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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Disputed school names revived

Virginia board votes to reverse decision on Confederate officers

By Campbell Robertson
The New York Times

WOODSTOCK, Va. — After a meeting that lasted for hours, the Shenandoah County school board voted early Friday to restore the names of three Confederate officers to schools in the district.

With the vote, the district appears to be the first in the country to return Confederate names to schools that had removed them after summer 2020, according to researchers at the Montgomery, Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative.

The vote rolled back a decision made four years ago, when the murder of George Floyd prompted nationwide demands for a racial reckoning. At a virtual meeting in July 2020, the summer of the pandemic and protests, the board voted 5-1 to drop the names of two schools — Ashby-Lee Elementary and Stonewall Jackson High — that it deemed incompatible with a recently passed resolution condemning racism. The schools were renamed the next year as Honey Run and Mountain View.

But a fury had been unleashed in the rural county in the mountains of Virginia. People crowded into school board meetings, denouncing the name changes as secretive and rushed through with little advance notice, and voicing deeper resentments about cultural shifts they saw as being foisted upon them.

After a revote ended in a tie in 2022, the name changes stood. But opponents swore that Stonewall Jackson would be revived. And Friday, he was.

“When you read about this man — who he was, what he stood for, his character, his loyalty, his leadership, how godly a man he was — those standards that he had were much higher than any leadership of the school system in 2020,” said Tom Streett, one of the board members. Then he and four of his five colleagues voted to bring Jackson and the other names back.

The county, which is more than 90% white, is not alone in rolling back decisions made in 2020. Across the U.S., several measures adopted in 2020 and 2021, including new classroom curricula about the nation’s racial history, have been curtailed or eliminated in the

Turn to Names, Page 6



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Rookie minicamp showcases new QB

Caleb Williams ran the Bears’ offense and worked with wide receivers, including first-round pick Rome Odunze, in the first practice of a two-day rookie minicamp in Lake Forest. **Chicago Sports**

Pilsen church’s future debated at hearing

At a Commission on Chicago Landmarks hearing, dozens who back landmarking St. Adalbert clashed with leaders of the Chicago Archdiocese. **Chicagoland, Page 2**



NO MOW MAY GETTING A TRIM

Chicagoans put off mowing to help bees — but only until Mother’s Day

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

The lawn in front of Annette Peterson’s Riverside bungalow stands maybe 2 inches higher than the standard emerald buzz-cut.

Look closely and you can see low-lying wildflowers — yellow, violet and lavender — hiding in the lush grasses.

Still, there’s little to suggest that Peterson is participating in No Mow May, a national conservation initiative that encourages homeowners to aid struggling pollinators, including bees, by forsaking the lawnmower until June 1.

Four years after No Mow May arrived in the United States, along with foot-high grasses and lawns dotted with hundreds of dandelions, there are signs that the

“I grew up in this area. I’m very familiar with the ecology and grass. Even in an average year, I don’t think you can get through the entire month of May (without mowing).”

— Jon Yeater, supervisor of the forestry and grounds division at the Westmont Public Works Department

Chicago area is embracing a more moderate approach.

At least five cities and towns in the area, including Westmont, La Grange Park and Riverside, are hosting No Mow ‘Til Mother’s Day, which allows lawns to grow and flowering weeds such as dandelions and creeping Charlie to fully flourish, but only until mid-May.

To supporters, it’s a win-win: Hungry bees get access to important early season pollen and nectar, and neighbors get more orderly vistas.

“I think it’s the perfect middle ground for suburban Chicagoland,” said Peterson, a yoga teacher.

The other participating communi-

Turn to Mowing, Page 4

Homeowner Annette Peterson stands in her unmowed backyard in Riverside on Wednesday. In No Mow May, some people let their lawns grow so that pollinators, such as bees, can feed on the early-season nectar of flowers. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Former University of Illinois basketball player Terrence Shannon Jr. appears in court Friday in Lawrence, Kan. A judge ordered him to stand trial on a rape charge. **CHRIS CONDE/THE LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD**

Former Illini star Shannon to stand trial on rape charge

Woman testified she was assaulted at crowded campus bar

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

A Kansas judge has ruled that former University of Illinois basketball star Terrence Shannon Jr. must stand trial

on a rape charge after a woman testified Friday that she was “terrified” as she allegedly was being assaulted.

Shannon, 23, appeared before Judge Sally Pokorny in Douglas County District Court in Kansas on Friday for a preliminary hearing. The Chicago native is charged with one count of rape or an alternative count of aggravated sexual battery, which is a

felony, according to a criminal complaint.

A jury trial is scheduled to begin June 10 in Kansas, according to court officials.

An attorney representing Shannon said he pleaded not guilty to the charges.

“Our legal team is neither shocked nor disappointed by

Turn to Shannon, Page 4

‘Pink slime’ pubs must remove voter info

Judge orders them to take birthdates, addresses off websites

By Rick Pearson
Chicago Tribune

A Lake County judge has given the company that publishes far-right websites and flyers designed to look like newspapers until 5 p.m. Monday to remove some personally identifiable voter information it publicly posted earlier this year in apparent violation of state law.

In an order issued Thursday in response to a complaint from Democratic Attorney General Kwame Raoul, the publishers of the so-called “pink slime” publications must remove registered voters’ full birthdates and street addresses from their websites. That is consistent with publicly released state voting information under federal law.

The publications also are enjoined from posting additional voter lists that include full birthdates and street addresses

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TODAY’S WEATHER



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Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

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Tribune books

“Dinner at Home” Cooking at home doesn’t have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. Since 2007, JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless’ Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto Parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomato-olive relish. Dinner at home has never been better.

“Ask Amy: Advice for Better Living” For over a decade, Amy Dickinson has been the Tribune’s signature general advice columnist, helping readers with questions both personal and pressing. This book, which collects columns from 2011 to 2013, is a testament to the empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips that Dickinson has been distilling for years.

“Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change.” Clarence Page’s newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column’s first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner’s columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

“10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything.” You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that’s just one of the obscure facts you’ll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofer.

“Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything” How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these make up this engaging do-it-yourself guide.

All Chicago Tribune print books are available online at chicagotribune.com/printbooks

Accuracy and ethics

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Corrections and clarifications: Publishing information quickly and accurately is a central part of the Chicago Tribune’s news responsibility.

■ A story on Friday’s Page 1 about a blood test that helps spot lung cancer misstated the name of the institution Dr. Ameen Salahudeen is affiliated with. He is with University of Illinois at Chicago. The Tribune regrets the error.

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People walk nearby the looming figure of St. Adalbert Church on Friday in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Future of Pilsen’s St. Adalbert Church hangs in the balance

Landmark hearing pits supporters against archdiocese

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

A yearslong battle over a historic Polish church in Pilsen moved from the streets into the chambers of Chicago’s City Council on Friday as church supporters who want it protected as a city landmark clashed with leaders of the Chicago Archdiocese who fear landmarking the church will halt any efforts to repurpose the property.

During a daylong Commission on Chicago Landmarks hearing, dozens who back landmarking St. Adalbert Church provided fiery testimony and characterized the Archdiocese of Chicago and the nearby parish that now oversees the church property as greedy and disrespectful of St. Adalbert’s heritage.

Anina Jakubowski joined many of the landmark supporters in the crowd in saying she placed her hopes not just in the church receiving protected status but in a dream that the church, which closed in 2019, might one day reopen. Jakubowski grew up attending masses at St. Adalbert and her mother fought a planned closure of the church in 1974, Jakubowski said.

“It was built as a house of God,” said Jakubowski, now a Downers Grove resident. “How can you have so many thousands of people who have been in that church and prayed? Where do those prayers go?”

But archdiocese leaders said they opposed the protective designation because it would create restrictions so strict that the church building could become stuck in disrepair and cost the nearby St. Paul Parish that inherited St. Adalbert’s assets millions of dollars in upkeep costs.

“The future vitality of St. Paul’s depends on its ability to use all of the resources it owns, including the assets of the closed St. Adalbert’s parish,” said Bishop Robert Lombardo, who called the potential landmark status “an offense to our right to religious self governance.”

The landmarks commission did not vote on whether it would recommend a landmark designation for St. Adalbert, but is scheduled to do so June 6. If the recommendation is made, the landmark status question would go to the full City Council for final approval. The status would trigger a series of restrictions on what could be done to the church building and landmarks commission reviews of any redevelopment plans in order to protect the church complex’s “significant features” — including its Renaissance Revival facade. Still, a landmarks designation would not completely ban renovations and interior changes.

The church was called “one of the finest in Chicago” by the Tribune when it was completed



People in favor of the landmark cheer after Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez, 25th, spoke during a hearing of the Chicago Landmarks Commission to vote on whether to give landmark status to the St. Adalbert Church building in Pilsen on Friday at City Hall.



People wearing “Vote No!” stickers sit in the audience during a hearing of the Chicago Landmarks Commission to vote on whether to give landmark status to the St. Adalbert Church building in Pilsen on Friday at City Hall.

in 1914 and, at its peak, served 4,000 families. But its membership declined as Pilsen shifted from a more heavily Polish community to predominantly Mexican, said Dan Klaiber, a Department of Planning and Development coordination planner.

Protesters, many of them proudly Polish, have ardently pushed back since the archdiocese shut down the church five years ago. They decried the removal of a statue from the site and led the charge for its landmark status. A 73-year-old woman last year was arrested for trespassing while protesting the removal of stained glass windows and art from the shuttered church. On Friday, she joined the speculating crowd at City Hall. And many have continued to pray the rosary outside the building every Friday.

But representatives with the archdiocese argued that the building is not significant enough to merit the landmark protections. It pales when compared to other neighborhood churches, isn’t made by a significant architect, does not add a distinctive presence in the neighborhood and had major structural issues that could require scaffolding to continue to cover its facade, urban planning consultant George Kisiel said.

A landmark status would

effectively block efforts to reuse the land in Pilsen, which desperately needs more affordable housing, Lombardo said. Any money made from the archdiocese from selling St. Adalbert would go to St. Paul’s, located a mile away, he added.

Needed repairs to secure the church, long covered with scaffolding on its facade because of safety concerns, could cost as much \$8 million, according to the archdiocese. The landmark designation would deter demolition, but would not compel rehabilitation.

The movement to protect St. Adalbert has drawn support from Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez, 25th. The Pilsen alderman gave a strident speech Friday that called for the protective status, arguing the complex must be saved “not only because of the structure, but because of the people ... that built this structure with blood, sweat and tears.”

He harshly criticized the archdiocese, warning that “luxury apartments” would be built on the property if the church does not win protections. He called the arguments of archdiocese leaders “propaganda” and accused them of being like the moneychangers and merchants in the temple in Jerusalem that Jesus lambasted in the Gospel.

The comparison drew eruptions of cheers and boos from the crowd.

The charged debate caused the meeting to be continually stalled due to repeated interruptions from the crowd.

“We are here for, literally, a hearing. That means we hear everybody,” said Adam Rubin, a landmarks commissioner as he tried to maintain decorum while running the meeting.

James Geoly, the Chicago Archdiocese’s general counsel, said later that Sigcho-Lopez had effectively blocked several proposals from developers who had pitched plans to convert the church building for other uses, such as a museum and an event venue. The archdiocese was under contract with a developer when the church complex was granted preliminary landmark status in August. The landmark status would protect the church building, as well as rectory, convent and school.

In at least one proposal, new developments on the 2-acre property would have included 40% affordable housing while preserving the main building, Geoly said.

He held out faith that an agreement to develop the land while preserving the structure could be reached.

“Tomorrow this could all be solved,” he said.

Publications

from Page 1

until at least June 7, when a hearing is scheduled on the matter, according to the order issued by Lake County Associate Circuit Judge Daniel Jasica and agreed to by the publishers, Local Government Information Services.

LGIS publishes the flyers and websites throughout Illinois with names that make them appear to be newspapers, such as the “Chicago City Wire,” the “DuPage Policy Journal” and the “Will County Gazette.” But the websites and print products publish little more than poor-quality content disguised as news that pushes far-right political candidates and their agendas, earning the publications the “pink slime” moniker.

LGIS is operated by Brian Timpone, a long-ago Illinois House Republican spokesman who has launched



A reporter holds a copy of campaign material packaged as a fake newspaper being mailed by Dan Proft’s operation while Gov. J.B. Pritzker holds a campaign event on Sept. 7, 2022, at the William E. Dugan Training Center in Wilmington.

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

dozens of “pink slime” publications in Illinois and across the country. He is an ally and business partner of onetime failed Republican gubernatorial candidate, political operative and right-

wing radio talk show host Dan Proft of Naples, Florida.

Illinois State Board of Elections officials said they received dozens of complaints after the LGIS publications posted the

names, addresses and birth-dates of voters by precinct, including whether they had voted, using voting lists from 2016 and 2020 that by law are only to be used by political organizations and not for other purposes. The data isn’t supposed to be shared with outside organizations.

Proft had a political committee in 2016 that was entitled to use the information for political purposes. That PAC, Liberty Principles, paid LGIS to have stories favoring their candidates be printed and distributed.

That prompted the State Board of Elections to require the publications to show that the product was paid for by Liberty Principles. But Liberty Principles shut down at the end of 2019.

Another Proft committee, the People Who Play By The Rules PAC, was formed last year. But state elections officials said it was unclear if the newer PAC was the source of the 2020 voting list infor-

mation.

People Who Play By The Rules has made headlines recently in other ways as it owes the state fines for failing to timely post campaign finance documents and is currently the subject of an election board review over whether it illegally coordinated its spending activity with Darren Bailey, the defeated 2022 GOP candidate for governor.

In its initial complaint concerning the publication of the registered voters’ personal information, Raoul’s office contended “publishing voters’ birth-dates and full street addresses has put voters at imminent risk of identity theft and has placed several categories of voters, such as members of the judiciary and law enforcement, in harm’s way.”

Warning that the potential harm to voters, “including identity theft or worse, to their physical safety, will be irreparable,” Raoul’s office noted that LGIS had

ignored election board requests to pull the information from the company’s websites.

“Since January 1, 2024, (LGIS) has published thousands of articles on its websites, each containing a purported list of registered voters in a given voting precinct, including such voters’ birthdates and full street addresses, and indicating whether they did or did not vote in the 2020 election,” Raoul’s office told the court. “For example, there are roughly 408 such articles with purported registered voter lists and voter information in various Lake County voting precincts published on (LGIS’s) ‘Lake County Gazette’ website”

The voting lists, Raoul’s office said, “include prominent State elected officials, current and former members of the judiciary, and law enforcement officers, and likely also victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.”

Mowing

from Page 1

ties include Glenview and Lombard, which had more than 650 participating households in 2023. Northbrook holds a similar program, Slow Mow May, in which participants mow every two to three weeks.

Local officials said that No Mow May, which started in England and was introduced in the United States in Appleton, Wisconsin, has been modified to account for the Chicago area’s fast-growing grasses.

“I grew up in this area. I’m very familiar with the ecology and grass,” said Jon Yeater, supervisor of the forestry and grounds division at the Westmont Public Works Department. “Even in an average year, I don’t think you can get through the entire month of May (without mowing).”

No Mow May is a response to growing concerns about declines in key insect populations, due to factors such as loss of habitat, climate change and pesticide use.

An influential 2017 study in the journal PLOS ONE found a 75% decrease in flying insects (by weight) in German nature preserves over 27 years, and in 2021 the National Academies of Sciences produced a special issue on insect decline, with the authors of one article writing, “Urgent action is needed on behalf of nature.”

Among the insects at risk are many North American native bees, according to the Xerces Society, a nonprofit conservation organization focusing on invertebrates, including insects.

The No Mow movement has sparked debate in recent years, with some critics saying that adding native plants to your yard or replacing your lawn entirely are more effective ways to support pollinators.

But supporters praise No Mow May for drawing attention to a hard-to-publicize issue, with Yeater saying No Mow programs get citizens involved and can lead to more ambitious home gardening practices.

“One of the things I like about it is it’s catchy, and people are finally starting to acknowledge that they can do something different with their lawns and it can have benefits for bees,” said Susannah Lerman, a research ecologist at the U.S. Forest Service and co-author of a frequently referenced 2018 study that found mowing less benefits bees.

“From that perspective, I think (No Mow May) is really great,” she said. “People are talking about it. You’re seeing (lawn) signs everywhere.”

Still, she said, May is just



Violets and false wild strawberry flowers grow in the un-mowed backyard of Annette Peterson. ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS



Bees buzz around the front of Peterson’s un-mowed front lawn Wednesday.

one month.

“If we can get people to reduce their lawn mowing in May — and June, July and August — then we’re talking. That’s going to have a lot more benefits for bees,” she said.

Her 2018 study found that mowing less frequently leads to more flowers and more bees. Lawns mowed every two weeks had the most bees (compared to lawns mowed every week or every three weeks). Among the possible explanations for the superior bee counts in lawns mowed every two weeks: the taller grasses in lawns mowed every three weeks may have impeded the bees’ access to flowers, the study said.

In Northbrook, which started with a full-blown No Mow May in 2021 but switched to Slow Mow May last year, sustainability coordinator Kate Carney said there were concerns that very tall grasses could crowd

out flowers or block insects that burrow underground in winter and emerge in spring.

No Mow May programs — and the many variations — can help homeowners avoid fines, with towns often temporarily suspending enforcement of lawn-height ordinances.

Still, many No Mow May enthusiasts participate in towns without official programs, taking their chances with tickets, mowing occasionally, or confining their participation to backyards.

Retired special education teacher Kathleen Lojas said she mows her Brookfield front yard but lets the backyard “go meadowy” in May.

She has red clover, Dutch clover, creeping Charlie, dandelions and violets.

“I saw a great, big bumblebee the other day by my irises, and I was so, so happy,” she said.

Peterson said she mowed her front lawn once this



Violets are seen in Peterson’s un-mowed backyard in Riverside on Wednesday.

spring at her husband’s suggestion, and she keeps the dandelions at bay, in part “to keep the neighbors smiling and waving happily.”

“I want to be responsive. I want to be a good neighbor,” she said. “But I also want to be a good steward of the environment.”

Mother’s Day strikes her as a great no-mow cutoff point, in part due to the nature of the holiday.

“I host my mother and in-laws and you want the place to be pretty. There’s this sense of I don’t know — propriety,” she said.

Lerman, the research ecologist, said she hadn’t heard of No Mow ‘Til Mother’s Day before, but she liked the idea: “What it says to me is that people are taking this

idea of No Mow May, and they’re making it work for where they’re at.”

On a sunny day in early May, Peterson gave a tour of her ¼-acre property, where she lives with her husband and their two children in a 1926 brick bungalow.

The front yard included traditional purple irises, wild strawberries, a flower box and a birdfeeder. Big carpenter bees — yellow and fuzzy on top, and sleek and black below — hovered near the house.

The side lot and backyard, which were hidden from the street, won’t be mowed until June, Peterson said. There, the look was wilder, with lots of trees and a stream-like trench making its way through the violets and

mock strawberry, toward a small temporary pond. Robins and cardinals sang as Peterson knelt to inspect a single purple violet.

With all the shade, the grasses hadn’t grown very high yet, she said apologetically. But the overall effect was still that of a woodland refuge.

Deer and ducks have stopped by, Peterson said, and two weeks ago she saw a coyote.

“Yards aren’t just for us, and we’re realizing that,” she said. “That’s the important shift that we’re seeing. We’re acknowledging that and we’re making room for all the inhabitants.”

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Shannon

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the outcome of this event,” Shannon’s attorney Mark Sutter, of Sutter Law Group in Oakbrook Terrace, said in a statement. “A preliminary hearing is a procedural process that merely speaks to the threshold of evidence and whether a question of fact may exist for a jury. It has nothing to do with guilt or innocence. Those issues will be decided at trial, and

we continue to look forward to our day in court.”

The charges stem from a September trip that Shannon took to Lawrence, Kansas, to watch an Illinois football game against the University of Kansas.

Lawrence police said in an affidavit that a woman, who was born in 2005, told a detective that Shannon put his hand under her skirt, grabbed her buttocks and penetrated her with his finger at a crowded bar close to campus.

At Friday’s hearing, a woman testified that she was “terrified” as she was allegedly assaulted by Shannon; Shannon also testified, denying that he had ever touched the woman during the incident, according to a story in the Lawrence Journal-World.

In December, Shannon was charged with one count of rape or an alternative count of misdemeanor sexual battery. He turned himself in to authorities in Lawrence and was released

on a \$50,000 bond.

One of the charges against Shannon was recently elevated, according to an amended complaint filed earlier this week; while the rape charge remains, the alternative charge was changed to aggravated sexual battery, which is a felony.

“As set out during the preliminary hearing, the State believes there is sufficient evidence to support this alternative charge,” said a public information offi-

cer for the Douglas County district attorney’s office.

The Illini guard was initially suspended from “all team activities” by the U. of I. and missed six games, but the decision was reversed by a federal judge, who issued a temporary restraining order.

University officials in April closed a student misconduct investigation of Shannon, citing insufficient evidence to determine whether he violated the school’s student code.

Shannon went on to finish the 2023-24 season. He led the Illini to the Big Ten Tournament championship and was voted Most Outstanding Player. The fifth-year student helped the Illini reach the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament before losing to Connecticut, the eventual champion.

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YOUR VOICE

My first night on call educated me on nurses' contributions

By Robert A. Barish

During National Nurses Week, I would like to offer a long overdue thank you to our nurses — unsung heroes of health care who have created the most trusted profession. As a physician leader, I have had the privilege of working alongside many nurses throughout my career, and I have witnessed firsthand the invaluable contributions and skilled partnership that they bring to health care and in shaping the education of young doctors.

My first night on call as a young intern in New York City almost 45 years ago, I still vividly recall. At 2 a.m., I received a call that I had an admission from the emergency department. Upon arriving at the medical ward, I was met by a 5-foot-tall woman named Mary Rose, who introduced herself as the nurse taking care of my patient. On this steamy night in July, I was presented with a very sick patient: a 28-year old woman with a rapid pulse, breathing over 50 times per minute and a 103-degree temperature.

I was a young and green physician — feeling slightly overwhelmed with the responsibility of being in charge of this patient and unsure of exactly what to do next. Mary Rose immediately put me at ease. She assessed the patient's condition and suggested she was suffering from a potentially life-threatening condition



Ashley Barrera, a registered nurse, left, talks with nursing student Erika Matias in the medical/surgical unit at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital on May 2, 2023. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

known as diabetic ketoacidosis. Mary Rose recommended a treatment plan including starting two intravenous lines for immediate rehydration, obtaining blood cultures and administering intra-muscular insulin, followed by an insulin drip. She went on to indicate that after administering the insulin, the patient's potassium levels would drop significantly and would need to be replaced slowly to avoid any adverse heart effects. She also recommended getting a portable chest X-ray to ensure no evidence of pneumonia and a urine analysis and culture. She emphasized the importance of my looking at the urine myself and directed me to the lab on the floor. She had clearly done this before.

Thanks to Mary Rose's expertise and guidance, the patient's condition improved significantly within hours. That morning, I presented the case to the senior attending physician and other residents in training. I reviewed in detail the diagnosis and treatment plan while Mary Rose stood behind all of us. The attending physician praised me for delivering outstanding care and remarked, "You might just make a good doctor someday." I turned to Mary Rose, who was standing quietly in the corner behind me, and she gave me a wink in agreement.

This experience was just one of many ways in which I have been grateful for the compassionate partnership and guidance of nurses in caring for patients,

often while training young physicians and other health professionals. Nurses are often not recognized for their formative role in medical education as they work alongside physicians and residents to ensure that patients receive the best care.

Indeed, nurses are experts in their own right, consistently demonstrating a wealth of knowledge and experience that is essential to providing high-quality, compassionate health care. They spend countless hours with patients, providing not just medical care but also emotional support and comfort. They are the ones who ensure that patients receive their medications on time, that their wounds are dressed and cleaned, and that their vital signs are monitored closely. They are the ones who catch potential problems before they become serious and who work collaboratively with physicians and other health professionals to develop treatment plans that are tailored to each patient's unique needs.

In addition to their critical role in patient care, nurses are also integral to medical education. They work side by side with physicians, residents and fellows, sharing their knowledge and expertise and providing valuable mentorship and guidance. They teach us not just the technical aspects of patient care but also the importance of empathy, communication and teamwork. Nurses

truly aid in the development of the skills and confidence needed in training competent and compassionate physicians and providers.

As we celebrate National Nurses Week, it is important to recognize the vital role that nurses play in health care and training of our health professionals. Nurses are the backbone of our health care system, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that patients receive outstanding care and support. They are the ones who make a significant difference in the lives of our patients and in the education of generations of doctors and nurses.

So, to Mary Rose and the tens of thousands of nurses out there, and on behalf of the many physicians who have stories very similar to my own, we want to say thank you. Thank you for your expertise, your dedication and your unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of our patients. Thank you for your partnership in providing lifesaving care to those who need it most. You are truly appreciated, and your contributions will never be forgotten.

Dr. Robert A. Barish, MBA, is vice chancellor for health affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he oversees activities of the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System. He is also a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Doctor's premise is flawed

In his op-ed about national COVID-19 responses, "Was Sweden's COVID-19 approach superior to that of the US?" Dr. Cory Franklin chooses to compare Sweden and the U.S. This premise is flawed from the outset.

Every U.S. state, to some degree, set its own rules regarding lockdowns and masking. Wouldn't it make more sense to compare Norway and Sweden? They have similar geography and homogenous populations. Each implemented a fully nationwide set of rules rather than 50 different subsets.

Norway followed every precaution, closing its borders and mandating social distancing, masking and capacity limits on gatherings. For 561 days, it implemented the "toughest measures in Norway in peacetime," according to Prime Minister Erna Solberg.

Sweden, as Franklin writes, took a "laissez faire" approach. While he mentions in passing that Sweden's neighbors had fewer COVID-19 deaths than Sweden, that is a rather colossal understatement. Using the website Worldometer, the same source the doctor used, the differences are stark: Per 1 million people of population, Norway had 1,204 deaths. Sweden had 2,682 — more than twice the rate of Norway. If Franklin also wants to know the per-million rate of deaths in the U.S., it was 3,642.

Franklin's conclusion that "the Swedish strategy was superior" is clearly incorrect, dangerous and beneath the standards I would expect of the Tribune.

— Mary Beth Lang, Wheaton

Better COVID-19 comparison

Dr. Cory Franklin's effort to compare Sweden's COVID-19 response to that of the U.S. is interesting but flawed or at least incomplete. The United States is an enormous country made up of 50 states, each having its own COVID-19 response. Some were minimal, similar to Sweden's. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data for 2020 shows that U.S. COVID-19 death rates per 1,000 people ranged from 0.16 for Vermont to 1.27 for South Dakota.

Lockdowns and other restrictions were not implemented in every state. Those states that implemented them had better results.

Rather than compare Sweden



X @Ramireztoons

michaelpramirez.com

MICHAEL RAMIREZ/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

to the United States, a better comparison would be to other Scandinavian countries of similar size: Denmark, Norway and Finland. Data for 2020 from the Scandinavian Journal of Public Health's February 2021 issue shows that through July 2020, Sweden experienced a COVID-19 death rate of 0.54 deaths per 1,000 people. This was more than five times higher than for Sweden's three neighbors, which implemented restrictions early on.

It should be remembered that the early restrictions and lockdowns were aimed not only at minimizing infections but also buying some needed time for our hospitals and health care workers to adapt to the crisis. There were severe shortages of ventilators, personal protective equipment and staff members. COVID-19 patients were lined up on gurneys in hospital halls waiting for rooms.

Today, the Swedish medical community is still critical of its government's slow, ineffective response to the pandemic. Many of our states did better.

— Blaise J. Arena, Des Plaines

Warnings of knock-on effects

Dr. Cory Franklin writes in his op-ed that "the coronavirus was so contagious and mutated so quickly that tight lockdowns were unsuccessful in controlling spread. And the longer the lockdowns, the greater harm to the populace." Commonsense

conservatives warned against the knock-on effects of shutting down schools, businesses and most social interaction during COVID-19 but were drowned out by the repetitive hysteria of the left: "Wash your hands, wear your masks, keep your distance!"

I especially remember one imperious letter writer commanding us to "do your part" — as if we were fighting the Battle of Britain. Well, my wife and I did our part as best we could, including two vaccine jabs and a booster. And yet we both got COVID-19 twice.

Next time, I propose we use common sense.

— John Knoerle, Shorewood, Wisconsin

Protecting Illinois wetlands

World Migratory Bird Day has arrived; it is a time when those of us in the Midwest and around the world enjoy and celebrate the sight of birds that migrate through our area. Some birds that pass through our area come from as far away as Brazil or Argentina. These mighty fliers need to rest and replenish their bodies in order to continue their flight or to breed and nest here.

Along their migration routes, birds actively seek out insects in fields, forests, wetlands and various habitats during stopovers. The loss of natural habitat, open areas and decline in insect population has seriously stressed birds,

and estimates suggest that there has been a decline of as many as 3 billion birds over the last 50 years in North America. Birds are further stressed by buildings with reflecting glass and too many night lights, as evidenced by almost 1,000 birds dying last October in one night after they crashed into McCormick Place during migration.

Migratory birds bring multiple benefits to humans as insect eaters, providing pest control for mosquitoes and other insects that damage crops and spread disease, in addition to being beautiful. Stresses on birds have increased due to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in May 2023 to weaken wetlands protection. The decision removed the federal protections for wetlands, and now wetland protections have moved to each state. Illinois currently lacks comprehensive protections for wetlands.

Wetlands offer multiple benefits by improving water quality, protecting and filtering groundwater, and preserving endangered habitats that support multiple creatures, including our birds. Wetlands act as sponges to capture excess water for flood control in addition to storing water during times of drought. Wetlands are vital to the health of our environment.

Illinois has already lost around 90% of its wetland acreage. Without protections, wetlands in Illinois could be buried, built over and lost. Some wetlands are clearly visible, while others are evident during increased rain.

There are many kinds of wetlands, such as bogs, swamps and marshes, that each perform their own unique and vital function.

Illinois has an opportunity to protect our remaining wetlands through passage of the Wetlands and Small Streams Protection Act. It is critical to pass this bill now so that during bird migration and throughout the year, our feathered friends have a place to rest and restore their energy, while allowing us to enjoy and benefit from their presence.

— Laura Davis, Inverness

Op-ed on deafness illuminates

Bob Brody's op-ed "Deafness didn't stop my mother from learning the piano" (May 4) is a lesson for everyone.

