.

"We're not expecting to get calls in here," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "It'd be nice if they laid off that one, but they didn't. So that's just the way it goes. I mean, we challenged it, they reviewed it, they got a bunch of people in New Jersey that agreed with them."

## STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

BRUINS VS. PANTHERS BOSTON LEADS SERIES 1-0

## Bruins strive to return to Boston with a 2-0 margin

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

The Boston Bruins will look to maintain the upper hand against the Florida Panthers on Wednesday when they play Game 2 of their Eastern Conference second-round series in Sunrise, Fla.

The Bruins won all four meetings against the Panthers in the regular season and recorded a 5-1 victory in the opener of the best-of-seven series on Monday.

Boston, however, won the opener of its first-round series against Florida last year – and three of the first four contests – before the Panthers rebounded to dispatch the then-Presidents' Trophy winner in seven games.

This time, the Bruins came in off a high of winning Game 7 of their first-round series versus the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"Our confidence has gone to another level after pushing through the first round and I think that confidence makes you believe that you can (win)," Boston coach Jim Montgomery said. "It's a great place to be mentally."

Jeremy Swayman has been in a great place throughout the playoffs. Swayman, who made 38 saves in the series opener, has yielded two goals or fewer in each of his first seven starts this postseason.

"We had a lot of shots but he saw most of them," Panthers captain Aleksander Barkov said of Swayman, who is 5-2-0 with a 1.42 goals-against average and .955 save percentage in the playoffs.

"Obviously, he's a good goalie. He's gonna stop them if he sees the puck. We need to work a little more and get in front of him."

Boston's Mason Lohrei collected a goal and an assist and fellow defenseman Brandon Carlo also tallied hours after his wife, Mayson, gave birth to the couple's second child, a son named Crew.

"Man, I don't celebrate often, but I raised my hands on that one," Sway-



**Bruins goalie Jeremy Swayman reaches for the puck during a May 2 game against the Maple Leafs in Toronto.** DAN HAMILTON/USA TODAY SPORTS

man said of his reaction to Carlo's goal. "It's so incredible what he did today, just the attitude that he brought. He was so excited."

Carlo has enjoyed a whirlwind stretch.

He assisted on star David Pastrnak's overtime goal in the Bruins' 2-1 victory over the Maple Leafs on Saturday night and became a dad to a son at approximately 3 a.m. on Monday. He then hopped on a plane and flew to Florida before joining his teammates approximately two hours before the start of Game 1.

"A pretty busy night, didn't know if I was going to make it in time, but sure happy I did," Carlo said.

Morgan Geekie, Justin Brazeau and Jake DeBrusk each scored a goal and Pavel Zacha notched two assists for the Bruins.

Matthew Tkachuk scored in the second period to extend his point streak to six games (four goals, six assists), the longest such run to open the postseason in Panthers' franchise history. He has recorded a point in nine straight games (five goals, nine assists) dating back to the regular season.

CANUCKS VS. OILERS GAME 1 (10 P.M. ET, ESPN)

## Underdog Canucks swept Oilers in regular season

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

The Vancouver Canucks won the Pacific Division by five points over the Edmonton Oilers and swept the regular-season series. Yet when they kick off their Western Conference semifinal series Wednesday in Vancouver, the Canucks are the underdogs.

"I love being doubted," said Vancouver coach Rick Tocchet, whose team beat the Nashville Predators in six games in the opening round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. "At the start of the year, if you asked, 'Is Vancouver going to make the playoffs?' A lot of people said no or a bubble team. So, we were underdogs there. As the season went on, when are they going to fall? Now, same thing. ... I just think we kind of like that underdog role and I think players should embrace it."

The longtime division rivals – whose battles date all the way back the 1979-80 season when the Oilers joined the NHL under the World Hockey Association – are meeting in the playoffs for only the third time and first since 1992, ancient history.

The fact Vancouver won all four regular-season meetings is also ancient history. Three of those four games came during Edmonton's first 11 games, and before a coaching change and torrid run sent the Oilers rocketing up the standings.

The Canucks are well aware Edmonton put those struggles in the past, in big part due to improved defensive play on top of its potent attack. A huge reason the Oilers needed only five games to dispatch the Los Angeles Kings for the third consecutive season was their special teams play. Edmonton's power play scored nine times and was perfect on the penalty kill in the first round.

"You could talk about playing defense and shutting whoever down, but when we play Canucks hockey, we're in your face and play in their end more than in our own," forward J.T. Miller said. "You're not going to eliminate all the looks when you play a guy like Con-



**Oilers center Connor McDavid skates against the Coyotes during an April 17 game in Tempe, Ariz.** MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

nor (McDavid), but we've proven this year when we focus and play our game and worry about ourselves, we can have the results."

It is doubtful the Oilers will have as much special teams success against the Canucks, but those numbers are a cautionary tale for the opposition.

"I don't think we're going to have that same (special teams) advantage in this series," coach Kris Knoblauch said. "We're going to have (to get) more offense five-on-five. But as far as what we need to do to be successful is match their work ethic. They're a very hard-working team, but they have a lot of skill."

Even if the majority of their meetings this season were early in the campaign, the Oilers know what the Canucks can achieve when they are not defending well enough. That said, this year's playoffs have already shown how things can change from the regular season.

"Winnipeg beat up on Colorado all year long, and it's obviously different hockey in the playoffs," noted McDavid, who racked up 12 points in the first round.

AVALANCHE 4, STARS 3 (OT) COLORADO LEADS SERIES 1-0

## Avs erase 3-goal deficit to top Stars in overtime

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Miles Wood scored the overtime winning goal to give the visiting Colorado Avalanche a 4-3 comeback victory over the Dallas Stars in Game 1 of a Western Conference semifinal series on Tuesday.

Cale Makar scored once in a three-point game, while Valeri Nichushkin and Nathan MacKinnon both collected one goal and one assist for the Avalanche, who erased a three-goal, first-period deficit to win their fifth consecutive game in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Colorado goaltender Alexandar Georgiev made 19 saves, and Mikko Rantanen registered two assists.

Jamie Benn notched one goal and one assist while Ryan Suter and Wyatt Johnston also tallied for the Stars. Goaltender Jake Oettinger stopped 22 shots.

The Stars started quickly in overtime only to be held at bay until Wood was sprung for a partial breakaway. He tucked home a backhand deke for his third goal of the playoffs and first career overtime tally at 11:03 of the extra period.

Colorado stunned the Stars and their faithful with an impressive comeback despite trailing by three goals after 17 minutes.

The Avalanche found their legs following the first intermission and roared back. Nichushkin cued up the comeback with his league-leading eighth goal of the playoffs, a rebound marker on a power play at 5:31 of the second period.

Nichushkin has scored a goal in all six of Colorado's playoff games this season. He is only the third player in NHL history to start the playoffs with goals in six or more consecutive games, joining Pat LaFontaine (seven games in 1992) and Martin Havlat (six games in 2006).

Makar added Colorado's second man-advantage marker at 9:08 of the middle frame by ripping a top-shelf



**The Colorado Avalanche's Miles Wood celebrates his game-winning goal vs. the Stars on Tuesday in Dallas.** SAM HODDE/GETTY IMAGES

point shot for his third of the playoffs.

MacKinnon tied the clash 39 seconds into the third period, cashing in a loose puck when Makar's long shot was blocked before it reached the net.

Dallas kicked off its three-goal lead with Suter's first goal of the playoffs at 7:26 of the opening frame, a long point shot that found the spot through a maze of players screening the goalie.

Johnston's fifth of the playoffs at 10:55 made it 2-0.

