



Larry Marano

# STORMY: MAKE IT RAIN!

**Trump lawyers:  
Hustler Daniels  
just wanted money  
for Trump affair tale**



On cross-examination yesterday, lawyers questioned Stormy Daniels' motives in recounting her night with Donald Trump, noting that, for instance, she leveraged it into a strip-club tour (pictured) titled "Make America Horny Again."

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# MOMMY & ME-TIME



**BREATHING ROOM:** Johanna Riehm loves her family — and she'll love her upcoming Mother's Day home alone in Westchester while her hubby and sons go elsewhere.

## Busy gals want an 'anti-Mother's Day'

By ASIA GRACE

Motherhood is the gift that keeps on giving — and giving, and giving until sometimes it seems you can't take it anymore.

Brooke Sharkey, a Brooklyn mom of a 2-year-old daughter, had reached her limit ahead of Mother's Day last year. But instead of having a breakdown, she got a much-needed break.

"My husband booked me a one-night stay at the Walker Hotel Tribeca the Saturday before Mother's Day," Sharkey (left), 30, a personal assistant from Bed-Stuy, told The Post.

"I took a long shower, watched whatever I wanted on TV, ordered room service, scrolled through social media in peace, treated myself to a fancy dinner and caught a Broadway show," she said. "It was the best Mother's Day gift ever."

Rather than enduring long restaurant wait times for pancakes and cold

eggs at Sunday brunch, or receiving yet another bouquet of store-bought roses, Sharkey basked in the kid-free, responsibility-free glory of the "anti-Mother's Day" movement.

It's a trend away from the sweet, albeit stale, holiday traditions. The unconventional gift grants mom a mini "me time" vacation to sleep, nosh, primp, shop or do nothing.

Pooped mamas in need of a respite get to dedicate at least one day (and maybe night) of their weekend to themselves — either luxuriating at a haute hotel or sending the hubby and cubs away in order to savor an at-home staycation.

### 'Silent time'

Mommies everywhere are putting solo escapes at the top of their wish lists, too.

Westchester mom of two sons Johanna Riehm, 34, told The Post she's looking forward to lounging around like a queen in her empty castle Sunday.

"I've had the Mother's Day breakfasts in bed that come with a lot of screaming and chaos in the house," said the comedian and lifestyle influencer. "This year, my husband is taking the kids out for a 'boys day,' and I'll be home reading, getting out into nature, snacking and just lying down."

"Spending some silent time at home or enjoying some peace at a hotel is what Mother's Day is all about."

### 'Best of both worlds'

In fact, an April survey of 2,000 mothers across the US revealed that "a chore-free day," "a spa day," "alone time" and "a weekend getaway" were high-ranking requests this year.

Thea Gallagher, a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at NYU Langone Health, told The Post a mom's day off may be what the doctor ordered.

"Mom burnout can happen when women become exhausted by the massive amounts

of physical, mental, emotional and logistical effort that it takes to be a parent," she explained.

A May study from the Ohio State University College of Nursing found that mental overload affects over 57% of parents, and can ignite stress, anxiety and depression.

Gallagher encourages gals to indulge in as much self-care as possible — especially during their special celebration.

"If Mother's Day is about honoring the mother, then she needs some time to escape her mothering duties," she said. "When we recharge, we have more to give to our kids, jobs, partners and friends. We can't pour into others from an empty cup."

Sharkey agrees. After her 24-hour hiatus, she reunited with her family feeling refreshed.

"I had the best of both worlds. I got to sleep in, do the things that make me happy and get some rest," she said. "Then, the next day, I met up with my husband and daughter for some family time."



# THE TRUMP TRIALS



**ARTHUR ENGORON**  
Judge denies off-limits talk.

## NY probes att'y 'judge chat' boast

A controversial Manhattan lawyer — whose license was once suspended for telling a tenant to “commit suicide” — has sparked a state investigation after he claimed to have given the judge in Donald Trump’s civil fraud trial unsolicited advice.

Adam Leitman Bailey — whose law license was suspended for four months in 2019 over the caught-on-tape tirade — claimed to NBC New York that he spoke with Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Arthur Engoron about the case three weeks before the judge issued his \$455 million ruling against Trump in February.

“I actually had the ability to speak to him three weeks ago,” Bailey told the outlet in a Feb. 16 interview. “I saw him in the corner [at the courthouse] and I told my client, ‘I need to go.’ And I walked over and we started talking ... I wanted him to know what I think and why ... I really want him to get it right.”

The conversation sparked a probe by the New York judicial watchdog organization, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, a source told NBC New York.

A judge can’t “initiate, permit or consider” communications about cases outside the presence of all parties in the matter.

Bailey said he told Engoron his view of the case’s fraud statute: that it can’t be used to take a major company, such as the Trump Organization, out of business.

Al Baker, a state courts spokesman, denied to NBC that Engoron and Bailey spoke about the case: “The decision Justice Engoron issued February 16 was his alone, was deeply considered, and was wholly uninfluenced by this individual.”

Priscilla DeGregory



## Don’s lawyers charge porn



**DOUGH-EYED:** Stormy Daniels leaves Manhattan court Thursday (top right) after testifying against former President Donald Trump in his hush-money trial — insisting she had strongly opposed the naming of her stripper tour (left) as Make America Horny Again (above).

By KYLE SCHNITZER,  
BEN KOCHMAN  
and PRISCILLA DeGREGORY

A defiant Stormy Daniels battled back claims by Donald Trump’s lawyers Thursday that she made up her story about a tryst with the ex-president because she was after a payday.

Jurors in Trump’s Manhattan hush-money trial tried to keep a poker face during the fiery cross-examination, looking back and forth at the defense attorney and the former porn star trading blows as if watching a tennis match.

“You made all this up, right?” Trump lawyer Susan Necheles asked bluntly at one point.

“No,” Daniels shot back.

“Your story has completely changed, hasn’t it?” Necheles asked later, raising her voice.

“No!” Daniels replied.

Trump, 77, sat up straight in rapt attention during the fervid back-and-forth, in which his defense lawyer claimed that Dan-

iels’ porn career making “phony stories about sex” made her story about sleeping with Trump in 2006 less believable.

“Wow,” Daniels, 45, responded, and then paused. “That’s not how I would put it. The sex in the films is very much real, just like what happened to me in that room.”

“If that story was untrue, I would have written it to be a lot better,” Daniels added — having earlier testified that the sex was emotionless and didn’t last long.

### Pressure for payout

Jurors also heard a juicy phone conversation capturing Daniels’ attorney claiming his porn star client wanted money “more than anything.”

Lawyer Keith Davidson was heard telling Michael Cohen that Daniels “wanted this money more than you can ever imagine” as he put pressure on Trump’s former “fixer” to pay her in exchange for keeping

BACKGRID



## star made up tale to extort ex-prez



# \$TORMY STORY OF SILENCE FICTION'

quiet about her story that she had a tryst with the ex-president.

"I remember hearing her on the phone saying, 'You — f—king Keith Davidson — you better settle this goddamn story,'" Davidson could be heard telling Cohen on the expletive-laden recording.

The April 4, 2018, phone call between the attorneys featured multiple expletives, with Davidson claiming Daniels was yelling and screaming at him while calling him a "p—sy," all to put pressure on him for a good deal.

He added that Daniels allegedly said that if Trump lost the election, "we lose all f—king leverage"

and "this case is worth zero."

Daniels denied Davidson's claims as she testified against Trump for a second day in Manhattan Supreme Court.

### 'Sounds like a threat'

"No I did not, actually, I never yelled at Keith Davidson," she said during questioning by Trump's attorneys. "It sounds like a threat from Keith Davidson."

She told jurors that she didn't care about money, but rather just wanted "to get the truth out" about her alleged extramarital affair with Trump.

"I was asking to sell my story to publications to get the truth out," she insisted. "We were running out of time."

Trump is on trial for allegedly trying to cover up a \$130,000 payout Cohen made to Daniels in the lead-up to the 2016 presidential election to keep her from going public about her claims.

Daniels was noticeably calmer and more composed than her first stint on the stand Tuesday, where she spoke a mile a minute and gestured wildly while describing in graphic detail her "brief" sexual encounter with Trump in the "missionary position" all while he wasn't wearing a condom.

Neches continued tense questioning Thursday implying that Daniels had, in fact, extorted Trump for the payment.

The porn star, wearing a black hooded robe over a forest green dress, gave a cheeky response

when she was quizzed about profiting from selling merch based on Trump's legal woes — including "Saint of Indictments" devotional candles featuring Daniels' image that went for \$40.

The jury was also shown other items like a "#TeamStormy" T-shirt and a \$30 "Political Power: Stormy Daniels" comic book.

### 'Not unlike Mr. Trump'

When Neches characterized Daniels' e-commerce operation as "shilling," the adult film star snapped back that Trump does the same. "Not unlike Mr. Trump," she replied.

Daniels admitted to profiting from a strip club tour called Make America Horny Again, but insisted that she "hated" that name.

"I did not name that tour, and I fought it tooth and nail," she proclaimed to jurors.

Neches tried to get Daniels to admit she "made all this up," bringing up several apparent inconsistencies in her account from prior media interviews. For instance, she spent 20 minutes grilling Daniels about whether she received dinner as promised from Trump that night.

The attorney confronted Daniels with a 2011 interview with InTouch magazine in which she said they talked "over dinner." Daniels — describing herself as "food-motivated" — has denied that food was served and explained Thursday that though she met Trump "for dinner," and "it was dinnertime, I maintain that I didn't see any food."

Daniels left the stand in the early afternoon, with Judge Juan Merchan later hearing arguments from Trump's side about tossing the case over her testimony — which he denied.



# Place of your 'own'

## 'Adopt' a bldg. in museum's li'l Big Apple



**QUITE A SITE:** Queens Museum staffer Lynn Maliszewski invites visitors to "adopt" a building in the miniaturized model of New York City.

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

Rent is cheap at the Queens Museum.

The cultural institution has been recording the personal stories of misty-eyed guests who pay as little as \$100 to "rent" a tiny piece of property on its "Panorama of the City of New York" — a 9,335-square-foot, to-scale model of the Big Apple.

Hundreds of so-called deeds to tiny buildings have been doled out through the museum's Adopt-A-Building program, allowing New Yorkers to commemorate special moments in their lives or those of their loved ones. Those include a woman who bought a miniature of the home where her mom grew up in the 1930s and a couple who honored their anniversary with a "deed" to their first apartment as a married pair.

"People get really vulnerable

and intimate with this immediately when you ask them about it," Lynn Maliszewski, the assistant director of collections and archives, told The Post during an interview at the museum Thursday.

The Queens Museum has for more than a decade been collecting tales from visitors of their life-changing memories in the city that never sleeps — but expanded the project last summer into the digital realm.

A "digital mapping system" stands on the walkway surrounding the panorama, just above Staten Island, inviting wistful visitors to drop a pin on their special location and share a memory — for free — while looking down at the miniature city.

"Walking down 86th Street with my BFF in high school in 2009. We would go shopping and get the buffet that's near Marshalls. I will cherish those memories dearly,"

Elaine C wrote alongside her Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, pin.

Near Fifth Avenue, Jared recalled "having a day out in Central Park. Just coming out of the pandemic. It was a special moment to be around loved ones and breathing fresh air."

### Interactive screen

Because the interactive screen is so available to the public, it has plenty of silly entries likely punched in by teenagers, which Maliszewski said reflects "how we experience the city."

"People who grow up here, people who come here for school, people who come here after school — everyone does or doesn't realize at some point that we're all connected and all impacting one another here just by way of how many of us exist here," she contemplated.

The idea to document the thousands — if not millions — of stories whispered among guests came easily to museum staff.

Approximately 80% of museum visitors come to set their eyes on the tiny behemoth, according to a 2021 survey. The visitors are a mixed bag of locals and tourists from across the globe — but nearly all have the same reaction upon seeing the world's largest architectural model, which was conceived as an attraction for the 1964-65 World's Fair.

"Even if you were to find your apartment, it is a rectangle that is a color, you will not see your stoop, you will not see how many floors it even is — but it's still like you need to find it," Maliszewski said. "Everyone has that impulse to point out: 'I worked there when I was 21' and 'That's like the first restaurant I went to after college.'"

## Council blast on NYPD's trash talk

City Council leaders grilled the NYPD Thursday over "dangerous, unethical, unprofessional" social media posts by top officials — including a post calling a councilwoman's criticism "garbage" — as well as \$168 million in unplanned overtime.

The heated proceedings played out after the city Department of Investigation this week confirmed it had opened a probe into posts by department brass at the request of Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and The Legal Aid Society.

"These posts can often convey inaccurate or misleading information and could potentially incite threats of violence," said Adams, no relation to Mayor Adams.

"This conduct is dangerous, unethical, unprofessional because included in the department's mission is to preserve peace, protect the people and reduce fear at the preliminary budget."

The posts in question include NYPD Chief of Patrol John Chell's controversial jab at Queens Councilwoman Tiffany Caban calling her online criticism of the department "garbage."

Adams also took the department to task over the NYPD overtime tab to cover protests and migrants. As of March, the department spent about \$788 million in overtime during the 2024 fiscal year — almost \$271 million over budget, she said.

"Repeated overspending beyond the allocated budget raises concerns about agency and fiscal management and accurate budgeting," Adams said. *Aneeta Bhole and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*

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#### NEW YORK

■ Midday Nos. Thu.: **202**  
■ Midday Win-4 Thu.: **0106**  
■ Evening Nos. Thu.: **757**  
■ Evening Win-4 Thu.: **1124**  
■ Midday Take-5 Thu.: **6, 21, 33, 38, 39**  
■ Evening Take-5 Thu.: **7, 10, 11, 20, 27**

■ Pick-10 Thu.: **2, 3, 11, 13, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 32, 33, 38, 40, 46, 57, 67, 77, 80**  
■ Cash-4-Life Thu.: **12, 15, 24, 36, 50**; Cash Ball: **2**

#### NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Thu.: **786**; Fireball: **2**  
Pick-4 Thu.: **5411**; Fireball: **2**  
Cash-5 Xtra Thu.: **7, 11, 29, 31, 45**; Xtra: **4**  
Pick-6 Thu.: **5, 6, 29, 30, 33, 36**; Double Play: **3, 7, 19, 27, 32, 44**

#### CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Thu.: **689**; Wild: **5**  
Play-4 Thu.: **0679**; Wild: **5**  
Cash-5 Thu.: **2, 9, 15, 18, 23**  
Lucky-4-Life Thu.: **3, 6, 7, 22, 41**; Lucky Ball: **4**

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## Sultry Kendall is really opening up

Summer coverstar Kendall Jenner, 28, unbuttons herself for Vogue. “I’m a negative thinker,” she admits, adding: “I’m so tired emotionally, but I think it’s good. It’s almost like I’m purging something for my 30s. That’s my theory.”

# NEW GUT CHECK ON CANCER

## Early-test innovation

By REDA WIGLE

Swish your way to early cancer detection?

Researchers at Rutgers University believe a simple oral rinse may be key to the early detection of gastric cancer, also known as stomach cancer.

In a study scheduled for presentation at Digestive Disease Week later this month, the research team suggests oral bacteria alone could serve as biomarkers for gastric-cancer risk.

Dr. Shruthi Reddy Perati, author and general surgery resident at Rutgers, reports: “We see that the oral microbiome and the stomach microbiome are connected, and knowing what bugs are in your mouth tells us what the stomach environment is like. That has a huge implication that could lead to some practice-changing tests and guidelines.”

The fourth-leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide, gastric cancer is notoriously hard to detect in its early stages and frequently misidentified.

According to Moffitt Cancer Center, “As the cancer progresses, the symptoms that do appear can be misdiagnosed as normal gastrointestinal issues. As a result, stomach cancer can go undetected for years before the symptoms become concerning enough

to warrant diagnostic testing.”

Recent research suggests that single people are at a higher risk of developing stomach cancer.

Perati imparts, “No formal screening guidelines for gastric cancer are available in the United States, and more than half of patients with gastric cancer receive a diagnosis when the cancer is already at an advanced stage.”

### Microbe probe

Perati and the team of researchers analyzed bacteria samples from the mouths of patients scheduled for an endoscopy. Of this test group, 30 were known to have gastric cancer, 30 had premalignant gastric conditions and 38 were healthy controls.

The Rutgers team found significant differences between the oral microbes of the healthy group and those belonging to the cancerous and precancerous patients. Additionally, researchers found little difference between the bacteria samples of the cancerous and precancerous patients, indicating that changes in the microbiome may occur as soon as the stomach environment develops preconditions for cancer.

“Even with a small cohort, we were able to see some stark differences and believe the findings are very promising,” Perati said.

## NYE machete fiend jailed

An admitted jihadist wannabe who attacked three NYPD cops with a foot-long machete in Times Square on New Year’s Eve in 2022 was sentenced to 27 years in prison on Thursday.

Trevor Bickford was handed down the sentence by Judge Kevin Castel in Manhattan federal court after pleading guilty in January to slashing three cops in a lone-wolf attack during the annual celebration in the Crossroads of the World, according to prosecutors

with the Manhattan US Attorney’s Office. As part of the sentence, the 20-year-old Maine native will be on lifetime supervision once he’s freed. Bickford had faced up to 120 years behind bars if the judge doled out maximum consecutive sentences on all six counts he pleaded guilty to. Bickford, then 19, traveled from his Maine home to New York with a machete and a twisted plan to kill as many people as possible in the name of Islamic jihad. *Priscilla DeGregory*



# Joe lays out delusional account of



By POST EDITORIAL BOARD

The White House rarely allows President Biden to sit down for interviews, and Wednesday's chat with CNN's Erin Burnett shows why. In a brief 17 minutes, Biden told 15 lies — nearly a lie a minute. From whoppers about the economy to prevarications on Israel, Biden spun a Fantasyland of a presidency that voters know is false. Here's a rundown:

**LIE 1: “I’ve created over 15 million jobs since I’ve been president.”**

Biden's favorite falsehood, told over and over and over again no matter how many fact-checks call him out. He took office at the tail end of a pandemic that blew a hole in the economy, when lockdown policies wholeheartedly endorsed by Democrats took people out of the office and onto COVID stimulus checks. He “created” nothing. After the introduction of the vaccine, people returned to the workforce. If anything, Biden's policies slowed the recovery — it took until July 2022 for the economy to regain all the jobs lost due to the pandemic.

**LIE 2: “Other than Herbert Hoover, [Donald Trump] is the only president who has lost more jobs than he created.”**

The corollary lie. Trump didn't “lose” jobs; he was president during a global pandemic. And liberals were thrilled to put people on government checks and shut down the world during COVID. They cannot argue that the job market would have been any different in 2020 under a Democrat.

**LIE 3: “Look at what he says he’s going to do if he gets elected. Says he’s going to do away with what I’ve done on Medicare, reducing the price of Medicare.”**

There's no basis for this, as

# ALLIE A MINUTE

Trump has said he “will never do anything that will hurt or jeopardize Social Security or Medicare.” Further, Trump pursued the exact same executive orders to lower prescription drug prices as did Biden.

**LIE 4: “You know we have 1,000 billionaires in America. Know what their average federal tax is? 8.3%.”**

Factcheck.org notes that, “The top 0.1% of earners, with more than \$4.4 million in expanded cash income, pay an average rate of 25.1% in federal income and payroll taxes.”

**LIE 5: “We’ve already turned it around [on the economy].”**

Burnett quoted some tough figures on the economy, noting that the cost of buying a home had doubled, and “Real income when you account for inflation is actually down since you took office.” Biden's response? Denial.

**LIE 6: “The polling data has been wrong all along.”**



Every survey that says people are upset about the economy? Every poll that puts Biden's approval rating at historic lows? Are all of them, from dozens of different sources, wrong?

**LIE 7: “There’s corporate greed going out there. And it’s got to be dealt with.”**

Labor costs increased 4.2% between 2023 and 2024. They increased 5.1% from 2021 to 2022. The cost of everything, from supplies, to shipping, to rent, to

taxes, have gone up. Why? Because of the huge amount of government money injected into the system, minimum-wage increases by California and other states, and pent-up demand by consumers. How is Biden going to “deal with it?” Tell companies they can't raise prices to avoid losing money?

**LIE 8: “[Inflation] was 9% when I came to office.”**

This is the lie of the night.

Biden continues to pretend that the US was in terrible shape when he took office, when it was already on the rebound — thanks to Trump's Warp Speed project that vaccinated people quickly against COVID. Inflation was a measly 1.4% in January 2021. Then Biden went on a drunken sailor spending spree, and inflation skyrocketed.

**LIE 9: “They have the money to spend. It angers them and angers me that they have to spend more.”**

They have the money to spend? According to Bankrate, 76% of adults making less than \$50,000 a year are living paycheck-to-paycheck, an increase from 71% the year before that. Biden need only watch the nightly news to see people cutting back on groceries, gas — even trips to McDonald's — because their spending power has decreased.

**LIE 10: “Civilians have been killed in Gaza as a consequence of those bombs, and other ways in which they go after population centers.”**



# troubled presidency

It's libel to suggest that Israel is deliberately targeting population centers. Hamas embeds itself among the civilian population, creating bases inside hospitals and digging tunnels under residential apartments.

Israel has been warning the people of Rafah for more than a week to move to a safe zone outside of the city.

They do not "go after" population centers, they work hard to minimize deaths while stopping the terrorists who kidnapped, raped and murdered Israeli civilians.

**LIE 11: "We're not walking away from Israel's security. We're walking away from Israel's ability to wage war in those areas."**

But defeating Hamas is integral to Israel's security.

How does Biden suggest Israel win the war if it leaves the last stronghold of the terrorist group untouched?

**LIE 12: "It made no sense in my view to engage in thinking in Iraq they have a nuclear weapon."**

Biden brought this up, saying that he warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to "make the mistakes" we made in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Except Biden voted in favor of invading Iraq. So Biden may regret that decision today but it made sense to him back then.

**LIE 13: "You can't only love your country when you win."**

Someone better tell all the celebrities and elites in the Democratic Party who claim they are going to move if Trump is re-elected, or say they "don't know their country anymore," or who burn American flags as they rally for Hamas. Biden's chiding of Trump with this line would carry more weight if he said it to his own voters.

**LIE 14: "I travel around the world, other world leaders, know what they all say, 80% of them, 'you gotta win. My democracy is at stake.'"**

Maybe we can't say this is absolutely a lie, but it sure sounds like one of those statements for which the press loves to go after Trump.

Are other world leaders really pulling Biden aside after his nap

and saying "democracy is at stake" if you lose? Give us a break.

**LIE 15: "Then [Trump] is going to put in a 10% tax that's going to increase average American's cost \$1,500 a year."**

Trump has proposed no such tax. Perhaps Biden means Trump's plan for a 10% tariff on imported goods, which may or may not cost Americans more money.

You know who else is considering imposing tariffs on foreign goods? Biden.

Just this week, under the headline "Biden Looks to Thwart Surge of Chinese Imports," The New York Times notes that China is using unfair business practices and Biden wants to counter it.

**TRUTHNAYER:** In an interview with CNN anchor Erin Burnett (opposite page), President Biden defended his stance on Israel and his handling of the economy — but the world he described was divorced from reality.





## BORDER CRISIS

## RIOTERS SKATE



**FREE FOR ALL:** A Texas judge has thrown out charges against 211 illegal migrants who charged the National Guard at the border in March

By MEGAN PALIN

Rioting charges against 211 illegal migrants caught on video by The Post pushing past Texas troops and attempting to break into the US on March 21 have all been dismissed — based on a technicality.

El Paso County Judge Ruben Morales dismissed the cases at a hearing Wednesday, saying he “hands [are] tied” after the state did not provide a required transfer order, a simple document, to move the matter from district to county court.

“If I don’t have jurisdiction, there’s nothing I can do on these cases [except dismiss them],” he said during the hearing.

The move is a huge blow for county District Attorney Bill Hicks, who had been pursuing the cases. At a press conference Thursday, he said: “Our office feels

## Judge tosses raps on a technicality.

strongly . . . the procedure was appropriate and proper.

“We feel Judge Morales’ order is an improper order. We have the intention of appealing.”

El Paso County Assistant District Attorney Kyle Lasley had argued that Morales’ court oversaw misdemeanor cases and that he did have jurisdiction.

However, Public Defender Kelli Childress claimed “processes were ignored” when transferring the cases, and Morales sided with her. Hicks clarified the migrants — who collectively ripped down ra-

zor-wire fences and assaulted National Guard troops, with one having his knee stomped in the melee — would be released to federal custody with Customs and Border Protection.

### On to seek asylum

He added he expects some of the rioters to be granted the right to pursue asylum in the US and released into the country.

“Border Patrol will then process them. So some may qualify for asylum, some may not. Some may be

deported, some may not,” Hicks said, adding that some of the 211 migrants “have criminal history,” but noted “most do not.”

CBP did not respond to The Post’s requests for comment.

The migrants were all arrested by Texas authorities on riot-related charges after the rush at an area known as Gate 36, as seen in the shocking footage captured by The Post.

The riot charges carried a maximum penalty of 180 days in jail and up to a \$2,000 fine.

The migrants were mostly adult males who outnumbered the guardsmen, who had been trying to place them into groups so they could be taken into CBP custody.

Nine migrants were later singled out as the “ringleaders” of the stampede and eight of them are in custody facing additional felony charges, which are being heard separately from the riot charges.



## Probe into CBP bigs’ Mex party

Two top US Customs and Border Protection officials are under investigation for partying in Mexico with a tequila mogul, where they discussed possibly creating a CBP-themed tequila for the agency’s 100th anniversary.

Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens and Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sector Chief Gloria Chavez allegedly visited with wealthy distiller Francisco Javier González — grandson of the founder of Don Julio — in Jalisco in February, NBC News reported Wednesday.

The agency is probing whether or not the pair disclosed their relationship with a foreign national, which is required by those with top security clearance, and if they accepted anything that violated any ethics rules, three sources familiar with the matter told the outlet.

Photos posted to Instagram in February show Owens and Chavez with Gonzalez (above) at his family’s distillery complex about a two-hour flight from San Antonio. Owens can be seen drinking a glass of wine and enjoying a cigar.

The CBP officials’ relationship with Gonzalez goes back to July 2023, when the tequila scion hosted a party for CBP leaders in Laredo, Texas, Homeland Security officials told NBC News. *Patrick Reilly*

## Pols want ‘border order’ End shelter cap: Lander

New York Rep. Tom Suozzi (D) and Pennsylvania Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R) urged President Biden on Thursday to end asylum abuses and “bring order to the border” through executive action.

They joined forces to demand that the White House

crack down on cartels profiting from the US border crisis — and extend legal work permits to more than 1 million undocumented people in the country as the spouses of US citizens. “Americans want action,” Suozzi said Thursday.

“We need a smart and

sensible immigration system to support families and protect the border,” Fitzpatrick added.

The Biden administration floated plans to tighten some other asylum-related screening measures early Thursday.

*Josh Christenson*

More than 4,500 migrants are still pouring into the Big Apple each month — but City Comptroller Brad Lander is calling for an end to the Adams administration’s caps on shelter stays for asylum-seekers.

The limit — which gives migrant families 60 days of

city-funded shelter to find proper housing — was implemented in October to help ease the strain on the city’s overcrowded system.

Yet despite data showing that the cap is helping, Lander insisted Thursday that the limit is cruel.

Lander cited his office’s

five-month investigation into the policy, which criticized the Adams administration for a “haphazard” rollout with little information provided to staff or families on exemptions for reapplying for shelter.

*Jack Morphet and Craig McCarthy*

James Breiden for NY Post



# Stalker or not, nobody's an innocent in Netflix tale

**PIERS  
MORGAN  
UNCENSORED**



I'VE interviewed a lot of very dangerous people in my career, from serial killers to medically diagnosed psychopaths.

And the common denominator is that they're invariably very skilled liars, often because their warped minds have made them believe what they're saying even if facts speak otherwise.

Fiona Harvey hasn't killed anyone.

But if she did all the things she is depicted as doing in "Baby Reindeer," then she is certainly a very unstable, obsessive and threatening stalker who made Richard Gadd's life utter hell.

And indeed, the lives of other people she's accused of harassing, too.

But is it all true?

Netflix boasts it's a "true story" at the start of the series, without equivocation.

And lest there be any doubt of the streamer's position, Benjamin King, Netflix's senior director of public policy in the UK, told a Parliamentary committee this week: "Baby Reindeer" is an extraordinary story, and it is obviously a true story of the horrific abuse that the writer and protagonist, Richard Gadd, suffered at the hands of a convicted stalker."

## Duty-of-care failure

Yet Fiona says she's never been convicted of stalking Gadd, let alone shamefacedly admitted it in court as the show says.

And no journalists have found any evidence that she has ever been charged or convicted of any crime.

Perhaps she's lying.

But it's not a difficult thing to check, and if it turns out that Fiona Harvey has never been convicted of stalking Gadd or anyone else, then that surely blows a massive hole in "Baby Reindeer's" credibility?

And it would call into serious question just how much of Gadd's version of events can be believed.

Netflix also claims it did every-

thing possible to avoid the real people behind the characters in the show being identified.

But the actress they chose to play Martha bears a striking resemblance physically, and in the way she spoke in the series, to Fiona Harvey.

And as a result of all the clues they gave, including specific phrases used in tweets and messages purportedly from Martha to Gadd, Internet sleuths identified her in about 10 nano seconds.

This led very quickly to people bombarding Fiona Harvey with abuse and death threats.

All of which points to a spectacular duty-of-care failure by Netflix, Gadd, and Clerkenwell Films, which produced the series, which I would think



**ONE-SIDED:** Fiona Harvey's story may have holes, but so too do those of Richard Gadd (left), Netflix and the "Reindeer Games" producers, who at a minimum exploited the mentally unwell for profit.

carries with it serious legal jeopardy.

Of course, none of this means Fiona Harvey told me the truth.

I found her to be intelligent, quick-thinking and combative.

And on a human level, I felt sorry for her that she's been publicly dragged through the mincer like this.

Her general behavior, on and off camera, with me and my team didn't give any of us cause for concern about either her potential danger or her mental state, though it should be said that stalkers can be very convincing in their ability to hide their real personalities or obsessive intent.

But there were moments in the interview where my suspicious alarm bells rang loud, especially when she suddenly said, "Even if the email thing was true, the rest is not." The "email thing" is the 41,000 emails she's said to have sent Gadd.

## Obsessive for certain

And if that bit is true, then it would suggest she was very obsessively pursuing contact with him.

I also found it very strange that she admitted to having up to six email addresses and four mobile phones she "used for different people."

That's not normal.

She also made a series of emphatic blanket denials about how long she knew Gadd, and how much contact she had with him, that are provably false.

The claim that she only sent him one letter, when he says he has 105, seems especially disingenuous.

On balance, I'd say Fiona Harvey lied to me quite a lot in the interview and if her threatened legal action against Netflix and Gadd goes ahead, I suspect it will quickly emerge she did send all the emails, messages and letters to him.

But that doesn't mean she can't be a victim here, too.

Gadd, by his own admission, is a very damaged guy who took a lot of drugs, enthusiastically pursued a chaotic lurid sex life and did lead on Harvey in a way that may have fueled her obsession. He's also been accused of propositioning trans actresses whom he was lining up for work.

Frankly, it's all a mess.

But if Richard Gadd feels entitled to make millions airing his side of the story, and make very serious allegations about Fiona Harvey in the process, then she is surely entitled to respond and defend herself?

As for who is exploiting whom, I'll leave that to the court of public opinion to decide.



## ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

# 'State of Palestine' LEFT CROWS buys Ivies

By ALLIE GRIFFIN

Several Ivy League schools, including Harvard University, have accepted millions of dollars in donations from foundations and donors located in the "State of Palestine," often to fund the education of Palestinian students at American colleges, according to a new report.

The elite schools took \$10 million from 2017 to 2023 from entities within the "State of Palestine," according to the analysis by OpenTheBooks, a Republican-owned nonprofit dedicated to revealing government spending.

Brown University, Harvard University and non-Ivy Indiana University of Pennsylvania are among the schools to accept funding from donors located in the nation that technically doesn't exist, at least by UN standards.

The "State of Palestine" is not a recognized entity by the UN or the US — though some 140 countries do officially recognize it.

Brown University in February 2020 received a \$643,000 gift from a foundation located within the "State of Palestine" to create a professorship in Palestinian Studies as part of the college's Middle East Studies program, according to federal disclosures reviewed by OpenTheBooks.

Though the financial filing does not disclose the donor's name, Brown previously said the money was gifted by the Munib and Angela Masri Foundation based in the West Bank.

Nine different donors — including multiple Brown alumni and the foundation — came together to fund

the Mahmoud Darwish Professorship in Palestinian Studies, according to a 2020 press release.

Meanwhile, Harvard took in \$1.6 million from donors within the "State of Palestine" and the Indiana University of Pennsylvania received \$6.4 million from entities within the "State of Palestine" and another \$900,000 from a donor from "Palestinian Territory, Occupied," according to the review of the financial disclosure documents.

The donors are not identified in the filings. Harvard previously said that monies it received from Palestinian donors in 2017, 2018 and 2019 did not come from the Palestinian Authority, though it would not disclose the donor names in a 2020 news report.

## Foreign students

Most of the money helped pay for Palestinian students from the occupied territories to receive an education at US universities, according to the filings.

They were often reported as "payment of tuition and fees for students from Palestine. Funds are also utilized to pay for educational-related expenses incurred by the university for these students through their enrollment in this program," the documents state, according to Open the Books.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania received at least \$2.3 million from the West Bank-based Arab American University to cover tuition and other expenses for Palestinian students, according to the same 2020 report.

agriffin@nypost.com

By STEVEN NELSON

Members of the left-wing "Squad" of House members openly celebrated President Biden's vow to stop providing weapons to Israel if it invades Rafah.

"Protesting is working. Keep fighting for a #CeasefireNow," tweeted Bronx and Westchester Rep. Jamaal Bowman, who has been an outspoken supporter of anti-Israel protesters at Columbia University and elsewhere.

Bronx and Queens Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez also celebrated Biden telling CNN "I'm not supplying the weapons" for an offensive on Hamas' final major stronghold in Gaza.

"Biden has not 'lost his mind.' He is upholding the word of the US," Ocasio-Cortez wrote on X after Biden confirmed that he's withholding shipments of 1,800 2,000-pound bombs and 1,700 500-pound bombs, and that he is considering a pause on artillery shells.

"There are 1.3 million people in Rafah. You do not need to slaughter them to go after Hamas. Biden stated the US red line was Rafah. It would make us weaker & the world less safe to let Bibi [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu], or anyone, cross it," she wrote.

Brooklyn Rep. Nydia Velazquez posted on X: "An invasion of Rafah would exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and endanger the lives of the over 1 million Palestinians that have sought refuge there. [Biden] is right to make this decision."

South Bronx Rep. Ritchie Torres was one of the few dissenters in the Gotham delegation.

"As the leader of the free world, America cannot claim that its commitment to Israel is 'iron-clad' and



then proceed to withhold aid from Israel," Torres wrote. "The mixed messaging makes a mockery of our credibility as an ally. No one will take our word seriously."

Nassau County and Queens Rep. Tom Suozzi issued an equivocating statement on X that read: "I urge the Biden administration to resolve any differences with our ally Israel regarding arms shipments immediately."

Rep. Grace Meng of Queens released a similar statement late Thursday, saying: "Israel and the Biden administration must get back on the same page so the hostages can be brought home and Hamas can be defeated. Together, we must continue working to protect civilians despite Hamas' efforts to the contrary."

New York City has more Jewish

## GOP pol's impeach push

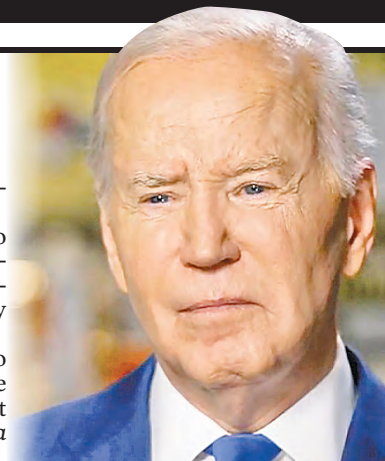
Republican Rep. Cory Mills is preparing to introduce articles of impeachment against President Biden over the pause on the shipment of some military weapons to Israel, arguing that it is similar to Donald Trump's actions that led to his 2019 impeachment.

Mills, 43, submitted language to House counsel Thursday that would charge Biden with "abuse of power," the Florida congressman revealed on X,

noting he would "pursue action [Friday] morning."

"President Biden solicited a 'quid pro quo' with . . . Israel by withholding precision guided weapons shipments in order to try and extract military policy changes," reads Mills' resolution.

A few conservatives have signed on to the push, though House Speaker Mike Johnson still hoped that Biden's threat was "a senior moment." Victor Nava

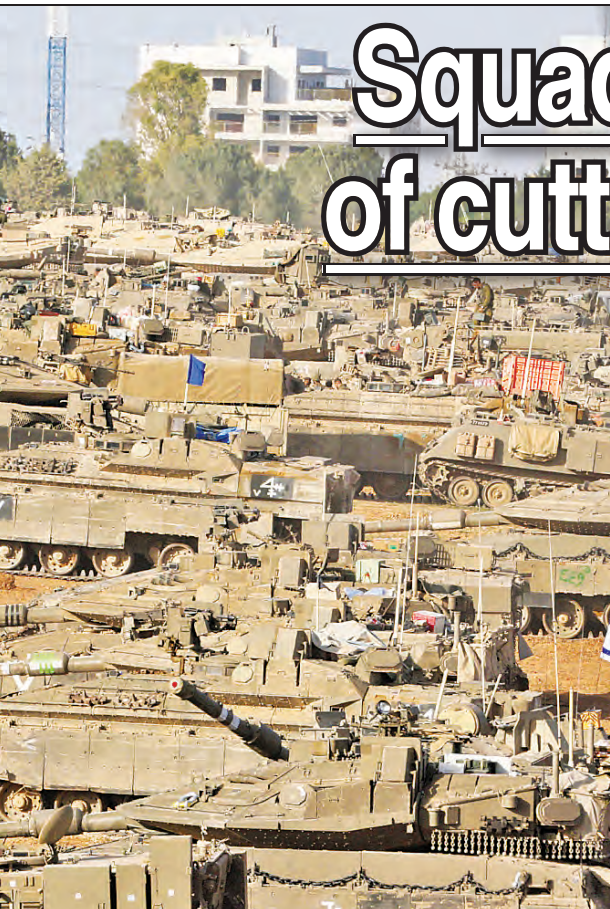




## ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

## AS JOE CHICKENS

## Squad hails WH 'betrayal' of cutting arms vs. Hamas



**RADICALS:** Israeli military vehicles gather Thursday near the border fence with Gaza, but US lefties including AOC (left) and Rep. Jamaal Bowman (inset) oppose providing the Jewish state with additional weaponry.

Reuters

residents than any other city in the world — with an estimated 1.9 million in the metropolitan area — and has some of the most powerful House members, though those with the most influence were publicly silent.

Among those pols withholding immediate comment were House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-Brooklyn) and rank-

ing member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Gregory Meeks (D-Queens).

Both Democratic Reps. Dan Goldman, who serves parts of lower Manhattan and brownstone Brooklyn, and Jerry Nadler, of upper Manhattan, hadn't posted anything on social media or their official websites as of midday Thursday.

One Democratic source told The Post that many members of Congress were waiting for formal intelligence briefings before staking out a position — though some pro-Israel Democratic insiders bristled at what they viewed as insufficient pushback against Biden's position.

It was not immediately clear where Reps. Yvette Clarke of

Brooklyn and Adriano Espaillat of The Bronx and Manhattan stood on the matter.

New York City's sole Republican member of Congress, Staten Island Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, denounced Biden's pivot.

"In an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, Congress authorized sending aid to our dear ally Israel, and it's not up to President

Biden under what conditions that aid is sent," Malliotakis said.

"He needs to stop playing politics and appeasing the radicals in his party who are siding with Iran and Hamas."

Long Island Republican Reps. Anthony D'Esposito, Andrew Garbarino and Nick LaLota also slammed Biden, as did Republican Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes part of the Hudson Valley.

Garbarino said Biden "is emboldening Hamas while undermining Israel as it seeks the release of the hostages."

"Biden's decision, driven by political motives to placate his disenchanted progressive base and secure electoral votes in Michigan, is in stark contradiction to his previous commitments of support for Israel, particularly following the terrorist attacks on October 7th," LaLota added.

"This is a complete betrayal," Lawler said. "President Biden has fully abdicated his responsibility as commander-in-chief and the United States' role as Israel's closest ally with his outrageous decision."

"This is war, [Biden]. Grow a backbone," tweeted D'Esposito, who followed up with a Thursday letter to the president that read, in part: "I look forward to you reversing course."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who has advocated heavy US military aid to Israel while also sharply criticizing Netanyahu, also did not immediately comment, nor did Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

Negotiations between Israel and Hamas for a hostage deal have been put on hold as the fighting in Rafah appears to have expanded on the ground, officials said.

The terror group's delegation in Cairo has mostly stepped away from the negotiating table following IDF advances in Rafah, southern Gaza's most populous city, sources familiar with the talks told Politico.

## Rafah puts deal in limbo

Hamas is allegedly still willing to continue the talks, with US mediators in Qatar working to keep the negotiations going with the Jewish state.

The terror group's stance comes as Israel's own negotiation team departed

from Cairo without setting a date for their return, The Times of Israel reports.

While the US and world leaders have stressed the importance of keeping the negotiation channels open between Hamas and Israel, the hope for a cease-fire

deal has taken a hit following Israel's incursion into Rafah, which houses more than 1 million refugees.

Israeli tanks seized control of the Rafah Crossing on Tuesday, with armored vehicles and troops engaging in skirmishes with Ha-

mas terrorists in the city outskirts as thousands of Palestinians attempted to flee the city.

While Israeli and US officials said the operation was limited to the areas surrounding the city, satellite images of the city

suggest the IDF has advanced more than a mile inside the enclave in Gaza.

The images of Rafah, taken by Planet Labs following the IDF's mobilization, show several buildings and roads past the border bulldozed, with tracks from armored vehicles visible on the ground.

The IDF, however, maintains that it is conducting a "precise counterterrorism operation." Ronny Reyes



# ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

## Turned in by dad in WWI deface

# TEEN VANDAL BUSTED



**'DESPICABLE':** The teenager who allegedly defaced the 107th Infantry Memorial (inset) with graffiti reading "Gaza" in large red letters wears a pair of cuffs Monday after being turned in by his own father.



**MARTHA POLLACK**  
Says not forced out.

## Cornell prez is quitting

Cornell University president Martha Pollack is stepping down — after months of turmoil including anti-Israel demonstrations and threats to Jewish students.

Pollack, 65, said her June 30 departure — after seven years at the helm of the Ivy League school in upstate Ithaca — is unrelated to the protests.

"I understand that there will be lots of speculation about my decision," Pollack said in her resignation statement released Thursday. "So let me be as clear as I can: This decision is mine and mine alone."

Cornell provost Michael Kotlikoff will serve as interim president.

Among on-campus controversies, a Cornell engineering student was charged with threatening to kill Jews at the university in October.

Also troubling, a Cornell history professor, Russell Rickford, described Hamas' Oct. 7 terrorist attack on Israel as "exhilarating" and "energizing."

*Carl Campanile*

By PATRICK REILLY

A teenage anti-Israel protester who vandalized a World War I memorial in Central Park earlier this week was arrested Thursday — after his father turned him over to the cops, according to the NYPD and police sources.

The 16-year-old boy was charged with criminal mischief in the third degree, a felony, and making graffiti, which is a misdemeanor, for allegedly defacing the 107th Infantry Memorial during an unruly demonstration on Monday night.

The teen, who routinely attends rallies organized by the anti-Israel group Within Our Lifetime, only landed in custody after his dad turned him in, the sources said.

NYPD Deputy Commissioner Kaz Daughtry on Thursday posted a blurred photo to X of the teen in handcuffs sitting on a

bench in a police station.

"The despicable vandalism we saw earlier this week on the WWI Memorial will not be ignored, and will not go unpunished," Daughtry tweeted as he announced one of the culprits' arrest.

"This isn't simply juvenile hijinks — it's an act of desecration that undermines the freedoms our heroes fought and died for," he added.

### 'These people are nuts'

Sources said the youngster attends Tottenville HS and has no prior arrests.

The war memorial was defaced with graffiti reading "Gaza" in large red letters during Monday's anarchy near the corner of Fifth Avenue and East 67th Street.

Another protester torched an American flag in front of the

bronzed memorial depicting seven World War I foot soldiers in battle.

Several others were seen climbing on top of the infantrymen and waving Palestinian flags.

The desecration of the memorial outraged New Yorkers who visited the site Tuesday to see the damage themselves.

"These people are just nuts and violent," Michael Skol, who has lived in the tony Manhattan neighborhood for 25 years, had told The Post.

"Burning the flag is anti-American. It's stupid," he added. "It definitely doesn't help Palestinians or the peace process. These are people who are not in the tradition of believing America is a good place. It's disgusting."

Enraged locals argued that the throngs of pro-Palestinian protesters were hurting their cause with their mindless destruction.

"It's horrible to treat a World War I memorial the way they did. It breaks your heart," said Ron Zucher, 50.

"In this country, you have a right to voice your opinion, but not destroy memorials that pay tribute to heroes who died for our country.

"You gotta have some decency," Zucher added. "The protesters are not helping their own cause destroying monuments and burning the flag."

A clean-up crew Tuesday scrubbed off the "Gaza" and "Free Palestine" graffiti left behind at the memorial using power washers and a biodegradable chemical cleaning agent.

Anarchists on Monday night also vandalized the Civil War Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman monument in the nearby Grand Army Plaza on 59th Street.

## Pol rips Columbia grad nix

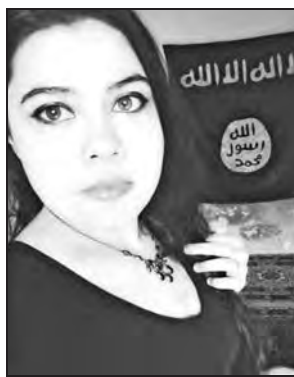
Long Island GOP Rep. Anthony D'Esposito wants to honor his constituents graduating from Columbia University this year with a separate commencement ceremony after the Ivy League school made the "appalling" decision to cancel its official celebration.

D'Esposito told university president Minouche

Shafik in a Wednesday letter he wanted to give students in his district "the graduation ceremony they deserve."

"For some, graduating from higher education is the pinnacle of their life thus far — an important milestone celebrated by family, friends and loved ones," he said.

*Josh Christenson*



## 'Brooklyn ISIS' gal busted

A US-born woman whose family was just repatriated from Syria is accused of completing ISIS training — including how to fire an AK-47 assault rifle — when she was just 18, according to newly unsealed court documents.

Halima Salman, (left) now 25, was arrested Tues-

day at JFK Airport in Queens after she and her family were repatriated as part of a State Department effort to bring back American citizens held in Kurdish-run Syrian detention centers.

Salman, also identified as Umm al-Khattab al-Muhajir, has been charged

with knowingly receiving military-type training from ISIS, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years.

Her lawyer, Samuel Jacobson, argued in Brooklyn federal court Tuesday that her father manipulated the then-17-year-old into joining the armed extremist group. *Chris Nesi*





# Douglas Murray

**W**HAT a difference a day makes.

On Tuesday President Biden was speaking at the Holocaust Memorial Museum commemoration at the Capitol in Washington. There he drew a direct comparison between the events of the Holocaust and the attacks on Israel of Oct. 7.

That is not my comparison. It was President Biden's.

Talking about the phrase "Never Again," he said: "Here we are not 75 years later but just seven and a half months later, and people are already forgetting. They're already forgetting that Hamas unleashed this terror. It was Hamas who brutalized Israelis. It was Hamas who took and continues to hold hostages. I have not forgotten, nor have you. And we will not forget."

As I say, what a difference a day makes.

## All for nothing?

Within hours the same president who uttered those words was attempting to prevent Israel's victory in Gaza. By withholding arms shipments to Israel, Biden made it clear that he does not want Israel to achieve its military objectives in the final battle of Rafah.

Opponents of the war have briefed for months about the need for a pause or a ceasefire.

But there has been an effective pause for months as Israel has waited for this push into Hamas' final stronghold.

It is believed that Rafah is the place where the remaining Israeli hostages are being held, and the place where Yahya Sinwar — the mastermind of the Oct. 7 attacks — is hiding. Most likely surrounded by "the best" hostages — which to his sick mind would include the remaining child captives.

"Never again" indeed.

If the Israeli army does not destroy Hamas in Rafah then the war is effectively for nothing, and all the pain and grief on all sides might as well not have occurred.

As I have said before, there is no point in putting out 80% of a fire. Until the Israeli army can clear Hamas out of Rafah the fire of Gaza is not out.

But Biden seems to be bowing to pressure from some of his own base. As someone joked a few months back, Biden does indeed want to focus on a two-state solution, but the two states are Minnesota and Michigan.

He is desperate to chase the few tens of thousands of voters who might turn on him because they care about Hamas more than they care about America.

**BLOODSHED:** An Israeli soldier on Thursday looks at a memorial of people taken hostage or killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.



# Never forget? It took Joe just 1 day

What else has pushed the issue of arming Israel up the list of priorities? Perhaps the Biden administration is bowing to the unsustainable pressure of a few overweight students threatening to "hunger-strike" for Hamas. I'm sure Hamas is touched by the solidarity.

Perhaps he finds it impossible not to yield to the demands of "Queers for Palestine" and the other weirdos who are ruining this academic year for so many sensible American students.

## Foreign policy bungled

But I see no reason why a superpower should be affected in its alliances by a few screaming, entitled know-nothings at a small number of over-privileged campuses. Most of these people are paid agitators anyway.

Yet the pressure seems to have got to Biden. How else to explain his decision to hold up arms supplies to Israel just hours after giving that speech on Tuesday?

On Thursday evening the war cabinet in Israel was meeting to discuss the next stage of the war. And presumably also to work out what to do if the country's chief ally abandons Israel now.

One of the people in the room stepped out to speak to me yesterday evening. I asked the Israeli official what they thought about the idea that their country of 10 million people had now been left to fight alone against the forces of terrorism. The reply: "It seems that the leader of the free world is the prime minister of a 10 million person country."

What an indictment of the situation that Biden has led America to.

At the beginning of his term in office, Biden performed his famously bungled withdrawal from Afghanistan. After two decades and thousands of lost American lives, Afghanistan was effectively back to where it was 20 years earlier. While the Taliban took back Afghanistan, it was as if America and her allies had never been there.

The schools shut again, the Taliban dealt with their enemies and all the blood and treasure was for nothing. At this point, Biden reminded the world that America is not always the worst enemy.

Now in withdrawing supplies to its principal ally in the Middle East, Biden is at risk of showing that America is also not the best friend.

## Political calculations

How to explain this disconnect? Between the warm and strong words that Biden utters and the betraying stance he is now taking?

Only that he has bowed to domestic political pressure here in America.

Who knows what effect that will have in November. Perhaps the pro-Hamas lobby in a couple of states will be pleased to have some of their way. Perhaps they will be jubilant, "forgive" Biden for the months in which he was a strong ally of Israel, and vote for him anyway. Or perhaps they will stay at

home. Or vote for someone else.

In any case, what a price to pay in international leadership for such a small, sordid domestic political pressure.

There will be serious consequences from this.

Because for months, Biden has stressed — rightly — that the fight Israel is engaged in is a fight the whole civilized world is engaged in. For months he said that he would be unwavering in his support for America's ally. And for months he has reassured Israelis — as he did again this week — that he would not forget the horrors of Oct. 7 or the Israelis and Americans still in Hamas captivity.

And now we have this. A decision to cut Israel off just before the point at which it can win.

In Afghanistan, Biden piled defeat upon defeat. With Israel, it looks like he wants to steal defeat from the jaws of victory.

So it is Israel alone. As Biden has sworn it would not be.

Actions speak louder than words.



# Real bar scene at 'Cabaret'

## Page Six®

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## NDA champions

THE legal battle between **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie** over their French winery Chateau Miraval continues to divulge details of the warring couple's personal lives. In the latest filing, a former guard for the couple alleges in a declaration that Jolie was "overheard" by security staffers for his firm telling the couple's kids to avoid Pitt during custody visits. He says the two guards testified in the couple's family court case when they were fighting over custody of their six kids. In the Miraval case, the couple are fighting over NDAs: She says he wanted an unfair NDA that scuttled a deal to sell the winery to him, while he wants her to hand over all her past NDAs.



## Media savvy mom

IS Martha giving Page Six a run for our money? **Martha Stewart** (above) brought up **Travis Kelce's** relationship with **Taylor Swift** during an interview with the NFL star's mom, **Donna Kelce** — despite being asked not to mention the pop star. "I know I was begged not to mention Taylor Swift, but I just want to say, you always look so great with her in the box when she was at the games with you," Stewart said on her podcast yesterday. "So good luck with that, because that is some situation." Donna played coy, saying, "Well, you know, you never know."

ACCORDING to theatergoers, the 75-minute "prologue" offered before the hit revival of "Cabaret" — in which dancers perform while attendees imbibe — is leading to some bad behavior by tipsy guests, we hear.

All guests at the show are offered a free shot of schnapps and given a drink voucher when entering the Kit Kat Club (aka the transformed August Wilson Theatre) before stars **Eddie Redmayne** and **Gayle Rankin** take the stage. There's also Champagne and cocktails served to those who have shelled out for tables.

"The lady next to me was incredibly drunk, had to get up to pee multiple times during the show, was clinking around her ice cubes (lady,

you finished it)," complained one person on a Reddit thread about the show.

In another Reddit convo, a user described getting into a shouting match when asking unruly patrons to tone it down. "They were clearly drunk, and overserved," said one Redditor of a rowdy couple. "She was cackling, talking, singing, burping, and trying to engage with the actors ... When I finally asked to her to please be quiet she loudly told me, 'F--k you!'"

When they alerted management, the allegedly blotto woman "again said, 'F--k you!'" Then she gave me two middle fingers and held them there." They claim security told them they were "monitoring" the situation.

Another Redditor claims they were near a "drunk woman in the front row who almost got kicked out for loudly blowing kisses at **Bebe [Neuwirth]** every time she was onstage."

They said the patron "received a stern talking to from security during intermission," but "looked confused and sleepy for all of Act II."

Another person commented, "I went last week and [someone] next to us was wasted [and] kept asking me and my wife what was going on. People are definitely getting overserved."

Last month, a woman was reportedly thrown out after walking onstage and grabbing Redmayne during the song "Two Ladies."

## Name, dropped

**CARDI B** made headlines for failing to remember the name of **Sensen Lii** — the designer who created her head-turning Met Gala dress. Now, the always-outspoken rapper has posted (and deleted) a video addressing the folks she saw "fake gagging on Twitter" after she told Vogue the "amazing" designer of her frock was "Asian and everything." She explained, "I was being rushed to the front of the line, so when I was getting interviewed, I kind of forgot to pronounce the designer's name, because his name is a little bit complicated. I was like, 'Damn, how to pronounce his name' ... My mind was just racing."

## Garden's variety

MSG was packed with stars when the Knicks played the Pacers Wednesday — but the arena also had a constellation of power players who didn't appear on the jumbotron. Celeb row included **Chris Rock**, **Ben Stiller**, **Michael J. Fox**, **Kevin Bacon**, **Mary J. Blige** and **CC Sabathia**. Also spotted schmoozing among the VIP crowd: former NJ Gov. **Chris Christie**, art dealer **Larry Gagosian**, "Billions" co-creator **Brian Koppelman**, Endeavor's president **Mark Shapiro** and CFO **Jason Lublin**, and WME co-chairmen **Richard Weitz** and **Christian Muirhead**.

## Sightings

**JOY Behar**, **Susie Essman**, **Mario Cantone** and **Judy Gold** lunching at **Shelly Fireman's** Café Fiorello ... **SOCIALITE Lieba Nesis** dining at Casa Cipriani with Mayor **Eric Adams** seated nearby ...

**ACTRESS Eugenia Kuzmina** finishing classes at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art to prepare for **Jason Statham's** new project, "Levon's Trade" ... NFL great **Joe Montana** seeing "The Heart of Rock and Roll" on Broadway.



The hills are alive!  
Justin and Hailey Bieber announce their pregnancy by way of — how else — an Instagram photo shoot showing off a baby bump.

haileybieber/instagram

## Biebers renew vows, expecting first child

TO quote a **Justin Bieber** tune — or was it a Kierkegaard quote? — "Baby, baby, baby, oh!" The pop crooner's wife, **Hailey Bieber**, is pregnant with the couple's first child. The stars (above) shared the news via Instagram yesterday after renewing their vows in Hawaii. The post shows the "Peaches" singer snapping pics of his reanimated bride, in a white lace Saint Laurent dress with a matching veil and black sunglasses, posing as she caresses a bump in a grassy field. Sources told TMZ that Hailey is already in her third trimester, meaning, if you're too

lazy to do the biological math, a Bieber baby could be here by late summer. There has already been plenty of pregnancy speculation surrounding the Biebers, who got married in 2018, and Hailey, 27, has previously shot down buzz that she was expecting. "I'm not pregnant leave me alone," she once wrote via Instagram. In a 2021 documentary, Justin, 30, said of growing their family, "Hopefully, we squish out a nugget," a description we can't unhear.

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# Katy spreads her wings

## Flee SUV in deadly B'klyn mow

An SUV driver fleeing from police slammed into a 71-year-old woman, killing her, as she was crossing a street with her daughter in Brooklyn on Thursday, according to witnesses and police sources.

The victim's 44-year-old daughter was also struck and injured by the blue Mazda CX-5 with Massachusetts license plates at Eldert Street and Knickerbocker Avenue in Bushwick around 5 p.m., police and sources said.

The older woman was rushed to Wyckoff Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries, cops said. Her daughter was taken to Elmhurst Hospital in stable condition.

After crashing into the victims, the driver, who sported a ponytail, fled from the scene on foot toward the Halsey Street subway station, but it's unclear if he went underground, the NYPD said.

A witness said she saw a police car chasing after the Mazda leading up to the crash.

"It was very fast," Sandra Villaman said. Peter Gerber, Larry Celona and David Propper

As Katy Perry returns to "American Idol," she's declaring herself the monarch — butterfly, that is. The singer and mom showed off her insect-inspired leather dress in an Instagram post with the caption "monarchmama."

Katy Perry / Instagram

# ANDY BOOKS A \$5M WIN

## Big ethics ruling

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo scored another win Thursday in his efforts to unravel the state's new ethics commission as part of an on-going spat over his pandemic-era book deal.

A mid-level appellate court upheld a lower court judge's decision to scrap the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG), which had ordered Cuomo (inset) to fork over proceeds from his pandemic era memoir.

"The Legislature, though well-intentioned in its actions, violated the bedrock principles of separation of powers," the five-judge panel wrote in its unanimous ruling.

The ex-governor, who stepped down in 2021 amid a wave of sexual harassment and ethics accusations that he denies, cheered the ruling.

"This has been a three-year exercise to bend the law to fit the political will of those in charge and hopefully after this second — and unanimous — court decision, this partisan and baseless prosecution will finally end," a Cuomo spokesperson said in a statement.

"As we've said from the very beginning, no one is above the law nor the [C]onstitution," he added.

The decision means Cuomo will still get to hold onto the \$5 million in profits from his book deal.

The decision could also likely be the end for the short-lived ethics panel, which was created in 2021 to replace the

Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE).

Its predecessor was widely criticized for lacking independence given that most of its appointees were beholden to the governor.

"We respectfully disagree with the result reached by the court and are reviewing all options, including, if appropriate, recommending interim legislation," COELIG Chairman Frederick Davie and Executive Director Sanford Berland wrote in a joint statement.

They added that the panel will try to appeal the decision, though that first requires permission of the appellate court given that its ruling was unanimous. The state attorney general's office is reviewing the decision.

### Targeted lawsuit

Cuomo first filed his lawsuit last year, in part seeking to unravel COELIG's effort to force him to turn over proceeds from his pandemic-era memoir, "American Crisis: Leadership Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic."

The courts sided with Cuomo's argument that the process for appointing members of COELIG unfairly removes checks and balances from the executive branch.

"It usurps the Governor's power to ensure the faithful execution of the applicable ethics laws," the judges wrote.

Good government groups, which filed an amicus brief defending COELIG, called for the state's highest court to overturn the decision.





Sally Brompton

Daily Horoscope

**♉ TAURUS**  
**(April 21-May 21)**  
If you are not in the mood to work up a sweat today don't worry about it - there is no cosmic law that says you must exert yourself, either in your private life or in your career. Sit back, relax and let others get stressed for a change.

**♊ GEMINI**  
**(May 22-June 21)**  
The message of the stars today is that you need to slow down a bit, because you have not yet got the cosmic green light to push the pedal to the floor. Later in the month nothing will be able to hold you back, so save yourself for then.

**♋ CANCER**  
**(June 22-July 23)**  
Routine matters may be a chore but get on with them because the more of an impression you make now the more freedom the powers that be will grant you later on. A task does not need to be exciting for you to make a good job of it.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT  
SALLYBROMPTON.COM

**♌ LEO**  
**(July 24-Aug. 23)**  
It should be obvious by now that your star is on the rise on the work front, so aim high, expect the best of yourself and show the world what an outrageously talented human being you are. For you Leo, there are currently no limits.

**♍ VIRGO**  
**(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)**  
If your life has become a bit of a bore then do something to spice it up. It's not up to other people to entertain you, it's up to you to entertain yourself, so throw off all restrictions and throw the kind of party no one will ever forget!

**♎ LIBRA**  
**(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)**  
Stop worrying about what the future might bring and try living in the moment. Yesterday is over and tomorrow is beyond

your powers to predict, but today is still very much in your hands, so be imaginative and handle it with love.

**♏ SCORPIO**  
**(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)**  
Cosmic activity in your opposite sign of Taurus means that any requests you make will be looked on favorably by partners, loved ones and even work colleagues, so ask away and don't worry that they may think you are asking too much, because you're not.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS**  
**(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)**  
If you stick with what you know best you will sail through the next few days with ease. Sometimes you are tempted to try new things because you think it is expected of you - and sometimes it's best to be yourself and not push the envelope too far.

**♑ CAPRICORN**  
**(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)**  
Affairs of the heart are under some of the best stars ever at the moment, so give yourself permission to be romantic and don't worry that some people might think you are going over the top a bit - because if it's only a bit then it's not enough!

**♒ AQUARIUS**  
**(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)**  
The best possible thing you can do now is to forgive what others have said about you and move on with your life. Focusing on their words will hurt no one but yourself, so get over it and, if you have to, find yourself a new set of friends.

**♓ PISCES**  
**(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)**  
The message of the stars today, and for the weekend to

come, is that you must get out into the world and remind friends and colleagues that you are still a force to be reckoned with. You have been far too quiet of late, so make some noise!

**♈ ARIES**  
**(March 21-April 20)**  
What you get today may not be what you want but in the fullness of time you will discover it was exactly what you needed. Financially, if you have to pay out a little now you can be sure you will gain a lot more later.

**BIRTHDAY FRIDAY**  
You will accomplish great things over the next 12 months if you focus on quality rather than quantity. Even if you put all your energy and enthusiasm into just one thing that one thing will bring more success and happiness than everything that went before.

Post Weather Report

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Friday

**Today:** Breezy with occasional rain and drizzle. High 53 to 59.

**Tonight:** A little rain early; cloudy. Low 44 to 50.

Saturday

**Tomorrow:** Warmer with some sun, then clouds. High 59 to 65.

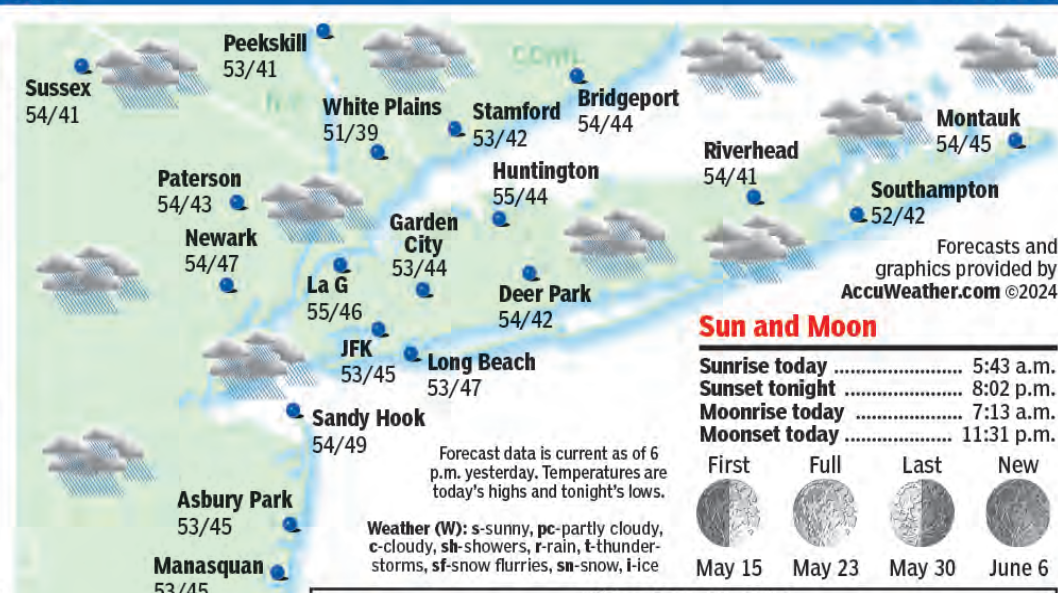
Sunday

**Evening** Mainly clear. Low 45 to 51.

Monday

**Evening** Partly cloudy. Low 55 to 61.

**Almanac**  
YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM  
**Temperature**  
High: 70, Low: 61, Mean: 66  
**Departure from Normal**  
Yesterday: +4 degrees  
**Precipitation**  
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 0.54",  
Year: 20.40", Normal year to date: 16.46"  
**Cooling Degree days yesterday** .....1  
**Total for the month (normal)** .....19 (9)  
**Total since Jan. 1 (normal)** .....38 (23)  
**Last year to date** .....45  
**Heat Index** (at noon yest.) ..... 67  
**UV Index** (for Fri.) ..... 2 (Low)  
**Humidity** (at noon) ..... 54%  
**AIR QUALITY**  
**Pollen:** High Predominant pollen: Mulberry, Oak, Birch  
**AQI rating:** (for Fri.).....Moderate



New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
High Tide for				
Coney Island	10:15a	10:27p	11:09a	11:19p
Fire Island	10:08a	10:40p	11:00a	11:34p
Hempstead	1:22a	2:01p	2:07a	2:48p
Huntington	1:19a	1:54p	2:06a	2:42p
Jones Inlet	9:59a	10:11p	10:53a	11:03p
Montauk Point	11:21a	11:46p	12:15p	---
Port Washington	1:27a	2:08p	2:11a	2:54p
Sandy Hook	10:19a	10:31p	11:13a	11:23p

Regional cities	TODAY		TOMORROW	
Albany	61/45/sh		65/48/c	
Danbury	53/39/r		61/45/pc	
Glens Falls	60/43/c		62/44/pc	
Gr Barrington	58/38/sh		60/43/c	
Klinton	56/43/r		63/46/pc	
Liberty	48/40/r		55/42/c	
Monticello	48/40/r		55/42/c	
Newburgh	54/42/r		62/46/c	
Poughkeepsie	56/42/r		62/48/c	
Saratoga Springs	61/43/sh		62/46/pc	
Stroudsburg	52/40/r		58/45/c	
Torrington	56/39/sh		60/43/pc	
Syracuse	57/48/sh		59/48/c	

World cities	TODAY		TOMORROW	
Athens	68/60/sh		73/58/pc	
Baghdad	96/70/s		103/76/pc	
Beijing	83/57/c		81/53/s	
Berlin	71/51/pc		71/49/pc	
Calro	96/71/c		88/66/s	
Dublin	69/45/pc		69/51/pc	
Geneva	73/48/s		77/50/s	
Hong Kong	81/77/c		84/78/pc	
Jerusalem	95/65/pc		80/58/s	
Kabul	73/51/t		72/49/t	
London	74/51/pc		74/55/pc	
Madrid	84/58/s		83/58/pc	
Mexico City	91/60/pc		91/60/pc	
Montreal	63/44/c		60/49/pc	
Moscow	50/40/r		47/33/pc	
Paris	74/53/pc		77/56/pc	
Rio de Janeiro	81/72/s		85/76/s	
Rome	76/54/s		76/52/s	
Sydney	69/61/r		65/58/r	
Tokyo	74/61/s		78/65/s	



# Hunter's Penn pal



Getting ready to spend time in the pen?

Hunter Biden hung out with Sean Penn in Malibu, Calif. Wednesday — a day before a federal court rejected the first son's appeal of three gun charges, clearing the way for him to stand trial in his home state of Delaware beginning June 3.

The Philadelphia-based US Third Circuit Court of Appeals on Thurs-

day dismissed Hunter's bid to consider having the case thrown out, citing a lack of jurisdiction.

"This appeal is DISMISSED because the defendant has not shown the District Court's orders are appealable before final judgment," stated Judges Patty Shwartz, Cindy Chung and D. Brooks Smith.

Delaware US District Judge Maryellen Noreika filed a scheduling

order following the appellate court's ruling for a three- to six-day jury trial on the three gun felonies.

Hunter, 54, has pleaded not guilty to all charges, which include two counts of making false statements and one count of firearm possession by an unlawful substance abuser. The felonies carry a potential maximum sentence of 25 years in prison.

*Josh Christenson*

# BITTER SWEDE MELODY

## Anti-Israel march

By ALLIE GRIFFIN

Thousands of demonstrators filled the streets of a Swedish coastal city Thursday to protest Israel's participation in the Eurovision Song Contest — which almost didn't happen until the Jewish state removed references to the Oct. 7 Hamas attack in its entry.

Up to 12,000 people — including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg — converged near the contest venue in Malmo, where singers from more than 50 countries are battling.

The protesters waved Palestinian flags, wore keffiyeh scarves, deployed green, black and red smoke bombs and chanted, "From river to sea, Palestine will be free" and "Israel is a terror state" as cops watched from rooftops, streets and helicopters.

Eurovision organizers rejected calls to expel Israel from the competition — arguing they try to keep the competition nonpolitical.

"We should have told Israel either 'Stay away,' or maybe even say, why don't we invite a Palestinian music group to participate? That would be fair," said protester Anders Trolle-Schultz.

Organizers had barred Israel's initial song submission for breaking its rules on

political neutrality. The song was originally titled "October Rain" in reference to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that killed 1,200 Israelis.

But Israel's President Isaac Herzog called on the songwriter to make changes so that the Jewish state could compete, according to the BBC. The ballad is now called "Hurricane."

### Forced rewrite

Changed lyrics include:

■ "Writers of history stand with me" to "Writer of my symphony play with me"

■ "Hours and hours and flowers/ Life is no game for the cowards" to "Hours and hours, empowers/ Life is no game but it's ours"

■ "We got nothing to hide/ Take me home and leave the world behind/ And I promise you that never again/ I'm still wet from this October rain" to "I got nothing to hide/ Take it all and leave the world behind/ Baby promise me you'll hold me again/ I'm still broken from this hurricane"

Audience members booed Eden Golan's performance of the song during a dress rehearsal Wednesday. But the 20-year-old Russian-Israeli singer placed in the 10 of 16 acts in the semifinal, securing a spot in Saturday's final.

*With Wires*

# Vid of horrific Bx. belt rape

Horrible video shows the moment a masked fiend used a belt to choke a woman unconscious on a Bronx street last week before dragging her to the ground and raping her.

The May 1 ordeal unfolded around 3 a.m. as the perv followed the 45-year-old victim, who was walking at

East 152nd Street and Third Avenue, cops said.

Video shows the man whipping out a belt (near inset) and flinging it around the victim's neck. He pulls the woman to the pavement (second inset) until she loses consciousness, the video obtained by The Post

shows, then he drags the woman between two cars (final inset), where he rapes her.

The man fled the scene after the attack and had not been caught by Thursday. The victim has stopped cooperating with authorities, according to police sources.

*Tina Moore*





# Bid to knot 'Harv overturn' loophole NY pols stand up for vics

By JACK MORPHET  
and VAUGHN GOLDEN

Harvey Weinstein is causing a retake on sex-crimes laws in Albany.

Lawmakers are racing to update trial procedures for accused perverts after New York's highest court last month threw out the disgraced movie mogul's 2020 sex conviction on a technicality.

A group of legislators joined with some of Weinstein's courtroom accusers Thursday to tout legislation that would close the loophole and allow victims to speak out freely at trials.

"When there are multiple victims of sexual assault, their voices should be heard together and collectively," said Tarale Wulff, one of the alleged victims of Weinstein's sexual misconduct who testified at his trial, even though Weinstein wasn't actually charged with attacking her.

"Sexual assault survivors who come forward are rarely the only victims of their accusers."

## 'Molineux' nix

The Court of Appeals ruled 4-3 last month that it was unfair to allow alleged victims like Wulff — known legally as Molineux witnesses — to testify in sex trials because their claims weren't actually part of the criminal complaint.

The ruling gutted the use of Molineux witnesses in the state. But legislators said witnesses' testimony is crucial in prosecuting sex crimes and vowed to pass legislation bringing them back.

"In sexual assault cases, which typically rely on the testimony of the survivor, it is essential," said Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Westchester), one of the bill's

sponsors in her chamber.

Paulin spoke alongside Wulff and fellow Weinstein Molineux accuser Ambra Gutierrez.

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Queens) said he was sponsoring the Senate version of the bill legalizing the use of Molineux witnesses.

"Very often, cases rely on the testimony of two people with conflicting accounts and therefore we think this justifies an exception to show a pattern of behavior . . . So we are introducing this legislation, hopefully, we get it passed before the session adjourns in a month," he said.

## 'Negative light'

Judge Jenny Rivera, who wrote the majority opinion, argued that the Molineux testimony served to paint Weinstein in a negative light to the jury.

Rivera was joined by lefty Chief Judge Rowan Wilson in the opinion. Weinstein is now being held at Rikers Island and facing the prospect of a second trial.

The bill in response to the Weinstein ruling would implement language almost mirroring federal guidelines on evidence, bringing New York in line with more than a dozen other states.

Lawmakers have been scrambling to make a legislative fix since the Weinstein ruling.

"I'm glad that the new legislation by Senator Gianaris and Assembly Member Paulin will allow more survivors of sexual abuse to come forward and help keep creeps like Harvey Weinstein from using their power and influence to prey on victims," Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Brad Hoylman-Sigal (D-Manhattan) told The Post.



## Wein rolls into court, then jail

Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was wheeled into a Queens courtroom Thursday morning for a brief appearance before a judge — just days after he was transferred back to Rikers Island from a cushy private room at Bellevue Hospital.

The 72-year-old — whose 2020 New York sex-crimes conviction was overturned last month — wore a blue suit with an American flag pin on the left lapel as Judge Joanne Watters quickly sent him back to jail to await further proceedings.

ceedings.

Defense attorneys John Esposito and Diana Fabi Samson declined to waive an extradition hearing that could send Weinstein to California, where he was convicted on separate sex charges in 2023.

"A governor needs to sign such a warrant of extradition and we took the position that the governor, the people need to produce the appropriate documentation for an extradition," Samson said.

**Kevin Sheehan and Olivia Land**

Gregory P. Mango

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Westchester), when asked by The Post this week, said she's open to considering a legislative fix.

Wulff said she believes something will be done to help future victims. "After the shock of learn-

ing the conviction being overturned, I immediately started chasing a silver lining," Wulff said.

"I thought there has to be a reason why this is happening to us. If that megaphone is on us, then this is the opportunity we have right now to make a change."

## Don camp bullish on 2 'big blues'

Donald Trump's presidential campaign is bullish about its prospects in solid-blue Minnesota and Virginia against President Biden — despite losing both states by wide margins in 2020.

"States like [Arizona], [Nevada], [Georgia] and [North Carolina], based on public polling averages, are clearly slipping out of Biden's reach," a Trump campaign official told The Post this week.

"States that should be safe Biden states like [Minnesota] and [Virginia] are now falling into play."

Virginia was once a solid Republican state, voting for the GOP candidate in every presidential election but one between 1952 and 2004. However, the commonwealth has fallen into the Democratic column in every election since — a period coinciding with the growth of northern Virginia's left-leaning suburbs of Washington, DC.

Minnesota is an even tougher ask for Trump, with the state having voted Republican just three times since Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt won his first term in 1932.

One source close to the Republican National Committee poured cold water on the Trump campaign's optimism. "Even Ronald Reagan couldn't carry Minnesota. That state is fool's gold for a Republican presidential candidate," the source, granted anonymity to speak candidly, told The Post.

Meanwhile, Biden's re-election campaign has talked a big game about inroads in Florida and North Carolina — states that went for Trump in 2020 and are expected to do so again.

**Diana Glebova**

## Coulter: I won't vote for 'Indian'

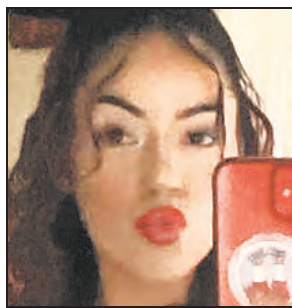
Conservative commentator Ann Coulter recently told former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy that she would not back him for the GOP nomination because "you're an Indian."

"I agreed with many, many things you said . . . when you were running for president, but I still would not have voted for you, because you're an Indian," Coulter, 62, said in a podcast that Ramaswamy released Wednesday.

"There is a core national identity that is the identity of the WASP . . . We've never had a president who didn't have at least partial English ancestry," she said, adding she'd vote for any of Ramaswamy's children if they married one of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Diana Glebova**





**SARA RIVERA**

Fatal dispute in Sunnyside.

## Qns. teen stabbed 'by friend'

The teenager stabbed to death outside a Queens subway station Wednesday was killed by a friend with whom she had a tragic dispute, acquaintances and relatives told The Post.

Sara Rivera, 17, was allegedly drinking with pals in a park near the 46th Street station in Sunnyside around 9:30 p.m. when she got into the fatal dispute with a 15-year-old acquaintance.

"She told me that they were drinking and she was seeing [the suspect] getting very mad and angry," Rivera's friend, 16-year-old Yanira Leon, told The Post Thursday. "Nobody really knows what happened after that."

Police said that Rivera was stabbed in the neck during the fight and was rushed to Elmhurst Hospital, where she was later pronounced dead.

It is unclear what sparked the dispute.

Rivera and her accused killer were both students at Queens Technical HS.

Reuven Fenton

## Mom 'beats girl' on flight

A California woman allegedly attacked her 2-year-old daughter after the girl woke her up on an international flight from Mexico to Seattle last week, kicking and backhanding the little girl mid-flight before shaking her "like a rag doll" as horrified passengers looked on.

Breanna Mistler, 33, of Sacramento, was charged with child endangerment after the chaotic May 1 flight, during which she allegedly screamed, "Shut the f-k up!" at her young daughter, according to Fox 10 Phoenix. Steve Janoski

# Irish eyes smiling — in NYC



This high-tech art has NYers — and Dubliners — jumping for joy. "The Portal," a public technology piece that links Dublin, Ireland, and the Flatiron District, was revealed Thursday. It consists of two identical sculptures with a visual livestream between the cities.

Reuters

# IT'S A SHIH WHO?!

## Dog-nappers dyeing & shaving stolen pets

By NATALIE O'NEILL

These crooks are real sick puppies.

Thieves in Connecticut have been stealing dogs and altering the pups' appearance by dyeing and shaving their fur so owners and cops won't be able to sniff them out, according to a missing pet group.

During a four-day period in mid-April, at least three pooches were found with new looks — including one with a bizarre purple coat, volunteers at CT Dog Gone Recovery told The Post.

"They're purposely disguising them so they can keep the dog or sell it for profit," said volunteer Donna



BEFORE



AFTER

**COAT OF MANY COLORS:** This dog, white when stolen, was discovered by CT Dog Gone Recovery dyed brown.

Russo, who worked on a case involving a missing French bulldog. "It's heartbreaking enough to lose your dog — and then owners have to

search for a pet with an entirely different appearance."

The makeovers make it easier for thieves to resell expensive breeds and harder

for owners to find their missing pets via descriptions on flyers and social media, pet advocates said.

Marcus, a shy beige and brown 8-year-old Shih Tzu mix, had been dyed dark violet when his owner got him back in New Haven April 24.

"His owner got a call from a woman who said she had his dog. He went to get it back, and it was purple. He was shocked," said Melanie Heltke, a CT Dog Gone Recovery volunteer.

Mocho, a 3-year-old Frenchie, was found with her tan patches dyed black on April 21 after going missing for more than a month in the Hartford area.

"He looked totally differ-

ent," said Russo. "If I saw pictures of him, I would have said, 'Oh, it's not the same dog. He doesn't have same coloring.'"

The wildly trendy breed can fetch up to \$3,000 per pet and has been linked to a slew of recent dog-nappings.

A second missing Shih Tzu, a 5-year-old with fluffy hair, was found shaven in the Bridgeport area on April 22.

On its Facebook page, CT Dog Gone Recovery warned dogs' looks had been "changed by adding patches, eyebrows and alterations using dyes and trimming." Its advocates say owners should microchip their pets and never leave them outside alone.



# BLM sues anti-Israel 'nonprofit' over \$33M

By ISABEL VINCENT

A progressive nonprofit that has been shelling out cash to anti-Israel protest groups is being sued by Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation for fraud and withholding more than \$33 million in donations, a bombshell lawsuit claims.

The Tides Foundation, which has managed hundreds of millions in donations for progressive groups since it was founded in 1976, has “refused to honor its promises and continues to commandeer BLMGNF’s donations,” according to the 285-page lawsuit filed in California Superior Court, Los Angeles County, on Monday.

Instead, Tides doled out an undisclosed sum of donations to a radical BLM breakaway group run by anti-police activist Melina Abdullah — who lost a “frivolous” lawsuit against BLMGNF — according to court papers and an attorney for BLMGNF.

Tides, a Los Angeles- and San Francisco-based nonprofit, acts as a fiscal sponsor — essentially, a clearinghouse that collects donations for groups that may not have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

In addition to BLMGNF — headed by Shalomyah Bowers — and other BLM groups, it manages donations for pro-Palestinian groups that have supported anti-Israel protests across the nation.

## The Soros connection

Billionaire George Soros and son Alex Soros have funneled nearly \$14 million from their Open Society Foundations to Tides, which sponsors activist groups including the pro-Palestinian Adalah Justice Project and others fueling campus protests.

“Tides has engaged in deceptive business practices and has operated in a quasi-banking capacity without appropriate regulatory oversight of licenses,” the BLMGNF lawsuit says. “Tides operates with a level of autonomy and minimal regulatory scrutiny that is starkly at odds with the regulatory framework imposed on traditional financial institutions.”

According to the lawsuit, Tides has more than \$1.4 billion in assets and allegedly acts as a bank — only without banking regulations.

BLMGNF, the national organization of the civil rights movement founded in 2017, took in tens of millions in donations after the death of George Floyd in 2020.

At the time, the group did not have tax-exempt status from the IRS, and approached Tides to help it manage the flood of cash.

In the meantime, it managed donations in a “collective-action fund” that would be accessible to



**SCANDAL:** The BLM Global Network Foundation headed by Shalomyah Bowers (right) — rocked by a big-bucks scandal involving co-founder Patrisse Cullors (above) — is suing a leftist group funded by George Soros and son Alex (below).



vent the intent of the Fund’s donors and deprive grassroots Black Lives Matter chapters critical resources, for its own benefit.”

While Tides’ website mentions that it offers “grant management,” an attorney for BLMGNF said in a statement to The Post that Tides was not authorized to dole out donations earmarked for BLMGNF to offshoot groups or local chapters.

Tides said it had granted \$12.6 million from the support fund to groups including BLM Grassroots, a breakaway group helmed by activist Abdullah.

She tried to collect \$10 million from BLMGNF in a “frivolous lawsuit” for her breakaway BLM Grassroots. Abdullah — who is running as independent presidential candidate Cornel West’s running mate — lost the lawsuit last year and was ordered to pay more than \$700,000 in BLMGNF legal fees and costs.

## ‘Rightful ownership’

An attorney for BLMGNF cited a June ruling by a Los Angeles Superior Court judge who dismissed BLM Grassroots’ claims to any of BLMGNF’s donations.

“This lawsuit against the Tides Foundation is not just about financial discrepancies but the principle of rightful ownership and transparency that should govern partnerships in social-justice funding,” attorney Byron McLain said Wednesday.

In a statement to The Post, BLMGNF said it “never expected to become victims of . . . unscrupulous business practices” in social-justice philanthropy.

“There is an expectation for Black Lives Matter to challenge systems, break barriers and uphold the truth, no matter how uncomfortable,” the statement said. “Today, that extends into non-profit operations as we call out Tides Foundation and other so-called ‘fiscal sponsors’ who exploit their role.”

BLMGNF has had its own issues with finances, after raking in \$90 million in donations for 2020 alone. Patrisse Cullors, the group’s co-founder, then went on a multimillion-dollar home-buying spree, purchasing two abodes in Los Angeles and a property in the Atlanta suburbs with an airplane hangar and runway, as first revealed by The Post.

Cullors denied that she used donations to buy the properties.

She resigned from BLMGNF a month later, in May 2021.

Cullors also signed off on a \$6 million LA mansion, to be used as an office for BLMGNF, and an \$8 million property in Toronto for the group’s Canadian chapter.

ivincent@nypost.com

# Big bucks lefty donation war

BLMGNF, according to the lawsuit.

BLMGNF ended its relationship with Tides in 2022, and Tides has refused to hand over the cash, totaling some \$33 million, the complaint says.

Instead, Tides, which takes between 3% and 9% of the donations it processes, has sent part of the funds to other BLM groups without the permission of BLMGNF, the lawsuit says.

On June 9, 2022, a Tides official

said Tides had transferred \$74 million from the collective fund back to BLMGNF.

Instead, it sent part of the cash — \$4.75 million — to an unaffiliated BLM chapter in Oklahoma City, the lawsuit says.

“It is unclear why such a large amount would have been granted to a single city’s BLM chapter,” the lawsuit says.

In a statement to The Post Wednesday, a spokeswoman for

Tides called the allegations in the complaint “completely false.”

“Resources in the Black Lives Matter [collective-action fund] were never intended to be granted to large, well-funded national organizations like Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, and were always intended to be granted to local Black Lives Matter chapters,” the Tides statement says. “BLMGNF’s lawsuit seeks to circum-

AP Instagram



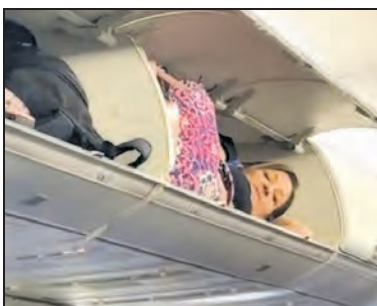
## Flyer's sleeping baggage

Flyers on Southwest Airlines were flummoxed after a woman was filmed napping in the plane's overhead bin.

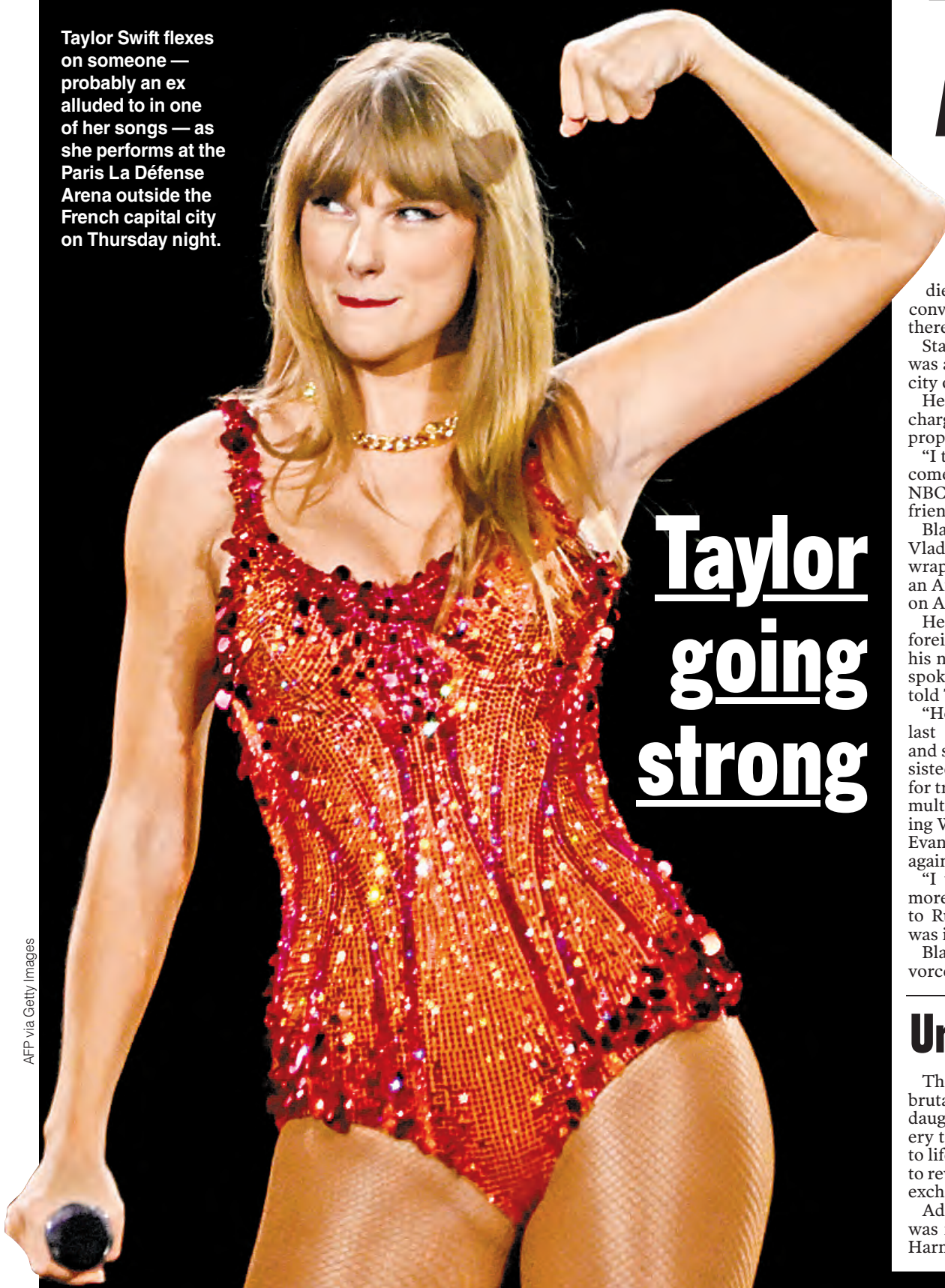
The TikTok clip shows the unidentified person (right) lying lengthwise in the overhead locker as if preparing for cryogenic sleep.

It's yet unclear if the in-flight napper was a passenger or crew member or what their motivation was for treating the baggage storage area as a slumber pod.

The Post reached out to Southwest Airlines for comment. *Ben Cost*



Taylor Swift flexes on someone — probably an ex alluded to in one of her songs — as she performs at the Paris La Défense Arena outside the French capital city on Thursday night.



# Taylor going strong

# 'LURED' TO RUSS. ARREST

## Mom rips GI gal pal

By OLIVIA LAND

The mother of the US soldier in custody in Russia is convinced her son "was lured" there by his girlfriend.

Staff Sgt. Gordon D. Black, 34, was arrested in the Pacific port city of Vladivostok on May 2.

He remains in custody on charges of "theft of personal property."

"I think she convinced him to come there," Melody Jones told NBC News of her son's girlfriend, Aleksandra Vashchuk.

Black reportedly traveled to Vladivostok on his own after wrapping up a tour of duty as an Army trainer in South Korea on April 10.

He was supposed to leave the foreign base and go directly to his next station in Texas, Army spokeswoman Cynthia Smith told The Post Tuesday.

"He wanted to see her for the last time before going home, and so he went there," Jones insisted of her son's motivation for traveling to a country where multiple Americans — including Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich — are held against their will.

"I told him not to go. I was more worried about him going to Russia than I was when he was in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Black — in the middle of a divorce from his wife back in the

States — met Vashchuk "at a bar where she was working," Jones told NBC.

"They've been together, on and off, for about a year and a half. I've never met her in person, but I've spoken to her over Messenger," the worried mom added.

"My motherly instincts told me something was wrong with her."

Unearthed videos from Vashchuk's TikTok account showed Black saying he empathized with Russia in the Ukraine war and disavowing NATO.

"I think NATO is pretty aggressive," Black said in one video. "Honestly, I understand Russia's position. Obviously, they want to defend their country."

### Pulled off a plane

When he landed in Vladivostok, however, the 16-year Army vet was pulled off the plane and arrested for supposedly stealing property from a person identified as "Citizen T," NBC reported. He is expected to be held for at least two months.

Jones said she has not heard from any officials since an initial call from the State Department that he was detained.

As the family waits for more information, Jones worries about her son's 6-year-old daughter.

"She misses her daddy," Jones told NBC.

## Unrepentant killer dad jailed

The New Hampshire dad who brutally beat his 5-year-old daughter Harmony Montgomery to death was given 45 years to life in prison after he refused to reveal where her body was in exchange for a lighter sentence.

Adam Montgomery, 34, who was found guilty of murdering Harmony, remained silent in

court Thursday despite a surprise offer from prosecutors to reduce his sentence by as much as 21 years, WMUR reports.

He stuffed his daughter's body in a tote bag, a cooler and the freezer at the restaurant where he worked, before disposing of it in an unknown location, prosecutors said. *Ronny Reyes*



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# Joe's Betrayal

## Israel embargo: bad politics, disastrous policy

**O**N Tuesday, President Biden declared, "Never forget." On Wednesday, he forgot. On purpose.

In remembrance of the Holocaust, Biden solemnly proclaimed, "Never again, simply translated, means never forget."

Actually, it means never again will a genocide of the Jews be allowed. But Biden's interpretation is convenient, since he endangered the Jewish state the very next day by threatening to cut off deliveries to Israel of offensive weapons if it entered Rafah to finish off Hamas.

This will go down as one of the worst American betrayals of a close ally in recent memory.

After Hamas' savage attack on Israel on Oct. 7, Biden declared, "The United States stands with Israel. We will not ever fail to have their back." He immediately supplied Israel with weapons and visited the Jewish state.

But the White House determined that to win reelection the president needed to cater to pro-Hamas, anti-Israel, anti-American Arab-Americans in Michigan and to young Americans with similar views.

The Biden administration then pressed for a Palestinian state, which is anathema to Israelis post-Oct. 7.

**MICHAEL MAKOVSKY & BLAISE MISZTAL**

It increasingly criticized Israel over Gaza, opposed letting it finish off Hamas' last battalions in Rafah and pressed for a lasting cease-fire even without Hamas' release of hostages. Biden's arms embargo against Israel doubles down on this approach.

Hamas' survival would be a huge victory for it and its Iranian and Qatari backers, and a big defeat for Israel and its American partner, with Israeli deterrence and security further undermined. It also would condemn both Palestinian and Israeli civilians to indefinite suffering and unending cycles of conflict.

Politically, this approach has also proved lousy. If Biden had backed letting Israel destroy Hamas months ago, perhaps the recent antisemitic, anti-Israel, anti-American university encampments might not have sprung up.

Those vile, raucous protests have hurt Biden politically — and his embargo announcement will only further embolden pro-



Delayed: Israeli tanks wait at the Gaza border ahead of a Rafah attack.

testers, who'll see it as a victory.

By now, the White House could have brokered a Saudi-Israel normalization deal, which would have been a boon to Biden's reelection. As it is, he now has the lowest approval rating of any president in 75 years at this point in his presidency. In contrast, Democratic Sen. John Fetterman,

in the swing state of Pennsylvania, has unequivocally supported Israel — and has seen his popularity rise.

Policy-wise, Biden's pressure on Israel has been a disaster. By delaying Rafah, it has made Saudi-Israel normalization nearly impossible this year, given the US electoral calendar and Saudi opposition to it until Gaza is relatively quiet. It has hardened Hamas' terms for release of the hostages and a cease-fire deal.

The new arms embargo against Israel, which involves precision-guided munitions (PGMs), also makes it more likely Israeli air strikes will cause more collateral damage among Arabs. Coupled with Biden's inexplicable recent unfreezing of billions in Iranian assets, the weapons ban reveals significant daylight between America and Israel, emboldening not just Hamas but also Hezbollah and Iran, making a major Middle East war far more likely — precisely what the Biden team sought to avoid.

Biden's warnings and deployment of naval assets to the areas after Oct. 7 might have helped convince Hezbollah not to launch

its own devastating assault.

And it was with the assistance of US jets that Israel blunted Iran's unprecedented barrage of over 300 drones and missiles. But Iran now will believe it no longer has to fear America siding with and coming to Israel's aid.

Israel has used the PGMs Biden's withholding to destroy Hezbollah infrastructure and kill Hezbollah and Iranian fighters, which has helped deter Tehran and Hezbollah from unleashing even greater destruction.

Instead of banning them, the United States should pre-position a large amount of these weapons in Israel, precisely because knowing that Israel has ready access to a stockpile of PGMs would help deter Hezbollah and Iran from provoking a war.

Moreover, this embargo shatters US credibility with friends and foes. If the United States can withhold weapons from Israel, one of its closest partners and to whose security the president has repeatedly made an "ironclad" commitment — and do so, no less, while it fights a defensive war against an adversary bent on its destruction — then which ally won't it betray?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made clear: "If Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand alone." For the sake of its deterrence and security, Israel will have to do just that and destroy Hamas in Rafah.

Michael Makovsky is president of the Jewish Institute for National Security of America. Blaise Myszta is its vice president for policy.

ABIR SULTAN/PA-EFF/Shutterstock

## THE WEEK IN WHOPPERS

A diary of disinformation and the delusional

### THIS CLAIM

**We say:** What BS! Bowman (D-NY) is an actual promoter of "hate" — particularly against the Jewish state. He's singled out Israel for supposed abuses, called it an "apartheid" state and claimed reports of "be-headed babies or raped women" were lies used as "propaganda." He was just outed for secretly subscribing to antisemitic (and other wacky) YouTube channels. Yet now, facing a tough reelection challenge, he suddenly says: "Jewish history didn't start with the Holocaust. It's an entire history of persecution, and our kids need to learn about it." And blames Republicans for not condemning hate. So he's a liar and a hypocrite.

**Congressman Jamaal Bowman Calls Out Republicans for Refusing to Fight All Forms of Hate**

— press release from Rep. Bowman, Wednesday

### THIS REMARK

**We have . . . young black kids growing up in The Bronx who don't even know what the word "computer" is.**

— Gov. Hochul, Monday

**We say:** Hochul took back her idiotic slur, but it was nonetheless telling. As The Post's Adam B. Coleman writes, this wasn't a gaffe but "a window into the mindset of many mainstream elitist Democrats. Hochul inadvertently revealed how she's a country-club Democrat who perceives anyone who isn't a member of the upper class as being beyond ignorant and incapable."

**With Schools in Ruins, Education in Gaza Will Be Hobbled for Years**

The New York Times, Monday

quotes an Israeli sergeant who saw tunnels and weapons caches at Al-Azhar University) but also to teach kids to hate Jews and Israel and to cherish terror and martyrdom. Rather than "hobble" education, the destruction of these "schools" could be a good first step toward saving the next generation of Gazans from a doomed culture of hate.

### THIS HEADLINE

**We say:** Politico, unlike other publications, mostly got it right. Some of the biggest backers of President Biden and a variety of progressive causes — George Soros and his Tides Foundation, David Rockefeller Jr., Susan and Nick Pritzker, etc. — are indeed funding the brain-dead anti-Israel, anti-American protests. But "surprising"? Ha! As we recently noted, The Post has long been reporting on just that connection, even as hacks like The Washington Post's Philip Bump denounce us for it. Politico should read The Post more.

**Pro-Palestinian protesters are backed by a surprising source: Biden's biggest donors**

Politico, Sunday

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board



# Joe's Disastrous Delusions

**O**ur biggest question about President Biden's nonstop lies in his CNN interview is this: Does he *know* he's painting an alternate reality, or does he *believe* it? Either way, he's talking himself into a clear loss come November — and a larger Mideast crisis in the meantime.

Neither answer is great: He has a pretty sad view of Americans' intelligence if he thinks *anyone* is taken in by, for example, his claim that inflation was 9% when he took office — when it actually was just 1.4% then. It hit the 9% mark on *his* watch, in June 2022, after he'd spent months denying it was a problem.

But his way of dealing with the unpleasant truth may be to talk *himself* out of believing it. After all, just a month ago he told a vaguer version of this lie, "We have dramatically reduced inflation from 9% down to close to 3%. We're in a situation where we're better situated than we were when we took office where we — inflation was skyrocketing."

As we've said before: Biden's been a liar his whole career; it just never mattered nearly as much when he was one senator (and with a safe seat), or vice president. So some of this is just that he's too old to change his fibbin' ways, even though it does show so badly now.

**B**ut along with the lies comes a pretty clear confusion: His staff regularly have to walk back his policy declarations, such as his repeated claims that the United States is fully committed to defending Taiwan if mainland China attacks.

His words on CNN on Israel may fall

somewhere in that confused zone: He seemed to suggest that the IDF's actions so far are OK because "they haven't gone into population centers"; last month National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan was suggesting a surgical approach to Rafah would be OK.

Yet the munitions the White House has already put on hold include precision bombs, which are surely important to any surgical approach. Meanwhile, Team Biden still says it supports Israel taking out Hamas' last intact battalions, which absolutely requires entering those "population centers" *somehow*.

**I**n short, it's not just the president who's delusional, but the entire administration.

Plainly the bubble Biden & Co. live in has them convinced (falsely) that anti-Israel sentiment is so strong that they'll lose the election if they support the IDF as it does the necessary.

So they've set ever-crazier limits on what IDF moves they'll accept, to the point that a war that should've ended weeks ago still drags on (even though they're also upset about the risk of famine etc., which the longer war worsens).

Worst of all, since Israel *must* go into Rafah and finish off Hamas, they're setting up a visible Washington-Jerusalem rupture that's all too likely to encourage others to attack Israel: If US weapons stop flowing, Hezbollah at least could seize the moment.

In short, Biden isn't *just* betraying Israel for purely (misguided!) political reasons, he's risking a much wider Mideast war just so he can tell himself it's not his fault.

# Jamaal Bowman, Conspiracy Kook

**H**e's a deranged socialist and a fire-alarm-pulling insurrectionist — and now it turns out that Westchester Rep. Jamaal Bowman seems to be an avid consumer of schizoid YouTube conspiracy theories.

The Daily Beast dug up Bowman's personal YouTube account (ID'd based on the account's use of Bowman's longtime screen name "Inner Peace" and the fact that it features his image and videos from the school where he was principal) and called him out for the loony stuff he subscribes to.

Like BreakThrough News, a laundry for Russian and Chinese propaganda and viciously antisemitic content (with connections to Maoist millionaire Neville Roy Singham). Or Afripost, a staunch fan of Nation of Islam muckamuck Louis Farrakhan.

Starting to detect a theme here?

Beyond the hateful, there's also just the bizarre. Like Video Advice, which shares content like "This CIA Document Literally Explains Time Travel (practical steps in-

cluded)." And actual channels of disinfo like the Thinkers Forum, a seeming cutout for organs of China's government.

The Beast's long been on the case about Bowman's bonkers beliefs, revealing that on his blog in the early aughts, he published a conspiracy-theory poem about 9/11. When it surfaced, Bowman pretended he'd somehow moved on (he was in his 30s when he wrote it). And now that his YouTube shenanigans have come to light, he's falling back on similarly obvious, clumsy lies.

"I don't know what you're talking about, I don't know these accounts, and I haven't watched any of these videos," he claimed — despite his campaign not denying the page was his and the fact that he was creating playlists as recently as April.

Bowman's gotten a pass from his fellow Dems and most of the media so far, so there's a sad, real chance this bull will fly.

But we suspect the voters he's facing in his bruising primary will feel a bit differently.

# Jerusalem Will Not Be Blackmailed

"Israel has a duty, in terms of national security and morality, to keep fighting in order to return our hostages and end the Hamas threat against southern Israel."

— **Benny Gantz, centrist Israeli war Cabinet member and former defense minister, on X, implicitly addressing President Biden's demands to stay out of Hamas' final redoubt in Rafah**

# Biden Blocks Israel Aid: Shameless, Political Play

•How much lower can our shameless president sink ("Biden is tying Bibi's arms," May 9)?

After initial support for Israel following Hamas' barbaric attack, President Biden has halted arms shipments to Israel that were approved by Congress. In Biden's world, support for Israel translates into hollow words at a Holocaust memorial ceremony.

My suggestion: Quit the phony rhetoric and provide Israel with what it needs to neutralize Hamas, reject funding from those who perpetuate campus antisemitism and be the leader you were elected to be in dealing with Iran and other promoters of terror and anti-American actions.

**Yakov Moshe, Brooklyn**

•Biden is now withholding munitions that Israel has been duly authorized to receive by Congress to combat Hamas' terrorist army.

He says Israel has the right to destroy Hamas yet Hamas is embedded within a civilian population in Rafah.

The president now needs to decide if he will

**THE ISSUE:** President Biden withholding military aid to Israel in an effort to stop the IDF from entering Rafah.



**President Biden**

stand with critics of Israel or if he can drop his craven political instincts and allow morality and decency to prevail in Israel's existential war against Hamas.

That requires entry into Rafah to destroy the remaining terrorist battalions. **Matthew Brief**  
Manhattan

•President Biden's administration wants it both ways: to unconditionally arm the Israeli state against Gaza and to keep the anti-war voters onboard come election time.

But a sizable chunk of traditionally Democratic voters — adamantly against and angry about the alleged large-scale starvation and mass slaughter by Israel against Palestinian non-combatants — credibly threaten to abandon Biden at the ballot box.

When the president finally called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the timing gave it the strong odor of political expediency — for re-election purposes.

It's doubtful many pro-Palestinian demonstrators will forgive Biden come Election Day.

**Frank Sterle Jr.**  
White Rock, Canada

•Any US attempt to complicate Israeli operations will neither hasten the war's end nor bring peace.

The Biden administration should recognize that Gaza is just one front in a global war being waged against the United States by Iran and its axis.

**Charles Michael Sitero**  
Ormond Beach, Fla.

# Heckling Hochul Over Bronx Flub

•Gov. Hochul's assertion that black children in the Bronx don't know what a computer is should trigger a state investigation ("Bronx is burning mad at Hochul," May 7).

What on earth has the Department of Education done with the millions of dollars earmarked for Bronx computer literacy over the past 20 years?

**Michael Horowitz**  
Fresh Meadows

•Gov. Hochul should resign from office today. Not tomorrow: today.

**THE ISSUE:** Outcry over Gov. Hochul's comments about black children and technology in the Bronx.

She said "black kids growing up in The Bronx don't even know what the word 'computer' is."

That is a condescending lie that insults every black kid in New York.

**Perry Greenberg**  
Brooklyn

•Apparently Hochul made a faux pas by saying at a conference in California that "black kids in The Bronx don't

even know what the word 'computer' is."

After being called out on the comment, she said that she had misspoke.

However, this controversy is sure to pass. The parents of the insulted children — as well as most other loyal New York Democrats — will march, en masse, to reelect her as governor.

**Michael Headley**  
Brooklyn

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# RFK: Green Extremist

## He's a *lot* worse than Biden

SIX months before Election Day, speculation is rampant about the impact of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Polling at 12% nationally and on the ballot of the critical battleground of Michigan, the Democrat-turned-independent has built a unique coalition that extends beyond those drawn to his famous last name.

Kennedy's tough talk on the southern border, willingness to stand up to the medical-industrial state and focus on fitness and personal health have earned him unlikely admirers on the right. Recent polling shows nearly half, 48%, of all Republicans view him favorably, compared to 43% of independents and 35% of Democrats.

But make no mistake: On energy — one of the core issues that has defined the Biden presidency from its outset — Kennedy is an extremist. His policies would go even further than Joe Biden's, even though the president's have weakened our security, slammed middle-class families' budgets and set our nation backward.

A quick check of the tape reveals startling similarities between the two. Biden declared climate

change, the "only existential threat humanity faces." Kennedy labels global warming "the biggest crisis we face globally." Biden vowed to "end fossil fuel." Kennedy has bemoaned "our longtime deadly addiction to coal and oil."

Kennedy would ban exports of liquefied natural gas. He has praised the Green New Deal, the brainchild of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. He once denigrated those dubious of some climate warnings as "traitors."

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, RFK Jr. actually denounced the environmental impact of *hog producers* as a "greater threat to the United States and US democracy than Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network." Comments that egregious would have tanked most politicians, but US politics in the pre-social-media age were very different than today.

Kennedy rose to prominence as an attorney for the National Resources Defense Council, one of the nation's best-funded environmental activist groups — and one that's faced criticism for its coziness with the Chinese Communist Party.

These facts matter. Biden has used the power of the presidency



Beware left and right: Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has attracted voters on both sides of the aisle but his energy agenda should give *everyone* pause.

to wage war on the energy industry. During his first days in office, with a simple stroke of his pen, he canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and halted oil and gas leasing on federal lands.

His signature legislative "accomplishment" during the first half of his first term was the sweeping climate-oriented Build Back Better plan that eventually morphed into the "slimmed down" Inflation Reduction Act — which included \$369 billion of green giveaways while doing little to tame inflation.

His administration has targeted gas cars, gas stoves and even dishwashers in pursuit of the green agenda. Biden's Environmental Protection Agency recently issued a rule that will effectively force coal plants to shut down.

The results have not been pretty: The national average price of a gallon of gas this week costs \$3.65, compared to \$1.84 at this point in May 2020. That's a 98% spike, and we're still weeks away from Memorial Day and the peak summer driving season that brings even

higher prices.

Of course, four years ago, the nation was in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, whose sweeping stay-at-home mandates drove demand down. Kennedy heralded the environmental benefits of lockdown orders that destroyed our economy for reducing "lethal air pollution + associated #mortality."

He may oppose mandated vaccines, but Kennedy would gladly lock down the nation if he thought it would fix the climate.

To be sure, Kennedy's charisma, authenticity and personality ensures he will remain at the center of the conversation. His ubiquitous media presence and willingness to talk to different audiences have served him well.

Voters are free to cast their ballots for whomever they want, but they should do with all the facts: Undoing the damage of the Biden presidency begins by reversing his misguided war on energy, which has made the world unsafe and life in America very expensive.

On this most critical issue, Kennedy would take America even further in the wrong direction, away from energy dominance and more reliant on China, compromising our very economic and national security.

The green agenda Biden embraced would become a permanent chokehold under Kennedy. Those on the left and right should fear that.

*Daniel Turner is the founder and executive director of Power The Future, which advocates for US energy jobs.*

# Don't Buy Crackpot Ukraine Talk

ARON Maté, a leftist Canadian who writes for the fringe conspiracy-theory website Grayzone, has recently become a favorite source for the far-right fringe of the MAGA universe, the fringe that prefers to "Make America Guilty Again." Don't buy it.

Maté just produced a long-read article on Ukraine for RealClearPolitics. Because of RCP's credibility, his error-riddled "investigation" into the origins of the war in Ukraine is gaining a readership, even in congressional circles. Indeed, Maté's polemic is full of distortions.

His central claim: The Russia-Ukraine war is the spawn of intervention by the Obama-Biden administration, which supported and directed a coup in 2014 by Ukraine's "far-right" — a claim that echoes the most persistent theme of Russia's propaganda machine.

The truth: As anyone in Kyiv during those turbulent months (as I was) knows, the Maidan protests of 2013-2014 were led and directed by democratic, pro-European politicians and supported by the mass protests of hundreds of thousands of ordinary middle-class citizens from Kyiv and around the country.

Fringe far-right groups were present at

the Maidan, but their ranks numbered in the hundreds.

Eighty protesters and 12 militia men were killed during a government assault on the Maidan Square on Feb. 20, 2014, killings Maté claims were orchestrated by the far-right.

While several far-right protesters were lightly armed, and there's some evidence of snipers shooting at both sides, it is highly likely that the mass killings were a provocation orchestrated by Russia's security services and their Ukrainian minions, who had significantly infiltrated far-right Ukrainian groups over the years.

As the violence and mayhem escalated, Russian Federal Security Bureau officials headed by Gen. Sergei Beseda were in Kyiv officially to "secure [Russian] diplomatic facilities" but in reality to offer support to Ukraine's state security and police forces.

Top Putin aide Vladyslav Surkov was also in Kyiv to press then-President Viktor Yanukovich to crush the protesters.

On Feb. 20, the day of the mass killings, Ukraine's three main opposition parties called for "talks with the regime" to prevent further bloodshed.

The next day, Yanukovich negotiated with the opposition on de-escalation and declared a national day of mourning.

Late that night, however, Yanukovich abruptly fled the capital, as all evidence of a police and security presence disappeared.

Notably, a medal issued by the Russian Ministry of Defense "for the return of Crimea" bears the date of the operation as beginning on Feb. 20.

The timing reveals that Russia ditched Yanukovich while he was in office to annex Crimea and initiate a long-planned takeover Ukraine's East and South by force in a violent "Russian Spring."

Contrary to what Maté writes, what occurred was hardly a far-right coup. Instead, on Feb. 22, a constitutional majority of Ukraine's deputies — 328 lawmakers out of the 450-seat parliament — voted to remove Yanukovich for abandoning his office.

On the eve of new elections, President Vladimir Putin vowed to "respect the choice of the Ukrainian people."

Maté's distortions are hardly surprising. His main source is Andriy Telizhenko.

After Volodymyr Zelensky was elected, Telizhenko bragged that he would have a

major role in the new government. When that pipedream failed to materialize, Telizhenko turned on Zelensky.

Maté clearly knows little of Ukraine's history since its independence in 1991, and he denies Ukrainians agency by suggesting they're the tools of the United States.

My three decades of engagement with Ukraine's government, business and NGO sectors have taught me one big thing: Ukrainians alone are determining and shaping their democratic destiny — something they have shown in numerous mass movements and in their fierce resistance to Russian aggression.

Yet Maté is right on one thing: Ukraine is the victim of massive outside intervention — only it's one orchestrated by Russia and its imperialist leaders.

There is only one person to blame for the war: Vladimir Putin, a man Aaron Maté and far too many MAGA politicians are attempting to whitewash and justify.

How sad that this transparent whitewashing has been given a platform by as credible a source as RealClearPolitics.

Adrian Karatnycky, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, is the author of a new history, "Battleground Ukraine: From Independence to the War with Russia."

DANIEL TURNER

ADRIAN KARATNYCKY



30  
nypost.com  
New York Post, Friday, May 10, 2024

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Streak hits 7

The Dow neared its record high, jumping 331 points, or 0.9%, en route to its seventh straight day in the green. It's the blue-chip index's longest winning streak since a nine-day run in December.

### SEC Boe probe

The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating statements made by Boeing about its safety practices after a midair panel blowout on a 737 MAX flight in January, Bloomberg reported.

### Rate still high

The average rate on the popular 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to 7.09% from 7.22% last week, Freddie Mac said, the first decline in more than a month. It averaged 6.35% a year ago.

### Archegos trial

A jury was chosen in the criminal racketeering trial of Sung Kook "Bill" Hwang over the 2021 collapse of his \$36 billion fund Archegos Capital Management, setting the stage for opening statements and witness testimony next week.

### Hiding Pride

Target plans to cut LGBTQ-themed merchandise from some of its stores during Pride Month this June, Bloomberg reported, after a backlash hit sales last year.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

# WORKED TO DEATH

## Colleagues rage at passing of BoA banker, 35

By LYDIA MOYNIHAN  
and JOSH KOSMAN

The death of a Bank of America associate last week has ignited a firestorm on Wall Street as some bankers slam the toxic work culture they feel contributed to his death — including reported complaints about 100-hour workweeks.

Leo Lukenas III, a former Army Green Beret who was part of the bank's Financial Institutions Group, died of "acute coronary artery thrombus" at age 35 May 2, according to a Reuters report. He leaves behind a wife and two young children.

His death came after he allegedly had been working some 100 hours a week for several weeks in a row on a \$2 billion merger that was completed April 30 — three days before his tragic death.

Much of the outcry on social-media site Reddit from purported bank staffers has been directed at Lukenas' boss, Gary Howe, co-head of the financial-institutions group. Howe took down his LinkedIn page during the last few days.

Some employees have reportedly messaged each other about a possible walkout in an effort to bargain for better working conditions, according to popular financial website and chat board Wall Street Oasis.

### List of worker demands

One post from an anonymous banker highlighted a list of demands for employees' welfare that generated more than 450 comments in response.

The demands include "proactive policies" that cap work schedules at an average of 80 hours over a seven-day period and that employees get at least one weekend off per month. It



### 100-hour workweeks

**Tragic Leo Lukenas III, a former Army Green Beret who leaves behind a wife and two kids, died of acute coronary artery thrombosis. His death spurred fellow bankers at Bank of America headquarters to call for better working conditions.**



also called for an investigation into Lukenas' death.

So far, workers have remained at their desks — in part because they fear retribution for raising concerns about the toxic culture, sources said.

A Bank of America spokesperson reached by The Post did not comment about a possible walkout or the accusations of retribution.

The rep said the bank has no plans to take any action against Howe or to investigate complaints that its junior bankers are forced to put in 100-hour weeks.

"We are very saddened by the loss of our teammate. We continue to focus on doing whatever we can to

support the family and our team, especially those who worked closely with him," the BoA spokesperson told The Post.

Howe did not reply to multiple requests for comment.

Lukenas, who lived in Brooklyn, had been a Green Beret for more than a decade — from 2013 until he joined the bank as a full-time employee last July — according to his LinkedIn page. He posted news about the \$2 billion deal between UMB Financial and Heartland Financial on LinkedIn days before his death.

Lukenas' dedication to his job is why some on Wall Street are quick to

link his passing to a culture they believe values wealth over well-being.

While there is no direct evidence to suggest his work had anything to do with his death, numerous studies have linked acute stress to thrombosis.

Lukenas was a member of 51 Vets, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting transitioning and transitioned veterans from elite military communities with leading businesses, according to its website.

A fundraiser for his family launched by 51 Vets had already raised more than \$250,000 as of Thursday, including \$10,000 from hedge-fund titan Bill Ackman.

# 'Quit' out of luck at most new gigs

Workers who switched jobs during the pandemic-era Great Resignation were less satisfied than those who stuck with their employer last year — a major reversal from the previous year, according to a survey. The poll by the Confer-

ence Board found that 65% of workers who stayed put in 2023 were satisfied — compared to 59% for those who sought out greener pastures. The nonprofit think tank and business-membership organization surveyed 1,500 to 2,000

working adults in the US In 2022, the same survey found two-thirds of those who switched jobs following the pandemic were satisfied, compared with 62% for those who did not change jobs. "It seems the grass wasn't always greener on

the other side for some folks," said Travis Lindemoen, founder and CEO of the AI-powered recruiting firm Enjoy Mondays, told The Post. Those who switched found that "the company culture was a total mismatch or the workload

ended up being way more than advertised." "It seems like those who stayed put at their old jobs might have benefited from a sense of stability and familiarity, especially as things got a little shaky in the broader economy," he said. *Ariel Zilber*

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# Heat on FDIC chair to resign

Martin Gruenberg, the chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, is facing an influx of calls to resign after a blistering, 234-page report released Tuesday revealed widespread sexual harassment and other misconduct plaguing the federal banking regulator.

The damning report, which was released by law firm Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton and was prompted by a Wall Street Journal

investigation in November, did not find that Gruenberg (right) alone was responsible for the FDIC's toxic workplace.

However, "we do recognize that, as a number of FDIC employees put it in talking about Chairman Gruenberg, culture 'starts at the top,'" the report said.

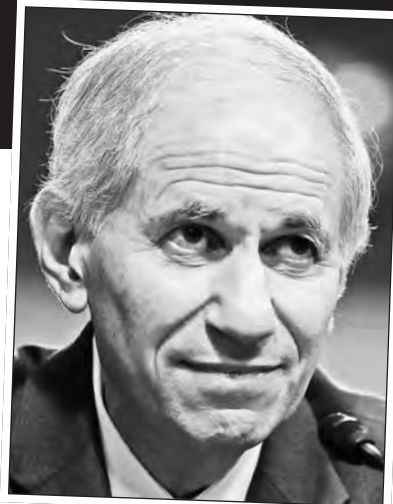
Cleary Gottlieb also documented several instances in which Gruenberg — who's served as FDIC chair since 2023, but has been a leader at

the agency since joining its board in 2005 — lashed out at subordinates, "particularly when being delivered bad news or conveyed views with which he disagrees."

If Gruenberg caves in and does actually resign, there could be significant ramifications for banks across the country, CNN reported.

The FDIC did not respond to a request for comment.

*Shannon Thaler*



# Bilt not just for renters

Bilt Rewards, which gives tenants perks for paying their rent on time, will now benefit condo and co-op owners as well, The Post has learned.

The Manhattan-based company, founded by former Tinder executive Ankur Jain, has struck a deal with real estate giant Douglas Elliman to become the exclusive payment processor for the firm's roughly 40,000 condos and co-ops across New York City.

Condo owners will now get points for paying their monthly condo and co-op fees on time.

They'll also get access to the Bilt Rewards Neighborhood Programs — a platform where tenants can earn points for eating at local hot spots like Carbone and taking popular fitness classes like Y7 Yoga and redeem them for first-class flights and stays at hotels like the Hilton-owned Conrad.

Dan Sachar, vice president of enterprise innovation at Douglas Elliman, told The Post it was an easy decision to start working with Bilt.

"The opportunity isn't just giving residents benefits for paying fees, it also gives people access to the neighborhood benefits Bilt provides. Tenants get points for taking Lyft and going to local restaurants," Sachar said.

Some restaurants like Torrisi, The Grill and Tucci will offer double, triple or up to 10 times the points to Bilt members. *Lydia Moynihan*

# Elon brain-chip blip

## 1st implant loses effectiveness in paralyzed man

By SHANNON THALER

Elon Musk's brain-chip startup Neuralink suffered an unexpected problem in its first-ever human implant as the device began to detach from the patient's skull — reducing the amount of data it could capture, the company revealed.

Neuralink's brain-computer interface, known as a BCI, was implanted into 29-year-old patient Noland Arbaugh's brain in January.

The chip is designed to help patients with paralysis control external technology using only their mind, and Arbaugh — who is paralyzed from the shoulders down due to a diving accident eight years ago — is participating in Neuralink's six-year trial to test the device's safety.

Just last month, Neuralink livestreamed a nine-minute video of Arbaugh showing how the BCI technology works.

### Setback

**The Neuralink brain-computer interface (below), or BCI, in the brain of Noland Arbaugh (right) suffered a drop in "effective electrodes" just a month after his astounding video demo.**



CaringBridge, Neuralink

He was seen playing video games, and explained that he simply imagines the cursor moving where he wants it to go and it does.

Neuralink's chip contains 1,024 electrodes across 64 "threads" — which are

thinner than a strand of human hair — that are programmed to gather data about the brain's neural activity and movement intention and send that data to the company's computer for decoding to transform

the thoughts into action.

However, in the weeks since the astounding video, "a number of threads retracted from [Arbaugh's] brain, resulting in a net decrease in the number of effective electrodes," Neuralink

said in a blog post Wednesday reported on by The Wall Street Journal.

As a result, Neuralink was not able to measure how effectively its system of electrodes and threads was performing.

"In response to this change, we modified the recording algorithm to be more sensitive to neural population signals, improved the techniques to translate these signals into cursor movements, and enhanced the user interface," Neuralink added, insisting that the refinement will enhance the accuracy of Arbaugh's ability to control the cursor's bits per second (BPS).

BPS is "the standard measure for speed and accuracy," it said.

"These refinements produced a rapid and sustained improvement in BPS that has now superseded Noland's initial performance," Neuralink said.

# Sam Ash end on sour note Trump 'insider' convicted

Sam Ash, a 100-year-old music instrument retailer with a longtime and legendary Manhattan presence, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy late Wednesday, saying it intended to close all of its 42 stores in the US.

The family-owned company had faced declining sales ever since the COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated a long-term shift toward online shopping for musical instruments, according to Sam Ash's chief

restructuring officer, Jordan Meyers, in court documents.

The retailer entered bankruptcy owing about \$20 million to its primary lender, Tiger Finance, and it has \$20 million in unpaid debts to landlords and musical instrument suppliers. Sam Ash had difficulty paying landlords and vendors in April, causing the company to be locked out of one of its stores, according to court filings. *Reuters*

A financial executive was convicted Thursday of enabling his boss and others to make over \$22 million illegally by trading off his tips ahead of the public announcement that an acquisition firm was taking former President Donald Trump's media company public.

An agitated Bruce Garelick dropped his head and repeatedly wiped his face with his hands after a jury convicted him of all charges

in Manhattan federal court.

Garelick, who had testified in his defense, was convicted of tipping others in 2021 to news that the special purpose acquisition company, Digital World Acquisition Corp., was merging with Trump Media & Technology Group. Garelick sat on DWAC's board.

His co-defendants pleaded guilty before trial. Garelick, who is free on bail, will be sentenced Sept. 12. *AP*

# ChatGPT has eyes on porn

ChatGPT-maker OpenAI is considering allowing users to create pornography and other explicit content with its artificial intelligence tech tools — but deepfakes like the graphic nude images of Taylor Swift will be banned.

The Sam Altman-run company said it is "exploring whether we can responsibly provide the ability to generate NSFW (not-safe-for-work) content in age-appropriate contexts."

OpenAI's mission statement vows "safe and beneficial" AI. *Shannon Thaler*





**DAVID ZASLAV**  
CEO “hopeful” for NBA deal.

## Warner loss at \$966M

Warner Bros. Discovery posted a quarterly loss of \$966 million that was larger than expected as advertising sales slumped at its cable TV unit and the studio segment contended with the fallout of last year's Hollywood strikes and poor demand for a “Suicide Squad” game.

Ad revenue at the company's networks segment, which includes CNN and the Discovery Channel, fell 11% in the first quarter.

The streaming unit remained a bright spot for Warner, adding 2 million subscribers.

CEO David Zaslav said the company “was hopeful” it would reach an agreement with the NBA to keep the league on Max and TNT, which has held those rights for almost four decades.

That helped shares climb 3% as NBA rights are considered central to driving streaming growth and retaining cable customers.

*Reuters*

## Tesla slashes US openings

Tesla has yanked thousands of open positions in North America from its official careers page, bringing the number of open jobs at the electric vehicle giant down to three from 3,400.

The roles were all to join manufacturing teams in either Texas; Fremont, Calif.; or Sparks, Nev. — Tesla's three major factory hubs in the US. The full-time positions, however, are actually internship programs with the opportunity for employment coming at the end of the period.

*Shannon Thaler*

# APPLE SMASH DUMMY

## Art-crush ad called tone-deaf

By THOMAS BARRABI

Apple CEO Tim Cook was lambasted for green-lighting an ad for the company's revamped iPad that showed instruments such as a piano, guitar and trumpet crushed by a giant hydraulic press.

The 60-second spot, titled “Crush!,” also included items such as an arcade game, turntable and even a sculpted bust getting slowly compacted — all set to Sonny & Cher's “All I Ever Need Is You” — to tout the slimness of its upgraded iPad Pro.

“Meet the new iPad Pro: the thinnest product we've ever created, the most advanced display we've ever produced, with the incredible power of the M4 chip. Just imagine all the things it'll be used to create,” Cook tweeted alongside the video.

Social media users, however, turned apoplectic, calling the ad “tone-deaf” for its lack of respect for the creative process and arguing it was another sign of Big Tech's desire to take over society.

“The destruction of the human experience. Courtesy of Silicon Valley,” actor Hugh Grant wrote on X about the commercial.

Another user slammed Cook for sully the legacy of Apple founder Steve Jobs, who famously approved the company's groundbreaking “1984” commercial, aired during that year's Super Bowl.

“Steve Jobs would have never approved this ad,” wrote Ian Harber.

### What was Cook ‘thin’-king?

Apple CEO Tim Cook (inset) is taking heat for approving an ad (right and below) that touts the latest super-slim iPad by showing all it incorporates — like music (represented by a piano, guitar and trumpet) and arcade games — getting crushed. “The destruction of the human experience,” wrote actor Hugh Grant, one of many critics.



“Steve Jobs would have never approved this ad.”

— X user Ian Harber

The iPad Pro features an M4 chip, designed to power artificial intelligence — a technology that has sparked intense scrutiny from critics who fear it will hamper or even plagiarize human creativity.

### ‘Like book-burning’

“Crushing a piano, trumpet & guitar evokes the same primal horrific sacrilege as watching books burn,” said songwriter Crispin Hunt. “Surprisingly tone-deaf from Apple, who've previously enabled & championed creativity. But I imagine they'll see how out of tune this is once they

turn off the autotune.”

“Truly, what is wrong with you,” added actress Justine Bateman.

X user @usaotoday wrote the video “lacks any response for creative equipment and mocks the creators,” a post that generated more than 24,000 likes.

Epic Games programmer Kieran Ritchie said “the symbolism of indiscriminately crushing beautiful creative tools is an interesting choice.”

“Who needs human life and everything that makes it worth living? Dive into this digital simulacrum and give us your soul. Sincerely, Apple,” added “Men in

Black” screenwriter Ed Solomon.

Apple didn't respond to a request for comment.

The video surfaced as Apple attempts to drum up excitement about its iPad lineup, which is in the midst of a lengthy sales slump.

In the second quarter, revenue for the iPad segment of Apple's business fell 17% to \$5.6 billion, which missed analysts' estimate of \$5.91 billion.

The 11-inch version of the device starts at \$999, while a larger 13-inch version starts at \$1,299. Both are about \$200 more expensive than the previous model.

# Labor pains: Jobless filings hit high

Initial filings for unemployment benefits in the US climbed to their highest level since August 2023 — a sign that the robust American labor market is cooling.

Initial jobless claims increased by 22,000 to 231,000 in the week ended May 4, according to Labor Department data released Thursday — blowing past

Bloomberg economists' expectations of 212,000.

The four-week moving average, which helps smooth out weekly volatility in numbers, increased to 215,000 — up 4,750 from the previous week and the highest since February.

Until this week, first-time applications hadn't topped the narrow 200,000-to-

222,000 range in the past three months, according to Bloomberg.

The latest reading, however, indicates that the number of layoffs across US employers ticked higher.

The latest jobless claims data come after last month's jobs report came in weaker than expected, adding just 175,000 new roles in April

— short of the 240,000 analysts were expecting and renewing hopes for an interest rate cut from the Fed.

A month earlier, March had experienced an impressive 303,000 gains.

Before adjustment for seasonal influences, initial applications rose by nearly 20,000, to 209,324, which the Labor Department said

was because of a jump in jobless claims in New York, where upwards of 10,000 claims contributed to more than half of the latest hike.

Claims also picked up in California, where many hourly workers were cut after the state implemented a \$20 minimum wage rule for fast-food workers on April 1. *Shannon Thaler*



# The Post Puzzle Page

## SCRABBLE® G R A M S

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A1O1Y4R1S1M3N1

A1E1I1T1N1C3T1

E1O1T1L1V4R1B3

A1I1I1T1P3N1S1

Double Word Score

3rd Letter Triple

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155  
BEST SCORE 209

FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SCRABBLE G R A M S

SOLUTION

RACK 1 = 74  
RACK 2 = 65  
RACK 3 = 11  
RACK 4 = 59  
TOTAL 209

PAR SCORE 145-155

**Directions:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

### Bridge

South dealer  
N-S vulnerable

**NORTH**  
♠ K J 6  
♥ 4  
♦ 7 5 4 3 2  
♣ A 10 9 2

**WEST**  
♠ 8  
♥ A Q J 8 2  
♦ K J 10 9 6  
♣ 6 3

**EAST**  
♠ 5 4 2  
♥ K 10 9 5  
♦ Q 8  
♣ Q 8 7 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q 10 9 7 3  
♥ 7 6 3  
♦ A  
♣ K J 5

South 1 ♠  
West 2 ♥  
North 2 ♠  
East 3 ♥  
4 ♠ 5 ♥ 5 ♠ All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 8(1)

### Word Force

**THEORIZED**

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 16** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

**ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST**  
Yesterday's word:

cider	credo	tired
cited	cried	trice
coder	decor	tried
cored	edict	

### Wonderword

**How to play:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EARNING REWARD POINTS

Solution: 7 letters

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

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**Yesterday's Answer: Business**

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**Solutions on Page 38**

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Very Easy #6,544

Difficult #6,334

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

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

## Quick Crossword

Across

Down

1 Percolate  
5 After, in Avignon  
10 Texting format initials  
13 Tiniest bit  
14 Flexible  
15 it on thick  
16 \*Sound made by bursting a ce-real bag?  
18 Ancient  
19 Fix, in a way  
20 Tags on Insta, say  
21 song  
22 California home of the National Yo-Yo Museum  
24 "Us" director Jordan  
25 Sales talk  
29 \*24-hour TV marathon that re-quires glasses?  
31 "Brave New World" drug  
32 ray  
33 Rooibos, for one  
34 With 36-Across, first encounter, or what the answers to the starred clues make?  
36 See 34-Across  
40 University extension  
41 Baseball's Mattingly  
42 Sound reflection  
43 \*Many fan letters to N.W.A.?  
47 Spot of land  
48 Some vines  
49 Bailey's Irish  
51 Give for a time  
52 Means to be cooler  
53 Irrigates  
58 Gerund suffix  
59 \*Bridge that plays a familiar note when crossed?  
61 Take advice from a personal in-jury lawyer, perhaps  
62 Submits taxes sans paper  
63 Anti-fur gp.  
64 Them alternative  
65 Make big bangs?  
66 Percolate

10 Got ready to stop  
11 UNESCO's Fund for Girls' Right to Education  
12 "Finding Nemo" city  
14 Well-worn trail  
17 Move slowly  
21 Gets ready for surgery  
23 "cost ya!"  
24 Hammer end  
25 Penultimate Greek letter  
26 F-, e.g.  
27 "I'm covering my ears now!"  
28 Like some retro frames  
30 School near Heathrow  
32 Scarecrow creator  
35 of March  
36 Natalie with nine Grammys  
37 Knee pt.  
38 Marxist Guevara  
39 Tyke  
41 Oktoberfest outfits  
43 Billie who is the youngest woman to win two Oscars  
44 Way, or means  
45 Snappy put-down  
46 National park on Mount Desert Island  
47 Apple with a few cores

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13					14						15		
16					17						18		
19						20				21			
					22		23			24			
25	26	27	28			29			30				
31					32			33					
34					35				36		37	38	39
					40				41		42		
43	44	45				46				47			
48						49			50				
51					52			53		54	55	56	57
58					59			60					
61					62					63			
64					65					66			

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**  
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LABOR	IDIOT	ARAL
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	NOTES	LANDHO
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MINE	FLAT	AMINO
ETSY	FESS	LOFAT

50 Stupefies  
52 Revolutionary era pipe  
54 Baking amts.  
55 Foil alternative  
56 Give a star, maybe  
57 Lose it  
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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS PURCHASER OF THE LOANS AND OTHER ASSETS OF WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA (THE "SAVINGS BANK") FROM THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, ACTING AS RECEIVER FOR THE SAVINGS BANK AND PURSUANT TO ITS AUTHORITY UNDER THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT, 12 U.S.C. §1821(D),

-against-

ORLANDO GONZALEZ, ET AL.

**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens on June 16, 2022, wherein JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS PURCHASER OF THE LOANS AND OTHER ASSETS OF WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA (THE "SAVINGS BANK") FROM THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, ACTING AS RECEIVER FOR THE SAVINGS BANK AND PURSUANT TO ITS AUTHORITY UNDER THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT, 12 U.S.C. §1821(D) is the Plaintiff and ORLANDO GONZALEZ, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction RAIN OR SHINE on the COURTHOUSE STEPS OF THE QUEENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 88-11 SUTPHIN BLVD., JAMAICA, NY 11435, on June 7, 2024 at 11:30AM, premises known as 3417 88TH ST, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372; and the following tax map identification: 1449-64.

**ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK**

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 722634/2021. Stephanie Goldstone, Esq., - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. **All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. \*LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.**

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE  
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF QUEENS

SAFEGUARD MISTY REALTY GROUP, LLC, Plaintiff - against - BRUCE MAASBACH, et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 5, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the Queens Supreme Court, located at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on the 7th day of June, 2024 at 11:45 AM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York.

Premises known as 159-39 95TH Street, Howard Beach, NY 11414. (Block: 14175, Lot: 42)

Approximate amount of lien \$842,181.87 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. 726886/2022. Robert L. Howe, Esq., Referee. Stein, Wiener & Roth LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 1400 Old Country Road, Suite 315 Westbury, NY 11590 Tel. 516-742-1212 MAASBACH-79617

Dated: April 11, 2024

**During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale. Auction Locations are subject to change.**

BELKIN Vision Ltd. ("Company") is hereby pleased to announce that on May 5, 2024, it submitted a joint merger proposal to the Israeli Registrar of Companies, in accordance with Section 316 of the Israeli Companies Law and the Companies Regulations (Merger), 2000 promulgated thereunder, pursuant to a reverse triangle merger during which the Company (the absorbing company ("HaChevra Ha'Koletet")) will merge with Silverstone Marger Sub Ltd. (the target company ("Chevrat Ha'Ya'ad")), a wholly owned subsidiary of Alcon Pharmaceuticals Ltd. ("Purchaser") and thus become a private company fully owned by the Purchaser. The full merger proposal may be viewed at the office of the Registrar of Companies in Jerusalem or at the Company's offices at 13 Gan Reva Blvd., Yavne, Israel during regular working hours, by prior arrangement by phone +972-8-677-5161. Sincerely, BELKIN Vision Ltd.

**Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation**

Boldyn Networks proposes the collocation of antennas on an existing light pole within existing road right-of-way approximately 125 feet south-southwest of 3rd Ave. & E. 10th St., New York, New York County, NY. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Andrew Smith, RESCOM Environmental Corp., PO Box 361 Petoskey, MI 49770 or call 260-385-6999.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the New York State Urban Development Corporation, doing business as Empire State Development ("ESD" or the "Corporation"), pursuant to Section 16(2) of the New York State Urban Development Corporation Act (Chapter 174, Section 1, Laws of 1968, as amended) (the "Act"), has adopted a General Project Plan (the "Plan") with respect to the project listed below. Copies of the Plan(s) are available without charge to any person who shall make a request.

The Corporation will file such Plan(s) in the office of the County Clerk of each Project location. A copy of the Plan is also on file at the principal office of the Corporation, 633 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017, and is available for inspection by request. Send email requests to: [Landgprojectcomments@esd.ny.gov](mailto:Landgprojectcomments@esd.ny.gov) Subject: Plan - Drive Change Capital - Regional Council Capital Fund (Capital Grant). Information regarding the Project is also provided below with the project listing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that, a virtual public hearing to consider the Plan(s), open to all persons, will be held remotely by the Corporation on **Thursday May 23, 2024, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.** utilizing the Zoom video communications and teleconferencing platform. Detailed instructions for participation in the virtual hearing can be viewed at <https://esd.ny.gov/esd-media-center/public-notices>. Additionally, the public is given an opportunity to comment on the Project(s) by submitting comments electronically to [Landgprojectcomments@esd.ny.gov](mailto:Landgprojectcomments@esd.ny.gov) Subject: Comment - Drive Change Capital - Regional Council Capital Fund (Capital Grant) by 5:30 p.m. on **Thursday May 23, 2024.**

**Drive Change Capital - Regional Council Capital Fund (Capital Grant) - Brooklyn (New York City Region - Kings County)** - ESD proposes to make a \$170,000 grant for a portion of the costs to renovate a 4,700-square-foot-space at 630 Flushing Avenue in Brooklyn to expand their footprint enabling the creation of a large kitchen and learning space as well as classroom space for their culinary Fellowship Training program for formerly incarcerated adults. Total project cost for this request is \$949,246. There are no direct jobs associated with the project.

DATED: Friday, May 10, 2024 New York State Urban  
By: Deborah Royce Development Corporation  
Corporate Secretary

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE  
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF QUEENS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TERWIN MORTGAGE TRUST 2005-4HE, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-4HE, Plaintiff - against - GARY C. DILEONARDO AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOSE BELTRE A/K/A JOSE A. BELTRE, et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on March 13, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the Queens Supreme Court, located at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on the 7th day of June, 2024 at 12:30 PM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being formerly in the Town of Jamaica, now in the fourth ward, of the Borough and County of Queens, State of New York.

Premises known as 92-14 88th Avenue, Woodhaven, NY 11421. (Block: 8930 Lot: 92)

Approximate amount of lien \$933,523.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. 723431/2021 FKA 23124/10. Dominic A. Villoni, Esq., Referee. McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 Tel. 347/286-7409

For sale information, please visit [Auction.com](http://Auction.com) at [www.Auction.com](http://www.Auction.com) or call (800) 280-2832

Dated: April 16, 2024

**During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale.**

**BANKRUPTCY AUCTION**  
**PRIME WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN**  
**MID-CONSTRUCTION MIXED-USE BLDG**  
**80 AINSLIE ST, BROOKLYN, NY**  
**Auction Date: May 16th, 2024, 2:00 P.M. (ET)**  
**Bid Deadline: May 14th, 2024, 5:00 P.M. (ET)**

**Northgate Real Estate Group** has been exclusively retained to run the bankruptcy sale of a prime mixed-use retail and residential apartment building located in prime Williamsburg Brooklyn. The 23,175 GSF elevated building boasts approximately 60 feet of frontage and is currently under construction, estimated to be about 55-65% complete. This development has both 421A and ICAP tax abatement. This asset is located blocks to the L and G train stations and direct vehicle access to Manhattan via the Williamsburg Bridge.

**Interested bidders must contact Greg Corbin of Northgate Realty Group at [Greg@northgatereg.com](mailto:Greg@northgatereg.com) for more information on how to participate.**

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**NEW YORK POST**



NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF QUEENS**

US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CSAB MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-1, Plaintiff, v. MAURO SOSA, JAVIER SOSA, ET AL, Defendants. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT In pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the Office of the County Clerk of Queens County on July 22, 2021, I, Alan C. Kestenbaum, Esq., the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on May 31, 2024 at the Courthouse Steps of the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, at 12:15PM the premises described as follows: 1733 Grove Street Ridgewood, NY 11385 Block 3440 Lot 41 ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York. The premises are sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment, Index No. 708694/2021 in the amount of \$1,010,238.10 plus interest and costs. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the Court System's COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale.

Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiff 500 Bausch & Lomb Place Rochester, NY 14604 Tel.: 855-227-5072 80438

**NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS**

VENTURES TRUST 2013-I-H-R BY MCM CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC, ITS TRUSTEE, Plaintiff AGAINST JORGE VELASQUEZ, DIEGO TORRES, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 18, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Courthouse steps of the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on June 7, 2024 at 10:30AM, premises known as 132-15 106TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY 11417. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block 11506, Lot 39. Approximate amount of judgment \$853,771.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #710562/2021. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the QUEENS County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale.

Mark Weliky, Esq.,  
Referee Gross Polowy, LLC  
1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 18-001592 80131

DISH Wireless, LLC. is proposing to install new wireless antennas on an existing building located at 44 W 44th Street, New York, New York County, NY 10036. The new facility will consist of the collocation of antennas at a top height of 151ft above ground level on the 181ft tall building (measured to the top of the water tank). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 010255-PR - CR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or by 978.877.3493.

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Listings

By DAN MARTIN

Even in a loss, Aaron Judge did something memorable.

With the ball jumping out of Yankee Stadium on Thursday, Judge hit the third-longest homer of his career, a 473-foot shot to left-center off Houston's Ryan Pressly in the bottom of the eighth.

The homer got the Yankees to within a run, but it wasn't enough in a 4-3 loss.

Still, it got Aaron Boone's attention.

"Not a lot of people go to that place," Boone said of the shot that landed next to the bleachers in left-center.

Judge has also hit home runs of 496 feet and 495 feet — and the one that went 496 feet came against the Blue Jays, and off current teammate Marcus Stroman.

"He's special," Stroman said of Judge. "And he's not even hot yet."

If he isn't, he's getting close.

Judge is now tied with Juan Soto for the team lead with nine homers and has three in his past four games, as well as six in his last 15.

Judge said he hadn't looked at a replay of his latest blast and was more concerned about getting the Yankees a run closer in the game.

But his performance on the six-game homestand: 10-for-22, with four doubles, three homers, four walks and seven RBIs, is reason to be optimistic that Judge has found his form.

► **DJ LeMahieu** (foot) took batting practice prior to Thursday's game and traveled with the Yankees to Tampa, where he will increase baseball activities, including taking live batting practice.

**Gerrit Cole** (elbow) is also scheduled to throw another bullpen session.

► With **Nick Burdi** set to make his return from a hip injury on Friday, **Ron Marinaccio** was optioned to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre after Thursday's loss. The right-hander has been

Judge's 473-foot HR is 3rd-longest of slugger's career

YANKEES NOTES

excellent since allowing a homer in his first appearance of the season, including pitching a scoreless ninth on Thursday.

The Yankees also added some minor league bullpen depth Thursday, when they claimed right-hander **Colby White** off waivers from the Rays. They assigned the 25-year-old to Double-A Somerset.

White had been designated for assignment by Tampa Bay. He came back from Tommy John surgery last season, but had been terrible with Triple-A Durham in seven appearances this year.

► Boone is among those paying attention to the playoff runs by the Knicks and Rangers.

"It's been great, certainly, for New York," Boone said. "You can feel that buzz. It is awesome."

He's among those who have noticed when the Rangers' highlights are shown on the scoreboard at the Stadium.

"When they throw the Rangers up there, you know a goal's coming," Boone said. "[Wednesday] night on the bench, I said the Knicks must not be winning because I haven't seen a highlight all night."

A bat boy in the dugout told Boone that the Knicks were, in fact, down by



AARON JUDGE

Mets still talking through rotation crunch

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The Mets will roll with Jose Quintana, Christian Scott and Luis Severino, in that order, in the series at Citi Field that begins Friday against the Braves.

The team is "having discussions" how to proceed after that, manager Carlos Mendoza said Wednesday.

At the moment, the Mets have five starters in a rotation that does not include Adrian Houser, who was skipped the last turn through and replaced by Scott.

But the Mets have left open the possibility of a six-man rotation — and likely will have one when Kodai Senga is ready to return, probably in June — which means they will have a decision to make by Wednesday.

After this weekend's series, the Mets would be in line to pitch Sean Manaea and Jose Butto on Monday and Tuesday, respectively, in a home set against the Phillies. By the time the series shifts to Philadelphia on Wednesday, they would have several options: They could reinsert Houser; bring Quintana back on four days' rest; or bring up another starter, such as Joey Lucchesi, who last pitched Wednesday with Triple-A Syracuse.

In the short sample size of two games, Quintana has allowed nine earned runs in 7 2/3 innings (10.57 ERA) when pitching on four days' rest this season. The 35-year-old has posted a 3.76 ERA in five starts with at least five days of rest.

Houser, a veteran who has

acknowledged he is in the worst funk of his career, pitched to an 8.16 ERA in six starts before he was at least temporarily demoted from the rotation. The righty has been available out of the bullpen since Monday, but the Mets have not needed him yet, which means he has not pitched since May 2.

"There'll be innings for him," Mendoza said, though when or in what role those innings will come remains unclear.

Lucchesi, who is the lone non-rehabbing starter at Syracuse who is on the 40-man roster, has been strong in Triple-A this season and owns a 2.58 ERA through seven starts.

At least at the moment, Tyler Megill would not appear to be an option. The rehabbing

righty pitched four scoreless innings with Syracuse on Tuesday and is expected to continue to lengthen out in Triple-A on Sunday. Megill is a bit further ahead than David Peterson, who also has pitched well in his rehab assignment and could be activated as soon as May 27.

Of course injuries can change the equation in a hurry, but the Mets have plenty of decisions to make with their rotation in the coming weeks, beginning with Wednesday's starter.

"We'll see where we're at," Mendoza said. "Whether we want to go six-man this next round. There's a lot of factors that we need to consider — off days, bullpen and things like that."

msanchez@nypost.com



Post Time: 1:05 p.m.  
vcangialosi@nypost.com



# Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Cage Match (2nd)  
Lock Record: 2 for 5 (40%)  
Meet Record: 10/44 \$59.20

## 1 5 fur; \$75,000; mdn; 2YO

Two-year-olds in the opener! Six 1st time starters. One filly and that's **PHOEBEINWONDERLAND**. Working steadily for Ward; Johnny V. up. Choice over Repole's **RICHARD AVE** (Pletcher/Irad) and **OUT ON BAIL** (Maker/Franco) who leaves from the rail.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Out On Bail,119	M Franco	x-x-x	Maker	7-2
2 Soontobeking,119	E Cancel	x-x-x	Weaver	5-1
3 Man From Malta,119	S Camacho, Jr	x-x-x	Chichakly	20-1
4 Vamonos Vamonos,119	J Gomez	x-x-x	Rodriguez	8-1
5 Phoebeinwonderland,116	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Ward	8-5
6 Richard Ave,119	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Pletcher	2-1

## 2 6 1/2 fur; \$55,000; mdn cfm(\$75,000); 3up

A **CAGE MATCH** to back-end the double. Ran 2nd than a closer 3rd here this spring. Drops for Dutrow who gets Irad to seal the deal. **DARK DEVIL** debuted 3rd after leading early on. Route to sprint for Rice. **BETTA GO GO GO** is 0 for 7 but has hit the board 6 times. Neck short this distance.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Mr. Papagioragio(L),118	L Luzzi	3-x-x	C Martin	8-1
2 Lcglucky(L),118	E Escobar	x-x-x	Ferraro	30-1
3 Aleah Aleah(L),118	K Carmouche	4-2-5	Rverson	8-1
4 Brave Buck(M),118	S Camacho, Jr	x-x-x	Barker	15-1
5 Cage Match(M),124	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-x	R Dutrow	4-5
6 Dark Devil(L),118	J Lezcano	3-x-x	Rice	7-2
7 Betta Go Go Go(L),124	L Rivera, Jr	2-4-3	Barker	9-2

## 3 1 mile; \$36,000; cfm(\$12,500); 4up(f)

Looking for **JOLLY MISS JILL** to move forward after finishing 3rd then a closer 2nd at this distance. Note: 1 for 10 at Aqueduct. **SISTER LINDA** is the M/L favorite after placing 2nd last pair. Claimed by Schettino after missing by a head. **MERAVIGLIOSO** moves lower for Ferraro after coming home 5 lengths shy with allowance. Scored back-to-back W's here in March but did not perform well lone try at a mile. **SUSPENDED CAMPAIGN** was 3rd behind top pick.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Sister Linda(L),118	L Luzzi	2-2-9	Schettino	2-1
2 Suspended Campaign(L),118	E Ruiz	3-6-3	Figueroa	4-1
3 Freddyymo Factor(L),118	O Hrndz Mreno	6-6-6	Jones	15-1
4 Grinotts(L),118	R Maragh	5-7-4	Samsundar	20-1
5 Joey the Fish(L),118	S Camacho, Jr	6-5-5	Persaud	8-1
6 Jolly Miss Jill(L),113	A Bocachica	2-3-6	Potts	7-2
7 Meraviglioso(L),111	F Martinez	6-3-1	Ferraro	5-2

## 4 1 1/16 miles(T); \$102,000; alw; 3up(f)

Class relief for **BE YOUR BEST**. Took 2nd money in the Grade 1 American Oaks then 3 lengths short in a Grade 2 before shipping from Santa Anita. "Best" hasn't been best since 2022 but is 2 for 3 at this distance. Irad picks up the mount. **OCEAN GATEWAY** has won 3 straight and is 2 for 2 over the wet. Again if we're off turf. **QUARREL** makes 4YO debut for Ribaudo. Vanilla 6th in the Sands Point in year-ender. Wired an allowance field at the Spa. 2 for 3 at the distance as well. **BREATH AWAY** got beat a head in the Tropical Oaks this distance in December. "Breath" is a threat off the breather.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Mallevmoo(L),122	F Prat	5-8-1	Clement	6-1
2 Quarrel(L),122	J Castellano	6-5-1	Ribaudo	8-1
3 Swoop to Finish(L),124	J Alvarado	1-5-4	Mott	8-1
4 Taming the Tigress(L),122	R Maragh	3-4-5	Toscano	30-1

## Aqueduct results

**FIRST-1 mile; \$90,000; mdn spl wt; 3up (f&m)**  
6 Catching Het (Prt) 4.90 2.90 2.10  
5 Save Time (Franco) 3.80 2.80  
3 Shirl's Delight (McCarthy) 3.20  
Scr: Autumn's Turn  
● \$1 Exacta (6-5) \$7.90 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (6-5-3-2) \$2.52 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (6-5-3) \$8.05

**Exacta picked by Vic C**  
**SECOND-6 fur; \$102,000; alw; 3up**  
3 H'smyhnybdr (Crnich) 3.20 2.10  
5 Cees Get Degrees (Cncl) 4.30  
Scr: Subrogate, Emerald Forest, Stage Left  
● \$1 Daily Double (6-3) \$4.80 ● \$1 Exacta (3-5) \$6.80 ● \$1 Quinella (3-5) \$5.10

**THIRD-6 fur; \$65,000; soc(\$50,000); 3YO F**

## Yonkers entries for Friday

Post Time: 7:00 p.m.

**FIRST: Mile trot; \$19,000; cond**  
1 Grinder (BHolland) 6-7-1 8-1  
2 CassiusHanover (Lachance) 3-6-3 6-1  
3 KindaLuckyLindy(GBrennan) 5-1-1 8-1  
4 Warrior One (JBartlett) 1-7-5 9-5  
5 OnHigherGround(JBongiorn) 2-2-4 4-1  
6 PCFeerWheeling (MacDnld) 2-7-1 9-2  
7 Barry Black (JPantaleano) 3-2-8 20-1  
8 No Drama Please (JMarohn) 4-1-1 20-1  
**SECOND: Mile pace; \$11,000; cond**  
1 Super Girl (JStratton) 5-5-2 1-1  
2 Kathy's Moment (GBrennan) 9-6-6 15-1  
3 Woodmere Harriet (Marohn) 6-1-6 3-1  
4 Captain's Star (JPantaleano) 5-4-3 6-1  
5 Sweet Ali Lou (JBartlett) 5-1-3 7-2

6 Bluebird Graf (MMacDonald) 3-6-5 20-1  
**THIRD: Mile trot; \$11,000; cond**  
1 Wily Wally (JBartlett) 4-3-1 5-2  
2 Voyage To Paris (GBrennan) 5-3-3 9-2  
3 For A Dreamer (JStratton) 2-4-6 9-5  
4 Quiksilvr Bluechip (JMarohn) 3-4-5 7-2  
5 In My Dreams(MMacDonald) 4-7-8 20-1  
6 Bazillionaire (ASiegelman) 3-6-7 20-1  
7 Brownie (DBube) 6-3-4 20-1  
**FOURTH: Mile trot; \$16,000; cond**  
1 Hoolie N Hector (GBrennan) 2-8-2 2-1  
2 Kasha V (JMarohn) 7-6-1 8-1  
3 Along In Time (EGoodell) 5-7-1 20-1  
4 The Last Chapter (DBube) 5-2-5 6-1  
5 Torrone (JBartlett) 6-2-1 5-2  
6 Infinity Stone (BHolland) 1-6-7 5-1

**FIFTH-1 1/16 mile; \$65,000; soc(\$35,000- \$50,000); 3up (f&m)**  
2 Pentagon (Lezcano) 6.70 3.30 2.80  
5 Elle Est Forte (Prat) 3.60 3.20  
10 Diamond Status (Gomez)  
Scr: Miss Fashionista, Shigeko, Bella Principessa, Call Her Bluff  
● \$1 Pick 3 (3-4-2) \$25.75 ● \$0.1 Daily Double (7-1-2/12/13/14) \$46.37 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (4/6-3/4-4-7-1-2/12/13/14) \$145.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (7-2) \$9.10 ● \$1 Exacta (2-5) \$10.60 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-5-10-6) \$68.75 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-5-10) \$68.25  
**SIXTH-6 fur; \$78,000; cfm(\$50,0); 4up (f&m)**  
1 Icy Reply (RverJr.) 11.80 4.50 2.70

7 CreativeVenture (JBongiorn) 5-6-6 6-1  
**FIFTH: Mile pace; \$16,000; cond**  
1 ManDonforgetMe (Brennn) 6-6-4 2-1  
2 MorningHasBroken (Strattn) 5-3-5 5-1  
3 HallelujahHanver (MMcDnld) 4-3-4 12-1  
4 Miss Dottie Mae (BHolland) 4-6-3 7-2  
5 Cheryl's Shadow (Bongiorno) 5-5-1 3-1  
6 CommanderCathyn (Marhn) 2-2-6 10-1  
7 Our Lady Lara A (JBartlett) 7-4-5 20-1  
8 Cowgirl Lilly (JPantaleano) 6-6-2 20-1  
**SIXTH: Mile pace; \$22,000; cond**  
1 Hello Yes Hi (GBrennan) 1-5-5 3-1  
2 High Fashion Star (BHolland) 2-2-5 9-2  
3 PembrokeSouthe (JBongirn) 4-1-1 7-2  
4 Easy To Please (JStratton) 4-3-6 6-1  
5 Ultimate Speed (Siegelman) 1-8-2 6-1

6 My August MoonA (JBartlett) 2-3-2 4-1  
7 Racy Roxxy A (TButer) 4-6-1 8-1  
**SEVENTH: Mile pace; \$27,000; cond**  
1 Karma Seelster (Jstratton) 7-2-5 9-5  
2 Rec Time (DBube) 6-3-2 10-1  
3 Twin B Sunkissed (Brennan) 7-1-2 6-1  
4 DelitfulHarminn (MMcDnld) 5-8-5 8-1  
5 Golden Quest N (BHolland) 1-1-1 2-1  
6 Lucky Artist A (JPantaleano) 6-1-6 20-1  
7 DragonsLuckyLady (JBrtlett) 2-5-2 5-1  
**EIGHTH: Mile pace; \$35,000; Invitation**  
1 Millwood Bonnie N (Bartlett) 5-1-1 5-1  
2 Mc Angel (BHolland) 3-1-1 5-2  
3 Silk Cloud A (Jstratton) 1-4-4 7-2  
4 Dougs Babe A (ASiegelman) 4-5-2 7-2  
5 Lit De Rose (Plachance) 2-1-1 2-1  
**NINTH: Mile pace; \$19,000; cond**

1 TrueBlueHanver (ASegelmn) 1-5-5 2-1  
2 Arco N (JBongiorno) 3-1-1 5-1  
3 Elises Delight (Jstratton) 1-5-7 6-1  
4 Uptown Hanover (TButer) 3-5-1 5-2  
5 Sale El Sol (BHolland) 4-6-6 9-2  
6 Village Jade (GBrennan) 5-4-7 12-1  
7 GameOfShadows(JPantale) 5-6-3 20-1  
8 Sugar Britches (JBartlett) 7-4-2 20-1  
**TENTH: Mile trot; \$13,000; cond**  
1 Donato PatriotK (Bongiorno) 2-2-3 9-5  
2 Diamante Triot It (GBrennan) 1-5-5 3-1  
3 Street Gossip (ASiegelman) 1-5-3 4-1  
4 Bluebird Bishop (JBartlett) 7-3-6 5-1  
5 SwissHouseOnfire(Pantlen) 3-3-5 12-1  
6 Full Rights (MMacDonald) 6-5-6 20-1  
7 Windsong Pioneer (Holland) 2-4-4 12-1  
8 Darbyshire (Jstratton) 6-4-3 20-1

## MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	7	2	3	24	32	18
Cincinnati	6	2	3	21	13	9
Toronto FC	6	4	1	19	14	14
Red Bulls	4	2	5	17	16	16
Columbus	3	1	6	15	12	9
Charlotte FC	4	5	2	14	12	13
NYCFC	4	5	2	14	11	12
Philadelphia	3	2	5	14	19	16
D.C. United	3	3	5	14	16	17
Atlanta	3	4	3	12	14	11
CF Montréal	3	4	3	12	13	20
Nashville	2	3	5	11	14	18
Chicago	2	5	4	10	11	19
Orlando City	2	5	3	9	11	18
New England	2	7	1	7	7	18

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	6	2	3	21	18	9
Minn. United	6	2	2	20	17	11
LA Galaxy	5	2	4	19	21	17
Vancouver	5	2	3	18	18	10
Colorado	5	3	3	18	18	15
Austin FC	4	3	4	16	14	13
Los Angeles FC	4	4	3	15	19	19
Houston	4	4	2	14	9	10
St Louis City	2	1	7	13	15	14
Sporting K.C.	2	4	5	11	18	19
Seattle FC	2	5	4	10	13	13
Portland	2	5	4	10	20	23
FC Dallas	2	6	2	8	10	15
San Jose	2	8	1	7	17	26

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

**Saturday**  
New England at Red Bulls, 7:30pm  
**NYCFC** at Toronto FC, 7:30pm  
D.C. United at Atlanta, 7:30pm  
Nashville at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm  
Miami at CF Montréal, 7:30pm  
Orlando City at Philadelphia, 7:30pm  
Cincinnati at Columbus, 7:45pm  
Austin FC at FC Dallas, 8:30pm  
Houston at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm  
Chicago at St Louis City, 8:30pm  
San Jose at Colorado, 9:30pm  
Salt Lake at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm  
Vancouver at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm

**Sunday**  
Seattle FC at Portland, 4:45pm  
**Wednesday, May 15**  
**Red Bulls** at D.C. United, 7:30pm  
**NYCFC** at Philadelphia, 7:30pm  
Atlanta at Cincinnati, 7:30pm  
Columbus at CF Montréal, 7:30pm  
Miami at Orlando City, 7:30pm  
Houston at Austin FC, 8:30pm  
Charlotte FC at Chicago, 8:30pm  
LA Galaxy at Minnesota, 8:30pm  
Toronto FC at Nashville, 8:30pm  
Los Angeles FC at St Louis City, 8:30pm  
Vancouver at Colorado, 9:30pm  
Seattle FC at Salt Lake, 9:30pm  
San Jose at Portland, 10:30pm

**Saturday, May 18**  
**Red Bulls** at NYCFC, 7:30pm  
Atlanta at Nashville, 1:30pm  
LA Galaxy at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm  
St Louis City at Cincinnati, 7:30pm  
D.C. United at Miami, 7:30pm  
Philadelphia at New England, 7:30pm  
CF Montréal at Toronto FC, 7:30pm  
Sporting K.C. at Austin FC, 8:30pm  
Columbus at Chicago, 8:30pm  
FC Dallas at Houston, 8:30pm  
Portland at Minnesota, 8:30pm  
Colorado at Salt Lake, 9:30pm  
Orlando City at San Jose, 10:30pm  
Vancouver at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

## Soccer

**UEFA Europa League- 2nd Leg**  
Atalanta 3, Marseille 0 (Atalanta advance 4-1 on aggregate)  
Bayer Leverkusen 2, AS Roma 2 (Bayer advance 4-2 on aggregate)  
**UEFA Europa Conference League- 2nd Leg**  
Olympiacos 2, Aston Villa 0 (Olympiacos advance 6-2 on aggregate)

## PLAY OF THE DAY

Shesalittle Edgy (5-2) was passed mid-stretch and ran home a length short. Curb-stone (6-1) landed midpack. Loss of -\$44.

Two more. Play \$10 win and place on Jolly Miss Jill in Race 3 and Clear the Air in Race 6.  
— Vic Cangialosi



# AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Baltimore	24	12	.667	—	—	7-3	W-1	12-7	12-5
<b>Yankees</b>	25	14	.641	½	+2	6-4	L-1	13-6	12-8
Boston	19	18	.514	5½	3	5-5	L-2	7-9	12-9
Tampa Bay	19	19	.500	6	3½	6-4	L-1	13-10	6-9
Toronto	17	20	.459	7½	5	4-6	W-1	8-7	9-13

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	24	14	.632	—	—	5-5	L-1	12-6	12-8
Minnesota	22	15	.595	1½	—	8-2	W-2	11-8	11-7
Kansas City	23	16	.590	1½	—	6-4	W-2	15-8	8-8
Detroit	19	18	.514	4½	3	4-6	L-1	8-9	11-9
Chicago	10	28	.263	14	12½	4-6	W-2	6-12	4-16

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	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
Los Angeles	14	24	.368	7½	8½	4-6	L-1	4-12	10-12
Houston	13	24	.351	8	9	5-5	W-1	7-12	6-12

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Thursday

Houston 4, **Yankees** 3  
Minnesota 11, Seattle 1  
White Sox 3, Cleveland 2  
Kansas City 10, L.A. Angels 4  
**Friday**  
**Yankees** at Tampa Bay, 6:50  
Houston at Detroit, 6:40  
Arizona at Baltimore, 7:05  
Minnesota at Toronto, 7:07  
Washington at Boston, 7:10  
Cleveland at White Sox, 7:40

Texas at Colorado, 8:40  
Kansas City at L.A. Angels, 9:38  
Oakland at Seattle, 9:40  
**Saturday**  
**Yankees** at Tampa Bay, 4:10  
Minnesota at Toronto, 3:07  
Arizona at Baltimore, 4:05  
Washington at Boston, 4:10  
Houston at Detroit, 6:10  
Cleveland at White Sox, 7:10  
Texas at Colorado, 8:10  
Kansas City at L.A. Angels, 9:38  
Oakland at Seattle, 9:40

# NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	26	12	.684	—	—	8-2	L-1	15-7	11-5
Atlanta	22	12	.647	2	+5	4-6	W-2	13-4	9-8
<b>Mets</b>	18	18	.500	7	—	5-5	W-2	9-10	9-8
Washington	18	18	.500	7	—	6-4	L-1	7-10	11-8
Miami	10	29	.256	16½	9½	4-6	L-3	5-15	5-14

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	22	15	.595	—	—	5-5	W-1	8-7	14-8
Chicago	22	16	.579	½	+3	5-5	L-1	13-6	9-10
Pittsburgh	17	21	.447	5½	2	3-7	L-2	8-10	9-11
Cincinnati	16	21	.432	6	2½	1-9	L-8	9-13	7-8
St. Louis	15	22	.405	7	3½	2-8	L-5	6-11	9-11


West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	26	13	.667	—	—	8-2	W-7	15-8	11-5
San Diego	20	20	.500	6½	—	6-4	W-1	8-12	12-8
Arizona	18	20	.474	7½	1	6-4	W-4	9-10	9-10
San Francisco	17	22	.436	9	2½	3-7	L-1	9-7	8-15
Colorado	9	28	.243	16	9½	2-8	W-1	6-12	3-16

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Thursday

Arizona 5, Cincinnati 4  
Colorado 9, San Francisco 1  
Milwaukee 7, St. Louis 1  
**Friday**  
Atlanta at **Mets**, 7:10  
Cubs at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
Arizona at Baltimore, 7:05  
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:10  
Washington at Boston, 7:10  
St. Louis at Milwaukee, 8:10  
Texas at Colorado, 8:40

L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 9:40  
Cincinnati at San Francisco, 10:15  
**Saturday**  
Atlanta at **Mets**, 4:10  
Arizona at Baltimore, 4:05  
Cubs at Pittsburgh, 4:05  
Philadelphia at Miami, 4:10  
Washington at Boston, 4:10  
Cincinnati at San Francisco, 7:15  
St. Louis at Milwaukee, 7:15  
Texas at Colorado, 8:10  
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 8:40



Puzzles on Page 34

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

Solution to Very Easy #6,544

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

Solution to Difficult #6,334

## Astros 4, Yankees 3

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.327
Tucker rf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.268
Alvarez dh	5	2	2	1	0	2	.245
Peña ss	3	1	2	1	1	0	.333
Singleton 1b	4	1	1	2	0	2	.239
Bregman 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.198
Diaz c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Loperfido lf	3	0	2	0	1	0	.316
Dubón cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.284
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Volpe ss	5	1	2	2	0	2	.257
Soto rf	2	0	0	0	2	0	.333
Judge cf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.236
Verdugo lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.258
Stanton dh	4	0	0	0	0	4	.220
Rizzo 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.259
Torres 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.215
Wells c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.190
Berti ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Cabrera 3b	3	1	2	0	0	1	.256
Trevino ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.277
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	

Houston	300	010	000	—	4	11	1
Yankees	002	000	010	—	3	6	1

E: Dubón (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), Peña (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 3 for 12; New York 0 for 7.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Blanco, W, 4-0	5.2	4	2	2	4	5	107	2.23
Abreu, H, 5	1.1	0	0	0	0	3	20	4.00
Pressly, H, 5	0.2	1	1	1	1	1	22	5.65
Hader, S, 4-5	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	18	5.62

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Stroman, L, 2-2	5.2	9	4	4	2	5	95	3.80
Weaver	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	17	2.70
Santana	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	3.24
Marinaccio	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	23	14.2

T: 2:55. A: 38,095 (47,309).

## Brewers 7, Cardinals 1

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Donovan dh	4	0	0	0	1	2	.217
Nootbaar lf	5	1	1	1	0	0	.184
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.286
Burleson 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.261
Gorman 2b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.172
Carlson rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Winn ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Pagés c	3	0	0	0	1	2	.000
Siani cf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.226
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.314
Contreras c	4	2	3	1	0	0	.340
Yelich lf	4	1	3	1	0	0	.333
Adames ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.252
Hoskins 1b	4	1	1	2	0	2	.220
Frellick cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.244
Sánchez dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.217
Bauers rf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.205
Ortiz 3b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.267
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	

St. Louis	001	000	000	—	1	6	0
Milwaukee	310	110	10x	—	7	10	1

E: Turang (1). **LOB:** St. Louis 10, Milwaukee 5. **2B:** Arenado (9). **3B:** Yelich (1). **HR:** Nootbaar (3), off Myers; Hoskins (8), off Gray; Bauers (3), off Gray; Ortiz (3), 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 0 for 8; Milwaukee 2 for 10.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray, L, 4-2	5.0	7	6	6	1	6	88	2.29
Robertson	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	19	1.35
King	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	3.18
Roycroft	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4.50

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Myers	4.0	3	1	1	4	6	84	5.29
Koenig, W, 4-1	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	30	2.70
Milner	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	17	2.08
Vieira	2.0	2	0	0	0	3	29	5.12

T: 2:27. A: 25,031 (41,700).

## Rockies 9, Giants 1

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wade 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.341
Estrada 2b	3	0	2	0	1	0	.248
Conforto lf	3	1	2	1	0	0	.275
Flores 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.204
Yastrzemski rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.226
Ramos ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Slater cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.132
Sabot dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.400
Ahmed ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.236
Fitzgerald ph-ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.268
Reetz c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.143
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Blackmon dh	5	1	3	2	0	0	.241
Tovar ss	5	1	3	1	0	2	.269
McMahon 3b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.292
Diaz c	4	1	2	1	0	1	.311
Bouchard rf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.286
Rodgers 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.243
Doyle cf	4	2	2	3	0	0	.276
Montero 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.204
Beck lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.156
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	

San Francisco	000	100	000	—	1	7	0
Colorado	000	701	01x	—	9	14	0

**LOB:** San Francisco 7, Colorado 5. **2B:** Diaz (7), Bouchard (5), Tovar (8), Montero (3), Blackmon (5), Doyle (8). **3B:** Tovar (1), Blackmon (3). **HR:** Conforto (7), off Quattrill; Doyle (4), off Winn. **RBIs:** Conforto (20), McMahon (20), Diaz (19), Bouchard (3), Doyle 3 (11), Tovar (13), Blackmon 2 (13). **CS:** Estrada (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 3 (Ramos 2, Fitzgerald); Colorado 3 (McMahon 2, Diaz). **RISP:** San Francisco 0 for 5; Colorado 7 for 15.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Winn, L, 3-5	3.2	8	7	7	0	1	51	5.63



# NHL Playoffs

Best-of-7; x-if necessary  
Eastern Conference Semifinals

## Rangers vs. Carolina

Rangers lead series, 3-0  
Game 1: at **Rangers** 4, Carolina 3  
Game 2: at **Rangers** 4, Carolina 3, 2 OT  
Game 3: **Rangers** 3, Carolina 2, OT  
Sat.: at Carolina, 7pm  
x-Mon.: at **Rangers**, 7pm  
x-Thur.: at Carolina, TBD  
x-Sat., May 18: at **Rangers**, TBD

## Boston vs. Florida

Series tied, 1-1  
Game 1: Boston 5, Florida 1  
Game 2: Florida 6, Boston 1  
Fri.: at Boston, 7pm  
Sun.: at Boston, 6:30pm  
Tue.: at Florida, 7pm  
x-Fri., May 17: at Boston, TBD  
x-Sun., May 19: at Florida, TBD

## Western Conference Semifinals

## Colorado vs. Dallas

Series tied, 1-1  
Game 1: Colorado 4, Dallas 3, OT  
Game 2: Dallas 5, Colorado 3  
Sat.: at Colorado, 10pm  
Mon.: at Colorado, TBD  
Wed.: at Dallas, 8pm  
x-Fri., May 17: at Colorado, TBD  
x-Sun., May 19: at Dallas, TBD

## Edmonton vs. Vancouver

Vancouver leads series, 1-0  
Game 1: Vancouver 5, Edmonton 4  
Fri.: at Vancouver, 10pm  
Sun.: at Edmonton, 9:30pm  
Tue.: at Edmonton, 9:30pm  
x-Thu.: at Vancouver, TBD  
x-Sat., May 18th: at Edmonton, TBD  
x-Mon., May 20th: at Vancouver, TBD

# NHL Playoffs: Game 3 Rangers 3, Hurricanes 2, OT

Rangers	0	1	1	1	3
Carolina	1	0	1	0	2

First Period: 1, Carolina, Guentzel 4 (Svechnikov, Orlov), 10:14. **Penalties:** Rangers bench, served by Cuylle (Too Many Men on the Ice), 2:00; Svechnikov, CAR (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 5:18; Wennberg, NYR (Holding), 5:18; Kottkaniemi, CAR (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 11:25; Vesey, NYR (Roughing), 11:25; Orlov, CAR (Roughing), 11:25; Goodrow, NYR (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 11:25; Guentzel, CAR (High Sticking), 13:14.

Second Period: 2, Rangers, Kreider 4 (Zibanejad), 8:30 (sh). **Penalties:** Martinook, CAR (Tripping), 1:07; Panarin, NYR (Hooking), 2:10; Skjei, CAR (Interference), 4:26; Fox, NYR (Tripping), 7:39; Roslovic, NYR (Hooking), 10:57.

Third Period: 3, Rangers, Lafreniere 3 (Panarin, Trocheck), 6:25, 4, Carolina, Svechnikov 2 (Skjei, Aho), 18:24. **Penalties:** DeAngelo, CAR (Slashing), 9:12; Schneider, NYR (Cross Checking), 11:38. **Overtime:** 5, Rangers, Panarin 4 (Trocheck), 1:43. **Penalties:** None.

**Shots on Goal:** Rangers 7-11 6-1 =25. Carolina 17-20 9-1 =47.

**Power-play opportunities:** Rangers 0 of 4; Carolina 0 of 5.

**Goals:** Rangers, Shesterkin 7-0-0 (47 shots-45 saves), Carolina, Kuchetkov 0-1-0 (25-22). **A:** 18,959 (18,680). **T:** 2:58.

# NHL Playoffs: Game 2, Stars 5, Avalanche 3

Colorado	0	0	3	3
Dallas	1	3	1	5

First Period: 1, Dallas, Heiskanen 2 (Hintz, Robertson), 14:46 (pp). **Penalties:** Colorado bench, served by Parise (Too Many Men on the Ice), 11:18; MacKinnon, COL (Delay of Game), 13:53; Marchment, DAL (Tripping), 18:55.

Second Period: 2, Dallas, Hintz 2 (Marchment, Lundkvist), 1:57, 3, Dallas, Heiskanen 3 (Benn, Hintz), 15:54 (pp). 4, Dallas, Seguin 1 (Harley), 18:06 (sh). **Penalties:** Manson, COL (Delay of Game), 7:14; Walker, COL (Slashing), 15:32; Hintz, DAL (Holding), 16:44.

Third Period: 5, Colorado, Kiviranta 1 (Colton, Manson), 4:06, 6, Colorado, Duhamel 1 (Cogliano), 8:00, 7, Colorado, Nishushkin 9 (Lehkonen, Mittelstadt), 16:16, 8, Dallas, Lindell 1 (Hintz, Tanev), 19:39 (en). **Penalties:** Marchment, DAL (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 1:39; Kiviranta, COL (Interference), 1:39; Colorado bench, served by Colton (Too Many Men on the Ice), 5:09; Johnston, DAL (High Sticking), 17:05.

**Shots on Goal:** Colorado 9-9 13=31. Dallas 9-15 7=31.

**Power-play opportunities:** Colorado 0 of 3; Dallas 2 of 5.

**Goals:** Colorado, Georgiev 5-2-0 (30 shots-26 saves), Dallas, Oettinger 5-4-0 (31-28). **A:** 18,532 (18,532). **T:** 2:40.

# NBA Playoffs

Best-of-7; x-if necessary  
Eastern Conference Semifinals

## Knicks vs. Indiana

Knicks lead series, 2-0  
Game 1: **Knicks** 121, Indiana 117  
Game 2: **Knicks** 130, Indiana 121  
Fri.: at Indiana, 7pm  
Sun.: at Indiana, 3:30pm  
x-Tue.: at **Knicks**, TBD  
x-Fri., May 17: at Indiana, TBD  
x-Sun., May 19: at **Knicks**, TBD

## Boston vs. Cleveland

Series tied, 1-1  
Game 1: Boston,120, Cleveland 96  
Game 2: Cleveland 118, Boston 94  
Sat.: at Cleveland, 8:30pm  
Mon.: at Cleveland, 7pm  
Wed.: at Boston, 7pm  
x-Fri., May 17: at Cleveland, TBD  
x-Sun., May 19: at Boston, TBD

## Western Conference Semifinals

## Oklahoma City vs. Dallas

Series tied, 2-2  
Game 1: Oklahoma City 117, Dallas 95  
Game 2: Dallas 119, Oklahoma City 110  
Sat.: at Dallas, 3:30pm  
Mon.: at Dallas, 9:30pm  
Wed.: at Oklahoma City, 9:30pm  
x-Sat., May 18: at Dallas, TBD  
x-Mon., May 20: at Oklahoma City, TBD

## Minnesota vs. Denver

Minnesota leads series, 2-0  
Game 1: Minnesota 106, Denver 99  
Game 2: Minnesota 106, Denver 80  
Fri.: at Minnesota, 9:30pm  
Sun.: at Minnesota, 8pm  
x-Tue.: at Denver, TBD  
x-Thu.: at Minnesota, 8:30pm  
x-Sun., May 19: at Denver, TBD

# Tennis

## Internazionali BNL d'Italia

At Foro Italico; Rome; Purse: **Euro7,877,020; Surface: Red clay; Italico (seedings in parentheses): Men's Singles - Round of 128** Dominik Koepfer, Germany, def. Andrea Vavassori, Italy, 6-4, 6-3. Stefano Napolitano, Italy, def. Jeffrey John Wolf, United States, 6-2, 7-6 (3). Matteo Gigante, Italy, def. Giulio Zeppieri, Italy, 7-6 (2), 6-4. Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, def. Brandon Nakashima, United States, 6-4, 6-4.

Marcos Giron, United States, def. Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Alexandre Muller, France, def. Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2. Botic Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, def. Nicolas Moreno de Alboran, United States, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4). Luca Nardi, Italy, def. Daniel Altmaier, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

**Women's Singles - Round of 128** Sara Errani, Italy, def. Amanda Anisimova, United States, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1. Katie Volynets, United States, def. Wang Yafan, China, 7-6 (6), 6-1. **Women's Singles - Round of 64** Angelique Kerber, Germany, def. Veronika Kudermetova (17), Russia, 6-3, 6-0.

Diana Shnaider, Russia, def. Liudmila Samsonova (15), Russia, 6-1, 6-3. Daria Kasatkina (10), Russia, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 7-5, 6-1. Linda Noskova (29), Czech Republic, def. Lucrezia Stefanini, Italy, 6-3, 7-6 (1). Zheng Qinwen (7), China, def. Shelby Rogers, United States, 6-2, 6-0. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Ekaterina Alexandrova (14), Russia, 6-0, 6-1.

Naomi Osaka, Japan, def. Marta Kostyuk (19), Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2. Madison Keys (18), United States, def. Camila Osorio, Colombia, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3. Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Magdalena Frech, Poland, 6-3, 6-3. Beatriz Haddad Maia (12), Brazil, def. Wang Xinyu, China, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Jaqueline Adina Cristian, Romania, def. Elina Avanesyan, Russia, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2. Sorana Cirstea (28), Romania, def. Brenda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-0.

Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, def. Sloane Stephens (31), United States, 6-3, 6-2. Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, def. Bernarda Pera, United States, 6-0, 6-2. Marketa Vondrousova (6), Czech Republic, def. Ana Bogdan, Romania, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Paula Badosa, Spain, def. Emma Navarro (21), United States, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

# NBA Playoffs: Game 2 Mavericks 119, Thunder 110

		Dallas					
	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Jones Jr.	28:18	3-12	2-2	3-5	2	4	9
Washington	39:43	11-18	0-1	2-11	4	6	29
Gafford	26:44	4-6	5-9	2-7	2	2	13
Doncic	41:10	11-21	2-2	0-10	7	2	29
Irving	41:28	2-8	5-6	2-3	11	4	9
Lively II	20:06	1-7	0-0	2-4	1	2	2
Hardaway Jr.	18:41	6-10	3-4	0-2	1	1	17
Green	16:01	4-6	0-0	1-1	1	1	11
Exum	6:28	0-2	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Hardy	0:25	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lawson	0:25	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Powell	0:25	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	240:00	42-90	17-24	12-44	30	21	119

**Percentages:** FG .467, FT .708. **3-point goals:** 18-37, .486 (Washington 7-11, Doncic 5-8, Green 3-5, Hardaway Jr. 2-4, Jones Jr. 1-5, Exum 0-2, Irving 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 12. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 6 (Irving 2, Doncic, Gafford, Lively II, Washington). **Turnovers:** 10 (Gafford 3, Irving 2, Washington 2, Doncic, Jones Jr., Lively II). **Steals:** 8 (Doncic 3, Irving 2, Washington 2, Gafford). **Technical:** None.

		Oklahoma City					
	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Dort	32:44	3-8	0-0	2-6	3	5	8
Jal.Williams	38:44	7-17	4-4	1-4	4	4	20
Holmgren	36:49	4-12	2-3	1-6	6	2	11
Giddey	10:46	3-6	2-2	0-2	0	0	8
Gilgeous-	41:11	13-24	6-6	2-12	8	1	33
Alexander	21:33	3-5	0-0	1-3	1	1	6
Wallace	20:07	3-6	2-2	1-2	0	3	9
Wiggins	19:03	3-5	0-0	0-1	0	0	7
Joe	14:03	3-6	0-0	0-4	2	1	8
Jay.Willia	4:31	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
ms	0:25	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hayward	0:25	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dieng	0:25	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	240:00	42-89	16-17	8-41	25	18	110

**Percentages:** FG .472, FT .941. **3-point goals:** 10-30, .333 (Dort 2-4, Jal.Williams 2-4, Jay.Williams 2-4, Gilgeous-Alexander 1-3, Joe 1-3, Wiggins 1-3, Holmgren 1-6, Wallace 0-1, Giddey 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 6. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 6 (Gilgeous-Alexander 2, Holmgren 2, Jal.Williams, Wiggins). **Turnovers:** 10 (Holmgren 4, Gilgeous-Alexander 2, Giddey, Jal.Williams, Jay.Williams, Joe). **Steals:** 6 (Dort 2, Wallace 2, Gilgeous-Alexander, Jal.Williams). **Technical:** Gilgeous-Alexander, 1:39 second. Dallas 36 32 31 20 =119 Oklahoma City 32 30 27 21 =110 **A:** 18,203 (18,203).

# NBA Playoffs: Game 2 Cavaliers 118, Celtics 94

		Cleveland					
	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Okoro	21:20	5-6	1-2	0-1	0	4	12
Strus	40:00	5-10	0-0	2-6	1	3	12
Mobley	33:03	9-15	2-2	1-10	5	4	21
Garland	34:04	5-8	0-0	0-7	4	2	14
Mitchell	39:27	10-19	4-6	0-7	8	2	29
LeVert	26:56	9-17	3-4	2-6	3	2	21
Morris Sr.	15:41	2-4	0-0	0-0	0	1	4
Niang	13:47	2-4	0-0	1-3	1	2	4
Thompson	10:19	0-2	1-2	1-3	2	0	1
Merrill	3:12	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Jones	2:10	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	240:00	47-86	11-16	7-44	24	20	118

**Percentages:** FG .547, FT .688. **3-point goals:** 13-28, .464 (Mitchell 5-7, Garland 4-5, Strus 2-7, Okoro 1-1, Mobley 1-2, Merrill 0-1, Morris Sr. 0-1, Niang 0-1, LeVert 0-3). **Team rebounds:** 10. **Team turnovers:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Mobley 2, Thompson). **Turnovers:** 10 (LeVert 3, Okoro 3, Garland 2, Mitchell, Niang). **Steals:** 4 (Garland, Mobley, Morris Sr., Okoro).

		Boston					
	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Brown	31:17	7-17	5-5	0-4	1	2	19
Tatum	37:32	7-17	9-11	0-7	6	3	25
Horford	28:47	4-9	0-0	1-2	1	3	11
Holiday	34:52	2-7	0-0	1-2	3	2	4
White	30:17	3-11	3-4	0-4	5	3	10
Pritchard	19:44	6-10	0-0	2-2	4	0	13
Kornet	12:09	0-1	3-4	2-3	0	0	3
Tillman	11:05	0-0	0-0	0-2	1	0	0
Hauser	9:26	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	2	2
Brissett	4:58	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	3
Mykhailiuk	4:58	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Queta	4:58	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Springer	4:58	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Walsh	4:58	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Totals	240:00	33-80	20-24	6-31	22	15	94

**Percentages:** FG .413, FT .833. **3-point goals:** 8-35, .229 (Horford 3-7, Tatum 2-5, Brissett 1-1, Pritchard 1-4, White 1-8, Hauser 0-1, Mykhailiuk 0-1, Holiday 0-2, Brown 0-6). **Team rebounds:** 10. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Horford, Springer, White). **Turnovers:** 7 (Brissett, Brown, Horford, Mykhailiuk, Springer, Tatum, White). **Steals:** 5 (Holiday 2, Pritchard, Tatum, Tillman). Cleveland 30 24 36 28 =118 Boston 24 30 24 16 = 94 **A:** 19,156 (18,624).

# SPORTSCROSS

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
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36							37			
38							39			

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1 California tribe	31 LaMarcus Aldridge	5 AFL Rookie of the Year for the Jets
6 Muslim headwear	32 The Knicks got him from Detroit in 2024	6 Tortoise's rival
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failed his physical with the Nets in 2005	38 One sense	10 Walt Bellamy
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26 Holy Cross HS (Flushing) star who played for the Celts, Pacers & Bucks		30 NY skater
29 Teoscar Hernández		33 Karl-Anthony Towns in 2023
		35 Get stranded

## SOLUTION IN SATURDAY'S POST

# Golf

<b>PGA Tour- Wells Fargo Championship</b>				Adam Svensson .....	35-37	72	+1
<b>At Quail Hollow Club; Charlotte, N.C.; Purse:</b>				Brendon Todd .....	34-38	72	+1
<b>\$20 million; Yardage: 7,558; Par: 71</b>				<b>LPGA Tour- Cognizant Founders Cup</b>			
<b>First Round</b>				<b>At Upper Montclair Country Club; Clifton, N.J.;</b>			
				<b>Purse: \$3 million; Yardage: 6,536; Par: 72</b>			
<b>First Round</b>				<b>First Round</b>			
Xander Schauffele.....	32-32	64	-7	Rose Zhang.....	30-33	63	-9
Rory McIlroy.....	31-36	67	-4	Madelene Sagstrom .....	34-31	65	-7
Collin Morikawa.....	33-34	67	-4	Na Rin An .....	32-34	66	-6
Alex Noren.....	33-34	67	-4	Stephanie Kyriacou .....	34-32	66	-6
Jason Day .....	36-32	68	-3	Leona Maguire .....	33-33	66	-6
Russell Henley .....	33-35	68	-3	Meil Reid .....	32-35	67	-5
Lee Hodges.....	32-36	68	-3	Lindsey Weaver-Wright.....	34-33	67	-5
Sungjae Im .....	33-35	68	-3	Marina Alex .....	37-31	68	-4
Taylor Moore.....	35-33	68	-3	Pajaree Anannurakarn .....	35-33	68	-4
Sepp Straka.....	32-36	68	-3	Carloa Ciganda .....	36-32	68	-4
Justin Thomas .....	32-36	68	-3	Maria Fassi .....	36-32	68	-4
Nick Dunlap .....	34-35	69	-2	Jin Hee Im .....	32-36	68	-4
Max Homa .....	34-35	69	-2	<b>PGA Tour- Myrtle Beach Classic</b>			
Matt Kuchar .....	36-33	69	-2	<b>At The Dunes Golf and Beach Club; Myrtle</b>			
Jordan Spieth .....	32-37	69	-2	<b>Beach, S.C.; Purse: \$4 million; Yardage:</b>			
Byeong Hun An .....	35-35	70	-1	<b>7,347; Par: 71</b>			
Christiaan Bezuidenhout .....	35-35	70	-1	<b>First Round</b>			
Keegan Bradley.....	33-37	70	-1	Beau Hossler .....	32-32	64	-7
Corey Connors .....	36-34	70	-1	Robert Macintyre.....	33-31	64	-7
Cameron Davis.....	34-36	70	-1	Alistair Docherty.....	32-33	65	-6
Tom Hoge .....	33-37	70	-1	Zecheng Dou .....	33-32	65	-6
Si Woo Kim .....	35-35	70	-1	Davis Thompson .....	35-30	65	-6
Kurt Kitayama.....	34-36	70	-1	Alejandro Tosti .....	33-32	65	-6
Denny McCarthy.....	35-35	70	-1	Jorge Campillo .....	32-34	66	-5
Garrison Murray .....	34-36	70	-1	Harrison Endycott .....	33-33	66	-5
Andrew Putnam .....	36-34	70	-1	Chris Gotterup .....	33-33	66	-5
Patrick Rodgers .....	34-36	70	-1	Chan Kim .....	33-33	66	-5
Webb Simpson.....	32-38	70	-1	Ben Silverman .....	34-32	66	-5
Gary Woodland .....	33-37	70	-1	Dylan Wu .....	34-32	66	-5
Will Zalatoris.....	36-34	70	-1	<b>Champions Tour-Regions Tradition</b>			
Sam Burns.....	34-37	71	E	<b>At The Greystone Golf &amp; Country Club ;</b>			
Harris English.....	35-36	71	E	<b>Birmingham, AL; Purse: \$2.6 million;</b>			
Tommy Fleetwood.....	34-37	71	E	<b>Yardage: 7,249; Par: 72</b>			
Rickie Fowler.....	36-35	71	E	<b>First Round Suspended</b>			
Lucas Glover .....	35-36	71	E	Chris DiMarco.....	45	-7	
Adam Hadwin.....	35-35	71	E	Padraig Harrington .....	45	-7	
Adam Knapp .....	35-36	71	E	Steve Flesch .....	59	-5	
Ben Kohles.....	35-36	71	E	Vijay Singh .....	40	-5	
Taylor Pendrith .....	33-38	71	E	Rod Pampling .....	40	-5	
Adam Scott.....	34-37	71	E	Y.E. Yang .....	40	-5	
Nick Taylor .....	33-38	71	E				
Cameron Young .....	34-37	71	E				
Tony Finau .....	36-36	72	+1				
Viktor Hovland .....	34-38	72	+1				
Seamus Power .....	33-39	72	+1				
Adam Schenk .....	34-38	72	+1				



# The *POST* Line

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MLB		
Friday		
Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	\$124-148	RAYS
Braves	\$130-155	METS
Astros	\$105-125	TIGERS
ORIOLES	\$120-142	Diamondbacks
BLUE JAYS	-102-118	Twins
Phillies	\$142-170	MARLINS
RED SOX	\$164-198	Nationals
Guardians	\$110-130	WHITE SOX
Rangers	\$154-185	ROCKIES
ANGELS	-110-110	Royals
Dodgers	\$140-166	PADRES
GIANTS	\$130-155	Reds
Rangers	\$158-188	ROCKIES
BREWERS	-102-116	Cardinals
PIRATES	OFF	Cubs
Home Teams in CAPS		

NBA		
Friday- 2nd Round		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
PACERS	7.5 (222.5)	Knicks
T'WOLVES	4.5 (204.5)	Nuggets

NHL		
Friday- 2nd Round		
Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Panthers	\$105-125	BRUINS
Oilers	\$105-125	CANUCKS

WNBA		
Tuesday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Liberty	12.5 (OFF)	MYSTICS
SUN	5.5 (OFF)	Fever
ACES	13.5 (OFF)	Mercury
STORM	10.5 (OFF)	Lynx

UFL		
Saturday- Week 7		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ARLINGTON	4 (45)	Memphis
BIRMINGHAM	4 (47.5)	St. Louis
Sunday		
D.C.	1 (43)	Michigan
San Antonio	3 (40)	HOUSTON

## SPORTS SHORTS

### HOOPS: Liberty win final exhibition

**Sabrina Ionescu** led the way with 15 points and Betnijah Laney added 14 to help the Liberty win 82-79 over the Connecticut Sun in their final WNBA exhibition game Thursday in Uncasville, Conn. The Liberty will start the regular season on Tuesday at Washington.

● In Indianapolis, **Caitlin Clark** made her home debut in front of a crowd of 13,028 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse and scored 12 points as the Fever won 83-80 over the Atlanta Dream in an exhibition game. Clark also had eight rebounds, six assists and six turnovers while going 4 of 12 from the field in 31 minutes.

● **Frank Vogel's** tenure as coach of the Phoenix Suns is done after one disappointing season that ended without a playoff victory. The franchise fired the 50-year-old Vogel on Thursday, less than two weeks after getting swept out of the first round of the playoffs by the Timberwolves.

● Free agent **Patrick Beverley** was suspended by the NBA on Thursday for four games without pay to begin next season after he threw a basketball at spectators during and after the final game of an Eastern Conference first-round playoff series with the Pacers in Indianapolis.

● The Hornets named **Charles Lee** as their new head coach. The 39-year-old Lee joins the Hornets after serving as the Boston Celtics top assistant coach.

### NHL: Stars win to even series

Dallas defenseman **Miro Heiskanen** scored two power-play goals, **Roope Hintz** had a goal and three assists and the Stars beat the Avalanche 5-3 in Game 2 in Dallas

to even the second-round Western Conference series. **Esa Lindell** added an empty-netter with 20 seconds left after the Avalanche had rallied from a four-goal deficit to cut the score to 4-3.

● **Sheldon Keefe** is out as coach of the Maple Leafs, fired Thursday after another early exit from the NHL playoffs in the first round by the Bruins in seven games.

### MLB: Twins rout Mariners

**Manny Margot** highlighted a five-run first inning for Minnesota with a three-run double off Seattle ace **Logan Gilbert**, and the Twins coasted to an 11-1 victory over the Mariners to win their fifth consecutive series in Minneapolis.

● In Cincinnati, **Corbin Carroll** drove in the game-winning run with an eighth-inning single and the Diamondbacks hung on to beat Cincinnati 5-4, capping a series sweep and extending the Reds' losing skid to eight games.

● In Milwaukee, **Rhys Hoskins**, **Jake Bauers** and **Joey Ortiz** each homered as the Brewers defeated the slumping Cardinals 7-1.

### GOLF: Korda trails at Founders Cup

**Rose Zhang** tied the Cognizant Founders Cup tournament record with a 63 in the afternoon to take the lead Thursday in Clifton, N.J. **Nelly Korda** finished with a 3-under-69 as she tries to win a record sixth straight win on the LPGA Tour.

● In Charlotte, N.C., **Xander Schauffele** opened with a 64 to take a first-round lead at the Wells Fargo Championship. **Rory McIlroy** had a 4-under 67 along with **Collin Morikawa** and **Alex Noren**.

## ACTION TOP PLAY

# Pacers' turn for a runaway

By TANNER McGRATH  
actionnetwork.com

The Knicks looked great in the first two games of their second-round series with the Pacers. Jalen Brunson continues to prove he's superhuman, dropping 72 points. They out-rebounded Indiana in each game (28 total by Josh Hart) and also got to the line more often.

But I'm worried about the Knicks heading on the road on a short turnaround. Injuries are mounting. They're already without Mitchell Robinson, Bojan Bogdanovic and Julius Randle, and OG Anunoby and Brunson suf-

fered injuries in Game 2.

The Knicks could be running with a six-man rotation in Friday's Game 3, or they'll have to give heavier minutes to players like Jericho Sims or Alec Burks. Running a short rotation on short rest is not ideal against the uptempo Pacers, who run at the fastest pace in the playoffs (102 possessions per game).

With home-court advantage flipped to Indiana and monster depth concerns barreling down on New York, I think the Pacers will bounce back in Game 3 with a double-digit win.

**THE PLAY:** Pacers -7.5.

Tanner McGrath handicaps the NBA for Action Network.

## Pitching Form

			(Game time)		2024		*REC	'24 vs OPP		CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	W-L	ERA		W-L	IP		ERA		
Yankees	Schmidt (R)		3-1	3.50	6-1	0-0	1.69	1-3	2-1	16.0	3.94		
Rays	Bradley (R)	(6:50pm)	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	16.2	5.94		
Braves	Morton (R)		2-0	3.50	3-3	0-0	6.35	6-6	1-0	19.0	1.89		
Mets	Quintana (L)	(7:10pm)	1-3	5.20	4-3	1-0	5.06	3-5	0-2	15.2	8.04		
D'Backs	Pfaadt (R)		1-2	4.61	2-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	17.1	3.63		
Orioles	Irvin (L)	(7:05pm)	3-1	2.86	5-1	0-1	6.35	0-1	3-0	20.0	0.00		
Nationals	Corbin (L)		0-3	6.45	3-4	1-0	1.50	1-2	0-0	15.1	4.11		
Red Sox	Houck (R)	(7:10pm)	3-3	1.98	4-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	18.2	2.89		
Rangers	Gray (R)		1-1	2.50	4-3	1-0	1.80	1-0	1-0	19.2	1.83		
Rockies	Gomber (L)	(8:40pm)	0-2	3.79	2-5	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-1	18.0	2.50		
Astros	Valdez (L)		1-1	3.97	1-3	0-1	1.29	1-2	1-1	18.0	3.50		
Tigers	Mize (R)	(6:40pm)	1-1	3.98	5-1	0-0	0.00	2-0	1-1	16.1	3.86		
Twins	Ryan (R)		1-2	3.54	4-3	0-0	4.50	0-0	1-1	18.0	4.00		
Blue Jays	Kikuchi (L)	(7:07pm)	2-2	2.72	3-4	0-0	3.60	1-1	1-1	18.0	3.50		
Guardians	Carrasco (R)		2-2	5.67	3-4	0-0	7.71	10-12	1-1	15.0	8.40		
White Sox	Crochet (L)	(7:40pm)	2-4	5.31	2-6	0-0	5.40	0-0	1-1	15.0	4.80		
Royals	Marsh (R)		3-0	2.70	5-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	15.0	2.40		
Angels	Canning (R)	(9:38pm)	1-4	6.69	2-5	0-0	3.00	2-1	1-1	16.0	5.06		
Athletics	Blackburn (R)		3-1	3.00	6-1	0-1	3.60	2-4	1-1	17.0	5.82		
Mariners	Miller (R)	(9:40pm)	3-2	2.61	5-2	1-0	2.00	1-0	0-1	17.0	3.71		
Cubs	Taillon (R)		3-0	1.12	4-0	1-0	4.50	1-1	2-0	19.0	0.95		
Pirates	Jones (R)	(6:40pm)	2-3	2.63	3-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	18.0	2.00		
Phillies	Suárez (L)		6-0	1.72	7-0	0-1	3.44	4-2	3-0	21.0	1.71		
Marlins	Rogers (L)	(7:10pm)	0-5	6.15	0-7	0-0	0.00	1-5	0-3	13.0	9.69		
Cardinals	Lynn (R)		3:28	4-3	0-0	0-0	0.00	11-3	0-0	15.0	4.80		
Brewers	TBD	(8:10pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Dodgers	Glasnow (R)		6-1	2.70	7-1	0-0	3.60	0-0	3-0	21.0	1.29		
Padres	King (R)	(9:40pm)	3-3	4.29	4-3	1-0	7.56	1-0	1-2	15.0	6.00		
Reds	Abbott (L)		1-4	3.32	3-4	1-1	2.38	1-1	0-2	14.2	4.30		
Giants	Webb (R)	(10:15pm)	3-3	3.50	4-4	0-1	2.77	2-1	1-2	15.2	4.60		

\* REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

## STITCHES

# Let's Go Rangers and Bosox

Back to work, or is it back to the grind, for porn star Stormy Daniels.

With storm clouds gathering in our yard, we will try to make a little hush money on Friday. The Red Sox host the Nats. Washington's Patrick Corbin hasn't won a game after seven starts and has allowed 53 hits in just 37 innings this year. Boston's Tanner Houck has given up four runs in his last 12 2/3 and only 10 over his 46 innings. Play \$100 on the Red Sox ... and \$50 on the Rangers. Texas' Jon Gray throws at hitter-friendly Coors Field. Gray has allowed six runs

in his last 36 innings. The Rockies' Austin Gomber hasn't won yet either, but he blanked the Pirates for six innings last time out.

-\$

Snakebit! Joc Pederson hit a homer off Hunter Greene in the first frame, and the D'backs built a 4-1 lead. The Reds came back, scoring three runs to tie it, but the Reptiles prevailed, 5-4. Cincinnati has lost eight straight. We have lost four of our last five. Down -548 concepctions.

stitches@nypost.com



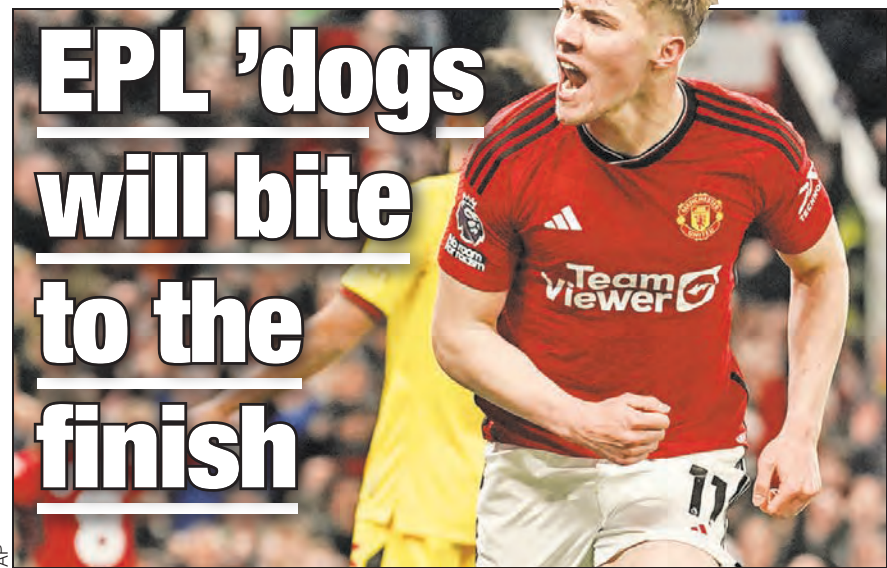
Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY							
	TODAY May 10	SAT May 11	SUN May 12	MON May 13	TUE May 14	WED May 15	THU May 16
	<b>Tampa Bay</b> 6:50 YES WFAN 660 AM/101.9 FM	<b>T.B.</b> 4:10 YES WFAN	<b>T.B.</b> 1:40 YES WFAN	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Minn.</b> 7:40 YES WFAN	<b>Minn.</b> 7:40 Prime Video WFAN	<b>Minn.</b> 1:10 YES WFAN
	<b>Atlanta</b> 7:10 SNY WCBS 880 AM	<b>Atl.</b> 4:10 SNY FS1 WCBS	<b>Atl.</b> 7:10 ESPN WCBS	<b>Phila.</b> 7:10 SNY WCBS	<b>Phila.</b> 1:10 SNY WCBS	<b>Phila.</b> 6:40 SNY WCBS	<b>Phila.</b> 1:10 SNY WCBS
	<b>Indiana</b> 7:00 ESPN ESPN 98.7 FM	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Ind.</b> 3:30 ABC ESPN	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>(if nec.)</b> Ind. 8:00 TNT ESPN	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>
	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Car.</b> 7:00 TNT ESPN	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>(if nec.)</b> Car. 7:00 ESPN ESPN	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>(if nec.)</b> Car. TBD ESPN
	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Wash.</b> 7:00 MY9	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Ind.</b> 7:00 MY9 Prime Video
Saturday		Saturday		Sunday			
	<b>New England Revolution</b> 7:30 Apple TV+		<b>Toronto FC</b> 7:30 Apple TV+		<b>San Diego Wave</b> 7:30 MSGSN ION		

Today's Sports on the Air			
<b>NBA Playoffs</b>	7 p.m.	Knicks at Pacers, Game 3	ESPN, ESPN (98.7 FM)
	9:30 p.m.	Nuggets at Timberwolves, Game 3	ESPN
<b>MLB</b>	6:50 p.m.	Yankees at Rays	YES, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
	7:10 p.m.	Braves at Mets	SNY, WCBS (880 AM)
	8 p.m.	Cardinals at Brewers	MLBN
<b>NHL Playoffs</b>	7 p.m.	Panthers at Bruins, Game 3	TNT
	10 p.m.	Oilers at Canucks, Game 2	TNT
<b>Golf</b>	9:30 a.m.	PGA Tour: The Myrtle Beach Classic, 2nd Round	Golf
	11:30 a.m.	Champions Tour: The Regions Tradition, 2nd Round	Golf
	2 p.m.	PGA Tour: The Wells Fargo Championship, 2nd Round	Golf
	7 p.m.	LPGA Tour: The Cognizant Founders Cup, 2nd Round	Golf
<b>Tennis</b>	6 a.m.	ATP/WTa Italian Open, Early Rounds	Tennis
	8 a.m.	ATP/WTa Italian Open, Early Rounds	MSG
<b>Auto Racing</b>	3 p.m.	NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series: The Buckle Up South Carolina 200, Qualifying	FS1
	5 p.m.	NASCAR Xfinity Series: The Crown Royal Purple Bag Project 200, Qualifying	FS1
	7:30 p.m.	NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series: The Buckle Up South Carolina 200, Qualifying	FS1
<b>Hockey</b>	10 a.m.	IIHF U-18 World Championship Group Stage: Switzerland vs. Norway	NHLN
	2 p.m.	IIHF U-18 World Championship Group Stage: Sweden vs. United States	NHLN
<b>College Baseball</b>	1 p.m.	Arizona at Utah	Pac-12
	4:30 p.m.	Evansville at Indiana State	ESPNU
	5:30 p.m.	Georgia at South Carolina	SECN
	7 p.m.	NC State at Virginia	ACCN
	8:30 p.m.	Texas A&M at Ole Miss	SECN
	10 p.m.	UCLA at Oregon State	Pac-12
<b>College Softball</b>	10 a.m.	SEC Quarterfinal: Georgia vs. Florida	SECN
	12:30 p.m.	SEC Quarterfinal: South Carolina vs. Texas A&M	SECN
	1 p.m.	ACC Semifinal: Duke vs. Clemson	ACCN
<b>Horse Racing</b>	2 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
	2 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN

ODDS & ENDS

NBA PLAYOFFS	
Odds to win 2023-24 championship	
TEAM	ODDS
Celtics	-120
Timberwolves	+300
Thunder	+700
Knicks	12/1
Nuggets	16/1
Mavericks	18/1
Pacers	80/1
Cavaliers	200/1
Conference championship	
EASTERN	ODDS
Celtics	-450
Knicks	+350
Pacers	28/1
Cavaliers	100/1
WESTERN	ODDS
Timberwolves	-105
Thunder	+220
Mavericks	+600
Nuggets	+750
Knicks-Pacers series odds	
TO WIN SERIES	ODDS
Knicks	-400
Pacers	+310
EXACT SERIES RESULT	ODDS
Knicks in 4	+550
Knicks in 5	+195
Knicks in 6	+425
Knicks in 7	+400
Pacers in 6	+800
Pacers in 7	+650
Thursday Knicks at Pacers Game 3	
FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
Knicks	+230
Pacers	-300
FIRST FIELD GOAL	ODDS
Jalen Brunson	+525
Pascal Siakam	+550
Myles Turner	+550
Tyrese Haliburton	+650
Andrew Nembhard	+800
Josh Hart	+850
Donte DiVincenzo	+950
OG Anunoby	10/1
Isaiah Hartenstein	+1050
First field goals in series — Game 1 Jalen Brunson (+425); Game 2 Andrew Nembhard (+625)	
POINTS	O/U
Jalen Brunson	35.5
Donte DiVincenzo	20.5
Pascal Siakam	20.5
Tyrese Haliburton	19.5
Josh Hart	16.5
Myles Turner	16.5
Isaiah Hartenstein	11.5
Aaron Nesmith	11.5
Andrew Nembhard	10.5
T.J. McConnell	10.5

ACTION BET SMART



U THE MAN! Rasmus Hojlund's squad will give Arsenal enough of a challenge on Sunday to warrant taking Manchester United +600 at home, writes Michael Leboff.

By MICHAEL LEBOFF  
actionnetwork.com

It is the penultimate Matchweek of the 2023-24 Premier League season and we've still got plenty of drama to sort out. Arsenal will go into the weekend with a one-point lead over Manchester City at the top of the table, but the Citizens have a game in hand on the Gunners and thus are a -360 favorite to win their fourth straight title.

The relegation battle is also still in the balance as Burnley (24 points), Luton Town (26 points) and Nottingham Forest (29 points) are scrapping for the final spot in the Premier League next season. Burnley and Forest play one another on the final day of the campaign, so a win for the Claretts and a loss for Forest this weekend could set up quite the spectacle next weekend.

Let's jump into a handful of bets that have value in Matchweek 37:

Luton Town at West Ham, Saturday, 10 a.m. ET

This one has the potential to look more like a basketball game, with the teams going up and down the field trading scoring chances, than a high-stakes soccer match.

It became clear early on in the season that Luton Town's defensive flaws meant it would need to score its way to safety, so the Hatters essentially threw caution into the wind and adopted a playing style that would give them the best chance to do just that.

And while Luton has managed to post a decent offensive output (relative to its expectations), it still owns a -29 goal difference (49 for, 78 against) and a -33.6 expected goal differential.

Those numbers are ugly, but the good news is that Luton Town taking on a West Ham defense that is just as leaky as its own.

The Hammers have conceded 70 goals (17th-most) and 68.9 xG (18th) this cam-

paign and have shown no signs of improving down the stretch, which makes sense since they have nothing to play for and it's been announced that manager David Moyes will leave the club at the end of the season.

With West Ham already on the beach, I'll back Luton Town (+290 at BetMGM) in a must-win match.

Arsenal at Manchester United, Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

While Arsenal is a much better team and has everything to play for in this match, this price is on its way to getting out of hand.

Manchester United has been an outright mess this season and it will almost certainly cost manager Erik ten Hag his job, but the Red Devils have shown up in a couple of big spots already.

ManU was given very little chance of getting a result against Liverpool on two separate occasions over the last couple of months, but the Red Devils defied the odds and got a 2-2 draw and a 4-3 win over the Reds. United also held Liverpool scoreless in a nil-nil draw right before Christmas.

Recently things have been a lot uglier for United, and the Red Devils are coming off an embarrassing 4-0 defeat to Crystal Palace, but that result shouldn't really shock anyone. It's just how the season has gone for this team.

There are some injury concerns for United with Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford questionable, but there's still enough attacking talent in this side with Alejandro Garnacho, Rasmus Hojlund and Mason Mount to ask some questions of a terrific Arsenal defense.

So while United isn't likely to win this match and has injury concerns to contend with, getting a team with this much talent at +600 at DraftKings (and this number should rise by kickoff) at home is worth a sprinkle.

Michael Leboff analyzes soccer for Action Network.



THERE'S must be a good reason why aerosol cans of Stink don't sell. Even Midtown serial shoplifters avoid stealing Stink. Perhaps it has something to do with how it smells.

Yet Stink predominates game broadcasts. The most offensive assaults of the olfactory senses are indulged, excused and even portrayed as carrying the aromas of honeysuckle and garlands of gardenias.

And so we must believe what we're told — especially if it's shouted at you — and ignore what you see and what you know.

Monday, late in the third quarter of Game 1 of Pacers-Knicks we witnessed one of the most reckless, brainless, senseless, selfish, team and self-imperiling plays we once could not have imagined because it would not have entered into a professional's on-the-job thought processes.

And on TNT, pandering, easily excited play-by-play man Brian Anderson claimed — thrilled, shouted — to a national audience loaded with those who know better, that he and we absolutely loved what we just saw:

With Indy up, 80-77, Obi Toppin, on a breakaway layup, perhaps in search of nonexistent degree-of-difficulty style points and lasting infamy, prefaced his leaping slam by passing the ball to himself between his legs before jamming it through.

Instead of logically asking something along the lines of "What the heck was he thinking?!" — Anderson erupted for joy, like a kid who had Lik-m-Aid for breakfast, lunch



# Phil Mushnick

**EQUAL TIME**

## Fox's Wainwright getting it wrong as MLB analyst

THE preconditioned knew this would happen the day Fox announced it had signed **Adam Wainwright** to become an in-game analyst.

Throughout his career as a Cardinals pitcher, Wainwright was never shy. He was most always pleasant, engaging, friendly, happy to make your acquaintance and to talk baseball, especially the humorously anecdotal. He was the guy you'd be happy to sit beside during a game.

But would Fox encourage him to just relax, pay attention and speak only when he had something worth hearing? Or would it have him copy the foolish, wasteful plan of its No. 1 analyst, the dreary, three-hour forensic pitch examiner and telecast butcher, **John Smoltz**?

Thus far, it's leaning toward the latter. Saturday, during Mets-Rays, Wainwright analyzed and overanalyzed far more than what we — or he — needed or wanted.

But has there ever been a TV game analyst criticized for not talking enough?

Is there no one at Fox to guide him, to have him play the hand the game deals as opposed to filling in every moment that a televised game presents? I know; silly question.

► The media could cause misfortune in black cats. Last weekend it was widely reported that the Kentucky Derby is known

as "the fastest two minutes in sports."

No, it ain't. It's known as "the most exciting two minutes in sports." After all, notes **Mike "The Chef" Soper**, "Whether you're a horse or a human, two minutes are two minutes."

► The epidemic of senselessness will not end. Friday, the Cubs led the Brewers, 1-0, going into the eighth. Cubs reliever **Richard Lovelady** had pitched the seventh, went 1, 2, 3 with a strikeout on 15 pitches.

Not good enough. Cubs' manager **Craig Counsell** brought in **Ad- bert Alzola**. He retired one batter while allowing four hits and three earned runs. Cubs lost, 3-1.

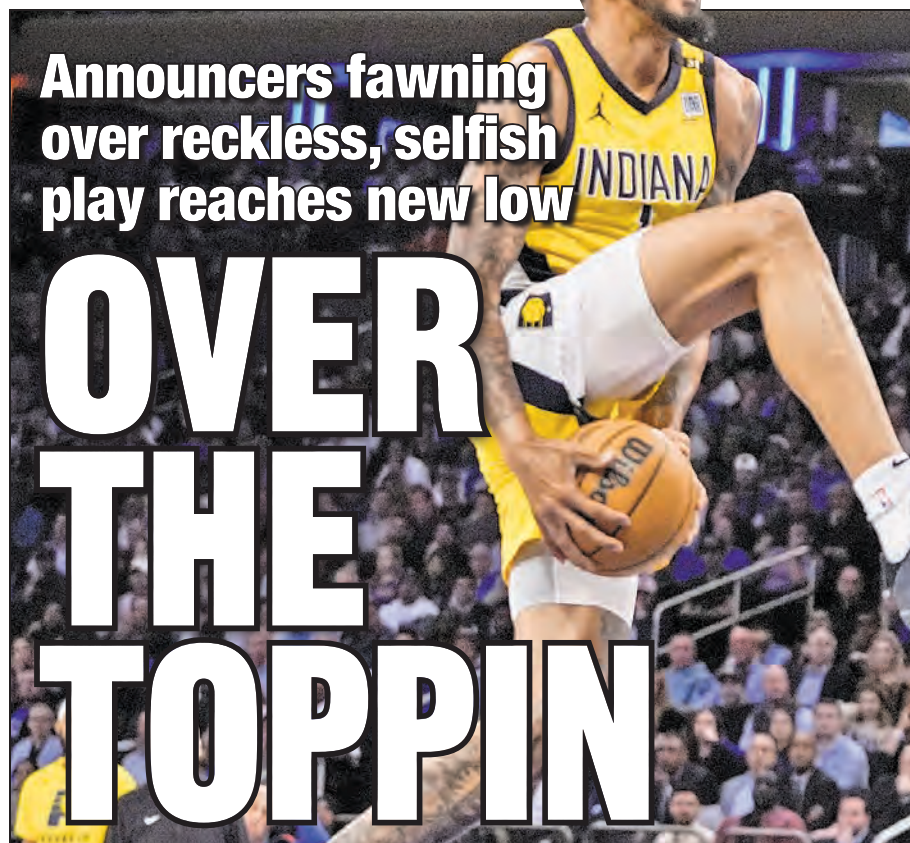
And they'll do it over and over and over.

► Reader Don Scarpelli: "The bigger our screens get, the more the net- works try to fill them with use- less graphics. TV should have quit after giving us the computer-generated yellow first down line."

**Stan Van Gundy** has coached over 1,000 NBA games. That's over 1,000 more than I. But when he declared on TNT, this week, that, "I just don't understand the need for all these replay stoppa- ges," we now have that in common.

Wonder how many pro- Hamas demonstrators find the location of the next vandalize-the-campus rally by consulting Waze, the ingenious Israeli-in- vented direction finder?

Mushnickphilip@gmail.com



Announcers fawning over reckless, selfish play reaches new low

# OVER THE TOPPIN

**SLAMMING OBI:** Instead of condemning Obi Toppin's risky between-the-legs jam in a close Game 1 of the Knicks-Pacers series, TNT's Brian Anderson went in the other direction by giving the forward extended, unbridled praise writes The Post's Phil Mushnick. AP

and dinner:

"Oh! Toppin goes between the legs! The former slam-dunk champ! Gives you a taste of it!"

Yes, Anderson confused a close playoff game with a gimmick in the throes of

a close playoff game.

And as the quarter ended, Anderson continued to carry on: "Obi Toppin, in a playoff game, gives us a little highlight! Pow!"

Where was Stan Van

Gundy, Anderson's broadcast partner, during all of this? Not a word. Perhaps he didn't want to embarrass Anderson, TNT and Toppin, but not a word. Or maybe he was too busy vomiting.

## Praise for showboating a poor call

PANDERING II: Sunday, in the ninth inning against the Mets, the Rays' **Randy Arozarena** — an inveterate all-about-me showboat who was hitting a robust .140 and had already struck out three times — homered to tie the game.

The last I looked Arozarena hadn't yet reached home plate as his sojourn in that direction was self-interrupted to perform such selfless acts of slowing to fold his arms in self-affection and other acts of Ain't I Special.

You know, the kind of behavior **Rob Manfred** advocated to appeal to kids. Not his kids, but yours.

Sadly, but not unexpectedly, Rays' TV man **Rich Hollenberg**, normally a strong and candid listen, provided his joyous stamp of approval.

In reading Hollenberg's bio we find

that he has three kids. I seriously doubt he'd encourage them to play any kind of team ball as Arozarena does.

► As for ESPN's Stanley Cup coverage, we have to take the good with the bad — not that there are options.

It was, for example, good that ESPN and the NHL provided OT in Game 2 of Canes-Rangers with limited commercial interruption.

But if ESPN wants us to watch, then let us watch! To mindlessly decorate the top strip of the screen with players' photos and their individual stats — during live OT play! — is a "Look what we can do!" distraction for the sake of distractions.

And of course, those name plates that flit and flee over the heads of players with the puck during power

plays remain the triumphant teamwork of dolts.

Or would an ESPN exec choose to attend a game in which the guy seated behind him drops a players' name cards in front of his eyes every half-second during significant moments?

As for stats, one must ignore a lot in order to reach hard, fast, erroneous conclusions. As reader Marty Hull noted ESPN's studio during Game 2 emphasized that while the Rangers led, 3-1, Carolina had a big advantage in "offensive zone time."

But that stood to reason as opposed to an oddity. The Rangers scored — and quickly — on both their power plays, while Carolina went oh-for-five — providing the Canes a large but ultimately worthless O-Zone Time advantage.



**ROTATION MISCALCULATION:** Pacers coach Rick Carlisle, middle, pulled guard T.J. McConnell, left, with 7:10 remaining in Game 2 in favor of Andrew Nembhard. Jalen Brunson, right, proceeded to score 11 of his 29 points in the final 6:52 — leading the Knicks to victory. N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg



By BRIAN LEWIS

INDIANAPOLIS — Pacers coach Rick Carlisle is drawing attention for critiquing the officials' calls. But it's his own call to keep T.J. McConnell on the bench that should be getting attention — and critiqued.

The smallest player on Indiana's roster has had an outsized impact for the Pacers in their second-round series against the Knicks, the only Pacer to even quasi-effectively guard red-hot Jalen Brunson. But Carlisle's decision to leave McConnell on the bench for the decisive minutes of Game 2 came back to haunt him.

"Well, T.J. had played a pretty good chunk of minutes. I considered it," Carlisle said. "But our starters have earned the trust to finish games. And you know [Andrew] Nembhard is probably our best on-ball defender. And we were flying around trapping, too. We kind of had the kitchen sink

# Bench press

## Carlisle being questioned for sitting Pacers guard McConnell

going at them in the fourth, and they still came up with loose balls. They came up with the offensive rebounds. They made shots. So, look, their execution has been very good in those situations.

"But look, everything's on the table going forward. It has to be at this point. And we'll look closely at everything."

It remains to be seen whether Carlisle changes that in Friday's

Game 3 in Indianapolis.

McConnell got pulled with 7:10 left with the Pacers trailing, 105-103. Brunson promptly took Nembhard off the dribble for a reverse layup 18 seconds later. And on the Knicks' very next possession, Brunson drilled a step-back 3-pointer with 6:18 remaining and Nembhard guarding him.

Brunson scored 11 of his 29 points in the final 6:52, most of

them coming against Nembhard — who has gotten eviscerated by the Knicks star in the series.

Indiana also missed McConnell's steady hand at the point down the stretch. He had 10 points, 12 assists and finished plus-10 in nearly 23 minutes of action. But the day after, Pacers fans are asking why he didn't log closer to 30 minutes.

"Rick is a Hall of Fame coach

and has been doing this for a long time, so the rotations that he plays, we trust that they're the right ones, and I fully support him," McConnell said. "Whenever my number is called, I'll be ready, [even] if that means I have to be over on the bench supporting my team."

That said, the Pacers' offense couldn't keep up without the veteran's steady hand of scoring and facilitating.

The Pacers have outscored the Knicks by 19 points with McConnell on the court in the series but have been outscored by 32 when he sits.

And he shockingly sat the final 7:10 when Brunson blew it open. Slowing him was a task Nembhard couldn't handle, but the pesky McConnell relished.

"I mean, he's a marquee player in this league," McConnell said. "And playing in Madison Square Garden, picking him up 94 feet, what greater challenge is there?"

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Former Jets star Leon Washington is no longer a member of the team's coaching staff.

Washington, 41, had served as the assistant special teams coach for the team since 2021 when he arrived as part of Robert Saleh's coaching staff. A source said the Jets did not renew his contract, which expired at the end of January.

The Jets have undergone some changes with their special teams coaches under coordinator Brant Boyer. Special teams assist-

## Leon Washington let go from Gang Green staff

ant Michael Ghobrial left to become the special teams coordinator of the Giants.

Dan Shamash is now listed as a special teams assistant, in addition to being the game management coordinator. Shamash is the person Saleh leans on for strategic advice on situational football like fourth downs or when to challenge.

Washington was a fourth-

round pick by the Jets in 2006 out of Florida State. He played four seasons for the team and was a fan favorite. Washington was a versatile running back who also was a weapon as a returner and could play Wildcat quarterback.

He scored 19 total touchdowns with the Jets — 13 rushing, four kickoff returns and two receiving.

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## Police searching for ex-Jet Skrine

By RYAN GLASSPIEGEL

Canadian police say they are searching for former Jets defensive back Darryl "Buster" Skrine after he missed a court date relating to bank fraud allegations that were levied last year.

Skrine was arrested last August and accused of committing over \$100,000 in bank fraud in an alleged scheme where he would open new bank accounts with fraudulent check deposits and withdraw money from the ac-

counts before the checks cleared.

The Durham Regional Police service announced Wednesday that Skrine missed a court date on May 6 and that his GPS monitoring device "has since gone offline." Skrine had been granted bail from the Saskatchewan Correctional Centre on April 24.

When he was originally detained, police said "there is reason to believe the same male has been committing similar offences across Ca-

nada," referring to the check scheme.

Skrine played college football at Chattanooga and was selected in the fifth round of the 2011 draft by the Browns.

In 2015, he signed a four-year deal with the Jets worth \$25 million. He appeared in 59 games for the Jets over those four years, including 48 starts.

He then played two seasons for the Bears, and had stints for both the Titans and the 49ers in the 2021 NFL season.

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By PAUL SCHWARTZ

The names came flowing out of the mouth of Malik Nabers so effortlessly that the impact could be lost if the listener was not paying attention. The day after he was selected by the Giants with the No. 6-overall pick in the 2024 draft, Nabers recounted still-fresh conversations he engaged in with Odell Beckham Jr., Ja'Marr Chase and Terrance Marshall Jr. about this huge moment in his life.

Not many incoming rookies, even first-round picks, can casually drop the names of three NFL players the way Nabers mentioned the three wide receivers who checked in on him to offer congratulations and a few words of advice. Beckham was a star player for the Giants, Chase is a star player for the Bengals, and Marshall is about to enter his fourth year with the Panthers. All three played at LSU, and Nabers is part of a wide receiver legacy that carries great expectation for all those who enter the NFL.

"Those guys are just telling me to be the same person that I've been the whole time," Nabers said recently. "Keep the main thing the main thing. ... You're in the league, but don't be too scared. You're still playing football. You're still that little kid that was playing football at the end of the day. Have fun with it. It's a fun thing to do. You're playing for the NFL, the dream that you always wanted to do. So just keep that."

It all started for Nabers on Thursday, when he and the other youngsters arrived at the Giants facility for physicals and meetings in advance of rookie minicamp. Now he will take the field for the first time in Giants gear. This is a soft opening for Nabers, as the rookies are

# TIGER TRACKS

## Nabers looks to LSU brethren as he gets set for Giants rook minicamp this weekend

set to practice for about 75 minutes Friday and again Saturday — it will not be close to full-speed work for the draft picks, undrafted free agents and players invited on a tryout basis. This is more about a rudimentary introduction to what will take place this spring during the organized team activities and this summer in training camp. For now, the more Nabers learns, the better prepared he will be when he is mixed in with the veterans.

Beckham, Chase and Justin Jefferson — another LSU product — are the holy grail for Nabers, who at 20 years old can think big as he tends to the business of acclimating to the NFL. He says he compares more closely with Chase than the other former Tigers wideouts based on "we've got that same frame." In-

deed, both are 6-foot and right around 200 pounds.

Once known as DBU because of the many defensive backs that came out of LSU, the football program can now hail itself as WRU. Brian Thomas, Nabers' teammate, went No. 23 in this year's draft to the Jaguars, and actually had more touchdown catches (17) than Nabers (14) last season. Nabers said he does not have a personal relationship with Beckham — who left college 10 years ago and this week signed with the Dolphins — but he does have a great deal of respect for the LSU receivers

who came before him.

"Just watching those guys, how they compete, how they run routes, how they were able to come from LSU and make a name for themselves in the NFL," said Nabers, a Louisiana native, "so, hoping to follow in those guys' footsteps and make a name for myself."

"I wanted to be great just like those guys. I knew if I followed in the right footsteps, and went to my home state, they were going to show me love no matter what, and they were going to get me prepared for this day here."

Nabers is a blend of speed, acceleration, shiftiness, agility and power, and the Giants are especially attracted to his rare ability to separate from defenders. He says he believes he needs to sharpen his skills at the next level.

"I would say getting out of my routes faster, using my hands a lot more into my routes and stuff like that," he said.

The Giants were 30th in the league in scoring in 2023, and Nabers is on board to help fix that. They knew they needed to come out of this draft with at least one of what coach Brian Daboll called "generators," and Nabers certainly should qualify.

"People that can do stuff with the ball in their hands,"

Daboll said. "Whether that's take a jet sweep and go 30 yards, or whether that's running a double-move and catch it 50 yards down the field to help you score points. Malik, I feel that he is that."

## Big Blue add veteran WR Robinson to mix

The Giants wanted to add a wide receiver with some size and experience to their offense and they did so Thursday, signing veteran Allen Robinson to a one-year deal.

Robinson, 30, started all 17 games for the Steelers in 2023, coming away with 34 receptions for 280 yards and no touchdowns.

As recently as 2020, The 6-foot-2, 220-pound Robinson had 102 catches for the Bears.

His best season came in 2015, his second year in the NFL, when he had 80 receptions for 1,400 yards and 14 touchdowns for the Jaguars, earning his only Pro Bowl selection. He was a

2014 second-round pick of the Jags out of Penn State.

The Giants selected receiver Malik Nabers from LSU with the No. 6-overall pick in the draft, and the expectation is he will get on the field right away.

Returning at the position, the Giants have Wan'Dale Robinson, Darius Slayton, Jalin Hyatt and Isaiah Hodgins.

They signed Isaiah McKenzie in free agency and now have added Robinson.

In 127 career NFL games spanning 10 years, Robinson has 562 catches for 7,028 yards and 43 touchdowns, playing for the Jaguars, Bears, Rams and Steelers. —Paul Schwartz



**ALLEN ROBINSON**



**FIRST STEP:** Malik Nabers — who said he heard from fellow LSU products Odell Beckham Jr., Ja'Marr Chase and Terrance Marshall after being selected by the Giants — will be on the field Friday and Saturday for rookie minicamp.

AP

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# Jon Heyman

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INSIDE MLB

**Betts,  
Soto  
MVPs  
so far**

## TRADE MARKS

### Potential targets for deadline deals

**T**WO-TIME batting champion Luis Arraez's trade to the Padres came extremely early for an impact deal and doesn't necessarily signal that more big trades will soon follow (unless they involve other Marlins, more on that below.)

However, it isn't too early to consider which big-time players could be traded by the deadline. Things can change depending on who's contending and who's fading (and ultimately, most are probably long shots to go), but here's our first list of stars who could possibly be on the move:

**1. Nolan Arenado:** No one hates losing more, and the Cardinals are more than a year into their disastrous run, so he just might approve a trade. The Dodgers don't really need him, but that's one team he might jump at.

**2. Bo Bichette:** Blue Jays fans who hoped for Shohei Ohtani would not react well to trades of stars. You'd think the Jays have too much talent to fall out of the extended wild-card race, and he's got a year to go. Not too likely.

**3. Pete Alonso:** Mets fans love him, and might revolt (at least initially), and word is so does owner Steve Cohen. But since the Mets strongly considered an Alonso deal last summer and the Cubs are known to like him (and may need him), it can't be completely ruled out if they fall out of it. Probably a long shot.

**4. Kyle Tucker:** Alonso's high school teammate is having a big year while everything around him is disintegrating. He has a year to go before free agency, and the Astros don't like to surrender, so also unlikely.

**5. Vladimir Guerrero Jr.:** The big-market Jays won't give up easily, but at some point they may need to consider whether this group is going to break through.

**6. Luis Robert:** One of the game's most talented players is expected to return sometime in "mid-May" from a hip injury. The White Sox traded ace Dylan Cease, but this will take even more guts (and a greater return), as the team holds option

years at reasonable rates beyond the guaranteed 2025 season.

**7. Jesus Luzardo:** Luzardo (elbow) threw  $5\frac{2}{3}$  scoreless in a recent rehab game, and if he's recovered, decent chance he and other top Marlins go.

**8. Justin Verlander:** He will have to pitch better than he did Tuesday night against the Yankees. Has full no trade, but the guess is he might accept L.A. or (close to hometown) Baltimore.

**9. Alex Bregman:** Free agent after the year so it makes sense.

**10. Michael Conforto:** The ex-Met is hitting well in a tough park (128 OPS plus) for the disappointing Giants.

**11. Mason Miller:** The would-be no-madric A's

are a nice early story, and Mason Miller's velocity (he's hit 103.7) is part of it — Travis Sawchik on X likened the situation to "Major League," where the owner tries to ruin the franchise while the star fireballer and a rag-tag group shocks by winning. Anyway, he'd bring a haul with six years of control.

**12. Luis Severino:** The Mets could have a darned good sale with their prescient short-term signings. J.D. Martinez, Jose Quintana, Sean Manaea are among other logical trade candidates.

**13. Yusei Kikuchi:** If the Jays start trading, they may as well go all out. Kikuchi (2.72 ERA) is one of their brighter spots.

**SHOHEI Ohtani** (on pace for an unheard of 111 extra-base hits) has been simply magnificent. And one scout — who's noticed that his power is greater than ever, especially to center field — suggests perhaps a break from pitching could be behind that.

It says here **Mookie Betts** is still MVP, though, since he's playing an adequate shortstop and putting up offensive numbers just behind Ohtani. Imagine, someone else getting the nod because they're more versatile, at least for this year.

**Juan Soto** is the AL MVP front-runner. Interesting fact heard: He turned down seven contract offers before becoming a Yankee. ...

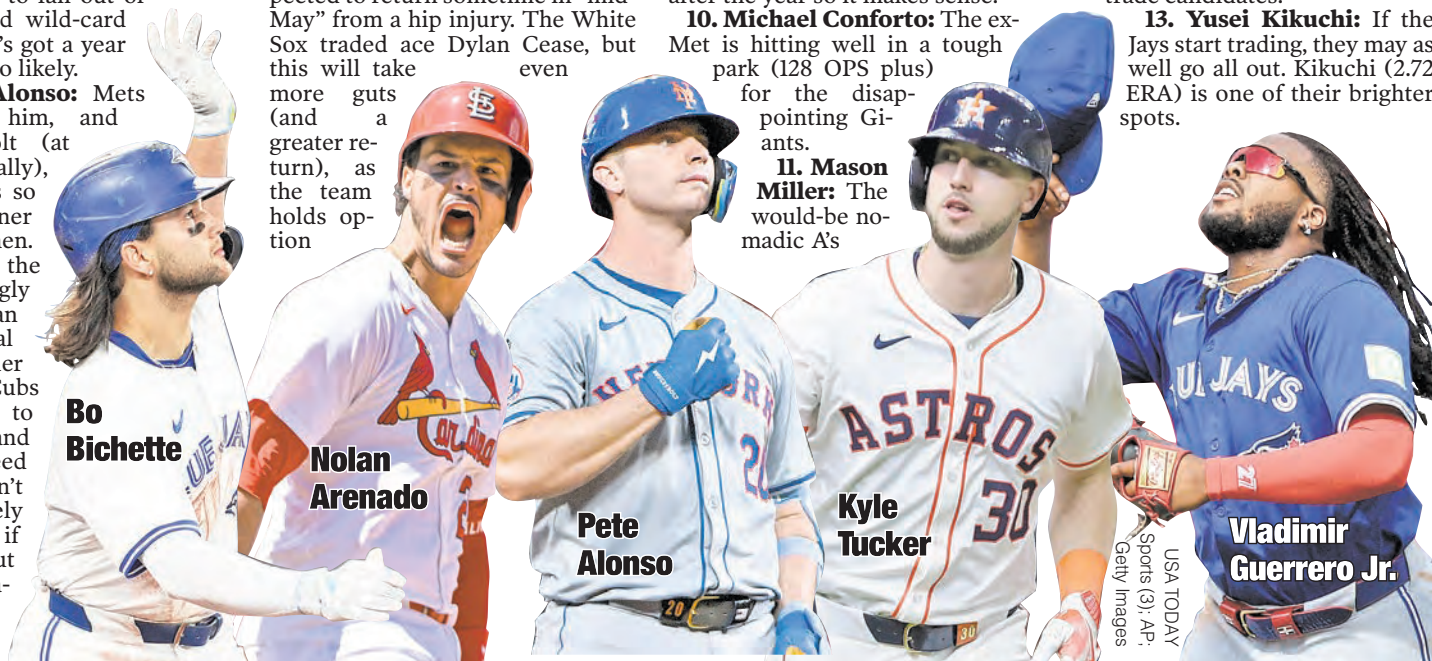
It was a suggestion by **J.D. Martinez** that's credited with getting Mets slugger **Pete Alonso** back on track. ...

**Justin Verlander's** rough start Tuesday vs. the Yankees might be even better for the Mets, who are on the hook for \$17M next year plus \$18.7M in tax if Verlander reaches 150 innings. ...

Every bona fide Astros starter but **Ronel Blanco** and **Hunter Brown** has had some injury already, which might mean their seven straight seasons in the ALCS is catching up to them. And by the way, Brown (8.89 ERA) should have been demoted by now if he wasn't absolutely necessary. ...

The Yankees, with their second best 2.96 team ERA, will be cautious with ace **Gerit Cole**. He could make it back before June 20, but that seems like a reasonable guess now. ...

**Blake Snell** has a rehab start scheduled for Sunday, and he could be back soon after that.



USA TODAY Sports (3); AP; Getty Images

THE **LUIS Arraez** trade may be just the beginning for Miami.

"The entire team is up for grabs," one rival exec says.

Ace left-hander **Jesus Luzardo** and star closer **Tanner Scott** got many hits in winter and probably remain the most coveted Marlins. Luzardo (elbow) looked good in his first rehab start and has two more years of control to go. The Cubs and others could use Scott, brilliant last year.

## Lot of Marlins could be up for sale

**Josh Bell** and **Jake Burger**, like Arraez acquisitions of the previous regime, also could go.

The Arraez deal wasn't only surprising for its timing but also by the financial arrangement — whereby the previously profligate Padres got the shallow-pocketed Marlins to not only take **Woo-Suk Go's** \$4.5 million deal but

pay down Arraez's \$10.6M salary to the minimum.

**Dillon Head**, whose comp on the upside is **Kenny Lofton**, is the key. Outfielder **Jakob Marsee** and infielder/outfielder **Nathan Martorella** are predicted to be OK big-leaguers while Go is said by two scouts to be terrible (they used saltier language).

The Marlins also are expected to lose their excellent manager **Skip Schumaker** after the team agreed to drop the 2025 team option. Whether he lasts the year is a question, but someone should hire him (his old Cardinals team?). ...

Cardinals manager **Oli Marmol** and Blue Jays skipper **John Schneider**

look vulnerable, but shouldn't someone look at those front offices?

With **Tyler O'Neill** starring in Boston, that's a full outfield-plus the Cards gave away (**Randy Arozarena**, **Adolis Garcia**, **Tommy Pham**). The Jays' backup plan to **Shohei Ohtani** seemed to be useful utility players, which is a weird plan.





**CONTENDER OR PRETENDER?**

The next seven games for Jeff McNeil and the Mets will be against division rivals in the Braves and the Phillies. How the Mets fare in these games may be a barometer of whether they can make a playoff push or not this year. AP

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Through the first six weeks of the season, the Mets have lost five straight, won six straight, taken road series from the Dodgers and Braves and been swept by the Rays.

There are plenty of unknowns around a team that appropriately is 18-18, having shown flashes of potential and flashes that this season should be viewed as a rebuilding year.

If the Mets are going to show in the early going whether they are a true contender or whether they are heading toward becoming sellers at the deadline, the next seven games might prove to be a litmus test.

Six or seven wins against the Braves and Phillies would send a message that the Mets should be considered a legitimate playoff threat. Six or seven losses against the Braves and Phillies would send a message that 2024 could be effectively over by the end of July.

"You're trying to run them down, you're trying to chase them down," Jeff McNeil said Thursday at Citi Field, where he and Hank Azaria co-hosted a charity poker event that benefited the Metropolitan PGA foundation and the Human Solidarity Project. "They're going to be the



**ON DECK: vs. Braves**

Friday, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS (880 AM)

**LHP Jose Quintana**



**2024 stats:**  
1-3, 5.20 ERA

**Career vs. ATL:**  
3-5, 6.55 ERA

**Last start:**  
May 3, @ TBR:  
2.2 IP, 10 H, 8 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**34%** Sinker  
**23%** 4-Seamer  
**21%** Curveball

**UP NEXT**

**SATURDAY:** vs. Braves, 4:10 p.m., SNY, FS1, WCBS  
*RHP Christian Scott vs. LHP Max Fried*  
**SUNDAY:** vs. Braves, 7:10 p.m., ESPN, WCBS  
*RHP Luis Severino vs. RHP Bryce Elder*

**RHP Charlie Morton**



**2024 stats:**  
2-0, 3.50 ERA

**Career vs. NYM:**  
6-6, 3.71 ERA

**Last start:**  
May 3, @ LAD:  
6.0 IP, 5 H, 2 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**43%** Curveball  
**33%** 4-Seamer  
**11%** Changeup

**INJURY REPORT**

■ **Tylor Megill** is expected to make the fourth start of his minor league rehab assignment on Sunday. The righty, who is recovering from a right shoulder strain, threw four scoreless innings with seven strikeouts in 62 pitches on Tuesday.

teams to beat. Hopefully go out there this week and take care of business."

The gauntlet begins Friday, when the Mets begin a three-game series at home against a Braves team that in some ways

has started slowly — Matt Olson is hitting .200; Ronald Acuña Jr. is batting just .261 with two home runs; Michael Harris II owns a .671 OPS — and yet is still averaging the fourth-most runs in baseball, partly because Marcell Oz-

una entered play as the majors' home run leader.

The Mets already took two of three from the powerhouse in Atlanta last month, when they beat up on Friday starter Charlie Morton and since-demoted Allan Winans. The Braves' rotation has settled in and been good enough for the club to own the third-best record in the National League.

MLB's best record belongs to the Phillies (26-12), who fell in the NLCS last year and returned roughly the same roster. Their rotation has been both excellent and deep, and a step forward from Alec Bohm and more dominance from Bryce Harper has carried the offense.

The Mets will see the Phillies for the first time this season Monday to start a four-game series that is split between Queens and Philadelphia.

"We know they're good teams, but we're a good team, too," manager Carlos Mendoza said this week. "We'll be up for the challenge, guys will be ready to go. They'll be excited, and it'll be fun."

There are signs that a middle-of-the-pack Mets offense could get going. McNeil, who is coming off a down season and who did not show much hope in April, is coming off a three-hit game that

raised his average to .248. Pete Alonso, who had been in a 1-for-29 funk that earned him a rare day out of the starting lineup, blasted a homer and a double Tuesday that brought his OPS from .710 to .742. Francisco Lindor, Brandon Nimmo and Brett Baty are similarly trending upward.

But through the first month and a half, when one aspect of the Mets emerges another has dipped. Will the bullpen, the largest strength of the club so far, continue to excel under heavy usage? Will Mendoza push the right buttons with an in-flux rotation that might extend to six starters and now holds rookie Christian Scott?

There are plenty of questions around a middling Mets club.

This week, the Mets could begin providing some answers.

"You want to beat them — they're at the top of our division right now," McNeil said of the Braves and Phillies. "They're playing really good baseball."

"I think you have the same motivation [as any game]. But at the same time, those games really matter, I think, a little bit more."

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# Yankees squander chances, see win streak snapped by 'Stros

# CLOCKED OUT AT 5

By DAN MARTIN

**ASTROS 4**  
**YANKEES 3**     **Boxscore**  
Page 38

Sometimes, even when Jaws is circling, the swimmers escaped the water.

That's what happened in The Bronx on Thursday night, as the Yankees appeared set up for another comeback victory in the bottom of the ninth — with Gleyber Torres representing the tying run on second base, Anthony Volpe at the plate and Juan Soto lurking in the on-deck circle.

But this time, the Astros escaped with a 4-3 win, as Josh Hader got Volpe with a 98 mph fastball up in the zone to end it.

Volpe had homered in the third inning, and Soto seems to go deep just about every other day, so it was easy to see why the Yankees remained confident until the end.

"I want to be up there," Soto

said of the game ending with him one batter away. "I know how good Hader is, but I wanted Volpe to get a knock and tie the game to see what would happen. We just couldn't finish it."

And with that, the Yankees saw their five-game winning streak snapped after an otherwise excellent homestand — one that started with a ninth-inning comeback win over Detroit.

"I loved the compete all the way to the end," Aaron Boone said. "It was definitely a good homestand for us swinging the bats."

Thursday was a rough one, though, for Marcus Stroman, who gave up a pair of monstrous homers by Yordan Alvarez and Jon Singleton in the top of the

first that put the Yankees in an early hole.

"I can't let up three [runs] in the first," Stroman said. "Our lineup is clicking on all cylinders. We just have to keep the team in it because we can explode at any point."

Volpe got the Yankees back in the game with his opposite-field homer to the short porch in right two innings later.

Stroman pitched out of trouble in the second and third, but allowed another run in the fifth.

The Yankees' bullpen, again superb, tossed 3 1/3 scoreless innings.

Down by a pair of runs entering the bottom of the eighth, the Yankees had Soto, Judge and Alex Verdugo coming up, with the suddenly hot-hitting Giancarlo Stanton behind them.

Judge followed Soto's leadoff line out to right with his third ho-

mer in four games — a 473-foot solo blast — to get the Yankees to within a run, then Verdugo walked. But Stanton struck out for the fourth time, and Anthony Rizzo popped out to end the threat.

For Stroman, it was another shaky outing, his second in his past three starts. After issuing five walks apiece in his previous two starts, Stroman was hit harder Thursday, giving up a season-high nine hits.

Alvarez started it by pummeling a Stroman offering 116.8 mph into the second deck in right to put the Astros up, 1-0. Two batters later, Singleton crushed a two-run shot out to deep right, measured at 442 feet, to put the Yankees in an early 3-0 hole.

The Yankees went 0-for-4 with runners in scoring position in the first two innings and 0-for-7 in the game and their No. 4 through

8 hitters went 1-for-16.

A Jeremy Pena RBI single up the middle scored Alvarez from second in the fifth to put Houston up, 4-2.

The Yankees also hit into some bad luck, a Judge hit a hard grounder to third that turned into a double play with two on and one out in the fifth.

Ryan Pressly, who got off to a terrible start to the season after getting bumped from the closer role by Hader but who has pitched better lately, came on in the eighth and gave up a laser line out to right to Soto before Judge took him deep.

That was the last time the Yankees scored, as Hader picked up the four-out save.

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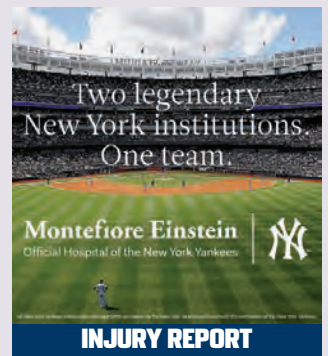
**Notes / Page 36**



**YOU'RE OUTTA HERE!** Giancarlo Stanton grimaces after striking out in the eighth inning of the Yankees' 4-3 loss to the Astros on Thursday in The Bronx.

## Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



- **Nick Burdi** is expected to rejoin the bullpen Friday at Tampa Bay after being sidelined since last month with right hip inflammation.
- The plan is for **DJ LeMahieu** (foot) to take live batting practice at the team's player development complex in Tampa for the first time since his initial rehab assignment was cut short.



**at Rays**  
Friday, 6:50 p.m., YES,  
WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

### RHP Clarke Schmidt



**2024 stats:**  
3-1, 3.50 ERA  
**Career vs. TB:**  
1-3, 3.77 ERA  
**Last start:**  
Sat., vs. DET  
5 IP, 3 ER, 7 K

#### PITCH BREAKDOWN

**34%** Cutter    **25%** Sinker    **23%** Sweeper

### RHP Taj Bradley



**2023 stats:**  
5-8, 5.59 ERA  
**Career vs. NYY:**  
First start  
**Last start:**  
Sept. 24, vs. TOR  
7 IP, 7 H, 6 ER

#### PITCH BREAKDOWN

**45%** Fastball    **25%** Cutter    **16%** Curve

### UP NEXT

**SATURDAY:** at Rays, 4:10 p.m, YES, WFAN  
*LHP Nestor Cortes vs. RHP Zack Littell*  
**SUNDAY:** at Rays, 1:40 p.m, YES, WFAN  
*RHP Luis Gil vs. TBD*

By ZACH BRAZILLER

This was different. This was unexpected. This was the rare occasion when a Yankees starting pitcher didn't have it and dug an early hole for his teammates.

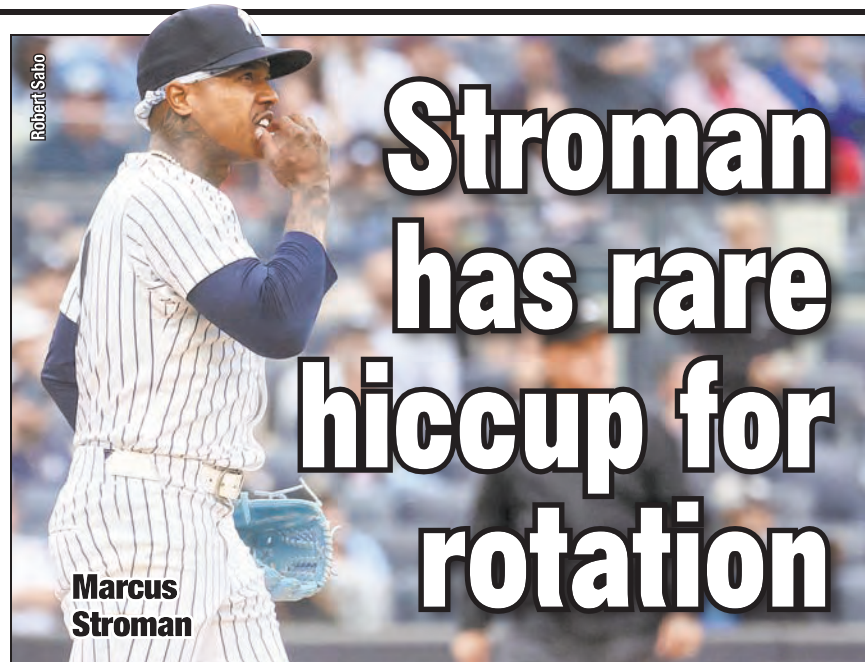
"Just got to be better, can't let up three runs in the first," Marcus Stroman said. "Feel like I don't give my team a chance when I do that."

Entering the home-stand's finale, Yankee starting pitchers had boasted a 3.39 cumulative ERA, the eighth-lowest in the league. They were one of three teams to have a starter go at least four innings in every outing, with the Orioles and Nationals the others. They had allowed three earned runs or fewer in 31 starts.

But Thursday, Stroman struggled early, touched up for three first-inning runs on a pair of long home runs to Yordan Alvarez and Jon Singleton, and was fortunate to give up just four runs over his 5 2/3 innings of work in a 4-3 loss to the Astros.

"Those pitches were essentially middle-middle, and they didn't have the action on them that I wanted," Stroman said, referring to the homers. "Look to be better next time out."

"Just can't put us in a hole, 3-0, can't do that."



It ended an otherwise terrific homestand on a sour note, capping a 5-1 stretch against the Tigers and Astros. As the Yankees sit at 25-14 through 39 games, the starting rotation has been a major bright spot. There were questions about this group, particularly since staff ace Gerrit Cole is expected to miss the first half of the season.

Nestor Cortes and Carlos Rodon were coming off shaky seasons. Luis Gil, recovering from Tommy John surgery, didn't even pitch in the big leagues last year. Clarke Schmidt was unproven, and Stroman was

new. All have performed very well — particularly the 25-year-old Gil, boasting a staff-leading 2.92 ERA with 45 strikeouts in 37 innings pitched. All five have an ERA of 3.80 or lower. The group has also given the Yankees length. They are fourth in innings pitched among starters and have struck out the third most, with 219 in 213 innings.

"The opportunity to win a game," manager Aaron Boone said of what he has liked the most about his starting rotation. "I don't recall a game where we were just out of it in the middle innings — maybe the Balti-

more game a little when we were down four or five runs. But by and large — whether it's been four innings, five innings, six innings, seven innings, eight innings, whatever a starting pitcher has given us — we've been in the game 99 percent of the time."

"It starts on the bump and it starts with that guy that kicks off the game for you. They set you up to give you a chance to be successful, and that's been a common theme at the start of the season."

It wasn't on Thursday. The Yankees lost for the first time in a week.

# Verlander: No Amazin' plan for Houston

By DAN MARTIN

The Yankees opened Thursday in a virtual tie atop the AL East with the Orioles, and their most recent fiercest rivals, the Astros, were in the basement of the AL West.

But Justin Verlander — who saw the Mets' disappointment firsthand last season, when the team with giant expectations and an even bigger payroll fell far short of expectations and traded away its stars like Verlander and Max Scherzer — said he doesn't expect the same fate in Houston.

"You can look at the track record with the same group of guys here," Verlander said of the Astros' run of success, which includes trips to the ALCS every year since 2017. "The Mets didn't have that track record. They were good the year before [in 2022], but not for seven years in a row. If you're looking for a reason to be more hopeful than last year,

that's one thing I could point towards. If anyone can do it, we can."

The Astros, though, have looked nothing like the team that's dominated the American League for much of the past decade — other than the fact that Jose Altuve is still putting up good numbers and is the player Yankees fans love to hate as one of the last remaining members of the scandal-scarred 2017 World Series-winning team.

Among the issues is the pitching staff, which entered Thursday's 4-3 win over the Yankees in the series finale in The Bronx with the third-worst ERA in the majors, the second-worst WHIP and the worst WAR, according to FanGraphs.

They've dealt with an underperforming bullpen, an injury-stricken rotation, and even Verlander was smacked around Tuesday — giving up seven runs and three homers in one of his ugliest performances in years.

Despite the bad month, Verlander said he's not looking to go through a repeat of last year's trade deadline, when he was shipped to Houston.

"We're upbeat in here and have the belief we're gonna turn it around," Verlander said. "We had the same attitude last year [with the Mets]. That didn't change until Steve [Cohen] decided we were going in a different direction. That stuff is above my pay grade, and I didn't start to pay attention to all that last year until the dominoes started falling."

And he's also aware the Yankees appear to be a more fearsome foe than they were in 2023.

"Look, baseball is better when the Yankees are playing well," he said. "It's no secret how great an addition [Juan] Soto is, and with him and [Aaron] Judge, you have two of the best hitters in baseball together, and that's tough to navigate."

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# INDIANA MOANS

INDIANAPOLIS — The performance Rick Carlisle treated us to late Wednesday wasn't exactly an original script, OK? After hugging the high road two nights earlier at Madison Square Garden, when he was clearly annoyed by a few late calls that went against his Pacers, Carlisle shrugged and said, "We're not expecting to get calls in here."

Then on Wednesday he drove his car off the high road and Thelma-and-Louised it off a cliff. He got a technical late, then another, earning an ejection, and he was escorted off the Garden floor by Ray Charles serenading him: "Hit the Road, Jack." Later he went in on the officiating with both barrels, the highlight of which was this gem:

"Small-market teams deserve an equal shot. They deserve a fair shot no matter where they're playing."

Attacking refs isn't a new idea in basketball and it certainly isn't a new idea in Indiana. For the better part of 30 years, an hour south of here down State Road 37 in Bloomington, they used to offer graduate-level coursework at the state university on the various disciplines of these dark arts.

When the chairman of the department was named Bobby Knight, there was no telling how these lessons might be taught. Once he slammed his fist on a table so hard a press telephone flew off its receiver. Once he removed his basketball team from an exhibition game with the Russians, he was so irate by the whistle. Once, most famously, he chucked a chair across the floor at Assembly Hall.

## Carlisle's blast crusade against refs a real treasure — but only for its sheer stupidity

Later, when Prof. Knight started to go by the more adult (and presumably more dignified) "Bob," he mostly just specialized in screaming at the refs, and berating them, one time almost head-butting Ted Valentine before veering off at the last second. To sit behind the Hoosiers bench during an NCAA Tournament game was to be treated to all seven of George Carlin's dirty words before the first TV timeout. With a few extras tossed in.

Did all of that in-sufferability actually help Knight at all? Did Kent Benson or Mike Woodson or Damon Bailey or Calbert Cheaney ever get a key call, late, against Purdue or Illinois or Ohio State? Probably.

So was Carlisle's weird rant just a way to stack the odds that sometime Friday night — when the Knicks and Pacers play Game 3 of this Eastern Conference semifinal at what promises to be a jacked-up Gainbridge Fieldhouse — and it's say, tied at 110 late, that Tyrese Haliburton or Pascal Siakam will get the benefit of the doubt on a whistle?

Well ... let's hope that's what the plan was.

Because while you can't properly justify any of Knight's antics across the years, at least they were funny, even if

the humor was just watching a bombastic bully implode from a safe distance away from the detonation. Carlisle whining about small markets?

Question: How are the two Los Angeles teams doing in the playoffs?

How about Chicago? Has anyone heard from Brooklyn lately?

Oh: and two of the NBA's hottest teams reside in Oklahoma City (pop: 694,000), which was 5-0 in the playoffs heading into Thursday night, and Minneapolis, a terrific city that will never be confused with Paris or London as a cosmopolitan capital, which is 6-0.

Carlisle mentioned 29 instances in Game 1 when the Pacers could've filed a complaint to the league. Somehow in Game 2 he found 49 more (in a 48-minute game) and this time the Pacers officially did send every one to the league office. This is hilarious on two levels:

1. There is now a 1,000 percent chance Tom Thibodeau is going to spend an extra hour or two with the Game 2 tape, just so he can find 50 instances of calls he believe went against the Knicks.

2. Speaking of game tape ... maybe Carlisle should spend more time with it figuring why he's getting hammered by the men in Knicks uniforms, rather than seeking ways he's being hosed by the men in the officials' uniforms.

See, one thing Carlisle hasn't mentioned is just how grotesquely outcoached he has been in the series. His flimsy full-court press has been a comi-

cal disaster. His team allowed 130 points to a depleted Knicks team that lost two of its remaining players for a quarter and a half. And his two best players the first two games were T.J. McConnell and Obi Toppin, neither of whom was anywhere near the court in crunch time either game.

(Which reminds: it was Rick Carlisle who kept Jalen Brunson strapped to the bench his final year coaching Dallas, which probably helped stoke a few embers of resentment that ultimately nudged Brunson east. For that, he may qualify for the Knicks Hall of Fame).

Actually, what's funniest of all is Carlisle latching onto the stupidest narrative in sports: that the NBA kowtows to the Knicks. This has been a favored belief since the Knicks won the Patrick Ewing lottery in 1985. It's a fun conspiracy theory.

And between the dearth of championship banners and the fact that the Knicks have been in 18 lotteries since *and have never, not once, moved up even one spot in the draft in any of them?* The only way to come up with a worse conspiracy is if Jack Tripper had masterminded the Lufthansa Heist.

Although at least that would've been funny.

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## Pacers unearth 78 allegedly bad calls to submit to NBA

By BRIAN LEWIS

INDIANAPOLIS — The Pacers are done biting their tongues about the officiating. Now they want to take a bite out of the refs.

The Pacers submitted to the NBA what they feel were 78 blown calls from their Game 1 and 2 losses to the Knicks, hoping to get "a fair shot" in Friday's Game 3 and beyond.

But in truth, Indiana coach Rick Carlisle had already vowed to do as much after Wednesday's 130-121 loss, during a postgame diatribe accusing — among other things —

refereeing bias against small-market teams and questionable play by Josh Hart.

Carlisle — who could be fined for his strategic-but-blunt critique of the officiating — said the Pacers had picked out 29 incorrect or non-calls that disadvantaged them in their Game 1 loss, but opted not to submit them. But after 49 more in Game 2, they uploaded the clips overnight to the NBA.

The news was first reported by ESPN and confirmed by The Post.

"I can promise you that we're going to submit these

[overnight]. New York can get ready; they'll see 'em too. I'm always talking to our guys about not making it about the officials, but we deserve a fair shot," Carlisle said after getting two technicals and ejected in the final minute after the refs reversed a double-dribble call against Isaiah Hartenstein.

This coming in the wake of the officials blowing a kicked-ball call against the Pacers in Game 1.

Scouts told The Post before the series that officiating would be a huge key. That has proven true.

"Small-market teams deserve an equal shot," Carlisle said. "They deserve a fair shot no matter where they're playing."

Carlisle was particularly incensed over a play that occurred with five minutes left in the third when Hart pushed Tyrese Haliburton in the back with both hands, and was not called for a foul. The Pacers star has been dealing with back soreness and was questionable entering the series.

"The whole world knows that Haliburton's got a bad back, and Hart comes up and shoves him in the back," said Carlisle, adding referee J.B.

DeRosa was "looking right at [it]. There's no whistle. That was shocking."

Carlisle's comments were likely a mix of backing his players, boiled-over anger and a championship coach tactically working the refs as the series heads back to Indiana for Games 3 and 4.

"We love Rick showing that type of energy on the court," T.J. McConnell said. "Unfortunately that he got ejected. But that's not the feeling that we have in the locker room. We're not going to sit here and blame officials. We've got to be better; it's just that simple."



Mike Vaccaro





# King happy for Jalen to take scoring crown

By STEFAN BONDY

INDIANAPOLIS — Bernard King has been watching his playoff scoring records fall lately and he's happy it's happening because of Jalen Brunson.

"Records are made to be broken," the Hall of Famer and Knicks legend told ESPN's "NBA Today." "But to have somebody like Brunson break those type of records and providing the leadership that he provides, and understanding the game and looking at how much he loves the game. And the crowd responds to him, it's just wonderful. I love watching him play. So I'm delighted that he's the one that actually broke those records."

Brunson set the Knicks' single-game playoff record with 47 points in the first round against the Sixers, the first of four consecutive games with the point guard scoring at least 40 points.

It tied King's streak of four straight playoff games with at least 40 points in 1984, when the All-Star forward dominated Isiah Thomas' Pistons. Brunson also became the first player in NBA history with at least 40 points and five assists in four straight playoff games.

His streak stopped in Wednesday's victory over the Pacers, largely because Brunson sat most of the first half with a sore foot. Still, Brunson dropped 29 points in 32 minutes with King viewing from the front row at MSG.

For Friday's Game 3 in Indy, the Knicks listed Brunson as "questionable" with the sore foot.

"It's amazing seeing it personally at the Garden as it's taking place," King said. "The beauty of his game is

he's a scorer. He knows how to score. He's mastered the art of scoring. And what I always like to say is you have to understand defense if you want to be an effective scorer.

"And he understands that very well. So he controls his defender and he gets to the spots he wants to to get his baskets. And if he's double-teamed, he's capable of finding the open man, whether it's Josh Hart or [Donte] DiVincenzo. And they effectively win games."

Despite the high praise, King wasn't ready to rank Brunson on the all-time Knicks list. He did say it was the

most excited the city has been for the Knicks since the Patrick Ewing era.

"I think that story remains to be told," said King. "You have to wait a period of time moving forward, maybe another five years before that story can really be told properly."

King supported Tom Thibodeau from critiques that he's wearing down his players. The Knicks are besieged by injuries and leaning heavily on the starters, with Hart averaging 49 minutes in the last four games.

OG Anunoby became the latest addition to the DNP list after being ruled out of Friday's Game 3 in Indianapolis because of a hamstring strain.

"A coach has to coach based on the personnel that he has," King said. "And the team that Thibs has under his guidance is a team he knows he has to primarily rely on his starting unit and the big seven more than anything else. And that's the way you win basketball games."

**More Knicks / P. 43**

**FOUL BAWL:** Pacers coach Rick Carlisle lets referee Josh Tiven hear it late in Game 2 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series. Carlisle received two technical fouls and was tossed, and he wasn't around to see the end as his Pacers fell into a 2-0 hole in the best-of-seven series against the Knicks.

USA TODAY Sports



# With OG out, Knicks need Nova trio to carry the load

**W**E'RE about to discover whether there are limits to the Knicks' magic, mantras and elbow grease.

They're whittled to the Villanova bones after OG Anunoby joined the infirm line, officially ruled out for Game 3 in Indy with a strained hamstring, and unlikely to play in Game 4, according to ESPN.

Even if Jalen Brunson plays (he's "questionable" with a sore foot on the injury report), Tom Thibodeau's squad will have exactly one of his season-opening starting five available Friday: Brunson.

That's it. The rest are either injured (Julius Randle, Mitchell Robinson) or shipped off (Quentin Grimes, RJ Barrett). The top players Leon Rose acquired through in-season trades are now also injured (Anunoby, Bojan Bogdanovic).

It's an incredible dwindling of the roster and, aside from Brunson, Anunoby might be the most significant absence. There's also no word on how long he'll be sidelined, and hamstring strains tend to linger — especially the kind that sent Anunoby immediately to the locker room after clutching the back of his leg. There's a reason the Knicks accumulated a 26-5 record with him in the lineup.

OG is the defensive equalizer. And he looked like he blew a tire.

But if you're counting the Knicks out because another player isn't available, you're not paying attention.

There's a belief and confidence, hardened by months of operating understaffed and doubted, they bring to the court.

Down 10 late in the third quarter? Meh. That game will go down to the wire.

Now the score is close in the final two minutes? Meh. The Knicks will get a critical offensive rebound.

A starter is injured? Meh. Somebody will step up with a career-best season — whether it's Josh Hart, Donte DiVin-

**Knicks vs. Pacers**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS**

**Game 1:** Knicks 121, Pacers 117

**Game 2:** Knicks 130, Pacers 121  
*Knicks lead series, 2-0*

**Friday:** at Pacers, 7 p.m., ESPN

**Sunday:** at Pacers, 3:30 p.m., ABC

**Tuesday\*:** at Knicks, 8:00, TNT

**May 17\*:** at Pacers, TBD, ESPN

**May 19\*:** at Knicks, TBD, TBD

\* if necessary

cenzo, Isaiah Hartenstein, Miles McBride or Precious Achiuwa.

They've all done it over the last six months.

For every team I've ever covered, "next man up" is a cliché that sounds nice until Kadeem Allen, Ron Baker or Maurice Ndour is getting extended minutes. Then "next man up" becomes a "rebuilding season" and eventually "at least we have cap flexibility."

These Knicks don't just spout the cliché.

"We actually believe it," Hart said. "That's what it is. Obviously you never want injuries and sometimes you say things just to give an answer and kind of get through it, but we actually believe that."

"There's a lot of guys on this team that can start with other guys in this league, so when we say it, it's not cliché. It's not just we're saying it just because it sounds good. We're actually saying it because we believe it. I've got faith in every one of our guys. So with stuff like [injuries], sometimes it sucks, it's like, 'Damn we can't catch a break.' But we truly believe it's next man up."

The Knicks run into and through adversity, a product of their coach's preachings being passed down and carried out by the team's point guard.

From what we've seen in two games of this series, the Pacers want no part of it. Indy folded in Wednesday's Game 2 despite the superior depth and blamed (who else?) the referees. It's the new wave in the NBA. Nobody

ever loses. They just don't get enough calls.

The Knicks were also guilty of whining about the Game 3 officiating in Philadelphia, but then they gutted out two more wins in a series many predicted them to lose despite being the higher seed.

Now they're heading to Gainbridge Fieldhouse with a 2-0 series lead as 7.5-point underdogs for Game 3, according to BetMGM.

All because of injuries.

In the 1997 conference semis, with Thibodeau on the sideline as an assistant coach, the Knicks were depleted for another reason. Five of their players — and virtually all the best ones — were suspended because of a fight with the Heat. The circumstances, as many Knicks fans want to forget, were unfair. Most of the suspensions were thrown at players for merely taking a step off the bench, not getting involved in the fight.

The Knicks, as a result, changed their slogan during that Heat series. It went from "12 men, one mission" to "Eight men, one mission." And it didn't work. The Knicks lost three straight and the series.

Brunson's Knicks can relate to the numbers, at least, even if the depletion is about injuries, not suspensions. They're down to seven players who've logged any meaningful playoff time this year, and they can only stretch it to eight by incorporating Alec Burks.

It's a daunting task, but the Knicks, particularly those of the Villanova tree, have done this before.

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**Stefan Bondy**

# THE BIG 3





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**ANSWER THE CALL:** Donte DiVincenzo (from left), Jalen Brunson and Josh Hart will need to step up for the Knicks with OG Anunoby (below) sidelined for Game 3 Friday.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg (2)

By PETER BOTTE

Tom Thibodeau never has been averse to employing a tightened rotation, and that approach could be tested even further with OG Anunoby unable to play Friday in Game 3 against the Pacers.

With Anunoby ruled out for Game 3 — and unlikely to play in Game 4, according to ESPN — after suffering a hamstring injury in the third quarter of Wednesday's win at the Garden, Thibodeau will be without four regulars — with Julius Randle, Mitchell Robinson and Bojan Bogdanovic also out for the playoffs.

Jalen Brunson also has been listed as questionable with a sore right foot, but he played the entire second half in Game 2.

Here are a few of the options for Thibodeau with Anunoby unable to play:

**Start Precious Achiuwa:** This appears to be the most likely solution, as the 6-foot-8 Achiuwa made 18 starts among 49 appearances for the Knicks while the trio of starting frontline players were out during the second half of the regular season. The Bronx native was used for a playoff-high 28 minutes in Game 2.

#### More minutes for Miles:

Miles McBride has scored just seven points and totaled 40 minutes over the past three games (13.3 mpg) after averaging nearly double that figure (26.2) over five appearances to open the playoffs. The third-year guard has proven capable of thriving with a heavy workload with a 48-minute com-



PRECIOUS ACHIUWA



MILES MCBRIDE

# Difficult choices for Thibodeau in rotations tonight

plete game against the Nets on March 23 and 47-minute effort with Brunson suffering an opening-minute injury March 3 in Cleveland.

**Dust off Burks or Sims:** Veteran guard Alec Burks made a brief 44-second cameo in the second quarter of Game 2, his first action of the postseason after shooting 30.7 percent from the floor after he was acquired from the Pistons in February. Jericho Sims has not gotten off the bench in the playoffs at all, but it's conceivable he could see time as a switchable defen-

sive big man for a few minutes in each half, especially if foul trouble arises.

**The joy of six:** Would you really put it past Thibodeau to trim down to a six-man rotation featuring five starters — Brunson, Donte DiVincenzo, Josh Hart, Isaiah Hartenstein and Achiuwa — with McBride off the bench? But that would leave the Knicks awfully small when either of the latter two big men are off the floor, with DiVincenzo having to shift to small forward.

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## No change for 48-minute man Hart

By PETER BOTTE

OG Anunoby will join Julius Randle and Mitchell Robinson out of the lineup again for Friday's Game 3, a scenario that forced Josh Hart into the starting lineup in the first place in late January.

But to Hart, Anunoby's absence going forward after leaving the Knicks' Game 2 win over the Pacers in the third quarter with a hamstring issue does not greatly alter his role as the second-round series shifts to Indianapolis.

"I'm playing 48 [minutes] anyways, dog. Ain't s--t change," Hart said after Wednesday's comeback win at the Garden.

Indeed, Hart now has gone the distance in four of the Knicks' first eight postseason games, including a

53-minute effort in an overtime loss to the 76ers in the first round.

He also became the first NBA player with back-to-back complete games since Jimmy Butler of the Bulls played every minute in three straight playoff contests in 2013 — twice against the Nets and once against the Heat.

The common denominator there is that both players were coached at the time by Tom Thibodeau.

"Thibs always asks me if I need [a break], and I always tell him no," Hart said. "As a competitor, you want to play, you want to play every second. So that's something that I want to do."

The 29-year-old Hart has positively thrived despite the heavy workload, averaging 18.0 points, 12.8 rebounds and 5.3 assists in 46.8 minutes per game in

the Knicks' 6-2 start to the playoffs entering Game 3 against the Pacers.

With Jalen Brunson (foot) missing the final 16 minutes of the first half and Anunoby sitting out the final 15 of the second half with their respective injuries Wednesday, Hart finished with a 19-15-7 stat line in those categories in Game 2 while hitting 8 of 12 shots from the field.

"Honestly, [it's] just rest, recovery, and then, my Lord works in mysterious ways. That's all I've got to say," Hart said. "[Wednesday] I felt like I didn't have it at all. ... But He allows you to walk and not faint. I felt like I didn't have it, but like I said, he works in mysterious ways."

Thibodeau also has convinced the Knicks to buy in to his "next-man-up" mantra all season, and Hart said

it's not purely lip service.

"I think we actually believe it. I think that's what it is," said Hart, who came off the bench in his first 39 appearances during the regular season before starting 42 games due to various injuries. "Obviously, you never want injuries and sometimes you say things just to give an answer and kind of get through it, but we actually believe that."

"There's a lot of guys on this team that can start with other guys in this league, so when we say it, it's not cliché. It's not just we're saying it just because it sounds good. We're actually saying it because we believe it. I've got faith in every one of our guys. So with stuff like that, sometimes it sucks, it's like damn we can't catch a break. But we truly believe it's next man up."





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CAROLINA  
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# HAVING THEIR

Lavolette's Blueshirts  
more potent than ever  
with Chytil back after  
6-month recovery



**WHAT A FIL'ING:** Rangers center Filip Chytil, skating in on Hurricanes goalie Pyotr Kochetkov during the third period while trailed by Brady Skjei, was back in the lineup for the first time since suffering what is believed to be his fourth recorded concussion on Nov. 2. Jason Szenes

**R**ALEIGH, N.C. — This is my take and not Peter Lavolette's, but I am thinking the reason the Rangers head coach inserted Filip Chytil into the lineup for Thursday's third game of the conference semis after a 188-day absence is that he believes that the club will need No. 72 in order to go the long haul, and what better time to bring him back than with a 2-0 series lead?

And now, with an ebullient and healthy Chytil back in place, the Blueshirts are just nine victories away from a parade up the Canyon of Heroes, nine victories away from lifting the Stanley Cup after recording their seventh straight victory of the tournament, this one 3-2 in overtime on Artemi Panarin's exquisite deflection at 1:43 for No. 10's fourth game-winner of the tournament.

Chytil came through his 12:02 of ice time without a care in the world. He kept up. He dangled twice in the third period. No one would have known that the 24-year-old hadn't played since Nov. 2 in the regular season's 10th game, when he sustained

what is believed the fourth concussion of his career. It was as if Chytil jumped onto a speeding Acela in full flight.

And, man, does Lavolette deserve a lot of credit for this. The coach switched the lineup after six straight victories. He scratched Matt Rempe after the Rangers had won their last 15 games with him in the lineup.

Lavolette spit into the wind, and the Rangers soared.

The coach has their back, and the players have his.

"As you guys have seen, he's been working really hard. He was off for a bit, he came back and the medical staff, the training staff, even the skills coach and assistants did an unbelievable job over the last month ramping him up for a possible reentry," Lavolette said of Chytil, who rejoined the team for practice on April 12 after he'd been shut



Larry Brooks

down following a setback in late January. "And he's been attacking every day to get to the point where we came to an agreement that, that time was now, it was approaching.

"That last game, with only one day's rest, ended late, we traveled down here, we didn't have the [last] change anymore, we could pick and choose what we wanted to do. We really needed to maximize the bench as much as we could and this was the perfect opportunity to re-enter the lineup and kind of like our game, I thought he got better and better."

The last game to which Lavolette referred was Tuesday's Game 2, double-overtime victory in which Rempe did not get off the bench after the 17:27 mark of the second period. Lavolette on Wednesday said he would dress the lineup that was the best fit for this game.

Chytil was on left wing on the third line

with Alexander Wennberg in the middle and Kaapo Kakko on the right, while Will Cuylle moved to the fourth line with Barclay Goodrow and Jimmy Vesey. The Blueshirts were able to get the fourth line on with fair regularity once the game became a five-on-five battle rather than a special teams showcase for the Rangers.

"I just love this team, I love these players, I love everybody in the organization," said Chytil, the 20th overall selection of the 2017 draft who made his debut as an 18-year-old under Alain Vigneault. "In one moment, I thought I want to be back, and I did everything for that, and here we are today."

Chytil had one shot on five attempts. He tied for third on the team with — wait for it — two hits. He took as good as he gave, and he gloried in it.

"Never felt better when somebody hit me or I hit somebody," Chytil said through a wide grin. "I even got a stick to the face at one point and I was like, 'Yeah, give me more.'"



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# FIL

## 'Emotional' return lifts teammates

By MOLLIE WALKER

RALEIGH, N.C. — When Filip Chytil watched the Rangers from home, whether it was during his recovery trip home to Czechia or in New York, the 24-year-old center said he felt like something was missing.

So once he was cleared to play from his fourth suspected concussion, which had kept him out of the lineup since Nov. 2, all Chytil wanted to do was be with the Rangers.

He worked and worked and worked in practices.

It sounds like he advocated for himself to play, as well.

And then there he was, following goalie Igor Shesterkin out of the PNC Arena tunnel for Game 3 warm-ups in the Blueshirts' second-round series against the Hurricanes before his team prevailed, 3-2 in overtime.

"It was pretty awesome," Vincent Trocheck said after the win, which gave the Rangers a 3-0 stranglehold on the series. "It's emotional. Obviously, it was tough for him earlier in the year. It was tough for all of us to see him go down like that. All we could really do was support him. Seeing him come back, come back to New York about a month ago and came on the ice, looked great, felt great.

"Looked like the old Fil."

Despite being medically cleared since mid-April, Chytil has had to work his way back to be as close to game shape as possible. He's been a full participant in practice for nearly a month, but he has only rotated in on lines.

Chytil looked like himself playing on the left wing of the Rangers third line with Alex Wennberg and Kaapo Kakko. He even made a slick between the legs pass to himself on a drive to the net when the Rangers were up 2-1 in the third before Carolina goalie Pyotr Kochetkov made the stop.

"A lot," Chytil said of how it helped him. "I was there with my girlfriend the whole time, we both went home. Of course, it gives you so much energy. That was [an] amazing time. Of course, I would like to be here, but I was looking at the things I could control and I did it."

➤ With Chytil back in after missing 78 straight games, in both the regular season and the playoffs, **Matt Rempe** was a healthy scratch for the first time since April 11.

➤ **Artemi Panarin's** overtime winner was his fourth game-winner of the playoffs, tying **Frank Boucher** (1928), **Brian Leetch** (1994) and **Mark Messier** (1994) for the most in a playoff year by a Ranger.

### RANGERS NOTES



**KREI' OUT LOUD:** Chris Kreider celebrates after scoring the game-tying, shorthanded goal for the Rangers during the second period of Game 3 on Thursday.

Jason Szenes

## Kreider score captures pulse of these Rangers

By MARK CANNIZZARO

RALEIGH, N.C. — It wasn't even the game-winning goal by Artemi Panarin, 1:43 into overtime to give the Rangers a 3-2 win over Carolina and a commanding 3-0 series lead Thursday night, that was the star of this show.

The play that encapsulated exactly how special this Rangers team is and how diabolical they've been in confounding Carolina in this second-round playoff series, took place in the middle of the second period.

There was Chris Kreider breaking up a play in the Rangers' defensive zone on a Hurricanes power play, busting up Sebastian Aho and Andrei Svechnikov with one hit and separating them from the puck.

A moment later, Mika Zibanejad was taking the puck across the Carolina blue line and the 33-year-old Kreider, trailing the play after his hit, blew past Hurricanes defenseman Brent Burns.

That's where Kreider took a work-of-art cross-ice feed from Zibanejad, the puck sliding between Burns and Jake Guentzel, and buried it past Carolina goalie Pyotr Kochetkov to tie a game the Hurricanes had been dominating.

The play was special.

It was yet another special moment in what has been an unfathomably special season to date for the Rangers, Presidents' Trophy winners and now winners of their first seven games of this magical postseason.

The Rangers beat a desperate Hurricanes team because they've been putting on an utter clinic on special teams.

That the most critical play of the game — and possibly the series — came on a short-handed goal was positively fitting.

"Special teams kind of took over and that took the life right out of it for us," Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "We're not executing very well [on the power play], and you've got to give them credit — they're doing a great job on the kill.

"We gave up that shorty [to Kreider] and I thought we just kind of got away from what we were trying to do. That kind of took the life out of the group. That's three games in a row. Same story. That's what changed the game."

It's defined the series.

The Rangers have owned the Hurricanes not only on their own power plays but on penalty kills as well.

Carolina scored five goals in 15 power plays in their 4-1 series victory over the Islanders, but entered Thursday night's game 0-for-10 in the first two games against the Rangers' penalty kill.

The Hurricanes, one of the best power-play producers in the regular season, were 0-for-5 in Game 3, making them 0-for-15 in the series.

The Rangers, meanwhile, have scored three short-handed goals this postseason and allowed only two power-play goals. That makes them plus-one short-handed in seven postseason games, which is utterly unheard of.

"We had a great start and the power play took the life right out of us," Brind'Amour said in a TV interview between the second and third periods. "They took advantage of it. They have some high skill out there."

The Rangers are going for more. They're going for the sweep on Saturday. They're going for the Stanley Cup. This is a team that believes in itself, this is a team that believes in its structure, this is a team that believes in the coaching staff.

Of course, three wins in a series does not equate to four. The Rangers are going to have to seize the moment in order to end it Saturday against a Carolina club that was swept by Florida in last year's conference finals. This may be a kind of last dance for the Candy Canes. They surely will not roll over in Game 4.

There is more to do. They will do it with Chytil.

"This team is unbelievable, what they did without me the whole season," said No. 72, who started the season as the second-line center between Panarin and Lafreniere. "But I know with me, we can be even better."

Seven down.

Nine to go.

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NEW YORK RANGERS



STANLEY CUP



PLAYOFFS 2024



CAROLINA HURRICANES

POWER PLAYS

By Mark Cannizzaro



THREE STARS



ARTEMI PANARIN (above)

The Rangers' leading scorer this season won the game with a goal 1:43 into overtime. For a guy who scored 49 goals and had 120 points during the regular season, this was his biggest goal of the season.



ALEXIS LAFRENIERE

The winger scored at 6:25 of the third period to give the Rangers a 2-1 lead. He took a marvelous feed from Panarin and beat Carolina goalie Pyotr Kochetkov for his third goal in the past two games.



CHRIS KREIDER

The Rangers' all-time leading playoff scorer scored a short-handed goal at 8:30 of the second period to tie the game at 1-1 and take the air out of the Hurricanes, who'd been dominating the game to that point.

KEY MOMENT

Artemi Panarin's overtime game-winner. Panarin scored with a redirection of Vincent Trocheck's pass from the right faceoff circle.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Oftentimes when that happens late in the game it can deflate you, but I really liked the way we moved through that game. From the first period on, I thought we got better every minute of the game."

— Rangers coach Peter Laviolette on the Canes tying the game in the final seconds to send it to overtime.

THE SERIES

EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

- Game 1: Rangers 4, Hurricanes 3
- Game 2: Rangers 4, Hurricanes 3 (2OT)
- Game 3: Rangers 3, Hurricanes 2 (OT)
- Rangers lead series, 3-0
- Saturday: at Hurricanes, 7 p.m., TNT
- Monday\*: at Rangers, 7 p.m., ESPN
- Thursday\*: at Hurricanes, TBD
- May 18\*: at Rangers, TBD

\* if necessary

# BAKED TO

## Laf' no longer a punch line

R ALEIGH, N.C. — There was a time when Alexis Lafreniere had nowhere to hide.

Now he's become overlooked and even underrated.

The expectations that came with Lafreniere being drafted No. 1 overall in 2020, the Rangers first No. 1 overall pick since the universal draft originated in 1970, were heavy.

That made Lafreniere a lightning rod of sorts for Rangers fans who expected greatness commensurate with where he was selected in the draft.

The 91 points Lafreniere produced in his first three seasons were not sufficient in the eyes of those fans who expected and wanted more.

But that narrative is changing before our eyes.

That change was evident during the regular season, with Lafreniere producing career highs in goals (28), assists (29) and points (57).

And it's been even more evident in these playoffs, with Lafreniere delivering a massive goal and an assist in the Rangers' 3-2 overtime win over the Hurricanes in Game 3 of their second-round playoff series Thursday night at PNC Arena.

This comes two days after Lafreniere scored two goals in the Rangers' 4-3 double-overtime win over the Hurricanes in Game 2 Tuesday at the Garden. That makes three goals in the past two games for him.

Lafreniere is affecting the Rangers' biggest games now.

He scored a goal at 6:25 of the third period to give the Rangers a 2-1 lead Thursday.

And, after the Canes sent the game to overtime with a six-on-five goal at 18:24 of the third, Lafreniere assisted on Artemi Panarin's game-winner 1:43 into overtime for the win and a commanding 3-0 series lead for the Rangers, who can close out the Canes on Saturday night at PNC with a win.

Lafreniere has three goals and six assists for nine points in seven postseason games.

Even those numbers, along with his career-best regular-season production, don't jump off the pages when you factor in the linemates he plays with — Panarin and Vincent Trocheck.

Panarin led the Rangers with 49 goals and 120 points in the regular season and the do-everything Trocheck is arguably the team's most important two-way player.

Don't sleep on Lafreniere, though.

"There's always a lot of pressure on these

young guys to come in and have an impact right away, but the way he's been working and the way he's believed in himself and worked [up] his confidence, it's been amazing," Mika Zibanejad said. "With him and Tro, Bread [Panarin] has been great chemistry. They've been playing big-time hockey for us.

"Laffy's a stud. We're happy to have him."

So, too, is Rangers coach Peter Laviolette, under whom Lafreniere has flourished with the best season of his career.

"It was a huge goal," Laviolette said of Lafreniere's go-ahead strike in the third period. "He didn't have a lot of time to get that puck off in the slot, and it was a heck of a shot. That

line has been good, and obviously had a huge impact in the game tonight."

Who would have thought a couple years ago that Lafreniere would be having a huge impact in a Rangers' Stanley Cup run?

Not based on his production in his first three seasons.

"To speak specifically about Laf, I can't speak to the past," Laviolette said. "I can only speak to the last six months. He's been pretty much set in stone with a couple players. That line has been very productive for us and he's part of that.

"He's playing with some good players. He's playing with Artemi, who's proven to be one of the top players in the league, and Troch is a workhorse in the middle that does an awful lot of things.

"But you can't discount what Laf does as well with his skill level and the way he's grown throughout the course of this year. He just gets more confident and confident as the season grows and the playoffs grow."

Chris Kreider, who scored the team's first goal, a majestic shorthanded tally in the second period, was sitting next to Lafreniere in the team's postgame media interviews and I asked him what he's seen with Lafreniere raising the level of his game in these playoffs.

"Ulf Samuelsson [a former Ranger player and assistant coach] told our team a while ago that you don't raise your game in the playoffs, you lean on your habits, and [Lafreniere] has got unbelievable habits for a young guy," Kreider said. "The way he shows up at the rink, the way he works at his craft. ... He wants to get better, he wants to have an impact, he wants to win.

"Unbelievable player and we're just incredibly happy to have him."

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### Look familiar?

The Rangers became the first NHL team in 16 years and first in franchise history since — you guessed it — 1994 to win their first seven postseason games. Here's a look at the two streaks:

1994		
Opp.	G	Result
NYI	1	W, 6-0
NYI	2	W, 6-0
NYI	3	W, 5-1
NYI	4	W, 5-2
WAS	1	W, 6-3
WAS	2	W, 5-2
WAS	3	W, 3-0
2024		
Opp.	G	Result
WAS	1	W, 4-1
WAS	2	W, 4-3
WAS	3	W, 3-1
WAS	4	W, 4-2
CAR	1	W, 4-3
CAR	2	W, 4-3 (2OT)
CAR	3	W, 3-2 (OT)



## PERFECTION!

## Panarin keeps Rangers unbeaten in postseason with Game 3 OT winner

By MOLLIE WALKER

RALEIGH, N.C. — It's been 16 years since any NHL team has done it.

And it's been — you guessed it — 30 years since the last Rangers team did it.

It's nothing new for this Blueshirts team, which churned out its seventh consecutive victory of the playoffs with a 3-2 win in overtime over the Hurricanes in Game 3 Thursday night at PNC Arena, where the home team will now have to fight to keep its season alive and avoid getting swept in a playoff round for a second straight year.

One game after the other, the Rangers have chewed through this postseason so far.

It was Artemi Panarin who showed teeth this time around in overtime, scoring 1:43 into the extra period by chipping a backhanded pass from Vincent Trocheck between his legs and in before extending just one leg — perhaps higher than he ever has — in his signature celebratory kick.

"Bread spoke up in the locker room and then spoke up on the ice," Trocheck quipped after putting up two assists in the victory, extending his point streak to seven straight games.

This was a win that required heart from a team whose heart was in it from the beginning for a special reason.

As goalie Igor Shesterkin led the Rangers out for warm-ups, there, right behind him, was Filip Chytil.

The Czech center stepped onto the ice under the white hues of the arena lights to compete in his first game since suffering what was believed to be the fourth documented concussion of his seven-year NHL career.

"Never felt better when somebody hit me or I hit somebody," Chytil said with a smile that never left his face for his entire postgame interview. "I even got a stick to the face at one point and I was like, 'Yeah, give me more.'"

The highly anticipated breakout season of Alexis Lafreniere also continued in this one.

After coming up big in the previous game, the 2020 first overall pick, once considered a

bust, snapped his third goal in two contests past Carolina goalie Pyotr Kochetkov — who relieved Frederik Andersen of his duties — to break a 1-1 tie in third period and give the Rangers their first lead of the night.

The fans clad in red seeped into the red stadium chairs, but they soared right up again once Andrei Svechnikov netted the equalizer during a six-on-five advantage with 1:36 left in regulation.

"I'll be honest I was really confident, just in the way we were playing the game," Rangers head coach Peter Laviolette said. "It was tough the way that that ended, but it shouldn't be a reflection of how you kind of got better as the game went on. That was the message going back out there [for OT]. This is a resilient group and they've been in these situations before."

After getting outworked in the first period, the Rangers played a much more competitive middle frame and managed to knot the score at one-all going into the second intermission.

Laviolette wanted his team to do a better job of staying out of the penalty box, but the Rangers found themselves shorthanded three times in the second period. Special teams, however, continue to swing in the Rangers favor in a major way.

The Blueshirts' offensive-minded penalty killers capitalized for the third time this postseason.

Mika Zibanejad made a nifty one-touch play to get the puck out of the Rangers' zone and race up ice before dishing to a streaking Chris Kreider, who backhanded the feed five-hole on Kochetkov to even the score up 1-1.

That gave the Rangers' fans in attendance some gusto, as they started a hearty "Let's Go Rangers!" chant.

"I think we did a good job with our pressure," said Kreider, who scored his third shorthanded goal of the postseason. "On the other hand, I thought they did a good job with their pressure, too. I think there's some things we'd like to do a little bit better on our power play to take advantage of some of our chances."

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**ALL BUT OVER:** Artemi Panarin chips his game-winning goal past Hurricanes goalie Pyotr Kochetkov early in overtime to lift the Rangers to a 3-2 victory on Thursday night in Raleigh, N.C., and a commanding 3-0 series lead.

Getty Images



## A MIGHTY ROAR

Paramount+ announced that Season 2 of **"Lioness,"** formerly known as **"Special Ops: Lioness,"** is a go. Zoe Saldana (right) will return to star in the series created by Taylor Sheridan (**"Yellowstone"**).



Lynsey Addario/Paramount+

**ADDAMS FAMILY REUNION** **"Wednesday"** Season 2 has officially begun filming in Ireland with a slate of guest stars set to appear, including actor Christopher Lloyd (right), who famously played Uncle Fester in the live-action **"Addams Family"** films. Fred Armisen has since taken over the role in the Netflix series, but Lloyd will have an unspecified guest star role in Season 2.



Paramount via Everett Collection

# TV Friday

max

Disney+

## Bundle of Joy

Embattled Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav announced that his company will be teaming up with bitter rivals Disney to offer consumers a streaming bundle that includes access to Disney+, Hulu, and his own Max service. No pricing details are available quite yet, but it will be arriving sometime this summer.



## Together Again

Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie (above), seen here in a still from their early Aughts reality show **"The Simple Life,"** are teaming up on a new show, according to TMZ. The series does not yet have a name, nor a network, but don't let that stop you from breaking out your dusty Von Dutch trucker hat to celebrate.

# NAKED DISTRACTION

By ANNA MENTA

**B**ROOKE SHIELDS knows what it's like to get naked on camera, and she knows it's not as fun or sexy for actors to perform as it is for audiences to watch. After all, usually Shields is "the objectified one that feels alone" when it comes to on-screen nudity, she said in a Zoom interview with DECIDER. "You really do feel put out there. Everybody has insecurities."

So when her co-star Benjamin Bratt had to get naked for the obligatory nude mishap in their new romantic comedy **"Mother Of The Bride"**—which began streaming on Netflix on May 9—Shields came up with a plan.

"I thought I should play a little joke on him, just to let him know that I have empathy for how I know he must feel right now," Shields stuck on a pair of nipple pasties, waited until it was time for Bratt's close-up, and yanked down her dress.

"I thought it was a nice gesture," Shields said with a laugh. "I mean, if I looked like him, I'd probably be naked all the time!"

It's an understatement for Shields, now 58, to say she's been "objectified" in roles past. The actor and model first found herself in the limelight at the age of 12, when she played a child sex worker in Louis Malle's controversial 1978 film **"Pretty Baby."** Two years later, a 14-year-old Shields starred in **"The Blue Lagoon,"** a coming-of-age survivalist romance with notorious nude scenes. Shields became a sex symbol before she even understood the concept.

She discussed the psychological impact of that premature sexualization at length in her 2023 tell-all documentary for Hulu, **"Pretty Baby: Brooke Shields."** The reactions since the documentary's release, Shields told Decider, has been



Netflix via Everett Collection, AP (2)

Brooke Shields talks about her new Netflix rom-com **"Mother of the Bride"**



Brooke Shields stars with Benjamin Bratt (pictured at left) and Miranda Cosgrove (pictured below) in the new movie.

fluencer daughter, Emma (**"iCarly"** star Miranda Cosgrove). Emma's luxurious wedding at a Thailand resort has been entirely paid for—and entirely controlled by—her company. Lana is instructed to sit back, relax, and have a mai tai. That's easier said than done... especially after she learns that the single father of

was in her life." She worked closely with fellow producer Brad Krevoy and Netflix's director of original film, Christina Rogers. "Christina's always said to me that she wants to do films for Netflix that center around women who are not the ingénue. Having a second chance at love, after your kids are grown—that's a very real thing. Most of my friends who are women at this age, if they're not married, they really are embarking on a whole new beginning."

And Shields' gesture of naked solidarity, for the record, was appreciated.

After the laughter settled, Bratt told his co-star, "That was so generous and funny. I could not love you more."

Anna Menta is a senior film reporter at Decider.com.



a mixed bag. "You get the people who go, 'I forgot you did all that Broadway,' and 'I forgot you were funny.' Then other people are saying, 'I can't believe you lived through all that.' Everybody has their own point of connection."

No one will forget that Shields is funny after watching "Mother of the Bride." In the film, which was directed by Mark Waters and written by Robin Bernheim, Shields stars as a high-strung, single mother, Lana, who's forced to take a backseat during the surprise wedding for her in-

the groom (Bratt) is also the ex-boyfriend who broke Lana's heart in college. Old flames are hard to extinguish, as it turns out.

Shields, who is also an executive producer on the movie, felt "it was important to show what kind of a mom [Lana] was and where she



What's on Tonight



**MOVIE**  
**Rebel Without a Cause:** 8 p.m. on TCM. James Dean, Natalie Wood. Three troubled teenagers living in Los Angeles form an unlikely bond.



**MOVIE**  
**No Time to Die:** 8 p.m. on USA. Rami Malek. James Bond is on a mission to find a mysterious villain with some dangerous technology.



**MOVIE**  
**Aeon Flux:** 11:30 p.m. on SYFY. Charlize Theron, Marton Csokas. Rebel operative Aeon Flux is sent to assassinate a government leader.

Friday May 10, 2024

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm			
2	WCBS	2	2	2	CBS News Norah	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight		S.W.A.T.: Allegiance		Fire Country: No Future, No Consequences		Blue Bloods: Two of a Kind		CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) Late Show	
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	(7:15) New York Live	Access Hollywood		Password: Howie Mandel & Jimmy Fallon (R)		Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11		(11:35) Tonight Show		
5	WNYW	5	5	5	Family Feud (R)	Extra (R)	TMZ (R)		WWE Friday Night SmackDown Live.			The 10 O'Clock News	Street Soldiers	Family Feud	Family Feud		
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!: Tournament	Wheel of Fortune		Jeopardy! Masters: Games 7 & 8		(9:01) 20/20		News		(11:35) Kimmel Live		
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Dish Nation	Family Feud	Family Feud		Chicago P.D.: Signs of Violence		Chicago P.D.: Due Process		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	TMZ Live		
11	WPIX	11	11	11	PIX11 Evening News	Sports Nightly	The Big Bang Theory		Penn & Teller: Fool Us: A Magical Punch in the (R)		100 Days to Indy: The Double Edged Sword		PIX11 News at Ten		Seinfeld: The Dog	Seinfeld: Dinner Party	
13	WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS NewsHour		Washington Week	Firing Line		Great Performances: Hamlet: A prince learns of his father's murder and vows to avenge the victim.						
21	WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	RFDS	The Brokenwood Mysteries: Playing		(9:15) Three - Body		Habiter Le Mond		Changing		BBC News		
25	WNYE	25	22	25	Report	Film Short	Film-Maker		TBA	Build Ser		To Be Announced		TBA	To Be Announced		
31	WPXN	31	3	531	Five-0	Bull: Bull Undone		Bull: Uneasy Lies The		Bull: King Bull		Bull: Better Angels		Bull: Confidence Man			
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tu vida es mi vida		El gallo de oro		El amor no tiene receta		Noticias		Noticiero	
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	La Casa de los Famosos		(7:58) La Casa de los Famosos: Part 2		El Señor de los Cielos		Noticiero		Noticias			
55	WLNY	55	10	10	Queens	Man	Man		News 8pm		48 Hours: An Officer and		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	
A&E	46	46	181		First 48 (R)	The First 48: Childhood		The First 48 (R)		The First 48 (R)		(10:01) The First 48 (R)		The First 48: Last Rap (R)			
AMC	54	43	231		(6:00) Sixteen Candles (1984, Comedy)	Beetlejuice (1988, Comedy)		Michael Keaton. PG ★★★½		The Lost Boys (1987, Horror)		Corey Feldman. R ★★★					
BET	37	54	270		Payne (R)	Payne (R)	Payne (R)		Payne (R)	Payne (R)	Payne (R)	Assisted	Comic View 2019: 1997		Ms. Pat (R)	Presidents	
BBCAM	71	101	189		Gladiator R	Red (2010, Action) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★½			Red 2 (2013, Action) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★								
BRAVO	18	44	185		Below (R)	Below Deck (R)		Below Deck (R)		Below Deck (R)		Below Deck (R)		Below Deck (R)			
CNBC	15	24	102		Money	Last Call		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank			
CNN	78	25	100		Situation	Trump Trial Today		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live			
COM	45	50	190		The Office	The Office	The Office		The Office: Appreciation		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Roast of Justin Bieber (R)		
DIS	49	31	250		Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)		Raya and the Last Dragon (2021) ★★★½		Monsters		Monsters	Monsters	Monsters		
DSC	66	27	120		Gold Rush	Gold Rush: White Whale		Gold Rush: White Water		(9:01) America's Gold (R)		(10:01) Mysteries		(11:02) Mine Rescue (R)			
E!	24	51	196		(6:00) Couples Retreat (2009, Comedy)	Couples Retreat (2009, Comedy)		Vince Vaughn. PG-13 ★★		Superbad (2007) R ★★★½							
ESPN	28	36	70		Sports Live.	NBA Live.	NBA Playoffs: New York Knicks at Indiana Pacers.			2024 NBA Playoffs: Denver Nuggets at Minnesota Timberwolves.							
ESPN2	29	35	74		College Softball: SEC Championship SF2	Live.			UFC Live		UFC	College Softball Live.					
FBN	43	106	117		Bottom	Wall Street	Roundtable		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	
FNC	44	26	118		Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night			
FOOD	50	97	164		Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)		Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Best Bite in Town: Tulsa		Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	
FREFRM	38	49	199		The Secret Life of Pets 2 (2019) Patton Oswalt. PG			Sing (2016, Comedy) Matthew McConaughey. PG ★★★			The 700 Club (R)						
FS1	400	99	83		RaceDay: NCTS Live.		NASCAR Truck Series: Darlington Live.			NASCAR Xfinity Qualifying: Darlington			The Pokers				
FX	10	40	53		Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	
HALL		191	240		Romance	Everything Christmas (2023, Holiday) Cindy Busby.			The Santa Summit (2023, Romance) Hunter King.			Golden		Golden			
HGTV	64	98	165		My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery		My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	Hunters	Zillow Wild	My Lottery	My Lottery	
HIST	40	47	128		UnXplained	The UnXplained (R)		The UnXplained (R)		Mysteries of the Universe		(10:03) The UnXplained		(11:05) The UnXplained			
ID	23	171	123		Evil Here	Evil Lives Here (R)		Ken and Barbie (R)		Ken and Barbie (R)		Ken and Barbie (R)		Ken and Barbie: The Trial			
LIFE	62	45	140		Grey Anat.	Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		(10:03) Grey's Anatomy		(11:03) Grey's Anatomy			
MeTV	33	33	3		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H		Andy	Andy	Hillbillies	Acres	Hogan	Hogan	Burnett	P. Mason	
MSG	27	87	78		NY Knicks	Pro Padel League: PPL #1 Finals			The Juice		Knicks Post Live.		Knicks Post Replay.		The Juice		
MSG Plus	48	88	80		(2:00) FanDuel Racing	PWLH Hockey: Boston vs. Montreal - Game 1		Knicks Post Live.		Devils		The Juice		Devils			
MSNBC	14	23	103		Ari Melber	The ReidOut		All in with Chris Hayes		Alex Wagner Tonight		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour			
MTV	20	53	210		The Hangover (2009) R		The Hangover Part II (2011, Comedy) Bradley Cooper. R ★★★			The Hangover Part III (2013) Bradley Cooper. R ★★★		Bradley Cooper. R ★★★					
NATGEO	65	162	121		Coastguard	Coastguard (R)		Coastguard (R)		Cesar Millan: Better		Cesar Millan: Better (R)		Cesar Millan: Better (R)			
NICK	6	121	252		Sonic ★★★	Sing 2 (2021, Family) Matthew McConaughey. ★★★½			IF present		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
OWN	173	180	145		Dr. Phil	The Never Ever Mets (R)		The Never Ever Mets		Marriage: Huntsville (R)		The Never Ever Mets (R)		The Never Ever Mets (R)			
PARMT	36	56	54		Men	Men	Men			John Wick: Chapter 2 (2017, Action) Keanu Reeves. R ★★★½			John Wick (2014) R ★★★½				
SNY	26	60	77		Pre Game	MLB Baseball		Post Game			Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	
SYFY	17	48	180		(4:50) Underworld (2003) R	(7:25) Underworld: Evolution (2006, Horror) R ★★★			Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) R ★★★			Aeon Flux					
TBS	8	39	52		Bang	Bang	Bang		Girls Trip (2017, Comedy) Regina Hall. R ★★★½		(10:31) Just Wright (2010, Comedy) ★★						
TCM	82	41	230		(5:45) A Tale of Two Cities (1935) ★★★½	Rebel Without a Cause (1955, Drama) James Dean.			The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner (1962)								
TLC	52	28	139		MILF Manor	90 Day Fiancé (R)		90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?: More to Love		90 Day		Seeking Sister Wife (R)		90 Day (R)			
TNT	3	37	51		The Meg	NHL Pre	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs: Florida Panthers at Boston Bruins.			2024 Stanley Live.							
TVLAND	85	34	241		Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens	
USA	16	38	50		(5:00) Armageddon (1998) Bruce Willis.	No Time to Die (2021, Action) Rami Malek. PG-13 ★★★½			A Simple Favor (2018, Mystery) Anna Kendrick. R			Love After Lockup (R)					
VH1	19	52	217		Madeda's Protection (2012) Tyler Perry.	Like a Boss (2020, Comedy) Rose Byrne. R ★½			The Barnes Bunch			Love After Lockup (R)					
WE	59	42	149		(6:00) 9-1-1	9-1-1: Survivors			Love After Lockup (R)		Love After Lockup		The Barnes Bunch		Love After Lockup (R)		
YES	53	89	76		MLB Baseball			MLB Baseball Live.			Talkin'		MLB Baseball				
HBO	511	301	400		(6:45) Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (2014, Science Fiction) ★★★½			We're Here			Real Time with		Reality		We're Here		
MAX	531	371	420		Fast Color (2019) Gugu Mbatha-Raw.		Cirque du Freak: Vampire's Assistant		(9:50) The Amityville Horror (2005) R ★★★½		(11:20) Pathology (2008) R						
MGM Plus	595	395			(6:05) Assassin Club (2023, Action) R ★½		The Beekeeper (2024) Jason Statham.		(9:50) Top Gun: Maverick (2022, Action) Tom Cruise. PG-13 ★★★½								
PARSHO	551	321	365		Double Jeopardy (1999) R ★★★½		(8:15) The Painter (2024, Thriller) Charlie Weber. R		Black Lotus (2023) Rico Verhoeven. ★½		13 Hours R						



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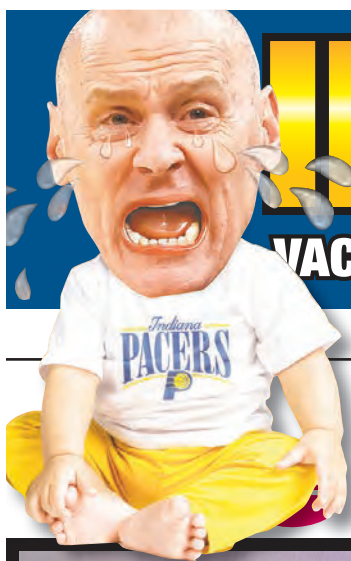
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## Best Sports Down®

Panarin delivers in overtime as Rangers win seventh straight to open postseason

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STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

NEW YORK RANGERS

SECOND ROUND

**3-2**

OVERTIME / GAME 3  
Rangers lead series, 3-0

Artemi Panarin celebrates after tipping in a goal just 1:43 into overtime, giving the red-hot Rangers a commanding 3-0 series lead over the Hurricanes. It is the first time the Blueshirts have started a postseason 7-0 since their magical run to the Stanley Cup 30 years ago. **PAGES 57-54**



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