As a former teacher in Chicago Public Schools (special education and regular classes), I always had my students read the book "The Miracle Worker" and showed the movie upon completion. There was always a lively discussion afterward when everyone in class participated, without any prompting.

All of the students, regardless of ability, realized that while we all have some sort of disability or disadvantage, nothing compared to Helen Keller's situation. Her life was a light to show others that there were no limitations to learning and achieving.

Brody's opinion piece is as inspirational as Keller's life story. I would have added it to my reading list if I were still teaching.

— Anne Janet "A.J." Crane, Riverwoods

Grateful for those who built city

I so agree with the docent ("Chicago impresses tour takers," May 8) who guides visitors foreign and domestic on architecture tours of the city. No longer a visitor but a permanent resident of Chicago, I continue to be amazed at how clean the city is, at the flowers blooming along its sidewalks and in urns next to buildings, at how its beautifully designed skyscrapers are showcased by the space around them.

My heart is full of gratitude to those who designed and built our Chicago-on-the-lake and to those who keep it beautiful, and also to the docents and tour guides who make Chicago known to visitors foreign and domestic.

— Elona Vaisnys, Chicago



Residents watch as the school board votes early Friday in Shenandoah County, Virginia. SHURAN HUANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Names

from Page 1

years since. Politicians have railed against “critical race theory,” and schools have reinstated mascots that had been condemned as racially offensive. But until Friday, it appears that none had brought back Confederate namesakes.

The school board’s vote did not come as a shock. Many of the signs that had been taken down from Stonewall Jackson High were kept in storage rather than discarded, as if awaiting return. The three board members who voted in 2022 to keep the new names all decided against running for reelection the next year.

“We were burnt out,” said Marty Helsey, 73, a farmer who served one term.

When the issue first came up in 2020, Helsey was the sole vote against dropping the Confederate names and urged the board to take more time with the decision. But in 2022, he said, he believed the district should just move on.

“They cannot let it go,” Helsey said before the vote Friday. “It’s been four years! The Civil War only lasted four years!”

Three conservatives won the open seats on the board in 2023, pledging, among other things, to get

the “woke leftist agenda” out of schools. They did not campaign specifically about the school names, although many residents could guess where they stood.

In April, a group calling itself the Coalition for Better Schools submitted a letter about the naming issue to the school board. The group said it had conducted a survey in the areas of the county that the two schools served and found “overwhelming support for the restoration” of the names. There were questions about the reliability of these results: fewer than 1 in 7 recipients returned a completed survey — but even so, the board agreed to take up the matter.

On Thursday night, scores of residents gathered in a middle school cafeteria for a board meeting that stretched past midnight, including four hours of public comment.

Among the dozens of people who spoke against restoring the old names were white county residents who said they were descended from Confederate soldiers, and Black residents who were among the first to integrate the local schools. Several speakers emphasized that Stonewall Jackson High had been named in 1959, during Virginia’s “massive resistance” to integration. Others

noted the irony of beginning the meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance to a flag that Jackson waged war against.

“I think it is unfair to me that restoring the name is up for discussion,” said Aliyah Ogle, 14, whose mother was one of two Black people in her class at what was then Stonewall Jackson High and who, at least until Friday’s vote, was planning to attend the school next year. Jackson died fighting for slavery, Aliyah said. “Had he won, I would not be allowed to attend public school, and I would not be speaking here.”

People who wanted the old names back said repeatedly that they had not seen the racism at Stonewall Jackson that people were talking about, nor had their Black classmates ever complained to them about it. The divisiveness in the community, those speakers insisted, had been introduced by the board’s vote in 2020, which they saw as underhanded and part of a “woke movement” that had “swept across the country like a dirty cancer.”

“Some people say they take offense to the school names,” said Fred Neese, 69, a poultry farmer. “I’m offended that they’re disparaging the good names of our ancestors. I’m offended that the previous board was not straightforward with the people.”

Schererville resident runs a-fowl of ban on chickens

By Jim Masters
For Post-Tribune

Yet another Schererville, Indiana, resident has been told he cannot raise chickens on his property.

It again came down to a 3-2 party-line vote on Wednesday, with the Schererville Town Council’s Democratic majority voting to deny Justin Mora’s request for a variance to raise eight hens on his property at 636 E. Joliet Street.

Mora told the council he had been raising the hens on his quarter-acre lot since August — and found a sympathetic ear in Councilman Caleb Johnson, R-5th, who was subject to an unfavorable council vote last year and had to remove the animals from his property.

Mora’s petition served as an opportunity for Johnson to offer a line of questioning to underscore his belief that maintaining a chicken coop on residential prop-

erty is not detrimental to neighbors and is a healthy living practice through the organic production of eggs for personal consumption.

Questioning Mora, Johnson revealed that there have been no complaints from neighbors, including at a recent hearing before the Schererville Board of Zoning Appeals, which gave the request for variance a 4-1 unfavorable recommendation.

Johnson also established that the hens are quiet and don’t “cock-a-doodle-do” as a rooster would.

“Female chickens don’t need a rooster around to lay eggs,” Johnson said. “They are very quiet during their egg-laying times.”

Although it is against town ordinance to raise chickens on residential property anywhere in Schererville, Johnson, had been keeping hens for 14 years until town officials found out and a code enforcement officer ended

up at his doorstep in 8200 Block of Durbin Street. At the time, Johnson called the move “politically motivated.”

Johnson, who described his hens as “family pets,” said his children played with and helped care for the animals. He removed the hens and they now live on his brother’s property in an unincorporated area near Cedar Lake, Indiana.

Town Councilman Tom Schmitt, D-4th, said that “hundreds” of residents have informed town officials that they do not want people raising chickens in their neighborhoods.

“We can’t give a variance for one resident and not another,” he said.

As he had done previously, Councilman Kevin Connelley, R-2nd, voted with Johnson to allow a variance to raise chickens in a residential area.

Jim Masters is a freelance reporter for the Post-Tribune.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON MAY 11 ...

In 1858 Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union.

In 1894 workers began a strike at the Pullman Palace Car Co. on the South Side, prompting Eugene Debs’ American Railway Union to boycott Pullman, blocking freight traffic in and out of Chicago.

In 1910 Glacier National Park in Montana was established.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces landed on the Aleutian island of Attu, which had been captured by the Japanese; the Americans retook the island 19 days later.

In 1944 Allied forces launched a major offensive against German lines in Italy.

In 1946 the first postwar

relief packages from CARE (originally known as the Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe) arrived in Le Havre, France.

In 1947 the B.F. Goodrich Co. of Akron announced development of a tubeless tire.

In 1949 Israel was admitted to the United Nations as the world body’s 59th member.

In 1973 charges against Daniel Ellsberg for his role in the “Pentagon Papers” case were dismissed by Judge William Byrne, who cited government misconduct.

In 1985 55 people died when a flash fire swept a packed soccer stadium in Bradford, England.

In 1987 doctors in Baltimore transplanted the heart and

lungs of an auto accident victim to a patient who gave up his own heart to another recipient. (Clinton House, the nation’s first living heart donor, died 14 months later.)

In 1994 Arkansas put to death two convicted murderers; it was the first time a state executed two people on the same day since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states to restore the death penalty in 1976.

In 1995 a United Nations conference indefinitely extended the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which was originally set to expire after 25 years.

In 1997 the IBM computer known as Deep Blue defeated Garry Kasparov to win a six-game chess match between man and machine in New York.



Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Death Notices

Chandra, Lokesh

Dr. Lokesh Chandra, MD, FRCP(C) Internal Medicine, FRCP(C) Cardiology, FACC (1954-2024) was a loving, hardworking, dedicated man who always put the needs of others before his own. Raised in Delhi, India by his parents Cptn. Jagdish and Pushpa Chandra where he met and fell in love with his childhood sweetheart and wife of 48

years, Vandna (née Agarwal). They together immigrated to Canada where they raised two children Samarth (Marlene) and Shivani Bautista (Edric) who grew up to achieve success in personal and professional lives thanks to the strong foundation and examples set by their father.

Lokesh was a jokester at heart with a passion for music, particularly Bollywood karaoke, and travel. His commitment to his patients and practice were unwavering as he opened his office to all who needed care. Ultimately, he would say his life’s prized possessions were his two grandchildren (Vasin and Sevrin).

In sickness, he fought through the end without most even knowing he was suffering from cancer. He passed at home surrounded by loved ones. The family has arranged for a private celebration of his life and thanks friends and family for their love and support throughout.

Collins, OSB, Sr. Mary

Sister Mary Collins, OSB, 88, a Benedictine sister of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kan., died Thursday, May 2, 2024, at the monastery. The vigil service will be Thursday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the monastery chapel, and the Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated there on Friday, May 17, at 10:30 a.m.

Sister Mary (Mary Dennis) was born in Chicago, Ill., on Sept. 16, 1935. After graduating from Mount St. Scholastica College, she entered the Benedictine sisters in Atchison in 1957. She taught high school several years before beginning her doctoral studies at the Catholic University of America. After earning her Ph.D. in liturgical theology, she taught religious studies at Benedictine College and the University of Kansas. In 1967, she became associate professor of religious studies at the Catholic University of America and in 1983 became chair of the Department of Religion. After a short period in North Carolina, she returned in 1987 to the Catholic University of America, where she taught until she was elected prioress of Mount St. Scholastica monastery in Atchison, Kan., in 1999. A significant figure in the broader world of Benedictine women, she was first councilor for the Federation of St. Scholastica for twelve years and a consultant or author for many of their documents. Sister Mary was a member of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) and belonged to several professional theological organizations. She wrote, collaborated on, or edited a large number of articles and books on religion and liturgy for which she was widely known. She also received many awards, including honors from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy, and the North American Academy of Liturgy.

Sister Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Lauretta (Lacasse) and Homer Collins and a brother, Michael Collins. She is survived by her brother John Collins, Oak Brook, Ill., by nieces and nephews, and by her monastic family. **Arensborg-Pruett Funeral Home** (www.arenbergpruett.com) is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be sent to Mount St. Scholastica or made online at the Mount’s web site (www.mountosb.org).

Lisberg, David H

David Harry Lisberg, 80 years old of Chicago IL and Palm Beach Gardens Florida passed away on May 9, 2024 in Chicago Illinois due to complications from Parkinson’s Disease.

David was born on May 20, 1943 to Irving Lisberg and Esther (Brown) Lisberg in Aurora, IL. David was a 1961 Graduate of West Aurora High School where he enjoyed participation on the golf team and in marching band where his leadership earned him the position of drum major for the Marching Blackhawks.

In 1965, David received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Denver. During his studies there, he met and ultimately married the love of his life, Katherine (Yesnick) Lisberg. David and Kathy married in 1967 and were blessed with 57 years of joyous life together.

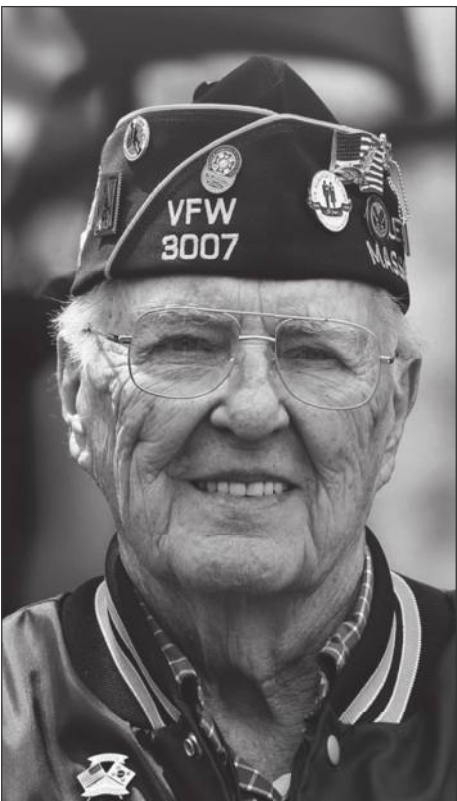
David was an entrepreneur, and from 1970 through the mid 1990s, he was the 2nd generation owner operator of the family business, the Aurora and Naperville News Agencies. He was an active member of the Midwest Independent Distributors Association during that time, serving in various leadership positions. David also successfully owned and operated a number of other small businesses during his working years. Through all his business endeavors, he made a special effort to treat all his employees like family. For this he was beloved.

David’s true passion outside of the business arena was the game of golf. He was a former member of the Aurora Country Club in Illinois as well as current member at Eastpointe Country Club in Florida where he recently received an award from his golfing group out of their admiration for his dedication and persistence to the game. Despite his Parkinson’s affliction, David could be found hitting golf balls any chance he could, even when standing and walking became a challenge.

The highest priority for David was as husband to Kathy, and father to his two loving children. He was also the proud and doting grandfather to four grandchildren. As a father and grandfather, he never missed a sporting event, play, recital or any other special event in the lives of his children and grandchildren. They were his world.

David was preceded in his death by his parents, Irving and Esther Lisberg, his brother Burton Lisberg, and his sister, Diane (Lisberg) Brezner. He is survived by his wife, Kathy (Yesnick) Lisberg, two children: Robert (Jocelyn) Lisberg, Amy (Tony) Briney, and his four grandchildren: Jaelen Lisberg, Lucy Lisberg, Jordan Briney and Jack Briney.

Services will be held on Monday, May 13th at 11am at the Zion Gardens Cemetery, 3600 N. Narragansett Avenue, Chicago, IL with reception immediately following at Gibson’s restaurant, 1028 N. Rush Street, Chicago IL. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research



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Chicago Tribune

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LEGAL NOTICES
GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Baby Boy Clewell

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF Shannon Clewell (Mother)

JUVENILE NO.: 2024JA00053

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Shannon Clewell (Mother), Unknown (Father), respondents, and to All Whom It May Concern, that on May 3, 2024, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by KIM FOXX in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge Buford in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON May 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM in CALENDAR 4 COURTROOM D, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Iris Y. Martinez, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
May 11, 2024 7634208

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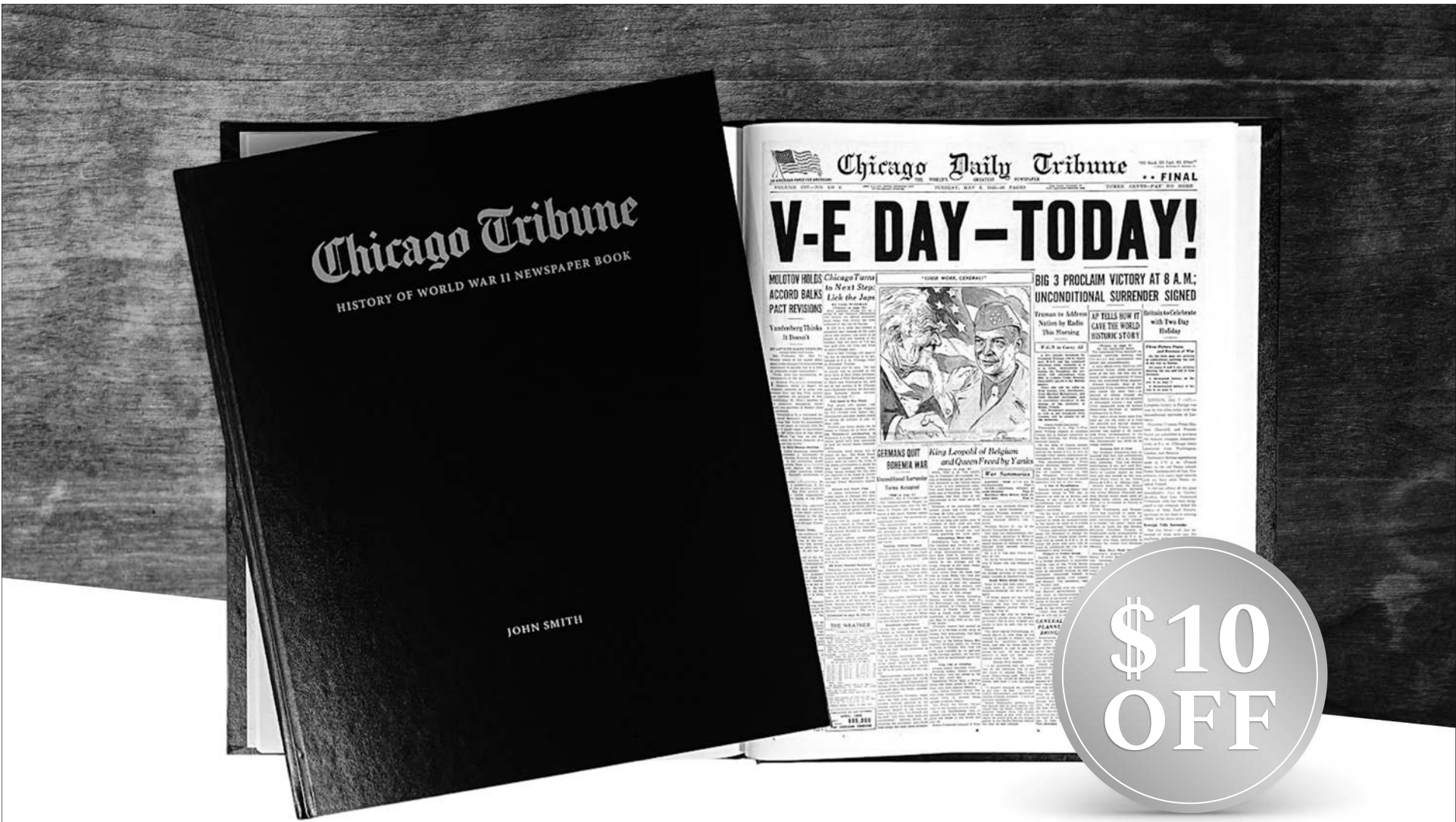
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CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER



ABC7 Outlook:
Sunny in the morning and then sun and clouds in the afternoon. Highs in the mid- and upper 60s. A shower possible in the afternoon. Breezy with wind gusts up to 25 mph.

SATURDAY
Day Night
High: **67** Low: **49**
Breezy with times of sun and clouds
POP: **25%**
Winds: **NW 8-16 mph**

SUNDAY
Day Night
High: **79** Low: **60**
Partly sunny, warmer; breezy in the p.m.
POP: **10%**
Winds: **SSW 8-16 mph**

MONDAY
Day Night
High: **72** Low: **50**
Cooler in the a.m., then a t-storm around
POP: **40%**
Winds: **NNE 6-12 mph**

TUESDAY
Day Night
High: **59** Low: **47**
Mostly cloudy, breezy and cooler
POP: **25%**
Winds: **NE 10-20 mph**

WEDNESDAY
Day Night
High: **66** Low: **52**
Mostly sunny
POP: **10%**
Winds: **ENE 8-16 mph**

THURSDAY
Day Night
High: **72** Low: **60**
Mainly cloudy with occasional rain
POP: **55%**
Winds: **SE 6-12 mph**

CHICAGO FORECAST
Saturday Conditions
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.
AccuWeather.com UV Index™
2 4 5 4 4 2 0
RealFeel Temperature®
53 61 64 66 65 62 62

Saturday Activities
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.
Golfing Index
5 7 7 8 8 7 7
Fishing Index
4 5 9 10 6 7 5

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. **0-2** Low, **3-5** Moderate, **6-7** High, **8-10** Very High, **11+** Extreme. The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. **Golf and Fishing Indexes:** **0-2:** Poor; **3-4:** Fair; **5-6:** Good; **7-8:** Very Good; **9-10:** Excellent.

CHICAGO ALMANAC
Friday Temperatures
O'Hare through 4 p.m.
High **67**
Low **46**
Normal high **68**
Normal low **49**
Record high **90 (2011)**
Record low **28 (1983)**
Local Temperatures
through 6 p.m. Friday

Location	Hi	Lo	Normal Hi	Normal Lo
Aurora	67	46	70	47
Gary	66	48	69	48
Kankakee	67	46	70	48
Lansing	66	46	69	48
Midway	67	48	69	50
Romeoville	67	46	70	48
Valparaiso	65	47	71	48
Waukegan	64	45	65	44

Friday Precipitation

	2024	2023	Normal
Friday*	0.06"	0.00"	0.15"
Month to date	2.31"	0.29"	1.47"
Year to date	13.52"	12.54"	11.71"

*24-hour period ending 4 p.m. Friday

Pollen as of 5/10
Trees Grass Weeds Mold
Moderate High Low Moderate
Source: National Allergy Bureau

Air Quality Index
Friday's reading **Good**
Saturday's forecast **Good**
Primary pollutant **Ozone**
Source: AirNow.gov

Sun and Moon

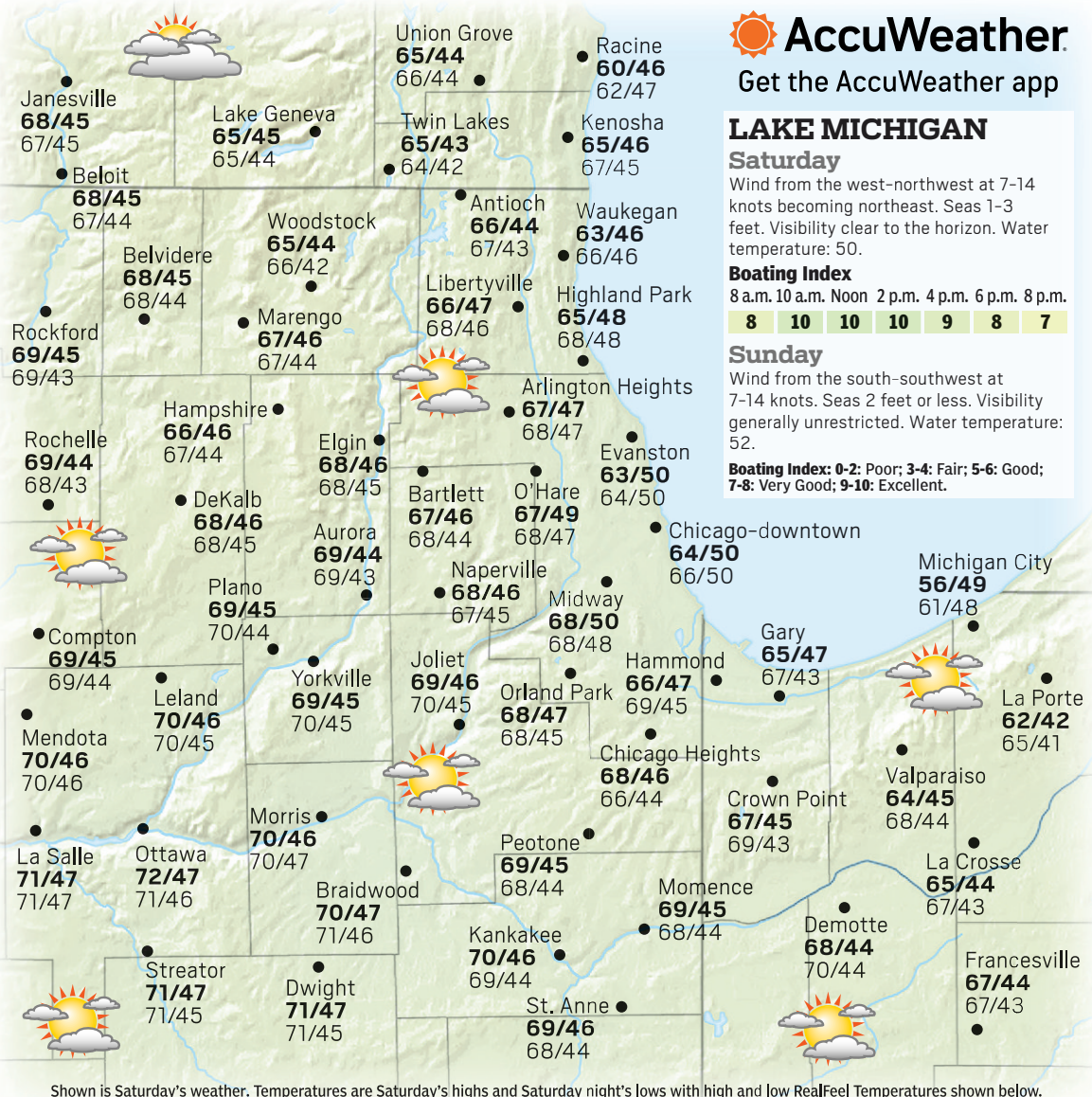
	Sat.	Sun.
Sunrise	5:34 a.m.	5:33 a.m.
Sunset	8:00 p.m.	8:01 p.m.
Moonrise	8:02 a.m.	9:05 a.m.
Moonsset	none	12:27 a.m.

	First	Full	Last	New
	May 15	May 23	May 30	Jun 6

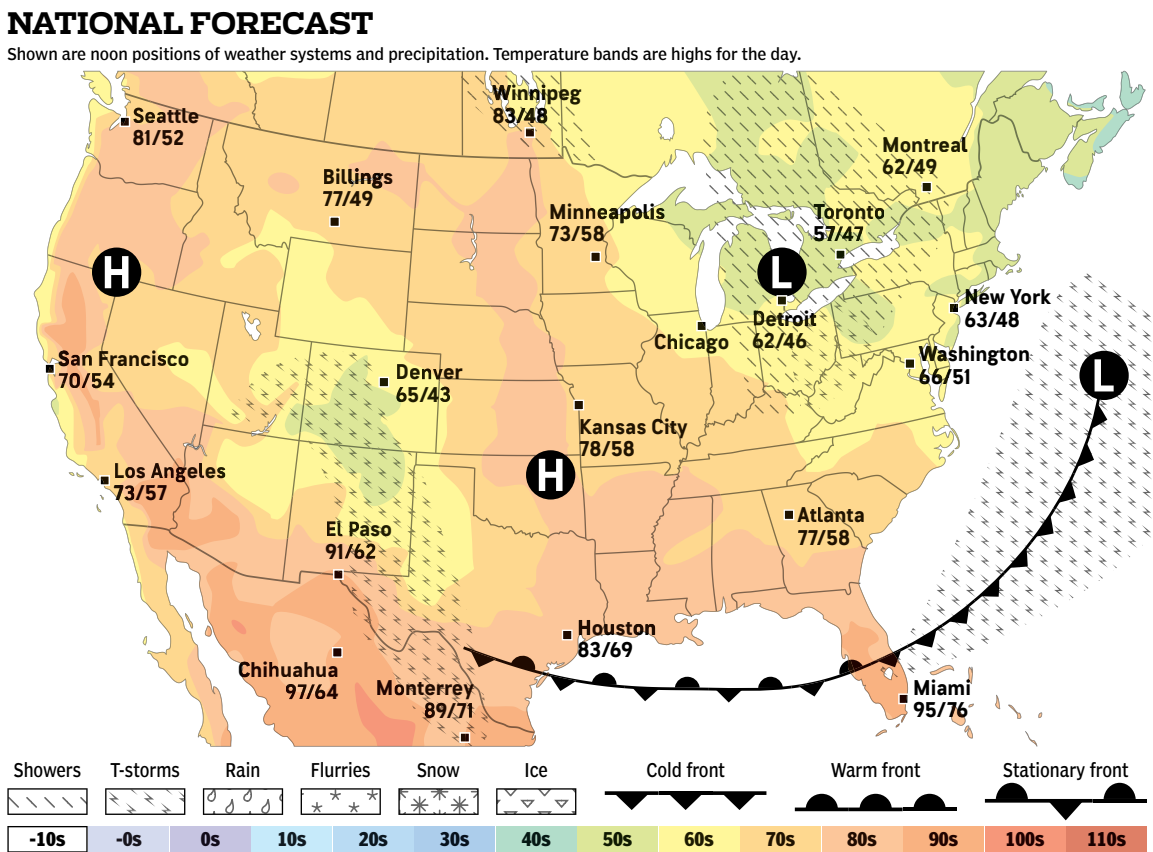
Saturday's Planet Watch

	Rise	Set
Mercury	4:42 a.m.	5:37 p.m.
Venus	5:21 a.m.	7:23 p.m.
Mars	3:53 a.m.	4:15 p.m.
Jupiter	5:55 a.m.	8:23 p.m.
Saturn	3:08 a.m.	2:27 p.m.

Best viewing times today: Venus: not visible Mars: 5:05 a.m. Jupiter: not visible Saturn: 5:05 a.m. Mercury: 5:05 a.m.



Shown is Saturday's weather. Temperatures are Saturday's highs and Saturday night's lows with high and low RealFeel Temperatures shown below.