Colorado 4, Dallas 3 (OT)				
Colorado	0	2	1	4
Dallas	3	0	0	3
<b>First Period</b> —1, Dallas, Suter 1 (Duchene), 7:26. 1, Dallas, Johnston 5 (Pavelski, Benn), 10:55. 1, Dallas, Benn 2 (Robertson, Heiskanen), 16:56. Penalties—Rantanen, COL (Tripping), 15:28. Trenin, COL (High-sticking), 15:56. Rantanen, COL (Slashing), 18:51.				
<b>Second Period</b> —1, Colorado, Nichushkin 8 (Makar, MacKinnon), 5:31. 1, Colorado, Makar 3 (Nichushkin, Rantanen), 9:08. Penalties—Dadonov, DAL (Slashing), 5:18. Smith, DAL (Hooking), 7:37. Wood, COL (High-sticking), 9:26.				
<b>Third Period</b> —1, Colorado, MacKinnon 3 (Rantanen, Makar), 0:39. Penalties—Manson, COL (Hooking), 14:35. Hintz, DAL (Embarrassment), 14:35.				
<b>Overtime</b> —1, Colorado, Wood 3 (Cogliano, Girard), 11:03. Penalties—None.				
<b>Shots on Goal</b> —Colorado 5-11-6-4-26. Dallas 9-3-4-6-22.				
<b>Power-play opportunities</b> —Colorado 2 of 2; Dallas 1 of 4.				
<b>Goalies</b> —Colorado, Georgiev 5-1-0 (22 shots-19 saves). Dallas, Oettinger 4-4-0 (26-22).				
A-18,532 (18,532).				



**Rangers players celebrate their double-overtime win against the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday in New York.** BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

## Rangers

Continued from Page 1

New York goalie Igor Shesterkin made 54 saves, including seven on Aho.

"Obviously Shesty (Shesterkin) played outstanding, and he kept us in the game multiple times," Trocheck said. "He was outstanding. ... Whenever he's on like that, it's tough to beat him and it's tough to beat our team whenever he's making saves like he was tonight."

Andersen made 35 saves. The Rangers went ahead with 9:07 left in the first period following a miscue in the corner by Andersen, who lost the puck to New York center Alex Wennberg. After K'Andre Miller had his shot blocked, Lafreniere gained possession in the left circle and lifted a shot over Andersen's left arm.

The Rangers held the lead until Guentzel deflected a point shot by Aho over Shesterkin's pad with 4:53 left in the first. Carolina took a 2-1 lead with six seconds left in the period during a four-on-four when Orlov tipped in a shot from the point by Skjei.

New York tied it with 12:28 left in the second after withstanding an early

Carolina barrage. Panarin made a drop pass to Adam Fox, Fox cut to the left circle and Lafreniere sent the cross-ice pass into the net.

Shortly after a neutral-zone turnover, the Hurricanes got the puck deep into their offensive zone, and Guentzel snapped a 2-2 tie at 18:18 of the second. He got between the circles and sent a one-timer past Shesterkin while his left knee hit the ice.

Game 3 is scheduled for Thursday in Raleigh, N.C.

N.Y. Rangers 4, Carolina 3 (2OT)				
Carolina	2	1	0	3
N.Y. Rangers	1	1	1	4
<b>First Period</b> —1, N.Y. Rangers, Lafreniere 1 (Miller, Wennberg), 10:53. 1, Carolina, Guentzel 2 (Aho, Svechnikov), 15:07. 1, Carolina, Orlov 2 (Skjei, Aho), 19:54. Penalties—Cuyllle, NYR (Goaltender Interference), 5:16. Svechnikov, CAR (Tripping), 12:05. Noesen, CAR (High-sticking), 19:09. Goodrow, NYR (Cross-checking), 19:09.				
<b>Second Period</b> —2, N.Y. Rangers, Lafreniere 2 (Fox, Panarin), 7:32. 2, Carolina, Guentzel 3 (Aho, DeAngelo), 18:18. Penalties—Trouba, NYR (High-sticking), 2:14. Svechnikov, CAR (Interference), 2:16. Trouba, NYR (Tripping), 8:56. Guentzel, CAR (Roughing), 9:47.				
<b>Third Period</b> —1, N.Y. Rangers, Kreider 3 (Trocheck, Panarin), 6:07. Penalties—Orlov, CAR (Tripping), 5:22. Martinook, CAR (Tripping), 9:54. Skjei, CAR (Tripping), 18:22.				
<b>Overtime</b> —None. Penalties—Trouba, NYR (Tripping), 7:57.				
<b>Second OT</b> —1, N.Y. Rangers, Trocheck 5 (Zibanejad, Panarin), 7:24. Penalties—Panarin, NYR (Hooking), 3:28. Skjei, CAR (Cross-checking), 6:37.				
<b>Shots on Goal</b> —Carolina 13-12-17-10-5-57. N.Y. Rangers 11-9-9-8-2-39.				
<b>Power-play opportunities</b> —Carolina 0 of 5; N.Y. Rangers 2 of 7.				
<b>Goalies</b> —Carolina, Andersen 4-3-0 (39 shots-35 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Shesterkin 6-0-0 (57-54).				
A-18,006 (18,200).				

## MLB

## TUESDAY'S ROUNDUP

## Rangers score 10 in second to roll past A's

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Marcus Semien opened the game with a homer and finished 4-for-5 with five RBIs and the Texas Rangers scored 10 runs in the second inning to beat the host Oakland Athletics 15-8 on Tuesday afternoon.

Jonah Heim also had four hits and Leody Taveras added three more as the Rangers equaled their season high for runs while collecting a season-best 19 hits.

One day after a comeback win in the series opener, Texas did a majority of its damage in the second inning.

Semien, who hit his sixth homer of the year in the first inning, singled in a run to give the Rangers a 3-0 lead. He greeted reliever Hogan Harris with a two-run double later in the inning to make it an 11-0 cushion.

Texas scored its 10 runs on nine hits and one error in the frame. Ross Stripling (1-6) lasted only 1½ innings, giving up 11 runs (five earned) on 10 hits and two walks. He struck out two.

**Diamondbacks 6, Reds 2**

Corbin Carroll drilled a three-run homer and drove in his team's first five runs as Zac Gallen threw six shutout innings, helping visiting Arizona down Cincinnati.

Carroll, the 2023 National League Rookie of the Year, matched his career-high RBI total set on June 9, 2023, at Detroit.

Gallen (4-2) snapped a personal two-start losing streak, allowing just a lead-off single by Jake Fraley in the second inning and three walks while striking out six.

Ketel Marte homered, his seventh, and Kevin Newman had two hits for the Diamondbacks, who won their second game in a row.

Jonathan India belted his second homer with two outs in the seventh off Arizona reliever Bryce Jarvis for Cincinnati's first long ball since May 1. Tyler Stephenson added his fourth in the ninth off reliever Paul Sewald.

**Braves 4, Red Sox 2**

Marcel Ozuna lined a single up the middle to score the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Atlanta beat visiting Boston to end a three-game losing streak.

The Braves, who had scored only 20 runs over their previous eight games, added an insurance run in the eighth on Orlando Arcia's infield grounder.

The winning pitcher was Joe Jimenez (1-0), who pitched a scoreless eighth inning. Raisel Iglesias pitched a perfect ninth to earn his ninth save. Justin Slaten (2-1) took the loss.

It was a frustrating night for the Boston offense. The Red Sox had eight hits and drew six walks but went 1-for-14 with runners in scoring position and stranded 13 baserunners.

Neither starter was around for the decision.

**Tigers 11, Guardians 7**

Andy Ibanez clubbed a solo homer and three-run shot during his 4-for-4 night, and Ryan Vilade recorded his first three career RBIs as visiting Detroit beat Cleveland.

Ibanez led off the game against Cleveland's Logan Allen and hit his first homer of the season. He then gave Detroit a 5-2 lead in the second with a three-run blast to right field wall.

