



RAGING BULLSH*T

The Biden campaign bizarrely sent actor Robert De Niro to insult Donald Trump yesterday outside the courthouse where closing arguments were starting in the hush-money trial. But the scene soon devolved into chaos, as hecklers shouted him down, and De Niro yelled back, "you're a f--king idiot!"

PAGES 4-5

**Sideshow
Bob De Niro
goes ballistic
stumping for
Biden outside
Trump trial**



Albany not kiddin' vs. 'addictive' apps

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

Albany pols are rushing to put the finishing touches on proposed legislation meant to crack down on what they call “addictive” social-media algorithms — with a push from Gov. Hochul.

The state legislators are trying to get the measures passed before the legislative session expires at the end of next week and many begin to furiously hit the campaign trail before November.

“I’d say we’re at the 2-yard line,” state Sen. Andrew Gounardes (D-Brooklyn), the bill’s Senate sponsor, told The Post Tuesday.

Hochul, speaking at an event with the Mental Health Association in New York State a few miles from the Capitol Tuesday, said, “We’re sticking with this fight.”

“We’re not giving up,” vowed the governor, a mom of two adult children and a grandmother.

It was the governor’s third public event in the past week touting the proposed legislation.

Digital guardrails

The measures would bar social-media companies from displaying content for kids using algorithms meant to keep their eyes on the screen. The legislation would also restrict those companies from selling the data of users under the age of 18, as well as mandating that the services offer parental controls.

“The companies are responsible for this,” Hochul said. “This is driven by profit. They also know that there’s negative effects on children, they don’t have to listen to the surgeon general who



warned about the effects of this a year ago.”

Social-media companies have been spending millions of dollars lobbying against the bill.

Gounardes said he expects lawmakers and the governor to iron out the details of the proposed legislation and get it passed before ditching Albany next week.

Attorney General Letitia James has also been working on the initiative.

“Social media was meant to connect us to friends, in a way that brought us closer to one another,” Hochul wrote in a column in The Post Monday.

“Instead, platforms have become media machines — collecting data on users and curating addictive algorithmic feeds designed to keep people scrolling as long as possible.

“Often the most engaging content is psychologically damaging, and it’s hurting our young people,” she said. “New York state has an opportunity to do something about this. Inaction is not an option.”

The governor has called social media the “silent killer” of New York’s young people.

But Big Tech has hit back, claiming the proposed legislation

violates freedom of speech and the online privacy of teens, as well as basically doing away with the algorithms that also help to crack down on hate speech.

Hochul and the state Legislature have already passed a law barring employers from asking potential workers and current employees for access to their social-media accounts.

“Gov. Hochul signed this law to protect the privacy of New Yorkers and protect their rights in the workplace,” gubernatorial spokesman Avi Small said when the bill passed in September.

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Excess screen bad for dreams

Social media can be a literal nightmare.

New research suggests that the more time you spend on social media, the more likely you are to toss and turn during the night because of “social-media-related nightmares.”

“As social media becomes increasingly intertwined with our lives, its impact extends beyond waking hours and may influence our dreams,” Flinders University’s Reza Shabahang from the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work said in a statement.

The research, involving 595 Iranian adult social-media users and published in the journal BMC Psychology, found a strong correlation between social-media screen time and these new types of bad dreams.

To study the relationship between swiping and nightmares, an international team of researchers created the Social Media Nightmare-Related Scale, a 14-item questionnaire.

While the majority of the social-media users surveyed did not experience social media-related nightmares, there was a significant link between the intensity of social-media use and the occurrence of these dreams.

The study comes as people are becoming increasingly concerned with the physical and mental-health impacts of social media and poor sleep as they seem to be on the rise. *Adriana Diaz*

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■ Midday Win-4 Tue.: 2618
■ Evening Nos. Tue.: 775
■ Evening Win-4 Tue.: 4017

■ Midday Take-5 Tue.: 11, 21, 23, 31, 37

■ Evening Take-5 Tue.: 3, 5, 24, 26, 31

■ Pick-10 Tue.: 4, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 31, 37, 39, 40, 44, 50, 52, 61, 66, 70, 74, 75, 78, 80

■ Cash-4-Life Tue.: 1, 3, 21, 23, 60; Cash Ball: 1
■ Mega Millions Tue.: 12, 18, 48, 57, 62; Mega Ball: 4; Megaplier: x5

NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Tue.: 036; Fireball: 6
Pick-4 Tue.: 0635; Fireball: 6
Cash-5 Xtra Tue.: 9, 10, 13, 20, 21; Xtra: 3

CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Tue.: 185; Wild: 1
Play-4 Tue.: 0214; Wild: 6
Cash-5 Tue.: 3, 6, 12, 25, 33

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BARK FROM THE DEAD

FOX5 DC



A BONE TO PICK: Kristie Pereira says a neurological problem led her to leave beloved pooch Beau to be put down by vets — but Beau was sent back to an animal rescue.



‘Euthanize’ pup sent back to shelter: shocked owner

By ADRIANA DIAZ

A woman was shocked to discover that the sick dog she took to be euthanized was back at the shelter and up for adoption a year later.

Kristie Pereira, 32, was heart-broken when she was told that the most humane thing she could do for her beloved pet Beau was to put him down.

The digital marketer said she paid \$450 to adopt her pup from the Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation in 2022 while working from home in Maryland.

Beau was almost constantly by Pereira's side, wagging his tail, but she soon realized that something was wrong. The puppy was unable to control his bowels and lift his hind legs.

Blood tests showed that Beau had a liver problem, but medications failed to lead to any improvements.

The dog's veterinarian, the clinic's lead doctor and an animal emergency-room vet eventually all agreed that the pup's

symptoms pointed to a severe neurological problem, Pereira said. She said she was told further tests would cost as much as \$12,000 — which she was willing to pay — but would only provide “a very slim chance of finding what is wrong” and “an even smaller chance of it being something that [doctors could] fix,” according to The Associated Press.

Heartbreaking choice

Running out of viable options, Pereira said she was told euthanizing the puppy would be the best solution.

Pereira held out for another month, hoping Beau's symptoms would lessen but eventually decided to take the vets' advice and put him down after several consultations with the staff at the rescue.

In late March 2023, Pereira said she took Beau to Montgomery County Animal Services in Derwood, Md., where she paid \$15 for him to be euthanized.

She was told that the shelter's policy does not allow pet owners to stay in the room with their pets as they are put down, so she said goodbye to Beau and walked out of the office.

About a year after the heartbreaking situation, Pereira, who moved to San Antonio, considered getting another dog and decided to peek at the rescue's website when she was back visiting family in Maryland.

She was shocked earlier this month when she spotted a dog who looked identical to Beau — just a bit bigger — with the same name he had been given at the shelter when she first fell in love with him in 2022.

Pereira quickly called the Montgomery County shelter and received confirmation that her dog had not been euthanized after veterinarians there deemed him healthy enough to be saved.

The shelter instead returned the puppy to the rescue, which confirmed in a statement that its veterinarians found no neuro-

logical issues with the dog. Instead, the veterinarians diagnosed the animal with a liver problem and declared him healthy after a \$7,000 surgery.

Pereira claims that it took several days to get anyone from the rescue on the phone to explain what happened and was hurt by the rudeness she was treated with when she finally did speak to someone.

‘Nasty toward me’

“The person that called me was so rude and just disrespectful and just being really nasty towards me,” she said, breaking down in tears. “Just saying, you know, that I abandoned him, and that I left him to die. That I never cared about him.”

She claims she was told that the dog “will never go back” to her before being hung up on.

“LDCRF does not re-home an owner-surrendered dog with its former adopter/owner,” rescue spokesperson Chloe Floyd said. “Our mission is to save adopta-

ble and safe-to-the-community dogs from euthanasia.”

The rescue organization acknowledged that their team members spoke to Pereira as she made the decision to put her dog down but insisted she was warned of the importance of taking the dog to a veterinarian that would allow her to be with the animal when it was euthanized. They claimed they told her the team would take the dog back if she could not do that.

Caroline Hairfield, executive director of Montgomery County Animal Services, told the AP that while “everyone feels for [Pereira],” the organization is contractually bound to return surrendered animals to the rescue.

Pereira says she would have paid the \$7,000 for Beau's surgery had she known that was the better option.

The hound mix was still available for adoption on Tuesday morning. “I have a lot of questions, but first and foremost, I want him back with me,” Pereira told the AP.

BOB IS JOE'S DON

ISAAC SCHORR



Analyze *this rant* Lame Team Biden stunt

ALWAYS keep your mouth shut," Robert De Niro's Jimmy Conway advises Ray Liotta's Henry Hill in one of the most iconic scenes in "Goodfellas."

If only De Niro would take his own character's advice.

At the behest of the Biden campaign, De Niro appeared at a press conference outside the courtroom where closing arguments were being made at Donald Trump's trial.

The result was a meandering mess emblematic of President Biden's floundering re-election effort.

It began with a boilerplate opening statement from a low-energy campaign emissary.

"We're not here today because of what's going on over there," he insisted implausibly while gesturing toward the courthouse and reading halfheartedly from a monitor below him.

"And of course, we are happy to have Robert De Niro, a native New Yorker who can spot BS a mile away and isn't afraid to call it out."

How will the actor react when he watches back the bizarre spectacle he participated in Tuesday morning, then?

DA's 'zombie' case

Trump's first criminal trial has not paid the political dividends Democrats had hoped it would.

While Trump has only himself to blame for many of the legal battles he finds himself embroiled in, voters can see Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's case for the petty, zombified husk that it is.

That's why Trump continues to dominate the polls in spite of the salivating liberal press corps' ceaseless coverage of the trial in all of its unsavory glory.

Well, that and Biden's failed presidency.

On myriad issues — immigration, gender ideology and Israel's righteous war against Hamas included — the commander in chief continues to appeal to the far-left of his coalition to the dis-

may of the median voter.

Is it really the judgment of the Biden campaign that the remedy to these challenges is to trot out an 80-year-old celebrity to aimlessly rant outside Trump's trial in deep blue New York?

De Niro's speech was perfectly representative of what has the nation primed to send Biden packing.

It was overwrought; "Donald Trump wants to destroy not only this city, but the country and, eventually, he could destroy the world," De Niro explained to his perceived lessers.

It was self-important; "I needed to be involved and wanted to be involved," he boasted.

At times, it was downright insulting; "The Twin Towers fell just over here," he noted in a tortured comparison to Trump, "But we vowed we would not allow terrorists to change our way of life."

And perhaps most notably, De Niro's rambling monologue was reminiscent of Biden's own strained attempts at communicating with the public. This isn't "The Irishman," there are no degrading effects on the campaign trail.

"I owe this city a lot," began De Niro in one particularly painful digression.

"And that's why it's so weird that Donald Trump is just across the street. Because he doesn't belong in my city. I don't know where he belongs, but he certainly doesn't belong here."

De Niro's complaint is that Trump is present for the preposterous criminal trial he's been legally obliged to attend by a Dem-

ocratic prosecutor?

By the end of the presser, those with the misfortune of watching it must have felt the same way special counsel Robert Hur did after his dizzying interview with Biden last year.

Campaign's fatal flaws

Even when Biden himself is nowhere to be found, his wayward campaign finds a way to highlight his fatal flaws.

Against all the available evidence, Biden and his team remain convinced that they can ignore Americans' substantive policy concerns while leveraging his popularity (and Trump's unpopularity) among the celebrity class to earn their support.

Good luck with that — President Hillary Clinton and Vice President Tim Kaine might have something to say about that course.

The truth is that Americans are well aware of Trump's personal failings, and they've already decided that they're worth the cost of his policies, considering the alternative.

Harping on those failings — especially by way of yet another elderly narcissist outside of a politicized legal proceeding — isn't moving the needle.

If Biden's campaign wants to reverse his fortunes at the polls, it'll need to abandon unbecoming stunts like the one it pulled Tuesday and make a positive case for its principal.

The only trouble is: The stunts are being pulled out precisely because there's no such case to make.



Raging De Niro gets heckled outside court

By DIANA GLEBOVA and MAX RIVERA

Oscar-winning actor Robert De Niro became the face of the Biden campaign Tuesday, fronting a tumultuous press conference outside the Manhattan courthouse where former President Donald Trump's defense team made its closing arguments in the hush money trial.

After weeks of avoiding commenting on the case against Trump outside of jabs on social media, the Biden campaign went big by announcing the press availability "with special guests" on the day of closing arguments, with the jury expected to receive the case Wednesday.

"We're not here today because of what's going on over there,"

Biden campaign communications director Michael Tyler disingenuously told reporters, indicating the courthouse. "We're here today because you all are here."

De Niro, 80, has already narrated ads for the Biden campaign, and told reporters Tuesday that Trump "wants to sow total chaos" and "destroy not only the city" before expanding his argument to say "eventually he could destroy the whole world."

"I don't mean to scare you. No, wait, maybe I do mean to scare you," he said at one point. "If Trump returns to the White House, you can kiss these freedoms goodbye that we all take for granted."

"And elections. Forget about it. That's over. That's done. If he gets in. I can tell you right now.

BOORLEONE

Cohen a 'GLOAT': defense



THE JEER HUNTER: Nose-touching, sunglasses-wearing Robert De Niro hears it from a MAGA-cap lady after his rant outside the Trump trial where the ex-president and lead lawyer Todd Blanche (together, far left) made another midday court-lobby appearance.

Gregory P. Mango/Steven Hirsch

He will never leave. He will never leave. You know that. He will never leave."

In between reading from his prepared remarks, which included calling the 77-year-old Trump a "clown," a "grubby real-estate hustler" and a "tyrant," the "Raging Bull" and "Godfather Part II" star exchanged curses with pro-Trump protesters who chanted "F--k Joe Biden" and "De Niro is a gangster bitch" in an attempt to drown out the press conference.

"You're a f--king idiot," the "Goodfellas" actor yelled at one protester who accused De Niro of being a "paid actor for the DNC" and suggested De Niro had unsavory ties to convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

De Niro was accompanied by

law-enforcement officers who had battled Trump-supporting rioters at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

"Americans need to wake up. This is not a drill," added former Capitol Police officer Harry Dunn, who unsuccessfully ran for Congress as a Democrat in Maryland earlier this year.

Don ups his poll lead

Since jury selection in the Manhattan trial began April 15, Trump has gone from leading Biden head-to-head by 0.3 percentage points in the RealClearPolitics national polling average to 1.1 percentage points as of this past Friday.

The persistent polling lead for the 45th president and the perceived stakes of the Nov. 5 election are "creating [a] freakout" in

Democratic political circles, Politico reported Tuesday.

"There's still a path to win this, but they don't look like a campaign that's embarking on that path right now," longtime Democratic strategist Pete Giangreco told the outlet. "If the frame of this race is, 'What was better, the 3.5 years under Biden or four years under Trump?', we lose that every day of the week and twice on Sunday."

Trump's press team came to the microphones immediately after Biden's team left, arguing that the president's campaign showing up at the courthouse shows that the trial amounts to "election interference of the highest order."

"Crooked Joe Biden and his campaign are in complete freak-out mode, and that's why they've

gone back on the word and now they've gone in bed with a highly conflicted, conflicted judge, and now they're making a political mockery of this entire thing," campaign spokesman Steven Cheung said.

Trump 2024 national press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that "actors like Robert De Niro" have "no idea the real problems that people in this city and across this country are facing.

"President Trump is backed by the hardworking men and women of this country, and I cannot help but laugh when Joe Biden's spokesperson actually came out here and accused President Trump of being a threat to democracy. Joe Biden is the real threat to democracy. He is weaponizing our justice system."

Donald Trump cannot be convicted based on the words of his former fixer Michael Cohen — the "greatest liar of all time" — defense lawyers argued Tuesday at the end of a historic criminal trial against the former president.

"Have you heard about GOAT, like greatest of all time?" Trump lawyer Todd Blanche asked the Manhattan jury deciding the case, which stems from Cohen's \$130,000 payment on the eve of the 2016 election that kept porn star Stormy Daniels from telling her story about an alleged tryst with Trump a decade earlier.

"Michael Cohen is the GLOAT. He's literally the Greatest 'Liar' Of All Time," Blanche added, calling the convicted felon "literally like an MVP of liars" and the "human embodiment of reasonable doubt."

Prosecutors shot back that it was Trump who chose their flawed star witness as his trusted right-hand man precisely because Cohen was willing to lie and cheat — for his former boss, that is.

"We didn't choose Michael Cohen. We didn't pick him up at the witness store," deadpanned Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Joshua Steinglass.

"The defendant chose Michael Cohen to be his fixer!" Steinglass exclaimed.

Ben Kochman, Kyle Schnitzer, Max Rivera, Priscilla DeGregory

Judge nixes fed 'gag' bid

A federal judge on Tuesday rejected a request by prosecutors to impose a gag order barring Donald Trump from making inflammatory comments about law enforcement, after the former president, his attorneys and allies drew attention to an FBI authorization order for "deadly force" while executing a search warrant at Mar-a-Lago in August 2022.

In denying the gag request, Florida US District Judge Aileen Cannon also accused special counsel Jack Smith's office of hastily submitting a motion "wholly lacking in substance" and without the "professional courtesy" of first conferring with Trump's legal team.

Cannon was appointed to the federal bench by Trump in 2020.

Josh Christenson

Biden polling has party in panic

By OLIVIA LAND

President Biden's consistently poor polling is triggering panic among Democratic operatives with little more than five months to go before his likely election rematch against Donald Trump.

The outlook has grown so dire, Politico reported Tuesday, that one adviser to major party donors has been circulating a running tally of nearly two dozen reasons why the incumbent is in trouble — including his age, frustration over immigration and inflation and the unpopularity of Vice President Kamala Harris.

"Donors ask me on an hourly basis about what I think," the adviser said, adding that it's "so much easier to show them, so while they read it, I can pour a drink."

"The list of why we 'could' win is so small, I don't even need to keep the list on my phone," the insider added.

"You don't want to be that guy who is on the record saying 'We're doomed,' or 'The campaign's bad' or 'Biden's making mistakes.' Nobody wants to be that guy," the Democratic operative in close touch with the White House said, explaining why the president's allies are putting on a brave face while privately having a "freakout" about election stakes.

"This isn't, 'Oh my God, Mitt Romney might become president,'" they added. "It's 'Oh my God, the democracy might end.'"

Losing war-chest edge

In addition to polls showing Trump, 77, leading Biden, 81, in the battleground states that will likely decide the presidency, the 45th president is also catching up in the money race.

In April, the Trump campaign and Republican National Committee outraised the Biden campaign and the Democrats by \$25 million — including a record \$50.5 million cash grab from an



READY TO STUMBLE: One party insider keeps a list of reasons why Biden faces trouble in November.

Dems' 'Oh my God' moment

Reuters

April 6 event in Palm Beach.

The money gap triggered an urgent appeal from Democratic Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey when Biden visited Boston for two fundraisers last week.

"To those of you who opened up your wallets, thank you," Healey told the donors. "We'd like you to open them up a little bit more and to find more patriots — more patriots who believe in this country, who recognize and understand the challenge

presented at this time."

"New York Democrats need to wake up," said Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine. "The number of people in New York, including people of color that I come across who are saying positive things about Trump, is alarming."

"I'm worried it's going to be a 2022 situation, where everyone wakes up in the last seven weeks and has to scramble."

"The election is more competi-

tive than it should be, given the wretchedness of who Donald Trump is," added South Bronx Democratic Rep. Ritchie Torres. "In a properly functioning democracy, Donald Trump should have no viable path to the presidency. The fact of a competitive race is cause for concern."

The Biden campaign, meanwhile, dismissed Trump's recent events in New York and New Jersey as "photo ops and p.r. stunts."

oland@nypost.com



REP. BOB GOOD
"Too late."

Trump revenge on DeS backer

Former President Donald Trump paid back House Freedom Caucus leader Rep. Bob Good Tuesday for his endorsement of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis during the Republican primary — by backing Good's challenger days after the congressman showed up at Trump's Manhattan trial on charges of falsifying business records.

"Bob Good is BAD FOR VIRGINIA, AND BAD FOR THE USA," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"He turned his back on our incredible movement, and was constantly attacking and fighting me until recently, when he gave a warm and 'loving' Endorsement — But really, it was too late," the 45th president added, saying the "damage has been done."

Trump, 77, backed Virginia state Sen. John McGuire — a close ally of the former president and a former Navy SEAL — in the June 18 primary.

Good (R-Va.) was one of a gaggle of House Republicans who showed up at Manhattan Criminal Court May 16 to speak out on behalf of Trump to get around a gag order issued by the trial judge.

Whoever wins the GOP primary in Virginia's Fifth Congressional District will be favored for election in the mostly rural district, which Good has represented since 2021.

Good's office did not immediately respond to an inquiry from The Post.

Diana Glebova

RFK campaign's big 'signing' bonus

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s campaign paid people a whopping \$90 an hour to collect signatures in New York to get him on the state's ballot for his long-shot independent presidential campaign.

The independent hopeful's campaign — which

said Tuesday it submitted enough valid signatures to get him on the ballot — shelled out a total of more than a million dollars for the effort, according to a lawsuit it filed against the state Board of Elections last week protesting the required name-collecting.

ZipRecruiter says the national hourly average for "petition signature jobs" is \$35, while the minimum wage for New York is between about \$14 and \$16.

Major-party candidates can secure ballot access by their internal party nomination processes.

Getting on the state ballot is not the only issue Kennedy has had to contend with in New York.

As The Post revealed last week, Kennedy (right) may not live in the Westchester County home he officially lists on his voter registration. *Vaughn Golden*



Met's Native Am. curator under scrutiny

By ISABEL VINCENT

Native American campaigners are raising questions about the Metropolitan Museum of Art's first-ever curator of Native American art — claiming that she does not belong to a federally recognized tribe, *The Post* has learned.

Patricia Marroquin Norby was hired with great fanfare in 2020, after what the museum said was “a long and competitive search” for its “inaugural Associate Curator of Native American Art” in the American Wing.

For years, Marroquin Norby, 53, described herself — including in legal filings — as “Apache,” “Eastern Apache” and “Nde” as well as “Purepacha/Tarascan,” an indigenous group from the northwestern part of Michoacan, Mexico.

A year after her appointment, *The New York Times* described her as “the museum’s first Native American curator and its first curator of Native American art” in a glowing profile.

And in 2022, Marroquin Norby told NPR, “First, I should say,” before speaking briefly in an apparent Native language, then saying in English, “I am Purepacha. I’m Purepacha descent.”

But after Native American researchers disputed her claims to any indigenous heritage, *The Met* told *The Post* that she was Purepacha, a Mexican indigenous group.

The museum declined to make Marroquin Norby available for an interview.

Out to ‘cancel’ me

On Monday, Marroquin Norby said in a social-media post that she has been targeted by a group of Native American women who are trying to “cancel” her. She said she is proud of her “Purepacha and Nde [Mexican Apache] family roots from Mexico, northern Mexico and Texas. I am not going to hide my identity or family history in shame.”

A spokeswoman for *The Met* said, “Patricia Marroquin Norby is of Purepacha descent and also descends from Indigenous communities in what is now Texas.”

The Purepacha are a Mexican native group, which is not one of the 574 Indian tribes recognized by the US Department of the Interior’s Indian Affairs division.

But even the curator’s claim to be Purepacha is questioned by Native campaigners against so-called “pretendians” — people who falsely claim they are tribal members.

The most notorious examples are actress Sacheen Little-



TRIBAL PLIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

feather, who claimed she was Apache and Yaqui when she addressed the Oscars in 1973, reading a boycott statement from Marlon Brando; and Canadian singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie, who claimed to be Cree.

Campaigners say both were white women who lied for decades, with Littlefeather’s fraud only emerging after her death.

“With all of the Native American scholars out there, we really wonder why the museum chose Patricia, who is definitely not

Native American,” said Kathy Griffin, a member of the Cherokee Nation who compiled a genealogy of Marroquin Norby’s family that she shared with *The Post*.

Gaps in family tree

The review of her ancestry compiled by Griffin shows no evidence that any of her parents, grandparents or great-grandparents were enrolled members of a recognized tribe.



ANCESTRAL CLAIMS:

Critics in the Native American community accuse Metropolitan Museum of Art associate Patricia Marroquin Norby (left and above) of being a “pretendian” who descends from a tribe that is not federally recognized.



“It’s genocide again of Native Americans,” Griffin said. “Now [white people’s] descendants are colonizing us again by claiming to be us.”

Purepacha is not a federally recognized tribe in the US but has a diaspora community, a member of which told *The Post*: “[Marroquin Norby] wants to be the only Indian in the room and that doesn’t serve the community.”

“It’s the first time that someone claiming to be part of our community has behaved this way.”

“With pretendians, we’ve noticed a lot of red flags,” said Native American writer and activist Jacqueline Keeler, who first exposed Sacheen Littlefeather. “One of those is shifting of Native identities. You can see that with [Marroquin Norby] and her shifting claims.”

Lianna Costantino, a co-founder of the Tribal Alliance Against Frauds, agreed. The non-profit added the genealogical research compiled by Griffin to their website on Saturday.

“They constantly shift from one tribe to another and claim to be indigenous from Mexico which is a lot harder to prove,” Costantino told *The Post* Friday. “She [Marroquin Norby] has nothing to show that she has a connection to the Purepecha in Mexico.”

Marroquin Norby, 53, who grew up in the Chicago area, once described herself as “an urban Indian” who began to pro-

claim her indigenous roots as an adult.

In a 2006 article in the *Leader-Telegram* of Eau Claire, Wis., she described being mocked in fifth grade when she spoke about her great-grandmother Maria Jesus Torres, who “healed people in the Purepacha Mexican Indian tradition.”

Let the records show

Public records show that Torres and her husband left Mexico in the 1930s and settled in Chicago.

Marroquin Norby married Nathan Norby, a veterinarian, in a Native American ceremony in Osseo, Wis., in 2003, with the *Leader-Telegram* reporting that an elder performed a “sage blessing” for the couple and there were customs and guests from six tribes.

Before her appointment at the Met, Marroquin Norby was senior executive and assistant director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in lower Manhattan for 10 months in 2019 and 2020.

“The Met really needs to educate themselves about American Indian sovereignty,” Costantino said. “They are so obsessed with DEI [diversity, equity and inclusion] that they are not doing their due diligence, and when they don’t do the work they are doing a disservice to the Native community, to people who have suffered erasure. They are just erasing them again.”



**TODD
BENSMAN**

BY refusing repeated chances to answer simple questions about a May 3 incident at Marine Corps Base Quantico, the Biden administration has essentially confirmed one of America's worst — and most politically consequential — nightmares related to the ongoing border crisis.

Two illegal immigrants just attempted a terror attack on US soil.

We know that a Jordanian who illegally crossed the border joined up with another Jordanian who had overstayed his visa, and drove a box truck to the gates of Quantico. They claimed to be Amazon delivery drivers and tried to access a site that houses the FBI training academy, military-officer training schools, military criminal investigations and intelligence commands.

Quick-thinking military police stopped the truck and charged the men with trespassing before turning them over the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

What happened next? We don't know.

Mum on terror ties

The government refuses to say if either of these men was on a terror watchlist, if they made any confessions in custody or even if they are being deported.

In fact, authorities didn't even acknowledge the incident until Potomac Local News' Kelly Sienkowski broke the story.

Since then, the White House and ICE have had every opportunity to deny what seems obvious, but have not done so.

"Given that it is an active law-enforcement matter, I would have to refer you to ICE," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in response to a



NEAR-DISASTER: Two illegal immigrants from Jordan were thwarted trying to get this box truck onto Marine Corps Base Quantico.



question from Fox News. "I just can't dive into that, again, because there is a law-enforcement matter."

Consider that since the 9/11 attacks, federal authorities and the American people have enjoyed a kind of public compact that now stands broken. It is that the government almost always clarifies

to the American public whether its top counterterrorism professionals regard initially ambiguous attacks as motivated by international or domestic terrorism — or not — and often a thumbs-up or down as to whether the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force was investigating.

But the Biden administration

will not engage in this one rare case, a startling break with post-9/11 tradition.

Election-year concern

I believe the reason President Biden's people won't acknowledge the first-ever border-crossing terror-attack attempt is to serve political aims, at the expense of public safety.

They know that acknowledging a terror attack from the border crisis would further damage a Biden re-election campaign that is already suffering dearly from it.

Much recent polling shows the border crisis and its attendant national-security fears constitute a major political vulnerability for the Biden re-election campaign for which voters already plan to punish Biden and reward Donald Trump.

The border crisis could swing the election already, and now come credible reports that at least one Jordanian border crosser just tried to ram a huge truck through an important military and law-enforcement installation.

But those who care about the national-security threat that Biden's open-borders policy created are not going away until his administration publicly goes on record about what happened.

Already, a dozen congressmen just sent a letter demanding answers about the attack.

Consider that if law enforcement knows what terrorists have tried, it knows what to protect against. By stonewalling the nation for political gain, Biden is putting Americans in jeopardy.

Todd Bensman is a senior national security fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies.

El Chapo capo extradited to US

A high-ranking honcho and assassin for El Chapo's Sinaloa drug cartel has been shipped to the US to face drug, gun and conspiracy charges, federal officials said.

Nestor Isidro Perez Salas, a vicious *sicario* known as "El Nini," was a leading figure in the international narco-trafficking operation

once run by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and his family before Salas was picked up by Mexican authorities last year and held for extradition.

"We allege El Nini was one of the Sinaloa Cartel's lead sicarios, or assassins, and was responsible for the murder, torture and kidnapping of rivals and wit-

nesses who threatened the cartel's criminal drug trafficking enterprise," US Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

"We also allege El Nini was a part of the Sinaloa Cartel's production and sale of fentanyl, including in the United States," Garland said. "El Nini joins the growing list of cartel lead-

ers and associates indicted in, and extradited to, the United States."

Feds say Perez Salas served as security chief for Guzman, while what's left of the cartel is run by Guzman's sons and relatives.

Guzman, extradited to the US in 2017, is now serving a life sentence in Colorado. *Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*



CARTEL TO CUFFS: Nestor Isidro Perez Salas, a k a "El Nini," is being brought to the US to face a slew of charges stemming from running a murderous operation that shipped fentanyl into the country, the attorney general's office says.

TERRORISTS COMING IN

Scramble to fix watchlist flub

By JENNIE TAER

The Biden administration is scrambling to close an intelligence-sharing gap after at least six people on the terror watchlist were let into the US over the last two years.

Men with ties to US-designated terror groups including Somalia's Al-Shabaab and Afghanistan's Hezb-e-Islami were all vetted by border officers and allowed into the US, before later being found to be on watchlists.

Under current rules, immigration judges and asylum officers — who interview migrants to see if they qualify for entry into the US — are barred from accessing certain classified information held by the Department of Homeland Security, which would help them make better decisions about whether migrants are terrorists or national security threats.

Too little, too late?

DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas now plans to increase automatic access to that information for judges and asylum officers, rolling back an order that has stood since 2004 barring them from it except in certain exceptional circumstances, as first reported by NBC.

However, some feel the order is coming too late, after almost four years of crisis at the border that have seen over 7 million arrested for attempting to enter the US illegally, according to Customs and Border Protection figures.

"Now the administration is becoming reactive," former Immigration Judge Edwin Pieters, who left the bench last year, told The Post of the policy change. During his tenure as an immigration judge, Pieters said he'd have to take DHS at their word that they had completed "satisfactory"



WATCH OUT: Amid the flood at the US southern border have been migrants with ties to US-designated terror groups who weren't stopped because of flaws in the sharing of watchlists.

background checks on the cases he oversaw.

"Honestly, I don't know why they held us back, and it's only coming up because a news report came out and now they're trying to play catch-up," he added.

Pieters was referring to the case of Afghan migrant Mohammad Kharwin, 48, who illegally entered the US near San Ysidro, Calif., in March 2023.

He was arrested by border officers but processed and released into the country. Almost a year later, the FBI notified Immigration and Customs Enforcement that Kharwin was a suspected member of Hezb-e-Islami.

Former Immigration Judge Matt O'Brien, who is now at the Immigration Reform Law Institute, told The Post that DHS is supposed to disclose in court information on even possible terror ties, but it appears they failed to do so in certain recent cases.

"What I suspect happened here is that the current administra-

tion's lax approach to national security bit it in the posterior, and in a desperate 'cover your a--' move it's now trying to make it look like it's closing a loophole that never existed in the first place," O'Brien said.

Fears of October surprise

Andrew Arthur, former terrorism prosecutor with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and fellow with the Center for Immigration Studies, said he believes that with watchlisted migrants being let into the country and incidents such as two illegal immigrants trying to breach Marine Base Quantico in Virginia, the Biden administration needs to be wary of a full-blown terrorist attack.

"I think the Biden administration is very concerned there is going to be an October surprise and one or more of these people are going to do something," Arthur told The Post. "I think the Biden

administration is very concerned . . . I think they're only now waking up to the fact that this would be an electoral disaster for Democrats and for Biden if one of these guys were to do something. This is a huge vulnerability politically, and I think it's a huge national-security vulnerability."

The DHS didn't respond to The Post's request for comment.

In February, ICE also admitted that a 27-year-old Somali man, who has not been identified by name, was released by border authorities into the country after he crossed the border illegally into California despite being a "confirmed member of Al-Shabaab," designated a terrorist group by the US.

The man was listed on the terror watchlist for his alleged involvement "in the use, manufacture or transportation of explosives or firearms," but was released after border agents got wrong information. He was arrested in January in Minnesota.

The feds' greatest misses

As the border has been overwhelmed with illegal migrants, at least six on the terror watchlist have been allowed to enter the United States, including:

- **Mohammad Kharwin**, 48, an Afghan national, was freed twice, once by the Border Patrol and another time by a swamped Texas immigration court, despite being flagged as a member of Hezb-e-Islami, which the US director of national intelligence describes as a "virulently anti-Western insurgent group." He was eventually arrested and deported.

- **In February 2024**, a Pakistani illegal immigrant on the watchlist who'd crossed from Mexico into California was accidentally released for a day before US authorities uncovered the error and caught up with him.

- **In late 2023**, New York police arrested a Senegalese man wanted in his home country for "terrorist activities" who somehow got into the US.

- **In 2023**, Border Patrol waved through a watchlisted Somali member of the Al-Shabaab terrorist group near San Diego. He was free for nearly a year before authorities finally picked him up in Minneapolis.

- **Colombian national Isnardo Garcia-Amado** (inset), 35, was released with a tracking device



April, 18 2022, after he crossed into Yuma, Ariz. Days after his release, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center determined

Garcia-Amado was a positive match, but ICE didn't nab him until May 4 of that year.

- **Also in 2022**, ICE released an FBI watchlisted Lebanon-born Venezuelan who'd crossed from Matamoros into Brownsville, Texas, on the grounds the man was at risk of catching COVID. This release occurred against FBI recommendations that he remain in detention because he was both dangerous and a flight risk.

Todd Bensman

Stab-spree suspect also eyed in slay

Roomie's

grisly

murder



By JACK MORPHET
and RONNY REYES

The man accused of stabbing six people at a Massachusetts movie theater and a McDonald's over the weekend appeared in court Tuesday, as police also named him the prime suspect in the death of his roommate.

Jared Ravizza, 26, of Chilmark, was arraigned at Plymouth District Court on one count of assault with intent to murder, two counts of assault and battery, and indecent exposure related to his stabbing of two employees at a McDonald's on Saturday.

He was ordered by a judge to remain in custody and be given a mental health evaluation.

The McDonald's incident was the third involving Ravizza on Saturday.

He stabbed a 28-year-old man working at the drive-thru window, according to police.

Police say Ravizza then went into the restaurant and stabbed a female employee with what appeared to be a kitchen knife.

"The female victim's stab wound was approximately five centimeters deep, and she also had wounds to her in her left bicep and left underarm," prosecutors said in court.

Like 'Nicholson'

A female witness who saw Ravizza urinating in public outside the eatery later told police he had a "big expression" on his face, and compared it to Jack Nicholson's unhinged character in the horror movie "The Shining," according to a police report.

Prior to that incident, Ravizza allegedly slashed four girls aged between 9 and 17, while watching the children's movie "IF" at an AMC in Braintree at around 6 p.m. Saturday. He is still to be charged



ODD COUPLE: Jared Ravizza (above, in court Tuesday over multiple stabbings) lived with Bruce Feldman (far left), who was found slain.

in that incident.

Ravizza — who describes himself as a model, CEO and philanthropist — fled after both incidents but was pursued by Massachusetts State Troopers until he wrecked his car and was taken in later Saturday night.

Connecticut police confirmed Tuesday that Ravizza is the roommate they were looking for in connection to the discovery of the body of Bruce Feldman, 70, in the Deep River home they had rented together.

Ravizza's belongings were found at the grisly scene, and police confirmed he had been with Feldman on Saturday before the murder.

Criminal charges against Ravizza in Connecticut were still pending Tuesday night.

Feldman's partner, Julie Feldman, choked back tears as she told The Post: "The whole thing's really shocking . . . We were together a very, very long time."

It is unknown how Bruce Feld-

man and Ravizza knew each other or came to rent the house together, where they had lived for between two and three weeks, according to locals.

Cybersecurity consultant Charlie Brashears, 54, who lived next door, said Feldman once described himself as Ravizza's friend and then his father, although the two were not relatives.