NATIONAL CITIES				WORLD CITIES			
City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	73/62/t	75/64/r	Fairbanks	59/38/c	55/40/c	Acapulco	86/69/pc
Albany, NY	65/48/c	60/45/c	Fargo	81/57/pc	74/43/s	Algiers	77/59/c
Albuquerque	74/48/t	74/49/c	Flagstaff	61/30/sh	66/36/pc	Amsterdam	72/55/pc
Amarillo	69/52/sh	77/50/r	Fort Myers	91/71/pc	90/70/s	Ankara	65/48/c
Anchorage	51/38/c	54/38/c	Fort Smith	84/58/s	77/61/pc	Athens	74/57/c
Asheville	71/47/pc	72/47/s	Fresno	91/62/s	93/61/s	Auckland	59/39/s
Aspen	51/37/t	55/32/t	Grand Junction	65/45/pc	77/48/pc	Baghdad	104/78/pc
Atlanta	77/58/pc	80/60/pc	Great Falls	78/45/s	77/50/s	Bangkok	95/83/t
Atlantic City	57/48/c	55/46/t	Harrisburg	64/51/t	62/48/r	Barbados	90/81/pc
Austin	81/66/pc	83/71/t	Hartford	64/46/pc	60/43/c	Barcelona	72/59/s
Baltimore	64/51/c	64/48/t	Helena, MT	79/50/s	80/49/s	Beijing	80/53/s
Billings	77/49/s	73/50/s	Honolulu	80/69/t	82/71/sh	Beirut	76/65/s
Birmingham	78/58/s	81/63/c	Houston	83/69/pc	80/73/t	Berlin	71/50/pc
Bismarck	81/49/s	73/43/pc	Int'l Falls	65/49/pc	67/34/pc	Bermuda	75/68/c
Boise	81/53/s	82/55/s	Jackson, MS	80/61/s	79/61/c	Bogota	69/50/sh
Boston	54/44/pc	54/47/c	Jacksonville	85/61/s	85/65/pc	Brussels	75/54/pc
Brownsville	93/80/c	93/79/t	Juneau	58/44/pc	54/43/r	Bucharest	74/53/pc
Buffalo	61/47/sh	61/49/c	Kansas City	78/58/s	74/59/t	Budapest	74/53/pc
Burlington, VT	64/49/pc	60/48/c	Las Vegas	85/66/s	92/69/s	Bueno Aires	63/50/pc
Charleston, SC	77/58/pc	82/61/s	Lexington	72/49/c	73/53/pc	Cairo	87/66/s
Charleston, WV	65/47/sh	70/46/pc	Lincoln	82/53/pc	73/58/t	Cancun	92/77/pc
Charlotte	74/53/pc	77/55/pc	Little Rock	84/63/s	82/65/c	Caracas	93/78/c
Chattanooga	76/53/pc	78/57/pc	Los Angeles	73/57/pc	76/59/pc	Casablanca	80/62/pc
Cheyenne	64/40/s	65/40/t	Louisville	75/53/pc	78/57/pc	Copenhagen	61/44/s
Cincinnati	70/49/sh	71/54/pc	Macon	79/53/s	83/56/pc	Dublin	69/51/pc
Cleveland	63/49/sh	62/56/pc	Memphis	81/61/pc	83/62/pc	Edmonton	68/44/pc
Colorado Spgs	58/42/c	61/44/r	Miami	95/76/pc	92/76/pc	Frankfurt	77/53/pc
Columbia, MO	77/53/s	81/58/pc	Minneapolis	73/58/pc	83/52/t	Geneva	78/51/s
Columbia, SC	78/57/pc	82/53/s	Mobile	85/62/pc	84/63/sh	Guadalajara	99/62/s
Columbus, OH	67/45/t	68/52/pc	Montgomery	81/58/pc	84/64/c	Havana	93/74/s
Concord	59/38/pc	56/38/c	Nashville	78/51/pc	80/57/pc	Helsinki	59/33/s
Corpus Christi	85/77/pc	87/79/t	New Orleans	63/48/pc	82/73/c	Hong Kong	85/78/pc
Dallas	79/64/sh	70/66/r	New York City	63/48/pc	56/48/sh	Istanbul	62/51/sh
Daytona Beach	86/67/pc	85/71/pc	Norfolk	63/54/pc	71/54/pc	Jerusalem	80/58/s
Denver	65/43/t	66/43/r	Oklahoma City	80/59/pc	70/60/t	Johannesburg	82/55/s
Duluth	68/51/pc	72/41/pc	Omaha	80/54/s	79/56/t	Kabul	72/48/t
El Paso	91/62/pc	87/64/s	Orlando	95/67/pc	92/70/pc	Kingston	90/81/pc

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice. POP: Probability of Precipitation.

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LAKE MICHIGAN
Saturday
Wind from the west-northwest at 7-14 knots becoming northeast. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility clear to the horizon. Water temperature: 50.
Boating Index
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.
8 10 10 10 9 8 7
Sunday
Wind from the south-southwest at 7-14 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility generally unrestricted. Water temperature: 52.
Boating Index: **0-2:** Poor; **3-4:** Fair; **5-6:** Good; **7-8:** Very Good; **9-10:** Excellent.

ASK abc7
Jaisol Martinez

QUESTION: Was a Severe Geomagnetic Storm Watch issued this past week?

ANSWER: Yes! At the end of the week the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center issued a Severe (G4) Geomagnetic Storm Watch for the first time since January 2005. This was the first time they issued this type of watch in nearly 20 years! They said that at least five earth-directed coronal mass ejections were observed and were expected to arrive as early as Friday, May 10 and persist until Sunday, May 12. This has been labeled as an "unusual event." This means there is a pretty good chance that we see the aurora in the Chicago area through the weekend. Send us pictures!

Do you have a weather question for the ABC 7 team? Submit them at abc7chicago.com/weather or send them to: Ask ABC 7 Weather Team 190 N. State Street Chicago, IL 60601

REGIONAL CITIES			
City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	
Illinois			
Carbondale	76/49/s	82/60/pc	
Champaign	73/47/pc	79/59/pc	
Decatur	72/48/pc	80/58/pc	
Moline	73/48/pc	81/59/pc	
Peoria	73/50/pc	79/60/c	
Quincy	74/53/s	82/58/c	
Rockford	69/45/pc	78/58/s	
Springfield	73/49/pc	81/59/pc	
Sterling	71/47/pc	80/57/s	
Indiana			
Bloomington	72/46/pc	77/56/pc	
Evansville	75/51/pc	79/56/pc	
Fort Wayne	65/43/pc	74/57/pc	
Indianapolis	70/50/pc	74/56/pc	
Lafayette	70/45/pc	76/57/pc	
South Bend	62/42/c	75/57/s	
Wisconsin			
Green Bay	65/46/c	80/50/t	
Kenosha	65/46/c	78/60/pc	
La Crosse	71/52/pc	81/54/t	
Madison	68/48/c	79/54/t	
Milwaukee	62/48/c	76/58/t	
Wausau	66/47/c	76/48/t	
Michigan			
Detroit	62/46/r	69/56/pc	
Grand Rapids	58/40/sh	71/56/pc	
Marquette	54/37/pc	65/39/sh	
Sault Ste. Marie	54/37/r	58/43/sh	
Traverse City	55/40/sh	72/48/sh	
Iowa			
Ames	75/51/s	84/56/c	
Cedar Rapids	72/50/s	79/56/t	
Des Moines	77/55/s	83/59/t	
Dubuque	69/48/pc	79/57/t	

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Chicago Tribune

BUSINESS

White House emphasizes tax differences with GOP

Cuts inked in 2017 by Trump scheduled to lapse after 2025

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The winner of November’s presidential election will face an epic challenge next year with the coming expiration of nearly \$4 trillion in tax cuts — an issue that the Biden White House is highlighting in the run-up to November.

In a speech Friday at the Brookings Institution, Lael Brainard, director of the White House National Economic Council, emphasized the administration’s differences with Republicans over taxes. In her address, Brainard made a case for higher rates on corporations and the ultra-wealthy in order to support the middle class.

“The expiration of Trump’s 2017 tax package next year will put tax fairness front and center,” she said. “The president is honoring his ironclad commitment to not raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000 and will cut taxes further for workers and

families, paid for by asking corporations and those at the top to contribute more.”

Many of the 2017 income tax cuts signed into law by then-President Donald Trump are set to expire after 2025. If all the tax cuts expire, the vast majority of U.S. households would see their payments to the IRS increase. But if all the tax cuts are extended, as additional \$4.6 trillion including the cost of debt service would be added to the national debt over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Trump, a Republican, says tax increases would destroy the U.S. economy. But Biden, a Democrat, wants to extend the middle-class tax cuts while raising taxes on highly profitable companies and the richest sliver of Americans.

In her speech, Brainard said the 2017 tax cuts failed to deliver the growth promised by Republicans, a claimed backed up by most economic analyses. She argued that the GOP’s rewrite of the tax code let wealthy households play by their own set of rules that helped them pay lower rates than many people with middle-class earnings.

Trump has argued that the expiration of

all of his tax cuts would cause mass layoffs that could permanently cripple the economy. His remarks reflect a belief that growth stems from the choices made by companies and wealthy investors, whereas Biden is betting on growth flowing out of spending and saving by middle-class households that feel more financially secure.

Trump’s 2017 overhaul cut the corporate tax rate to 21%. The law also temporarily cut the income taxes paid by most U.S. households, in part by trimming marginal tax rates and increasing the standard deduction.

As a result of these changes, the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center initially said a family in the 40th to 60th percentile of earners would on average save \$930 annually. But someone in the top 1% would get back \$51,140 and those in the top 0.1% would save \$193,380.

Yet Trump also favors some huge tax increases of his own, having floated a 10% tariff on roughly \$3 trillion worth of imports annually. A March analysis by the liberal Center for American Progress estimated that companies would pass the tariffs directly on to their customers, costing a typical family \$1,500 more a year.

UK clears ‘technical recession,’ grows 0.6%

By Pan Pylas
Associated Press

LONDON — The British economy bounced back strongly in the first three months of the year, bringing an end to what economists termed a “technical recession,” official figures showed Friday.

The Office for National Statistics said the economy grew by 0.6% in the first quarter from the previous three-month period, with broad-based strength across the crucial services sector in particular.

The increase was higher than the 0.4% predicted by economists and the strongest since the fourth quarter of 2021 when the economy was rebounding after the sharp contraction during the pandemic. It comes after two quarters of modest declines, which in the U.K. is defined as a recession.

Despite the quarterly increase, the British economy has barely grown over the past year. It has been hobbled by interest rates at 16-year highs of 5.25%.

There was hope Thursday that they may be on the way down soon. Bank of England Gov. Andrew Bailey indicated that a rate cut may be in the cards in June if inflation continues to trend downward.

The Bank of England, like the U.S. Fed and other central banks, raised interest rates aggressively in late 2021 from near zero to counter price increases stoked first by supply chain issues during the coronavirus pandemic and then by the war in Ukraine.

High interest rates — which cool the economy by making it more expensive to borrow — have helped ease inflation, but they’ve also weighed on the British economy.



Farmworkers hug Sept. 28, 2022, in Sacramento, Calif., after passage of a law easing farmworkers’ unionizing efforts. RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

State labor law faces big test

In unionization push, United Farm Workers pitted against California agricultural giant

By Amy Taxin
Associated Press

In a meeting room at a hotel in California’s crop-rich Central Valley, a fight is taking place that could help shape the future of farm labor in fields that grow a chunk of the country’s food.

The battle between a unit of the Wonderful Co. — one of the state’s most well-known farm companies that grows pistachios, pomegranates and citrus — and United Farm Workers — the country’s biggest farmworker union — comes after California passed a law in 2022 aimed at making it easier for agricultural laborers to organize.

Several hundred workers filed papers this year to unionize at Wonderful Nurseries in Wasco, California, a move the company claimed was fraudulent. The allegations are being heard in proceedings that could uphold the newly-formed union or revoke its certification. Meanwhile, farmer and labor advocates are watching closely

to determine what impact the new law is having in a state where most farmworkers are not organized.

Four groups of California farmworkers have organized under the law, marking the UFW’s first successful attempts at farmworker unionization since 2016, said Elizabeth Strater, the union’s director of strategic campaigns.

“We’re going to see a continued rise in California of farmworker organizing, because there is a tremendous need,” Strater said. “Every time there’s a union win in the community, that raises the standard for other employers.”

Farmworkers aren’t covered by federal rules for labor organizing. But California enacted a law and created a special board in 1975 to protect their right to unionize.

The 2022 law lets the workers unionize by collecting a majority of signatures without holding an election at a polling place — a move proponents said would protect workers from union busting and employers said lacked safeguards to prevent fraud.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom reluctantly approved the changes with a nudge from the White House after farmworkers led a weekslong march to the state Capitol.

Farmworkers in California are overwhelmingly Latino and among the state’s poorest and most vulnerable residents. Many are seasonal workers, which makes it tough to organize a job site, and many lack legal status in the United States.

The new law could lead to a rise in union influence and a resurgence of the UFW, which at its peak represented tens of thousands of farmworkers but has seen its numbers dwindle, said Christian Paiz, a professor of ethnic studies at University of California, Berkeley.

“It is one of the most dangerous jobs in the country,” Paiz said. “There’s an absurdity to the claim these individuals would say, ‘No, I’m cool, I trust my employer.’”

Farm industry leaders contend the lack of a secret ballot makes workers vulnerable to coercion by unions and fraud. They want farmworkers to be able to revoke their signatures if they change their mind about organizing, and they want unions to clarify in writing that a signature essentially constitutes a worker’s vote.

Bryan Little, director of labor policy for the California Farm Bureau Federation, expects more union filings under the new law.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

X still can’t show bishop’s stabbing

MELBOURNE, Australia — An Australian judge extended a ban Friday on X allowing videos of the stabbing of a Sydney bishop in his church last month after government lawyers condemned the social media company’s free-speech argument for keeping the graphic images circulating.

The April 15 attack led to terrorism-related charges for the alleged attacker, a teenager, and triggered a riot outside the church.

The order has existed since April 22 and Australian Federal Court Justice Geoffrey Kennett will decide Monday whether it will continue in its current form.

X is alone among social media platforms in fighting a notice from Australia’s eSafety Commission to take down the video of the attack during an Assyrian Orthodox service streamed online. — Associated Press

Dairy farms to get more bird flu help

U.S. health and agriculture officials pledged nearly \$200 million in new spending and other efforts Friday to help track and contain an outbreak of bird flu in the nation’s dairy cows that has spread to more than 40 herds in nine states.

The new funds include \$101 million to continue work to prevent, test, track and treat animals and humans potentially affected by the virus known as Type A H5N1, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said. And they include about \$98 million to provide up to \$28,000 each to help individual farms test cattle and bolster biosecurity efforts to halt the spread of the virus, according to the Agriculture Department.

In addition, dairy farmers will be compensated for the loss of milk production from infected cattle. — Associated Press

Some Target stores to withhold Pride goods

By Anne D’Innocenzio
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Target confirmed Friday that it won’t carry Pride Month merchandise at all stores this spring after the discount retailer experienced backlash and lower sales over its collection honoring LGBTQ+ communities.

Target, which operates about 2,000 stores, said decisions about where to stock Pride-themed products, including adult apparel, home goods, foods and beverages, would be based on “guest insights and consumer research.”

A Target spokesperson declined to disclose the number of stores where the merchandise will not be available, but the

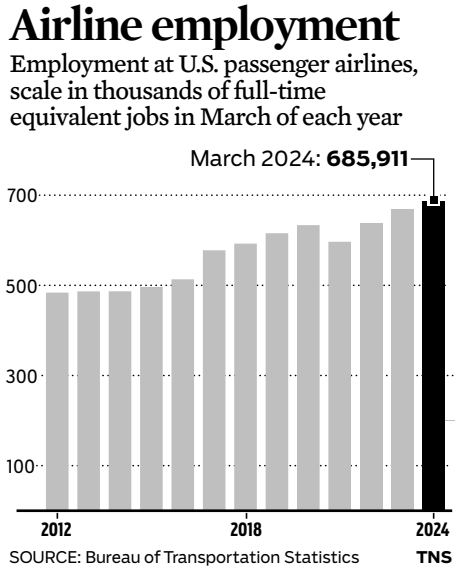
company said its online shop would offer a full assortment. The moves were first reported by Bloomberg.

“Target is committed to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community during Pride Month and year-round,” Target said in a statement. “Most importantly, we want to create a welcoming and supportive environment for our LGBTQIA+ team members, which reflects our culture of care for the over 400,000 people who work at Target.”

The head of the Human Rights Campaign, a U.S. LGBTQ advocacy group, said Target’s decision was disappointing and risks alienating LGBTQ+ individuals and allies at the risk of not only profits, but also their values.

Last year, Target removed some items from its stores and made other changes to its LGBTQ+ merchandise nationwide ahead of Pride Month after intense reaction from some customers who confronted workers, tipped over displays and posted threatening videos on social media from inside the stores. Target also moved displays to the back of its stores in certain Southern locations last year.

But Target faced a second backlash from customers upset by the retailer’s reaction to aggressive anti-LGBTQ+ activism, which has also been sweeping through Republican state legislatures. Civil rights groups scolded Target for caving to customers who expressed outrage over a selection of gender-fluid bathing suits it carried in 2023.





A Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid is introduced April 1, 2015, at the New York International Auto Show. GM will continue to manufacture the sedan until later this year. **BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP**

GM to retire Chevy Malibu from its lineup for EV, SUV

By Neal E. Boudette
The New York Times

General Motors said this week that it would stop making the Chevrolet Malibu, the last affordable sedan in its U.S. model lineup and a venerable nameplate that was introduced in the 1960s when the company was a dominant force in the U.S. economy.

For years, American drivers have been gravitating toward SUVs and away from sedans, compacts and hatchbacks. GM's two Detroit rivals, Stellantis and Ford Motor Co., have also largely wiped their slates clean of cars in the United States.

Foreign automakers, such as Toyota, Honda and Hyundai, still sell hundreds of thousands of sedans and compacts each year, but far fewer than in previous decades when the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord ranked among the most popular vehicles on American roads. Last month, Subaru, a Japanese automaker, said it would stop making its Legacy sedan next year.

GM produces the Malibu at a plant in Fairfax, Kansas,

and will continue to manufacture the car until later this year, when it plans to retool the factory to make a new version of the Chevrolet Bolt, an electric car, and the Cadillac XT4, a luxury SUV.

Consumers have moved away from cars to SUVs and pickups to haul children and recreational gear like bikes and kayaks. Automakers have helped that trend by offering more of those larger vehicles, which yield bigger profits than sedans and compacts.

The Malibu was introduced in 1964 as an upscale family sedan. Four years later, GM added a sporty, muscle-car version — the Malibu SS. GM stopped making the Malibu in 1983 as the company was forced to downsize by growing foreign competition. It reintroduced the Malibu in 1997, but the model has almost always trailed the Camry and Accord in sales.

Since its introduction, GM has sold more than 10 million Malibuses. But sales have slumped in recent years. In 2023, GM sold 130,000 Malibuses — but much of those were at low profits to rental car

companies — and deliveries fell 47% in the final three months of the year. A decade earlier, GM typically sold about 200,000 Malibuses a year.

In 2023, GM announced that it would stop production of the Chevrolet Camaro, a sports car. It continues to make the Chevrolet Corvette. Its Cadillac brand makes two gasoline-powered sedans and has plans to start selling a high-end electric car this year. All other models that GM makes for the U.S. market are trucks or SUVs.

Several years ago, Ford eliminated sedans from its lineup. The Mustang is the only car that Ford makes for the U.S. market. Stellantis, the owner of Chrysler, now focuses mainly on trucks, SUVs and minivans, although the company has said it will start making an electric version of its Dodge Challenger muscle car in 2025.

The Malibu could, of course, return someday, perhaps as an electric vehicle. Automakers have often resurrected and repurposed old model names, especially those that buyers remember fondly.

Sony, Apollo acquisition plan for Paramount? Break it up

By Benjamin Mullin and Lauren Hirsch
The New York Times

Shari Redstone helped build Paramount Global into a media empire, but if Sony Pictures Entertainment and private equity giant Apollo Global Management succeed in acquiring it, they plan to break it all up, according to three people familiar with the matter.

The plan would include auctioning off CBS, cable channels like MTV and the Paramount+ streaming service, said the people, who asked not to be identified sharing private details. Paramount Pictures — home to blockbusters like “The Godfather,” “Top Gun” and the “Mission: Impossible” franchise — would be combined with Sony's business.

Sony and Apollo, which made a nonbinding expression of interest in acquiring Paramount for \$26 billion last week, are also likely to keep Paramount's library of films and TV shows and the rights to well-known characters, including the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and SpongeBob SquarePants. They have not yet outlined this plan to Paramount or its advisers.

A breakup of Paramount would represent a major changing of the guard in the entertainment industry. CBS and Paramount have been controlled by the Redstone family for decades, since media mogul Sumner Redstone assembled the conglomerate in a series of audacious deals. His daughter, Shari Redstone, championed a 2019 deal to reunite it through a merger with CBS, and remains Paramount's controlling shareholder.

Sony and Apollo, which submitted a nonbinding expression of interest in acquiring Paramount last week, are now engaging with Paramount's financial advisers on next steps,



Paramount Pictures studios, seen in Los Angeles, is included in a bid by Sony and the private equity giant Apollo Global Management. **ALEX WELSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2018**

the people said. The two companies have not yet signed formal nondisclosure agreements or begun due diligence reviews, a process that could take weeks.

Although it's still early, the two bidders have already begun to envision how a deal for Paramount could unfold. The two would likely operate the company as a joint venture controlled by Sony, with a minority stake owned by Apollo, the people said. Sony would look to combine the marketing and distribution functions of the Paramount movie studio with its own operations, and divest the rest of the properties.

Over time, Apollo could sell its stake in the joint venture back to Sony or to another buyer.

A breakup of Paramount is not a preferred outcome for Shari Redstone, who would prefer to see the company pass on to another buyer intact, according to a person familiar with her thinking. But it wouldn't necessarily be a deal breaker if the offer was compelling, the person said.

Sony and Paramount have different approaches to the entertainment business, and a deal would probably result in a U-turn for Paramount. Unlike Paramount, which streams its content on Paramount+, Sony licenses its movies and

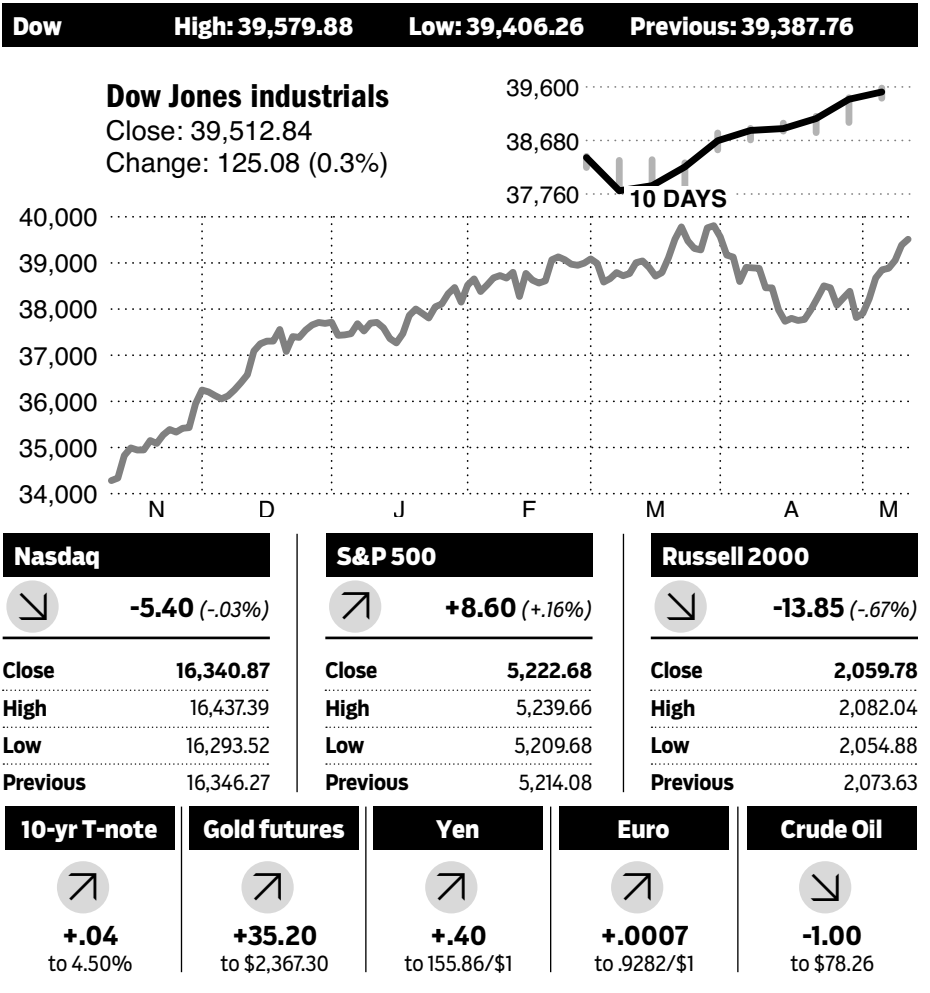
TV shows to companies like Netflix and Disney. Sony would probably not change that approach in a deal with Paramount and would likely look to combine Paramount+ with a rival, like Comcast's Peacock or Warner Bros. Discovery's Max.

Sony has long pursued Paramount's movie studio. Several years ago, Sony executives reached out to Paramount to see if the company would be willing to sell Paramount Pictures or merge it into a joint venture, but Paramount signaled it was interested only in a deal for the whole company. So when Apollo made a bid for all of Paramount this year, Sony decided to team up.

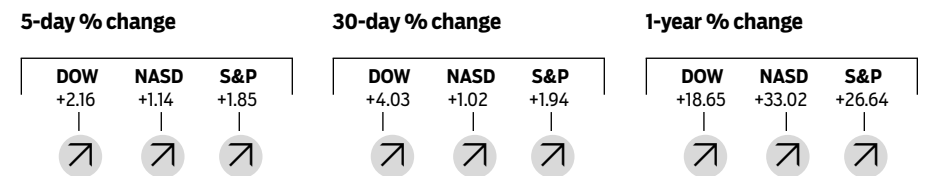
Any deal by Sony would face regulatory hurdles. Regulations restrict foreign owners from holding licenses for U.S. broadcast stations, which could prevent Sony — owned by Japan's Sony Group Corp. — from owning CBS-affiliated TV stations. But they could divest the stations immediately, or have Apollo apply for the license.

The deal would also likely require clearance from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, the panel in Washington that scrutinizes acquisitions by foreign owners.

MARKET ROUNDUP



Major market growth and decline



FUTURES							
COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 24	645.25	647	645.25	645.75	+26
		Jul 24	637.25	665.25	637	663.50	+26
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 24	443.25	455.75	443.25	455.75	+13
		Jul 24	457	470	456.75	469.75	+13.25
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 24	1196.75	1205	1195	1205	+12.25
		Jul 24	1210.25	1222.50	1204.50	1219	+10.50
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	May 24	42.38	43.91	42.38	43.81	+1.80
		Jul 24	42.81	44.76	42.68	44.44	+1.80
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	May 24	368.20	371.90	364.20	367.00	-1.00
		Jul 24	373.20	377.60	365.60	371.90	-1.00
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	Jun 24	79.59	79.96	78.14	78.26	-1.00
		Jul 24	79.11	79.47	77.73	77.84	-.96
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, \$ per mm btu	Jun 24	2.307	2.344	2.248	2.252	-.049
		Jul 24	2.539	2.567	2.479	2.484	-.053
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Jun 24	2.5493	2.5680	2.4961	2.4997	-.0421
		Jul 24	2.5298	2.5466	2.4826	2.4850	-.0368

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL STOCKS

Stocks listed may change due to daily fluctuations in market capitalization.

Exchange key: N=NYSE, O=NASDAQ

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	104.74	+.07	Exelon Corp	O	37.67	-.28	Middleby Corp	O	138.09	+1.81
AbbVie Inc	N	160.75	+.35	Federal Signal	N	87.71	+.49	Mondelez Intl	O	71.20	+1.00
Alstare Corp	N	172.71	+1.25	First Indl RT	N	47.72	-.40	Morningstar Inc	O	298.38	-.78
Aptargroup Inc	N	148.49	-.59	Fortune Brands Innov	N	75.32	+.22	Motorola Solutions	N	362.85	+2.74
Arch Dan Mid	N	62.98	+.54	GATX	N	132.70	+.54	NiSource Inc	N	28.68	-.22
Baxter Intl	N	35.69	-.26	Gallagher AJ	N	250.82	+3.26	Nthn Trust Cp	O	86.70	-.08
Brunswick Corp	N	83.39	...	Grainger WW	N	958.68	+4.52	Old Republic	N	31.41	+.22
CBOE Global Markets	N	181.06	-.86	Hub Group Inc	O	43.79	-.08	Packaging Corp Am	N	179.40	-.98
CCC Intellig Solut	O	10.62	-.05	Hyatt Hotels Corp	N	152.20	-.07	Paylocity Hldg	O	163.62	-.17
CDW Corp	O	222.46	-.51	IDEX Corp	N	226.16	+3.42	RLI Corp	N	148.06	+1.10
CF Industries	N	73.95	-.34	ITW	N	250.33	+.60	Ryan Specialty Group	N	53.71	+.38
CME Group	O	208.46	-.515	Ingredion Inc	N	120.22	+.25	Stericycle Inc	O	46.94	+.03
CNA Financial	N	44.95	+.14	John Bean Technol	N	94.38	-.80	TransUnion	N	78.00	-.11
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	31.13	+.35	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	195.85	+1.96	US Foods Holding	N	58.41	+.01
Deere Co	N	407.89	-.11	Kemper Corp	N	60.75	-.10	Ulta Salon Cosmetics	O	401.59	+4.92
Discover Fin Svcs	N	123.40	-.64	Kraft Heinz Co	O	36.24	+.53	United Airlines Hldg	O	52.72	+.09
Dover Corp	N	185.55	+.60	LKQ Corporation	O	44.21	-.11	Ventas Inc	N	47.56	+.01
Envestnet Inc	N	67.34	+1.11	Littelfuse Inc	O	256.86	+1.05	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	17.19	-.06
Equity Lifesty Prop	N	62.79	-.25	MYR Group	O	160.70	+4.05	Wintrust Financial	O	101.70	+.97
Equity Residential	N	66.80	-.24	McDonalds Corp	N	275.00	+7.05	Zebra Tech	O	315.80	-.97

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Ginkgo Bioworks Hldg	.76	-.16
Palantir Technol	20.60	-.54
Ford Motor	11.99	-.14
GameStop Corp	17.46	-.55
Banco Bradesco ADS	2.58	-.02
Shopify Inc	58.94	-3.51
Virgin Galactic Hldg	.95	-.08
Bank of America	38.45	+.17
Snap Inc A	16.01	-.54
Unity Software Inc	21.69	-2.47
Pfizer Inc	28.01	-.17
IAMGold Corp	4.30	+.45
AMC Entertainment A	2.91	-.14
Taiwan Semicon	149.26	+6.47
Sweetgreen Inc	31.56	+8.00
Roblox Corp	31.45	+1.03
Kinross Gold	7.59	+.06
Itau Unibanco Hldg	6.34	+.05
Baytex Energy Corp	3.45	-.29
Uber Technologies	66.99	-.94
AT&T Tech	17.17	-.01
Speng Inc ADP	7.73	-.43
Vale SA	12.44	-.14
Nu Holdings Ltd	11.76	-.03

NASDAQ STOCK MARKET

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Novavax Inc	8.88	+4.41
Aeye Inc A	2.58	+1.38
Nikola Corp	.54	-.04
Faraday Fut Intlltng	.05	+.01
Tesla Inc	168.47	-3.50
Marathon Digital Hld	17.16	-2.49
FuelCell Energy	.70	-.04
Apple Inc	183.05	-1.27
Intel Corp	29.85	-.24
Adv Micro Dev	151.92	-.47
Warner Bros Disc A	8.15	+.11
Amazon.com Inc	187.48	-1.02
CleanSpark Inc	15.57	-2.02
Nvidia Corporation	898.78	+11.31
Plug Power Inc	2.56	-.21
Pineapple Holdings	.06	-.01
Rivian Automotive A	9.99	-.23
Alphabet Inc A	168.65	-.131
SoFi Technologies	6.94	-.12
Jaguar Health Inc	.29	-.02
Robinhood Markets	A16.23	-1.07
Riot Blockchain Inc	9.20	-1.08
Sintx Technologies	.04	-.00

FOREIGN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG./%
Shanghai	3154.55	+2./+.0
Stoxx600	520.76	+4.0./+4.8
Nikkei	38229.11	+155.1./+8
MSCI-EAFE	2350.37	-117.0./+7
Bovespa	127599.58	+588.8./-5
FTSE 100	8433.76	+52.4./+6
CAC-40	8219.14	+31.5./+4

LARGEST COMPANIES

Based on market capitalization

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Alphabet Inc C	170.29	-1.29
Alphabet Inc A	168.65	-1.31
Amazon.com Inc	187.48	-1.02
Apple Inc	183.05	-2.07
Berkshire Hath B	412.05	+3.23
Broadcom Inc	1332.80	+27.13
Eli Lilly	760.00	-11.55
Exxon Mobil Corp	117.96	-.48
JPMorgan Chase	198.77	+1.27
MasterCard Inc	456.98	+1.49
Meta Platforms Inc	476.20	+.78
Microsoft Corp	414.74	+2.42
Novo Nordisk AS	128.42	-.24
Nvidia Corporation	898.78	+11.31
Taiwan Semicon	149.26	+6.47
Tesla Inc	168.47	-3.50
Unitedhealth Group	512.81	+.55
Visa Inc	280.74	+2.20
WalMart Strs	60.48	+.04

TREASURY YIELDS

DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month Disc	5.26	5.25
6-month disc	5.17	5.15
2-year	4.87	4.82
10-year	4.50	4.46
30-year	4.64	4.61

SPOT METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	\$2367.30	\$2332.10
Silver	\$28.275	\$28.132
Platinum	\$1007.20	\$999.80

INTEREST RATES

Prime Rate	8.50
Discount Rate Primary	6.00
Fed Funds Target	5.25-5.50
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.47

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

A U.S. Dollar buys ...