Vilade, just called up from Triple-A Toledo, delivered a two-run single in the third for his first major league hit to tie the score 7-7. He also drove home a run with his single in the seventh to help the Tigers even the series and snap a four-game slide, during which they totaled seven runs.

Tyler Holton (3-0) and three other Detroit relievers held Cleveland to just three hits over seven scoreless innings.

Josh Naylor clubbed a two-run homer - his ninth of the season - and Jose Ramirez had three hits with two RBIs for the Guardians, who had won three straight.

**Nationals 3, Orioles 0**

Trevor Williams and four relievers combined on a three-hit shutout and Washington defeated visiting Baltimore.

Joey Meneses and Jesse Winker had two hits apiece for the Nationals, who, at 18-17, are over .500 for the first time since July 2, 2021. Washington snapped a seven-game losing streak against Bal-



Texas Rangers catcher Jonah Heim hits an RBI single against the Athletics during the second inning of Tuesday's game in Oakland, Calif. ED SZCZEPANSKI/USA TODAY

timore.

Williams (4-0) went five innings, allowed two hits and didn't walk a batter while tying his career high with eight strikeouts and outdueling Orioles ace Corbin Burnes. Robert Garcia, Derek Law, former Oriole Hunter Harvey and Kyle Finnegan each tossed a scoreless inning, with Finnegan picking up his 12th save.

Burnes (3-2) allowed three runs on five hits over 6½ innings. He struck out six and walked three for Baltimore, which had won four straight.

The expected pitchers' duel between Burnes and Williams materialized quickly, and the only early run came in the Washington second when Winker led off with a single, stole second and scored when Meneses lined a single to right.

**Rays 5, White Sox 1**

Randy Arozarena and Isaac Paredes belted home runs, starting pitcher Zach Eflin broke a personal two-game losing streak and Tampa Bay handled Chicago in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Arozarena homered for the second time in three games by launching his sixth blast of the year, a two-run shot, in the third. Paredes, who was 3-for-4, clubbed his team-leading eighth long ball in the sixth.

In a strong start, Eflin (2-4) spun six scoreless innings before yielding a solo homer to Paul DeJong in the seventh. The right-hander allowed six hits while fanning three, all looking, without a walk in seven frames.

Sizzling Jonny DeLuca was 2-for-3 with a double and a walk for Tampa Bay, which moved a game above .500 and stayed perfect on its nine-game homestand with its season-long fifth straight win.

DeJong and Corey Lee had two hits apiece as Chicago managed just six, five for singles.

**Phillies 10, Blue Jays 1**

Bryce Harper hit a grand slam, Kody Clemens added a home run, triple and four RBIs and host Philadelphia defeated Toronto.

Bryson Stott contributed two hits, Edmundo Sosa hit an RBI triple and Nick Castellanos added an RBI double for the Phillies, who have won seven straight and 11 in a row at home. They have won 18 of 21 overall to maintain the best record in the majors.

Phillies starter Cristopher Sanchez (2-3) gave up six hits and one run with five strikeouts and two walks in seven innings.

Danny Jansen had two hits for the Blue Jays.

Toronto, which managed only six hits, went 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position with five left on base.

**Angels 9, Pirates 0**

Kevin Pillar clubbed two home runs and tallied a career-high six RBIs to complement Patrick Sandoval's seven shutout innings as visiting Los Angeles pounded Pittsburgh.

Pillar went 3-for-5 and scored two runs in his fourth game with the Angels since signing with the club on April 30. The left fielder drilled a three-run homer in the fourth inning and added a solo

shot in the seventh to record his first multi-home run game since Aug. 28, 2021, as a member of the New York Mets.

Logan O'Hoppe went 4-for-5 with two RBIs, while Mickey Moniak had two hits, two runs scored and a stolen base for Los Angeles, which outhit the Pirates 15-3.

Sandoval (2-5) scattered three hits, struck out seven and walked one in his longest outing of the season. The left-hander retired 11 consecutive batters from the third inning until the seventh when Connor Joe lined a one-out double to left field that Pillar lost in the lights.

Joe, Andrew McCutchen and Edward Olivares accounted for Pittsburgh's three hits as the Pirates had their three-game winning streak snapped.

**Yankees 10, Astros 3**

Juan Soto recorded his fourth three-hit game this season yet wasn't part of the three-homer barrage that carried New York over visiting Houston.

The Yankees won for the fifth time in six games. They extended their winning streak over Houston to eight consecutive games by battering Astros right-hander Justin Verlander (1-1), who entered his fourth start having allowed just four run runs. By the end of the first inning, the Yankees had tallied three and kept pouring on until Verlander departed with seven allowed after five frames.

Alex Verdugo, Anthony Volpe and Giancarlo Stanton all homered off Verlander, with Verdugo initiating the onslaught with a three-run blast to right-center field that followed the first of three singles by Soto (3-for-4, two runs scored) and the first of two walks from Aaron Judge (1-for-3 with an RBI single). Verdugo spotted the Yankees a 3-1 lead with his fifth homer, a 383-foot shot.

After Verlander retired the Yankees in order in the second, the same trio of Yankees hitters - Soto, Judge and Verdugo - struck again in the third, with Verdugo producing an RBI single that plated Soto and extended the lead to 4-1. With one out in the fourth, Volpe socked his fourth home run, a two-run blast to right that drove in Jose Trevino and extended the lead to 6-1.

Verdugo finished 3-for-5 with four RBIs.

**Mariners 10, Twins 6**

Cal Raleigh hit a pinch-hit grand slam in the seventh inning, and Seattle scored four runs in the ninth to secure a win over Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Mitch Haniger drove in two runs for Seattle, which evened the four-game series at one win each. Dylan Moore, Josh Rojas and Ty France added one RBI apiece for the Mariners, who won for the third time in four games.

Mariners right-hander Ryne Stanek (1-0) earned the win in relief.

Ryan Jeffers hit a three-run homer to lead the Twins at the plate. Trevor Larnach, Kyle Farmer and Austin Martin each added one RBI for Minnesota.

Twins right-hander Jorge Alcala (1-1) took the loss after surrendering four runs in two innings.

**Mets 7, Cardinals 5**

Pete Alonso and Brandon Nimmo

drove in three runs each as visiting New York rallied over St. Louis.

Alonso, who was 1-for-29 in his previous nine games, had a two-run double and a homer. Nimmo hit a three-run homer.

The defeat proved especially costly for the Cardinals, who lost catcher Willson Contreras to a left forearm fracture in the second inning. J.D. Martinez hit him while swinging his bat on a catcher's-interference incident.

Mets starting pitcher Jose Butto (1-2) allowed three runs on five hits and three walks in five innings. He struck out three.

Adam Ottavino gave up a run in the ninth inning but still earned his first save.

**Brewers 6, Royals 5**

Willy Adames slammed a three-run homer in the ninth inning as visiting Milwaukee rallied past Kansas City to even a three-game series.

With two outs in the ninth and the Brewers trailing 5-3, William Contreras doubled and Gary Sanchez walked before Adames lined a curveball from James McArthur (1-2) into the left field bullpen for his seventh home run of the year.

Jared Koenig (3-1) allowed two hits in 1½ innings of scoreless relief for the win, and Trevor Megill pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

Adames' three-run shot spoiled a Royals rally, as Kansas City scored four runs in the fifth to take a 4-2 lead.

With Kansas City down 2-0, MJ Melendez tripled to open the fifth before scoring on Kyle Isbel's one-out single. The Royals later got a two-run double from Vinnie Pasquantino and an RBI double from Salvador Perez to cap the outburst and drive Brewers starter Colin Rea from the game.

**Cubs 3, Padres 2**

Michael Busch homered to lead off the ninth inning, lifting host Chicago to a walk-off victory over San Diego.

