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NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024 / Cloudy, t-storm, 84° / Weather: Page 67



SUNDAY

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Maniac ignites straphanger

A deranged attacker lit a cup of flammable liquid aboard a subway train in Manhattan Saturday and hurled it on a fellow rider, setting the victim's shirt ablaze, authorities said. The madman (bottom), identified by cops as Nile Taylor, fled but was soon in police custody, while a firefighter doused the burned victim (pictured).

STORY ON PAGE 5

FLAME THROWER



William Farrington





A PERFECT BEACH HOUSE QUOGUE OCEANFRONT

Exclusive Representation

It is what one might imagine and hope to find along the white sandy shores of Quogue with direct frontage on the Atlantic coastline. A chic and stylish beach house fresh out of the pages of Coastal Living or Elle Décor Magazine with sensational views and convenient access to the Quogue village center. A main house and guest house compound in perfect condition with a pool in-between. The main house has walls of glass which look out to the sea from the great room with fireplace and a beautiful modern kitchen. There are 4 bedrooms including a primary bedroom with commanding ocean views and a glorious bathroom. White washed walls and splashes of color is the vibe here with glimmering ocean spray and cool sea air. The guest house is sublime and imagined as the same décor and quality of the main house with a swimming pool at one's door. Come for a swim and stay a while... or forever. Just Listed and Offered Exclusively **\$10.9M**



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Unguarded joy at city's beaches



Don't worry, beach happy! City beaches were short on lifeguards but long on fun in the sun — and backflips — as swimming season officially kicked off Saturday.

Thousands of sun worshippers hit the city's eight public beaches, including Coney Island, where Elizabeth Luhnow (near right), 26, and Kyra Colah, 25, frolicked and jumped for summer joy.

Meanwhile Jay, 35, a technician from North Jersey, was cooling off at Brighton Beach

with his partner Savannah Duran, 28, a medical assistant.

The pair did not realize there were no lifeguards on duty at the section of the beach where they were swimming, which Jay quipped could be because "they're afraid of sharks."

Not all beaches were completely open for swimming as the city only has one-third of the needed number of lifeguards. *Marie Pohl and Dean Balsamini*



SUNDAY

84° / 61°

Mostly cloudy, t-storm

MONDAY • MEMORIAL DAY

75° / 62°

Cloudy, heavy t-storm

Stephen Yang

Flying high for summer sendoff

Memorial Day Weekend air travel has reached new heights.

Nearly 3 million flyers took to the skies across the country on Friday for the unofficial launch of summer, breaking the last record by more than 42,000, the Transportation Security Administration announced Saturday.

"TSA Officers have set a new record for most travelers screened in a single day!" the agency wrote on X.

"On Friday, May 24, 2,951,163 individuals were screened at checkpoints nationwide, surpassing the previous record on Nov. 26, 2023."

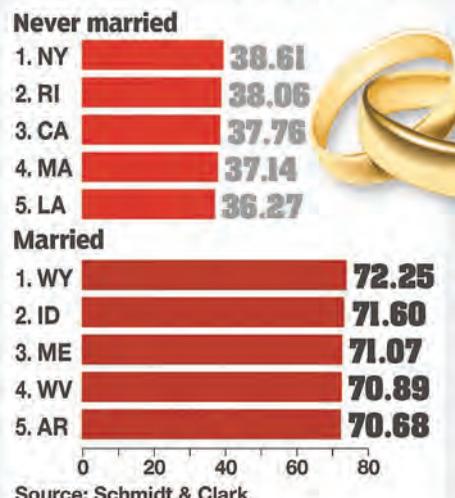
The last record was set on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, one of the most hectic days for US airports.

Deirdre Bardolf, Wires

NYers TIE THE 'NOT' Most unmarried residents

By GEORGIA WORRELL

State of marriage
Percentages of residents over age 15 who have or haven't tied the knot:



New Yorkers are the least likely to say "I do" out of all Americans, a not-so-romantic new study found.

One in three adults in New York have never been married — a startling 17.4% more than the national average, according to Washington DC-based law firm Schmidt & Clark's study, which analyzed federal census data and the American Community Survey to find marital rates of people 15 and older in each state.

In the Empire State, 36.3% of women — the highest percentage in the US — have never married, the study found.

A staggering 41.1% of New

York men haven't tied the knot, which is the second highest bachelor rate, behind only Rhode Island's 41.2%.

Aisle be damned

Brooklynite Camile Alvarez wasn't surprised to learn that so many New Yorkers stay single.

"It's expensive to live here, so I feel like people are focused on their careers so they can survive," said Alvarez, 23, who lived in Austin growing up. "But there's also just so much to do in New York, so it's not like we're in Texas and there's nothing else to do other than getting married and having babies."

"I've also been on some pretty bad dates here so I know it's slim

pickings," the single law school student added with a laugh.

"It feels like no one wants to settle down, and the apps make it that much easier — but also harder — to find a love match," Gerald Whittaker, 38, who lives in Brooklyn, told The Post.

Behind New York's 38.61% single population, Rhode Island ranked second among states where residents were least likely to marry, with 38.06% of its population unmarried.

Meanwhile, Wyoming residents were mostly likely to be rushing down the aisle, with 72.25% of its overall population cuffed, followed by Idaho (71.60%), Maine (71.07%), West Virginia (70.89%) and Arkansas (70.68%).

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LOTTERY

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■ Midday Nos. Sat.: **139**
■ Midday Win-4 Sat.: **6599**
■ Midday Take-5 Sat.:
3, 11, 15, 16, 18
■ Evening Nos. Sat.: **079**
■ Evening Win-4 Sat.: **1123**
■ Evening Take-5 Sat.:
4, 10, 11, 21, 30
■ Pick-10 Sat.: **4, 7, 9, 12,**
15, 17, 18, 23, 28, 32, 50, 52,
56, 57, 59, 62, 68, 70, 72, 80
■ Cash-4-Life Sat.: **1, 6,**
17, 34, 38, 42; Cash Ball: 4
■ Lotto Sat.: **22, 23, 40, 45,**
53, 57; Bonus: 57
■ Powerball Sat.: **6, 33,**
35, 36, 64 Powerball: 24;
Powerplay: **x3**

NEW JERSEY
Pick-3 Sat.: **060; Fireball: 7**
Pick-4 Sat.: **9299; Fireball: 7**
Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **1, 7, 19,**
20, 22, 45; Xtra: 3

CONNECTICUT
Play-3 Sat.: **271; Wild: 1**
Play-4 Sat.: **7895; Wild: 0**
Cash-5 Sat.: **2, 24, 26, 28, 32**

Int'l outposts shut as cops left in debt

By **TINA MOORE**
Police Bureau Chief

The NYPD has been forced to close three of its highly touted foreign outposts — launched after Sept. 11 as a bulwark against terrorism — because of tax troubles, The Post has learned.

And retired Detective Michael Catlin claims he was the canary in the coal mine at the NYPD's Toronto bureau in a new notice of claim for a \$5 million lawsuit against the department filed last week.

In 2011, Catlin, 52, jumped at the chance to take a prestigious post in the NYPD's International Liaison Program after 10 years on the job. He would move abroad and work with local law enforcement on international crime and terrorism cases.

NYPD officers in the program work with foreign departments to detect potential problems NYC could face, solve current international crimes and extradite prisoners who are captured abroad.

It is funded by private donations to the NYPD Police Foundation.

But the Toronto job he was assigned turned into a nightmare that left him on the verge of bankruptcy because the NYPD failed to negotiate with the Canadians over taxes — or pay them — and he wasn't alone, he claims.

"They closed Singapore, Montreal and Toronto," Catlin told The Post. "They told us, 'We can't have any more liability.'"

The NYPD recently announced it was opening two new bureaus in Tucson, Ariz., and Bogota, Colombia, to help address the migrant crisis and the flow of drugs and guns pouring through the southern US border bound for the Big Apple.

The department is now dealing with tax issues in Colombia, Catlin said. "I've paid a half million dollars out of pocket," Catlin, who begrudgingly retired last week be-

cause his bureau was closing, said of his income taxes in Canada. "And the Canadian IRS is saying I owe another \$250,000."

Catlin, who joined the department in 2001, said in the beginning most of his focus was with the Toronto police was on terrorism, finding trends in the neighboring country that might have repercussions for the Big Apple.

"Back then, it was all about ISIS," he said. "They had a lot of Canadians being drawn in by the message and traveling to that part of the world."



About five years in, Catlin met and married a Toronto cop and the two had a son.

He thought the NYPD had an agreement with Canada for his personal income taxes. But in 2020, his wife's accountant told her he should be paying.

He got a lawyer to investigate.

He said he was never given instructions by the NYPD to pay Canadian taxes.

"I got nervous when a lawyer said, 'You can be prosecuted for this,'" he recalled. "I certainly don't want to get prosecuted for tax evasion. I'm not Al Capone."

He was paying US income taxes — New York state and city included — the entire time. He said he was never told to make up the difference between US and Canadian taxes. Socialist Canada's combined federal and provincial tax rate is sky high, between 20.05% and 53.53%.

He immediately reached out to the NYPD. His boss told him, "Well you put yourself on the radar" by getting married and drawing attention to his taxpayer status.

"I was like, 'Are you asking me to commit tax evasion more quietly?' Because that's not what the rules are and we're supposed to follow the rules," he recalled.

Catlin paid the Canadian IRS \$100,000 out of his own NYPD deferred-compensation retirement fund. Since then, he's been paying



'NOBODY DID THE RESEARCH': Retired NYPD Detective Michael Catlin owes hundreds of thousands in taxes to Canada.

between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year for taxes. Last year, he had to take out a loan for the tab.

"I'm literally broke," he said. "If they come after me for the \$250,000, I have to declare bankruptcy."

Making matters worse, he found out that the NYPD was footing the

tax bill for the NYPD rep in Singapore, the post he originally sought.

"Nobody did the research before sending anybody up here," he said. "Not the guy before me. Not the guy before him."

He retired on May 16 after 23 years on the job.

Finest fired over 'Chinese-spy lies'

An NYPD cop from China was fired by the department after allegedly spying for the CCP, internal disciplinary records show.

Lt. Steven Li was working at the Internal Affairs Bureau when he helped a Chinese national connect with a woman targeted by the Chi-

nese government from between 2019 and 2021, FBI and NYPD investigators alleged.

Chinese national Sun Hoi Ying was in the US to conduct "Operation Fox Hunt," a program that started in 2014 to repatriate alleged Chinese fugitives, sometimes by bypassing authori-

ties, to face charges in the People's Republic of China, according to the documents.

Li allegedly set up meetings for Ying in the city with the woman, who was identified as "Huang" in the documents. She was accused in China of embezzling money from a Chinese state-owned

company before moving to the US in 2001.

Ying was dispatched to the US to allegedly pressure the woman to settle a dispute. Li met with the woman multiple times and communicated with Ying.

Li hasn't been criminally charged. The department

concluded he didn't pressure anyone and was not acting as a Chinese agent.

But the NYPD did find him guilty during a department trial of making false statements and failing to report the FBI probe.

He was fired on Feb. 16.
Tina Moore

Courtesy of Michael Catlin



NICKI MINAJ
Bag search in Amsterdam.

Nicki is detained on Dutch 'drug' rap

Nicki Minaj was arrested in Amsterdam on Saturday for allegedly carrying drugs — despite the “Super Bass” rapper’s repeated insistence that she had no contraband, according to police and Instagram Live video she posted of the incident.

Minaj, 41, was slapped with a fine and allowed to “continue her journey,” Dutch officials wrote on X after she was released hours later.

The arrest forced Minaj to cancel her concert in Manchester, England, where she was traveling to perform.

In a video she posted on Instagram, an official says that they wanted to take her into custody in a police vehicle for “carrying drugs.”

“I’m not going in there. I need a lawyer present,” she replies.

The officer also mentioned her concert set for Saturday night and said they would “try to get you there” as soon as possible.

“Oh, so I’m under arrest?” Minaj replies while officers ask her to stop filming.

In a second video, Minaj appeared to be seated inside a vehicle while speaking to a uniformed man about the plans to go through all of her luggage.

“Why didn’t you guys search it before they went on the plane?” she asked. The man said that the previous officer did not believe that she was not carrying drugs and was miffed that she had filmed him.

Police have not identified Minaj, but Dutch authorities confirmed they had “arrested a 41-year-old American woman at Schiphol Airport because of possession of soft drugs.” *Olivia Land and Patrick Reilly*

‘BURNING HATRED’ SUBWAY ARREST

Stranger hit with tossed cup of fire

By TINA MOORE
Police Bureau Chief
and MATTHEW SEDACCA

A maniac ignited a cup of liquid and hurled it at a stranger on a Manhattan subway Saturday, setting fire to the victim’s shirt as the man dove to protect his fiancée from danger.

The terrifying episode is the second time in four months someone tossed flaming liquid at a straphanger, and authorities are investigating if the same firebug is to blame in both incidents.

The latest incident unfolded as a No. 1 train was pulling into the Houston Street station at West Houston and Varick streets at around 2:45 p.m.

Victim Petrit Alijaj, 23, told The Post that he was riding downtown with his fiancée and cousin to visit the Statue of Liberty when he encountered the attacker, identified by cops as Nile Taylor.

When the train doors opened at the station, the suspect ran on with

a cup, lit the liquid inside on fire and splashed it on him. He said he managed to turn his body sideways and protect his companions.

“I protect my fiancée with my body,” he told The Post, from his bed at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Hospital.

The victim said he then put the fire out by patting himself down as he raced out of the subway car.

“We got scared and we ran,” he said. “So while I was running I was burning. I touched myself to put out the fire.”

The attacker also quickly ran, but stopped for a moment to scoop up a phone a woman on the platform had dropped, sources said.

Quick-thinking police officers

talked to her and then tracked the lost phone. Taylor was taken into custody a short time later about five blocks away at Canal and Renwick streets, near the entrance to the Holland Tunnel.

Alijaj, who hails from Albania and has lived in New York for a year said he suffered burns over 30 percent of his body, including blisters in his ear. None of the burns were serious, but he expects to be holed up in the hospital for at least a week to recover.

“I can still hear,” he told The Post.

He said he was in “not so much pain now,” which he attributed to the medicine he’d been given, but “before — oh, my God.”

HOT FLASH: Petrit Alijaj (left) was left with burns over 30 percent of his body after a man — Nile Taylor (right), police say — hurled a cup of flaming liquid at him Saturday.



NY Post: William Farrington



Investigators are probing if Taylor, 49, was also responsible for a similar attack in February, a police source said.

In that incident, a crazed man tossed a flaming container at a group of straphangers on a subway platform on the No. 1 line on Feb. 5 at around 7:40 p.m. inside the West 28th Street station.

“They think he might be the guy from the February incident,” a police source said.

Cops released video at the time showing a man holding two blazing cans at a turnstile.

Taylor’s rap sheet includes a 1997 arrest for weapons possession when he was found with a .22 caliber rifle, a Ruger and a silver Derringer, according to a source.

The incident left jaded New Yorkers worried about continuing crime on the subway.

“It’s concerning but it’s New York,” said rider Wynona Barua, 24. “Well, I mean, crazy s--t happens on the subway. You have to stay safe.”

Burglary probe uncovers huge pot stash

Police discovered millions of dollars worth of illegal marijuana products in a Brooklyn warehouse Friday morning, according to officials.

Cops responded to a bur-

glary in progress at around 5:30 a.m. at 65 Adelphi St., where they found three men inside and a “large quantity of marijuana and THC products,” cops said.

The products were unreg-

ulated cannabis sent from overseas to be distributed to illegal pot shops throughout the Big Apple, the city Sheriff’s Office told WABC.

Among the pre-packaged contraband are marijuana

and THC gummies.

The station quoted a City Hall spokesperson as saying: “Thanks to the hard work of both the . . . Sheriff’s Office and the NYPD, we conducted one of the

largest operations against a cannabis distributor to date, seizing millions of dollars worth of products, including edibles, vapes, pre-rolls, and more.” *Steven Vago and Patrick Reilly*

'SEX ABUSE' CLAIM

Mt. Carmel creep 'raped 13-yr.-old'

By HELLA WINSTON and SUSAN EDELMAN

A city prosecutor turned religious-school teacher has been charged with raping a 13-year-old girl, The Post has learned.

Daniel Haines, 39, an ex-Bronx and Brooklyn assistant district attorney who taught at Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary in East Harlem, is also accused of taking videos of their sexual contact and exchanging "multiple photos and videos of a sexual nature" with her, according to a criminal complaint filed by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

The alleged abuse took place "on multiple occasions" between April 18, 2022, and April 7, 2023, when the victim was in 7th and 8th grade, the complaint states. Haines was arrested on May 17.

A partially redacted address cited in the complaint indicates the abuse occurred at Mt. Carmel, where Haines was a teacher at the time. The complaint alleges one act of forcible rape occurred against a desk.

Mt. Carmel principal Trista Rivera said in an email to parents they can call the Manhattan DA's child abuse bureau at 212-335-4300 if their children "had any type of contact" with Haines.

"The school has been and will continue to cooperate fully with the investigation into this allegation," Joseph Zwilling, a spokesman for the Archdiocese of New York, told The Post.

'Principal ignored me'

Rivera and Zwilling did not explain why Haines left Mt. Carmel, or whether the 13-year-old victim was a student at the school, causing some confusion and worry among parents.

Haines worked in The Bronx DA's Office from 2009 to 2019, a spokesman said, prosecuting major gang and drug cases in the rackets bureau. He then briefly worked at the Brooklyn DA's Office. Spokesman Oren Yaniv refused to say why he left. His last city salary was \$105,000.

After that, Haines took a job at

Mt. Carmel, where the average teacher's salary is \$54,768. He stayed until the end of the 2022-23 school year.

One Mt. Carmel parent told The Post that she complained about Haines, her child's 6th- and 7th-grade English teacher.

"I thought he was terrible but the principal either ignored me or told me he cares about the kids," she said. "Then he left the school, but he would always pop up. It's just weird."

Starting in September, Haines joined The Heschel School, a Jewish day academy on the Upper West Side, where he taught middle grades and coached basketball and mock trial.

In a recent letter to parents, head of school Ariela Dubler and board president Ben Archibald said, "All of the alleged misconduct occurred prior to Daniel's arrival at Heschel."

Haines pleaded not guilty and was released on \$350,000 cash bail, records show. His Legal Aid attorney did return a call for comment.



Instagram/@mchr_school

'PHOTOS AND VIDEOS': Daniel Haines, who worked in the Bronx and Brooklyn DA's offices before becoming a teacher at religious academies, has been accused of raping a 13-year-old girl.



Charter big seeks DOE blacklist

A charter-school advocate wants to close a loophole that allows predatory teachers fired by the city Department of Education to land classroom jobs in charter and private schools.

James Merriman, CEO of the nonprofit New York City Charter School Center, said his organization has reached out to the DOE to talk about "this critical issue" following The Post's

coverage of a fired French teacher who found work at a Bronx charter school.

Dulaina Almonte (left), 33, was fired at Truman HS in The Bronx for texting a student 28,000 times, but landed a teaching gig at AECI 2: NYC Charter High School for Engineering and Innovation.

She was let go by the charter school last week after The Post

published a front-page story exposing her prior alleged misconduct and her reaction, "You really can't f--king touch me."

Merriman suggested administrators weren't privy to her past when she was hired.

This is a "matter of student safety — charter schools at the very least deserve access to knowledge about teachers on the 'do not hire' list," Merriman

said. "We've contacted the DOE and they have indicated a willingness to restart discussions about this critical issue. They fully understand the stakes and the need to put student safety first, and I'm confident that we can quickly get to yes."

DOE spokesman Nathaniel Styer insisted the DOE does not maintain "a do-not hire" list. *Lauren Elkies Schram*

ROCKS DALTON

Educator quits amid 'student accusations'

By DEIRDRE BARDOLF

A high school English teacher at the posh Dalton School resigned after being accused of sexually abusing a former student, The Post has learned.

Administrators received the troubling allegation about Mara Naaman in a May 2 letter written on behalf of a student who attended the \$61,000-a-year Upper East Side school.

The alleged misconduct occurred between 2020 and 2022, according to a May 9 email from head of school José De Jesús and Board of Trustees president Aly Jeddy to the school community regarding the “serious matter.” The school held an assembly the next day to inform high schoolers of the investigation and share information on school resources, the email stated.

“Our priority is determining the veracity of these claims and determining whether there are other allegations of abuse from other members of the community,” the email stated.

Naaman, 50, was put on leave once the student’s letter was received and she resigned the following Monday, May 6, De Jesús’ email added.

The school filed a police report and hired a firm specializing in harassment and sexual abuse to conduct an investigation, according to the letter. “We are only providing the name of the teacher so anyone with relevant information can provide such information,” it read.

The NYPD did not address questions regarding the alleged incident but said it takes sexual assault and rape cases “extremely seriously” and urges anyone who has been a victim to file a report.

“It was a very big surprise,” said



'SERIOUS MATTER': Mara Naaman was put on leave, then resigned from the Upper East Side's Dalton School (left) after accusations were made against her of sexual abuse against a student between 2020 and 2022.



LinkedIn/Mara Naaman

one former Dalton parent. “Everyone has been talking about it but no one really knows what happened.”

Naaman taught English literature to ninth through 12th graders at the K-12 school and was also a “house advisor,” providing academic guidance and social and emotional support to students.

Anti-racist signer

The advisors also serve as “an advocate” and “confidant” for students, building a relationship with them over the course of their four years in high school, according to Dalton’s website.

Naaman’s sudden resignation left many students who were relying on her for college recommendation letters stunned, the former Dalton parent said.

Naaman was among dozens of

Dalton faculty members who signed on to a controversial eight-page anti-racism manifesto in 2020. Among its demands were that students of color be compensated for appearing in Dalton promotional material and for courses to be canceled if black students aren’t performing on par with non-black students.

Before starting at Dalton, Naaman worked at Columbia University, at Hofstra University on Long Island, and at Williams College in Massachusetts, where she taught comparative literature and Arabic, according to LinkedIn. She was granted tenure at Williams in 2013.

The Fulbright scholar attended Wesleyan University and got a Ph.D. from Columbia. While pursuing her postgraduate degree, she conducted research in Egypt, at Cairo University’s Arabic de-

partment. Her work has appeared in various journals, including the Journal of Arabic Literature.

Naaman is a mom and based out of Manhattan, according to a Facebook profile, and is originally from Michigan.

She did not answer inquiries from The Post. The Dalton School declined a request for comment.

Among the tony institution’s past faculty was late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, who taught physics and math there in 1973.

In 2018, former headmaster Gardner Dunnan was accused in a federal lawsuit of sexually abusing a 14-year-old student who was living with him and his wife in 1986.

The girl was working as a “family helper” to Dunnan and his wife, who had just given birth, in exchange for a free education, according to court documents.



SANDY CARAZAS-PINEZ
Teacher jailed for bail fail.

Suit: No eyes on 'abuse' cameras

Classroom cameras at a costly taxpayer-funded boarding school for autistic, mentally ill and emotionally disturbed students captured a biology teacher sexually abusing a boy — but no one monitored the video, a bombshell lawsuit alleges.

Only after the boy told his mom that he had sex repeatedly with Sandy Carazas-Pinez, a teacher at Biondi HS, did the principal watch the video showing the instructor cuddling with the 16-year-old during class and asking him to “rub her crotch,” the suit charges.

“What I just saw was disturbing,” a crying principal Marya Baker said, according to the boy’s mother.

“She was so sorry — they should have been looking at the cameras,” the mom, a Staten Islander, told The Post.

In July 2023, Carazas-Pinez, 34, was charged criminally in Manhattan federal court with luring the 16-year-old boy into a sexual relationship and convincing him to appear on an X-rated livestream video call with her.

Carazas-Pinez sent the boy nude photographs of herself and lewd text messages — including one saying she was “sore” after he gave her a “workout,” records show.

The disgraced teacher was jailed this month after a judge found she violated her bail conditions.

The suit seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. *Susan Edelman*

Keys leads push for theater's top prize

'Hell's angel's Tony bid



SPOTLIGHT: Maleah Joi Moon (left) and Chris Lee perform in "Hell's Kitchen." Eddie Redmayne (below, from left) with Jonathan Groff and Daniel Radcliffe.

ALICIA Keys wants her Tony. And after this week, the "Girl on Fire" singer will probably snag the big one for her popular musical "Hell's Kitchen."

Keys was the star of Broadway's spring road conference, an annual convention in which hundreds of out-of-town presenters who book shows around the country come to NYC to be feted.

There's swag, multiple boozy parties per day — just what these people need — and glad-handing celebs galore. But Broadway is campaigning for more than just two weeks in Cincinnati.

Beyond shopping for productions to bring to their markets, "the road" also makes up about 15% of the 800 or so Tony Award voters who will decide Best Musical on Sunday, June 16.

And in a particularly competitive year for that category, getting the edge matters.

That's why smart Keys, who produced the semi-autobiographical "Hell's Kitchen," gave the road voters a 45-minute concert at Gotham Hall on Wednesday night.

"It was electric," a source said of the 11 p.m. performance that also featured the show's nominated stars such as Maleah Joi Moon, Kecia Lewis and Shoshana Bean.

The bash went late, and revelers spilled out to second locations.

Earlier that day,

during a panel at the Hilton, Keys interviewed book writer Kristofer Diaz, choreographer Camille A. Brown and director Michael Greif.

Not to be outdone, the four other Best Musical nominees did their own song and dance.

"Water for Elephants," a dark circus musical, threw a party at the Edison Rooftop and handed out cotton candy Dumbos.

"Suffs," the "Hamilton"-like show about the women's suffrage movement, staged a talk at The Music Box Theatre and served boxed lunches. Perhaps unwisely, their most famous producer, Hillary Clinton, didn't participate.

Jolie snafu

"Illinois," the sublime dance piece set to the music of Sufjan Stevens, has seen their Tony fortunes drop and had low-key drinks at Yard House.

"They know they aren't winning," an insider said.

And "The Outsiders," the biggest competition "Hell's Kitchen" will have for Best Musical, held a well-attended pre-show party at The Edison Ballroom.

The band Jamestown Revival, which wrote the terrific show's pretty score, performed encores at every performance last week.

Still, there was one snafu during their daytime panel.



**JOHNNY
OLEKSINSKI**



"They announced the producer of 'The Outsiders' in such a way that everyone assumed Angelina Jolie was coming out," an attendee said of the Hollywood actress who really is a producer of the musical. "And then it was LaChanze."

'Merrily' mixup

There was a similar mixup at a coffee event for the hit revival of "Merrily We Roll Along."

That show's excellent cast — Jonathan Groff, Daniel Radcliffe and Lindsay Mendez — have been like pollen lately. Everywhere. But Radcliffe couldn't make this particular party.

However, a source said some attendees didn't get the memo and confused one of the show's producers, Patrick Catullo, with the "Harry Potter" star.

Groff, by the way, attended the New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards at 54 Below on Tuesday (The Wall Street Journal's Charles Isherwood and I stood in the back like Statler and Waldorf), and then headed to Sardi's where he received a caricature.

He's the current favorite to win Best Actor in a Musical.

In a classy move, fellow Best Actor nominee Eddie Redmayne of "Cabaret," showed up to support his friend. Oscar winner Redmayne, who plays the Emcee, has also received raves during the conference for speaking humbly and likably.

But as the competition heats up over the next three weeks, I have a feeling we'll be quoting a song from a different Kander and Ebb show.

Whatever happened to class?!



SLOTH IN B'KLYN
Tattoo parlor does slow burn.

Fast fine by DOH over sloth

A sloth's alleged visit to a Brooklyn tattoo parlor has sparked a quick response from the city Health Department.

Wildlife exhibitor Larry Wallach, of Long Island, allegedly brought the exotic South American beasts to Haven Studio on New Jersey Avenue Dec. 8.

The business was fined \$500, and Wallach was issued a summons for bringing the creatures without a permit, the department said.

Haven Studio denied the incident, claiming the allegation that sloths had visited their location was "wildly inaccurate" despite an Instagram post in which someone is holding one of the animals and thanking the studio.

"Having exotic animals in a tattoo parlor, or any unregulated setting, is dangerous for the animals and potentially the people," a DOH spokesperson said.

Kathianne Boniello

Mad about 'Furiosa'

Moviegoers are mad about Max.

"Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" was No. 1 at the box office on its opening day with \$10.2 million in ticket sales on Friday, according to The Numbers.

"The Garfield Movie," which also opened on Friday, landed in second place with \$8.4 million in sales.

The live-action fantasy comedy "If," which was in first place last Friday, its first day in theaters, took third place, with earnings of \$4.3 million. *Angela Barbuti*

AP, Getty Images

NOAA raises lotsa 'canes

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts an “extraordinary” hurricane season this year, with between 17 to 25 named tropical storms and eight to 13 hurricanes — the most of any pre-season forecast.

Between four and seven tropical storms are expected to become major hurricanes, which have winds exceeding 111 mph.

“This season is looking to be an extraordinary one,” said Richard Spinrad, NOAA administrator.

Hurricane season in the Atlantic spans from June to November, although most activity occurs between August and October.

Previous years have had on average 14 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

The perilous predictions are due to various factors including near-record warm temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, which provide energy that helps further fuel storm development, according to NOAA.

Expected La Niña conditions in the late summer also will contribute, NOAA climate scientists said. The climate pattern leads to reduced vertical wind shear, or difference in wind speed with height, making it easier for hurricanes to form.

Matthew Sedacca

Special day for shark survivor

A shark-bite survivor recently celebrated her 66th birthday and continues to heal after a man-eater took a chunk out of her thigh last summer at Rockaway Beach — the first attack there in 70 years.

Tatyana Koltunuk, of Astoria, Queens, still has a long road ahead as beach season opened Saturday.

Her daughter, Dasha (Darya) Koltunuk, celebrated her mother's April 4 birthday in an “update” post to a GoFundMe page.

Dasha called it “a birthday that feels all the more magical this year in its celebration of a renewed sense of life-force, of an awe for nature, and of the pure strength and goodness of the woman I am so honored to call my mom.”

Dean Balsamini

Hamps 'pool' battle

East Hampton Village residents are trying to sink a proposal by the landmark Hunting Inn to add a pool to its grounds, claiming it will destroy the historic character of the neighborhood.

“Approximately 50 ... citizens have written to oppose the pool and hot tub,” next-door neighbor Brent Feigenbaum, 64, told The Post.

Dean Balsamini

HEAVY MEDDLE



I lost 'Mean Girls' party gig 'cause of my size: suit



WEIGHT WATCHERS: Joseph Sacchi claims Paramount execs singled him out at a pre-party walk-through for a “Mean Girls” movie musical bash at Upper West Side bistro The Ribbon (inset) — cruelly costing him a lucrative gig.

J.C. Rice

By KATHIANNE BONIELLO

A larger-than-life waiter claims he was bounced from working a lucrative bash for the “Mean Girls” movie musical premiere because studio bigwigs decided he was too fat.

Joseph Sacchi, a classically trained tenor who stands 6-foot-2, weighs 360 pounds and dreams of performing at The Met as a full-time professional opera singer, says the Jan. 8 reception was held during his regular shift at The Ribbon restaurant on West 72nd Street, and would have netted him a \$770 tip.

But Paramount honchos who did a walk-through at the Upper West Side eatery ahead of the party apparently “pointed to” him and told the manager “that they did not want him working the event,” Sacchi, 32, claims in a Manhattan Supreme Court lawsuit — possibly the first filed under the city's height- and weight-discrimination ban.

“What The Ribbon and Paramount did was wrong. I was hurt financially and emotionally. It was embarrassing and infuriating,” Sacchi told The Post. “I’ve worked at The Ribbon for the past [three] years, but now it has

become a very uncomfortable and toxic place to be.”

He added, “I’m hopeful that this litigation will help to set the precedent that fatphobia is unacceptable in New York City and that a person's size is not a reflection of their ability and value.”

Life imitates art

The 2024 movie, an adaptation of the Broadway show that was based on the original 2004 high-school comedy starring Lindsay Lohan, features actress and singer Renee Rapp, whose main character Regina George struggles with weight gain.

“The irony is not lost on me that ‘Mean Girls’ is itself a story about bullying. The line, ‘You can’t sit with us!’ comes instantly to mind,” Sacchi noted.

The city passed a weighty anti-discrimination measure in May 2023 that makes it illegal to treat people differently because of their size in employment, public accommodations and housing.

Sacchi, who is seeking unspecified damages from the restaurant and the movie studio, claims he didn’t serve or interact with Paramount reps during their inspection of The Ribbon, so he

deduced their only reason to shun him was his appearance.

He was “shocked” when he wasn’t scheduled to work the party “and was even more dumbstruck when I realized that I was the only available server that was not scheduled to work.”

The Oregon native has struggled with his weight most of his life. “The first time that someone commented on my weight was when another kid called me fat all the way back in kindergarten,” he said.

Big stage dreams

Sacchi loved musical theater but in college was told he could “only be a character actor due to my size. The opera department on the other hand told me that I had a promising future as a leading tenor. This was one of the reasons that led me to study classical voice.”

Toward the end of his undergraduate work, he lost 150 pounds.

“Suddenly, strangers and acquaintances were so much nicer to me,” he recalled. “I was astounded by the wave of attention and change of attitude that came with the weight loss.”

He moved to the Big Apple for graduate school, and says stress,

inactivity from the pandemic and a family tragedy caused the pounds to return.

Sacchi contends The Ribbon had a moral and legal obligation to stand up to “customer bullying” on his behalf.

It wasn’t just Paramount who allegedly had a problem with Sacchi’s weight.

“If Joe was here, how would he have moved around? It’s a full house.” The Ribbon’s scheduling manager allegedly told one of Sacchi’s colleagues at the reception, he claims in court papers.

When he complained, the restaurant allegedly cut his shifts.

Sacchi’s social-media posts mostly include shots of the young singer from the shoulders up, as he belts out tunes such as Rodgers and Harts’ “My Funny Valentine” and “If I Can Dream,” a song made famous by Elvis Presley in 1968.

“What happened to our client Joe is not just mean, it’s now illegal under New York City law,” Sacchi’s lawyers, Eric Baum and Juyoun Han, said in a statement.

“Any claims against Paramount are baseless, and we will defend ourselves vigorously,” a company rep said. The Ribbon did not return calls for comment.

THE KIDS ARE ALL 'RIGHT'

Joe losing youth to Don

By JON LEVINE

Young voters are fleeing President Biden for former President Donald Trump in droves — which experts and the core demographic bloc chalked up to inflation, the dismal job market and Israel.

Biden's youth-vote collapse was on display in a New York Times-Sienna survey from last week. In response to the question "If you had to decide between the two today, would you lean more toward [Trump or Biden]," 46% of voters aged 18-29 said Trump, while just 43% chose Biden.

A CNN poll published last month showed Biden losing voters aged 18-34 to Trump by an eye-popping 11 points.

The numbers are a shocking reversal for the president — in 2020 Biden won the nation's youngest voters by a commanding 24 points.

"For young people it's really the job market," said Annie Rogers, a business development analyst now living on the Upper West Side who said she voted for Biden when she was 18, but is now backing Trump. "For most graduates coming out of school this year, it's impossible to find jobs."

"The first job I was supposed to have out of college was rescinded because the economy and market in the US has been very difficult on a lot of indus-

tries," Rogers said. "There hasn't really been any progress to make that change, and that's a big reason why young people are interested in voting for Trump."

Rogers attributed her 2020 vote to being surrounded by "liberals" at Cornell — and frustrations over losing her college experience to coronavirus lockdowns.

During the Biden presidency, monthly inflation approached 10%. Though it has since cooled, high prices have lingered for basic staples including gas and food. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned in February that high prices could be the new normal.

Gen Z suffering

Biden allies insist the United States is not in a recession, though more than half of Americans believe it is — and blame Biden, according to a Harris-Guardian poll released Wednesday.

"It's a good economy for someone like me, who is a net saver," said James Carville, 79, a veteran Democratic strategist. "But if you're a net borrower, say 26 or 27, given interest rates and insurance rates you don't have much hope of buying a house."

"And these schools are \$75,000 a year in tuition — who the f—k can send someone to college anymore?" Carville added.

Navarro's Latino 'View' ripped

Ana Navarro was roasted as "truly ignorant" and "out of touch" after lambasting Latino Trump supporters for what she deemed their "very stupid attitude" toward immigration.

"There are some Latino immigrants who forget they came here as immigrants ... and who think being anti-immigrant somehow is

going to make them pass as more American," Navarro, a former GOPer and a star of "The View," said Friday on CNN.

Former Texas GOP Rep. Mayra Flores told The Post: "The belittling attacks from ... Ana Navarro ... exemplify precisely why Hispanics are flocking to the [GOP]." *Olivia Land*



PRINT JOB: Sen. Bob Menendez's (left) ongoing bribery trial has led his son, NJ Rep. Rob Menendez (right), to emphasize his first name, not his last, on primary campaign posters.

Don't read the fine print!

Incumbent Rep. Rob Menendez apparently doesn't want anyone knowing his father is Sen. "Gold Bar Bob" Menendez.

The Jersey City lawyer, whose father is being tried on federal bribery charges, opted to magnify his first name on his new campaign signs, while using a much smaller type size for his surname.

The final "E" in his last name mimics the wavy, red stripe "E" in President Biden's 2024 campaign logo.

Democratic consultant Hank Sheinkopf said Menendez's son didn't have much of a choice.

"He knows he has a problem, because of his father's corruption trial," Sheinkopf said. "He's banking on his personal relationship with voters, which he thinks is on a first-name basis."

With the June 4 Democratic

primaries fast approaching, campaign volunteers for Rob Menendez, 38, have peppered utility poles throughout his district with the political posters.

The offices of both Bob and Rob Menendez did not respond to The Post's repeated requests for comment.

The congressman represents New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District, which includes most of Hudson County and parts of Newark and Elizabeth. He first took office in early 2023 after running with signs that displayed his first and last names in the same size.

In 2022, Rob enjoyed a landslide victory over Republican nominee Marcos Arroyo, securing nearly 74% of the vote.

But the latest primary polling gives Hoboken Mayor Ravi Bhalla a five-point lead over Rob. *Chris Harris*

Don's Hunter ammo

Hunter Biden will be an issue for Donald Trump during his debate with President Biden next month, insiders told The Post.

"Either Joe or the CNN moderators will try and bring up one of Trump's legal cases — that's sort of a given — and Trump will throw it right back at them about Hunter Biden's ongoing legal troubles," said one Trump insider. *Jon Levine*

Trump woos Libertarians

Former President Donald Trump urged a raucous crowd at the Libertarian Party's convention Saturday night to ditch their party and endorse him.

"Nominate me or at least vote for me," he urged party members and MAGA voters at the Washington Hilton.

"We're going to have a lot of

Joe loses his 'grid' on reality

President Biden repeated a claim that he turned down an appointment to the Naval Academy, where he said he intended to play football, during his commencement speech at West Point on Saturday.

Biden, 81, told the graduates that he was appointed to the naval academy by Republican Delaware Sen. J. Caleb Boggs years before he'd defeat him in the 1972 election to become a senator.

"I was appointed by the fella I ran against when I was 29 years old to the Naval Academy ... I wanted to play football," Biden said.

"And I'd found out two days earlier they had a quarterback named Roger Staubach and a halfback named Joe Bellino — I said, 'I'm not going there.' I went to [the University of] Delaware. Not a joke," the president said.

Biden told the same story to graduating midshipmen in 2022, where he said he had been accepted to the military institution in 1965, but declined to attend. He didn't give a date in Saturday's version of the tale.

Bellino and Staubach are the only two Navy football players to win the Heisman Trophy. Staubach, also an NFL Hall of Famer, played his first game for Navy in 1962 and graduated in 1964.

Bellino played his last game for Navy in January 1961, four years before Biden says he was appointed to the school.

Biden reportedly played football for Delaware during his freshman year.

Patrick Reilly

fun," Trump said at the top of his speech, adding he "sure as hell" is a libertarian now after being indicted by the federal government and extended his "hand in friendship" to the third party.

Trump's remarks were met with a mix of chants to "Lock him up!" and "We want Trump!"

Diana Glebova



Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

THE Manhattan court docket says it's the "People of the State of New York v. Donald J. Trump."

Legally, yes, but in a larger truth, no. As the case nears the finish line, it increasingly feels as if New York itself is on trial.

Only a top-quality case, beyond reproach and political taint, should have been used to bring the first-ever indictment of a former president. Instead, the city and state put on a show trial long on theatrics—porn star testifies about sex! — and short on evidence that any crime was actually committed.

And so the script has flipped, with the trial itself an assault on the notion that justice is blind. No matter what the jury says about Trump, the prosecutors, the judge, the state court system and the political class have been revealed as thoroughly corrupt.

This is the third time New York Democrats distorted the legal system to serve their partisan aim of destroying Trump. One case involved a change in a statute of limitations law that ultimately led to a defamation ruling against him and a ridiculous fine of \$92 million.

Another murky case, brought by the overtly-partisan state attorney general, concocted a civil fraud charged aimed at bankrupting him. An amateurish state judge who enjoyed the spotlight far too much nodded yes and declared a fine of \$355 million.

These are the rotten fruits of a one-party blue state. The only justice so far is a rough one, with New York Dems inadvertently contributing to Trump's growing popularity and helping him build his lead over President Biden.

Kat's stumble in Bronx

They also managed to prove the former president's claim that his supporters are the ultimate target.

Thanks to Gov. Hochul for opening the kimono on that point. Her description of those New Yorkers who attended Trump's Thursday Bronx rally as "clowns" seals her reputation as a party hack.

Somebody should remind her she's the governor of 20 million people, not just the 6 million who are registered Democrats.

Imagine if Trump had called thousands of mostly-black and Latino supporters at a Biden rally clowns. The New York Times would have stopped the presses to declare him a racist.

Hochul, who recently had to apologize after saying black children in The Bronx grow up with-



Andrea Henaull/ZUMA Press Wire

New York v. Don: Ain't that a sham

out knowing the word "computer," denounced Trump and his supporters even as he vowed to work with her and Mayor Adams to make New York safer and better.

She's never criticized Biden for an open-border policy that has saddled New York with an unmitigated disaster, financially and socially, or played hardball with the far-left radicals running the Legislature.

But she was quick to blast Trump for daring to offer his hand in bipartisanship.

Then again, Hochul's no rookie at smearing opponents. Recall her demand in 2022 that Trump and her GOP opponent, Lee Zeldin, "jump on a bus and head down to Florida where you belong . . . you are not New Yorkers."

She also said Republicans "don't represent our values."
Hmm, which values would that be? Corrupting the courts for political purposes?
Or making New York a leader in

out-migration of residents as families flee high crime, high taxes and poor services?

Unfortunately, Hochul has lots of company on the loony left. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who coddles criminals and ignores their victims, is paying his party dues with the Trump case.

Bragg can't make case

The claim that Trump disguised "hush money" payments to Stormy Daniels to conceal an underlying crime was always a stretch, but now seems like a flight of fancy because Bragg never identified an underlying crime.

As even CNN commentator Fareed Zakaria put it, "I doubt the New York indictment would have been brought against a defendant whose name was not Donald Trump."

What a damning indictment of New York!

thing if it will help settle his score with Trump.

How ironic that his testimony helped his former boss in key ways.

The weaknesses should have been fatal to the prosecution, and would have been except for a judge who has tilted so far in Bragg's direction it's a miracle he doesn't fall out of his chair.

Justice Juan Merchan clearly suffers from Trump Derangement Syndrome and his campaign donations to Biden and Democrats, although small, should have led to his recusal.

Ditto for the fact that his daughter works as a richly-paid consultant for Dems. But instead of stepping aside to give the case a patina of credibility, Merchan slapped a gag order on Trump that, among other things, forbade him from mentioning the judge's family.

Not surprisingly, his rulings about evidence and testimony mostly favored prosecutors, magnifying his conflicts of interest.

Shallow end of jury pool

A Manhattan jury pool was always likely to tilt against Trump, which was surely a factor in Bragg's decision to bring the case. Because a majority of the jurors said they read The New York Times, which is in its eighth year of its jihad against him, a conviction wouldn't be surprising.

Although appeals would not likely be resolved before the election, the case would become an integrity test for the appellate courts. Nearly all of the jurists are Democrats who owe their robes to the state party machine.

For Trump, the partisan math means a hung jury is his best hope. Reports that Biden intends to speak from the White House about the verdict brings into sharp focus the president's fantasy that a guilty verdict would reverse his fading re-election chances.

Perhaps, but it's not clear how much a conviction would hurt Trump politically. Although polls say some voters would be less likely to back him if he's guilty of a felony, the specifics will matter.

Moreover, Trump's support has never depended on his adherence to conventional conduct.

His quip that he could shoot somebody on Fifth Avenue and not lose any voters has proven true enough to get him this far.

And with polls showing that a big majority of voters see Biden as a failing president, a Trump conviction in a sham case will not determine the November outcome.

Bragg once shared the same opinion of the flawed case, dropping the long-running probe soon after taking office in 2022. That put him in good company, with the Federal Election Commission, New York federal prosecutors and his predecessor all previously passing on the case.

But Bragg, in his first elected office, soon caved in to pressure from the Trump haters, including those in the Biden White House and the office of Attorney General Merrick Garland. They saw the criminal case, along with three others Dems brought that are pending, as insurance policies against a second Trump election.

Even then, the lack of direct evidence that Trump committed any crime, let alone 34 felonies, should have been fatal. And any prosecutor who brings a case where Michael Cohen is the prime witness ought to be disbarred.

Cohen is a convicted serial liar and appears willing to say any-

ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

'Wealthy Jewish' parents blamed

WRITING'S ON

A much-anticipated internal report about antisemitism at an elite Manhattan prep school admitted that some faculty members blamed "wealthy and influential" Jewish parents for tensions at the school following Hamas' Oct. 7 terrorist attack.

Finger-pointing faculty, parents and students at the Collegiate School skirted close to "one of the oldest and most pervasive antisemitic tropes," the report, obtained by The Post, conceded.

The findings, compiled in March and released May 17, came after a November letter to head of school David Lourie and board president Jonathan K. Youngwood — signed by more than 100 Jewish parents — that said the school's response to the Hamas butchery "did not meet the moment."

"People have lost confidence, there is no morality clarity, there is a pervasive anger and it is all driven by an erosion of trust," one Jewish parent told The Post.

Another parent griped that the nine-page document was a far cry from a more than 400-page 2020 report about combating "the institutional and other racism that pervades so much of our society" at Collegiate, which is part of the Ivy Preparatory School League.

The report — which also included findings about Islamophobia — also revealed two previously unpublicized antisemitic incidents perpetrated by faculty.

In one case allegedly days after Oct. 7, teacher Dwayne Alexis (inset) was "relieved of his teaching duties after presenting controversial lessons on the Middle East to his 7th-grade civics class and 6th-grade world history class."

Two parents said Alexis accused Israel of "committing genocide." A person familiar with the incident said he mentioned genocide as one of several viewpoints.

In a second case, two teachers were "reprimanded" for asking "pressing questions" of a Holocaust survivor speaking at an assembly.

Jon Levine



PM'S DUTY: Ifat Kalderon (right), cousin of a Hamas hostage, called on the Israeli PM on Saturday to reach a deal to free the captives after the release of video (left) of terrorists threatening to rape Israelis.

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

A relative of an Israeli hostage slammed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for allowing women kidnapped by Hamas to be "raped" by failing to secure their release — days after bodycam footage released to the public showed the terrorists threatening to sexually assault abductees on Oct. 7.

Ifat Kalderon, whose cousin, Ofer, is still held captive in Gaza, tore into the Israeli leader Saturday at a Tel Aviv press conference attended by several hostages' family members, claiming that Netanyahu has repeatedly nuked potential deals that would free their loved ones "Because of [Netanyahu], our sisters and daughters are now being raped in Gaza. Because of him, our parents, brothers, and sons are exposed to torture and death," she said.

"It is your duty to stop his attempts to thwart the deal. If you do not do this — you will become partners in the crime of abandonment," she added.

"The blood of the abductees who will not return alive will also be on your hands."

Saturday's protest came amid an escalating pressure campaign on Netanyahu to secure a ceasefire deal and free the remaining hostages.

Among the efforts to turn up the heat was the release of sickening footage this week that showed Hamas terrorists ab-

ducting five female soldiers at the Nahal Oz base outside Gaza.

In the video, Hamas fighters can be heard planning sexual violence against the women, who are surrounded by the corpses of their murdered comrades.

"Here are the girls who can get pregnant," one of the gunmen said in the clip.

Omri Lifshitz, whose son Oded is also still held captive in Gaza, said at the press conference that no parent should have

to watch such nightmarish scenes.

"All of us, with the exception of some cold-hearted ministers, watched the horrific video of the abduction of observation soldiers," he said. "The govern-



Reuters

Save hostages from rape: kin

THE WALL, VANDAL

By DANA KENNEDY



DIVIDED: The Israeli military is probing a masked soldier's video (left) urging Benjamin Netanyahu (top) to push for "complete victory" in Gaza and denouncing Defense Minister Yoav Gallant (bottom).

ment of Israel abandoned them on October 7 and is continuing to abandon them now."

In other developments:

■ The Israel Defense Forces said Saturday it launched a criminal probe into a soldier who called for a mutiny if the government backs down from a "complete victory" against Hamas.

In a viral video, a masked reservist addresses Netanyahu from what appears to be a wrecked building in Gaza, backing the hawkish Israeli leader and declaring he and his fellow soldiers refuse to "hand the keys over" to the Palestinians.

"Reservist soldiers are behind you and we want to win," he said, before he tore into Defense Minister Yoav Gallant,

who in recent weeks has clashed with Netanyahu over plans for governing Gaza after the war with Hamas, demanding the war cabinet member step down.

■ Palestinians fled Jabalia in northern Gaza on Friday as the IDF continued its operations to take out Hamas fighters who had regrouped in the refugee camp, video footage showed.

■ An international effort to provide aid to starving Gazans through a \$320 million US-constructed pier has struggled in its first week of operations. Just 820 tons of aid was delivered via the pier, and roughly a dozen trucks from the pier failed to reach their final destination, having been raided by desperate Palestinians, United Nations officials have said.

A student at a woke New York City school is facing "disciplinary consequences" after being identified Saturday as the vandal who defaced its entrance with anti-Israel graffiti.

Though there were two students thought to be involved in the graffiti incident at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, a spokesperson for the Bronx institution insisted there was just one culprit, who was identified following an "immediate" investigation and will now be disciplined.

The senior wrote "Free Palestine" in yellow letters on the brick wall above the \$63,000-a-year school's front entrance Monday afternoon, a source told The Post.

The vandalism was apparently live-streamed, the source said, though it was not known whether a recording of it existed.

The troubling incident prompted school administrators to host a "listening session" with parents Wednesday night, including many "Jewish affinity group parents."

Another source said Saturday that a female student wrote "From the River to the Sea" — a rallying cry that calls for the eradication of the Jewish state — on school property several weeks ago.

"It's all a mess," a source familiar with the situation told The Post. "The school isn't being upfront about the incidents so no one really knows what's going on."

'We are still waiting'

Meanwhile, it emerged Saturday that a group of Jewish Fieldston families and alumni wrote a "Stop Antisemitism" letter to administrators on May 19 with a list of 10 demands to make the Ivy Preparatory School League school safer for their kids as a result of the anti-Israel incidents.

"All of us chose to join the ECFS community because we expected it to deliver the promise inherent in its name — an ethical culture," the letter obtained by The Post said. "Indeed, many of us have fought for social justice on behalf of the non-Jewish minorities at this school with the post-Holocaust vow, 'Never Again' in our hearts. We write now to tell you that, during this Jewish American History and Mental Health Awareness Month, we are not okay." They asked that a task force

Fieldston IDs student behind pro-Pal graffiti



'ALL A MESS': An Ethical Culture Fieldston School senior wrote "free Palestine" across the \$63,000-a-year Bronx institution's front entrance Monday. The school said Saturday there would be "disciplinary consequences."

made up of parents, faculty, administrators and students be organized by June 1 and that teachers commit to mandatory courses on Judaism, the Holocaust, the Jewish Diaspora and the history of antisemitism in all middle and upper school grades — which would be overseen by an expert and the task force.

"For months, your administration has assured us repeatedly that (1) support for us, (2) effective antisemitism education for the whole community and (3) a plan for dialogue and education about the Middle East and Israeli/Palestinian conflict were each forthcoming," the letter read. "We are still waiting."

As of May 22, 857 people had signed the letter.

No one answered the phone Saturday at Fieldston when The Post called the school — which was founded in 1878 by Felix

Adler, the son of a rabbi.

The Post also obtained a letter from nearby Riverdale Country School administrators about an incident in which a student found a swastika drawn on a desk earlier this month.

The student alerted teachers and administrators, who said they conducted an investigation but doubted the guilty party would be found, according to the letter.

Riverdale said that it was offering "optional counseling spaces" for students.

"Hate has no place at Riverdale and anyone who perpetuates such acts will be subject to immediate dismissal from our school," the letter read.

Fieldston, Riverdale Country School and Horace Mann School, all located in the tony Riverdale section of The Bronx, are collectively known as the "Hill schools."

Additional reporting by Chris Nesi

Rikers 'revenge' on assault officer

By TINA MOORE

He was once an NYPD whistleblower cop — and is now a Rikers Island inmate.

Former Sgt. Steven Lee, who helped expose the karaoke-bar corruption scandal in a Queens precinct a decade ago, was found guilty of two counts of misdemeanor assault May 14 for an off-duty brawl at a Chelsea nightclub in 2021.



A judge sentenced him to six months in the infamous jail — where he is being housed

next to a cop killer and a drug dealer who beheaded a man.



“On one side I have the killer in the killing,” Lee told The Post in a phone call Thursday. “There’s also the drug dealer who beheaded a man right here. Why am I here for assault 3 [the least severe charge]?”

Lee admitted to striking a man during the melee, but the man wasn’t badly injured, he said. He argued that he was protecting a woman from sexual assault. Another person in his group severely injured someone in the brawl and was also charged.



‘INJUSTICE’: Former Sgt. Steven Lee said his six-month stint at Rikers Island, next to alleged cop killer Guy Rivera (top inset) and murderous drug dealer Nicholas McGee (bottom), for a misdemeanor charge from a bar fight is retaliation.

Whistleblower cop locked up with killers

“They grabbed her breast and they grabbed her ass,” Lee said. “The boyfriend knocked them out. It wasn’t even me.”

The people who arrested Lee on assault charges the night of the fight were some of the same officers whom he helped investigate for corruption in 2013, including a detective whom he’d arrested, he said.

Lee is in solitary confinement at Rikers to protect him — next to the two hardened criminals.

They seem to like him, he said. “They were friendly with me,” said Lee, who was fired by the NYPD after a department trial for the fight. “They were sympathetic to me because I’m fighting the system. They were like, ‘You’re one of the good guys.’”

Lee was referring to Nicholas McGee, who is in jail awaiting trial on charges of murder, robbery and concealment of a human corpse in the death of 40-year-old Kawsheen Gelzer; and Guy Rivera, who is accused of shooting Diller to death in Queens on March 25.

Corruption scandal

All along, Lee has claimed that the criminal justice system is retaliating against him for blowing the whistle.

Lee had started working with the NYPD’s Internal Affairs Bureau after he was transferred to the 109th Precinct in Flushing, Queens, in 2013 — and found the owner of karaoke bars acting as a

front for a prostitution ring was paying officers to cover up the operation and intimidate johns, he said.

But before long, Lee was blowing the whistle on Internal Affairs, claiming that his IAB handlers were more interested in damage control for the department than exposing wider corruption and only went after a couple of officers, who ultimately pleaded to lesser charges. “I was exposing IAB,” he said. “IAB is nothing but smoke and mirrors and damage control.”