Argentina (Peso)	883.3922
Australia (Dollar)	1.5139
Brazil (Real)	5.1554
Britain (Pound)	.7983
Canada (Dollar)	1.3673
China (Yuan)	7.2268
Euro	.9282
India (Rupee)	83.556
Israel (Shekel)	3.7289
Japan (Yen)	155.86
Mexico (Peso)	16.7898
Poland (Zloty)	3.99
So. Korea (Won)	1371.74
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.44
Thailand (Baht)	36.76

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Based on total assets

FUND	NAV	CHG	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AMCPA m	41.64	+.12	+28.6
American Funds AmrcnBaIA m	33.68	+.06	+16.4
American Funds AmrcnMutA m	54.12	+.15	+14.9
American Funds CptWldGrncA m	65.04	+.24	+22.3
American Funds CptlncBldrA m	68.34	+.28	+10.3
American Funds FdmItlnvsA m	79.60	+.31	+13.1
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	70.59	+.02	+36.9
American Funds IncAmrcA m	24.22	+.06	+10.8
American Funds InvCmrcA m	55.69	+.10	+32.1
American Funds WPrspctvA m	60.82	+.20	+21.9
American Funds NWMtlnvsA m	61.64	+.20	+24.4
Baird AggregateBdInstl	9.59	-.02	+1.1
Dodge & Cox IncI	12.33	-.03	+2.8
Dodge & Cox IntIStkl	52.43	+.33	+15.3
Dodge & Cox Stkl	257.16	+.70	+27.1
Fidelity 500ldxnsPrrm	181.52	+.32	+28.2
Fidelity BCGrowth	202.32	-.10	+49.0
Fidelity Contrafund	19.03	+.03	+43.9
Fidelity ExMktldxnPr	81.30	-.27	+26.2
Fidelity GlobalExUSldx	14.70	+.04	+12.4
Fidelity GroCo	36.77	-.06	+40.9
Fidelity IntlldxlnstlPrrm	50.27	+.14	+12.9

NATION & WORLD

Cohen urged to stop needling Trump

Key witness likely to testify next week in hush money trial

By Jake Offenhartz, Jennifer Peltz and Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — With Donald Trump's fixer-turned-foe Michael Cohen expected to take the witness stand Monday, the judge in the former president's hush money case issued prosecutors a stern warning: Get Cohen to stop his taunting posts and jabs at Trump.

Judge Juan Merchan's comments came as a dramatic and consequential week in the first criminal trial of a former American president drew to a close Friday.

Prosecutors have been building up their case ahead of crucial testimony from Cohen, who arranged the \$130,000 payout to porn actor Stormy Daniels to keep her from going public ahead of the 2016 election about an alleged sexual encounter with Trump a decade earlier.

Trump denies ever having sex with Daniels.

Defense attorneys will argue that the disbarred lawyer who served prison time is out to get the former president and cannot be believed.

Two people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press that Cohen is expected to take the stand Monday. The two spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Trump's lawyers complained after Cohen wore a shirt this week in a social media video featuring a figure resembling the former president behind bars.

They have argued that it's unfair that Trump is under



Michael Cohen is expected to testify Monday in Donald Trump's hush money trial. DAVE SANDERS/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2023

a gag order preventing him from speaking publicly about witnesses while Cohen has continued to post about Trump on social media.

"It's becoming a problem every single day that President Trump is not allowed to respond to this witness, but this witness is allowed to continue to talk," defense attorney Todd Blanche said.

Merchan told prosecutors they should inform Cohen "that the judge is asking him to refrain from making any more statements" about the case or about Trump.

Prosecutors told the judge they had already requested that Cohen and other witnesses not talk about the case but had no direct means of controlling their behavior.

As the third week of

testimony wrapped up Friday, the case that ultimately hinges on record-keeping returned to technical testimony — a sharp contrast from Daniels' dramatic account of the alleged sexual encounter with Trump that riveted jurors earlier this week.

The prosecution could rest its case by the end of next week, prosecutor Joshua Steinglass said.

Jurors saw social media posts showing that Trump initially praised Cohen after the then-lawyer came under federal investigation.

Trump started bashing him after Cohen pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations, along with other crimes, and claimed that Trump directed him to arrange the

payment for Daniels.

Trump was never charged with any crime related to that federal investigation.

Trump, who was visibly angry during much of Daniels' testimony, chatted frequently with his lawyers and read through a stack of papers on the table in front of him as jurors heard from witnesses including AT&T and Verizon workers, who authenticated phone records.

Leaving the courthouse, Trump addressed the allegation at the heart of the case: that he falsified his company's records to conceal the nature of hush money reimbursements to Cohen.

"A very good bookkeeper, marked a legal expense as a legal expense," Trump said. "He was a lawyer, not a

fixer," he added, referring to Cohen.

Friday's dry testimony appeared to test jurors' patience at times.

One juror stifled a yawn while another stretched out his arms.

Others shifted their gaze around the room or stared at the ceiling.

In one of the livelier moments, Trump attorney Emil Bove asked a paralegal about the "tedious" work of going through lengthy phone, data and other records, and preparing charts from them.

"Actually, I kind of enjoyed it," the paralegal said matter-of-factly, to chuckles from the courtroom audience.

"Respect," Bove replied.

Witnesses in the case have seesawed between book-

keepers and bankers, with testimony about records and finances, to Daniels and others with unflattering stories about Trump and the tabloid world machinations meant to keep them secret.

Despite all the drama, in the end, the trial is about money changing hands — business transactions — and whether those payments were made to illegally influence the 2016 election.

Back on the witness stand Friday was Madeleine Westerhout, a former Trump White House aide.

Prosecutors used Westerhout's testimony to detail the process by which Trump got personal mail — including checks to sign — while in the White House. It's relevant because that's how he received and signed the checks that reimbursed Cohen for the payment to Daniels, prosecutors say.

Westerhout testified that Trump was "very upset" when The Wall Street Journal published a 2018 story about the hush money deal with Daniels.

"My understanding was that he knew it would be hurtful to his family," Westerhout said, although she acknowledged she didn't recall him saying so specifically.

The answer, elicited by Trump lawyer Susan Necheles, goes to the defense's argument that Daniels was paid to stay silent in order to protect Trump's family, not his campaign.

Daniels' story of an alleged sexual encounter with Trump was a crucial building block for prosecutors, who are seeking to show that the Republican and his allies buried unflattering stories in the waning weeks of the 2016 presidential election in an effort to illegally influence the race.

UN membership broadly OKs new Palestine rights

US against measure asking to reconsider its full membership

By Edith M. Lederer
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. General Assembly voted by a wide margin Friday to grant new "rights and privileges" to Palestine and called on the Security Council to reconsider Palestine's request to become the 194th member of the United Nations.

The world body approved the Arab and Palestinian-sponsored resolution by a vote of 143-9 with 25 abstentions. The United States voted against it, along with Israel, Argentina, Czechia, Hungary, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and Papua New Guinea.

The vote reflected the wide global support for full membership of Palestine in the United Nations, with many countries expressing outrage at the escalating death toll in Gaza and fears of a major Israeli offensive in Rafah, a southern city where about 1.3 million Palestinians have sought refuge.

It also demonstrated growing support for the

Palestinians. A General Assembly resolution on Oct. 27 calling for a humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza was approved 120-14 with 45 abstentions. That was weeks after Israel launched its military offensive in response to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel, which killed some 1,200 people.

While Friday's resolution gives Palestine some new rights and privileges, it reaffirms that it remains a nonmember observer state without full U.N. membership and the right to vote in the General Assembly or at any of its conferences. And the United States has made clear that it will block Palestinian membership and statehood until direct negotiations with Israel resolve key issues, including security, boundaries and the future of Jerusalem, and lead to a two-state solution.

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood said Friday that for the U.S. to support Palestinian statehood, direct negotiations must guarantee Israel's security and future as a democratic Jewish state and that Palestinians can live in peace in their own state.

The U.S. also vetoed a widely backed council resolution April 18 that would

have paved the way for full United Nations membership for Palestine.

Under the U.N. Charter, prospective members must be "peace-loving" and the Security Council must recommend their admission to the General Assembly for final approval. Palestine became a U.N. nonmember observer state in 2012.

The United States considers Friday's resolution an attempt to get around the charter's provisions, Wood reiterated Thursday.

Unlike resolutions in the Security Council, there are no vetoes in the 193-member General Assembly. Friday's resolution required a two-thirds majority of members voting and got significantly more than the 118 vote minimum.

U.S. allies supported the resolution, including France, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Australia, Estonia and Norway. But European countries were very divided.

The resolution "determines" that a state of Palestine is qualified for membership — dropping the original language that in the General Assembly's judgment it is "a peace-loving state." It therefore recommends that the Security



Palestinian U.N. Ambassador Riyad Mansour speaks during a special session of the U.N. General Assembly on Palestinian full membership Friday in New York. CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/GETTY-AFP

Council reconsider its request "favorably."

The renewed push for full Palestinian membership in the U.N. comes as the war in Gaza has put the more than 75-year-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict at center stage. At numerous council and assembly meetings, the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinians in Gaza and the killing of more than 34,000 people in the territory, according to Gaza health officials, have generated outrage from many countries.

Before the vote, Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, told the assembly in an emotional speech that "No words can

capture what such loss and trauma signifies for Palestinians, their families, communities and for our nation as a whole."

He said Palestinians in Gaza "have been pushed to the very edge of the strip, to the very brink of life" with Israel besieging Rafah.

Mansour accused Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of preparing "to kill thousands to ensure his political survival" and aiming to destroy the Palestinian people.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Gilad Erdan vehemently opposed the resolution, accusing U.N. member nations of not mentioning Hamas' Oct. 7 attack and

seeking "to reward modern-day Nazis with rights and privileges."

He said if an election were held today, Hamas would win, and warned U.N. members that they were "about to grant privileges and rights to the future terror state of Hamas." He held up a photo of Yehya Sinwar, the mastermind of the Hamas attack on Israel, saying a terrorist "whose stated goal is Jewish genocide" would be a future Palestinian leader.

Erdan also accused the assembly of trampling on the U.N. Charter, putting two pages that said "U.N. Charter" in a small shredder he held up.

Biden officials: Israeli use of US arms in Gaza likely broke international law

By Aamer Madhani, Ellen Knickmeyer and Mike Balsamo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration said Friday that Israel's use of U.S.-provided weapons in Gaza likely violated international humanitarian law but wartime conditions prevented U.S. officials from determining that for certain in specific airstrikes.

The administration's finding of "reasonable" evidence

to conclude that its ally had breached international law in its conduct of the war in Gaza, released in a summary of a report delivered Friday to Congress, represents the strongest such statement from Biden officials.

But its caveat that it was unable to link specific U.S. weapons to individual strikes by Israeli forces in Gaza could give the administration leeway in any future decision on whether to restrict U.S. provisions of offensive weapons to Israel.

The administration's findings, a first-of-its-kind assessment that was compelled by President Joe Biden's fellow Democrats in Congress, comes after seven months of airstrikes, ground fighting and aid restrictions that have claimed the lives of nearly 35,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Biden has tried to walk a fine line in his support of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war against Hamas. Biden has faced growing rancor at home

and abroad over the soaring Palestinian death toll and the onset of famine. Tensions have been heightened further in recent weeks by Netanyahu's pledge to expand the Israeli military's offensive in the crowded southern city of Rafah, despite Biden's opposition.

Biden faces demands from many Democrats that he cut the flow of offensive weapons to Israel and denunciation from Republicans who accuse him of wavering on support for Israel at its time

of need.

The Democratic administration took one of the first steps toward conditioning military aid to Israel in recent days when it paused a shipment of 3,500 bombs out of concern over Israel's threatened offensive on Rafah, a senior administration official said.

The presidential directive, agreed to in February, obligated the Defense and State departments to conduct "an assessment of any credible reports or allegations that

such defense articles and, as appropriate, defense services, have been used in a manner not consistent with international law, including international humanitarian law."

The agreement also obligated them to tell Congress whether they deemed that Israel has acted to "arbitrarily to deny, restrict, or otherwise impede, directly or indirectly," delivery of any U.S.-supported humanitarian aid into Gaza for starving civilians there.

ANALYSIS

Speaker of whole House — for now

Democrats’ rescue still leaves Johnson on political thin ice

By Carl Hulse
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The notion that the speaker serves the whole House is often tossed around but rarely the case.

While the position is established in the Constitution and under long-standing House rules entails presiding over the entire institution, the speaker has historically played a highly political role, installed by the majority party to ruthlessly execute its will and legislative agenda. But circumstances have changed.

Rep. Mike Johnson can now, for better or worse, truly lay claim to being speaker of the whole House, after Democrats saved him from a Republican-led coup Wednesday. Had Democrats not come to his rescue, the votes existed in his own party to potentially oust him.

It was the logical outcome of a session in which House Democrats, despite being in the minority, have repeatedly supplied the votes and even the procedural backing to do most of the heavy legislative lifting to stave off default, fund the government and aid U.S. allies, forming an uneasy coalition government with more mainstream Republicans.

The result left Johnson, R-La., who is still new to the job, indebted to Democrats even as he immediately sought to distance himself from them by emphasizing his deep conservative credentials. Democrats said their support for him underscored their bona fides as the grown-up party willing to go so far as to back a conservative Republican speaker to prevent the House from again going off the rails.

Now the two parties will have to navigate this previ-



House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., speaks Wednesday at the Capitol in Washington. KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ously unexplored terrain as they head into an election season that will determine who is speaker next year.

The reality is that after passing the foreign aid package including funding for Ukraine that prompted the push by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., to depose Johnson, little polarizing legislative work remains to be done this Congress, while the fight for House control is about to get into full swing. That fact led Johnson to walk off the House floor to high-fives from his Republican supporters and quickly try to remind his colleagues and America that, despite the decisive Democratic assist, he is still a die-hard right-winger.

“I am a lifelong, movement, conservative Republican, and I intend to continue to govern in accordance with those core principles,” Johnson declared.

It is no secret on Capitol Hill that many Republicans believe the speaker will have a hard time remaining in the top party job next year — if he can make it through this year — no matter what happens in the election. And the fact that he now has a patina of Democratic backing is unlikely to help him make his case that he deserves to retain the gavel if Republicans triumph in November, or to serve as the minority leader should Democrats win control.

Since the Ukraine vote last month, he has been working furiously to display his deep conservatism, railing against pro-Palestinian campus protests, assailing Biden administration policy on the war in the Gaza Strip and this week suggesting without evidence that immigrants living in the country without legal permission vote in U.S. elections.

But his efforts are unlikely

to persuade some of his more obstreperous right-wing colleagues, who portray Johnson as the speaker of the “uniparty” that reigns over the Washington swamp and is abhorred by their constituents.

“The Democrats validated him,” Greene said after the vote. “That is the most terrifying thing to our constituents and to the American people.”

Just 10 other Republicans joined her in voting Wednesday to keep the ouster effort alive, underscoring once again the ability of a tiny sliver of hard-right lawmakers to wreak havoc in a House their party governs by a minuscule margin.

This was not an easy vote for Democrats, siding with a man who holds contrary views on some of their most deeply held policy beliefs. Thirty-two of them opposed the successful bipartisan effort to kill the motion to

vacate the speaker’s chair; another seven merely voted “present.”

But Democratic leaders had made it clear weeks ago that the trade would be a price they were willing to pay for pushing through the assistance for Ukraine. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., the minority leader, signaled to Johnson, at first obliquely and then explicitly, that Democrats would have his back if he put the foreign aid package on the floor.

They stuck to that bargain — and regarded it as an added bonus that they were able to stick it to Greene in the process.

Democrats also calculated that their willingness to spare the House another unsightly spectacle of extended tumult would bolster their political case before the November elections, proving that they are the responsible party. While they may have saved

Johnson, they believe the fact that they even had to do so shows that he and an ungovernable Republican majority need to be relegated back to the minority.

Democrats don’t intend to support a Republican for speaker in 2025.

“As long as House Republicans continue to peddle chaos, dysfunction and extremism, and as long as House Democrats continue to solve problems for everyday Americans and deliver real results, then the American people are going to vacate the extreme MAGA Republican majority in November,” Jeffries said after Wednesday’s vote.

And there is no guarantee that Democrats would come to Johnson’s aid again if another move is made against him. Their backing Wednesday was linked directly to the Ukraine aid. They would no doubt demand further concessions if another fight over the speakership ensued — concessions Johnson would find hard to give.

“This is a one-time get-out-of-jail-free card,” said progressive Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., who opposed the rescue. “This is not a continued thing. And if we’re going to be in a situation where Marjorie Taylor Greene puts forward more motions to vacate, then we need to be getting something.”

Johnson said he hoped Wednesday’s vote was the “end of the personality politics and the frivolous character assassination that has defined the undertaking.”

It may be for now.

But the speaker is certain to continue to face challenges to his leadership both from Democrats who rescued him but want to depose him on their own in the elections and from Republicans who see him as weakened and vulnerable and might seek a change at the top after November.



Residents of an apartment complex try to clear trees and other debris Friday in Tallahassee, Fla. Storms with damaging high winds threatened several states in the South. PHIL SEARS/AP

Storms with high winds kill at least 1 in Fla., officials say

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Powerful storms packing hurricane-force winds killed at least one woman Friday in Florida as a week of deadly severe weather continued in the South, where uprooted trees crashed onto homes and knocked out electricity to thousands in several states.

City officials in Tallahassee said wind gusts of 80 to 100 mph, speeds that exceed hurricane intensity, were reported in Florida’s capital city. Images posted on social media showed mangled metal and other debris from damaged buildings littering some areas.

A statement on the Tallahassee government’s website said crews were scrambling to repair 100 broken power poles while half the homes and businesses were left without electricity in a city of 200,000 people.

It said the National Weather Service was assessing paths of three potential tornadoes.

“Our area experienced catastrophic wind damage,” Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey said on the social platform X.

The sheriff’s office

for Leon County, which includes Tallahassee, said in a Facebook post Friday that a woman was killed when a tree fell onto her family’s home.

The storm that struck Tallahassee early Friday also knocked two chimneys from apartment buildings at a complex where fallen trees covered a row of cars. Fencing was left bent at the baseball stadium of Florida State University, where classes were canceled Friday.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said on social media Friday that the state Division of Emergency Management was working with local officials to “do everything possible to return life to normalcy for our residents as quickly as possible.”

The woman killed in Florida was at least the fourth death caused by severe weather in the Southeast this week. Storms were blamed for killing two people in Tennessee on Wednesday, when another storm death was reported in North Carolina.

Nearly 230,000 homes and businesses from Mississippi to North Carolina were blacked out Friday, according to the

website poweroutage.us. Most of those outages were in Florida, where power was out for nearly 160,000 customers.

In Mississippi’s capital city, Jackson, authorities urged residents Friday to conserve and boil water as a precaution after a power outage at one of its major water treatment plants.

JXN Water, the local water utility, said customers could expect reduced water pressure as workers assessed damage from overnight storms. “It will take many hours for the system to recover, and some places may take longer,” said Ted Henifin, the water system’s manager.

Other parts of the South were cleaning up from storm damage inflicted earlier in the week.

In the farming community of Vidalia, Georgia, and surrounding Toombs County, officials said a tornado left a path of destruction roughly 2 miles long Thursday.

About 10 houses had trees crash onto or through their roofs, and crews worked to remove 50 downed trees that were blocking roads, said Lynn Moore, emergency management director for Toombs County.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia aims for breakthrough in Kharkiv region, Kyiv says

By Illia Novikov
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine rushed reinforcements to its northeastern Kharkiv region on Friday to hold off a Russian attempt to breach local defenses, authorities said, signaling a tactical switch in the war by Moscow that Ukrainian officials had been expecting for weeks.

Kharkiv’s regional governor, Oleh Syniehubov, said intense overnight shelling targeted Vovchansk, a city with a prewar population of about 20,000 that is less than 3 miles from the Russia border. The barrage, which used powerful guided aerial bombs, artillery, rockets, tanks and mortars, killed at least one civilian and wounded five others, prompting authorities to begin evacuating about 3,000 people.

Then, around dawn, Russian infantry tried to penetrate Ukrainian defenses near Vovchansk, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said, adding that it had deployed reserve units to fend off the attack.

Russian military bloggers said the assault could mark the start of a Russian attempt to carve out a “buffer zone” that President Vladimir Putin vowed to create earlier this year to halt frequent Ukrainian attacks on Belgorod and other border regions.

Ukrainian troops were still holding firm against the assault at midafternoon, Syniehubov said.

Ukraine previously said it was aware that Russia was assembling thousands of troops along the northeastern border, close to the Kharkiv and Sumy regions. Although Russia’s most recent ground offensive had been focused on parts of eastern Ukraine farther south, Ukrainian intelligence officials said they had



Ukrainian police evacuate older people Friday from the city of Vovchansk in the Kharkiv region after a fierce Russian assault on the area, near its border. UKRAINIAN POLICE

expected an attack in the northeast too. The Kremlin’s forces stepped up their bombardment of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, in late March.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine’s military had anticipated this latest attack and had calibrated its response.

Though Russia likely couldn’t capture Kharkiv without a massive buildup of troops and armor, it could compel Ukraine to send more troops to the region, leaving other areas of the country more vulnerable. Forcing Ukrainian authorities to evacuate civilians will also likely cause disruptions and divert resources.

The Russian military could also try to cut key supply routes in the area and try to blockade Kharkiv, which is home to roughly 1.1 million people and is only about 20 miles south of the border.

Russia is seeking to exploit Ukraine’s shortages of ammunition and manpower after the flow of Western military aid to Kyiv tapered off in recent months and before promised new support arrives. “Not all of our partners are currently fulfilling the agreements in a timely manner,” Zelenskyy said Friday in a post on X, though he didn’t specify

which.

The Ukrainian army is on the defensive along the roughly 620-mile front line and is scrambling to build fortified defensive lines ahead of what officials believe will be a bigger Russian offensive. Ukraine’s forces are outnumbered in infantry, armor and ammunition.

In the opening days of the war, Russia made a botched attempt to quickly storm Kharkiv but retreated from its outskirts a month later. Seven months after that, Ukraine’s army pushed the Kremlin’s forces out of Kharkiv in fall 2022. The bold counterattack helped persuade Western countries that Ukraine could defeat Russia on the battlefield and merited military support.

Meanwhile, Russian officials said a Ukrainian drone struck an oil refinery inside Russia on Friday. The drone hit a refinery near Kaluga, southwest of Moscow, setting four oil storage tanks ablaze, according to Vladislav Shapsha, the regional governor. He said there were no casualties.

The Russian Defense Ministry said air defenses downed seven Ukrainian drones early Friday in the Moscow, Bryansk and Belgorod regions.

China, Iran dissidents hunted in US

Foreign powers take extreme measures to threaten opponents

By Eric Tucker,
Didi Tang
and Nathan Ellgren
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a participant in the historic Tiananmen Square protests entered a 2022 congressional race in New York City, a Chinese intelligence operative wasted little time enlisting a private investigator to hunt for any mistresses or tax problems that could upend the candidate's bid, prosecutors say.

"In the end," the operative ominously told his contact, "violence would be fine too."

As an Iranian journalist and activist living in exile in the United States aired criticism of Iran's human rights abuses, Tehran was listening too. Members of an Eastern European organized crime gang scouted her Brooklyn home and plotted to kill her in a murder-for-hire scheme directed from Iran, according to the Justice Department, which foiled the plan and brought criminal charges.

The episodes reflect the extreme measures taken by countries like China and Iran to intimidate, harass and sometimes plot attacks against political opponents and activists who live in the United States. They show the frightening consequences that geopolitical tensions can have for ordinary citizens as governments historically intolerant of dissent inside their own borders are increasingly keeping a threatening watch on those who speak out thousands of miles away.

"We're not living in fear, we're not living in paranoia, but the reality is very clear — that the Islamic Republic wants us dead, and we have to look over our shoulder every day," the Iranian journalist, Masih Alinejad, said.

The issue has grabbed



Wu Jianmin, once a student leader in China's 1989 pro-democracy movement, speaks during an interview April 11 in Washington. **PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP**

the attention of the Justice Department, which has built cases against dozens of suspects. Senior FBI officials say the tactics have grown more sophisticated, with countries more willing to cross "serious red lines" from harassment into violence as they seek to project power abroad.

"This is a huge priority for us," said Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, the Justice Department's top national security official.

The trend is all the more worrisome because of an ever-deteriorating relationship with Iran and tensions with China over everything from trade and theft of intellectual property to election interference.

A leading culprit, officials and advocates say, has been China. The Chinese



Alinejad

Embassy in Washington disputed that the country engages in the practice and said in a statement that "We resolutely oppose 'long-arm jurisdiction.'"

Yet U.S. officials say China created a program to do exactly that, launching "Operation Fox Hunt" to track down Chinese expatriates wanted by Beijing, with a goal of coercing them into returning to face charges.

A former city government official in China living in New Jersey found a note in Chinese characters taped to his front door that said: "If you are willing to go back to the mainland and spend 10 years in prison your wife and children will be all right. That's the end of this matter!" according to a 2020 Justice Department case charging a group of Chinese

operatives and an American private investigator.

Though most defendants charged in transnational repression plots are based in their home country, making arrests and prosecutions rare, that particular case led to U.S. convictions of the private investigator and two Chinese citizens.

Bob Fu, a Chinese American Christian pastor whose organization, ChinaAid, advocates for religious freedom in China, said he has endured far-ranging harassment campaigns for years. Large crowds of demonstrators have amassed for days at a time outside his West Texas home in well-coordinated actions he believes can be linked to the Chinese government.

Phony hotel reservations have been made in his name, along with bogus bomb threats to police stating that he planned to detonate

explosives. Flyers depicting him as the devil have been distributed to neighbors. He said he's learned to take precautions when he travels.

Wu Jianmin, a former student leader in China's 1989 pro-democracy movement, was targeted in 2020 by protesters outside his home in Irvine, California.

"They shouted slogans outside my home and made verbal abuses," he said. "They paraded in the neighborhood, distributed all sorts of pictures and flyers, and put them in the neighbors' mailboxes."

Last year, the Justice Department charged about three dozen officers in China's national police force with using social media to target dissidents inside the U.S. and arrested two men who it says had helped establish a secret Chinese police outpost in Manhattan's Chinatown neighborhood.

The year before, federal prosecutors disclosed a series of wide-ranging plots to silence dissidents.

Besides the little-known and unsuccessful congressional candidate about whom China wanted to dig up dirt, other victims of harassment in the case included American figure skater Alysa Liu and her father, Arthur, a political refugee who prosecutors say was monitored by a man who posed as an Olympics committee member and asked them for their passport information.

"We should be under no illusion that somehow these are rogue actors or people that are unaffiliated with the Chinese government," Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Illinois Democrat and member of a special House committee on China, said of the Chinese operatives who have been charged.

Beer battle splits Texas town's biggest party

Germanfest kept folks tied to roots, but suds led to rift

By J. David Goodman
The New York Times

MUENSTER, Texas — Social media attacks. Intransigent factions. An anonymous letter complaining about the harm done by some neighbors to the harmony of a bucolic Texas town.

The division that erupted in recent months in Muenster, Texas, a farming and ranching community north of Dallas, resembles the political polarization that has ripped apart many communities across the nation.

But the fight in Muenster, a town settled by German immigrants, has not been about politics. It has been about beer.

Or rather, about how to divvy up the proceeds from selling beer at the biggest thing that happens in Muenster every year: the town's three-day Germanfest. The dispute has bitterly divided neighbors in a town that prides itself on its Texas German heritage and spirit of volunteerism.

Suddenly, instead of one celebration on the last weekend in April, there were two — two places for the town's 1,600 residents to partake of beer, sausages and music, each a short walk from the other, on either side of Division Street.

At stake were not only competing visions of the town's signature event but the survival of the kinds of old-fashioned community volunteer groups that historically formed part of the backbone of American towns. In Muenster, they still do — and Germanfest has long been their biggest moneymaker.

"It put tears in my eyes," said William Fisher, 83, as he ate breakfast at Rohmer's, the town's wood-paneled, schnitzel-serving diner. "All of a sudden, it seems like the



Dancers from Whitney High School perform April 27 at the annual Germanfest, hosted by the Muenster Chamber of Commerce in Muenster, Texas. The Jaycees civic group holds another, competing event now. **DESIREE RIOS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

town went haywire."

For some, the split marked the culmination of rising discontent over the growth of the festival, which draws about 20,000 visitors.

That was particularly true after 2018 when the festival moved into a newly built, cavernous indoor space on sprawling grounds at the edge of town.