Busch deposited a first-pitch fastball from Enyel De Los Santos (1-2) over the wall in right-center field. The homer was Busch's seventh of the season and first since he went deep in five straight games from April 10-15.

The blast made a winner out of Hector Neris (2-0), who overcame a single and a walk to record a scoreless top of the ninth.

Chicago's Cody Bellinger homered to lead off the fourth and singled in the sixth and eighth innings to highlight his return from the injured list. He had been sidelined with a rib ailment since hitting the wall at Wrigley Field on April 23.

**Giants 5, Rockies 0**

Kyle Harrison tossed seven innings of four-hit ball, Jung Hoo Lee had three hits and San Francisco beat Colorado in Denver.

Harrison (3-1) produced the longest outing of his two-year career, helping San Francisco snap a four-game skid. Harrison struck out two and walked for the Giants, who bounced back from getting swept in a four-game set at Philadelphia.

Nick Ahmed had two hits for San Francisco, and LaMonte Wade Jr. had a two-run single.

Colorado took its eighth loss in nine games.

The Rockies are off to their worst start in franchise history, and their eight wins are tied with the Chicago White Sox for the fewest in the majors.

**Dodgers 8, Marlins 2**

Max Muncy hit a grand slam in the first inning and Los Angeles extended its winning streak to six games with a victory over visiting Miami.

Gavin Lux also hit a home run while right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto (4-1) gave up two runs on five hits over a career-best eight innings as the Dodgers moved one victory away from a perfect six-game homestand while winning for the 13th time in their past 15 games.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a home run on the first pitch of the game for the Marlins, who have had an early lead on the Dodgers in two consecutive games before losing both. Bryan De La Cruz also went deep for the Marlins.

Miami right-hander Edward Cabrera (1-2) gave up Muncy's grand slam and went two innings. He was followed by right-hander George Soriano, who met a similar fate by allowing four runs over three innings.

# MLB

## TUESDAY'S BOX SCORES

**Texas 15, Oakland 8**

TEX	OAK	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	ERA
1100	400	000	-	15	19	2		
020	002	130	-	8	7	2		

TEX	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Semien 2b	5	3	4	5	0	0	.266
Ornelas 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Seager ss	4	2	2	1	1	1	.235
Wendzel 3b	2	0	0	0	2	.095	
Lowe lf	4	1	2	2	2	.322	
Garcia rf	3	1	0	0	2	.271	
Duran lf	1	0	0	0	0	.222	
Carter lf-1b	6	0	1	0	0	.222	
Smith 3b-ss	6	1	2	1	0	.302	
Jankowski dh	5	1	1	0	0	.243	
Heim c	4	3	4	2	0	.201	
Krznier c	1	0	0	0	1	.321	
Taveras cf	5	3	3	2	1	.254	
Totals	47	15	19	15	10		

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Toro 2b	6	0	1	0	1	.287	
Bleday cf	4	1	1	0	1	.248	
Rooker dh	3	1	1	2	0	.247	
Brown lf	4	1	1	0	0	.319	
Davis lf	5	0	0	0	0	.272	
McCann c	4	3	2	1	1	.393	
Butler rf	5	0	0	0	0	.374	
Hernaiz ss	1	0	0	0	3	.282	
a-Schuemann pr-ss	1	2	0	0	0	.367	
Harris 3b	3	0	0	0	2	.367	
Totals	36	8	7	10	7		

a-ran for Hernaiz in 2nd.  
**E:** Seager, Davis, Harris. **2B:** Semien (9), Lowe (4), Smith (11), McCann (1). **HR:** Semien (6), Brown (3), McCann (3). **RBI:** Semien 5 (27), Seager (14), Lowe 2 (7), Garcia 2 (29), Smith (16), Heim 2 (22), Taveras 2 (7), Toro (14), Rooker (21), Brown 3 (9), McCann (8), Hernaiz (6). **SF:** Garcia. **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 7 (Semien, Garcia 2, Smith 2, Taveras 2), Oakland 5 (Brown 4, Davis). **RISP:** Texas 10 for 19, Oakland 3 for 10.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Urena W, 1-2	5.0	4	2	1	2	2	90	3.86
Hernandez	0.2	2	2	5	1	42	5.40	
Rodriguez	2.1	3	4	4	2	3	59	10.61
Winn	10.0	0	0	0	1	17	4.32	

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Stripling L, 1-6	12.0	10	11	5	2	60	5.14	
Harris	5.1	8	4	1	5	94	6.75	
Ferguson	2.0	1	0	0	2	3	52	0.00

**Inherited runners:** Rodriguez 3-3, Harris 2-0. **HBP:** Jankowski. **WP:** Hernandez. **Umpires:** HP-Bacchus, 1B-Gibson, 2B-Diaz, 3B-Estabrook. T: 3:07. A: 3,965 (46,847).



The Arizona Diamondbacks' Corbin Carroll hits an RBI single in the third inning of Tuesday's game against the Reds at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati. KATIE STRATMAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

**Philadelphia 10, Toronto 1**

TOR	PHI	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	ERA
000	000	100	-	1	6	0		
120	500	02x	-	10	11	0		

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Springer rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.206
Guerrero Jr. 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.234
Turner 3b	4	0	1	0	1	0	.262
Clement 2b	0	0	0	0	0	.271	
Bichette ss	4	0	0	0	2	.189	
Schneider lf	3	0	0	0	1	.276	
Jansen dh	0	1	2	0	0	.323	
a-Vogelbach ph	1	0	0	0	0	.103	
Kirk c	3	0	1	0	0	.205	
Kiner-Falefa 2b	3	0	1	0	1	.260	
Kiermaier cf	2	0	0	0	1	.390	
Totals	30	1	6	1	3	5	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Schwarber dh	4	1	1	0	0	.215	
Merrifield lf	5	0	1	0	0	.246	
Harper 1b	3	2	1	0	0	.263	
Castellanos rf	4	0	1	0	0	.199	
Marsh cf	4	0	0	0	0	.254	
Stott 2b	4	2	2	0	1	.245	
Sosa ss	3	2	1	0	0	.281	
Clemens 3b	4	2	2	4	0	.444	
Stubbs c	2	1	0	0	2	.333	
Totals	33	10	11	10	3	10	

a-lined out for Brennan in 8th.  
**E:** Taylor 2. **2B:** Ibanez (1), Rogers 2 (3), Torkelson (12), Florial (4), Ramirez (6), Brennan (5). **HR:** Ibanez 2 (2), Naylor (9). **RBI:** Ibanez 4 (7), Vierling 2 (13), Vilade 3 (3), Baez (11), Florial (10), Ramirez 2 (30), Naylor 2 (28), Brennan 2 (14). **SB:** Gimenez (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 2 (Greene, Kelly), Cleveland 2 (Florial, Freeman). **RISP:** Detroit 5 for 11, Cleveland 3 for 7. **GIDP:** Vierling, Vilade, Baez, Gimenez, Brennan. **DP:** Detroit 2, Cleveland 3.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Maeda	2.0	5	7	7	3	1	59	6.75
Holton W, 3-0	3.0	2	0	0	0	3	31	4.00
Fleets H, 3	2.0	0	0	0	1	18	2.25	
Chafin	10.0	0	0	0	0	11	1.35	
Lange	10.0	0	0	0	1	20	0.68	

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Allen	2.1	7	7	7	2	2	67	6.41
Avila L, 0-1	3.0	3	1	1	2	4	53	3.72
Smith	1.0	2	1	1	0	20	2.70	
Herrin	12.3	2	1	0	2	18	1.06	
Barlow	10.0	0	0	0	0	9	2.45	

**Inherited runners:** Avila 2-0, Smith 1-1, Herrin 1-0. **WP:** Lange, Allen, Avila, Herrin. **Umpires:** HP-Johnson, 1B-Wolcott, 2B-Valentine, 3B-De Jesus. T: 2:45. A: 15,531 (34,830).