Brashears added Feldman owned a gray poodle named Lily and another black dog, which he believes Ravizza killed.

"My understanding is he stabbed the dogs to death," Brashears said. "Bruce was an odd duck. Jared obviously had a clear [mental health] break."

Feldman allegedly got into a dispute with two neighbors Saturday that ended with an unnamed suspect throwing a shovel through a front door window pane.

Officers investigating the incident found the body.

Parole?

No, Son

of Sam

Infamous "Son of Sam" serial killer David Berkowitz was denied parole for the 12th time last week, according to online records.

Berkowitz, 70, has been in prison since he was arrested on Aug. 10, 1977, for the random killings of six people during his reign of terror in New York City between 1976 and 1977.

He was given multiple life sentences and became eligible for parole in 2002 — with parole board hearings every two years since.

A parole board once again decided to keep him behind bars last week, according to the records.

Ahead of the board decision, the convicted killer told The Post he knew he had zero chance of getting out but would attend the hearing regardless.

"To not attend a hearing can be viewed as being defiant towards authority, and that's not me," Berkowitz said.

"Most of all, I attend in order to openly apologize for my past crimes and to express my remorse," he added.

The killer's past crimes include randomly shooting young women and couples sitting in parked cars across the Big Apple — terrorizing residents and sending the city into a panic over a nine-month period.

Allie Griffin with Wires

Test run of

DOE e-plan

Big Apple families are being asked by the city to join a remote-learning simulation on their kids' day off to better prepare for an emergency after public schools' technical meltdown during a February snow day.

Students and families have been requested to voluntarily log into their school systems at a pre-scheduled time slot on June 6 to engage in the non-instructional activity.

The simulation comes after thousands of students in February tried to log in only to find they faced glitches and error messages.

Aneeta Bhole



Ma slay rap in kid horror

A monster Bronx mom allegedly hung her 6-year-old daughter by her wrists and beat her to death — the final act in a long series of unspeakable child abuse in the “house of horrors.”

Lynija Eason, a 27-year-old resident of East 165th Street in Morrisania, is accused of brutally abusing her child, Jelayah Eason Branch (above), starting March 1.

Cops discovered the little girl’s body in the filthy apartment Sunday, the Bronx District Attorney’s Office said Tuesday.

The child was found with bruises and malnourished — with marks on her wrists from the restraints her mom allegedly used to hang her in a closet and beat her.

The city Medical Examiner’s Office ruled Jelayah’s death a result of child abuse, positional asphyxia, blunt force injuries and malnourishment, the DA’s Office said.

Eason has been charged with second-degree murder, first- and second-degree manslaughter and endangering the welfare of a child.

Steve Janoski

Actor’s mom rips LA killers

The mother of former “General Hospital” actor Johnny Wactor slammed his “evil” killers Tuesday, while calling her slain son a “hero” for shielding a female co-worker from the gunman.

“This person is evil,” Scarlett Wactor told the “Today” show of the gunman who shot her son dead just for his car’s catalytic converter.

“I think they are cowards. As a parent, you never expect to bury a child,” said the mom, who has been rewatching episodes of her son’s soap since his LA killing early Saturday.

Isabel Keane

BLAZING A TRAIL

By REUVEN FENTON
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

It’s been nearly eight years since FDNY hero Michael Fahy was killed in the line of duty, but he was not forgotten as the department promoted 63 of New York’s Bravest at a Randall’s Island ceremony Tuesday.

“Today is definitely with Mike,” newly anointed Deputy Assistant Chief Michael Wood told The Post. “He said, ‘There’s not a greater noble cause than to be a firefighter.’ So, ever since I heard him say that, it resonated with me and I try to live every day with that in the back of my head and try to do the right thing.”

Wood, 34, a FDNY veteran, joined dozens of other firefighters at the ceremony, including 32 promoted to lieutenant and 30 others to captain to help fill the department’s upper ranks.

“Leadership is obviously one of the greatest challenges and honors we can take on in any place, especially in the world’s greatest fire department,” Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh told them.

“Not only are you saying it was already enough to be physically brave, to put your life on the line, but you’ve decided to have moral courage and to lead those people that you love in this department, keep them safe every day,” she said.

‘In good times and bad’

“To be there for them in their good times in their bad times, to coach them, to make them a better team, to struggle through with them every day, the joys, the hopes, the difficulties of being a member of the New York City Fire Department, and that is the greatest gift of all and the greatest challenge of all.”

The promotions follow a tumultuous year that saw 10 top chiefs ask for demotions in the wake of Kavanagh’s shake-up in the department’s upper ranks.

An earlier promotion ceremony in March was marred by controversy when a group of pro-Trump attendees booed state Attorney Letitia James, who spoke at the event.

Bravest new brass recall fallen hero



BALL OF FIRE: The team from Truck 18 celebrates Brian Gitman’s promotion to FDNY lieutenant Tuesday.

But nothing marred Tuesday’s promotions. For Wood, assigned to Division 7 in The Bronx, it was about his fallen pal.

Fahy, 33, a firefighter whose father also served in the department, was killed in an explosion at a Bronx marijuana grow house in September 2016.

“You always are concerned about getting that phone call, and I remember getting that phone call that morning when Mike Fahy passed away,” Wood told The Post.

“I had worked with Mike two days before, so it really hits hard. Aside from 9/11, that was probably my darkest day. You try to learn from those and hope that we don’t have any more of those. It’s a dream that can’t be attained but at least it’s something I try to do every day.”

HONOR GUARD: Michael Wood dedicated his promotion to fallen friend Michael Fahy.



Woman stroller killed in Bx. hit-run

A pedestrian was killed Tuesday when a speeding car — clipped by another vehicle — slammed into her at a Bronx intersection in a caught-on-camera hit-and-run, police said.

The 30-year-old woman was crossing Washington Avenue at East 167th Street

at 6 p.m. when she noticed the blue Jeep SUV barreling toward her, video shows.

She paused in the center of the crosswalk and took a step backward as she watched a black Toyota RAV4 clip the Jeep.

The RAV4 hit the Jeep’s rear bumper, sending the

Jeep into a tailspin.

She was struck by the Jeep and violently thrown into a parked car.

The Jeep driver jumped out of the car and fled the scene, according to the NYPD.

Video shows three people emerge from the damaged

Jeep, with the driver pointing in the direction of where the pedestrian was struck.

He grabbed several items from the car and calmly walked away, according to the footage.

The RAV4 driver stayed at the scene.

The pedestrian, whose identity has not been revealed, was rushed to Lincoln Hospital, where she was pronounced dead, cops said.

It’s not clear which vehicle had the right of way or whether either drove through a red light.

Katherine Donlevy

ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

Gaza hostage vid: 'Patience' Amazon worker's plea

A terrorist group in Gaza released a hostage video on Tuesday of an Israeli Amazon employee who was kidnapped during Hamas' bloody Oct. 7 attacks — and has been held in the war-torn enclave ever since.

Sasha Troufanov, a 28-year-old computer engineer with the Tel Aviv-based microelectronics firm Annapurna Labs, an Amazon subsidiary, wore a black, white and red polo shirt in the video, which he addressed to the Israeli public and "all of the protesters," according to The Jerusalem Post.



Troufanov (right) — who is being held by Palestinian Islamic Jihad — added that "in the next few days, will hear the truth of what happened to me, as well as the other prisoners in Gaza."

He also asked people to "wait patiently," the outlet said.

"The proof of life from Alexander (Sasha) Trpfanov is additional evidence that the Israeli government must give a significant mandate to the negotiating team, which will be able to lead to a deal for the return of all the hostages — the living to rehabilitation and the murdered to burial," the Hostages & Missing Families Forum said in a statement after the video's release.

Troufanov was one of the roughly 250 people abducted by terrorists during Hamas' murderous attacks, which left

nearly 1,200 Israelis dead.

Amazon employees in Israel have hung signs, made T-shirts and held events in solidarity with Troufanov, but they are reportedly frustrated over management declining to issue any public statement about his abduction.

Troufanov's father, Vitali, a Russian immigrant to Israel, was killed.

Troufanov's mother, grandmother and girlfriend were freed by Hamas as part of an earlier truce between the group and the Israeli government six weeks after the attack.

After the carnage, Jewish employees at Amazon both in Israel and in its offices worldwide wanted to hang signs on company grounds marking the number of days Troufanov was being held in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip. *Steve Jankowski*

Fires, flares and smashed



\$3 MILLION

By CARL CAMPANILE

Anti-Israel criminals caused at least \$3 million in damage and the need for costly extra security at taxpayer-funded City College's campus in upper Manhattan during their violent protests there, officials say.

One protester who threw a flare that torched the roof of the City University of New York school's administration building caused \$350,000 worth of damage alone, said CUNY chief operating officer Hector Batista during recent testimony before the City Council.

Batista said the flare damage was particularly unfortunate because the City Council and the state previously provided capital funds to install a new roof.

"It's costing over \$3 million — money that should be going to our academic institution and lifting

up our students," Councilman Eric Dinowitz (D-Bronx), chairman of the council's Higher Education Committee, said in response to Batista's information.

"That's a real shame — CUNY's purpose is to uplift people, not tear down the institution," he said, noting the money could have been used to aid students in science, technology and math programs, college-prep programs or students needing child care.

Dozens of protesters were arrested, including many outside agitators who were not students, during the unrest over Israel's retaliatory response against Palestinian Hamas terrorists in Gaza.

Vandals at the school caused another \$250,000 in damage by breaking windows, chairs and other furniture in buildings, Batista said.

In addition, he reported upward of \$600,000 in damage caused by

demonstrators who spray-painted video surveillance cameras to avoid detection.

Dinowitz asked if it was accurate to say there was more than \$1 million worth of damage.

Emergency security

Batista said the cost was far higher when accounting for additional security measures that were taken to manage the protests.

"In total, I'd say we're upwards of \$3 million in spending," Battista said.

CUNY also entered into a \$4 million contract with Security Services Corp. to provide additional security guards at City College and other campuses.

It was unclear as of Tuesday how much has been drawn down from that contract.

"We felt we needed additional support for our public-safety offi-

Tanks in Rafah center

Israeli tanks were seen entering the center of Rafah on Tuesday as the Israel Defense Force's ground operation in the southern Gaza city entered its third week.

The tanks were reportedly spotted near the Al-Awda mosque, a central landmark, witnesses told Reuters.

The IDF confirmed that its operations in the area were ongoing, but did not comment on possible activities in the city center.

"Overnight, IDF troops operated on the Philadelphi Corridor while conducting precise operational activity based on intelligence indicating the presence of terror targets in the

area," the IDF said.

The Philadelphi Corridor is the Israeli name for the 8.7-mile strip that comprises the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

An Egyptian security guard was shot dead at the Gaza-Egypt border on Monday, though neither Egypt nor Israel confirmed if the shooting was the result of a scuffle between the two sides.

News that Israeli tanks were spotted in the Rafah city center coincided with reports that aid deliveries to the beleaguered region were temporarily suspended after the US-built pier in Gaza was damaged by rough seas. *Olivia Land, Wires*

property in anti-Israel riot



FIRE & FURY: The main gate of the City College of New York in upper Manhattan is besieged by protesters April 30, with the campus (left) now facing budget-straining repair and security costs.

MARAUDER TOLL: CCNY

cers,” CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos-Rodriguez explained.

Top CUNY brass, who were shown internal videos of the vandals and destruction at City College and briefed on the costs, said they were stunned by what they saw.

“People were making fires, breaking down doors. I couldn’t believe my eyes. It was unbelievable,” a CUNY official told The Post.

Mayor Adams’ executive budget proposes \$1.29 billion to CUNY, mostly covering costs to

the community colleges.

CUNY gets about an additional \$6 billion in outlays from the state budget.

NYPD reinforcements

Chancellor Matos-Rodriguez said he only called in the NYPD during the protests when he felt it was necessary to protect the campus community and property.

“My responsibility is to protect everyone on campus,” the chancellor said.

He said the police have had a

presence at City College after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel and the ongoing war in Gaza.

Batista said there were 175 “peaceful” protests at City College and only one of them got out of hand, emphasizing a proper balance was struck between free speech and campus safety.

City College, of course, was not alone.

Cops swooped in and made numerous arrests at Columbia University after vandals smashed their way in and seized historic Hamilton Hall on April 30.

Spencer Platt/Getty Images

US urging pals: Get off Iran’s back Nix nuke rebuke

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

The White House is begging Britain and France not to formally rebuke Iran over the theocracy’s growing nuclear program.

Administration officials have been pressuring the two allies and other European nations to vote against censuring Iran at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s board of governors next month, diplomats close to the discussions told The Wall Street Journal.

The US is also preparing to abstain from the IAEA vote, the diplomats added, with some suggesting censure could further destabilize Iran following the death of its president, Ebrahim Raisi, in a May 19 helicopter crash.

A State Department spokesperson told The Post that the administration has made “no decisions” about the meeting next month and “any speculation about decisions is premature.”

“We are increasing pressure on Iran through sanctions and international isolation as seen most recently in the coordinated G7 measures taken in the wake of Iran’s attack against Israel last month,” the spokesperson added. “We remain tightly coordinated with our E3 partners [France, Germany and the UK].”

Other Biden administration officials told the Journal that it was advocating for European nations to up their pressure on Iran by removing regime banks from their countries and designating the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist group.

In response to earlier reports of disagreement between the US and its allies

over the issue, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) said, “It is outrageous that this administration continues to undermine our allies’ efforts to hold Iran accountable for its ongoing [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons] violations. When is this administration going to wake up?”

The Obama administration relaxed sanctions on Iran in exchange for Tehran’s placement of limits on its nuclear program through a 2015 deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The Iran nuclear deal was scrapped by former President Donald Trump in 2018, and President Biden declared it “dead” in November 2022 despite efforts by his administration to revamp it.

Last month, the Biden administration extended a sanctions waiver that unlocked \$10 billion in frozen funds for the Iranian regime.

“As Iran inches towards a nuke, I can’t think of a more weak and dangerous response than lobbying our closest allies to ignore international efforts to hold the regime accountable.”

Under then-Secretary of State John Kerry, the Obama administration also blocked the FBI from arresting individuals linked to Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs, according to whistleblower disclosures revealed last week by Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ron Johnson (R-Wis.). Some of those named in the disclosures were “known terrorists” and traveled on US soil.

Michael Goodwin / P. 15

JUST DROP IT, DA



Push to nix biz man's rap in rob-shoot

Robert Mecca

FUROR: Backers of liquor store owner Francisco Valerio (bottom) call for dropping the charges for firing a gun at an alleged thief (inset).

By STEVE JANOSKI

Supporters are pushing the Queens district attorney to drop charges against a liquor store owner who shot a would-be thief last week — claiming the “unjust” rap threatens “his livelihood and freedom.”

A Change.org petition — which has received about 1,900 signatures since it was launched on Saturday — called merchant-turned-suspect Francisco Valerio, 53, a “beloved member of our Ridgewood and Brooklyn community.”

“If these charges are not dropped, he will stand trial, lose his business and potentially go to jail,” wrote Jana Vargas-Lora, the petition’s organizer. “We need 1,000 signatures to show our support and ask for these charges to be dismissed.”

There’s no indication Queens DA Melinda Katz will back off the charges. “We will follow the evidence

where it leads us and litigate this case, and every other, in a court of law,” a spokesperson for Katz told The Post.

Valerio, a father of two, is facing seven years in prison after shooting Kevin Pullutasi, 20, who along with an accomplice allegedly tried to steal bottles of liquor at Franja Wines and Liquors in Ridgewood last week.

Valerio and his brother, Luis, grabbed the pair after they allegedly saw them slipping the bottles under their jackets, according to cops and store surveillance footage.

The encounter spilled onto the Wyckoff Avenue pavement, and Pullutasi attacked the brothers just before Valerio stepped outside and took a wild swing with his right hand

— which held a handgun.

The pistol went off — and the bullet struck Pullutasi, according to a statement from the Queens District Attorney’s Office.

Authorities rushed him to Elmhurst Hospital Center, where he was listed in stable condition.

Many have come to Valerio’s defense in the days following the bloody confrontation.

‘Honorable man’

Neighbors have told The Post that Valerio and his brother are upstanding members of the community who take care of their customers and run a good business.

Representatives for the United Bodegas of America claimed Pullutasi had tried to rob Valerio’s store “numerous times.”

“We are threatened, robbed, assaulted and looted every day, and the bad guys get away with it,” union boss Radahmes Rodriguez said. “They are freed without bail

and nothing ever happens to them. When we fight back, we are jailed and in some cases prosecuted. This must stop.”

“We are once again asking DA Melinda Katz to drop the charges,” added UBA spokesman Fernando Mateo. “Mr. Valerio is an honorable man in society. This should not change his life.”

Many who signed the petition agreed. “This man should not go to jail. He was protecting his store and himself,” one person wrote. “This is not right. Are the two who try to steal going to jail or just getting a slap on the wrist? This is so unfair. You can’t even protect yourself anymore in this country.”

“Frank is a good man!” wrote another.

A third said he signed because Valerio is a “good, hard worker.”

“I know him for a long time, and I know his family,” the man wrote. “God bless him.”

Valerio is due back in court on July 29.



Ramming into boats a whale of a prank

A group of young orcas are ramming boats off Europe’s Atlantic coast, according to the International Whaling Commission.

For the past four years, a small band of the killer whales have slammed into nearly 700 vessels, causing some to sink, the commis-

sion says. A report from the group reveals the most probable reason why these ocean miscreants ram into boats at such an alarming rate: They’re teens goofing around.

“The sea is a very boring place for an animal,” researcher Renaud de Ste-

phanis, president of Spain’s Conservation, Information and Study of Cetaceans, told USA Today. “Imagine if you’re a dog or some other mammal, you can interact with objects around you. But in the sea there’s not much for the orcas to interact with, so they play with

the [boat] rudders.”

And since the young marine mammals “have time on their hands,” they’ve turned the act of jutting rudder pieces loose into an aquatic sport, said expert Alexandre Zerbini. “We think the orcas are getting something out of it, they are

enjoying what’s happening. They’re playing,” he said.

One way for boaters to address the problem is to drape stringy protuberances from their rudder, according to experts. It works because the strands resemble jellyfish, which orcas despise.

Alex Mitchell

Docs sour on ‘hyper’ sugar link

Scientists are unwrapping the myth that sugary foods and beverages lead to hyperactivity in kids.

For decades, people have been linking symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder to sugar consumption.

However, numerous studies have failed to find that sugar affects children’s attention span or behavior.

This is because it’s not the sugar impacting children, rather it may be how eating sugary treats impacts dopamine, the brain’s reward chemical, ScienceAlert explained. When the brain gets a reward, a sweet, for instance, a surge of dopamine is released in the brain.

ScienceAlert cited a 2022 study from Nature Communications that found mice who had a surge in dopamine were more physically active, as if they were given an amphetamine.

Kids may act more hyper when given candy because of the expectation of a reward, although the dopamine is less than if they were given an amphetamine or another psychostimulant.

While an excessive amount of sugar certainly isn’t healthy for your child, it won’t make them bounce off the walls, the new research says.

Alexandra Klausner

Ship patron fatal leap

A passenger died after jumping from the world’s largest cruise ship on the first night of a weeklong voyage, officials told The Post on Tuesday.

The unidentified man jumped from Royal Caribbean’s 1,200-foot-long Icon of the Seas, which holds nearly 10,000 people, soon after it left Florida for Honduras on Sunday morning, the Coast Guard said. “The cruise ship deployed one of their rescue boats, located the man and brought him back aboard,” it said.

He was in critical condition and later died, the agency said. David Propper and Isabel Keane



Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

EVER since Donald Trump launched his 2016 campaign, Democrats have argued that he is too weird in too many ways to be president. They let their Hollywood wing paint him as Crazy Orange Man and the Washington wing stoke fear about threats to democracy and the smashing of political norms.

These two wings merged Tuesday in the bizarre appearance of Robert De Niro. Once a great actor, De Niro has become an unhinged Trump hater and his denunciation of the former president alternately as a “clown” and a “tyrant” amounted to little more than a pip squeaking.

Except for one fact: De Niro didn't show up on his own accord outside the lower Manhattan courthouse where Trump is on trial.

He was sent by Joe Biden's campaign team as its representative. The juvenile speech he read presumably was written by or approved by the White House.

And they say Trump is weird?

When a has-been actor is your top surrogate, somebody in the White House is panicking.

Election 'anxiety'

In fact, there is nothing normal about Joe Biden or his misbegotten presidency, despite what he and the media would have you believe. Finally, the pressure of facts is demolishing the manufactured patina of character and competence.

The De Niro performance came on the same day that Politico chronicled a “freakout” among party leaders who believe Biden is headed for defeat.

“Anxiety has morphed into palpable trepidation, according to more than a dozen party leaders and operatives,” the outlet reports. “And the gap between what Democrats will say on TV or in print, and what they'll text their friends, has only grown as worries have surged about Biden's prospects.”

This is a sensible reaction, but what took them so long? The Biden presidency has been a disaster for more than three years and the brains behind it are just now waking up?

Chief among their ideas was to persecute, or prosecute, Trump to keep him off the campaign trail and potentially put him in prison. Superficially, it has succeeded as he's stuck in a Manhattan courtroom most days and subject to a nonstop barrage of indictments and critical press coverage.

The only hitch is that the legal jihad has backfired politically. It's made Trump more popular as the four criminal cases are so deeply flawed that it's obvious they

And Joe thinks Don is mad?!



OUTRAGE: Iranians protest against the United States and burn American flags — while President Biden still tries to convince himself the smart play is to be chummy with the Islamic republic.

Morteza Nikoubaz/NurPhoto/Shutterstock

Turning the page

Last August, I published a letter from reader Marvin Levine that read in part: “I believe Donald Trump is the biggest a--hole that walks the earth . . . I think his supporters have a screw loose” and “the sane people left in the country should do everything possible to keep him out of the White House.”

Levine now writes again, starting with “Mea culpa” and adds: “While I am still not a big fan of Trump, the last year has been such a disaster that we will not survive another four years of Biden's leadership. The border, the Trump persecutions, the economy and his deteriorating mental and physical state leave us no choice.”

wouldn't exist except for partisanship.

That's not just abnormal — it's unprecedented in American history.

Yet bad ideas are hard to kill and the artifice that Biden is normal and Trump is abnormal lives on. The New York Times, a mouthpiece of Dem thinking, actually adopted that formula in a comparison of the candidates' Memorial Day statements.

Both talked about the cost of freedom, but Trump added a second statement full of vitriol aimed at the judges presiding over his cases.

The Times called the second statement a “reminder of the stark differences” between the men and added: “Mr. Trump showed that he would not be held to the norms of behavior that guide the nation's leaders on a

Wrong, Harvard!

Harvard used to be a synonym for smart, but its pledge to stay silent on issues that don't affect its core function is dopey.

The problem isn't that former President Claudine Gay spoke up about campus antisemitism. It's what she said that got her fired and threw Harvard into turmoil.

By trying to hide behind “it depends on the context,” Gay greenlighted the harassment of Jewish students.

Calling out the difference between right and wrong isn't optional. It's central to the mission of higher education.

Harvard used to know that.

somber national holiday.”

Fair enough — if holiday statements are the only measure. But here are a few things the Gray Lady leaves out of its calculations about “the norms of behavior.”

The Wall Street Journal reports that the Biden White House is pressuring “European allies to back off plans to rebuke Iran for advances in its nuclear program.”

Some of those allies believe the administration doesn't want to do anything to cause trouble with Iran before the US election.

Is that a “norm” of behavior — to delay confronting Iran just to give a false impression of peace until the election? That sounds more like election fraud than anything Trump has done.

Condolences to Iran

The same question applies to the United States expressing “its official condolences” to Iran after its president, Ebrahim Raisi, died in a helicopter crash. There's nothing normal about mourning a man known as the “Butcher of Tehran.”

This is not the first time Biden has coddled Iran. He refuses to hold the murderous mullahs accountable for the Hamas invasion of Israel, deciding to see no evil lest it destroy his preferred view of Iran as a stabilizing force.

He also ignores Iran's role in the daily rocket and missile attacks against Israel by Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen. As with Hamas, both groups are financed and directed by Tehran.

Similarly, his initial support of Israel declined when Muslim-American voters in swing states said they would boycott his re-election campaign. Almost immediately, Biden turned up the heat on Israel.

Is it normal for a president to betray an ally during a war it didn't start in a desperate bid to win the support of voters, many of whom are open antisemites?

There's a whole host of norms the president violates involving his son. While Hunter Biden was being investigated by the Department of Justice, whose leaders report directly to the president, Biden had the habit of saying publicly, “my son did nothing wrong.”

He also invited his son to White House functions where the Attorney General was present. It happened again over the Memorial Day weekend, despite White House aides grumbling about the “appearance.”

Also over the weekend, The Post reported that Biden visited the home of Hallie Biden, the widow of his son, Beau, and later Hunter's lover. She is scheduled to testify in Hunter's illegal gun purchase trial, which begins next week, so there's nothing even close to normal about the visit.

If Trump did that, the Times would accuse him of witness tampering. When Biden does it, crickets.

The point is clear: normal is whatever Biden does, and abnormal is whatever Trump does. Everything else is detail.

Another liar eyes Congress

Page Six

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Row your beau?

MARY-KATE Olsen and **Sean Avery** have sparked dating rumors after being spotted in the Hamptons over Memorial Day weekend. The actress turned fashion designer and retired wildman Rangers player stopped by her and sister **Ashley's** latest retail store for their label the Row in Amagansett (right). They were later seen hanging with Bravo honcho **Andy Cohen**. Olsen, 37, and Avery, 44, were briefly linked in 2007 and have remained friends. "Full House" star Olsen finalized her divorce from **Olivier Sarkozy** in 2021, while Avery's ex, model **Hilary Rhoda**, filed for divorce in July 2022. Last year, she was granted a restraining order against him and was awarded full custody of their 3-year-old son.



Bird in the sky

AMANDA Lee, the first female Blue Angels pilot, tells Page Six she's never been sick in the cockpit. Featured in the Prime Video documentary "The Blue Angels," the Navy lieutenant (above) also shared with us that she's never experienced any sexism while serving Uncle Sam. "I think I've been really fortunate with the day and age that we are in now that I have not had to overcome any obstacles," she explained, before noting, "I owe it to prior generations that really had to go through some hard stuff to make this opportunity available to me."

AS **Donald Trump's** hush money trial in Manhattan wraps up, his former fixer **Michael Cohen** made a big bang in the Hamptons over Memorial Day weekend.

Multiple sources said that Cohen was claiming his next step is to hatch a run for Congress and that he's planning a new book.

One insider said the disbarred lawyer was like a "walking reality show" as he hit a series of parties and hot spots over the weekend, and that he was mobbed.

Cohen — the prosecution's key witness in the case against Trump — was branded as "the GLOAT" in court yesterday. "He's literally the greatest liar of all time," Trump's attorney told

jurors in his closing arguments.

But in the Hamptons over the weekend, Cohen was the talk of the town. A spy told us that the ex-con was spotted grabbing lunch at 75 Main "three days in a row," and that he was overheard saying he "wants to run for Congress." Also at the Southampton power spot was Nassau County Executive (and Trump supporter) **Bruce Blakeman**, we hear.

Apparently, at one Hamptons party, a New York socialite was overheard telling Cohen of his political aspirations, "If you run, I will be your first massive check . . . I could raise you millions."

On Friday night, Cohen was spotted at Bistro

Été in Water Mill, where he was greeted by **Jimmy Fallon**, who was dining with his wife.

We hear Cohen was spotted at Le Bilboquet in Sag Harbor on Saturday, where other guests included real estate mogul **Howard Lorber** and Fanatics founder **Michael Rubin**.

Another source told us that over the holiday weekend, "Cohen was strutting confidently around the Hamptons as if he were the biggest star." The source added, "Cohen hinted he'd be writing another book, once the trial has been decided, from his point of view." The source hypothesized, "Cohen is clearly enjoying every minute of his fame, and infamy, now that he's off the stand."

Beauty plus Braun

DIVISIVE music exec **Scotter Braun** is dating "Firefly Lane" actress **Rachelle Goulding**, Page Six hears. As we first reported, Braun — the man who's responsible for discovering **Justin Bieber** and went on to manage **Ariana Grande** and famously feud with **Taylor Swift** — split with his wife of seven years, **Yael Cohen**, in 2021. Now we're told he's in a somewhat serious relationship with the actress, who previously dated "Gossip Girl" star **Chace Crawford** around 2013. As well as appearing in "NCIS" and the "Lethal Weapon" TV series, Canadian Goulding, 38, has also had a modeling career, appearing in campaigns for Elizabeth Arden and Axe, among others. Page Six spies say they've been together for "a few months" and recently took a trip to Napa, Calif., together. Braun, 42, has three kids with Cohen.

Hamping at the bit

THE Hamptons saw stars over Memorial Day weekend. **50 Cent** performed at Surf Lodge in Montauk, where guests included **Liev Schreiber**, newly single Sports Illustrated Swimsuit model **Brooks Nader** and newlyweds **Millie Bobby Brown** and **Jake Bongiovi**. We're told the rapper's bubbly Le Chemin du Roi was flowing during his surprise set. The "Stranger Things" actress and **Jon Bon Jovi's** son were also perusing the racks of Alice + Olivia in East Hampton. At Bounce in Montauk, "Vanderpump Rules" star **James Kennedy's** DJ show had him on top of the bar pouring Champagne into guests' mouths. (We hear Kennedy, who is sober, did not drink, but he did FaceTime his co-star girlfriend **Ally Lewber** during the set.) Meanwhile, **Luann de Lesseps** chilled at Sunset Beach in Shelter Island Heights.

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Elder Ordonez/Splash News

Get him some warp speed to play Kirk

WILLIAM Shatner exclusively told The Post what it would take for him to return for another "Star Trek" project. "An injection of speed or something," the actor, 93, said with a laugh while promoting his children's album "Where Will the Animals Sleep? — Songs for Kids and Other Living Things." "I don't know," he added. "It's a commitment I don't know if I'm ready to make at this point in my life." Shatner, who played Capt. James T. Kirk in the

original run of the sci-fi series from 1966 to 1969 and in several "Star Trek" films, told The Post's **Eric Todisco** and **Stephanie Webber**: "What I loved most about playing Capt. Kirk was the writing. The way they wrote for the character was wonderful. It was a real kick, a real joy to try and find ways of playing what they wrote for me." But he said his own grandkids aren't Trekkies. "I'm not a prophet in my own life. Just grandpa. Pops," he quipped.

Sightings

BRAD Pitt, **Nick Jonas** and legal eagle **Arthur Aidala** among Boss fans at **Bruce Springsteen's** concert in Dublin . . . **BROOKE Shields** and daughter **Grier Henchy** at the Hope for Depression Research Foundation's Teen Race of Hope . . . **CANDACE Bushnell** introducing honoree **Peter Thomas Roth** at the Luisa Diaz Foundation gala . . . **CHRISTY Cashman** accepting an Independent Book Publishers Association award for her novel "The Truth About Horses."



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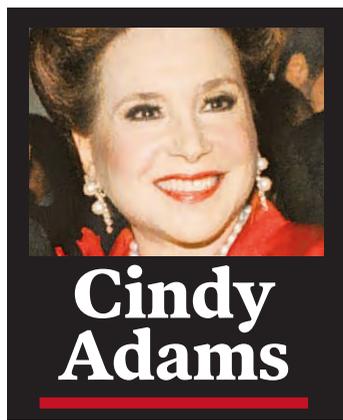
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ANGLE_REAL_ESTATE

We're all 'Mad' for Anya



Cindy Adams

PHOTOS of **Anya Taylor-Joy's** assorted parts have now suddenly bobbed everywhere. And everyone's had joy seeing almost all of Anya Taylor-Joy's joy. She's now road-running in "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga," which is an Aussie Outback with **Chris Hemsworth** whose many assorted parts we've already seen.

Director **George Miller**: "Anya can do anything. Difficult role. The character is iconic. And Hemsworth is a showman marauder across the wasteland like Genghis Khan. They're like 'Westerns on wheels.'" Yeah, OK. Go see this largest

thing the country's ever ground out. Hop a Harley.

Raising the bar

GRAB a bus that's chugging East. Avoid the new lifeguards and aging sharks. Schlep to Shelter Island's Ram's Head Inn. Order a vodka. *But* know that its warm summertime room temperature vodka tab now comes with a separate charge — another bill. It arrives at the same time — extra, additional. It's for the ice. And the twist!

The bread's still free. Not yet clear on whether you have to rent the table.

Roominating

ANOTHER of our area's charms: This from one of our major Realtors. Right now there's 40,000 (that's the actual number) unused empty NYC apartments.

Also, per some lawmaker ruling, you cannot dislodge a stranger squatter. Even one you never met, didn't invite, don't want. Our courts are clogged. To remove a squatter can take forever. Besides expense — you can also lose the case. Recouping



Warner Bros.

There's no escape from ubiquitous "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" actress **Anya Taylor-Joy**.

that financial layout? Forget it. To update and rent the place? Costly to modify a longtime un-repaired space. Fixing's endless. So's recouping that expenditure.

Thus, despite homelessness, migrants and squatters, 40,000 stay empty. And while others pay staggering rents, NYC squatters squat free.

Call 'n' response

ANOTHER business story: **Jeff Bezos** grouped together his execs. All held official reports showing their Help Desk took — on average — only three rings to answer.

So in front of them all, he put the phone on speaker and called the Help Desk. Took 10 minutes to an-

swer. Case closed. *Not* closed — said one of our world's most successful business leaders as he related this. And these are Bezos' words echoed by the person relating the story: "Gossip is a most important function in today's world."

Added: "Jeff Bezos is a brilliant businessman." Omitted was that for 100% I must be too, because I deal in gossip.

Family dining

1959, I visited Delmonico's. Besides steak it had Rockefeller's, Vanderbilts, a Whitney or two, and a few pounds of du Ponts. This week it was Delmonico relative **Max Tucci's** Tucci in Noho, which grabs Tischs, **Clive Davis**, a **Cardi B** or two and a few pounds of the city's elite mixed with nostalgia. Try it. You'll love it. And everyone — clothed. Nothing hung out except what was on the plate.

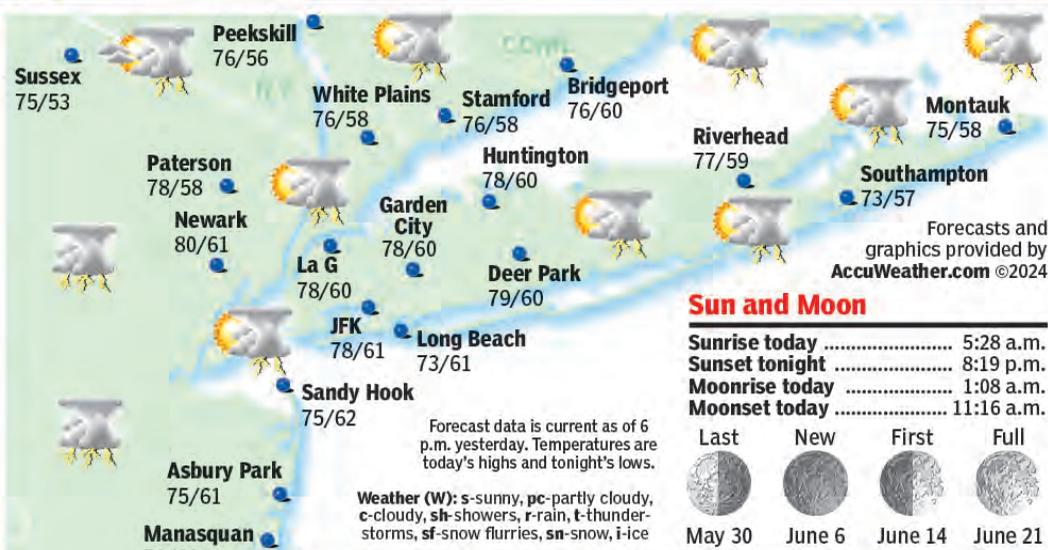
RUMOR. It's warming up between the royals in Britain. **Meghan Markle** sent word for **Camilla** to knock off the formalities and that Her Majesty the Queen no longer needs to curtsy to her.

Only in London, kids, only in London.

Post Weather Report

Wednesday
Today: A stray t-storm this afternoon. High 74 to 80.
Tonight: A few showers this evening. Low 56 to 62.
Friday: Partly sunny. High 71 to 77.
Evening: Clear. Low 57 to 63.

Thursday
Tomorrow: Partly sunny with a passing shower. High 68 to 74.
Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 53 to 59.
Saturday: Sun, some clouds. High 75 to 81.
Evening: Partly cloudy. Low 58 to 64.



AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

New York Tides	TODAY	TOMORROW
High Tide for	1st 2nd	1st 2nd
Coney Island	12:32a 1:18p	1:31a 2:14p
Fire Island	12:47a 1:15p	1:39a 2:13p
Hempstead	4:02a 4:43p	5:05a 5:47p
Huntington	4:10a 4:49p	5:10a 5:49p
Jones Inlet	12:16a 1:02p	1:15a 1:58p
Montauk Point	1:53a 2:39p	2:47a 3:37p
Port Washington	3:59a 4:41p	5:03a 5:46p
Sandy Hook	12:36a 1:22p	1:35a 2:18p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	74/53/sh	71/49/pc
Danbury	75/57/t	70/47/sh
Glens Falls	71/46/sh	70/42/pc
Gr Barrington	75/51/pc	71/43/pc
Kingston	73/53/t	74/45/pc
Liberty	69/48/t	68/45/pc
Monticello	69/47/t	68/44/pc
Newburgh	76/54/t	74/48/pc
Poughkeepsie	76/53/t	74/47/pc
Saratoga Springs	72/50/sh	72/43/pc
Stroudsburg	73/51/t	73/47/pc
Torrington	76/54/t	70/48/sh
Syracuse	69/49/pc	68/50/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	80/63/c	79/63/s
Baghdad	108/82/pc	114/83/pc
Beijing	85/67/c	94/66/pc
Berlin	71/55/c	68/54/r
Cairo	87/68/s	89/69/s
Dublin	65/49/pc	63/45/sh
Geneva	67/56/c	68/51/r
Hong Kong	82/76/c	84/79/r
Jerusalem	79/57/s	79/57/s
Kabul	81/50/s	81/52/s
London	68/52/pc	64/51/sh
Madrid	91/65/s	90/59/s
Mexico City	82/59/c	84/58/c
Montreal	69/51/c	73/52/pc
Moscow	81/63/s	82/62/pc
Paris	63/52/r	63/51/r
Rio de Janeiro	75/67/r	76/67/c
Rome	75/59/pc	76/65/c
Sydney	72/51/pc	75/61/pc
Tokyo	80/64/c	83/65/c

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

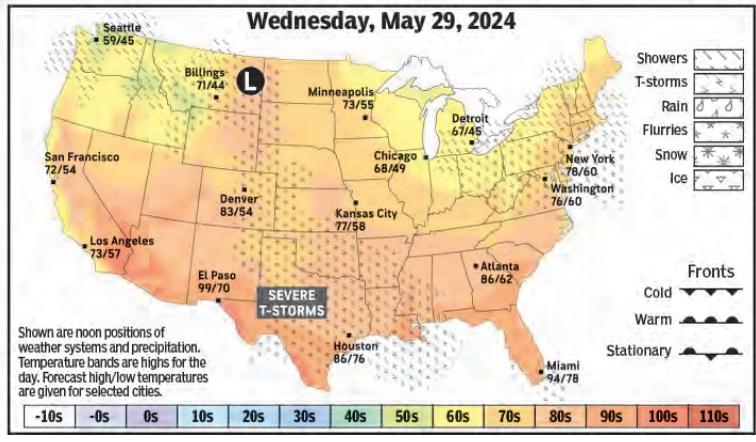
Temperature
High: 79, Low: 67, Mean: 73

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +7 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 3.28", Year: 23.14", Normal year to date: 18.87"

Cooling Degree days yesterday8
Total for the month (normal)86 (55)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)105 (69)
Last year to date82
Heat Index (at noon yest.)76
UV index (for Wed.)10 (Very High)
Air Quality (at noon)49%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Oak, Mulberry, Sycamore
AQI rating: (for Wed.) Good



POL BLOCKS COHEN'S BET

Says no deal on Qns. casino

By CARL CAMPANILE,
VAUGHN GOLDEN
and JOSH KOSMAN

A Queens Democratic lawmaker is getting in the way of Mets owner Steve Cohen's bid to build a casino next to Citi Field.

State Sen. Jessica Ramos, who represents the Flushing-Corona area where Cohen wants to erect an \$8 billion "Metropolitan Park" casino-entertainment complex, says she will not introduce legislation allowing the billionaire baseball owner to obtain a permit needed for his project to go forward.

'Green space'

Cohen and his proposed-casino partner, Hard Rock, need a state law enacted to redesignate the lots around Citi Field from parkland to entertainment use.

"I will not introduce legislation to alienate parkland in Corona for the purposes of a casino," Ramos said Tuesday.

She said her constituents are "desperate for green space, and recreation for the whole family," not gambling.

"We disagree on the premise that we have to accept a casino in our backyard as the trade-off. I resent the conditions and the generations of neglect that have made many of us so desperate that we would be willing to settle,"



SEN. JESSICA RAMOS
Throws curveball.

the Queens lawmaker said.

Without the rezoning, Cohen's project can't even get into the batter's box for consideration by state regulators, who are fielding his city casino bid and a host of others.

Theoretically, another state senator could introduce the bill to aid Cohen's plan. But lawmakers are reluctant to big-foot a colleague on a project important in his or her district, and it would be rare to do so, sources said.

A proposed redesignation bill has been introduced in the state Assembly, but needs to travel the same course in the state Senate, too.

Nearly a dozen different bidders are vying for three state casino licenses to operate in or around the city.

Site selection and licenses are expected to be awarded by the end of 2025, so Cohen has some

time to lift the odds — but not much.

"Mr. Cohen and Hard Rock would still make a profit, albeit less," Ramos acknowledged in her statement.

"Mr. Cohen and his team have often declared their love for our community and said they recognize our potential. Finding a path forward would be a good way to show it."

Some support

Ramos' opposition to a casino is a setback for Cohen, who has spent millions on a lobbying and a charm offensive and whose foundation recently donated \$116 million to CUNY's La Guardia Community College.

His casino project has won support from other key Queens politicians, including Borough President Donovan Richards and City Councilman Francisco Moya, who also represents the area.

Cohen's camp is vowing not to give up on the project, while arguing Ramos should not have sole veto power over it.

"While we respect Senator Ramos's point of view, the state never intended any one person to have the ability to single-handedly stop or approve a gaming project," said Karl Rickett, a spokesman for Metropolitan Park-Cohen, in an e-mail to The Post.

Rage at B'klyn slay-suicide

Shocked neighbors reacted Tuesday to the ghastly murder-suicide that left a Brooklyn man and his girlfriend dead — with one dazed relative railing to the deceased killer, "I f--king hate you."

Teddy Knight and Tanezia Blockwood, of Midwood, had always had a loud, stormy relationship, neighbors told The Post on Wednesday.

But Knight, 35, took it to another level Monday when he allegedly put two bullets in the mother of his kids, then stomped on her face, according to his mom, Norma Knight.

"I think I'm still processing it," a 26-year-old neighbor told The Post. "This is literally a state of shock for me. You never know what people

are going through on a daily basis... everyone I've spoken to in the building is in a state of shock."

Another neighbor — whose apartment shares a wall with the deceased couple's home — said she would hear arguments from time to time but that they "didn't go on for long." *Georgett Roberts and Steve Janoski*

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'Brightest' guy on Wall Street

Not just one color of money.

By NADINE DENINNO

On Wall Street, where pressed collars, Patagonia vests and brown loafers reign supreme, Wedbush Securities' Dan Ives stands out.

While some may still imagine the Financial District's best dressed as a Gucciclad Gordon Gekko clone, it's a new Wall Street — and this globally known tech analyst is the rising style stock to bet on.

Ives, 49, shuns "cookie cutter" suits that have become synonymous with the stock exchange and instead chooses neon sport coats, vests and trousers.

Colorful guy

Every day, the perma-bull — that's a strictly bullish analyst — opts for colorful outfits and sneakers over bland corporate garb. "When I go in my closet, it's just there's no rhyme or reason," he told *The Post*.

"My style makes me feel good in a stressful job, talking stocks and dealing with clients and billions of dollars."

You could say he's bullish for brights. "I love color. I don't really have a plain piece of clothing," he said. "I was in Sydney a month ago. The cab driver recognized me and asked me about my sports jacket."

The same happened in Paris when a stranger approached him in a coffee shop, confessing that "they now wear colorful sports jackets because they watch me" — and plenty of others



ask where he gets his duds, now that they're feeling brave enough to wear color. Ives — who rose to prominence for being bullish on Big Tech coming out of the financial crisis — has become a fashion legend online, where fintech fanatics and stock pros share his outfit-of-the-day pics and comment on his vibrant attire.

On X, he's been dubbed "best-dressed analyst," "dapper Dan," "director of vibes," "the GOAT of fashion," and, in adoring hyperbole, "the most stylish man in the US."

'Clashing is what I do'

He's been dressing in vivid hues since the '90s but became something of an icon during the pandemic when "so many people were watching financial media" on TV.

"What you've seen with Dan, investments, advice and guidance have changed in large part because of social media," said Brian Sozzi, Yahoo finance executive editor.

In the Westfield, NJ, dad's closet, you won't find any powder blue Winchester shirts with contrast collar cuffs, but rather a technicolor doughnut shirt — one of his favorites — that he often pairs with wild printed sailboat pants.

"Clashing is what I do most of the time, unintentionally," he said. "My wife would be, like, 'No person should ever walk outside the house looking like that,' and I almost find that as a compliment."

HUE THE MAN: Wall Street whiz Dan Ives stands out in the Financial District for his colorful attire.



NY Post: Tamara Beckwith

'Stab' in scuffle at bakery

The manager of a 24-hour Times Square bakery was stabbed Monday during a scuffle with a knife-wielding nut, according to police.

Thomas Montice, 30, who has been busted before for brawling with other Big Apple retailers, got into it again after walking out of NY Bakery and Desserts on Broadway near West 47th Street around 9:15 p.m., cops said.

Police said Montice flew into a rage when the employee asked him to return a chair — and got into a drag-out fight on the sidewalk, police said.

"He was bothering people and trying to get our chair," bakery owner Eyup Bayindir said Tuesday. "He was a problem. The manager did what he was supposed to do."

"He didn't stab him to give him a little injury," Bayindir said of Montice. "He basically stabbed him to death ... It was attempted murder."

Police said Montice allegedly slugged the employee in the face and the two men wrestled on the ground — then the victim felt like he had been stabbed.

Seeing the blood, the employee ran back into the bakery and told Bayindir to call 911. He was rushed to the hospital and listed in stable condition, cops said. Montice, of Harlem, was busted at the scene. *Amanda Woods*

Girl, 15, dies in accident

A 15-year-old girl died Tuesday when a Honda Pilot clipped the back of the scooter she was riding on in The Bronx — in an accident that also grievously wounded the scooter's teenage driver.

Cops found the two scooter-borne teens unconscious and unresponsive with severe trauma to their heads and bodies when they got to the crash site around noon and the young girl could not be saved, cops said.

The scooter driver, 19, was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital in critical condition.

The 22-year-old Honda driver stayed at the scene and was not facing charges as of Tuesday. *Amanda Woods*



KAPUT: “Survivor: China” sweethearts Erik and Jaime Huffman are divorcing.

Reality-TV union no ‘survivor’

A reality-TV marriage between “Survivor: China” sweethearts is ending in an ugly divorce, with allegations of attempted spousal rape, domestic violence and cheating.

Jaime Huffman, 38, filed for divorce from spouse Erik Huffman, 43, last week in South Carolina alleging he began drinking heavily and flew into uncontrollable rages.

In one allegation, Jaime — who met Erik on the show in 2007 and married him two years later — said she once found flirtatious messages from other men on his phone.

When she confronted him, she alleges, he flew into a rage and began screaming, “How dare you accuse me of being gay, you stupid b---h?”

She then alleges Erik attempted to have sex with her against her will.

The couple have been separated since a Jan. 23 incident in a gas station parking lot that led to Erik being charged with domestic violence.

Steve Helling

Disney sued for ride injury

A 25-year-old woman is suing Walt Disney parks, claiming she lost consciousness and was left “coughing up blood” from a brain injury while riding a slide at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon water park.

Laura Reyes-Merino says she went unconscious on May 11 after “banging inside the ride” on Humunga Kowabunga, a 60-degree angle, 214-foot downhill and enclosed water slide at the Orlando park, Fox 35 reported.

She is suing Walt Disney parks and resorts for a minimum of \$50,000 in damages.

Isabel Keane

A GATES BASHER



SHOT ACROSS THE BOW:

In a New York Times op-ed, Melinda French Gates (left) bemoaned the lack of charitable support for women’s rights by the foundation she started with her now ex-husband Bill (right).



Melinda hits Bill charity’s gal di\$\$

By THOMAS BARRABI

Melinda French Gates took a thinly veiled shot at former husband Bill Gates, lamenting a “frustrating and shortsighted” lack of charitable support for women’s rights in an incendiary essay Tuesday.

French Gates — who received \$12.5 billion after her shock exit last month from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation — said her new charity will donate \$1 billion over the next two years to causes benefiting women, family and reproductive rights.

She suggested that it was a cause she was discouraged from pursuing earlier when she was partnered with the Microsoft founder and world’s fifth-richest man, whom she divorced in 2021.

“In nearly 20 years as an advocate for women and girls, I have learned that there will always be people who say it’s not the right time to talk about gender equality,” French Gates said in an op-ed published by The New York Times.

“Not if you want to be relevant. Not if you want to be effective with world leaders (most of them men),” French Gates wrote. “The second the global agenda gets crowded, women and girls fall off. It’s frustrating and shortsighted.”

‘Filling the void’

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has donated \$77 billion since it was founded in 2000.

In 2021, the organization committed \$2.1 billion “to advance gender equality globally,” according to a

release at the time.

But she hammered away at the overall lack of funds targeting women.

“Only about 2 percent of charitable giving in the United States goes to organizations focused on women and girls, and only about half a percentage point goes to organizations focused on women of color specifically,” she wrote.

“When we allow this cause to go so chronically underfunded, we all pay the cost. As shocking as it is to contemplate, my 1-year-old granddaughter may grow up with fewer rights than I had,” she added.

French Gates — who split with the tech mogul shortly after reports tied him to convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein — also revealed specifics about how her newly formed charitable group Pivotal Venture plans to fill the funding void.

The \$1 billion in funding through 2026 includes \$200 million in grants for groups “working in the United States to protect the rights of women and advance their power and influence,” according to her essay and a release from her organization.

‘Changing of the guard’

Bill Gates will serve as the sole chairperson of his charitable organization following his ex-wife’s exit. The organization will change its name to the Gates Foundation.

“I am sorry to see Melinda leave, but I am sure she will have a huge impact in her future philanthropic work,” Gates said in a post on X.

tbarabi@nypost.com

'Ghost gun' daddy

Test-fired them in Central Park

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

A Harlem father allegedly built ghost guns in the apartment he shared with his children — and test-fired the dangerous weapons in Central Park, according to prosecutors.

Roberto Guerrero, 29, was indicted Tuesday for allegedly manufacturing a cache of weapons using a 3D printer and advertising them online via self-made videos, according to the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

The NYPD descended on Guerrero's home shortly after 6 a.m. on May 20 and

found the trove of unsecured ghost guns and parts stashed throughout the apartment, including some in cardboard boxes and bags, prosecutors said.

"As alleged, Roberto Guerrero threatened the safety of all New Yorkers, including his own children, when he decided to manufacture and store 3D-printed weapons — some of which were fully operable — in his home," Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a statement.

Investigators recovered a 3D-printed pistol with a magazine loaded with

seven rounds of ammunition; a 3D-printed assault weapon-style pistol; 30 3D-printed pistol lower receivers — including one modeled off a traditional AR-15 — and a large-capacity ammunition-feeding device, as well as other supplies like filament and other tools to assemble weapons.

Prosecutors allege Guerrero has been making the weapons since September



HOME WORK: Allegedly made with 3D printer in home with kids around.

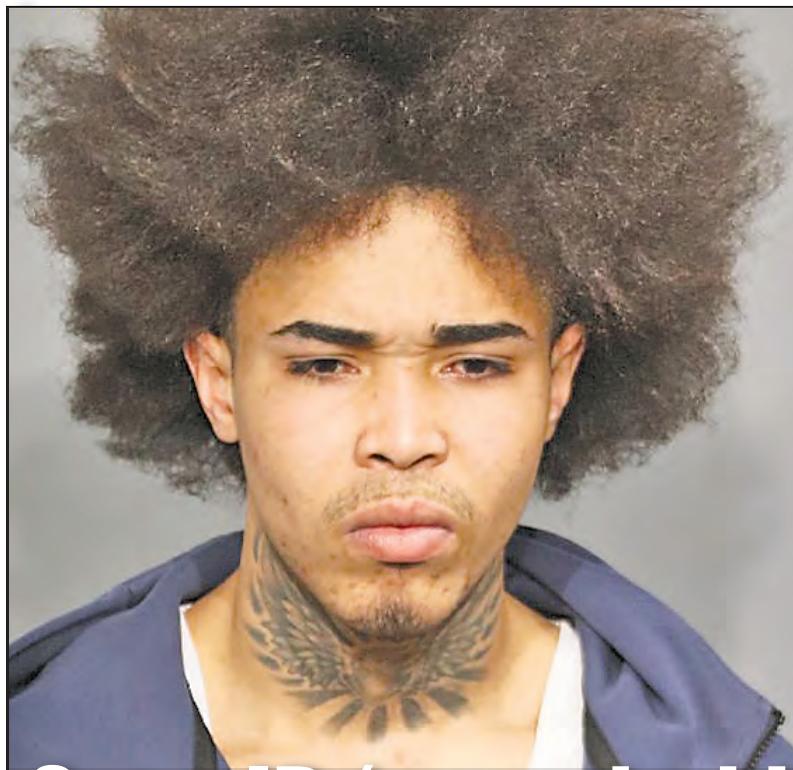
2023 and has been peddling the illegal firearms through several online retailers under various aliases.

He would allegedly advertise his designs through self-produced videos — including five clips he filmed of himself shooting the guns in Central Park.

According to prosecutors, Guerrero's wife was involved in the ghost-gun operation and was charged separately for allegedly assisting with the manufacturing.

Their children witnessed cops go through the home and arrest the couple.

Guerrero has been charged with criminal possession of a weapon; manufacturing and transporting weapons, and criminal possession of a firearm, all felonies.



Cops ID 'spray jerk'

A tattooed man has been identified as part of a crew wanted for unleashing a fire extinguisher on an NYPD traffic enforcement agent in the caught-on-video prank, authorities said.

Escarlin Polanco Gonzalez, 19, pictured in an NYPD mug shot released Monday night with a distinct neck tattoo, has been linked to the Thursday crime at St. Nicholas Avenue and West 118th Street in Harlem, which sent the agent to the hospital with an eye injury, cops said.

Footage posted to Instagram

shows the 43-year-old uniformed agent driving a marked NYPD cruiser at around 6:50 a.m. when a gray four-door sedan carrying four people pulls up next to him.

A front-seat passenger in the sedan holds a fire extinguisher in his lap.

He then yells "Yo!" at the agent and sprays into the cop car's open window while his cohorts can be heard laughing.

The officer was taken to Mount Sinai Morningside, where he was listed in stable condition.

Joe Marino and Amanda Woods



2-wheel terror hits cop

A dirt-bike rider rammed into an NYPD cop who tried to boot him and two other cyclists out of Central Park last week, police said.

The officer was riding a marked police scooter and attempting to escort the three riders out of the West Drive and West 90th Street area just after 4 p.m. Friday, police said.

That's when one of the motorists (above) turned aggressive and struck the cop with his bike, police said.

The officer was taken to Mount Sinai Morningside with minor injuries, authorities said.

The NYPD released photos late Monday of the three suspects: one on a red bike, another on a white one and a third pedaling a dark-colored one.

All three were wearing helmets.

They were described as having medium complexions and medium builds.

They had not been caught by Tuesday. Amanda Woods

B'klyn DWI-vic health pro in dire condition

A promising health professional was critically injured in Brooklyn over the weekend when a drunken driver plowed into her car while fleeing cops, police allege.

The wreck happened at around 5:30 a.m. Sunday, when Juan Lopez, 32, who was behind the wheel of a Mercedes, blew a red light while fleeing cops trying to

conduct a traffic stop in Bushwick, police said.

He then slammed into a Honda Pilot, propelling back-seat passenger Micah Dukes, 29, from the car, cops said. She was rushed to the Elmhurst Hospital Center and is listed in critical condition.

After ramming the Honda on Central Avenue near Gates Ave-

nue, Lopez lost control of his ride and mounted the sidewalk, cops said. He was busted at the scene.

Lopez was hospitalized in stable condition, cops said. The driver and two other passengers in the Honda were unhurt, cops said.

Dukes, from Albany, attended Hudson Valley Community Col-

lege, where she studied Community Health Navigation and graduated in May 2023 with an Associate of Applied Science, according to a spokeswoman for the school.

During her senior year at Hudson Valley, Dukes also recently completed a four-month internship with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County,

an educational center focusing on health and other areas, according to an online profile.

"I knew coming into this program that I wanted to help people," she says in the profile. "I wanted to work with marginalized communities, people dealing with mental health issues, low income, people of color."

Amanda Woods

Olivia reins over beach

Rocking a Vuori Clothing ivy bikini, superstar gymnast Olivia Dunne horses around on the beach at Los Cabos, Mexico, over the weekend. “The horse’s name was Friday,” Dunne wrote in her Instagram caption.



Olivia Dunne/Instagram

VOW TO SHUT UP & STUDY

Harvard goes quiet

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

Harvard University announced Tuesday that it will stay silent on public matters that do not directly concern its “core function” — months after the Ivy League institution’s statements on the Israel-Hamas war caused a firestorm of controversy.

Leaders at the prestigious school who recommended the new policy said that Harvard “runs the risk of appearing to care more about some places and events than others” by issuing public statements on sweeping issues and global politics.

“And because few, if any, world events can be entirely isolated from conflicting viewpoints, issuing official empathy statements runs the risk of alienating some members of the community by expressing implicit solidarity with others,” Harvard’s Institutional Voice Working Group recommended in a report.

The report said the “university and its leaders should not . . . issue official statements about public matters that do not directly affect the university’s core function.”

Harvard said Tuesday that university leaders “accepted” the working group’s recommendations.

“The process of translating these principles into

concrete practice will, of course, require time and experience, and we look forward to the work ahead,” interim president Alan Garber said in a statement.

As part of the new initiative, Harvard will no longer issue official statements concerning wars, like it had following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and for Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

Claudine’s bungle

The latter sparked uproar for the school and former president Claudine Gay.

Gay had blasted the “barbaric atrocities perpetrated by Hamas,” but faced intense criticism for not condemning 30 Harvard student groups that published a letter holding Israel “entirely responsible” for Hamas’ terror attack.

Gay resigned weeks after testifying before Congress and following plagiarism allegations.

The working group was established in April to debate how much and when the university should comment on far-reaching issues beyond Harvard’s jurisdiction.

It found that the “integrity and credibility of the institution are compromised when the university speaks officially on matters outside its institutional area of expertise.”

‘Dog-tired’ of collie costume

A Japanese man who spent over \$14,000 on a realistic dog costume so he could become a border collie now says he hopes to fulfill his “dream” of turning into a different animal.

Toco the Human Collie

said the challenges of moving like a dog have led him to consider imitating a host of other animals as well.

“Dogs and humans have different bone structures and the way they bend their legs and arms, so it’s very

difficult to make movements that look like this,” Toco said. “I might realistically be able to become another dog, a panda or a bear,” Toco told Japanese news outlet WanQol.

Isabel Keane

Booming gas blast in Ohio

A massive natural gas explosion at a bank in downtown Youngstown, Ohio on Tuesday injured seven people.

The first floor of a 13-story building on E. Federal Street, which is home to a

Chase Bank, blew up around 2:45 p.m., WFMJ-TV reported.

Security footage obtained by the outlet shows the violent blast shattering windows and sending debris flying all the way

across the street.

The entire first floor of the building appears to have been destroyed.

One person remains unaccounted for, according to Fire Chief Barry Finley.

Patrick Reilly



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Hamas' Hell

Group's evil plan: kill the civilians of Rafah

HAMAS is getting just what it wanted.

On Tuesday, IDF tanks entered the heart of Rafah, inevitably causing more Palestinian civilian casualties and deaths. Savagely, Martyrs Inc. is open for business in Rafah — exactly as intended by Hamas and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps sponsors in Tehran and overlords in Moscow.

Mohammed Deif and Yahya Sinwar have never sought to govern Gaza. Rather, they have plotted to turn it into a land of futile martyrdom in their jihad to destroy Israel.

The IDF's Sunday attack, which killed 45 civilians, underscored just how drenched in innocent blood the road to Rafah has become at the hands of Deif and Sinwar. The images were horrifying. Flames from hell, burned bodies, dead children, proudly served up on social media by Hamas. And Hamas would not have it any other way.

In its demented world, Palestinian men, women and children are simply a means to an end.

Ismail Haniyeh, the political chief of Hamas, told us as much last October. Safe in a luxury hotel 1,100 miles away from Rafah in Qatar, Haniyeh perversely reveled in the loss of Palestinian civilians as Israel began to strike back against Hamas targets in Northern Gaza, arguing that "we need this blood [of the children, women and elderly] so that it will ignite within us the spirit of revolution."

Palestinian civilians in the eyes of Hamas are their first line of defense, Geneva Conventions be damned. Martyrs Inc. under Deif and Sinwar's evil management is a mass-production enterprise — the younger the fallen, the better.

None of this is new. Weaponizing civilians is a Hamas specialty, shared by Tehran and Moscow.

Hamas has used Gazans as human shields since 2007. It does so to enable the firing of rockets into Israel, often siting their weapons near schools, hospitals and



Sadistic strategy: Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh (l.) and Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei are wielding civilians in Gaza as human shields, weaponizing their deaths..

mosques. Ditto "locating military or security-related infrastructures such as HQs, bases, armories, access routes . . . or defensive positions within or in proximity to civilian areas," says NATO StratCom COE, a military think tank.

Far from protecting civilians, as evidenced on Oct. 7, Deif and Sinwar have made non-combatants their targets of choice. Terrorize, kidnap and kill Israeli civilians — and then flee back to Gaza and hide behind Palestinian men, women and children to ensure mass casualties and garner international condemnation of Israel.

We are living in a perverse dystopian reality.

Since Oct. 7, Spain, Ireland and Norway have declared that they would recognize a Palestinian state, the UN General Assembly has voted to bestow upon Palestine additional "rights and privileges," while university campuses across the US have been besieged by organized anti-Israel protests.

Equally disturbing, President Biden appears poised to reward Hamas for using Palestinian and Israeli civilians as human shields. National security has taken a back seat to November politics and Biden's electoral pressures in Michigan.

Here's the Biden administration's hoped-for plan: Israeli hostages would be released. Saudi Arabia would recognize Israel. And Hamas essentially would be

allowed to survive, but not technically in charge of a post-war Gaza. It is fantasyland thinking.

Iran and Hamas are simply playing Biden, who still naively believes he can cut a comprehensive deal with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

This is a dangerous and deadly game for Biden to be playing just to win a presidential election.

On Monday, the IAEA reported that Tehran now has 313.2 pounds of HEU enriched to 60% — enough to build at least three nukes if enriched to a weapons-grade 90%.

Despite this, the White House is reportedly pressuring Britain, France and Germany to halt their efforts to get the IAEA to condemn Iran yet again.

Plus, Biden is said to be offering Iran and Hamas Benjamin Netanyahu's head through back-channel negotiations led by Brett McGurk — if the mullahs agree to an overall peace deal.

Translation: Hamas' policy of weaponizing Palestinian civilians works for Biden's White House. Deif and Sinwar, as a result, have every incentive to continue using Palestinian human shields in Rafah as a means of weakening Israel.

Moscow is no doubt pleased. Biden is cutting the legs off a US ally and rewarding Russia's allies in the Mideast.

It's madness — and could keep future generations of Palestinians and Israelis alike under the thumb of Hamas' Martyrs Inc.

FAST TAKES

Conservative: No 'There' There in Trump Case

"There's just not much to the Manhattan prosecution. The penalties sought are way out of line with the offenses alleged," and it was "brought by a prosecutor, Bragg, who campaigned on a platform of pursuing Trump," concludes the Washington Examiner's Byron York. "County prosecutors enforcing federal law" are "seeking to convict Trump of 34 felonies, and jail him for a maximum of 136 years, on very little basis." They're using wordplay over the "definition for 'unlawful means'" and other phrases and arguments critical to Bragg's case. "It's flimsy, unfair, and politically motivated. Now that the trial is reaching its climax — the verdict — its injustices are becoming more and more obvious."

Campus watch: Jewish Students Stand Up

The "antisemitism that has entrenched itself in America's universities will only collapse when enough Jews stop being afraid and stop unwillingly aiding it by hiding and self-censoring," argues Natan Sharansky at Tablet. "In the past 20 years, the ideologues of this new antisemitism continued to pour their fervor into demonizing Israel." Yet amid the current furor "over America's campuses, it was easy to miss the letter that 500 of Columbia University's Jews penned and signed to present their position in their own voice" — which could prove "the turning point in the struggle for American Jewry's future." It's critical for students at other campuses, too, to join Columbia's Jews. Doing so means "they stand a chance to do more than stand up for their own truths."

Energy beat: The 'Transition' That Won't Happen

"It's an iron law of our universe" that innovation "is followed by an epic increase in energy consumption," reminds City Journal's Mark P. Mills. Between electric cars, "repatriating manufacturing," a surge in demand for AI chips and more, "today's forecasts see near-term growth in demand for electric power three times as great as in recent years," with data centers "flagged as the primary culprit for this exploding power demand." "It is inconvenient, to put it mildly, to see demand for electricity — especially reliable, 24-7 supply — take off at the same time as regulators are forcing utilities to shut down conventional power plants." In fact, "the world will need all forms of energy production imaginable," yet an "energy transition" would only restrict energy supplies. That's just "not going to happen."

Election 2024: Biden's 'Negative Coattails'

Polling shows President Biden "underperforming his party by a large margin in November," prompting The Wall Street Journal's Gerard Baker to wonder what is the opposite of "presidential coattails." In swing states

Biden won in 2020, Senate polling shows "the Democratic candidate is outperforming the top of the ticket by a significant margin." On average, "Biden underperforms his Senate Democratic counterpart by 9 points." Biden trails Trump by one point nationwide, while House "Democrats have a slight edge" in the generic polling. "The Democratic vote is holding up remarkably well in the Senate seats at stake," suggesting "Biden's coattails are negative, [while] Mr. Trump's are nonexistent." Bottom line: Biden's so unpopular, "voters are saying they will vote for his opponent while choosing a Democratic Senate or House candidate."



President Biden

Education desk: How COVID Aid Backfired

"Public schools are a [financial] mess heading into next school year" — not "for a lack of dollars" but because Biden's COVID-19 windfall for public schools is backfiring," observes Reason's Aaron Garth Smith. "During the pandemic, Congress doled out \$190 billion in K-12 relief aid, which created a fiscal cliff and helped fuel inflation that's now eating into school districts' budgets." Of that, \$122 billion came on Biden's watch via the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, which school unions pushed for even as economists warned ARPA would fuel inflation. "ARPA's legacy will be the financial instability" left for schools. In the long run, they "would have been better off without Biden's \$122 billion gift to the teacher's unions." — Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

Finish the Job, Israel

Good on Israel for pushing on with its necessary and justified mission in Rafah to wipe out the last remaining Hamas battalions — even as the world shouts bad-faith condemnations.

The operation, which on Tuesday saw tanks enter the city center, needs to continue until these Islamist killers are utterly defeated. Yes, the IDF made a deadly error with an air strike against Hamas terrorists Sunday that started a fire in a tent encampment, killing civilians. And that has yet again set off the antisemitic, anti-Israel crowd around the world.

But there's no starker reminder of what Israel is up against. Remember that for the genocidal forces of Hamas, killing civilians is standard operating procedure. The more, the better — since it inevitably leads to heightened world pressure on the Jewish state.

Indeed, for the terrorists, this was far from the "tragic incident" Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu called the deaths. That goes for both Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

The Israeli airstrike was preceded by Hamas deliberately targeting Tel Aviv's popula-

tion, while embedding itself among Gazan noncombatants, so any response would be more likely to involve civilians.

The atrocities of Oct. 7 revealed that the Islamist killers do not scruple to murder the elderly, women and children in their attacks on the Jewish state. But Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, Ismail Haniyeh and the other commanders of Hamas are responsible for killing far more *Palestinians* than the Israelis.

That's thanks to their policy of inserting men and arms in civilian centers, like densely populated areas of Gaza, and hiding in a tunnel network while exposing non-combatants to military assaults.

Like the dozens who died in the airstrike: They were forced into harm's way by the cynical cowardice of the terrorists allegedly fighting to liberate them.

Hamas could have ended the war at any time, simply by giving back the hostages. That its leadership has refused to do so proves that they are willing to "liberate" the Palestinians by ensuring their mass death.

Israel's shrieking foes around the world, and in Washington, need to remember that.

NY Can Never Be 'Sin City East'

Without any hint of public discussion or hearings, Albany lawmakers are racing to legalize prostitution before the legislative session ends June 6.

They've already legalized weed, green-lighted Big Apple casinos and rolled back consequences for most crimes via their disastrous criminal-justice "reforms." Now they want to degrade the city further by paving the way for legalized hookers. And without even giving critics a chance to complain in advance.

It's beyond outrageous. Politico reports that state Sens. Liz Krueger (D-Manhattan) and Julia Salazar (D-Queens) are backing dueling bills to "reform" the illicit trade.

Krueger would shield "sex workers" and go after only "johns," while Salazar would legalize every aspect of the harmful industry. Salazar bizarrely believes sex workers are both independent entrepreneurs and victims of traffickers as well as prosecutors.

And just as with the botched cannabis legislation, neither has proposed a mechanism to oversee, license and regulate their sex-

worker nirvana, compounding the horrors should their bills pass.

Sex-trafficking victims deserve justice and services. Even progressives like Krueger and Salazar will admit that "sex work" isn't just about a paycheck but a worker's dignity. But where's the dignity in selling one's body? Especially when forced to by traffickers.

Proponents say they want to empower women, yet they ignore the exploitation and inherent dangers of the trade. Not to mention the abuse these women are forced to endure and other crimes their "work" promotes.

Which is why normalizing another harmful deviancy, particularly without public hearings, is beyond the pale.

Officials are also pushing foolishly to accelerate casino licensing in the city — after botching the rollout of legal cannabis and driving up crime via reforms like Raise the Age and cashless bail.

Despite all of the neon lights and signage in Times Square, the Big Apple can never be the Las Vegas of the East — and it'll only bring more decadence and misery if it tries.

A Smear Too Lame Even for WaPo

Get this: The media's attempt to smear Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito over a flag flown at his house leftists linked to Jan. 6 protesters was so absurd even The Washington Post (which basically invented "defense of democracy" porn) refused to run with the story back in 2021.

Why? Amid a dispute with an annoying neighbor, the justice's wife flew an upside-down American flag at their home, noting that's an "international symbol of distress."

But media leftists ridiculously screamed the flag actually proves Alito was secretly in favor of the Jan. 6 protests and thus must now re-

cuse himself from cases involving Trump.

Hello? Alito didn't fly the flag. Even if he had, flying a flag upside down is 100% constitutionally protected speech.

It's clear what's actually going on: The court, which long made decisions progressives favored, has made some recent ones they don't like. And if it doesn't do what progressives want, the left calls illegitimate.

Thus, the silly, empty attacks on Alito (and fake scandals around Clarence Thomas).

It's yet more proof that the most strident defenders of democracy are the ones most eager to burn it down.

Trump's Hush-Money Trial: A Corrupt Kangaroo Court

THE ISSUE: Michael Goodwin's column on the problems with the Trump hush-money trial in New York.



Donald Trump

•I am thankful for The Post's excellent column ("New York v. Don: Ain't that a sham," May 26).

There's nothing true or just about using the courts as a political tool to extirpate an adversary on spurious criminal charges. It's blatantly un-American. And yet there's neither resistance nor objection from within the judiciary.

If the firmest pillar of justice fails, it's only a matter of time before the entire structure implodes. Perhaps that's always been the goal of the woke Marxist leftists and their handlers who are ardently pursuing the dubious prosecutions of former President Donald Trump.

Charles Compton
The Bronx

•The Manhattan district attorney's office has been hijacked by a political hack who seeks to make a name for himself through the criminal prosecution of a former president.

The only way he could achieve this was to partner with a morally bank-

rupt judge who was also eager to drag his office through the mud to make a name for himself. With every passing day, the Trump trial looked and sounded like something only Orwell could have imagined.

John Fleming
Punta Gorda, Fla.

•The Trump trial has exposed the world at large to the naked politicization of the US justice system, beginning with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's

campaign platform that blatantly outlined legal action against Trump.

And despite former federal prosecutor Robert Costello's extensive experience, impeccable honesty and credibility, he apparently was unable to convince the grand jury of the entirety of the truth regarding Trump's innocence. **John East**
Cairns, Australia

•The prosecution in the Trump trial has not met its burden of proof, as shown through both the its refusal to call Allen Weisselberg to the witness stand and its attempt to silence former prosecutor Robert Costello.

An innocent verdict would not just be a victory for Trump, but also a stand for justice. A trial like this against a former president, who is also the leading Republican presidential candidate, is an affront to the rule of law. **Owen Kelly**
Valley Stream

What Rudy's Done for America

THE ISSUE: Former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani's public contributions amid charges of election interference.

•America suffered the worst attack in its history on 9/11 ("Rudy Giuliani pleads not guilty to felony charges in Arizona election interference case," May 21).

Thousands, including hundreds of members of the NYFD and NYPD, were murdered. The then-New York mayor himself narrowly missed being murdered when the towers came down.

But unlike other public officials who retreated to a bunker, the city's mayor rushed to the scene to personally help

New Yorkers. He was subsequently praised for his steadfastness during this assault on our nation.

Later in life, as a practicing lawyer, he noticed how many American citizens expressed deep concerns about election integrity after the 2020 presidential contest. He bravely accompanied citizens to their respective state so their voices could be heard in front

of their legislators — the very same legislators responsible for election integrity. Those hearings are now a part of history, and the voices of American citizens were heard.

Who is this historic American hero? Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. America is thankful, Giuliani, for your lifetime of distinguished public service.

Maria Ryan
Manchester, NH

E-MAIL: letters@nypost.com or **WRITE** to The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Biden's Buying Votes With Climate Cash

TO bet on the upcoming presidential election, don't just rely on polls. Look at the billions of taxpayer dollars President Biden is pouring into "community organizations" in "disadvantaged communities" to tip the election scales.

The community organizer who became president, Barack Obama, was a master at machine politics. He used federal tax dollars to turn community organizations — left-wing not-for-profits — into a fourth branch of government. Their staffs, paid using taxpayer money but not tied to government rules, could hit the streets at election time and build turnout.

Joe Biden has scaled up Obama's playbook, using billions of dollars instead of mere millions.

West Virginia Sen. Shelley Moore Capito made headlines last week when she publicized the Environmental Protection Agency's \$50 million "environmental justice" grant awarded to a group called the Climate Justice Alliance.

The group has vowed that "the path to climate justice travels through a free Palestine." Climate Justice Alliance serves up a full agenda of radical activities, including fighting "political oppression" and "placing race, gender, and class at the center" of its work.

But \$50 million for Climate Justice Alliance is a drop in the bucket.

Had members of Congress read the Inflation Reduction Act before passing it in 2022 — a novel idea — they would have known that the law provides \$2.8 billion to the EPA for "environmental and climate justice block grants."

That's a license to hand out walking-around money to many political activists, not just Climate Justice Alliance. Other recipients include the New York Immigration Coalition, which describes itself as a "coalition of immigrant and refugee organizations" pushing for more government services and political clout. Same is true of the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, another recipient of EPA cash.

The words "climate" and "environment" don't appear anywhere on these groups' websites or literature.

Lawmakers may have assumed they were authorizing money for climate improvement, but the IRA's fine print allows the moolah to be used to "facilitate engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rule makings and other public processes." Translation: elections. How easy is it to get the dough? Piece of cake.

The EPA says it wants to "alleviate much of the burden that the federal grants process places on small resource-constrained community-based organizations supporting underserved communities and marginalized populations." In short, no jumping through hoops.

The money can only go to a disadvantaged community or a southern border town. There are 27,521 disadvantaged communities on the US Census map, according to Biden's "Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool," which targets non-English speakers, people with diabetes and other factors that mostly



BETSY McCAUGHEY

correspond to heavily minority populations. These communities customarily vote Democratic.

Adding eligibility for border towns is an interesting twist. As waves of migrants overwhelm resources in these areas, Democrats are growing divided over Biden's open border policies. Federal money may shore up support for him.

During his first week as president, Biden issued an executive order implementing the Justice40 initiative, a new rule requiring that 40% of many types of federal spending — not just EPA grants — must go to these "disadvantaged communities."

The Department of Energy, too, is spreading money to "disadvantaged communities," using what it calls "community benefit plans" and promising "intentionally flexible" application requirements.

This playbook started with ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act. The ACA authorized the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to hand out "community transformation grants." Community Health Councils, a typical recipient, pledged that its mission was to advance "social justice."

It distributed 65% of its \$79 million windfall in 2012 to partner community groups that promoted "voter engagement," conducted "one-on-one education in the streets" or led tenants' rights, anti-fracking and anti-drilling efforts.

And you thought the ACA was about covering the uninsured.

A decade after Obama, Biden is tasking every agency and department of the federal government to promote voter engagement.

Biden's community grants pale in size compared to his student-debt cancellation vote-buying scheme, which now totals \$620 billion. But the community grant money lands directly in the hands of political activists who know what to do with it.

Tell your representatives to read bills before voting on them — and to strip out these giveaways that make a mockery of democracy.



Hillary's Blame Game

FOR almost eight years, Hillary Clinton has been playing a very, very long session of Monday Morning Quarterback, always focusing on the same damn game: the 2016 presidential election.

You'd think it would get boring at this point.

Especially since our country has undergone seismic events that make 2016 feel like ancient history. It's time to move on.

But Clinton is as engaged as ever in this post-election analysis. She's prolific and innovative when it comes to mining blame and finding fresh excuses to explain her upset loss to Donald Trump.

Clinton sees scapegoats everywhere.

Her latest target is women. (Credit where credit is due: At least she isn't calling us "uterus owners.")

Women were, she says, led astray by an old Clinton bogeyman — former FBI head James Comey, who re-opened a last-minute investigation into her private email and called her actions "extremely careless."

"But once he did that to me, the people, the voters who left me, were women," she told The New York Times in an interview on Saturday.

"They left me because they just couldn't take a risk on me, because as a woman, I'm supposed to be perfect. They were willing to take a risk on Trump — who had a long list of, let's call them flaws, to illustrate his imperfection — be-

cause he was a man, and they could envision a man as president and commander-in-chief."

Women hypnotized by the patriarchy were too dumb to see she was the truth and the way. It was lady on lady sexism, you see.

Clinton could fashion a large patchwork quilt with all of the people she's pointed fingers at. She even wrote a book, "What Happened," about it in 2017. She started out by taking some ownership.

"You can blame the data, blame the message, blame anything you

KIRSTEN FLEMING

want — but I was the candidate. It was my campaign. Those were my decisions," she wrote.

But old habits die hard. She then dedicated much of the book to blaming Russian President Vladimir Putin for her failure. And the media, particularly the Times. And Bernie Sanders. And Trump.

She even speculated that, if Barack Obama had truly gone to bat for her, and for democracy, it would have been a smelling salt awakening us to the dangers of Trump.

"I do wonder sometimes about what would have happened if President Obama had made a televised address to the nation in the fall of 2016 warning that our democracy was under attack. Maybe more Americans would have woken up to the threat in time.

We'll never know," she wrote.

(Never mind that plenty of people who voted for Obama twice pulled the lever for Trump.)

What establishment pols like Clinton don't get is that the electorate hears them, loud and clear. It is the pols who aren't listening to the voters.

The reality is, Clinton was cocky. She thought she had the vote in the bag, and that calling people who felt left behind "deplorables" would be good for business. She neglected Rust Belt states and never even went to Wisconsin — becoming the first Dem presidential nominee to lose that state since 1984.

She was also thoroughly unlikable, enlisting a bunch of coddled celebrities to sing her anthem "Fight Song." It was campaign kryptonite.

This fixation on her loss feels a bit like the orange man she is railing against. She claims to hold some sort of moral high ground, even though she spent years calling him an "illegitimate president."

She can blame women all she wants. We are not a monolith. We all have different viewpoints, different reasons for voting the way we do. The women I know who voted for Trump weren't avoiding placing a woman in the White House.

They simply did not like her, specifically.

They wanted something different. Someone different.

If she wants to blame one woman, she's welcome to it.

That lady is in her mirror.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Marts quiet

The S&P 500 was down slightly after logging its fifth straight weekly gain on Friday. The Nasdaq Composite was solidly in the green, while the Dow fell 0.6%.

Giving up

Adam Neumann has ended his bid to re-acquire WeWork as the coworking business he cofounded has chosen to emerge from bankruptcy with an “unrealistic” plan, he told The New York Times DealBook on Tuesday.

Meme stock

GameStop soared 25% on Tuesday after the struggling videogame retailer said it had raised more than \$900 million from selling its shares during the market rally earlier this month.

BYD launch

China's BYD launched on Tuesday the latest version of a plug-in hybrid technology that improves fuel and cost savings, intensifying competition with the likes of Toyota and Volkswagen that still sell mainly gasoline cars.

\$1B buyback

Trading app Robinhood Markets launched its first-ever share buyback plan on Tuesday, saying it would repurchase \$1 billion worth of stock as it looks to grow beyond its startup phase.

Sources: Reuters, AP, Dow Jones

HELTER-STELTER

Daily Beast eyes ex-CNNer as ax swings

By ALEXANDRA STEIGRAD

Newly-installed Daily Beast boss Joanna Coles is scrambling to hire boldface names like ousted CNN host Brian Stelter as she sharpens the ax to slash more than a third of the staff, The Post has learned.

Coles — who was brought in by media mogul Barry Diller along with Disney bigwig Ben Sherwood last month to resuscitate the floundering news site — reached out to Stelter, the former anchor of CNN's now-defunct “Reliable Sources,” to run the Beast's media coverage, sources close to the situation told The Post on Tuesday.

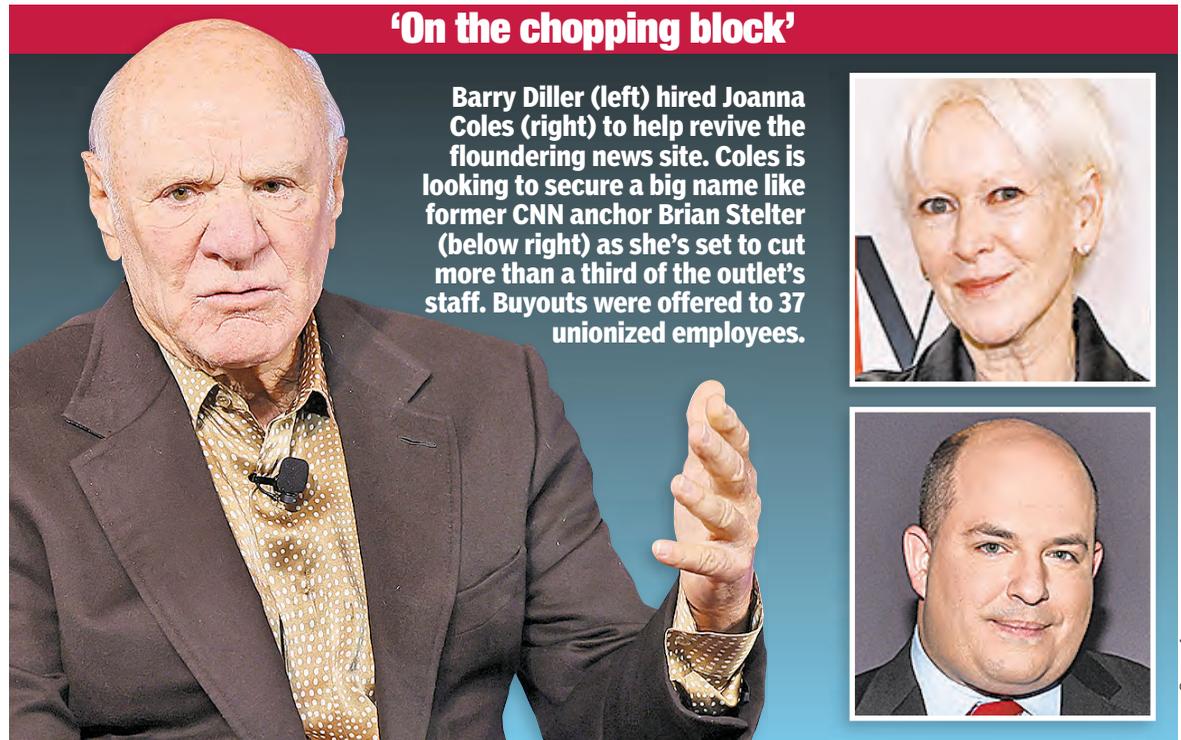
Stelter, who has landed a special correspondent role at Vanity Fair since being dumped by CNN, declined to comment.

Coles' purported attempt to lure Stelter comes as the outlet confirmed Tuesday that it offered voluntary buyouts to its 37 unionized staffers. A source close to The Beast said roughly 30% are expected to grab the lifeline before it expires in mid-June.

“You either take the buyout or risk being laid off, as Coles wants to create a newsroom in her own image,” the source said, noting that layoffs will “likely be even worse” than the 30% figure.

Coles and Sherwood hope to reap \$1.5 million in cost savings from the union cuts, on top of the “millions” they are saving by reducing their footprint in their Frank Gehry-designed headquarters in Manhattan's posh Chelsea neighborhood, another source said.

Management has proposed a buyout package that would give the average Beast employee who has been at the company be-



Barry Diller (left) hired Joanna Coles (right) to help revive the floundering news site. Coles is looking to secure a big name like former CNN anchor Brian Stelter (below right) as she's set to cut more than a third of the outlet's staff. Buyouts were offered to 37 unionized employees.

tween two and four years roughly three to four months of pay, the first source noted.

“The voluntary buyouts are part of a larger plan to reduce spending, grow revenue and put The Beast into a healthy and sustainable financial position,” a Beast spokesperson told The Post.

‘Tough choices’

“Everyone in digital media is facing tough choices. These buyouts are especially hard because we know some talented and valued colleagues will decide to leave next month.

Throughout this process, we remain fully committed to The Beast's core mission — great independent journalism that makes a difference.”

The insider added that the heads of the non-unionized senior editors are also on the chopping block, including Daily Beast Editor-in-Chief Tracy Connor, as The Post previously reported. A second source said that job cuts will also hit the publication's business side in the coming months.

The rep would not comment on Connor's future or that of other section heads.

Coles, 61, was named chief creative

and content officer after Diller gave her and Sherwood a minority stake in the tabloid-inspired site.

Since grabbing the reins, the British-born editor has intimidated staffers with pointed questions about who they are and how they want to cover their beats, sparking anxiety over the possibility that they'd be replaced by new reporters with better ideas, sources told The Post.

Employees are walking a tightrope in trying to please Coles — who is swanning around the office, the first source said. Meanwhile, Connor and executive editor Katie Baker have been laying low.



Viv push for more BuzzFeed buzz

By ARIEL ZILBER

Former GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy wants BuzzFeed to hire the likes of Bill Maher, Tucker Carlson, Aaron Rodgers and Charles Barkley to help turn around the strug-

gling news site's fortunes.

Ramaswamy (left), who recently disclosed an 8.3% stake in the failing media company, fired off a letter on Monday to BuzzFeed's board demanding that the company slash jobs, appoint three new members to its board of directors and give

more prominent roles to conservatives so as to embrace “greater diversity of thought.”

Shares of BuzzFeed soared by around 20% last week after it was learned that Ramaswamy had taken an activist stake in the company.

In his letter, Ramaswamy

criticized BuzzFeed for several moves that fed into public “distrust of the media,” including its decision in 2017 to publish a dossier by ex-British spy Christopher Steele that contained salacious and unproven allegations against former President Donald Trump.

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OpenAI's 'security' panel

OpenAI has formed a Safety and Security Committee that will be led by board members including CEO Sam Altman (right) as it begins training its next artificial intelligence model, the AI startup said Tuesday.

Directors Bret Taylor, Adam D'Angelo and Nicole Seligman will also lead the committee, OpenAI said on a company blog.

Microsoft-backed OpenAI's chatbots with generative AI capa-

bilities, such as engaging in human-like conversations and creating images based on text prompts, have stirred safety concerns as AI models become powerful.

The new committee will be responsible for making recommendations to the board on safety and security decisions for OpenAI's projects and operations.

"A new safety committee signifies OpenAI completing a move to becoming a commercial entity,

from a more undefined nonprofit-like entity," said D.A. Davidson managing director Gil Luria. "That should help streamline product development while maintaining accountability."

Former Chief Scientist Ilya Sutskever and Jan Leike, who were leaders of OpenAI's Superalignment team, which ensured AI stays aligned to the intended objectives, left the firm earlier this month. *Reuters*



Quick for Tik law fight

A federal appeals court on Tuesday set a fast-track schedule to consider the legal challenges to a new law requiring China-based ByteDance to divest TikTok's US assets by Jan. 19 or face a ban.

The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ordered the case set for oral arguments in September after TikTok, ByteDance and a group of TikTok content creators joined with the Justice Department earlier this month in asking the court for a quick schedule.

On May 14, a group of TikTok creators filed suit to block the law, which could ban the app used by 170 million Americans, saying it has had "a profound effect on American life," after TikTok and parent company ByteDance filed a similar lawsuit.

Under the appeals court schedule, the creators, TikTok and ByteDance, must file legal briefs by June 20 and the department by July 26, with reply briefs due by Aug. 15.

The law, signed by President Biden on April 24, prohibits app stores like Apple and Alphabet's Google from offering TikTok, and bars Internet hosting services from supporting the app unless ByteDance divests TikTok.

The White House says it wants to see Chinese-based ownership ended on national security grounds, but not a ban on TikTok. *Reuters*

Get the rocks out!

Google looks to scrub litany of AI inaccuracies

By THOMAS BARRABI

Google is scrambling to remove a wave of incorrect or even dangerous answers from its controversial AI-powered search results — including one answer that advised users to eat rocks for nutrition.

The embattled Big Tech giant has faced a major backlash for spreading misinformation since the tool, dubbed AI Overviews, was rolled out in the US this month.

Google said the software will reach more than one billion users by the end of the year.

In one widely circulated example, AI Overviews allegedly responded to the query, "How many rocks should a child eat?" by falsely claiming UC Berkeley geologists recommend "eating at least one small rock per day."

The answer appeared to originate from a satirical

post by The Onion.

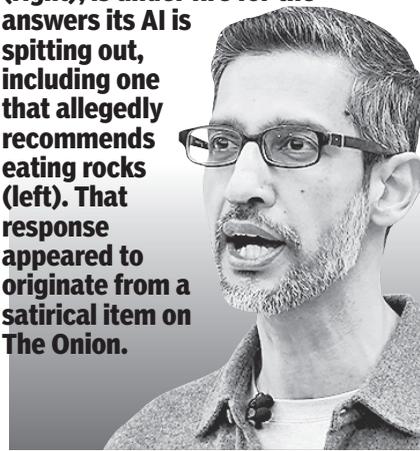
Google said it is "taking swift action where appropriate under our content policies, and using these examples to develop broader improvements to our systems, some of

which have already started to roll out."

"The vast majority of AI Overviews provide high quality information, with links to dig deeper on the web," a Google spokesperson said in a statement.

Misinformation

Google, led by CEO Sundar Pichai (right), is under fire for the answers its AI is spitting out, including one that allegedly recommends eating rocks (left). That response appeared to originate from a satirical item on The Onion.



were examples of so-called data voids, where there was a lack of high-quality information available online for the particular query.

The company said it makes thousands of improvements to search each year.

As The Post reported, the chatbot, which critics say could devastate news publishers, has generated bizarre responses such as telling users to thicken pizza sauce by adding glue and claiming that tobacco has health benefits for kids.

"Mixing cheese into the sauce helps add moisture to the cheese and dry out the sauce," Google's AI Overview said. "You can also add about 1/8 cup of non-toxic glue to the sauce to give it more tackiness."

The glue recommendation appeared to have been pulled from a Reddit post on how to keep cheese from sliding off pizza.

"Many of the examples we've seen have been uncommon queries, and we've also seen examples that were doctored or that we couldn't reproduce."

Google said many instances of strange responses

T-Mobile lands US Cell Hess-Chev. deal gains

T-Mobile is buying US Cellular's wireless operations and certain spectrum assets in a deal valued at \$4.4 billion, further consolidating the industry.

T-Mobile would get more than 4 million new customers and control of US Cellular's wireless operations and about 30% of spectrum assets across several spectrum bands.

T-Mobile will also enter into a new master license agreement on

more than 2,000 towers and extend the lease term for the approximately 600 towers where T-Mobile is already a tenant.

T-Mobile CEO Mike Sievert said the deal will "create a better experience for all of our customers with more coverage and more capacity."

It may also signal the start of more consolidation in an industry with fewer players than ever.

Reuters

Hess shareholders Tuesday approved the proposed \$53 billion merger with Chevron, which paves the way for the No. 2 US oil company to gain a prize asset and a foothold in rival Exxon Mobil's massive Guyana discoveries.

The approval clears one hurdle, but the deal still requires regulatory approval and must face a lengthy arbitration battle with Exxon and Hess' partners in Guyana.

Regulatory approval could come next month, said Frederic Boucher, risk arbitrage analyst at Susquehanna Financial Group, based on the time the Federal Trade Commission took to approve Exxon's acquisition of Pioneer Natural Resources earlier this month.

Results were preliminary, but the vote is a win for CEO John Hess, who put the future of a company founded by his father on the line. *Reuters*

Neuralink's new move

Elon Musk's brain-chip startup, Neuralink, seeks to enroll three patients to evaluate its device in a study that is expected to take several years to complete, according to details on the US government's database of clinical trials.

Neuralink is testing its implant to give paralyzed patients the ability to use digital devices by thought alone, a prospect that could help people with spinal cord injuries.

Neuralink's study is estimated to have a primary completion date of 2026, with the full study expected to be complete in 2031. *Reuters*



JENSEN HUANG

Behind only Apple, M'soft.

Nvidia's mart cap near #1

Nvidia's shares rallied by around 7% to hit a record high Tuesday, leaving the AI chipmaker's stock market value about \$100 billion away from overtaking Apple in a major reshuffle of Wall Street's biggest players.

Closing Tuesday at \$1,139, the market capitalization of CEO Jensen Huang-run Nvidia reached \$2.8 trillion, compared to \$2.9 trillion for Apple, which is Wall Street's second-most valuable company after Microsoft (about \$3.2 trillion).

Nvidia stock surged as much as 8% to \$1,149.39 during the session, an intraday record high. Apple's stock was down 0.2% in afternoon trading. Nvidia's shares have surged nearly 13% since it forecast second-quarter revenue above Wall Street expectations last week.

"The market has been struggling to keep up with the company's ever-improving growth trajectory. At a mid-30s forward earnings multiple, this still doesn't feel like bubble territory," said Derren Nathan, head of equity analysis at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Reuters

iPhone shipments on rise in China

Apple's smartphone shipments in China rose 52% in April from a year ago, extending a rebound seen in March, according to data from a research firm affiliated with the Chinese government.

The jump follows a weak performance by the US tech giant in the world's biggest smartphone market earlier this year amid intensifying competition in the high-end smartphone category from local rivals like Huawei.

Reuters

FTX CRYPTO CELL

SBF deputy given nearly 8 years behind bars

By ARIEL ZILBER

Ryan Salame, one of Sam Bankman-Fried's top deputies at FTX, was sentenced to nearly eight years in prison — exceeding the term recommended by the government, federal prosecutors said on Tuesday.

Salame, who was co-CEO of FTX Digital Markets, the company's Bahamas-based subsidiary, pleaded guilty in September to making tens of millions of dollars in unlawful campaign donations to boost causes supported by Bankman-Fried.

His lawyers were seeking the minimum sentence of 18 months before Judge Lewis A. Kaplan decided on the 90-month stint in federal court in Manhattan.

The sentence was longer than the five to seven years sought by prosecutors.

He had pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to make unlawful political contributions and one count of conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money-transmitting business.

Financial fraud

"Salame's involvement in two serious federal crimes undermined public trust in American elections and the integrity of the financial system," said Damian Williams, US Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Salame, 30, did not cooperate in the federal trial against Bankman-Fried, though he did hand over nearly 600,000 pages of

Matter of time

FTX Digital Markets CEO Ryan Salame (right) did not testify against FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried (below right, with Salame) and got a harsh sentence. SBF associates Gary Wang (top left), Nishad Singh (bottom left) and Caroline Ellison (center), who did work with the feds, may receive leniency.



Getty Images

documents to authorities.

Salame's lawyers pointed out that he was the first FTX executive to alert authorities in the Bahamas to potential fraud as early as late 2022 — days before the company filed for bankruptcy.

Bankman-Fried was sentenced earlier this year to 25 years in prison for stealing \$8 billion from FTX customers. A jury found him guilty last November

on seven fraud and conspiracy counts stemming from FTX's 2022 collapse, which prosecutors have called one of the biggest financial frauds in US history.

Prosecutors say Salame, Bankman-Fried and former FTX engineering chief Nishad Singh used FTX customer funds to donate to political candidates supporting crypto-friendly legislation.

In addition to the prison

term, Salame was sentenced to three years of supervised release and ordered to pay more than \$6 million in forfeiture and more than \$5 million in restitution, prosecutors said in a statement on Tuesday.

Salame, who could not immediately be reached for comment, gave more than \$24 million to Republican candidates and causes in the 2022 election

cycle, according to Federal Election Commission data, making him one of that year's top donors.

Salame's attorneys claimed he was "duped, as was everyone else, into believing that the companies were legitimate, solvent and wildly profitable," according to a memo filed in Manhattan federal court.

More to come

Kaplan's sentence could be an indicator of how hard he will crack down on the FTX executives who did cooperate with federal investigators in exchange for more lenient pleas in court.

Bankman-Fried's on-again, off-again girlfriend Caroline Ellison, Singh and Gary Wang will be sentenced later this year.

All three pleaded guilty to financial wrongdoing and agreed to testify against Bankman-Fried in court. They are due to be sentenced later this year.

Bankman-Fried had used FTX customer funds to make more than \$100 million in political contributions before the 2022 elections — mainly to Democrats — and to buy a ritzy \$40 million Bahamian penthouse where he and his colleagues lived and worked, prosecutors said.

Salame joined Alameda in 2019, two years after Bankman-Fried founded it, and became co-chief executive of FTX's Bahamian affiliate in late 2021.

azilber@nypost.com

Push for Meta report on kid safety

Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg faces a potential revolt at the company's annual meeting Wednesday as shareholders push the Big Tech firm to step up transparency regarding its efforts to protect children online.

A group led by Lisette Cooper, vice chair of the Franklin Templeton subsidiary Fiduciary Trust International and the parent of a child sex abuse survivor, is backing a

nonbinding resolution urging Meta's board to publish an annual report tracking the company's performance on child safety and protecting young users from harm on its apps.

The report would require "quantitative metrics appropriate to assessing whether Meta has improved its performance globally regarding child safety impacts and actual harm

reduction to children on its platforms."

"If they want to reassure advertisers, parents, legislators, shareholders on whether they're making a difference on dealing with this problem on harm to children, they need to have transparency," Cooper told The Post.

"They need better metrics."

The resolution is set for a vote

during a time of intense scrutiny for Zuckerberg-led Meta, which faces a legal and regulatory crackdown in the US and abroad about its alleged failure to keep kids safe on Instagram and Facebook.

Zuckerberg himself recently apologized to the families of victims of online sex abuse during a high-profile congressional hearing.

Thomas Barrabi

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Finance: The Bank of New York Mellon seeks VP, Model Risk Mgmt II in NY, NY, to contribute to highly visible enterprise-wide model dvlpmnt function in organization. Execute enterprise standards for model validation. Remote work permitted w/i commutable dist from worksite. REQ/MTS: Master's or equiv. & 2 yrs exp in: Utilizing Bloomberg along w/ rates; Util product incl fin l, ba capital, bank ALM modeling & analysis; Utilizing stock repurchase & debt issuance for fin'l institutions. Sal Range: \$151,815-\$203,000/yr. Qualified applicants please apply online at <https://bnymellon.eightfold.ai/> careers & utilize ref code #54194. Please indicate "referral source - advertisement - NYP."

Financial: AMAZON.COM SERVICES LLC, an Amazon.com company - New York, NY: Manager III, Finance: Drive dev't of & support execution of key input metrics & financial targets thru implementation of dashboards, reporting, measurements, & variance analysis. Telecommuting benefits available. Salary Range \$153,000/yr - \$207,000/yr. (AMZ8193573). Multiple job openings. Apply online: www.amazon.jobs - search by AMZ job #(s). EOE.

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Fashion Designer: Design broad range of women's fashions. Send resume by mail only: Public Clothing, 151 W. 26th St, 7th Fl, NY, NY 10001 Attn: L. Mayet

PROFESSIONAL

Senior Consultant I, Data & AI at Neudesic, LLC., NY, NY: Design/implement large-scale distributed systems. Hybrid schedule may be allowed. Salary: \$148,201 - \$150,000/yr. Resumes: JobsUS@neudesic.com. Ref. NY0923BMR.

PROFESSIONAL

Director, Global Visual Merchandising, SDVM Innovation sought by ELC Beauty LLC in NY, NY. Email resumes to: elcjobs@estee.com, ref: NK24. Salary Range: \$190,341-\$228,000/yr. Dsgn & dvlp instore collateral, in partnership w/ the Global Store Dsgn team, & shaping instore consumer journey. Full job details can be found at newyork.usnlx.com.

Experienced Audit Manager, Non-Profit @ BDO USA, P.C. (New York, NY) F/T. Sprvise & delegate tasks to Audit Assc & Sr Assc thrghout plng, fld wrk & wrap-up stgs of audit client engmnt, & direct & rview results. Mstr's dgree (or frgn eqvlnt) in Acct, Bus Admin or rtd & 1 yr of exp in job ofrfd, or Audit Sr or rtd. Altrmtvly, ER acctpt Bchl'r's (or frgn eqvlnt) in Acct, Bus Admin or rtd + 5 yrs of prgrssvly resp exp in job ofrfd, Audit Sr or rtd. Must have exp in ea: Prfrm audits of nonprofit ents &/or private comp; GAAS, Uniform Guidance & ERISA; Microsoft Office prod, incl Windows, Word, Excel & PowerPoint; Using vrs assnc appls & rsrch tools. Must have CPA OR sffnt educ/exp rqrmnts (as dtrmd by state Board of Acctncy) to receive CPA w/in 24 months of hire or promo. ER will accept any suitable combo of edu, training or exp. Trvl to vrious unanticipated client sites & BDO office lctns ntnlly. Rate of pay: \$137,114 - \$150,000/year. Snd rsume to: BDOJobApplications@BDO.com. Indcate job title & code "MC-NY". EOE.

Clinical Engineer I, Compass Group USA, Inc., Brooklyn, NY. Embed at hosp ct site, perf prog mgmt. M-F 8a - 6p & wknds as needed. Salary: \$115,000/yr. Reqs @ 1st Bach in Biomed / Clin Engg / rel / equiv. Reqs crswrk / academ rsrch incl use adv elctrcs incl elctrcs theory, med imng tech, bioinformtcs, & hosp mgmt in clin tech. Apply: res to Shared.TalentAcquisitionOperations@compass-usa.com & ref #112650.

Mental health counselor (Brooklyn) spec. in addictions & substance abuse incl. integrative approach & attachment-based therapy. Req's: Master's in Mental Health Counseling, NYS Lic. Mental Health Counselor, 6 mths exp. in substance abuse & attachment-based therapy. Send CV: Brooklyn Integrative Psychological Services, 117 Dobbin St # 210, Brklyn NY 11222

Business Development Analyst, Sports Partnerships (NY, NY) Utilize mkt, industry, media research to identify & analyze marketable athletes for partnerships. Draft internal research reports & presentations for strategic partnership opportunities. Participate in negotiations w/ athletes & reps. Research, gather, analyze data for loyalty SaaS solutions. Maintain CRM systems. Salary \$85K/yr. Minn. Req. Bachelor Deg Sports Mgmt or Sports Mktg. Send resume: Mr. Sinha, President, Prairie Group Inc d/b/a Bubblehouse, 146 W 57th St, Ste 44D, NY, NY 10019

Director Data Science (Multiple positions available) sought by Hearts & Science, LLC in New York, NY to serve as a Data Science lead for key clients, overseeing all day-to-day data & analytics deliverables. Telecommuting may be permitted. When not telecommuting, must report to Hearts & Science LLC, 195 Broadway, New York, NY 10007. Up to 5% domestic travel for meetings. Salary: \$163,238 - \$180K/yr. Send resume to lorrie.lord@omnicommediagroup.com. Must specify Ad Code CABKLL.

Hauppauge, NY, Architectural metal and glass company seeks an Architectural Designer to produce and review fabrication drawings utilizing AutoCAD, Inventor, and other software; draft plans and detailed drawings for structures, installations, and construction projects; daily travel to worksites throughout New York City and Long Island is required. Salary: \$79,643.00 REQ: Bachelor's in Arch. or related field + 2 yrs exp. Send resume to: HR+Manager.LafayetteGlassCompany.careers@imgny.com with subject line Architectural Designer

TECH CAREERS

Support Engineer (multiple openings) at MPG Operations LLC in New York, NY ensure the sftw prodn envr is stable, resilient, & new applctn features are delivered in a timely fashion. Salary: \$169,229 - \$175,000/yr. Reqs a Master's deg in Comp Sci, or a rtd fld, & 3 yrs in an enterprise applctns mgmt occpntn, or rtd. Employer will also accept a Bach deg in Comp Sci, or a rtd fld, + 5 yrs in an enterprise applctns mgmt occpntn, or rtd. Must incl 3 yrs of exp w/ each of the following: dsgn & sprpt prodn cloud envrs on AWS & on-premise datacenters; object oriented prgmg incl Python; Linux; deploy & run applctns using Docker & Kubernetes; enterprise networking incl connectivity, routing, DNS, VPCs, proxies & load balancers; dsgn & implmt CI/CD pipeline tools; instrumenting, monitoring & alerting for prodn support of enterprise applctns; & administering devops tools incl GitHub, Jira, Confluence, Artifactory, Sonarqube, Jenkins & TeamCity. To apply please send resume to recruiting@mlp.com & ref job code 0259 when applying.

Sr. Tech Manager (NY, NY + sites around the U.S.), Manage cloud-based s/ware projects for insurance benefits. Java, J2EE, GWT, AWS, Oracle, PL/SQL, etc. BS + 5 yrs exp or MS + 3 yrs exp. Salary: \$167,000 /yr. Mail resumes: Vitech Systems Grp, 401 Park Ave So, NY, NY 10016.

Software Engineer (multiple openings) at MPG Operations LLC in New York, NY will dsgn, bld, & integrate complex dvlpmnt tools to enhance our sftw dvlpmnt process. Salary: \$115,918 - \$175,000/yr. Reqs a Master's deg in Comp Sci, or a rtd fld, plus 1 yr in a sftw dvlpmnt occpntn supporting a data warehouse. Must incl 1 yr of exp w/ each of the following: (1) using Spark in a production envr; (2) auto, unit, & performance testing; (3) object-oriented lang incl Java, C++, or C#; (4) API architecture; (5) data prcsg w/ Scala, Spark, Kafka & SQL; (6) full stack dvlpmnt w/ Angular or Spring Boot; & (7) AWS infrastructure incl EMR. To apply please send resume to recruiting@mlp.com & ref job code 0258 when applying.

The Team Lead (multiple openings) at MPG Operations LLC in New York, NY will own the entire sftw lifecycle from requirements & design, through implementation, to production releases. Salary: \$175,000 to \$250,000/yr. Reqs a Bach deg in Comp Sci, IT, Sys Engg, or a rtd fld, + 5 yrs in a prof'l sftw engg occpntn utilizing Java, or rtd occpntn. Must incl 5 yrs of exp w/ each of the following: build scalable real-time transactional systems; SQL & NoSQL; algorithms & data structures; continuous deployment; AWS; prgmg languages incl Python; query languages incl GraphQL; & event streaming platforms incl Kafka. To apply please send resume to recruiting@mlp.com & ref job code 0553 when applying.

Quantitative Developer (multiple openings) at MPG Operations LLC in New York, NY will use statistical techniques to build portfolio analytics & visualizations. Telecommuting permitted up to 2 days/wk. Salary: \$175,000 - \$250,000/yr. Reqs a Master's deg in Stats, Operations Rsrch, Fin'l Engg, or a rtd fld, + 3 yrs of prof'l exp in a statistical modeling occpntn, or rtd occpntn. Must incl 3 yrs of exp w/ each of the following: Python dvlpmnt using numerical libraries incl Pandas & NumPy; ETL pipeline; SQL dbases; Linux environments; Front end web dvlpmnt; & front office trading settings. To apply please send resume to recruiting@mlp.com & ref job code 0519 when applying.

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

PUTNAM COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of So Good Electric LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2023. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Steven Gomez: 28 Crosby Ave, Brewster, NY 10509. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Brooke Wills Management LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/27/2024. Office location: Oswego. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brooke Wills: 135 West 1st Street Suite 1 B Oswego ny 13126. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Crazy Little Idea Design & Distribution LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/04/2024. Office location: Onondaga. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Rocket Corporate Services INC: 2804 Gateway Oaks DR. #100 Sacramento, CA 95833. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF COOPERATIVE APARTMENT SECURITY

BY VIRTUE OF DEFAULT in a security agreement executed on January 11, 2006 by Joseph Rhames, and in accordance with its rights as holder of the security, NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, by Kim Carrino, Auctioneer, will conduct a public sale of the security consisting of 144 shares of common stock in 501 West 156th Street Housing Development Fund Corporation and all rights title and interest in and to a proprietary lease between corporation and debtor for UNIT 32 in a building known as and by the street address, 501 West 156th Street, Apt. 32, New York, NY 10031 together with fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with UNIT 32 on June 05, 2024 at 9:30AM on the portico at 60 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007, in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the principal amount of \$101,574.46 plus interest from August 01, 2016 and costs, subject to open maintenance charges. The secured party reserves the right to bid. Ten percent (10%) deposit by bank or certified funds required at Auction, payable to the attorneys for the secured party, closing within 30 days. Such sale shall be subject to the terms of sale. GROSS POLOWY LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 204-1700 ATTORNEYS FOR SECURED CREDITOR 80347

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC UCC SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that in accordance with applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code as enacted in the State of New Jersey, and on account of a default under a certain Pledge and Security Agreement, dated as of November 6, 2020, notice is hereby given that PV 751 Vose LLC ("Secured Party") will sell at a public auction sale to the qualified bidder submitting the highest bid certain collateral, including all right, title and interest of Kimble Wright (the "Pledgor") as the sole member of 751 Vose Avenue Urban Renewal LLC (the "Company"). The sale will take place beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 21, 2024, via the Zoom video conference platform or other web-based video conferencing and/or telephonic conferencing program selected by Secured Party, as well as in person at the offices of Mandelbaum Barrett, P.C., located at 3 Becker Farm Road, Suite 105, Roseland, NJ 07068. Remote log-in credentials will be provided to qualified bidders upon request. Secured Party's understanding, without making any representation, warranty, or guarantee, either express, or implied, is that the principal asset of the Company is the real property and improvements thereon located at 751 Vose Avenue, Orange, NJ 07050. The collateral will be sold to the qualified bidder submitting the highest bid; provided, however, that Secured Party reserves the right to (i) credit bid its claim secured by the collateral; (ii) reject any and all bids; (iii) cancel the sale in its entirety, and/or (iv) adjourn the sale. The sale will be conducted by Mannion Auctions, LLC, by Matthew D. Mannion, Auctioneer, and/or William Mannion, Auctioneer, with offices at 305 Broadway, Suite 200, New York, New York, 10007. The collateral will be sold as a single block and will not be divided or sold in any lesser amounts. Secured Party may require the winning bidder to represent in writing that it will purchase the collateral for its own account and not purchase with a view toward the sale or distribution of the collateral. The limited liability company interests comprising a portion of the collateral have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and, if applicable, cannot be sold by the winning bidder without registration under the Act or application of an applicable exemption.

Parties interested in bidding on the above collateral must contact Secured Party's broker, Newmark, attn: Brock Cannon, brock.cannon@nmrk.com, 212-372-2066. Upon execution of a Non-Disclosure Agreement—in a form to be provided by Secured Party—documentation and information will be made available concerning the collateral and the requirements for becoming a qualified bidder. Parties interested in bidding must contact Secured Party's broker no later than 48 hours prior to the auction to receive the terms of sale, bidding instructions, and required deposit and registration information. Parties who do not contact Secured Party's broker within this time frame may forfeit their opportunity to register and may be barred from bidding. Only qualified bidders will be permitted to bid.

Crown Castle is proposing to install a replacement, 34-foot street-light style telecommunications utility structure within the public right of way located at the intersection of East 141st Street and Crimmins Avenue, The Bronx, Bronx County, New York 10454 (40 48 30.8 N / 73 54 55.8 W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #014013-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 504.458.4444.

Crown Castle is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility, consisting of the replacement of antennas at 34ft on an existing 33ft pole located on the west corner of the intersection of Spruce Street and Gold Street, New York, New York County, New York 10038 (40 42 36.8N / 74 00 15.8W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #014366-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 504.458.4444.

Crown Castle is proposing to replace an existing street light pole with antenna and install a 34-foot telecommunications utility structure located within the public right of way at the southwest corner of Davidson Ave and W 184th St, The Bronx, Bronx County, New York 10468 (40 51 39.2N / 73 54 13.1W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #014350-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 774.258.0042.

Crown Castle is proposing to install a 34-foot telecommunications utility structure located within the public right of way near the intersection of Washington Square E and Washington Pl, New York, New York County, New York 10003 (40 43 48.6N / 73 59 45.5W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #014364-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 785.760.5938.

Crown Castle is proposing to modify an existing telecommunications utility structure, consisting of the replacement of antennas at 40 feet above ground level on an existing 45-foot pole, near at the following site: 668 East 166th Street, The Bronx, Bronx County, New York 10456 (40 49 36.9 N / 73 54 15.8 W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #014012-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 504.458.4444.

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF COOPERATIVE APARTMENT SECURITY BY

VIRTUE OF DEFAULT in a security agreement executed on August 06, 2007 by Dale B. Cohen, and in accordance with its rights as holder of the security, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST, by Kim Carrino, Auctioneer, will conduct a public sale of the security consisting of 405 shares of common stock in Gracie Gardens Owners Corp. and all rights title and interest in and to a proprietary lease between corporation and debtor for UNIT 2B in a building known as and by the street address, 525 East 89th Street, Apt 2B, New York, NY 10128 together with fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with UNIT 2B on June 05, 2024 at 10:00AM on the portico at 60 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007, in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the principal amount of \$410,875.66 plus interest from May 01, 2022 and costs, subject to open maintenance charges. The secured party reserves the right to bid. Ten percent (10%) deposit by bank or certified funds required at Auction, payable to the attorneys for the secured party. Closing within 30 days. Such sale shall be subject to the terms of sale. GROSS POLOWY LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 204-1700 ATTORNEYS FOR SECURED CREDITOR 80376

Crown Castle is proposing to replace an existing streetlight pole with a 32-foot telecommunications utility light pole structure located within the public right of way at the intersection of Navy Street and Tillary Street, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11201 (40 41 45.2 N / 73 58 49.6 W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #013681-PR, SA, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 757.354.7566.

Crown Castle is proposing to replace an existing streetlight and install a 34-foot telecommunications utility structure located within the public right of way approximately 125-feet north of the intersection of Purdy Street and Westchester Avenue, The Bronx, Bronx County, New York 10462 (40 50 4.2N / 73 51 10.7W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #014359-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 774-258-0042.

Crown Castle is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility, consisting of the replacement of antennas at 34ft on an existing 33ft pole located on the southwest corner of the intersection of West 174th Street and Grand Avenue, The Bronx, Bronx County, New York 10453 (40 50 50.2N / 73 54 54.1W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #014355-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 504.458.4444.

Crown Castle is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility, consisting of the replacement of antennas at 33 ft 10 in on an existing 33 ft pole located northeast of the intersection of Lorillard Pl and East 187th St, The Bronx, Bronx County, New York 10458 (40 51 24.2N / 73 53 19.9W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project #014345-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 785.760.5938.

PET PLACE

DOGS



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RED SENT: St. John's Chris Ledlum and Jordan Dingle (inset) will not get relief against the NCAA as they sought another season of eligibility. USA TODAY Sports

Jonnies pair lose appeal for final year of eligibility

By ZACH BRAZILLER

It sounds like Chris Ledlum's and Jordan Dingle's days as college basketball players are over after a Queens judge denied the St. John's duo's request for injunctive relief in their case against the NCAA, according to sources.

The former Ivy League players, who transferred into the program last offseason and were starters most of the year, had sued the NCAA for an extra year of eligibility.

Because the Ivy League didn't play in 2020-21 — the year that was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and didn't count as part of a student-athlete's four years of eligibility — Ledlum and Dingle never got a fifth year like others.

Their waivers for a fifth year were denied by the NCAA, and so they took the NCAA to court, claiming that the governing sports body was in violation of New York antitrust and NIL laws and alleging that they are suffering "irreparable harm" from losing out on a fifth year.

The judge didn't see it their way, however.

St. John's was hoping to bring the duo back, believing they would add to an already strong roster.

Sophomores RJ Luis and Zuby Ejiofor and freshmen Brady Dunlap and Simeon Wilcher are all returning, forming a quality young nucleus that was fortified by key transfer additions Kadary Richmond (Seton Hall), Deivon Smith (Utah) and Aaron Scott (North Texas).

The Johnnies are somewhat thin up front, and felt bringing back Ledlum would have solved that problem. Instead, they will need to look elsewhere to fill that void.

Florida State transfer Jamir Watkins, who is testing the NBA draft waters — players have until Wednesday to take their name out of the draft — is one possibility.

Even without Ledlum and Dingle, St. John's only has one open scholarship remaining.

zbraziller@nypost.com

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AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Yankees	37	19	.661	—	—	6-4	L-2	18-8	19-11
Baltimore	34	19	.642	1½	+4½	6-4	L-1	18-11	16-8
Boston	28	27	.509	8½	2½	6-4	W-1	11-15	17-12
Tampa Bay	26	29	.473	10½	4½	3-7	L-1	15-18	11-11
Toronto	25	29	.463	11	5	6-4	W-2	12-12	13-17

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	37	18	.673	—	—	9-1	W-1	18-6	19-12
Kansas City	34	22	.607	3½	+3	7-3	L-3	21-8	13-14
Minnesota	30	24	.556	6½	—	6-4	W-2	15-12	15-12
Detroit	26	27	.491	10	3½	5-5	W-3	13-14	13-13
Chicago	15	41	.268	22½	16	1-9	L-7	10-20	5-21

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	30	26	.536	—	—	5-5	W-3	17-10	13-16
Texas	26	29	.473	3½	4½	3-7	W-2	13-13	13-16
Houston	24	31	.436	5½	6½	4-6	L-2	14-15	10-16
Oakland	23	33	.411	7	8	4-6	W-1	13-16	10-17
Los Angeles	21	33	.389	8	9	5-5	W-1	7-19	14-14

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Tuesday

L.A. Angels 4, **Yankees** 3
 Boston 8, Baltimore 3
 Oakland 3, Tampa Bay 0
 Texas 4, Arizona 2
 Minnesota 4, Kansas City 2
 Toronto 7, White Sox 2
 Cleveland 13, Colorado 7
 Seattle 4, Houston 2
 Pittsburgh at Detroit, ppd.

Wednesday

Yankees at L.A. Angels, 9:38
 Pittsburgh at Detroit, 12:40, 1st gm.

Pittsburgh at Detroit, 4:10, 2nd gm
 Arizona at Texas, 2:35
 Boston at Baltimore, 6:35
 Oakland at Tampa Bay, 6:50
 Kansas City at Minnesota, 7:40
 Toronto at White Sox, 7:40
 Cleveland at Colorado, 8:40
 Houston at Seattle, 9:40

Thursday

Yankees at L.A. Angels, 9:38
 Kansas City at Minnesota, 1:10
 Oakland at Tampa Bay, 1:10
 Houston at Seattle, 4:10
 Detroit at Boston, 7:10

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	38	18	.679	—	—	6-4	L-3	22-8	16-10
Atlanta	31	21	.596	5	+4	5-5	W-1	17-9	14-12
Washington	24	29	.453	12½	3½	4-6	L-1	10-13	14-16
Mets	22	32	.407	15	6	2-8	L-2	11-18	11-14
Miami	19	37	.339	19	10	5-5	L-2	10-19	9-18

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	31	23	.574	—	—	5-5	L-1	13-10	18-13
Chicago	28	27	.509	3½	½	3-7	W-1	15-11	13-16
St. Louis	26	27	.491	4½	1½	8-2	W-1	13-12	13-15
Pittsburgh	25	29	.463	6	3	6-4	L-1	12-15	13-14
Cincinnati	24	31	.436	7½	4½	5-5	L-1	14-16	10-15

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	35	22	.614	—	—	5-5	W-2	19-11	16-11
San Francisco	29	27	.518	5½	—	8-2	W-2	17-10	12-17
San Diego	30	28	.517	5½	—	6-4	W-3	13-18	17-10
Arizona	25	29	.463	8½	3	4-6	L-2	13-15	12-14
Colorado	19	35	.352	14½	9	4-6	L-1	12-14	7-21

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Tuesday

L.A. Dodgers 5, **Mets** 2, 10 inn., 1st gm.
 L.A. Dodgers 3, **Mets** 0, 2nd gm.
 St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 1
 Atlanta 2, Washington 0
 San Francisco 1, Philadelphia, 10 inn.
 Texas 4, Arizona 2
 Cubs 6, Milwaukee 3, 10 inn.
 Cleveland 13, Colorado 7
 San Diego 4, Miami 0
 Pittsburgh at Detroit, ppd.

Wednesday

L.A. Dodgers at **Mets**, 4:10

Pittsburgh at Detroit, 12:40, 1st gm.
 Pittsburgh at Detroit, 4:10, 2nd gm
 St. Louis at Cincinnati, 1:10
 Arizona at Texas, 2:35
 Philadelphia at San Francisco, 3:45
 Miami at San Diego, 4:10
 Washington at Atlanta, 7:20
 Cubs at Milwaukee, 7:40
 Cleveland at Colorado, 8:40

Thursday

Arizona at **Mets**, 7:10
 Cubs at Milwaukee, 1:10
 Washington at Atlanta, 7:20

Angels 4, Yankees 3

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Volpe ss	5	0	2	0	0	0	.285
Soto rf	5	1	2	2	0	1	.312
Judge cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.279
Verdugo lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.260
Stanton dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.235
Rizzo 1b	4	1	0	0	0	1	.245
Torres 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.229
Wells c	4	0	1	0	1	0	.202
LeMahieu 3b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.000
Totals	36	3	9	3	2	8	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schanguel 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.233
Renfrew 3b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.331
Ward lf	4	0	1	2	0	1	.273
Pillar cf	4	1	3	2	0	0	.431
O'Hoppe c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Adell rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.216
Neto ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.256
Tucker dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.205
Calhoun ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.286
Moniak pr-dh	0	1	0	0	0	0	.179
Paris 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.132
Guillorme ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.355
Totals	32	4	8	4	0	7	

Yankees	100	110	000	—	3	9	1
Los Angeles	200	000	02x	—	4	8	0

E: Rizzo (4). **LOB:** New York 8, Los Angeles 4. **2B:** Wells (6), Ward (10). **HR:** Soto (15), off Canning; Pillar (5), off Cortes. **RBIs:** Soto (2) (46), Wells (5), Pillar 2 (20), Ward 2 (34). **RISP:** New York 2 for 5; Los Angeles 3 for 5.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cortes	5.1	5	2	2	0	4	88	3.30
Kahnle, H, 1	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.00
Weaver, L, 3-1, H, 7	1.2	1	2	0	0	3	26	2.38
Holmes, BS, 15-18	0.1	2	0	0	0	0	8	1.54

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Canning	5.0	9	3	3	2	5	90	5.08
Strickland	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1.96
Garcia	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	4.63
Moore, W, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	5.75
Estévez, S, 8-11	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4.76

T: 2:25. **A:** 34,894 (45,517).

Red Sox 8, Orioles 3

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Duran lf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.265
Abreu rf	4	1	1	0	2	.283	
González ph-rf	0	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Refsnyder dh	4	2	2	2	0	0	.347
Devers 3b	5	1	4	2	0	1	.289
Wong c	4	0	1	0	1	0	.324
Smith 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.192
Grissom 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.141
Hamilton ss	4	1	1	0	0	2	.263
Rafaela cf	3	2	1	0	1	1	.211
Totals	35	8	11	8	2	11	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	5	1	1	0	0	2	.259
Rutschman c	4	0	1	0	1	2	.299
O'Heam 1b	4	1	1	0	1	1	.279
Cowser lf-cf	5	1	1	0	3	2	.240
Santander rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.203
Westburg 3b	3	0	2	2	0	0	.291
Stowers dh	2	0	1	0	0	1	.389
Mountcastle ph-dh	1	0	0	1	0	0	.278
Mullins cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.192
Hays ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.164
Mateo 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.240
Totals	35	3	8	3	3	13	

Boston	220	000	013	—	8	11	0
Baltimore	300	000	000	—	3	8	1

E: Rutschman (1). **LOB:** Boston 5, Baltimore 10. **2B:** Refsnyder (7), Duran (16), Henderson (6). **3B:** Devers (1). **HR:** Abreu (6), off Rodriguez; Refsnyder (2), off Akin. **RBIs:** Abreu (22), Devers 2 (26), Duran (23), Wong (19), González (6), Refsnyder 2 (13), Cowser (25), Westburg 2 (34). **SB:** Wong (1). **CS:** Wong (2). **SF:** González. **S:** Duran. **RISP:** Boston 4 for 8; Baltimore 2 for 9.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bello, W, 6-2	5.0	5	3	3	2	7	90	4.18
Bernardino, H, 2-2	0	0	0	0	1	4	31	0.78
Slaten, H, 4	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	2.89
Weissert	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	18	2.01
Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez, L, 5-2	6.0	7	4	4	1	10	90	3.53
Pérez	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	11	4.97
Cano	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	3.00
Akin	1.0	2	3	3	1	1	29	4.62

T: 2:44. **A:** 17,970 (45,971).

Dodgers 5, Mets 2, 10 inn., 1st Gm.

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Betts ss	5	1	2	1	0	1	.336
Ohtani dh	5	0	0	0	0	2	.329
Freeman 1b	5	1	3	3	0	0	.291
Smith c	5	0	0	0	0	2	.288
T.Hernández lf	5	1	3	0	0	1	.267
Luz 2b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.205
C.Taylor 3b	4	0	1	1	0	3	.110
Heyward rf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.189
Pages cf	4	2					

Cardinals 7, Reds 1

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Winn ss	5	0	1	2	0	0	.297		
Nootbaar rf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.226		
Goldschmidt 1b	4	1	2	0	1	0	.228		
Herrera c	5	1	3	1	0	1	.276		
Arenado 3b	4	1	1	2	1	0	.257		
Burleson dh	5	0	0	0	0	0	.297		
Carlson cf-1f	3	1	1	0	1	0	.143		
Gorman 2b	4	1	1	2	0	2	.214		
Donovan lf	3	1	2	0	0	0	.235		
Siani pr-cf	1	1	1	0	0	0	.211		
Totals	39	7	13	7	3	5			

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Hurtubise lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.226		
De La Cruz ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.245		
Candelario 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.222		
Steer 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.226		
Fraleigh rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.280		
Stephenson c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.242		
Martini dh	2	0	0	0	1	0	.182		
India 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.219		
Benson cf	1	1	1	1	1	0	.199		
Fairchild ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.227		
Ford ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.150		
Totals	31	1	4	1	3	10			

St. Louis	001 200 301	— 7	13	0		
Cincinnati	000 001 000	— 1	4	1		

E: Fraley (2). **LOB:** St. Louis 8, Cincinnati 8. **2B:** Winn (11), Donovan (13), Goldschmidt (7), Candelario (12), Fraley (5). **HR:** Arenado (4), off Abbott; Gorman (9), off Abbott; Benson (8), off Gibson. **RBIs:** Winn 2 (17), Arenado 2 (25), Gorman 2 (23), Herrera (16), Benson (17), **SB:** Siani (6). **RISP:** St. Louis 1 for 9; Cincinnati 0 for 4.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA	
Gibson, W, 4-2	6.0	2	1	1	2	6	95	3.60	
King	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	28	1.72	
Fernandez	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	20	3.32	

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA	
Abbott, L, 3-5	6.0	7	6	6	2	3	94	3.29	
Farmer	1.0	2	0	0	1	27	2.10		
Young	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	17	0.00	
Suter	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	10	4.20	

T: 2:37. **A:** 19,471 (43,891).

Braves 2, Nationals 0

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Abrams ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.266		
Thomas rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.188		
Meneses 1b	3	0	3	0	0	0	.239		
Rosario ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.173		
Reuzel 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.224		
Smith dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.205		
Winker lf	2	0	1	0	1	1	.238		
Vargas 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.297		
Adams c	3	0	0	0	0	3	.224		
Young cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.269		
Totals	29	0	7	0	1	8			

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Harris cf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.259		
Riley 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.232		
Ozuna dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	.309		
Olson 1b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.232		
Albies 2b	2	0	1	0	1	1	.271		
Murphy c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.200		
Kelenic lf	2	0	1	0	0	2	.254		
Duvall rf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.213		
Arcia ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.245		
Totals	26	2	5	2	3	12			

Washington	000 000 000	— 0	7	0		
Atlanta	000 000 20x	— 2	5	0		

LOB: Washington 3, Atlanta 4. **2B:** Abrams (10), Duvall (3). **HR:** Ozuna (16), off Barnes. **RBIs:** Ozuna (48), Kelenic (10), **SB:** Winker (8). **CS:** Winker (2). **SF:** Kelenic. **RISP:** Washington 0 for 3; Atlanta 0 for 4. **DP:** Washington 1 (Abrams, Vargas, Meneses); Atlanta 4 (Albies, Arcia, Albies; Arcia, Albies, Olson; Riley, Albies, Olson; Albies, Arcia, Olson).

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA	
Irvin	6.0	2	0	0	2	10	90	3.43	
Barnes, L, 2-2	1.0	3	2	2	0	2	24	3.86	
Law	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	18	2.90	

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA	
Fried, W, 5-2	8.0	7	0	0	1	6	103	2.97	
Iglesias, S, 13-15	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	2.21	

T: 2:04. **A:** 37,598 (41,149).

Padres 4, Marlins 0

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Chisholm cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.260		
De La Cruz dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.253		
Bell 1b	4	0	3	0	0	0	.233		
J.Sánchez rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.224		
Burger 3b	4	0	2	0	0	2	.199		
Gordon lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.222		
Anderson ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.199		
Lopez 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.260		
Fortes c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.162		
Totals	33	0	6	0	0	11			

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Arraez 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.379		
Tatis rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.249		
Profar lf	4	1	2	3	0	0	.323		
Merrill cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.275		
Machado dh	3	1	1	0	1	1	.237		
Cronenworth 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.266		
Solano 3b	4	0	3	1	0	0	.375		
Kim ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.212		
Azocar cf-1f	3	0	0	0	0	1	.246		
Higashioka c	2	0	0	0	1	2	.128		
Totals	32	4	9	4	2	6			

Miami	000 000 000	— 0	6	0		
San Diego	200 010 01x	— 4	9	0		

LOB: Miami 6, San Diego 6. **2B:** Bell (9), Solano (2). **HR:** Profar (8), off Luzardo. **RBIs:** Profar 3 (35), Solano (3). **SB:** Azocar (2), Machado (3). **RISP:** Miami 0 for 3; San Diego 2 for 6. **DP:** Miami 1 (Anderson, Lopez, Bell).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA	
Luzardo, L, 2-4	6.0	7	3	3	2	4	94	4.18	
Nardi	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	5.14	
Ramirez	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	19	1.59	

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA	
Waldron, W, 3-5	7.0	6	0	0	0	8	85	4.26	
W.Peralta, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	13	2.82	
Estrada	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	12	0.55	

T: 2:01. **A:** 41,032 (40,222).

Guardians 13, Rockies 7

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Freeman cf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.222		
Giménez 2b	4	2	2	0	1	1	.273		
Ramírez 3b	3	4	2	2	2	0	.272		
J.Naylor 1b	4	3	2	5	1	0	.234		
Fry lf	5	3	3	3	0	0	.357		
Manzardo dh	5	1	3	1	0	1	.236		
Brennan rf	4	0	1	0	1	0	.227		
B.Naylor c	4	0	0	1	0	2	.177		
Arias ss	3	0	0	1	0	0	.219		
Totals	37	13	13	13	5	4			

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Blackmon rf	5	1	2	1	0	0	.242		
Tovar ss	5	1	2	0	0	2	.286		
McMahon 3b	5	0	1	1	0	4	.286		
Díaz c	5	0	1	0	0	3	.301		
Bryant 1b	4	1	1	2	1	2	.173		
Rodgers 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.266		
Doyle cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.263		
Bouchard lf	2	2	1	0	2	1	.226		
Montano dh	3	2	1	2	1	1	.223		
Totals	36	7	10	6	5	14			

Cleveland	200 230 330	— 13	13	1		
Colorado	002 203 000	— 7	10	1		

E: J.Naylor (3), Bryant (1). **LOB:** Cleveland 4, Colorado 7. **2B:** Manzardo 2 (8), Ramírez (12), Tovar (17). **HR:** Ramírez (16), off Feltner; J.Naylor (14), off Feltner; Fry (7), off Carasiti; J.Naylor (15), off Carasiti; Bryant (2), off McKenzie; Montero (3), off McKenzie. **RBIs:** Ramírez 2 (56), B.Naylor (12), Arias (10), J.Naylor 5 (40), Manzardo (4), Fry 3 (23), Bryant 2 (9), Montero 2 (21), Blackmon (24), McMahon (33). **SB:** Giménez (9), Brennan (3), Fry (4), Bouchard (3). **SF:** B.Naylor, Arias. **RISP:** Cleveland 6 for 12; Colorado 3 for 11. **DP:** Cleveland 1 (Ramírez, Giménez, J.Naylor); Colorado 2 (Tovar, Rodgers, Bryant; Tovar, Bryant).

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA	
McKenzie	5.0	6	4	4	3	9	94	3.77	
Sandlin, H, 5	0.1	0	2	2	2	0	15	2.88	
Herrin, BS, 0-2	0.1	2	1	1	0	0	9	1.21	
Smith, W, 2-0	1.1	1	0	0	0	3	17	1.82	
Gaddis	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1.71	
Hentges	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	16	4.70	

Colorado **IP** **H** **R** **ER** **BB** **SO** **NP** **ERA**
Feltner 4.1 8 7 6 2 1 1 78 5.61
Lambert, L, 2-4 2.0 0 1 1 1 1 26 7.06
Carasiti 1.2 5 5 5 2 0 3511.25
Vodnik 1.0 0 0 0 0 2 9 2.84

T: 2:54. **A:** 21,009 (50,144).

Mariners 4, Astros 2

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg		
Altuve 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.295		
Tucker rf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.272		
Alvarez lf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.269		



BETMGM

The *POST* Line



NHL

Conference Final- Wednesday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
OILERS	\$115-135	Stars

Thursday

Panthers	-105-115	RANGERS
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Home Teams in CAPS

WNBA

Wednesday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LIBERTY	13.5 (168)	Mercury
Dream	5.5 (162.5)	MYSTICS
Aces	6 (172.5)	LYNX

MLB

Wednesday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	\$150-180	ANGELS
Dodgers	\$110-130	METS
RANGERS	\$104-122	Diamondbacks
Phillies	\$105-125	GIANTS
PADRES	\$142-170	Marlins
ORIOLES	\$154-185	Red Sox
RAYS	\$146-174	Athletics
BRAVES	\$130-155	Nationals
TWINS	\$110-130	Royals
Cubs	\$114-135	BREWERS
Blue Jays	\$142-170	WHITE SOX
Guardians	\$130-155	ROCKIES
MARINERS	-102-118	Astros
TIGERS- Gm. 1	\$102-120	Pirates
Tigers- Gm. 2	OFF	Pirates
REDS	OFF	Cardinals

SPORTS SHORTS

NHL: Isles' Lee wins Clancy Trophy

Anders Lee was named the winner of the NHL's King Clancy Memorial Trophy on Tuesday night, honoring his leadership on the ice and his charitable contributions off it.

Lee, the Islanders' captain, is heavily involved with the Jam Kancer Foundation. He hosted a Kan Jam event at Northwell Health Ice Center before the season and funds scholarships through the foundation in memory of his friend **Fenov Pierre-Louis**, who died of neuroblastoma in 2018.

Lee has funded 24 scholarships and is taking applications for five more this season. He also hosts families impacted by cancer at every Islanders home game and hosts an annual gifting initiative for them during the holidays.

As part of the award, Lee will receive a \$25,000 donation from the NHL to a charity of his choice. He is also eligible to elect that the Islanders receive a \$20,000 grant to organize a special activation related to his cause. This is Lee's first time winning the award.

—Ethan Sears

● The Blue Jackets named **Don Waddell** as their general manager and president of hockey operations on Tuesday.

FRENCH OPEN: Novak nets win

Novak Djokovic earned a 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-4 win over 33-year-old Frenchman **Pierre-Hugues Herbert** in the first round of the French Open on Tuesday night in Paris.

Djokovic is trying to become the first player in tennis history to claim 25 Grand Slam singles trophies.

The first round closed on a day during which rain delayed play for several hours early in the day on all but the two principal courts, which are outfitted with retractable roofs.

Other winners included the man Djokovic beat in last year's French Open final,

Casper Ruud, and past major champions **Aryna Sabalenka** and **Elena Rybakina**.

Two-time Australian Open champion Sabalenka overpowered **Erika Andrejeva** 6-1, 6-2.

MLB: Cubs beat Brewers in extras

Mike Tauchman hit a go-ahead single in Chicago's five-run 10th inning and the Cubs stopped a five-game skid by beating the Brewers 6-3 in Milwaukee. **Ben Brown** struck out a career-high 10 in seven hitless innings for the Cubs.

● In San Francisco, **Luis Matos** hit a walk-off sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to plate automatic runner **Tyler Fitzgerald** and the Giants beat the MLB-leading Phillies 1-0.

● In Minneapolis, **Simeon Woods Richardson** earned his first win in eight starts and the Twins beat the Royals 4-2. Minnesota has won six of its last seven games.

● In Arlington, Texas, **Corey Seager** homered for the seventh time in as many games, putting the Rangers ahead with his three-run shot in their 4-2 win over Arizona in a rematch of last year's World Series.

● In St. Petersburg, Fla., rookie **Mitch Spence** took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, **Miguel Andújar** hit a three-run homer, and the Athletics beat the Rays 3-0.

ETC.: Clark gets 30 points in loss

Caitlin Clark finished with a season-best 30 points, six assists, five rebounds, three blocks and three steals but it was not enough as the Los Angeles Sparks earned a 88-82 victory over the Indiana Fever in Indianapolis. **Kia Nurse** scored 22 points and **Aari McDonald** added a season-high 21 for the Sparks.

● The Texans rewarded wide receiver **Nico Collins** for his breakout performance last season with a three-year, \$72.75 million contract extension that includes \$52 million guaranteed, according to multiple media reports.

ACTION TOP PLAY

Dodge Paxton, take Mets

By TANNER McGRATH
actionnetwork.com

James Paxton is the most overvalued pitcher in baseball.

He's lost two ticks of velocity on his heavily used four-seam fastball, meaning he can't force whiffs (career-low 8 percent swinging-strike rate), so he's forced to nibble around the edges, where he's walked (28) as many batters as he's struck out (28) across his first 50 innings.

After posting a 2.58 ERA through his first seven starts, the negative regression train finally pulled into Paxton Station, as the Reds lit him up for eight runs across his past two starts. More negative regression should come, given his expected ERA (5.47) is nearly two runs higher than his actual (3.49).

David Peterson is making his 2024 debut. He's posted monster strikeout numbers over the past two seasons (28 percent) and pitched well in his minor league rehab starts, posting a 1.14 ERA with 35 strikeouts to three walks across 23 innings.

It's tough fading the Dodgers' superstar-laden lineup, but they're slumping against southpaws, posting a measly 64 wRC+ against the side over the past two weeks (23rd in MLB).

I love the Mets bullpen, which leads all relief corps in Stuff+ (111) and strikeout rate (28 percent). Meanwhile, the Dodgers bullpen has posted a 4.05 SIERA and 10 percent walk rate over the past two weeks.

THE PLAY: Mets +110.

Tanner McGrath handicaps MLB for The Action Network.

Pitching Form

	(Game time)	2024			'24 vs OPP			CAREER vs OPP			LAST 3 STARTS		
		W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA			
Yankees	Gil (R)	6-1	2.11	8-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	3-0	18.1	0.49			
Angels	Anderson (L)	5-4	2.52	5-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	3-0	21.2	2.08			
Dodgers	Paxton (L)	5-0	3.49	7-2	1-0	3.00	2-1	1-0	16.2	4.32			
Mets	Peterson (L)	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	9.00	1-0	0-0	16.2	3.24			
Pirates	Jones (R)	Game 1	3-4	3.05	4-6	—	—	1-1	18.0	4.00			
Tigers	Flaherty (R)	(1:10pm)	1-4	3.84	4-6	—	—	1-2	19.0	3.79			
Pirates	Skenes	Game 2	1-0	2.25	2-1	—	—	1-0	16.0	2.25			
Tigers	TBD	TBD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
D'Backs	Nelson (R)	3-3	6.03	2-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	13.2	9.88			
Rangers	Heaney (L)	(2:35pm)	0-6	4.69	1-9	0-0	11.57	0-2	12.0	5.25			
Indians	Allen (L)	6-2	4.90	7-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	3-0	17.2	1.53			
Rockies	Blach (L)	(8:40pm)	1-2	4.55	2-2	0-0	0.00	1-1	14.2	5.52			
Red Sox	Crawford (R)	2-3	2.89	3-8	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-2	16.0	6.19			
Orioles	Burnes (R)	(6:35pm)	4-2	2.60	7-4	1-0	1.29	1-0	18.0	2.00			
Athletics	Estes (R)	1-1	7.47	2-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	15.2	7.47			
Rays	Pepiot (R)	(6:50pm)	3-2	3.98	4-4	0-0	0.00	1-0	12.0	4.50			
Royals	Lugo (R)	8-1	1.74	8-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	3-0	20.2	1.74			
Twins	Ober (R)	(7:40pm)	5-2	4.33	5-5	0-1	54.00	2-1	15.1	4.11			
Blue Jays	Manoah (R)	1-2	3.97	1-3	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-2	18.2	1.93			
White Sox	Flexen (R)	(7:40pm)	2-4	5.69	2-7	0-0	4.70	0-1	13.1	9.45			
Astros	Brown (R)	1-5	7.06	2-7	0-0	4.15	0-2	1-1	15.1	4.70			
Mariners	Kirby (R)	(9:40pm)	4-5	4.33	4-7	0-0	1.50	1-2	19.0	4.74			
Cardinals	Liberatore (L)	1-2	5.27	1-2	0-0	0.00	1-0	0-1	10.0	8.10			
Reds	Montas (R)	(1:10pm)	2-3	4.61	3-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	15.2	6.32			
Phillies	Sánchez (L)	2-3	3.15	4-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	18.0	3.00			
Giants	Harrison (L)	(3:45pm)	4-1	3.90	9-2	0-0	5.40	1-0	15.0	6.00			
Marlins	Garrett (L)	1-0	5.30	3-0	0-0	1.69	1-0	1-0	18.2	5.30			
Padres	Darvish (R)	(4:10pm)	4-2	3.04	7-3	0-0	0.00	2-1	19.2	3.20			
Nationals	Gore (L)	3-4	3.04	4-6	1-1	5.23	1-1	1-1	19.1	2.33			
Braves	TBD	(7:20pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Cubs	Imanaga (L)	5-0	0.84	8-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	19.0	0.95			
Brewers	Wilson (R)	(7:40pm)	3-1	2.86	3-3	0-0	2.25	1-2	14.2	2.45			

*REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Orioles fly and Cubs coast

Whether you are supporting President Biden or former President Trump, you had to enjoy Robert DeNiro's performance outside the courthouse on Tuesday.

Some highlights ... "I don't mean to scare you. No, no, wait, maybe I do. ... Trump wants to destroy the city, the country and eventually the world. ... Elections? Fuhgeddaboutit! That's over, done. If he gets in the White House, I can tell you right now he will never leave." Obviously a squatter situation, Bob. And then the reaction to Trump supporters booing him. "You're not going to intimidate. You

are gangsters, gangsters. ... F--k you!"

Wow. Must have been that second bowl of Loco Krispies. This crazy 'capper is playing two on Wednesday. \$100 on Corbin Burnes and the Orioles against the visiting Red Sox. And \$50 on the Cubs. Shota Imanaga throws in Milwaukee.

-\$

Cleveland led 2-0, 4-2 and 7-4. The Balboas kept punching back to tie. But Josh Naylor hit two homers and the Guards KO'd the Rockies 13-7. Winner. Down -971 donfanuccis.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY

	TODAY May 29	THU May 30	FRI May 31	SAT June 1	SUN June 2	MON June 3	TUE June 4
	Anaheim 9:38 Prime Video WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	Ana. 9:38 YES WFAN	S.F. 10:15 YES WFAN	S.F. 10:05 YES WFAN	S.F. 4:05 YES WFAN	NO GAME	Minn. 7:05 YES WFAN
	Los Angeles 4:10 SNY WCBS 880 AM	Ariz. 7:10 SNY WCBS	Ariz. 7:10 PIX11 WCBS	Ariz. 4:10 SNY WCBS	Ariz. 1:40 PIX11 WCBS	Wash. 6:45 SNY WCBS	Wash. 6:45 SNY WCBS
	NO GAME	Fla. 8:00 ESPN ESPN	NO GAME	Fla. 8:00 ABC ESPN	NO GAME	(if nec.) Fla. 8:00 ESPN ESPN	NO GAME
	Phoenix 7:00 CBSSN	NO GAME	Wash. 7:30 ION	NO GAME	Ind. 7:00 MY9	NO GAME	Chi. 8:00 MY9

	Today	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

MLB	1 p.m.	Cardinals at Reds	MLBN
	4 p.m.	Marlins at Padres	MLBN
	4:10 p.m.	Dodgers at Mets	SNY, WCBS (880 AM)
	7:30 p.m.	Cubs at Brewers	MLBN
	9:38 p.m.	Yankees at Angels	Prime Video, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
WNBA	10:30 p.m.	Astros at Mariners (in progress)	MLBN
	7 p.m.	Mercury at Liberty	CBSSN
NHL Playoffs	8 p.m.	Aces at Lynx	NBATV
	8:30 p.m.	Stars at Oilers, Game 4	TNT
Soccer	7:30 p.m.	Charlotte FC at Red Bulls	Apple TV+
	8:30 p.m.	Portland Timbers at Austin FC	FS1
	10 p.m.	USL Championship: Charleston at Monterey Bay	CBSSN
Tennis	10:30 p.m.	Minnesota United at LAFC	FS1
	6 a.m.	The French Open, Early Rounds	Tennis
	8 a.m.	The French Open, Early Rounds	MSG
College Golf	5 a.m. (Thu.)	The French Open, Early Rounds	Tennis
	6 p.m.	NCAA Championships: Team Match Play – National Championship	Golf
Hockey	8:30 p.m.	CHL Memorial Cup: Saginaw vs. London	NHLN
Horse Racing	2 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
Basketball	11 a.m.	Africa League Semifinal: Rivers Hoopers Basketball Club vs. Al Ahly Ly Sporting Club	NBATV
	2 p.m.	Africa League Semifinal: Clube Atletico Petroleos de Luanda vs. Cape Town Tigers	NBATV
AFL Football	5:30 a.m. (Thu.)	Carlton at Port Adelaide	FS2

WNBA

Odds to win 2024 WNBA Championship

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Las Vegas Aces	+105	Dallas Wings	35/1
Liberty	+165	Chicago Sky	35/1
Connecticut Sun	14/1	Atlanta Dream	40/1
Seattle Storm	14/1	Indiana Fever	50/1
Minnesota Lynx	25/1	Washington Mystics	90/1
Phoenix Mercury	28/1	Los Angeles Sparks	100/1

ODDS & ENDS

PGA TOUR

RBC Canadian Open Hamilton Golf & CC Thursday-Sunday

GOLFER	ODDS
Rory McIlroy	+400
Tommy Fleetwood	16/1
Sahith Theegala	20/1
Corey Conners	22/1
Shane Lowry	22/1
Alex Noren	25/1
Cameron Young	25/1
Sam Burns	28/1
Adam Scott	33/1
Maverick McNealy	33/1
Tom Kim	33/1
Aaron Rai	40/1
Keith Mitchell	40/1
Mackenzie Hughes	40/1
Adam Hadwin	50/1
Akshay Bhatia	50/1
Taylor Pendrith	50/1
Davis Thompson	55/1
Erik van Rooyen	55/1
Nick Taylor	60/1
Ben Griffin	66/1
Matt Wallace	66/1
Seamus Power	66/1
Adam Svensson	80/1
Daniel Berger	80/1
Doug Ghim	80/1
Kevin Yu	80/1
Mark Hubbard	80/1
Robert MacIntyre	80/1
Ryo Hisatsune	80/1
Mac Meissner	90/1
Nicolai Hojgaard	90/1
Ryan Fox	90/1
Beau Hossler	100/1
Eric Cole	100/1
Greyson Sigg	100/1
K.H. Lee	100/1
Luke List	100/1
Matt Kuchar	100/1
S.H. Kim	100/1
Sam Stevens	100/1
Thorbjorn Olesen	100/1

LPGA TOUR

RBC Canadian Open Hamilton Golf & CC Thursday-Sunday

GOLFER	ODDS
Nelly Korda	+350
Rose Zhang	18/1
Atthaya Thitikul	20/1
Ayaka Furue	25/1
Jin Young Ko	25/1
Brooke M. Henderson	28/1
Nasa Hataoka	28/1
Sei Young Kim	28/1
Hannah Green	30/1
Hyo Joo Kim	30/1
Minjee Lee	30/1
Charley Hull	33/1
Hae Ran Ryu	33/1
Patty Tavatanakit	33/1

ACTION BET SMART



Score with Noren at Canadian Open

GO, CANADA! Alex Noren comes into the RBC Canadian Open having one of his most consistent seasons, making him a good bet at 25/1. Getty Images

By DEREK FARNSWORTH
actionnetwork.com

The RBC Canadian Open changes venues each year, so we have little course history to work with this week.

The event has been held at Hamilton Golf & Country Club only two times over the last 15 years — in 2019 when Rory McIlroy won and in 2012 when Scott Piercy came out on top.

The course is on a gone through major renovations since Piercy's victory more than a decade ago. It has been lengthened by 118 yards, all 18 greens were redone, trees were removed and the bunkers rebuilt.

In other words, you can ignore all course history when making your picks this week.

The course is a par-70 that measures 7,084 yards — a short course compared to PGA Tour standards. While there are only two par-5s, we can expect favorable scoring conditions.

With thick rough, narrow fairways and only a few long holes, accuracy should be more important than distance off the tee. The greens are average in size and feature bentgrass.

I'm not putting a strong emphasis on course fit this week. For one, we don't know how it will truly play given the renovations, and the course is short enough that any type of golfer should be able to contend. Instead, I will be focusing more on recent form.

Here are three best bets to win the RBC Canadian Open:

Alex Noren (25/1, BetMGM)

Noren is easily having his most consistent season. Since the start of October, he has made 17 straight cuts, and since the start of March, he has eight straight top-25 finishes. More importantly, he has consistently gained strokes in all four of the main categories (off the tee, approach, around the green and putting).

He's still searching for his first win on the PGA Tour, but with 11 professional victories, he certainly knows how to win, and his game is trending in the right direction.

This is a fair number given how weak the field is. Because of his consistency, I will be adding a top-20 bet on him as well at +145.

Maverick McNealy (35/1, bet365)

McNealy missed time last year with an injury but is back and playing some great golf. He has made 11 straight cuts on the PGA Tour and has posted three top-20 finishes during that stretch.

He has a very consistent stat profile; he is good off the tee and is an excellent scrambler and putter. The approach play is what has held him back from truly contending in an event this year, but something seems to have clicked on that front.

After losing strokes on approach in seven of his first eight events this year, he has gained at least 1.6 strokes on approach in three of his last four events. If that continues, I like his chances of contending.

Adam Scott (40/1, bet365)

I have consistently bet on Scott this year and hope that loyalty will be rewarded soon.

He had a nice stretch on the DP World Tour in the fall and already has eight top-30 finishes in 11 PGA Tour starts in 2024. The problem (at least for me) is that he hasn't been able to find his way back into the winner's circle.

The underlying statistics are promising, as he's shown an ability to gain strokes in all facets of his game. He tends to play his best on classical courses, and Hamilton seems to fit that mold.

He has won all over the world (31 total wins, 14 PGA Tour wins), so maybe he can add another trophy to his mantle this week. He's certainly more appealing than those priced around him in the market.

Derek Farnsworth handicaps golf for The Action Network.

NEW YORK POST

New Episode
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WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Mets Hall of Famer and
World Series Champion,
Darryl Strawberry



NEW EPISODE EVERY TUESDAY

SCAN THE QR
FOR NEW YORK POST SPORTS
PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Major League Baseball's record books are about to drastically change Wednesday.

Negro League statistics are going to become an official part of MLB's historical records three years after it announced it would elevate the erstwhile leagues to major league status, USA Today first reported Tuesday.

The addition of the 2,300 players who played in seven different leagues from 1920-48 into MLB's database and record books means that Hall of Fame catcher Josh Gibson will become MLB's single-season record holder in a number of different categories.

Gibson will surpass Ty Cobb as the all-time career leader in batting average (.372) and move ahead of Babe Ruth for slugging percentage (.718) and OPS (1.177).

The legendary catcher will hold single-season records in batting average (.466), slugging percentage (.974) and OPS (1.474), the latter of which places him ahead of Barry Bonds' 2004 season (1.421 OPS).

Gibson played his entire 14-year career in the Negro Leagues.

"We are proud that the official historical record now includes the players of the Negro Leagues," MLB commissioner Rob Manfred told Yahoo Sports in a statement. "This initiative is focused on ensuring that future generations of fans have access to the statistics and milestones of all those who made the Negro Leagues possible. Their accomplishments on the field will be a gateway to broader learning about this triumph in American history and the path that led to Jackie Robinson's 1947 Dodger debut."

Gibson's family said the change goes beyond just the icon's impact.

"This means so much for not only the Josh Gibson family, but representing the 2,300 men in the Negro Leagues who didn't get the opportunity to play [in the major leagues]," Sean Gibson, Gibson's great-grandson, told USA Today.

MLB's official historian John Thorn first told USA Today in February that the league anticipated it would be able to "share with fans a solid representation of an integrated MLB database in 2024."

Thorn has been the chair of baseball's Negro Leagues Statistical Review Committee, which has been made up of baseball historians, Negro League experts, former players, researchers and journalists, according to Yahoo Sports.

Sean Gibson is among the 15 members of the committee.

The committee had been poring through boxscores, stats and other data from Seamheads, RetroSheet and the Elias

OH MY JOSH!

MLB adding Negro Leagues to database, moving HoF'er Gibson into record books

Sports Bureau.

MLB will pay tribute to the Negro Leagues on June 20, with the Giants and Cardinals playing a regular-season game at Rickwood Field in Alabama — the historic home of the Birmingham Black Barons and occasional home of the Double-A Birmingham Barons.

With the imminent change to the record books coming, Sean Gibson said he hopes to see the Baseball Writers' Association of America rename the MVP award in honor of his great-grandfather.

The award

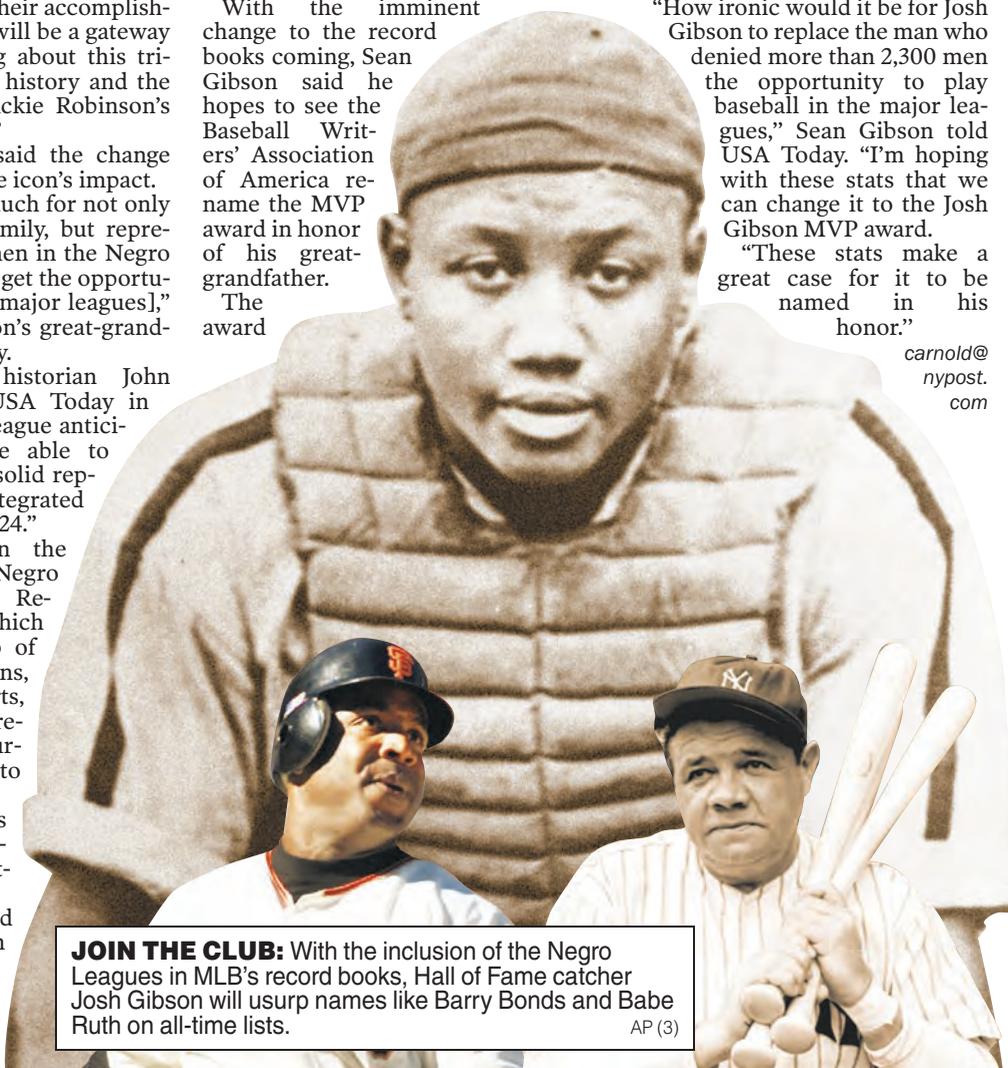
had previously been named after former MLB commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, but in 2020, his name was removed due to discomfort from past MVP winners over Landis' history with integration in baseball.

Baseball was not integrated until after Landis had died in 1944.

"How ironic would it be for Josh Gibson to replace the man who denied more than 2,300 men the opportunity to play baseball in the major leagues," Sean Gibson told USA Today. "I'm hoping with these stats that we can change it to the Josh Gibson MVP award."

"These stats make a great case for it to be named in his honor."

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com



JOIN THE CLUB: With the inclusion of the Negro Leagues in MLB's record books, Hall of Fame catcher Josh Gibson will usurp names like Barry Bonds and Babe Ruth on all-time lists.

AP (3)

NHL Playoffs

Conference Finals

Best-of-7; x-if necessary

Eastern Conference

Rangers vs. Florida

Series tied, 2-2
Game 1: Florida 3, Rangers 0
Game 2: Rangers 2, Florida 1, OT
Game 3: Rangers 5, Florida 4, OT
Game 4: Florida 3, Rangers 2, OT
Thu.: at Rangers, 8 p.m.
Sat.: at Florida, 8 p.m.
x-Mon.: at Rangers, 8 p.m.

Western Conference

Dallas vs. Edmonton

Dallas leads series, 2-1
Game 1: Edmonton 3, Dallas 2, 2OT
Game 2: Dallas 3, Edmonton 1
Game 3: Dallas 5, Edmonton 3
Wed.: at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m.
x-Fri.: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
x-Sun.: at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
x-Tue.: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

NHL Playoffs: Game 4

Panthers 3, Rangers 2, OT

Rangers	1	0	1	0	2
Florida	0	2	0	1	3

First Period: 1, Rangers, Trocheck 8 (Fox, Panarin), 8:51 (pp). **Penalties:** Gustafsson, NYR (Roughing), 4:20; Lundell, FLA (High Sticking), 7:07; Montour, FLA (Cross Checking), 16:03.

Second Period: 2, Florida, Bennett 4 (Bobrovsky, Forsling), 8:45. 3, Florida, Verhaeghe 9 (Tkachuk, Barkov), 12:16 (pp). **Penalties:** Lindgren, NYR (Holding), 6:42; Goodrow, NYR (Delay of Game), 10:59; Forsling, FLA (Tripping), 14:36.

Third Period: 4, Rangers, Lafreniere 7 (Panarin, Fox), 3:28. **Penalties:** None.

Overtime: 5, Florida, Reinhart 8 (Barkov, Montour), 1:12 (pp). **Penalties:** Wheeler, NYR (Hooking), 0:59.

Shots on Goal: Rangers 13-5-5-0—23. Florida 11-14-13-2—40.

Power-play opportunities: Rangers 1 of 3; Florida 2 of 4.
Goalies: Rangers, Shesterkin 10-4-0 (40 shots-37 saves). Florida, Bobrovsky 10-5-0 (23-21). **A:** 19,754 (19,250). **T:** 2:52.

WNBA

East W L Pct. GB

Connecticut	6	0	1.000	—
Liberty	4	2	.667	2
Atlanta	2	2	.500	3
Chicago	2	3	.400	3½
Indiana	1	7	.125	6
Washington	0	6	.000	6

West W L Pct. GB

Minnesota	4	1	.800	—
Las Vegas	3	1	.750	½
Dallas	3	2	.600	1
Seattle	4	3	.571	1
Phoenix	3	3	.500	1½
Los Angeles	2	4	.333	2½

Tuesday

Connecticut 70, Phoenix 47
Los Angeles 88, Indiana 82
Seattle 77, Chicago 68

Wednesday

Phoenix at Liberty, 7pm
Atlanta at Washington, 7pm
Las Vegas at Minnesota, 8pm

Thursday

Seattle at Indiana, 7pm
Los Angeles at Chicago, 8pm

Friday

Washington at Liberty, 7:30pm
Dallas at Connecticut, 7:30pm
Las Vegas at Atlanta, 7:30pm
Phoenix at Minnesota, 9:30pm

NASCAR

NASCAR Cup Series Rookie Standings

Through Monday

1. Josh Berry, 263.
2. Carson Hocevar, 227.
3. Kaz Grala, 122.
4. Zane Smith, 113.

NBA Playoffs

Conference Finals

Best-of-7; x-if necessary

Eastern Conference

Boston vs. Indiana

Boston wins series, 4-0

Game 1: Boston 133, Indiana 128, OT
Game 2: Boston 126, Indiana 110
Game 3: Boston 114, Indiana 111
Game 4: Boston 105, Indiana 102

Western Conference

Minnesota vs. Dallas

Dallas leads series, 3-1

Game 1: Dallas 108, Minnesota 105
Game 2: Dallas 109, Minnesota 108
Game 3: Dallas 116, Minnesota 107
Game 4: Minnesota 105, Dallas 100
Thu.: at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
x-Sat.: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
x-Mon.: at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	8	0	3	27	20	10
Kansas City	7	0	4	25	26	15
Washington	8	3	0	24	25	16
Portland	6	4	1	19	24	16
Gotham FC	5	2	3	18	10	7
Chicago	5	5	1	16	15	15
North Carolina	5	6	0	15	13	14
Louisville	2	2	6	12	15	12
San Diego	3	4	3	12	9	9
Houston	3	5	3	12	11	18
Angel City	3	5	2	11	11	16
Bay FC	3	8	0	9	15	23
Seattle	2	8	1	7	11	20
Utah Royals FC	1	9	1	4	6	20

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday

Houston at Louisville, 8pm

Orlando at San Diego, 10pm

Saturday

Angel City at Gotham FC, 12:30pm

Washington at Utah Royals FC, 7:30pm

Bay FC at Chicago, 7:30pm

North Carolina at Portland, 10pm

NBA Playoffs: Game 4

T'wolves 105, Mavericks 100

	Minnesota						
	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
McDaniels	38:51	4-8	0-0	0-1	0	2	10
Towns	29:34	9-13	3-3	0-5	1	6	25
Gobert	39:13	4-5	5-9	0-10	1	5	13
Conley	34:12	5-9	3-4	1-3	7	1	14
Edwards	40:26	11-25	5-8	1-10	9	5	29
Anderson	24:58	1-3	0-0	3-4	4	3	2
Reid	19:52	3-6	0-1	1-5	1	1	6
Alexander-Walker	12:52	2-5	0-0	0-2	0	0	6
Totals	240:00	39-74	16-25	6-40	23	23	105

Percentages: FG .527, FT .640. **3-point goals:** 11-24, .458 (Towns 4-5, McDaniels 2-4, Alexander-Walker 2-5, Edwards 2-5, Conley 1-4, Reid 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 8. **Team turnovers:** 1. **Blocked shots:** 4 (Alexander-Walker, Gobert, McDaniels, Reid). **Turnovers:** 14 (Edwards 6, Towns 4, Gobert 2, Alexander-Walker, Reid). **Steals:** 9 (Conley 4, Anderson 3, Alexander-Walker, McDaniels). **Technical:** Gobert, 8:28 third; coach Chris Finch, 4:59 third.

Dallas

	Dallas						
	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Jones Jr.	34:16	3-6	1-2	2-5	4	3	9
Washington	41:42	3-13	2-2	2-5	2	3	10
Gafford	31:21	6-6	0-0	2-8	1	3	12
Doncic	40:44	7-21	10-12	2-15	10	4	28
Irving	41:58	6-18	3-3	2-2	4	2	16
Green	16:49	1-3	2-2	0-1	1	2	5
Kleber	13:29	1-3	0-0	0-1	1	3	2
Hardy	12:05	5-8	0-0	0-1	0	1	13
Exum	4:26	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	5
Powell	3:08	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals	240:00	34-81	18-21	10-38	23	22	100

Percentages: FG .420, FT .857. **3-point goals:** 14-40, .350 (Doncic 4-11, Hardy 3-4, Jones Jr. 2-3, Washington 2-9, Exum 1-2, Green 1-3, Irving 1-6, Kleber 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 8. **Team turnovers:** 1. **Blocked shots:** 4 (Gafford 3, Washington). **Turnovers:** 13 (Irving 4, Doncic 3, Jones Jr. 2, Green, Hardy, Powell, Washington). **Steals:** 6 (Doncic, Exum, Gafford, Green, Irving, Jones Jr.). **Technical:** Jones Jr., 8:28 third.

Minnesota	27	22	29	27	—	105
Dallas	20	29	24	27	—	100

A: 20,477 (19,200).

French Open

At Stade Roland Garros; Paris; Purse: Euro19,280,000; Surface: Red clay; Tuesday from French Open at Stade Roland Garros (seedings in parentheses):

Men's Singles - First Round

Casper Ruud (7), Norway, def. Felipe Meligeni Alves, Brazil, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
Tomas Martin Etcheverry (28), Argentina, def. Arthur Cazaux, France, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.
Alex de Minaur (11), Australia, def. Alex Michelsen, United States, 6-1, 6-0, 6-2.
Tomas Machac, Czechia, def. Nuno Borges, Portugal, 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-3.
Arthur Rinderknech, France, def. Adam Walton, Australia, 6-2, 6-4, 7-5.
Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, def. Valentin Vacherot, Monaco, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (2).
Taylor Fritz (12), United States, def. Federico Coria, Argentina, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1.
Mariano Navone (31), Argentina, def. Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3, 6-0.
Jaume Munar, Spain, def. Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Roman Andres Burruchaga, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.
Flavio Cobolli, Italy, def. Hamad Medjedovic, Serbia, 6-2, 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3.
Holger Rune (13), Denmark, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
Luciano Darderi, Italy, def. Rinky Hijikata, Australia, 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-1.
Giulio Zeppieri, Italy, def. Adrian Mannarino (22), France, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2.
David Goffin, Belgium, def. Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, France, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3.
Tallon Griekspoor (26), Netherlands, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.
Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, def. Constant Lestienne, France, 6-3, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2.
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Pierre-Hugues Herbert, France, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 4-6, 7-6 (8), 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Women's Singles - First Round

Elena Rybakina (4), Kazakhstan, def. Greet Minnen, Belgium, 6-2, 6-3.
Zheng Qinwen (7), China, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-2, 6-1.
Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, def. Erika Andreeva, Russia, 6-1, 6-2.
Elina Avanesyan, Russia, def. Zhu Lin, China, 6-2, 6-4.
Petra Martic, Croatia, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-4, 6-4.
Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, def. Angelique Kerber, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.
Daria Kasatkina (10), Russia, def. Magdalena Frech, Poland, 7-5, 6-1.
Elise Mertens (25), Belgium, def. Maria Carle, Argentina, 6-3, 7-6 (8).
Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Sorana Cirstea (28), Romania, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5).
Peyton Stearns, United States, def. Lucija Ciric-Bagaric, Croatia, 6-3, 6-7 (8), 7-6 (6).
Tamara Korpatsch, Germany, def. Ashlyn Krueger, United States, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9).
Madison Keys (14), United States, def. Renata Zarazua, Mexico, 6-3, 6-2.
Emma Navarro (22), United States, def. Zeynep Sonmez, Turkey, 6-2, 6-0.
Mirra Andreeva, Russia, def. Emina Bektas, United States, 6-2, 6-3.
Miyuka Uchijima, Japan, def. Irene Burillo Escorihuela, Spain, 6-1, 6-1.
Mayar Sherif, Egypt, def. Yuan Yue, China, 6-1, 6-3.
Sara Errani, Italy, def. Anna-Karolina Schmiedlova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-2.
Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, def. Sloane Stephens, United States, 6-1, 6-2.
Victoria Azarenka (19), Belarus, def. Nadia Podoroska, Argentina, 6-1, 6-0.
Paula Badosa, Spain, def. Katie Boulter (26), Britain, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

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By RYAN DUNLEAVY

The cast of the musical “Rent” sang that a year is measured in 525,600 minutes.

The next time Aaron Rodgers brings his Jets teammates to Broadway, maybe they can sing about how chemistry can be measured in 7,342 defensive snaps.

As teams around the league start from scratch introducing new players and new schemes on both sides of the ball, the Jets defense should be ahead of the curve in OTAs because eight of the nine players who logged at least 650 snaps last season (7,342 total) remain together under fourth-year coordinator Jeff Ulbrich. Four — safety Tony Adams and cornerbacks Sauce Gardner, D.J. Reed and Michael Carter II — start in one of the NFL’s best secondaries.

“Continuity, especially on the back end, is so critical,” Ulbrich said during the first week of spring practices. “These guys have to know each other’s strengths, their weaknesses, their shortcomings, their superpowers, their kryptonites, all that. They also have to know how to communicate at the highest level — and some of that communication over time becomes just a wink, a little hand signal.”

The Jets are one of six teams returning eight of their top-

SAME BOLD JETS

Gang Green defense returning legion from its stout 2023 unit

nine defensive workhorses. Retaining Ulbrich — who was blocked from interviewing for the 49ers defensive coordinator vacancy — also was key to continuity.

“When you get to that [subtle communication] level, that’s where the really special stuff lives,” Ulbrich said. “So the fact that we have guys that have been here in the system for multiple years now, it’s exciting to think where they could take it.”

Only the Colts and Saints have eight- or nine-man cores that played more snaps than the cumulative total of the Jets’ four defensive backs plus defensive linemen Quinnen Williams and Jermaine Johnson as well as linebackers C.J. Mosley and Quincy Williams. But neither team ranked nearly as high as the Jets (No. 3) in total defense (292.3 yards allowed per game).

“No one is

happy with the results as of yet,” Ulbrich said. “Yeah, statistically, we’ve ended in the top five, but ultimately winning is how we create a legacy in this league. So until that happens and we win — substantial wins and we hold that [Super Bowl] trophy together — we’re not going to be done. So it’s a really cool group in that way — just so driven, so self-motivated. Takes very little nudging by me.”

Seven of the eight snaps leaders (not Adams) also were key pieces under Ulbrich when the Jets ranked No. 4 in both total defense and scoring defense in 2022. Gardner, Mosley and both Williams brothers have been first- or second-team All-Pros over the past two seasons — more than any other AFC defense boasts in that time frame.

“Anything that’s my strengths, I just keep going over it,” Gardner said. “Stuff that’s my weakness, I pride myself on getting better on that. Trying not to get complacent —

it’s easy to get complacent ... when you are going through life and

having people say you are their favorite player.”

The Jets’ offseason changes included swapping in Haason Reddick and Javon Kinlaw for John Franklin-Myers and Bryce Huff — neither of whom carried a 650-snap workload — along the defensive line.

Acquiring Reddick, who has 50.5 sacks over the past four seasons, was a case of leaning into strengths — the Jets ranked No. 4 last season in pressure percentage (26.5 percent of opponents’ dropbacks) — and believing that better complementary football

will lead to correcting a weakness.

The vaunted defense ranked No. 25 in rushing yards allowed per game (124) last season but No. 11 in yards per carry (4.07). Rodgers’ return from missing virtually the full season should mean playing from ahead more frequently thus forcing more passes-rush opportunities.

The bigger disruption to defensive chemistry could be whether the combination of former Ravens starter Chuck Clark — who missed all of last season with a torn ACL — converted cornerback Isaiah Oliver, special-teamer Ashytn Davis and rookie Jaden Key can aptly fill the shoes of departed 1,078-snap safety Jordan Whitehead.

“I know that might be the outside narrative,” Ulbrich said. “That’s not the narrative within this building.”

It wouldn’t have all the makings of a Broadway hit that way.

rdunleavy@nypost.com



MK: Post; Charles Wenzelberg; Robert Sabo/AP; Getty Images

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Slayton opts to attend Giants OTAs

Darius Slayton rejoined the Giants.

After skipping the first two phases of the voluntary offseason program and the first week of OTA practices, Slayton was back on the practice field Tuesday, according to the team website.

It is unclear if Slayton showed up as an act of good faith or his appearance is a sign that his contract dispute is close to being settled. Slayton is seeking a raise over his \$2.5

million base salary (plus a \$2.6 million roster bonus) on the two-year, \$12 million contract that he signed in March 2023.

Michael Perrett, Slayton’s agent, did not imme-

diately respond to a request for comment from The Post.

Tuesday marked the first time that the Giants had Slayton, who has led the team in receiving yards in

four of his first five NFL seasons, and first-round draft pick Malik Nabers practicing together.

Speaking at a charity event this month, Slayton told reporters he was

hopeful for “a resolution here soon” as Perrett and general manager Joe Schoen negotiated.

The Giants forced a pay cut on Slayton before the 2022 season, and he responded with two of his best seasons, re-establishing his chemistry with quarterback Daniel Jones.

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

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

This may not be the best of days to make important decisions, especially if other people have the power to hold you back from pursuing your goals. Do you have to push ahead at top speed right this very moment? No you do not, so slow down.

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

There are only so many hours in a day and not even a Cancer can add on extra minutes. Once you have accepted that fact you will find ways to cut back on existing commitments so you can make time for the new things coming into your life.

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

If you need to point out to a colleague where they have been going wrong, make sure you do so in the gentlest of ways. Just because it may be easy to poke fun at them does not mean you should do so. They will appreciate your discretion.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

There may be many serious things going on in your life but they are not so serious that you have to approach each and every one of them as a matter of life and death. If you are finding it hard to smile then you are doing it wrong!

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Someone who appears to be on your side is actually quite envious of your success and will do their utmost to undermine your authority if they get the chance. Keep your guard up today and be especially wary of people who flatter you for no good reason.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Something has put your mind in a spin and you can't seem to

decide which way is up and which way is down. If you make a wrong call today don't compound the error by refusing to recognize it. Put it right the first chance you get.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You must not try to appease someone who is giving you a hard time. Once you offer them an inch they will grab it and then try to turn it into a mile. Say "No" right from the start and make sure they know that you mean it.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

If you get the impression that a colleague does not know what they are talking about then you must call their bluff. Just because they sound like an expert does not make them an expert, so check every word

that comes out of their mouth.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Hopefully you are a glass half full rather than a glass half empty person, but if not there are ways to improve your outlook. One is by choosing to believe that every event is part of the cosmic master plan. Someone, somewhere has their hands on the controls.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

The people you are currently dealing with may be as different to you as chalk is to cheese but you are motivated and excited by the same ambitions and that's all that matters. Focus on the goals you share and ignore their personality traits.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Let employers and senior colleagues know what you think of them today, even if your words are less than flattering. If you are really smart you will find ways to make your criticisms sound like praise. They'll get the message without getting upset.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

You will go too far and say too much over the next 24 hours. In a way though that's good because this is one of those times when total honesty is needed both at home and at work. Others will admire you for being true to your nature.

BIRTHDAY WEDNESDAY

Group activities of all kinds will go well over the coming 12 months and it is also possible that someone who starts out as a friend could become a very special person in your life. Can business and pleasure be combined? They can if you work at it.

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'IT CAN BE LONELY'

TIME FOR A BREAK:

Lexi Thompson, who burst onto the golf scene when she qualified for the Women's U.S. Open at age 12, tears up as she announces she will end her full-time schedule after this season.

AP



By RYAN GLASSPIEGEL

Thompson cites emotional well-being in her stepping back from LPGA Tour

Lexi Thompson — in the golf spotlight since she was 12 and one of the game's biggest stars — became emotional as she discussed her decision to retire from playing full time on the LPGA Tour at just 29 years old.

"Being out here can be a lot. It can be lonely. Sorry if I get emotional. I said I wasn't going to," Thompson said, as she teared up during a press conference Tuesday ahead of this week's U.S. Women's Open at Lancaster Country Club in Pennsylvania. "I just think, especially with what's happened in golf, people don't realize a lot of what we go through as a professional athlete. I'll be the last person to say, 'Throw me a pity party.' That's the last thing I want."

Thompson, who will complete the LPGA season before semi-retirement, appeared to be referencing PGA Tour golfer Grayson Murray, who died Saturday by suicide.

"You know, we're doing what we love. We're trying the best every single day, and we're not perfect. We're humans. Words hurt and it's hard to overcome sometimes, but having the people around you that love and support you, I feel like that's been the biggest thing for

me," Thompson continued.

"I might not have a huge friend group, but to have the people that matter the most around me has gotten me through some really hard times.

"I think it's a lot for everybody out here, or in any professional sport. A lot of people don't know what we go through — the amount of training, and hard work that we put ourselves through — it's a lot, and I think we deserve a lot more credit than what we get."

Thompson said she only knew golf as life and cited mental health as one of her deciding factors in her decision. It is not clear what her future plans — on or off the course — hold.

"I think we all have our struggles, especially out here," she said. "Unfortunately in golf you lose more than you win, so it's an ongoing battle to continue to put yourself out there in front of the cameras and continuing to work

hard and maybe not seeing the results you want and getting criticized for it. So it's hard.

"I will stay, yes, I've struggled with it — I don't think there's somebody out here that hasn't. It's just a matter of how well you hide it, which is very sad."

Thompson, who burst into the spotlight when she qualified for the U.S. Women's Open at 12 years old in 2007, has won 11 LPGA tournaments — her first coming when she

was just 16 — and one major, the 2014 Chevron Championship.

She almost won a second Chevron Championship, in 2017, but was penalized four strokes for replacing a ball that she wasn't permitted to and subsequently signing an incorrect score card.

This error pushed her into a playoff with So Yeon Ryu, who ultimately won the major.

The news surprised LPGA players. The notice was posted, and then deleted, a couple of times on various social media channels. Thompson was on the course when it first went out.

"She really dedicated her time to growing the game," Nelly Korda said. "It's sad to see that she's obviously leaving and not going to be out here with us, but she's had an amazing career, and I wish her the best in this new chapter of her life."

Thompson's last LPGA win came at the 2019 ShopRite LPGA Classic; she also finished second at the U.S. Women's Open in 2019 and the Women's PGA Championship in 2022.

— With AP
rglasspiegel@nypost.com

Murray's suicide method revealed

By MICHAEL BLINN

Grayson Murray died from suspected carbon monoxide poisoning, according to the Daily Mail.

The 30-year-old golfer's Palm Beach Gardens townhouse supposedly filled with the exhaust fumes from his Land Rover, left running in the ground-floor garage, per the outlet.

Police were called to the residence, which Murray shared with fiancée Christina Ritchie, at 10:49 a.m. on May 25, after a neighbor heard a carbon monoxide alarm go off.

Murray's parents revealed on Sunday



GRAYSON MURRAY

that the two-time PGA Tour winner's death was by suicide.

"We have spent the last 24 hours trying to come to terms with the fact that our son is gone," Eric and Terry Murray said in a statement. "It's surreal that we not only have to admit it to ourselves, but that we also have to acknowledge it to the world. It's a nightmare."

The golfer had been open about his previous struggles with depression and alcoholism.

After winning the Sony Open in January, Murray said he had been sober for eight months.

He had withdrawn from the Charles Schwab Challenge on Friday with two holes to go due to illness, the day before he took his life.

"We have so many questions that have no answers," Eric and Terry Murray's statement continued. "But one: Was Grayson loved? The answer is yes. By us, his brother Cameron, his sister Erica, all of his extended family, by his friends, by his fellow players and — it seems — by many of you who are reading this. He was loved and will be missed."

mblinn@nypost.com



From Big 3 to Big D

After torching B'klyn, Kyrie thrives in Dallas

THE Nets' championship window got slammed shut when their Big 3 broke up like a failed marriage. Now Brooklyn fans have had to watch Kyrie Irving reach the brink of the NBA Finals they had expected him to lead their team to.

Kevin Durant's Suns and James Harden's Clippers suffered first-round exits, KD's in a sweep. But Irving and Dallas had a 3-1 lead in the Western Conference finals after Tuesday's 105-100 loss to the Timberwolves. With no team in history ever having blown a 3-0

lead, Irving reaching his fourth career Finals seemed a fait accompli.

For both the ex-Boston teammates Irving will face and the former Nets teammates who'll be home watching, it will be a bitter reminder of what could've been. No, what should've been.

And for Irving, it will be a measure of redemption. When the point guard started last season, his value around the league had cratered. Or more accurately, he had cratered it.

Forget his injury history, absences and vaccine refusal that cost him two-thirds of the 2021-22 season, and a max contract. Last season it was his promotion of not just fake news purveyor Alex Jones but also an anti-Semitic film — and refusal to apologize for such — that got him suspended.

It appeared to be the breaking point between team and star.

Upon Irving's return, he played exceptionally well. Preternaturally gifted on the ball, he was brilliant in lifting the Nets to a hot streak ... then demanded a trade.

A superstar who once would've commanded a king's ransom brought back "only" a first-round pick, two seconds, Spencer Dinwiddie and Dorian Finney-Smith, with Dinwiddie already traded and Finney-Smith seemingly likely to follow.

But Irving, playing alongside Luka Doncic, has given Dallas the NBA's most

unique pair of closers. A locked-in Irving entered Tuesday's Game 4 averaging 27.7 points and 4.7 assists in the conference finals. He finished with 16 points, four assists and four turnovers in 42 minutes.

Irving had the Mavs on the brink of the NBA Finals his Nets weren't able to reach.

"I feel like it's a great chapter that's being written right now," Irving said. "I'm enjoying every step of the way. I'm not taking anything for granted."

"I'm enjoying the Dallas community and the fans here. We talked about this earlier in the season, just how much I felt embraced. But I think it's gone a little deeper than that. It's really helped me grow as a human being and find my peace out here."

There is a not-so-delicious irony in the West Orange-bred Irving feeling more at home in Texas.

Irving has credited much of his career rebirth to Mavericks coach Jason Kidd, who'd led those Nets teams that Irving watched in the 2002 and '03 Finals.

"Even when we had a [coaching] vacancy in Brooklyn I wanted to see if he could come and coach us and be another Brooklyn head coach," Irving said earlier.

Instead, arguably the greatest guards in Nets history are teaming up to lead Dallas to the Finals instead.

"We don't see that perception of what's been written in the past. We're only in the present," Kidd said. "What he's doing is rewriting his journey."

A mental-health proponent, Irving has talked of spiritual and holistic well-being. Clearly, he finds himself in a better headspace.

"It's good to breathe fresh air and get outside. Seasonal depression is real when you're growing up up North," Irving said. "I spent 12 years in the Eastern Conference in three cold cities that deal with four seasons. You come out here, you're able to get outside and ground yourself a little more, spend time with your family,

watch your kids run outside."

Kidd praised Irving's willingness to be a second option to Doncic. In reality, he's accustomed to the role, having played behind LeBron James, Durant and Harden. He also shared the spotlight with Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown in Boston.

Now he'll likely face those two ex-teammates, with a ring at stake.

When Boston swept its way into the Finals, their fans poured out into the streets chanting "F--k Kyrie! F--k Kyrie!" Celtics fans, salty since Irving's departure in free agency, have showered him with profanity since, one even throwing a bottle at him in his 2021 TD Garden return.

On Monday ex-Celtics big man Kendrick Perkins implored their fans to behave appropriately and not poke the bear.

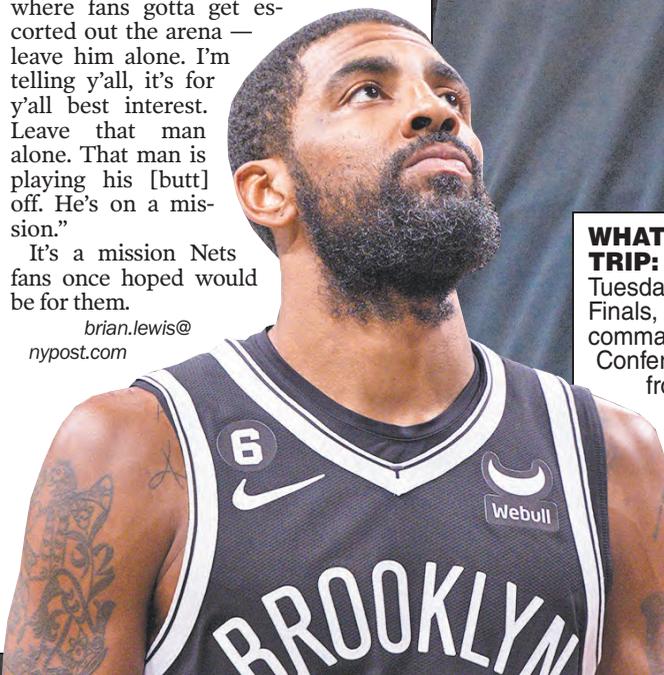
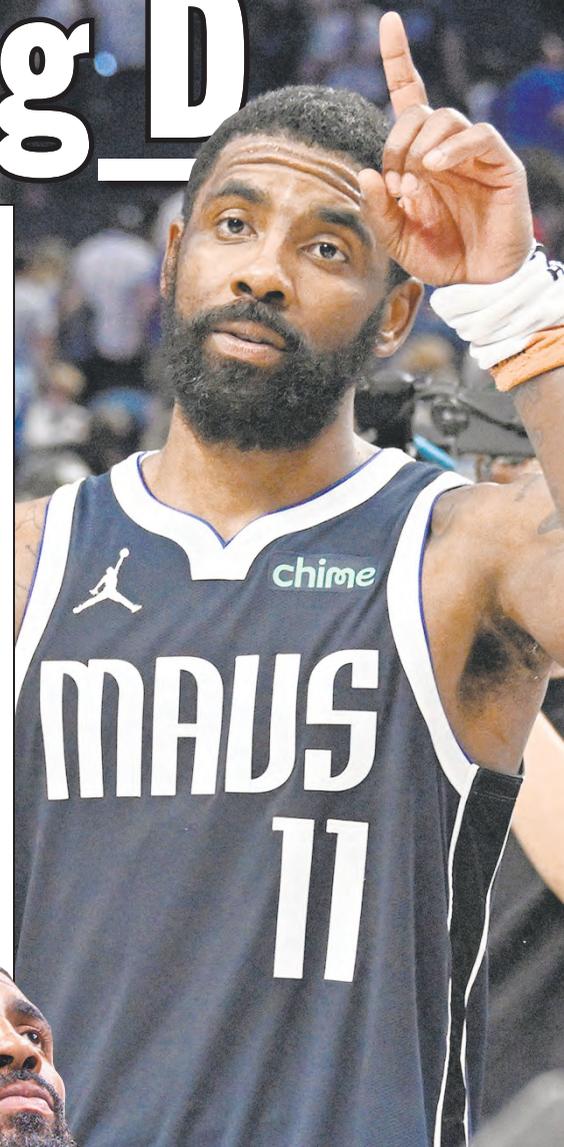
"OK, boo him, do whatever you want. But please, I'm warning you guys, do not take it over. Leave him alone," Perkins said on ESPN. "We know that they're going to boo him. But the excessive thing — like the things where fans gotta get escorted out the arena — leave him alone. I'm telling y'all, it's for y'all best interest. Leave that man alone. That man is playing his [butt] off. He's on a mission."

It's a mission Nets fans once hoped would be for them.

brian.lewis@
nypost.com



Brian Lewis



WHAT A LONG, STRANGE

TRIP: Kyrie Irving entered Tuesday on the brink of the NBA Finals, his Mavericks with a commanding lead in the Western Conference Finals. It's a long way from his epic meltdown with the Nets last season, following a disastrous tenure that included time missed for failing to follow New York's vaccine mandate and promoting an anti-Semitic movie.

USA TODAY Sports;
Corey Sipkin

Timberwolves clip Mavericks to stay alive

By SCHUYLER DIXON

T'WOLVES 105 **West**
MAVERICKS 100 **Game 4**

DALLAS — Karl-Anthony Towns scored 20 of his 25 points in the second half, and the Timberwolves held off the Mavericks, 105-100, on Tuesday night to avoid a sweep in the Western Conference finals.

Anthony Edwards had 29 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Wolves stayed alive in their first trip to the conference finals in 20 years, and just the second in the fran-

chise's 35 seasons.

Now third-seeded Minnesota heads home for Game 5 on Thursday night to see if it can make the series even more interesting against No. 5 seed Dallas.

Luka Doncic had 28 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in his sixth triple-double of these playoffs,

but he and co-star Kyrie Irving were just 13-for-39 from the field. Irving, who was 14-0 in his career in closeout games coming in, finished with 16 points.

The Wolves have led in the final five minutes of the fourth quarter of every game in the series, and this time they finished.

Towns, who picked up his fifth foul midway through the third quarter, put the Wolves ahead for good on a 3-pointer with 5:41 remaining, then hit another from deep the next time down.

Edwards put the Wolves up five with a jumper just inside the arc with 39 sec-

onds left, and Minnesota hung on despite Edwards fouling Doncic on a made 3-pointer for a three-point deficit with 12 seconds to go.

Doncic missed the free throw, and Naz Reid hit a bucket to push the margin back to five with 11 seconds remaining. — AP

"From the benches, black with people
There went up a muffled roar
Like the beating of the storm-waves
On a stern and distant shore;
"KILL HIM! KILL THE UMPIRE!"
Shouted someone on the stand;
And it's likely they'd have killed him
Had not Casey raised his hand ..."
— Ernest Lawrence Thayer

SOME years ago, I asked a major league manager I'd come to know well about the umpire Angel Hernandez.

"You see he's working a series, you know he's gonna f--k you once, and he's probably gonna f--k you a few more times after that," he said. "You just pray to God that the f--king doesn't come in the ninth inning and cost you a ballgame."

Tuesday morning, I reached out to that same fellow and asked if he'd like to amend that observation to commemorate Hernandez's retirement from baseball.

"It's a long game," he said. "Sooner or later he was gonna f--k you out of one."

Here's the thing, though.

It's almost certain that Angel Hernandez wasn't the worst umpire of all time. Hell, he didn't even come out on top every time when they'd poll players and managers anonymously about who the worst modern-day umpires are.

(Though if he didn't win, he almost always managed to place or show.)

That was hard to argue Tuesday, though. If you Googled "worst umpires in MLB history," the first 40 posts were related to Hernandez. Within an hour of the announcement beginning to circulate Monday evening, there were soon more great-hits packages of Angel Hernandez than the Rolling Stones, the Eagles and Billy Joel put together.

But it was Hernandez who had the misfortune of being, for three decades, the consensus worst umpire in the game at a time when every pitch — literally every single pitch — was available on video. And every time you would see a tweet or a TikTok that began "you won't believe this call" ... well, before you ever clicked you knew there was a good chance Angel Hernandez's name was going to be there.

We can assume that, say, Nestor Chylak and Ron Luciano blew their share of easy calls — and we know this because there really is grainy video of Billy Martin and Earl Weaver coming especially unglued as the result of those calls. There are 10 umpires (including Chylak) in the Hall of Fame; we'll have to take it on faith that Cal Hubbard and Jocko Conlan and Hank O'Day probably had inconsistent strike



Mike Vaccaro

HE'S OUT!

No one going to miss Angel Hernandez



EASY TO SEE: Aaron Boone was among the litany of major league managers and coaches to point out what Angel Hernandez missed over the years. Fans, especially in the era of social media, could see it too. Bill Kostroun; USA TODAY Sports

zones once in a while.

We'll just never know it.

We know every call Hernandez blew. Every one.

And hey: It's long been a part of attending a baseball game to give umpires hell from the stands. That passage that led the column? "Casey at the Bat" was written in 1882, what we consider a far more genteel time, with spectators wearing coats and ties and bowler caps, women bringing parasols along on hot days. And even they wanted to kill the umpire.

Eight years ago, Noah Syndergaard threw behind Chase Utley at Citi Field and was ejected from the game; what's best known about that is the famous "ass in the jackpot" blowup between Mets manager Terry Collins and umpire Tom Hallion. It's a priceless and hilarious piece of video. But I was there that night, in the stands, and for a long uncomfortable while it seemed the fans in the stands ... well, actually wanted to kill Hallion.

(Update: They did not. The Dodgers won the game 9-1. After a while, most of the fight was drained out of the fans.)

Other sports have refs that make fans

wince when they see them. Scott Foster is a fine NBA ref who is also called "The Extender" because his reputation is that if the NBA "wants" a series to last a game or two longer, he's the man for the job. Rangers fans have an APB out for NHL ref Kelly Sutherland.

The late Rollie Massimino told me a story once of losing a game early in his career and getting jobbed for 40 minutes by the refs, being so angry he walked the mile back to the team hotel ... only to arrive to see those same refs sharing a pitcher of cheer with the home coach and AD, after which he tore up his hotel room like he was a member of Led Zeppelin.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: this may or may not have happened at St. Bonaventure.)

So: No. Angel Hernandez wasn't alone in being terrible at the job of adjudicating sporting events. And also: No, he will not be missed, not by fans, probably not by his fellow umps, since he might have been singularly responsible for the robo-umps that'll soon be a part of the game. He did have the great misfortune of being bad at his job at a moment in time when everyone could see just how bad he was. Tough luck.

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Reviled ump received financial package to exit: reports

By JUSTIN TASCH

MLB had apparently seen enough, and Angel Hernandez was seemingly willing to walk away for the right price.

The 62-year-old and MLB worked out a financial settlement that resulted in the controversial umpire walking away from the league

after more than 30 years, according to multiple reports.

MLB approached Hernandez this season about potentially retiring, according to The Athletic, and USA Today reported the two sides spent the last two weeks negotiating the settlement.

Hernandez's lawyer,

Kevin Murphy, told The Athletic in a text message, "He was NOT forced out."

Hernandez, who last worked an MLB game on May 9, confirmed Monday night that he was retiring.

"I have decided that I want to spend more time with my family" Hernandez said in a statement. "Needless to say, there have been

many positive changes in the game of baseball since I first entered the profession. This includes the expansion and promotion of minorities. I am proud that I was able to be an active participant in that goal while being a Major League umpire."

Hernandez has been the subject of criticism by play-

ers and fans for bad calls, with his strike zone as a home-plate umpire often being the source of frustration.

He filed a lawsuit against MLB in 2017 in which he alleged he had not become a crew chief and did not receive World Series assignments because of his race. He also alleged Joe Torre,

who was working in baseball operations in the Commissioner's Office, held animosity toward him dating back to his days as Yankees manager.

The lawsuit was tossed in 2021, and a federal appeals court denied Hernandez's request to reinstate the case last year.

jtasch@nypost.com



ON DECK: vs. Dodgers

Wednesday, 4:10 p.m., TV, WCBS (880 AM)

LHP David Peterson



2023 stats:
3-8, 5.03 ERA

Career vs. LAD:
1-0, 6.75 ERA

Last start:
9/28/23, vs. MIA;
7 IP, 0 ER, 8 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

27% 4-Seamer
25% Sinker
20% Slider

LHP James Paxton



2024 stats:
5-0, 3.49 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
2-1, 3.92 ERA

Last start:
Fri., at CIN;
4.2 IP, 5 ER, 4 BB

PITCH BREAKDOWN

62% 4-Seamer
27% Curve
5% Cutter

UP NEXT

THURSDAY: vs. D'backs, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS
RHP Christian Scott vs. TBD

FRIDAY: vs. D'backs, 7:10 p.m., WPIX, WCBS
RHP Luis Severino vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT



Francisco Alvarez

■ **Francisco Alvarez** (thumb surgery) is expected to begin a rehab assignment with Double-A Binghamton on Thursday.

■ **Kodai Senga**, who has hit several setbacks since suffering a right shoulder capsule strain, restarted a throwing program five days after he received a cortisone shot.

■ Top prospect **Jett Williams** has a right wrist TFCC sprain that will require a second cortisone shot.

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The Mets might be reaching an inflection point at third base.

For about two weeks they have carried both Mark Vientos and Brett Baty in what has amounted to a platoon that has boosted the club's offense but compromised its defensive flexibility. Francisco Lindor and Jeff McNeil played all 19 innings of Tuesday's doubleheader because the Mets had no true backup middle infielder.

Manager Carlos Mendoza acknowledged the Mets were holding conversations about how much longer the club can proceed with such an odd roster makeup.

"We gotta get through today, check with [Lindor and McNeil], see where we're at," Mendoza said before the Mets were swept in the doubleheader by the Dodgers on Day 5 of a 13-games-in-13-days stretch. "Obviously, we'll ask for them to play [every inning] today, and we'll see how it goes."

The pair survived the pair of games, McNeil saying just that he was "fine" after another long day.

The Mets' third basemen have been a surprising

Stearns says Mets' 3B platoon 'cannot last'

strength since Vientos was called up May 15. Baty, a former top prospect who has not turned Triple-A dominance into consistent major league success, had struggled for the early

going of the season but hit better since the righty-hitting Vientos arrived and taken the majority of the at-bats against lefties.

Baty is the superior de-

fender — even if he lost the handle on a potential double-play ball in Tuesday's Game 1 loss — but Vientos has held his own at third and has seen

his power play against MLB pitching. In his first 11 games of the season, the 24-year-old Vientos has blasted three homers and holds a 1.124 OPS.

"This is a tough one. There's no easy solution

here," president of baseball operations David Stearns said. "I do think we have two players who deserve to be in the big leagues, and that's why they're both here right now."

"I've also been consistent that this present roster construction cannot last in perpetuity. At some point we're going to have to get slightly more conventional. But we have two guys who I think have demonstrated they really deserve to be in the big leagues."

► Expect **Francisco Alvarez** back within a few weeks.

The Mets catcher is set to begin a rehab assignment Thursday with Double-A Binghamton, a little over five weeks since April 23 surgery on a torn ligament in his left thumb.

Alvarez has begun taking batting practice and catching while using a brace on his thumb, which he will continue to wear during games.

METS NOTES

Wrist surgery in play for Jett

The Mets' top prospect has not played in over five weeks and does not have a timetable for a return.

Jett Williams, a middle infielder/center fielder who shot all the way to Double-A during a breakout 2023 season, has what the club is calling a right wrist TFCC sprain that already required one cortisone shot.

Williams is expected to receive a second injection after the first did not cure the soreness. President of baseball operations David Stearns said surgery could be an option if the follow-up shot also does not fix the issue. The Mets expect to know more in the next week to 10 days.

— Mark W. Sanchez

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TWO BAD!

Mets sink to season-worst 10 games under .500 after Dodgers sweep twin bill

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

David Stearns laid out his team's predicament hours before first pitch.

"We've had challenges at times during the course of the year of lining up all phases of our team," the Mets team president said. "We've had some really good starts where we haven't hit. We've had some days where we strung together really quality at-bats, where we probably haven't pitched quite well enough or where we've had defensive lapses that have cost us runs and ultimately cost us games."

As if on cue, the Mets went out and showed off strengths that were immediately nullified by weaknesses. When they pitched brilliantly in Game 1, their defense let them down. They patched up their fielding for Game 2, only for their offense to disappear.

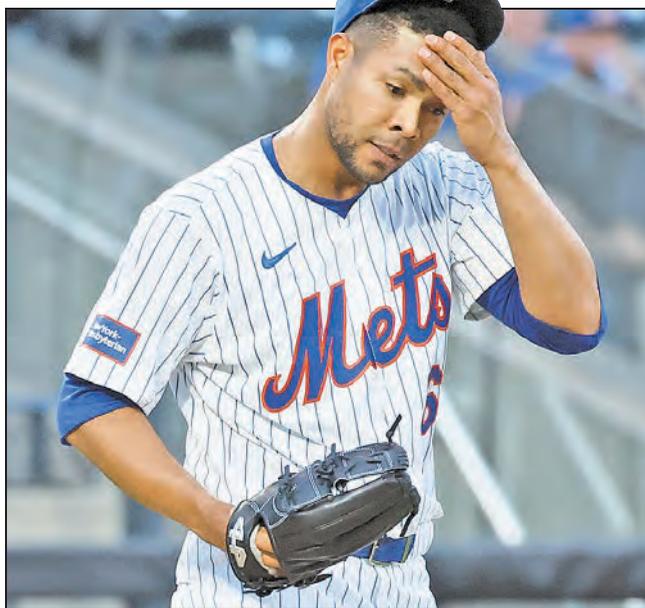
It does not seem to matter how much one aspect of the team stars — like Tylor Megill, who threw seven scoreless innings against maybe the best offense in baseball in the matinee — because another aspect of the team will dim the brilliance.

The free-falling Mets dropped both ends of a doubleheader to the Dodgers in front of 36,021 at Citi Field for a 14th loss in the past 18 games. They are losing games they should win, like the 5-2, 10-inning heartbreaker in the afternoon.

"We've got good players in this room," said Jeff McNeil, who spiked his bat after his ninth-inning, two-out, bases-loaded pop-out in the opener. "We've lost a lot of close games — I feel like every game we've played has been close. We haven't been getting blown out.

"Unfortunately, we're finding ways to lose right now."

And they are losing the games that they should lose, like the 3-0 nightcap. Jose Quintana was perfectly fine over six, three-run innings, but the Mets finished with three hits and did not



DOUBLE DREADER: Jose Quintana, who allowed three earned runs over six innings, reacts after allowing a homer to Will Smith in the first inning of the Mets' 3-0 loss to the Dodgers in the nightcap of the doubleheader.

Robert Sabo

reach second base against Gavin Stone and the Dodgers bullpen.

The Mets (22-32) are a season-worst 10 games under .500. The only teams with worse records in all of MLB are the Angels, Rockies, Marlins and White Sox.

In the opener, the Mets looked angry as mis-played balls added up to a loss. By the end of the night, the Mets looked resigned. At-bats went quickly against Stone, who was dominant over seven innings.

"I know we're better than that, and they know they're better than that," manager Carlos Mendoza said after his team moved to 3-7 in extra-inning games. "It's tough. We want to go out there and perform and we're not right now."

In a season of long days, Tuesday was especially grueling. The first game set a poor tone that was never righted.

Mendoza's group was ahead, 2-0, on an early Francisco Lindor homer before Mets defenders forced Reed Garrett and Jake Diekmann essentially to get six outs in the eighth inning.

Lindor and Brett Baty couldn't get a handle on a couple potential double-play balls that allowed the Dodgers a chance that they

cashed in with a Freddie Freeman RBI single.

The Dodgers got the tying run in the top of the ninth, when Mendoza turned to Adam Ottavino and not the struggling Edwin Diaz for a save that was blown. With runners on the corners, Chris Taylor tried a squeeze bunt, and Ottavino tried to spear it out of the air. The ball bounced just before his glove and then bounded away from him, allowing the game-tying run.

"For some reason, we can't

make some plays, and that happens," Quintana said in trying to evaluate the team's spiral. "That's part of the game. We know everybody in here is pushing the same way."

The Mets missed another chance in the bottom of the inning. They loaded the bases with just one out, and Tyrone Taylor got ahead 3-0 in the count. But Taylor took two strikes then popped out. McNeil followed with his own pop-out and bat-spike, ending the last true threat of the night.

In the 10th, Jorge Lopez served up the go-ahead, RBI single to Mookie Betts before Freeman, the perpetual Mets-killer, added a two-run shot that prompted "Freddie" chants from a Queens crowd that had been overtaken by Dodgers fans.

As it turned out, those might have been the loudest cheers for the rest of the night. The Mets' offense consisted of three singles in the blink-and-you-missed-it nightcap.

Before the doubleheader, Stearns suggested he would wait until the deadline for his buy-or-sell decision. The Mets then played as if his decision would be an easy one.

"I know it's not pretty right now," Mendoza said. "But at the end of the day, you've got to go out there and get the job done, and we're not doing that right now."

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TOSSED ASIDE: Jeff McNeil goes to spike his bat after popping out with the bases loaded during the ninth inning of the Mets' 5-2 loss to the Dodgers in the first game of a twin bill.

AP

I'M NOT sure what's happening here — what it is ain't exactly clear. But there's one thing I know for sure.

Whatever it is, it isn't David Stearns' fault.

Stearns' Mets fell to an almost unthinkable 22-32 after continuing bullpen and lineup failures led to two more losses in a doubleheader sweep at the hands of the Dodgers, MLB's second priciest team. The Mets — who are, yes, the priciest team — now hold the fifth-worst record in MLB and are on pace to go 66-96. So of course, it's no

surprise some folks are saying Stearns is

just a small-market GM, or worse. None of it is close to fair or true. This isn't his team, by price more than 90 percent of it isn't (more on that calculation below). This isn't his mess.

The Mets' baseball president was given ample opportunity (by me and others) to pile on about the terribleness that preceded him in his once-a-homestand state of the Mets interview session, and to his credit, he didn't take the opportunity. He painted an accurate portrayal of their reality — “we haven't played well enough ... we haven't played like a playoff team” — but he didn't point fingers (truth be told, he has barely enough fingers per previous faux pas).

And since he didn't, we will have to do the dirty work. (More on the many mistakes below.)

Before anyone trashes Stearns, let's examine how he's doing.

His biggest winter deal went to Sean Manaea, who got \$28 million over two years and can opt out after this year, which he probably will do. Manaea has pitched like No. 3 starter at worst, which makes him a relative bargain.

Stearns spent \$13 million on Luis Severino, the talented long-

Team prez isn't to blame for Amazin' mess

MISSED OPPORTUNITY: Adam Ottavino is unable to field a Chris Taylor bunt, which allowed the tying run to score during the ninth inning in Game 1 of the doubleheader.

Robert Sabo

time Yankee and self-described “worst pitcher” in the bigs last year, and he's been dominant at times.

Stearns spent \$8.5 million on Harrison Bader, and Bader is bringing sterling defense in center field and extremely clutch hitting, especially by Mets standards. One could quibble and say Stearns could have waited and found a cheaper center fielder (Michael A. Taylor went for half that later).

Stearns allocated \$2 million to Jorge Lopez, who's been a bullpen plus.

The only deal of real consequence that hasn't produced much is the trade Stearns made with his former Brewers team. Tyrone Taylor is solid but he's



Jon Heyman

Bader lite, and original rotation mate Adrian Houser had to be demoted to the bullpen.

J.D. Martinez for \$12 million is just getting started. Jake Diekman has been fair for \$4 million, Joey Wendle was bad and is gone for \$2 million and Shintaro Fujinami hasn't appeared for \$2 million.

Still, in total, that represents only about 7 percent of what his predecessors spent in free agency/extensions. This isn't on him.

Before Stearns arrived, \$1 billion dollars-plus in multi-year contracts was handed out to players that Steve Cohen's still paying.

The largesse went to future Hall of Famers and frenemies (Max Scherzer \$130 million, Justin Verlander \$86.7 million), an All-Star shortstop (Francisco Lindor \$341 million), an All-Star outfielder (Starling Marte \$78 million), a record-setting closer (Edwin Diaz \$102 million), a potential ace (Kodai Senga \$75 million), a former batting champion (Jeff McNeil \$50 million), a star on the rise (Brandon Nimmo \$162 million) and a fellow who must be a champion negotiator (James McCann \$42 million), plus a trio of relative cheapies — Eduardo Escobar (\$20 million), Jose Quin-

Stearns not thinking about trade deadline despite struggles

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The Marlins, sitting 15 games under .500 in early May, jumped the market and sold off batting-champion Luis Arraez to the Padres.

Don't expect the Mets to follow suit. David Stearns wants to give the team at least a couple more months to prove itself.

The team president suggested that major changes to the Mets — who fell to 10 games under .500 after losing both games of Tuesday's twin bill against the

Dodgers, with the third-worst record in the NL but just 6 games back of a wild-card spot — will not arrive until around the July 30 trade deadline.

“We've got plenty of time before that,” Stearns said before the doubleheader. “Throughout the month of July you are preparing for the deadline and having conversations. I think every single year takes on a little bit of a different pace.

... But throughout the month of July, you're preparing. You also don't need to make decisions until the

end of the month.

“So we'll continue to evaluate where we are.”

The Mets found themselves having dropped 14 of their past 18 games, several in gut-wrenching fashion, and already 15 games back in the NL East.

When Stearns last addressed the media May 16 in Philadelphia, he said he believes in the track records around the clubhouse and that this club can still make a run. The Mets had lost seven of the 10 games since that pronouncement.

A week and a half later, Stearns reiterated that the talent around the team still has him believing, but he acknowledged the team's play has not reflected its talent level.

“We haven't played like a playoff team, and I think that's a reality of how we've played here through the first 50 games,” said Stearns, who added that despite the Marlins' decisions, the trade talk has been typically quiet for late May. “That doesn't mean we won't, but we gotta show it. I think we

have a group of players that is very committed to that goal, that is determined to play better. But until we show it, it's a reasonable question.”

Several of Stearns' off-season moves — notably bringing in Luis Severino, Sean Manaea, Harrison Bader and J.D. Martinez — have proven solid in the first few months of the season. It is the holdovers, from Jeff McNeil to Francisco Lindor to Pete Alonso to Edwin Diaz, who have taken steps back. “I think they have higher

tana (\$28 million) and Omar Narvaez (\$15 million).

Not one of those deals looks like a bargain. Just ask yourselves this: Do any of these players regret signing?

The one for McCann is especially perplexing. The Mets probably should have signed J.T. Realmuto.

The pre-Stearns Mets actually called Realmuto and suggested they'd pay “about \$125 million” if he went early, but to his camp it seemed too quick. He wound up signing for \$115.5 million. Perhaps he was one guy who preferred to be in Philadelphia. (You can't blame him the way things have turned out.)

The players who did sign are better than their numbers, which brings hope better days lie ahead. Nimmo has been especially unlucky. His expected batting numbers are actually excellent (he's 10th in expected wOBA at .398), though that isn't doing much good at the moment.

Lindor brings very good defense, he posted a 30-30 season last year and is an upbeat presence in the clubhouse. But he isn't living up to his contract, and it's not helpful to have a .210 hitter batting third or first.

McNeil hasn't been the same player since signing. There was a thought in the organization at the time that he'd be even better once the shift was outlawed, and he may be the one player where the opposite appears true.

Stearns said these are “quality players” with “track records” and expects that when we all look up at the end of the year they'll be having seasons they, we and everyone else expects.

Maybe so, but before Stearns led the baseball operation, a case could be made that there was only one deal that looks like a bargain today. That may be the near-record deal for about \$50 million guaranteed (plus incentives) that went to Stearns himself.

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Soto a franchise-boosting 'centurion': agent Boras

By GREG JOYCE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Juan Soto needs little help endorsing himself ahead of his looming free agency, his top-tier talent speaking for itself.

But his agent, Scott Boras, has added a new line to Soto's résumé: "centurion," as in one of the top 100 players to ever play the game.

"I don't think centurions, for any team, are what you would consider a cost to a team, because it's franchise-appreciation addition," Boras told reporters on Tuesday from his suite at Angel Stadium before the Yankees' 4-3 loss. "So whatever your franchise is worth, a centurion on your team would thereby make the team worth billions more."

Boras' comments came after Hal Steinbrenner said last week that the Yankees' payroll this season — currently about \$313 million for luxury-tax purposes — was "simply not sustainable." The Yankees do have roughly \$40 million set to come off the books next season in pending



SCOTT BORAS

free agents, and Soto is currently making \$31 million in his final year of arbitration. He added to his appeal with his 15th home run of the season Tuesday, a solo blast in the first inning. He finished 2-for-5 with a pair of RBIs.

Still, Steinbrenner has said he hopes to start contract talks with Soto and Boras during the season, even if it remains overwhelmingly likely that Soto reaches free agency, when the then-26-year-old outfielder is expected to land a contract in excess of \$500 million.

"In general, centurion-type players add literally millions and millions of dollars to a franchise value," Boras said. "The opportunity for investment like this comes along in an owner's career very rarely."

"When you represent a centurion ... you don't worry about what the cost of them to a franchise is because they increase the value of a team. The only cost you worry about is the cost to build a monument."

Boras said he and Steinbrenner "talk all the time" and have a "really good relationship."

After Steinbrenner's comments earlier this month about hoping to engage with Soto and Boras, the Yankees star said his "door is always open."

"If they want to call Scott and start talking about it, it's up to them," Soto said May 16. "Scott, they know his phone number and everything. They know where to call. For me right here, I'm focusing on playing baseball. My thing is try to help the team to win as much games as we can and try to focus on winning a championship."

The Nationals and Padres have both previously tried to extend Soto, only to end up trading him. Soto reiterated Friday, in his return to San Diego, that he was not closing any doors with regard to free agency.

"Whoever wants to talk about deals, I'm open to dealing with anybody," Soto said. "But that's going to be in the future. We're going to see if we make it to the future, but right now, I'm focusing on 2024. I'm a Yankee right now. My goals are really clear, to win a championship."

DJ returns, batting in odd spot

By GREG JOYCE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — DJ LeMahieu returned to the Yankees' lineup Tuesday in an unfamiliar spot: batting ninth.

YANKEES NOTES

In an indication of how deep and balanced the lineup has become, rather than what they think of LeMahieu, the veteran third baseman brought up the rear Tuesday in his season debut, a 4-3 loss to the Angels.

"I wouldn't change a whole lot with our offense right now," LeMahieu said with a grin before going 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. "But I'm looking forward to it. I'm just looking forward to being part of the lineup. I'll lurk down there in the bottom of the order."

While LeMahieu went

hitless, his three outs were smoked off the bat with three flyouts at 101.7 mph, 99.5 mph and 97.2 mph, an encouraging sign moving forward.

"He looked really good," manager Aaron Boone said. "Kind of embodied our night a little offensively. I thought he had four good at-bats, hit the ball [on] the barrel."

Though Boone had spoken this spring about wanting LeMahieu to be his leadoff hitter, that was before the 35-year-old suffered a non-displaced foot fracture from fouling a ball off himself, which ended up costing him two months of the season, and before Anthony Volpe entrenched himself at the top of the lineup.

Still, the Yankees were excited to finally get LeMahieu back, making what has been one of the majors' most productive lineups even deeper — as long as



DJ LeMAHIEU

LeMahieu is fully past his foot issue.

"It's been a long time coming," Boone said. "I just know how much he's wanted to get back in there and be with these guys and be a part of this. He is already such a big part of it, but I know that getting him back in the lineup and the length he can add to our lineup is great."

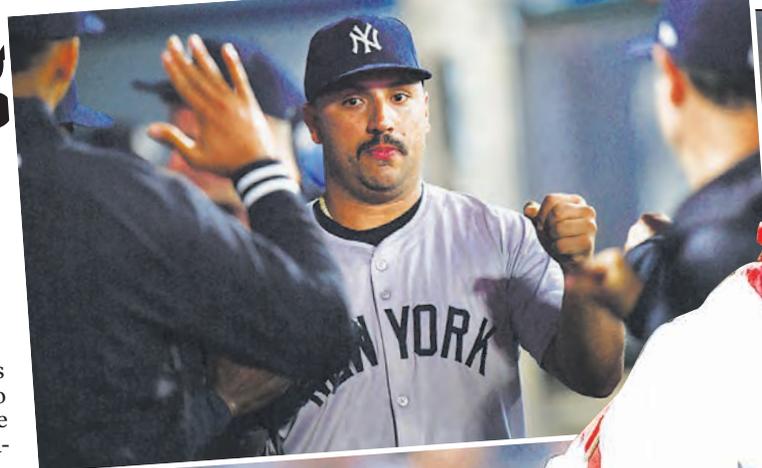
Boone spoke to LeMahieu on Monday about batting ninth and was not surprised that he was willing to do whatever the team needed.

➤ **Anthony Volpe** extended his career-high hitting streak to 20 games with a single in the second inning. It marked the longest hitting streak by a Yankee since **Robinson Cano's** 23-game streak in 2012.

➤ **Jon Berti** is expected to miss six to eight weeks with his high-grade calf strain, the infielder said Tuesday, after suffering the injury busting out of the box on Friday night in San Diego.

Berti, who is in a walking boot, received a PRP injection Tuesday to help with the recovery.

➤ **Gerrit Cole** threw a side session on Tuesday in Tampa and is scheduled to face hitters again on Thursday. If that goes well, he could begin a rehab assignment on June 4. ... The Yankees activated **Ian Hamilton** off the COVID IL on Tuesday.



Getty Images; USA TODAY Sports



TAG, YOU'RE IT!

Angels catcher Logan O'Hoppe tags out Yankees base-runner Gleyber Torres at home. That run could have made a difference in what became a 4-3 Yankees loss Tuesday. Nestor Cortes (inset) became the 15th straight starter to go at least five innings and allow two or fewer runs, a record that goes back to 1893.

By GREG JOYCE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Yankees' rotation entered the record books Tuesday night, but the bullpen and defense could not hold up their end of the bargain to make sure it resulted in a win.

After a fielding error by Anthony Rizzo extended the eighth inning — it was later changed to a hit — Clay Holmes entered to protect a one-run lead with two men on and his first pitch was ripped for a two-run double that sunk the Yankees in a 4-3 loss to the Angels at Angel Stadium.

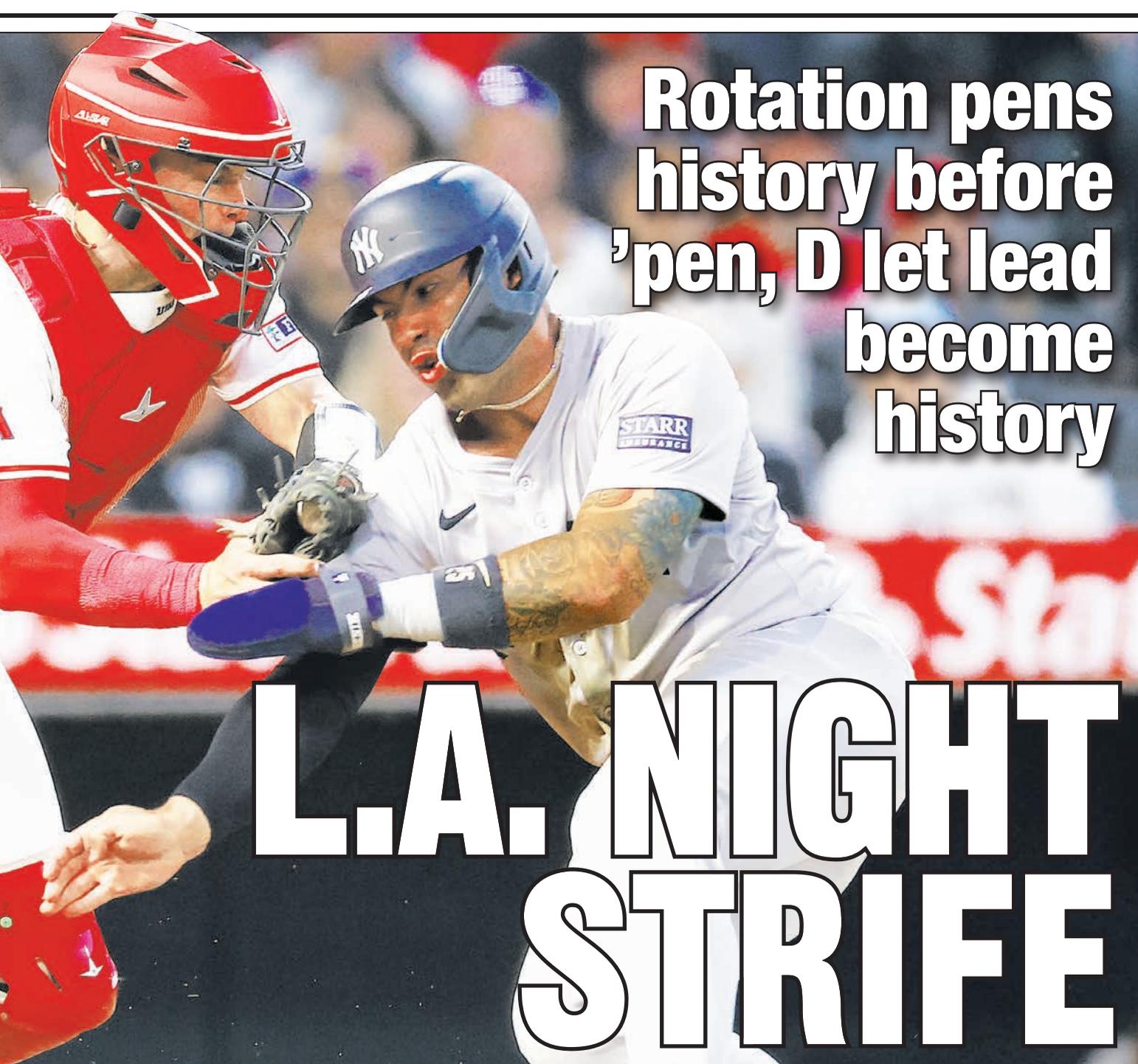
DJ LeMahieu, in his season debut, and Juan Soto both put charges into balls in the top of

ANGELS 4
YANKEES 3 **Boxscore**
Page 34

the ninth, but both fell short of tying the game.

Ex-Yankee Willie Calhoun had led off the bottom of the eighth inning with a single before Luke Weaver retired the next two batters. But Luis Rengifo came up next and hit a ground ball to Rizzo's right. The first baseman knocked it down but could never get a clean handle on it, allowing Rengifo to reach safely.

"That play needs to be made," Rizzo said. "Just over-slid it and it bounced off my glove. That play needs to be made. Clay comes in, gives up



Rotation pens history before 'pen, D let lead become history

L.A. NIGHT STRIFE

a hit. Shouldn't have been in the game [yet] if I make that play. So it's a tough one."

Holmes then entered the game and promptly gave up the lead when Taylor Ward drilled an inside sinker for a two-run double over Alex Verdugo's head in left field.

"I was trying to get him on the ground and just got beat on that pitch," Holmes said. "He put a good swing on that sinker and pulled it in the air, which doesn't happen very often."

The Yankees (37-19) entered the night 33-1 when leading after seven innings, with Weaver and Holmes being their two most reliable bullpen arms through the first two months of the season. But their defense let them down for a second straight game.

Sunday against the Padres, a Gleyber Torres error opened the door for a four-run inning that turned the game, with Rizzo also bobbling a bunt during the decisive rally. Rizzo, a four-time Gold Glove first baseman, had a rough start to the season defensively but had been better before the past two games, Tuesday's miscue allowing the Angels (21-33) to sneak away with the win.

The late drama wasted a strong outing from Nestor Cortes, who gave up a pair of runs across 5 1/3 innings. In the process, the Yankees' rotation's strong run of late turned historic.

Cortes became the 15th straight starter to pitch at least five innings and allow two runs or fewer, breaking the MLB record since

1893 (when the mound moved back to its current distance of 60 feet, 6 inches).

During that stretch, Yankees starters have combined to post an ERA of 0.99 — all without reigning AL Cy Young winner Gerrit Cole — while going 11-4.

"I think we've done a good job internally to make this a little competition amongst ourselves," Cortes said. "I feel like everybody that goes out there the night before, you want to trump that. You want to pitch better than him or have a better line. I guess that's the motivating part about us. We all want to go into the sixth or seventh inning."

Juan Soto went deep and short to provide the Yankees their first two runs of the night. He demolished a 424-foot home run in the

first inning and later added a bloop, RBI single to left field, tying the game 2-2 in the fourth inning.

Austin Wells then put the Yankees ahead in the fifth. The catcher roped a double to right field, scoring Rizzo from second base for the 3-2 lead, though Torres was thrown out at home trying to score from first on the play.

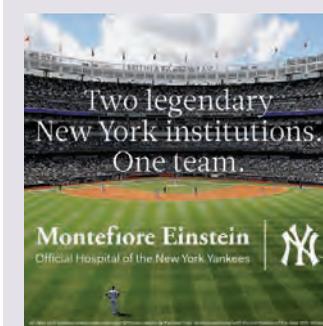
The Yankees had plenty of loud contact off Angels right-hander Griffin Canning — 10 of the 19 balls they put in play against him came off the bat harder than 95 mph — but they had just three runs to show for it.

"I thought we swung the bats really well tonight for only three runs," manager Aaron Boone said. "Just weren't able to really break it open."

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Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



INJURY REPORT

■ **DJ LeMahieu** (non-displaced foot fracture) returned from the 60-day injured list Tuesday, playing third base and batting ninth in his season debut.

■ Reliever **Nick Burdi** has been in New York getting treatment for his right hip inflammation, the same injury that cost him nearly a month earlier this season.



at Angels

Wed., 9:40 p.m., Amazon Prime, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Luis Gil



2024 stats:
6-1, 2.11 ERA

Career vs. LAA:
First start

Last start:
Thu., vs. SEA;
6.1 IP, 1 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

56% Fastball **27%** Change **17%** Slider

LHP Tyler Anderson



2024 stats:
5-4, 2.52 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
0-0, 3.60 ERA

Last start:
Wed., at HOU;
8.0 IP, 6 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

41% Fastball **35%** Change **19%** Cutter

UP NEXT

THURSDAY: at Angels, 9:40 p.m., YES, WFAN
LHP Carlos Rodon vs. LHP Patrick Sandoval

FRIDAY: at Giants 10:15 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

CATS GOT YOUR FUN

OUT IN THE COLD: Once again the Rangers had trouble keeping up with the Panthers, after the Blueshirts put together a promising first period.

Getty Images

After best period of series, Rangers can't get anything

SUNRISE, Fla. — This was not the ending Blake Wheeler deserved but it surely was the end result that the Rangers earned.

You look at the score, 3-2 in overtime for the Puddy Tats with a pair of power-play goals including Sam Reinhart's dagger at 1:12 with Wheeler in the box. You see that the other one was scored three seconds after the Blueshirts killed one off. It might strike you that the Blueshirts were able to pretty much hold their own against a desperate opponent.

You would be wrong.

Because after the first period that represented the Blueshirts' best 20 minutes of the series if not the entire tournament, they caved. They were overwhelmed. They yielded a flurry of odd-man rushes against. They defended nearly the entire remaining 41 minutes, out-attempted 59-14

after the first period at five-on-five after holding a 15-12 edge in the first in which they took a 1-0 lead.

This was not about being mauled physically. This was about being outplayed dramatically.

"There are going to be those swings, we were obviously happy with our first period, but maintaining it, we know they're going to come out desperate and we have to raise our level," Jacob Trouba said. "The first period, we were more on our toes and then we were on our heels really for the rest of the game.

"We have to match that level going back to New York."

It's a best-of-three in this

heavyweight Eastern fight to advance to the Cup final, with Game 5 coming up at the Garden on Thursday. Home ice will mean nothing if Artemi Panarin, Mika Zibanejad and Chris Kreider, specifically but not exclusively, cannot find more. It will mean nothing if the Rangers can't reverse the special teams equation that is 5-2 for

Florida.

We know that it is hard out there and that Zibanejad is going against bigger, stronger, more physically inclined opponents. But this was a particularly difficult night for No. 93, who only recorded a 15.15 attempts share when on the ice.

And it was No. 93 whose pass

just inside the line to Wheeler was errant enough for the Panthers to make it a turnover that forced No. 17 to pull down Aleksander Barkov pretty much in alone. Adam Fox had a bad change, compounding the problem. It could have been a penalty shot. The Rangers would have likely preferred that given the level at which Igor Shesterkin displayed throughout.

Again, though, the Kreider-Zibanejad connection was stifled. Jack Roslovic opened the match on the BFF's right side but was replaced early in the second by Kaapo Kakko with head coach Peter Laviolette doing some line juggling.

Moving the furniture around had little impact on the team's performance. Panarin made a neat low-to-high pass to set up Vincent Trocheck for his eighth goal of the tournament to give

the Rangers a 1-0 lead on the power play at 8:51, but that was pretty much it. I know it's hard for Panarin, too, but No. 10 had only one shot on three attempts. He has eight shots on 22 attempts in the series. This just will not do.

And again, it's hard, they're playing a bigger, stronger team, but this is it. This is no-excuse territory. The Rangers need to step up and meet this challenge. They've overcome one obstacle after another but the Puddy Tats are a whole different animal.

Get this. After four games, the Rangers have outscored the Panthers 7-5 at five-on-five. But Florida has a 5-2 edge on special teams. That's a slice of upside-down cake if I've ever seen one.

One of the Blueshirts' spiritual leaders, Wheeler was inserted in the lineup for his first game since the Feb. 15 match against Mon-



Larry Brooks





going

treat in which he suffered a gruesome right leg injury. His rehab effort has been documented as inspirational and he played 9:18, primarily on a unit with Barclay Goodrow and Matt Rempe, who had his most impactful game of the playoffs and was justifiably rewarded by Laviolette with four shifts in the third period.

"It was a long road back and I thought he came in there and [his line] controlled the puck and had it in the offensive zone," Laviolette said. "For his first game back in a while I thought he was good."

The Rangers are in some disarray here. The Zibanejad line has been stifled. Panarin has not been productive. Special teams have become an issue.

They are "The Shesterkin Show" at the moment.

That's not enough to get two more victories, let alone six.

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EASTERN

CONFERENCE FINAL 2024



FLORIDA PANTHERS

By ETHAN SEARS

SUNRISE, Fla. — The feel-good story of the night took a hard left turn 59 seconds into overtime.

That was when Blake Wheeler, playing for the first time since his right leg went the wrong way and he crumpled to the Madison Square Garden ice on Feb. 15, found himself chasing Aleksander Barkov up the ice after the Rangers turned the puck over.

Wheeler, too slow to catch up, didn't have much choice other than to take a penalty, which he did — hooking Barkov. Thirteen seconds of game time later, the Panthers were celebrating a 2-2 draw in the series after Sam Reinhart's one-timer won Game 4 for Florida, 3-2 in overtime.

Wheeler, who had worked so hard for the last three months to get back on the ice, who had watched and celebrated his teammates for the first 13 games of this run, for whom it surely meant so much to be back with the Rangers, was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It was as cruel as it gets for the former Winnipeg Jets captain who came to New York on a one-year deal to chase a first Stanley Cup title.

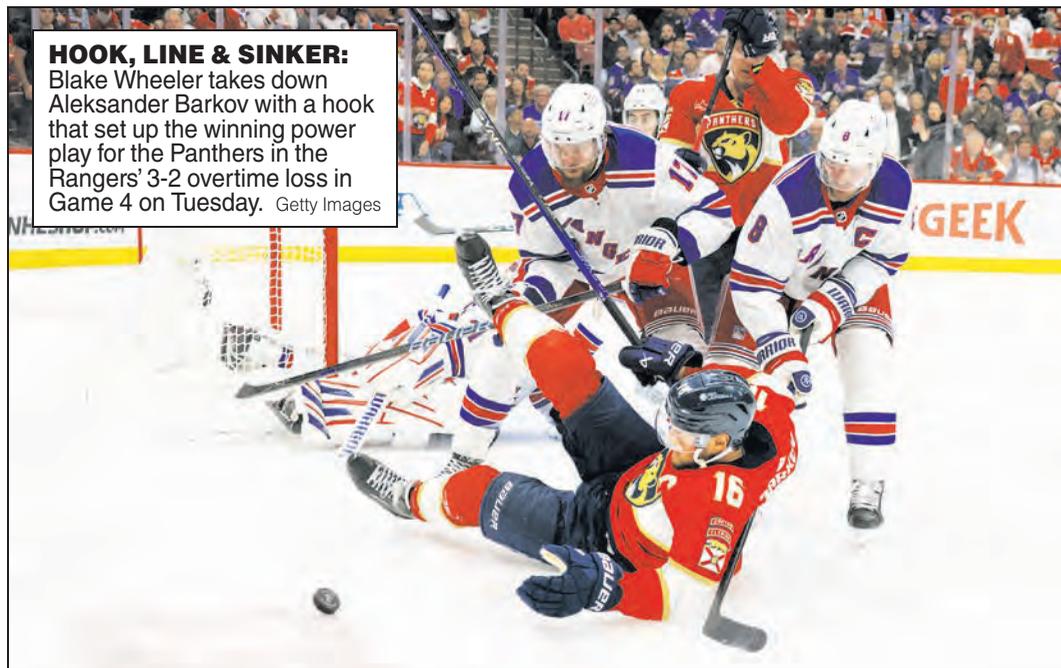
"It was a tough spot for him to be in," coach Peter Laviolette said. "There was a lot of heat on, a lot of pressure. It was more what they did, I think, than him doing something."

Wheeler ended the night with 9:18 of ice time, minutes in which it was clear at times that he was getting up to speed, but with which Laviolette was happy as a whole.

Wheeler's return soured by taking decisive penalty

HOOK, LINE & SINKER:

Blake Wheeler takes down Aleksander Barkov with a hook that set up the winning power play for the Panthers in the Rangers' 3-2 overtime loss in Game 4 on Tuesday. Getty Images



"I thought he came in and there was times where [Barclay] Goodrow, [Matt] Rempe and Wheeler put it in the offensive zone and they actually stayed down there," Laviolette said. "Able to occupy some time and spend some minutes down there. First game back in a while. I thought he was good."

Given how the Rangers have handled Filip Chytil's return

from injury, managing his workload by sitting him for Game 4, it would be a surprise to see Wheeler in the lineup on a nightly basis the rest of the way.

That Wheeler managed to play at all on this stage is, on its own, a testament to his determination.

"I think it speaks more to the character of the guy. Just the type of person he is," captain Jacob Trouba said. "Not everybody

would take the three-month journey to work their way back in that situation. That just speaks to the character of the man, of who he is. We saw how hard he worked the past three-plus months to come back and play and contribute to our team."

That Wheeler was on the ice, in that spot, to take that penalty, is a twist of the knife that is tough to stomach.

Chytil gets some rest after three straight

By MOLLIE WALKER

SUNRISE, Fla. — Just as one Ranger who was injured long term came out of the lineup again, another made his triumphant return.

Filip Chytil was relegated to the press box Tuesday night in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference Final, after the Czech forward had played in three straight contests. Word is that Chytil is healthy, but the team is looking to manage his workload after his six-plus-month layoff from game action with a suspected concussion.

"It's just part of Fil coming back after such a long layoff and what we feel is best for him to continue to move forward for us," head coach Peter Laviolette said after the Rangers fell 3-2 in overtime Tuesday night at Amerant Bank Arena. "You're asking a lot for a guy that missed six months to come back in and get up to that speed. This is part of the

RANGERS NOTES

plan for him."

Blake Wheeler, who had taken warm-ups the previous two games but not line rushes, finally managed to crack the lineup after serving as an option in this round.

Tuesday night was his first game since suffering a gruesome leg injury on Feb. 15, which sidelined him for the rest of the regular season and through the first 13 games of the playoffs.

"When he came out, I thought he gave us some good minutes," Laviolette said. "It was a long road for him to get back. I thought he came in and there was times where [Barclay] Goodrow, [Matt] Rempe and Wheeler put it in the offensive zone and they actually stayed down there and were able to occupy some time and spend some minutes down there."

Without Chytil, Jack Roslovic slotted back

to the right wing of the first line with Chris Kreider and Mika Zibanejad, though Kaapo Kakko found himself in that spot beginning early in the second period.

The second line of Artemi Panarin, Vincent Trocheck and Alexis Lafreniere remained intact, while Will Cuyll returned to the left wing of the third unit next to Alex Wennberg and Kakko to start.

➤ Zibanejad's picked-off pass at the blue line forced Wheeler to take a hooking penalty that led to **Sam Reinhart's** overtime winner in Game 4 Tuesday night.

"It's making decisions," the Swedish center said. "I see him kind of coming towards me, I think he's open because [Cuyll] is going to the net, trying to make the play and they poke it and go the other way, obviously. I should have probably just made a different play, or decision, but I made the decision there then. I can't change it now."



POWER PLAYS

By Ethan Sears



THREE STARS

1

SAM REINHART (above)

Reinhart's goal in overtime sent the series back to New York tied at two after a classic set of games in Florida.

2

IGOR SHESTERKIN

The Rangers got what might have been their netminder's best performance of the series as Shesterkin stopped a slew of high-danger chances in the second half of this game to keep his team in it.

3

SAM BENNETT

The Panthers' chief instigator had his fingerprints all over this one, scoring the tying goal in the second period and playing up the ice all night.

KEY STAT

8 Consecutive scoreless power plays in a row by the Rangers to begin the series until Vincent Trocheck's tally in the first period of Game 4.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We can't afford lapses like that. I don't have an explanation."

— Peter Laviolette on the Rangers' dropoff after the first period

THE SERIES

EASTERN CONFERENCE FINAL

Game 1: Panthers 3, Rangers 0

Game 2: Rangers 2, Panthers 1 (OT)

Game 3: Rangers 5, Panthers 4 (OT)

Game 4: Panthers 3, Rangers 2 (OT)
Series tied, 2-2

Thursday: at Rangers, 8 p.m., ESPN

Saturday: at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC

Monday*: at Rangers, 8 p.m., ESPN

* if necessary

Florida burns Rangers in OT of Game 4 to even series

SON OF A BEACH!

THE

By MOLLIE WALKER

SUNRISE, Fla. — So the Eastern Conference Final has come down to the best of three.

After both the Rangers and Panthers split at home through the first four games, with Florida taking a 3-2 win on Sam Reinhart's power-play goal just over a minute into overtime of Game 4 Tuesday night at Amerant Bank Arena, the best team on the Eastern Seaboard will be revealed by who can come away with two more victories in this grueling crusade of a series.

PANTHERS 3
RANGERS 2

OT, Game 4
Sum., P. 39

The first of the final back-and-forth battles will be Thursday night at Madison Square Garden.

"We know what we have to do better," said Mika Zibanejad, whose offensive-zone pass was picked off and forced Blake Wheeler to take a hooking penalty that set the Panthers up for their game-winning goal in the extra period with the man-advantage. "We know what we have to do more of and the recipe to get the game our way and to tilt the ice the other way."

The Rangers both led and trailed in this one, but the final 40 minutes of regulation largely belonged to the Panthers. Such has been the case for a majority of this series, in which Florida has generated suffocating offensive stretches.

Getting outshot 27-10 and having to defend 14 high-danger chances in comparison to their two, according to Natural Stat Trick, the Blueshirts are going to have a tough time pulling out two more wins with how much time they're getting pinned in their own end.

"We're spending a little bit too much time playing defense, especially in the second period," head coach Peter Laviolette said, referring to how the Panthers took a 2-1 lead on a goal from Sam Bennett and a power-play score from Carter Verhaeghe in the middle frame. "That happened last game as well and so we're not able to move and generate the way that we want to out there. They come at you hard, they dump a lot of pucks, they forecheck hard.

"So you're not spending time in the right zone, like [Chris Kreider and Zibanejad], they want to get out of the defensive zone, they want to get into the offensive zone where they can make an impact in the game. That's something I thought we did a much better job at home."

As strong as the Rangers' first period was, the Panthers' second and third periods were even stronger.

The opening 20 minutes represented the Rangers' best period of the series thus far. Not only were they on the attack so much more, but the visitors made quicker decisions with the puck and managed to disrupt some of what the Panthers were trying to do in transition and in their zone.

The power play also snapped an 0-for-8 skid in the series on a one-timer from Vincent Trocheck in the first period, as the



NOT THEIR NIGHT: Tuesday's Game 4 was one of frustration for the Rangers, as Igor Shesterkin (left) leaves the ice after allowing a goal in overtime (top) in a 3-2 Game 4 loss to the Panthers. Mika Zibanejad (above), meanwhile, clanged a shot off the crossbar in the first period.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg (3)

Rangers' top man-advantage unit started to resemble what it had looked like for a majority of the playoffs.

It didn't take long for the Panthers to wear the Rangers down, however, as the home team kicked it into overdrive to outwork their opponents as the game progressed.

Alexis Lafreniere did make it possible for the Rangers to reach overtime.

The once-underachieving first-overall pick collected his third goal in two games Tuesday night, a game-tying score early in the third period that forced overtime, to boost his postseason totals to seven goals and 13 points in 14 games.

Goalie Igor Shesterkin also had to be brilliant once again, but his 36 saves in regulation were wasted.

So the Rangers need to take two of the next three to make it count.

Two more wins to confirm they are in fact the best team in the East.

Two more to earn the right to compete for the Stanley Cup.

"Obviously, wanted to get that third one and come back with a 3-1 lead," said Adam Fox, who posted his first multi-point night of the playoffs in the loss. "But just come back on home ice next game and respond."

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Offensive duo get stuck on the defensive

By ETHAN SEARS

SUNRISE, Fla. — After another game where the best thing you could say about the Rangers' top line was that it wasn't on the ice for a goal against, it's getting near impossible to believe that's enough.

If the Rangers' own belief that they need more from Mika Zibanejad and Chris Kreider wasn't betrayed by Peter Laviolette rotating through right-wingers for the pair in this game — starting with Jack Roslovic in place of a scratched Filip Chytil before moving to Kaapo Kakko — then it sure was by Laviolette's own public assessment of his top line after the 3-2 overtime loss in Game 4 tied the series at two.

"We're spending a little too much time playing defense, especially in the second period," he said. "That happened last game as well. And so we're not able to move and generate the way we want out there."

Kreider and Zibanejad are sitting on zero points apiece for the series, a stat that might actually understate how dire things have gotten for the BFFs.

Four games into the series, Kreider has not yet recorded a shot on goal at five-on-five. And though Zibanejad has accounted for a few chances, the Rangers have just a 22.92 expected goals percentage in his five-on-five minutes — which is slightly better than Kreider's 20.43 percent mark.

Though they might not have been on for a goal against as a line, each has been on for a pair of goals against on their own.

"We're not getting a lot of opportunities to make plays, obviously," Kreider told The Post after Tuesday's loss. "I think we had a couple looks. We bury those, you don't ask me that question. So just gotta be opportunistic."

There were chances for the top line in this one, albeit on a sparing basis. Zibanejad sent a centering feed for Kreider early in the second that he couldn't get on the end of and Kreider returned the favor in the third for a look that Sergei Bobrovsky saved. Zibanejad had what looked to be an open-net chance on the power play in the first, which Bobrovsky somehow got to before the puck ringed off the crossbar.

Any of those could have changed the course of the game. But none changes the underlying fact, which is that the Rangers are spending far too much time defending when their best players are on the ice.

"I think that they definitely had a handful of shifts that they were stacking in our zone," Kreider said. "We have to find ways to tilt the ice and go the other way and do that to them."

They have to find it, and they have to find it soon.

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SPINNING WHEEL Pat Sajak will retire as host of “Wheel Of Fortune” in a few short weeks, but Vanna White (left) has no plans to stop turning those tiles. “When I heard that Pat was retiring, I thought maybe I should retire too, but I’m not ready,” the 67-year-old told TVInsider.



THE TRIBE HAS SPOKEN “Survivor” host Jeff Probst (left) announced that the pop star Sia (right) has decided to stop supporting her favorite castaways via the Sia Prize. Over the course of the show’s last 14 seasons, Sia gave out over \$1 million to her favorite players.



TV Wednesday

Former ‘SNL’ star Jay Pharoah on his new game show

ON THE BALL

By LAUREN SARNER

He’s ready to play ball.

Former “Saturday Night Live” star Jay Pharoah hosts the new Fox game show “The Quiz With Balls.”

Premiering May 28, the show features families as they answer trivia questions and compete to win a \$100,000 cash prize — but when they get answers wrong, giant balls knock them into a pool of water.

“The concept of ‘Wipe-out’ crossed with ‘Family Feud’ is a beautiful mix together,” Pharoah, 36, told The Post.

“So I just thought it was a smart idea. You get to answer questions, learn trivia and see people get knocked on their behinds into water,” he continued. “And some of you can’t swim, but it’s fine! We’ve got a life-guard out there just in case.”

Pharoah added that he thinks his relatives will mock him for the show title.

“If I’m at Thanksgiving this year and all my male cousins and my uncles, they want to say something, I’m going to be like, ‘OK, who bought the turkey this year? Thank you. Shut up. Eat it,’” he said. “I’ve made everybody’s life easier this Thanksgiving by having this catered out of my pocket. You think I did that by not saying ‘balls’? No, I did it by saying ‘balls’ as many times as I needed to say it!”

He added: “So, listen, I think everybody should be saying ‘balls’ at this table. They should thank the balls ... Let’s all be thankful for the balls for providing us



Jay Pharoah (left) hosts the new FOX game show “The Quiz With Balls.”

things will go haywire, live. And you’ve got to be able to adjust, and think on your feet,” he told The Post. “And just being gregarious to folks and making every interaction as amicable as possible.”

The comedian has “no regrets” about his time on “SNL.”

“I’m looking at Kenan [Thompson] now. He’s been up there for so long I’m like, ‘Well damn, I thought he was supposed to leave at some point!’ I learned a lot. Lorne Michaels put me on the map. Looking at all the opportunities and things that have sprouted from that, I wouldn’t have been able to get this [show] if I didn’t do that. I promoted this on ‘The Tonight Show,’ because I have that relationship over there. Everything stems from your genesis. And ‘SNL’ was the genesis.”

Pharoah is also currently on a stand-up comedy tour.

“I have hecklers ... I’ve said derogatory things to folks who deserved it, because most of the time at my shows, everybody has a good time ... I have a very respectful following in the club,” he explained. “Online, that’s totally different. You know, there’s just crazy people online and say dumb things all the time and you kind of just got to sift through it. I get heckled more on Instagram than I do at my shows.”

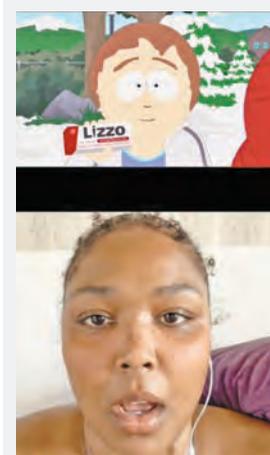
During his time on that show, he learned skills in “live performance, and being able to shift at any moment.”

“I definitely got that from ‘SNL’ because sometimes

this catered Thanksgiving event.”

Pharoah, who is also known for his voice acting roles on “Family Guy,” “The Simpsons” and “Invincible,” was on “SNL” from 2010 to

2016. He became known for his celebrity impressions, such as Barack Obama, Will Smith, Chris Rock and DMX — and he said he’d love to star in a biopic about the latter.



About damn time

Grammy-winning singer Lizzo (above) took to Instagram to register her thoughts about being parodied in the recent “South Park: The End Of Obesity” special. “I’m really that b**** and I show you how to not give a f**** and I’ll keep showing you how to not give a f****,” she stated in a video message.

Thanks but no thanks

Legendary soap opera actress Susan Lucci (left) turned down ABC’s offer to be “The Golden Bachelorette,” she told PEOPLE. The 77-year-old former “All My Children” mainstay said “It wasn’t for me, but I do love watching.”



What's on Tonight



DRAMA
Boyz n the Hood: 5:30 p.m. on VH1. **Laurence Fishburne, Cuba Gooding Jr.** Three young males thrive in the mean streets of South Central LA.



ADVENTURE
Gladiator: 8 p.m. on AMC. **Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix.** Maximus sets out to exact vengeance against the emperor who murdered his family.



DRAMA
Troy: 11:30 p.m. on AMC. **Brad Pitt, Eric Bana.** When a Trojan prince steals a man's wife, a war of epic proportions starts to begin.

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	CBS News Norah	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	The Price Is Right at Night: Superfans Jr. Special		Willie Nelson's 90th Birthday Celebration (R)				CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) Late Show	
4	WNBC	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	Chicago Med: Row Row Row Your Boat on (R)		Chicago Fire: Barely Gone (R)	Chicago P.D.: Unpacking (R)				News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5	WNYW	5	5	Family Feud (R)	Extra (R)	TMZ (R)	MasterChef: Millennials Auditions		Gordon Ramsay's Food Stars: The Bootcamp		The 10 O'Clock News		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	
7	WABC	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune	The Conners (R)	The Conners (R)	The Conners (R)	The Conners (R)	Shark Tank (R)		News	(11:35) Kimmel Live	
9	WWOR	9	9	Dish Nation	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Dateline: Jonestown: An American Tragedy		Dateline: Killer Role		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	TMZ Live		
11	WPIX	11	11	PIX11 Evening News	Sports Nightly	The Big Bang Theory	Walker: A History of Horrors and Other Tales		Sight Unseen: Burn Notice		PIX11 News at Ten		Seinfeld: Unbonding	Seinfeld: The Gymnast	
13	WNET	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS NewsHour		Nature: Niagara Falls (R)		NOVA: Why Ships Crash (R)		Pompeii: The New Dig: The Final Hours		Amanpour and Company		
21	WLIW	21	21	(6:00) News	Antiques Roadshow (R)		Art Happens (R)		Pompeii: New (R)		Pompeii: New: Escape		Trolley	BBC News	
25	WNYE	25	25	Report	92Y on NYCLife		Secrets NY	New York	Neighbor	Eat Harlem	\$9.99	Story in	Speakeasy		
31	WPXN	31	3	(6:00) Blue	Blue Bloods: Partners	Spelling Bee Semi-Finals		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods			
41	WXTV	41	6	Noticiero	La rosa de Guadalupe	Golpe de suerte		El gallo de oro		El amor no tiene receta		Noticias	Noticiero		
47	WNJU	47	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP: Part 1	(7:58) Top Chef VIP: Part 2		Sight Unseen: Burn Notice		PIX11 News at Ten		Seinfeld: Unbonding	Seinfeld: The Gymnast		
55	WLNY	55	10	Queens	Man	Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Christy Martin		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	
A&E	46	46	181	First 48 (R)	The First 48: End Game		The First 48		Killer Cases		(10:01) Murder at Motel		(11:04) The First 48 (R)		
AMC	54	43	231	(5:00) U.S. Marshalls (1998, Action)	Gladiator (2000, Drama)		Russell Crowe. R ★★★★★						Troy (2004)		
BET	37	54	270	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Tyler Perry's Sistas		Average Joe: Pilot (R)		Martin		
BBCAM	71	101	189	Bones	Bones: Blackout		Bones: Feet on Beach		Bones: Truth in Myth		Bones: The Finder		Bones: Pinocchio		
BRAVO	18	44	185	Below (R)	Top Chef (R)		Top Chef: Door Fish Boil		Top Chef: On the Table		(10:15) Below Deck (R)		(11:15) Second Act (2018)		
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Last Call		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		
CNN	78	25	100	Situation	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live		
COM	45	50	190	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	South Park	South Park	
DIS	49	31	250	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Miraculous	Miraculous	Miraculous	Moon Girl	Hailey's (R)	Hailey's (R)	Raven Home	Raven Home	
DSC	66	27	120	Expedition	Expedition X (R)		Expedition X (R)		Expedition X (R)		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		
E!	24	51	196	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	E! News	Dear John	
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports Live.	NBA Countdown Live.		(8:08) 2024 NBA Playoffs: Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics.		Live.		SportsCenter with Scott Van Pelt Live.				
ESPN2	29	35	74	ESPN BET L	Interruption		NFL Live		30 for 30		Poirier vs. Gaethje		UFC Countdown		
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies		
FNC	44	26	118	Sp. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night		
FOOD	50	97	164	Grocery (R)	Guy's Grocery Games (R)		Supermarket (R)		Supermarket Stakeout		Guy's Grocery Games (R)		Guy's Grocery Games (R)		
FREFRM	38	49	199	Pretty Woman (1990) ★★	Cast Away (2000, Drama)		Tom Hanks. PG-13 ★★½				Royal Rule		The 700 Club (R)		
FS1	400	99	83	NASCAR	NASCAR	UFL Football Replay.	MLS Soccer: Austin FC at Portland Timbers. Live.		MLS Soccer Live.						
FX	10	40	53	(6:00) A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) ★★	Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014, Action)		Mark Wahlberg. PG-13 ★★½						Transform.		
HALL		191	240	Love in ★★½	It Was Always You (2021, Romance)		Erin Krakow.		Roadhouse Romance (2021)		Lauren Alaina.		Golden	Golden	
HGTV	64	98	165	Home Town	Home Town (R)		Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	House Hunters	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	
HIST	40	47	128	Am. Picker	American Pickers (R)		American Pickers (R)		American Pickers		(10:03) American Pickers		(11:05) American Pickers		
ID	23	171	123	Murder (R)	In Heartland (R)		To Be Announced		American Detective with Lt. Joe Kenda		48 Hours on ID (R)				
LIFE	62	45	140	Castle	Castle: He's, She's Dead		Castle: Under the Gun		Castle: Punked		Castle: Anatomy Murder		(11:03) Castle: 3XK		
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Hillbillies	Acres	Hogan	Hogan	Burnett	P. Mason	
MSG	27	87	78	MSG Shorts	Roland Garros: #4 2nd Round Replay.								The Bettor		
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(2:00) FanDuel	Racing Live.		No Gamble No Future		No Gamble No Future		No Gamble No Future		No Gamble No Future		
MSNBC	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The ReidOut		All in with Chris Hayes		Alex Wagner Tonight		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour		
MTV	20	53	210	Catfish	Catfish: The TV Show		Teen Mom: Fireside		Daddy's Home (2015, Comedy)		Will Ferrell. PG-13 ★★		Ridiculous		
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	Catch Smuggler (R)		Catch Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Patrick	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
OWN	173	180	145	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil: I Treat My Pet		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		
PARMT	36	56	54	Men	Men	Men	John Wick (2014, Action) Keanu Reeves. R ★★½				John Wick: Chapter 2 (2017) R ★★½				
SNY	26	60	77	MLB Game	Post Game	Baseball	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Mets from Citi Field. Replay.				Sports Live.		Sports Live.		
SYFY	17	48	180	Underworld	(6:55) Armageddon (1998, Science Fiction)		Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton. ★★		Reginald the Vampire		Underworld: Rise Lycans				
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite		Family		Family	Family	Family	Family	
TCM	82	41	230	(5:45) The Sea of Grass (1947) NR ★★½	Sabrina (1954, Romance) Humphrey Bogart. NR ★★		Ninotchka (1939, Comedy) Greta Garbo. NR ★★½								
TLC	52	28	139	Bariatrics	Botched Bariatrics (R)		My 600-lb Life: Where Are They Now?: Margaret		Botched Bariatrics		Help! I'm Turn (R)				
TNT	3	37	51	Supernat.	NHL Pregame Live.		2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs: Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers. Live.				NHL Post		Shameless		
TVLAND	85	34	241	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens	
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		
VH1	19	52	217	(5:30) Boyz n the Hood (1991, Drama) R	Dead Presidents (1995, Action) Larenz Tate. R ★★		Brothers (2009) Jake Gyllenhaal. R ★★								
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: An Eye for an Eye		NCIS: Bikini Wax		NCIS: Conspiracy Theory		NCIS: Red Cell		NCIS: Hometown Hero		
YES	53	89	76	English Pr. League Soccer: Manchester City at Manchester United. Taped.	AC Milan Magazine Taped.										
HBO	511	301	400	(6:45) The Iron Claw (2023, Drama) Zac Efron, Jeremy Allen White.	MoviePass, MovieCrash (2024)		(10:33) The Revenant (2016, Drama) R								
MAX	531	371	420	(6:15) She's Out of My League (2010) R	Elizabethtown (2005, Comedy) Orlando Bloom. ★★½		(10:04) Room (2015, Drama) Brie Larson. R ★★½								
MGM Plus	595	395		Pompeii ★★	(7:10) Beacon 23 (R)		Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (2023) PG-13 ★★½		(10:45) I, Robot (2004, Science Fiction)						
PARSHO	551	321	365	(5:30) 13 Hours: Secret Soldiers (2016)	The Hateful Eight (2015, Western) Samuel L. Jackson. R ★★½		The Mechanic (2011) ★★½								



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STEARNS SAYS HE WON'T RUSH TO BREAK UP METS BEFORE DH SWEEP BY DODGERS / P. 47-45

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KNOT TO BE



Rangers fail to take control as Panthers tie series in overtime

N.Y. Post: Charles Menzelberg

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS
EASTERN CONFERENCE FINAL




3-2

OVERTIME
GAME 4
Series tied, 2-2

Igor Shesterkin, who kept the Rangers in the game with a series of spectacular saves, reacts as Aleksander Barkov celebrates Sam Reinhart's power-play goal to end the third straight overtime game of the series. The best-of-seven series returns to the Garden on Thursday night. P. 53-50



CAN'T FINISH THE JOB

AFTER ANOTHER STRONG START, YANKS BLOW LATE LEAD VS. HALOS

PAGES 48-49



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