"It became more of an outsider thing and lost that local touch," said Leslie Hess Eddleman, a dental hygienist and former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader. "They turned it into this big show for out-of-towners but not for us."

But what finally brought about the split was not who attended the festival but a dispute over the beer contract, which was up for renewal.

The Jaycees, a national junior civic organization, had long sold the beer, using its members as volunteers and taking a nearly 80% cut.

The Muenster Chamber

of Commerce, which runs Germanfest, wanted to renegotiate, at first proposing an even split, then offering the Jaycees 70% — if it helped to decorate.

"We have 100% of the risk," said Matt Sicking, president of the chamber and a county commissioner. "If it's a rainout, we lose everything."

No deal. No one would budge.

"You ever hear of a stubborn German? They had their minds made up," said Wayne Klement, 74, a Jaycee senator. "That's when we decided we'll just have a party of our own."

The group was encouraged when others joined. Many did: the Knights of Columbus, the Boy Scouts, a local meat seller, the family that puts on a hammer-and-nail-in-a-log game they call "nägelschlagen."

Soon, it had turned into an all-out rebellion.

Who lays claim to Germanfest could not be

more important in a town such as Muenster, which sits in the rolling farmland near Texas' Red River boundary with Oklahoma.

Businesses carry the German names of families who arrived long ago — the Fishers, the Flusches — and never left. The lettering on police cars promises "Zu Dienen und Beschützen," to serve and protect. Each year, the high school football team battles its rival in Lindsay, another German-heritage town, in a grudge match known as the "Kraut Bowl."

Texas experienced several waves of German immigration in the 1800s. Many settled around the Hill Country cities of Fredericksburg and New Braunfels, near Austin, where some schools taught primarily in German.

"The German language held on longer and more tenaciously in Texas than anywhere else in the United States," said Walter Kamphoefner, a history pro-

fessor at Texas A&M University.

The founding of Muenster was driven primarily by brothers intent on creating an explicitly German Catholic community. They faced some early challenges: The first church in town was destroyed by a tornado. So was the second one, about three years later.

Life in Muenster still revolves around the church. The town has a Catholic school and a public school. Families of six children or more are not unusual.

"It's like in Europe," said Chuck Bartush, one of 13 siblings and one of the town's only lawyers. "It's old school. Medieval almost."

Muenster is also home to an enduring culture of volunteerism. The Jaycees, whose members are community-minded adults 40 and younger, occupy a prominent perch. Local members include city councilors, business owners and the mayor.

Like many volunteer groups across the United States, the Jaycees has dwindled. In Texas, there were once scores of chapters. Now there are just 12.

The idea for a festival highlighting the town's German heritage came as the nation was preparing to celebrate its bicentennial in 1976. It was an almost instant success, attracting people from Dallas and farther afield. There was tug of war and arm wrestling and, at least once, a beauty contest.

The Jaycees provided perhaps the most important component: the beer. The organization owns a refrigerated truck trailer with space for about 200 kegs and 32 beer taps, and it recently added a similar but smaller trailer.

"We depend on this weekend for our club," Klement said, adding that the Jaycees had given out \$165,000 in donations last year, mostly to local families in need.

Figures provided by the Chamber of Commerce showed the Jaycees took in about \$120,000 from last year's Germanfest, with the chamber making \$164,000. Sicking said the cost of putting on the festival kept increasing.

On the first day of the chamber's festival, rows of tables were filled with people eating sausages on a stick and listening to polka music. Women in dirndls and men in lederhosen toasted one another in synchronized calls of "Prost!"

Down the street at the Jaycee festival in Muenster City Park, bands played classic rock as many in the crowd of hundreds reminisced about the old days. The massive beer truck, with its many taps, occupied a prominent spot on the lawn.

In the end, the two competing festivals mostly did a good job of ignoring each other.

There had been plenty of beer to go around.

NEWS BRIEFING

Liam, Olivia still top list of US baby names; Mateo makes debut

From news services

WASHINGTON — Liam and Olivia have for a fifth year together topped the list of baby names for boys and girls born in the U.S. in 2023. And Mateo joins the top 10 baby names list for the first time.

The Social Security Administration annually tracks the names given to girls and boys in each state, with names dating back to 1880. The agency gathers the names from applications for Social Security cards.

Based on cultural and population trends, the list shows how names can rise and fall in popularity. The latest was released Friday.

Liam has reigned supreme seven years in a row while Olivia has topped the girls' list for five, after unseating Emma, previously No. 1 for five years.

After Liam, the most common names for boys are, in order: Noah, Oliver, James, Elijah, Mateo, Theodore, Henry, Lucas and William.

And after Olivia, the most common names for girls are Emma, Charlotte, Amelia, Sophia, Mia, Isabella, Ava, Evelyn and Luna.

The Social Security Administration's latest data show that 3.58 million babies were born in the U.S. in 2023. That's a slight decrease from last year's 3.66 million babies.

Social media stars and popular television shows are having some impact on the rising popularity of certain names, Social Security says. The fastest-rising name for boys is Izael while the second fastest-rising, Chozen, shot up to No. 813 in 2023.

The character Chozen was a protagonist in the last season of the Netflix show "Cobra Kai."

For girls, one of the fastest-rising baby names is

Kaeli, which jumped 1,692 spots. "Parents must have really smashed the 'like' button for YouTube and TikTok star Kaeli McEwen, also known as Kaeli Mae, who routinely promotes a clean, tidy, and neutral-aesthetic lifestyle," Social Security said in a news release.

The complete, searchable list of baby names is on the Social Security website.

Moms of Mexico's missing: Hundreds of mothers of missing people, relatives and activists marched in protest Friday through downtown Mexico City to mark a sad commemoration of Mother's Day.

The marchers, angry over what they say is the government's lack of interest in investigating the disappearances of Mexico's over 100,000 missing people, chanted slogans like "Where are they, our children, where are they?" They carried massive banners that, in some cases, showed nearly 100 photos of missing people.

The march comes just days after officials managed to find the bodies of three foreigners less than a week after they went missing in Baja California state, while many Mexican mothers have been searching for the sons and daughters for years, even decades.

"Because they are foreigners, those boys' country put the pressure on to look for them and they found them," said Maria del Carmen Ayala Vargas, who has been looking for almost three years for any trace of her son, Iván Pastrana Ayala, who was abducted in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz in 2021.

The march also comes two days after President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's administration raised hackles by accusing the press and volunteer searchers who look for the



Flood relief: Brazilian air force personnel prepare donations Friday at Brasilia Air Base for flood victims in Rio Grande do Sul state. At least 107 people in southern Brazil have died in the floods, and 134 are missing, authorities say, and more than 230,000 are displaced. More heavy rain is expected in Rio Grande do Sul into the weekend. **EVARISTO SA/GETTY-AFP**

bodies of missing people of "necrophilia."

Argentina train derails: At least 90 people were injured in Argentina's capital when a passenger train struck an empty boxcar on the tracks and derailed Friday, authorities said, a rare collision that fueled questions about basic safety.

The train was on its way from Buenos Aires to the northern suburbs when it derailed around 10:30 a.m. on a bridge, safety officials said. Authorities said it was not immediately clear why the empty boxcar had been on the rails but that they were investigating.

Solar storm: An unusually strong solar storm hitting Earth could produce northern lights in the U.S. this weekend and potentially disrupt power and communications.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a rare severe geomagnetic storm warning when a solar outburst

reached Earth on Friday afternoon, hours sooner than anticipated. The effects were due to last through the weekend and possibly into next week.

NOAA alerted operators of power plants and spacecraft in orbit to take precautions, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"For most people here on planet Earth, they won't have to do anything," said Rob Steenburgh, a scientist with NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center.

Russia bus crash: A bus veered off a bridge and plunged into a river on Friday in St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city, killing seven people, officials said.

The Investigative Committee, Russia's top criminal investigations body, reported the death toll. It did not state how many others were injured, but the emergencies ministry earlier said six people removed from the bus were in critical

or serious condition.

Russian news reports said there were 15 people on the city bus when it broke through a barrier and plunged into the Moika River in central St. Petersburg.

Authorities in St. Petersburg said the owner of the bus had been fined 23 times for various violations. Private companies run most of the city's bus services.

The bus driver was detained by police. His wife was quoted by Russian media as saying that managers forced him to work a morning shift after working for 20 hours the previous day and getting virtually no rest.

SAfrica building collapse: Hope was fading Friday for dozens of construction workers buried for days in the rubble of a building that collapsed in South Africa as the death toll rose to 12 and more than 40 remained missing.

Authorities said rescuers were now faced with the

challenge of moving thousands of tons of concrete with heavy machinery to keep searching for survivors.

Three more bodies were recovered from the wreckage of the five-story building under construction in the city of George on South Africa's south coast when it collapsed Monday. Another worker who was in critical condition died in the hospital earlier Friday, authorities said.

At least 41 workers are missing and — with fears that the final death toll could exceed 50 — city authorities said large earth-moving equipment had arrived and rescue teams were removing huge slabs of concrete and rubble to reach deeper into the wreckage.

Of the 28 who were rescued, many were in critical condition or had life-threatening injuries.

City authorities said it was still a rescue rather than a recovery operation, but no survivors have been located or brought out since Wednesday.

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ARTS & LIVING



Ana Ortiz-Monasterio, left, and Claudia Quesada in “An Educated Guess” by Definition Theatre. **JOE MAZZA PHOTOS**

REVIEW ‘AN EDUCATED GUESS’ ★★★

An immigration dilemma

By **Chris Jones**
Chicago Tribune

“New plays, baby,” shouted Definition Theatre artistic director Tyrone Phillips as I headed out the door onto 55th Street Thursday night, following the world premiere of “An Educated Guess” by Juan José Alfonso, a former media executive who has written his first play.

Not just a first play, but, in fact, a most promising work further developed by this growing theater company and produced with the kind of fast-paced, high-stakes staging for which Definition is gaining a reputation in Hyde Park and beyond. “An Educated Guess” is a sprawling, ambitious work that did not strike me as finished and maybe even more suited to a screenplay than a work of theater. Still, what a compelling night, thanks in no small measure to a knockout lead performance from Claudia Quesada in the role of an immigration agent whose decisions catch up to her.

Alfonso, an immigrant himself, is interested in many things here, beginning with the professional lives of those who conduct immigration interviews, such as Alba Guerrero (Quesada) and her sidekick Nilda Jackson (Maya Vinice Prentiss). The play, which is set around the turn of the 21st century,



Claudia Quesada and Mehmet Can Aksoy in “An Educated Guess.”

draws from the historical referent wherein the Sept. 11 hijackers all had been approved for visas at some point by consular officials who, in hindsight, clearly missed some things. As an official government report noted: “Three of the 19 hijackers submitted applications that contained false statements that could have been proven to be false at the time they applied.”

In exploring whether such (perhaps inevitable) errors keep immigration officials awake at night, Alfonso imagines a case where approval had been given to a mass shooter in Harlem and how that decision haunts the inter-

viewer. There is one blistering scene here where the nightmares become so intense that Alba even decides to confront the imprisoned guy, played with Hannibal Lecter-like intensity by Mehmet Can Aksoy, who creeped me out in a big way. Then there’s the flip side to that, as immigration officials become dehumanized and hardened to their jobs and are so worried about making mistakes that they are unkind to decent people like Father Romelio Ospina (Miguel Cohen) who actually ends up helping the official as she goes through her crisis of conscience. That’s probably plenty for a

90-minute play, but Alfonso also wants to explore the U.S. immigration system in a broader way, interspersing the narrative with short, experiential monologues coming from immigrants of different ages and from different places. I wasn’t always entirely convinced by how everything hangs (or does not hang) together and sometimes the end result is to dissipate the narrative tension of the main story. That’s also the impact of a series of radio news broadcasts that I don’t think the play really needs.

But whatever the structural things still to be sorted out, this is very rich and lovely writing, nuanced and humanistic and looking at this fraught topic in a very fresh way. For its part, Definition has become a place to see intense, Chicago-style acting, up close on 55th Street, and this uniformly excellent cast really throws itself into this project. You’ll be pretty gripped, I think, by a passionate work at the beginning of its journey.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.
cjones5@chicagotribune.com

When: Through May 26
Where: Definition Theatre, 1160 E. 55th St.
Running time: 1 hour, 30 minutes
Tickets: \$30 at www.definitiontheatre.org

WHAT TO DO IN CHICAGO

Devo, Cabaret Week and a self-guided tour of street murals

By **Jennifer Day**
For the Chicago Tribune

Devo: Somehow, it’s been more than 50 years since art-rock band Devo formed in Akron, Ohio. Original band members Mark and Bob Mothersbaugh and Gerald Casale will take the stage with newer band members Josh Freese and Josh Hager at the Riviera Theatre for their De-Evolution Tour. Given how effective Devo was in capturing the modern zeitgeist, the show promises far more than mere nostalgia. 7:30 p.m. May 11 at the Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave.; tickets \$79-\$150 at clubdevo.com

Chicago Archaeopteryx: If you’ve ever struggled to explain to your child how that pigeon on your windowsill is related to ancient dinosaurs, now you can show them: The Field Museum is now home to a rare Archaeopteryx fossil, the earliest known avian dinosaur. Featuring feathers, hollow bones, a long tail and 50 teeth, the fossil is the museum’s most significant acquisition since Sue the T. rex and will be on view until the museum’s Dino-palooza on June 8. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through June 8 at the Field Museum, 1400 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive; tickets \$14-\$30 at fieldmuseum.org

National Mural Day: Tuesday marked the official day, but there’s no expiration on appreciating free public art. Consider a self-guided tour, made all the easier by a map highlighting 20 murals in Wicker Park and Bucktown. And if Wicker Park isn’t convenient for you, make your own map and go see some of the many other projects registered with the City of Chicago Mural Registry.

Chicago Dogs Opening Weekend: The Chicago Dogs will face the Gary SouthShore Rail Cats during its opening weekend, kicking off a new season for the 6-year-old independent minor league team. Living up to its slogan of “baseball with everything,” Chicago Dogs will host “Barbie & Princess” Saturday, featuring fireworks. On Sunday, the team will don pink uniforms, and offer a slew of Mother’s Day promotions, including free pink hats, free hot dogs and (not free) mimosas. *Home games through Aug. 29 at Impact Field, 9899 Balmoral Ave., Rosemont; tickets \$9-\$450 at thechicagodogs.com*

“Nicole Eisenman: What Happened”: Block off a solid chunk of your weekend to linger over “What Happened,” the first major survey of Nicole Eisenman’s work, now on display at the Museum of



The Vivian Maier mural by revered Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra in the 1600 block of W. North Avenue on July 17, 2017. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Contemporary Art. The exhibition of some 100 works — paintings, drawing, murals and installations — from her entire career date from 1992 to today. Through Sept. 22 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.; tickets \$10-\$22 at mcachicago.org

“Mamma Mia!”: Yes, the ABBA musical just marked 25 years since its debut, but biggest the reason to go now is Christine Sherrill’s sublime performance as Donna: “When she sings ‘the gods may throw a dice, their minds as cold as ice; there’s a darn thunder-clap inside the theater,’” writes the Tribune’s Chris Jones. Through May 19, Nederlander Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St.; tickets \$52.50-\$137.50

at www.broadwayinchicago.com

Chicago Cabaret Week: More than 70 performers will step up to the mic at 16 intimate venues across Chicago during Chicago Cabaret week. Featuring a range of music — R&B and jazz, Broadway and burlesque, American Songbook, French chanson and world music — the festival offers 16 shows worth of entertainment. Through May 19, various locations and ticket prices; more information at chicagocabaret.org

The Jacksons: The Jacksons, of Jackson Five fame with current members including Jackie and Tito, will return to their Gary roots to perform at Hard Rock

Casino Northern Indiana. 7 p.m. May 11 at Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana, 5400 W. 29th Ave., Gary; tickets \$74.50-\$124.50 (ages 21+) at thejacksons.live

Craig David: British singer-songwriter and rapper Craig David stops at the Chicago Theatre on his seven-city North American Commitment Tour. Known for blending pop, R&B and U.K. garage, David has been nominated twice for Grammy Awards for male vocal performance. 8 p.m. May 13 at Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St.; tickets \$25-\$50 at craigdavid.com

“Judgment Day”: You’ve seen Jason Alexander’s face plastered on buses all over town for weeks, and now word is in: “Judgment Day” is worth the trip to Navy Pier. In his Tribune review, critic Chris Jones called the show, which stars Alexander as a morally corrupt lawyer, a “gutsy and wickedly funny new satire. ... Anyone with functioning arteries will laugh their socks off at some of the old-school gags.” Through May 26 in The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave.; tickets \$57-\$135 at www.chicagoshakes.com

Have something to do around Chicago? Email events to day.chitribevents@gmail.com.

CELEBRITIES

Trio of stars to helm new podcasts

From news services

Some stars known for their work on screen — Ted Danson, Woody Harrelson and Jon Stewart — are entering into the world of podcasts.

Danson and Harrelson have signed up for “Where Everybody Knows Your Name with Ted Danson and Woody Harrelson (Sometimes),” which will be launched June 12 by SiriusXM.

The title is a reference to their years together on the NBC sitcom “Cheers” and to the fact that Harrelson’s participation is more limited. He’ll be on with Danson “when he can find him,” SiriusXM said.

The podcast will consist of their conversations with the likes of Will Arnett, Kristen Bell, Laura Dern, Jane Fonda, Conan O’Brien, Nick Offerman and others.

Stewart, who returned to Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” earlier this year to host once a week, will do a podcast called “The Weekly Show,” according to Comedy Central. It is expected to launch in early June.

The podcast sounds like an extension of the television show, with guests and deeper dives into issues, according to a description by MTV Entertainment Studios & Paramount Media Networks.

“After much reflection, meditation and prayer, I have decided to extend my work week to two days,” Stewart said.

Bieber expecting baby: Cue up his 2010 megahit “Baby.” Justin Bieber and Hailey (nee Baldwin) Bieber are expecting their first child together — and have renewed their vows.

A representative confirmed Thursday that the model is just over six months pregnant.

The couple announced the news on their respec-



Ted Danson, seen March 10, is hosting a new podcast with his “Cheers” co-star Woody Harrelson. MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY

tive Instagram pages with corresponding posts. Both begin with a short, romantic video clip of the couple kissing. Hailey Bieber is draped in white lace; baby bump prominent in the sheer, form-fitting fabric. It is followed up with a photo shoot of Justin Bieber photographing his wife. In each caption, they’ve tagged one another.

In a news release, fashion house Yves Saint Laurent says the video and photo shoot are from the Biebers’ vow renewal ceremony Thursday in Hawaii.

Judge finds Wilson needs conservatorship: A judge found Thursday that Beach Boys founder and music luminary Brian Wilson should be in a court conservatorship to manage his personal and medical decisions because of what his doctor calls a “major neurocognitive disorder.”

At a hearing, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge

Gus T. May approved the petition filed by the 81-year-old Wilson’s family and inner circle after the death in January of his wife, Melinda Ledbetter Wilson, who handled most of his tasks and affairs.

The judge said that evidence shows that Wilson consents to the arrangement and lacks the capacity to make health care decisions. May appointed two longtime Wilson representatives, publicist Jean Sievers and manager LeeAnn Hard, as his conservators.

May 11 birthdays: Singer Eric Burdon is 83. Actor Shohreh Aghdashloo is 72. Actor Frances Fisher is 72. Actor Boyd Gaines is 71. Former VJ Martha Quinn is 65. Actor Tim Blake Nelson is 60. Actor Jeffrey Donovan is 56. Actor Coby Bell is 49. Actor Jonathan Jackson is 42. Singer Prince Royce is 35. Musician Howard Lawrence is 30.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Walking buddies’ relationship has stumbled

Dear Amy: I have been walking buddies with a neighbor for the past 12 years. We walk together about once a week.

While I usually enjoy our time, there have been unsettling emotional outbursts from her, either crying or screaming about one thing or another.

She has even yelled at me personally, which was shocking and embarrassing to me, and I admit I have yelled back once or twice — and I am not proud of it. It’s very out of character for me to behave that way.

I can usually look past these incidents because usually I enjoy our walks, the communication and the laughs. But last week she screamed at me again.

The latest outburst happened as she was trying to tell me about something that was bothering her about a neighbor. I was unable to follow her train of thought, so I asked her for clarification more than once.

Out of nowhere, she screamed at me to stop “correcting” her. I stopped in my tracks. I asked what was wrong with her. Again, she yelled that I was correcting her. By then I was fuming. I said I’d had enough and began walking the other direction.

Suddenly, she backtracks and says, “Oh, I’m over it!” I said, “I’m not.”

The drama makes me uncomfortable, and I hate confrontation. Even if she does reach out now (weeks later), I think it will be too late. I have no problem ending this friendship now.

We live in the same neighborhood, however, and it’s possible I will run into her at some point. So I

have two questions: What should I say if I run into her and she asks if I’m “over it”?

And since we have mutual friends who may hear about the incident and ask questions, what should I tell them?

I don’t want to talk behind her back, but I also want to clarify my standing to others who wonder what happened.

— *Tired of Screamers*

Dear Tired: If you want to keep this drama going, then by all means — clarify your standing with mutual friends. If you are asked directly about this episode, you might say, “She raised her voice at me, so we’re going our separate ways.”

This neighbor might have a cognitive health problem, or perhaps she is perennially hot-headed. She might leave a wake of similar incidents as she moves through the world.

Outbursts could likely relieve whatever pressure she feels building up inside her. She will not apologize, so you should stop expecting this. “I’m over it” might be the closest she can get.

When you encounter her, be cordial and calm. You could try one honest statement: “I don’t like being yelled at. Our conflicts make me extremely uncomfortable, so I’ve decided to keep my distance.”

Dear Amy: I’ve been seeing/sleeping with my friend “Curtis” off and on for a few months. We have what I would describe as a nonmonogamous sort of “friends with benefits” relationship.

Sometimes we hang out, sometimes we go out, but

we are not “a couple.”

I’m completely fine with this, and I thought he was, too. Recently, Curtis told me that he was going to start seeing someone else, also casually.

Now I’m feeling weird and possessive. I don’t want him to be exclusive to me, but I don’t want for things to change. I don’t want him to do this. Do you think it’s OK for me to tell him this?

— *At Odds*

Dear At Odds: If you can have sex with someone, then yes — surely you can be brave enough to initiate a conversation. Yes, I think it’s always OK to tell someone how you feel, and I hope you will.

However, you also need to accept that life equals change. Everyone involved needs to make sure that all of this casual sex you’re having is also safe.

Dear Amy: I liked your advice to “Gifting Mother,” whose 7-year-old tore through Easter gifts and immediately wanted more.

In addition to educating her about gratitude and cutting back on the abundance, I think these parents should take this child to meet children who have much less than she does.

When I was a kid, my dad took me to a soup kitchen our church ran. That was an eye-opener.

— *Miss Him*

Dear Miss Him: You had a great dad.

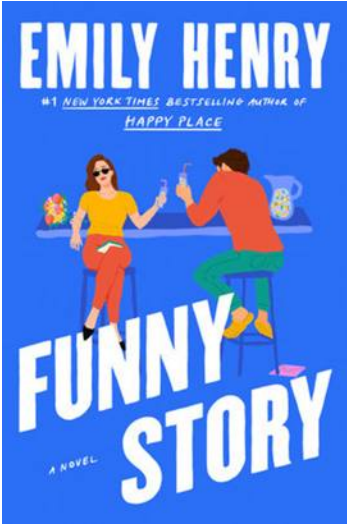
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NATIONAL BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. **“Funny Story”** by Emily Henry (Berkley) *Last week: 1*



2. **“The Women”** by Kristin Hannah (St. Martin’s) *Last week: 2*

3. **“Only the Brave”** by Danielle Steel (Delacorte) *Last week: —*

4. **“A Calamity of Souls”** by David Baldacci (Grand Central) *Last week: 3*

5. **“Fourth Wing”** by Rebecca Yarros (Red Tower) *Last week: 5*

6. **“Iron Flame”** by Rebecca Yarros (Red Tower) *Last week: 6*

7. **“Table for Two: Fictions”** by Amor Towles (Viking) *Last week: 8*

8. **“Home Is Where the Bodies Are”** by Jeneva Rose (Blackstone) *Last week: —*

9. **“The Familiar”** by Leigh Bardugo (Flatiron) *Last week: 9*

10. **“Real Americans”** by Rachel Khong (Knopf) *Last week: —*

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. **“The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War”** by Erik Larson (Crown) *Last week: —*



2. **“The New Menopause: Navigating Your Path Through Hormonal Change with Purpose, Power, and Facts”** by Mary Claire Haver (Rodale) *Last week: —*

3. **“Power Moves: Ignite Your Confidence and Become a Force”** by Sarah Jakes Roberts (Thomas Nelson) *Last week: —*

4. **“ADHD is Awesome: A Guide To (Mostly) Thriving With ADHD”** by Penn and Kim Holderness (Harper Horizon) *Last week: —*

5. **“Open Wide: A Cookbook for Friends”** by Benny Blanco (Dey Street) *Last week: —*

6. **“For Love of Country: Leave the Democrat Party Behind”** by Tulsì Gabbard (Regnery) *Last week: —*

7. **“The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness”** by Jonathan Haidt (Penguin Press) *Last week: 1*

8. **“The Algebra of Wealth: A Simple Formula for Financial Security”** by Scott Galloway (Portfolio) *Last week: 2*

9. **“An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s”** by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Simon & Schuster) *Last week: 6*

10. **“Love, Mom: Inspiring Stories Celebrating Motherhood”** by Nicole Saphier (Broadside) *Last week: 8*

For the week ended May 4, compiled from data from independent and chain bookstores, book wholesalers and independent distributors nationwide.

— Publishers Weekly

MUSIC REVIEWS

Sia soars with Khan, Hilton, more

A whole album of Sia singing alone is great, but Sia paired with the icon Chaka Khan? Fire. Their new duet “Immortal Queen” is everything you’d want in a combo of Sia and Khan — dueling soaring voices, preening egos and wild lyrics about time travel and robot servants.

“In one thousand million years/I’m still be everywhere,” they sing. “Before planet Earth was here/I was riding a light year.”

“Immortal Queen” is just one of the highlights of the super 15-track “Reasonable Woman,” Sia’s first solo album since 2016 and following her work on the movie “Music,” a Christmas album, her writing for others like David Guetta and Pink, and the supergroup album “LSD.”

Sia hasn’t lost a step, apparently able to write three bangers before breakfast. The new solo album is packed with the Australian’s trademark mix of tropical pop, hip-hop, house and a hint of ska, combed with her distinctive, sky-high voice and ear for the bombastic.

It also contains her songwriter’s ability to switch from hurt and broken (“I Forgive You”) to ecstatic lover (“Towards the Sun”) to vengeful angel, like on “I Had a Heart,” with the lyrics “You lost me to cruelty/ You questioned my beauty/ Counting my calories.”

But on this outing, the forever catchy Sia is most interesting with others. In addition to the Khan duet, the best songs are “Dance Alone” with Kylie Minogue, “Incredible” with Labrinth and “Fame Won’t Love You” with Paris Hilton, two women complaining that “fame won’t love you like a mother, like a father should.”

Sia leans on a frequent collaborator, songwriter-producer Jesse Shatkin, who together made the megahit “Chandelier” and the albums “Music” and “This Is Acting.” They flirt with Bollywood in “One Night” and hip-hop with “Champion” alongside vocal guests Tierra Whack, Kaliï and Jimmy Jolliff. Greg Kurstin co-wrote and produced four tracks, while Benny Blanco helps produce the burst of sunshine that is “Go On.”

It’s not unreasonable to say “Reasonable Woman” is the sound of a comfortable Sia rarely shifting out of third gear, but note: Her third gear is way higher than most artists ever dream about. — *Mark Kennedy, Associated Press*

They say trends make a comeback every 20 years. We saw it recently in the revival of Y2K style that emerged with Gen Zers returning to post-pandemic parties wearing claw clips, miniskirts and baby tees. Now, as we barrel into the mid-2020s, it’s time for an aesthetic that proliferated from 2006 to 2012 to return.

The signs are everywhere: Skinny jeans are back, record players and disposable cameras are in, and MGMT has returned. The American rock band formed by sing-



‘REASONABLE WOMAN’ Sia (Atlantic Records)

ers Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser in 2002 is perhaps best known for its indie sleaze anthems like “Kids” and “Time to Pretend.” The duo’s carefree lyrics and electrifying synth instrumentals fueled an era that was all about fun and freedom.

The duo’s latest work, “Loss of Life,” isn’t quite a return reminiscent of those times, but MGMT has gone through a few phases since then, such as its gothic fourth album “Little Dark Age.” Its fifth studio album certainly has a nostalgic feel, but there’s also something new: a tenderness and hopefulness that listeners might not expect from a generally unserious band.

It’s crazy what adding a little bit of acoustic guitar to synth-pop can do. And VanWyngarden and Goldwasser experiment with more than just guitar in “Loss of Life.” “Dancing in Babylon,” including the vocal talent of Christine and the Queens, is the first feature on any MGMT album, and the first song samples a reading of an anonymous poem titled “I Am Taliesin. I Sing Perfect Metre.”

The title track is an eerie, electronic-backed soul-searcher. It’s the shining star and grand finale, solving the mystery behind the hopeful tone of the album. A gorgeous instrumental interlude featuring triumphant trumpets and plucking strings builds up to the answer in the last four lines: “When the world is born and life is ending/ Then you learn to love your loss of life/ When that moment comes and life is over/ Anyone can love.” — *Kiana Doyle, Associated Press*



‘LOSS OF LIFE’ MGMT (Mom+Pop)

What to watch SATURDAY

May 11, 2024

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

NTT IndyCar Series: Sionsio Grand Prix

NBC, 2:30 p.m. Live

It's back to the Brickyard for the NTT IndyCar Series as drivers compete on Indianapolis Motor Speedway's 2.439-mile, 14-turn road course.

ABBA: Against the Odds

The CW, 7 p.m.

This documentary explores the rise and influence of one of the most popular music groups of all time.

A Whitewater Romance

Hallmark Channel, 7 p.m. ■ Original Film

Maya Alvaro (Cindy Busby) is a hardworking businesswoman with a heart of gold. What she is not is a rugged outdoorsy type. So when the CEO of her company invites her to an exclusive whitewater-rafting retreat in the Rocky Mountains, Maya's not so sure she's the woman for the job. If she can do this and survive a weekend camping in the woods, the promotion of her dreams will be hers. At the retreat, Maya meets Matt (Benjamin Hollingsworth), an outdoorsy type who is also trying to snag the same coveted contract she's after. As fate would have it, the two are paired to complete a series of team-building exercises together. As Maya lets her guard down to brave the wilderness, what begins as a ferocious competition slowly starts to evolve into something much more.