**Arizona 6, Cincinnati 2**

ARI	CIN	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	ERA
001	010	400	-	6	8	0		
000	000	100	-	2	3	1		

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Carroll cf	5	1	1	0	0	.211	
Marte 2b	5	1	1	0	2	.303	
Gurriel Jr. lf	4	0	0	0	2	.234	
Walker lf	4	0	0	0	1	.271	
Pederson dh	4	0	0	0	3	.295	
Suarez 3b	4	0	0	0	2	.215	
McCarthy rf	1	1	0	0	1	.307	
a-Grichuk ph-rf	2	0	1	0	0	.271	
Barnhart c	3	2	1	0	1	.229	
Newman ss	4	1	2	0	1	.200	
Totals	36	6	8	6	2	12	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Fried cf	4	0	0	0	1	.000	
De La Cruz ss	4	0	0	0	1	.282	
Steer lf	3	0	0	0	1	.240	
Stephenson c	4	1	1	0	1	.213	
Fraleigh dh	3	0	1	0	1	.294	
Encarnacion-Strand lf	3	0	0	0	1	.190	

a-singled for McCarthy in 7th.  
**E:** De La Cruz. **2B:** Pederson (8), HR: Carroll (2), Marte (7), Stephenson (4), India (2). **RBI:** Carroll 5 (12), Marte (18), Stephenson (11), India (11). **SB:** Benson (7). **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 3 (Gurriel Jr. 2, Suarez), Cincinnati 2 (Steer, Candelario). **RISP:** Arizona 2 for 7. **GIDP:** Encarnacion-Strand. **DP:** Arizona 1.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gallen W, 4-2	6.0	1	0	0	3	6	79	2.84
Jarvis	10.0	1	1	1	0	16	5.14	
Manly	10.0	0	0	0	1	15	3.68	
Winker lf	3	1	1	0	1	15	9.00	
Seward	10.0	0	0	0	0	11	0.20	

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Montas L, 2-3	6.0	2	1	1	7	3	55	
Wilson	0.1	4	4	4	0	0	8	8.59
Famer	12.0	0	0	0	2	22	2.79	
Pagan	10.0	0	0	0	1	3	16	5.52

**WP:** Gallen. **Umpires:** HP-Carapazza, 1B-Hamari, 2B-Moscocco, 3B-Reyburn. T: 2:27. A: 14,485 (45,814).

**Washington 3, Baltimore 0**

BAL	WAS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	ERA
000	000	000	-	0	3	0		
010	000	20x	-	3	6	1		

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Chisholm Jr. cf	4	0	0	0	2	.266	
Rutschman c	4	0	1	0	2	.322	
O'Hearn dh	4	0	0	0	2	.291	
Mountcastle lf	4	0	0	0	1	.280	
Santander rf	3	0	0	0	0	.213	
Cowser lf	3	0	0	0	1	.267	
Wendell Jr. 2b	3	0	1	0	0	.287	
Mullins cf	2	0	0	0	0	.209	
Urias 3b	2	0	0	0	0	.188	
a-Kjerstad ph	1	0	0	0	1	.200	
Mateo 2b	0	0	0	0	0	.245	
Totals	31	0	3	0	12		

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Young lf	2	0	0	0	1	.300	
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	3	.275	
Garcia Jr. 2b	2	0	0	0	2	.330	
Senzel dh	3	0	0	0	2	.231	
Winker lf	4	1	2	0	1	.263	
Meneses 1b	4	1	2	1	0	.227	
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	.327	
Rosario rf	3	1	1	1	1	.325	
Lipscomb 3b	4	0	1	0	0	.241	
Totals	30	3	6	3	6	8	

a-struck out for Urias in 8th.  
**E:** Abrams. **2B:** Winker (8), Meneses (4). **RBI:** Meneses (17), Rosario (6), Lipscomb (5). **SB:** Rutschman (1), Garcia Jr. (7), Winker (4), Rosario (4), Lipscomb (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 1 (Mountcastle), Washington 6 (Abrams, Garcia Jr., Senzel, Lipscomb 3). **RISP:** Washington 3 for 13.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burnes L, 3-2	6.1	5	3	3	6	95	2.83	
Webb	0.2	0	0	0	2	1	18	7.60
Akin	10.0	1	0	0	1	17	3.38	

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williams W, 4-0	5.0	2	0	0	0	8	77	1.96
Garcia H, 4	1.0	0	0	0	0	8	5.14	
Law H, 3	10.0	0	0	0	0	10	3.18	
Harvey H, 12	10.0	0	0	0	1	23	3.33	
Finnegan 5, 12	10.0	0	0	0	1	10	1.76	

**WP:** pitched to 1 batter in 8th.  
**Inherited runners:** Webb 1-1, Akin 1-1. **Balk:** Burnes (2). **Umpires:** HP-Tosi, 1B-Bellino, 2B-Nahanan, 3B-Cuzzi. T: 2:19. A: 29,542 (41,380).

**Philadelphia 10, Toronto 1**

TOR	PHI	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	ERA
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## AUTO RACING

NASCAR CUP SERIES

# Top throwback schemes for Darlington

Samuel Stubbs  
FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

With NASCAR headed to the historic Darlington Raceway this weekend, many teams and drivers in the Truck, Xfinity and Cup Series are sporting paint schemes that throw it back to iconic cars from the 76-year history of NASCAR.

While there are many eye-catching schemes this year, five stand out among the rest. Here are the best NASCAR throwback schemes of 2024.

**5. Harrison Burton, No. 21 Ford Mustang Dark Horse, Wood Brothers Racing (Cup Series). Throwback: Leonard Wood's 1953 "Leonard Wood Special"**

While Burton's performance on the racetrack has been less than stellar this season, he and the Wood Brothers delivered with a throwback scheme that winds back the clock 71 years. As one of the oldest and most historic teams in the garage area, the Wood Brothers always have an abundance of old schemes to choose from, and they nailed it this season. While Burton likely won't contend for the win on Sunday at Darlington, he did finish sixth there in the spring race last year, so he'll have more expectations placed on his shoulders than usual.

**4. Jack Wood, No. 91 Chevrolet Silverado, McAnally-Hilgemann Racing (Truck Series). Throwback: Tim Flock's 1952 "Hudson Hornet"**

NASCAR Hall of Famer Tim Flock drove his 1952 Hudson to the NASCAR Strictly Stock (now NASCAR Cup Series) championship in 1952. In a car owned by Ted Chester, Flock quickly carved out a name for himself, and both he and his famous racecar are forever immortalized in racing history. Wood didn't run the Truck Series race at Darlington in 2023 but did so in 2022, finishing 18th for the now defunct GMS Racing. While Flock never won at Darlington in the Cup Series, he did finish



NASCAR Cup Series driver Kyle Larson will drive a car sporting a paint scheme in tribute to Terry Labonte's 1990s Kellogg's scheme, shown during practice for the 1998 Daytona 500. MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

top five twice and top 10 four times in his nine Darlington starts. Regardless of where Wood runs on Friday night, though, the No. 91 truck will look fantastic as it pays homage to one of the greatest pioneers of stock-car racing.

**3. Chase Elliott, No. 9 Chevrolet Camaro, Hendrick Motorsports (Cup Series). Throwback: Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s 2014 Daytona 500-winning car**

One of the more recent throwbacks of the weekend, NASCAR's current most popular driver will pay tribute to its former most popular driver at Darlington. Earnhardt Jr. won the 2014 Daytona 500 in a beautiful red, white and gold car that was sponsored by the National Guard. While it will be UniFirst on the hood of Elliott's car this weekend, his No. 9 car nearly perfectly resembles the car that Earnhardt drove to victory in the 2014 Great American Race. Elliott finished third at Darlington last May, so expect him to have a chance at putting

an iconic scheme back in victory lane for the first time in a decade.

**2. Ryan Ellis, No. 43 Chevrolet Camaro, Alpha Prime Racing (Xfinity Series). Throwback: Cole Trickle's City Chevrolet scheme from "Days of Thunder"**

The only thing keeping this scheme from the No. 1 slot is the fact that it's not an actual piece of racing history, but a scheme that has been perfectly recreated from an iconic NASCAR film will still score high with fans. Ellis' sponsor, Classic Collision, has even willingly played along, forming their logo to fit inside the classic Chevy bowtie that will adorn the hood of Ellis' car in Saturday's Xfinity Series race. The only thing that could make this scheme any better is if the No. 43 team somehow got Tom Cruise, who played Trickle in the 1990 film, to the racetrack. Ellis will be looking to "drop the hammer" on Saturday as he searches for his first Xfinity Series

win.

**1. Kyle Larson, No. 5 Chevrolet Camaro, Hendrick Motorsports (Cup Series). Throwback: Terry Labonte's 1990s Kellogg's scheme**

Two-time Cup Series champion "Texas Terry" Labonte will hand over the reins of his iconic scheme to 2021 champion Kyle Larson, who beat Chris Buescher to the line in the closest finish in NASCAR Cup Series history on Sunday at Kansas. Labonte drove the red and green car from 1994 to 1999, winning the 1996 NASCAR Cup Series championship with Kellogg's proudly displayed on the hood. Aside from the obvious difference in sponsor logos, the cars of Larson and Labonte look nearly identical, and Larson has a good shot of putting the 2024 version in victory lane on Sunday. He won the Southern 500 at Darlington last September, so expect him to be in the mix for another win at The Lady in Black.

## GOLF



Rory McIlroy, left, and Shane Lowry show off their trophy after winning the Zurich Classic of New Orleans on April 28. STEPHEN LEW/USA TODAY SPORTS

### Lowry

Continued from Page 1

He capitalized by finishing third at the Arnold Palmer, then slipped a bit in the next few events, including a T43 at the Masters, before his New Orleans breakthrough.

"Cognizant and Bay Hill, I had two really good weeks, I was in the final group all week. Then you start to expect that from yourself week in and week out," Lowry said. "Masters didn't go my way, Hilton Head (RBC Heritage) didn't go my way, so I was getting a little bit down on myself. Not down on myself, but I knew my game and a lot of aspects of my game were very good, but I just needed to tidy up some other things. When you're not shooting the scores you feel like you should be shooting, it

becomes difficult.

"Yeah, I've just been hard on myself, the days were getting tougher and tougher and yeah, New Orleans sorted that."

The 37-year-old added it's nice to be in decent form at a time when important events start coming fast and furious. Lowry can count the 2019 Open Championship and other premier European events among his seven career wins, but only twice has he won on U.S. soil.

He may be in the right mode to change that, whether at Quail Hollow Club this week, the PGA Championship or the U.S. Open soon after that.

"Winning, we always say in golf, winning takes care of everything, and it does," Lowry said. "It takes care of a lot of things. That's in the past now and you just kind of move on now and you've got big weeks coming up."

### NOTEBOOK

## Oosthuizen turns down PGA Championship invite

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Louis Oosthuizen declined an invitation to the 106th PGA Championship due to an undisclosed personal commitment, leaving the number of LIV Golf players in next week's field at 16.

The contingent will be led by defending champion Brooks Koepka, a three-time winner of the event who is coming off a victory in LIV's Singapore event last week. The eight other LIV players who qualified for the event are Bryson DeChambeau, Tyrrell Hatton, Dustin Johnson, Martin Kaymer, Phil Mickelson, Andy Ogletree, Jon Rahm and Cam Smith.

Talor Gooch revealed Monday that he had received an invitation. He will be joined by six other LIV players to receive special invites: Former Masters champion Patrick Reed along with Joaquin Niemann, Dean Burmester, Adrian Meronk, Lucas Herbert and David Puig.

Reed, who has played in every major since the 2014 Masters, moved back inside the top 100 of the Official World Golf Ranking at No. 92 with his tie for 12th at Augusta National last month. Niemann won the Australian Open in December and sits atop LIV's individual points standings on the strength of two event wins.

Notable names who did not receive invitations include another former Masters champion in Sergio Garcia along with Abraham Ancer and Carlos Ortiz.

### Koepka, Woods headline PGA Championship field

Three-time and defending champion Brooks Koepka, past winners Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy and world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler lead a decorated field for next week's PGA Championship.

The PGA of America revealed the names of 154 of the 156 golfers who will



Louis Oosthuizen declined an invitation to the PGA Championship due to a personal commitment.

REINHOLD MATAY/USA TODAY SPORTS

compete at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky. The tournament begins on May 16.

The remaining two spots will go to the winners of the Wells Fargo Championship and Myrtle Beach Classic. Should a golfer who is already exempt emerge victorious, the PGA of America will go to the alternate list.

### Asterisk Talley, 15, qualifies for U.S. Women's Open

LPGA Tour rookie Gabriela Ruffels and 15-year-old amateur Asterisk Talley have qualified for the 2024 U.S. Women's Open.

Ruffels, 24, finished first at Monday's qualifying tournament at San Joaquin Country Club in Fresno, Calif., firing rounds of 70 and 66 to finish at 6 under.

Talley was the runner-up and one stroke behind after carding rounds of 68 and 69. She is headed to her first U.S. Women's Open, starting May 30 at Lancaster (Pa.) Country Club.

## NFL NOTEBOOK

## Report: Giants adding former Pats QB Rourke

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Quarterback Nathan Rourke wasn't out of a job for long after being claimed off waivers by the New York Giants on Tuesday, NFL Network reported.

Rourke was waived by New England on Monday as the Patriots trimmed the quarterbacks on their roster to four.

The Giants are adding Rourke, who turns 26 on May 24, to a QB room that already has incumbent Daniel Jones, Drew Lock and Tommy DeVito.

Rourke has not appeared in an NFL regular-season game after spending time on the Jacksonville Jaguars' active and practice squad rosters since January 2022. The Jaguars waived him in December and he was claimed by the Patriots, who re-signed him in March.

A native of Canada, he played in college at the University of Ohio (2017-19) and appeared in 23 games for the Canadian Football League's BC Lions from 2021-22.

## Report: Reinstated S Moore agrees to deal with Lions

Safety C.J. Moore is returning to the Detroit Lions after a one-season suspension for violating the NFL's gambling policy, NFL Network reported.

The deal is for one year, but financial terms of the contract were not disclosed.

The Lions signed Moore as an undrafted free agent in 2019 and he played in 56 games (one start) for Detroit. He took part in at least 68 percent of the Lions' special teams snaps in each of his four seasons with the team and contributed 48 tackles, two passes defensed, an interception and a fumble recovery.



Quarterback Nathan Rourke, who was waived by the Patriots on Monday, reportedly will sign with the Giants.

MARK KONEZNY/USA TODAY SPORTS

## Report: WR Boyd to sign 1-year deal with Titans

Wide receiver Tyler Boyd is signing a one-year contract worth up to \$4.5 million with the Tennessee Titans, ESPN reported.

The move will reunite Boyd with new Titans head coach Brian Callahan, who previously served as the offensive coordinator for the Cincinnati Bengals since 2019.

## Reports- Ex-Jags WR Jones visits Cardinals

Former Jacksonville wide receiver Zay Jones visited with the Arizona Cardinals, per multiple reports.

The Jaguars released Jones last week after picking LSU's Brian Thomas Jr. in the first round of the draft.

## TENNIS ITALIAN OPEN

## Former No. 2 Badosa off to promising start in Rome

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Former World No. 2 Paula Badosa of Spain showed signs of her old form in beating Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva 6-2, 6-3 on the opening day of the Internazionali BNL d'Italia on Tuesday in Rome.

Badosa made the quarterfinals at Foro Italico last year, but soon a back injury forced her to miss the second half of 2023. She hasn't been past the Round of 16 in any event since her return in January.

On Tuesday, Badosa saved 5 of 7 break points while converting 5 of 11 chances to break Andreeva's serve. Badosa won in 94 minutes but came away impressed with the up-and-coming Andreeva in her tournament debut.

"She's a very good player, amazing future," Badosa told the Tennis Channel. "I loved how competitive she is. I think she has a very, very bright future ahead."

Badosa, currently No. 126 in the world rankings, will face American 21st seed Emma Navarro in the second round as she continues her grueling comeback that has tested her physically and emotionally.

"I think my body wasn't capable of playing a lot of time, so I was getting quite stressed," Badosa said. "And also I think mentally it affected me in my self-confidence, the injuries. So I've been working on these two things a lot lately."

Andreeva's Russian counterpart Diana Shnaider fared better, defeating Belgium's Greet Minnen 6-2, 6-3. Now 20, Shnaider won WTA 250 events in China and Thailand while still a 19-year-old and is making her Italian Open debut.



Spain's Paula Badosa returns a shot during her match against Russia's Mirra Andreeva on Tuesday in Rome.

GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE/REUTERS

Only two matches went three sets on Tuesday. Colombia's Camila Osorio rallied to beat Dutch opponent Arantxa Rus 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in 2½ hours. In an all-Chinese matchup, Xinyu Wang defeated Yue Yuan 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Shelby Rogers needed just 61 minutes to sweep Italy's Lisa Pigato 6-1, 6-0, and Germany's Angelique Kerber had an easy 62 minutes, taking care of Lauren Davis by the same score.

Lucrezia Stefanini won a battle of Italians against Vittoria Paganetti, prevailing 7-5, 6-3. Stefanini went 7-for-8 in breaking Paganetti's serve and capitalized on her foe's six double faults.

Poland's Magdalena Frech defeated Ashlyn Krueger 7-6 (2), 6-3; Romania's Ana Bogdan eliminated Canada's Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-1; and Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan beat Italian Martina Trevisan 6-3, 6-4.

## SCOREBOARD



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All times Eastern

## MLB

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	23	12	.657	—
N.Y. Yankees	24	13	.649	—
Boston	19	17	.528	4½
Tampa Bay	19	18	.514	5
Toronto	16	20	.444	7½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	23	13	.639	—
Minnesota	20	15	.571	2½
Kansas City	21	16	.568	2½
Detroit	19	17	.528	4
Chicago	8	28	.222	15

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	21	16	.568	½
Oakland	17	20	.459	4
L.A. Angels	13	23	.361	7½
Houston	12	23	.343	8

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	11	.703	—
Washington	21	12	.636	3
Atlanta	18	17	.514	7
N.Y. Mets	18	18	.500	7½
Miami	10	28	.263	16½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	21	14	.600	—
Chicago	22	15	.595	—
Pittsburgh	17	20	.459	5
Cincinnati	16	19	.457	5
St. Louis	15	21	.417	6½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	25	13	.658	—
San Diego	19	20	.487	6½
Arizona	16	20	.444	8
San Francisco	16	21	.432	8½
Colorado	8	27	.229	15½

Monday's Scores				
Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 1				
Cleveland 2, Detroit 1				
Pittsburgh 4, L.A. Angels 1				
Tampa Bay 8, Chicago 2				
Kansas City 3, Milwaukee 2				
San Diego 6, Chicago 3				
Minnesota 3, Seattle 1				
N.Y. Mets 4, St. Louis 3				
Texas 4, Oakland 2				
L.A. Dodgers 6, Miami 3				

Tuesday's Scores				
Texas 15, Oakland 8				
Detroit 11, Cleveland 7				
Arizona 6, Cincinnati 2				
L.A. Angels 9, Pittsburgh 0				
Philadelphia 10, Toronto 1				
Washington 3, Baltimore 0				
Tampa Bay 5, Chicago 1				
N.Y. Yankees 10, Houston 3				
Atlanta 4, Boston 2				
Chicago 3, San Diego 2				
Milwaukee 6, Kansas City 5				
Seattle 10, Minnesota 6				
N.Y. Mets 7, St. Louis 5				
San Francisco 5, Colorado 0				
L.A. Dodgers 8, Miami 2				

Wednesday's Games				
L.A. Angels (Soriano 1-4) at Pittsburgh (Perez 1-2), 12:35 p.m.				
Toronto (Bassitt 2-5) at Philadelphia (Nola 4-1), 1:05 p.m.				
Detroit (Olson 0-4) at Cleveland (Bibee 2-1), 1:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Houser 0-3) at St. Louis (Gray 3-1), 1:15 p.m.				

Thursday's Games				
Milwaukee (Ross 1-3) at Kansas City (Singer 2-1), 2:10 p.m.				
San Diego (Cease 4-2) at Chicago (Wesneski 2-0), 2:20 p.m.				
Miami (Weathers 2-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Stone 2-1), 3:10 p.m.				
Texas (Lorenzen 2-1) at Oakland (Sears 2-1), 3:37 p.m.				
Arizona (Montgomery 1-2) at Cincinnati (Greene 1-2), 6:40 p.m.				
Baltimore (Bradish 0-0) at Washington (Parker 2-1), 6:45 p.m.				
Chicago (Flexen 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Civale 2-2), 6:50 p.m.				
Houston (Arrighetti 0-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 2-2), 7:05 p.m.				
Texas (TBD) at Oakland (TBD), 7:07 p.m.				
Boston (Winckowski 1-1) at Atlanta (Sale 4-1), 7:20 p.m.				
Seattle (Kirby 3-2) at Minnesota (Paddock 2-1), 7:40 p.m.				
San Francisco (Hicks 2-1) at Colorado (Lambert 2-1), 8:40 p.m.				

Friday's Games				
Arizona (Ceconni 1-2) at Cincinnati (Abbott 1-3), 1:10 p.m.				
Seattle (Gilbert 3-0) at Minnesota (Lopez 2-2), 1:10 p.m.				
San Francisco (Winn 3-4) at Colorado (Quantrell 1-3), 3:10 p.m.				
Houston (Blanco 3-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 2-1), 5:05 p.m.				
Cleveland (Lively 1-1) at Chicago (Fedde 2-0), 7:40 p.m.				
St. Louis (Lynn 1-0) at Milwaukee (Myers 0-2), 7:40 p.m.				
Kansas City (Wacha 1-4) at L.A. Angels (Detmers 3-2), 9:38 p.m.				

## NBA

Playoffs				
FIRST ROUND				
(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
<b>No. 1 Boston Celtics 4,</b>				
<b>No. 8 Miami Heat 1</b>				
April 21: Celtics 114, Heat 94				
April 24: Heat 111, Celtics 101				
April 27: Celtics 104, Heat 84				
April 29: Celtics 102, Heat 88				
May 1: Celtics 118, Heat 84				
<b>No. 2 New York Knicks 4,</b>				
<b>No. 7 Philadelphia 76ers 2</b>				
April 20: Knicks 111, 76ers 104				
April 22: Knicks 104, 76ers 101				
April 25: 76ers 125, Knicks 114				
April 28: Knicks 97, 76ers 92				
April 30: 76ers 112, Knicks 106, OT				
May 2: Knicks 118, 76ers 115				
<b>No. 6 Indiana Pacers 4,</b>				
<b>No. 3 Milwaukee Bucks 2</b>				
April 21: Bucks 109, Pacers 94				
April 23: Pacers 125, Bucks 108				
April 26: Pacers 121, Bucks 118, OT				
April 28: Pacers 126, Bucks 113				

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
<b>No. 4 Cleveland Cavaliers 4,</b>				
<b>No. 5 Orlando Magic 3</b>				
April 20: Cavaliers 97, Magic 83				
April 22: Cavaliers 96, Magic 86				
April 24: Magic 121, Cavaliers 83				
April 27: Magic 112, Cavaliers 89				
April 30: Cavaliers 104, Magic 103				
May 3: Magic 103, Cavaliers 96				
May 5: Cavaliers 106, Magic 94				

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
<b>No. 1 Oklahoma City Thunder 4,</b>				
<b>No. 8 New Orleans Pelicans 0</b>				
April 21: Thunder 94, Pelicans 92				
April 24: Thunder 124, Pelicans 92				
April 27: Thunder 106, Pelicans 85				
April 29: Thunder 97, Pelicans 89				
<b>No. 2 Denver Nuggets 4,</b>				
<b>No. 7 LA Lakers 1</b>				
April 20: Nuggets 114, LA Lakers 103				
April 22: Nuggets 101, LA Lakers 99				
April 25: Nuggets 112, LA Lakers 105				
April 27: LA Lakers 119, Nuggets 108				
April 29: Nuggets 108, LA Lakers 106				
<b>No. 3 Minnesota Timberwolves 4,</b>				
<b>No. 6 Phoenix Suns 0</b>				
April 20: Timberwolves 120, Suns 95				
April 23: Timberwolves 105, Suns 93				
April 26: Timberwolves 126, Suns 109				
April 28: Timberwolves 122, Suns 116				
<b>No. 5 Dallas Mavericks 4,</b>				
<b>No. 4 LA Clippers 2</b>				
April 21: LA Clippers 109, Mavericks 97				
April 23: Mavericks 106, LA Clippers 93				
April 26: Mavericks 101, LA Clippers 90				
April 28: L.A. Clippers 116, Mavericks 111				
May 1: Mavericks 123, LA Clippers 93				
May 3: Mavericks 114, LA Clippers 101				

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
<b>No. 1 Boston Celtics 1,</b>				
<b>No. 4 Cleveland Cavaliers 0</b>				
May 7: Celtics 120, Cavaliers 95				
May 9: Cavaliers at Celtics, 7 p.m.				
May 11: Celtics at Cavaliers, 8:30 p.m.				
May 13: Celtics at Cavaliers, 7 p.m.				
x-May 15: Cavaliers at Celtics, TBD				
x-May 17: Celtics at Cavaliers, TBD				
x-May 19: Cavaliers at Celtics, TBD				
<b>No. 2 New York Knicks 1,</b>				
<b>No. 6 Indiana Pacers 0</b>				
May 6: Knicks 121, Pacers 117				
May 8: Pacers at Knicks, 8 p.m.				
May 10: Knicks at Pacers, 7 p.m.				
May 12: Knicks at Pacers, 3:30 p.m.				
x-May 14: Pacers at Knicks, TBD				
x-May 17: Knicks at Pacers, TBD				
x-May 19: Pacers at Knicks, TBD				

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
<b>No. 1 Oklahoma City Thunder 1,</b>				
<b>No. 5 Dallas Mavericks 0</b>				
May 7: Mavericks 117, Thunder 95				
May 9: Mavericks at Thunder, 9:30 p.m.				
May 11: Thunder at Mavericks, 3:30 p.m.				
May 13: Thunder at Mavericks, 9:30 p.m.				
x-May 15: Mavericks at Thunder, TBD				
x-May 18: Thunder at Mavericks, 8:30 p.m.				
x-May 20: Mavericks at Thunder, 8:30 p.m.				
<b>No. 3 Minnesota Timberwolves 2,</b>				
<b>No. 2 Denver Nuggets 0</b>				
May 4: Timberwolves 106, Nuggets 99				
May 6: Timberwolves 106, Nuggets 80				
May 10: Nuggets at Timberwolves, 9:30 p.m.				
May 12: Nuggets at Timberwolves, 8 p.m.				
May 14: Timberwolves at Nuggets, TBD				
x-May 16: Nuggets at Timberwolves, 8:30 p.m.				
x-May 19: Timberwolves at Nuggets, TBD				

## NHL

Playoffs				
FIRST ROUND				
(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
<b>Florida Panthers 4,</b>				
<b>Tampa Bay Lightning 1</b>				
April 21: Panthers 3, Lightning 2				
April 23: Panthers 3, Lightning 2 (OT)				
April 25: Panthers 5, Lightning 3				
April 27: Lightning 6, Panthers 3				
April 29: Panthers 6, Lightning 1				
<b>Boston Bruins 4,</b>				
<b>Toronto Maple Leafs 3</b>				
April 20: Bruins 5, Maple Leafs 1				
April 22: Maple Leafs 3, Bruins 2				
April 24: Bruins 4, Maple Leafs 2				
April 27: Bruins 3, Maple Leafs 1				
April 30: Maple Leafs 2, Bruins 1, OT				
May 2: Maple Leafs 2, Bruins 1				
May 4: Bruins 2, Maple Leafs 1, OT				
<b>New York Rangers 4,</b>				
<b>Washington Capitals 0</b>				
April 21: Rangers 4, Capitals 1				
April 23: Rangers 4, Capitals 3				

April 30: Bucks 115, Pacers 92
May 2: Pacers 120, Bucks 98

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
<b>No. 1 Oklahoma City Thunder 4,</b>				
<b>No. 8 New Orleans Pelicans 0</b>				
April 21: Thunder 94, Pelicans 92				
April 24: Thunder 124, Pelicans 92				
April 27: Thunder 106, Pelicans 85				
April 29: Thunder 97, Pelicans 89				
<b>No. 2 Denver Nuggets 4,</b>				
<b>No. 7 LA Lakers 1</b>				
April 20: Nuggets 114, LA Lakers 103				
April 22: Nuggets 101, LA Lakers 99				
April 25: Nuggets 112, LA Lakers 105				
April 27: LA Lakers 119, Nuggets 108				
April 29: Nuggets 108, LA Lakers 106				
<b>No. 3 Minnesota Timberwolves 4,</b>				
<b>No. 6 Phoenix Suns 0</b>				
April 20: Timberwolves 120, Suns 95				
April 23: Timberwolves 105, Suns 93				
April 26: Timberwolves 126, Suns 109				
April 28: Timberwolves 122, Suns 116				
<b>No. 5 Dallas Mavericks 4,</b>				
<b>No. 4 LA Clippers 2</b>				
April 21: LA Clippers 109, Mavericks 97				
April 23: Mavericks 106, LA Clippers 93				
April 26: Mavericks 101, LA Clippers 90				
April 28: L.A. Clippers 116, Mavericks 111				
May 1: Mavericks 123, LA Clippers 93				
May 3: Mavericks 114, LA Clippers 101				

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS				
(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
<b>No. 1 Boston Celtics 1,</b>				
<b>No. 4 Cleveland Cavaliers 0</b>				
May 7: Celtics 120, Cavaliers 95				
May 9: Cavaliers at Celtics, 7 p.m.				
May 11: Celtics at Cavaliers, 8:30 p.m.				
May 13: Celtics at Cavaliers, 7 p.m.				
x-May 15: Cavaliers at Celtics, TBD				
x-May 17: Celtics at Cavaliers, TBD				
x-May 19: Cavaliers at Celtics, TBD				
<b>No. 2 New York Knicks 1,</b>				
<b>No. </b>				