Lee also committed the cardinal sin of talking to the media about the corruption without permission and went on a podcast in 2020, he said. IAB also opened a probe about the episode.

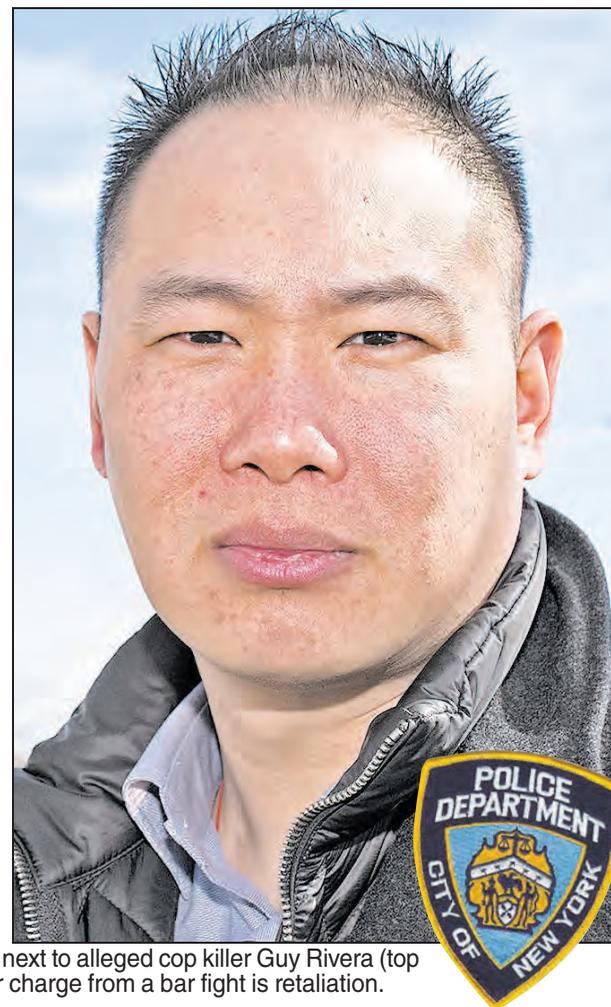
“When I did the podcast, they really came down on me and they really wanted to fire me,” he said. “So when this incident happened, they were all over it.”

Lee has a toddler son with autism and said he hopes to get home soon.

“I hate that I can’t be there to help him,” he said.

Lee’s jail sentence is “insane,” said attorney Peter Brill, who represented him at his NYPD trial.

“Who goes to jail on a first time misdemeanor offense who was a police officer for 18 years,” he said. “I know the judge may have been pissed that he didn’t show any remorse but does that equate to six months in jail? I think NYC is the only place you get treated worse when you’re a cop.”



Dennis A. Clark



‘Murder rap’ cop’s new union gig

A disgraced former NYPD cop, forced to quit after fatally shooting an elderly schizophrenic woman in The Bronx, has found a new job working for one of the city’s police unions, The Post has learned.

Hugh Barry, who was tried and acquitted for murder and manslaughter for

the 2016 killing of 66-year-old Deborah Danner, is described on the website for the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the NYPD as a reimbursement coordinator.

Barry (right) was forced to resign in 2023 following an internal review of the fatal incident, which found he

“exercised poor tactical judgment.”

His actions on the job cost the city \$2 million, after it settled a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Danner’s twin sister, Jennifer, who declined to comment.

It was unclear what Barry’s new job entails, or when he started working

for the SBA, which did not respond to The Post’s numerous requests for comment.

Barry did not return calls.

In 2017, Barry was arrested for shooting Danner (left), becoming the first on-duty cop to face a murder rap since 1999.

Chris Harris



Kiss-story repeats itself for Fleet Wk.

Evangeline Lim and lucky sailor Brandon O'Connell recreate 1945's iconic Times Square V-J Day smooch just steps away, as a Fleet Week bash at West 39th Street pub The Dean spills out onto the sidewalk.



WHITE NOT RIGHT

Census-twist bill

By RICH CALDER

A controversial bill being pushed by lefty legislators in Albany is trying to make the Empire State less “white,” critics say.

The legislation, sponsored by Assemblywoman Jessica González-Rojas (D-Queens) and Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Queens), would mandate state agencies and other entities use separate categories for Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) New Yorkers when collecting demographics data — rather than relying on the US Census, which classifies them under one “white” umbrella.

The state Senate on Thursday voted unanimously to pass it, but González-Rojas’ version of the bill is still facing pushback in the Assembly.

Both pols argue “MENA” individuals don’t benefit from “white privilege” — and instead face discrimination by falsely being associated with the 9/11 terror attacks. They also say the current system shuts MENA individuals out of qualifying for minority-owned business grants, language programs and other critical government aid.

“This bill isn’t anti-white — it’s pro-MENA,” González-Rojas told The Post. “Data is power. It will give elected representatives and state agencies and institutions the tools to better understand the unique and diverse needs of all New Yorkers.”

However, state Assemblyman Alec Brook-

Kransy, a Brooklyn-based Democrat-turned-Republican, disagreed, saying he believes the endgame is “de-whiting” New York.

“I am deeply concerned that this further separation of New Yorkers into categories . . . may lead to more division,” he said. “If the desire is inclusion, then why are we pushing a path of forcing legislation that will clearly result in separation and further division in our society?”

State Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo (R-Staten Island) agreed, saying the bill stinks of “hypocrisy.”

“They want to fight systemic exclusion with systemic exclusion,” he said.

‘Erasure’

The bill covers people of Egyptian, Moroccan, Libyan and North African, Iranian, Palestinian, Israeli, Lebanese and Middle Eastern descent.

New York City is home to some of the largest Middle Eastern and North African communities in the nation, including the “Little Egypt” enclave in Astoria, which Gianaris and González-Rojas represent.

The Biden administration is in the process of adding a “Middle Eastern or North African” identifier to official documents.

But “this bill would . . . go into effect sooner” than the 2030 Census, González-Rojas said. “These communities have been made invisible from this decades-old erasure for too long and each year only furthers that erasure.”

WW2 Navy sub found off Philippines

A long-lost legendary Navy submarine has been found nearly 80 years after it was torpedoed by Imperial Japanese forces.

The USS Harder was found resting 3,000 feet below the ocean near the Philippine island of Luzon, the Naval History and Heritage Com-

mand announced Friday.

The World War II ship — which earned the nickname “Hit ‘em HARDER” for its success rate — was found sitting upright and “relatively intact” except for some damage behind its conning tower.

“Harder was lost in the course of

victory. We must not forget that victory has a price, as does freedom,” said NHHHC Director Samuel J. Cox, US Navy rear admiral.

The sub was lost at sea on Aug. 24, 1944, with 79 aboard. It will likely not be touched, and will serve as a war grave for its crew. *Katherine Donlevy*

High-fly pall over soaring NY prices

\$ SQUEEZE PLAY ON FANS

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

Take me out — to the bank!

Most families need a second mortgage to root, root, root for the home team these days, as the cost of tickets, parking and concessions soar at Citi Field and Yankee Stadium, a Post analysis found.

A family of four can easily spend \$523 to see the Mets, and blow a whopping \$860 for a day with the Bronx Bombers, a Post analysis found.

“Want to buy my kidney?” said Jessica Walters, 47, whose family dropped \$84 on ice cream, burgers and fries just for their children during a recent Mets game against the Pirates. “It feels like I need to sell it after buying everything here for us and the kids.”

College professor Amy Cianci, watching the Yankees clobber the Marlins last month with her twin 9-year-old sons and husband, lamented, “They’re pricing out families — it’s pretty much a privilege to go to a game these days.”

The Ciancis used to drive into the city for at least a half-dozen games a season, the mother said. But with off-site parking nearly doubling to \$50 and beer prices creeping up to about \$16 a can, they hadn’t been to a game in two years.

“Between parking, tickets and food, it’s \$400 a game easily, if not more,” she said. “In this economy, you can’t afford that.”

Yankee fans’ wallets have suffered a squeeze play amid soaring inflation, with the total cost of attending a game jumping nearly 11% between 2021 and 2023, according to a study by industry group Team Marketing Report. Amazins’ die-hards have had to stomach a roughly 4% increase.

“The one thing about baseball that was nice was it was affordable

| Ballpark item | Citi Field | Yankee Stadium |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Parking | \$40 | \$47 |
| Tickets (4) | \$237 | \$578 |
| Beer (4) | \$64 | \$61 |
| Water (2) | \$11 | \$12 |
| Soda (2) | \$14 | \$16 |
| Burgers (4) | \$52 | \$36 |
| Fries (4) | \$30 | \$37 |
| Peanuts (2) | \$14 | \$11 |
| Cracker Jack (2) | \$13 | \$14 |
| Kids’ ballcap (2) | \$48 | \$48 |
| TOTAL | \$523 | \$860 |

for a family, but for these prices, we wouldn’t go too often in a season,” said Bayside dad Keith Grande, 51, who dropped around \$450 for his family of three, including his 9-year-old daughter, Iris, to see the Yankees play.

“My daughter likes baseball, softball, so I like to do this for her.”

Ripping it

In addition to \$47 third-party parking, tickets for a terrace-level seat behind home plate — one level down from the nosebleeds — run a jaw-dropping \$147 per ticket. Citi Field is a relative bargain, at \$59 for an equivalent ticket.

And once inside, concessions are anything but peanuts.

At Citi Field, attendees blew

\$20.50 for a Shake Shack burger and fries, up 25% from six years ago, before shelling out another \$16 for beer. Up in The Bronx, fans are paying \$18 for a similar combo, plus \$15 for a tallboy Bud Light.

And Mets fans with fancier tastes can shell out \$40 for a lobster-and-filet mignon sandwich from Pat LaFrieda, washed with a \$59 “souvenir carafe” of wine or \$26.55 for a blueberry vodka “Metropolitan” cocktail.

“They’re going to price out the casual fan and it’s going to destroy the future of baseball,” said Flushing lawyer Peter Carrozzo, 52, who noted Citi Field feels these days more like a scene-y club than a baseball diamond.

“There’s no way in hell my dad would be caught dead at a baseball

game now,” he added.

The Mets have offered some reprieves to fans’ wallets, like \$1 hot dog night. During the one-night promo, Citi Field ended up selling a record-breaking 44,269 dogs, according to Mets spokesman Ethan Wilson.

They’ve also introduced the “Keepin’ It 100” package, which is available for 50 of the team’s 80 home games and gives families four tickets, hot dogs, pretzels and drinks for \$100.

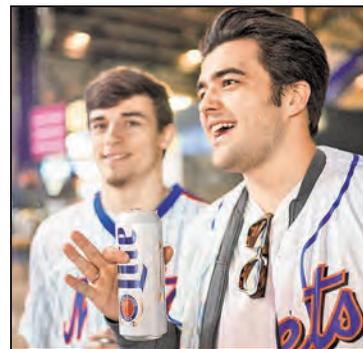
Wilson insisted the Mets also have offered packages to make games affordable for families and noted \$13 tickets are often available for nosebleed seats at Citi Field.

Jason Zillo, a Yankees spokesman, declined to comment.



Michael McWeeney

STEALING BASES: Dad Keith Grande said his family dropped \$450 to take his 9-year-old daughter, Iris (above), to see the Yankees, while Mets fans shell out \$15 for tallboys of light beer.



Ranger fans stick it to foes

New York Ranger fans are as cold as ice, according to a study of the fan bases of the National Hockey League’s 32 teams.

Forty-four percent of 286 Blueshirts surveyed by Casino.org confessed to unruly behavior, including taunting, trash-talking, throwing food, and even dropping the gloves against rival fans — ranking them third worst in the league.

By contrast, New York Islanders fans are relatively warm-hearted, with a score of 8.3%, putting them next to last, just ahead of those polite Canadians, the Ottawa Senators fans (5.5%).

The feisty Garden faithful get into the second-most fights of all fan bases, with 11% admitting that they’d brawled with backers of opposing teams. Chicago Blackhawks fans were more violent, with 22% confessing to tussles inside the arena.

One in three Rangers fans said they boo the opposing team, and one in four said they cheer when a rival player is injured.

Their attitude toward opponents earned the Blue-shirt boosters an overall “aggression score” of 82.8% — behind only Chicago fans (96.9%) and Colorado Avalanche fanatics (94%).

Georgia Worrell

‘Blue’ sky high on LI

You know summer is in the air when you look up on Jones Beach and see the Blue Angels practicing for their annual performance in Bethpage, LI.

A record crowd flocked to the shore Friday to get a sneak preview of the aerial acrobatics.

Once a well-kept secret, the Navy squadron rehearses its stunts ahead of Saturday and Sunday’s Bethpage Air Show at the oceanfront state park. But 106,000 gathered to marvel at the fighter jets, Newsday reported, shattering last year’s record of 67,000 who came out for the trial run.

Deirdre Bardolf

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Parks & recreation

GAYLE King attended the Gordon Parks Foundation gala to help honor **Myrlie Evers-Williams**, widow of civil rights activist Medgar Evers. “I come to this event every year because we know what [Gordon Parks] represents,” King told Page Six of the groundbreaking Life magazine fotog. “It’s always good to pay tribute to him.” Parks was also a vanguard in Hollywood, defining the blaxploitation genre with his 1971 film “Shaft.” King, who’s on the cover of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue, told us of the print achievement, “I haven’t changed! I’m sure about that.” **Alicia Keys**, **Swizz Beatz** and **Usher** were also at the glitzy gala, which raised more than \$2 million.



Home schooling

CHRISTINE Taylor (above) and hubby **Ben Stiller** will have an empty nest when their youngest, **Quinlin**, 18, starts college. “Our son decided on a school in New York and we’re very happy,” Taylor (above) told The Post’s **Nicki Gostin** at the Gordon Parks Foundation gala. “Both of my kids are still going to be in New York City, so I feel like I’ll see them often and I’m happy with that! It’s the best of both worlds.” Quinlin’s big sister, **Ella**, 22, just finished the Juilliard drama program. “I’m thrilled for both of them,” Taylor said. “Two graduations this week! It’s a happy time.”

FOUR years after a major shake-up, Essence is still struggling to find its new spirit.

The magazine’s new boss, **Caroline Wanga**, is either a “narcissist” ruling a “culture of fear” — or a mentor “fostering” a “new generation” — depending on who you speak to as a rift runs through the brand.

Essence is expanding at the same time its staff and C-suite is shrinking. Parent company Sundial Media Group recently welcomed youthful digital entity Refinery29 to its corporate family on Essence’s behalf.

But we’re told an allegedly “toxic workplace culture” continues to permeate the halls of the leading lifestyle magazine for black women.

The alleged workplace grievances come four years after an anonymous essay called for change. The issue forced the resignation of several top execs, including former CEO **Richelieu Dennis**, who purchased the company from defunct Time Inc. in 2018.

He appointed former Target DEI exec Wanga as the new president and CEO.

VP of content for Essence Ventures and senior content director of Essence communications **Nandi Howard** told us, “Rich and Caroline champion the next generation.” And longtime Essence employee and VP of video and branded content **Stephanie NöNe Dunivan** added, “As someone reporting directly to Car-

oline, I have been nurtured by her for the past four years.”

We hear that at least seven top female execs — who were new hires — have exited the company under Wanga’s tenure. An insider alleged, “Employees do not have psychological safety to report HR issues without fear of retaliation,” adding that Dennis’ family has considerable influence at the company.

A spokesperson for Essence countered: “For the past four years, team members have had access to a 24 hours a day external and independent HR team that gives them the ability for anonymous reporting, and we continue to create opportunities for our community to grow.”



Coco Rocha brings a little horticulture to the Cannes Film Festival in full-bloom **Cheney Chan** at the premiere of “The Most Precious of Cargoes.”

What’s shaking?

IT’S food for thought! When the Edmonton Oilers went into a second overtime with the Dallas Stars in the Stanley Cup Playoffs on Thursday night, NHL great-turned-commentator **Wayne Gretzky** was asked by his TNT colleagues what the athletes might be eating in the locker room for energy. He recalled that in his day, players were offered cut-up oranges, but he said “I went for the pizza.” Retired Rangers star goalie **Henrik Lundqvist** chimed in to say today’s players are having protein shakes. The “Great One” replied: “Closest thing we had to shakes is when they’d call Dairy Queen and they’d deliver ‘em.”

Into the shadows

PARIS Hilton’s hubby **Carter Reum** has no desire to be in the spotlight like his wife. “I would like nothing more than to be behind my laptop and my big screen,” he said in a joint interview with **Ryan Knutson** for The Wall Street Journal’s Future of Everything Festival. The bizman, who married Hilton in 2021, shared he “has the greatest wife. I just fell in love with this girl named Paris during lockdown and for that I’ll be forever grateful.”



Down the drain

DAISY Ridley (above) confessed to Page Six that she wasn’t much of a swimmer when she started filming “The Young Woman and the Sea.” “I’d never done a full length [of a pool],” said the actress, who plays American swimmer Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel. Sadly, whatever skills she learned have probably lapsed — pun intended. “I haven’t swum since the film! I did it, swam really hard and then thought, ‘My time in the water is done, buh-bye!’” Also at the premiere and an after-party at the Fulton by Jean-Georges were former Vogue creative director at-large **Grace Coddington**, director **Lee Daniels**, “Succession” star and Tony nominee **Juliana Canfield** and **Joshua Bell**.

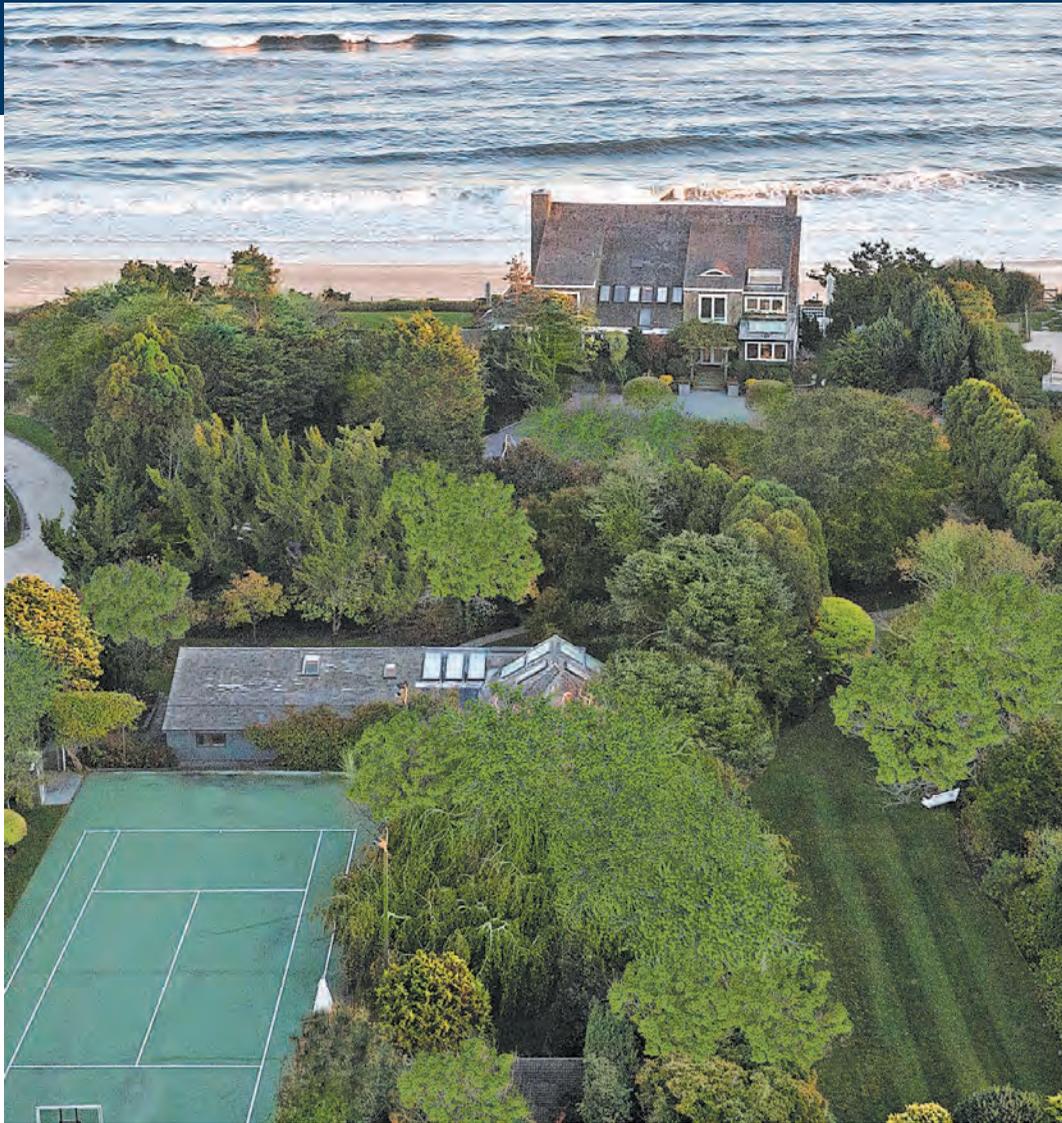
Kramer’s ‘secret’ birth story

“SEINFELD” alum **Michael Richards** didn’t find out until he was an adult that he was conceived when his mother was raped. The Cosmo Kramer portrayer writes in his memoir, “Entrances and Exits,” that his unmarried mother had plans to get an abortion in Mexico, but they fell through. Instead, when she gave birth she listed the father as a “William Richards” and gave her son up for adoption. But after a few weeks, she had a change of heart and was able to retrieve him. For years, the comedian, 74, peppered his mother with questions about his dad but never got a straight answer. He even hired a private detective to go off the meager, false clues his mom divulged. Finally, after a lot of prodding, his mother shared that “she didn’t want to have sex with the man whose name she never knew. The man pushed himself on her.” Richards writes that his mother had few options. “Getting pregnant out of wedlock was seen as the mother’s fault,” he writes, so instead she invented a husband who died tragically in a car crash. “Dodging my questions about my father was my mother’s way of protecting me from how ugly that incident was for her . . . Oh my sweet mother. I am so sorry, I just didn’t know.”

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Gimme Shelter

JENNIFER GOULD



337 Riverside Drive

Tim Waltham / Evan Joseph (2)

HOUSE DJ

THE childhood home of DJ and entrepreneur **Hannah Bronfman** (below) — one of the rare landmarked Gilded Age mansions to grace the Upper West Side — is now on sale for half off. The red brick and limestone mansion at 337

Riverside Drive hit the market for \$24 million last May and now asks \$12.99 million following a broker swap. **Carl Gambino** is listing the turn-of-the-century property with fellow Compass broker **Oliver Gold**. The 35-foot-wide, five-story residence is known as River Mansion — the name is carved in stone above the front door — and flanked by carved columns

inspired by 16th-century French architecture. It's one of seven Beaux-Arts mansions from 330 to 337 Riverside Drive, known as the Seven Beauties, and it sits on the corner by Riverside Park at West 106th Street. The seller is Bronfman's mother **Sherry Bronfman**, a former actress who co-starred in the 1971 film "Shaft." She is the ex-wife of Seagram billionaire heir Edgar Bronfman. Hannah Bronfman, now a mom of two married to **Brendan Fallis**, grew up here with her siblings **Vanessa**, a singer-actor, and **Benjamin**, a musician and entrepreneur who shares a child with rapper M.I.A. The stately five-bedroom home is 10,000 square feet with a 2,000-square-foot roof deck overlooking the Hudson River. The spread has quite the history. It's been in the hands of female actresses, from Bronfman to Shakespearean actress Julia Marlowe, who paid \$68,000 for the property in 1903. The home has been in the Bronfman family since 1978.



Getty Images

Shopping isles

A NEW Venetian Islands, Fla., property has hit the market for \$26 million — and it's not even a megamansion. The waterfront home, at 310 W. Dilido Dr., is almost cozy at just 5,787 square feet. "The Venetian Islands aren't known for large homes, but this one has five bedrooms and an ideal layout," said listing broker **Dina Goldentayer** of Douglas Elliman. "It's also on the Gold Coast, the Billionaires' Row of the Venetian Islands,"

310 W Dilido Dr.



Goldentayer added. "It has southern exposure with downtown [Miami] views." Billionaire **Peter Thiel**, co-founder of PayPal and Palantir, owns in the man-made islands, as does **Justin Korsant**, CEO of Long Light Capital. The new construction waterfront home was completed this year. Details include a chef's kitchen and a main bedroom suite with white oak floors. Four Venetian Islands properties have traded in the last 90 days for more than \$20 million, including 416 W. San Marino Drive, which Korsant just bought for \$23 million.

Jazzed up

IRA (inset) and **George Gershwin** created beautiful music that defined the American Jazz Age — and for a time, the brothers did so while living side by side in adjacent penthouses on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Now, Ira's four-bedroom, 3½-bath residence at 33 Riverside Drive is on the market for \$5.19 million — a drop from what the sellers paid for it almost a decade ago. The roomy 2,000-square-foot residence last traded in 2016 for \$5.99 million. Born in Brooklyn to



33 Riverside Drive

Niall Schröder / Corbis/VCG via Getty Images

Russian-Jewish immigrants, the Gershwin brothers lived in the building from 1929 until 1933, and often hosted A-list parties attended by up-and-coming stars such as Ethel Merman. Ira's former co-op opens from a private elevator landing. A large living room with picture windows and French doors leads to the 1,000-square-foot wrap terrace — with sweeping city and Hudson River views. Douglas Elliman's **Ann Cutbill Lenane** has the listing.

322 E. 57th St.



Senate floors

A SUTTON Place duplex once owned by the late Sen. Jacob K. Javits (inset) and his wife Marion is back on the market for \$5.99 million. The four-bedroom, three-bath home is at 322 E. 57th St. between First and Second avenues, with the famed Mr. Chow on the ground floor. The 22-story building features a neo-classical limestone facade and has just 20 units. Over the years, it has been home to quite a distinguished group including Orson Welles; Clay Felker, the late founder of New York magazine; artist Tamara de Lempicka and Ambassador **Georgette Mosbacher**, according to reports. Javits, a liberal Republican, served as a four-term senator for New York from 1957 to 1981. The couple bought the property in the 1970s. The seller is film art collector and producer **Dorothy Berwin**. Having been in the Javits family for four decades, she bought the 12th-floor duplex for \$4.4 million in 2018, and modernized it with the help of designers **Sandra Arndt** of Studio AKTE and **Sybill Schneider** of Leroy Street Studio. The listing brokers are Douglas Elliman's **Noble Black**, **Erik Ternon** and **Jamie Gagliano**.



Tina Gallo for Douglas Elliman; Universal Images Group via Getty Images



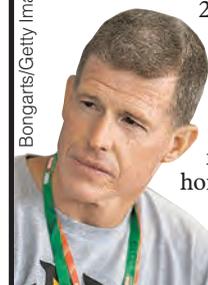
9240 Robin Drive

Christopher Amitrano

Hog heaven

THIS Mediterranean-style mansion built and once owned by retired Grand Prix motorcycle racer **John Kocinski** (below), which once asked \$30 million, is now back on the market for \$10.49 million. Architect **Richard Robertson III**, who handled Fleur de Lys — a 45,000-square-foot megamansion that sold for \$102 million in cash in 2014 — designed the home in the Hollywood Hills' Bird Streets area. Kocinski bought the LA property at 9240 Robin Drive for \$2.3 million in 2004, built the house in 2007 and then listed it for that hefty \$30 million sum. Ultimately, **Michael Shabani**, founder of Crown Equity, ended up buying it for \$6.5 million in 2022 at a no-reserve auction. At 7,682 square feet, the white stucco and clay tile home comes with four bedrooms and a screening room, a library and an 800-bottle wine cellar. The listing brokers are Official's **Brent Watson** and **Marco Salari**.

Bongarts/Getty Images





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By RAQUEL LANERI

JOHAN F. Kennedy Jr. had a lot on his mind. The 33-year-old law school grad had recently quit his job at the district attorney's office and was trying to start his own magazine. His mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and his best friend, cousin Anthony Radziwill, were diagnosed with cancer in the same month. And he was in a tumultuous relationship with Daryl Hannah, the sultry star of the mermaid movie "Splash" and the daughter of a billionaire.

Yet, Kennedy could not stop thinking about Carolyn Bessette, a 28-year-old blonde who worked in fashion. He had met her about a year and a half ago and had dated her on and off — mostly off — since then. But he admitted to an old friend that she was "having a heavy effect on him."

"Well, she's not really anybody," he said when this pal pressed him for more details. "She's some functionary of Calvin Klein's... She's an ordinary person."

Bessette was not rich, not famous, not from an esteemed family nor Ivy League school. Yet this "ordinary" woman ended up snagging JFK Jr., America's prince, the second son of President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jackie and — per People magazine — the "sexiest man alive."

They married in 1996. Their wedding, on a remote island off the coast of Georgia, was like something out of a fairy tale.

Except, as Elizabeth Beller writes in her new book, "Once Upon a Time: The Captivating Life of Carolyn Bessette-Ken-

nedey" (Gallery Books, out now), it was more like a nightmare.

The tabloids dubbed Bessette an "ice queen," "gold digger," "coke head" and "cheater." The paparazzi hounded her, yelling obscenities at her as she left the Tribeca loft she shared with hubby "John John." She went on antidepressants; she was scared to leave the house.

Unfairly characterized

Even after the couple's tragic death in a plane crash in 1999, Bessette remained an elusive, distant figure. At best, she was exalted as a '90s fashion plate, thanks to her minimalist chic.

At worst, she was blamed for her husband's untimely demise: Their ill-fated plane was supposedly delayed because she made her pedicurist change her nail polish three times. In fact, Beller reports, she got to the airport at the same time as her husband and sister Lauren, who also perished in the crash.

"There seemed to be a need to deprive her of nuance and humanity," writes Beller in the introduction. "As

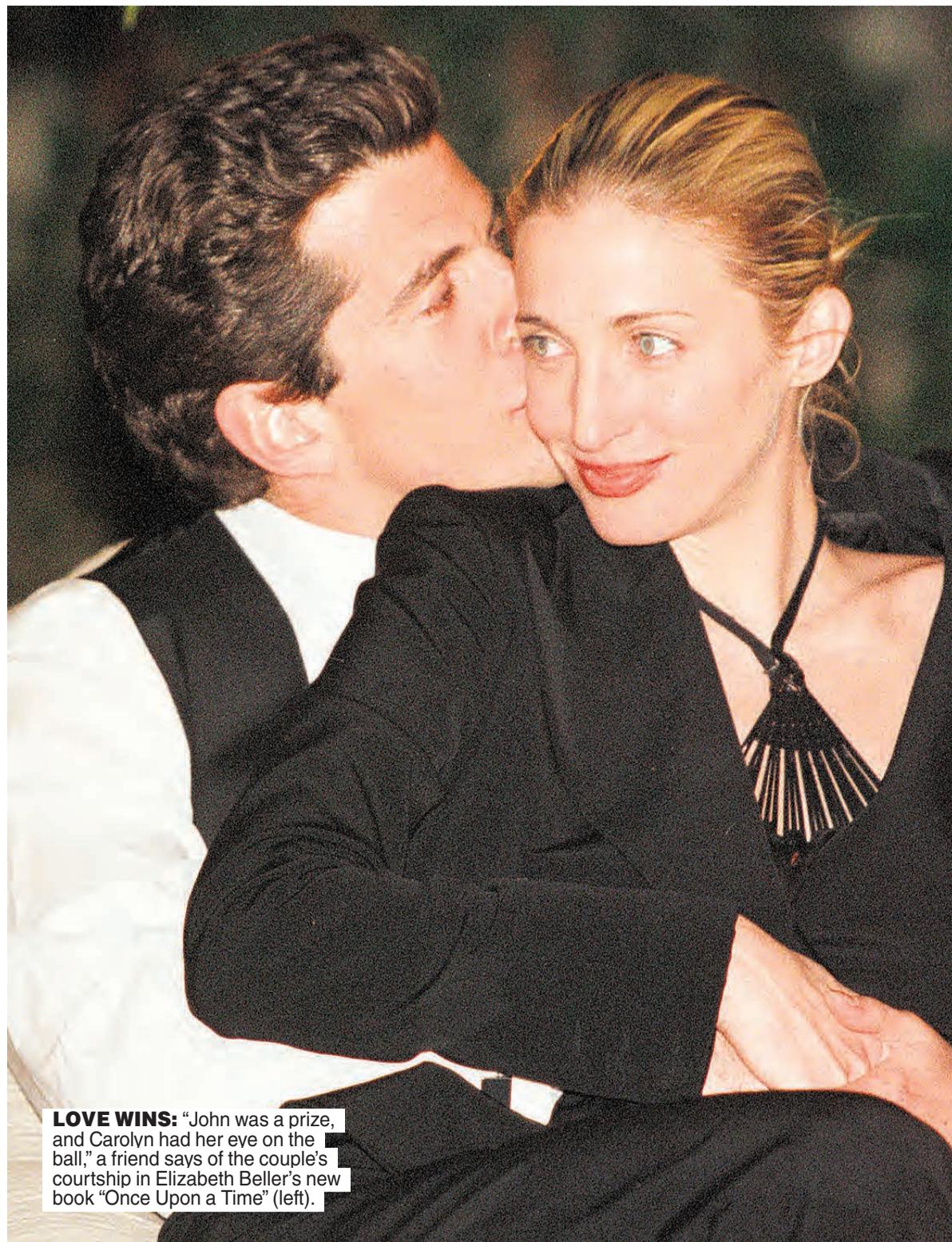
though she were required to play a villain role in a larger cultural narrative."

"Once Upon a Time" aims to paint a more flattering portrait.

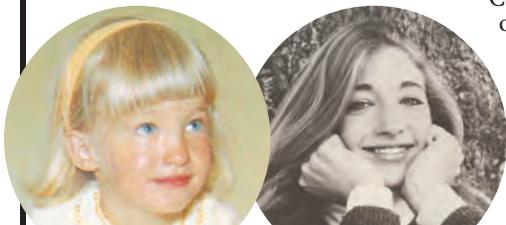
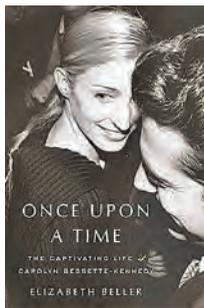
"I wanted to recount Carolyn's story in a way that situated her at the center of her own narrative," Beller writes. "When

she appears in volumes of Kennedy literature, it is often as a sidebar without empathy, compassion or desire to understand who she really was. It's time she got her due."

Carolyn Bessette was born on Jan. 7, 1966, the youngest of three girls. Her parents divorced when she was 8, but her schoolteacher mother remarried a few years later, and the family moved from middle-



LOVE WINS: "John was a prize, and Carolyn had her eye on the ball," a friend says of the couple's courtship in Elizabeth Beller's new book "Once Upon a Time" (left).



'ORDINARY' BEGINNINGS: Carolyn Bessette spent her early years (top left) in middle-class White Plains, NY, but by high school (top right), she was living in tony Greenwich, Conn. In 1985 (above) Bessette (from left), her cousin Abbi Nori Nelson, their grandma Anna Bessette, and Carolyn's twin sisters Lisa and Lauren gathered at an aunt's house in Woodbury, Conn.

class White Plains, NY, to tony Greenwich, Conn.

Bessette studied education at Boston University, but landed a job assisting VIP clients at Calvin Klein after graduation. One of those clients was JFK Jr. The two met during a fitting in 1992. He was charmed by her poise and wit. He left with several suits and her number.

The romance was rocky from the start. He invited her to a gala dinner — and then showed up with another woman. Another time, he arrived two hours late to dinner, and she threw a glass of wine in his face.

He broke up with her after he received a letter from a friend

claiming Bessette was a "user" and "partier" who "dated guys around town" and was "out for fame and fortune." (He rekindled his romances with Daryl Hannah and model Julie Baker; she rebounded with her ex, a hunky Calvin Klein model.)

A rocky courtship

"Carolyn was upset, but not despondent," one of her friends tells Beller about that incident. "She also knew, deep down, that this would not be the end. John was a prize, and Carolyn had her eye on the ball."

He came crawling back in earnest after the death of his beloved

mother. Bessette, Beller writes, was the only one who could assuage his grief, and yet she remained "irked" that her boyfriend never introduced her to Jackie.

In fact, Kennedy once squired Bessette out the side door of a restaurant when he spotted his mother across the room. "Does he think I'm blind?" Jackie later asked a friend.

Bessette's own mother, by the way, wasn't entirely keen on her daughter's fair-weather beau. "He's sweet, but that entire scene is too much drama," she said after she met him.

Still, they were drawn to each other. They got a dog; she moved into his loft. She consulted on his

SWEETER CAROLYN

A new book
defrosts Carolyn
Bessette's
cocaine-loving ice
queen image and
paints a warmer
portrait of the
beautiful, troubled
wife of JFK Jr.

magazine “George.” He proposed to her in July of 1995. She got blonder, thinner, more chic.

She quit her PR job at Calvin Klein because of the attention she attracted from the paparazzi — especially after the press filmed a big fight between her and “John John” in Washington Square Park.

“It’s like I am a prey animal,” she told a friend about the constant cameras. “They are everywhere . . . I’m not sure I can do this.”

The problems only intensified after the wedding. Kennedy had a cordial relationship with the press. He had grown up in the limelight and knew how to han-

dle them. He sympathized with his wife, but he also couldn’t entirely understand her refusal to give them a smile and just go on with her life.

Hounded by paparazzi

“I hate those bastards. I’d rather scream and curse them,” Bessette told a friend.

Her refusal to engage attracted more attention. It got so bad that she once spat on a female fotog who was pursuing her. When Princess Diana died in a car crash — after being chased by the paparazzi — Bessette was, Kennedy said, “really spooked.”

“John and Carolyn were woe-

fully undermanaged for their outsize life,” a friend told Beller. “They needed aides-de-camp. They needed security. And they should probably have moved away from that building.”

But they didn’t. Instead, Bessette shut herself inside: a princess trapped in her modern castle. Kennedy confessed to friends that he didn’t think their marriage could last, that his wife refused to have sex with him. He was photographed with a former flame at a hotel where he sometimes spent the night after marital spats.

As for the drug accusations, Beller’s sources say that Bessette barely even drank wine.



THE PUBLIC EYE: John F. Kennedy Jr. was used to dealing with the press, but Carolyn struggled with the limelight and having paparazzi keen to shoot the couple’s every move outside of their Tribeca apartment.

Kennedy — against nearly all of his family members’ wishes — had begun taking flying lessons years before. He was an adrenaline junkie, and eventually bought himself a six-seater plane. Bessette largely refused to fly with him unless he had a copilot. Yet, in July 1999, she and her sister agreed to have Kennedy fly them to Cape Cod for a wedding. They never made it.

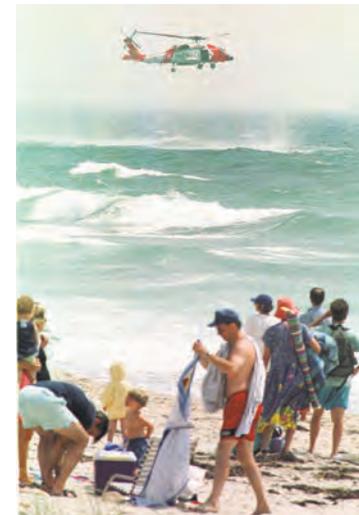
Days later, a bottle of Bessette’s antidepressants washed onto the shore.

“We are left to wonder what form the life of beautiful, captivating Carolyn would have taken, had it not been cut so short,” Beller writes. At the time of their death, Bessette and Kennedy

were in couples therapy. She had talked about maybe going into psychology, or doing documentary films. Things seemed to be looking slightly up.

Yet, Bessette herself seemed to know she couldn’t quite cut it.

“If I don’t do something soon,” she half-joked to a friend, “I’m going to end up in a trailer park screaming, ‘I used to be married to JFK Jr.’”



THE TRAGIC END: In 1999, Carolyn and sister Lauren (far left) both died in a plane crash along with John. Their bodies were found off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard (above).

Getty Images

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SplashNews.com, Boston Globe via Getty Images



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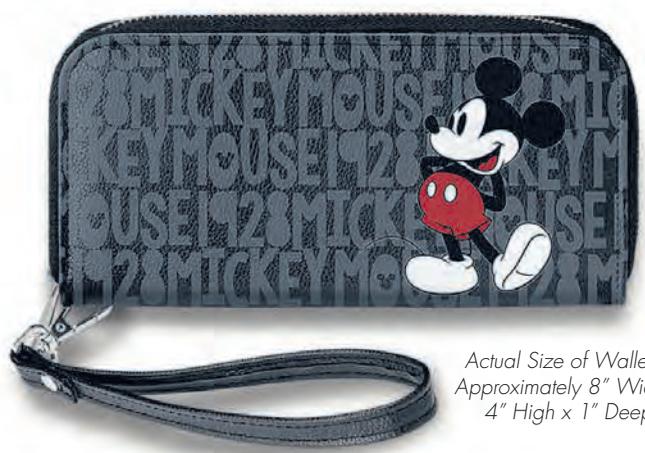
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NY's talon-ted newborns

Three adorable baby peregrine falcons hatched in Gotham at the top of the Brooklyn Tower of the Verrazano Bridge, MTA Bridges and Tunnels said. The chicks emerged in

a specially built nesting box at the top of the 693-foot bridge, joining their peregrine mom.

As they do every year around the end of May, officials from the city's

Department of Environmental Protection ascended the bridge to put identifying bands on the state-endangered birds for wildlife monitoring.

Lauren Elkies Schram

Marc A. Hermann / MTA

'FOOD' FIGHT IN DRUG WAR

Apple's fix for Wash. Sq.

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

Washington Square Park is going from bad to worst.

The city plans to combat the park's notorious outdoor drug bazaar by parking a food truck in the green space's northwest corner and approving permits for activities in the narcotics-riddled area.

William Morrison, Parks administrator for Washington Square Park, revealed the latest Hail Mary attempt to combat the persistent drug activity during the 6th Precinct Community Council meeting last month.

"There are ways to positively change your space and don't rely on force," he said, later adding that one way to change "use in certain areas of a park is adding a concession."

Parks spokeswoman Kelsey Jean-Baptiste said the city put out an open

call last month for a concession, such as a food truck, but declined to share how many applications the agency has received so far or speculate when it will award the contract.

Morrison, who also leads the Washington Square Park Conservancy, said he spread the word about the concession opportunity by reaching out to the Village Alliance BID and local businesses directly.

Parks has also green-lit requests to use the northwest corner for drawing, games and an artist residency series, insisting the deluge of good vibes will clean up the deprived area.

"If you can get positive activity in that space, it does over the long haul replace negative activity," Morrison said.

During the height of the pandemic, drug use and

chaos surged in the landmarked park, with heroin and crack addicts overtaking the northwest corner. In February, cops busted drug dealers in the park peddling psychedelic mushrooms and crack cocaine — seven months after The Post reported on open-air narcotic sales there.

Capt. Jason Zeikel, commander of the 6th Precinct, praised Morrison's food truck and programming proposal as a creative solution for the park's ongoing drug problem, since prosecutors have little interest in locking people up over low-level narcotics offenses.

"I can go there and arrest the same person that has a used crack pipe, and they're going to be out of prison the next day or within a couple hours," Zeikel said at a recent community meeting.

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Graduating with welts

'Buscemi-bash' 2nd vic

By GEORGIA WORRELL
and TINA MOORE



The 22-year-old man allegedly slugged in the face by the same creep who socked actor Steve Buscemi is a New York University student who was on his way to take a final exam when the senseless attack occurred, he told The Post.

"I was drinking iced coffee and he just walked up to me and was like, 'What's up?' and then punched me in the face," recalled the "shocked" victim, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"I was like, damn, I did not expect that to happen to me — especially in the middle of the day. It was also just really annoying because of the timing of it."

Clifton Williams (pictured) — a deranged homeless man with a long rap sheet — is accused of punching the soon-to-be graduate while walking between 15th and 16th streets on Third Avenue around 11:30 a.m. on May 8.

Ten minutes later and 11 blocks north, Williams, 50, allegedly unleashed his fist again on the "Boardwalk Empire" star.

Despite the "painful" slug to his left cheek — which swelled in the following days — the business major

opted to stay the course and take his accounting exam.

"It was definitely a little harder to focus though," he lamented, adding that he reported the incident to the 13th Precinct after his exam. When a friend sent him a news report about the attack on Buscemi, 66, which included a photo of Williams, "I don't want to say it was, like, funny, almost, but it was just very coincidental. Like, what are the chances?" he recalled thinking.

"I was also thinking that it's nice to have a photo of... the attacker, and it being out there on the news. I felt like it would be easier for him to be identified and caught."

Williams was slapped with a felony count of second-degree assault because Buscemi is over 65, as well as misdemeanor assault, on May 18. He was sent to Rikers on \$50,000 cash bail.

Into the 'ink' groove



She went over the "Borderline."

An extreme Madonna fan with 18 tattoos of the singer broke the Guinness World Record for the female with the most body art of a single musician.

Tara Berry (above right) of Topeka, Kan., topped the previous record holder, Nikki

Patterson of Scotland, who has 15 tattoos of rapper Eminem.

Berry began getting body-ink portraits of Madge, 65, in 2016 because the pop star was looking for fans with tattoos inspired by her to star in a music video, according to the record book.

Angela Barbuti

As J.Lo & Ben's love story

By DANA KENNEDY

IT'S the greatest love story over-told, and it's already gone cold.

But don't cry for Jennifer Lopez, or Ben Affleck either, although they're reportedly living apart after their much-ballyhooed 2021 reunion and two splashy weddings in 2022. Not to mention J. Lo's over-the-top album, hour-long musical film that she self-financed for \$20 million and the documentary about her great love for Ben, all released just a few months ago.

Lopez insiders told The Post the two are "taking time apart," while People magazine this week quoted a source saying the marriage "is not in the best place at the moment."

Bennifer 2.0 may be on life support, but sources say there's no villain or victim here; just two clashing egos who may not even mind the headlines inferring the end is nigh.

"They have this amazing Donald Trump quality, the both of them, of having no shame," a Hollywood insider who worked with Lopez told The Post. "I'd be hiding under the carpet at the point but they're both out and about — separately — smiling and grinning and keeping us guessing. They could clear this up with one simple statement but they don't. Don't feel sorry for them. She loves it and, what people don't realize is, Ben loves it more."

But other sources close to Lopez says she is genuinely upset — especially about being cast as a villain who wants the spotlight at any cost, while Affleck is portrayed as being overwhelmed by the media scrutiny that comes with marrying a diva.

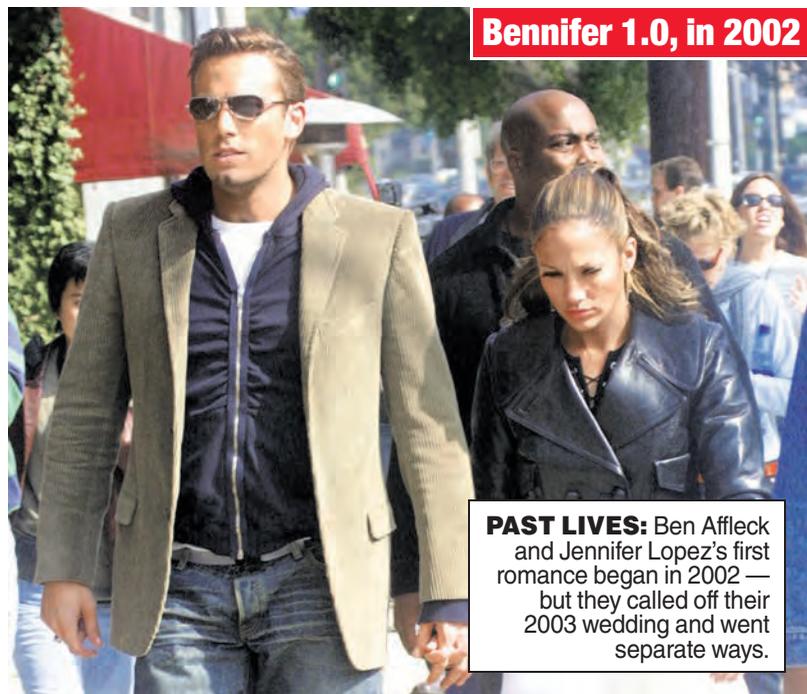
'Torn apart'

In fact, one industry insider says, Affleck is throwing Lopez under the bus in the wake of all on the hype surrounding her musical film about her lifelong search for love, "This is Me Now... A Love Story," its accompanying album "This is Me... Now," and the documentary "The Greatest Love Story Never Told," which an insider points out was produced and financed by Artists Equity, a company Affleck co-founded and runs with Matt Damon.

"Affleck was across every element of production — including editing," the industry insider said of the film, as well as the negotiations to sell it to Amazon. "As soon as the documentary came out, that's when the online hatred and negativity towards Jennifer went rampant."

"She has been torn apart. She's been blamed for exposing their private life. People have called her a narcissist and said how embarrassing it is for Ben, but at no point did he come to his wife's defense and say, 'Actually, it was my idea and my company that made this documentary.'" Lopez looked happy when she mugged for the cameras Friday in

BENNIFFER HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF?



Bennifer 1.0, in 2002

PAST LIVES: Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez's first romance began in 2002 — but they called off their 2003 wedding and went separate ways.

Getty Images

front of a Los Angeles billboard for her new movie "Atlas" on Netflix.

She, however, shut down a reporter who asked about the split rumors during a junket for the flick last week, saying, "You should know better than that."

People started noticing earlier this month that the couple, who notoriously pulled the plug on their 2003 wedding three days beforehand, had not been spotted in public together since March 30.

Affleck was then seen at a new rental in Brentwood that's near the home of his ex-wife, Jennifer Garner, and their three kids, while Lopez remained solo at their \$60 million Beverly Hills mansion.

The actor, currently filming the sequel to his 2016 film "The Accountant," has been seen at least once without his wedding band on.

"Ben is a deeply damaged man who attracts women who want to fix him, and he gives them just enough hope

gets new shot, so does possible breakup



BROKEN RECORD: The world was delighted by the return of Bennifer, 20 years later — but Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez are said to be living in different home and “taking time apart.”



SIPA USA/Alamy Live News



NY Post photo composite
Getty Images for The Met Museum/Vogue

LOVE STORY: Lopez hit the May 6 Met Gala (near left) alone, fueling speculation about troubles with Affleck. Their family includes her twins Emme (above far left) and Max (far right) and his kids Serafina (behind Emme) and Violet, and son Samuel (not seen). Friday, J.Lo promoted her new flick, “Atlas,” in front of a billboard (inset lower left) with a pointed message.

viously told Page Six. “He feels like the last two years was just a fever dream, and he’s come to his senses now and understands there is just no way this is going to work.”

But Affleck will tax any woman he’s with, some say.

‘Takes two to tango’

“His p.r. team very cleverly paints Ben as this quality director and actor who hates being a star,” Rob Shuter, who hosts the “Naughty but Nice” podcast and who was Lopez’s publicist during her first engagement to Affleck, told The Post. “Bulls--t, Ben loves being a star. He just doesn’t want to be the lesser star.”

“Jennifer is strong but Ben is stronger,” said a Hollywood insider who worked with both. “He’s very talented but he’s not easy. The only reason he doesn’t like being in her spotlight is because it’s her spotlight and not his. Their [reunion] story sounded beautiful in theory, but sometimes you just can’t go back in time.”

Still, the Hollywood insider said, “I don’t know why they’re not handling this better given all their kids and what they’ve been through.”

Another source who has worked with Lopez also insisted that she’s not the villain here.

“Everyone is going to think that this is all Jennifer — it’s not. She was in love, she adores Ben, that is not a crime. And it takes two to tango in any situation,” the source said.



Instagram

to think that it will be possible,” one insider told The Post. “Spoiler alert: It isn’t. No one tried harder or longer than Garner. J. Lo just learned the same lesson more quickly.”

Sources close to Affleck and Lopez will say only that the couple are taking time apart, and no one has heard the word “divorce” men-

tioned yet. They also say that Affleck’s wedding band has been off and on because he’s been filming.

Lopez went solo to the May 6 Met Gala, which she co-hosted, and Lopez insiders say Affleck really should have been at her side.

“It’s a respect thing,” a source who knows Lopez well told The Post. “There’s no excuse for not

being there unless you’re in jail or you’re trying to blow up your life.”

In March, after her new album flopped — dropping off the Billboard 200 chart a week after it entered at No. 38, her worst-ever debut — Lopez canceled several concerts of her upcoming “This Is Me . . . Now” tour before re-

branding it as a greatest hits tour. Venue-ticket prices for the tour are priced as low as \$49 at some stops and many seats remain, per the Ticketmaster website.

“It feels like a disaster,” a veteran concert promoter told The Post.

Sources say Lopez can handle her career; it’s her choice of men that’s the problem.

Affleck is her fourth husband, after waiter Ojani Noa (1997-1998), backup dancer Cris Judd (2001-2003) and Latin music superstar Marc Anthony (2004-2014), with whom she has 16-year-old twins, Emme and Max. She was engaged to baseball star Alex Rodriguez before they split in 2021 and she reunited with Affleck.

“If there was a way to divorce on grounds of temporary insanity, he would,” an Affleck source re-

INVASION

Zel: Ukr. casualties a fraction of his

VLAD'S DEAD PILE UP

By CHRIS HARRIS

Russia has lost eight times as many soldiers as has Ukraine since Moscow launched its latest offensive in the northeastern province of Kharkiv two weeks ago, President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday.

Zelensky said the mass casualties on the battlefield prove Russian President Vladimir Putin “has absolutely no regard for human life,” in an interview with Kazakh media outlet Vlast.

He put the number of Russian soldiers killed in Kharkiv since May 10 as between 2,000 and 3,000.

“Their breakthrough in the direction of Kharkiv,” Zelensky said, resulted in “military casualties of one to eight — one Ukrainian to eight Russians,” he said, adding that Putin “doesn’t care at all.”

Separately, Zelensky said Ukrainian forces had taken back areas Russian troops attempted to conquer over the past two weeks.

“Our soldiers have now managed to take combat control of the border area where the Russian occupiers entered,” Zelen-



TOLL OF WAR: Smoke rises from a Kharkiv, Ukraine, shopping mall after it was hit by Russian missiles. Also Saturday, President Volodymyr Zelensky (inset below) said Moscow’s forces are suffering eight times as many casualties as his.

sky said in his nightly video address Friday.

But he warned that the country’s second largest city, also named Kharkiv, was still vulnerable, a comment that was followed by another attack.

On Saturday, Russia launched a daylight attack against a construction supplies market in Kharkiv, killing and wounding several of the 200 people at the site at the time.

“All the emergency services are already on the site and providing assistance, rescuing people, and extinguishing the fire that has completely engulfed the building,” Zelensky posted to X. “If Ukraine had sufficient air defense systems and modern combat aircraft, Russian

strikes like this one would have been impossible. And that is why we appeal to all leaders, to all states: we need a significant enhancement of air defense and sufficient capabilities to destroy Russian terrorists.”

Saturday’s attack happened hours after Ukraine targeted Russia’s Saki airfield in Crimea — an area of Ukraine forcibly annexed by Russia in 2014 before Zelensky was elected president — and comes less than a day after reports started circulating that suggest Putin is willing to discuss a cease-fire along current battle lines.

Russia could keep the fighting going, observers said, but that would mean an expansion of its

highly unpopular conscription program.

The rumored movement toward a fighting freeze came as more senior defense leaders were arrested in Russia on suspicion of corruption and bribery.

More than \$1 million in items and cash were recovered from the home of Lt. Gen. Yury Kuznetsov, head of defense personnel, who is charged with accepting bribes.

Lt. Gen. Vadim Shamarin, deputy chief of the general staff, and Vladimir Verteletsky, who headed the personnel directorate of Russia’s Defense Ministry, are also facing accusations of accepting bribes.

“Corruption is deeply rooted in the Russian Ministry of Defense,” said a UK intelligence update posted Saturday on X.

With Wires

Border nations’ ‘drone’ defense

Multiple nations bordering Russia, including the Baltics, Finland, Norway and Poland, are creating what they called a “drone wall” air defense system to help defend their collective borders.

Agne Bilotaite, Lithuania’s interior minister,

told the Baltic News Service that the multinational partnership would create “a drone border from Norway to Poland” to “protect our border with the help of drones and other technologies.”

Added Bilotaite: “Not only physical infrastruc-

ture, surveillance systems, but also using drones and other technologies that would allow us to also protect ourselves from provocations by unfriendly countries, and prevent contraband.”

She said the plan is still in its formative stages,

with no exact timeline.

Earlier this month, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk revealed Poland had signed on to join the European Sky Shield Initiative. The project involves 21 NATO countries, and will establish an Iron Dome-like system

to take out incoming missiles and drones.

The news comes as Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski claimed the US would strike Russian troops on Ukrainian soil if the Kremlin opts to use nuclear weapons.

Chris Harris



ITALY

The company that makes Fiats agreed to remove the Italian flag from Fiat 600 cars that were actually manufactured in Poland.

Amsterdam-based Stellantis was accused by Italian PM Giorgia Meloni of misleading buyers.

The company, the world’s fourth-largest automaker, also makes Alfa Romeos in Poland and said it would also rename Alfa Romeo’s Milano SUV, since obviously it’s not produced in Milan.

NEW ZEALAND

A feather from an extinct bird sold at auction for \$28,417, leading the sellers to claim it’s the most expensive feather in the world.

The plume, which came from an extinct huia bird, broke the 2010 record set by a feather that sold for \$5,150 from a bird of the same species.

The huia bird, which had its last confirmed sighting in 1907, was considered sacred by the indigenous Maori people, who used its feathers to decorate headpieces of chiefs and their families.

BRAZIL

In a previously deforested area in Rio de Janeiro’s polluted Guanabara Bay, 30,000 tropical mangrove trees were planted by a nonprofit organization.

The trees are now as tall as 13 feet and help the area ward off floods by soaking up water and preventing soil from being washed away.

FRANCE

The 39.3-foot cross at the apse of Notre-Dame was returned to the world-renowned Paris cathedral that had in 2019 was ravaged by fire.

The cross, weighing a staggering 1½ tons, miraculously survived and was restored by ironworkers from Normandy.

A new spire, replacing the iconic one destroyed by the fire, was raised in February.

The cathedral is expected to reopen in December in time for Christmas.

THAILAND

Some 2,500 wild monkeys are taking over the tourist town of Lopburi, leading to a municipal plan to trap them with rambutan, a tropical fruit, and relocate them.

The brazen simians “mug” people carrying food in central Thailand, so the goal is to house them in enclosures.

Angela Barbuti, Wires

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Ex-Met: Pal is off ba\$e

Sues over \$1.2M debt

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

Former New York Mets outfielder Endy Chavez claims he was duped into shelling out \$1.2 million to a teammate, and has struck out trying to get his money back.

Infielder and fellow Venezuelan Melvin Mora borrowed the dough in installments from Chavez beginning in 2019, according to legal papers filed Friday in Manhattan Supreme Court.

Chavez, 46, who played for the Amazins' from 2006 to 2008, is suing Mora for fraud and breach of contract, alleging he "has failed and continues to fail to pay" back the debt.

Mora, 52, allegedly promised a six-fold return on investment, said Chavez's attorney, Matthew Blit.

He now believes there was no investment opportunity, Blit told The Post.

Chavez hit the former professional infielder where it hurts, serving him a summons with notice — the legal precursor to a lawsuit — at a Hall of Fame baseball game in Cooperstown, Blit said.

Mora has repaid just \$50,000, Blit contends.

"He betrayed Endy's trust," Blit said. "We don't think it was a legit company. We just think he stole his money." Chavez is seeking \$5 million in damages.

"Melvin was my friend . . . I looked up to him and I trusted him," he told The Post via Bilt.

Mora, who was on the Mets from 1999 to 2000, did not return a message seeking comment.

Autistic-kid assault

A New Jersey teacher slammed an autistic student against a wall and shoving him to the floor, reportedly leaving the pre-teen's face scraped and bruised.

Zaire Smith, 11, was restrained with his arms behind his back for 15 minutes for throwing a chair inside the Mount Carmel Guild Academy's "problem-solving room," PIX-11 TV reported.

"It was very hard to watch my son on the floor, his legs kicking out. And if you could zoom in on his face, he's squinching his eyes and his fingers pointed out, and

you could tell he was in pain. And I felt that," his mother, Niasia Smith, told the station of a video that captured the April incident. She claims the West Orange school tried to cover up what she calls an "assault."

Smith claims the school did not alert her about the incident until she arrived to pick up her son and saw his injuries.

The family has hired a lawyer and plans to sue the school.

The administration did not respond to a request for comment.

Katherine Donlevy

Bill would boost radiator regulations

Building owners would be required to conduct annual inspections of steam radiators in apartments where small children live, under a City Council bill.

Councilwoman Farah Louis' (D-Brooklyn) legislation comes four months after a Brooklyn baby was fatally burned by scorching

steam from a faulty heater.

In addition to annual inspections by a licensed plumber in units where children under 7 years old live, the legislation would require building owners to provide inspection reports, and repair or replace any damaged radiators.

Georgia Worrell

Hitler-loving NYC thug Confessions of the Nazi

MARCO

By ISABEL VINCENT

HE was narced out. A drugs king who spent decades in a federal lock-up for flooding the US with cocaine has revealed that he was turned in by his closest ally: Pablo Escobar.

Carlos Lehder went from New York street criminal to one of the world's most notorious narcos in the early 1980s in a ride even wilder than the hit Netflix series "Narcos" dared portray.

Now he has released a memoir which explains how he started stealing cars in Queens but rose to the heart of the Colombian drug cartels at the height of their power — all while hero-worshipping Hitler and

ultimately launching his own neo-Nazi party.

But Lehder, 74, twists the knife on the legacy of Escobar, by revealing that it was his once-trusted partner who rattled him out to the authorities the Medellín cartel lord professed to hate.

Lehder was captured at his rural hideout near Medellín in 1987 and extradited to the US after Escobar's tip-off, making him the first major cocaine trafficker flown from Colombia to face criminal charges in the US.

He was convicted and locked up in federal prisons for more than three decades — but freed in 2020 to live his last years in Germany, his father's homeland.

In his newly published Spanish lan-

guage memoir, "Life and Death in the Medellín Cartel," Lehder reveals how he learned of Escobar's double cross thanks to a prosecution blunder.

"Among the hundreds of papers that the Attorney General's office was delivering to my lawyers before the start of my trial, one document was included by mistake," he writes.

"Even though several lines of the text were crossed out with black marker in the document, it was possible to see that Pablo Escobar was the person who had handed Carlos Lehder over to the Medellín police."

The double cross was the bitter end to a partnership with the most unlikely beginnings.

Cocaine and prostitutes

Carlos Lehder was born in Armenia, Colombia, a city in the country's rich coffee-growing region, on Sept. 7, 1949, to a Colombian mother and Klaus Wilhelm Lehder, a German engineer who had settled in the country in 1928.

But his parents divorced and Lehder moved with his mother to Queens, New York — dropping out of school and robbing cars in Jackson Heights.

"In that northern country, I fell into the temptation of the easy dollar, and I started to break the law," Lehder writes.

Lehder was arrested and served time in a federal lock-up in Danbury, Conn., in 1973, where he finished high school and befriended George Jung, a marijuana dealer and future partner in the cocaine trade.



'NARCOS' NAZI: In the Netflix hit show about the Medellín cartel, Juan Riedinger played Lehder, sporting a swastika tattoo. Lehder, like his father, idolized Hitler and read "Mein Kampf," but was also a fan of John Lennon.

reveals Pablo Escobar's darkest secret



COCAINE COWBOYS: Carlos Lehder (circled) flew bales of cocaine produced by Pablo Escobar (center) from the Caribbean into the US (top right). Born in Colombia to a German father, he moved to New York aged 15, but was deported to his home country and set up a neo-Nazi party (bottom right). Now he reveals how Escobar was a rat.



Gamma-Rapho via Getty Images; American Heroes Channel

Determined not to return to petty crime, he instead studied the methods of opium smugglers in 19th century China and was inspired to set up a similar structure for smuggling marijuana and cocaine into the US.

After his release, he was deported to Colombia — where he put his history lessons to work, chartering small planes to ferry drugs to Miami.

He made a fortune, so to launder the cash, he imported luxury cars from Europe, setting up his own dealership — where he met Escobar when he sold him a car.

They joined forces and together they ruled the billion dollar Medellín cartel.

By the late 1970s, Lehder set up a transshipment point on Norman's Cay, a private island in the Bahamas, commandeering dozens of small planes to move tons of cocaine to abandoned airstrips in Florida.

He counted both Adolf Hitler and John Lennon as his heroes and was known as “El Loco” and “Crazy Charlie” for his wild, cocaine-fueled parties and trysts with prostitutes.

Lehder and Escobar were so obsessed with being extradited to the US that Lehder founded a short-lived neo-Nazi political party — the National Latin Move-

ment — to fight the 1979 extradition treaty with the US.

They managed to get three seats in the Colombian congress, but didn't accomplish much — and then turned their attention to a different threat: kidnappers.

In 1981, guerrillas from the Colombian rebel group M-19 tried to kidnap Lehder in his hometown of Armenia. He escaped by jumping from the kidnappers' speeding jeep.

He survived a gunshot to his leg



CAPTURED: Lehder was extradited from Colombia in 1987 on a US military plane. He spent 33 years in top-security prisons.

and immediately told an assistant to ship two bullet-proof Mercedes from Germany.

“In the city where I was born, I never went around armed nor did I have a bodyguard, but everything changed after that day,” he writes.

11 dead judges

He and Escobar set up Muerte a Secuestradores (Death to Kidnappers), a paramilitary group that retaliated against guerrillas who kidnapped cartel members.

It was the beginning of the end of their relationship, he told German magazine Der Spiegel.

“I've been called violent, crazy, put on a par with Pablo Escobar,” he said. “We were like water and oil. I avoided violence when I could. He was obsessed with power.”

In 1985 Escobar, increasingly power-mad, was said to have paid M-19 — supposedly his enemies — to storm Colombia's Supreme Court on the day its judges were to discuss an extradition treaty with the US.

M-19 killed 100, including 11 judges. Lehder claims he and Escobar knew nothing of the plan, writing, “Those types of armed guerrillas are not mercenaries for hire.” But for the cartel, it was a

disaster: public sentiment turned against them.

He and Escobar were increasingly at odds. Escobar and his brutal partners regularly tortured and killed their enemies, but Lehder writes that he was an intellectual who read widely and “a man of my word.”

Escobar was neither — and Lehder paid the price by being ratted out.

After his capture, Lehder was flown to Florida, convicted of drug-smuggling and money-laundering and sentenced in 1998 to life in prison without parole.

Three years later, his sentence was reduced after he was the star witness against Panamanian strongman — and US ally — Manuel Noriega, who had helped the Medellín cartel to smuggle cocaine north, but was taken into federal custody after the US invasion in 1989.

“My biggest obstacle in cooperating was the danger of a violent retaliation against my family in Colombia if I testified in open federal court,” he writes.

Noriega was convicted of racketeering and drug trafficking,

sentenced to 40 years in prison in 1992 and extradited to France in 2010, then to Panama, where he died in 2017.

Escobar, meanwhile, was also struggling: He surrendered in 1991, escaped, but was killed by Colombian national police in Medellín in 1994.

Lehder now lives in Frankfurt, Germany — “my second homeland,” he writes — to be close to his daughter Monica. He is “a

contrite and rehabilitated citizen who follows the law.”

He has renounced his love of Hitler, telling Der Spiegel he had been influenced by ethnic Germans being dispossessed and imprisoned in Colombia during World War II and saying, “My idea was misguided.

“As a young man in Colombia, I was not particularly well-read. Today I know better.”

And in a surprise twist for a man who flooded America with cocaine, he has changed sides in the war on drugs, writing, “I want to be very clear that any illegal drug that can cause the immediate death of a human being should not be legalized, including cocaine.”





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DANIELLE LOPEZ
Daughter goes missing.

NJ mom beset by another heartache

A New Jersey mom rocked by the tragic deaths of two children is now on edge after her last surviving child went missing “under suspicious circumstances.”

Danielle Lopez, 37, of Burlington, has not been heard from in more than a month after she told her family she planned to go camping.

The 5-foot-4, 135-pound woman was last seen at about 9:10 a.m. April 13 at a Wawa store in Burlington, State Police said.

Her 2008 two-door blue Hyundai Accent was found disabled on Lost Lane Road, part of Penn State Forest, a 3,366-acre state park.

“Unimaginably, tragedy has struck our family again” the shell-shocked mom, Sue Quackenbush, posted to Facebook this week, saying cops told her the disappearance was “under suspicious circumstances.”

Fred Lopez, the missing woman’s uncle, told The Post that Danielle’s oldest brother, Eric Quackenbush, died after he “threw himself in front of a train” in Pennsylvania on Christmas Day 2015 and another brother, Michael Lopez, was fatally injured “about 10 months later” in a Florida vehicular crash.

He said Danielle’s grandfather, Fred Lopez Sr., succumbed to COVID in May 2020 and her father, Guy, suffered a fatal heart attack a month later that may have been triggered by the coronavirus.

“It’s a pretty heavy-duty reality,” said the 58-year-old uncle, who lives in Arizona. “Danielle had a very difficult life and never quite recouped from all the deaths and the tragedies in our family.” *Dean Balsamini*

‘Spying’ shrink ‘bugged’ ex & his biz

By KATHIANNE BONIELLO



LISTEN IN: Dynamic Star CEO Gary Segal (above) is suing over Dr. Judith and Brad Zackson’s (left) messy divorce.

Marital mind games in a wealthy Greenwich, Conn., divorce have sparked business intrigue in the Big Apple.

A high-profile psychologist who has appeared on CNN, CBS and Fox News allegedly bugged her now ex-husband’s room while he worked from home, then talked about getting a “big check” from the CEO of his Manhattan real estate company, according to court papers.

The allegedly surreptitious recordings prompted Brad Zackson’s company, Dynamic Star, and its CEO Gary Segal to sue Judith Zackson in Manhattan Supreme Court, claiming Zackson engaged in “illegal eavesdropping” and misconduct by recording Brad’s business calls.

Judith and Brad began living in separate rooms in their \$4 million Greenwich manse in 2020, as their marriage broke down.

Judith — an expert in anxiety, depression and attention deficit disorder who is worth more than \$4.4 million — is accused of secretly hiding recording devices in Brad’s rooms and vehicle in 2021 and 2022.

“Dr. Zackson cynically and secretly invaded Dynamic as a ploy in defense of a divorce action in Connecticut . . . in an attempt to extort money from Dynamic or Gary,” Dynamic claims.

Its business deals include the \$2.5 billion Fordham Landing development in the University Heights section of The Bronx.

Brad allegedly discovered a recorder in April 2022, when he noticed a flashing red light near the bathroom ceiling. He filed for divorce the following month, records show. Their split has yet to be finalized.

In a successful bid to have Judith pay his legal fees in their divorce, Brad Zackson claimed to be \$9 million in debt, \$5.7 million of which is owed to Segal, who gives him \$40,000 a month, according to a Connecticut court document.

Judith — who owns three limited liability companies and keeps

\$100,000 cash in a safe deposit box, according to court records — admitted to the espionage during the divorce proceedings, quipping she hoped to get a “big check from Uncle Gary,” Dynamic claimed.

‘Spying’ for years

“The scope of these transgressions is unknown. The number of recordings is unknown. The location of them is unknown. The disclosure or use of them is unknown,” the suit says. “Dr. Zackson has been spying on Brad for years which means that Dr. Zackson has been spying on [Dynamic] and its business affairs for years.”

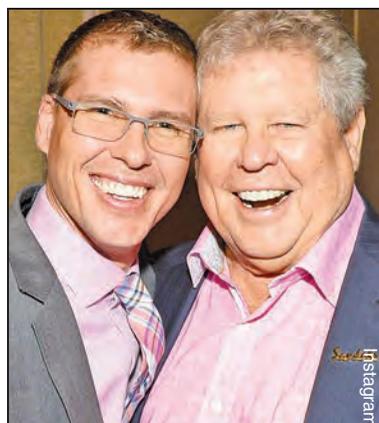
Dynamic “seeks to remove the threat to its existence,” it said in the litigation, which demands all recordings be turned over.

Judith called the allegations meritless and wants to “protect herself from her spouse,” she said via her attorney.

In May 2022 he was caught with a firearm, despite a 1983 felony conviction for robbery and criminal possession of a weapon in Nassau County, according to criminal records. He twice violated an order of protection in 2022, Connecticut records show.

“Mr. Zackson has repeatedly violated a restraining order issued because of his abusive and threatening behavior,” her attorney, Peter Zeidenberg, said.

PLOT TO ‘CHECK’ HIM OUT: LAWSUIT



Sandals \$candal over pa’s will

The head of the Sandals Resorts empire is allegedly delaying payouts of millions of dollars his late father left for nine people because he’s waiting for them to “die,” a source told The Post.

Billionaire Gordon “Butch” Stewart, 79, a father of eight, died of cancer in 2021 in Miami, Fla.

Now, son Adam Stewart (together, left) — executive chairman of Sandals Resorts International — is delaying payouts of between \$2.5 million to \$20 million each to the remaining beneficiaries, as he is “waiting for the [seven others] to die,” a source close to the family said.

A years-long feud be-

tween bickering families in Jamaica and the US will soon play out inside a Bahamian courtroom over his estate, where also at stake will be control over the \$4.5 billion chain of Caribbean beach resorts, according to the filings with the Bahamian Supreme Court.

Many of the remaining seven are elderly, includ-

ing Stewart’s 82-year-old sister, Pat Hawryluk, who has been diagnosed with dementia. “Who doesn’t look after their aunt?” wondered the source.

Adam and his attorneys did not respond to calls for comment. A court date has not been set yet for the case. *Chris Harris and Lauren Elkie Schram*

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The war
against
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P. 40-41



While New York suffocates under endless scaffolding and bike lanes, Philadelphia is benefitting from urban planning done right



The City of Brotherly Love is a mere 95 miles from New York City but its orderly downtown streets are a world away. Gotham's politicians have other priorities.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

I TOOK a stroll through the center of town the other day. To my delighted disbelief, there were no steel-and-wood “sidewalk bridges” plunging whole blocks into shadow. There were no bike lanes to create traffic chaos. No peddlers of junk merchandise crowding every corner.

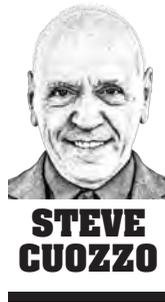
Hallelujah! It felt like New York City of not long ago when common sense, not random disorder, ruled the streets.

Was I dreaming? No — because the city I visited was Philadelphia.

Yup, Philly — a mere 95 miles from Gotham or nearer than East Hampton. More of my fellow New Yorkers should make the trip. Its orderly, pedestrian-friendly streetscape is an object lesson in how much we’ve ruined our beloved Big Apple’s great commercial and residential neighborhoods with stupid, politically motivated priorities.

Philly shocked me into realizing how inured we New Yorkers have become to miserable street and sidewalk conditions. They didn’t have to be that way. Most of the damage was self-inflicted by our own “leaders.”

Take New York’s hideous plague of “sidewalk bridges” that are in fact tunnels. City Hall dumped nearly 300 miles of the monstrosities on us, supposedly to protect pedestrians from falling debris. The miseries they cause, from providing shelter to derelicts and drug addicts to destroying business at stores and restaurants, is widely acknowledged and condemned.



STEVE CUOZZO

Yet the dangerous eyesores sometimes stand for years, defying Mayor Adams’ war cry to “Get Sheds Down!”

New York is a scaffold jungle because a single fatal accident nearly 50 years ago prompted City Hall to require facade inspections of every building of six stories or more every five years — irrespective of a property’s

age, construction materials or the likelihood of risk.

The result is today’s cancer of gloomy tunnels that stretch for blocks on end — providing a multi-billion-dollar cash cow for scaffold suppliers, inspectors, lawyers and consultants.

In downtown Philadelphia, I saw nary a shed in the two miles between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. Yet somehow, the thriving area — dense with office towers, hotels, luxury apartment buildings and stores — has suffered no emergency-room flood of innocent victims struck on the head by falling masonry.

Many buildings there are prewar

structures of supposedly damage-prone masonry and brick like we have here in New York. None is raining death on passersby despite the absence of laws requiring constant, repeated micro-scrutiny of their facades.

How different a city looks without scaffolds! My eyes popped over main drags such as Market, Broad and Walnut streets without the ground-level eyesores that make most every block at home appear shabby. Even Park Avenue, Broadway and Wall Street look as if bombs had fallen on them.

Philadelphia’s near-absence of bike lanes recalled the era when our own streets and sidewalks functioned as they were meant to: streets for motor vehicles, sidewalks for people on foot. Philadelphia has about 20 miles of bike lanes; New York, its government in thrall to environmental zanies and cycle-advocacy bullies who shout down opponents, has more than 650 miles of them.

Philly motorists are spared the havoc wrought by the lanes in the form of congestion-breeding narrow streets and of cars forced to park in the middle of streets in order to create

“protected” bike lanes.

But the greatest benefit is to people on foot. It took me three days to grasp that I could cross an intersection without a wrong-way cyclist bearing down on me, and to stroll sidewalks without fear of being sideswiped by heedless, law-breaking jerks on wheels — the norm from The Bronx to the Battery.

The City of Brotherly Love’s sidewalks were also refreshingly free of unlicensed junk sellers whom our own cops, courts and cowardly politicians decline to challenge. Even the Brooklyn Bridge walkway resembled a Third World flea market until a recent crackdown that was only launched after the New York Post shamed City Hall into taking action.

“Progressives” will dismiss the Big Apple’s visual blights as minor nuisances, of which every city has its share. Scaffolds, bikes and fake handbags don’t usually kill anyone.

The wokesters say larger problems of social and economic “inequity” should come before conditions that merely inconvenience the more fortunate among us.

They’re wrong. Disheveled streets and sidewalks are the “broken windows” of civic and social expectation. When the city is unwilling to remedy abuses that are within its power to tame, there’s no reason to believe it can save us from the larger challenges of violent crime and physical decay.

The moment I got off the train at Moynihan Station and stepped into the Eighth Avenue hellscape of scaffolds, zooming bikers and fake handbag dealers, I knew I was home.

But part of me wished I wasn’t.



Philadelphia’s downtown is refreshingly clear for pedestrians — unlike New York City, where even major roadways are hidden under miles of sidewalk sheds and crowded out by junk merchants.



Stephen Yang, Steve Cuozzo

POSTSCRIPT Culture Club



**SUZIE
SCANLON
RABINOWITZ**

One way to salute our military men and women this Memorial Day is to honor military spouses as well



There are roughly 1 million military spouses in the US, and they have an unemployment rate of 21% — five times the national average.

MEMORIAL Day is one of America's most meaningful federal holidays, established in 1868 to honor the military men and women who lost their lives in service to our country. I have always felt reverence for the dedication and commitment made by these heroes and their families. Though as a civilian and law firm owner, I hadn't known what military life was like . . . until I began working with military spouses.

There are roughly 1 million military spouses in America and my work with them began accidentally. I was attending a meeting in Washington, DC about women in business when a military White House Fellow was introduced to me. He said, "You need to meet my wife. She's an attorney . . . but she's stuck in California because she's not permitted to practice law in DC." I then learned of the complex challenges military spouses can face when trying to find work while their other halves are deployed. And that military spouse unemployment rates — upwards of 21% — are five times the national average.

So in 2017, I decided to take action and see if jobs at my firm could help military spouses find financial and professional satisfaction and security. The first military spouse to join our team was so eager to secure a good job in her field, she met me in my hometown right before Thanksgiving. I was impressed with her passion and dedication. At the time, I had no idea I would end up partner-

ing with so many like her, and how that experience would enrich our firm, enhance our client experience and personally transform me into an advocate for military spouses. Today, 30% of our entire firm is composed of military spouses.

The advantages of working with this cohort are enormous. They are incredible team players and real leaders — highly motivated, solutions oriented, resourceful, unflappable and adaptable with an incredible work ethic. They provide top quality service across time zones for our corporate clients who operate in a 24/7 world. Having a stable and

portable job for military spouses is crucial in eliminating their financial insecurity — and in return our law firm has a highly effective workforce with strong retention rates.

Many of these folks face situations few of us can imagine — moving around every 12 to 36 months, needing to find new housing, doctors, schools, jobs and professional licenses — all while managing day to day life when their spouses are deployed. They are fearless — bringing tenacity, grit and problem-solving skills to every aspect of their lives. For one military spouse, in particular, housing wasn't available for

months, so she juggled legal work, her kids and pets while in an RV — all as a solo parent while her spouse was in the field.

As a business owner, I've needed to learn about resources, education and information in order to help serve this overlooked demographic. We've been fortunate to work with strong partners, such as MSJDN — which helps lawyers — along with Hiring our Heroes, which matches qualified professionals with employers.

Working with military spouses has become the heart and soul of our corporate culture. On a personal



First Lady Jill Biden introduced a new policy last month allowing the 16,000 military spouses employed by the federal government to work remotely.

level, it has educated, inspired and stretched me in ways I had not imagined. I now see it as a mission to encourage other business leaders and decision makers to open doors and pave employment pathways for this unique segment of the talent pool.

Both Washington and the private sector are beginning to recognize the importance of military spouse employment. Last June, for instance, the White House issued an Executive Order addressing economic security for military and veteran spouses, military caregivers and survivors. This was followed last month by a new federal policy introduced by Jill Biden allowing the 16,000 federally employed military spouses to work remotely when deployed overseas, which makes it easier for them to earn a living.

Last December, Hiring our Heroes, a program of the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Blue Star Families announced the nationwide 4+1 Commitment program, which encourages the private sector to employ military spouses. All of these efforts not only boost family incomes, they help ensure military readiness, which improves national security.

Working with military spouses has transformed my company and myself, by expanding awareness, understanding and empathy for a community far different than my own. So while Memorial Day is a time to honor America's military heroes, we must also honor their spouses quietly keeping their families strong back at home.

Suzie Scanlon Rabinowitz is the founder of SRD Legal Group

Adobe Stock/AP

Chatter

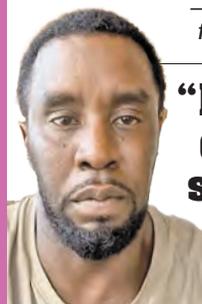


"I was shocked, angered and in disbelief that Mr. Altman would pursue a voice that sounded so eerily similar to mine that my closest friends and news outlets could not tell the difference."

— Scarlett Johansson on OpenAI allegedly mimicking her voice for ChatGPT

"They're criticizing police, but they're marching for terrorists?!"

— Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, on Hamas flag-waving protesters in Brooklyn



"It's so difficult to reflect on the darkest times in your life, but sometimes you got to do that."

— Sean "Diddy" Combs, addressing the surfaced 2016 video that shows him beating then-girlfriend Cassie Ventura at an LA hotel



"It's a very difficult and challenging hiring environment, particularly for this group of workers."

— Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue on a city lifeguard shortage ahead of Memorial Day weekend





CHRISTOPHER CAMERON

Clawed to death

It's more all-you-can-corporately-restructure than all-you-can-eat that's behind the sinking of the once-proud Red Lobster seafood chain, amid rampant inflation taking a sharp claw to family budgets.

Coastal elites may chuckle at Red Lobster going bankrupt, but for many Americans it's a sign of economic troubles to come

THEY said the shrimp were endless, until the shrimp ended them.

Last summer, Red Lobster, a pillar of American casual dining since 1968, offered Americans a delicious deal — \$20 endless shrimp as a permanent menu item (rather than a limited-time special). We tied on the bib and ate it up, costing the company \$11 million and forcing it into Chapter 11 bankruptcy this week.

Red Lobster will initially shutter at least 48 of the 578 restaurants it operates in 44 states — with dozens more closures to come.

To coastal elites, who enjoy access to a true buffet of seafood restaurants, this crustacean cataclysm was one big joke.

“Red Lobster Waiter: Sir, are you done? You’ve had 561 scampi and 20lbs of popcorn shrimp.

Me: We’re done when I say we’re done, podcaster and writer Trung Phan memed on X with a still from “Breaking Bad” and the text, “Red Lobster’s bankruptcy explained.”

The riffs rolled in on Reddit, too, comparing Red Lobster customers to the “remorseless eating machine” Homer Simpson during his gluttonous visit to the Frying Dutchman’s all-you-can-eat seafood buffet

That stinks, because for millions of landlocked Americans the death of Red Lobster threatens a vital culinary lifeline.

I grew up in Nashville, Tenn., before the foodie revolution, when fried river and lake fish were the sole “seafood” option on the menu. My first memory of trying shellfish was at a special lunch I had with my late grandfather at a Red Lobster, where else?



As a boy, pulling pieces of lobster meat from the fire engine red shell of that alien sea creature, dipping each piece into melted butter, seemed beyond extravagant. Today, dining at a Red Lobster forms one of my most vivid memories of my grandfather.

I’m sure that there were other restaurants boiling lobster, searing shrimp or chilling crab in Nashville in the mid 1990s. I’m also sure that they cost far more than our family’s dinner budget at that time.

While the diversity of dining options from Nashville to Des Moines has improved dramatically over the past two or three decades, affordability has only gotten

worse. In 2022, US consumers spent an average of 11.3% of their disposable personal income on food, both at home and at restaurants — the most since the 1980s — according to the most recent data from the USDA.

The inflated price of food is just one knot within a tangled trawling line of cost of living pressures that Americans are facing. No, wonder Red Lobster’s 64 million annual customers ate so many shrimp.

As more Red Lobsters close, the void will be most acutely felt by middle and working class African Americans, who have been particularly loyal to the restaurant group

memorialized in the lyrics of Beyoncé’s “Formation.” Red Lobster founder Bill Darden opened his first restaurants in the Jim Crow south of the 1930s and was known for defying local segregation laws to welcome everyone to the table. That may have been more than half a century ago, but it’s a legacy not easily forgotten.

“Sure, we like fish and a good deal — Red Lobster represented something like the strip mall version of the beloved fish fry — but we like being treated equally even more,” wrote Robyn Autry, a sociology professor and director of the Center for the Study of Public Life at Wesleyan University, following the announcement of Red Lobster’s woes.

Ultimately, if you’re looking for a bad guy to blame for the fall of the house of the Cheddar Bay Biscuit, forget middle America’s waistline.

The true culprit is a familiar figure, the grim reaper of many once-great, American-made businesses: rapacious private equity.

In 2014, Darden sold the chain to Golden Gate Capital, a private equity firm, for \$2.1 billion.

Today its largest shareholder is seafood distributor and Chicken of the Sea owner Thai Union Group. Together, Golden Gate and Thai Union drove Red Lobster into the ground, strip mining the company until it was \$1 billion in debt, according to its bankruptcy filing. The restaurant chain has had five CEOs since 2021. Fishier still: Thai Union used Red Lobster to unload its own shrimp supply.

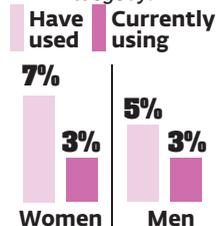
Bilge-rat executives love to blame their customers when the claw starts to pinch, but they were right about one thing: It was gluttony, or rather greed, that bankrupted Red Lobster. But the culprits were big business — not big eaters.



Beyoncé gives the eatery a shout-out on “Formation,” teasing that when her man treats her right, “I take his ass to Red Lobster.”

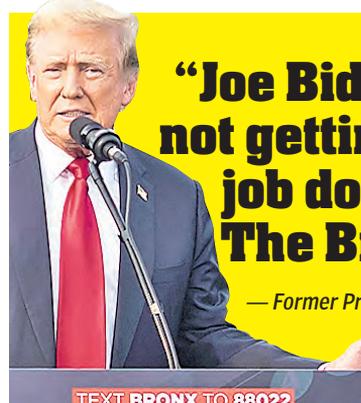
HERE'S THE SKINNY

An uptick of Americans are taking injectable weight-loss prescription meds like Ozempic and Wegovy.



“No sign of life” — Iranian state media after the helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi and other officials

RALLYING CRY



“Joe Biden is not getting the job done for The Bronx.”

— Former President Donald Trump at his South Bronx rally

“He represents us, the blacks in this city... he’s a real Nelson Mandela.”

— Harlem resident Paget Jones, who attended Trump’s rally



BUTTON PUSHERS

Teens in the US age 13-17 are a generation of gamers.

Play video games **85%**

Play daily **41%**

Use games as a social experience **72%**

Made a friend through gaming **47%**

— Pew

UNCHOSEN PEOPLE

JEWISH author Talia Carner thought she'd seen the worst after hundreds of antisemitic trolls re-view-bombed her new novel a few months back in retaliation for a pro-Israel video she posted on Instagram in the aftermath of Hamas' attack on Israel last Oct. 7.

But Carner was shocked anew earlier this month after discovering her name on a now-viral "Is your fav author a Zionist?" Google doc, which attempted to blacklist authors they believed were either supportive of Israel — or had failed to condemn the nation in the wake of its ongoing war in Gaza.

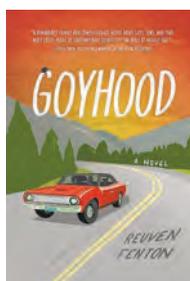
The spreadsheet's level of detail, comprehensiveness and unbridled malice was chilling. It included not only source links but color-coding that ranked each author's level of allegiance, or opposition, to the Jewish state. The document's creator, an X user named Amina, called on readers to boycott both "Pro-Israel/Zionist" authors like Carner, as well as writers who've yet to take a stand on Israel "until more evidence is out."

"What shocked me was the blatant anti-Semitism — and that it's politically correct, that it's OK to do something like that," said Carner, whose book "The Boy With the Star Tattoo" is centered around Jewish themes such as Israel and the Holocaust. "Emotionally, it really put me in a bad place."

CARNER is just one of scores of Jewish authors caught in a cancel-culture war that exploded since the Oct. 7 massacre and Israel's subsequent Gaza incursion. Anti-Israel disruptors appear relentless in their efforts to menace writers who so much as mention Israel uncritically, from shutting down author events to ratings-bombing Jewish-themed books on sites like Amazon and Goodreads. Prominent pro-



REUVEN FENTON



Palestinian novelists like Hisham Matar and Maaza Mengiste have joined in on this global effort, boycotting organizations like PEN America for not speaking out against the "genocide" in Gaza.

For many writers, Jews in particular, the experience evokes a modern day Nazi book burning.

"They are coming for us," said Jewish comedian and "Stranger Things" star Brett Gelman, for whom four bookstores canceled book signings earlier this year in support of his collection of short stories, "The Terrifying Realm of the Possible," alleging security concerns over threats made

by pro-Palestinian activists. "What is going on in this country and with these people has nothing to do with the war. It has nothing to do with Palestinian self determination. This has to do with antisemitism, complete antisemitism."

I know how Gelman feels.

In 2020, feeling demoralized covering the COVID-19 pandemic for The Post, I took refuge in a fictional world of my own invention. This became my debut novel "Goy-

hood," (Central Avenue, in stores May 28), the story of an Orthodox Jew who discovers he's not, in fact, Jewish and embarks on an epic road trip with his ne'er-do-well brother through the Deep South to come to grips with his fate.

Even in the best circumstances, finding a literary agent and a publisher is a tall order. My circumstances weren't great: I'd plodded onto the literary scene 60 years after the heyday of American Jewish letters, when authors like Philip Roth and Saul Bellow topped the bestseller lists. But in the following decades — to the surprise of no Jew with a historical perspective — the good will ebbed.

Then, very quickly, it died. The rise of social media proved a perfect — and potent — breeding ground for a campaign of pro-Palestinian goodwill that has led straight to our current world order: Where Zionists are now called genocidal Nazis and Hamas terrorists are the good guys.

It was a coup even we Jews had to admire.

Burying this grim prognosis in the back of my mind, I set about researching literary agents who might be interested in "Goyhood." This was during the height of the post-George Floyd era and at least half of the agents on their websites made clear their preferences for BIPOC, LGBTQ or other underrepresented authors — or works whose main

characters were thus. In other words, the prognosis for a white Jewish guy hawking a Jewish novel about two white guys wasn't great.

Mind you, this was *before* Oct. 7. Today, nearly eight months on — things have gotten far, far worse. "Half of British publishers 'won't

take books by Jewish authors,' " screamed a March headline in the Daily Telegraph, because of the Gaza war fallout. There is "no point putting proposals up to commissioning editors as they just are not interested," an unidentified literary agent depressingly confirmed.

Esteemed Israel-based book agent Deborah Harris recently noted that she skipped the London Book Fair this past March, "the first time I decided not to go. I sent agents, and those who went did so with fear." Her team did feel supported in the end, "but our sales are really down."

I reached out to an American agent to see if the same status quo is true on our side of the pond. He said he doubted that anyone in the industry was specifically weeding out Jews. However, he added, authors pitching manuscripts bearing the I-word (Israel) should brace for a lot of rejections — doubly so for children's authors.

"Maybe you'll have luck with a Jewish children's imprint, but anything beyond that is a no-fly zone,"

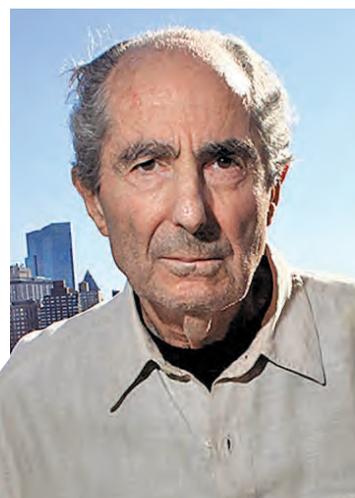
Canceled book readings. Publisher disinterest. Online zero-star reviews:

How Israel's war in Gaza is turning into a war on Jewish books and authors

Jewish writers are increasingly coming under attack from organized smear campaigns like a disturbing "Is your fav author a Zionist?" Google doc.



AP; Reuters; UPI



Decades removed from the heyday of Jewish literary giants like Saul Bellow (far left) and Philip Roth (near left), Holocaust historian Rafael Medoff (above) warns of the dark history of silencing Jewish authors.



Stores like LA's Skylight Books are giving more shelf space to Palestinian voices; the bio of activist Ahed Tamimi (left) accuses Israel of "colonial theft."



"Woman on Fire" author Lisa Barr (right) is among the 31 founding members of Artists Against Antisemitism.



since the readers are young and impressionable, that will stay with them for the rest of their lives, so when they think, 'Israel,' they will think, 'the bad guys.'"

Meanwhile, even the bestselling Jewish or pro-Israel writers are having to pay the price of achieving visibility — often after decades of hard work.

Among the some 200 names on the now-notorious "Zionist author" spreadsheet is Lisa Barr, who suffered the same fate as Talia Carner for her pro-Israel Instagram posts after Oct. 7: her bestselling novel "Woman on Fire" got slammed with hundreds of one-star ratings on Goodreads overnight.

"You work your heart out on something and then you have people who are able to go in freely and tank your book for no reason related to the book itself but because you're Jewish," Barr said.

Calling her experience "a nightmare, an awakening and a calling," Barr, along with 31 other Jewish women authors, founded Artists Against Antisemitism, a support group for harassed writers which also raises money to fight antisemitism on campuses.

ANOTHER founding member, author and publishing guru Zibby Owens, pulled her company's sponsorship for the National Book Awards last November after organizers refused to nix nominees' plans to promote an anti-Israel agenda during their acceptance speeches. Two months later, Owens — founder of publishing house Zibby Media — got her first one-star rating on Goodreads for her new novel, "Blank." The critic reviewed it in just two words: "Zionist racist."

he cautioned.

On the flip side, major publishers are actively seeking kid lit about Palestine — and influential bookstores like Skylight Books in Los Angeles are giving them prime shelf space. In 2022, Penguin Random House released, to great fanfare, "They Called Me a Lioness," a YA autobiography of young Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi — who, in the first few pages, accused the Jewish state of "colonial theft" and "ethnic cleansing" of Arab land.

A month after Oct. 7, Israeli forces arrested Tamimi — lauded by Al Jazeera as a Palestinian Rosa Parks — over an Instagram post threatening to "slaughter" Israeli settlers. "We will drink your blood and eat your skulls," the post read (her mother later told reporters Tamimi's account was hacked).

MARJORIE Gann, who reviews anti-Israel kid lit for the media watchdog group CAMERA, has been working to keep books like "They Called Me a Lioness" out of

school curricula — with minimal success.

"Those who are writing these

books want to prejudice children and they want to give them an anti-Israel predisposition," she said. "And

Targeted for Being Jewish



Jewish actress Mayim Bialik was shouted down by pro-Palestine activists at a January literary conference, while Jewish comic Brett Gelman warns: "If you let bullies bully, they'll continue to bully."



NY Post photo composite

USA Today Network: Getty Images

NEW YORK POST

AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

'24: Summer of Blackouts

The green fanatics have been so successful at crippling the Empire State's power infrastructure that now a minor heat wave, just three straight days with temps only above 95°, could plunge the state into darkness.

The grim news comes from the New York Independent System Operator, the nonprofit that runs the local power grid: In those *near-inevitable* circumstances, the NYISO warns, the system will be short more than 1,400 megawatts.

One megawatt covers the needs of 800 to 1,000 homes, so that translates to well over a *million* houses in the dark.

Just think how bad it could get if temperatures run above 100° for few days, or we get one of those beyond-sultry Augusts when thermometers sit above 90° all month.

So to recap: Our climate freaks, so publicly obsessed with ideas like “sustainability” and “resilience,” have sent the state's power system back into the Stone Ages, leaving millions of New Yorkers vulnerable if we just get a typical summer.

How have they done this? By demanding that the state switch generation away from tried-and-true sources like natural gas and oil (and nuclear) to wind and solar — except that the sun doesn't always shine, the wind doesn't always blow and anyway the state's solar and wind buildout is nowhere *near* sufficient to meet its massive, growing energy demand.

Yes, New York is shooting for an insane goal —

cutting CO2 emissions 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050 — and immiserating its citizens along the way.

Pointlessly: Even if New York somehow hits this target (it won't), the overall impact on climate change will be null, thanks to committed emitters like China and India — both still building coal plants by the dozens.

They know better than to try and choke off the carbon-based fuels that power the modern world — and will need to keep powering it until we get the *only* truly sustainable solution, nuclear energy, off the ground.

Indeed, the Green New Dealers' brainless strategy here, i.e. calling for transition before wind and solar can possibly get built out enough, has rendered New York City's grid “dirtier” than Texas' and the US average.

The only thing the green drive will achieve is depriving Empire State families of the blessings of modernity — like refrigeration and AC. Not only will the juice not be there, the cost of *trying* to build enough wind and solar guarantees massive rate hikes.

With every new absurdity, climate fanaticism is revealed more and more as a quasi-religion, not a rational response to the risks of a warming world. Not that the true believers (or the politicians who pander to them) will pause to face these inconvenient truths.

Remember who to thank when you're plunged into darkness in this summer's dog days.

Joe's Hatch-Act Hack

Team Biden moving to de-politicize the administration's top ranks? Color us suspicious.

The Office of Special Counsel (an executive branch agency) just moved authority to enforce the Hatch Act, which supposedly bans government officials from engaging in political activity, from the White House to the quasi-independent Merit Systems Protection Board.

Historically, senior White House personnel have been on a long leash here, including White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre frequently and derogatorily using the term “MAGA Republicans” (and White House aide Kellyanne Conway criticizing Democratic candidates during the Trump years).

Somehow we don't think this means a muzzle for KJP. But the out-of-the-blue move raises the question: Why now?

Our guess: Biden (or whoever calls the shots at the White House) is tired of getting slammed by his own (dyed-in-the-wool lefty) staffers, who've been publicly whining that he's been too supportive of Israel's government since last November (despite his consistent hamstringing of

the Jewish state as it fights for survival).

Moving enforcement to an outside agency will discourage pesky discontents from publicly embarrassing Biden by tarnishing his leftists bonafides — without requiring him to get his hands dirty by being the one to bring the hammer down.

Of course, when it *suits* Biden, federal workers at all levels are not just allowed but encouraged and sometimes *required* to play politics. Just look at his use of federal agencies to “get out the vote” in ways that disproportionately benefit Democrats (including the Big Guy himself).

Or his use of the Justice Department as a crew of flying monkeys to keep his election opponent tied up in court cases instead of out on the campaign trail.

So it's not surprising that these staffers came to the conclusion that it's their right — nay, *duty* — to use their positions to draw attention to the progressive cause de jour: slamming Israel.

But just as with his handling of classified docs and his son's shady business dealings, Biden has one set of rules for himself — and another for everyone else.



JONATHAN HAROUNOFF

IMAGINE this headline: Alec Baldwin, on trial for involuntary manslaughter during film shoot, teaching seminar on Hollywood gun safety.

Ludicrous, right?

The real-life story of Rob Malley — Biden's ex-Special Envoy to Iran and a lead negotiator in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal — is equally perplexing.

When news spread last weekend of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's death in a helicopter crash, social media exploded with sarcastic sympathy posts to Malley for his long-suspected Tehran ties. But behind every joke lies a measure of truth.

Last June, Malley (one of Biden's first appointees) was suspended from the State Department for allegedly transferring classified material to his personal email, where — according to insiders and Republican lawmakers — it was likely intercepted by a “hostile cyber actor,” possibly the Islamic Republic of Iran given Malley's history with the regime.

Since then, details surrounding Malley's suspension and subsequent FBI investigation have remained murky.

Answers trickled in from, of all places, Iran's state-run Tehran Times. Last July, the paper managed to obtain a sensitive government memorandum from April 2023 in which Erin Smart, director of the State Department's Diplomatic Security Office, told Malley that his mishandling of classified information made him a national security risk. Two months later, he was suspended from the State Department.

So, what do public figures do when embroiled in an ongoing investigation for possible national security violations? In Malley's case, teach — what else? — national security and Middle Eastern foreign policy at the Ivy Leagues.

When Yale and Princeton hired Malley last August, Yale vaguely noted that he was “on leave from the US State Department.”

True, Malley hasn't been found guilty of a crime and innocent people are often investigated by the FBI, so why can't he teach? He certainly has the pedigree having served in the Clinton, Obama and Biden administrations.

Because despite those hefty bona fides, Malley is a national security risk and a less-than-ideal instructor on the very subjects under which he's being investigated. At least until his name clears.

Even then, Malley remains an improbable academic — with more worrisome baggage than just his Washington troubles.

First there's International Crisis

Controversial
Iran-specialist
Robert Malley
has been
suspended
from his State
Department
duties — so
why is he
teaching at
the Ivies?

Group (ICG), the conflict-resolution NGO Malley helmed before becoming Biden's Iran envoy. Based in Brussels — but with deep ties to Washington and other Western capitals — ICG entered into a formal research agreement for “scientific and academic interactions” with Iran's Foreign Ministry in 2016 during a pause in Malley's leadership. This connection between the ICG and Iran was not publicly disclosed, according to Semafor, before Malley was appointed special envoy — the question is why? No one's entirely sure because the exact contours of the ICG-Tehran agreement have yet to be revealed.

Meanwhile, last September, Semafor and leading anti-regime outlet Iran International connected Malley's aides to the “Iran Experts Initiative (IEI),” an informal information platform launched by Iran's foreign ministry in 2014 to influence US foreign policy in favor of Tehran.

(In an email to The Post, an ICG spokesperson described these allegations as “misleading media characterizations;” ICG's chief of advocacy has also described the IEI's work as an independent and “informal platform backed by” Western governments).

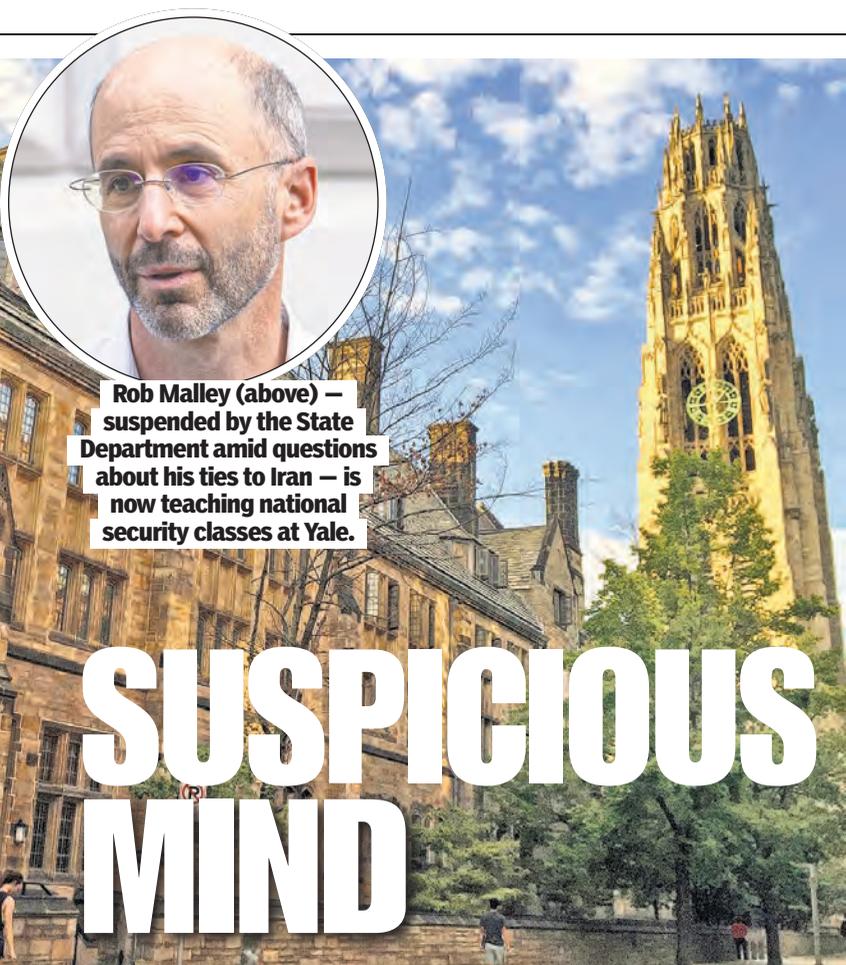
Among the Western analysts involved in the IEI was Malley protégé Ali Vaez, whom Malley recruited in 2012 as Iran project director at the ICG, where he remains today. Vaez regularly appears on Western news programs opining on Iran's nuclear future. Yet there is no indication that he's revealed his involvement in the Tehran-run IEI and their efforts to manipulate US foreign policy.

In fact, in 2014 — while working under Malley — Vaez emailed then-Ira-

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Rob Malley (above) — suspended by the State Department amid questions about his ties to Iran — is now teaching national security classes at Yale.

SUSPICIOUS MIND

nian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to reaffirm his fealty to the Islamic Republic. “As an Iranian, based on my national and patriotic duty, I have not hesitated to help you in any way,” Vaez wrote.

Is it any wonder Vaez’s security clearance was later denied when Malley tried to recruit him into the State Department following Biden’s arrival to the Oval Office? Neither Malley nor Vaez responded to multiple requests for comment; it’s unclear whether Vaez’s security clearance was ever approved.

The madness doesn’t end there.

Following the Oct. 7 massacre and subsequent war in Gaza, Malley has been teaching a Yale course called “Contending with Israel-Palestine.”

Yet Malley’s background suggests he’s anything but the impartial academic such coursework demands.



Rob Malley worked for the Clinton and Obama administrations and was one of President Biden’s first appointees.

While serving as an informal Middle East advisor for then-candidate Barack Obama in 2008, Malley held direct meetings with Hamas — a diplomatic no-no. Malley says he never hid the Hamas encounters, but according to Politico, he was forced to sever ties with the Obama administration after this news became public. (Curiously, Malley was later brought on by the Obama in 2015 to help with their ISIS strategy.)

Then there’s his father, Simon Malley — a Syrian-Egyptian journalist with equally concerning connections to Israel-Palestine. The elder Malley was a dear comrade to Yasser Arafat, according to his son. “My father felt close to Arafat,” the younger Malley told a crowd at Oxford University in 2008.

Some national security insiders even allege that Arafat was the younger Malley’s unofficial godfather.

Today, Malley is back on campus tasked with delivering a balanced perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict while his ties to Tehran, the chief patron of Hamas and Hezbollah, are probed. Huh?

No matter how the federal investigations into Malley ends, the entire process has been woefully opaque. For now, at least, Malley remains suspended from diplomatic duties in Washington. So why then is he teaching diplomacy to America’s future leaders?

Jonathan Harounoff is the author of the forthcoming book “Unveiled: Inside Iran’s #WomenLifeFreedom Revolt.”

CHATTER

Adams zones out

The author states that “without competent enforcement of existing laws and rules, different uses don’t so much mix as clash,” in regard to rezoning the city so neighborhoods and buildings can be completely changed (“City of . . . Oops,” Nicole Gelinas, May 20).

This is such a bad idea. One hardly knows where to begin. The lovely residential streets of our city would be subject to stores on their corners. As if we don’t have enough grocery stores, restaurants and whatever else already. Adding more would ruin the quiet of these blocks. Buildings being used as farms and food-processing centers? I guess we don’t have enough rats either?

Catherine Adago, Manhattan

Nonsense speech

Once again, Miranda Devine places her pen on the issue of the day (“Stark differences in 3 figures of speech,” May 20).

The divider-in-chief, President Biden, gave a speech at Morehouse, blowing hot air on the embers of racism. Rather than praise the grads for their accomplishments, he again felt it necessary (albeit for votes) to tell them that white America doesn’t respect or value them.

Elsewhere at the podium, Anthony (the fibber) Fauci tried to convince students that we shouldn’t question his science. This from the person who told us masks would prevent COVID, all the while secretly

aware that Wuhan was conducting gain-of-function research that unleashed a pandemic on the world.

I hope those who heard Fauci and Biden can see through the lies.

Betsy Flor, Putnam Valley

Honor in defeat

Even away from Madison Square Garden, Knicks fans were packed four-people deep at every sports bar in my Upper East Side neighborhood (“Knicks fought until there was ‘nothing left to give’ in bitter end to captivating season,” May 18).

The fans stayed till the very end to honor the grit shown by this team.

Adam Silbert, Manhattan

Shelter shuffle

I strongly oppose the state’s decision to convert the former Norfolk Prison into a shelter for migrant families without prior notice or community input (“Former Massachusetts prison to be converted to migrant family shelter amid crisis,” May 15).

This move is a textbook example of bureaucratic recklessness, ignoring the concerns and well-being of local residents.

This decision reeks of political expediency, prioritizing short-term fixes over sustainable solutions. We deserve a thoughtful, inclusive approach that considers the needs of all stakeholders, not just a hasty attempt to shuffle migrants out of sight. I urge our local leaders to demand more from the state and advocate for a more consid-

ered approach.

Let us work together to find solutions that respect both the community’s concerns and the dignity of migrant families seeking a better life. We can do better than this reckless decision.

Ronald Beaty, West Barnstable, Mass.

Shafik disappoints

The recent “no confidence” vote by Columbia’s College of Arts and Sciences faculty was a start (“New York does not agree with you!” May 23).

College protests are one thing, but the occupation of academic buildings and harassment of fellow students have no place in academia.

Although college protests are less in the news now, we must remember that the college administrators who capitulated to these morons still need to be replaced.

Alan Swartz, Verona, NJ

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EVERY DAY.

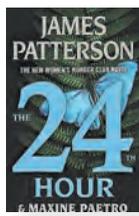
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POSTSCRIPT Books

by HAILEY EBER

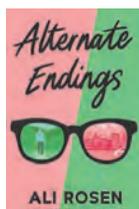
The 24th Hour: Is This the End?

James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown and Company)
The latest "Women's Murder Club" installment finds San Francisco police sergeant Lindsay Boxer and Co. investigating the death of a prominent billionaire couple. Out now



Alternate Endings

Ali Rosen (Montlake)
Divorced mom Beatrice Leal's life is upended when her boss moves from NYC to Ireland and her company hires a new CTO — a man who broke her heart two decades ago. They hook up one night on the Emerald Isle and Beatrice wonders if the episode should be tightly contained, or if being happy sometimes means embracing life's messiness. Out now



Angel of Vengeance: A Pendergast Novel

Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (Grand Central Publishing)
In the final book in the Pendergast series, the time-traveling FBI agent and his ward Constance Greene make a final push to stop a brutal New York serial killer. Constance is trying to save her siblings from murder, while Pendergast navigates a family connection to the killer. August 13



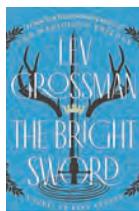
By Any Other Name

Jodi Picoult (Ballantine Books)
The bestselling author's newest focuses on two women living centuries apart. In modern times, up-and-coming playwright Melina Green writes about one of her ancestors from the Elizabethan era, Emilia Bassano, and submits the work under a man's name to be taken more seriously. In the late 16th century, a bright young Emilia Bassano struggles with her place in society and being forced to be a mistress to an English aristocrat. August 20



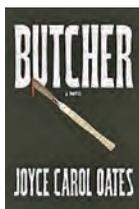
The Bright Sword: A Novel of King Arthur

Lev Grossman (Viking)
The bestselling author of "The Magicians" trilogy reimagines the legend of King Arthur — looking beyond Lancelot and Gawain and giving quirkier characters such as Sir Palomides, the fool Sir Dagonet and Merlin's apprentice Nimue a chance to shine. July 16



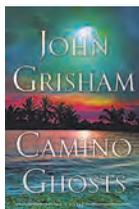
Butcher

Joyce Carol Oates (Knopf)
The Pulitzer Prize finalist gives the historical fiction treatment to the life of Dr. Silas Weir, a 19th-century doctor who performed gruesome experiments on inmates at the New Jersey Asylum for Female Lunatics. Out now



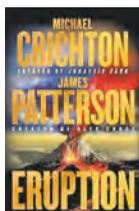
Camino Ghosts

John Grisham (Doubleday)
In the author's third thriller set on Camino Island, bookstore owner Bruce Cable relays a juicy story: A wealthy mega-developer is trying to take over a nearby island, but its past — and the last remaining resident — get in the way. May 28



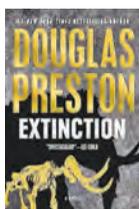
Eruption

Michael Crichton and James Patterson (Little, Brown and Company)
Crichton — the creator of "Jurassic Park," "ER," "Westworld" and "Twister" — was working on a new book when he passed away from cancer in 2008. His wife, Sherri Crichton, eventually enlisted the help of another blockbuster author, Patterson, to help finish the manuscript, which centers around a volcanic eruption that's about to destroy the big island of Hawaii — and a military secret that's even more explosive. June 3



Extinction: A Novel

Douglas Preston (Forge Books)
The latest thriller from the bestselling author is drawing comparisons to Michael Crichton's "Jurassic Park." A massive resort in the Colorado mountains lets guests see woolly mammoths, giant sloths and other extinct creatures brought back to life. But then people start turning up dead. Authorities initially blame eco-terrorists, but a deeper, darker force may be to blame. Out now



Fire Exit

Morgan Talty (Tin House Books)
This debut novel from the author of the acclaimed short story collection "Night of the Living Rez" is set on a Native American reservation in Maine. Charles Lamosway has watched his neighbor Elizabeth's life unfold since she came home from the hospital as a baby, but kept it secret that she's his daughter — until now. June 4



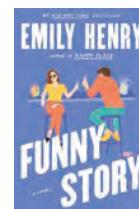
Five Broken Blades

Mai Corland (Red Tower Books)
This epic fantasy is expected to be another blockbuster for the publisher behind Rebecca Yarros' hit "Empyrean" series. The first book in a trilogy, it's inspired by Korean legend and told from the point of view of six different characters — five of them assassins trying to kill the same king. Out now

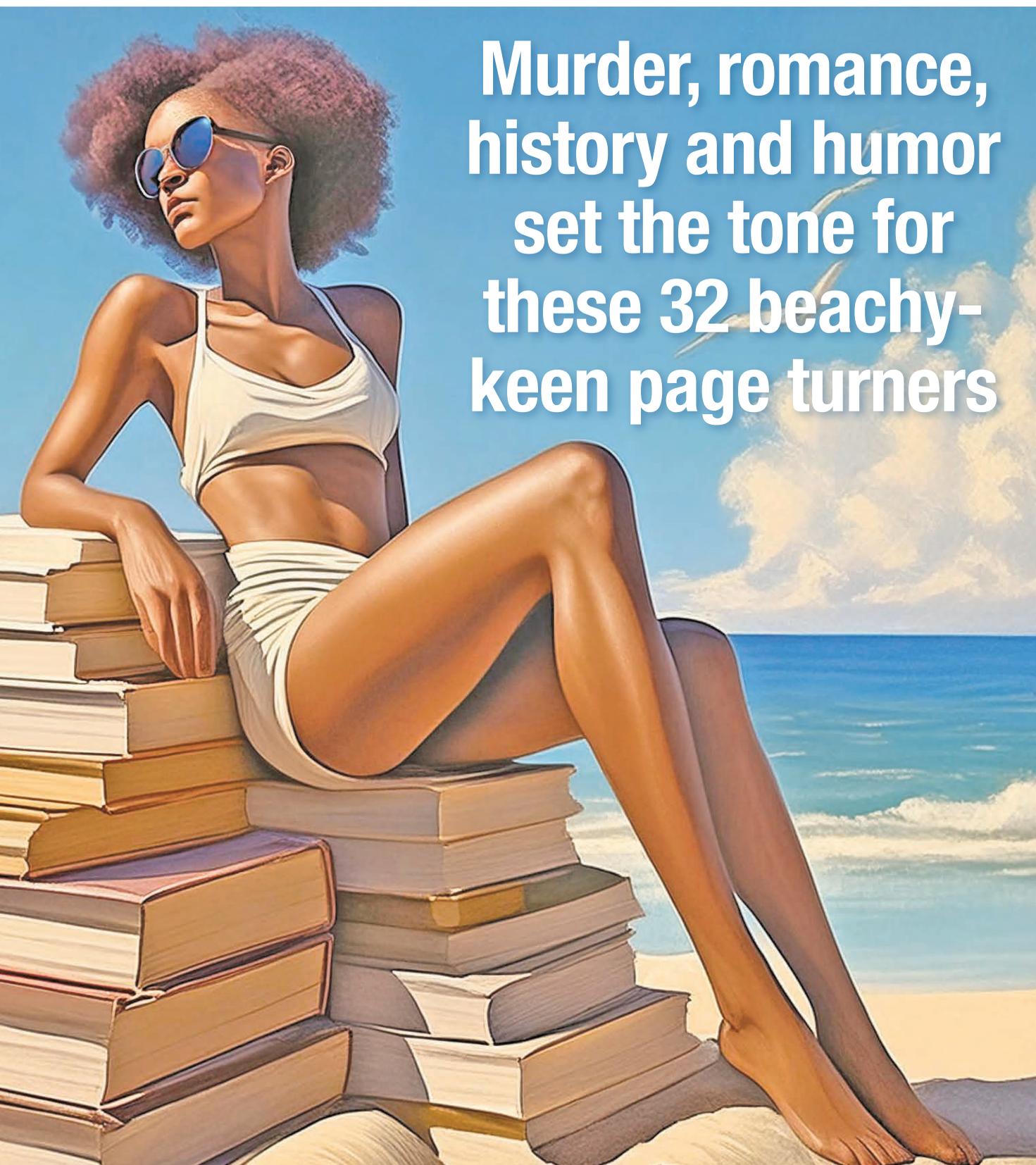


Funny Story

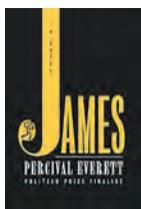
Emily Henry (Berkley)
The rom-com master's new book finds a woman named Daphne moving to a small Michigan town after being left by her fiancé for another woman. She ends up meeting that woman's ex, and they concoct a plan to make it seem like they're having the best summer ever. Out now



Murder, romance, history and humor set the tone for these 32 beachy-keen page turners

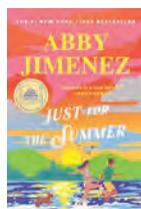


James
Percival Everett
(Doubleday)
Everett's 2020 novel "Telephone" was a Pulitzer finalist. His latest is a re-imagining of "Huckleberry Finn" told from the point of view of escaped slave Jim. It's drawing comparisons to Barbara Kingsolver's "Demon Copperhead." Out now



Just for the Summer

Abby Jimenez (Forever)
This bestseller focuses on a seasonal fling that might be something more. Justin is notoriously cursed: After he breaks up with a girl, she finds her soulmate. But then he meets a traveling nurse named Emma. Out now



Lies and Weddings

Kevin Kwan (Doubleday)
The "Crazy Rich Asians" author is back with more lavish weddings and lusty affairs of the wealthy. Rufus Leung Gresham is the son of a glamorous supermodel and on track to be an earl, but his playboy lifestyle has depleted his trust fund. So, his mother comes up with a plan for him to seduce a rich woman at his sister's wedding. Too bad Rufus has always loved the girl-next-door, whose daddy is a mere doctor, not a sultan. Out now



Long Island Comprise

Taffy Brodesser-Akner (Random House)
Brodesser-Akner follows up her acclaimed "Fleishman is in Trouble" (and its great Hulu adaptation) with a novel set in one of Long Island's wealthiest enclaves, as a businessman is kidnapped, beaten and held for ransom for a week in 1980. Decades later, he and his family struggle with the lasting effects. July 9.



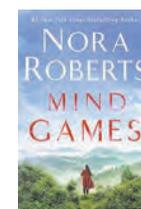
One Perfect Couple

Ruth Ware (Gallery/Scout Press)
It's Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" meets "Love Island." Five couples are set to compete on a reality show called "Ever After Island." But soon after they arrive at the remote, tropical destination, things start to go wrong, and the couples find themselves fighting to survive. Out now



Mind Games: A Novel

Nora Roberts (St. Martin's Press)
A young woman named Thea has visions that predicted the murder of her parents when she was 12 and also helped to send their killer to jail. But the man who destroyed her family is out for revenge — and he has similar psychic gifts. Out now



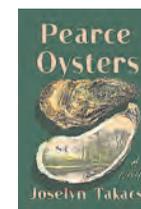
The Ministry of Time

Kalienne Bradley (Avid Reader Press)
This spy romance thriller comedy is already set to be a six-part BBC series from top indie entertainment company A24. In the near future, a millennial civil servant takes on a new job that has her helping with a government time travel experiment — and falling in love with a Victorian explorer who initially died in 1845. Out now



Pearce Oysters

Joselyn Takacs
Family drama unfolds on the Louisiana coast after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Amidst the crisis, a black sheep musician returns from the city to help his brother and widowed mother run their oyster farm business. June 25



Turn the page
for more summer
books!

POSTSCRIPT Books

Real Americans

Rachel Khong (Knopf)

This social novel from the author of "Goodbye, Vitamin" is set in the late '90s in New York City. Lily, a broke intern from Tampa, falls in love with Matthew, the East Coast heir to a pharmaceutical fortune. Years later, Lily is a single mom to a teenage son who is asking questions about his father. Out now



Shadow of Doubt: A Thriller

Brad Thor (Atria)

In the 23rd book of the Scott Horvath series, the Secret Service agent and former Navy SEAL is swept up in international intrigue. A cargo plane surrounded by Russian fighter jets takes off from a distant airbase, a Russian dissident carries deadly secrets and seeks asylum in Norway and an agent in Paris discovers a huge conspiracy. July 23



Shanghaianders

Juli Min (Spiegel & Grau)

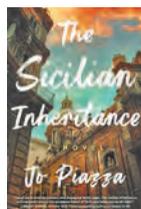
This debut starts in 2040 and works backwards to 2014 to tell the story of a sophisticated Chinese family. Leo Yang is a wealthy Shanghai businessman married to Eko, an elegant Japanese-French woman. One of their daughters has acting aspirations, the other is Harvard bound. Out now



The Sicilian Inheritance

Jo Piazza (Dutton)

The bestselling author's new book is about a woman searching for herself in Sicily after divorce, professional setbacks and the death of a beloved aunt. But she finds more than gelato and Mediterranean breezes when she discovers that her Italian great grandmother was murdered — and that she herself may be in danger. Out now



Tehrangles

Porochista Khakpour

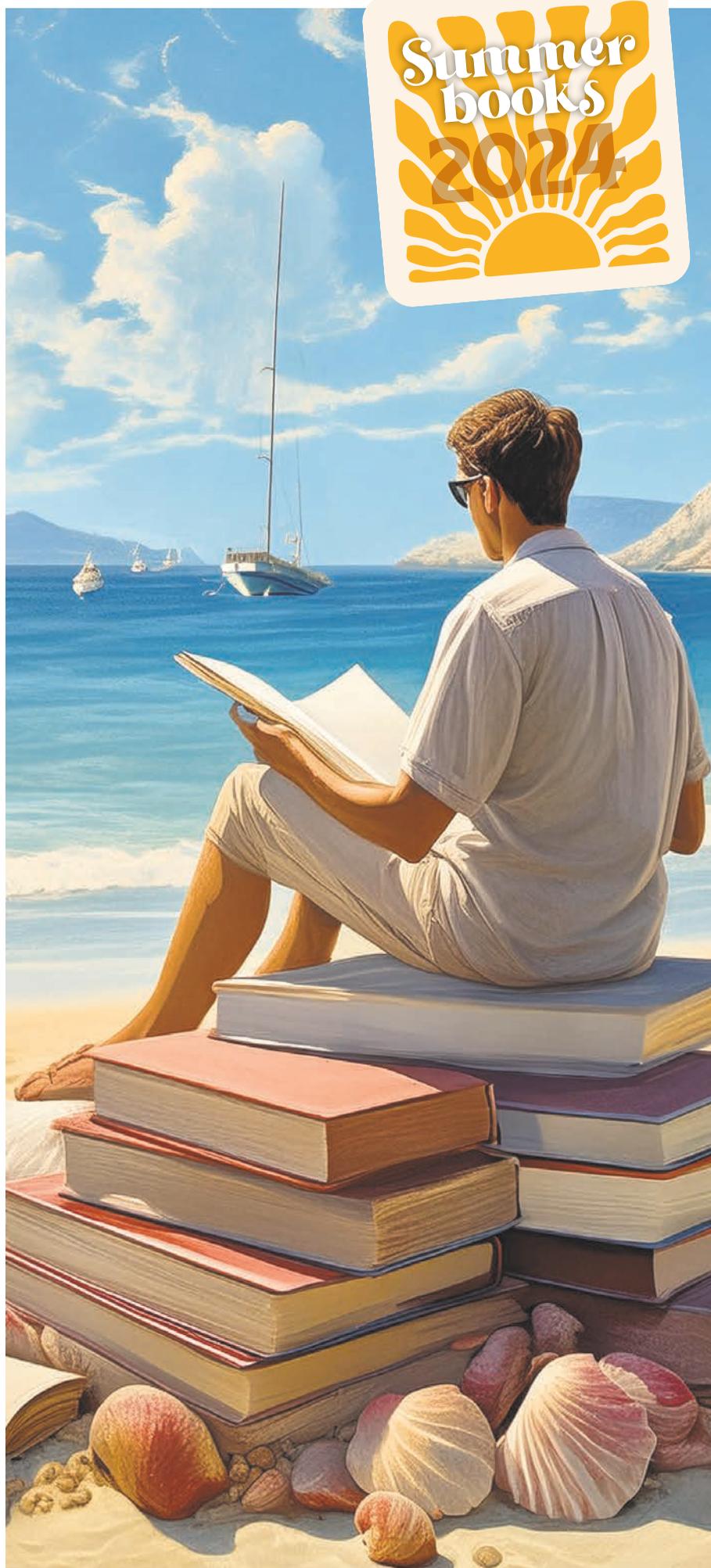
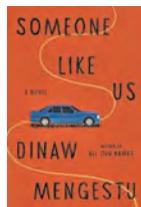
In this satirical novel, the Milanis — a wealthy Iranian-American clan living in a McMansion in Los Angeles — are about to get their own reality show, when family secrets start to come out. Each of the four spunky Milani daughters has something to hide, as does the family Persian cat. Out now



Someone Like Us

Dinaw Mengestu

In the latest from the acclaimed author of "How to Read Air" and "All Our Names," an Ethiopian-American man leaves a troubled marriage in Paris and seeks refuge in his family in Washington, DC. But, when his father dies suddenly, he embarks on a roadtrip and wrestles with family secrets. July 30



This Strange Eventful History

Claire Messud (W. W. Norton & Company)

This sprawling 448-page epic follows the pious-noir Cassar family for seven decades, as they're separated during World War II and later reckon with their Algerian homeland. Messud, who was long-listed for the Booker Prize with 2006's "The Emperor's Children," has said the new book was partly inspired by her own family's saga. Out now



Swan Song

Elin Hilderbrand

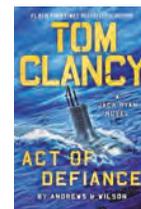
The latest of Hildebrand's Nantucket novels finds the island in a tizzy when a \$22 million home is purchased by a mysterious wealthy family named the Richardsons. They own two yachts and throw over-the-top parties, but things turn dark when their new home burns to the ground and a key employee disappears. June 11



Tom Clancy Act of Defiance

Brian Andrews and Jeffrey Wilson (G.P. Putnam's Sons)

The 24th Jack Ryan novel portrays President Ryan navigating the unexpected launch of Russia's deadliest submarine. The circumstances are similar to those four decades earlier when Ryan, then a young CIA analyst, successfully dealt with a Soviet sub named Red October. Out now



Very Bad Company: A Novel

Emma Rosenblum

In this satire of corporate culture, from the bestselling author of "Bad Summer People," employees from a buzzy startup heads to Miami for a fancy retreat. But a high-level executive vanishes after the first night. Out now



Wives Like Us

Plum Sykes (Harper)

The "Bergdorf Blondes" author sets her shrewd eyes on the wealthy in the English countryside. An American divorcee, three rich wives and two tycoons mix and mingle in a sprawling Cotswold cottage. Out now



You Like It Darker: Stories

Stephen King (Scribner)

The horror master has released a collection of 12 thrilling short stories, including one called "Rattlesnakes" that's a sequel of sorts to his 1981 classic "Cujo." It focuses on a grieving widower who unexpectedly gets an inheritance — which comes with unpleasant conditions.





Sunday Break



“Workplay” By Samuel A. Donaldson & Doug Peterson

- Across**
- 1 FLOTUS after Hillary
 - 6 Result of a lost front tooth, perhaps
 - 10 Winter accessory
 - 15 Docs doing deliveries
 - 18 Fairy tale bullies
 - 19 Kuwaiti ruler
 - 20 Gainbridge Fieldhouse player
 - 21 “Sussudio” singer Collins
 - 22 Home business?
 - 25 Sword side
 - 26 Ritzy
 - 27 PJ top, perhaps
 - 28 Change one’s story?
 - 29 Handle
 - 30 Sift through
 - 32 Small stream
 - 34 “They set us up!”
 - 36 Italian “That’ll do!”
 - 39 Risky business?
 - 42 Fail to cooperate?
 - 44 Timid souls
 - 45 Division I org. based in Arlington, Texas
 - 46 Efficient
 - 47 Diamond with hits
 - 49 Pita sandwiches
 - 52 Rough and disorderly
 - 56 Pressing business?
 - 59 Checker’s concern
 - 61 Loafer, e.g.

- 62 Souvenir shop staples
- 63 Pop, to baby
- 66 Real struggle
- 68 Buckeyes’ sch.
- 70 Core business?
- 74 Venn diagram grouping
- 75 1960s sitcom family with a pet dragon named Spot
- 77 Entreaty
- 78 Formerly, once
- 80 Amount countable on one hand
- 81 Partially melted
- 83 Funny business?
- 88 Six Flags attractions
- 90 Afternoon class hour
- 93 127-Across’s Bonneville ___ Flats
- 94 Homeowner’s overhaul, for short
- 95 ICU readout
- 97 Response to something 98-Down
- 99 Gymnastics team gear
- 101 Family business?
- 107 Scanner brand
- 108 More than necessary
- 109 Wind with keys
- 110 Unnamed others
- 112 Slimming procedure, for short
- 113 Gothic governess
- 115 Guesses from late guests, briefly
- 117 Lack of pep
- 121 “Hooked on

- Classics” record label**
- 122 Nobody’s business?
 - 125 Make waterproof
 - 126 Doomed, so to speak
 - 127 Bryce Canyon National Park locale
 - 128 Run the ___
 - 129 Couture monogram
 - 130 Weasel relative
 - 131 Okay
 - 132 Kimberly of “Diary of a Mad Black Woman”

- Down**
- 1 Parliament member
 - 2 “The African Queen” screenwriter James
 - 3 Intercontinental mountain range
 - 4 Second thoughts
 - 5 Like one of the ace community
 - 6 Service that’s neither good nor bad?
 - 7 Apple that comes in many colors
 - 8 Lutelike instruments
 - 9 Pump option
 - 10 Lotion letters
 - 11 Central Perk, e.g.
 - 12 Biting
 - 13 Compete in a poetry slam
 - 14 Tool that resembles a “P”
 - 15 “Fiddlesticks!”
 - 16 Burger with a jingle listing its

- ingredients
- 17 Grumpy colleague
- 21 Whitsunday, by another name
- 23 Seasoning for French fries?
- 24 North Sea work site
- 31 First part of many forms
- 33 Like many doilies
- 35 Vegan panna cotta ingredient
- 36 Lacking locks
- 37 Laptop using ChromeOS, maybe
- 38 “More to come”
- 40 Apt reply to “Does drei times drei equal acht?”
- 41 Brand with a Kids Tactical Vest Kit
- 43 Tiny outfits
- 48 What a journalist might bury, in jargon
- 50 Home of surfing’s Triple Crown
- 51 Slew
- 53 Teakettles and referees, e.g.
- 54 Cake stand topper
- 55 Chuck, casually
- 57 What just isn’t right?
- 58 Hoarse voice
- 60 Had a go at
- 64 ISP option
- 65 “Gimme ___”
- 67 Nemo’s forgetful friend
- 68 Squad-mate of Tlaib and Pressley
- 69 Islamic mystic
- 71 Easy gait
- 72 “H.R. wouldn’t

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 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 | | 67 | | | | | |
| 68 | 69 | | | 70 | | 71 | 72 | | | 73 | | | | 74 | | | | |
| 75 | | | 76 | | | | | 77 | | | | 78 | | 79 | | | | |
| 80 | | | | | 81 | | 82 | | 83 | | 84 | 85 | | | 86 | 87 | | |
| 88 | | | | 89 | | 90 | | 91 | 92 | | 93 | | | 94 | | | | |
| | | | | | 95 | | 96 | | 97 | | 98 | | 99 | | 100 | | | |
| 101 | 102 | 103 | | | | 104 | 105 | | | 106 | | | | 107 | | | | |
| 108 | | | | | | | | 109 | | | | 110 | 111 | | | | | |
| 112 | | | | | | 113 | | 114 | | 115 | | 116 | | 117 | | 118 | 119 | 120 |
| 121 | | | | | | 122 | | | 123 | | | 124 | | | | | | |
| 125 | | | | | | 126 | | | | | 127 | | | | 128 | | | |
| 129 | | | | | | 130 | | | | | 131 | | | | 132 | | | |

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- like this” warning
- 73 New Mexico art community
- 76 Glazed treat
- 79 Some recycling material
- 82 Rishi Sunak, for one
- 84 Algeria neighbor
- 85 To-be
- 86 Ctrl+Z action
- 87 Cap’n’s deputy
- 89 Whole alternative
- 91 Slightly, on scores
- 92 Argentine grape
- 96 Sticks on
- 98 Laugh-out-loud funny
- 100 The first “T” in
- TMNT
- 101 Down-home
- 102 Offers with clickable RSVP’s
- 103 Overturn
- 104 Pain relief brand with an oxymoronic name
- 105 Word with empty or veiled
- 106 Close by
- 111 Snarky syllable
- 114 Instead
- 116 Daycation destinations
- 118 “Rent” role
- 119 Promising notes
- 120 Pay to play
- 123 Abbr. on a copier tray
- 124 “Think so, eh?”

Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

Super Su Doku, inside, multiplies the challenge – and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org. For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow’s New York Post.

| Very Easy #6,560 | | | | | Difficult #6,350 | | | | | Challenging #452 | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | | 8 | | 6 | | 1 | 2 | | 4 | | 3 | 1 | 7 | | 2 | 4 | | | |
| 1 | 4 | 5 | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 5 | | | | | | 1 | 7 | |
| | | 8 | | 6 | | | 8 | | | | | 9 | | 5 | | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | | | 4 | 3 | | | 6 | 3 | | 1 | 5 | | | 4 | | 1 | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 7 | | 9 | 6 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 9 | | | | 8 | 9 | | | |
| | | 2 | 8 | | | 4 | 7 | | 5 | | 9 | | 4 | 8 | | | 7 | | 3 | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | 5 | | | | 6 | | | | | | | 6 | | 1 | |
| | 3 | | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | | 4 | 3 | | | | 7 | | 6 | 5 | | | 8 | |
| | | | | 3 | | | 1 | | 7 | | 3 | 1 | | | | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 |

Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.

A 10x10 grid with black squares forming a pattern. White squares are for digits 1-9. Clues are numbers in triangles pointing to the start of a run of white squares. Row clues: 11, 29, 10, 14, 15, 9, 24, 10, 23, 11, 21, 7, 4, 13, 12, 13, 19, 10, 7, 30, 10, 9, 15.

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#452 ▲

New York Post, Sunday, May 26, 2024 nypost.com

Chess Mystery Inc.

By Andy Soltis

Masters used to be praised for making “mysterious rook moves.” Today it is the pawns in front of the rooks that create the mystery.

When the AI-produced program AlphaZero was unveiled in 2017, what impressed grandmasters most was how often it advanced its h-pawn for reasons no human could clearly explain.

Some rook-pawn moves are logical, such as when White

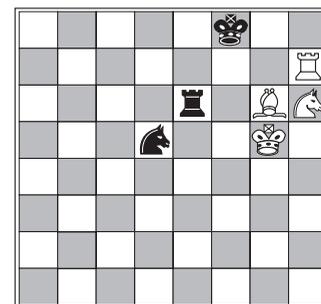
gained queenside space in this week’s game by pushing his a-pawn. But what about 17 h4?

The answer is he needed to clear a square for a knight because Black was threatening to trap it with ...h6.

It was the half-open g-file that cost White the game when he passed up 24 Nf4! and allowed a killing knight sacrifice. He resigned before ...Rg2, e.g. 29 Be3 Rg2 30 Bf2 Bg3!.

RUY LOPEZ Prague 2024

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| S. Rohit | S. Kourkoulos-Arditis |
| 1 e4.....e5 | 16 Ng5.....Kh8 |
| 2 Nf3.....Nc6 | 17 h4.....Rd8 |
| 3 Bb5.....a6 | 18 a5.....h6 |
| 4 Ba4.....Nf6 | 19 Nh3.....Be6 |
| 5 O-O.....d6 | 20 Qe2.....Qf7 |
| 6 Re1.....Bd7 | 21 Ra4.....Rg8 |
| 7 c3.....g6 | 22 Bd1.....Rxd1!? |
| 8 d4.....Bg7 | 23 Rxd1.....Qg6 |
| 9 h3.....O-O | 24 g3?.....Nxc3! |
| 10 Be2.....Nh5 | 25 fxc3.....Qxc3+ |
| 11 a4.....Qe8 | 26 Kf1.....Qxh3+ |
| 12 Na3.....f5 | 27 Ke1.....Ne5 |
| 13 exf5.....gxf5 | 28 Nxe5.....Bxe5 |
| 14 dxe5.....dxe5 | 29 Resigns |
| 15 Nc4.....e4 | |



White to play and win.

A.Korobov-A.Mishra

Prague 2024

Last week: 1...Bc5! 2 bxc4 Rxd4! 3 Rxd4 Nd3 4 Qd3 Nxc1.

KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

A 6x6 grid with cages and operations. Cages: (1,1)-(1,2) 1-, (1,2)-(1,3) 2÷, (1,3)-(1,4) 6, (1,4)-(1,5) 8x, (2,3)-(2,4) 3÷, (2,4)-(2,5) 3-, (3,1)-(3,2) 2-, (3,2)-(3,3) 3+, (3,4)-(3,5) 30x, (4,1)-(4,2) 3÷, (4,2)-(4,3) 1-, (4,3)-(4,4) 11+, (4,4)-(4,5) 18x, (5,1)-(5,2) 1-, (5,4)-(5,5) 24x, (6,1)-(6,2) 7+, (6,2)-(6,3) 1-.

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Sunday Word Force

CAUTIONARY

From the word or phrase above, form at least 27 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

“What kind of shoes do you wear?” Cy the Cynic asked me in the club lounge.

“Slippers, mostly. Why?”

“Well,” Cy said jocularly, “if thieves wear sneakers, artists wear sketchers, bread-bakers wear loafers and linguists wear Converse, I was wondering what bridge columnists wear.”

In today’s deal from a penny game, Cy landed at six hearts as South. When West competed to six diamonds, North would have done better, at least in practice, to pass, giving Cy the final say, or to double and accept a decent penalty.

West led the ace and a low diamond, and Cy ruffed. He led a trump to dummy and returned the jack of clubs for a finesse. West took the king for down one.

“You must be wearing combat boots today,” I told the Cynic,

“because you booted that one. Your club finesse was futile. On the bidding, West surely had the king.”

“I had no option,” Cy growled.

Cy had one “sole” legitimate chance. West was likely to have four spades as well as the king of clubs. If Cy takes all but one of dummy’s trumps, discarding the four and queen of clubs, the shoe will be on the other foot. With five tricks to go, dummy has the K-5 of spades, a trump and J-6 of clubs. Cy has the A-9-7-4 of spades and ace of clubs.

If West saves three spades and the K-10 of clubs, Cy takes the K-A of spades, ruffs a spade and wins the last two tricks with the ace of clubs and a good spade. If instead West keeps four spades and the singleton king of clubs, Cy cashes his ace of clubs and wins Trick 13 with dummy’s jack.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
▲ K 5
♥ K J 10 8 5 4 3
♦ 8 2
♣ J 6

WEST
▲ Q J 8 3
♥ A J 7 4
♦ K 10 9 5

EAST
▲ 10 6 2
♥ None
♦ K Q 10 9 6 3
♣ 8 7 3 2

SOUTH
▲ A 9 7 4
♥ A Q 9 6 2
♦ 5
♣ A Q 4

South 1 ♣ West 4 ♣ North 4 ♣ East 5 ♣
5 ♣ 6 ♣ 6 ♣ (1) All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ A

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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE
 3 letters = 1 point
 4 letters = 2 points
 5 letters = 3 points
 6 letters = 4 points
 7 letters = 6 points
 8 letters = 10 points
 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
 151+ = Champ
 101-150 = Expert
 61-100 = Pro
 31-60 = Gamer
 21-30 = Rookie
 11-20 = Amateur
 0-10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

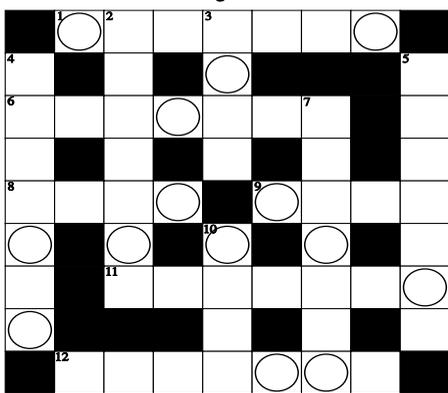
We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?
 Find AT LEAST EIGHT COUNTRIES in the grid of letters.

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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



ACROSS

CLUE

- Argument
- tree
- Pup
- Religious song
- Blow up
- Protection, habitat

ANSWER

- PESITUD
 LOMKEHC
 NETT
 MNYX
 DOLPXEE
 LEHSRET

DOWN

CLUE

- Of extraordinary size and power
- Not adequate in quality
- Break into pieces
- Mistake
- Type of opening
- Mineral of hydrated silica

ANSWER

- NEMISEM
 ROPO
 SRHETTA
 NEULBRD
 LEKEOHY
 LOAP

BONUS

CLUE: There are five living species of this animal.



How to play
 Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.



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| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|-------------------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| A ₁ | E ₁ | I ₁ | L ₁ | P ₃ | D ₂ | R ₁ | | 3rd Letter Double | RAK 1 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| A ₁ | E ₁ | O ₁ | L ₁ | T ₁ | R ₁ | S ₁ | | | RAK 2 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| E ₁ | O ₁ | L ₁ | D ₂ | C ₃ | R ₁ | S ₁ | | Triple Word Score | RAK 3 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| A ₁ | E ₁ | I ₁ | L ₁ | X ₈ | M ₃ | C ₃ | | | RAK 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| I ₁ | U ₁ | H ₄ | D ₂ | F ₄ | S ₁ | M ₃ | | | RAK 5 |

PAR SCORE 265-275
 BEST SCORE 334

FIVE RACK TOTAL _____
 TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Super Su Doku

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 4 | | | 3 | 6 | | 12 | 7 | |
| 6 | 9 | | 7 | 11 | | | 4 | | 10 | 5 |
| | | 12 | | 9 | | | | | | 11 |
| | | | 12 | | | 9 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 2 | | | 10 | 3 | 8 | 5 | | 11 | | |
| 11 | | | 8 | | 12 | 7 | | 6 | | 10 |
| | | 10 | 6 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 10 | | | 8 | | | |
| 7 | | 1 | | | | | 6 | | 2 | |
| 8 | 6 | | | 2 | | | | 10 | | 4 |
| | 2 | 3 | | | 9 | 8 | 5 | | | 12 |

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Action, Aisles, Animation, Applause, Arcade, Audience, Ballet, Beverages, Box Office, Camera, Candy, Cast, Choreographer, Cinema, Comedy, Composer, Concession, Costume, Crew, Crowds, Date, Digital, Drive-in, Entertainment, Farce, Feature, Film, Flick, Fries, Hall, Heroic, Hot Dogs, IMAX, Lobby, Loud, Lounge, Medieval, Meet, Merchandise, Monologue, Opera, Pass, Patron, Performance, Picture, Pizza, Plays, Plot, Presentation, Ratings, Refreshments, Sale, Scene, Screen, Seats, Sets, Silence, Soda, Solo, Stadium, Three-dimensional, Tickets, Tour, Tragedy, Trailer, Usher, Venues, Videotape, Western, Writer

MOVIES, THEATERS AND SHOWS

SOLUTION: 11 LETTERS

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

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By Maude Campbell, Tori Schneebaum & Donna Grace

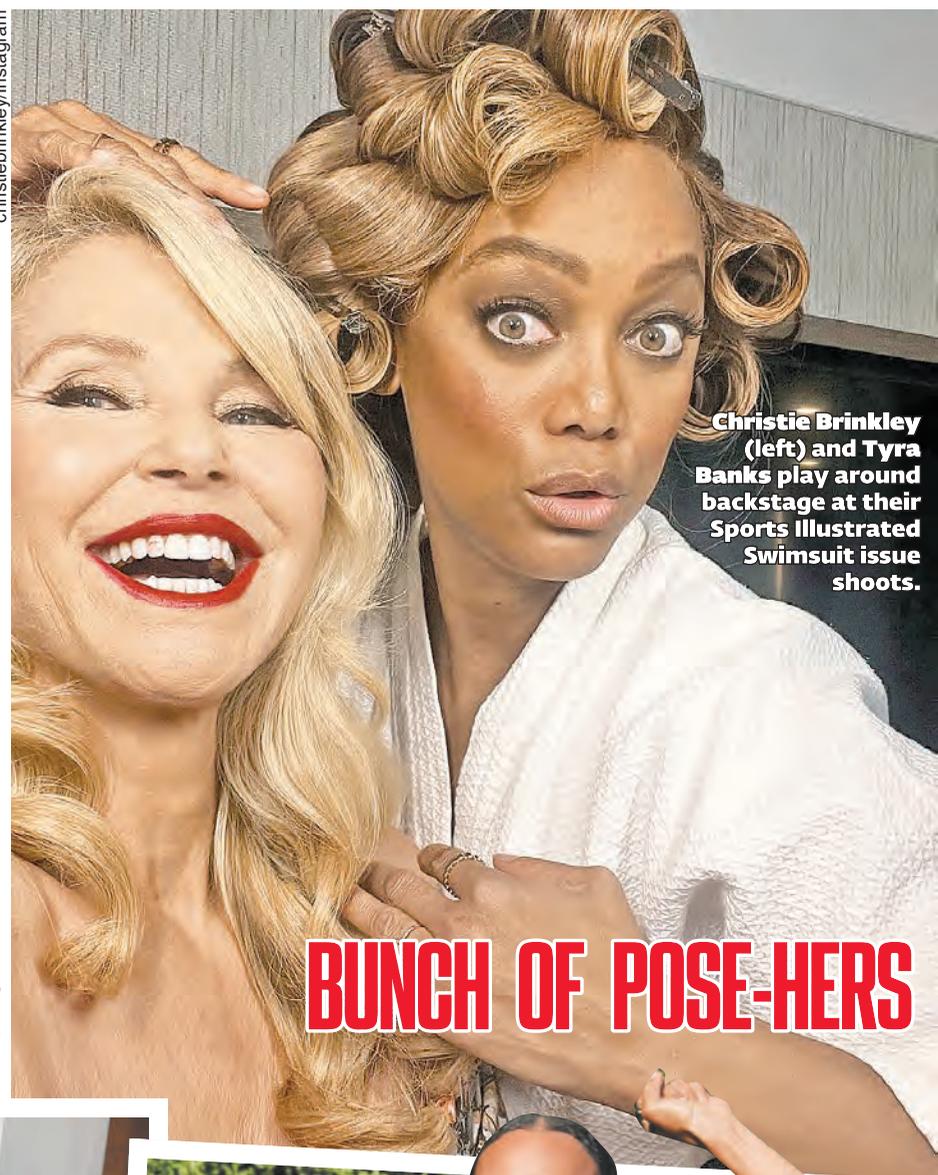
Snaps

GRAD'S ALL FOLKS

Angela Bassett can't hide her grin while accepting an honorary doctorate at Georgia's Spelman College.



christiebrinkley/Instagram
Getty Images



Christie Brinkley (left) and Tyra Banks play around backstage at their Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue shoots.

BUNCH OF POSE-HERS

Getty Images for The Recording Academy



'BOP' TO THE TOP

At the Grammy Hall of Fame gala in LA, Zac (from left), Taylor and Isaac Hanson keep it all in the family.



Before attending a Beverly Hills screening of the film "Ezra," Kerry Washington gets some of her energy out.

BETTER THAN 'EZRA'

kerrywashington/Instagram



**HEY,
BUTT
OUT**

Arriving at "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" in Midtown, Anya Taylor-Joy leaves little to the imagination.

MEGA



Robin Thicke (from left), 3-year-old son Luca and fiancée April Love Geary spend some quality time together in California.

**MONSTER
MASH**

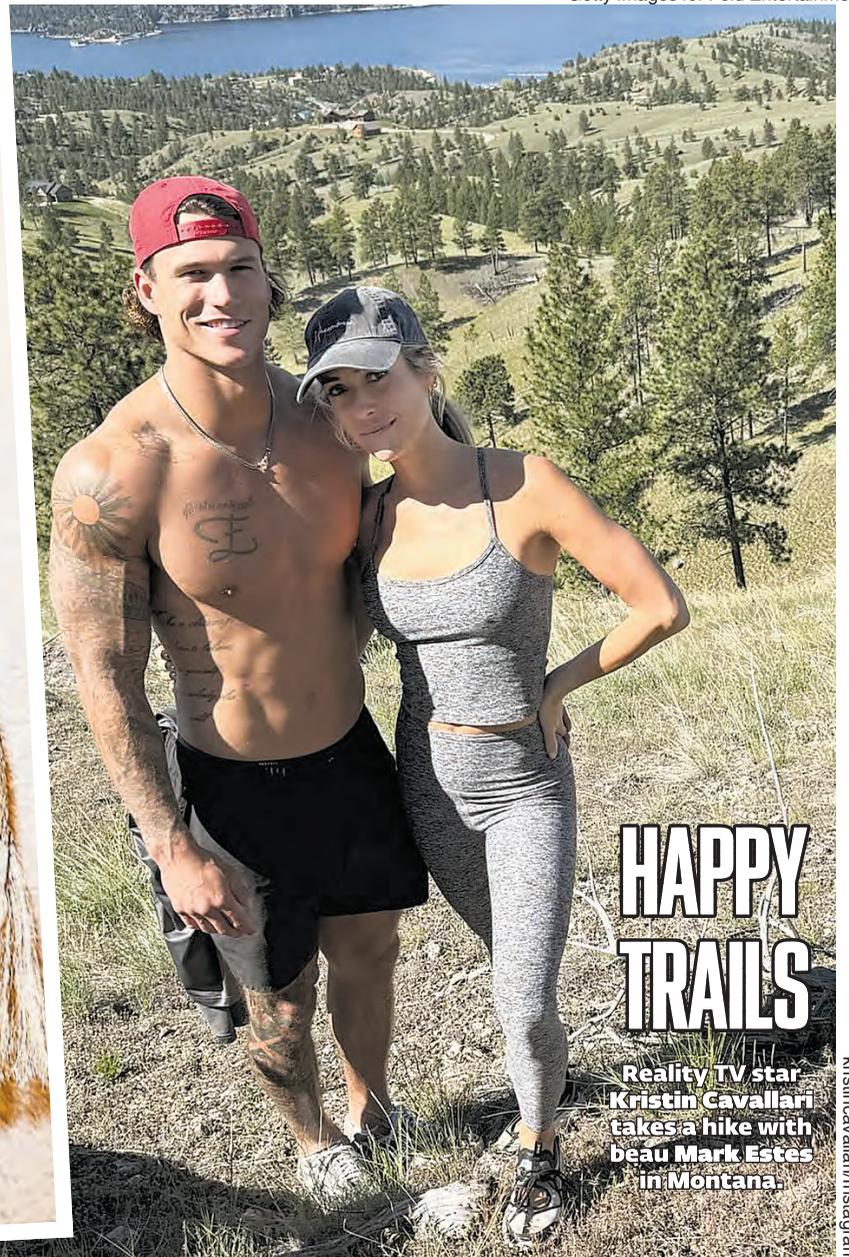
Getty Images for Feld Entertainment



madonna/instagram

**SOUTH OF THE
'BORDERLINE'**

Madonna dresses the part for a visit to artist Frida Kahlo's home in Mexico City.

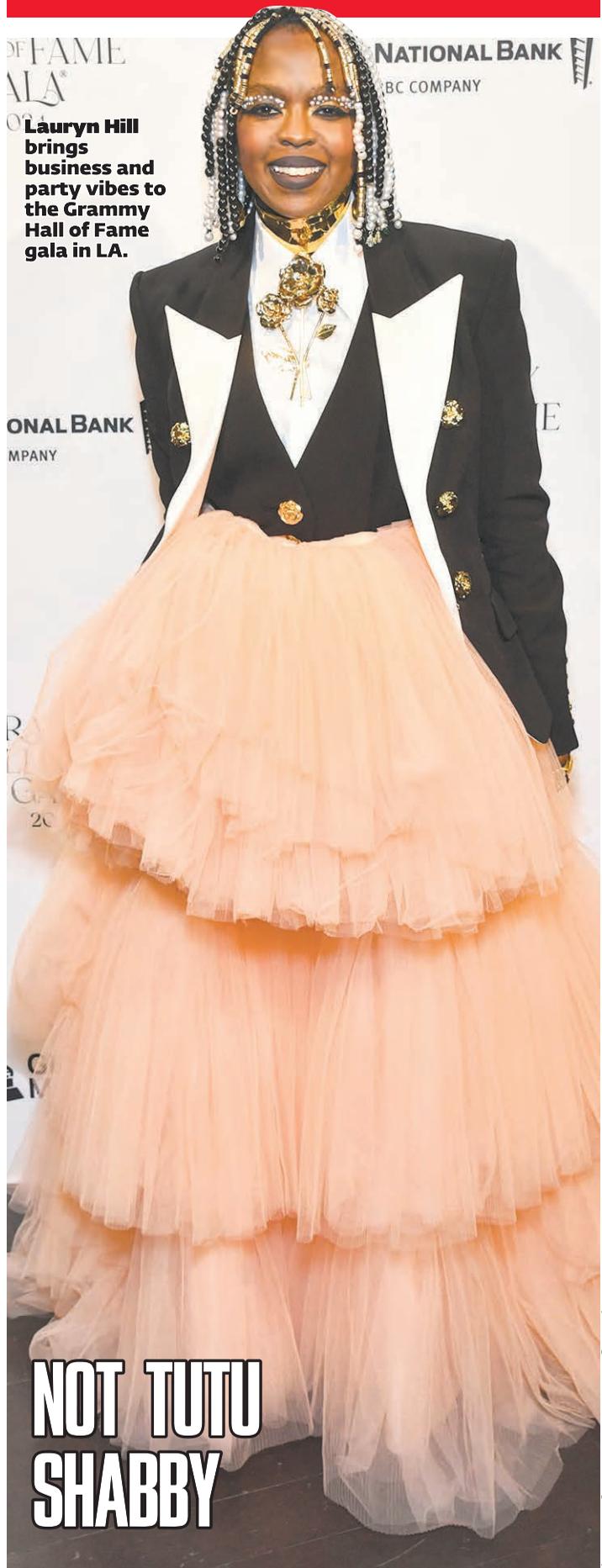


**HAPPY
TRAILS**

Reality TV star Kristin Cavallari takes a hike with beau Mark Estes in Montana.

kristincavallari/instagram

Snaps



OF FAME
ALA
ON
Lauryn Hill
brings
business and
party vibes to
the Grammy
Hall of Fame
gala in LA.

NATIONAL BANK
BC COMPANY

**NOT TUTU
SHABBY**

Getty Images for The Recording Academy



Bella Hadid enjoys her downtime in Cannes, France, by chilling on the water.

**SEAS-ING
THE DAY**

GC Images



lenadunham/Instagram

Former "Girls" co-stars **Andrew Rannells** and **Lena Dunham** reunite for "Too Much," a forthcoming miniseries.

'GIRLS' GROWN UP

WireImage



In Kansas, **Patrick Mahomes** (from left), **2 Chainz** and **Travis Kelce** unite onstage during the Kelce Jam music festival.

BALLERS 'N' CHAINZ

chrissyteigen/Instagram

Chrissy Teigen lights up the Empire State Building with her style and smile.



EMPIRE CONQUERER

tiffanyhaddish/Instagram

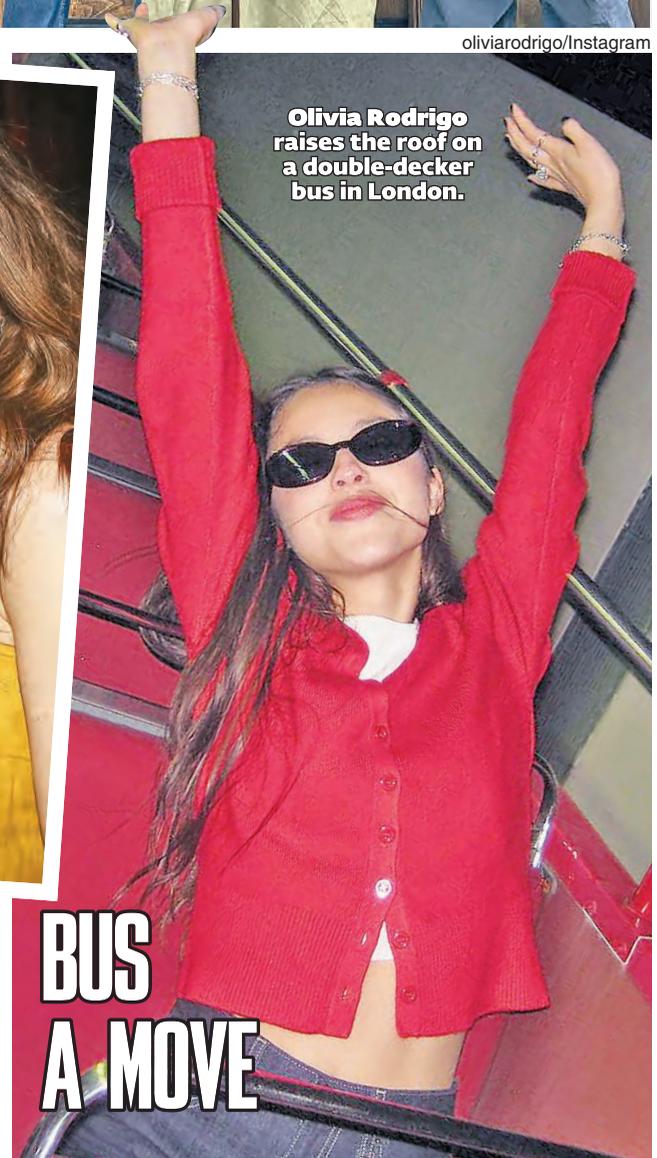
Comedienne Tiffany Haddish pretends she's a cast member of "The Strangers: Chapter 1," in theaters now.



MASKED TAPING

oliviadrogo/Instagram

Olivia Rodrigo raises the roof on a double-decker bus in London.



BUS A MOVE

New York Road Runners via Getty Images



Actress Jennifer Connelly's happy to cross the finish line in Coney Island for the Brooklyn Half-Marathon.

ALL IN GOOD RUN

Bruce Glikas/WireImage



Sarah Paulson (left) and Rachel McAdams cozy up at the Manhattan Theatre Club spring gala in Midtown.

CHEEK CHECK

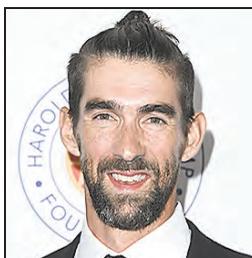
LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS



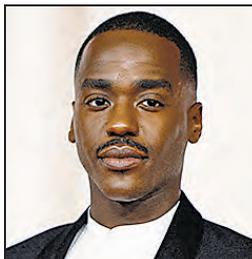
LATE SHOW STEPHEN COLBERT

11:35 p.m. / CBS
Monday: Ryan Gosling (above), Desi Lydic
Tuesday: Jen Psaki
Wednesday: John Leguizamo, Laura Coates



TONIGHT SHOW JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m. / NBC
Monday: Michael Phelps (above), Jon Glaser
Tuesday: Doja Cat, Winston Duke



LATE NIGHT SETH MEYERS

12:35 a.m. / NBC
Monday: Orlando Bloom, Ncuti Gatwa (above)
Tuesday: Joel Edgerton, Lily Gladstone,
Wednesday: Jennifer Connelly

Sunday May 26, 2024

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies Sports New

| 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 | News | 60 Minutes | 60 Minutes | | Elsbeth: Love Knocked Off (R) | | Elsbeth: Ball Girl (R) | | CBS 2 News at 11PM | (11:35) CBS 2 News |
| 4 | WNBC | 4 | 4 | 4 | NBC Nightly News | Weakest Link: In a World of Karens, Be a Jane (R) | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018, Adventure): Owen and Claire return to Isla Nublar to save the dinosaur species. Chris Pratt. PG-13 ★★★ | | | | | | News 4 New York at 11 | News4 NY |
| 5 | WNYW | 5 | 5 | 5 | (6:00) NASCAR Cup Series: Coca-Cola 600 (Charlotte): from Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C.. Live. | | | | | | The 10 O'Clock News | | Sports Extra | Raw Travel (R) |
| 7 | WABC | 7 | 7 | 7 | ABC World News | America's Funniest Home Videos (R) | America's Funniest Home Videos (R) | America's Funniest Home Videos (R) | America's Funniest Home Videos (R) | America's Funniest Home Videos (R) | America's Funniest Home Videos (R) | | Eyewitness News at 11 | |
| 9 | WWOR | 9 | 9 | 9 | Chicago P.D.: Ghosts | Chicago P.D.: Payback | Family Feud (R) | Family Feud (R) | Family Feud (R) | Family Feud (R) | Modern Family | Modern Family | Modern Family | Modern Family |
| 11 | WPIX | 11 | 11 | 11 | Paid Program | The Blind Side (2009, Drama): A family takes a poor youth into their home, and he becomes a football star. Sandra Bullock. PG-13 ★★★½ | | | | | PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong | | PIX11 Sports Nation | Yankees Nation |
| 13 | WNET | 13 | 13 | 13 | Through Our Eyes | We Said No! No!: A Story of Civil Disobedience | National Memorial Day Concert 2024 | | National Memorial Day Concert 2024 (R) | | | | Nina: Solitude | |
| 21 | WLIW | 21 | 21 | 21 | PBS News | Great Performances: Audra McDonald | Love Train (R) | | | | Culture Club: Live at Wembley | | Raising (R) | |
| 25 | WNYE | 25 | 22 | 25 | (5:30) TBA | GZero | Profiles (R) | On Story | Day's Work | Her B Idea | Neighbor | Voyager | Feet | Confucius Was a Foodie |
| 31 | WPXN | 31 | 3 | 531 | (6:00) NCIS | NCIS: Grounded | | NCIS: House Rules | | NCIS: Check | | NCIS: The Enemy Within | | NCIS: We Build, Fight |
| 41 | WXTV | 41 | 6 | 41 | Noticiero | Aquí y ahora | Fútbol | Fútbol Liga MX: Final Vuelta: Cruz Azul vs América. Directo. | | | | | Noticias | Noticiero |
| 47 | WNJU | 47 | 16 | 12 | Noticias | Top Chef VIP | | | LCDLF: El reencuentro | | NT: Debate Presidencial | | Noticiero | Noticias (R) |
| 55 | WLNY | 55 | 10 | 10 | (6:00) ET | Playbook | The Point | CBS News Sunday Morning | | | Paid | Judge Judy | Paid | Women Of Wrestling |
| A&E | 46 | 46 | 181 | (5:30) Kong: Skull Island (2017) ★★★ | | | Biography: WWE Legends: Eddie Guerrero | | | | (10:01) Hells Angels | | (11:04) Hells Angels (R) | |
| AMC | 54 | 43 | 231 | (5:30) Gladiator (2000, Drama) Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix. R | | | Interview with Vampire | | | | Interview with the Vampire: "no pain" | | Gladiator R | |
| BET | 37 | 54 | 270 | (5:00) Tyler Perry's Acrimony (2018) R ★★ | | | Madea's Family Reunion (2006, Comedy) Tyler Perry. PG-13 ★★ | | | | | | Martin | Martin |
| BBCAM | 71 | 101 | 189 | (5:00) Black Hawk Down (2002, Action) | | | Zero Dark Thirty (2013, Drama) Jessica Chastain. R ★★★½ | | | | | | | Black Hawk |
| BRAVO | 18 | 44 | 185 | Housewives | Real Housewives (R) | Real Housewives | Martha Vineyard | | | | Real Housewives | | Real Housewives (R) | |
| CNBC | 15 | 24 | 102 | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank | Shark Tank |
| CNN | 78 | 25 | 100 | Newsroom | CNN Newsroom | CNN Special | CNN Special | CNN Special | CNN Special | CNN Special | CNN Special | CNN Special | CNN Special | CNN Special |
| COM | 45 | 50 | 190 | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office |
| DIS | 49 | 31 | 250 | Hailey's (R) | Big City (R) | Big City (R) | Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) PG ★★★ | Hamster | Hamster | Big City (R) | Big City (R) | Big City (R) | Big City (R) | Phineas |
| DSC | 66 | 27 | 120 | Naked and Afraid XL: The Badlands (R) | | | Naked and Afraid XL: Ticking and Screaming | | | | (10:05) Expedition Hell | | (11:10) Naked and Afraid | |
| E! | 24 | 51 | 196 | Couples Retreat (2009) ★★ | Couples Retreat (2009, Comedy) Vince Vaughn. PG-13 ★★ | | Knocked Out (2007, Comedy) | | | | Seth Rogen. R ★★★ | | | |
| ESPN | 28 | 36 | 70 | Baseball | MLB Baseball | | SportsCenter Live. | | | | SportsCenter Live. | | SportsCenter Live. | |
| ESPN2 | 29 | 35 | 74 | Sports Live. | Featured | College Softball: Teams TBA | | | | | College Softball: Teams TBA | | | Formula 1 |
| FBN | 43 | 106 | 117 | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops |
| FNC | 44 | 26 | 118 | Fox Report | The Big Weekend Show | Life, Liberty & Levin | Sunday Night | | | | Weekend Show (R) | | Life, Liberty & Levin (R) | |
| FOOD | 50 | 97 | 164 | Beat Bobby | Beat Bobby | Beat Bobby | Ciao House: Of Nonnas and Bread | | | | Alex vs America (R) | | Beat Bobby | Beat Bobby |
| FREFRM | 38 | 49 | 199 | The Lion King (2019) ★★★ | (7:25) Finding Nemo (2003, Family) Albert Brooks. G ★★★½ | | Finding Dory (2016, Adventure) Ellen DeGeneres. PG | | | | | | | |
| FS1 | 400 | 99 | 83 | (6:00) Major League Rugby Live. | | | UFL Football: D.C. Defenders at Memphis Showboats. Taped. | | | | | | UFL Football Taped. | |
| FX | 10 | 40 | 53 | (4:30) Pirates: At World's End (2007) | | | Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011, Adventure) Johnny Depp. ★★★ | | | | | | Pearl Harbor (2001) ★★★½ | |
| HALL | | 191 | 240 | October | Blind Date Book Club (2024, Romance) Erin Krakow. | | When Calls the Heart | | | | Winter Castle (2019, Romance) | | Emilie Ullerup. NR ★★★½ | |
| HGTV | 64 | 98 | 165 | Hunt (R) | Home Town: Ticked Pink | Home Town | (9:01) Home Town | | | | Hunters (R) | Hunters (R) | Hunters (R) | Hunters (R) |
| HIST | 40 | 47 | 128 | The Mega- | The Mega-Brands (R) | The Mega-Brands (R) | (9:02) The Mega-Brands | | | | (10:05) The Mega-Brands | | (11:05) The Mega-Brands | |
| ID | 23 | 171 | 123 | Psychopath | Psychopath | Psychopath | Evil Lives Here (R) | | | | Surviving a Serial Killer | | 48 Hours on ID (R) | 48 Hours on ID (R) |
| LIFE | 62 | 45 | 140 | Cruise Ship Murder (2024) Skye Coyne. | | | Pretty Woman (1990, Romance) Richard Gere. R ★★★ | | | | | | (11:03) You're Not (2023) | |
| MeTV | 33 | 33 | 3 | Collector | M*A*S*H | M*A*S*H | Family | Family | Family | Family | Ed Sullivan | Burnett | Van Dyke | Van Dyke |
| MSG | 27 | 87 | 78 | NY Rangers Replay. | NY Rangers Replay. | | The Bettor | | | | NY Rangers Replay. | | The Juice | The Juice |
| MSG Plus | 48 | 88 | 80 | The Bettor | Fight Sports | United Fight | United Fight | | | | World Poker | | World Poker | |
| MSNBC | 14 | 23 | 103 | The Sunday | The ReidOut (R) | | The Rachel Maddow Show: Why Happening? (R) | | | | Battleground (R) | | To End All War | |
| MTV | 20 | 53 | 210 | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous |
| NATGEO | 65 | 162 | 121 | Wick. Tuna | Wicked Tuna (R) | Wicked Tuna (R) | Wicked Tuna | | | | Drain the Oceans | | Wicked Tuna (R) | |
| NICK | 6 | 121 | 252 | SpongeBob | SpongeBob | SpongeBob | SpongeBob | SpongeBob | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends |
| OWN | 173 | 180 | 145 | (6:00) 20/20 | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) | 20/20 on OWN (R) |
| PARMT | 36 | 56 | 54 | Yellowsto. | (7:10) Yellowstone (R) | (8:20) Yellowstone: All I See Is You (R) | (9:27) Yellowstone (R) | (10:36) Yellowstone (R) | | | | | Yellowsto. | |
| SNY | 26 | 60 | 77 | Mets Clscs | Yeah ... | Yeah ... | Broadway Boxing: Broadway Boxing 2201 Replay. | | | | Jets Specials: Klecko 73 | | Sports Live. | Sports Live. |
| SYFY | 17 | 48 | 180 | Mummy 2 | The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Drama) Dennis Quaid. PG-13 ★★★½ | | No Time to Die (2021, Action) Rami Malek. PG-13 ★★★½ | | | | | | | |
| TBS | 8 | 39 | 52 | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Pitch Perfect (2012) ★★★ | |
| TCM | 82 | 41 | 230 | (5:00) The Great Escape (1963, Drama) | | | Story of Flying Fortress | | | | The Cold Blue (2019) ★★★ | | Cold Blue | Best Years of Lives ★★★½ |
| TLC | 52 | 28 | 139 | 90 Day Fiancé: Happily: Couples Grim | | | 90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?: Weeping Beauty | | | | (10:02) MILF Manor | | (11:02) 90 Day Fiancé | |
| TNT | 3 | 37 | 51 | (4:30) Aquaman (2018) | NBA Pregame Live. | | 2024 NBA Playoffs: Minnesota Timberwolves at Dallas Mavericks. | | | | | | Inside the NBA Live. | |
| TVLAND | 85 | 34 | 241 | Mike | Mike | Mike | Men | Men | Men | Men | Men | Men | Seinfeld | Seinfeld |
| USA | 16 | 38 | 50 | (6:00) SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU | Law & Order: SVU |
| VH1 | 19 | 52 | 217 | (6:00) Men in Black II (2002, Action) ★★ | | | Daddy's Home (2015, Comedy) Will Ferrell. PG-13 ★★★ | | | | | | The Cookout (2004, Comedy) Ja Rule. | |
| WE | 59 | 42 | 149 | Law & Ord | Law & Order | Law & Order | Law & Order: Bait | | | | Law & Order: Fingerprints | | Law & Order | |
| YES | 53 | 89 | 76 | MLB Game | Yankees Postgame Live. | Forbes | Yankeeography | | | | MLB Baseball Replay. | | | |
| HBO | 511 | 301 | 400 | Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice: Ultimate Edition (2016) ★★★ | | | The Sympathizer | | | | (10:01) Jinx Life Death | | (11:01) The Sympathizer | |
| MAX | 531 | 371 | 420 | (6:22) Insidious: Chapter 3 (2015) ★★★ | | | You're Next (2013) Sharni Vinson. R ★★★ | | | | The Other Side of the Door (2016) R ★★★½ | | Freedomland (2006) R ★★ | |
| MGM Plus | 595 | 395 | | Creed ★★★★★ (7:10) The Beekeeper (2024, Action) Jason Statham. R | | | Beacon 23 | | | | Billy the Kid (R) | | Beacon 23 | Marlowe ★★ |
| PARSHO | 551 | 321 | 365 | 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (2016) John Krasinski. | | | The Chi: Saints Sinners | | | | Saving Private Ryan (1998, Drama) Tom Hanks. ★★★ | | | |

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT?



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TV

8 THINGS TO WATCH THIS WEEK

Shay Mitchell Combines Her Love Of Travel And Beverages With New Max Series 'Thirst': "Connections Are Made From Cheersing"

By KAREN KEMMERLE

ACTRESS, jet setter, mogul Shay Mitchell is always ready to make a toast. In the midst of overseeing her Beis empire — the travel brand she founded and for which she serves as chief brand officer — or supervising Onda — the tequila brand she founded in 2020 — Mitchell managed to embark on a new project for globe trotters and cocktail enthusiasts like herself with the travel docuseries "Thirst." Instead of food, the series explores the culture and history of Peru, Columbia, Argentina and Brazil through the lens of beverages.

When Mitchell noticed that drinks were not represented in food/travel TV spaces, she jumped into action. She explained: "When people ask, 'How did you think of it?' I answer, 'How did anyone not?'" In each episode, Mitchell takes audiences all over the countries she visits, from remote villages to bustling epicenters, and connects with a wide array of people in each place. "What connects people more than breaking bread is sharing a toast," pointed out Mitchell wisely.



Courtesy of WBD

Mitchell's new travel show on Max takes her across Peru, Columbia, Argentina, and Brazil.

A TOAST TO SHAY MITCHELL

Shay Mitchell explores the specialty cocktails and beverages of South America in her new travel show, 'Thirst'

DECIDER spoke to Mitchell about the impetus for the show and her ability to hold her liquor (to which she credits her Irish heritage.)

DECIDER: On the show, you're refreshingly candid. You say exactly what you're thinking and feeling in the moment. How would you describe your hosting style?

SHAY MITCHELL: Unfiltered. I think the whole show is that way. I'm not hiding that a camera crew is shooting everything. I'm handing off shots and things that I'm eating to anybody in the crew. I love that. I love including the people who

are also traveling and creating this show with me. Shooting a travel show was very different from anything I had done before. I'm used to being on a set with 200 people, and here I was traveling with a very small, tight-knit crew.

The crew was certainly quick to support you in Peru when you kept encountering dozens upon dozens of guinea pigs. Did no one warn you about them beforehand?

They didn't. However, even if I had been given a heads up and watched videos, seen photos, etc, nothing would have prepared me for the number of

guinea pigs I saw in that that small room. I don't want to be in a room with 200 of anything.... I love and respect animals, but I don't need to be immersed with them.

Jumping ahead to the Columbia episode, we see you sip 6 cocktails over the course of an elaborate, locally-sourced meal. How did you manage to handle your liquor while doing your job as host?

I have to thank my grandfather, who is Irish. I have Irish blood, so I can handle my drinks. I also have Spanish blood, so I can get a little spicy and fiery too. It's that fun combo. Listen, did I fin-

ish every drink? Maybe [laughs]. They were very delicious there. However, I knew that after that dinner, we were going to be salsa dancing. Columbia was the last country that we shot in. I was feeling a lot better than I had felt in the previous countries. I was feeling good. The drinks were incredible. I had amazing company and the food was delicious. You pick and choose your moments. I'm never wild and crazy anymore. I'm in my thirties. Though, if I don't have an early call time the next day and the drinks are that good, I'm going to enjoy myself. And I definitely did.



2 AMERICA'S GOT TALENT
Tuesday 8 p.m. / NBC

"America's Got Talent" is back with a new season of aspiring performers looking to compete for the ultimate \$1 million prize. Simon Cowell, Heidi Klum, **Howie Mandel** (left), and Sofia Vergara return to host.

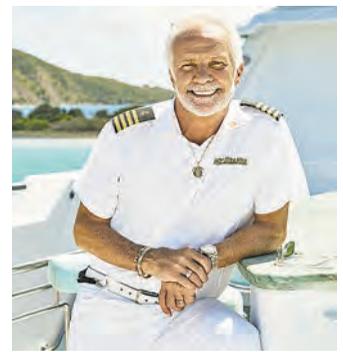


4 ERIC
Thursday, Netflix
SERIES PREMIERE

Benedict Cumberbatch (right) stars in "Eric," a Netflix limited series set in 1980s New York City where a desperate father searches for his missing nine-year-old son.

7 DEADLY WATERS WITH CAPTAIN LEE
Saturday 9 p.m. / Oxygen

"Below Deck" fan-favorite **Captain Lee Rosbach** (right) unravels the secrets of shocking homicide investigations on rivers, lakes and even the open seas.



3 FALLEN IDOLS: NICK AND AARON CARTER Monday 9 p.m. / ID

This documentary series chronicles the allegations swirling around Backstreet Boys member **Nick Carter** and his late popstar brother **Aaron Carter** (right). The series features interviews with the three women who accused Nick of sexual assault, an unnamed family member, and friends of the former stars.



5 MOVIEPASS, MOVIECRASH
Wednesday 9 p.m. / HBO

This HBO original documentary chronicles the meteoric rise and fall of the movie subscription service, MoviePass, which went from being the fastest-growing subscription service since Spotify to total bankruptcy..

6 FROG AND TOAD
Friday, Apple TV+

Frog and Toad are best friends who know that the true secret to friendship is not only enjoying the things you have in common, but embracing the things that make you different.



8 BEAT SHAZAM
Tuesday 8 p.m. / FOX

Jamie Foxx (left) and Corinne Foxx return to the music game show for the first time since Jamie's hospitalization forced them to step away from the show in Season 6.

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

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You may be tempted to jump in and rescue a friend from the consequences of their own stupid actions but it might benefit them more if you allow the situation to play itself out. If they don't learn the hard way they may not learn at all.

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

If you have made a mistake you must now be big enough to hold up your hand and admit that you got it wrong. As mistakes go it is hardly the worst you will ever make, and if you are honest even your rivals will credit you for it.

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

Don't force yourself to do things you have no interest in. None of your chores are so important that they cannot be left for a while, and by the time you do get around to them you may find that many have already been done for you!

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Although the Sun and Jupiter are moving through the area of your chart that governs your professional standing you don't have to be ultra competitive. Other influences suggest you will achieve more in the long-term if you look for allies rather than rivals.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You may have felt the need to be secretive in recent weeks but now the Sun and Venus, your ruler, are moving through one of the more open areas of your chart you don't have to hide anything from anyone. Whatever you do, the world will support you.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Your confidence may be a bit fragile at the moment but as

always you will put on a brave face and make it appear as if nothing can faze you. But you still need to look inside yourself and understand why your self-belief seems so weak.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Friends and loved ones will bombard you with so many questions this week that you may start looking around for a place to hide. Why do they seem to believe you have all the answers they need? Most likely because you do and they can sense it.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

If a friend or colleague says you are aiming too high this week you must ignore them and aim even higher. If they are not as mentally and emotionally equipped as you to soar above restrictions then

leave them down on the ground where they belong.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Your way of doing things has got too predictable of late, so aim to be more adventurous and try out new methods and routines. The planets indicate that even if your efforts fall short of expectations you will still be miles ahead of everyone else.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

If a business colleague promises big gains for just a small investment be smart and see it for what it is: an invitation to throw away your money. There is no such thing as a sure thing and anyone who says there is must not be trusted.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Make more of an effort to see a friend's problems from their point of view. It may look as if they are overreacting but they are not as mentally and emotionally robust as you are, so make allowances for their behavior and help them if you can.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Keep in mind that not everything you hear over the next few days is going to be true, though that does not necessarily mean that friends and colleagues will be deliberately lying to you. More likely they are just utterly confused by recent events.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Put a name to your needs and then make sure everyone knows what they are. With so much positive activity on your anniversary friends and family members will go out of their way to fulfil your desires. It will be like it's your birthday every day of the year!

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword

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

Su Doku

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

Very Easy #6,560

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

Difficult #6,350

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

Challenging #452

Super Su Doku

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 9 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 5 |
| 3 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 11 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 12 |
| 11 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 10 |
| 12 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 12 | 3 | 11 | 4 |
| 7 | 12 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 6 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 10 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 12 | 6 |

Kakuro

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

Kakuro #452

KEN KEN

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1- | 2- | 6 | 8x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2- | | 3+ | | 30x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3- | | 1- | 11+ | | 18x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1- | | | | 24x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7+ | | 1- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Dispute 6A-Hemlock
8A-Tent 9A-Hymn 11A-Explode 12A-Shelter
2D-Immense 3D-Poor 4D-Shatter 5D-Blunder
7D-Keyhole 10D-Opal B-Three-toed sloth

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

OMAN, IRAQ, PERU, FIJI, ITALY, FRANCE, NORWAY, POLAND

SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S. SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----|
| L ₁ | I ₁ | P ₃ | R ₁ | E ₁ | A ₁ | D ₂ | RACK 1 = | 63 |
| O ₁ | L ₁ | E ₁ | S ₁ | T ₁ | R ₁ | A ₁ | RACK 2 = | 57 |
| S ₁ | C ₃ | O ₁ | L ₁ | D ₂ | E ₁ | R ₁ | RACK 3 = | 80 |
| E ₁ | X ₈ | C ₃ | L ₁ | A ₁ | I ₁ | M ₃ | RACK 4 = | 68 |
| M ₃ | U ₁ | D ₂ | F ₄ | I ₁ | S ₁ | H ₄ | RACK 5 = | 66 |

PAR SCORE 265-275

TOTAL 334

Sunday Word Force

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| acorn | carat | incur | ratio | train |
| actor | corny | intro | rayon | tunic |
| aorta | count | irony | runic | unity |
| atria | court | nitro | runt | |
| cairn | croyn | rainy | tiara | |
| canto | curio | raita | tonic | |

Wonderword answer: MASTERPIECE

THE WEEK'S WINNERS



JENSEN HUANG

Shares of Nvidia surpassed \$1,000, building on a stunning rally, as its CEO reinforced investor confidence in the AI-driven boom in chip demand.

ELON MUSK

Billionaire's brain chip company Neuralink got approval to implant its device into a second patient despite a setback experienced by the first patient.

DECKERS OUTDOOR

Upbeat earnings lifted another stock past the \$1,000 milestone: the owner of Hoka sneakers and Uggs boots.

LOSERS



MARTIN GRUENBERG

Embattled chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. says he'll resign after a report found widespread sexual harassment at the agency.

GOOGLE

Newly released AI Overviews is spewing out crazy advice like adding glue to pizza sauce and touting the health benefits of tobacco for kids.

CRACKER BARREL

Stock plunges after CEO admits the restaurant chain, a favorite among seniors, is "just not as relevant as we once were."

IS JAMIE IN HOME STRETCH?

JPM 'succession plan'



CHARLES GASPARINO

ONE of the biggest questions involving JP Morgan, the nation's biggest and most prestigious bank, involves succession planning: When will its long time CEO, the king of all banking, Jamie Dimon, step down.

Last week, he gave some clues. It's "not five years anymore," he said during JP Morgan's investor day without elaborating.

Thanks for that, Jamie. Good thing The Post is here to suss out what is going on inside the C-suit at JPM, and we can report, with a fair degree of confidence, that Dimon is signaling he's out in about two, maybe three years, after he turns 70 years old.

What he does next is, well, anyone's guess.

Even the very hint of a Dimon retirement from JPM caused markets to react. Shares tanked about 4%, and still haven't fully recovered as this column goes to press. One reason is Dimon's stature in banking earned by his success rate. Despite a few blips on the regulatory radar — the London Whale, JPM's continued business dealings with miscreants like Bernie Madoff and Jeffrey Epstein — Dimon has been among the most successful investment executives of our generation. Unlike other big banks, there have been no big scandals, at least not lately, and shares are up 89% over the past five years.

"He works every day, seven days a week. He's in all the major meetings, he's managing risk and selling stuff," is how one JPM executive explained Dimon's work ethic. "He

has no hobbies and he loves his job. Can't imagine what he will do in retirement."

The executive also can't imagine who can fill his proverbial shoes, and neither can most investors in the stock. They see what most people inside the bank see: A strong CEO who built a fortress balance sheet and business model leaving the keys to the kingdom to the B team.

OK, that might be a bit harsh since all of the front runners have successfully run major business lines, even if it's the current mood of the Dimon-watching crowd on Wall Street. Dimon has set up a three-way race among consumer-banking chief Marianne Lake, co-head of JPM's investment and commercial bank Jennifer Piepszak, and Troy Rohrbaugh, the other commercial and investment bank co-CEO. Not exactly Wall Street household names, but for the moment Dimon is playing the hand that he's got. Edge goes to Lake, I am told, because she also served as JPM's CFO and is said to be the best at managing risk.

Reelin' in the years

So why is he doing it now? Dimon, as far back as anyone can remember, kept giving his retirement date a five-year time span; yes, for some reason, retirement has always been five years away, until apparently, last week.

My sources cite several reasons for Dimon's mood swing. First there's the example of James Gorman, the now-retired CEO of Morgan Stanley. Gorman had an equally impressive run as CEO and left the company in great shape after setting up a carefully planned horse race between two of his top executives. Gorman left the CEO suite in January and on Thursday, Gorman said he'll step down as chairman at the

Age-old question

With JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon nearing his 70th birthday amid Wall Street anxiety over the direction of the banking behemoth, it's shaping up to be a three-way succession race among his top execs, including (from below left), Marianne Lake, Jennifer Piepszak and Troy Rohrbaugh.



Reuters: JP Morgan

end of the year.

Dimon is said to have marveled at the succession process. The hand-picked favorites, Ted Pick, the head of his institutional business that oversees risk, and Andy Saperstein, the brokerage chief, were under strict orders simply to do their jobs and not lobby the board or him. Let the results speak for themselves.

Both did exactly that and Pick came out the winner. Saperstein, a valued member of Gorman's inner circle, remains at the firm because of the seamless nature of the process. There wasn't the normal type of bloodletting that goes down when the C-suite changes. Morgan Stanley's stock is up about 20% over the past year, largely keeping track with the massive rally in the S&P.

Plus, Dimon knows he's had a good run and has seen his fair share of CEO types stay on well past their prime. Recall how Dimon was defenestrated from Citigroup in a management tussle with Sandy Weill back in the day. He spent a few years in the wilderness and eventually landed at a regional lender, Banc One. In 2004, he merged it into JPM following its merger with Chemical Bank, which had merged with the old Chase Manhattan Corp.

Dimon became CEO and found himself at the top of a Wall Street

Investment banking empire that would surpass Citigroup in size and stature. Weill, of course, is long gone. Citigroup would soon face the ignominy of regulatory scandals, reckless risk-taking and numerous bailouts during the 2008 financial crisis, while Dimon earned his king-like status successfully navigating JPMorgan through the mess.

So what does Dimon do next? That depends on whom you speak to. Some people inside JPM say they think he will teach at the university level. Friends who go back to his Citigroup days tell me he hasn't given up hopes on running for national office. Remember when he said he could be a better president than Donald Trump because he's "smarter" and "as tough" as Trump is? Dimon later apologized but no one doubts that's how he really feels.

The most likely scenario for my money, offered by one JPM exec, is that Dimon doesn't stray far. JP Morgan's new Midtown Manhattan HQ is scheduled to open in the next two years and he'd love to do the groundbreaking. That's why he retires as CEO and stays at JPM as chairman, and lets Lake & Co., do the heavy lifting for some time while he sets the strategic direction and does what he really likes to do: Come to work every day.

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GENERAL HELP WANTED

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PROFESSIONAL

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Storylines surround star-studded Indy 500

By HOLLY CAIN

INDIANAPOLIS — Preparation for Sunday's 108th Indianapolis 500 certainly has been a high-profile work — from a Penske Racing sweep of the top starting positions to the impressive IndyCar debut of NASCAR star Kyle Larson to the possibilities that the great race could produce its all-time winningest driver in Helio Castroneves.

When the 33 cars roll off the grid Sunday at 12:45 p.m., there will be no lack of intrigue. Storylines fill the rows. Famous names are primed to show their skill and young newcomers are eager to prove themselves.

New Zealander Scott McLaughlin edged his Penske Racing teammate, Australian Will Power, for the lead position on the grid. They will start alongside defending race winner, American Josef Newgarden, at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

McLaughlin, 30, a former Australian Supercars champion, has never led a lap in the Indianapolis 500, but the winner at Alabama's Barber Motorsports Park race last month is hoping to win a second trophy in the season's most high-profile event. Power is the 2018 Indy 500 champion and a former series champ. Newgarden, a

Engine Starters

Indy 500

Sunday

Time: 12:45 p.m.

TV: NBC

Weather: 66 degrees, thunderstorms

Laps: 200 (500 miles)

2024 pole winner:

Scott McLaughlin

2023 champion: Josef Newgarden

two-time series champion, is hoping to become the first back-to-back winner of the race since Castroneves in 2001-02.

"Being fastest here for qualifying, obviously it's the first box you want to tick," McLaughlin said. "But ultimately, you want to win on Sunday. It's still been a really cool week and I've really enjoyed it. I've really tried to soak it in as much as I can, but at the end of the day, the job is this weekend."

Castroneves, 49, meanwhile, is making his only scheduled start of the season, hoping to earn a second win for his Meyer-Shank Racing team and that historic fifth Indy trophy for himself -- breaking a tie with legends A.J. Foyt, Rick Mears and Al Unser Sr.

Castroneves will start his

No. 06 MSR Honda 20th but showed more promise than that indicates. He was second fastest in Friday's traditional "Carburetion Day" final practice and has a chance come race day.

Arguably, the biggest story of Indy's famous Month of May has been the amazing work of Larson, the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series champion and current points leader who is hoping to complete the Memorial Day "Double" — racing in the Indianapolis 500 by day and NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway later Sunday evening.

Weather will play a big role in his opportunity, with a 50 percent chance of rain forecast for Indianapolis on Sunday afternoon. Larson would need to be on a plane bound for North Carolina by 4:15 p.m. to make that Charlotte green flag. Should the Indy race be held Monday, he would fly back to North Carolina, then back to Indiana to compete in it.

But Larson, 31, has been hopeful about both Sunday's weather and his chances in his IndyCar Series debut. He has consistently been among the top-10 quickest drivers during this month's practice sessions and his fifth-place qualifying position is best among the seven Indy rookies. — *Field Level Media*

Tsai eyes 'sustainable' winning strategy

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Joe Tsai sounds ready to start over. To build the Nets the old-fashioned way — by accumulating assets and developing young players.

The way the Nets have operated in recent years hasn't worked, and the owner seems intent on changing the plan coming off a dismal 32-50 campaign that resulted in the hiring of a new coach, Jordi Fernandez, after Jacque Vaughn was dismissed.

"I want to build a winning mentality and culture that's sustainable," Tsai said at the J.P. Morgan's Global China Summit in Shanghai on Friday. "Those two are very different things. If you just want to be win-now you could ruin your future by trading away all of your assets, but I think what I want to do with the Brooklyn Nets is take a longer-term approach and build a sustainable, winning culture."

That hasn't happened since the Nets moved to Brooklyn. They haven't advanced past the second round of the playoffs since the move. There was the ill-fated trade with the Celtics

for Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett that led to Boston drafting current stars Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum. Superstars Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and James Harden came and left quickly, and Ben Simmons has spent far more time in street clothes than on the court since he was acquired in exchange for Harden. Going the high-priced star route has not worked out.

"In New York, the Brooklyn Nets is at a crossroads in a way," Tsai said. "We didn't do as well as we expected last season. We didn't make the playoffs. But we hope to revamp the team and make sure that we can compete in the long run."

What that means for this offseason is uncertain. Does it mean trading for a star like Donovan Mitchell is out of the question? Does it mean unloading star wing Mikal Bridges for draft picks? The Nets don't own any picks in next month's draft, not ideal for a team coming off a 50-loss campaign.

Clearly, Tsai believes changes have to be made; he said as much. Now the Nets need to put those words into action. But patience will be required. The owner made it seem like he's willing to wait to see results.

MLS

| EAST | W | L | D | Pts | GF | GA |
|------------------|----|----|---|-----|----|----|
| Inter Miami CF | 10 | 2 | 4 | 34 | 38 | 21 |
| Cincinnati | 10 | 2 | 3 | 33 | 23 | 14 |
| NYCFC | 8 | 5 | 2 | 26 | 19 | 16 |
| Columbus | 6 | 2 | 6 | 24 | 21 | 13 |
| Red Bulls | 6 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 25 | 21 |
| Toronto FC | 7 | 7 | 1 | 22 | 24 | 24 |
| Charlotte FC | 6 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 14 | 13 |
| Philadelphia | 4 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 25 | 21 |
| D.C. United | 4 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 21 | 25 |
| Orlando City | 4 | 6 | 4 | 16 | 15 | 22 |
| Nashville | 3 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 17 | 20 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 7 | 4 | 13 | 17 | 17 |
| CF Montréal | 3 | 7 | 4 | 13 | 17 | 31 |
| Chicago | 2 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 27 |
| New England | 2 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 26 |

| WEST | W | L | D | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|----|---|-----|----|----|
| Real Salt Lake | 8 | 2 | 5 | 29 | 30 | 17 |
| Minn. United | 7 | 2 | 4 | 25 | 24 | 17 |
| LA Galaxy | 6 | 2 | 7 | 25 | 27 | 22 |
| Los Angeles FC | 7 | 4 | 3 | 24 | 25 | 19 |
| Austin FC | 6 | 4 | 5 | 23 | 20 | 18 |
| Colorado | 6 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 27 | 26 |
| Vancouver | 5 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 20 | 17 |
| Houston | 5 | 6 | 3 | 18 | 13 | 15 |
| Seattle FC | 4 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| Portland | 4 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 28 | 30 |
| St Louis City | 3 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 20 | 22 |
| FC Dallas | 3 | 6 | 4 | 13 | 16 | 20 |
| San Jose | 3 | 10 | 2 | 11 | 23 | 34 |
| Sporting K.C. | 2 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 22 | 26 |

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday

NYCFC 1, New England 0
Los Angeles FC 1, Atlanta 0
Philadelphia 0, Charlotte FC 0
Chicago 1, D.C. United 1
Nashville 0, CF Montréal 0
Columbus 2, Orlando City 0
Cincinnati 4, Toronto FC 3
Salt Lake 3, FC Dallas 3
Seattle FC 2, St Louis City 1
Minnesota 3, Colorado 3
Miami 2, Vancouver 1
LA Galaxy 2, Houston 1
Portland 2, Sporting K.C. 1
Austin FC 1, San Jose 1

Wednesday

Charlotte FC at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
Nashville at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
New England at Columbus ppd.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30pm
D.C. United at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Toronto FC at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Portland at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Orlando City at Chicago, 8:30pm
Colorado at Houston, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Salt Lake at Seattle FC, 10:30pm
Minnesota at Los Angeles FC, 10:45pm

Friday

San Jose at **NYCFC**, 7:30pm

Soccer

English FA Cup- Final
Manchester United 2, Manchester City 1
Coupe de France- Final
Paris Saint-Germain 2, Lyon 1
German DFB Pokal- Final
Bayer Leverkusen 1 Kaiserslautern 0
Italian Serie A
Juventus 2, Monza 0
AC Milan 3, Salernitana 2
Scottish Cup- Final
Celtic 1, Rangers 0
Spanish LaLiga
Almeria 6 Cadiz 1
Athletic Club 1, Rayo Vallecano 0
Real Madrid 0, Real Betis 0
Osasuna 1, Villarreal 1
Atletico Madrid 2, Real Sociedad 1
UEFA Women's Champions League-Final
Barcelona 2, Lyon 0

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AL Standings

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| East | W | L | Pct. | GB | *WGB | L10 | Streak | Home | Away |
| Yankees | 37 | 17 | .685 | — | — | 8-2 | W-4 | 18-8 | 19-9 |
| Baltimore | 32 | 18 | .640 | 3 | +4½ | 6-4 | W-3 | 17-10 | 15-8 |
| Boston | 26 | 26 | .500 | 10 | 2½ | 4-6 | L-2 | 10-15 | 16-11 |
| Tampa Bay | 25 | 28 | .472 | 11½ | 4 | 4-6 | L-6 | 14-17 | 11-11 |
| Toronto | 23 | 28 | .451 | 12½ | 5 | 4-6 | L-2 | 12-12 | 11-16 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Central | W | L | Pct. | GB | *WGB | L10 | Streak | Home | Away |
| Cleveland | 35 | 17 | .673 | — | — | 9-1 | W-8 | 18-6 | 17-11 |
| Kansas City | 34 | 19 | .642 | 1½ | +5 | 9-1 | W-8 | 21-8 | 13-11 |
| Minnesota | 28 | 23 | .549 | 6½ | — | 4-6 | W-4 | 13-11 | 15-12 |
| Detroit | 25 | 27 | .481 | 10 | 3½ | 4-6 | W-2 | 12-14 | 13-13 |
| Chicago | 15 | 38 | .283 | 20½ | 14 | 2-8 | L-4 | 10-17 | 5-21 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| West | W | L | Pct. | GB | *WGB | L10 | Streak | Home | Away |
| Seattle | 27 | 26 | .509 | — | — | 4-6 | L-4 | 15-10 | 12-16 |
| Texas | 24 | 29 | .453 | 3 | 5 | 2-8 | L-6 | 12-13 | 12-16 |
| Houston | 23 | 29 | .442 | 3½ | 5½ | 6-4 | L-1 | 14-15 | 9-14 |
| Oakland | 22 | 32 | .407 | 5½ | 7½ | 3-7 | W-1 | 13-15 | 9-17 |
| Los Angeles | 20 | 32 | .385 | 6½ | 8½ | 5-5 | L-2 | 6-18 | 14-14 |

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Yankees 4, San Diego 1
Detroit 2, Toronto 1
Minnesota 5, Texas 3
Baltimore 5, White Sox 3
Washington 3, Seattle 1
Oakland 3, Houston 1
Milwaukee 6, Boston 3
Kansas City 7, Tampa Bay 4, 11 inn.
Cleveland 4, L.A. Angels 3
Sunday
Yankees at San Diego, 4:10
 Toronto at Detroit, 11:35 a.m.

Milwaukee at Boston, 1:35
Seattle at Washington, 1:35
Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 1:40
Baltimore at White Sox, 2:10
Texas at Minnesota, 2:10
Cleveland at L.A. Angels, 4:07
Houston at Oakland, 4:07
Monday
Boston at Baltimore, 1:05
Kansas City at Minnesota, 2:10
Toronto at White Sox, 2:10
Cleveland at Colorado, 4:10
Houston at Seattle, 9:40

NL Standings

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| East | W | L | Pct. | GB | *WGB | L10 | Streak | Home | Away |
| Philadelphia | 38 | 15 | .717 | — | — | 8-2 | W-1 | 22-8 | 16-7 |
| Atlanta | 29 | 20 | .592 | 7 | +4 | 3-7 | L-2 | 16-8 | 13-12 |
| Washington | 23 | 27 | .460 | 13½ | 2½ | 3-7 | W-2 | 10-12 | 13-15 |
| Mets | 21 | 30 | .412 | 16 | 5 | 2-8 | L-5 | 10-16 | 11-14 |
| Miami | 18 | 35 | .340 | 20 | 9 | 7-3 | L-1 | 10-19 | 8-16 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Central | W | L | Pct. | GB | *WGB | L10 | Streak | Home | Away |
| Milwaukee | 30 | 21 | .588 | — | — | 6-4 | W-2 | 12-9 | 18-12 |
| Chicago | 27 | 25 | .519 | 3½ | +½ | 3-7 | L-3 | 15-11 | 12-14 |
| St. Louis | 24 | 26 | .480 | 5½ | 1½ | 8-2 | W-4 | 12-12 | 12-14 |
| Pittsburgh | 25 | 28 | .472 | 6 | 2 | 6-4 | W-2 | 12-14 | 13-14 |
| Cincinnati | 22 | 30 | .423 | 8½ | 4½ | 4-6 | W-2 | 12-15 | 10-15 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| West | W | L | Pct. | GB | *WGB | L10 | Streak | Home | Away |
| Los Angeles | 33 | 21 | .611 | — | — | 4-6 | L-4 | 19-11 | 14-10 |
| San Francisco | 27 | 26 | .509 | 5½ | — | 8-2 | W-4 | 15-10 | 12-16 |
| San Diego | 27 | 28 | .491 | 6½ | 1 | 5-5 | L-2 | 10-18 | 17-10 |
| Arizona | 25 | 27 | .481 | 7 | 1½ | 5-5 | W-1 | 13-14 | 12-13 |
| Colorado | 17 | 34 | .333 | 14½ | 9 | 4-6 | L-1 | 10-13 | 7-21 |

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

San Francisco 7, **Mets** 2, 10 inn.
Yankees 4, San Diego 1
Pittsburgh 4, Atlanta 1
Washington 3, Seattle 1
Milwaukee 6, Boston 3
Cincinnati 3, L.A. Dodgers 1
St. Louis 7, Cubs 6
Philadelphia 8, Colorado 4
Arizona 3, Miami 2
Sunday
San Francisco at **Mets**, 1:40
Yankees at San Diego, 4:10
 L.A. Dodgers at Cincinnati, 12:10

Atlanta at Pittsburgh, 1:35
Milwaukee at Boston, 1:35
Seattle at Washington, 1:35
Philadelphia at Colorado, 3:10
Miami at Arizona, 4:10
Cubs at St. Louis, 7:10
Monday
L.A. Dodgers at **Mets**, 4:10
Cubs at Milwaukee, 4:10
Cleveland at Colorado, 4:10
St. Louis at Cincinnati, 4:10
Washington at Atlanta, 4:10
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 5:05
Miami at San Diego, 6:40

Yankees 4, Padres 1

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Yankees | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
| Volpe ss | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .282 |
| Soto rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .309 |
| Judge cf | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | .280 |
| Verdugo lf | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .261 |
| Stanton dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .240 |
| Rizzo 1b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .250 |
| Torres 2b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | .222 |
| Wells c | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .200 |
| Cabrera 3b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .252 |
| Totals | 35 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 13 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| San Diego | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
| Arraez 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .390 |
| Tatis rf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | .244 |
| Profan lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | .328 |
| Cronenworth 2b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .265 |
| Machado 3b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .234 |
| D.Peralta dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | .273 |
| Merrill cf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .276 |
| Campusano c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | .248 |
| Kim ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .209 |
| Totals | 31 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | |

Yankees 200 200 000 — 4 9 0
San Diego 000 000 010 — 1 4 0

LOB: New York 6, San Diego 7. **2B:** Judge (18). **3B:** Cronenworth (2). **HR:** Judge (17), off Cease; Tatis (9), off Weaver. **RBIs:** Judge 2 (39), Rizzo (25), Torres (16), Tatis (27). **SF:** Torres. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 2 (Soto, Volpe); San Diego 2 (Merrill, Kim). **RISP:** New York 2 for 7; San Diego 0 for 4.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Yankees | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
| Stroman, W, 4-2 | 6.0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 91 | 2.76 |
| Weaver | 2.0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 41 | 2.51 |
| Holmes, S, 15-17 | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1.57 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| San Diego | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
| Cease, L, 5-4 | 6.2 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 107 | 3.29 |
| Matsui | 1.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 3.13 |
| De Los Santos | 1.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 24 | 3.60 |

T: 2:35. **A:** 44,845 (40,222).

Guardians 4, Angels 3

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Cleveland | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
| Freeman cf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .214 |
| Giménez 2b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .266 |
| Ramírez 3b | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | .267 |
| J.Naylor 1b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .242 |
| Brennan rf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .229 |
| Manzardo dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .191 |
| Florial lf | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .175 |
| B.Naylor c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .172 |
| Rocchio ss | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .206 |
| Totals | 32 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 10 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Los Angeles | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
| Schanuel 1b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .238 |
| Rengifo 3b | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .328 |
| Ward lf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | .271 |
| Calhoun dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .280 |
| O'Hoppe c | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .263 |
| Adell rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .227 |
| Moniak cf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .186 |
| Neto ss | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .254 |
| Paris 2b | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .143 |
| Totals | 33 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 11 | |

E: Ramírez (4). **LOB:** Cleveland 2, Los Angeles 5. **2B:** B.Naylor (3), Rengifo (9), Neto (12). **HR:** Ramirez (15), off Soriano; Ward (11), off Bibee. **RBIs:** Freeman (19), Ramírez 2 (51), Ward 3 (32). **CS:** Adell (6), Neto (6), Ramírez (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 2 (Rocchio, B.Naylor); Los Angeles 3 (Paris 2, Calhoun). **RISP:** Cleveland 2 for 6; Los Angeles 1 for 4.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Cleveland | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
| Bibee, W, 3-1 | 6.0 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 91 | 3.99 |
| Smith, H, 6 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 1.93 |
| Gaddis, H, 11 | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 1.78 |
| Clase, S, 16-19 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 0.34 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Los Angeles | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
| Soriano, L, 2-5 | 6.0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 91 | 3.61 |
| Strickland | 1.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 2.05 |
| Moore | 1.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 6.27 |
| García | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 4.84 |

T: 2:22. **A:** 35,861 (45,517).

Giants 7, Mets 2, 10 inn.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| San Francisco | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
| Matos cf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .278 |
| Estrada 2b | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .239 |
| Bailey dh | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .299 |
| Chapman 3b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .240 |
| Flores 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .216 |
| McKenna pr-lf | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| Yastrzemski rf | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | .224 |
| Ramos lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .271 |
| Wade ph | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .333 |
| Luciano ss | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .391 |
| Casali c | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .294 |
| Wisely ss-1b | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .385 |
| Totals | 38 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 9 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Mets | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
| Lindor ss | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .209 |
| Alonso 1b | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .234 |
| Nimmo cf-lf | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | .216 |
| Martínez dh | 4 | 0 | | | | | |

Reds 3, Dodgers 1

| Los Angeles | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Betts ss | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .337 |
| Ohtani dh | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | .338 |
| Freeman 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .284 |
| Smith c | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .297 |
| T.Hernández lf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .254 |
| Lux 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .210 |
| Keyward rf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .194 |
| K.Hernández 3b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .206 |
| Taylor cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .101 |
| Totals | 30 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 8 | |

| Cincinnati | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Hurtubise lf | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .286 |
| De La Cruz ss | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .251 |
| Steer 1b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .227 |
| Fraleigh rf | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .280 |
| Stephenson c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .258 |
| Ford dh | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .153 |
| India 2b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .219 |
| Benson cf | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | .193 |
| Fairchild ph-cf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .223 |
| Espinal 3b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .195 |
| Totals | 28 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 6 | |

Los Angeles 010 000 000 — 1 5 0
Cincinnati 110 001 00x — 3 9 0

LOB: Los Angeles 4, Cincinnati 4. **2B:** Freeman (14), Hurtubise (1). **3B:** Ohtani (2). **HR:** Steer (6), off Buehler; Benson (7), off Buehler. **RBIs:** Steer (35), Benson (15), De La Cruz (24). **SB:** Fraley (8). **CS:** Benson (5), Fraley (4). **S:** Hurtubise. **RISP:** Los Angeles 0 for 7; Cincinnati 1 for 6. **DP:** Los Angeles 2 (Betts, Freeman; Betts, Lux, Freeman); Cincinnati 1 (India, De La Cruz, Steer).

Los Angeles IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Buehler, L, 1-2 5.2 6 3 3 1 4 91 4.26
 Yarbrough 1.2 3 0 0 1 0 30 2.97
 Treinen 0.2 0 0 0 0 2 10 0.00

Cincinnati IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Greene, W, 3-2 6.0 5 1 1 1 5 107 3.06
 Cruz, H, 9 1.0 0 0 0 1 2 15 4.37
 Moll, H, 1 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 8 3.38
 Díaz, S, 9-11 1.0 0 0 0 0 0 7 5.95
T: 2:29. **A:** 41,880 (43,891).

Cardinals 7, Cubs 6

| Chicago | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Tauchman lf | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | .263 |
| Suzuki rf | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .250 |
| Bellinger cf | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .247 |
| Morel dh | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .206 |
| Hoerner 2b | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | .263 |
| Busch 1b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .236 |
| Swanson ss | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .225 |
| Wisdom 3b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .261 |
| Madrigal 3b | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .222 |
| Amaya c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | .176 |
| Happ ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .216 |
| Totals | 37 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 8 | |

| St. Louis | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Donovan lf | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | .233 |
| Nootbaar rf | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | .227 |
| Goldschmidt 1b | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .216 |
| Arenado 3b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .268 |
| Burleson dh | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .304 |
| Gorman 2b | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .215 |
| Herrera c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .272 |
| Winn ss | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .301 |
| Siani cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .216 |
| Carpenter ph | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .258 |
| Carlson pr-cf | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .103 |
| Totals | 38 | 7 | 15 | 7 | 1 | 7 | |

Chicago 000 300 102 — 6 12 0
St. Louis 002 001 04x — 7 15 1
LOB: Chicago 7, St. Louis 8. **2B:** Hoerner (12), Wisdom (4), Winn (10), Goldschmidt (6). **3B:** Nootbaar (1). **RBIs:** Hoerner 2 (15), Busch (21), Wisdom (8), Tauchman (16), Bellinger (23), Goldschmidt (17), Arenado (23), Winn (15), Carpenter (3), Donovan 2 (25), Nootbaar (19). **SB:** Nootbaar (3), Tauchman (4), Gorman (2). **RISP:** Chicago 5 for 13; St. Louis 5 for 15. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Busch, Swanson, Busch); St. Louis 2 (Gorman, Winn, Goldschmidt; Gorman, Winn, Goldschmidt).

Chicago IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Taillon 5.2 9 3 3 1 3 105 2.58
 Little 1.0 0 0 0 0 2 13 4.20
 Miller, H, 1 0.1 1 0 0 0 0 3 0.00
 Leiter, L, 1-2, 0.2 4 4 4 0 1 29 2.61
 BS, 0-1
 Hodge 0.1 1 0 0 0 1 5 0.00

St. Louis IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Mikolas 6.0 4 3 3 2 6 82 5.64
 Kittredge 0.2 1 1 0 1 1 19 2.14
 Romero, W, 2-0 1.1 3 0 0 0 1 24 1.35
 Helsley, S, 16-17 1.0 4 2 2 0 0 16 1.96
T: 2:53. **A:** 45,071 (44,494).

Orioles 5, White Sox 3

| Baltimore | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Henderson ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | .268 |
| Rutschman c | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .296 |
| O'Hearn rf | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .276 |
| Hays rf-lf | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .179 |
| Mountcastle 1b | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .271 |
| Santander dh | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | .205 |
| Cowser cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .248 |
| Westburg 2b-3b | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .285 |
| Stowers lf-rf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .250 |
| Urias 3b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .180 |
| Mullins ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .193 |
| Mateo 2b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .245 |
| Totals | 35 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 9 | |

| Chicago | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------|
| Pham cf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .327 |
| Vaughn dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .198 |
| Sheets 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | .242 |
| Julks rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .333 |
| DeJong ss | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .240 |
| Ramos 3b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .250 |
| Benintendi lf | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | .181 |
| Lopez 2b | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .234 |
| Mendick ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .203 |
| Maldonado c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .086 |
| Lee ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .276 |
| Totals | 30 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 10 | |

Baltimore 000 000 050 — 5 8 0
Chicago 000 030 00x — 3 5 0

LOB: Baltimore 8, Chicago 6. **3B:** Sheets (1). **HR:** O'Hearn (7), off Leasure; Santander (9), off Kopec; Westburg (8), off Kopec. **RBIs:** O'Hearn 2 (18), Santander 2 (29), Westburg (31), Sheets 3 (17). **S:** Maldonado. **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 3 (Stowers, Mountcastle, Mullins); Chicago 2 (Maldonado, Julks). **RISP:** Baltimore 0 for 4; Chicago 1 for 5.

Baltimore IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Suárez 4.0 2 0 0 2 3 80 1.53
 Akin 1.2 3 3 3 3 2 41 3.70
 Tate, W, 2-0 2.1 0 0 0 0 4 22 2.40
 Pérez, S, 1-1 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 10 5.06

Chicago IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Fedde 6.1 3 0 0 3 6 103 2.80
 Leasure, H, 8 1.0 1 2 2 1 2 30 2.91
 Kopec, L, 1-4 0.2 3 3 3 3 0 1 13 4.18
 BS, 5-7
 Hill 1.0 1 0 0 1 0 26 2.84

T: 2:51. **A:** 22,283 (40,241).

Nationals 3, Mariners 1

| Seattle | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------|
| Crawford ss | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .206 |
| Moore lf | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .244 |
| Raley rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .271 |
| Raleigh c | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | .215 |
| Canzone dh | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .216 |
| a-Garver ph-dh | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .177 |
| Rodríguez cf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .252 |
| France 1b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .238 |
| Polanco 2b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .191 |
| Rojas 3b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .279 |
| Totals | 32 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 12 | |

| Washington | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Abrams ss | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .257 |
| Rosario rf-lf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | .177 |
| Meneses dh | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .230 |
| García 2b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .280 |
| Winker lf | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .230 |
| Robles pr-rf | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .087 |
| Ruiz c | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .186 |
| Senzel 3b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .196 |
| Vargas ph-3b | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .310 |
| Gallo 1b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .129 |
| Young cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .262 |
| Totals | 28 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 6 | |

Seattle 000 010 000 — 1 5 0
Washington 010 000 20x — 3 6 0

LOB: Seattle 5, Washington 2. **2B:** Moore (10), Ruiz (3). **HR:** Rodríguez (3), off Williams. **RBIs:** Rodríguez (15), Ruiz (11), Vargas (7), Gallo (6). **SB:** García (8), Winker (6). **CS:** Gallo (1). **SF:** Ruiz. **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 3 (Crawford, Garver, Moore); Washington 1 (Young). **RISP:** Seattle 0 for 6; Washington 3 for 7.

Seattle IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Gilbert 6.0 3 1 1 0 4 78 3.06
 Speier, L, 0-2 0.1 2 2 2 0 0 10 6.75
 Thornton 0.2 1 0 0 0 0 6 2.95
 Stanek 1.0 0 0 0 0 2 10 3.71

Washington IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Williams 5.0 5 1 1 0 8 85 2.29
 García 1.0 0 0 0 0 2 16 5.06
 Floro, W, 1-0 1.0 0 0 0 0 0 13 0.35
 Harvey, H, 1-0 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 13 2.42
 Finnegan, S, 1.0 0 0 0 0 0 1 18 1.80
 BS, 14-16

T: 2:21. **A:** 30,791 (41,376).

Twins 5, Rangers 3

| Texas | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Henderson ss | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | .258 |
| Seager ss | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .254 |
| Smith 3b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .274 |
| García dh | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | .247 |
| Taveras cf | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .246 |
| Lowé 1b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .250 |
| Heim c | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .253 |
| E.Duran lf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .284 |
| Jankowski lf | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .246 |
| Carter rf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .190 |
| Totals | 32 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | |

| Minnesota | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Julien 2b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .201 |
| Correa ss | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .271 |
| Miranda 3b | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .287 |
| Margot lf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .196 |
| Kepler rf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .303 |
| Buxton cf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .250 |
| Jeffers c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .255 |
| Kirilloff dh | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | .215 |
| Santana 1b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | .205 |
| Castro lf-3b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .260 |
| Totals | 29 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 | |

Texas 000 111 000 — 3 5 0
Minnesota 100 000 13x

The *POST* Line



NHL

Conference Final- Sunday

| Favorite | Money Line | Underdog |
|----------|------------|----------|
| PANTHERS | \$130-155 | Rangers |

Home Teams in CAPS

NBA

Conference Finals- Sunday

| Favorite | PTS (O/U) | Underdog |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| MAVERICKS | 2.5 (208.5) | Timberwolves |

NFL

Week 1- Sept. 5

| Favorite | PTS (O/U) | Underdog |
|----------|------------|----------|
| CHIEFS | 2.5 (46.5) | Ravens |
| *Eagles | 1.5 (48.5) | Packers |

*Sao Paulo, Brazil

MLB

Sunday

| Favorite | Money Line | Underdog |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Yankees | \$106-124 | PADRES |
| Giants | \$102-120 | METS |
| Braves | \$180-218 | PIRATES |
| Blue Jays | \$105-125 | TIGERS |
| RED SOX | \$122-144 | Brewers |
| Mariners | \$138-164 | NATIONALS |
| RAYS | \$100-118 | Royals |
| Orioles | \$140-166 | WHITE SOX |
| Phillies | \$184-220 | ROCKIES |
| Astros | \$136-162 | ATHLETICS |
| Guardians | -102-116 | ANGELS |
| D'BACKS | \$142-168 | Marlins |
| CARDINALS | \$116-136 | Cubs |
| REDS | OFF | Dodgers |
| TWINS | OFF | Rangers |

UFL

Week 9- Sunday

| Favorite | PTS (O/U) | Underdog |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| Michigan | 4 (39) | HOUSTON |
| D.C. | 5 (45.5) | MEMPHIS |

ACTION TOP PLAY

Score with Alexis prop

By SEAN TREPPEDI
actionnetwork.com

The Rangers' line of Alexis Lafreniere, Vincent Trocheck and Artemi Panarin has been one of the league's most comprehensive forces together this season.

This line has anchored them with strong five-on-five zone entry, hard puck pressure and timely goals at a consistent rate since its inception. It was also the catalyst to the 2-1, Game 2, overtime victory against Florida on Friday.

Lafreniere is tied for fourth with Chris Kreider in playoff points at 10. e's netting a 13.3 percent shooting rate on 2.5 shots on goal per game. He's also ranked

third in a balanced Rangers lineup in expected goals with 3.7.

Florida's violent play came back to fruition in Game 2. The belligerent tone of play is only bound to continue, which also offers potential for Lafreniere on the second power-play unit. He's scored three points with the man-advantage throughout the postseason.

In a tight, pain-staking and stubborn series, it's tough to target any value in player props. But Lafreniere's supporting role in critical moments leaves him as an encouraging play.

THE PLAY: Alexis Lafreniere Over 0.5 Points (+105 BetMGM)

Sean Treppedi analyzes the NHL for Action Network.

Pitching Form

| | | (Game time) | 2024 | | | '24 vs OPP | | | CAREER | | LAST 3 STARTS | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------|------|------|------|------------|-------|--------|--------|------|---------------|--|--|
| | | | W-L | ERA | *REC | W-L | ERA | vs OPP | W-L | IP | ERA | | |
| Giants | Webb (R) | | 4-4 | 3.03 | 5-6 | 1-0 | 0.00 | 3-1 | 1-1 | 19.0 | 1.89 | | |
| Mets | Manaea (L) | (1:40pm) | 3-1 | 3.11 | 6-3 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 3-3 | 2-0 | 17.0 | 3.18 | | |
| Yankees | Schmidt (R) | | 5-2 | 2.59 | 8-2 | - | - | - | 2-1 | 19.2 | 0.92 | | |
| Padres | Musgrove (R) | (4:10pm) | 3-4 | 6.14 | 5-4 | - | - | 1-0 | 0-2 | 12.2 | 7.11 | | |
| Brewers | TBD | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| Red Sox | Houck (R) | (1:35pm) | 4-5 | 1.94 | 5-5 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 1-2 | 19.2 | 1.83 | | |
| Mariners | Woo (R) | | 2-0 | 0.57 | 3-0 | 0-0 | 1.80 | 0-0 | 2-0 | 15.2 | 0.57 | | |
| Nationals | Parker (L) | (1:35pm) | 3-2 | 3.32 | 4-3 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 1-1 | 16.2 | 4.32 | | |
| Blue Jays | Kikuchi (L) | | 2-4 | 2.64 | 3-7 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 1-1 | 0-2 | 18.1 | 2.45 | | |
| Tigers | Mize (R) | (11:35am) | 1-3 | 4.57 | 5-4 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 0-2 | 13.2 | 5.93 | | |
| Royals | Wacha (R) | | 4-4 | 4.45 | 5-5 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 2-3 | 3-0 | 19.0 | 2.37 | | |
| Rays | Bradley (R) | (1:40pm) | 1-2 | 4.00 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 1-2 | 18.0 | 4.00 | | |
| Orioles | Bradish (R) | | 0-0 | 2.41 | 3-1 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 14.0 | 2.57 | | |
| White Sox | Crochet (L) | (2:10pm) | 5-4 | 3.75 | 5-6 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 3-0 | 17.0 | 0.00 | | |
| Rangers | TBD | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| Twins | López (R) | (2:10pm) | 4-4 | 4.72 | 5-5 | 0-0 | 9.00 | 0-1 | 1-2 | 17.2 | 5.60 | | |
| Guardians | Lively (R) | | 3-2 | 2.84 | 4-3 | 1-0 | 1.50 | 1-0 | 2-1 | 16.1 | 3.86 | | |
| Angels | Detmers (L) | (4:07pm) | 3-4 | 5.80 | 5-5 | 0-1 | 11.12 | 1-1 | 0-1 | 14.0 | 10.29 | | |
| Astros | Blanco (R) | | 4-0 | 2.09 | 7-1 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 1-0 | 14.2 | 3.07 | | |
| Athletics | Pérez (R) | (4:07pm) | 0-1 | 4.15 | 1-1 | 0-1 | 3.86 | 0-5 | 0-1 | 13.0 | 4.15 | | |
| Dodgers | Yamamoto (R) | | 5-1 | 3.17 | 6-4 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 2-0 | 20.0 | 3.60 | | |
| Reds | Suter (L) | (12:10pm) | 0-0 | 4.13 | 1-0 | - | - | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0.2 | 0.00 | | |
| Braves | Sale (L) | | 7-1 | 2.22 | 7-2 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-0 | 3-0 | 20.0 | 0.00 | | |
| Pirates | Pérez with a 3-1 victory | (1:35pm) | 1-3 | 4.80 | 4-6 | 0-0 | 0.00 | 0-1 | 0-1 | 14.1 | 9.42 | | |
| Phillies | Suárez (L) | | 9-0 | 1.36 | 10-0 | 1-0 | 0.00 | 2-0 | 3-0 | 19.0 | 0.47 | | |
| Rockies | Quantrill (R) | (3:10pm) | 3-3 | 3.59 | 4-6 | 0-0 | 1.50 | 0-0 | 2-0 | 18.0 | 2.00 | | |
| Marlins | Weathers (L) | | 2-4 | 3.49 | 4-6 | 0-0 | 3.00 | 0-1 | 0-1 | 21.0 | 1.71 | | |
| D'Backs | Pfaadt (R) | (4:10pm) | 2-3 | 4.05 | 4-6 | 0-1 | 10.80 | 0-1 | 1-1 | 19.0 | 2.84 | | |
| Cubs | TBD | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| Cardinals | Gray (R) | (7:10pm) | 6-2 | 2.87 | 6-2 | 0-0 | 1.69 | 4-3 | 2-1 | 16.2 | 6.48 | | |

*REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: NYCFC stay hot with win

Keaton Parks scored on a header in the 81st minute and surging New York City FC extended their winning streak to four matches with a 1-0 victory over the New England Revolution on Saturday night in Foxborough, Mass.

NYCFC (8-5-2, 26 points) improved to 8-2-2 since a season-opening three-match losing streak. New York is 7-1-0 in its past eight matches, beating New England twice during that span.

Matt Freese made seven saves for his third shutout of the season to help NYCFC overcome getting outplayed for large portions of the match.

NCAA: St. John's wins Big East title

Jackson Tucker earned a bases-loaded walk and **Garrett Scavelli** hit a sacrifice fly as part of a two-run seventh inning to give St. John's the lead and the Red Storm would go on to claim their first Big East baseball title since 2018 with a 4-2 victory over Georgetown in Mason, Ohio.

St. John's (37-16-1) clinched a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

MLB: Royals win eighth straight

Nelson Velázquez homered and had an RBI double in a three-run 11th inning as the Royals beat the Rays 7-4 in St. Petersburg, Fla. for their eighth straight victory. The Rays have lost six in a row.

● In Minneapolis, **Alex Kirilloff** hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning to lead the Twins to a 5-3 victory over the Rangers.

● In St. Louis, **Brendan Donovan** had a two-run single, **Lars Nootbaar** added an RBI

triple and the Cardinals rallied in the eighth inning and then held off the Cubs for a 7-6 win.

● In Pittsburgh, **Mitch Keller** pitched into the seventh inning and the Pirates beat the Braves 4-1.

● In Chicago, **Ryan O'Hearn**, **Anthony Santander** and **Jordan Westburg** homered during Baltimore's five-run eighth inning, and the Orioles beat the White Sox, 5-3.

● In Cincinnati, **Hunter Greene** pitched six innings of one-run ball and the Reds dealt the Dodgers a season-high fourth straight loss with a 3-1 victory

GOLF: Riley holds four-shot lead

Davis Riley has contended on the PGA Tour, but he has never won an individual event on the circuit. He'll try to change that Sunday by taking a four-shot lead into the final round of the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas.

He shot a 4-under-par 66 on Saturday, moving to 14-under 196 for the tournament. Riley will be pursued by **Scottie Scheffler**, who moved into second place with his bogey-free 63 in the third round.

● In Benton Harbor, Mich., **Greg Chalmers** fired a 5-under 66 and shares the lead with **Ernie Els** after three rounds of the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship.

WNBA: Champion Aces beat Fever

Caitlin Clark might be the WNBA's future, but **A'ja Wilson** showed why she is arguably the league's best current player with 29 points and 15 rebounds to lead the defending champion Las Vegas Aces to a 99-80 win over the Indiana Fever in Las Vegas.

Clark scored eight points on 2-of-8 shooting (2 of 5 from the 3-point line) and had seven assists and five rebounds to go with six turnovers.

STITCHES

Woo for the overdue Stitches

"Hey Stitch everything evens out in the end. The comeback is near but for now I'm making a fortune reversing your picks." — Staten Island Chuck

Yes, even the groundhogs are ripping me. I assume you are predicting 10 more weeks of losing, eh Chucky? Well let's see if we can keep this money train rolling, shall we?

The Mariners visit the Nationals in D.C. Washington's Patrick Corbin has one win from 10 starts (Yes, we had the Dead Sox that day). Corbin faced the

Twins last week, and he was mauled by Minny for eight runs over six innings.

Seattle's Bryan Woo has made three starts and the pitching line is impressive. One run, six hits, 15 2/3 innings, 15 K's, two walks. Times up, Woo, because we got you! \$50 on the Mariners.

-\$

Povero Arrighetti. The A's scored twice in the bottom of the first and the Astros rolled over, leaving poor Spencer Arrighetti out to dry. Final 3-1. Down -1,121 ronzonis.

stitches@nypost.com

| Home Team Lineups | | HOME | AWAY | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | TODAY May 26 | MON May 27 | TUE May 28 | WED May 29 | THU May 30 | FRI May 31 | SAT June 1 |
| | San Diego 4:10 YES WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM | NO GAME | Ana. 9:38 YES WFAN | Ana. 9:38 Prime Video WFAN | Ana. 9:38 YES WFAN | S.F. 10:15 YES WFAN | S.F. 10:05 YES WFAN |
| | San Francisco 1:40 PIX11 WCBS 880 AM | L.A. 4:10 SNY WCBS | L.A. 7:10 SNY WCBS | L.A. 4:10 SNY WCBS | Ariz. 7:10 SNY WCBS | Ariz. 7:10 PIX11 WCBS | Ariz. 4:10 SNY WCBS |
| | Florida 3:00 ABC ESPN 98.7 FM | NO GAME | Fla. 8:00 ESPN ESPN | NO GAME | Fla. 8:00 ESPN ESPN | NO GAME | (if nec.) Fla. 8:00 ABC ESPN |
| | NO GAME | NO GAME | NO GAME | Phx. 7:00 CBSN | NO GAME | Wash. 7:30 ION | NO GAME |
| Wednesday | | Friday | | Sat., June 8 | | | |
| | Charlotte FC 7:30 Apple TV+ | | San Jose Earthquakes 7:30 Apple TV+ | | Angel City FC 12:30 CBS | | |

| Today's Sports on the Air | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| NHL Playoffs | 3 p.m. | Rangers at Panthers, Game 3 | ABC, ESPN (98.7 FM) |
| MLB | 1:30 p.m. | Dodgers at Reds | MLBN |
| | 1:40 p.m. | Giants at Mets | PIX11, WCBS (880 AM) |
| | 4:10 p.m. | Yankees at Padres | YES, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM) |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Marlins at Diamondbacks (in progress) | MLBN |
| | 7 p.m. | Cubs at Cardinals | ESPN |
| NBA Playoffs | 8 p.m. | Timberwolves at Mavericks | TNT |
| Golf | 7 a.m. | DP World Tour: The Soudal Open, Final Round | Golf |
| | 1 p.m. | PGA Tour: The Charles Schwab Challenge, Final Round | Golf |
| | 3 p.m. | Champions Tour: The KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, Final Round | Golf |
| | 3 p.m. | PGA Tour: The Charles Schwab Challenge, Final Round | CBS |
| | 4 p.m. | Champions Tour: The KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, Final Round | NBC |
| Football | 2:30 p.m. | UFL: Michigan at Houston | Fox |
| Tennis | 6 a.m. | French Open, 1st Round | Tennis |
| | 8 a.m. | French Open, 1st Round | MSG |
| Auto Racing | 7:30 a.m. | F1: Monaco Grand Prix | ABC |
| | 7:30 a.m. | FIM MotoGP: The Catalan Grand Prix | truTV |
| | 12:30 p.m. | NTT IndyCar Series: The Indianapolis 500 | NBC |
| | 6 p.m. | NASCAR Cup Series: The Coca-Cola 600 | Fox |
| Soccer | Noon | Serie A: Lecce at Napoli | CBSN |
| College Lacrosse | Noon | Women's Final: Northwestern vs. Boston College | ESPN |
| | 9 a.m. | IIHF World Championship Bronze Medal Game: Sweden vs. Canada | NHLN |
| Hockey | 2 p.m. | IIHF World Championship Gold Medal Game: Switzerland vs. Czechia | NHLN |
| | 7:30 p.m. | CHL Memorial Cup: Saginaw vs. Drummondville | NHLN |
| | College Baseball | Noon | ACC Final: Florida State vs. Miami/Duke winner |
| 2 p.m. | | C-USA Final: TBD vs. Dallas Baptist | CBSN |
| 3 p.m. | | SEC Final: TBD vs. LSU | ESPN2 |
| Horse Racing | Noon | FanDuel Racing | MSGSN |
| | 12:30 p.m. | America's Day at the Races | FS2 |
| | 1:30 p.m. | America's Day at the Races | FS1 |
| | 2:30 p.m. | America's Day at the Races | FS2 |
| Rugby | 6 p.m. | MLR: San Diego Legion at RFC Los Angeles | FS1 |

ODDS & ENDS

NHL
Rangers at Panthers
Game 3, Sunday

| MONEYLINE | ODDS |
|---------------------|------------|
| Rangers | +130 |
| Panthers | -155 |
| TOTAL GOALS | O/U |
| Rangers | 2.5 |
| Panthers | 3.0 |
| Combined | 5.5 |
| PLAYER SHOTS | O/U |
| Matthew Tkachuk | 3.5 |
| Carter Verhaeghe | 3.5 |
| Artemi Panarin | 3.5 |
| Sam Reinhart | 3.5 |
| Chris Kreider | 2.5 |
| Mike Zibanejad | 2.5 |
| Vincent Trocheck | 2.5 |
| Alexis Lafreniere | 2.5 |
| Aleksander Barkov | 2.5 |
| Brandon Montour | 2.5 |
| Sam Bennett | 2.5 |
| Filip Chytil | 1.5 |
| Evan Rodrigues | 1.5 |
| Adam Fox | 1.5 |
| Gustav Forsling | 1.5 |
| Anton Lundell | 1.5 |
| Vladimir Tarasenko | 1.5 |

Series winner

| TEAM | ODDS |
|----------|------|
| Panthers | -155 |
| Rangers | +130 |

2024 Stanley Cup winner

| TEAM | ODDS |
|----------|------|
| Oilers | +190 |
| Panthers | +200 |
| Stars | +380 |
| Rangers | +400 |

NBA
Timberwolves at Mavericks
Game 3, Sunday

| MONEYLINE | ODDS |
|----------------------|------------|
| Timberwolves | +125 |
| Mavericks | -155 |
| PLAYER POINTS | O/U |
| Luka Doncic | 30.5 |
| Anthony Edwards | 25.5 |
| Kyrie Irving | 22.5 |
| Karl-Anthony Towns | 19.5 |
| Mike Conley Jr. | 12.5 |
| Rudy Gobert | 12.5 |
| Naz Reid | 11.5 |
| P.J. Washington | 11.5 |
| Jaden McDaniels | 9.5 |
| Derrick Jones Jr. | 8.5 |
| Daniel Gafford | 8.5 |
| Dereck Lively II | 8.5 |
| Josh Green | 4.5 |

Series winner

| TEAM | ODDS |
|--------------|------|
| Timberwolves | +425 |
| Mavericks | -600 |

ACTION BET SMART

Charlotte's web of wagers

By NICK STERLING
actionnetwork.com

Memorial Day weekend brings the longest NASCAR race of the season with the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte (N.C.) Motor Speedway — Sunday at 6 p.m. on Fox.

Last season, Ryan Blaney captured the 600 en route to winning the championship. Blaney is fourth on the odds board at +900 at BetMGM, behind Kyle Larson (+475), Denny Hamlin (+575) and Tyler Reddick (+850).

Last week's All-Star Race saw a big fight that made most of the headlines, and the on-track product wasn't great. Things should be much different Sunday, as Charlotte is often one of the season's best races.

Here are my favorite betting picks for the Coca-Cola 600, shopping for best odds at multiple sportsbooks:

Tyler Reddick to win (+900, bet365)

He has been knocking on the door of a victory at a non-superspeedway track nearly every week. He had the car to beat at Darlington, S.C., but late contact with Chris Buescher relegated him to a 32nd-place finish.

Reddick's performance at high-speed 1.5-mile tracks and Charlotte gives me confidence for his chances Sunday.

Over the past two Charlotte races, he is No. 1 in total speed ranking and displayed top-three speed in both races, finishing sixth and fifth. He also had top-two speed in this year's Las Vegas and Texas races. That speed should carry over to the Coca-Cola 600.

Chase Elliott top-five finish (+180, bet365)

Elliott has been the most consistent driver in the Cup Series — he's the only driver to finish top 20 in every race. He has five top-five finishes in 2024, and I expect another one at Charlotte.

Before last year's race, Elliott had five straight races at

Charlotte with 22-plus laps led. He scored his first victory of 2020 there just days after finishing runner-up in the Coca-Cola 600.

The 1.5-mile tracks have been kind to Elliott this season. He won at Texas before scoring a third-place finish at Kansas. A crash ruined a strong finish in his past two starts at Charlotte, but he should have the speed for another top-five finish Sunday.

Kyle Busch top-10 finish (-105, Caesars)

Busch was at the forefront of headlines last week after his post-race fight with Ricky Stenhouse Jr. As long as he can avoid potential payback, I expect a top-10 performance.

There's no denying it's been a tough season for Busch and the No. 8 team, but he has shown top-10 speed on the 1.5-mile tracks. He finished ninth and eighth at Texas and Kansas, respectively. Busch has been great at Charlotte in the next-gen era, finishing second and sixth. It has been hard to back him in 2024, but he has shown speed lately. Let's hope he avoids the controversy and scores a solid finish at Charlotte.

Martin Truex Jr. over Ryan Blaney (-108, FanDuel)

Truex and Blaney have a combined four wins at Charlotte. Truex has three victories, but Blaney claimed last year's Coca-Cola 600.

Blaney was the class of the field, but Truex wasn't far behind with a third-place finish. As we look at this year's race, I have more confidence in Truex.

Blaney looked good at Las Vegas, but the past two 1.5-mile races have seen him finish outside the top 10.

The last 1.5-mile track saw a third-place finish for Truex.

Overall, Truex has been much more consistent than Blaney. I'd take the value with Truex finishing ahead of Blaney on Sunday.

Nick Sterling analyzes auto racing for Action Network.



Getty Images

Post Time: 1:05 p.m.
vcangialosi@nypost.com



Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Book Of Wisdom (1st)
Lock Record: 5 for 13 (38%)
Meet Record: 30/129 \$175.90

1 6 1/2 fur; \$38,000; mdn cfm(\$30,000); 3up(f)

Racing at Aqueduct tomorrow, Memorial Day.
BOOK OF WISDOM wins the opener for Rice. Fell to this height and rallied to within 2 lengths after racing 5/6 wide. Gets up getting more ground. Breen's **NEIGH JUDE** and DePaz' **SHEHANAH** move turf to dirt and lower. Both showed little on dirt previously. Rider change on Neigh Jude to Castellano. **MONTAUK MYSTIQUE** has been 3rd best in 3 of last 4.

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1 | Book of Wisdom(L),118 | J Lezcano | 3-8-3 | Rice | 5-2 |
| 2 | Babi Dreams(L),124 | D Grisles Rave | 6-5-6 | Arriaga | 20-1 |
| 3 | Neigh Jude(L),124 | J Castellano | 8-7-x | Breen | 3-1 |
| 4 | Montauk Mystique(L),124 | D Davis | 3-4-3 | Miceli | 9-2 |
| 5 | Going for Glory(M),118 | J Gomez | 2-10-2 | Honk | 12-1 |
| 6 | Steppin' Hawk(L),124 | R Maragh | 5-2-4 | Hosang | 8-1 |
| 7 | Mia Nipotina(L),118 | E Cancel | 6-8-8 | Sells | 10-1 |
| 8 | Shehanah(L),118 | T McCarthy | 11-6-x | De Paz | 7-2 |

2 6 fur; \$105,000; alw; 4up

A gunfight to backend the double. **GUN IT** makes seasonal debut for Rice. 1 for 9 in 2023 but beat a length twice here at the end of the year. Rice has been money off the +180 day layoff. Irad a good sign. Will have to outgun **RUNNINSONFAGUN** who hasn't raced in more than a year. Made 2 starts in 2023. Last of 6 with similar after taking 2nd money in the Tom Fool. **HESMZYHONEYBADGER** won by 4+ and was claimed by Rice. Repeat in cards. Lezcano subs for Carmouche. Stays on Runinsonofagun for Toscano.

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|--------|----------|------|
| 2 | Runinsonofagun,118 | K Carmouche | 6-2-2 | Toscano | 9-5 |
| 3 | Nova Rags(L),118 | J Alvarado | 2-3-5 | Mott | 5-1 |
| 1 | a-Synthesis(L),118 | M Franco | 4-1-5 | Jacobson | 9-2 |
| 4 | Gun It(L),118 | I Ortiz, Jr | 2-3-4 | Rice | 7-2 |
| 5 | He'smyhoneybadger(L),120 | J Lezcano | 1-4-5 | Rice | 2-1 |
| 1A | a-Durante(L),118 | R Vazquez | 5-6-6 | Jacobson | 9-2 |

3 1 1/16 miles(T); \$62,000; cfm(\$32,000); 4up

Fair value from **VALUE ENGINEERING** moving dirt to turf and lower for Maker. Won a Grade 2 on the Gulfstream grass 14 months ago. Hasn't won since. Irad on the shipper. **KURAMATA** Runnerup 3 of last 4, latest at Gulfstream. Won a 100k at Monmouth in 2022, not since. Franco rides for Chad Brown. **BODECREAM** makes seasonal debut for DePaz. 0 for 7 last year but 2nd best twice at this distance. Carmouche up.

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|----------------------------|----------------|--------|------------|------|
| 1 | a-Kuramata(IRE)(L),118 | M Franco | 2-4-2 | C Brown | 2-1 |
| 2 | b-Optic Way(L),118 | K Davis | 7-6-5 | Barrera | 20-1 |
| 3 | Bodecream(L),118 | K Carmouche | 6-2-2 | De Paz | 6-1 |
| 2B | b-Sagamore Mischief(L),118 | D Grisles Rave | 6-3-4 | Barrera | 20-1 |
| 4 | Landbiscuit(L),118 | J Castellano | 4-9-2 | B Brown | 8-1 |
| 5 | First Glimpse(L),120 | D Davis | 1-4-3 | Potts | 10-1 |
| 1A | a-Front Man(L),118 | F Prat | 11-3-6 | Kantarmaci | 2-1 |
| 6 | High Tide(L),123 | J Lezcano | 8-1-2 | Atras | 5-2 |
| 7 | Value Engineering(L),118 | I Ortiz, Jr | 5-6-11 | Maker | 9-2 |
| 8 | Majestic Eagle(L),118 | R Vazquez | 3-8-6 | Jacobson | 12-1 |
| 9 | Bossmakinbossmoves(L),120 | Rider TBA | 7-6-1 | Morley | 5-1 |
| 10 | Co Conspirator(L),118 | D Grisles Rave | 4-4-8 | Jones | 10-1 |
| 1X | a-Magnolia Midnight(L),118 | Rider TBA | 2-2-6 | Kantarmaci | 2-1 |

4 1 mile; \$70,000; cfm(\$40,000); 4up

Linda Rice again. **BOURBAN CALLING** moved lower and won handily snapping a lengthy losing skid. Right back, same distance under Carmouche. This will be his 49th start and **GENTLEMAN JOE'S** 50th. He's the M/L favorite after winning here in March, then again weeks ago. **BLAKE B** was claimed by Rudy Rodriguez after winning by 9+. Moves higher. Maragh subs for Franco. Stays on **MIDNIGHT TROUBLE** who he guided to victory here in April. Competitively spotted for Morley.

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1 | Book of Wisdom(L),118 | J Lezcano | 3-8-3 | Rice | 5-2 |
| 2 | Babi Dreams(L),124 | D Grisles Rave | 6-5-6 | Arriaga | 20-1 |
| 3 | Neigh Jude(L),124 | J Castellano | 8-7-x | Breen | 3-1 |
| 4 | Montauk Mystique(L),124 | D Davis | 3-4-3 | Miceli | 9-2 |
| 5 | Going for Glory(M),118 | J Gomez | 2-10-2 | Honk | 12-1 |
| 6 | Steppin' Hawk(L),124 | R Maragh | 5-2-4 | Hosang | 8-1 |
| 7 | Mia Nipotina(L),118 | E Cancel | 6-8-8 | Sells | 10-1 |
| 8 | Shehanah(L),118 | T McCarthy | 11-6-x | De Paz | 7-2 |

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|----------------------------|----------------|--------|------------|------|
| 1 | a-Kuramata(IRE)(L),118 | M Franco | 2-4-2 | C Brown | 2-1 |
| 2 | b-Optic Way(L),118 | K Davis | 7-6-5 | Barrera | 20-1 |
| 3 | Bodecream(L),118 | K Carmouche | 6-2-2 | De Paz | 6-1 |
| 2B | b-Sagamore Mischief(L),118 | D Grisles Rave | 6-3-4 | Barrera | 20-1 |
| 4 | Landbiscuit(L),118 | J Castellano | 4-9-2 | B Brown | 8-1 |
| 5 | First Glimpse(L),120 | D Davis | 1-4-3 | Potts | 10-1 |
| 1A | a-Front Man(L),118 | F Prat | 11-3-6 | Kantarmaci | 2-1 |
| 6 | High Tide(L),123 | J Lezcano | 8-1-2 | Atras | 5-2 |
| 7 | Value Engineering(L),118 | I Ortiz, Jr | 5-6-11 | Maker | 9-2 |
| 8 | Majestic Eagle(L),118 | R Vazquez | 3-8-6 | Jacobson | 12-1 |
| 9 | Bossmakinbossmoves(L),120 | Rider TBA | 7-6-1 | Morley | 5-1 |
| 10 | Co Conspirator(L),118 | D Grisles Rave | 4-4-8 | Jones | 10-1 |
| 1X | a-Magnolia Midnight(L),118 | Rider TBA | 2-2-6 | Kantarmaci | 2-1 |

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|----------------------------|----------------|--------|------------|------|
| 1 | a-Kuramata(IRE)(L),118 | M Franco | 2-4-2 | C Brown | 2-1 |
| 2 | b-Optic Way(L),118 | K Davis | 7-6-5 | Barrera | 20-1 |
| 3 | Bodecream(L),118 | K Carmouche | 6-2-2 | De Paz | 6-1 |
| 2B | b-Sagamore Mischief(L),118 | D Grisles Rave | 6-3-4 | Barrera | 20-1 |
| 4 | Landbiscuit(L),118 | J Castellano | 4-9-2 | B Brown | 8-1 |
| 5 | First Glimpse(L),120 | D Davis | 1-4-3 | Potts | 10-1 |
| 1A | a-Front Man(L),118 | F Prat | 11-3-6 | Kantarmaci | 2-1 |
| 6 | High Tide(L),123 | J Lezcano | 8-1-2 | Atras | 5-2 |
| 7 | Value Engineering(L),118 | I Ortiz, Jr | 5-6-11 | Maker | 9-2 |
| 8 | Majestic Eagle(L),118 | R Vazquez | 3-8-6 | Jacobson | 12-1 |
| 9 | Bossmakinbossmoves(L),120 | Rider TBA | 7-6-1 | Morley | 5-1 |
| 10 | Co Conspirator(L),118 | D Grisles Rave | 4-4-8 | Jones | 10-1 |
| 1X | a-Magnolia Midnight(L),118 | Rider TBA | 2-2-6 | Kantarmaci | 2-1 |

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1 | Book of Wisdom(L),118 | J Lezcano | 3-8-3 | Rice | 5-2 |
| 2 | Babi Dreams(L),124 | D Grisles Rave | 6-5-6 | Arriaga | 20-1 |
| 3 | Neigh Jude(L),124 | J Castellano | 8-7-x | Breen | 3-1 |
| 4 | Montauk Mystique(L),124 | D Davis | 3-4-3 | Miceli | 9-2 |
| 5 | Going for Glory(M),118 | J Gomez | 2-10-2 | Honk | 12-1 |
| 6 | Steppin' Hawk(L),124 | R Maragh | 5-2-4 | Hosang | 8-1 |
| 7 | Mia Nipotina(L),118 | E Cancel | 6-8-8 | Sells | 10-1 |
| 8 | Shehanah(L),118 | T McCarthy | 11-6-x | De Paz | 7-2 |

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1 | Book of Wisdom(L),118 | J Lezcano | 3-8-3 | Rice | 5-2 |
| 2 | Babi Dreams(L),124 | D Grisles Rave | 6-5-6 | Arriaga | 20-1 |
| 3 | Neigh Jude(L),124 | J Castellano | 8-7-x | Breen | 3-1 |
| 4 | Montauk Mystique(L),124 | D Davis | 3-4-3 | Miceli | 9-2 |
| 5 | Going for Glory(M),118 | J Gomez | 2-10-2 | Honk | 12-1 |
| 6 | Steppin' Hawk(L),124 | R Maragh | 5-2-4 | Hosang | 8-1 |
| 7 | Mia Nipotina(L),118 | E Cancel | 6-8-8 | Sells | 10-1 |
| 8 | Shehanah(L),118 | T McCarthy | 11-6-x | De Paz | 7-2 |

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1 | Book of Wisdom(L),118 | J Lezcano | 3-8-3 | Rice | 5-2 |
| 2 | Babi Dreams(L),124 | D Grisles Rave | 6-5-6 | Arriaga | 20-1 |
| 3 | Neigh Jude(L),124 | J Castellano | 8-7-x | Breen | 3-1 |
| 4 | Montauk Mystique(L),124 | D Davis | 3-4-3 | Miceli | 9-2 |
| 5 | Going for Glory(M),118 | J Gomez | 2-10-2 | Honk | 12-1 |
| 6 | Steppin' Hawk(L),124 | R Maragh | 5-2-4 | Hosang | 8-1 |
| 7 | Mia Nipotina(L),118 | E Cancel | 6-8-8 | Sells | 10-1 |
| 8 | Shehanah(L),118 | T McCarthy | 11-6-x | De Paz | 7-2 |

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1 | Book of Wisdom(L),118 | J Lezcano | 3-8-3 | Rice | 5-2 |
| 2 | Babi Dreams(L),124 | D Grisles Rave | 6-5-6 | Arriaga | 20-1 |
| 3 | Neigh Jude(L),124 | J Castellano | 8-7-x | Breen | 3-1 |
| 4 | Montauk Mystique(L),124 | D Davis | 3-4-3 | Miceli | 9-2 |
| 5 | Going for Glory(M),118 | J Gomez | 2-10-2 | Honk | 12-1 |
| 6 | Steppin' Hawk(L),124 | R Maragh | 5-2-4 | Hosang | 8-1 |
| 7 | Mia Nipotina(L),118 | E Cancel | 6-8-8 | Sells | 10-1 |
| 8 | Shehanah(L),118 | T McCarthy | 11-6-x | De Paz | 7-2 |

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1 | Book of Wisdom(L),118 | J Lezcano | 3-8-3 | Rice | 5-2 |
| 2 | Babi Dreams(L),124 | D Grisles Rave | 6-5-6 | Arriaga | 20-1 |
| 3 | Neigh Jude(L),124 | J Castellano | 8-7-x | Breen | 3-1 |
| 4 | Montauk Mystique(L),124 | D Davis | 3-4-3 | Miceli | 9-2 |
| 5 | Going for Glory(M),118 | J Gomez | 2-10-2 | Honk | 12-1 |
| 6 | Steppin' Hawk(L),124 | R Maragh | 5-2-4 | Hosang | 8-1 |
| 7 | Mia Nipotina(L),118 | E Cancel | 6-8-8 | Sells | 10-1 |
| 8 | Shehanah(L),118 | T McCarthy | 11-6-x | De Paz | 7-2 |

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|------|
| 1 | Book of Wisdom(L),118 | J Lezcano | 3-8-3 | Rice | 5-2 |
| 2 | Babi Dreams(L),124 | D Grisles Rave | 6-5-6 | Arriaga | 20-1 |
| 3 | Neigh Jude(L),124 | J Castellano | 8-7-x | Breen | 3-1 |
| 4 | Montauk Mystique(L),124 | D Davis | 3-4-3 | Miceli | 9-2 |
| 5 | Going for Glory(M),118 | J Gomez | 2-10-2 | Honk | 12-1 |
| 6 | Steppin' Hawk(L),124 | R Maragh | 5-2-4 | Hosang | 8-1 |
| 7 | Mia Nipotina(L),118 | E Cancel | 6-8-8 | Sells | 10-1 |
| 8 | Shehanah(L),118 | T McCarthy | 11-6-x | De Paz | 7-2 |

1 Midnight Trouble(L),120 M Franco 1-6-2 Morley 5-1

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|------|
| 2 | Lord Captain(L),120 | J Lezcano | 3-6-1 | Rice | 8-1 |
| 3 | Thunderbird(L),118 | J Gomez | 3-2-4 | Sells | 15-1 |
| 4 | Complete Agenda(L),118 | F Prat | 5-2-1 | Rodriguez | 9-2 |
| 5 | Gentleman Joe(L),123 | R Vazquez | 1-2-4 | Jacobson | 3-1 |
| 6 | Grandpa's Kid(L),120 | T McCarthy | 5-6-1 | Persaud | 12-1 |
| 7 | Blake B.(L),118 | R Maragh | 1-3-2 | Rodriguez | 4-1 |
| 8 | Bourban Calling(L),118 | K Carmouche | 1-2-4 | Rice | 7-2 |

5 6 fur(T); \$100,000; alw; 3up(f)

Mingling with the frontrunners, **MASTEROF THE TUNES** gave way and finished 5th at 20-1. Tightens to a sprint. Winner racing 6 panels last year. Capable. **EVER SO SWEET** returns for Cox. 1 for 3 last year. Midpack in a 120k in year-end. Gets Prat back. **KERRY** led late, settled for 3rd last out. Beat top picked by a neck here last September. Irad rides for Joe Sharp. **PROUD MARY** rallied for 2nd money at Keeneland. Hennig gives her another 1/16 to get up.

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|----------------------------|--------------|--------|------------|------|
| 2 | Ever So Sweet(IRE)(M),118 | F Prat | 5-1-2 | Cox | 5-2 |
| 3 | Kerry(L),123 | I Ortiz, Jr | 3-10-9 | Sharp | 9-2 |
| 4 | Proud Mary(L),123 | J Rosario | 2-6-4 | Hennig | 5-1 |
| 5 | Miss San Gabriel(L),123 | J Castellano | 1-4-1 | Gulyas | 6-1 |
| 1 | a-Belle of the Ball(L),123 | J Lezcano | 1-2-2 | Rice | 10-1 |
| 1A | a-Low Society(L),118 | E Cancel | 1-3-4 | Rice | 10-1 |
| 6 | Majestic Return(L),125 | K Carmouche | 3-6-1 | Giangiulio | 12-1 |
| 7 | Masterof the Tunes(L),123 | D Davis | 5-6-1 | Lee | 8-1 |
| 8 | Lilly Simone(L),123 | J Alvarado | 8-8-3 | Maqana | 20-1 |
| 9 | Cynane(M),118 | J Velazquez | 7-6-1 | Morley | 10-1 |
| 10 | A New Peace(L),123 | R Vazquez | 3-8-2 | Jacobson | 15-1 |
| 11 | Status Seeker(L),118 | R Maragh | 1-4-1 | Rodriguez | 5-1 |

6 6 fur; \$39,000; cfm(\$25,000); 3up

Going to **FEATHERS ROAD** going turf to dirt. 2nd off the layoff for Rice. Edged an allowance field sprinting on the dirt with Irad up at the Spa last summer. **AGILITY** picked up his 2nd win from 20 starts. Well spotted for a 3rd. **STREET SWAGG** Turf to dirt for Miceli. 11 race losing streak. About 3 lengths short last 2 dirt starts.

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|--------|------------|------|
| 1 | Screw Loose(L),118 | F Martinez | 6-1-4 | Kantarmaci | 15-1 |
| 2 | Midnight Worker(L),123 | D Grisles Rave | 3-4-5 | Legall | 20-1 |
| 3 | Agility(L),125 | T McCarthy | 1-3-7 | Potts | 5-2 |
| 4 | Remember the Name(L),120 | J Lezcano | 5-1-4 | Rice | 6-1 |
| 5 | Street Swagg(L),123 | E Cancel | 8-3-4 | Miceli | 7-2 |
| 6 | Big Save(L),123 | O Hrdz Mreno | 7-6-2 | Jones | 30-1 |
| 7 | Feathers Road(L),123 | I Ortiz, Jr | 9-7-4 | Rice | 4-1 |
| 8 | Magnificent Ride(L),125 | R Vazquez | 4-6-1 | Jacobson | 5-1 |
| 9 | Screaming Uncle(L),125 | R Maragh | 1-6-5 | Persaud | 8-1 |

7 1 3/8 miles(T); \$90,000; mdn; 3up

Three turns on the turf. **SWORDOFHONOR** stretched to 1 1/16 miles and ran home a length back of a next out winner. Stretches longer still for Pletcher who gets Johnny V to ride. 4YO runs as lightweight. Trainer can run 1-2 with **EL REZEEN**. Closed well for 2nd racing 1 1/16 at Keeneland. **ROBAIRE** makes career debut for Duggan. Sired by Kittens Joy. Ridden by Rosario. Offers fair 1st out value. **FACTOR ANALYSIS** narrowly defeated twice at Tampa. Finished full of run. Brown gives him more ground.

| PN | Horse Wt. | Jockey | Last 3 | Trainer | Odds |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|--------|----------|------|
| 2 | Steadfast Resolve(L),118 | J Lezcano | 6-x-x | Gulyas | 10-1 |
| 3 | Robaire(M),118 | J Rosario | x-x-x | Duggan | 15-1 |
| 4 | Hamilton's Way(L),118 | D Davis | 7-4-2 | Handal | 8-1 |
| 1 | a-Factor Analysis(L),118 | F Prat | 2-2-x | C Brown | 4-1 |
| 5 | Swordofhonor(IRE)(L),125 | J Velazquez | 3-5-x | Pletcher | 7-2 |
| 6 | Transcendental(L),118 | T McCarthy | 4-8-6 | Thomas | 12-1 |

7 Stop the Press(L),118 J Alvarado 4-2-6 McGaughey III 5-1

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--------------|--------|-----------|------|
| 8 | Ciao Chuck(L),118 | J Castellano | 3-2-x | Abreu | 10-1 |
| 9 | El Rezeen(L),118 | I Ortiz, Jr | 2-4-8 | Pletcher | 3-1 |
| 1A | a-Take Your Seats(L),118 | M Franco | 3-6-x | C Brown | 4-1 |
| 10 | Glint(L),118 | R Maragh | 8-7-3 | Ribaldo | 4-1 |
| 11 | Mighty Glory(M),118 | Rider TBA | 4-10-9 | Schettino | 15-1 |

8 1 mile; \$85,000; alw; 3up

Skid is over for **DR KRAFT**. Stretched to a mile and scored. Always shows up (board hitter 11 of 13 on dirt) but rarely wins. We will take the Dr. right back. **BANK FRENZY** Flat 4th off the layoff. Won wire-to-wire making two turns prior to the break. Bank may be money 2nd off the shelf getting Irad back. **BALDIZAR** hasn't raced in 15 months. Lost by 2, then 3 lengths at this level/distance before the extended layoff. We will wait.

Alvarez comes out of BP 'feeling good'

By DAN MARTIN

Francisco Alvarez took another step in his comeback from his April surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb by taking batting practice for the first time.

"I feel like a baseball player," Alvarez said after the session on the field before the Mets lost to the Giants, 7-2 in 10 innings, on Saturday at Citi Field.

Alvarez said he was swinging at full strength despite still wearing a splint on the thumb that prevents it from fully stretching out, noting, "I hit the ball 115 [mph]."

The Mets expect to have Alvarez back behind the plate at some point before the end of June, but the catcher didn't rule out an earlier return.

"If I keep feeling good, if I don't feel anything in my thumb and my body feels good, maybe a couple weeks," Alvarez said.

But he has several steps to go

METS NOTES

before that can become a reality. He'll see pitches off the high velocity machine, take live batting practice off a pitcher going at full speed and catch a bullpen session prior to beginning a minor league rehab assignment.

► **Brett Baty** had been out of the lineup since Monday — as the Mets went with the hot-hitting **Mark Vientos** — but **Carlos Mendoza** said he wanted to see Baty's left-handed bat against right-hander **Jordan Hicks**.

While Baty whiffed twice against Hicks, he hit one out off right-hander **Sean Hjelle** with one out in the bottom of the seventh for his fourth homer of the season.

"That homer was huge," Mendoza said. "It put the team ahead. [The swing was] a lot better, even though he chased

early in the game."

Baty entered in a 3-for-33 rut with 15 strikeouts.

Mendoza indicated Baty would be in the lineup again Sunday, with the Giants starting another right-hander, **Logan Webb**, but the manager made it clear Friday that they would not keep Baty and Vientos on the roster indefinitely, so a decision will come soon.

► Mendoza said **David Peterson** (hip) had no issues after what could be his final rehab start on Friday. If the lefty doesn't report any problems, it's likely he could slide into the rotation, perhaps in **Adrian Houser's** place, with Houser potentially going back to the bullpen.

► Saturday marked the second time this season **Luis Severino** took a no-hitter into the sixth inning. He also tossed seven no-hit innings against the White Sox on April 29.

Liberty offense goes missing late in loss to Lynx

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Napheesa Collier had 15 points and 12 rebounds and the Minnesota Lynx hit 14 3-pointers to hand the Liberty their second-straight loss, 84-67, Saturday.

The Lynx used three 3s in an 11-0 run to pull away from a tie late in the third quarter. A 6-2 outburst to start the fourth gave them a double-digit lead the rest of the way.

Alanna Smith also had 15 points for Minnesota (3-1). Kayla McBride hit four 3s and scored 14 points, with two of the 3s coming quickly after New York tied the game at 55 late in the third. The Liberty were 14 of 28 from 3.

Bridget Carleton, who started in place of Diamond Miller, also scored 14 points. Minnesota announced Friday that Miller was out indefinitely with a knee injury.

Breanna Stewart scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds

for the Liberty (4-2), who finished 7-for-29 behind the arc and only scored nine points in the fourth. Sabrina Ionescu added 13 points and Courtney Vandersloot had 12 but the other two starters — Jonquel Jones and Betnijah Laney-Hamilton — both had four. Leonie Fiebich had 11 points off the bench, going 3 of 5 behind the arc.

Minnesota raced to a 31-17 lead after the first hitting 7 of 11 3s; two by Cecilia Zandalasini in just three minutes off the bench.

Smith hit a 3 to push Minnesota's lead to 38-17 lead before Stewart's basket in the lane at 5:58 ended a field-goal drought of almost 7 1/2 minutes for the Liberty, who got within 44-40 at halftime.

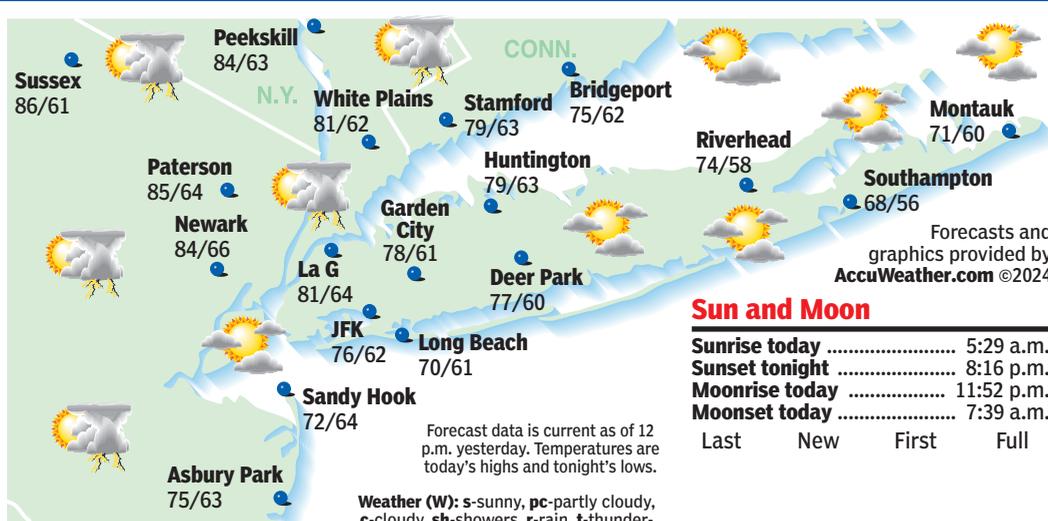
Baskets by Ionescu pulled the Liberty into ties at 52 and 55 but then Courtney Williams hit a layup followed by McBride's two 3s and one from Smith for a 66-55 Lynx lead. Fiebich made a late 3 for the Liberty to make it 66-58 heading into the fourth quarter.

LYNX 84
LIBERTY 67 WNBA

Post Weather Report

AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

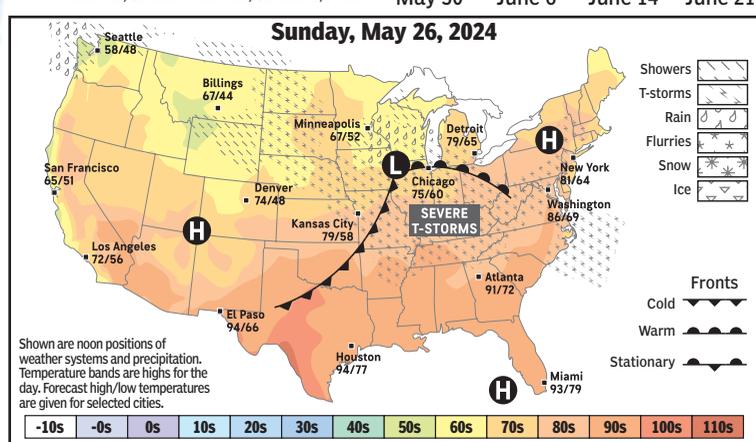
| Sunday | Monday |
|---|---|
| Today: More humid; a t-storm around in the p.m.. High 78 to 84. Tonight: Low clouds. Low 61 to 67. | Tomorrow: Not as warm; a heavy t-storm in the p.m.. High 69 to 75. Tomorrow night: Rain and a t-storm early. Low 62 to 68. |
| Tuesday | Wednesday |
| Some sun; warmer. High 80 to 86. Evening Mainly clear. Low 60 to 66. | Showers around. High 72 to 78. Evening Rain, a t-storm. Low 54 to 60. |



Sun and Moon

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Sunrise today | 5:29 a.m. |
| Sunset tonight | 8:16 p.m. |
| Moonrise today | 11:52 p.m. |
| Moonset today | 7:39 a.m. |

Last New First Full



New York Tides

| | TODAY | TODAY | TOMORROW | TOMORROW |
|-----------------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| | 1st | 2nd | 1st | 2nd |
| Coney Island | 10:27a | 10:36p | 11:21a | 11:32p |
| Fire Island | 10:26a | 11:00p | 11:20a | 11:54p |
| Hempstead | 1:26a | 2:02p | 2:14a | 2:51p |
| Huntington | 1:36a | 2:12p | 2:23a | 3:00p |
| Jones Inlet | 10:11a | 10:20p | 11:05a | 11:16p |
| Montauk Point | 11:55a | --- | 12:06a | 12:48p |
| Port Washington | 1:25a | 2:00p | 2:12a | 2:47p |
| Sandy Hook | 10:31a | 10:40p | 11:25a | 11:36p |

Regional cities

| | TODAY | TOMORROW |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Albany | 84/63/t | 74/65/t |
| Danbury | 83/64/t | 70/66/t |
| Glens Falls | 81/59/s | 70/60/t |
| Gr Barrington | 83/60/t | 68/63/t |
| Kingston | 86/63/t | 71/64/t |
| Liberty | 82/60/t | 67/59/t |
| Monticello | 83/59/t | 68/59/t |
| Newburgh | 86/63/t | 71/65/t |
| Poughkeepsie | 87/64/t | 71/64/t |
| Saratoga Springs | 83/62/s | 73/63/t |
| Stroudsburg | 85/61/t | 71/61/t |
| Torrington | 83/61/t | 68/63/t |
| Syracuse | 80/61/pc | 78/61/t |

World cities

| | TODAY | TOMORROW |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Athens | 77/63/pc | 78/62/s |
| Baghdad | 102/74/pc | 104/75/pc |
| Beijing | 84/55/pc | 88/57/pc |
| Berlin | 76/57/t | 75/59/sh |
| Cairo | 94/81/s | 101/69/pc |
| Dublin | 59/46/t | 60/50/c |
| Geneva | 74/55/pc | 66/50/sh |
| Hong Kong | 89/81/t | 88/81/t |
| Jerusalem | 83/66/s | 92/64/s |
| Kabul | 83/54/s | 85/53/s |
| London | 66/49/t | 64/50/pc |
| Madrid | 84/58/pc | 85/58/pc |
| Mexico City | 90/65/s | 91/60/s |
| Montreal | 75/58/pc | 71/63/t |
| Moscow | 76/53/pc | 75/56/s |
| Paris | 71/52/sh | 64/50/sh |
| Rio de Janeiro | 73/67/sh | 77/71/r |
| Rome | 77/55/s | 77/59/s |
| Sydney | 69/52/s | 69/50/s |
| Tokyo | 77/68/c | 75/70/r |

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

Temperature
High: 80, Low: 66, Mean: 73

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +8 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 2.32", Year: 22.18", Normal year to date: 18.46"

Cooling Degree days yesterday.....8
Total for the month (normal).....63 (44)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal).....82 (58)
Last year to date.....76
Heat Index (at noon yest.).....77
UV index (for Sun.).....9 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon).....36%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Oak, Mulberry, Sycamore
AQI rating: (for Sun.).....Moderate

'LOSS FOR WORDS'

Murray dead at 30 after withdrawing from event Friday

By JARED SCHWARTZ

Two-time PGA Tour winner Grayson Murray died Saturday morning. He was 30.

No cause of death has been disclosed.

Murray withdrew from the Charles Schwab Challenge on Friday during the second round due to illness.

"We were devastated to learn — and are heartbroken to share — that PGA Tour player Grayson Murray passed away this morning," PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said in a statement. "I am at a loss for words. The PGA Tour is a family, and when you lose a member of your family, you are never the same.

"We mourn Grayson and pray for comfort for his loved ones. I reached out to Grayson's parents to offer our deepest condolences, and during that conversation, they asked that we continue with tournament play. They were adamant that Grayson would want us to do so.

"As difficult as it will be, we want to respect their wishes. The PGA Tour has grief counselors available at both tournament sites, as well as virtually for those not in the field. I am en route to Ft. Worth and will share more information when we can."

Murray won the Sony Open this past January as well as the Barbasol Championship in 2017.

He had been open earlier about battling depression and alcohol issues throughout his career, and said in 2023 that he had gotten sober.

"I just thought I was a failure," he said. "I thought I had a lot of talent that was just a waste of talent."

After playing collegiately at Wake Forest, East Carolina and Arizona State, Murray turned pro in 2015.

Including his two PGA Tour wins, Murray had 10 top-10 finishes.

CBS announcer Jim Nantz became emotional while announcing the news during the third round of the Charles Schwab Challenge on Saturday.

"I just want to say that the Tour did offer to the [Murray] family to stop play, right here basically at the top of the hour," Nantz said on the broadcast.

"The family was adamant that Grayson and the family wants the tournament to go on. Grayson Murray, gone way too soon, at the age of 30.

"It's a sad day on the PGA Tour. And somehow, with heavy hearts, we're gonna cover a golf tournament after a break. We're gonna cover it, we're gonna try as best we can, be as respectful as we can in our tone and in our hearts."

jschwartz@nypost.com



IN MOURNING: Grayson Murray, hitting a tee shot during Thursday's first round of the Charles Schwab Challenge, died Saturday morning. He had withdrawn from the event Friday with an illness. Getty Images

Golfer was vocal about depression, alcoholism

By TED HOLMLUND

Grayson Murray, who died at age 30 on Saturday morning, had been open about his battles with alcoholism and mental illness in the past.

Murray, a two-time PGA Tour winner, battled depression and alcohol addiction for years, but had recently enjoyed a career resurgence.

He won the Sony Open in January after winning two Korn Ferry events in 2023 to requalify for his PGA Tour card. It was his first victory in seven years.

After the Sony Open win in Hawaii, an emotional Murray discussed the hard fight he had with mental issues and finding happiness and admitted he had considered suicide.

"It's not easy," he said. "I

wanted to give up a lot of times. Give up on myself. Give up on the game of golf. Give up on life, at times."

Murray also praised his fiancée, Christiana Ritchie and Jesus, for giving him love and support during the hard times.

"When you get tired of fighting, let someone else fight for you. ... I hope everyone at home watching

can get a little inspiration from it. If I can just help one person, that's all it takes ... I knew today was not going to change my life, but it did change my career, and I'm excited."

The Sony Open wasn't the only time Murray had talked about his battle with depression and alcoholism. After his win in the Korn Ferry Tour's AdventHealth Championship — his first

victory in six years at the time — he credited the help his parents had given him during his hard times.

"Six years is a long drought, far longer than I wanted," Murray said. "Sometimes your highs are high out here and your lows are low. It's a very humbling sport. I've been working really hard, and this is a testament to the hard work.

"My parents have been

through hell and back basically for the last six years with me fighting some mental stuff," he added.

"It's not easy on me, and the people around me that love me, they don't like to see me down. They've been my No. 1 supporters. There's a few friends as well that have been there, and it makes these moments a lot more special when you can share it with them."

A Giant help

WEEK after week, day after day, fantasy managers scour the waiver wires in search of their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow — that one player who turns out to be more than just a flavor of the week.

They want their breakout star, like Logan Webb was in 2021 or slugging veteran Brandon Drury was in 2022.

Can the Giants' Luis Matos be that guy?

Matos was recalled from Triple-A on May 12 after Michael Conforto landed on the injured list with a hamstring injury. The same day Matos arrived in San Francisco was the last time Jung Hoo Lee would man center field as he injured his shoulder and has subsequently undergone season-ending surgery.

In his first 11 games, Matos hit .311 with two homers, 18 RBIs, six runs and a .837 OPS. In five games from May 13-18, Matos hit .455 with two homers, 16 RBIs, no strikeouts and a 1.318 OPS. He had three or more RBIs in three of those games, including one game with five and another with six (and that happened in back-to-back games).

In 46 plate appearances, Matos entered the weekend with more RBIs on the season than 2023 NL Rookie of the Year Corbin Carroll (16 in 188 at-bats), 2022 AL Rookie of the Year Julio Rodriguez (14 in 202 at-bats) and

Matos not fantasy savior, but can be fine roster plug

reigning NL MVP Ronald Acuna Jr. (12 in 182 at-bats).

Now you know why Matos — who hit .250 with two homers, 14 RBIs (yes, he already has more this year) and a .661 OPS in 76 games in 2023 — was the most added player in ESPN leagues this week.

Among players with a minimum of 40 plate appearances this month, Matos entered the weekend ranked eighth in RBIs (17) — tied with the likes of William Conteras, Aaron Judge and Vinnie Pasquantino, all of whom had a minimum of 35 more plate appearances.

Obviously, this pace is not sustainable. If it were, he would be rostered in far more than just 20 percent of leagues. But is there anything that makes him a valuable roster addition?

Matos is primarily hitting at the top or in the middle of the Giants' lineup (a positive, given the opportunity he is getting as an everyday player), and he is making a ton of contact. He entered the weekend with a 92.2 percent contact rate, sixth-highest in the majors this month, and a 100 percent Z-contact rate, which is the percentage of time a batter makes contact when swinging at pitches inside

the strike zone.

Among players with a minimum of 40 plate appearances this season, Matos has the lowest strikeout rate (4.3 percent) after striking out twice in 46 plate appearances. This echoes what he did in the minors — he struck out just 11.9 percent of the time in 357 games.

Though Matos does have some power (he hit 49 homers in the minors, including 15 in 2021), his average exit velocity (87.1 mph) hardly will turn heads. But at the moment he is hitting the ball hard while pulling it and keeping the ball off the ground (all positives).

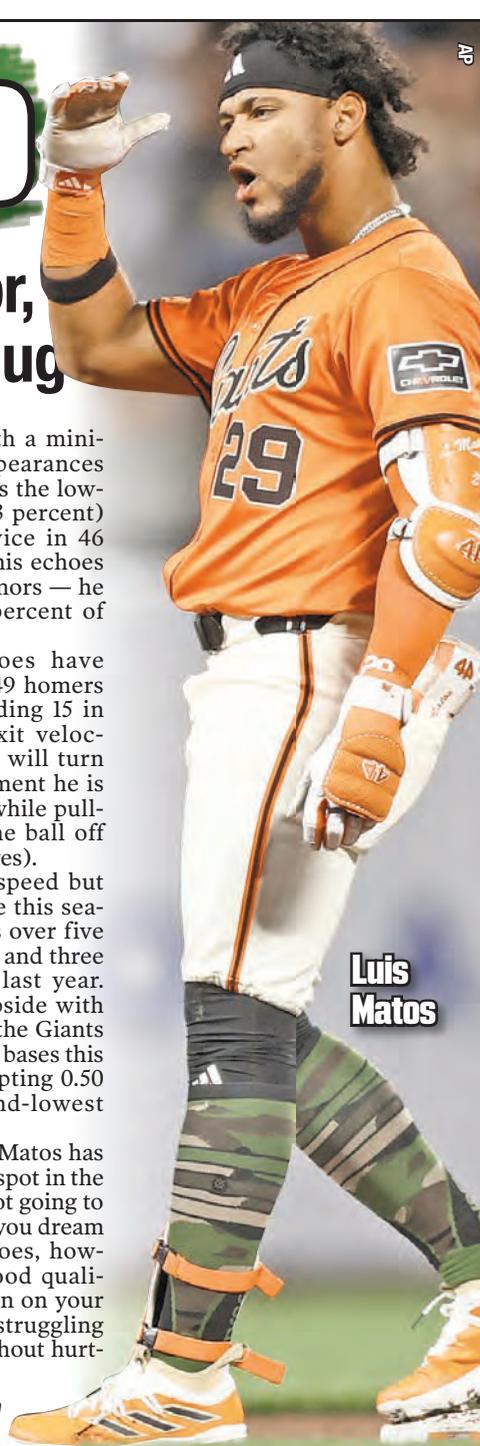
Matos has decent speed but has yet to steal a base this season. He stole 71 bases over five seasons in the minors and three bases in the majors last year. Unfortunately, the upside with his legs is limited, as the Giants have the fewest stolen bases this season and are attempting 0.50 per game, the second-lowest mark in the majors.

No matter how hot Matos has been since claiming a spot in the Giants' lineup, he is not going to be the league-winner you dream of discovering. He does, however, have enough good qualities that he can remain on your roster and fill in for struggling or injured players without hurting your team.

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**FANTASY
INSANITY**
By JARAD WILK



Luis Matos

Find angle to grab rebounds

AT THIS point, your fantasy baseball waiver wire options are probably looking pretty bleak. You are better off exploring the fantasy trade market. You don't have to chase the superstars, as their price tags are always too high, but there are a number of struggling players to consider as prime buy-low candidates.

There is an easy way to track whether a struggling player is just unlucky and capable of turning things around. The metric is called BABIP — batting average on balls in play. It removes outcomes not affected by the opposing defense.



Typically, what you are looking for is a BABIP right around .300 for a player (the league average in 2024 is actually sitting around .280).

The key to your research is looking at what a player's current BABIP mark is and what his career mark has been. Oftentimes, we see a player struggling with a .185 BABIP but has a career mark of .310. Understanding that MLB statistics often regress to the mean, you can usually bank on that player rebounding in a positive fashion. And vice versa for those who have a current .385 BABIP but a .285 mark for their career.

Over the past two weeks, since coming off the injured list, Cubs outfielder Seiya Suzuki has posted a .200 BABIP, which left his average at .182 over his previous 12 games. His fantasy managers are frustrated, which means now is the perfect time to float an offer. He isn't Juan Soto, but he also isn't Jesse Winker. Suzuki has a career BABIP of .331 and should rebound in spectacular fashion.

Astros third baseman Alex Bregman is another strong buy-low candidate with his current .219 BABIP, as well as Josh Naylor and Anthony Santander. Sure, you can chase the likes of Corbin Carroll and Francisco Lindor as well and hope their managers are completely frustrated, but again, you don't have to shoot for the moon. All you need to do is improve the quality of your worst hitter, and some of these currently struggling hitters are ready to turn things around.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.

BIG HITS

Ryan McMahon 2B/3B, Rockies

Had a 10-game hit streak snapped Thursday but was hitting .333 with four homers, 10 RBIs, 11 runs and a .985 OPS in his past 11 games.

Luis Gil SP, Yankees

Won six of his past seven decisions (including five straight) while going 6-0 with a 1.52 ERA, 50 strikeouts and a .146 opponents' average.

Maikel Garcia 3B, Royals

Entered Friday with a 10-game hit streak — hitting .364 with one homer, eight RBIs, 11 runs, four stolen bases and a .969 OPS.

Chris Sale SP, Braves

Won six straight decisions with a 1.15 ERA, 50-3 strikeout-walk rate and .181 opponents' average in that span. He has not allowed an earned run in his past three starts while striking out 28.

BIG WHIFFS

Justin Steele SP, Cubs

Not only has he lost two straight decisions, but he has allowed 15 earned runs, 18 hits (six of which were home runs) and a .273 opponents' average over his past three starts.

Justin Turner 3B, Blue Jays

Though he struck out just six times in his first 13 games this month, he was 4-for-48 (.083) with one RBI and a .258 OPS.

Bryce Miller SP, Mariners

Has allowed 11 home runs this season, the second-most in the majors. Six have come this month, when he is 0-3 with a 5.79 ERA.

Tyler O'Neill OF, Red Sox

Average went from .320 on April 30 to .248 entering the weekend after hitting .167 with 30 strikeouts in his first 18 games this month.

CHECK SWINGS

● In six starts at Yankee Stadium, lefty **Nestor Cortes** is 3-1 with a 1.12 ERA, 40-5 strikeout-walk rate, 0.719 WHIP and a .170 opponents' average. But in five starts away from The Bronx, he is 0-3 with a 6.75 ERA, 1.618 WHIP and .293 opponents' average.

● **Evan Carter's** miserable season got worse this month. In his first 15 games in May, he was 7-for-46 (.152) with no homers, four RBIs, five runs, 15 strikeouts and a .437 OPS. He entered Friday with two hits in his previous 31 at-bats.

● **Matt Chapman** raised his average from .204 on May 7 to .249 before Friday after going 19-for-51 (.373) with four homers, 13 RBIs, 15 runs, two stolen bases and a 1.183 OPS over his past 13 games.

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

A Littell Off the Top

Submit team names to: @NYPost_Roto



Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

Lose bet?
Blame
the refs!

WHEN you're blinded by greed, it's impossible to apply clear foresight. Yet, MLB has shown us its generous side, allowing us to watch, at no extra charge, baseball destroy itself.

Last fall, throughout the bloated postseason that saw total TV viewers sink below the Mendoza Line, remaining fans were daily and nightly sent on scavenger hunts to find the games. They appeared on ESPN, ESPN2, ABC, TBS, MLB Network, FS1 and Fox.

At a time when MLB could least afford to make viewing a chore, Rob Manfred and his dutiful team owners made it easier than ever for America to live without.

And while World Series ratings hit a record low, not even John Smoltz's three-hour lectures on four-seam fastballs could save Fox from the abyss.

This season, with MLB making games even more scarce by hiding them behind more pay-walled, streaming obstructions — as long as your check clears, you've made the team — local team baseball, coast to coast, is both more expensive and more difficult to find, thus even easier to live without.

Unless, of course, readers from L.A. to Gotham have conspired to fabricate tales of disgust and unrequited love as MLB continues its quest for

HIDE & SEEK

gold by minimizing interest in The Game.

Brilliant business plan, no?

It used to be easy — reflex actions in motion. The Yankees were on YES the Mets were on SNY, with a few free, over-the-air telecasts thrown in over Ch. 11 and Fox.

But because progress waits for no one, MLB thinks it will sustain existing fans and actually create new ones by selling games as if they're all five-star, first-run movies.

So we now have games — consult local listings — on traditional cable or their new streaming competition, or costly exclusively on costly add-ons such as AppleTV+ or Amazon Prime.

Blackout restrictions apply, especially on Peacock, which after last season quietly allowed its MLB rights to expire after providing 20 exclusive late Sunday morning games.

I can see it on Manfred's Hall of Fame plaque even now: "He and MLB's owners took the short-end money to condition the nation's baseball fans to live without baseball."



Manfred excels at making fans hunt for games

WHERE DO WE GO? With games scattered across various networks and streaming platforms MLB commish Rob Manfred has made it increasingly hard for fans to find where, or how, to watch MLB games, writes Phil Mushnick. N.Y. Post photo illustration

QUOTE of the Month belongs to wealthy attention hog **David Portnoy**, who blamed the "dumb WNBA refs" for costing him a \$25,000 bet by calling two early fouls on **Caitlin Clark**.

He bets 25 grand on a WNBA game and the refs are dumb?

➤ So close! Nearly hit my ESPN Bet parlay of **Scottie Scheffler** winning the PGA and being arrested just before dawn.

➤ Auburn RB **Brian Battie** was critically wounded, his brother shot dead and three others wounded in a 3:30 a.m. street hassle in Florida last weekend.

Such a story once would have made big national news. Now? Next!

➤ The next time some WNBA exec, player or media altruist objects to the sexual objectification of players, check out that Skims underwear commercial attached to WNBA telecasts. Players parade in come-hither, va-va-va-voom undies.

➤ True or Ridiculous? In the bottom of the ninth of last week's Rays-Red Sox, the replay rule was used to count the total number of mound visits the Rays had used.

True and ridiculous!

➤ In early March, Temple University announced it was investigating four highly suspicious men's basketball results in view of possible game-fixing.

Given that was two months ago, is it safe to presume that Temple found that the smoke was the result of a fire? If there was nothing there, wouldn't the school have by now been eager to say so?

➤ Reader **Richard Mo-nahan** leaves us with this: "I'm waiting for my boss to tell me that the keys to my success are not to do too much and to stay within myself."

Mushnickphilip@gmail.com

IN GAME 1 of Panthers-Rangers, **Sean McDonough** had just noted that the Rangers' **Filip Chytil** was on the ice after missing much of the regular season to injury.

Fine. But then, with the puck in play during a 0-0 playoff game, ESPN needlessly, senselessly posted a fat graphic across the top of the screen. It included a photo of Chytil and the same words spoken by McDonough.

Why, with play on in the biggest games does ESPN continue to do such? And why does it show players returning to the bench after shifts rather than stick with the puck?

If I can find a good reason, you'll be the second to know.

ESPN has frequent 'obscure' problem

In the meantime, the broad answer remains: ESPN spends a fortune for live rights, begs you to watch, then does whatever it can to prevent you from watching with "Look what we can do!" clutter.

➤ It's not so much that **Mike Francesa** is always wrong, then talks down to you as an authority who is always right, it's more a case of "Mr. Let's Be Honest" being so often colossally wrong then pretending he's never wrong.

As Funhouse's diligent @BackAfterThis account on X chronicles, Francesa authoritatively touted the

Knicks to win by plenty in Game 7, because the Pacers are not a good team and are dreadful on the road.

Not that "I'll never host a podcast Francesa" would bring it up on his podcast, but the Pacers, four-point underdogs, won by 21.

➤ Perhaps "He thought it was gone" home runs-that-ain't would be eliminated and batters wouldn't so often come up a base short if MLB managers preclude their first base coaches from high-fiving runners who jog to first when they do homer.

A one-way high-five

could get that run-first fundamental message across, no?

And every batter who hits one deep should be seen on tape to let viewers know if he bothered to run — the quickest way to the next base.

➤ Even with **Tiger Woods** missing the cut, CBS's PGA Championship coverage was cheesy.

Reader **David Diste-fano**: "For a fleeting instant, CBS had the leaderboard in proper order, with **Justin Rose** listed first among those at 5-under, having played the most holes.

"Then someone realized that **Scottie Scheffler** is the bigger name, so he was listed ahead of Rose despite not having completed any holes."

Then there was say-anything **Trevor Immelman**: "**Brian Harman** hates to make bogeys, especially in majors." Oh, so *he's* the one!

Jim Nantz called so many players by their first names only, he sounded like a day camp counselor.

As for Woods, reader **Mike Duncan** lamented his early departure, "now that the gap between his game and my game has so considerably narrowed."

Celtics in driver's seat

Boston rallies from 18 points down to put Pacers on brink

By MICHAEL MAROT

INDIANAPOLIS — Jrue Holiday overcame an illness to convert the go-ahead three-point play with 38 seconds left, then make the game-saving steal to help the Celtics rally from an 18-point deficit to beat the Pacers 114-111 on Saturday night for a 3-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Boston can clinch its second NBA Finals trip in three seasons with a Game 4 win Monday in Indianapolis.

Jayson Tatum matched his playoff career high with 36 points and had 10 rebounds and eight assists. Jaylen Brown added 24 points and Al Horford had 23 points and seven 3-pointers as the Celtics won their sixth straight playoff game and stayed unbeaten on the road this postseason.

Holiday played despite being listed as questionable with an illness unrelated to COVID-19 and missing the morning shootaround.

“For him to come out here and put it all on the line for us and come up with a big play to win the game, we’ve got a hell of a team,” Tatum said in his postgame TV interview.

Andrew Nembhard led the Pacers with a career-high 32 points before Holiday stole the ball from him with 3.3 seconds remaining. T.J. McConnell finished with 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists, while Myles Turner and Pascal Siakam each had 22 points.

Indiana played without All-NBA guard Tyrese Haliburton, who sat out with a left hamstring injury, and certainly missed him as Boston closed the game on a 13-2 run. It’s the first loss in seven postseason home games for the Pacers.

The sellout crowd, decked out primarily in gold checkered flag shirts featuring dozens of individual stamps of Indiana’s state outline as part of the Indianapolis 500 weekend celebration, helped inject energy with Haliburton out.

But the crowd was quieted by Holiday’s big layup, the ensuing free throw and the defensive play of the game. He closed it out by making two free throws with 1.1 seconds to go.

Indiana had a chance to force overtime but Aaron Nesmith’s 3-pointer was off the mark.

It was a wild game, with Indiana taking an 18-point lead midway through the second quarter and again midway through the third. But Boston responded the second time by forcing a flurry of turnovers that it turned into a 13-4 spurt to close to 90-81 after three quarters.

The Celtics were just getting started. Boston opened the fourth quarter on a 9-3 run that cut it to 93-90 on a 3 from Horford with 8:29 to play.

Then, after Indiana rebuilt a 107-99 cushion with 3:05 left, Boston closed the game on the 13-2 run that sealed its fifth consecutive road victory in these playoffs. — AP

CELTICS 114
PACERS 111

Boxscore
Page 63



TATUM UNREAL: Jayson Tatum matched his playoff career high with 36 points in Game 3 on Saturday. AP

Stars strike Oilers to tie series

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

DALLAS — Mason Marchment scored for the first time since the playoff opener and the Stars beat the Oilers 3-1 on Saturday night to even the Western Conference Final at a game each.

STARS 3
OILERS 1 **Summary**
Page 63

Marchment broke a tie at 3:41 of the third period when he deflected shot that went through the legs of defenseman Vincent Desharnais, then bounced on the ice and went between the right arm and body of goalie Stuart Skinner. Stars defenseman Ryan Suter, whose 1,444 career regular-season games without a Stanley Cup title are the most among active players, shot the puck from against the board just inside the blue line that Marchment deflected.

“We’ve got to play like it’s Game 7. We’re so close, so it’s just got to be a Game 7 mentality for the rest of this ride here,” Marchment said.

Stars captain Jamie Benn had a goal and assisted on Esa Lindell’s empty-netter with 2:03 left. Wyatt Johnston had two assists.

Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger stopped 28 shots, including a reaching glove save on Mattias Ekholm’s shot with about 3½ minutes left and also gathered in the Edmonton defenseman’s long shot about a half-minute after that.

Connor Brown had Edmonton’s goal. Skinner, who had won the previous three games since being sitting two games in the last round, stopped 22 shots.

Game 3 is Monday night in Edmonton, where the Stars won 4-3 in their only trip there this season. That was Nov. 2 during the Oilers’ 3-9-1 start that led to Jay Woodcroft getting fired as coach and replaced by Kris Knoblauch.

Edmonton center Leon Draisaitl was scoreless, ending his playoff-opening points streak ended at 13 games. That was one short of matching Mark Messier’s franchise record set in 1988. — AP

Van Gundy opens up about wife’s death

By TED HOLMLUND

Stan Van Gundy, whose wife died on Aug. 16 at age 61, opened up about the cause of her passing which was said to be “unexpected.”

The former NBA coach and TV basketball analyst revealed on Friday that his wife, Kim Van Gundy, died by suicide.

“She took her own life, Dan,” Van Gundy told longtime friend and sport talk show host Dan Le Batard on

the latter’s “South Beach Sessions” podcast on Friday. “I can’t imagine that I’ll ever get over that. ... It was devastating.”

Van Gundy, who began his relationship with Kim when he was 24, discussed the life he had with her and their more than 30 years of marriage.

“My entire adult life, I trace everything — job changes, kids, everything — I was with her, and she was by my side. I never, ever envisioned

that I was going to live any day in my life without Kim,” said Van Gundy, who added his wife had been diagnosed with a mental illness.

“I knew she was going through a tough time, but I still never envisioned that happening. Even now, it’s been eight months, and I struggle to come to grips with the fact that I’m never going to see her again. I’m trying hard to stay connected. ... My house is full of pictures of Kim. There’s a

montage of pictures above my bed that my kids did for me of Kim. I’m trying hard to remember her voice, to remember her smile, all of those things. But more than anything, live her values, because her values were better than mine.”

Despite Kim’s tragic death, Van Gundy said he still aims to make his late wife proud.

“She taught me a lot,” said Van Gundy, who is currently a TNT analyst and is work-

ing the Western Conference finals. “And I want to live her values and a life that she would be proud of. And my kids at times over the last eight months, at times, not often, but I think genuinely from their point, I’ll do something and they’ll say, ‘Mom would have really been proud of you for that one.’ And that above anything else really makes me feel good, because my wife was an incredible person, and the loss is huge.”

FIRST-TEAM ALL-SURVIVAL

By Ryan Dunleavy

DURING the good times, Theo Johnson and his five brothers laughed as their mother evenly divided up the candies in a \$1 box of “Mike and Ike” for dessert.

It might not sound like much of a treat, but it was a sign the six pre-teen boys were happy, fed and safe — a significant improvement over their earlier years spent huddled in a bedroom, fearing the noises of domestic violence that routinely filled their childhood home in Canada.

What they couldn't hear on one particularly violent night in January 2009 were the chilling words their father, Nate, a former NFL player, whispered into their mother's ear — setting in motion the many decisions Amy Johnson made to change the course of seven lives.

“Very calmly he said, ‘I’m going to stab you with a steak knife 65 times, and your little baby boy is going to come to the door and step in your blood and find your body and ... your children will have no one,’” Amy told *The Post*. “It was that moment where I was like, ‘I can't wait to leave anymore. There will be no perfect time.’”

Today, Theo, 23, is the Giants' 6-foot-6, 259-pound rookie tight end who was drafted in the fourth round and could play a big role if Darren Waller retires as expected. As Theo caught passes Friday and Saturday at minicamp, he practiced in the shadow of where his father returned kickoffs as a member of the 1980 Giants.

But there was a time when Theo, the third-eldest brother, was a 7-year-old survivor of abuse in need of a hero. He celebrated that hero this past weekend on Mother's Day.

“It was life or death,” said Nathan Johnson, one of Theo's older brothers, “and she chose life for all of us.”

Nate Johnson beat his four eldest sons on the bare buttocks with a hockey stick because he missed a workout while Amy was taking evening college classes, according to testimony



Mother led escape from abusive home for future Giants rookie TE and his five brothers

given in an Ontario courtroom in 2009 and details recounted by Amy last week in a conversation with *The Post*.

“Me and the two little ones had to watch this terrorism, and no begging, no screaming, no pleading could stop it,” Amy said. “I don't use that word lightly. It was constant — every day being afraid to take the wrong step, to say the wrong thing, to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

A first-year undergraduate student at the time the violence peaked, Amy is now a graduate of the University of Windsor Law School, a name partner in the Johnson Miller family law practice and the founder of the Cuddles Clothing for Kids charity to help families in need. She long ago ended an 11-year marriage spent in “cycles of honeymoon and horror.”

“If it wasn't for my mom, I wouldn't be here,” Theo said. “Even since getting us out of that situation, she's taught me so much about how to carry

myself, about the type of mindset I need to have — not focusing on the negative and always showing gratitude because you have so much more than you realize.”

Amy proved she had more inside herself than she realized. Following the hockey-stick incident, she began formulating an exit plan by pocketing cashback at the grocery

store and removing treasured items from the house. Weeks later, after Nate's harrowing threat to kill her, all the more terrifying because their youngest child often snuck into her bed at 5 a.m., Amy expedited their escape.

She dropped Nate at the airport for a trip of undetermined length and returned to a house with a loaf of bread and one-third of a gallon of milk in the refrigerator. The bank accounts were practically empty when she called for help.

One homeless shelter after another within a 100-mile radius couldn't accommodate a family of their size, but her pastor's wife and members of the congregation came through.

“I knew at that time that we would not be there when he came back,” Amy said. “Anybody I told, ‘We are going to be OK,’ had more questions than I could answer. ‘I don't know where we are going. I don't know how we are getting there. I don't know what money we are using.’”

Within days, Amy and her sons had cleared out, temporarily moved into a stranger's empty home, gained assistance from a food bank and memorized a code word for an emergency safety plan. All the while, she stayed in school, seeing education as the ticket to livelihood.

“The way I looked at it was: I'm all they have,” Amy said. “They are looking at me for strength, for answers, for comfort. I had all the excuses in the world to not get out of bed in the morning, but I had six [reasons] to make s-t happen.”

‘Fight or flight’

THE TATTOO on Theo's right quad tells his story

in two words, one stacked on top of the other.

“The symbolism is ‘Family’ over ‘Everything,’” Theo said.

Not long after he was drafted, Theo saw a rare video of his father returning a kickoff in a Giants' No. 84 jersey. The same number Theo — who was assigned No. 47 for minicamp — wore at Penn State and might try to reclaim if it becomes available at some point in New York.

It's nothing more than “a crazy coincidence,” Theo said. Certainly not an acknowledgment of a man with whom he has had no contact since that ride to the airport on Jan. 12, 2009.

After the involvement of the police and the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, Nate pleaded guilty to three counts of assault with a weapon and was said to have abused his children “in a systematic and degrading way” by the judge, who handed out the equivalent of a nine-month sentence, according to the Waterloo Record. He was denied permission to “say goodbye” to his two youngest sons and ordered to stay away from his family, per the report.

“You were always walking on eggshells,” Theo said, describing the “chaotic” first seven years of his life. “You couldn't really be comfortable.”

It's kind of hard to live that way for a long time.

The biggest thing when we left my dad was feeling a sense of ease. Getting out of that fight-or-flight all the time.”

The fear of being “beat” for things like “leaving the door unlocked,” as Nathan said, was gone. A new reality sunk in: Amy was a single mom of six with no income.

“For years, all I kept hearing was, ‘You can't do this without me. If I'm not around, your kids are going to be drug addicts and you are going to live in the ghetto,’” Amy said. “I made it my mission to try to secure





FIGHT FOR FAMILY: Theo Johnson runs drills during Giants rookie minicamp earlier this month, after which he spoke to the media (bottom left). Johnson's childhood included his mother taking he and his brothers away from a violent father. Top left, the family stands together in recent years: (from left) Johnson brothers Dominic, Keon, Nathan, Levi, Theo, Michael and mother Amy. Top right, Theo sports a tattoo on his leg that reads "Family" over "Everything." Bottom right, the family in its younger years. Bottom left, Theo and Amy when he played at Penn State.



a soft landing in a safe neighborhood to reduce the risk of that happening."

The nomadic Johnsons' first stop was the home of two snowbirds who were out of town until April 1. Their most promising lead in a seemingly fruitless apartment search still left them in the second spot on a waiting list until mid-March, when two units in their preferred building fortunately became simultaneously available for March 31.

"There were actual angels," Amy said, the emotion rising in her voice. "I'm a person of faith ... but just because you trust putting things in the hand of God doesn't mean that you sit on your thumbs and wait for a miracle in your lap."

The next obstacle: The largest food-bank allotment — designated for families with four or more children — didn't account for six growing, big-boned boys.

So, Amy learned to stand in line an hour before the doors opened and take extra

bread because that wasn't regulated. She flashed a friendly smile at those who would allow her to substitute one predetermined item for another. She was the last to eat at home — if there was any left over.

"I became a master of \$2 meals," Amy said. "How do you stretch this out? You can crush up mushy canned green beans and put them in meatloaf. It makes a bigger meatloaf, you get the vegetables and the kids don't know."

On special nights, Amy dealt six piles of "Mike and Ike" candies like a deck of cards. It usually amounted to seven apiece, with a couple spares for her.

"We were juiced up, playing with the different colors," Theo said. "That goes to show you that when you are a kid, you don't care what you have as long as you are happy."

Hand-me-down clothes from the school community sometimes came with a teenage jackpot — Under Armour sweatshirts — that allowed the Johnsons to feel more like "regular kids." Amy taught her boys to use a screwdriver by assembling Ikea furniture, and played both good cop and bad cop when discipline was needed.

Student loans, bursary grants and other forms of aid were spread thin to cover the cost of living and college tuition. But the feeling of protection was priceless.

"Our mother created such a haven for us in that hard time," Nathan said. "She took it all on herself. None of us complained. We didn't know anything different."

'We'll take a chance on you'

THEO didn't hear his name called on the first night of last month's NFL draft. Nor was he picked on the second, when friends gathered around the Johnsons anticipating a celebration.

The disappointment was real. But not new.

"It was life or death, and she chose life for all of us."

— Nathan Johnson, brother of Giants rookie Theo Johnson, on his mother getting them away from a violent father

Twelve years earlier, Amy visited three law schools. The first scoffed that she needed an application fee waiver and wondered how she could afford tuition. A dean at the second took one look at Amy's self-described "gaggle of children" and said she would never be offered full-time admission.

"She said, 'I can't imagine how you would be successful in law school. I have one child and can't imagine doing it with six,'" Amy said. "The only thing I could muster — because I wasn't going to let her see me cry — was, 'Well, you don't know me.'"

The acceptance letter that followed a family-friendly

visit to Windsor's campus arrived for Amy in 2012, and it parallels the call that came from the Giants to Theo on April 27. The family was whole for both moments.

"Somebody said, 'We'll take a chance on you,'" Amy said. "It's an acknowledgment of all the work that has come before, but an invitation to the next chapter."

To think that Theo's impact with the Giants can be measured by his four-year career statistics in Penn State's anemic passing offense — 77 catches for 938 yards and 12 touchdowns — is to make a snap judgment like the mistaken law schools.

Head coach Brian Daboll sees smarts, size, athleticism and love for the game in Johnson, and might rest easy knowing one of Amy's golden rules is: "I don't accept any excuses, and I don't expect half-assing."

The Johnsons are built in her image. "I think I have a potential to be a really special player here," Theo said.

His eldest brother, Dominic, was a two-sport Division I athlete who is now a professional life coach. Nathan served in the Canadian military reserve, won a Mr. Canada competition, speaks three languages and is studying for the LSAT. Younger brothers Levi, Michael and Keon are in school.

How is Theo like Amy?

"Both are goal-oriented hard workers, both are their own biggest critic and have a tendency not to let a lot of people in emotionally," Nathan said. "They have a hard shell, but inside it's squishy."

'We stuck together'

A WINDSOR area radio station once named Amy as the winner of a "Supermom" contest. But praise is a constant struggle for her.

"I don't think of myself as a hero," she said. "This many years later, I still have such guilt for not leaving sooner, for them having ... to develop in trauma."

And so she goes to work and pays forward her experience to families in similarly desperate situations.

"If my kids learned from me that you don't make excuses, you keep trying, you work hard and create your own opportunities," she said, "then hopefully that means the world is a better place."

The memory of Mother's Days past and six brothers running different kitchen stations to serve Amy breakfast in bed brings a smile to Theo's face. He made the eggs because he learned to cook at an early age out of necessity.

Times have changed. Theo's sense of valuing family has not.

"Whenever someone asks me what I'm most proud of, I say, 'Being an older brother,'" Theo said. "What gives me a lot of joy is thinking of how much we overcame and the closeness we were able to maintain. People that go through what we went through, you can turn to a lot of really bad things to cope. We stuck together."

And it brought Theo to the Giants and the same uniform his father wore ever-so-briefly four decades ago.

"He is going to carve his own path," Amy said. "How that path plays into the bigger picture of his entire life, I have no idea. But I don't think it was coincidence that it was the Giants. There is something for him there."

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MATTER OF GREAT

International picks dominate top of NBA mock draft

By **BRIAN LEWIS**

THE 2024 NBA Draft is lacking a Victor Wembanyama, and has been much maligned as having a weak pool or prospects, in comparison. But it's not completely lacking in talent.

Over the next month or so, general managers will be preparing to ferret that talent out. The Post gets you ready for the festivities, set for June 26 at Barclays Center, with our mock picks:

1 Hawks

Alex Sarr

F/C, 7-foot-1

Perth Wildcats (Australia)

Atlanta vaulted from just the 10th-worst record — and 3 percent odds to win the lottery — to the No. 1 pick. Sarr — who actually spent two years in Atlanta with Overtime Elite — seems likely to be the second straight French top pick and seventh foreigner since 2013.

2 Wizards

Zaccharie Risacher

G/F, 6-8, JL Bourg-en-Bresse (France)

Risacher has a solid two-way game that should be a fit for whatever kind of roster Washington eventually puts around him. But his shot could make him an elite role player who could flourish next to any kind of creator ... whenever they finally get one.

3 Rockets (from Nets)

Reed Sheppard

G, 6-3, Kentucky

Nets fans watched this pick they owed Houston, as part of the James Harden trade, jump up all the way up from the ninth-best lottery odds to No. 3. Sheppard is a deadeye who can play off the ball or even play backup point. That's if they actually make the pick, iffy since they've been shopping it around the whole league.

4 Spurs

Nikola Topic

G, 6-6, KK Crvena Zvezda (Serbia)

Should Risacher fall to them, adding Wembanyama's countryman could be intriguing. But the wing far more likely to be there is the 18-year-old Topic, a tall guard who has impressive passing ability and shot creation. His knee needs a clean bill of health.

5 Pistons

Matas Buzelis

F, 6-8, G League Ignite

Buzelis has been viewed as a top-10 pick who could someday possibly be the best player to come out of this weak draft. His shooting

form suggests his struggles with Ignite could've been an outlier. If so, whoever takes him could hit big down the line.

6 Hornets

Stephon Castle

G, 6-6, UConn

Behind Brandon Miller and the oft-injured LaMelo Ball, the Hornets could use reliable backcourt help. Castle has shown the versatility to do whatever is required on both ends of the floor.

7 Trail Blazers

Donovan Clingan

C, 7-2, UConn

Considering Robert Williams III's injury history, the Blazers would benefit from a rebounding big and rim-protector backing up DeAndre Ayton. Clingan, who anchored consecutive NCAA champions at UConn, fits the bill. In this poor draft, the center could go as high as second to Washington.

8 Spurs (from Raptors)

Robert Dillingham

G, 6-3, Kentucky

Measured as small as 6-1, he won't bring size or wingspan. But Dillingham will definitely bring outside shooting. He's a walking bucket and showed that in Lexington. If he can continue to develop his playmaking, he could be a nice asset for San Antonio and Wembanyama, who will need point guard help.

9 Grizzlies

Ron Holland

F, 6-6, G League Ignite

All the chaos, drama and injuries in Memphis handed the Grizzlies an opportunity to add more lottery-type talent to a roster that already has Ja Morant, Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. Holland could be that. Yes, his stock took a hit after a so-so G-League campaign rife with turnovers and poor shooting. But he's an explosive, athletic wing who can get downhill, defend and fit the Grizzlies.

10 Jazz

Dalton Knecht

G/F, 6-6, Tennessee

He's practically venerable in draft terms, 23-years-old after his transfer to Tennessee. But he made it pay off, averaging 21.7 points and making 39.7 percent from 3-point range with several red-hot streaks thrown in. He's a knock-down shooter from every spot on the court. And though Knecht's advanced age brings up legitimate questions about upside, his learning

curve should also be smoother than most.

11 Bulls

Tidjane Salaun

PF, 6-9, Cholet (France)

If the Bulls have finally stopped deluding themselves and are committed to hitting the reset button, they could trade Zach LaVine and find Salaun a long-term development piece.

12 Thunder (from Rockets)

Ja'Kobe Walter

G/F, 6-5, Baylor

Walter is a movement shooter who is dangerous coming off screens and even draws fouls, too. He can ease into improving his passing on a conference finalist that's already ahead of schedule and frankly doesn't need much from him immediately.

13 Kings

Cody Williams

F, 6-9, Colorado

His stock may have slipped slightly, falling out of the projected top 10 after he didn't explode quite as expected in his lone season at Colorado. But that could just be the case of the Kings getting richer, landing a tall spindly wing who can score and is a fluid athlete.



Alex Sarr

Zaccharie Risacher

IMPORTS

14 Trail Blazers (from Warriors)

Jared McCain, PG, 6-3

Duke

If Portland can't land Clingan at No. 7, or opts to pass on him if a prospect they rate even higher falls to them there, expect them to grab the big center. But if they don't get him, Zach Edey is a similarly-sized facsimile. Otherwise, the Blazers should go best-available at this spot. If that's McCain, they will snatch up the diminutive 20-year-old scorer as an asset, and figure out the fit behind Henderson and Simons later.

15 Heat

Zach Edey
C, 7-3, Purdue

Coming off a gentleman's sweep in the first round of the playoffs, Miami needs scoring and youth. Edey, at 22-years-old, could step right in with a small learning curve and offer a different look to Bam Adebayo's rim rolling. He's over 7-3, has a 7-10 1/2 wingspan and averaged a gaudy 25.2 points for Purdue. Yes, Edey's defense might limit him to being a role player; but when that role is post-up scoring, screening for Jimmy Butler and finishing, they could do worse.

16 76ers

Devin Carter
G, 6-3, Providence

Another older prospect at 22, Carter got plenty of experience in the Big East grind, used his staggering 7-1 wingspan to great effect on defense and showed well in the combine. He opted to play and helped his stock, which now seems firmly in the top 20. For a 76ers team in win-now mode looking for instant contributors around Joel Embiid, an athletic defender who could immediately make the rotation seems a good fit.

17 Lakers*

Tristan da Silva
F, 6-9, Colorado

* The Lakers don't even know if they'll have this pick, with the Pelicans having until June 1 to decide if they want to take this pick or defer to next year. But if the Lakers have this selection, expect them to first dangle it to get another veteran to play alongside 39-year-old LeBron James. If that fails, they likely will look for the closest thing they can find to a plug-and-

play rookie. Da Silva is the closest thing they can find, a two-way 23-year-old who hit 39.5 percent from deep.

18 Magic

Johnny Furphy
SG/SF, 6-9, Kansas

Despite the early playoffs exit, the future is bright in Orlando. With the Magic's roster, they might be a while until they have a high pick again. Expect them to take a shot on a high-upside prospect who they can give some time to develop. Tall and offensively skilled, Furphy is just that.

19 Raptors (from Pacers)

Kyshawn George
SG/SF, 6-8, Miami

Toronto spent years winning based on a bevy of wings who used their long wingspans to defend. George, who has sprouted up 9 inches in the past five years, now fits the mold physically, with his 6-9 wingspan. Add in the fact he hit 40.8 percent from deep at Coral Gables, and it's easy to see how his spacing would help star forward Scottie Barnes and a Raptors team that was fourth-worst in 3-pointers made (11.5) and 3-point percentage (.347).

20 Cavaliers

Carlton Carrington
G, 6-5, Pittsburgh

Clearly Cleveland has some things to decide. They're desperately trying to hold onto superstar Donovan Mitchell (and Darius Garland), and looking for a new coach (Kenny Atkinson and James Borrego are mentioned). For a team in flux, they could go for upside. The 18-year-old Carrington is blessed with that in spades, even if he didn't play at the combine.

21 Pelicans (from Bucks)

Isaiah Collier
PG, 6-5, USC

Once considered a top-10 pick, and certainly still capable of going in the lottery, the needs of teams picking 10-20 could end up seeing Collier take a slight fall through the first round. At a solidly built 205 pounds, he has the size and strength to bully his way through the paint — if he can get his turnovers under control and his shooting percentages up (33.8 from deep as a USC freshman).

22 Suns

Kyle Filipowski
PF/C, 7-0, Duke

Much has been made about the Suns' situation, as they're very much in win-now mode after trades for Kevin Durant and Bradley Beal but still got swept out of the first round. They've dealt away



Nikola Topic

control of their first-rounders through 2030, so they have to land a contributor here. They need point guard help but also size, rebounding and defense. With the lead guards gone, the skillful Filipowski is a better value.

23 Bucks (from Pelicans)

Yves Missi

C, 7-0, Baylor

For a team that finished as high as Milwaukee did, they actually have several needs. The Bucks will likely go best-available rather than pick for need, and Missi would be that.

24 Knicks (from Mavericks)

Tyler Smith

F, 6-11, G League Ignite

After a solid season ended in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals, the Knicks know their path could be tougher next year. Will they use both of their consecutive first-rounders or trade them to bolster their roster with veterans? If they make this pick, the teenaged Smith is raw but eventually could develop down the road into a stretch big with a useful 7-1 wingspan.

25 Knicks

Kel'el Ware

C, 7-0, Indiana

With Isaiah Hartenstein and Mitch Robinson, the Knicks don't have a

desperate need at center. And they might deal one or even both of their back-to-back first-round picks. But they can afford to take best available if they sit pat at No. 25, and Ware would be a good choice. His verticality, mobility and budding jumper have drawn comparisons with Dallas rookie Dereck Lively, who shot up draft boards last year.

26 Wizards (from Clippers)

Bobi Klintman

F, 6-10, Cairns (Australia)

Klintman has been in multiple different leagues over the past several years and never quite fulfilled his promise.

But he's a versatile two-way wing with skills, multi-positional versatility and a 7-foot wingspan. Somebody is going to gamble on him. Washington, in the early stages of a long-delayed rebuild, needs all the talent they can get, and there's upside here if he can add strength.

27 Timberwolves

Baylor Scheierman

SG/SF, 6-7, Creighton

A solid showing at the combine — one of the stars during live play — has shot Scheierman up draft boards from the bottom of the second round to the tail end of the first. Set to be 24 years old before his rookie campaign starts, the Creighton wing hit 38.1 from deep and looks to be a plug-and-play rotation option for whatever team lands him.

28 Nuggets

Tyler Kolek
PG, 6-3, Marquette

With Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Reggie Jackson having player options this offseason, Denver will be looking for cheap plug-and-play options here. The 23-year-old Kolek already has a seasoned pick-and-roll game.

29 Jazz (from Thunder)

Justin Edward

SG/SF, 6-7, Kentucky

The lefty was a disappointment in Lexington after being a top high school recruit and expected top-10 selection. His catch-and-shoot numbers didn't match up to the jumper. But the potential for perimeter improvement is there, the 7-foot-1 wingspan is undeniable, and Utah has enough picks to take a gamble here.

30 Celtics

Daron Holmes II
F, 6-9, Dayton

There aren't a ton of big men who can space the floor and protect the rim, but Holmes is one. At least, he is now. He averaged 20.4 points, 8.5 rebounds and 2.1 blocks this past season at Dayton, but more than his 7-foot wingspan it was his much-improved 38.6 percent from deep and impressive shooting at the combine that lifted him into first-round contention.

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WHENEVER seasons like the one the Knicks just completed end, I always find myself back outside the visiting locker room at old Mile High Stadium. I always find myself standing with a handful of writers surrounding Bill Parcells maybe half an hour after the Jets lost the AFC Championship game to the Broncos.

The date was Jan. 17, 1999. The Jets had taken a 10-0 lead at altitude against the defending Super Bowl champs, and they seemed primed to write another chapter in a season in which they'd done nothing but surprise and delight their fans.

They didn't finish the deal. Ten nothing to the good ended 23-10 to the bad. And it wasn't just the turnaround and the resulting disappointment in the dressing room that was jarring, it was Parcells.

"I'm exhausted, fellas," he whispered.

And he wasn't lying.

All the color had drained from his face. All the life had escaped his slumped shoulders. He leaned against a wall, and it seemed like that was the only thing that kept him from slipping to the floor. Parcells was 57 years old that early evening in Denver. He looked 87. Careening toward 97.

And it wasn't just the shattering buzzkill of what had already happened that weighed on him. It was acknowledging all that lay ahead.

"You realize just how much work you have to go through just to get right back to where we are right now," Parcells finally said. "Free agency. The draft. Voluntary workouts. Training camp. Sixteen games. All of it. Just to get back. Just to get right back to where we're standing right now."

He wiped his face.

"I'm exhausted," he said.

And you understand. That's the hardest part when a season ends for a team that has generated and engendered so much goodwill. There is the basic disappointment that a championship wasn't won. But almost immediately there is a reminder that there is no guarantee this won't be as good as it gets for a while.

Some teams make that final leap. You can state what a fair amount of certainty that the 1996 Yankees who ended an 18-year champion-



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OPEN MIKE

LONG WAY BACK

Never any guarantees even most hopeful teams will return to spotlight

ship drought were truly born on the plane ride home from Seattle the previous October, the team lamenting a heartbreaking series loss but immediately resolving to move forward and take the final steps necessary. They did that.

The '86 Giants were good enough that maybe they didn't need the crushing disappointment of Soldier Field in January of that year to motivate them. Yet it was that 21-0 to the Super-Bowl-Shuffle Bears, with Sean Landeta's whiffed punt as the forgettable centerpiece, that seemed to fuel them all the way through 17-2 and a glorious day in Pasadena.

And the 1970 Knicks had to endure a two-year internship playing title-tested teams tough — the Wilt Chamberlain 76ers followed

by the Bill Russell Celtics — before they were hardened, about to make the climb themselves. There are others.

But just as often we have those 1999 Jets, who weren't ever allowed to ponder the next step after Vinny Testaverde's Achilles exploded. We have the 2015 Mets, who never quite recovered from being steamrolled by the Royals in the World Series. We have the 2021 Islanders, who pushed the Lightning to Game 7 of the East final and lost a 1-0 gut punch and have since been unable to rally in quite the same way.

There are other examples of that, too.

These Knicks can go either way. In a few years we may look at this is a brutal but necessary building

block on the way to a championship. Maybe next year everyone stays healthy. Maybe next year it'll be another city dealing with the virus of "what-if." Maybe next year — or the year after that — this can all culminate in a parade.

Or ...

Well, you know all the things that can go wrong. You've seen all the things that can go wrong. And just getting to where the Knicks were at 3:35 p.m. last Sunday — playing for a berth in the East finals — so much has to happen first. Free agency. The draft. Off-season workouts. Training camp. Eight-two games. Another first-round playoff war. All of it. Just to get back. Just to get right back to where they were standing right now last Sunday at 3:35 p.m.



ONE & DONE: Bill Parcells (above) never led the Jets back to the AFC title game after 1999. Hopefully a similar fate doesn't await Donte DiVincenzo and the Knicks.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg; Jason Scanes

VAC'S WHACKS

LISTENING to Boston fans, it seemed like **Alex Verdugo** was responsible for every bad thing that's happened in Boston lately short of the **Kristaps Porzingis** injury. But all Verdugo seems to do with the Yankees is find ways, big and small, to help them win every day.

➤ "Blue Bloods" is still excellent, it still draws a nice audience for CBS, and it has cast members who still want to keep doing the show beyond next fall despite absorbing salary cuts. What am I missing here? And when is CBS going to wise up and change its mind?

➤ Somehow we've made it this far without one city winning the NBA and NHL titles in the same year. The sports gods are really in on a sick joke if they allow Dallas to be the first city to do that this year.

➤ Every year we get a game or two like Rangers-Panthers on Friday night to remind us that playoff hockey — specifically overtime playoff hockey — is as terrific and as terrifying as sports is allowed to get.

Peter Drago: This week astronomers showed the first images at the edge of a black hole. Unverified reports showed a Mets cap headed towards the hole with the 11-game home stand against three top teams looming.

Vac: As you might imagine I've gotten a few Metsapocalypse correspondence this week. This sums them all up nicely.

WHACK BACK AT VAC

Richard Siegelman: The NCAA will soon be paying \$12.8 billion to 14,000 current and former athletes, and I'm so excited. How much will they pay me for winning consecutive free-throw championships at Harpur College in 1964-65? Since I only missed

one out of 40 shots, I suggest \$1,000 each for the 39 shots I made.

Vac: And I wrote some fine deadline stories on the Bonnies in my day. I'll go with \$2 a word.

AuthorHarlow: You called the Mets an "unvarnished disaster";

are they still "unvarnished" since they get "shellacked" most games?

@MikeVacc: From dreadful baseball seasons does fine-tuned comedy flow!

Robert Feurstein: It's sure a treat to watch Judge, Soto and

Stanton mash homers, especially after last year's dismal offensive performance. Not quite Mantle, Maris and Skowron, but boy does it give us a reason to let our minds wander back to '61.

Vac: It's the Stanton piece of this that makes it so exciting to watch every day. After a while Yu Darvish looked like he just didn't want to throw a baseball any more the other night.

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SCAN ME

THE PHILLIES have the dream.

It is difficult to get any long-term free-agent deal right. Philadelphia, to this point, has hit on Bryce Harper, J.T. Realmuto, Kyle Schwarber, Trea Turner and Zack Wheeler (and, until this season, Nick Castellanos).

Homegrown players such as Alec Bohm, Bryson Stott and Ranger Suarez have graduated from excellent co-stars to more than that.

Seemingly inconsequential trades for Brandon Marsh, Christopher Sanchez and Edmundo Sosa have proven to be quite consequential.

Try to get all of this correct at one time. Then throw in the right manager for this group in Rob Thomson. Plus, an owner in John Middleton willing to spend and create a sense of loyalty and camaraderie by re-upping at high-end prices with pitchers who have given the team their soul, Wheeler and Aaron Nola, and you have a chance to have magic.



Joel Sherman
Hardball

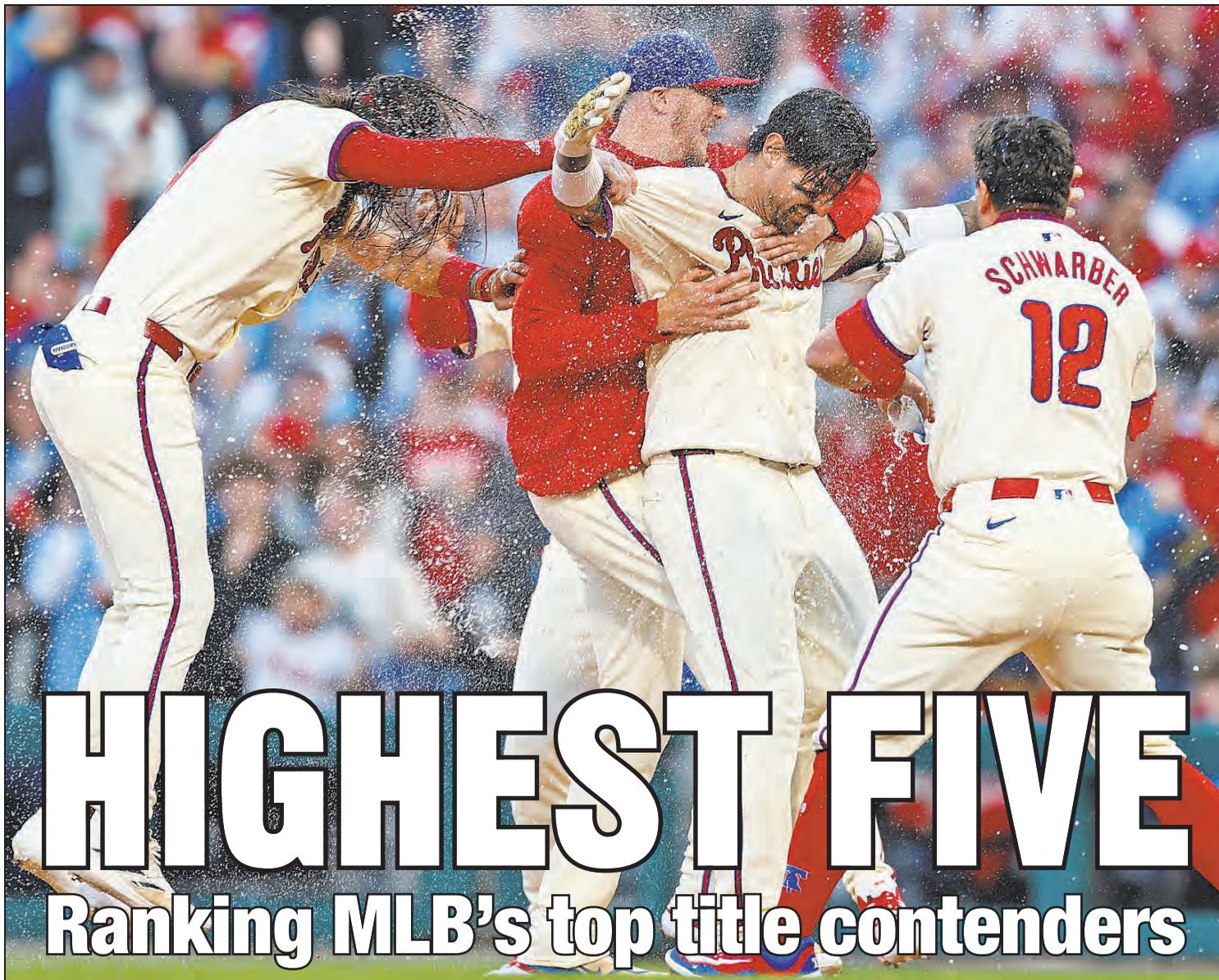
So far in 2024, the Phillies have magic, which has included the best 50-game record (36-14) since the 116-win Mariners of 2001. It included reaching the 51-game mark at 37-14 thanks to a 29-6 run heading into the weekend — the organization's best 35-game stretch since 1892.

Neither of those teams won the championship, by the way. A reminder that this is still only two months for the Phillies. Philadelphia had somehow played just six of 51 games against teams with winning records even before facing the NL-worst Rockies over the weekend. They probably will have to address their bullpen.

Nevertheless, the Memorial Day weekend has traditionally been the place on the baseball calendar — the one-third mark — to make the first worthy assessments of the season. And the Phillies have been the best team of the first two months, looking like a legitimate threat to end the Braves' six-year hold on the NL East and — after winning the NL title in 2022 and losing in the NLCS last year — taking the next step to champions.

Here is the rest of my top five:

2. Yankees: What the Yankees' rotation has done without Gerrit Cole is stunning. They have five qualified starters with an ERA-plus of 120 or better. Over a full season, that has happened just twice in MLB history — last by the 1947 Cardinals. It won't happen here either. Because eventually Cole will bump one of the current starters. And even with-



HIGHEST FIVE

Ranking MLB's top title contenders

PHIL'ING GOOD: Nick Castellanos (center), Kyle Schwarber, Jeff Hoffman and Brandon Marsh celebrate a walkoff win over the Pirates on April 13. The Phillies have the majors' best record and are atop the list of potential 2024 champs, says Post columnist Joel Sherman. Getty Images

out that, it seems unsustainable — though I would have never believed it possible even for one-third of a season.

Do the Yankees get Cole back in full? Do they keep the core of this lineup healthy and humming as it is now — the additions of Juan Soto and Alex Verdugo, the growth of Anthony Volpe, the revival of Giancarlo Stanton and the standard for Aaron Judge have elevated the offense. They probably will have to add at least one reliever before the deadline.

3. Dodgers: They were second in the majors in runs per game behind the Phillies, and third in runs allowed per game behind the Yankees and Royals. They are going to cakewalk to a division title and, thus, have experimental time to see if they can get Clayton Kershaw and Dustin May back for their staff, and get Gavin Lux and Chris Taylor right to make an already powerful lineup even more scary. And they have the resources to fix whatever will need fixing before the July 30 trade deadline.

4. Orioles: They were on a similar path through 49 games

(31-18) as they were last year (32-17) when they won 101 and the AL East. They had a MLB-best seven players with an OPS-plus of 115 or better (minimum 100 plate appearances) — and I still believe Jackson Holliday will help them at some point. Corbin Burnes has been the ace they hoped for when they obtained him from Milwaukee, and Kyle Bradish and Grayson Rodriguez have come off the IL pitching well.

I am just not going to trust Craig Kimbrel as the last line of bullpen defense for a championship team. If there is an organization with the minor league heft to make a godfather deal with the A's for their all but unhittable closer Mason Miller, Baltimore would be front of the line. And Miller has so many control years that it would not just be an all-in move like Burnes.

5. Braves: I think there is a more of an implosion factor with Atlanta than any of the other top four, mainly because of worries about the rotation performing around ace Max Fried. Spencer Strider was lost for the season after needing Tommy John sur-

gery. Chris Sale, acquired in a trade, and Reynaldo Lopez, via free agency, have been godsend through one-third of the season. But what of the marathon? The injury-prone Sale, 35, had thrown a combined 151 innings over the past four years. Lopez has been a reliever since 2020. Charlie Morton is 40.

This is an organization that knows how to win, and those types of teams find answers, but the farm is thin. So an offense that was a blunt force last year needs to produce better. That begins with the reigning NL MVP, since no qualified player had lost more OPS points from 2023 (1.012) to 2024 (.690) than the .322 of Ronald Acuna Jr.

I still gave Atlanta the nod over Cleveland, Kansas City and Milwaukee. For historic Braves reasons, but also because though the two Central divisions are better, I need to see more to truly believe. I still think the 2023 World Series participants have a chance to be excellent, but the Diamondbacks and especially defending champion Rangers have to get starting

pitching healthy — in Texas' case there were seven starters on the IL as the weekend began: Cody Bradford, Jacob deGrom, Dane Dunning, Nathan Eovaldi, Jon Gray, Tyler Mahle and Max Scherzer. The Mariners have a superb rotation, but led an AL West in which no club had a positive run differential.

That makes the Astros the Michael Myers team of 2024 — the lack of a strong opening by Seattle and Texas has left the door open to Houston, who on May 8 had the AL's second-worst record at 12-24 and since then were tied with the Yankees (10-4) for the second-best AL mark.

Overall, they were still just 22-28. So they are the most disappointing team through Memorial Day, too. Yet, of my top five in that category — also the Blue Jays, Mets, Reds and Tigers (I thought Cincinnati and Detroit had chances to take major steps forward this year) — the Astros have the best chance to work their way to the top five two more months from now at the trade deadline.

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GARRETT

Breakout Mets reliever Reed Garrett strikes up some Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby.

Q: How would you feel if you got to represent the New York Mets in the All-Star Game?

A: Oh man, that'd be a dream come true. It'd be awesome. I would love that. It'd mean a lot to me.

Q: Do you feel like an All-Star on the mound?

A: I feel like myself. I'm trying not to look at the big picture, especially when there's another guy in the box and the game's on the line, I'm trying the best I can.

Q: Do you like the big moments?

A: Yeah. It's something different about the adrenaline and the feeling that you get when you do your job and help the team win. I think that feeling is huge.

Q: How do you explain striking out so many guys now?

A: (Chuckle) You can't strike guys out when you're 2-1 and 3-0 on everybody.

Q: Which pitch has made the biggest improvement that has led to your success, and how did it happen?

A: I think all my pitches made some improvement over the offseason. My sweep-er shape is much more consistent than last year. The cutter I've been able to throw in all counts. I've been getting swings-and-misses on my split, but I believe that's because I've been able to set it up much better than in previous seasons. It came together with the use of data and video this offseason. I had a great group of people that I trained with this offseason and all the resources available from the Mets.

Q: You and former Mets closer Jesse Orosco are the only Mets relievers to win five games in a calendar month.

A: I wish I could take full credit for that, but I can't. We've played some great games. To be with a legend like that in the Mets' history books, it's cool.

Q: Describe your mentality on the mound.

A: Like a calm aggression is the best way to think about it. I've done some mental skills work where I try to have like a certain performance number, and what best describes me was calm but aggressive. If things get out of whack that I'm able to remind myself, "All right, I know what I need you to be at, and I know how to get back to that."

Q: What does mental skills work mean?

A: So I worked with Josiah Igonu, he was the mental strength and like peak performance coach when I was with the Texas Rangers. He's been instrumental in my career. We've done a lot of work together, and I'm thankful for walking my path with him for a while.

Q: Describe the difference in your confidence level now compared to where it used to be.

A: The end of the season last year was great, and I had some confidence that was built from results, but I think that came from the turn in my mind of focusing more on preparation and process rather than grading myself strictly on results, because there's a lot of things that are out of our control and stuff like that, so I think that one of the biggest things in my mind was going back and being like, "All right, what can I control every day, and how can I prepare to be the best that I can?"

Q: What was it like for you on the mound when you did not have these tools?

A: I think that I was not being as aggressive towards pitching in the strike zone. I was trying to nitpick and be too fine, and it ended up getting me in bad situations, which in turn made it easier for the hitters to hit rather than just going right after people, and I feel like that was kind of the biggest thing was that change of like, "All right, I'm just gonna go out there and I'm gonna attack guys in the strike zone and see what happens."

Q: Your ERA is among the best. Could you ever have imagined this?

A: I think I have imagined it, and I think that some visualization and putting myself in those scenarios, it helped — where you visualize it and you see it in your head before it happens and then you know how your body's gonna react to it.

Q: How do you like pitching in New York?

A: I love Citi Field. I've gotten an opportunity to play in a majority of major league ballparks, and I feel like Citi Field is my favorite personally, so I love it.

Q: Your best moment was striking out the side last month against the Dodgers. What was your worst major league moment?

A: The day that I got designated for assignment by the Tigers in 2019. I just couldn't get anybody out, and I was falling behind, I couldn't throw strikes ... maybe was afraid of getting hit. That was one of the lowest points where I was just like, "I don't know what I'm doing out here, and I don't know how to get out of it." I felt like I was on an island.

Q: You ended up in the rangers' farm system. How long were you in Triple-A in Nashville?

A: Until September of 2019, and that offseason I signed to go to Japan.

Q: There was a story that you almost quit baseball.

A: Last year in spring training I

was talking to a guy about ... I went to Japan for two years. My wife had our son January 29th of 2020, I left February third of 2020, and I didn't see them again until November the 10th. And then I went back the following year thinking it was gonna be different and it wasn't — my family was still here in America and I was in Japan. It got kind of taken out of context as like, "Oh, I'm gonna be done with baseball," or whatever. I still always have had the love for baseball and always had the drive to succeed. I missed my family a lot, and it was really hard to get through that time rather than me walking away from baseball.

Q: Five years in the minors. What kept you going?

A: So I spent three years in Double-A. ... I had my first big-league camp in 2018. ... I always believed in myself that I would be able to do it. Maybe I'm stubborn, maybe I'm strong-willed, whatever you want to call it, but I never wanted to really give up.

Q: When did you grow the beard?

A: I pretty much have had a beard ever since I left college, just because I had to shave every day in college (laugh) and I just wanted to grow it out.

Q: Boyhood idols?

A: My favorite pitchers as a kid growing up were Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz. And then Brett Favre, Tom Brady, football.

Q: Three dinner guests?

A: Tiger Woods, Nolan Ryan, Michael Jordan.

Q: Favorite movies?

A: "Sandlot," the Marvel "Avengers" series.

Q: Favorite actor?

A: Christian Bale.

Q: Favorite singer/entertainer?

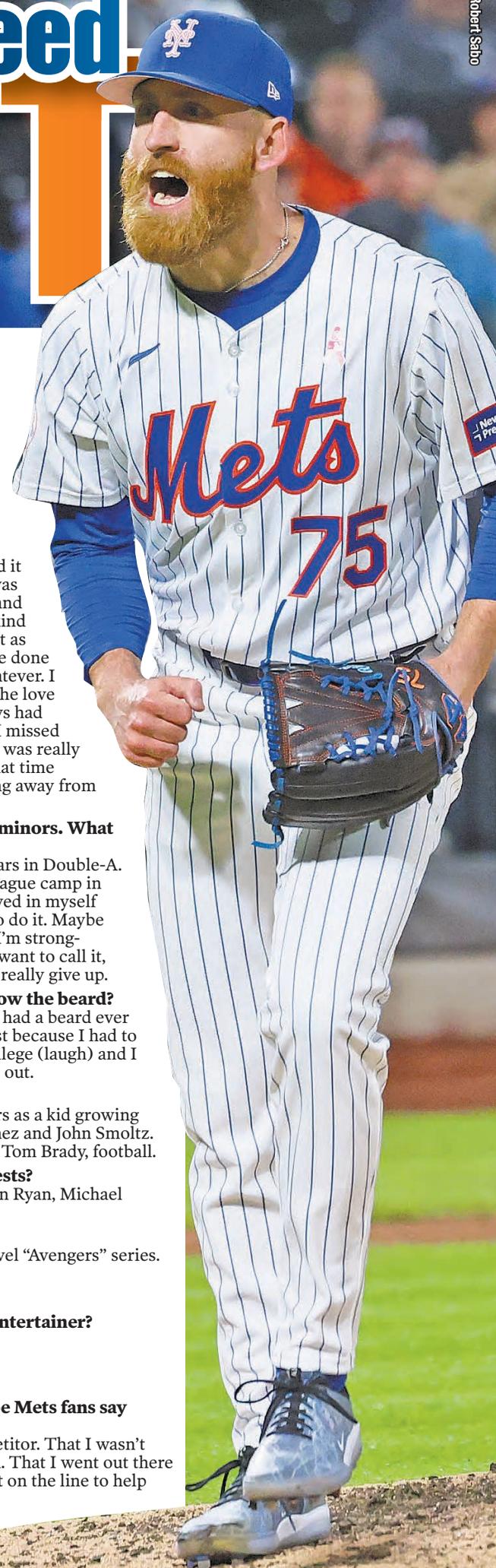
A: Garth Brooks.

Q: Favorite meal?

A: Steak.

Q: What do you hope Mets fans say about you?

A: That I was a competitor. That I wasn't afraid of any situation. That I went out there and truly laid it all out on the line to help the team win.



METDOWN

Diaz blows his third straight save to set Amazin's up for fifth loss in a row

By DAN MARTIN

Another day, another back-breaking loss for the Mets.

And Edwin Diaz was once again largely responsible for it.

The closer — just put back into that role by Carlos Mendoza on Saturday, blew a save in the top of the ninth and the Mets went on to lose their fifth straight game, this one 7-2 in 10 innings to the Giants.

Before Sean Reid-Foley gave up the go-ahead hit to Brett Wisely in the 10th and the Mets then stumbled their way through the rest of the inning, Diaz had again failed to close the door on a potential win by giving up the tying run for his third straight blown save.

“He’s our closer,” Carlos Mendoza said. “In order for us to win games, he’s got to pitch and I felt that was the right spot. He’s got to continue to pitch and my job is to find lanes for him. He’s got to fight through it. He’s too good of a pitcher.”

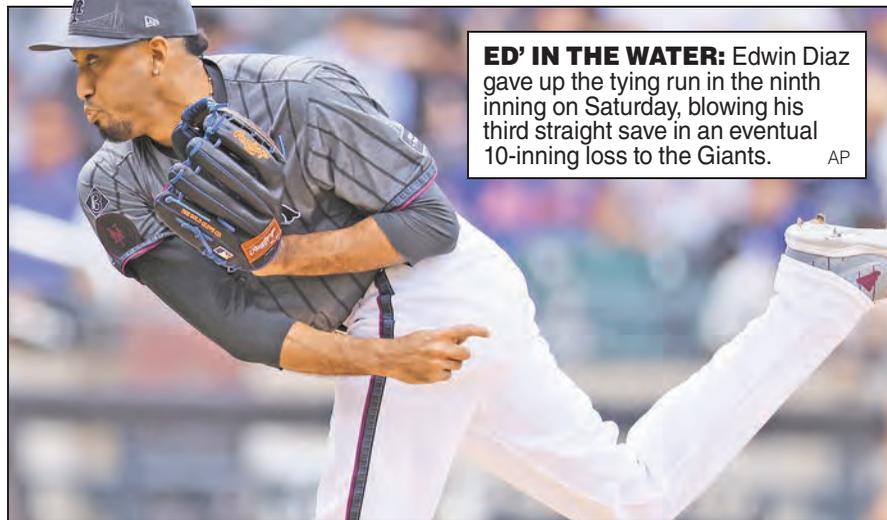
And Diaz said he thought he pitched better Saturday than in Friday’s scoreless inning.

“I’m fine,” Diaz said. “I’m good. The result didn’t go my way, but how I performed was way better than last week.”

Either way, it ended in another loss.

“This is not just him,” Francisco Lindor said of Diaz. “It’s on every one of us. We’ve got to play the game better.”

Still, the Mets were just two outs away from victory when Diaz allowed a game-tying RBI single to LaMonte Wade Jr. that scored pinch-runner Ryan McKenna from second.



ED' IN THE WATER: Edwin Diaz gave up the tying run in the ninth inning on Saturday, blowing his third straight save in an eventual 10-inning loss to the Giants. AP

GIANTS 7
METS 2 **10 innings**
Box./P. 62

Wade was thrown out at second by right fielder Starling Marte and Diaz got out of the inning.

The Mets had a chance to win it in the bottom of the inning.

Brett Baty walked with one out and Tomas Nido followed with a routine grounder to second, but Thairo Estrada and shortstop Marco Luciano fumbled the exchange at second for an error.

Baty got to third on a Lindor forceout, but Pete Alonso flied to left to end the inning.

The Mets have now lost seven of eight and are a season-worst nine games under .500.

“I don’t feel like, as a group, we’re pressing,” Lindor said. “The bottom line is, we’re not executing at the right times and we’re not winning games. We’ve got to hurry up and start winning games.”

It wasted an outstanding start by Luis Severino, who took a no-hitter into

ON DECK: vs. Giants
Sunday, 1:40 p.m., PIX11, WCBS (880 AM)

LHP Sean Manaea



2024 stats:
3-1, 3.11 ERA

Career vs. SFG:
3-3, 2.78 ERA

Last start:
May 19 at MIA;
5.0 IP, 5 H, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

39% Sinker
18% Change
15% Sweeper

RHP Logan Webb



2024 stats:
4-4, 3.03 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
3-1, 2.61 ERA

Last start:
Tue. at PIT;
6.0 IP, 6 H, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

37% Change
36% Sinker
23% Sweeper

UP NEXT

MONDAY: vs. Dodgers, 4:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS
RHP Tylor Megill vs. TBD

TUESDAY: vs. Dodgers, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Francisco Alvarez** took batting practice on the field for the first time since surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb, with an expected return in late June.

■ **David Peterson** (left hip) came out of his rehab start on Friday with no problem and appears likely to join the rotation the next time through.

■ **Drew Smith** is scheduled for a rehab appearance with High-A Brooklyn on Sunday, with possibly two more rehab outings to follow before a return to the bullpen.

the sixth inning and gave up just one run over seven innings, as he outdueled

Jordan Hicks.

But it wasn’t enough for Diaz to finish off.

Marte gave the Mets a 1-0 lead with his sixth homer of the season with one out in the second.

Severino retired the first 12 batters he faced before Matt Chapman walked to start the fifth. And San

Francisco didn’t get its first hit until Wisely, the No. 9 hitter, singled to left— just over the leaping attempt by Baty at third.

Severino followed by walking Luis Matos.

After Estrada grounded into a force out that sent Wisely to third, a Patrick Bailey RBI single tied the game at 1-1.

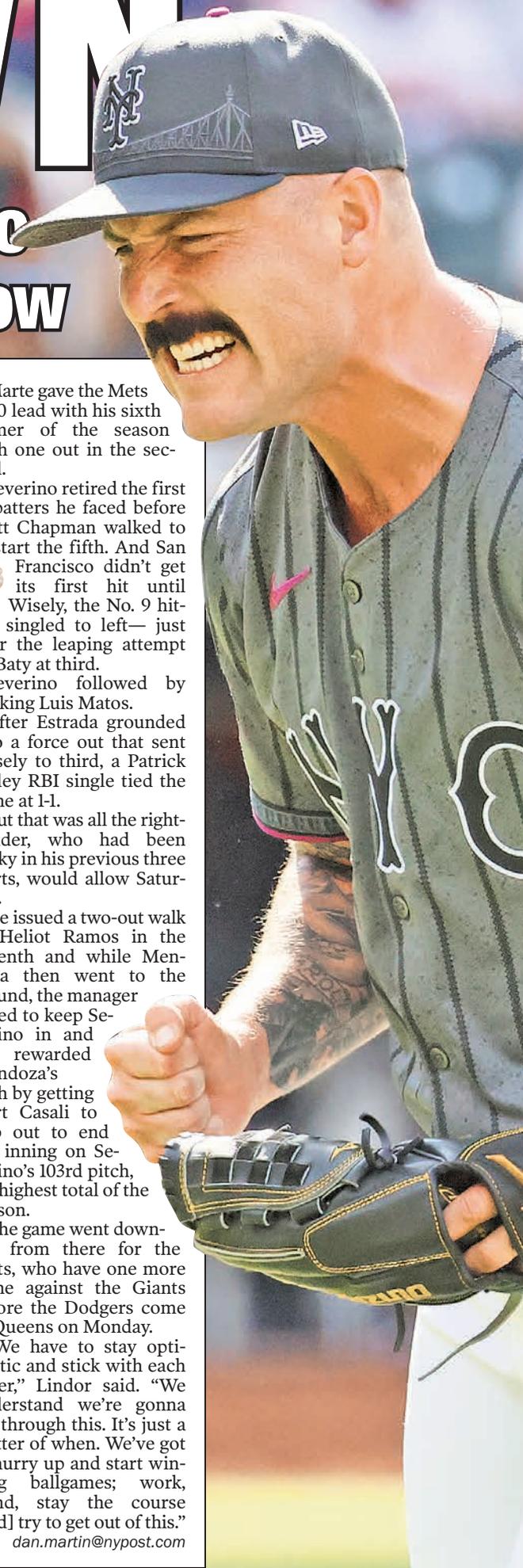
But that was all the right-hander, who had been shaky in his previous three starts, would allow Saturday.

He issued a two-out walk to Heliot Ramos in the seventh and while Mendoza then went to the mound, the manager opted to keep Severino in and he rewarded Mendoza’s faith by getting Curt Casali to pop out to end the inning on Severino’s 103rd pitch, his highest total of the season.

The game went downhill from there for the Mets, who have one more game against the Giants before the Dodgers come to Queens on Monday.

“We have to stay optimistic and stick with each other,” Lindor said. “We understand we’re gonna get through this. It’s just a matter of when. We’ve got to hurry up and start winning ballgames; work, grind, stay the course [and] try to get out of this.”

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FOLEY

MOLY! Sean Reid-Foley reacts after walking in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning of the Mets' 7-2 loss to the Giants on Saturday.

Robert Sabo

THIS SEASON is sliding away from the Mets and it is beginning to feel like it is taking 2025 along for the plummet.

The convergence of ineptitudes that are dooming 2024 hardly bodes well for the Mets' near future as well.

Edwin Diaz, who has forgotten how to save games, and Kodai Senga, who keeps getting further away from a return, are signed through 2027. Is Diaz, who blew his fourth save in his last five tries in a 7-2 10-inning loss to San Francisco, ever going to be elite again after his devastating knee injury? How about Senga after his shoulder woes?



Joel Sherman



Brett Baty, the third baseman of the future, cannot even beat out Mark Vientos in the present. Has anyone heard much good about the Mets' farm system this year, particularly its best position players? Scouts who cover the system certainly are not offering much praise.

The Mets had plotted wild-card contention this year and to begin to take off in 2025. But it is hard not to feel worse about both propositions at present.

The Mets have lost five straight and at 21-30 are a season-high nine games under .500 and have the

2024 starting to be about silver linings

CRASH LANDING: Harrison Bader crashes into the wall into the 10th inning Saturday, unable to come up with a fly ball that would clear the bases in the latest of the Mets' five straight losses, 7-2 to the Giants. Robert Sabo

majors' worst record (9-22) since April 21. They lost despite Luis Severino being perfect for four innings, having a no-hitter on just 51 pitches through five and delivering seven one-run, two-hit innings in what might just be the beginning of trade-deadline audition starts.

The Mets hit two more homers — by Baty and Starling Marte. They have 11 in their last four games, all losses. They were solo homers on Saturday when the Mets were hitless in 20 at-bats with runners on base, including 0-for-13 with runners in scoring position.

Again, what do you feel good about with this team right now? The whole pen, not just Diaz, seems to be on fumes after being called upon so much and doing well during the first two months. Pete Alonso and Francisco Lindor combined on a 10th-inning error that ushered in five un-

earned runs. Alonso, Lindor and Brandon Nimmo are not carrying a team in need of being carried. And, again, what does it say for the near future? Do you like Lindor and Nimmo in their thirties? Alonso is in his walk year and might be on the trade block soon if the losing continues.

This is what happens at bad times — you begin to see and feel the worst. But aside from the emergence of Christian Scott, I am not sure anything has occurred this season for the Mets that is encouraging for the near future.

Which is why the biggest Mets positive Saturday happened before the game. For the first time since tearing a ligament in his left thumb on April 19, Francisco Alvarez took batting practice. He went through four rounds of five-to-seven swings and noted the 115 mph homer he hit as a sign he was swinging full force

despite wearing a white plastic splint on the thumb held in place by orange tape.

Look, a lot will change over the next four months. And who knows what Steve Cohen will do financially to try to whitewash this season if it continues in this direction — that Mets vs. Yankees bidding war for Juan Soto might be something. But right now, the best internal hope the Mets have for a position player to be special over the next few years is Alvarez with his power bat, power arm, enthusiasm and energy.

Carlos Mendoza called him a “franchise player. He is that type of player and not just because of the bat. He has a big arm. He can help shut down a running game. He helps with the pitching staff. We miss him. One hundred percent we need him for the short term and the long term.”

Alvarez is still a few weeks away as he needs to graduate from batting practice to rehab games. He also is just 22 and plays a demanding position. But more and more it feels as if this season might become trying to find Met silver linings. What you can hang onto for the future like Scott and Alvarez.

Because the product on the field currently looks ill-equipped to make a playoff run even with the third wild card being fought for among mediocrities. On Saturday, for example, Mendoza returned to Diaz to close because, “We can’t hide him.” No, the Mets are in their pen far too much to just turn Diaz into a nonentity. But with the Mets ahead 2-1, Diaz allowed a single to Wilmer Flores on the first pitch of the ninth. Pinch-runner Ryan McKenna stole second and scored the tying run on Lamont Wade’s single.

“In order for us to win games and get where we need to get, [Diaz] has to pitch,” Mendoza said.

It is part of this 2024 Mets story now. They are trying to fix Diaz — and so much more ... and not just for this year.

joel.sherman@nypost.com

Lindor hoping glasses jump-start his bat

By DAN MARTIN

Francisco Lindor spoke recently about adding prescription glasses to his game in an attempt to see the ball better, instead of relying on contacts.

On Saturday, the slumping shortstop was mostly helpless in a key seventh inning at-bat against San Francisco’s Randy Rodriguez.

With pinch-runner Tyrone Taylor on second base and one out and the Mets up by a run, Lindor appeared to give up on a 3-2 pitch that ended up right down the middle for a called strike three.

The inability to add on runs proved costly, as Edwin Diaz blew another save in the ninth and the Mets went on to lose, 7-2, in 10 innings.

But more than anything was the odd-looking approach Lindor took to the final pitch, which he didn’t appear prepared to swing at.

“He hadn’t thrown a strike [in the at-bat],” Lindor said. “I made every pitch a strike [by swinging outside the zone] and was helping him out. My best bet was to take a pitch. It just so happened that was the one strike the whole at-bat.”

Lindor’s problem stemmed from his inability to pick up the spin on Rodriguez’s pitches.

Lindor noted that he swung at a 1-0 slider in the dirt and after Rodriguez fell behind 3-1, Lindor offered at another slider out of the strike zone.

Each of the first five pitches of the at-bat landed outside the strike zone and with Lindor not picking up the spin of the breaking ball, he opted for a different approach.

“None of the pitches were strikes,” Lindor said of the pitches prior to the final slider with a full count. “I took that pitch and I’ve got to live with it.”

Lindor also grounded into a force out in the bottom of the ninth and was unable to come

up with Pete Alonso’s errant throw to second in the top of the 10th as the game unravelled.

It was another rough day in a season filled with them for Lindor, who said earlier he’d had difficulty with the contacts he wears throughout the season — a season in which he’s put up the worst offensive numbers of his career.

Lindor attributed the issue to his eyes drying up when it’s windy and he thought he was seeing better on days when he wore non-prescription tinted glasses over the contacts.

“So I figured I would be better with the [prescription] glasses,” Lindor said. “We’ll see if it helps.”

But Lindor said the eyewear is not the reason for his rough first two months of the season.

“That’s not an excuse,” Lindor said. “I feel like I’m in the same boat I was last year: I just haven’t had a hot start with the bat most years.”

Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



Two legendary New York institutions. One team.

■ The Yankees placed **Jon Berti** on the 10-day injured list Saturday with a left calf strain that he suffered on Friday night. The infielder was set to undergo imaging to determine the extent of the injury.

■ **Gerrit Cole** (elbow nerve inflammation) took another step forward in his rehab Saturday, throwing a pair of 15-pitch innings in a simulated game in Tampa.



at Padres

Sunday, 4:10 p.m.,
YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Clarke Schmidt



2024 stats:
5-2, 2.59 ERA

Career vs. SD:
First appearance

Last start:
Tuesday, vs. SEA;
5.0 IP, 4 H, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

35% Cutter
24% Sweeper
22% Sinker

RHP Joe Musgrove



2024 stats:
3-4, 5.93 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
1-0, 1.42 ERA

Last start:
Tuesday, @ CIN;
3.0 IP, 3 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

23% 4-Seamer
21% Curveball
20% Cutter

UP NEXT

TUESDAY: at Angels,
9:38 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

WED.: at Angels, 9:38 p.m.,
Amazon Prime, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

HEAT KEEPS ON RISING

By GREG JOYCE

SAN DIEGO — Who's hotter, Aaron Judge or the Yankees rotation?

Judge may actually cool off at some point, or even return to normalcy. And a Yankees starter may allow a run or three at some point, too.

But until further notice, they both remain a giant red ball of flames.

YANKEES 4 Box score
PADRES 1 Page 62



Judge continued the torrid stretch that he has been on for nearly a month now, homering for a fourth straight game, while Marcus Stroman became the fourth straight starter to throw a scoreless outing on the way to the Yankees' fourth straight win, 4-1 over the Padres at Petco Park.

"Just watching greatness," said Stroman, who scattered three hits and a walk across six shutout innings. "Sometimes you can kind of take it for granted, to be honest, but this is something I'll be sitting with my grandkids at some point saying I got the opportunity to play with Aaron Judge and Juan Soto and Gerrit Cole. Those are going to be three of the best players I think to ever play this game."

As Judge goes, the Yankees (37-17) often go, so they have not surprisingly surged during their captain's hot streak, winning for the 17th time in their last 21 games on Saturday in front of a sellout crowd of 44,845.

Judge added a double and came around to score in the fourth inning. Over his last 20 games alone, he has piled

up 12 doubles and 11 home runs, becoming the first player since at least 1901 to accomplish that feat.

"That's my season," Alex Verdugo deadpanned before breaking out in laughter. "But really, he's special. ... He's a different animal and he just needs to touch it and the ball jumps off way different than other guys."

Over his last 27 games, Judge is batting .391 (36-for-92) with a 1.458 OPS, 12 doubles and 13 home runs. And 15 of his 17 hits over the last 11 games have gone for extra bases — eight doubles and seven home runs.

"What Aaron's doing is what the greats do from time to time," manager Aaron Boone said.

Saturday also marked the third time in his career that Judge has homered in four straight games. The last one came in September of 2022 on his way to hitting 62 home runs. He is now tied for the major-league lead with 17 home runs this season.

Of course, the Yankees also

have been buoyed by their terrific starting pitching, which continued to thrive against the Padres (27-28). Stroman, Carlos Rodon, Luis Gil and Nestor Cortes have combined to throw 23 1/3 scoreless innings over the last four games.

"I feel like they're feeding off each other, trying to one-up the next guy," Judge said. "It's been impressive to see what our starters are doing."

Stroman also turned in the Yankees' 13th straight start in which their pitcher has gone at least five innings and allowed two or fewer runs, one shy of the longest such streak since 1893. During that stretch, Yankees starters have combined to post a 0.78 ERA across 80 2/3 innings.

"I think the other starters have been incredible," Stroman said. "Each guy kind of hands it off to the next guy and we're all expecting each other to be great."

The Padres did not score until Fernando Tatis Jr. took Luke Weaver deep in the eighth inning, snapping the Yankees pitchers' scoreless streak at 26 1/3 innings. But Clay Holmes recorded his 15th save with a scoreless ninth.

Anthony Volpe extended his career-high hitting streak to 18 games by leading off the night with a line-drive single up the middle. It marks the longest hitting streak by a Yankee since Derek Jeter's 19-gamer in 2012.

Volpe set the table for Judge's home run, a 429-foot shot as the Yankees jumped on Dylan Cease and gave Stroman all the offense he needed.

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BOMBS AWAY: Aaron Judge slugged his major league-leading 17th home run of the season in the first inning to give starter Marcus Stroman (left) all the support he needed in a 4-1 win in San Diego on Saturday night. USA Today Sports; AP



Yankees stay scorching in San Diego with another Judge homer, Stroman gem

By GREG JOYCE

SAN DIEGO — About 10 days ago, Michael King began to look at the Padres' schedule to find out whether he might actually get to face his old team.

If not for some rain in Atlanta last weekend, which jumbled the rotation and bumped him back a day, King may have just gotten his wish.

Instead, King was left trying to help out on scouting reports of his former teammates with the Yankees in town this weekend for the first time since the right-hander was the headliner of the package going back to the Padres in the Juan Soto blockbuster.

"Pretty disappointed [not to be facing the Yankees]," King said Friday afternoon. "I think it would have been fun. I was telling [pitching coach Ruben Niebla], I was begging to change the rotation around once we had that rainout. But it's also — they're a very, very good team, so maybe it wouldn't have gone so well. It would have been a great challenge but I think it would have been fun to see a lot of my friends in the box. But it'll be just as fun to root against them from the dugout."

While King was sad to leave the Yankees and the friendships he had built in New York, getting traded to the Padres also solidified the opportunity for him to be a full-time starting pitcher this season.

The Yankees moved King from the bullpen to the rotation last August, partly out of necessity because of injuries, and the right-hander thrived, posting a 1.88 ERA across eight starts to end the season. The team had

King disappointed to miss Yanks series



KING ME! Starter Michael King was one of the main pieces of the Juan Soto trade that brought the slugger from San Diego to The Bronx. AP

planned on giving him a chance to remain in the rotation this year — though it was not guaranteed as the Yankees also pursued external starting pitching — before including him as the centerpiece of the deal to land Soto in December.

The trade ended up taking a few days longer to be completed than it could have because the Yankees were trying to find a way to not include King, Aaron Boone said Friday. But the Padres were adamant that King, who

turned 29 on Saturday, had to be in it.

"He was hard to let go of, but we also understood it was going to hurt a little bit to get a guy like Juan Soto," Boone said. "Feel like we did the right thing, but definitely hard when you part with someone that we feel as highly as we do about Michael and frankly the other guys they got in the deal with Higgy [Kyle Higashioka] and [Randy] Vasquez and [Jhony] Brito. A lot to give up, but it's Juan Soto."

In 10 starts for the Padres, King has posted a 4.06 ERA with 62 strikeouts, 25 walks and 11 home runs allowed across 57 ²/₃ innings. That has included starts where he has been dominant — like striking out 11 across seven shutout innings against the Dodgers on May 10 — and others where he has taken his lumps.

"It's definitely a learning curve going back to the rotation," King said. "Obviously I want to be a starter and I still feel like I am a starter. It's great to have — I credit a lot to Ruben, our pitching coach, because he's coached like five different Cy Youngs. He knows how to manage and build a full season. So there are some lessons that I've learned as a starter that I had to get out of the bullpen mentality or have a different approach based on doing the best to make sure the team has a chance to win."

Berti on IL; calf injury still unknown

By GREG JOYCE

SAN DIEGO — An important Yankees bench piece is back on the shelf, and could be there for a while.

Jon Berti landed on the 10-day injured list Saturday with a left calf strain that he suffered running out of the box in the ninth inning of Friday's 8-0 win over the Padres at Petco Park.

Berti had just finished up an MRI exam when Aaron Boone spoke to reporters on Saturday afternoon, but the manager said he still did not have an update on the severity of the strain after the Yankees' 4-1 win over the Padres. But it looked serious in the moment as Berti hit the deck after taking a few steps up the line and needed some help getting off the field.

Though Boone said he initially feared an Achilles injury, that was ruled out through tests Friday night.

YANKEES NOTES

"That said, I've had a calf strain, probably more minor than the one he's got and I know it takes some time," Boone said. "We'll see what we have and see what the time frame is."

The Yankees replaced Berti on the roster by selecting the contract of infielder Kevin Smith from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Smith is expected to be just a placeholder until DJ LeMahieu returns from the IL, likely on Tuesday in Anaheim. To make room for Smith on the 40-man roster, the Yankees transferred LeMahieu to the 60-day IL, though he is still eligible to be activated on Tuesday.

► **Gerrit Cole** faced hitters for the second time Saturday in Tampa, throwing two 15-pitch innings in a

simulated game against minor leaguers at the club's player development complex. It came four days after he threw 20 pitches in his first live batting practice session since being shut down with elbow nerve inflammation and edema in March.

"We hit all our goals," Cole told the Associated Press. "We did exactly what we wanted to do today. Threw a lot of strikes, so pretty good."

The reigning AL Cy Young winner is expected to face hitters again in four or five days before potentially beginning a rehab assignment.

► After all three homered in Friday's 8-0 win over the Padres, **Juan Soto**, **Aaron Judge** and **Giancarlo Stanton** had combined for 43 home runs through the Yankees' first 53 games. Entering Saturday, that was more than four full teams had recorded and tied four more teams.



SUNRISE, Fla. — The Rangers and Panthers have played a slew of games down here since the Puddy Tats moved to this outpost for the 1998-99 season, and maybe one of them was noteworthy.

That would have been the Feb. 16, 2000, contest in which Brian Leetch moved up from defense to play left wing for the only time in No. 2's career. John Muckler, then the head coach, wanted Leetch to match up against and shadow right winger Pavel Bure, the most explosive and compelling player in the league.

Bure did not score while on the ice against Leetch, who logged 23:47 of ice time.

The "Russian Rocket" did, however, score his



Larry Brooks

league-leading 41st goal in Florida's 57th game, at 7:46 of the first period for the 1-0 goal in a 3-0 game when Jan Hlavac failed to change on the fly when Bure hopped on.

Best laid plans and all that.

One year shy of a quarter of a century later, there will be significant Rangers-Panthers games here, and they will be Games 3 and 4 of the Eastern Conference Final, the first coming up Sunday afternoon. They will produce memories more substantial than the aforementioned curiosity from the darkest age in Blueshirts history.

This is a whole other matter. The Rangers are in the embryonic stages of constructing a group that will have staying power. They continue to establish themselves as a meat-and-potatoes team with a gilded touch of flair that can grind with heavier teams like Carolina and Florida.

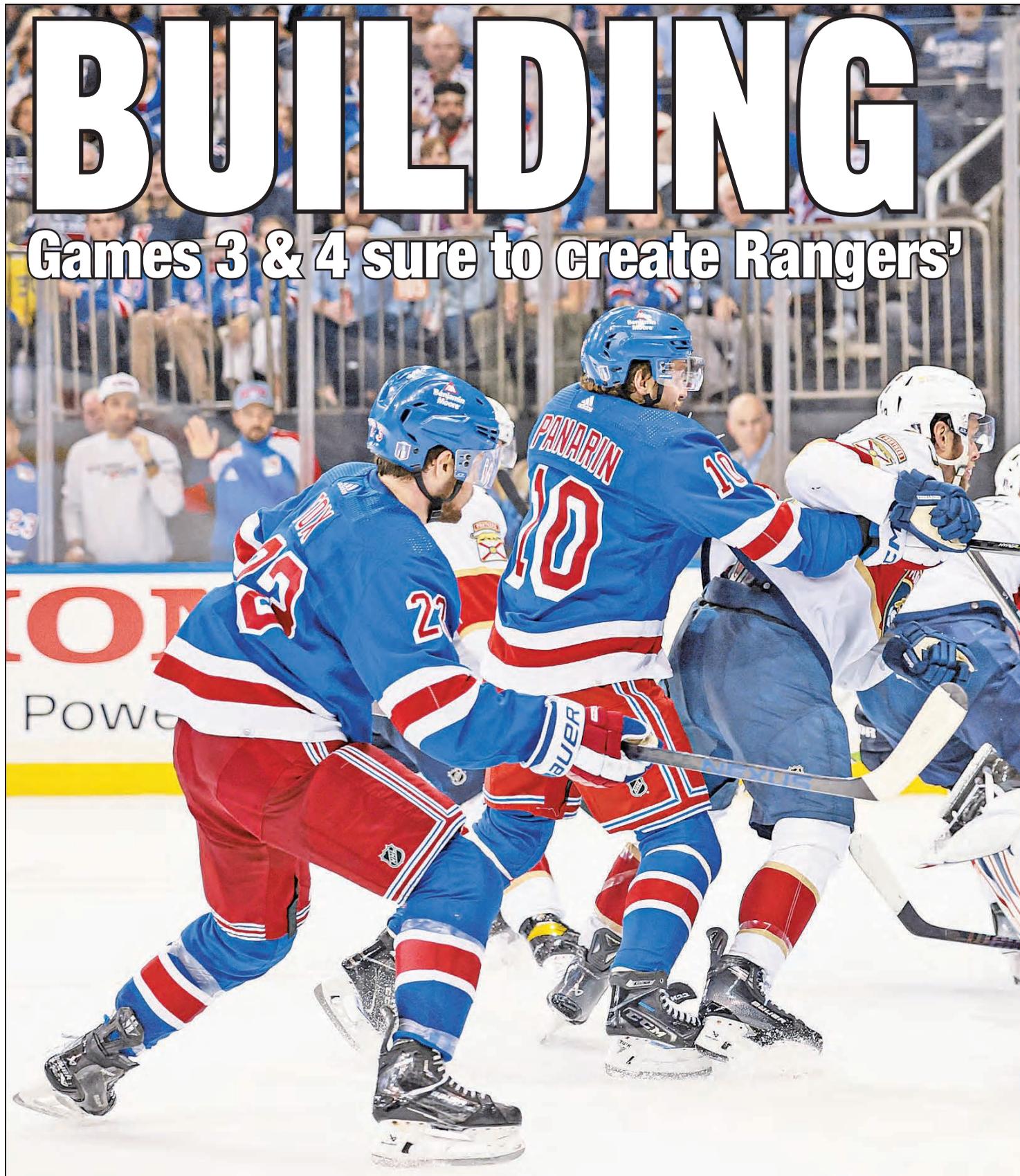
Friday's Game 2 response was will paired with skill. It is appropriate that Barclay Goodrow got the overtime winner in a game that turned nasty because he is the most intrinsically mean and nasty player on the Rangers — I mean that with affection.

Here's the issue going forward: Malevolence is in the Panthers' blood. They come in high; they come in hard; they come in with a purpose. They're big. If Dmitry Kulikov and Ryan Lomberg were not aiming for Alex Wennberg's and Jimmy Vesey's head, respectively, they could have fooled a lot of folks. There is Nick Cousins, always on the prowl. There is the specter of Sam Bennett and Matthew Tkachuk. Their defencemen don't let up.

This is who they are.

I'm not sure this is who the Rangers are, though I know they will try to adopt the physical pose they brought onto the ice and sustained for the 74:01 it took to decide Game 2. This is not a question about heart or commitment. I just wonder if they are built for this kind of hockey combat against a formidable foe that thrives on it.

There is Goodrow, sneaky mean during the season and not so sneaky now, who is made for this. Jacob Trouba, who fittingly sprung the rush that decided the match on a spectacular outlet with Lomberg racing



BUILDING

Games 3 & 4 sure to create Rangers'

at him on the forecheck, is a mean one who is made for this. Ryan Lindgren always plays with an edge and is made for this. We know what Matt Rempe is about, and we have seen that Will Cuylle will never turn away from a hit. There is a reason Braden Schneider has been known as "Baby Troubs."

And boy, did Erik Gustafsson join every

scrum as quickly as he could on Friday, brokering no guff. Oh yes, and the ram-bunctious Alexis Lafreniere had a hello moment with Carter Verhaeghe smashing the always-dangerous No. 23 to ice to create the Rangers' first goal. And yes, Chris Kreider was credited with five hits, and Adam Fox, who sure seems impaired, had a snarl in his step throughout.

Maybe the Rangers can go toe-to-toe with the Big Bad Puddy Tats. But it would sure help if they could get their power play working. I give them enormous credit for gutting out Friday and for their marquee guys strapping on their hard hats when things were not exactly clicking and the Blueshirts seemed as though they were hanging on for dear life during large por-



MEMORIES

most notable South Florida moments



WHAT A TRIP: The Rangers-Panthers battle during this Eastern Conference Final heads from Madison Square Garden to Amerant Bank Arena for the next two games, a venue which has produced little history over the years. Once the series returns to New York, that descriptor undoubtedly will no longer apply.

USA TODAY Sports

RANGERS NOTES

Power play still missing usual punch

By ETHAN SEARS

SUNRISE, Fla. — The Rangers found what they needed at five-on-five on Friday night to beat back the Panthers and tie the Eastern Conference Final at 1-1 before heading south.

But they have yet to gain any traction at all on the power play through six attempts in the series — a necessity if they are to move onto the Stanley Cup Final.

The power play buoyed the Rangers through the first two rounds of the playoffs, as they went a collective 11-for-35 (31.4 percent) against Washington and Carolina. An 0-for-4 performance Friday that included 1:25 at four-on-three, however, was cause for worry.

“They’re coming with all four guys. It’s hard,” said defenseman Erik Gustafsson, who has occasionally taken Adam Fox’s spot on the top unit. “We gotta make fast, quick plays, otherwise it’s not gonna be pretty. Putting the puck to the net is not a bad option, even if it’s just a wrist shot from the blue line or the corner or whatever. We have one of the best guys in the netfront [in Chris Kreider].

“When they’re forechecking so hard, I think we have to put a little bit more pucks to the net. I think the breakouts can be a little bit better.”

The Rangers had opportunities in Game 2, spending 7:14 total on the power play, including the four-on-three. Per Natural Stat Trick, however, they had just one high-danger chance at 5:49 in Game 2 — the same number they recorded in Game 1.

“We’re playing a team that’s been really good and they’ve been aggressive,” coach Peter Laviolette said. “We’re looking at it and trying to make small adjustments, [trying] to do things a little bit sharper, a little bit crisper make some adjustments. And we’ll get with the guys and get that information to them.”

Last round, the Rangers went three straight games without scoring on the power play before making adjustments in time for Kreider to tie Game 6 at five-on-four.

It might take similar adjustments this time around for the Rangers to get things moving.

► **Barclay Goodrow’s** overtime winner broke a 12-game overtime playoff winning streak for **Sergei Bobrovsky** and an 11-game playoff overtime winning streak for the Panthers. Bobrovsky is tied with **Patrick Roy** for the longest OT winning streak for a goalie in playoff history.

► Neither team held practice Saturday as both made the trip to Florida.

tions of the match.

But the Rangers live large on their power-play production. It moves the needle. It puffs them up. Igor Shesterkin separates them, but so does the PPI unit. The Blueshirts will be in a physical slog with the Panthers forever if they cannot break away by sprinkling in a power-play goal or two here and there.

It’s not only these last two games over which the Rangers went 0-for-6 in 11:14 while getting 10 shots on Sergei Bobrovsky. The next-level power play has actually gone 1-for-16 over the last six games and is 1-for-21 since the middle of Game 2 against Carolina, and why hasn’t Vincent Trocheck taken a PP offensive-zone draw against the Panthers?

I can tell you if I am not certain that the Rangers can sustain the level of physicality necessary to advance, I am certain that a dysfunctional power play is not sustainable for this team.

There is heavy lifting ahead. There are memories to be made down here by the Rangers.

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BEST MAN UP

By MOLLIE WALKER

SUNRISE, Fla. — Leaving Manhattan having squared the Eastern Conference Final series against the Panthers at one win apiece, the Rangers landed in the Sunshine State to new obstacles as they prepare to begin what is now a best-of-five.

When Jimmy Vesey's shoulder took the brunt of an obliterating hit from feisty Florida forward Ryan Lomberg and forced him to retire for the remainder of Game 2 on Friday night, the importance of having a complement of forwards to choose from came into full effect.

"He's going to be week to week," head coach Peter Laviolette said.

Laviolette has only needed to make consequential personnel and lineup decisions toward the end of the second round and through the first two games of the third — but they're here now and they're pressing.

With multiple candidates who are not only healthy, but also served as regular skaters at one point or another during the year, Laviolette can take his pick.

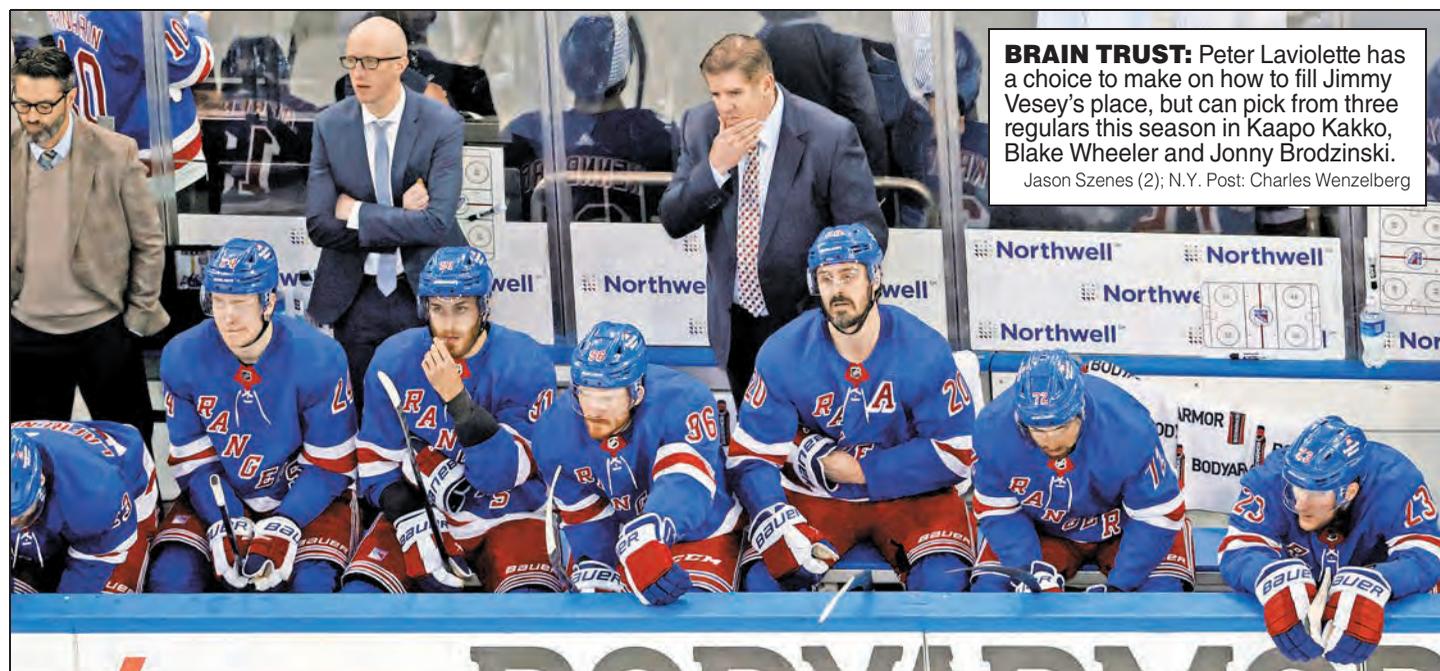
Behind Door No. 1 we have Blake Wheeler, the big-bodied power wing who has only recently become an option after suffering a season-ending lower-body injury on Feb. 15.

Based on Laviolette's previous intuition to insert Filip Chytil — also sidelined for a majority of the 2023-24 campaign with a suspected concussion — in Game 3 of Round 2 against Carolina with a 2-0 series lead, this could be a good time to get Wheeler involved if that is the ultimate plan.

That's what's kept Wheeler going for the last three-plus months: the possibility of joining this Rangers playoff run, which has gotten closer to the Stanley Cup Final than the 37-year-old has since the one time he and the Jets went 1-4 in the 2018 conference final against the Golden Knights.

Having played more NHL games than anybody on the Ran-

With Vesey knocked from Rangers lineup, Laviolette has some forward thinking to do



BRAIN TRUST: Peter Laviolette has a choice to make on how to fill Jimmy Vesey's place, but can pick from three regulars this season in Kaapo Kakko, Blake Wheeler and Jonny Brodzinski.

Jason Szenes (2); N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

gers roster, Wheeler is still chasing his first championship.

Similar to Chytil, Laviolette has to ask himself whether Wheeler can jump into playoff action after an unexpectedly quick recovery. That and whether the lineup is better with Wheeler in it.

Wheeler appeared in 54 games for the Blueshirts this season, largely playing on the right wing of the top line with Chris Kreider and Mika Zibanejad. He scored nine goals and dished 12 assists while averaging a career-low 12:43 of ice time per game.

Though he looked a step behind this season, Wheeler brings size to that first unit and gives it a grittier complexion that could be useful against a ferocious Panthers team. There's also no way to quantify what Wheeler's presence would do for his teammates

who have been watching him fight his way back.

Behind Door No. 2 there's Jonny Brodzinski, who skated in a career-high 57 NHL games this season and played in Games 4 and 6 of the second round for the Rangers.

The bottom-six skater brings speed to any line he plays on. Setting career highs with six goals and 13 assists this season, Brodzinski is a serviceable replacement who has already played in more postseason games than he ever has.

And then there's Door No. 3, where Kaapo Kakko took his place Friday night after the Finnish wing found himself as a healthy scratch in a conference final game for the second time in three years.

The 23-year-old hasn't necessa-

rily had a bad postseason, in which he's collected a goal and an assist, but it hasn't been particularly impactful either.

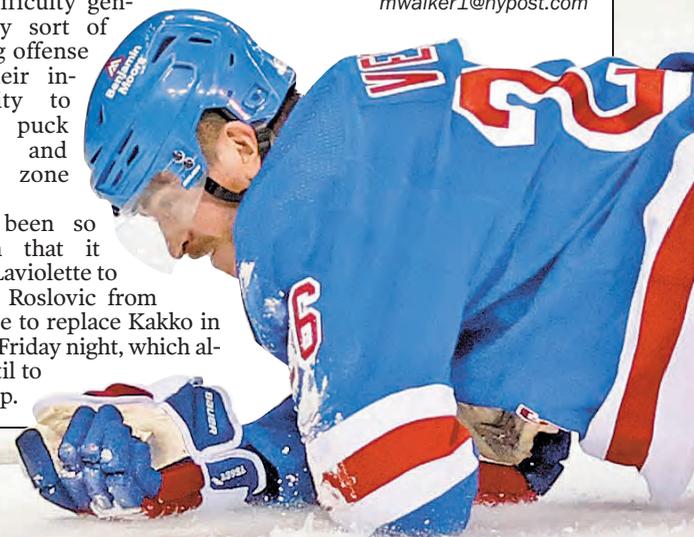
Kakko has been skating on the right wing of a line, with Alex Wennberg and Will Cuyllé, that has had difficulty generating any sort of threatening offense despite their innate ability to maintain puck possession and sustain zone pressure.

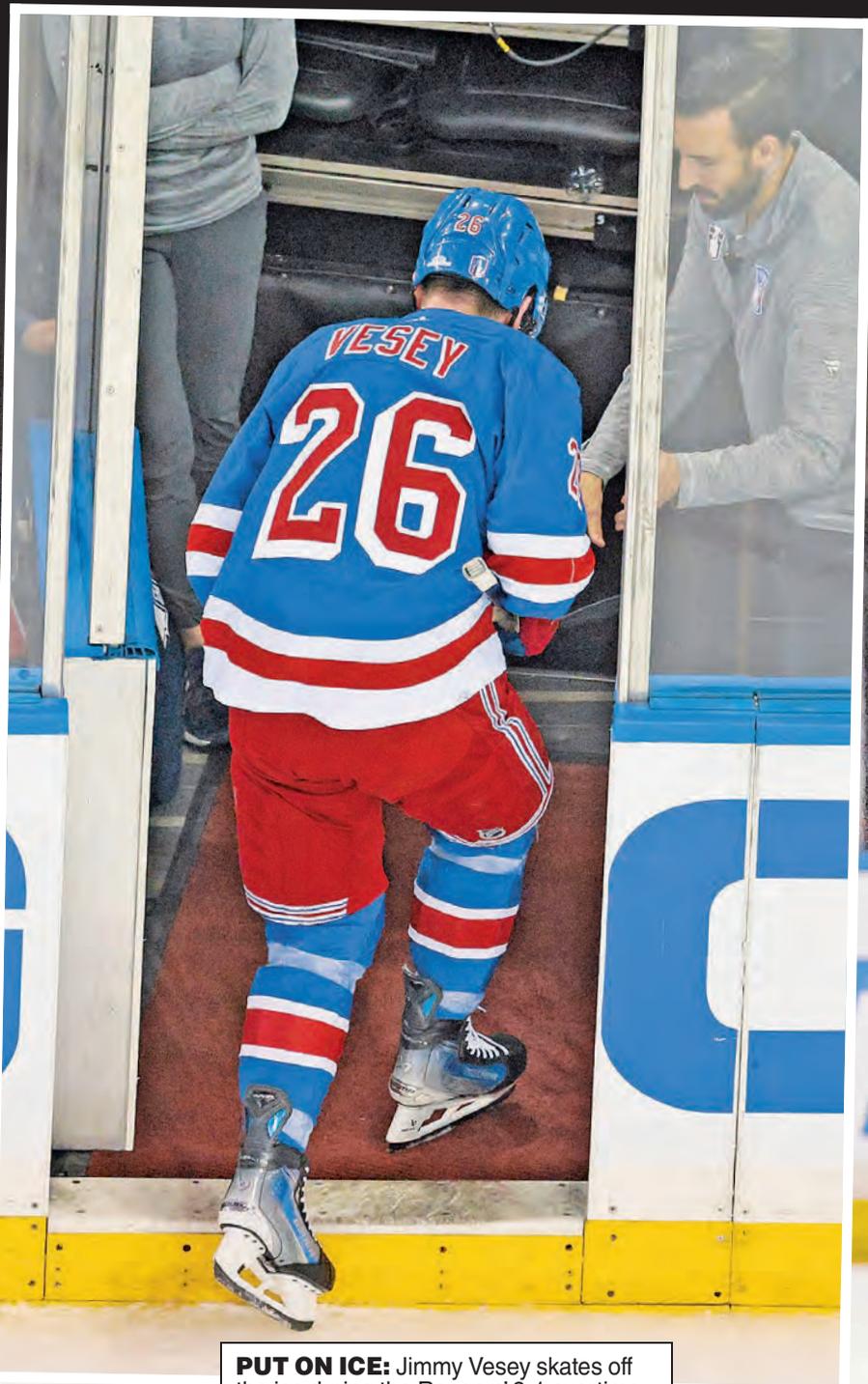
They've been so snakebitten that it prompted Laviolette to bump Jack Roslovic from the first line to replace Kakko in Game 2 on Friday night, which allowed Chytil to move up.

Wennberg is necessary as a center and Cuyllé plays a straight-line, hard-edged game that's valuable, but Kakko hasn't been able to set himself apart.

If Kakko isn't the next man up in this situation, it'll say a lot.

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PUT ON ICE: Jimmy Vesey skates off the ice during the Rangers' 2-1 overtime win in Game 2 on Friday after receiving a big hit away from the puck by the Panthers' Ryan Lomberg.



UNDER CONTROL: After winning Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Final at MSG, the Panthers aren't worried about their loss in overtime on Friday night. *Getty Images*

Panthers not sweating loss with 'house money'

By ETHAN SEARS

SUNRISE, Fla. — Less than an hour after his team had lost an overtime heart-breaker early Saturday morning, Paul Maurice was sitting at the Madison Square Garden podium craving jokes.

He hadn't seen Barclay Goodrow's game-winner yet, he said, because the layout of the Garden made it impossible for him to see his video guy.

"I'm not sure he still works for us," Maurice joked. "I truly have not seen the goal, cause we have to send out telegrams."

This, after a 2-1 overtime loss in the conference finals, is a rarity. But Maurice and the Panthers alike feel perfectly comfortable with where they are in this series against the Rangers as it heads down to Florida for Game 3 on Sunday afternoon.

"Distraught is not the right word," Maurice said. "I'm fine with tonight. You shouldn't come in and beat the Presidents' Trophy team twice in a row. You really shouldn't."

Earning a split at the Garden — and one in which they played a strong pair of games at that — is something the Panthers are happy with. They have yet to lose back-to-back games in these playoffs, with a 3-0 record after losses. And playing on home ice, with matchups now in their control, the Panthers appear confident in their position.

"I think after a loss, we come to the rink

with a little bit more focus, a little bit more energy," Nick Cousins said Saturday. "Tomorrow's no different. It's a quick turnaround, early-afternoon start. After a loss, you kinda want to get right back at it. We're gonna get some rest today and then get on the plane, get ready to play a game at home."

Unlike the Rangers after Game 1, Florida is not grappling with any lineup decisions. Unlike the Rangers, the Panthers are fairly content with their special teams. And they successfully stole away home ice in Game 1 — so Friday night felt a little bit for the

Panthers like playing with house money.

Much as the Rangers recovered their game over the 74:01-long win, the Panthers did not really slip. They played the same physical brand of hockey as two nights prior, continuing to look strong in the bottom-six and with Aleksander Barkov continuing to present issues for the Rangers whenever on the ice.

"Pretty even game, I think it could've gone either way," Cousins said. "Just comes down to, they made a play in overtime, were lucky enough to get one. I thought the first 10 minutes of the game, they upped their level, they upped their intensity, they came out hard and we expected that."

"I thought as the game went on, we got a lot better. Now we gotta go home in front of our fans and use the crowd to our advantage."

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Rangers vs. Panthers

EASTERN CONFERENCE FINAL

Game 1: Panthers 3, Rangers 0

Game 2: Rangers 2, Panthers 1, OT
Series tied, 1-1

Sun.: at Panthers, 3 p.m., ABC

Tue.: at Panthers, 8 p.m., ESPN

Thur.*: at Rangers, 8 p.m., ESPN

June 1*: at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC

June 3*: at Rangers, 8 p.m., ESPN

* if necessary



SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND

RANGERS AIM TO CLAIM UPPER HAND AS SERIES HEADS TO FLORIDA / PAGES 87-84

SUNDAY

NEW YORK POST

Sports

MAY 26, 2024

Edwin & bullpen
blow another as
Mets' skid hits 5

TOTAL DIAZSTER



Getty Images

Edwin Diaz walks off the mound Saturday after blowing a ninth-inning save — the fourth time in his past five outings that he has squandered a lead. The bullpen continued its implosion in the 10th inning in what became a 7-2 loss to the Giants, the Amazin's fifth straight defeat. **PAGES 80-81, 67**



THE BEAT GOES ON

JUDGE, STROMAN PROPEL
HOT YANKS PAST PADRES

PAGES
82-83