Mommy Meanest

Lifetime, 7 p.m. ■ Original Film

Inspired by true events, this new film star-



'Mommy Meanest'

LIFETIME

ring Lisa Rinna and her daughter, 25-year-old Delilah Hamlin, tells the disturbing story of a teenage girl (Briana Skye) who starts getting cyberbullied and eventually discovers that the person who is harassing her is closer than she had ever imagined: her own mother.

The Svengoolie Classic Horror & Sci-Fi Movie

MeTV, 7 p.m.

Sven introduces 1944's *House of Frankenstein*, one of Universal's "monster rally"

pictures of that era. The cast features Boris Karloff as a mad scientist, Lon Chaney Jr. as Larry Talbot and the Wolf Man, John Carradine as Dracula, and Glenn Strange as Frankenstein's monster.

Saturday Night Live

NBC, 10:30 p.m. Live; also livestreams on Peacock

A new episode airs tonight ahead of next week's season finale. Tonight's host and musical guest had not been announced at press time.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Two for One: Patty Jenkins

TCM, beginning at 7 p.m.

Tonight, TCM primetime host Ben Mankiewicz is joined by filmmaker Patty Jenkins, who introduces two films of her choosing. Jenkins will offer commentary on each title's cultural significance and its influence on other films, behind-the-scenes stories and her own personal reflections on them. The director has chosen Terry Gilliam's 1991 fantasy comedy/drama **The**



EVERETT COLLECTION

Fisher King (pictured), starring Best Actor Oscar nominee Robin Williams, Jeff Bridges and Best Supporting Actress winner Mercedes Ruehl, and writer/director Charlie Kaufman's drama **Synecdoche, New York** (2008), led by Philip Seymour Hoffman and Samantha Morton.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Coal Miner's Daughter (1980, Biography) Sissy Spacek, Tommy Lee Jones **CMT, 5 p.m.**

Deadly Misconduct (2021, Crime drama) Anna Marie Dobbins, Colt Prattes **LMN, 5 p.m.**

Romance in Style (2022, Romance-comedy) Jaicy Elliot, Benjamin Hollingsworth **Hallmark, 5 p.m.**

Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Christine Taylor **E!, 6:30 p.m.**

Guardians of the Galaxy (2014, Science fiction) Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana **FX, 7 p.m.**

My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Joe Pesci, Marisa Tomei **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Steel Magnolias (1989, Comedy-drama) Sally Field, Dolly Parton **CMT, 8 p.m.**

List of a Lifetime (2021, Drama) Kelly Hu, Sylvia Kwan **LMN, 9 p.m.**

Girl in the Basement (2021, Crime drama) Stefanie Scott, Judd Nelson **Lifetime, 9:03 p.m.**

Guardians of the Galaxy (2014, Science fiction) Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana **FX, 9:30 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



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TV NEWS

Kelce joins 'Grotesquerie' cast

From news services

While his superstar girlfriend Taylor Swift resumes her world Eras tour, Travis Kelce is keeping busy. The NFL player has joined the cast of "Grotesquerie" on FX. The series is a horror drama from Ryan Murphy, but a spokesperson for the network says it is not under the "American Horror Story" umbrella.

Recently, cast member Niecy Nash posted a series of videos to Instagram featuring her on set with Kelce.

"Guys, guess who I am working with on 'Grotesquerie'?" Kelce pops into frame and says "Jumpin' into new territory with Niecy." A later video where she wrote "late night shenanigans" showed the two in what appeared to be a red convertible. "Look at this guy," she says. "Buckle up!" Kelce adds.

And a final video features Murphy embracing Kelce and saying "You were wonderful." Off camera, Nash asks "How do you feel?" Kelce replies: "Whoa! I'm just glad I didn't hurt nobody."

It has been an off-season of new jobs for the three-time Super Bowl-winning tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs. He also taped a stint as host of "Are You Smarter than a Celebrity?" for Amazon Prime Video.

Kelce hosted an episode of "Saturday Night Live" last year.

Murphy has a history of interesting casting choices for his TV shows. In 2015, he cast Lady Gaga for a role on "American Horror Story: Hotel." She went on to win a Golden Globe for her performance. Last year, he chose Kim Kardashian for a role on "American Horror Story: Delicate" opposite Emma Roberts.

'Gen V' seeks path forward after Perdomo loss: "Gen V" is looking for a way forward without one of its young stars, who died unexpectedly in March.



Travis Kelce, seen Feb. 11, appears in videos from the set of Ryan Murphy's series "Grotesquerie." **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**

Producers behind Amazon Prime Video's college-set superhero drama updated fans about Season 2 in a social media statement posted recently.

"As we continue to navigate the tragic loss of Chance Perdomo, everyone at 'Gen V' is determined to find the best way to pay respect to his memory," the statement read.

The team behind "Gen V," a spinoff of Amazon Prime Video's irreverent series "The Boys," confirmed that it will not recast Perdomo's role for the upcoming season. "Gen V" starred Perdomo as Andre Anderson, one in a handful of aspiring heroes who seek to uncover the ugly and corrupt core of their school, Godolkin University.

Without Perdomo, producers said, "Gen V" has "been taking the time and space to recraft our Season 2 story lines" as production picks up.

The statement concluded: "We will honor Chance and his legacy this season."

Representatives for Perdomo confirmed in March that the actor died in a motorcycle crash. He was 27.

"His passion for the arts and insatiable appetite for life was felt by all who knew him, and his warmth will carry on in those who he loved dearest," representatives said in a March statement.

'Cobra Kai' final season split into 3 parts: Netflix largely invented the "binge" drop, often eight or 10 episodes of a TV series season at a time.

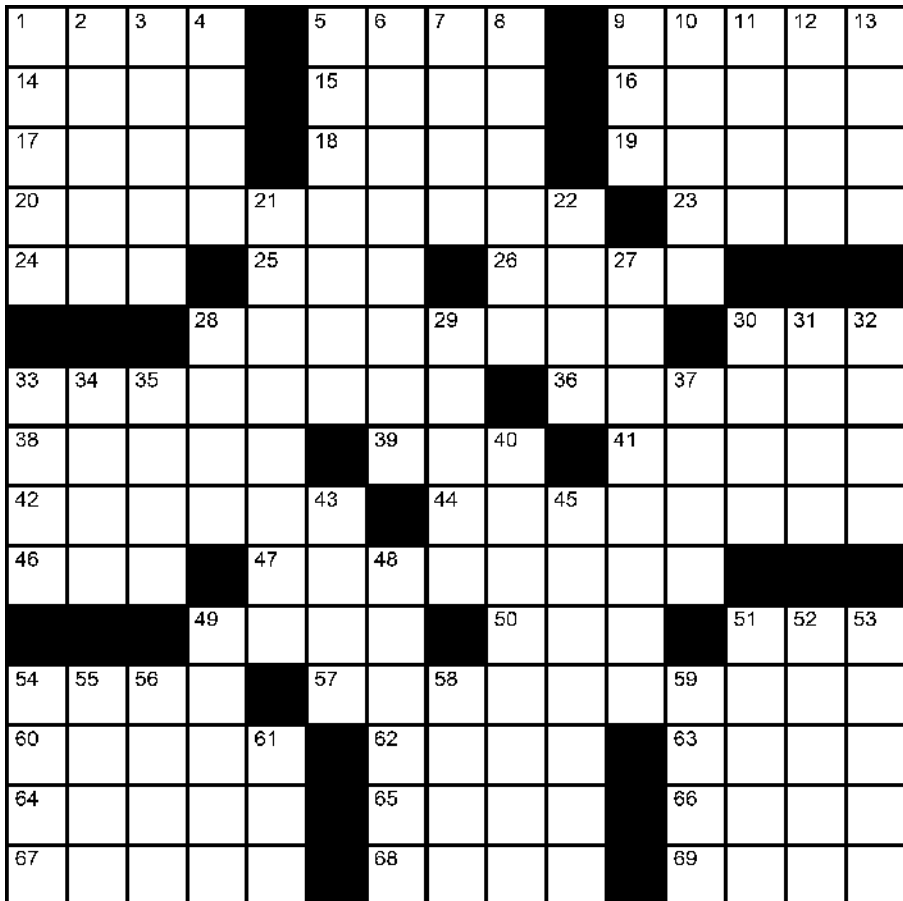
But the streaming service has found a minor cheat by breaking up seasons of its more popular shows into mini-seasons of sorts.

In the case of the final season of "Cobra Kai," Netflix is splitting the 15 episodes of Season 6 into three parts.

The first episodes will drop July 18. Part two will air Nov. 28. The final episodes will air in 2025. It's unclear how the 15 episodes will be split up, though logically it will be five at a time.

Netflix provides this plot summary: "Picking up with Cobra Kai eliminated from the Valley, our senseis and students must decide if and how they will compete in the Sekai Taikai — the world championships of karate."

Crossword



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5/11/24

ACROSS

- 1 Lights-out tune
- 5 Fill-in worker
- 9 Good thing to have
- 14 Singer Fitzgerald
- 15 Skating jump
- 16 Become used (to)
- 17 "Oh no!"
- 18 Indian melody
- 19 "West Side Story" heroine
- 20 Kids' game where permission is asked: 3 wds.
- 23 Quick look
- 24 Sault ___ Marie
- 25 12 on a clock
- 26 Screws up
- 28 Play's outline
- 30 Cardinals' city: Abbr.
- 33 Merry-go-round
- 36 Wages
- 38 Some rideshares
- 39 ___ Plaines, Illinois
- 41 "Eat!": 2 wds.
- 42 Defeated
- 44 Talk aimlessly: 2 wds.
- 46 ___ or nothing
- 47 Funeral home
- 49 Mulligan

DOWN

- 2 Sports squads
- 2 Dole out
- 3 Dish
- 4 Girl Scout's accessory
- 5 Lolly-dallies
- 6 Dinked at
- 7 Dumbo
- 8 1-Down member
- 9 Goal
- 10 Simple fasteners
- 11 Certain
- 12 Buffalo's lake
- 13 Furniture wood
- 21 "Ahem": 2 wds.

Solutions

E	R	E	M	S	N	E	D	E	A	T	A	S
S	O	R	E	T	A	A	E	S	V	A	R	E
H	O	T	I	P	E	R	O	S	E	I	P	
T	A	S	I	S	C	O	D	E	R			
			A	R	V	U	L	R	O	M		
N	O	E	T	I	V	E	N	E	L	V	E	B
N	I	G	I	D	S	R	E	S	R	E	B	
A	R	V	T	A	S	T	E	S	N	O	R	A
T	L	S	O	I	R	V	N	E	C	S		
			S	R	E	R	I	X	E	L	S	
K	E	E	P	I	A	V	M	R	E	H	L	O
V	I	R	A	M	V	G	V	R	S	V	T	V
R	E	U	N	I	T	E	X	A	V	A	T	E
S	E	T	A	S	P	E	M	P	T	E	A	T

- 22 Colored eye part
- 27 Driving vacation: 2 wds.
- 28 Type
- 29 On the ball
- 30 Stuffing herb
- 31 Group of three
- 32 Singer Loretta
- 33 Havana's island
- 34 Cain's brother
- 35 Not fake
- 37 Easter flower
- 40 Vessel for making marinara
- 43 Silent yeses
- 45 Loafer adornments
- 48 Laughed loudly
- 49 Cook in an oven
- 51 Long look
- 52 Stage performer
- 53 "Kids ___ days!"
- 54 Gorillas, e.g.
- 55 Old Italian money
- 56 Musial of baseball
- 58 Adore
- 59 Agenda part
- 61 Salty body of water

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (May 11): The world is your oyster this year. Win through steady community participation and teamwork. Privately plan around summer changes, before autumn fun with friends. Slow the winter tempo around physical obstacles, before romance and fun energizes next spring. Express and share your talents and passions.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 7. Resolve unexpected complications with a family matter. Voice your point of view. Listen with an ear for root causes.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 7. Edit communications carefully before publishing. It's better to catch errors in advance than to issue corrections. Wait for better conditions to launch creative works.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Review, revise and organize. Don't push a door that's closed. Manage financial accounts for growth despite an obstacle. Relax.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 7. A personal venture could seem stalled. Consider actions before advancing. Discuss different options with people you love and trust.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 6. Consider and plan. Stay in rather than going out. Determine what you want to say and the direction to go. Choose the easier road.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 7. Friends make good coaches. Listen generously. Share support and comfort. Consider the world from a higher perspective. Find ways to be of service.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 8. Your professional influence rises with your disciplined efforts. Love gives you strength. Patiently navigate obstacles. Provide complete work.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 8. Classes, seminars and conferences provide valuable connections. Make educational plans and itineraries for later launch. Words get farther than action.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 8. Handle banking and accounting tasks. Expect traffic, delays or shortages. Change can be abrupt. Adapt by staying in communication with partners about finances.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 8. You and your partner are on the same wavelength. Navigate surprises or shifting circumstances by coordinating actions and communications. Strategize. Discuss priorities. Choose together.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 7. Slow around physical barriers. Wait for better conditions to push on. Learn from the competition. Consider things from another view.

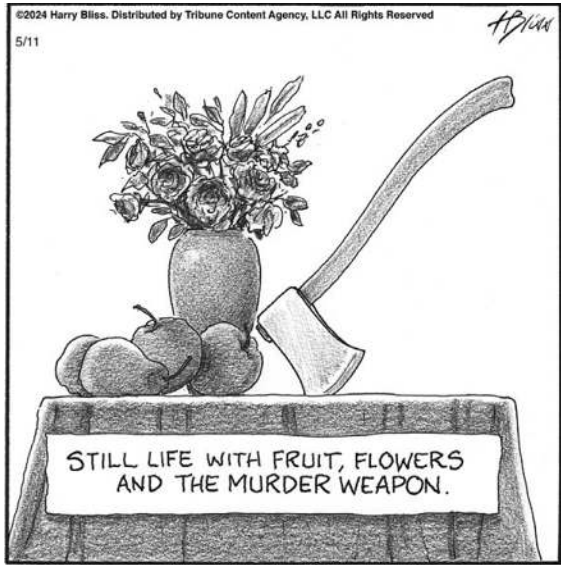
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 7. Prioritize fun, creativity and romance, despite obstacles. Remain open and flexible with shifting plans and circumstances. Handle backstage preparations.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater



Bliss



Bridge

East-West vulnerable, West deals

North		East	
♠ J 8 6		♠ Q 9 4	
♥ A Q 6 3		♥ 4 2	
♦ J 9 8		♦ A 6 5 4	
♣ 9 8 2		♣ Q J 10 4	
West		South	
♠ A 5		♠ K 10 7 3 2	
♥ K 10 9 8 7 5		♥ J	
♦ Q 3 2		♦ K 10 7	
♣ 6 5		♣ A K 7 3	

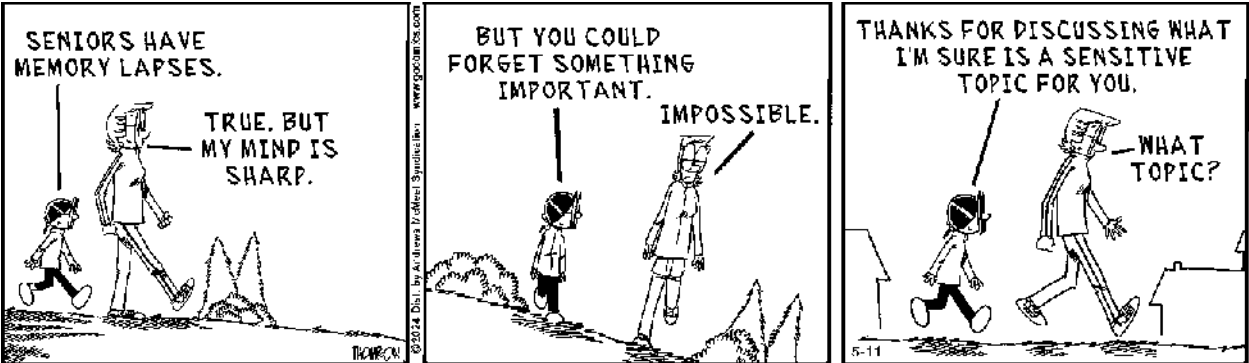
Today's deal is from a major championship some years ago. South was American expert Fred Hamilton. North's raise was limited by his failure to bid three hearts, which would have shown a raise with at least invitational values. The actual three-spade bid was a weaker raise.

East won the opening diamond lead with the ace and shifted to the queen of clubs. Hamilton won with the ace and led the jack of hearts, covered with the king, and won in dummy with the ace. Hamilton cashed the queen of hearts, shedding his diamond loser from hand, and led the nine of clubs. This was covered by 10 and won with the king. South cashed the king of diamonds and led the three of clubs to dummy's eight and East's jack as West shed a heart. East returned a diamond, ruffed by South.

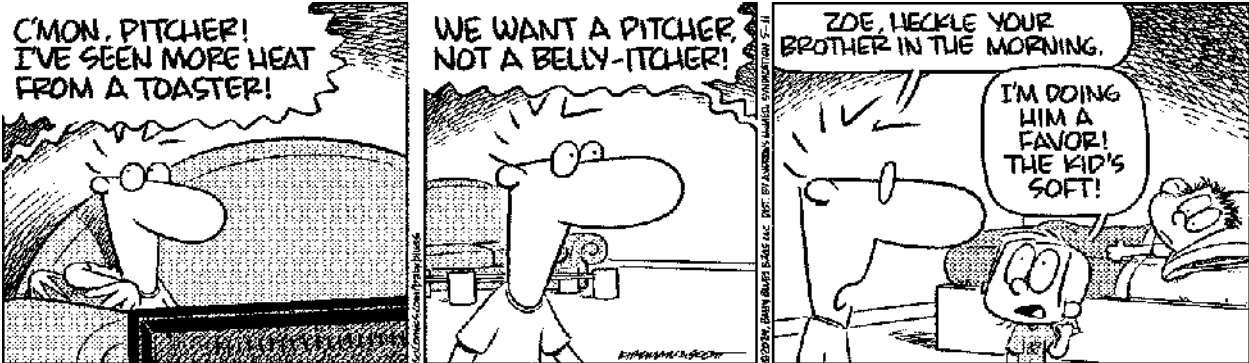
Hamilton now led the good seven of clubs. There was no loser to discard from the dummy, and a deep analysis tells us that West can defeat the contract by playing any card from his hand except the five of spades. The five of spades seemed like a harmless play, killing the seven of clubs with a worthless trump, and that is exactly what West played. Hamilton over-ruffed in dummy, ruffed a heart in his hand, and exited with a low spade. West won with his ace, but in this two-card ending, East's remaining trumps were trapped and any card from West allowed the contract to make. Nicely played!

— Bob Jones
Tribune Content Agency

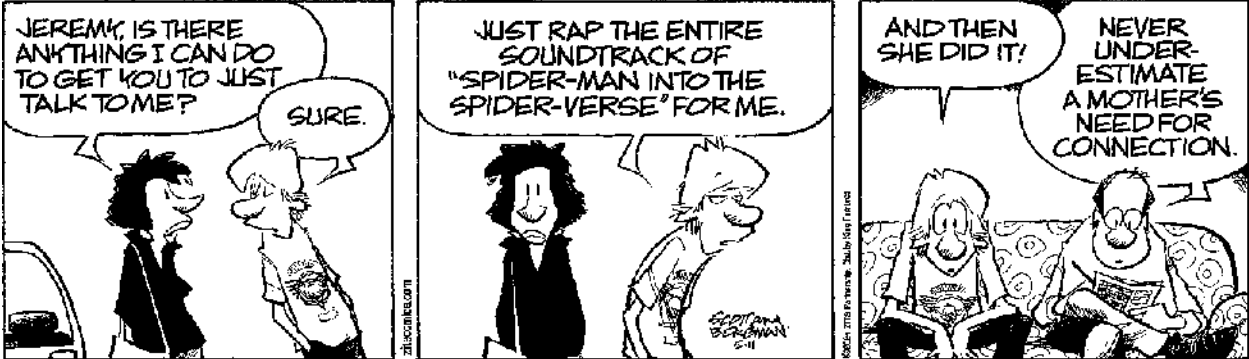
Grand Avenue



Baby Blues



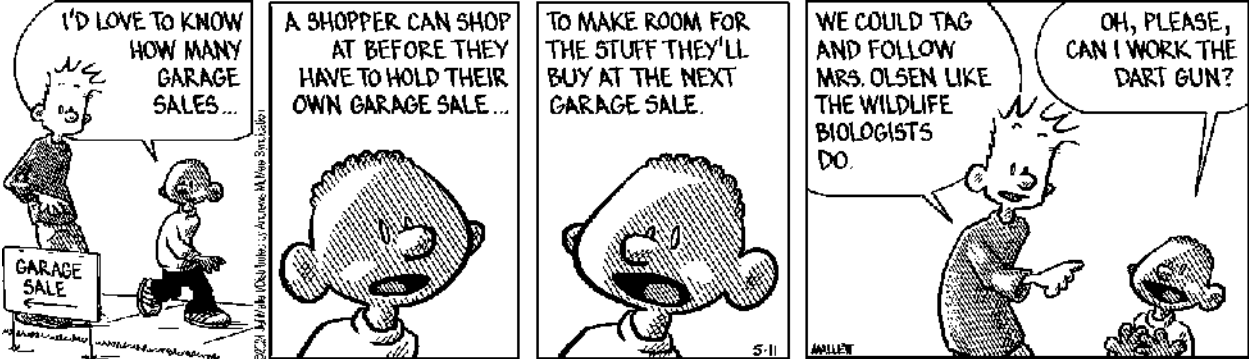
Zits



Mr. Boffo



Frazz



Classic Peanuts



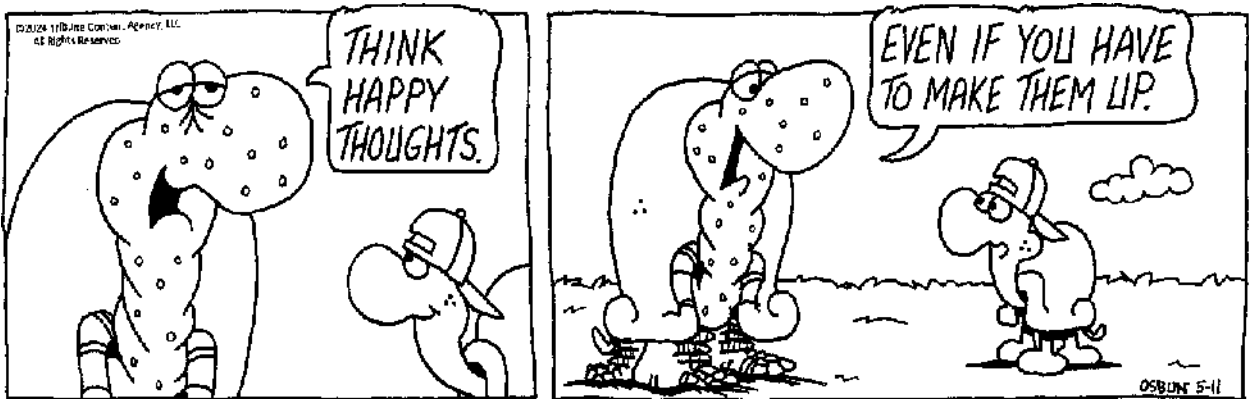
Pickles



Dick Tracy



Animal Crackers



Prickly City



Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



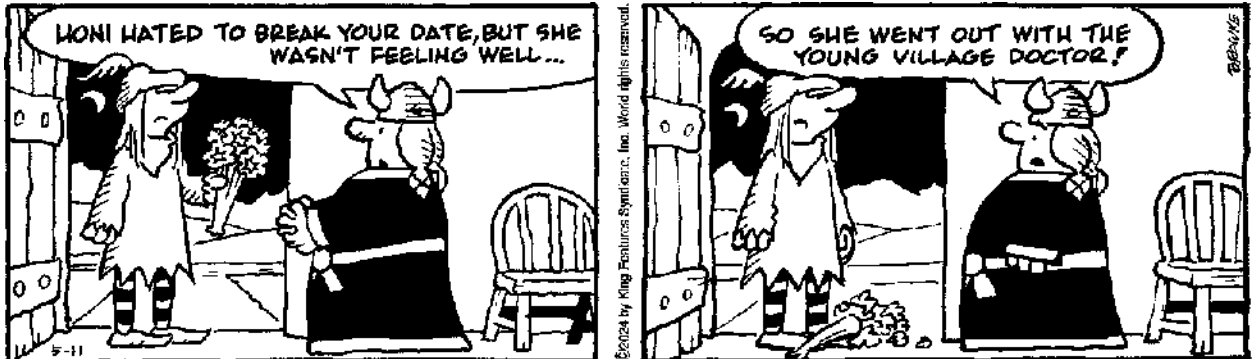
For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



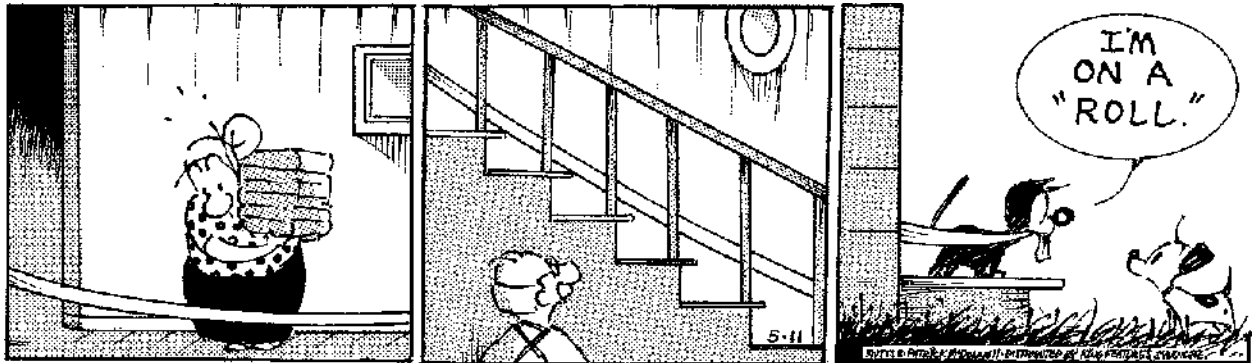
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



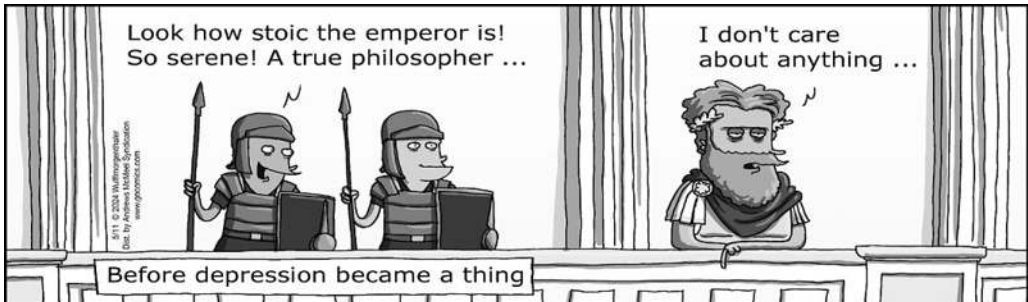
Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



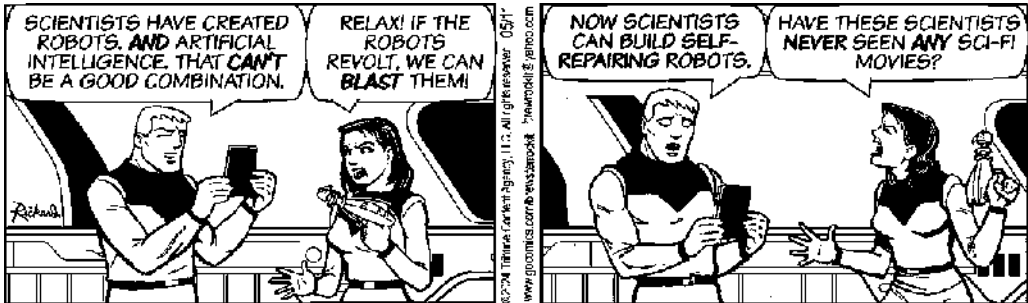
WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers



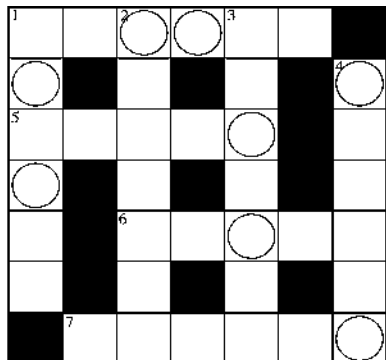
Trivia Bits

An animal is a
kleptoparasite
if it does what?

- A) Burrows into the skin of another animal
B) Eats its own young
C) Lives underground
D) Steals and eats prey killed by other animals

Friday's answer:
In 1669, Hennig
Brandt discovered
phosphorus
by distilling urine.

Jumble Crossword



5-11-24

DOUBLE
BONUS

The circled letters
can be unscrambled
to form two different
BONUS answers.

CLUE: Reversed

CLUE: Stumbling block

ACROSS

1. Fraidy-cat
5. ___ ground
7. Male or female

DOWN

1. Burial box
2. ___ mat
3. Made smaller
4. ___ bonds

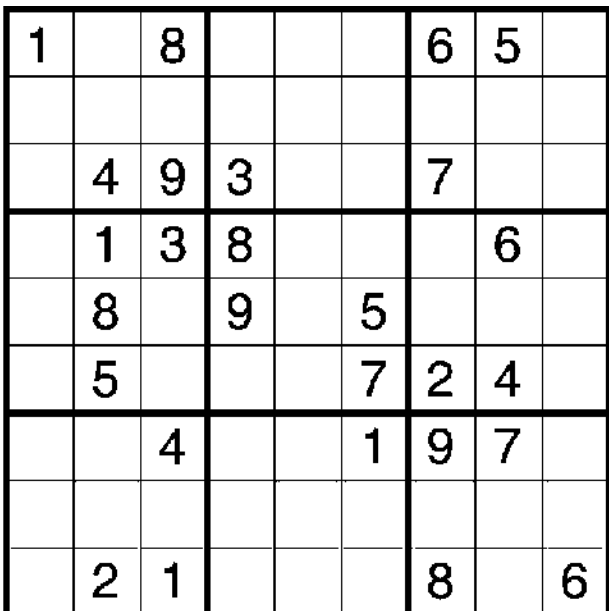
How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by
looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers.
When the puzzle is complete, the circled
letters can be unscrambled to form two different
BONUS answers.

I would love to hear from you...
You can e-mail me at:
DL-Hoyt@HoytInteractiveMedia.com

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By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1234

5/11



6	1	5	9	8	7	2	4	3
4	7	2	1	3	6	5	9	8
9	3	8	4	5	2	7	6	1
5	8	4	6	2	9	1	3	7
1	2	6	7	4	3	9	8	5
7	9	3	5	1	8	6	2	4
2	4	7	8	6	5	3	1	9
3	5	1	2	9	4	8	7	6
8	6	9	3	7	1	4	5	2

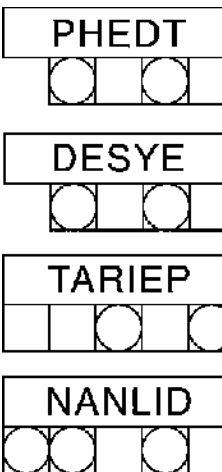
Complete the grid
so each row, column
and 3-by-3 box in
bold borders contains
every digit 1 to 9.

Friday's
solutions

By The Mephram Group
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Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to
form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form
the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.



Answer here



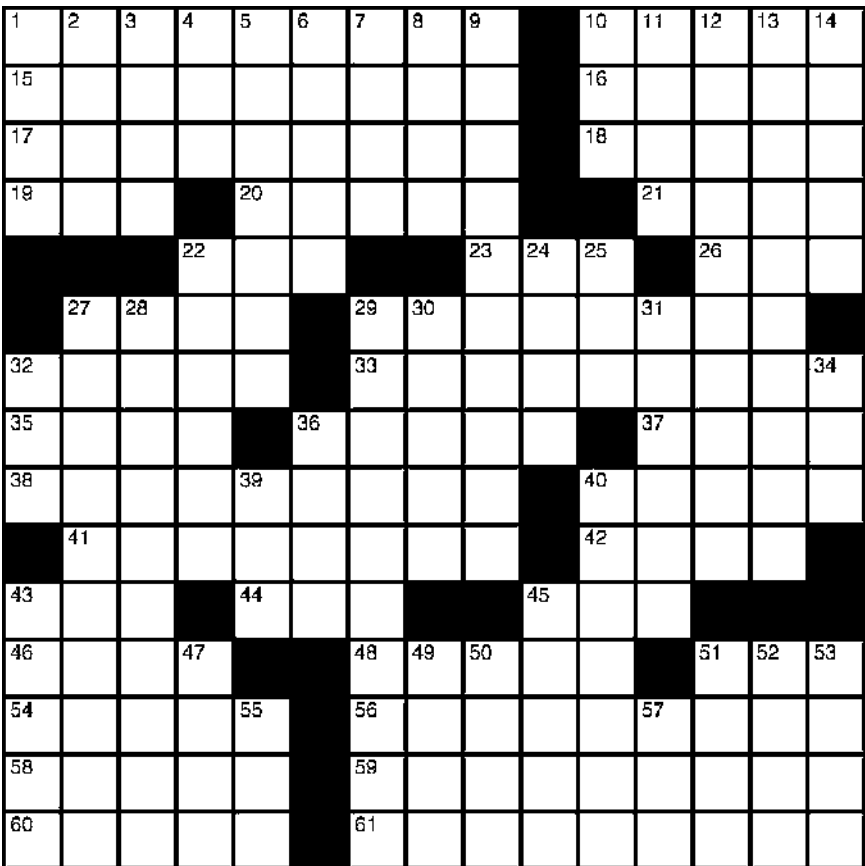
Friday's answers

Jumbles: MONEY PRANK SKETCH ENGAGE
Answer: The piano salesperson who played while talking
to customers was a — KEYNOTE SPEAKER

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.
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Crossword

5/11



Across

- 1 Loaf traditionally made
with clabbered milk
10 Dismiss
15 New and improved, say
16 Slim young swimmer
17 Decreases
18 Mookie who was the
2018 AL MVP
19 Miner concern
20 "Law & Order" actor
Jeremy
21 Catalan artist Joan
22 Cry after seeing a good
drawing?
23 Airport safety gp.
26 "Mad ___"
27 Precipitation that can
hurt
29 Knockoffs of the 1980s
and 1990s
32 Brand that sponsored
early soap operas
33 About as bad as it gets
35 Bleak
36 "One L" author

Friday's solution



- 37 ___ and void
38 Journalist who co-
founded the NAACP
40 ___ cash
41 Beanies
42 Young lady
43 Violinist Kavafian
44 "I get it!"
45 Block
46 City southwest of
Warsaw
48 Hitchcock motel
51 Food ___
54 Even more distant
56 Hereditary chain
58 Summer Daze cologne
brand
59 Generously given
60 Bar
61 Without restraint

Down

- 1 H-Town ALer
2 Preakness winner
Man ___
3 Capitol cap
4 Tablet program
5 Word in a Tom
Swift about Bruce
Springsteen
6 Chamillonaire song
with the lyrics "They
see me rollin' / They
hatin'"
7 "The Killing" actress
Mireille
8 Chem class fig.
9 Taped message from
the police?
10 Isr. neighbor
11 Sch. type

- 12 Some NFL breaks
13 Succeed
14 Director Welles
22 Jason who was the
2000 AL MVP
24 Road warning sign
25 NYC rep since 2019
27 Rough treatment
28 Self-critical evaluation
29 Singer who was one of
the original judges on
"American Idol"
30 Post-doc combo?
31 Starting hour, perhaps
32 Sci-fi FX
34 Calculated
36 Stock sector
39 Org. founded by Billie
Jean King
40 Artificial
43 "... a grin without a
cat" observer
45 Italy's Villa ___
47 Philosopher known
for "reductio ad
absurdum" arguments
49 Years in old Rome
50 Undertaking
51 Focus of much analysis
52 Santa ___ Valley:
California setting of
"Sideways"
53 Current subject
55 Single situp, say
57 Prescription to fight
stress, briefly

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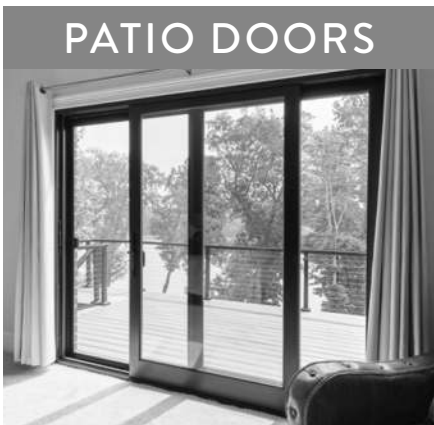
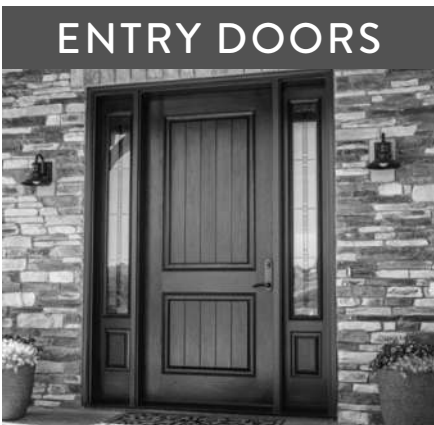
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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors



Bears quarterback Caleb Williams throws passes during rookie minicamp Friday at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BEARS

Settling in new home

Williams already looking comfortable during first day of rookie minicamp

By Colleen Kane
Chicago Tribune

In the two weeks since the Bears drafted Caleb Williams with the No. 1 pick, the rookie quarterback has been a celebrity about town. He went with a group of team veterans to a Cubs game at Wrigley Field and sat courtside with wide receivers Keenan Allen and Rome Odunze at a Sky game. He even was photographed pushing a shopping cart at a local

Target, an image that popped up all over social media and made him laugh because of the funny way he was walking. Williams said he was procuring “all the small things that I needed” as he settles into his new life in the Chicago area. Settling in with the Bears at Halas Hall, of course, has been Williams’ biggest task, and that ramped up Friday with the first practice of a two-day rookie minicamp in Lake Forest.

During the 1½-hour session, Williams threw to rookie wide receivers, including No. 9 pick Rome Odunze, and ran the offense in drills along with undrafted rookie quarterback Austin Reed. Rookie punter Tory Taylor and defensive lineman Austin Booker were the other draft picks who practiced, while offensive lineman Kiran Amegadje, the third-round pick out of Yale, will sit out the offseason program as he recovers from a quad injury that ended his 2023 season. “Right now I feel pretty good,” Williams said before the session. “We’re going to have a few mess-

ups probably. I’m working to eliminate those as fast as possible. But you need those things to grow and progress throughout the years.” Williams had a head start on his adjustment to his new home. The former USC quarterback and the Bears had the unique benefit of knowing they were going to be paired together for weeks if not months before the draft. Bears coaches gave Williams a lot of notes about the offense during his top-30 visit to Halas Hall in April. Since then, Williams has been

Turn to Bears, Page 2

WHITE SOX

Kopech, bullpen a source of relief

By LaMond Pope
Chicago Tribune

Momentum had started slipping away from the White Sox. They entered the eighth inning of Thursday’s game against the Cleveland Guardians with a three-run lead after reliever Jordan Leasure escaped a bases-loaded, no-out jam without allowing a run. But the Guardians struck for two with two outs in the eighth against John Brebbia when José Ramírez and Josh Naylor hit back-to-back homers. The Sox needed four outs. And Michael Kopech delivered to secure the 3-2 victory. “I think the guys kind of feed off each other down there,” Kopech said of the bullpen after the win. “Seeing somebody going in and getting out of a tough situation like Leasure did (Thursday), you want to keep the momentum going. “Likewise with Brebbia (Wednesday against the Tampa Bay Rays), came in, got out of a big situation (in the seventh), punched out the side (in the eighth). That momentum builds and it’s kind of contagious. Things are going well for us as a group, they are going well for us individually as well. Gaining some momentum. It’s a lot more fun to pitch in situations where you feel the momentum is in your hands.” Kopech earned the saves Wednesday in St. Petersburg, Fla., and Thursday at Guaranteed Rate Field — throwing a combined 24 pitches in the two outings. “I have a job to do when I come in,” Kopech said. “I don’t really want to tinker with anything. My main goal is to get ahead. If I can get ahead, I feel like I have an advantage. “There’s times I put myself in a tough situation and fortunately, the past few have been pretty efficient for me. Hope to keep that going.” Kopech has four saves and ranks third among American League

Turn to Sox, Page 2



White Sox reliever Jordan Leasure is congratulated by teammates in the dugout after getting out of a jam to end the seventh inning Thursday at Guaranteed Rate Field. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CUBS

Swanson put on IL, Suzuki set to return

By Meghan Montemurro
Chicago Tribune

PITTSBURGH — For the last two weeks, Cubs shortstop Dansby Swanson tried to endure right knee pain that he hoped would improve. Instead, his bothersome knee progressively worsened, prompting the Cubs to put Swanson on the 10-day injured list, retroactive to Wednesday, with a right knee sprain. Right fielder Seiya Suzuki was activated from the IL as the corresponding move and will return to the lineup Saturday after missing 23 games with a right oblique strain. “At this point in the year, grinding through 4½ months of this



Cubs shortstop Dansby Swanson prepares for a game against the Astros on April 25 at Wrigley Field. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

just doesn’t make sense,” manager Craig Counsell said. “So the hope is that with a little break here that he can get this behind him and not have it be an issue for the rest of the season.” Swanson suffered the injury when he slid into second base on a successful steal April 25 at home

against the Houston Astros. His knee was to the point of bothering him on any play or movement, prompting Swanson and the Cubs to take a long-term view of the ailment. The hope is Swanson won’t be out much longer than the

Turn to Cubs, Page 3

Cubs to face Pirates phenom Skenes

Saturday’s matchup holds flashbacks of Prior’s 2002 debut






Pittsburgh Pirates phenom Paul Skenes is scheduled to make his major-league debut Saturday afternoon at PNC Park, facing a Cubs lineup that has been scuffling the last two weeks. Flashbacks to Mark Prior’s debut with the Cubs in 2002 are inevitable, and the Pirates hope Skenes can have the same kind of instant success — albeit with a much better ending. Skenes, the No. 1 pick in the 2023 draft out of LSU, seemingly has everything a team would want to be the centerpiece of its rebuild, including a 102-mph fast-ball, a splitter-sinker combo pitch called the “splinker” and a celebrity girlfriend in gymnast/social media influencer Livvy Dunne, who is even more renowned than him.



Paul Sullivan
In the Wake of the News

Baseball thrives on creating new stars, and Skenes appears to be ready for his Instagram moment. Skenes threw only 27 ⅓ innings over seven starts for Triple-A Indianapolis but posted an 0.99 ERA with 45 strikeouts and looked as dominant as he was in college, at which he helped lead LSU to the 2023 College World Series championship. He has been compared to former college stars Prior and Washington’s Stephen Strasburg, who both also made quick MLB debuts because their talent was so extraor-

Turn to Sullivan, Page 2

Team	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
 CUBS	@PIT 3:05 p.m. Marquee	@PIT 12:35 p.m. Marquee	@ATL 6:20 p.m. Marquee	@ATL 6:20 p.m. Marquee	@ATL 6:20 p.m. Marquee
 WHITE SOX	CLE 6:10 p.m. NBCSCH	CLE 1:10 p.m. NBCSCH	WAS 6:40 p.m. NBCSCH	WAS 6:40 p.m. NBCSCH	WAS 1:10 p.m. NBCSCH
 SKY				Next game May 15 @DAL	@DAL 7 p.m. The U
 FIRE	@STL 7:30 p.m. Apple TV				CHA 7:30 p.m. Apple TV
 RED STARS		UTA 4:30 p.m. Marquee			



Bears quarterback Caleb Williams warms up during rookie minicamp Friday at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

Bears

from Page 1

working on some aspects of the offense, including cadences and drops, to get ahead before he arrived at minicamp. Bears coach Matt Eberflus called Williams’ private quarterbacks coach Will Hewlett “awesome” as he helped Williams with the new information.

Williams also has been throwing with Odunze since the pair were drafted in the first round. Odunze said he knew Williams was talented from playing against him in college. But now he’s seeing the benefit of that on the field.

“It’s really effortless for him,” Odunze said. “He could do a lot of things that older quarterbacks may think is hard effortlessly. He continues to improve every time I see him, and he’s very smooth. He could throw the ball from any angle, body position, anywhere on the field, to any spot on the field. So you always have to be ready, always have to be prepared anytime he is in the backfield. It gives you the confidence that he’s going to put it on you when you’re giving him your best on the route.”

Williams’ primary goal at minicamp is to dive into the playbook and get to a comfort level at which he can teach other rookies who might need help. He wants to continue developing that chemistry on the field with Odunze and other receivers.

And he wants to stay even-keeled as he learns.

“Because I’m going to make mistakes, and I don’t really like mistakes and messing up,” Williams said. “And I know there’s a bunch of guys that are going to be in the same position as me. Being in that position and being even-keeled and being in control — cool, calm, collected — not only helps me but also all the other guys on the field.”

Eberflus and Bears coaches are looking at Williams’ understanding of concepts — they already have mapped out a plan through training camp of the concepts that will be taught — and operation of the offense.

“Taking the information from the meeting to the walk-through to the practice,” Eberflus said. “Everything from breaking the huddle to getting the cadence right to adjusting the call if need be.”

Williams has a host of new coaches to help his transition: offensive coordinator Shane Waldron, passing game coordinator Thomas Brown, quarterbacks coach Kerry Joseph and offensive assistants Ryan Griffin and Robbie Picazo.

Williams believes Waldron’s 10 years of varied NFL coaching experience should help him.

“Having someone like Shane that’s been in different positions with different QBs at different learning stages and things like that, it only helps me,” Williams said.



Bears wide receiver Rome Odunze goes through drills during rookie minicamp Friday.

“So him being in the position that he’s in and being in this offense for so long, it’s going to help me. And it’s a learning process for me, so I have to put in the work but also know that I have someone and a support team and staff around me to help me and keep growing throughout the process.”

Eventually, Williams also will have to take charge as a leader this season. But as he grows acclimated to all of the inner workings at Halas Hall, he is taking a backseat in that aspect at first.

“To be a great leader, you’ve got to learn how to follow first,” Williams said. “So right now I’m following all the vets, I’m following all the coaches. I’m listening, having both ears open and my mouth shut. Just kind of sitting back listening.

“And when I get to the point of when I learn everything, when I learn the ways of how we do it with the culture, the playbook, and what the offensive line, the receivers are all doing, running backs and tight ends (are doing), then you can start taking the lead. Then you can start taking the helm of all of it and take the next steps. For right now though, I’m listening more than I’m speaking and talking, and I’m taking it one step at a time, being in the moment.”

Williams’ arrival at Halas Hall has charged this moment — about four months out from the season opener — with even more excitement than usual as the Bears offseason program begins to kick into high gear.

The Bears have one more rookie minicamp session and then will move into organized team activities later this month, when Williams will become acquainted with his new team as a whole.

Eberflus said there’s a swell of energy in the building, and Williams is contributing to that vibe.

“You can really tell he’s comfortable in his own skin and he is who he is,” Eberflus said. “His light comes out from the inside. You can certainly feel that energy. He’s a 1-plus-1-equals-3 guy. He’s an enhancer. He’s a guy that brings out the best in people. You can certainly feel that in him within five minutes of meeting him.”



White Sox starting pitcher Garrett Crochet delivers to the Guardians in the first inning Friday at Guaranteed Rate Field. The White Sox won 6-3. For coverage, go to chicagotribune.com/sports. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Sox

from Page 1

relievers with 26 strikeouts.

Sox relievers had a 2.00 ERA in the last seven games entering Friday as bullpen roles come more into focus.

“That takes a little time,” manager Pedro Grifol said. “Guys have to get used to pitching leverage. We have to get used to them and see where they are going to start to fit in. The good thing is we got Brebbia, we got Jordan, we got (Steven) Wilson.

“Those guys can pitch leverage prior to that ninth inning and obviously we like Kopech in the ninth inning. And what’s great about Kopech is that he knows how to get an out (in the eighth), sit down and go back out (for the ninth) because he’s been a starter. That’s tough sometimes for a reliever if they are not used to that.”

Brebbia handled the multi-

ple-inning duties Wednesday against the Rays, entering with one out in the seventh and runners on first and second. He got Josh Lowe to hit a fly ball to right, where Gavin Sheets made a nice running catch. Sheets then threw to second to double off the runner, who had raced to third when the ball was in the air.

Brebbia returned for the eighth and struck out the side. Kopech induced a 4-6-3 double play in the ninth to complete the 4-1 victory.

Leasure made the big pitches Thursday in a high-leverage situation. He struck out the first two batters and induced a groundout to keep the Sox ahead 3-0.

“It’s probably one of the biggest moments you can have, to come out of that with no damage,” Leasure said. “It was pretty cool.”

The rookie has a 2.40 ERA in 16 appearances.

“He’s proven that he belongs here and that he’s going to have a long career,” Kopech said of Leasure. “Everyone is thoroughly

impressed with him. Hope to see him in big moments like he was (Thursday) more and more often because he’s proven he can do it.”

Kopech is proving what he can do in late-game opportunities as well, converting four of five save chances.

“He’s been great,” starter Erick Fedde said. “I know it’s tough, he’s getting the most important outs of the game. We always say those three in the ninth are the hardest. He’s been doing great and he’s been doing multiple ups, getting outs in the eighth.

“It’s exceptional. I’m happy for him and I’m excited for him to get better and better.”

Kopech — who had prior relief experience and was moved from the rotation to the bullpen this season — said he has been “throwing each pitch with conviction.”

“I’m happy with the arsenal I have,” Kopech said. “I’ve kind of simplified things by going to the pen, but I like how I’m using it.”

Sullivan

from Page 1

dinary their respective teams felt the pitchers would be wasting time in the minors.

Prior was called up for a bad Cubs team that was 15-28 and 11 games out of first place. The hype that accompanied his arrival was unheard of in Chicago. Tribune baseball columnist Jerome Holtzman, then MLB’s historian, said: “I can’t think of any comparable situation. (In the past) you didn’t know (about players) until they got to the majors.”

Prior made his debut on May 22 at sold-out Wrigley Field against a weak-hitting Pirates team, allowing two runs on four hits over six innings in a 7-4 win. He struck out 10 and walked 2 while throwing 103 pitches.

“He’s as polished as any young man I’ve seen,” Cubs catcher Joe Girardi said afterward. “The other guy I think about who was very polished was Derek Jeter. I think this kid’s going to be fine. I don’t think it’s too much. I don’t think the media’s too much. I don’t think the expectations are too much.”

Prior made 19 starts in a strong rookie season, then turned into one of the game’s best pitchers in 2003, leading the Cubs to the National League Championship Series, in which they lost in seven games to the Florida Marlins. He lost a heartbreak Game 6 when the Cubs were five outs from heading to their first World Series in 58 years. You might remember hearing about it.

A series of injuries derailed his career in 2004 and ’05, and by 2006 his career was over after 106 games. Prior remains an important player in Cubs history,



The Pirates’ Paul Skenes meets with reporters before Friday’s game against the Cubs in Pittsburgh. Skenes will make his Major League debut Saturday against the Cubs. **GENE J. PUSKAR/AP**

but for reasons that can only be speculated about, he never lived up to his promise.

Skenes enters the scene with similar expectations and will face the Cubs in his first two starts, just as Prior faced the Pirates in his first two. It’s a good time to be matched up against the Cubs. Only a Yan Gomes infield hit Thursday prevented them from being no-hit by San Diego Padres starter Dylan Cease and two relievers, and the Cubs entered the series in Pittsburgh hitting .195 over their last 12 games with 109 strikeouts and a .610 OPS.

If Skenes dominates in his debut, it could call into question why the Cubs and White Sox can’t soon bring two of their studs up from the minors and let them learn at the major-league level.

The Cubs recently promoted Cade Horton, the seventh pick of the 2022 draft, to Triple-A Iowa and has averaged 11.7 strikeouts per nine innings with a 2.48 ERA over 26 games in the minors. The Cubs are limiting his innings — 20 ⅓ over five starts — but he has shown he’s ready and could be

promoted in the near future.

Drew Thorpe, a second-round pick of the New York Yankees in 2022, has a 1.10 ERA in four starts at Double-A Birmingham after the Sox acquired him from the Padres in spring training in the Cease deal. Thorpe also is being monitored closely with 35 ⅔ innings over six starts.

With the Sox already out of contention, it would be easy for general manager Chris Getz to make the call to bring Thorpe to Chicago and give fans reason for optimism, as former GM Rick Hahn periodically did during the first rebuild with call-ups of Michael Kopech and other prospects.

Bryan Ramos was brought up last week from Birmingham because of Danny Mendick’s IL stint and already has opened eyes at third base. But Sox director of player development Paul Janish recently suggested the big-league team’s record won’t make the Sox rush anyone.

“(We’re) not letting some of those ulterior variables influence us with regards to certain guys in the development process,” he said.

Of course, neither Horton nor Thorpe comes with the same hype as Prior, Strasburg and Skenes, all considered “generational” talents.

When you have a fastball that averages 99.9 mph, as Skenes does, he might not have a whole lot of learning left to do in the minors.

The Cubs will get a chance Saturday to see what all the talk is about and then another Friday at Wrigley if Skenes stays on schedule.

So get out the Wayback Machine and set it to 2002.

Like the 17-year cicadas, these types of debuts don’t come around often.

BASEBALL



Cubs outfielder Owen Caissie loses his hat as he chases down a fly ball on Feb. 22 at Sloan Park in Mesa, Ariz. STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CUBS FARM REPORT

Off to a strong start

Insights on 8 prospects gaining experience in the minor-league season

By Meghan Montemurro
Chicago Tribune

The Cubs boast the type of depth and high-upside prospects in their minor-league system that can fuel annual success in the majors.

They lead all organizations with six players in MLB.com's top 100 prospects and are ranked No. 2 overall, while Baseball America ranks the Cubs as the No. 4 farm system.

Six weeks into the minor-league season, the Cubs have numerous players off to strong starts — including the following eight, with insight from director of player development Jason Kanzler.

Triple-A Iowa

OF Owen Caissie

Caissie seems to get better as he gains experience and climbs the Cubs minor-league system. Playing in Triple A for the first time, he's showing why the organization is so high on him.

The left-handed hitter Caissie is batting .277 with a .415 on-base percentage and .852 OPS. He has three home runs, eight doubles and one triple in 35 games (147 plate appearances).

Caissie, 21, has been consistently among the youngest hitters in the league at each level. That remains true in Triple A, where he is 5.6 years younger than the average and has yet to face a pitcher younger than him this season.

"Owen is showing that age is just a number," Kanzler told the Tribune. "You would never know that he's one of the youngest on the field. If you watch the game and how he acts, that's probably the key and the biggest transition is acting as mature and professional as you can. Because the game is very hard and he's handling it well, just taking it in stride."

If Caissie can remain a viable outfielder — he has played errorless defense for Iowa and has two assists from left field — it would give him a more flexible path to the majors.

"He's a lot faster than you might think," Kanzler said. "In spring training, some of the big-league coaches challenged him to really work and focus on his outfield defense. I'm pretty optimistic. He has the tools to play a good corner outfield."

RHP Porter Hodge

Hodge's first taste of Triple A has featured mixed results, but his ability to miss bats should help him get to the majors.

He needs to find the strike zone more consistently — as shown by nine walks in nine innings — but his 15 strikeouts show why the organization moved him to the bullpen last year. Part of Hodge's development is learning he doesn't need to nibble around the zone because his stuff is so good.

"He can put a little more behind his stuff, which is already very good," Kanzler said of Hodge, 23, becoming a reliever. "All he needs to do is get into the zone a little bit more and all these pitches will

play very well."

Now that he is at Triple A as a member of the 40-man roster, Hodge could be an option to help the Cubs at some point this season if he can lock in his command. A player knowing he's so close to the big leagues sometimes can be its own challenge.

"Players are not stupid. They know how to do the math and they understand rosters," Kanzler said. "I'm not going to say that it's not on his mind, but I also can't speak for him. I hope that he just goes out there and pitches the way he can pitch, and it's focusing on the things that we've laid out for him to develop and opportunities for him to become an excellent pitcher."

"Whether or not moves happen, that's to be determined, and guys should never worry about things like that. When the time comes, the time comes."

Double-A Tennessee

C Moises Ballesteros

Ballesteros' all-around hitting tools create a tantalizing vision of his big-league potential.

Ranked the Cubs' No. 7 prospect by MLB.com and Baseball America, Ballesteros owns a .911 OPS through 24 games at Double A. It accompanies a .321 batting average, .411 on-base percentage, three home runs and five doubles. The 20-year-old lefty hitter commands the strike zone well, too, with 11 walks and 13 strikeouts.

"He's got advanced maturity at the plate given his age," Kanzler said. "He's got incredible, natural bat-to-ball skills. He's very hitterish and he's got pop. He can use the whole field. There's really very few holes. It's hard to pitch to him. He's confident and he knows he can hit, a great combination."

Kanzler believes Ballesteros has the potential to stick behind the plate, which would help his big-league value. Ballesteros has made 10 starts at catcher, 11 as the designated hitter and two at first base this season for the Smokies.

"I tend to believe defense is one of the most malleable domains in the game, and if people put their mind to it and players put their mind to it, they can improve drastically," Kanzler said. "He's got the focus. He wants to be in the big leagues. He wants to be the best he can be. We're going to stick with him at catcher and watch him develop."

RHP Michael Arias

A starter since he debuted in 2021 in the Dominican Summer League, Arias is in his first season as a reliever.

Although his strikeout rate has dipped slightly this year, his walks also have decreased, an area he needed to improve. In 10 appearances, Arias has a 2.12 ERA with eight walks and 19 strikeouts in 17 innings. Kanzler got to watch Arias pitch in person last week while visiting the Smokies and was impressed.

The Cubs major-league staff got a hands-on look at Arias, 22, while he was part of big-league camp this spring. His 40-man roster status and transition to the bull-

pen means he could help the Cubs sooner than later, as the organization has shown a willingness to be aggressive in promoting relievers if their performance dictates a bigger challenge.

"For any of these guys, when they get to experience big-league camp and be around great players and veteran coaches and get to have perspective of that entire experience, that usually helps them greatly," Kanzler said. "They come out of it with a different sense of purpose and also a different level of focus because they get to experience just how good other players are at that level they're attempting to get to. I think it was a positive experience for him."

High-A South Bend

OF Brett Bateman

Midwest League pitchers are learning not to overlook Bateman's skill set. He doesn't currently possess much pop in his 5-foot-7, 170-pound frame, but he has been a menace when it comes to getting on base.

An eighth-round pick out of Minnesota last year, the 22-year-old Bateman owns a .360 average and .491 on-base percentage through 25 games (113 plate appearances) with South Bend.

"He knows the strike zone exceptionally well," Kanzler said. "He's got a very high level of awareness of the zone. Obviously he plays great defense, he's very fast, he's very cerebral. He's always looking and asking questions about how to get better, what things to do. I see him becoming a very good player."

While he hasn't homered as a professional and never did in three seasons with the Golden Gophers, Bateman's seven doubles this year already have more than doubled last year's output in 28 fewer plate appearances. Bateman also has 10 stolen bases in 12 attempts and is walking more than he strikes out.

Kanzler believes more power and extra-base hits will come naturally as the left-handed hitter matures.

"The key for him is being surrounded by people who are supporting him and really driving it home that the success that he's having is success and not diverting attention toward home runs or finding power," Kanzler said. "I'm not worried at all about the power."

LHP Drew Gray

After missing all of 2022 and part of last year coming back from Tommy John surgery, Gray is showing why he's considered a top-20 prospect in the system.

Taken in the third round in 2021, Gray is putting up dominant numbers through five starts in his first season at High A. He owns a 1.17 ERA with 23 strikeouts in 15 ⅓ innings. Although walks (15) have been an issue at times, Gray has worked around trouble while limiting opponents to seven hits.

In his first full season back on the mound post-injury, a key for the 21-year-old Gray is accumulating innings and re-establishing that he's a great pitcher. When it comes to his repertoire, Gray clearly is armed with swing-and-

miss stuff. Kanzler notably likes the shape of his slider.

"Anything like that is more psychological than physical, and he's definitely over that hump," Kanzler said of Gray's return from Tommy John surgery. "He has separation on the slider and the curveball, so he has two true breaking balls. ... He'll need to use (the changeup) eventually a little bit more. But it's an exciting repertoire and he's just getting his feet back under him."

Low-A Myrtle Beach

OF Alfonsin Rosario

Rosario, the Cubs' sixth-round pick last year, is part of a young Pelicans squad and his bat already is standing out. Although he has been in a little bit of a slump the last week, the 19-year-old Rosario had a five-game stretch between April 27 and May 2 in which he slugged two home runs and two doubles, was 7-for-21, scored six runs and stole three bases.

Only 21 games into Rosario's professional career, his upside is apparent if he can put together consistent stretches.

"Those guys are young; he's young," Kanzler said. "I say the more they can play, the better."

"It's always framing any struggle or failure as an opportunity to double down on great work and preach development. Sometimes having slow starts or things like that are actually a blessing in disguise and guys will realize that's the kick in the pants they needed."

Rosario also has played clean defense so far, tallying two assists in nine games split between center and right field.

RHP Juan Bello

Bello, 20, is in his first full season of professional baseball in the United States after appearing in four games last year in the Arizona Complex League.

An international amateur free-agent signee out of Colombia, Bello debuted in the Dominican Summer League in 2022 and has seen his strikeout rate increase each year. Through five starts with the Pelicans, he has 24 strikeouts (12.2 per nine innings) and 13 walks in 17 ⅔ innings.

Kanzler noted Bello's walk rate isn't super high for that level and his experience. He believes Bello will be able to maintain his strikeout rate as he matures while the walk rate slowly comes down.

Bello recorded a season-high seven strikeouts in 3 ⅓ innings in his season debut April 6 and owns a 2.04 ERA while adjusting to playing in the U.S.

"From what I've gathered, he's handled it well, and I think most people vastly underestimate how tough it is for an international player to come stateside for their first affiliated season," Kanzler said. "They have to learn an entirely new culture. They're away from their families. A lot of times they don't speak the language, so the challenges on the field are just a small part of the total challenges they're facing, but they come out the other end much better and they've grown from it."

Cubs

from Page 1

10 days. He is eligible to return May 18, but the Cubs could wait until after their May 20 off day for added recovery, setting him up to be back for their home series versus the Atlanta Braves beginning May 21.

Swanson was known for his durability during his seven seasons in Atlanta. Between 2020-22, he missed only one game.

"That's where it kind of got to the point of, are we being tough or stupid, and I think we all kind of agreed it was more stupid than tough," Swanson said Friday of playing through the injury. "We all collaborated on the decision and felt like it was best to get me back to a healthy spot so that I can go out there and perform my best."

"My pride doesn't like it, but here we are."

Nico Hoerner will slide over to shortstop while Swanson is out. Nick Madrigal and Miles Mastrobuoni are the two options at second base with Madrigal getting the start there Friday night. Since the injury occurred, Swanson was 6-for-40 (.150) in his last 12 games with one extra-base hit and 14 strikeouts, part of a slow start to the season.

"Especially when it's one of the things where you don't really have any control over it, like, I take care of myself and it's not an injury that was avoidable, just kind of a freak thing and it happened," Swanson said. "It stinks because you obviously want to be able to go out there and perform and help the team win and be a part of something bigger than yourself, but I can just do that from my new coaches role the next few days."

Swanson is the 12th Cub to spend time on the IL only five weeks into the season. Left-hander Jordan Wicks (left forearm strain) is trending in the right direction after throwing a bullpen Friday. The next step will be a multiple-innings bullpen before throwing live batting practice. Wicks will need to go on a rehab assignment before coming off the IL, Counsell said.

Right-hander Jameson Taillon, who opened the season hurt because of low back strain he suffered in spring training, was pushed back from what should have been his start Friday. Taillon felt a tweak in his lower back while warming up for Tuesday's bullpen. It's not as severe as what he experienced in spring training, but the feeling was enough to stop and tell the team.

Taillon has been playing catch every day since then and is happy with where he is at. Saturday represents the big test, though. If he has another good catch day and feels good getting five to 10 pitches off the mound, Taillon could start Sunday's series finale at PNC Park. He described his confidence level as "pretty high" that he will be able to go Sunday. Should he experience a setback, Ben Brown had been an option to start. Counsell wanted to try to stay away from the rookie right-hander Friday to keep that possibility open until they see how Taillon feels Saturday. However, Javier Assad's pitch count (89) limited him to 4 ⅓ innings, prompting Counsell to bring in Brown, who hadn't pitched since May 2.

Suzuki went on the IL on April 15 with a strained right oblique suffered a day earlier against the Mariners in Seattle while running down the first-base line as he grounded out. Suzuki's absence was a big loss after a strong start to the season. His 139 OPS+ ranked second among Cubs starters at the time of the injury.

Despite all the injuries to key players, the Cubs survived a tough schedule to begin the season and are over .500.

"I definitely think the optimistic point of view is just seeing what we've been able to do not at full strength for most of the season," Swanson said. "And when we're all right at full strength back at it, the fun time's to come. So that's definitely exciting to think about and hopefully that'll start happening sooner than later."



The Cubs' Michael Busch reacts after hitting a double during the sixth inning Friday against the Pirates at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. For coverage, go to chicagotribune.com/sports. JOE SARGENT/GETTY

BASEBALL

American League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Baltimore	24	12	.667	—	—	7-3	W-1	12-7	12-5
New York	26	14	.650	—	+2½	7-3	W-1	13-6	13-8
Boston	19	19	.500	6	3½	4-6	L-3	7-10	12-9
Tampa Bay	19	20	.487	6½	4	6-4	L-2	13-11	6-9
Toronto	17	21	.447	8	5½	4-6	L-1	8-8	9-13

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Cleveland	24	14	.632	—	—	5-5	L-1	12-6	12-8
Minnesota	23	15	.605	1	+½	8-2	W-3	11-8	12-7
Kansas City	23	16	.590	1½	—	6-4	W-2	15-8	8-8
Detroit	19	19	.500	5	3½	3-7	L-2	8-10	11-9
Chicago	10	28	.263	14	12½	4-6	W-2	6-12	4-16

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Texas	22	17	.564	—	—	7-3	W-1	10-9	12-8
Seattle	20	18	.526	1½	2½	5-5	L-2	11-8	9-10
Oakland	18	21	.462	4	5	6-4	L-1	10-13	8-8
Houston	14	24	.368	7½	8½	5-5	W-2	7-12	7-12
Los Angeles	14	24	.368	7½	8½	4-6	L-1	4-12	10-12

BOX SCORES

HOUSTON 5, DETROIT 2

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Altuve 2b	4	1	1	0	1	.325
Tucker rf	3	2	1	1	0	.270
Alvarez lf	4	1	2	1	0	.252
Pena ss	4	0	2	1	1	.338
Singleton 1b	4	1	0	0	0	.227
Bregman 3b	4	0	1	1	0	.200
Diaz dh	3	0	0	1	1	.267
Caratini c	3	0	1	0	0	.245
Meyers cf	4	0	0	0	0	.235
TOTALS	33	5	8	5	3	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Ibanez 2b	5	1	2	0	1	.349
Vierling 3b	4	0	1	2	1	.280
Canha dh	4	0	0	0	2	.240
Greene lf	4	0	1	0	1	.254
Torkelson 1b	3	0	1	0	1	.283
Perez cf	4	0	1	0	1	.224
Vilade rf	4	0	0	0	1	.222
Baez ss	4	0	0	0	0	.170
Rogers c	2	1	1	0	1	.195
TOTALS	34	2	7	2	9	

Houston	000	001	040	5	8	1
Detroit	002	000	000	2	7	1

E: Pena (5), Vierling (2). **LOB:** Houston 6, Detroit 8. **2B:** Bregman (6), Vierling (4), Torkelson (13), Greene (7). **HR:** Tucker (12), off Mize. **RBIs:** Tucker (26), Alvarez (20), Pena (16), Bregman (12), Diaz (16), Vierling (215). **SB:** Ibanez (1). **SF:** Diaz. **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 3 (Meyers, Caratini, Singleton); Detroit 5 (Torkelson, Canha, Baez, Perez, Vilade). **RISP:** Houston 2for 11; Detroit 1for 10. **Runners moved up:** Caratini, Canha. **GIDP:** Meyers, Pena, Vilade. **DP:** Houston 1 (Altuve, Pena, Singleton); Detroit 2 (Vierling, Ibanez, Torkelson; Ibanez, Torkelson).

HOUSTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Valdez, W, 2-1	7	6	2	2	2	4	3.64
Abreu, H, 6	1	1	0	0	0	3	3.79
Hader, S, 5-6	1	0	0	0	1	2	5.29

DETROIT	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Mize	6	5	1	1	2	2	3.58
Vest, H, 2	1	0	0	0	1	0	4.11
Chafin, L, 2-1, BS, 0-30	3	3	1	1	0	3	3.86
Foley	1	1	1	0	0	0	2.35
Faedo	1	0	0	0	0	1	2.25

First-pitch strikes/Batters Faced: Hader 2/4; Valdez 12/29; Abreu 2/4; Chafin 1/3; Faedo 2/3; Mize 12/23; Vest 2/4; Foley 3/5. **Called strikes-Swinging strikes-Foul balls-In play strikes:** Hader-3-4-2-1; Valdez-14-10-15-23; Abreu-5-1-3-1. **Chafin** 1-0-0-2; **Faedo** 3-0-2-0; **Mize** 8-10-17-19; **Vest** 1-1-2-2; **Foley** 3-0-3-5. **Ground Balls-Fly Balls:** Hader 0-1; Valdez 14-3. **Chafin** 1-0-0-2; **Faedo** 3-0-2-0; **Mize** 8-10-17-19; **Vest** 1-1-2-2; **Foley** 3-0-3-5. **Inherited runners-scored:** Foley 2-2.

Umpires: Home, Vic Carapazza; First, Adam Hamari; Second, Brian Walsh; Third, Edwin Moscoso. **T:** 2:25. **A:** 21,215 (41,083).

LATE THURSDAY: HOUSTON 4, N.Y. YANKEES 3

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Altuve 2b	5	0	1	0	2	.327
Tucker rf	4	0	0	0	2	.268
Alvarez dh	5	2	2	1	2	.245
Pena ss	3	1	2	1	0	.333
Singleton 1b	4	1	1	2	0	.239
Bregman 3b	4	1	2	0	1	.259
Diaz c	4	1	1	0	1	.273
Loperfido lf	3	0	0	0	1	.316
Dubon cf	4	0	0	0	1	.284
TOTALS	36	4	11	4	10	

New York	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Volpe ss	5	1	2	2	2	.257
Soto rf	2	0	0	0	0	.333
Judge cf	4	1	1	1	1	.236
Verdugo lf	3	0	0	0	0	.258
Stanton dh	4	0	0	0	4	.220
Rizzo 1b	3	0	0	1	1	.259
Torres 2b	3	0	1	0	1	.259
Wells c	4	0	1	0	0	.190
a-Berti ph	1	0	0	0	0	.269
Cabrera 3b	3	1	2	0	1	.256
b-Trevino ph	1	0	0	0	0	.277
TOTALS	32	3	6	3	10	

a-grounded out for Wells in the 9th. b-flied out for Cabrera in the 9th. **E:** Dubon (2), Wells (3). **LOB:** Houston 8, New York 7. **2B:** Diaz (7), Alvarez (5). **HR:** Alvarez (8), off Stroman; Singleton (4), off Stroman; Volpe (5), off Blanco; Judge (9), off Pressly. **RBIs:** Alvarez (19), Singleton 2 (10), Pena (15), Volpe 2 (18), Judge (25). **SB:** Loperfido (1), Tucker (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 5 (Diaz, Alvarez 4); New York 2 (Volpe, Wells). **RISP:** Houston 3for 12; New York 0for 7. **Runners moved up:** Dubon, Berti. **GIDP:** Diaz, Verdugo, Judge. **DP:** Houston 2 (Altuve, Pena, Singleton); Bregman, Altuve, Singleton; New York 2 (Cabrera, Rizzo, Cabrera; Volpe, Torres, Rizzo).

HOUSTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Blanco, W, 4-0	5½	4	2	2	4	5	2.23
Abreu, H, 5	½	0	0	0	0	3	4.00
Pressly, H, 5	½	1	1	1	1	1	5.05
Hader, S, 4-5	½	1	0	0	1	1	5.62
NEW YORK	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Stroman, L, 2-2	5½	9	4	4	2	5	3.80
Weaver	½	0	0	0	0	2	2.70
Santana	1	1	0	0	1	1	3.24
Marinaccio	1	0	0	0	2	1	1.42

Inherited runners-scored: Abreu 1-0, Hader 1-0, Weaver 1-0. **Umpires:** Home, Derek Thomas; First, Chris Conroy; Second, Brennan Miller; Third, Brian O’Nora. **T:** 2:55. **A:** 38,095 (47,309).

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

through Thursday’s games	BATTING AVERAGE	AB	H	R	AVG
Kwan Cle	32	133	47	28	.353
Stout NYY	39	147	49	26	.333
Peña Hou	37	141	47	22	.333
Altuve Hou	37	153	50	25	.327
Witt KC	39	151	48	36	.318
Perez KC	37	134	44	15	.328
Trutschman Bal	35	148	47	20	.318
Jeffers Min	33	111	34	20	.306
Rosario TB	33	123	37	11	.301
Paredes TB	35	130	39	18	.300
Home Runs:	K.Tucker, Houston, 11; Henderson, Baltimore, 11; Trout, Los Angeles, 10; J.Naylor, Cleveland, 10; 7 tied at 9.				
RBIs:	Soto, New York, 33; Perez, Kansas City, 31; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 31; A.Garcia, Texas, 30; Jeffers, Minnesota, 29; J.Naylor, Cleveland, 29; Semien, Texas, 28; Heim, Texas, 26; 3 tied at 25.				
Pitching:	Lugo, Kansas City, 5-1; R.Blanco, Houston, 4-0; Skubal, Detroit, 4-0; Paddack, Minnesota, 4-1; Rodriguez, Baltimore, 4-1; López, Minnesota, 4-2; Berrios, Toronto, 4-3; 6 tied at 3-0.				

N.Y. YANKEES 2, TAMPA BAY 0

New York	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Volpe ss	5	0	1	0	3	.255
Soto rf	4	0	0	0	1	.325
Judge cf	2	1	0	0	0	.233
Verdugo lf	4	0	0	0	3	.250
Stanton dh	4	0	2	0	0	.229
Rizzo 1b	4	1	2	2	0	.265
Torres 2b	4	0	0	0	1	.209
Trevino c	4	0	2	0	0	.290
Berti 3b	4	0	2	0	1	.300
TOTALS	35	2	9	2	9	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Diaz 1b	3	0	2	0	1	.237
Arozarena lf	4	0	0	0	2	.143
Lower rf	3	0	1	0	1	.308
Paredes 3b	3	0	0	0	1	.293
H.Ramirez dh	3	0	0	0	1	.285
a-Shenton ph	1	0	1	0	0	.189
1-Siri pr	0	0	0	0	0	.170
DeLuca cf	4	0	0	0	1	.292
Palacios 2b	3	0	1	0	1	.282
Caballero ss	2	0	1	0	0	.258
Jackson c	3	0	0	0	3	.091
TOTALS	29	0	6	0	11	

New York	000	100	001	2 <th>9<th>0</th></th>	9 <th>0</th>	0
Tampa Bay	000	000	000	0 <th>6<th>1</th></th>	6 <th>1</th>	1

a-singled for H.Ramirez in the 9th. 1-ran for Shenton in the 9th. **E:** Lowe (1). **LOB:** New York 8, Tampa Bay 6. **HR:** Rizzo (7), off Armstrong. **RBIs:** Rizzo 2 (22), SB: Caballero (15), Palacios (6), Berti (2). **CS:** Caballero (6), Paredes (1), Berti (0). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 3 (Soto, Rizzo, Torres); Tampa Bay 3 (Jackson, DeLuca 2). **RISP:** New York 2for 6; Tampa Bay 1for 5. **GIDP:** Paredes. **DP:** New York 1 (Berti, Torres, Rizzo).

NEW YORK	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Schmidt, W, 4-1	6½	5	0	0	2	6	2.95
Burdi, H, 3	½	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Weaver, H, 4	1	0	0	0	2	2	5.59
Holmes, S, 12-13	1	1	0	0	2	3	0.00

TAMPA BAY	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Bradley, L, 0-1	6	4	1	1	2	7	1.50
Kelly	½	2	0	0	0	1	3.68
Cleavinger	½	0	0	0	0	1	1.98
Adam	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.59
Armstrong	1	3	1	1	0	0	3.38

First-pitch strikes/Batters Faced: Holmes 3/6; Burdi 1/0; Weaver 2/3; Schmidt 17/24. **Adam** 1/3; **Armstrong** 5/5; **Cleavinger** 1/1; **Bradley** 18/24; **Kelly** 3/4. **Called strikes-Swinging strikes-Foul balls-In play strikes:** Holmes-6-5-6-1; Burdi-1-0-1-0; Weaver-2-5-2-1; Schmidt-16-14-11-16. **Adam** 4-1-0-3; **Armstrong** 4-0-3-5; **Cleavinger** 2-1-1-0; **Bradley** 17-11-16-15; **Kelly** 4-1-2-3. **Inherited runners-scored:** Burdi 1-0, Cleavinger 2-0. **Umpires:** Home, Junior Valentine; First, Ramon De Jesus; Second, Adrian Johnson; Third, Quinn Wolcott. **T:** 2:39. **A:** 18,041 (25,025).

LATE THURSDAY: MILWAUKEE 7, ST. LOUIS 1

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Donovan dh	4	0	0	0	2	.217
Nootbaar lf	5	1	1	1	0	.184
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	0	2	.286
Burleson 1b	4	0	1	0	1	.261
Gorman 2b	2	0	0	0	1	.172
Carlson rf	3	0	0	0	2	.000
Winn ss	4	0	1	0	1	.265
Pages c	3	0	0	0	2	.000
Siani cf	4	0	2	0	1	.226
TOTALS	33	1	6	1	12	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Turang 2b	4	1	1	0	0	.314
Contreras c	4	2	3	1	0	.340
Yelich lf	4	1	3	1	0	.333
Adames ss	3	0	0	0	2	.252
Hoskins 1b	4	1	1	2	2	.220
Frellick cf	3	0	0	0	0	.244
Sanchez dh	4	0	0	0	3	.217
Bauers rf	4	1	1	1	2	.205
Ortiz 3b	4	1	1	1	0	.267
TOTALS	34	7	10	6	9	

St. Louis	001	000	000	1 <th>6<th>0</th></th>	6 <th>0</th>	0
Milwaukee	032	110	10x	7 <th>10</th> <th>1</th>	10	1

E: Turang (1). **LOB:** St. Louis 10, Milwaukee 5. **2B:** Arenado (9), Berti; Yelich (1). **HR:** Nootbaar (3), off Myers; Hoskins (8), off Gray; Bauers (3), off Gray; Ortiz (2), off Gray. **RBIs:** Nootbaar (9), Hoskins 2 (21), Bauers (14), Ortiz (10), Yelich (12), Contreras (30). **SB:** Adames (7), Turang (15). **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 4 (Winn 2, Burleson 2); Milwaukee 3 (Frellick 3). **RISP:** St. Louis 0for 8; Milwaukee 2for 10. **Runners moved up:** Carlson, Adames. **GIDP:** Carlson. **DP:** Milwaukee 1 (Adames, Hoskins).

ST. LOUIS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Gray, L, 4-2	5	7	6	6	1	6	2.29
Robertson	1	2	1	1	0	2	1.35
King	1	1	0	0	0	1	3.18
Roycroft	1	0	0	0	0	4	5.50

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

EA Sports releases video game cover



Michigan RB Donovan Edwards, pictured, Texas QB Quinn Ewers and Colorado two-way star Travis Hunter are among the six players displayed on the cover of the EA Sports College Football 25, which is set to return after being discontinued 11 years ago. The cover for the deluxe edition of the popular video game was posted at the online PlayStation Store on Friday. No official release date has been set, but the game is expected to be out this summer before the start of the college football season. The game will feature all 134 major college football schools. College Football 25 will be the first version of EA Sports' college football franchise to be released since 2013. The NCAA's approval in 2021 of players being able to profit from their brand opened the door for the game to be made again. The cover features the backs of numerous players in easily identifiable college football uniforms in a stadium tunnel, with the names on the backs of the jerseys of six players. Edwards, Ewers and Hunter are joined by Alabama QB Jalen Milroe, Georgia QB Carson Beck and Ohio State RB Quinshon Judkins.

WNBA franchise awarded to Toronto



The WNBA is heading to Toronto, according to media reports. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported that the women's professional basketball league has awarded a franchise to the Kilmer Group. The reported deal would have Toronto's WNBA team start playing in May 2026. The WNBA did not confirm the report. "We continue to engage in productive conversations with interested ownership groups in a number of markets and the granting of any expansion teams requires a vote of the WNBA and NBA Board of Governors," the league said. Larry Tanenbaum is the chairman and CEO of Kilmer Group and the chairman of the board for Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, which owns the NBA's Toronto Raptors and NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs. He also owns 25% of MLSE through Kilmer's holdings. Adding a team in Toronto would be the first outside of the U.S. for the WNBA, which begins its 28th season next week. WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert, pictured, said at the league's draft last month she hopes to expand to 16 teams by the 2028 season.

Mbappé begins his goodbyes to PSG



Kylian Mbappé announced again he's leaving Paris Saint-Germain, an unsurprising move by the French superstar who is expected to join Real Madrid. Mbappé said on Friday on X he will play his final home game on Sunday against Toulouse. "I never thought it would be this difficult to leave my country," he said in the video post, adding he will face a new challenge after seven years at PSG. Mbappé now captains France and won the World Cup in 2018, becoming the second teenager, after Pelé, to score in a World Cup final. He top-scored at the 2022 World Cup, including a hat trick in the final. Mbappé joined PSG in 2017 from Monaco in a deal worth 180 million euros (\$194 million). He is expected to be bought by 14-time Champions League winner Real Madrid. In 2021, PSG turned down a bid of 180 million euros (\$194 million) from Madrid for Mbappé. He renewed his contract with PSG, on which he didn't take up the option for an extra year. Earlier this year, he told PSG he's leaving at the end of the season. —Associated Press



The Aces' A'ja Wilson returns this season to try to lead the Aces to their third straight WNBA title. **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**

WNBA SEASON PREVIEW

Welcome to the show

Spotlight on rookie class and Aces' quest for 3-peat

By **Doug Feinberg**
Associated Press

While conversations about the WNBA's growth may start with Caitlin Clark, any talk about the 2024 championship begins with the star-studded Aces led by A'ja Wilson and their quest to three-peat.

The Aces have been dominant on the court the past two seasons, becoming the first team to repeat as champion since the Sparks in 2001-02. They are plus-100 favorites to win it again when the league tips off its 28th season on Tuesday, according to BetMGM. The Liberty are at plus-230 is the only team close to the champs.

"We've come into games and we have a target on our back. We understand that," Aces guard Chelsea Gray said. "But I think we understand that what got it done last year isn't going to get it done this year. No year has ever been the same in winning a championship."

Wilson, last season's WNBA Finals MVP, and the Aces are looking for a third consecutive WNBA title — a feat only accomplished by the Comets, who won the first four league championships.

But the buzz around the league has been centered on Clark, along with Angel Reese, Cameron Brink, Kamilla Cardoso and the rest of a rookie class that has been the most talked about in the past decade.

The brands the players built in college have led to sold-out jerseys and arenas. Teams have moved games to bigger venues to accommodate the demand for more tickets. It also helped

get the league to finally have charter flights for road games.

For all the hype about the rookies, how they perform on the court will be key to sustaining the early focus they generated on the league.

The Aces are the solid favorite to win it all again, although the Liberty are expected to have something to say about that. The Liberty return all five starters from last season's team that lost to the Aces in the WNBA Finals.

The Liberty's roster was compiled last season through free agency and trades but now Breanna Stewart, Jonquel Jones and Sabrina Ionescu hope to lead the franchise to its first title.

"We know what happened last year and the fact we didn't achieve our goal will motivate us, but it's not what we're thinking about the entire season," Stewart said. "I'm really excited to get things going with a new and old group and build the chemistry. Now most of us have a year under our belt, what are we going to do bigger on and off the court?"

While the Aces and Liberty didn't have any headline-making offseason moves, the Storm and Mercury both created some ripples with moves they hope will make them title contenders.

The Storm, who built a \$60 million state-of-the-art practice facility, added Nneka Ogwumike and Skylar Diggins-Smith. The Mercury signed Natasha Cloud and Kahleah Copper to add to Brittney Griner and Diana Taurasi.

Some other storylines to follow this season:

New coaches: The Sky and Mercury both have new coaches this season. The Sky will be led by Hall of Famer Teresa Weatherspoon. Longtime NBA assistant Nate Tibbetts

will guide the Mercury.

Weatherspoon returns to the WNBA after working with the NBA's Pelicans since 2019. She first was a player development coach and then an assistant starting in 2020. The team released her in June.

Tibbetts comes to the league after nearly two decades of experience as an NBA assistant coach and in the NBA's G League, where he was both a head coach and an assistant. He was most recently an assistant with the Magic.

Olympic break: The league will take nearly a monthlong break for the Paris Games from July 18-Aug. 14. Dozens of current and former WNBA players will be competing in the Olympics.

The WNBA will have its All-Star Game in Phoenix right before the Olympics start. The midseason showcase will most likely pit the U.S. national team against a group of All-Stars. The All-Stars won the contest in 2021 — the last time the format was implemented.

Charter flights: Commissioner Cathy Engelbert announced Thursday the league plans to fund charter flights at a cost of about \$50 million over the next two years in a move that addresses years of player safety concerns. Travel has been a huge topic of discussion for years.

End of an era: Candace Parker retired right before the season started and Taurasi is starting her 20th year in the WNBA. While Taurasi hasn't officially said it will be her last, it wouldn't be a surprise if this was her final season. She just wants to stay healthy, playing in more than 26 games only once in the past five seasons.

GOLF PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Thomas gets rare chance at Valhalla

By **Doug Ferguson**
Associated Press

Justin Thomas was back home in Kentucky for an occasion different from any other time in Louisville. The city honored him with its "Hometown Hero" award, and a 60-foot banner was unfurled from the building he used to pass on the way to Saint Xavier High School.

Thomas was so choked up at the presentation he couldn't speak until he eventually said, "The things I've felt today, I've never felt in any golf tournament I've won."

This was a week before the best golfers in the world — one of them a Louisville native — arrive for the PGA Championship at Valhalla.

It's rare for a player to have a hometown major in a city that doesn't have a steady diet of championship golf. Thomas is curious how he'll respond. He is a two-time PGA champion, winning at Quail Hollow in 2017 and Southern Hills in 2022, which also was his last victory as he works his way back into form.

"It will be a new experience for me," Thomas said. "The hardest thing I'll have is putting pressure on myself and wanting to perform well. But at the same, I do a good job of that without having a home event. Maybe two negatives will equal a positive."

Collin Morikawa and Max Homa grew up in the LA area. The U.S. Open went to Los Angeles Country Club last year, but they are regulars at the PGA Tour event at Riviera, the next best thing to a major. Xander Schauffele and Charley Hoffman grew up in San Diego. They play Torrey Pines every year on tour — the U.S. Open in 2021 wasn't that much different. Thomas has talked to Keegan Bradley, a New England native, about what it was like to play the U.S. Open — and contend on the weekend — at Brookline outside Boston in the 2022 U.S. Open.

"I told him what I tried to do is look into the crowd and make eye contact with people and see how excited they were and try to feed off that," Bradley said.

His other message: Embrace the moment. This doesn't happen very often.

"My motto for the week was, 'Why look forward to something for so long and not enjoy it?'" Bradley said.

Tommy Fleetwood would second that notion. Fleetwood grew up in Southport, England, and played the British Open at Royal Birkdale in 2017. He opened with a 76 and gamely rallied to make the cut and tie for 27th.

"There's pressure from yourself because it means that much more. Then there's pressure of playing before your home crowd," Fleetwood said. "But I mean, how lucky are you to play a home Open where you grew up?"

Thomas also wants to check in with Rory McIlroy about playing a British Open in his native Northern Ireland. That didn't start — or end well — for McIlroy at Royal Portrush. He made a quadruple-bogey 8 on the first hole, shot 79 and his rally to make the cut fell short.

"I remember getting onto the first tee Thursday and feeling overwhelmed, like I hadn't really prepared for it or visualized it or took my mind to a place where I was expecting to feel what I felt," McIlroy said. "I don't know that you can. You can't prepare for it until you actually feel it."

The list is short of players dealing with a hometown major.

Jack Nicklaus played the 1964 PGA Championship in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio (12 years before the inaugural Memorial). Columbus Country Club wasn't his home course, and Nicklaus had only played it four times since high school. But it was a busy week. Gary Player stayed at his house and Nicklaus jokingly said he missed a Tuesday practice round because he had to do Player's laundry. Nicklaus, the defending PGA champion, was six behind going into the last round and closed with a 64 to finish three shots behind Bobby Nichols.

Jeff Sluman was the PGA champion when the 1989 U.S. Open went to Oak Hill in Rochester, where Sluman grew up. He agreed to do a daily diary for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, right up until he missed the cut.

Thomas has a history at Valhalla, but rarely with a club in his hand. His father was the head pro at Harmony Landing, and he was an officer with the PGA of America when the PGA Championship came to Valhalla in 2000. Thomas was 7, just getting into golf. He said that week made it clear what he wanted to do for a living. It helps that it was among the most memorable finishes in PGA Championship history. Tiger Woods birdied the last two holes in regulation to force a playoff with Bob May, and he went on to capture his third consecutive major on his way to the "Tiger Slam," holding all four majors at the same time.

Thomas was in the clubhouse — too short to see anything with so many people — when Woods made his 6-foot birdie putt to force the playoff.

"I've watched the VHS of that tournament so many times as a kid," Thomas said. "I'd get home and if nothing was on TV, I'd watch that over and over and over again."



Justin Thomas hits a shot during the first round of the Wells Fargo Championship on Thursday in Charlotte, North Carolina. **ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY**