



## Given a taxpayer-funded hotel room, migrant a suspect in robberies — and shooting 2 cops



# WE ARE SUCKERS

Police carry Bernardo Castro Mata, 19, the suspect in the shooting of two NYPD cops yesterday. Mata illegally entered the country from Venezuela and has since been taking advantage of NYC — living in a free shelter and then allegedly robbing and assaulting people.

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# Not on his 'Squad'

By CARL CAMPANILE

The chairman of the New York state Democratic Party gave a "Squad" snub and went silent on liberal Rep. Jamaal Bowman — moments after effusively praising the incumbent politician's primary opponent.

Chairman Jay Jacobs had nothing but nice things to say about Westchester County Executive George Latimer, a moderate who has gained momentum as Bowman is under fire for anti-Israel statements and other missteps.

"If elected, George Latimer would make an excellent congressman," Jacobs told The Post Monday. But asked what he thinks of Bowman, Jacobs only said, "No comment."

Bowman, the former Bronx middle-school principal, is seeking a third term in the 16th Congressional District encompassing southern Westchester and parts of the northern Bronx.

"George Latimer is a good friend of mine," said Jacobs, a moderate and close ally of Gov. Hochul who also is the Nassau County Democratic leader.

He said they have worked together over the years not just on politics but issues important to suburban and urban New Yorkers.

Jacobs stopped short of endorsing Latimer, but party insiders said he's made it clear that he's pulling for Latimer to win the June 25 primary.

Last week, Bowman sought and won the endorsement of the anti-Israel, hard-left Democratic Socialists of America. He is also backed by the left-leaning Working Families Party.

Latimer has campaigned as a staunch ally of the Jewish state. Bowman was captured on video in November calling Israel an "apartheid" state as he claimed reported rapes and child murders during the Oct. 7 attack were a "lie."

He later walked back the comments after being accused of spreading Hamas propaganda.

## NY Dem boss touts Latimer, snubs Jamaal

**‘If elected, George Latimer would make an excellent congressman.’**

— State Democratic chair Jay Jacobs (below) after Rep. Jamaal Bowman's controversies, including pulling a fire alarm



Getty Images



During a debate last month, Bowman argued that the phrase "From the river to the sea" — which is generally interpreted as a call to eradicate the Jewish state

— wasn't hateful. Latimer countered that the phrase is commonly understood as antisemitic and genocidal.

Bowman also has the backing of

fellow "Squad" Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — whose Bronx-Queens district borders his — and state Sen. Jamaal Bailey, chairman of the Bronx Democratic Party.

Latimer has the backing of the Westchester Democratic Party establishment, as well as pro-Israel and Jewish Democrats.

The incumbent's rhetorical baggage and left-wing positions are not the only obstacles he has to overcome to win the primary.

The Republican-led House voted in December to censure Bowman for pulling a fire alarm in a Capitol Hill office building Sept. 30 in order to delay a vote to avert a government shutdown. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of falsely pulling the fire alarm and agreed to pay a \$1,000 fine, insisting it was a mistake.

# It's gotta go time! NYC gets new loos

Relief may be finally trickling in.

Mayor Adams touted the planned addition of a few dozen new public restrooms in the Big Apple Monday — but the city is still falling short of its duty to boost the number of toilets across the five boroughs.

The administration announced a five-year effort — dubbed "Ur in Luck" — to add 46 bathrooms across the city and renovations of 36 existing restrooms.

"Part of making New York City a more livable city is tackling the little things — the things we don't think about until we need them," Adams said. "Access to public restrooms is high on that list, maybe even number one or two."

Manhattan will see an additional 28 and Brooklyn will get 23, while 14 are slated for Queens, 10 for The Bronx and seven for Staten Island. Still, the city has a long way to go for New Yorkers who have to go — with nearly 100 more restrooms needed to hit a goal of 151, as recommended in a 2022 report.

The plan also calls for a task force to streamline the approval process to add 14 automatic self-cleaning restrooms over the next two years.

The high-tech toilets are slated to come through the French company JCDecaux, which has more than 2,500 toilets in 28 countries.

New Yorkers can also find a stall on the go with a new layer to Google Maps tracking the now more than 1,000 public restrooms around the city. *Craig McCarthy*

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- Cash-4-Life Mon.: 1, 8, 10, 26, 45; Cash Ball: 4
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- 35, 36, 45; Powerball: 16; Power Play: x2

**NEW JERSEY**

- Pick-3 Mon.: 733; Fireball: 5
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- Play-3 Mon.: 412; Wild: 4
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# GEL FOR SEXUAL DE-SIRE

## Male birth control

By ALEXANDRA KLAUSNER

Men may soon be able to shoulder the responsibility of birth control.

A hormonal birth-control gel, which is rubbed on each shoulder blade once daily, shows promising results in a new trial.

“The development of a safe, highly effective and reliably reversible contraceptive method for men is an unmet need,” said senior study author Dr. Diana Blithe, chief of the Contraceptive Development Program at the National Institutes of Health.

In the trial, 222 men between the ages of 18 and 50 put a teaspoon of the gel containing testosterone and segesterone acetate on each shoulder daily. Of the test subjects, 86% had sperm suppression after an average of eight weeks, which was faster than researchers expected.

### Fruits of labor

The synthetic hormone segesterone acetate, also called Nesterone, is an ingredient of the birth-control ring used by women. Researchers believe Nesterone makes the new gel work more quickly and requires less testosterone. In past birth-control trials, it took between nine and 15 weeks for men to start seeing results.

It’s also meant to keep men from producing sperm without impacting their sex drive or causing other side effects.

“A more rapid time to suppression may increase the attractiveness and acceptability of this drug to potential users,” Blithe said.

The participants in the trial were required to be in committed monogamous relationships and have sex at least once a month for a year.

After decades of research, there are still no federally approved birth control drugs for men. But the slow progress isn’t because past studies lacked potential, researchers argue.

“We’ve been pushing for hormonal male contraceptives for 50 years, but there isn’t enough money available to really drive something through a very large phase 3 trial,” said Dr. Daniel Johnston, chief of contraceptive research at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Phase 3 clinical trials are one of the last steps before a drug is approved by federal authorities. The trials can last from one to four years.

One trial participant, Logan Whitehead, told NBC News the gel was easy to use and caused few side effects, which included some upper back acne.

“It was basically like a hand sanitizer solution,” said Whitehead, of Torrance, Calif. “Smelled like hand sanitizer, looked like hand sanitizer.”

**Purrr!**  
**Lupita**  
**is the**  
**cat’s**  
**meow**



She’s got her spots on the Glamour cover, but Lupita Nyong’o wasn’t always sitting pretty (make that kitty) with cats! “I had to learn a lot about myself, about the animal, before I was comfortable to do it,” June’s global star — on the US, UK, Germany and Mexico covers — says of working with her furry co-star in the prequel “A Quiet Place: Day One.” Turns out life does imitate art: after filming, plus a breakup from boyfriend Selema Masekela last year, she’s now the owner of cat Yoyo. “I guess the best anecdote for when you feel poorly taken care of is to take care of something. And I took care of Yoyo, and he pried my heart open.”



# 2 COPS SHOT BY

## End sanctuary city laws now!



**ROBERT HOLDEN**

**T**HE senseless shooting of two NYPD officers on Monday, allegedly by Bernardo Castro Mata, a 19-year-old Venezuelan migrant, is an egregious reminder of the consequences of our current sanctuary city policies.

It is the kind of incident I have been warning about for years.

Our city is witnessing gangs of illegal migrants living in shelters on our dime, getting free services, and then turning around and committing crimes, often using illegal scooters.

On Thursday, my colleagues in the New York City Council's Common Sense Caucus and I will introduce legislation to repeal the laws that made New York a sanctuary city.

We can no longer afford to import criminals, nor can we continue to protect them from the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

### Criminals must go

It is time to stand up and take decisive action. We must deport those who have no right to be here, especially those who come here to commit crimes or are wanted back in their home countries.

New York seems to have forgotten the history behind the creation of ICE and why it was formed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

Early reports suggest Castro Mata may be part of the scooter theft gangs that have been terrorizing our city, robbing and assaulting residents.

Ken Genalo, the field director for ICE's New York City office, has been vocal for months about the detrimental impact of city policies that prevent local authorities from cooperating with

his staff.

The Caucus has met with him and we heard firsthand the horror stories of criminals who have detainers issued against them but are shielded by the laws preventing the NYPD, Department of Corrections, and Probations from honoring those detainers.

This cannot continue. We owe it to our residents, and our cops to put an end to this madness.

Officer Christopher Abreu, 26, took a bullet to the leg, while his partner, Richard Yarusso, also 26, was struck in the front of his bulletproof vest.

Fortunately, both will recover, but it could have been much worse. It could have ended like Laken Riley, who was brutally beaten, molested and strangled to death while jogging, allegedly by Jose Ibarra, an illegal migrant who had been arrested twice, including in New York, but was released.

### Innocent victims

Or 2-year-old Jeremy Poou-Caceres from Maryland who was murdered in February by Nilson Granados-Trejo. Twice arrested, ICE issued detainers both times, but Montgomery County refused to honor them.

These are not isolated incidents but part of a dangerous pattern. Our elected leaders must wake up to the reality on the ground. The religious experiment of sanctuary city is not just unsustainable — it is dangerous. We must put the safety of our citizens first, control our borders and enforce our laws. Those who are here illegally and engage in criminal activities, must be deported without hesitation.

We're committed to making New York safe again. We will push for legislation that ensures cooperation with ICE, ends sanctuary-city policies and prioritizes the safety of our residents.

*Council Member Robert Holden (D) represents District 30 in Queens.*



**LET'S ROLL:** Officer Richard Yarusso, who was shot in his bulletproof vest, wheels partner Officer Christopher Abreu out of Elmhurst Hospital, where he'd been treated for a gunshot wound to the leg.

By LARRY CELONA,  
JOE MARINO,  
EMILY CRANE and KATE SHEEHY

Two of New York's Finest were shot by a Venezuelan migrant in a wild chase in Queens early Monday — with one of the injured cops frantically rendering aid to his more badly hurt partner, police and sources said.

Suspect Bernardo Castro Mata, 19 — who entered the US illegally last year — shot Officer Richard Yarusso, 26, in his bullet-proof vest and Officer Christopher Abreu, 26, in the leg as the cops wrestled to get Mata's illicit gun away, authorities said.

The wounded cops were given a "guard of honor" later Monday as they left Elmhurst Hospital.

### Finest cheers at hosp

Yarusso touchingly pushed the wheelchair of his partner past lines of clapping cops and other supporters.

US immigration sources told The Post that Mata illegally entered the country through Eagle Pass, Texas, in July 2023 and was freed without any tracking on May 6 as part of a "mass amnesty" program under the Biden administration.

On Monday, Officers Yarusso and Abreu were working on a robbery pattern involving criminals on mopeds in Elmhurst when they spotted Mata driving a black scooter with no plates the wrong

## Venez. suspect, 19, made illegal cross in Texas

way down a street at about 1:40 a.m., police and law-enforcement sources said.

The suspect ditched his moped around 89th Street and 23rd Avenue and ran, prompting the officers to chase after him, according to cops.

The officers caught up with him several blocks away and tackled him to the ground — and the teen then whipped out an illegal Hi-Point .380 pistol from a fanny pack, police and sources said.

Yarusso was tussling with the suspect for the weapon when the gun discharged, striking the officer in his vest on his chest, sources said.

Mata then allegedly shot Abreu as the officer returned fire, striking the suspect in the right ankle, sources said.

"We're getting shot at by kids now," a law-enforcement source griped.

Yarusso, still reeling from being shot in his vest, "was more concerned about his partner" and desperately worked to apply a tourniquet to Abreu's leg to stem the bleeding, said Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Hendry.

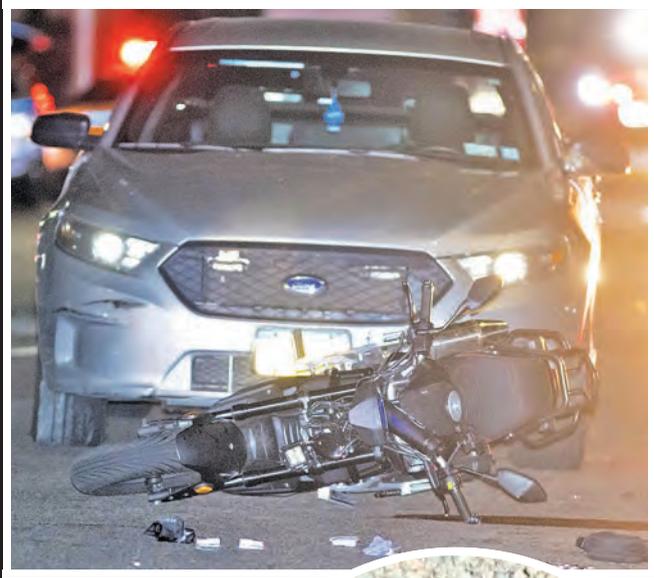
He ended up putting his bleeding comrade in their police car and rushed him to Elmhurst, sources said.

### Eyed in Qns. robberies

The officers were both assigned to 115th Precinct's public safety unit. Abreu has been on the job for five years, while his partner joined the NYPD ranks two and a half years ago.

Mata has no criminal history in the Big Apple — but he was being eyed by the NYPD in two violent "snatch and grab" robberies targeting women in Queens on May

# MIGRANT IN QNS.



**CAUGHT:** Migrant suspect Bernardo Castro Mata is held after allegedly ditching the scooter he was driving the wrong way down a Queens street (above) and shooting two NYPD officers with this .380 that he hid in a fanny pack.



21, authorities said.

He was on the cops' radar Monday as a person of interest for the robberies — which may be part of a slew of crimes run by crews including a violent gang in at least one case.

The suspect was taken to New-York-Presbyterian Queens Hospital in stable condition.

Sources said he was expected to face charges including attempted murder of a police officer and possession of an illegal weapon.

NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban said Mata had been living at the migrant shelter in the former Courtyard Marriott Hotel near LaGuardia Airport in Queens.

The shelter is about a block from the shooting scene, and about 30 mopeds were parked outside it Monday.

Two migrants living at the shelter told The Post that while Mata used to live there, he didn't

anymore after getting into a fight.

He left the shelter May 15, The New York Times reported.

Michelle Siguencia, 31, who lives at the shelter with her family, told The Post that metal detectors were installed there after a male migrant took out a gun during a fight with relatives.

"A lot of people come as families, but sometimes when there are issues, they take the guys out," she said.

## Saved by the vest

Showing off the bullet hole in one of the officer's vests at a press conference, Mayor Adams praised the two cops.

"Because of this vest, a young police officer is going home," Hizzoner said.

"A senseless act of violence. Total disregard for life," he added.

*Additional reporting by Kevin Sheehan and Desheania Andrews*

## Let loose in 'mass amnesty'

The Venezuelan migrant accused of shooting two NYPD cops crossed into the US illegally last year — but the Biden administration dismissed the case against him as part of a "mass amnesty" program, sources say.

Bernardo Castro Mata, 19 — who allegedly shot one officer in his bullet-proof vest and another in the leg early Monday when they tried to stop his illegal moped in Queens — was nabbed in July trying to sneak into the US from Mexico through Eagle Pass, Texas, sources said.

He claimed asylum and last had an immigration hearing in Chicago on May 6, according to ICE sources.

That's when his asylum application case was dismissed — a misguided move to try to beat back a staggering court backlog caused by the White House's botched border policies, sources and critics said.

As The Post exclusively reported Sunday, the Biden administration has dismissed asylum cases and deportation orders involving about 350,000 migrants since 2022 because they didn't have criminal records and weren't deemed security threats.

The move means their applications are neither approved nor denied — yet they are now free to legally roam around the US without being tracked.

They can't apply for benefits,

financial aid, a work permit or vote in elections, but they can always reapply for asylum or seek other forms of legal residency.

In Mata's case, he had no known arrest record at the time of his hearing — but became a person of interest several weeks later in two violent robberies targeting women in Queens.

Law-enforcement sources say he is suspected of helping to rough up two women during a pair of snatch-and-grab robberies on the night of May 21.

He may be part of one of the migrant moped-riding robbery crews that have been terrorizing residents around the city for months, cops said.

*Jennie Taer, Joe Marino and Steve Janoski*

# Border blowup

## Now Biden eyes closed crossing

By STEVE NELSON

An explosive showdown between President Biden's now-campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez and Mayor Adams prompted Hizzoner to unleash a barrage of public criticism at Biden's handling of the US-Mexico border crisis, boosting public perceptions of Biden's inaction, *The Post* has learned.

"The mayor said, 'Let's have a family conversation, we are drowning [and] we need help,'" recalled a participant in the dramatic January 2023 discussion between Adams and Chavez Rodriguez, who was at the time the White House director of inter-governmental affairs.

Chavez Rodriguez, now 46, was visibly angry as Adams called for action at a small-group private discussion during an annual conference of the nation's mayors.

"You could tell she was not happy at all and she came back at him in a really tough way," the witness said. "She immediately sniped back. There was a notable tone, a very direct exchange, and it went back and forth.

"It was a very unfortunate exchange and things just went south after that. Up until that point she had been the main person dealing with [Adams] on those topics. It just became very difficult after that," the witness told *The Post*. "I think they were just not reading the tea leaves properly here. This is an issue and people are not happy."

### 'Personal, not policy'

A second source said, "That moment made it seem personal on the Biden administration's side as opposed to policy and that meant City Hall felt it didn't just not have an ally, but it did have an enemy, and that meant there was going to be a different public footing when the migrant crisis worsened.

"She has dug a deeper and deeper hole," they said.

It's unclear why Chavez Rodriguez, who left her government post about four months after the clash to serve as Biden's campaign manager, chose to reprimand rather than attempt to mollify Adams — though multiple additional sources said that she's also known to be brusque and even mean to fellow campaign staff, especially when they don't



**'DUG A DEEPER HOLE':** Mayor Adams' 2023 meeting with now-Biden campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez (above) on border issues got heated fast and led to Adams publicly criticizing the White House.

## WH aide fire at Eric sparked feud

meet her expectations.

Throughout 2022, Adams was "basically pleading with the White House to do something about this," said the second insider, including pushing for limits on the number of paroled asylum-seekers at the border and increasing federal aid to cities to cope with the influx.

The number of migrants illegally crossing the border continued to grow throughout 2023, as did Adams' public criticism, as most of them were given court dates and bused to cities such as the Big Apple.

"The political argument [from Adams] was basically: look, black and Latino Democrats — who by the way you're losing as a party — are much more likely than white Democrats to oppose unrestricted immigration," the second Adams ally said.

"They are much more likely to lose work to people coming into

the country and they are likely to be first or second-generation Americans who had to go through a vigorous policy to get here. Also, the social services are coming out of the same pie.

"Eric Adams made that argument as someone who grew up in those communities," the source told *The Post*.

### 'Adams was right'

Meanwhile, Chavez Rodriguez — the granddaughter of famed union organizer Cesar Chavez, who is best known for organizing farmworkers in California — "was telling the president that Latinos would be furious" about a clampdown, the source said.

"We now know that Eric Adams was right and she was wrong," added the source.

"She's exactly wrong for the campaign," the second source said, adding they've heard the

campaign manager has told people she "hates" Adams.

"She seems to approach the job more as an activist than as a political operative, and that's something that really rubs people in the business the wrong way," they went on. "The campaign needs to be about action, not activism, to make independent voters and Democrats who have started moving to [former President Donald] Trump move back into the blue column."

An ex-White House official said one person doesn't bear all of the blame for the Adams relationship, because "Eric Adams has been clear for a long time he's gonna say what he's gonna say."

A record 2.5 million illegal immigrants were apprehended after crossing the southern border in fiscal 2023, which ended Sept. 30, followed by an all-time monthly record of nearly 302,000 in December.

President Biden is set Tuesday to unveil an executive order that will allow him to shut down the US-Mexico border when migrant crossings reach a certain number per day, but critics argued Monday that it is too little, too late.

The order would bar illegal border-crossers from claiming asylum when migrant encounters between ports of entry reach a daily mean of 2,500 over the course of a week, according to the Associated Press.

The border would reopen when the number of such encounters decline to 1,500 per day.

Biden has reportedly been mulling executive action on the border since February, despite denying he had that power. He is expected to sign the order at a White House ceremony Tuesday with some border city mayors by his side.

Eagle Pass, Texas, Mayor Roldando Salinas told *The Post* he was not invited despite his strong support of "any measure that prevents and limits the amounts of people coming into our city illegally."

"I just wish this was done back in December, when our city was being hit with 2,000-3,000 people per day," he said.

"Don't be deceived by Biden's latest move on the border, which is nothing more than a political stunt," Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) wrote on X. "He's trying to appear tough on immigration because he's losing ground in the polls."

Victor Nava and Jennie Taer

## Opinion of Don stays the same

Public opinion of former President Donald Trump has largely remained unchanged after he received a guilty verdict in his Manhattan hush money case last week, a pair of new polls shows.

Trump's public approval rating was at 31% after the verdict was handed down Thursday, per an ABC News/Ipsos poll published Sunday — statistically unchanged since March, when his approval rating stood at 29%.

President Biden's favorability numbers also largely remained flat, with the survey finding 32% of respondents approving compared to 33% approval in March.

Half of Americans agreed with the guilty verdict. *Diana Glebova*



**ALEX JONES**  
Cried on-air.

## Infowars host's rage bait

Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones let out a bizarre war cry and sobbed uncontrollably as he claimed the feds were trying to shutter his Infowars platform.

The host, 50, let the belting, 10-second scream rip after alleging — without evidence — that his site was under attack by federal authorities planning to raid his Austin studio.

A wild clip during a so-called emergency broadcast showed Jones clenching his fists and screaming until his face turned dark red.

In the last 15 minutes of his broadcast, Jones, who faces ruin for spreading the disturbing, blatantly false conspiracy that the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was a hoax, sobbed repeatedly as he alleged the “Deep State” was trying to ruin him.

“I’m so pissed off,” he raged. “All we’re trying to do is save America, and they’re f--king us over, over and over again.”

*Emily Crane with Wires*

## SK sets meet on NK abuses

South Korea plans to convene in mid-June a United Nations Security Council meeting on human-rights abuses in North Korea, Seoul’s UN envoy said Monday, a move that is likely to anger Pyongyang and face opposition from Russia and China.

The 15-member council last met on the issue in August 2023, its first public discussion since 2017. China opposed it then — saying the council should not discuss human-rights issues — but did not try to block the meeting due to a lack of support.

*Reuters*

# 90-yr.-old crossing guard retiring



# TIME TO ‘WALK’ AT LAST

**STOP AND GO:** Since the 1970s, Maggie Poston has been a crossing guard in Park Slope, Brooklyn, but the 90-year-old says it’s time to retire and travel.

By HANNAH FRISHBERG

After nearly five decades of helping children cross the street, Maggie Poston is finally ready to retire — at age 90.

Since 1978, the widowed mother of two has been a crossing guard for students at PS 282 in Park Slope, Brooklyn, at Sixth Avenue and Lincoln Place — which locals often refer to as “Miss Maggie’s corner.”

“She’s always on her post, never sitting,” Poston’s supervisor, school crossing coordinator Ida Ripo-Ramos, told The Post.

### Way back when . . .

Poston was 44 when she first started the job. Jimmy Carter was president, Ed Koch was mayor, the Bee Gees were at the top of the charts and “Grease” had just hit theaters.

She had a retail job at Montgomery Ward, but the department store closed the location where she worked. A friend told her about the open crossing-guard position, and she jumped at it.

“I was looking for a job,” she recalled. “I love kids.”

Every morning at 9:30 a.m. and then again at noon, the petite fixture is stationed at her corner.

On a spring day, a woman pushed a stroller past Poston, then turned back to declare, “She’s awesome!”

The crossing guard acknowledged the compliment humbly, saying with a smile “Everybody knows me.”

In the winter, she generally stands on the school’s side of the street. In the summer, she crosses over to enjoy the shade of the trees on the other side.

Poston doesn’t mind snow much, but on “rainy days it is terrible,” she said.

In over 45 years on the job, she’s hardly ever taken a day off.

“She’s got, like, I don’t even know, maybe 1,000 hours of sick leave piled up. She don’t take it,” said Ripo-Ramos, who’s known her for 18 years. “She amazes me.”

### Eyes of the nabe

In between shifts, she walks nearly a mile back to her rent controlled fourth-floor walk-up in Prospect Heights, where she bides the time in various ways but never



naps between shifts — lest she be late getting back to work.

On the weekends, she goes to church and spends time with her two children and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In the years guarding the same intersection, she’s noticed little change.

“It’s nice, quiet. Everybody minds their own business,” she said.

She conceded that there’s “more traffic now,” but said everyone still “obeys” her.

“I have no problem,” she said of

the growing number of cars and drivers. “I tell them stop, they stop. I tell them go, they go.”

When Poston turned 90 in January, colleagues were surprised.

“I thought she was 83,” said Ripo-Ramos.

Later this month, at the end of the school year, she’ll hang up her yellow reflector vest. In retirement, she’s hoping to see more of the world and take a trip to Jamaica.

“I’ve been working all my life. All my life,” she said. “It’s time to travel.”

# Gold-bar Bob launches indie re-elex bid

Indicted New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez turned in campaign paperwork to state elections officials on Monday as he prepares to defend his Senate seat — as an independent.

“Today, I submitted well

above the threshold of signatures required to run for re-election,” the embattled three-term Democrat wrote in a Facebook post formally announcing his third-party bid as he stands trial on federal corruption charges.

“The people of this great state deserve a leader in Washington with a proven track record of fighting tooth and nail to deliver results, and I intend to keep doing so as an independent Democrat,” he said.

The “Menendez for Senate” campaign submitted 2,465 signatures to the New Jersey Division of Elections, well over the 800 signatures needed for ballot access.

“It displeases me to have to go this route, thanks to over-

zealous prosecutors, but I will do what must be done to continue to uphold my oath of office for my constituents,” he said, adding that he is “more confident than ever” that he will be cleared of federal bribery charges. *Victor Nava*

# DR. FAUCI

# Cruel lies of science 'guise'

It looks like the self-professed human embodiment of science is also full of you-know-what.

Ahead of Dr. Anthony Fauci's public testimony Monday before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Republicans released a transcript of a January sit-down with the pandemic pooh-bah.

And, boy, was it revelatory. In it, he essentially admitted major parts of his prescription for the public were not, in fact, backed by science — in particular, masking children and the social-distancing mandate with 6 feet as the magic mitigator.

The former National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director, who retired in December 2022 after decades at the helm, was pressed on how the 6-foot standard came to be. "I don't recall," he said. "It sort of just appeared."

## 'Shamed & silenced'

As for recalling any data that supported masks for children as young as 2, Fauci was unable to definitively say.

"I might have . . . but I don't recall specifically," he said.

"Was there ever a cost-benefit analysis done on the unintended consequences of masking kids versus the protection that it would give them?" a committee staff member asked him.

Fauci's reply: "Not to my knowledge."

So he was just spitballing some of this — while simultaneously telling "Meet the Press" in 2021 that criticism of him was "really attacking not only Dr. Anthony Fauci, you

are attacking science."

At Monday's hearings, Ohio Rep. Brad Wenstrup got to the heart of our anger with Fauci.

"Americans were aggressively bullied, shamed and silenced for merely questioning or debating issues such as social distancing, masks, vaccines or the origins of COVID," said Wenstrup.

## A god complex

In the early weeks of the pandemic, I admired and trusted Fauci — thinking he stood for continuity, experience and restraint. But as two weeks to stop the spread turned into two years of moving the goalposts, it was clear the doctor was developing a god complex. And much of our media became clergy genuflecting at every turn.

Adherents found in Fauci a religious purpose, with a mask and a needle serving as virtue symbols and "trust the science" as their main recitation.

Anyone with objections was a heretic to be shamed.

We were forced to mold our society around these arbitrary and draconian rules. Children's test scores went down; school absenteeism and depression shot up. Parents who advocated for schools to reopen were ostracized and called "grandma killers."

In 2021, Fauci said on "Face the Nation," "If you damage science, you are doing something very detrimental to society long after I leave."

He leaves in his wake a tidal wave of American distrust in institutions. And an absolutely inability to see his role in dissolving that trust.

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

Republican members of a House subcommittee investigating the origins of COVID-19 blasted Dr. Anthony Fauci for his "hypocrisy" during the pandemic Monday, as the former National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director returned to Capitol Hill for a highly anticipated public hearing.

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) said in a scathing opening statement that Fauci, 83, had presided over "one of the most invasive regimes of domestic policy the US has ever seen," citing draconian restrictions that the ex-public health official recently admitted had no supporting scientific evidence.

"Americans were aggressively bullied, shamed and silenced for merely questioning or debating issues such as social distancing, masks, vaccines or the origins of COVID," Wenstrup said.

"And it should not have been the case that Americans were forced to comply with oppressive mandates, when those who chose to illegally cross over our southern border were not," he noted. "Or when [California] Gov. [Gavin] Newsom or [Michigan Gov. Gretchen] Whitmer were throwing parties at lavish restaurants. Not a good look."

"Dr. Fauci, you once said, 'If you disagree with me, you disagree with science,'" Wenstrup

**HIGHLY INVECTIVE:** Former White House COVID czar Dr. Anthony Fauci appears Monday before a House pandemic subcommittee, where he was grilled by GOP lawmakers — including an infuriated Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (below) — about the lockdowns and mandates that took place under his leadership.



AFP via Getty Images

said. "Americans do not hate science. But Americans know hypocrisy when they see it."

## Calling 'bull'

Rep. Rich McCormick (R-Ga.) followed up by playing an audio recording of Fauci dismissing concerns about the efficacy of the coronavirus vaccine as "ideological bulls--t."

"It's been proven that when you make it difficult for people in their lives, they lose their ideological bulls--t, and they get vaccinated," Fauci said in an audiobook written by New Yorker journalist Michael Specter.

"Are all objections to COVID vaccinations ideological bulls--t,

Dr. Fauci?" asked McCormick. "No, they're not, and that's not what I was referring to," Fauci began to answer.

"You affected people's ability to work, travel, be educated — to actually flourish in American society, to self-determine," McCormick butted in. "Shame on you."

Far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) took Fauci to task for pushing "6 feet apart" social distancing policies, which he has since admitted had no scientific basis, and advocating masking of children, the efficacy of which he claims is "up in the air."

"Do the American people deserve to be abused like that, Mr. Fauci? 'Cause you're not 'doctor,' you're 'mister' in my few min-

### KEY MOMENTS OF FAUCI CONTRADICTING IN COVID HEARING:

**THEN** Six feet of separation

"It sort of just appeared. I don't recall," Fauci said in a January congressional interview of the social distancing mandate imposed on federal agencies, businesses and schools.

"Just an empiric decision that wasn't based on data or even data that could be accomplished."

**NOW** "When I say it was not based in science, I meant a prospective clinical trial to determine whether 6-foot was better than 3 [or] was better than 10," Fauci said Monday during his testimony, adding that it was a "CDC decision."

**THEN** Masking is necessary — even for children as young as 5 years old.

In March 2020, Fauci said in a "60 Minutes" interview, "Wearing a mask might make people feel a little bit better, and it might even block a droplet, but it's not providing the perfect protection."

Fauci went on to flip to support masking, even calling for it

# 'HYPOCRITIC' OAF



## House hearing gives ex-virus czar a scold

### Lab leak evidence

A damning new report found that the COVID-19 virus most likely leaked from a Chinese lab — and that the US bears responsibility for pumping tens of millions of dollars into high-risk research on extremely infectious viruses at a facility with weak safety protocols. The analysis by Alina Chan, a Harvard and MIT molecular biologist, was published Sunday as a New York Times guest essay.

It came ahead of Dr. Anthony Fauci's grilling by a House panel on Monday over the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' backing the research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology under his leadership.

Chan — who has long advocated for more study of the “lab-leak theory” — said that until recently, “reflexive partisan politics have derailed the search for truth” of the pandemic's origin.

If the theory is correct, the global pandemic — which claimed 1 million lives in the US and at least 25 million around the world — is “the most costly accident in the history of science,” wrote Chan, the co-author of “Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19.”

Her findings paint an alarming picture of how the virus was sourced in China, supercharged for maximum infectiousness with US government support and ultimately allowed to escape under inadequate containment conditions.

*Chris Nesi*

AFP via Getty Images

utes,” Greene exploded during her line of questioning.

“Children all over America were forced to wear masks — healthy children — forced to wear masks, muzzled in their schools,” she added. “And then they were forced to work from home because of your so-called science.

“You should be prosecuted for crimes against humanity. You belong in prison.”

#### **‘Traitor’**

Other attendees heckled the ex-White House COVID czar as he took his seat — with one calling him “traitor” and another saying, “You killed my

grandma.” An elderly woman from the anti-vaccination Children’s Health Defense sat in the front row of the gallery wearing a shirt that read “Jail Fauci.”

Some spectators were later escorted out of the hearing by US Capitol Police for minor disruptions.

Fauci rejected that he had any role in suppressing the so-called “lab leak” hypothesis for the origin of SARS-CoV-2.

“Do you agree that there was a push to downplay the lab leak theory?” House Judiciary Committee chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) pressed Fauci.

“None on my part,” Fauci replied, ignoring his clandestine

discussions with globally recognized virologists who authored a controversial paper to debunk the lab leak theory.

“Really?” Jordan said. “I think most of the country would find that amazing.”

“But look at the facts,” Fauci added. “I’ve kept an open mind throughout the entire process.”

#### **‘Sicking’ point**

Asked by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in a February 2020 podcast, Fauci had dismissed as a “conspiracy theory” concerns about SARS-CoV-2 escaping from the Wuhan Institute of Virology —

which the US intelligence community confirmed last year did research on behalf of the Chinese military.

On Monday, he acknowledged the possibility of COVID-19 escaping from a lab, while sticking to his testimony in January that it most likely spread to humans naturally.

Fauci also doubled down on his claims that the National Institutes of Health, which oversaw his NIAID, did not fund gain-of-function research on bat coronaviruses at WIV — contradicting recent congressional testimony by NIH principal deputy director Lawrence Tabak that those experiments occurred.

to be imposed on schoolchildren as an “extra step of caution” in a July 2021 interview on “CBS This Morning.”

#### **NOW**

“All of that is in the context of, at the time, 4,000-5,000 people a day were dying,” Fauci said in Monday’s hearing before admitting: “There was no study that did masks on kids.”

#### **THEN**

**Vaccine opposition is “ideological bulls--t.”**

“It’s been proven that when you make it difficult for people in their lives, they lose their ideological bulls--t and they get vaccinated,” Fauci said in an October 2020 audiobook recording of his biography, “Fauci” written by New Yorker journalist Michael Specter.

#### **NOW**

Fauci on Monday said “that’s not what I was referring to” and that the objections to COVID vaccines “were not,” in fact, “ideological bulls--t.”

#### **THEN**

**Lab leak proponents are promoting a “conspiracy theory.”**

Then-NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins in an October 2020 email

to Fauci called for a “quick and devastating” takedown of leading epidemiologists. Fauci and Collins tried to produce a study to debunk the lab leak theory.

#### **NOW**

“Not on my part,” Fauci said on Monday when asked whether he tried to downplay and put pressure on big-tech companies to censor proponents of the lab-leak theory.

#### **THEN**

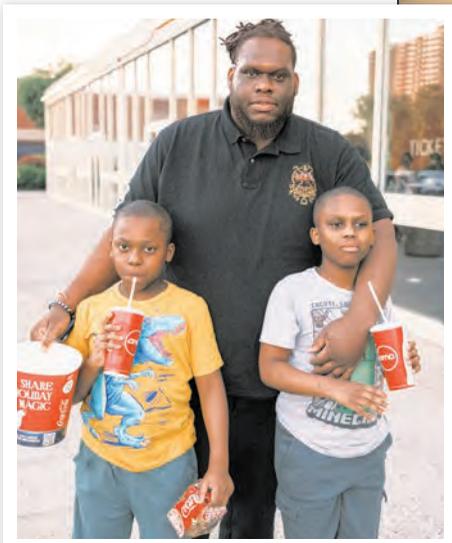
**Vaccines are “a dead end” to COVID.**

“When you get vaccinated . . . you become a dead end to the virus,” Fauci said on CBS News’ “Face the Nation” in May 2021.

#### **NOW**

“Vaccines save lives,” he said Monday. “It did not prevent transmission when the ability to prevent infection waned.”

# Borough down to 1 movie theater



**REEL DEAL:** Movie lovers grab snacks and get ready for big-screen fun at AMC Bay Plaza Cinema 13, the last theater still open in The Bronx.

By MARIE POHL  
and STEVE JANOSKI

Cinephiles at the last movie theater in The Bronx lamented the fact that the borough has become a film desert — with one local railing “our childhood is being erased.”

AMC Bay Plaza Cinema 13 became the only theater in The Bronx last week when Concourse Plaza Multiplex Cinemas near Yankee Stadium shut down after three decades — a stunning turn for a borough of more than 1.4 million people.

And residents were none too happy about it.

“It’s sad that movie theaters are slowly but surely disappearing, and everything is coming on the phone,” said Cindy Vilchez, 30, who brought her 7-year-old daughter to theaters at The Mall at Bay Plaza to watch “IF” on Sunday.

“It’s kind of like our childhood is being erased,” she told The Post. “I want my daughter to have a piece of my childhood with her, because the technology nowadays does not give them the childhood we went through.”

## ‘Keep the tradition’

“In case movie theaters do go away as she gets older, at least she experienced them,” she added. “So she can say, ‘Oh, I used to do that with my mom,’ like I did it with my mom. We just want to keep the tradition going.”

Angie Corretjer, a 36-year-old foster care worker who was seeing “Garfield” with a big group of friends, echoed Vilchez’s comments and expressed frustration at the culture of immediacy that’s



# Last showing in The Bronx

led people away from experiences like going to the movies.

“We like the movie theaters,” Corretjer told The Post. “People want that instant gratification all the time. As soon as a movie comes out, they wanna watch it — and then they watch it at home instead of going out.”

The Concourse Plaza cinemas on East 161st Street closed May 28 after decades in The Bronx because it could not reach a lease agreement with the property’s landlord, according to parent company National Amusements.

“It has been our pleasure to serve the Bronx community with great movie-going for many years,” the Concourse posted on Facebook. “We thank you for your patronage and hope you have made wonderful movie memories at our cinema.”

The closures aren’t especially shocking in an era of streaming services.

About 5% of the country’s theaters closed between 2019 and 2022 alone, according to the National Cinema Foundation, with Queens’ quarter-century-old College Point Multiplex Cinemas dropping its final curtain just a few weeks ago.

That doesn’t lessen the sting, however.

## Netflix ‘not the same’

“This being the last movie theater makes it hard for people in the community,” Lex, a 33-year-old entrepreneur, told The Post at AMC Bay. “There are still movies out there we like to see . . . It’s difficult.”

Rikesha Knight, who was at AMC Bay Plaza to see “Garfield” in a private room that family and friends rented for her son’s 4th birthday, agreed that the borough needs an alternative spot.

“You do need the variety,” the 37-year-old told The Post. “So

they definitely need more than one movie theater in The Bronx.”

Cristal Rodriguez, who works for the city’s Department of Homeless Services on 151st Street, was shocked when she found out the other theater had closed — she often went there for afternoon matinees before she headed to work on the night shift.

“Now they’re closing the movie theaters?” she asked, incredulously. “I have to go to my movies on Tuesdays. I went there two weeks ago. I guess that was my last movie in there. I feel sad.”

But others remained optimistic. “Even with the Fire Sticks and Netflix and all that, it doesn’t feel the same as going to see a movie,” Quinten Belts, 34, told The Post outside AMC Bay. Belts, a security worker, had come with his pal, AMC employee Luis Alvarez, to see “Summer Camp.” The pair had grown up coming to this spot — and they have faith it will survive.

# Teen girl cuffed over fruit

Shocking video has emerged of an NYC Parks employee holding a teenage girl in handcuffs after she allegedly was selling fruit from an unlicensed cart in lower Manhattan with her family.

The video, taken Sunday afternoon in Battery Park and shared on X, shows a man wearing an NYC Parks uniform grabbing the 14-year-old girl, who has one of her hands handcuffed, as angry bystanders shout in protest and try to pull her away.

Bystanders can be heard shouting “Let her go!” and “Get a female [worker]” at the Parks employee, some even grabbing at him to try to pull away the young girl, who had been selling fruit from a cart with her family.

Chaotic video footage shows an NYPD officer grabbing the girl’s arm and attempting to pull her back before two bystanders intervene, dragging her away from the officer and parks employee.

As onlookers try to break the girl free, she and the Parks employee tumble to the ground while bystanders continue to plead for her to be let go.

The parks officer has been assigned to administrative duties while officials investigate the incident, a Department of Parks and Recreation spokesperson told The Post.

Isabel Keane, Joe Marino

# Court to hear Fani appeal

A Georgia appeals court will hear arguments in October on whether to disqualify Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis from prosecuting Donald Trump for trying to overturn his 2020 defeat, a schedule that will likely postpone that trial until after the Nov. 5 election.

At issue is whether the prosecution is tainted as a result of Willis’ past affair with her one-time top deputy whom she hired to work on the probe.

Trump’s legal team has sought to use the affair as a reason to try to derail the case but the judge overseeing the trial said in March that Willis could remain on the case.

Reuters

# KID FEED FRENZY BAN EYED NY social-media bill

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

State lawmakers and Gov. Hochul are in general agreement on landmark legislation that would regulate social-media feeds for kids, multiple sources confirmed Monday to The Post.

The bill, which has been the focus of a last-minute public relations blitz by Hochul, is meant to restrict social-media companies from using addictive algorithms for users under the age of 18 and prevent the tech firms from profiting off their data.

If passed, it would be the first law of its kind in the nation.

"I think we are waiting for 'Is and Ts,' but I think hopefully we'll have something out pretty soon," state Sen. Andrew Gounardes (D-Brooklyn), who sponsored the bill, told The Post.

## Slow your scroll

Sources close to the talks said the exact text of the legislation could be released as soon as Monday, which would pave the way for it to be brought up for a vote before the end of the week.

The tentative deal would restrict social-media companies from using algorithms to shape the content that minors see — meaning kids' feeds would show posts from accounts they follow in chronological order rather than how the sites would typically serve them up.

The platforms' algorithms are meant to keep children scrolling and staring at their screens — and that's creating a mental-health crisis among the nation's youth, critics have claimed.

The bill would also bar apps from sending alerts overnight

between midnight and 6 a.m., unless parents opt in. The companies would be prohibited from selling the data of people under 18, sources added.

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-Bronx) declined to comment on the proposal, which he says has yet to be discussed among all members in a closed-doors conference.

A spokesperson for the governor didn't respond to a request for comment Monday.

Hochul, a mom of two and a grandmother, discussed the bill at several recent events.

"The companies are responsible for this," Hochul said at an event in Albany with the Mental Health Association in New York State last week.

"This is driven by profit. They also know 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."

The proposed law comes as several states are considering regulating social-media companies, and bracing for a likely free-speech battle.

Tech firms and social-media companies have been lobbying against the effort.

One trade group, whose members include Meta, said the bill would violate the First Amendment even though it wouldn't block minors from choosing which accounts to follow.

"It is less unconstitutional," Carl Szabo of NetChoice told The Wall Street Journal. "Unfortunately, when it comes to constitutionality, close doesn't count. You either you are or you aren't."

# Miley's taking time to heel

Miley Cyrus is finally revealing her fitness and fashion secret — she works out in high heels. "Practice how you perform. So that's why I practice in my heels," the 31-year-old pop star tells W Magazine's Pop Issue. "I train in heels, mostly."



# THE BIDEN FILES

# Jury can't miss this power play.

**T**HERE was a fleeting moment on Monday after seven hours of jury selection in the first day of Hunter Biden's federal gun trial when the first son and special counsel David Weiss came face to face in the courtroom.

To say the encounter was frosty is an understatement. Hunter was walking out the door with his lawyers to discuss which jurors they would cut from the jury pool of 28 with their 10 peremptory strikes and Weiss was darting from his back row seat to confer with his deputies at the front of the courtroom. Hunter barged straight ahead with a stony face, as an ashen-faced Weiss veered around him to avoid a collision, neither man acknowledging the other.

Hunter blames Weiss for his predicament, even though the timid former US Attorney for Delaware spent five years slow rolling the criminal investigation of Hunter, allowing the statute of limitations to expire on the worst charges and turning a blind eye to obstruction from the DOJ. But once their sweet-heart plea deal collapsed under the weight of IRS whistleblower revelations, Weiss chose to save his own skin and Merrick Garland followed suit by naming him special counsel.

Weiss, 67, is a Delaware lifer, having worked in the US Attorney's office since 1986. If anyone understands the power of the Bidens it is Weiss, which accounts for his nervous body language. Hand over his mouth, chin in his hand, hand patting his leg, whatever he did it screamed: "Get me out of here!"

The power of the Biden family in that courtroom was at near full throttle. First Lady Dr. Jill, 70, was front row, hard to miss in a bright purple pantsuit, and gleaming blonde coiffure. She made a point of turning around and of-

fering her face to the jury pool as they filed in to sit on the other side of the courtroom. She was flanked on either side by Hunter's elegantly dressed second wife Melissa Cohen, 38, and, for half the day, by Hunter's half-sister Ashley, 42, Jill's daughter.

Next to the women were "Sugar Brother" Kevin Morris, the Hollywood attorney who has spent more than \$6 million repaying Hunter's tax debts, buying his paintings and funding his lifestyle; Washington, DC, lawyer Peter Neal, the husband of Hunter's daughter Naomi; and Delaware attorney John T. Owens, the husband of

Joe Biden's sister Val. All that was missing was the patriarch president, holed up five miles away in his lakeside spread in bucolic Greenville.

And everywhere you looked there were Secret Service agents, a praetorian guard around the first family, their big black Chevy Suburbans blockading the courthouse amid the flashing lights of police cars, blocked-off roads and gigantic satellite trucks for the world's media.

## 'Wilmington's a small place'

The power imbalance was evident as prospective jurors were questioned about their lives as carpenters, traveling salesmen, teachers, aspiring forensic scientists and bartenders. They all knew who Hunter was. Some of them knew members of the Biden family and were excluded. "Wilmington is a small place," said one.

But of the final 12 chosen Monday, seven had a close family member addicted to drugs or alcohol, a commonality that ought to bring comfort to Hunter, as he faces the first test of his family name's Teflon protection.

**MIRANDA DEVINE**



# It's all on the wrist for Hunter

## Jurors sworn in on Day 1

A jury was seated Monday in the historic trial of first son Hunter Biden on federal weapons charges following seven hours of selection.

US District Judge Maryellen Noreika swore in the pool of prospective jurors at 8:46 a.m., kicking off a politically charged case in a state where President Biden

has been the most powerful political figure for decades.

By 4:20 p.m., 12 panelists and four alternates had been chosen. Opening statements are set for Tuesday morning.

The jury is made up of six men and six women. Seven of the 12 are African American, as are two of the alternates —

all of whom are also women.

Roughly 250 Delaware residents were summoned for jury selection, and more than 60 were questioned by Hunter's lawyers, prosecutors and the judge.

Of that group, Noreika dismissed nearly 30 people who had scheduling conflicts or who said they could not be

# THE BIDEN FILES

# FIRST LADY IN COURTROOM CHEER SECTION

By RYAN KING  
and PRISCILLA DeGREGORY

WILMINGTON, Del. — First Son Hunter Biden received some powerful family support on the first day of his federal gun trial Monday — with his stepmother, First Lady Jill Biden, and half-sister Ashley in attendance while President Biden issued a statement calling his son “inspiring.”

Hunter, 54, walked into court around 8:10 a.m., wearing a suit and tie and holding hands with wife Melissa Cohen as his defense attorneys trailed behind him.

The first son — who was outwardly calm and composed — did not speak or answer reporter questions on his way inside, but had to engage in some fancy footwork to avoid tripping over a security barrier.

Moments later, Jill Biden — who celebrated her 73rd birthday Monday — showed up to the courthouse, clad in a purple suit, after most of the media had been let inside the building.

Later in the morning, President Biden issued a statement saying: “Jill and I love our son and we are so proud of the man he is today.

“Hunter’s resilience in the face of adversity and the strength he has brought to his recovery are inspiring to us,” his dad added. “A lot of families have loved ones who have overcome addiction and know what we mean.”

The commander-in-chief made a show of declining to comment on specifics of the case against his son, but did say that “as a Dad, I have boundless love for my son, confidence in him, and respect for his strength.”

“Our family has been through a lot together, and Jill and I are going to continue to be there for Hunter and our family with our love and support,” he wrote.

The campaign for Donald Trump — who was convicted in his own criminal trial last week — took aim at his Democratic adversary Monday.

“A deeply troubled degenerate who sold out his country and disgraced his family, Crooked Joe Biden is now a failed President running a losing

altogether, to be honest.”

In some cases, potential jurors brought up Donald Trump’s criminal cases when asked about their politics — with two prospective jurors saying they thought the 45th president was prosecuted for electoral reasons. *Ryan King and Priscilla DeGregory*

He could be wearing a different set of bracelets soon. Hunter Biden entered a Wilmington, Del., courthouse Monday on the first day of his federal gun trial, for which he faces up to 25 years in jail if convicted — and to which he wore a bracelet (circled) that appears to be the same one donned in an infamous photo (left) of a naked and armed Hunter.

Jasper Coli-USA TODAY



## of historic trial

impartial — either because of their prior knowledge about the case, their political views, or stances on issues such as gun control.

One man, juror 1, was let go because he declared that owning guns is “a God-given right” while a woman, juror 40, was dismissed after saying, “I’d ban guns



**FAMILY AFFAIR:** First Lady Jill Biden arrives Monday at the Wilmington, Del., federal trial of stepson Hunter Biden.

## Jill and kin on hand as Joe calls son ‘inspiring’

Getty Images

campaign,” Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung said. “As for Hunter, we wish him well in his recovery and legal affairs.”

The first son’s primary patron, Kevin Morris, a Hollywood lawyer sometimes referred to as Hunter’s “sugar brother,” arrived earlier and was accompanied by Ashley.

While Ashley Biden departed the courthouse early Monday afternoon, Jill Biden stayed through the entire day’s proceedings, which included jury selection, and embraced her stepson with a kiss before leaving.

Hunter is the first offspring of a sitting president to stand trial. He faces three counts including illegal possession of a firearm while addicted to crack cocaine and knowingly lying about his dependency while filling out a federal background check form.

He faces up to 25 years behind bars if convicted. He’s pleaded not guilty to all three charges.

His trial comes on the heels of Donald Trump’s bombshell conviction in a hush money scheme Thursday — which marked the first time a president has ever been found guilty of crimes.

Hunter also faces a separate trial in September in Los Angeles for allegedly skipping out on paying \$1.4 million in federal tax income from 2016 through 2019. *Additional reporting by Diana Glebova, with Wires*



Reuters

**‘SIBS’:** Hunter’s half-sister Ashley Biden and “sugar brother” Kevin Morris were also at the trial’s first day.

# B'KLYN GIRLS SHOT



**CRIME SCENE:** Police canvass the Hilltop Playground in Brownsville late Monday after two girls were wounded by gunfire from two gunmen on scooters as one of the young victim's mothers looked on.

## Ages 9 and 11, hit by strays at playground

By JOE MARINO & LARRY CELONA

Two innocent girls, ages 9 and 11, were shot and wounded while playing at a Brooklyn park on Monday night by two at-large gunmen who were aiming for someone else, police said.

The young victims were caught in the crossfire while trying to enjoy an evening at Hilltop Playground in Brownsville as one of their mothers looked on, cops said.

The 11-year-old was hit in the back and the other girl was shot in the right leg when the suspects fired off at least six shots just after 9 p.m., police said at a late-night press conference outside the Dean Street park.

Both girls were taken by private means to Brookdale Hospital, where they were listed in stable condition, the NYPD said.

"Thankfully both young girls are conscious and alert and are being

treated by the incredible medical staff at Brookdale Hospital," said Assistant Chief Scott Henderson, Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Brooklyn North.

### Shells from 2 shooters

Police believe two shooters are responsible for the barrage of gunfire based on two different types of shell casings recovered at the scene.

The duo both shot in the same direction at an unidentified target, police said, noting the girls are believed to be bystanders.

The NYPD was investigating whether the shooting was gang-related, but hasn't identified a motive.

Sources said the shooters were riding scooters.

No arrests were made as of late Monday night. *Additional reporting by Allie Griffin*



Photos: Wayne Carrington



**WILD:** A man flings a helmet at an e-bike shop worker.

## Helmet chucker knifed in Qns. fight

Wild surveillance video shows a man bashing a Queens bike-shop worker over the head with a helmet — before he was stabbed by another man who intervened, according to police.

The melee began just before 1 p.m. Monday when the 35-year-old man flew into a rage outside the Fly E-Bike shop on 42nd Street near Broadway in Astoria, authorities said.

Footage obtained by The Post captures the man, who appeared to have been yelling at the 28-year-old worker, suddenly walloping him over the head with the helmet.

A second later, another man sprints out of the store and chases the aggressor into the street.

Someone from within the store stabbed the helmet-wielding suspect in the stomach, cops said. It wasn't clear if it was the man seen running after him.

Despite being wounded, the first aggressor then could be seen on video slamming the helmet into the window of the shop.

Responding police tried to cuff the unhinged man when he bit one of the cops on the hand, authorities said.

The clip shows officers having a hard time getting the man to put his hands behind his back — a struggle that ends with them grappling on the floor.

The stabbed man was listed in stable condition at Elmhurst Hospital. Charges were pending against him.

The man who had stabbed the first attacker did not face charges on Monday night. It is unclear whether he was an employee of the shop or a bystander who happened to intervene. *Amanda Woods*

# Gilgo suspect faces new slay raps



Gilgo Beach serial killer suspect Rex Heuermann will be slapped this week with murder charges related to additional victims, sources told The Post.

Heuermann, 60, will be arraigned on a new indictment Thursday before state Supreme Court Justice Timothy Mazzei in Riverhead, LI, the sources said Monday.

The additional victims include one whose body was found in North Sea, a commu-

nity in Southampton recently searched by investigators.

Authorities have also recently focused again on an area in Manorville where partial remains of two Gilgo Beach victims, Jessica Taylor (right) and Valerie Mack (left), were found more than two decades ago. It was unclear if Heuermann was expected to be charged with one or both of those murders.

A body previously found in the North Sea area was identi-

fied as Sandra Costilla, who was murdered in 1993, but has not so far been included among the Gilgo Beach victims.

Investigators suspected convicted serial killer John Bitrolff in Costilla's death but he was never charged in her death, one of several unsolved murders on Long Island.

Suffolk County DA Ray Tierney declined to comment. *Craig McCarthy, Jorge Fitz-Gibbon and Isabel Keane*



## 'Four more murdered by Hamas'

Four hostages, including a British Israeli citizen, have been murdered in Hamas captivity in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military said Monday.

Nadav Popplewell, 51, who was taken from Kibbutz Nirim, was confirmed dead by Israeli officials, as were Israelis Chaim Peri, 79; Yoram Metsger, 80; and Amiram Cooper, 84, who were taken from Kibbutz Nir Oz, the Times of Israel reported.

Hamas has claimed they were killed in Israeli airstrikes. The circumstances of their deaths was not clear. Their bodies remain in Gaza.

"We estimate that the four were killed together, in the Khan Younis area, several months ago, while being held by Hamas terrorists and while IDF forces were operating in Khan Younis," Israel Defense Forces spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said.

"We are examining the circumstances of death in-depth, looking into all possibilities, and we will present the findings as soon as possible, firstly to the families and then to the public," he added.

Popplewell was last seen alive in a Hamas propaganda video released in early May, in which he had a black eye. *Ronny Reyes*

## Alum \$nubs Columbia U.

A Columbia alumnus snubbed his alma mater and donated \$260 million to one of Israel's largest universities.

The recipient, Bar-Ilan University, described the philanthropist as a "North American Jew and graduate of Columbia University who was active in World War II."

It said Monday that the anonymous donor, who wanted it known that he was a Columbia graduate, sees Bar-Ilan as "best able to undertake the great task of expanding science-based technological resilience in Israel."

The donation fueled speculation that he was upset with the anti-Israel protests that have engulfed Columbia amid the Israel-Hamas war.

The detail that he served in World War II would make him around 100 years old.

*Carl Campanile*



Gethy Images

**STEVEN HILLMAN**

**W**ORKING for a newspaper, I have the unfortunate displeasure of reading more than most about the rampant antisemitism in the world. I tell my family and friends, for every one story you read that drops your jaw in amazement, I read 10 or 20 or more.

As a Jewish newspaper editor, this has not been an easy task in the 245 days since Oct. 7.

This is why I made it a particular point of attending this year's Israel Day Parade.

Amazingly, there are still hostages being held by the terrorist Hamas organization — some American — yet the loudest protesters about this historical moment continue to blame only Israel.

### A sad new sight

As a native New Yorker, I have been to the Big Apple to celebrate many causes. A few Thanksgiving Day Parades, a couple on St. Patrick's Day, Columbus Day and Veterans Day.

Never did I have to go through a metal detector to watch a parade. Until this day.

On a hot day, the NYPD subjected us to what was at least a 10-block rat maze, with each officer providing a different account as to what lay at the end. I sweated and I walked and I had no idea where I was headed. I just wanted to watch the parade.

As my frustration grew, I animatedly asked a group of NYPD officers where I had to go to watch the parade. They sent me back through the maze I had just gone through. But at last I finally knew where to go.

When I at last arrived at 62nd

## Metal detectors & broken flags at Israel Day Parade



NYP Post: G. N. Miller

# I get searched, punks get pass

**SICK TAUNT:** The police presence is felt at Sunday's Israel Day Parade in Midtown (metal detector queue, below), where one masked agitator (top left) held up a "Kill Hostages Now" sign.



Gethy Images

Street and Madison Avenue, I saw the line waiting to go through a metal detector. I got on it, because what else was I going to do.

The line moved very slowly, as I watched the NYPD force adults and children alike to break the Israeli flag they carried with them if the stick had a point on the end. Plastic point, rubber point, no matter to the NYPD — they made us wait while people were forced to destroy their Israeli flags. It was an absolutely disgusting spectacle.

When it was finally my turn to go through, I refused to take anything out of my pockets and I would not take off my belt.

For this insubordination, I was wanded by two officers for at

least two to three minutes because.

Many people looked to me like I was crazy. "They're just trying to keep us safe," I was told numerous times.

### Now you crack down?

And with that, I cannot disagree. I did most certainly feel safer. But I'm furious over the madness of it all.

Over the last eight months, I've watched terrorists and terrorist appeasers take over our cities, highways and bridges, government buildings, museums and more.

Do you know what I have not seen in that time? Any of those

masked, terrorist-supporting fiends, who are clearly breaking several laws at any given time, have to walk through a metal detector.

Our public officials have allowed the anti-Israel and antisemitic crowd to do as they please, with not so much as a slap on the wrist by the courts. They burn, pillage, destroy and thumb their collective nose at authority and the NYPD and the New York City politicians watch.

People who simply want to celebrate the Jewish state are forced to go through a gauntlet of protection because these protesters have been allowed to harass whomever they want, disrupt anything they want.

The politicians, the police, they know what these Jew-hating marchers are capable of, hence the metal detectors.

In the blink of an eye, the anarchy and free reign of the anti-Israeli protests became regulations and barking orders from the authorities — but only for the average citizens, the ones not vandalizing monuments and burning flags.

We are the only ones who have to follow the rules.

*Steven Hillman is The Post's night editor.*

By JACK MORPHET  
and RONNY REYES

Murderer Brian Laundrie poured his sick mind onto paper, scrawling notes about his “mania” and doodling skull graphics with the words “Trust no one” and “Kill.” FBI files exclusively obtained by The Post reveal.

The writings and other evidence were photographed by the agency during a raid of the Laundrie family home after the body of Gabby Petito, the girlfriend he murdered, was found dumped in a remote Wyoming camping area in September 2021.

Brian Stewart, the Petito family’s lawyer, told The Post he was shocked by Brian’s scrawlings and other chilling evidence recovered by officials from the Laundries’ Florida residence before Brian, 23, was found dead by suicide in a nearby national park.

“In retrospect, it tells us that Brian dealt with mental health issues and was clearly a narcissist and manipulator capable of violence,” Stewart said.

“That’s just scary,” he added when presented with the skull graphic and the rest of Laundrie’s writings, obtained by The Post under Freedom of Information laws.

Along with the drawing, the FBI’s search also turned up notebooks belonging to Petito, as well as hundreds of bullets, several magazines, and a bill of sale and handbooks for Ruger .380 and Glock 49mm pistols.

### Weapons cache

Officials also recovered a compound bow fitted with a rifle scope, bolt-action rifle magazines, brass knuckles, a thick wad of cash and copies of “The Watchtower,” an illustrated religious magazine published by New-York based Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Laundrie was also in possession of Chuck Palahniuk’s novel “Choke,” about a scam artist who pretends to choke on food to earn sympathy checks from others. Other books in Laundrie’s possession were pictured hollowed out, apparently to allow him to hide things.

Among the most disturbing pieces of evidence were Laundrie’s private writings, which expressed his desires to kill and immolate himself months before he began dating Petito.

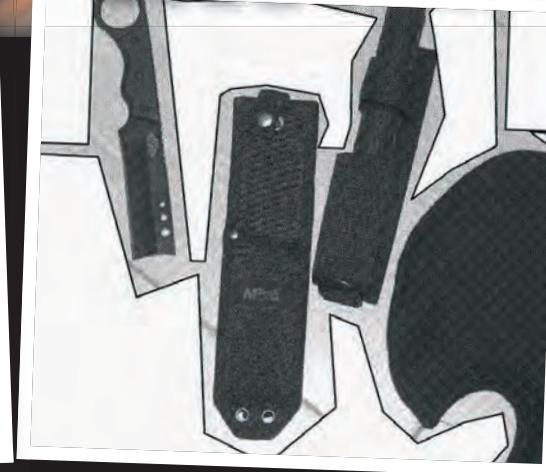
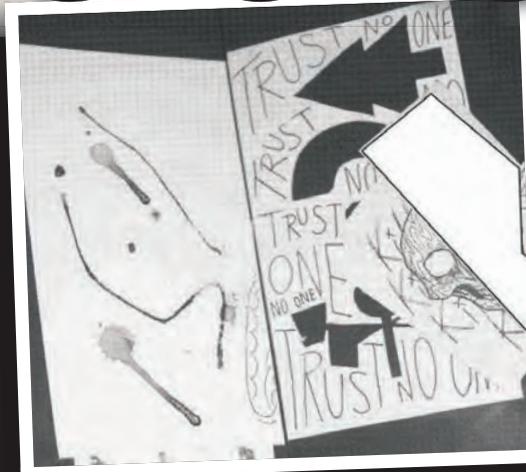
“About a year ago I went in to a type of mania where I was smash-



**SCARY:** Before he killed Gabby Petito, Brian Laundrie scribbled violent writings in his diary (bottom, left) and stockpiled weapons (bottom, right), found by the FBI.

Instagram: FBI

# LAUNDRIE'S SICKO MIND



## Violent ideas before Gabby slay

ing holes in the wall with my head, kicking through [sic] paintings, tearing whatever I was working on, pouring gasoline on myself to burn alive but getting the lighter wet, parking out in murderland listening to Mac [unclear, but may be

‘DeMarco’] with a gun to my head, wrestling alligators,” Laundrie wrote in his diary Oct. 26, 2018.

“I wanted to die and the weird thing is nothing’s changed, but the [timer’s] running down,” he continued. “Under the mattress I’m on

is a loaded 357 magnum revolver. A pull of the trigger and all my problems will be over.”

An undated post in Laundrie’s diary also describes a nightmare he had which appeared to be about Petito leaving him.

# Rapper Kingston, mom to ‘face the music’

Musical artist Sean Kingston has been booked into a Florida jail after he and his mother were charged with committing more than \$1 million worth of fraud.

Kingston, 34, whose real

name is Kisean Anderson, was locked up in the Broward County jail Sunday after being extradited from California in the wake of his arrest last month.

Kingston and his mother, Janice Turner, 61, were

both slapped with a slew of charges, including conducting an organized scheme to defraud, grand theft, identity theft and related crimes, according to arrest warrants.

They are accused of

stealing hundreds of thousands in cash from Bank of America and First Republic Bank, nearly \$500,000 worth of jewelry, a \$160,000 Cadillac Escalade and more than \$80,000 in furniture, authorities said.

Robert Rosenblatt, an attorney for Kingston and his mom, last week said they looked forward to addressing the charges in a Florida court and “are confident of a successful resolution.” *Emily Crane, Wires*

# Dress-up Dreyfuss’ trans rant

Richard Dreyfuss was seen trying on nearly a half-dozen dresses at a Massachusetts consignment shop just before he was accused of launching a homophobic, anti-trans rant at a “Jaws” screening late last month, leaving employees at the Pride-supporting store miffed that he duped them into helping him.

Surveillance video first obtained by TMZ shows the “American Graffiti” actor being set upon by a group of smiling, cheery women at Worthy Girl Consignment in Beverly, who help him dress, then shepherd him to a store mirror to check his outfit.

Dreyfuss, 76, puts on a number of dresses — and throws in some awkward dance moves for good measure — before picking out a floral blue number that cost about \$21, TMZ said.

Later that evening, the actor reportedly wore the getup onstage at The Cabot Theater, which was hosting “An Evening with Richard Dreyfuss + Jaws screening,” where he slid into a bizarre rant about Barbra Streisand, transgender youth and gender affirmation, and the Academy Awards’ inclusivity rules. His monologue enraged many attendees. *Steve Janoski*

# Dalai Lama ‘kneeds’ op

The Dalai Lama, will travel to the US this month to undergo medical treatment for his knees and will not hold his usual public engagements from June 20, his office said Monday.

The monk, 88, was advised against any travel last October following a bout of flu, but after recovery he visited Bodhgaya, one of the holiest Buddhist sites in eastern India, in January.

“His Holiness the Dalai Lama is scheduled to travel to the United States for medical treatment on his knees.

Upon his return, regular engagements will resume,” his office said in a statement. *Reuters*

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# Sex, drugs in a nightclub?!

## Page Six®

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## Different degrees

“HAMILTON” creator **Lin-Manuel Miranda** was spotted at a college reunion at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, we hear. **Vanessa Nadal**, Miranda’s wife and a grad of the institution, went to her 20th reunion with her famous hubby, spies said. There was even a wild rumor that cropped up at the reunion, with a tipster telling us Miranda wore the costume of “the MIT beaver mascot, named TIM the Beaver, unbeknownst to anyone,” as he “spoke with alums.” Then “he took off the costume and took selfies” with the crowd of brainiacs. But a rep told us that while Miranda was at the event, “Sadly none it is true, as fun as it is!”



## Discarding Pitt

**BRAD Pitt** is reportedly hurt that his and **Angelina Jolie**’s daughter **Shiloh** (above) is petitioning to drop Pitt from her legal last name, Jolie-Pitt. “He’s aware and upset . . . He’s never felt more joy than when she was born. He always wanted a daughter,” a source told People mag of **Shiloh**, 18 — whose older sister, **Zahara**, was adopted. She and their other sister, **Vivienne**, 15, also use Jolie as their surname, but haven’t filed paperwork to drop the Pitt. “The reminders that he’s lost his children is of course not easy for Brad. He loves his children and misses them.”

**ALBERT Trummer** — owner of celebrity hot spot **Dom** — is fighting to clear his name after investor **Arndt Oesterle** accused him of overseeing “live sex shows” and allowing open drug use at the venue in a bombshell lawsuit filed last month.

Trummer alleges it’s all a ploy to take over his club and is now threatening legal action himself. He told Page Six that Oesterle threatened him last year when he wouldn’t sign an “unfavorable agreement” that would have made him the single proprietor of the Gramercy Park spot.

“He wants to have my intellectual property. He wants to push me out and take over the place,” Trummer told us.

In court papers filed May 23, Oesterle alleges Trummer used the club “as his personal piggy bank” and was “facilitating the use of cocaine on the bar and conducting unlicensed live sex shows on the premises.”

The lawsuit claims the allegations are supported by video evidence from security cameras in the club, including footage of Trummer’s son at the bar with patrons allegedly doing drugs out in the open.

“Those pictures are not proof,” the elder Trummer shot back. “I’m talking to my legal team and we definitely want to counter the allegations. He has no proof of anything!”

He also denied overseeing sex shows, telling

us, “Dom is not the Box,” referring to the controversial Lower East Side club that hosts X-rated burlesque shows.

Dom opened in 2022 and has hosted parties for the likes of **Christina Aguilera**, **Alicia Keys** and the cast of “Saturday Night Live.”

Trummer insists Oesterle is not a co-owner and claims “he didn’t invest in me,” but only in a “highly expensive sound system” and “\$800,000 worth of Cappellini furniture” — which he already “took back,” Trummer said.

“He can’t prove anything! Don’t throw a stone in a glass house,” Trummer also warned.

Lawyers for Oesterle did not get back to us. Dom is currently still operating.



Spousal support? **Ben Affleck** and wife **Jennifer Lopez** share an awkward embrace before watching his kid’s basketball game at the Santa Monica YMCA.

The Hollywood Jr / BACKGRID

## Up all night with Ma

**MADONNA** seems to be taking nightlife cues from her kids these days. The original tastemaker was spotted at club Hearsay on Sunday after her son, **Rocco Ritchie**, hit the same Meatpacking District spot Saturday night. We’re told Madonna was hanging out at a table near **Lauryn Hill**’s son **YG Marley** as **Chase B** DJed at **Austin Gebbia**’s new hip-hop party, *Feel It Sundays*. “She came in at 1 a.m. with her security detail and hung out in a back corner, like she was avoiding any prying eyes,” a spy told Page Six of the Material Girl, 65. **Denzel Dion**, **Rickey Thompson**, nightlife guru **Richie Akiva**, **Eric Leeds**, **Rihanna**’s bestie **Melissa Forde** and owner **Richie Romero** were also there, we hear.

## Bubbles pop out

**RAPPER 50 Cent** is starting the summer off with a bang. After performing at the Surf Lodge in Montauk over Memorial Day weekend, he’s kept the party going in the city. We hear the “In Da Club” rhymer performed at Midtown nightclub Nebula. A spy tells us Fiddy showed up at 2 a.m., as one does, and popped bottles of his own Champagne brand at a VIP table before busting out his biggest hits for the crowd. Also at the hot spot were **Melle Mel**, NYC nightlife mayor **Jeffrey Garcia** and nightlife dude **Richie Romero**. “One big spender tried to catch the rapper’s attention by requesting a ‘bottle parade’ with a marquee in bright lights saying ‘Diddy Do It?’ ” says a spy, referring to Fiddy’s legally embattled rival rapper **Diddy**. But we hear Mr. Cent — who has vocally feuded with the Bad Boy music mogul for years — did not react.

## We hear

THAT the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation held its 10th annual luncheon at Riverpark featuring a fashion show by **Natori** . . . THAT the Viennese Opera Ball held its 68th annual gala at the Plaza, where gala chairs included **Denise Rich** and **Jean Shafiroff** . . . THAT the Luisa Diaz Foundation held its black-tie gala at the Plaza, as well, where guests included **Candace Bushnell**, **Julia Haart**, **Consuelo Vanderbilt**, **Grace Hightower** and **Pamela Morgan**.

## ‘Kiss’ & a miss: Bennifer show goes on

**JENNIFER Lopez** and **Ben Affleck** seemed to deliberately avoid locking lips in public when they met in Santa Monica, Calif., over the weekend for his 12-year-old son’s basketball game. Instead, the spouses — who we’ve reported are on the rocks — were photographed greeting each other with air kisses (above). They also walked side by side without holding hands. Despite the lack of PDA, the duo appeared to be in good spirits as they were joined by Affleck’s mom, **Chris**

**Boldt**. The Oscar winner’s ex-wife and mother of his three kids, **Jennifer Garner**, was also on the scene. The meet-up came after J.Lo, 54, and one of her kids hit a flea market in LA earlier in the day. An eyewitness told Page Six the “This Is Me . . . Now” singer did not seem very upbeat on the 45-minute excursion. We exclusively reported that Lopez just pulled the plug on her tour to be with family.

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## Moon's eclipsed by injury

SHE keeps on fallin'! Page Six hears there's Tony drama after one of the front-runners, **Maleah Joi Moon** from **Alicia Keys'** "Hell's Kitchen" musical, crashed out of the show Thursday — right at the height of voting for the stage's most prestigious awards. "She tripped and injured her ankle early in the night and then fled at the beginning of [the song] 'Kaleidoscope,'" said a stage spy. "The show paused for like 10 minutes and then [understudy] **Gianna Harris** came in [to take over Moon's role]." Show insiders said Moon will be back today, but our source isn't quite buying it. "A friend in the show told me she twisted her ankle bad," they said. We're told the accident could put her Tony bid in jeopardy. "That's five performances with a lot of Tony voters who won't get to see her," said a source. The awards are later this month. Moon is up for Best Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical. The show — which depicts "Fallin'" singer Keys' life story — is also up for Best Musical. Reps for Moon and for the show didn't get back to our requests for comment.

## Un-'Happy Days' with Tom

**HENRY Winkler** has addressed his rumored years-long feud with **Tom Hanks** that began back in the 1980s. On the "How To Fail" podcast, the "Happy Days" star, 78, recalled how he was fired from directing the 1989 doggie cop film "Turner & Hooch," starring Hanks, 67. "I did 11 weeks of preparation," Winkler said about the project that ended up being directed by **Roger Spottiswoode**. "I knew this dog. This slobbery mastiff and I became friends. The star did not become my friend." Winkler was asked if he meant Hanks, and he responded, "I probably do." Apparently, before he was canned, Winkler and Hanks had an interaction with a fan that Winkler believes caused the rift. "We were in Carmel, this little sea-side wonderful town on the coast of California, looking for a location, and a woman comes, honest to God, comes running out of a shop and says 'Henry, Fonz! Oh, my God!' and I say, 'And, of course, you know Tom Hanks,'" Winkler said. "The director of photography, when I was fired 13 days into filming, said, 'I knew that this was going to happen, on that day in Carmel,'" he added. In 1993, Winkler sparked rumors about his feud when he told People, "Let's just say I got along better with Hooch than I did with Turner."



**Jennifer Aniston** is more than red-dy for a pre-Emmy event for Apple TV+'s "The Morning Show" at LA's Paramount Studios.

Phillip Faraone/Getty Images



Olivia Rodrigo / Instagram

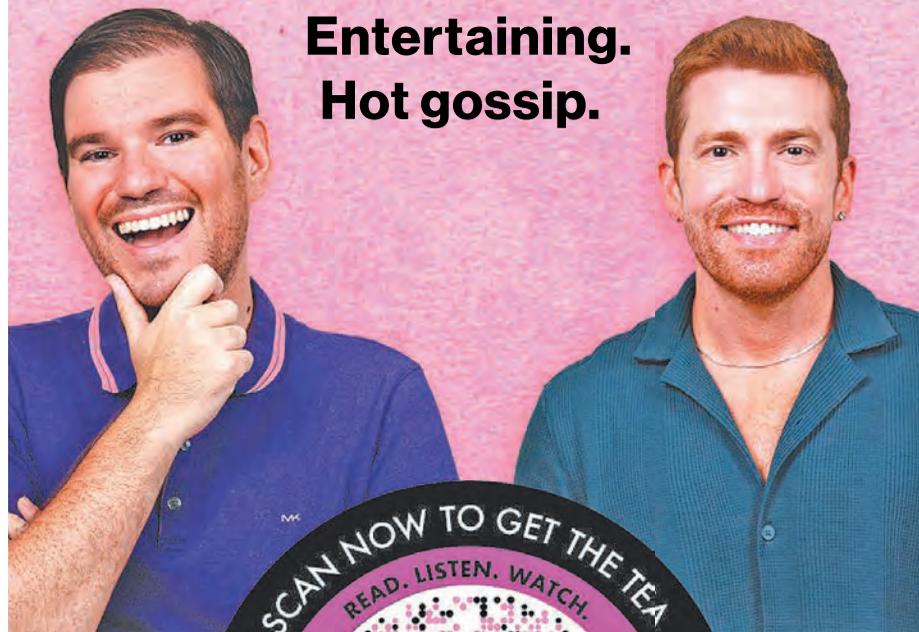
**Olivia Rodrigo** mulls whether her outfit is sparkly enough before her Guts tour stop Saturday in Berlin.

## Set phasers to dumb

HE'S not welcome in *this* enterprise. A Toronto restaurant has banned "Star Trek" actor **Zachary Quinto** after claiming he made a host cry by acting "like an entitled child." On Instagram, the eatery Manita called him "an amazing Spock, but a terrible customer," adding that he "yelled at our staff ... after he didn't reply to two texts to inform him his table was ready and refused to believe the empty tables in the dining room weren't available for him despite being politely informed they were spoken for," the post claimed. The "American Horror Story" alum, 47, also allegedly "made [a] host cry and the rest of [their] brunch diners uncomfortable." The social media statement concluded, "Mr. Quinto, take your bad vibes somewhere else, we have many lovely celebrities join us at Manita but you are NOT one of them." Quinto's rep has yet to respond to Page Six's request for comment. The Emmy nominee seems to be in Canada celebrating his 47th birthday, which was Sunday.

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# New York's hit parade



**Cindy Adams**

THE winds were a-changin' on Sag Harbor's main drag. **Julie Andrews** crossed the

street with a friend. In a white summer scarf, using a cane to steady herself, she grabbed onto a bench at the curb. Fancier cane, not the one **Dick Van Dyke** used to dance with in "Mary Poppins."

**Anthony Weiner** a k a "Carlos Danger"? On Third Avenue wearing a helmet the now less dangerous Carlos kept stuffing a bag of chips in his face. That tongue flicked out to lick up each crumb.

**Giuliani**, of whom you

may have heard, limps on. You've heard him, seen him, respected him, ignored him, now try to read him. It's **Steve Bannon's** new organization War Room Books, a Skyhorse Publishing imprint. Editor's **Elaine Lafferty**, former Ms Magazine editor and Time investigative reporter.

Schlepping around town? **Sophia Loren**. Wearing big glasses. Back room of Cipriani. Table of friends. Downing lemoncakes, speaking Italian.

## Being the scorn in their sides

LONG ago beautiful nightclub manager/hostess **Rachel Uchitel**, 49, became **Monica Lewinsky** on steroids. Lewinsky pinned **Bill Clinton**. Uchitel — **Tiger Woods**. Both married men, known for their playmates, stayed famous. Both females — trashed.

Rachel: "National Enquirer broke my story. Things became hard and you're made to sign a NDA. Nobody hears the real story because going against it means arbitration. I've now started the podcast 'Miss Understood' for people who talk of suicide and who must learn to move forward. Tell their side.

"Comedienne **Kathy Griffin**, whose humor once put her through similar horror, said when bookings canceled she thought she'd do herself in. My podcast teaches how to get your life back. How to crawl out of that barrel one claw at a time.

"People thought me too scandalous to hire. I earned no money. My name got me in the door but everyone thought me too scandalous. One former boss said: 'Your name just won't fly here anymore.'

"Many people want to be famous.



**Rachel Uchitel and her pups**

Instagram/Rachel Uchitel

They think 10 minutes of fame's fun. But I'd become the villain. New York's tragic face. For years I was the biggest story around. You cry. You're torn apart. It affected my mental health. People betrayed me. Sold stories about me. Still today I am not close to my family."

## League of one

ME, I'm being bombarded now by p.r. types about a singer from the Republic of Georgia. Name — ready? — **Nutsa Buzaladze**. Why she couldn't rename herself Norma, Neona, Nancy. But NUTSA?! Like, wow, I'm just nutsa about Nutsa.

She'll sing the national anthem at Yankee Stadium Saturday. She'll

sing new song "A Mother's Love" on **Rossanna Scotto's** "Good Day New York" show June 12. Despite her p.r. guaranteeing me she'll sing in every room in the Empire State Building, I *don't care* about anyone named Nutsa.

Great. Mazel tov. Happy for her. But despite her p.r. coming at me hourly, anyone named Nutsa is making me nutsa.

FLORIDA has so many aged people arriving that it's now opening restaurants and entertainment venues. One grandma wanted to divorce her 70-year-old husband. In Palm Beach. Why? Because he kept demanding sex. She told the judge the whole session only takes four minutes but it includes dinner and a show. **Not only in New York, kids, not only in New York.**

# AUTOMAT-IC INTEREST



By DAVID LANDSEL

## Reviving a NY cafeteria classic

Walk along West 38th Street in the Garment District and you'll catch a glimpse of one of the last remaining Horn & Hardart signs in the city, painted a lifetime ago on the brick back of 1385 Broadway.

The Automat has been gone so long that many New Yorkers wouldn't recognize it. The rest may feel a pang of nostalgia for the long-lost self-service restaurant chain that fed generations of working stiffs weekday lunches of pot pie and baked beans at affordable prices.

David Arena is only 35, but to the entrepreneur and serial startup guy from Philadelphia, that faded "ghost sign" looks like the future. He's confident he will bring the Automat back from the dead.

And he thinks he can get the first location open within the year.

### Going back in time

Call that blind optimism, maybe, the millennial admits cheerfully. But then again, to wake up every day believing that you're the guy who's going to bring H&H's homespun mac-'n'-cheese charm to the cynical, \$17 salad-choked streets of post-pandemic Midtown, you've got to be some kind of dreamer.

And this dreamer calls the project "his life's calling."

"We're going back to the nostalgic 1920s, 1930s charm, to beaux arts, art deco, to the machines

**BEGINNING OF AN ERA?** NYC's last Horn & Hardart Automat, with premade food kept in windowed lockers (left), shut in 1991. David Arena (below), too young at 35 to remember Automats, wants to bring them back within the year — and doesn't plan to modernize the recipes, either.

themselves — and we're not going to modernize the recipes," Arena told The Post, describing what customers will find when they step into his 21st-century reinterpretation, filled with comfortable seating and people tucking into pie and cups of hot coffee at all hours — just like old times.

Horn & Hardart was founded in Philly in 1888 as a luncheonette, by Joseph Horn and Frank Hardart.

In 1902, the pair opened their first Automat, where customers served themselves by accessing prepared dishes in windowed lockers — like classy vending machines meant to show off the food.

The concept was a hit. Ten years later, they were in New York, where the chain became a staple, serving stews, baked beans and beef and noodles with Burgundy sauce.

The last Horn & Hardart — at 42nd and Third — shut down in 1991, well before

Arena's time. But that detachment makes him the man for the job, he said.

The self-confessed nonrestaurant guy, who sold a media company to take on his dream project full time, said it's not about nostalgia. Or the food, for that matter — he's really not even that much of a food guy. He simply sees the Automat as a great business idea, one of those that's been out for so long, it's back in.

"This company was synonymous with innovation in its category for 100 years,"

Arena said. "The original ideas of quality, innovation, convenience, caring about your customers, caring about the details — that's lost in a lot of today's businesses."

He believes Horn & Hardart "transcended what most businesses can do."

"The things

the Automat did well were not any particular food item or machine. This is very emotional for people. This reaches well beyond the average business transaction — that's what I'm focused on," he explained. "I'm passionate about doing it the right way and preserving the heritage. I feel a sense of moral obligation to the founders."

And while he is certainly curious about the trend toward automation in the restaurant industry, that's the exact opposite of what he's after.

"This isn't about robots making food — when you look at self-service, what we're doing is removing lines and waiting," Arena emphasized.

Yes, you'll tap your credit card to open the cubbyhole, he said, and modern technology will allow the restaurant to collect data about which products are selling best. But Arena insists there will be no touch-screen ordering — and no machines taking jobs from cooks.

"My main mission is to bring Horn & Hardart and the brand back into the modern age and cre-

ate the world's best self-service restaurant experience," he said.

Beyond banging down doors as a businessman, he has also been building relationships with the community of people who have carried the torch for the brand since it slipped from view in the '90s — like Lisa Hurwitz, who directed "The Automat," a 2021 documentary featuring Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks that brings the history of Horn & Hardart wonderfully alive.

### 'You have to be crazy'

"You have to be crazy to do what David is doing," Hurwitz told The Post. But she's quick to admit that her own project, now available on Max after achieving widespread critical success, seemed crazy at the outset, too.

"The Automat is this magical, door-opening phrase," she said. "So many favors were done for me not because of me but because of the subject. If what happened to me happened to him, a lot of people should be extra nice and helpful."



# Singing 'out' loud

## Broadway star Ben Platt's Pride & joy on new LP



**CHUCK ARNOLD**

**F**OR Ben Platt, his coming-out party as a pop artist on "Sing to Me Instead," — his 2018 debut studio LP — was no big reveal.

"When I made my first album, it was sort of received as, like, a 'coming out' — and it's not even something that I anticipated," Platt, 30, told *The Post*.

In fact, for Platt, it was all a matter of fact: The Tony-winning star of "Dear Evan Hansen" had come out as gay long before that — "when I was 12 or 13," he said.

"If I'm going to write about my relationship or I'm going to depict it in a music video, it's a queer relationship," said Platt of openly expressing his sexuality.

"So it was kind of a no-brainer to me. And then I didn't really realize till after the fact that it was, like, still somewhat radical."

### Fan base relates

And just as Pride Month begins, "Honeymind" — Platt's third studio album that arrived Friday, three days after the beginning of his 18-show residency at Broadway's historic Palace Theatre — is a sweet reminder that queer love has always been here.

"Having a lot of queer fans who feel like their relationships and the specific complexities and experiences of being in a queer relationship are re-

flected in my music . . . is something I love to see in my audience," he said. "Queerness has just always been an intrinsic part of my art."

There is an easy openness about the queer experience on "Honeymind" — with Grammy-winning producer Dave Cobb (Chris Stapleton, Brandi

Carlile) behind the boards — but the album harks back to another time when the LGBTQ community didn't live so out loud in the music world.

In fact, it's '70s singer-songwriters such as James Taylor, Cat Stevens and Paul Simon (with and without Art Garfunkel) who are the touchstone

troubadours.

But right after the airy acoustic-guitar balladry of opener "Right Kind of Reckless," you realize that we're not in Kansas anymore.

The LP's second track, "All American Queen," comes sashaying on out as the queer anthem we needed for Pride 2024.

"He was born in the sticks, right in the middle of fall/He wants to be a cheerleader, runs away from the ball/He's got a song in his heart and a collection of dolls/And there's a pale shade of pink on his bedroom wall," Platt sings on this shimmering sunshine-pop bop.

"I wrote it with Alex Hope . . . and they're also queer," said Platt.

"We loved the idea of writing about, like, a young kid growing up in America who is, like, cliché American and traditional . . . but he's incredibly flamboyant. He's a queen. I just think that that is part of the fabric of America that always has been there."

Meanwhile, "Before I Knew You" is a heartfelt dedication to Platt's fiancé, Noah Galvin. The two singer-actors got engaged in November 2022 and are getting hitched this fall in their Brooklyn home borough.

The couple met when "we were like 19, 20 years old doing a Web series that never saw the light of day," said Platt. "And we immediately had, like, an attraction to each other and started dating pretty quickly. But then I panicked and . . . I sent him a long text message, and I was like, 'We should just be friends.'"

### Live from NY

While the two remained friends, they eventually rekindled their romance. And last Friday, Galvin joined Kacey Musgraves, Kristin Chenoweth and Leslie Odom Jr. as one of the surprise guests that Platt will have on each night of his residency that ends June 15.

But there's always one special spirit in the house: Judy Garland, who famously played the newly renovated venue in her career. Respect is paid when Platt closes his show with a stunning rendition of "Over the Rainbow."

"She inspired me to want to perform and also just, you know, helped me realize my queer identity," he said.

"She's the queen."

## Slay rap vs. cop a loser: DA

A Minnesota prosecutor said Monday she dropped charges against a state trooper in the shooting death of a black motorist last summer after learning the officer would testify that he acted in self-defense, making a conviction unlikely.

In explaining her decision, Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty cited a statement by an attorney for Trooper Ryan Londregan at an April court hearing.

The lawyer said his client planned to tell a jury he had shot Ricky Cobb II during a traffic stop because he thought Cobb reached for Londregan's gun, putting a fellow officer in imminent danger, Moriarty said.

"Expert witnesses in use-of-force cases focus pretty much only on the seconds when the shots happened and what a reasonable officer could have perceived," she said, noting that body-camera video was inconclusive. "We do not believe we would have even made it to a jury."

On Sunday, Moriarty's office said the filing of a notice of dismissal of unintentional murder and manslaughter charges against Londregan was not the same as an exoneration.

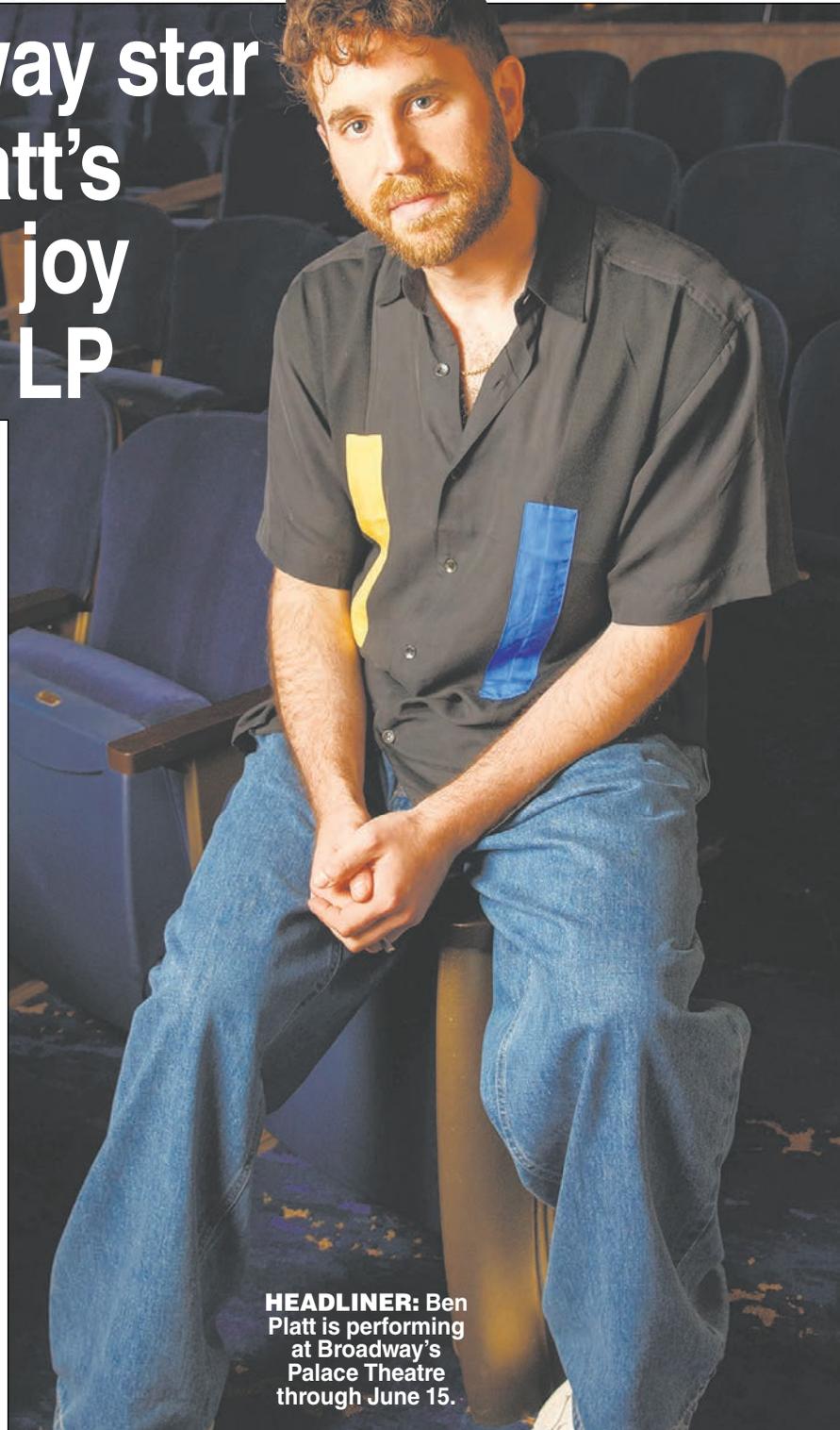
Cobb's killing took place in the same city where George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in 2020. *Reuters*

## Calif. shark bite probed

Experts are investigating a shark bite of a swimmer off San Diego, seeking to uncover clues to explain the rare event, a leading shark researcher said Monday.

A 46-year-old man was bitten on the torso, left arm and hand about 100 yards from shore at Del Mar on Sunday.

Chris Lowe, a marine biology professor and director of the Shark Lab at California State University, Long Beach, led a team to Del Mar on Sunday to take water samples in hopes that cells shed by the animal could be recovered and tested for DNA to reveal the species. *Reuters*



**HEADLINER:** Ben Platt is performing at Broadway's Palace Theatre through June 15.

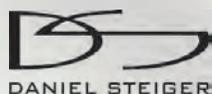
Tamara Beckwith

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# Big losses for Russia

## Deadliest day in war

By ISABEL KEANE

13 settlements and 116 square miles of land.

“It is highly likely that most Russian forces receive only limited training, and they are unable to carry out complex offensive operations,” the UK ministry said of Russia’s strugglers.

“The need to continuously replenish front-line personnel will almost certainly continue to limit Russia’s ability to generate higher capability units.”

While the latest offensive has shown Russia some success, Ukraine has also claimed to have stabilized the new frontlines of the war.

Kharkiv sits just 30 miles south of Russia’s border with the war-torn country and has recently seen some of the most intense fighting of the 27-month-long conflict.

Russian troops began their offensive on the region on May 10.

Since then, the US has announced some \$675 million in military aid for Ukraine, in the form of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and ammunition; Howitzer artillery rounds; High-speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARMs) and other “urgently needed” pieces of offensive and defensive equipment and ammunition.

Russia lost a staggering 1,270 troops from Sunday into Monday, according to Ukraine, in what would be the deadliest day in more than two years of war.

The brutal 24-hour toll took Russia’s overall losses to more than 511,000 since President Vladimir Putin declared war in February 2022, according to the latest tally released Monday by the General Staff of Ukraine’s Armed Forces.

As well as the 1,270 troops, Russia also lost 14 Russian tanks, 22 armored personnel carriers and 47 artillery pieces in the same day, the report said.

The figures match those recently shared by the UK’s Ministry of Defence (MoD), which assessed that the number of Russian troops “killed and wounded” had surpassed 500,000 by the end of last month — when they averaged 1,200 per day throughout May.

That was “the highest reported since the start of the war,” the MoD stressed.

The rise in deaths comes as combat has intensified in Ukraine amid Moscow’s latest offensive in the Kharkiv region, leading them to have reportedly captured around

# Ego, drugs & spending



By MICHAEL KAPLAN

Francis Ford Coppola reportedly spent \$120 million of his own money to make “Megalopolis,” which began as a script he started 40 years ago.

None of Hollywood’s studio bosses liked it then — and now it’s unclear when or if it will end up in American theaters.

After the sci-fi film — about the fight for a utopian society and starring Adam Driver, Shia LaBeouf and Aubrey Plaza — premiered at the Cannes International Film Festival on May 16, Vanity Fair called it a “dreary boondoggle” and The Guardian described it as “megabloated.”

It is not the late-career triumph that the great filmmaker, now 85, likely hoped for.

A Coppola friend told The Post that the director felt “very upset that they didn’t give him an award” at Cannes.

And even before “Megalopolis” was screened, whispers circulated about mayhem on the Fayetteville, Ga., set.

Unnamed sources recently claimed to The Guardian that Coppola tried to kiss topless performers in the movie’s nightclub scene and retreated to his trailer to smoke weed.

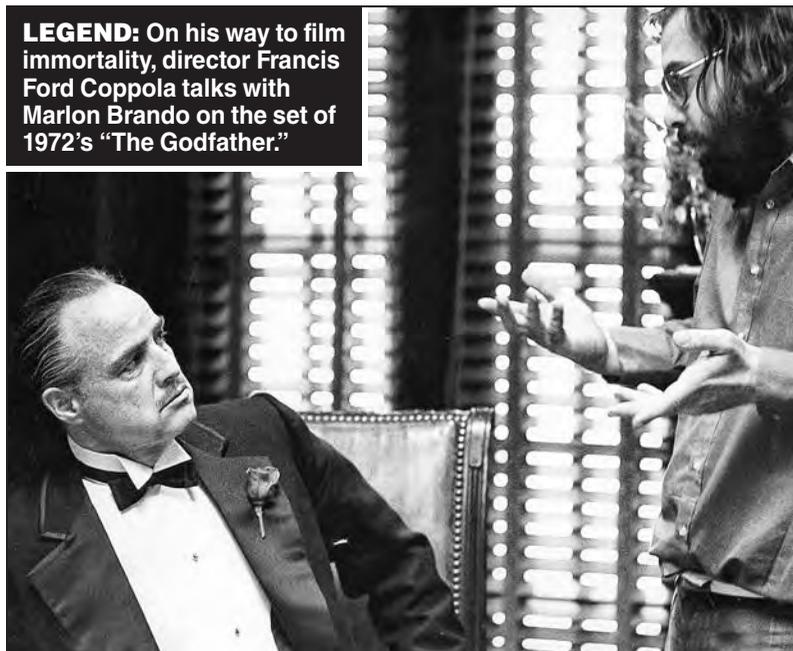
According to The Hollywood Reporter, Coppola lost his entire art department due to a combination of firings and resignations.

“It was absolute madness being on set,” a talent representative whose client was among those fired told THR in a January 2023 report.

And one Hollywood insider who knew Coppola told The Post that he isn’t surprised by the alleged madness. On his 1979 classic, “Apocalypse Now,” the vibe was notoriously so intense that leading man Martin Sheen suffered a heart attack and a nervous breakdown.

“If they didn’t do what Francis wanted, I’m sure he would fire them,” the insider said of the “Megalopolis”

**LEGEND:** On his way to film immortality, director Francis Ford Coppola talks with Marlon Brando on the set of 1972’s “The Godfather.”



art crew.

“Francis is a director that everyone reveres. Even if he is wrong, nobody tells him.”

A representative for Coppola said in a statement to The Post: “‘Megalopolis’ came in on time, on budget and despite the recent passing of his wife, Francis Ford Coppola was joined by his cast and colleagues in Cannes, including actors who flew in at their own expense.”

## Overcoming losses

Coppola’s wife and longtime collaborator, Eleanor Coppola — who once worried that their daughter, filmmaker Sofia Coppola, had been miscast by the filmmaker for his “The Godfather Part III” — died in April at 79.

Eleanor chronicled the making of “Apocalypse Now” in the documen-

tary “Hearts of Darkness,” which revealed her husband’s do-or-die tunnel vision.

But “Apocalypse Now” earned masterpiece status — a mantle no one is giving “Megalopolis” so far.

“The script was a mess. It was a bad idea from the beginning,” the Hollywood insider told The Post. “Francis was all over town trying to get money. The script was a mishmash. Francis was going to make this movie no matter what. He tried raising money for it, but he couldn’t. So, Francis took his own \$120 million to make this movie. It’s crazy.”

Coppola’s last movie was “Twixt,” a 2011 horror film, while his last hit was 1992’s “Bram Stoker’s Dracula,” which grossed almost \$216 million. He is no stranger to putting his money where his movie is. In 1981, he mortgaged his home and car to finish “Apocalypse Now.”

# Fetuses found on bus

Two stillborn fetuses were found on a Maryland Transit Administration bus in Baltimore over the weekend, officials said.

The first fetus was found by a driver on a seat inside an MTA Green Route bus heading south on Kirk Avenue near East 25th Street Saturday afternoon, the Baltimore Sun reported.

Police responded around 12:40 p.m. to the horrifying discovery on the bus, which goes between Towson and Downtown Baltimore.

“Subsequently, a second fetus was discovered,” a Baltimore Police spokesperson told the paper.

Officers from the MTA Police and Baltimore Police’s Eastern District and homicide unit responded.

Both fetuses were taken to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

“Even though I wasn’t on the bus, just to know something happened like that on the bus, that’s what we’re going through these days,” local resident Jeff McKoy told WBAL-TV.

The incident is under investigation by homicide detectives.

Officials say that no further information is available at this time.

Isabel Keane

# run amok on Coppola's obsession

**VISIONARY OR NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT?** Adam Driver stars in Francis Ford Coppola's decades-in-the-making "Megalopolis" and appears in Cannes (far left) with co-stars (from left, Aubrey Plaza, Romy Croquet and Nathalie Emmanuel) and the director, who reportedly shelled out \$120 million himself to make it.



# LOOK, IT'S A 'MEGA' FLOP!

"If you make a movie like this, you have to wonder if you're making it for yourself or for a moviegoing audience," one high-profile producer told The Post. "No directors go out on top and, if this is the movie he wanted to make, in his own mind, he will think he went out with a blast."

For his part, the octogenarian director told Deadline "Megalopolis" will not be his last film.

## 'Last of a dying breed'

It had been festering on his to-do list since 1983, and Coppola told Vanity Fair that he rewrote the script 300 times.

"At least if he had Brad Pitt in the

movie, he could make an issue for a big advance," said the insider. "How does a studio justify spending the millions when there is no box-office chance? [Adam Driver] can't open a movie. He is not a movie star no matter how much they try to make him one."

Author Peter Biskind, who wrote extensively about Coppola in his book "Easy Riders, Raging Bulls," told The Post he is not surprised that the filmmaker made "Megalopolis" his own way.

"A lot of these very successful directors have egos as big as their reputations — if not bigger," Biskind, whose latest book is "Pandora's Box: How Guts, Guile and Greed Upended TV," told

The Post. "I'm trying to think of someone who would do what Francis did, and no one springs to mind."

The Hollywood insider puts it a little sharper: "Usually you put a script out that nobody likes and it goes away. But when somebody has his own cash, he says 'f--k you' and makes it and talks about how dumb the studios are, saying that the studios don't understand."

"You can say he is the last of a dying breed," Biskind said. "The '70s directors would do anything and give anything to get their movies made. He is still living in that head and in that decade. It's kind of thrilling to see."



# 'I shot my cousin by accident'

## BOY, 12, HELD IN GUN SLAY

By JOE MARINO, JACK MORPHET and AMANDA WOODS

A 12-year-old boy was charged with manslaughter Monday in the tragic death of his 14-year-old cousin in Brooklyn, after telling cops, "I shot my cousin by accident, I don't want him to die," authorities and other sources said Monday.

The preteen, who was not publicly identified, was also charged with criminally negligent homicide and criminal possession of a weapon for the shooting that killed Jasai Guy in a Brownsville housing project Sunday morning, cops said.

"I shot my cousin by accident," the younger boy told officers responding to the 911 call at the Howard Houses, law-enforcement sources said. "I don't want him to die."

### Shot in chest

Sources told AMNY that the cousins were playing together as their grandfather slept in the next room when the shots rang out inside the fifth-floor unit on Osborn Street at around 10:30 a.m.

Police found a shotgun, which investigators believe belongs to Jasai's father, an FDNY firefighter who was away on vacation at the time, the law-enforcement sources told The Post.

Jasai, who was shot in the chest, was rushed to Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, but

could not be saved.

The shooting appears to be accidental, the sources said. Police were investigating how the children got the weapon, and if it was obtained legally.

Jasai's cousin was released to his mother after he appeared in Brooklyn Family Court on Monday, according to a spokesperson with the city's Law Department.

Neighbors described Jasai, who lived in the apartment with his dad and grandparents, as a popular teen who liked playing basketball and stayed out of trouble.

"He'd play [basketball] out here all the time," said Mudhil Jeter, 40, who noted he had known Jasai "since he was a baby" and described him as smart and a "good kid."

Jeter said he'd never seen Jasai's younger cousin before and believed the preteen was "just visiting for the weekend."

"It's a tragedy. I knew his father well," Jeter said. "His dad is cool, he was a party promoter then got a career as firefighter."

Jasai went to school and wasn't involved in a gang, Jeter said.

"I don't know what happened inside that apartment, but they should have had that gun locked away," he said.

"Don't you learn in school not to play with guns? Don't you have more sense at 12 years old? Curiosity, I guess," he ventured.

"He was a good kid, which is why it's so shocking," the neighbor added.



**FAMILY TRAGEDY:** Jasai Guy (above, and with his firefighter father, below) was shot dead Sunday in a tragic accident by his cousin, authorities say.



## Troubled jail big's new gig

Mayor Adams on Monday tapped the former head of the Big Apple's troubled jail system to lead the city agency tasked with recruiting and hiring municipal employees.

Louis Molina, who stepped down from the Department of Correction last year during a bitter back-and-forth with the feds over disturbing conditions at Rikers Island, was named commissioner of the Department of City-wide Administrative Services.

"DCAS is the foundation of our city government — ultimately making it possible for city agencies to carry out our vision of protecting public safety, rebuilding our economy and making this city more livable," Adams said in a statement announcing his pick.

Molina replaces Dawn Pinnock, who announced in April she would be stepping down from the role after two years of leading the agency that manages the city's more than 50 public buildings and oversees training for its 300,000 employees.

The ex-DOC boss has worked under Deputy Mayor of Public Safety Phil Banks as an assistant deputy mayor since late last year.

The Adams ally's nearly two-year stint as head of the DOC was marked by a record number of inmate deaths and a marred relationship with the federal monitor overseeing city lockups — who became increasingly angered at how the commish was running the jails and threatened a takeover.

Craig McCarthy

## 'Soho Karen' felony nixed

The notorious "Soho Karen," who falsely accused a black teen of stealing her cellphone at a Manhattan hotel, had a hate crime charge scrubbed from her record Monday after making good on a plea deal that kept her out of prison.

Miya Ponsetto, 26, entered a new plea to a misdemeanor aggravated harassment charge for her caught-on-camera attack on then-15-year-old Keyon Harrold Jr. at the Arlo Soho Hotel on Dec. 26, 2020.

Ponsetto pleaded guilty in April 2022 to unlawful imprisonment as a hate crime, in a deal that the felony offense would be wiped from her record if she got counseling and stayed out of trouble for two years.

The Californian didn't comment after the Manhattan Supreme Court hearing. Kyle Schnitzer

## US mercenary charged in 2 slays, fraud

An Army veteran turned soldier of fortune is being charged with murder and fraud after being extradited from Ukraine, federal prosecutors announced Monday.

Craig Austin Lang, 34, who fought as a mercenary in Venezuela, Africa and Ukraine, made his

first appearance in federal court on charges that he and cohorts pulled off a double murder in Florida and falsified passports in Arizona and North Carolina.

Prosecutors allege that in April 2018, Lang and fellow Army vet Alex Jared Zwiefelhofer posted an

online ad to sell weapons, but killed the couple who responded and stole \$3,000 they brought for the purchase. Zwiefelhofer, 27, was convicted by a federal jury in Florida in March and is due to be sentenced Aug. 6.

In September 2018, Lang and an-

other cohort cut a deal with two others in North Carolina to use their identities to falsify US passports, paying them off with \$1,500 in cash and a suitcase "containing multiple firearms" and a military-grade smoke grenade, the feds said.

Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

# Poisoned Ties

## Why US-Mexico relations need a major reset

**C**LAUDIA Sheinbaum, the hand-picked successor of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, will be the next president of Mexico. Unfortunately, that means US-Mexico relations remain on a dangerous course which has empowered drug cartels and brought skyrocketing overdoses and uncontrolled migration to the United States.

Sheinbaum owes her victory almost entirely to the highly popular Lopez Obrador government, leaving little chance that she will distance herself from the man universally known as AMLO.

Under the incumbent's government, US-Mexico relations have seen a dangerous deterioration. New threats have emerged on the border — including fentanyl, weaponized mass migration and terrorist networks — and important opportunities for collaboration, such as nearshoring supply chains from China, have been largely squandered. Worse, deepening narco-corruption adds a powerful force working against a necessary change of course.

All this means that if the vital relationship between the US and Mexico is to stabilize, Biden must right the ship.

To date, Washington has largely been a passive observer of the relationship's continued collapse. This is best evidenced by the utter breakdown of counter-narcotics cooperation with Mexico.

Opioid overdoses, facilitated by the free flow of Chinese precursor chemicals to Mexico's cartels, continue to kill over 100,000 Americans each year. Nevertheless, the Biden administration has stood by as AMLO has repeatedly denied Mexico's role in the fentanyl crisis.

Even when Mexico's government terminated the long-standing Merida Initiative, upending counter-drug cooperation with US law enforcement, President Biden remained silent.

American permissiveness goes back years, through multiple administrations. In 2020, under President Trump, US law enforcement agents arrested former Mexican Defense Minister Salvador Cienfuegos after uncovering his collaboration with the drug cartels. Yet after substantial diplomatic pressure from Mexico, the United States released Cienfuegos, whom AMLO subse-



Trouble: New prez Claudia Sheinbaum will stick to AMLO's anti-US ways.

quently decorated with a medal honoring his service. In 2011, the Obama administration even dropped a DEA investigation revealing credible narco-corruption directly implicating AMLO, then a presidential candidate.

However, surging US fentanyl deaths make the Biden administration's willingness to ignore Mexico's security backsliding far more egregious.

It's not just narcotics. The Biden administration has also been a largely passive observer of major trade disputes, expropriation of US companies in Mexico and even threatening actions against American journalists by the Mexican government.

Minimizing confrontations with Mexico serves two purposes for the Biden administration. First, it lets Washington focus on its other preferred foreign policy projects. Second, it allows President Biden to secure transient support from the Mexican government on migration.

The Biden administration has been beseeching Mexico to crack down on migrant caravans before they reach the southern border. Mexico, realizing that a second Trump administration would be a much more aggressive counterpart, has responded with a major increase in border enforcement.

But any short-term advantage Biden is gaining is accompanied by long-term negative consequences for Americans. Fentanyl inflows to the United States tripled from 2021 to 2023. Illegal

migration has also skyrocketed.

Over time, AMLO's willingness to undermine American interests has become more and more brazen — and that trend isn't likely to change under Sheinbaum, his chosen successor.

The next presidential administration shouldn't accept this status quo. Maintaining a strong relationship with Mexico is vital for Americans' prosperity, and Washington can take simple actions to improve the current crisis.

First, the US should stop outsourcing migration enforcement to the Mexican government. Doing so would deny the Mexican government the invaluable leverage that AMLO and his allies have wielded over the United States for years.

Next, the US should reassert its national security and economic interests in the bilateral relationship. If Washington linked American trade and remittances to national security and migration, for example, Mexico would be forced to take more responsibility for our shared border.

Finally, the White House should seriously consider how it can deploy US military assets to confront the criminal cartels facilitating the mass flow of migration and bringing in the fentanyl that's slaughtering our sons and daughters.

It's time to tell Washington that taking control of our relationship with our southern neighbor must be a top priority.

Andres Martinez-Fernandez is a Heritage Foundation senior policy analyst.

# FAST TAKES

## Democrat: Remember Tiananmen Square

"The voices of the brave individuals who perished 35 years ago in the Tiananmen Square massacre continue to echo across our collective conscience," mourns Sen. Ben Cardin at Fox News. On June 4, 1989, Beijing's People's Liberation Army "murdered and injured thousands of peaceful pro-democracy protesters calling for political reform and an end to corruption." The image of a sole protester defying "a row of tanks instantly became an enduring global symbol of resistance against oppression." Now Chinese educators are "forbidden from teaching about it," references to the massacre "are instantly removed from China's heavily censored internet," and public memorials "are strictly prohibited." Expect a vote on a bipartisan resolution to "give voice to those silenced by the PRC and ensure that the legacy of Tiananmen continues to inspire generations to come."

## From the right: Media's Leap To Condemn Israel

"We don't know precisely what happened last weekend in Rafah" when "at least 45 civilians" were killed in a fire in a tent camp, fumes Becket Adams at The Hill. This "means that much of what passed for reporting last week, including the reports that insinuated or stated outright that Israel had bombed civilians directly, was deeply irresponsible." "It may be that, as Israel has suggested, the explosion and fire that killed those civilians were caused by an arms cache that Hamas stashed among the civilian centers." Yet NPR, The New York Times and other outlets "presented Gaza's claims at face value" and condemned Israel "without bothering to check first whether there was any truth" to them.

## Conservative: Biden's Prints on Trump Trials

President "Biden can continue to deny his responsibility for the criminal targeting of his political opponent all he wants," argues The Federalist's Margot Cleveland. But "Biden and those seeking to ensure his reelection have their hands all over Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's prosecution of the former president." Consider "the incestuous relationship between the Manhattan D.A.'s office and Team Biden," starting "as early as mid-February 2021." That's when the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison lent "three lawyers to the Manhattan D.A.'s office" to help prosecute Trump. The White House also has links to the Georgia case and to the two "brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith."

## Eye on November: Vote Trump, Save Democracy



Donald Trump

"Cheers reportedly erupted in President Joe Biden's campaign headquarters" after Donald Trump's New York conviction, note The Free Press' Olivia Reingold, Francesca Block & Rupa Subramanya. But "many Americans had a different impression of the Trump verdict: that his conviction was proof of corruption, not justice." Like tech founder Shaun Maguire, who's gone from a Trump skeptic to major donor. And lifelong NJ Dem Kate Nitti, who began voting GOP "to protest how Democrats had 'abused their power' during Covid with school lockdowns" and "vaccine and mask mandates for kids" and now backs Trump. Driving the shift? As libertarian Maine state Sen. Eric

Brakey put it: "Democrats don't preserve democracy . . . They're afraid that the people, when presented a democratic choice, will not vote for them."

## Economy beat: Dems' 'Stop the Steal' Idiocy

Senate Democrats want "the Justice Department 'to prosecute collusion and price fixing' in oil markets, which they claim is raising prices at the pump," marvels The Wall Street Journal's Allysia Finley. It's the left's "version of 'stop the steal,' a device that blames corporate greed and malfeasance for inflation." Dems from President Biden on down "promote this conspiracy theory to dupe voters." But there's no evidence oil or other companies are "swindling consumers." Rather, businesses, like consumers, "are victims" of Biden's inflationary policies. Retailers are "squeezed by higher costs for products, labor, energy, rent and insurance." What's really "fueling inflation? Excessive fiscal and monetary stimulus." "Even after Congress's \$5 trillion pandemic splurge, Washington continues to post enormous deficits." "Rather than concede" their policy failures, "Democrats scapegoat businesses." — Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

# Trump's Veepstakes

**D**onald Trump, per the polls, stands a fine chance of winning against a bleeding, beleaguered and terminally confused Joe Biden in November. (And that seems likely to stick despite his recent conviction in the disgracefully political Alvin Bragg trial.)

But he still has one huge decision left to make: his pick for VP.

It's always been about adding to your appeal, though for much of US history, it was just picking someone who'd add regional balance — then be forgotten until the next election. But it's different in the modern era of mass communications: Now the No. 2 is about, above all else, fine-tuning your image.

Ronald Reagan tapped George H.W. Bush to unify the party and address concerns that he was an extremist; Bill Clinton picked Al Gore to show he was serious about being a moderate Democrat. George W. Bush tapped Dick Cheney, and Barack Obama chose Joe Biden, to assure voters looking for the new prez to be advised by an experienced Washington hand.

Yet we're still not sure why Biden tapped Kamala Harris, except as impeachment insurance, plus the way Democrats now obsess over checking diversity boxes.

**T**rumph faces another factor. If he wins, it'll be for just four more years, so he'll want a VP who can win the 2028 race on his or her own and keep his policy legacy moving forward. That is: Don't make the same mistake as Biden.

The Donald is getting plenty of advice on this front; Charlie Gasparino notes Trump's comment at a powwow last Thursday after big donors suggested the likes of Sens. Marco Rubio, Tim Scott, J.D. Vance and Tom Cotton: "We got a lot of good people, good people, and they're stuck with Kamala Harris." Indeed.

Most crucially, the right VP choice abso-

lutely help with still-undecided voters.

A figure like Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, for one. A GOP exec in a bluish state, he's proven again and again he knows how to win against the headwinds, advancing sensible economic ideas and battling woke insanity. He's also a more traditional Republican pol: a smooth professional who might help activate moderates and donors.

**A**lso possible: Rep. Elise Stefanik, especially if he's serious about winning New York. She's proven herself to be a fierce fighter of substance, notable most recently for leading the way in exposing the grievous failings of American higher education.

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum (now a campaign adviser on energy) would be another intriguing choice: A self-made tech billionaire in a deep-red state, he's been a big fighter against Biden's demented energy policies and open-borders insanity.

And Trump's most serious primary opponent, Nikki Haley, could also be a strong pick. Trump himself admits her ability: She was his UN ambassador. Indeed, she has a demonstrated career of success at the federal and state level and supplies foreign-policy chops plus major cred with the GOP establishment.

That she (like Burgum) was recently an opponent shouldn't matter. It didn't stop Reagan, and Trump prefers diversity of thought among his top advisers — letting them debate so he sees a solid range of options.

And that she was his last primary opponent left standing makes her the most likely "party uniter" — the obvious choice if he wants to go for a "too big to rig" ticket.

Right now, Trump needs more money and a stronger appeal to independent and moderate voters. Each of these four helps on those fronts. Let him choose carefully, and wisely: America's future (and his own political hopes) depend on it.

# Joe's Dishonest 'Peace' Push

**J**oe Biden just can't stop lying when it comes to Israel, as witness his latest peace deal BS.

The president on Friday went public with what he said was an Israeli truce proffer. The three-phase plan included a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, with Hamas freeing the remaining women and children among its hostages.

Except that key element has now turned out to be false, with Israeli officials claiming they never said any such thing and PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office affirming that the "conditions for ending the war have not changed" and that Biden's deal is a "non-starter."

Hamas, of course, loved the idea, with one of the terror group's leaders calling it "positive progress." Indeed — it's "positive progress" toward a major tactical and strategic victory for the cadre of Islamist killers.

The Biden administration's purpose in floating this deal, and stupidly pretending it was Israel's idea, was clear: The prez and his handlers are clearly hoping to pressure Net-

anyahu into folding and ending the humane and justified counterattack against Hamas.

Why? Well, Biden thinks he'll reap votes from a peace deal (or at least from putting more daylight between himself and Israel). He and his team are also committed to sucking up to Iran; hurting Israel while aiding Hamas serves that goal, too — though both are disastrous for Israel and the United States.

As for Biden's claim that Hamas is no longer capable of another Oct. 7, color us skeptical: How does he (or anyone) know what the terrorists still have in their underground lairs? And even if it's true now, Israel letting up before Hamas is totally defeated would mean only a few years until it rebuilds enough to launch more such attacks (as its leadership has promised).

In other words, the move is signature Biden: as stupid as it is mendacious.

Israel needs to finish the job. And Biden & Co. need to get out of the way. This isn't a game for Dem votes or warm fuzzies with Tehran. It's literal life and death.

# Biden's Amnesty Policy: Migrants Roaming Free

**THE ISSUE:** The Biden administration's mass amnesty to more than 350,000 illegal immigrants.



President Biden

•The Democrats gave mass amnesty to more than 350,000 migrants who entered our country illegally ("Biden's insane asylum," June 3).

This action has nothing to do with humanity or compassion. Rather, it has everything to do with the Democrats' craven attempt at one-party national rule, and a progressive vision that has destroyed our country.

President Biden successfully deceived American voters nearly four years ago. In exchange, he has weakened the country and set it on a crash course to the bottom. Let's hope it isn't too late to save it.

**Michael D'Auria**  
Bronxville

•The Post's reporting should seal President Biden's fate for the November election: a free pass for 350,000 migrants, no strings attached. I can't wait until Donald Trump is back at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

**Donna Skjeveland**  
Holbrook

•With President Biden

having released over 350,000 illegal migrants into the country with no monitoring since 2022, I believe that it is time to impeach him now before he releases even more.

Better to do it now than later, when he will pardon his son Hunter over his gun charge.

I can imagine he is already trying to influence the court hearing his son's trial. **Peter Ogrinz**  
Manhattan

•President Biden gave mass amnesty to illegal

immigrants who are unlikely to be a threat, based on the condition that they don't have a criminal record or are otherwise not considered a threat to the United States.

They don't have to check in with authorities afterward because they aren't convicted felons who have to meet with their parole officer.

In that, they're unlike our now-convicted former president, who will very likely have to start doing the latter.

**Arthur Gutman**  
Great Neck

•More than 350,000 asylum-seekers are free to roam the countryside without checking in with any government agency.

The Democrats on Capitol Hill have dismantled our borders in the name of safeguarding our democracy — from those who oppose open borders and mass illegal migration.

**Salvator Giarratani**  
Boston, Mass.

# Two Queens Cops Shot

**THE ISSUE:** The shooting of two NYPD officers in Elmhurst by an illegal immigrant from Venezuela.

•Look at the guy who just shot the two cops in Queens: He is a migrant and was given free shelter and housing ("Gunner who shot 2 NYPD cops revealed to be migrant who recently crossed into US via Eagle Pass: sources," June 3).

Migrant criminals like him should not be allowed to enter our country in the first place. In fact, they should be deported the moment after they get here.

**Dick Cardozo**  
Westbury

•Mayor Adams, aided

and abetted by President Biden, brought this criminal and illegal immigrant to New York. No one is safe anymore.

**Thomas Birnbaum**  
Manhattan

•A Venezuelan migrant shot at two NYPD officers while being chased on a moped.

Crime is on the rise, which is more reason to close the US border, as many of these migrants are criminals. New York

should no longer be a sanctuary city, too, due to the financial strain.

**Joseph Comperchio**  
Brooklyn

•Democrats and leftists want to know why people want former President Donald Trump in the White House. It is because the Biden administration created this disaster, and this shooting is a result of that disaster.

**Connie Malakis**  
Bensonhurst

**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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# JOE'S RIDICULOUS DEEPFAKE DODGE

ON Thursday, a Manhattan jury convicted Donald Trump of 34 felonies after prosecutors hustled a harebrained legal theory that claimed the former president had “hoodwinked” voters in the 2016 election. On Friday, the Department of Justice told a federal judge that accurate, authentic audiotapes of President Biden’s interview with special counsel Robert Hur should not be released because someone might hoodwink voters with manipulated deepfake versions created by artificial intelligence.

But citizens were already hoodwinked when Biden proclaimed in a White House press conference that Hur’s report showed he hadn’t violated federal law. Hur recommended not filing charges against Biden because jurors would view him as simply an “elderly man with a poor memory.”

White House officials vehemently denied that conclusion. They claimed Biden had done a good job in the Hur interview — until the transcript was released, showing a president often lost in his own mental weeds.

The White House now asserts the president has “executive privilege” to refuse to release the audio file of his Hur interview, despite congressional subpoenas.

The DOJ admitted last week that redactions or other changes were made to the interview transcript it publicly released. But Team Biden claims it is entitled to boundless deference while maintaining that the administration’s modifications did not modify the truth.

Does the White House fear that hooligans will insert “pause” and “end of quote” into audio clips of the Hur interview? Too late — Biden already committed those blunders in his own speeches when he slipped into his Teleprompter Zombie mode.

Team Biden offered a damn near demented Catch-22 to justify its

**JAMES BOVARD**



claimed that Trump was guilty of taking steps with “the end of keeping information away from the electorate.” But the DOJ tacitly invoked the same pretext to pretend that modifications to Biden’s voice could mislead the public. Perhaps the White House believes it deserves a monopoly on exploiting Biden’s words to deceive Americans.

The worse that Biden mentally falters, the more rights Americans seem to lose — especially freedom of speech and press. Team Biden is effectively proclaiming a perpetual national emergency to suppress anything that would make citizens doubt the competence of the commander-in-chief. A deepfake veto on government disclosures is especially perilous when Democratic prosecu-

**↳ The worse that Biden mentally falters, the more rights Americans seem to lose. ↵**

perpetual coverups of presidential crime sprees. Releasing the Biden audio file would be “exceedingly harmful” because Biden is an “uncharged individual,” the DOJ declared, according to Politico.

And who decides whether Biden is charged? The DOJ. So as long as Biden isn’t indicted, his Justice Department can refuse to disclose evidence of his guilt.

The specter of AI-assisted deepfakes is simply the latest pretext to drop an iron communications curtain around the Biden White House — at least until Election Day, or until the swing states finish counting enough un-postmarked late ballots to assure a Biden victory.

According to Team Biden, the DOJ must be allowed to selectively censor in the name of truth. That’s in essence the same argument it secretly made to social-media companies during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the platforms were forced to suppress admittedly true postings by Americans that might spur “vaccine hesitancy.”

Does the same standard now apply for “re-election hesitancy”? Prosecutor Alvin Bragg pro-

tors are targeting Republicans like Trump for alleged falsehoods.

Americans are justifiably appalled at brazen lies from Trump and other politicians. But to permit the ruling party to selectively punish the supposed dishonesty of their political opponents while absolving their own deceits will destroy any semblance of democracy.

The Supreme Court will soon pass judgment on the Ministry of Truth the Biden administration helped erect to censor Americans’ opinions on COVID, elections, Biden’s Afghanistan withdrawal and other topics. But any ruling the court delivers may not be enough to stop the official whitewash of Joe Biden for the 2024 election.

Who knew that Biden’s presidency could be epitomized by his lawyers effectively screaming, Jack-Nicholson-style, at the American people: “You can’t handle the truth!”

Citizens should be wary of statements from any politician with or without high-tech manipulation — but the most dangerous deepfakes will likely emerge from the Oval Office.

# My Fetterman Folly

IT’S time for me to do something that pundits seldom do: Flat out admit I was wrong. This is a rarity in the commentating world. But boy, was I.

Here goes: I was wrong about Sen. John Fetterman.

Writing in The Post on Valentine’s Day in 2023, I opined that Pennsylvania’s new US Senator lacked the mental and physical abilities needed to serve. According to reports, he couldn’t understand voices, had trouble walking and generally wasn’t up to the job.

The mainstream press rallied to protect him (there was a D next to his name, after all), but even a New York Times puff piece admitted that to Fetterman, voices sounded like the adults in the “Peanuts” cartoons — indecipherable noise — and that his health problems had left him with “physical impairment and serious mental health challenges.” But that was a rare concession.

After NBC’s Dasha Burns interviewed him both live and on camera, she said Fetterman didn’t seem to be able to follow their conversation. That revelation got Burns dogpiled by leftist activists and fellow journalists (to the extent there’s a difference nowadays) amid charges of “ableism” and the like. She was denounced on the air by her own network’s Savannah Guthrie and in the pages of the Times.

From all this, I concluded that Fetterman was just going to be a party tool — shepherded around by his staff, told how to vote by handlers, an institutionally pliable vote

for the Democratic Party and the leftist activists who control it. Basically, a Senate voting machine programmed by the apparatchiks.

Again: Boy, was I wrong. Fetterman’s health has improved more and faster than expected, and in what may not be a coincidence, the more his brain damage recedes the less he agrees with leftist activists and Democratic Party functionaries.

Speaking at Yeshiva University’s commencement, Fetterman dramatically stripped off his Harvard hood and announced he was “profoundly disappointed” at his alma mater’s



**GLENN HARLAN REYNOLDS**

refusal to address the antisemitism rampant on its campus, a discontent he extended to the entire antisemitism-enabling Ivy League. Quoth Fetterman: “As an alum of Harvard — look, I graduated 25 years ago, and of course, it was always a little pinko. But now, I don’t recognize it.”

“The Jewish community everywhere deserves our support,” he added. “And I promise you will always have mine.”

That’s not all. When pro-Palestinian protesters showed up at the senator’s house (no dogpiling in his defense from leftist activists over this) and told him he had “nowhere to hide,” Fetterman defiantly got on his roof with an Israeli flag.

Nor is his off-script behavior limited to Israel. When an environ-

mental activist buttonholed him in a Senate corridor to harangue him about his support for pipeline construction, he pulled out his phone and recorded video of himself mocking her. “I’ve talked to Republicans who were more friendly than that,” the activist sniffed afterward.

Fetterman has also broken with the Biden administration’s open-borders policy, taking a strong stand against illegal immigration. He’s also disagreed with the White House on energy policy, expressing support for pipelines and liquid natural gas exports.

He’s called Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) a “sleazeball.” And he’s undercut the Democrats’ lawfare attack on Donald Trump by saying that even as a senator, “I’m not exactly sure what his trials are about.”

Overall, the progressive press complains, he’s adopted a newly caustic style that doesn’t spare the sacred cows of the left. This isn’t playing well with Democrats. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, whose verbal attacks on Republicans are famous, now calls Fetterman a “bully.”

Fetterman seems unfazed. For the moment he’s still caucusing with the Democrats in the Senate, but there’s nothing to stop him from caucusing with the GOP if Democrats irritate him enough.

With the Senate divided 51-49, that has to give Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) heartburn.

Is it just a coincidence that Fetterman’s views have shifted to the right as his brain has repaired itself? I’m going to go out on a limb and say no.

# The Post Puzzle Page

## SCRABBLE GRAMS

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E <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	W <sub>4</sub>	Triple Word Score
I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	
A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	
A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>4</sub>	3rd Letter Double

PAR SCORE 150-160  
BEST SCORE 236  
FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**TODAY'S ANSWER**

SCRABBLE: G R A M S  
SOLUTION: RACK 1 = 95, RACK 2 = 65, RACK 3 = 14, RACK 4 = 62, TOTAL 236

PAR SCORE 150-160

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

### Bridge

South dealer  
N-S vulnerable

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A 5  
 ♥ A 3 2  
 ♦ K J 10 9 4  
 ♣ 8 3 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ Q 10 6 2  
 ♥ Q 10 4  
 ♦ 8 6 5  
 ♣ A Q 7

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 8 7 4  
 ♥ 7 6  
 ♦ 7 3 2  
 ♣ J 10 9 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 9 3  
 ♥ K J 9 8 5  
 ♦ A Q  
 ♣ K 6 5

South 1♥ West 2♦ North 2♥ East 4♥ All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 2  
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Like many of us, Cy the Cynic thinks he deserves a perfect partner. "Some days," Cy told me, "I'm convinced that my partners don't have a clue. On other days, I'm convinced that it's not just some days."

Cy was today's North. When South opened and rebid in hearts, Cy raised to game -- and then had to watch his partner try to make it. West led a spade, and declarer took dummy's ace, cashed the ace of trumps and led a trump to his jack. West took the queen and led another spade, and when East won and led the jack of clubs, the result was down two.

"Thank you, partner," the Cynic growled.

"So two key honors were in the wrong place," South growled back.

There are no perfect partners, but South's play wasn't best. After South wins the first trick, he should take the A-K of trumps.

No queen falls, but South is still alive. He runs the diamonds and pitches two clubs as West ruffs. Then the defense can take one spade and one club, but South wins the rest.

### Word Force

## GYRATED

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 13** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

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

demon	meted	timed
denim	mined	tinéd
emend	nonet	toned
emote	noted	

### Wonderword

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

**INSTACART IS SO CONVENIENT** Solution: 9 letters

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

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Account, Apps, Arrive, Beverage, Business, Convenience, Dairy, Delivery, Door, Download, Favorite, Fresh, Frozen, Gift Card, Grocery, Handpicked, Household, Item, List, Local, Lunch, Market, Meat, Membership, Notify, Online, Order, Package, Personal, Price, Recipe, Rewards, Route, Same Day, Schedule, Service, Subscribe, Virtual

**Yesterday's Answer: Gravel**

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

## POST SUDOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

[www.SudokuWiki.org](http://www.SudokuWiki.org)

**PLAY MORE GAMES!**

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 36  
© Syndicated Puzzles

### Very Easy #6,569

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

### Difficult #6,359

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

### Quick Crossword

- Across**
- Pool or polo
  - Groups of troops
  - Understood, as a joke
  - Persian Gulf country that borders Armenia
  - Noggin
  - NPR host Shapiro
  - Vegetable patch pest
  - "Mm-hmm"
  - Lawyer's org.
  - Unwilling (to)
  - Band bookings
  - Native Costa Ricans, informally
  - Feline who lives indoors
  - Anthem heard in Nova Scotia
  - Olympic gymnast Biles
  - Vanity Fair publisher Condé
  - Tooth's outer layer
  - Neither's partner
  - Workplace companion
  - Cable network with many reruns
  - "Good enough"
  - Job inspection org.
  - Baltimore ballplayer
  - Walked stealthily
  - New York City rodent that went viral in 2015
  - Mixes
  - School support orgs.
  - Coral producer
  - Combat sport, briefly
  - Ad-: improvise
  - Really fun person, or an apt descriptor of 17-, 25-, 37-, and 52-Across?
  - Subj. for some new immigrants
  - Zoo section with birds
  - Actress Russo
  - /her pronouns
  - Prime-time soap opera set in Texas
  - Commotions
- Down**
- Unit of explosive force
  - Coffee bean variety
  - Seed-filled percussion pair
  - Stop
  - Domini
  - Civil rights activist Parks
  - Calendar viewing option

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15								
17			18									19
20			21					22				
23		24			25		26	27				
28				29	30			31				
32					33		34	35				
			37	38					39			
40	41	42		43					44	45	46	47
48			49				50		51			
52					53	54			55			
56					57		58	59			60	
61					62	63				64		
65					66					67		
68					69					70		

8 Washington neighbor  
 9 Former quarterback Manning  
 10 Salt, in French  
 11 Judy Garland or Cher  
 12 Herb in Italian seasoning  
 13 Bettor's adviser  
 18 Anna's sister in "Frozen"  
 22 Precious stone  
 24 Not fooled by  
 26 Applied to  
 27 Storage tower  
 29 More adroit  
 30 Deep blue dye  
 34 Oft-torn knee pt.  
 35 Rx items  
 38 Seoul-based athleisure brand  
 39 Billy

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**  
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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Choppy marts

The S&P 500 edged higher and the Nasdaq snapped a three-session losing streak in a choppy session on Monday amid soft manufacturing-sector data. The Dow fell more than 100 points, or 0.3%.

### Richer CEOs

The median pay package for CEOs rose to \$16.3 million last year, up 12.6%, an AP analysis found. Meanwhile, wages and benefits netted by private-sector workers rose 4.1% through 2023.

### FTC booze suit

The Federal Trade Commission is preparing to file a lawsuit against Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits, the largest US alcohol distributor, over its pricing practices, Politico reported.

### IKEA price cuts

IKEA became the latest retailer vowing to make its products more affordable. IKEA needs to be "responsive and agile," said Lars-Johan Jarnheimer, chairman of parent Ingka Holding.

### Soda claims

Popular soda brand Poppi is facing a class-action lawsuit filed by a consumer who says its products don't improve gut health as much as their marketing suggests. Poppi said the lawsuit is baseless.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

# 'CAT'S' ALL, FOLKS

## E\*Trade may bar 'Roaring Kitty' stock trader

By ARIEL ZILBER

E\*Trade is considering a ban on "Roaring Kitty" after the famed meme stock trader once again sent GameStop shares surging dramatically on Monday, according to a report.

Shortly before he sparked a renewed trading frenzy in GameStop shares last month, "Roaring Kitty," whose legal name is Keith Gill, bought a "large volume" of GameStop options on E\*Trade, The Wall Street Journal reported Monday, citing unnamed sources.

This past weekend, Gill posted a screenshot of his account showing that he owns \$116 million worth of GameStop stock as well as a new trove of options that expire later this month. His total gains on the position stood at \$6.86 million, according to the screen shot.

Gill, who is known on Reddit as "DeepF--kingValue" and who goes by "Roaring Kitty" on X and YouTube, sent GameStop shares soaring 75% in early trading Monday with his latest post. But the shares lost more than half of their gains, closing 21% higher at \$28.

### Broke his silence

The wild moves have sparked market manipulation concerns at E\*Trade, according to the Journal, with executives at the Morgan Stanley-owned day-trading platform concerned at the outsized power Gill can wield over markets for his own benefit, according to the report.

Nevertheless, company executives are caught in a "debate" about whether to clamp down on Gill — and "whether or not the firm is willing to risk drawing the attention of his meme army by removing

### Game on

Keith Gill, known online as "Roaring Kitty," sent GameStop shares surging — again. He posted a screenshot showing \$116 million worth of stock in the firm, along with new options. He reportedly bought a "large volume" on the Morgan Stanley subsidiary.



him," the paper reported, citing unnamed sources.

On Sunday, Gill took to Reddit and authored a post from his official account for the first time in three years.

The Reddit post was a repeat from 2021, when screenshots of his bullish GameStop trades triggered a rush of demand for "meme stocks" — often companies with weak fundamentals that gained a cult-like following through social media hype.

Unlike in 2021, however, Gill declined to post the item in the "Wall-StreetBets" chatroom where he posted his trade updates during the

GameStop craze.

The screenshot posted Sunday showed a GameStop holding of 5 million, or 1.8% of its publicly available stock.

### Sparking speculation

Gill's last post from April 2021, titled "final update," showed a holding of 200,000 GameStop shares worth \$30.9 million.

It also showed \$65.7 million worth of GameStop call options, typically bought to express a bullish view, expiring June 21 at a strike price of \$20.

It's unclear if Gill is behind the latest post. There has been specula-

tion online that he sold his X account to a conceptual artist.

Gill's popular YouTube channel, which boasts more than 676,000 subscribers, has been dormant for the past three years. Last month, Gill posted a popular meme that shows a man leaning forward in his chair while holding a video game controller.

The meme, which was viewed tens of millions of times and generated hundreds of thousands of likes, sparked speculation that Gill, whose story was depicted in the 2022 film, "Dumb Money," was returning to the public eye.

With Wires

# NYSE glitching hour wreaks havoc

A technical glitch at the New York Stock Exchange caused an errant reading of share prices for roughly 40 companies, including Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway.

Trading of shares of Buffett's firm was halted 20

minutes after the stock market opened after the stock exchange's display showed that it was down by 99%.

Another company, Barrick Gold, was shown to be down by more than 98% before trading of the Canadian miner was halted.

Other shares halted due to volatility included Chipotle and Nuscale Power.

The issue was resolved and trading resumed at 11:22 a.m. EDT, according to the NYSE.

The glitch did not appear to affect the wider market,

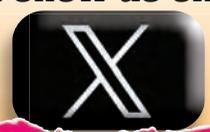
and the stock exchange said there was an issue with Limit Up-Limit Down price bands that could be related to a new software release.

The mechanism is meant to guard against extraordinary market volatility by preventing trading from oc-

curring outside of specific price bands that are continuously updated throughout the trading day.

The NYSE also said it would cancel all erroneous trades in Berkshire and other stocks that were impacted. Ariel Zilber

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# Crypto bull settles for \$40M

Billionaire bitcoin bull and MicroStrategy co-founder Michael Saylor will pay \$40 million to settle a lawsuit alleging he committed massive tax fraud by lying to authorities for years about where he lived, the Washington, DC, district attorney's office said Monday.

DC prosecutors have alleged MicroStrategy had helped Saylor (right) to evade more than \$25 million in local income taxes from 2005 to 2022 through falsified

records and statements.

The tech executive allegedly claimed to live in Florida or Virginia despite residing in a luxury waterfront penthouse in the capital's tony Georgetown neighborhood.

Prosecutors alleged that he was also "docking multiple yachts on the District's Potomac riverfront."

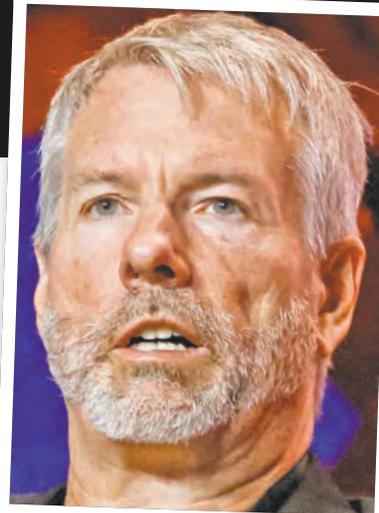
Neither Saylor nor MicroStrategy admitted to any wrongdoing or violations of the law in the settlement, the company said in a filing.

MicroStrategy shares jumped nearly 7% to \$1,627 per share on Monday.

Saylor, who stepped down as MicroStrategy's CEO in 2022, "will pay this settlement amount to the district in full and the company will not be obligated to make any contribution to the settlement payment."

Saylor is worth an estimated \$4.8 billion, according to Forbes.

Thomas Barrabi



# Ex-MSG big gains an Edge

Private equity giant KKR is bringing in James Dolan's former right-hand man to attract more visitors to Hudson Yards' Edge observation deck.

KKR said Monday it is hiring former MSG Sports CEO and President Andrew Lustgarten as executive chair of Hudson Yards Experiences.

The Edge, which extends 80 feet out from the 100th floor of 30 Hudson Yards, opened March 11, 2020, and has been a disappointment despite its amazing views, sources in the New York tourism industry said.

KKR owns a majority of the Hudson Yards Experiences that includes the deck, CityClimb (where visitors are secured by a harness and escorted by guides to scale the outside of the building), and the Peak 101st floor restaurant and event space overlooking the Edge.

Related also owns a Hudson Yards Experiences stake.

"We are going to be looking at this differently," Lustgarten told The Post. "There will be much more programming."

That includes a July 4 fireworks event being staged from the Hudson — and not the East River — for the first time in years.

Lustgarten ran the business side of the Knicks and Rangers since MSG in April 2020 split its ownership in arenas and the cable television network from the sports teams until resigning at the end of 2022.

Josh Kosman

# Fired up newsroom

## WaPo staff & boss go at it after top editor exit

By ALEXANDRA STEIGRAD

Washington Post staffers grilled the newspaper's new CEO and publisher Will Lewis during a tense all-hands meeting Monday, less than 24 hours after Executive Editor Sally Buzbee stepped down.

Buzbee, the first woman to hold that position in the paper's 144-year history, exited after a three-year tenure that was marred by deteriorating finances and readership, with last year recording more than \$70 million in losses and audience declines of 50% since 2020.

Lewis, a British-born media exec who joined the paper in November, had clashed with Buzbee in recent months over his aggressive plan to carve up the newsroom and Buzbee's oversight, according to reports.

Lewis highlighted the flagging readership and financials as central to the

### Pressing issues

**Washington Post publisher Will Lewis (inset) was confronted by newsroom staffers Monday over Sunday's abrupt resignation by Executive Editor Sally Buzbee, allegedly over Lewis' planned changes.**



AFP/Getty Images; The Washington Post; AP

changes, telling staffers, "You're going to thank me when you see what it's like to produce world-class journalism," according to a source who paraphrased his comments.

"The tone was blaming

the newsroom for the losses, like that was why there has to be a new team," the source griped.

By the end of the meeting, a source said Lewis' overall message was for staffers to just "get with the

program" without spelling out the potential consequence for not doing so.

At the meeting, Lewis introduced Buzbee's temporary replacement, Matt Murray, 58, a former editor in chief of The Wall

Street Journal. Lewis, who had worked with Murray at the Journal, said he will helm the newsroom through the election and then run a new division focused on service and social media journalism.

Robert Winnett, another friend of Lewis and fellow Brit who ran The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph, will take over after that.

A newsroom source said the hour-long meeting, which included a Q&A portion, ruffled feathers with journalists who wondered why Lewis had not formally initiated a search process for Buzbee's job, implying that he instead just hired friends and former colleagues.

"There was a question about the search process for Matt and there was just no answer," a source told The Post. A rep for The Washington Post declined to comment.

# Airlines pay COVID fines AA ruling 'up in the air'

The Transportation Department said Monday it has imposed \$2.5 million in civil penalties in total against Lufthansa, Air France unit KLM Royal Dutch Airways and South African Airways.

The civil penalties, the department said, are for significant delays in providing more than \$900 million in refunds owed to passengers due to flights disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and after thousands

of airline customers were forced to wait months. Of the \$1.1 million penalties imposed on KLM and Lufthansa, each carrier was credited \$550,000 for refunds for non-refundable tickets on US flights.

In 2022, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said the government had completed 10 airline investigations into delayed pandemic passenger refunds and that 10 more were pending.

Reuters

American Airlines told an appeals court Monday it would consider a new arrangement with JetBlue Airways if it wins a ruling reversing a May 2023 decision requiring it to end an alliance.

US District Judge Leo Sorokin ruled the "Northeast Alliance" that allowed the two carriers to coordinate flights and pool revenue violated antitrust law.

American Airlines said in legal

briefs Sorokin's ruling invalidating their partnership must be overturned because it threatens a wide range of other collaborations between competitors.

Meanwhile, JetBlue forecast a smaller drop in second-quarter revenue than it had previously forecast due to healthy travel demand.

JetBlue now expects its second-quarter revenue to fall between 6.5% and 9.5%.

Reuters

# Nissan faces airbag probe

Auto-safety regulators said Monday they opened an investigation into nearly 75,000 Nissan vehicles — targeting the 2015 model year Rogue Select — over reports of unintended deployments of side airbags in the SUVs.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration probe was launched in response to reports of inadvertent deployments after the vehicle door is shut or slammed.

The agency said such deployments could cause vehicle occupants to be injured or result in the loss of airbag protection.

Reuters



## ELON MUSK

Requiring "NSFW" labels.

# 'X'-rated content allowed

X says it will formally allow people to show consensual adult content, as long as it is clearly labeled as such. The move makes official a policy already in place before Elon Musk bought the social media site, then Twitter, in 2022.

In a recent update on its website, the company said users "should be able to create, distribute, and consume material related to sexual themes as long as it is consensually produced and distributed. Sexual expression, whether visual or written, can be a legitimate form of artistic expression."

Adult material was allowed under the pre-Musk Twitter as well, although there was no official policy in place. X said it is restricting adult content for children and for adult users who choose not to see it.

X's policy stands in contrast to other platforms, like Meta's Instagram and Facebook, as well as TikTok and Google's YouTube. AP

## Pershing Sq. sells off 10%

Pershing Square Capital Management on Monday said it has sold off a 10% stake in itself to a consortium of investors for \$1.05 billion, following reports its founder, Bill Ackman, is preparing to float the hedge fund on public markets as soon as next year.

Pershing Square was started by Ackman in 2004 and currently has around \$16.3 billion in assets under management.

The deal values Pershing Square as a whole at \$10.5 billion. Dow Jones

# MISSION POSSIBLE

By ARIEL ZILBER

Paramount Global and Skydance agreed on the terms of a merger that's valued at \$8 billion, according to a report.

Skydance, the media company founded by David Ellison, agreed under the proposed deal with a Paramount special committee to pay \$2 billion for Paramount's parent company, National Amusements, which is controlled by majority stakeholder Shari Redstone, according to CNBC.

As part of the deal, Skydance will buy out nearly half of Paramount's class B shares for \$4.5 billion — \$15 apiece — giving shareholders a stake in the newly formed company, CNBC reported.

Skydance, which has the backing of private equity firms RedBird Capital and KKR, will also pay down Paramount's debt by adding \$1.5 billion in cash to the studio's balance sheet, according to CNBC.

Redstone, whose company owns 77% of class A Paramount shares, must sign off on the deal, which will not require a vote from the shareholders — a condition that was part of the negotiations, CNBC reported.

## Increased value

Paramount's annual shareholder meeting will take place on Tuesday. No deal is expected to be announced before the meeting takes place, sources familiar with the matter said.

National Amusements recused itself from the board talks. "We received the financial terms of the proposed Paramount/Skydance transaction over the weekend and we are reviewing them," an NAI spokesperson said.

Skydance and Redbird will own two-thirds of Paramount while the remaining third will be controlled by class B shareholders.

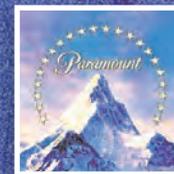
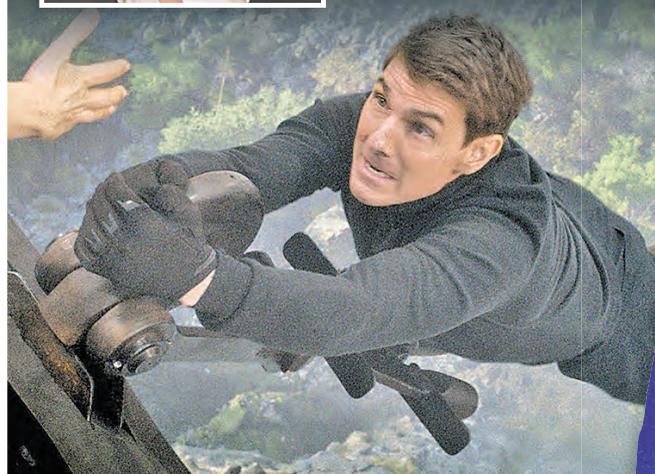
Paramount shares closed at \$12.80 — up 7.5% — on Monday.

In total, the deal is valued at \$8 billion — up from about \$5 billion under earlier terms discussed be-

## No Red-stone unturned



Skydance, founded by David Ellison (left), reportedly will pay \$2B for Paramount parent company, National Amusements, controlled by Shari Redstone (right), as part of an \$8B merger. They've partnered on films including 2023's "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One," starring Tom Cruise.



Getty/Paramount

## P'mount, Skydance in \$8B merger deal

tween Paramount and Skydance.

Previously, Redstone would have received less than \$2 billion for her stake, and the class B shareholders would have been bought out at \$11 a share, CNBC previously reported.

The proposed merger would combine the home of Paramount Pictures film studio, the CBS broadcast network and cable networks such as MTV and Nickelo-

deon with the independent studio that partnered with Paramount on several major film releases, including "Top Gun: Maverick," "Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One" and "Star Trek Into Darkness."

In early May, Apollo and Sony expressed interest in acquiring Paramount for about \$26 billion and breaking up the company, CNBC previously reported.

But Apollo and Sony reportedly have since backed off as Redstone favored a deal that would keep Paramount intact.

## C-Suite shakeup

As negotiations have continued, Paramount's C-suite also has been shuffled in recent months. Bob Bakish stepped down as CEO in April. He was replaced by a trio of executives — CBS president and CEO George Cheeks; Chris McCarthy, president and CEO of Showtime/MTV Entertainment Studiowass and Paramount Media Networks; and Brian Robbins, the head of Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon — dubbed the "Office of the CEO."

# MS cloud jobs cut Spotify hikes US prices

Microsoft is cutting hundreds of jobs at its Azure cloud unit, Business Insider reported Monday, adding to the rash of layoffs seen in the technology and media industry this year.

The layoffs will impact teams including Azure for Operators and Mission Engineering, according to the report. The Azure for Opera-

tors layoffs involved as many as 1,500 job cuts, it added.

The cuts come after the company shed 1,900 jobs at Activision Blizzard and Xbox in January. Tech firms including Amazon and Salesforce also laid off several hundred employees in 2024.

Separately, Microsoft is restructuring in its mixed-reality organization. Reuters

Spotify raised prices for its premium plans in the US on Monday, the latest push by the Swedish music-streaming service to increase margins.

Spotify hiked fees for its individual plan to \$11.99 from \$10.99 per month, duo plan to \$16.99 from \$14.99 and family plan to \$19.99 from \$16.99 in its largest market by revenue.

Spotify has been trying to boost its margins in recent months by lowering marketing spending and through layoffs, after relying on promotions and hefty investments to drive user growth.

Shares of the company, which competes with services from Apple and Amazon, rose more than 5%. Reuters

Spotify's revenue in the US grew nearly 11% to \$5.69 billion in 2023.

Analysts expect the streaming giant could drive further growth by offering tailored subscription plans based on consumer preferences in verticals such as music, audiobooks and podcasts. Reuters

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Crown Castle is proposing to replace an existing wireless telecommunications utility structure with a new 34-foot overall height utility structure located in the public right of way at the intersection of Park Avenue and East 101st Street, New York, New York County, New York 10029 (40 47 23N / 73 57 0W). 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 #014014-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 617.909.9035.

Crown Castle is proposing to install a 34-foot telecommunications utility structure located within the public right of way located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Rev. James A Polite Ave and E 165th St, The Bronx, Bronx County, New York 10459 (40 49 25.7N / 73 53 55.6W). 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 #014390-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 407.792.9506.

Crown Castle is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility, consisting of the installation of antennas at a top height of 38ft on an existing 34ft telecommunications utility pole, located within the public right of way at the following site: Victory Boulevard & Clove Road, Staten Island, Richmond County, NY 10301 (40 36 59.95N / 74 6 14.01W). 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 #015166-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 978.877.3493.

**NOTICES**

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**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 02/12/2024. Office location: Putnam . 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 No Stupid Questions Band. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/22/2024. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brian Cropp: 87 Attorney Street. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Sophie Amelkin Music LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/14/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Sophie Amelkin: 110-20 71st Avenue, Apt 204 Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of 1222 Webster, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/22/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Rajaram Arjune: 905 212th Place, Queens Village, NY 11427. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of DASHA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/28/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Darya Garamova: 7203 Harrow Street, Door #B, Forest Hills, NY, 11375-5959. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Apple Pine Properties LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/09/2024. Office location: Kings. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Allison Cummings: 2116 Avenue P. Brooklyn NY 11229. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Hate Speech Publishing LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/19/2024. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Registered Agents Inc.: 418 Broadway STE R, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of 1125 REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/29/2022. Office location: NEW YORK. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to BLANCA GONZALEZ: 533 9TH AVE NEW YORK, NY 10018. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of 93 FLOORING LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/28/2024. Office location: Orleans County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to James Wood: 16588 Ridge Road, Holley NY 14470. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of SWV Holdings LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/22/2023. Office location: Orleans County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Shawn Vick: P.O. Box 751 Alexandria Bay, NY 13607, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of FireArms Are Always The Answer, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/19/2024. Office location: New York. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Registered Agents Inc.: 418 Broadway STE R, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

NOTICE OF FORMATION: BOGDAN DENTAL PLLC filed Articles of Organization with the NYS DOS on November 30, 2022. The DOS is designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. The office of the PLLC and address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process shall be 2000 N Village Ave., STE. 206, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 Nassau County. The purpose of the PLLC is to engage in the Profession of Dentistry.

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#### PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF COOPERATIVE APARTMENT SECURITY

BY VIRTUE OF DEFAULT in a security agreement executed on May 17, 2004 by Mark Grabanski, 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 250 shares of common stock in 67-69 Street Nicolas Avenue Housing Development and all rights title and interest in and to a proprietary lease between corporation and debtor for UNIT 14 in a building known as and by the street address, 67-69 Saint Nicholas Avenue, Unit 14, New York, NY 10026 together with fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with UNIT 14 on June 26, 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 \$120,667.20 plus interest from July 01, 2020 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.

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Crown Castle is proposing to install a 34-foot telecommunications utility structure located within the public right of way located within the median of Edward L Grant Hwy, approx. 40 ft southeast of the intersection of Plimpton Ave and Edward L Grant Hwy, Bronx, Bronx County, New York 10452 (40.50 33.3 N / 73 55 21.9W). 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 #014480-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 407.792.9506.

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

##### ORDER OF NOTICE

JD-JM-61 Rev. 10-22 C.G.S. 45a-716(c), 46b-129(a), 52-52; P.A. 11-51 19; P.B. 11-6, 11-7, 33a-5

**Notice to: Keith Ritchie, father of minor male child born on 11/01/2023 to Stephanie Rudler, mother**

##### Of parts unknown

#### A petition has been filed seeking:

Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private or public agency or a suitable and worthy person.

The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on **06/18/2024 at 12:30 p.m. at 60 Housatonic Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 6604.**

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in **NY Post** a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of **New York**.

**Judge: Hon. Stephanie McLaughlin**  
**Clerk: Diana Arpie**  
**Date signed: 05/29/2024.**

**RIGHT TO COUNSEL:** Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure that an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.

Notice is hereby given that an OP RESTAURANT license, serial number NA-0240-23-221055 has been applied for by 400 NELLY RESTAURANT CORP., to sell at retail, Beer/Wine/Cider in a Restaurant, under the Alcoholic Beverage Control law at 400 Main St Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 For on premises consumption.

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**NEW YORK POST**

## Tennis

### French Open

**At Stade Roland Garros; Paris; Purse: Euro19,280,000; Surface: Red clay; Monday (seedings in parentheses): Men's Singles - Fourth Round**  
Alex de Minaur (11), Australia, def. Daniil Medvedev (5), Russia, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3.  
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Francisco Cerundolo (23), Argentina, 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.  
Casper Ruud (7), Norway, def. Taylor Fritz (12), U.S., 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.  
**Women's Singles - Fourth Round**  
Jasna Rybakina (4), Kazakhstan, def. Elina Svitolina (15), Ukraine, 6-4, 6-3.  
Elena Pasolini (12), Italy, def. Elina Avanesyan, Russia, 4-6, 6-0, 6-1.  
Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, def. Emma Navarro (22), U.S., 6-2, 6-3.  
Mirra Andreeva, Russia, def. Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 7-5, 6-6, 2.

## NBA Playoffs

### Finals

#### Best-of-7; x-if necessary

##### Boston vs. Dallas

Thu.: at Boston, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun., June 9: at Boston, 8 p.m.  
Wed, June 12: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Fri., June 14: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
x-Mon., June 17: at Boston, 8:30 p.m.  
x-Thu., June 20: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
x-Sun., June 23: at Boston, 8 p.m.

## NHL Playoffs

### Stanley Cup Final

#### Best-of-7; x-if necessary

##### Florida vs. Edmonton

Sat.: at Florida, 8 p.m.  
Mon., June 10: at Florida, 8 p.m.  
Thu., June 13: at Edmonton, 8 p.m.  
Sat., June 15: at Edmonton, 8 p.m.  
x-Tue., June 18: at Florida, 8 p.m.  
x-Fri., June 21: at Edmonton, 8 p.m.  
x-Mon., June 24: at Florida, 8 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	13
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, June 7

Houston at Louisville, 8pm

Orlando at San Diego, 10pm

#### Saturday, June 8

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

#### Sunday, June 9

Seattle at Kansas City, 6pm

#### Friday, June 14

Chicago at Kansas City, 8pm

## PGA Tour Schedule

March 21-24 — Valspar Championship (Peter Malnati)  
March 28-31 — Texas Children's Houston Open (Stephan Jaeger)

April 4-7 — Valero Texas Open (Akshay Bhatia)

April 11-14 — Masters Tournament (Scottie Scheffler)

April 18-21 — Corales Puntacana Championship (Billy Horschel)

April 18-22 — RBC Heritage (Scottie Scheffler)

April 25-28 — Zurich Classic of New Orleans (Tied)

May 2-5 — THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson (Taylor Pendrith)

May 9-12 — Myrtle Beach Classic (Chris Gotterup)

May 9-12 — Wells Fargo Championship (Rory McIlroy)

May 16-19 — PGA Championship (Xander Schauffele)

May 23-26 — Charles Schwab Challenge (Davis Riley)

May 30-June 2 — RBC Canadian Open (Robert Macintyre)

June 6-9 — the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, Dublin, Ohio

June 13-16 — U.S. Open, Pinehurst, N.C.

June 20-23 — Travelers Championship, Cromwell, Conn.

June 27-30 — Rocket Mortgage Classic, Detroit

July 4-7 — John Deere Classic, Silvis, Ill.

July 11-14 — Genesis Scottish Open, Gullane, United Kingdom

July 11-14 — Kentucky Championship, Nicholasville, Ky.

July 18-21 — Barracuda Championship, Truckee, Calif.

July 18-21 — The Open Championship, Troon, United Kingdom

## Yonkers Raceway entries

## Post time: 7 p.m.

### FIRST: 1 Mile \$14,000 CHGNW1PM; PACE

- Royal Desire (GBrennan) 10-3-2 6-5
- Stonebridge Patrol (JBartlett) 3-6-4 5-1
- Hurricane Miki (PLachance) 3-6-2 9-2
- Pinebushdragonlife (DDube) 6-5-1 20-1
- Chip In Blue (JStratton) 4-1-7 15-1
- Dealers Turn (BHolland) 3-3-3 5-1
- JB Lovin (SZeron) 5-6-2 8-1

### SECOND: 1 Mile \$30,000 HGW65/135; PACE

- Micky Gee N (SZeron) 5-2-1 5-2
- Caviart Sargent (BHolland) 7-6-5 20-1
- Quality Bud (DDube) 4-5-4 20-1
- RockDiamondsN (JBongiorn) 1-3-4 5-2
- Train Station (JBartlett) 1-2-6 3-1
- Pointomygranson (GBrenn) 2-1-1 2-1

### THIRD: 1 Mile \$15,000 FM2000CLM; PACE

- Unity (TButer) 6-2-4 7-2
- Princess Arona (BHolland) 2-2-5 7-2
- Teracita (GBrennan) 6-6-2 2-1
- AcefourtyforAlex (MMcDnd) 7-8-7 20-1
- Pink Ruby (JStratton) 2-3-8 9-2
- Sweet All Lou (JBartlett) 8-6-2 15-1
- Roll With Shorty (JMarohn) 3-1-2 12-1
- TuapekaJessieN (ASiegelmn) 4-7-5 20-1

### FOURTH: 1 Mile \$18,000 HGW2BNM5; PACE

- Renaissance Deo (JBartlett) 7-2-1 8-5
- Fantome En Joie (PLachance) 6-6-2 8-1
- Ain't Nostopn Time (SZeron) 9-3-5 3-1
- Midnight Nation (JStratton) 4-3-4 4-1
- Silken Sweet (DDube) 8-4-4 20-1
- Hez Allthe RageN (GBrennan) 5-1-7 9-2
- KidFromTheBrnx (MMcDnd) 3-5-5 20-1

### FIFTH: 1 Mile \$15,000 FM2000CLM; PACE

- BrookdaleJessie (ASiegelmn) 5-3-3 6-1
- Aintnohollabckgrl (MMcDnd) 3-7-6 10-1
- Tyra Makes Bank (JBartlett) 4-5-4 5-2
- EvasSportsCzech (JBongiorn) 6-8-1 4-1
- Java (GBrennan) 3-4-6 8-1
- Pleasure Seeker (JMarohn) 2-1-4 3-1
- Always B Mimi (BHolland) 7-4-3 8-1
- Rockford Peach (JStratton) 6-7-4 20-1

### SIXTH: 1 Mile \$22,000 FM5000CLM; PACE

- HeavensShowgrlA (GBrenn) 2-7-11 4-1
- Paradise Rock L (BHolland) 3-3-1 6-1
- Always Be City (JStratton) 7-3-2 20-1
- Idealinfun (JBartlett) 1-2-5 9-5
- Nuttinbuthebest (TButer) 6-2-2 4-1
- Big Big Plans (MMacDonald) 5-1-4 20-1
- My Red Sea (JBongiorn) 2-6-2 4-1
- La Bella Vita N (DDube) 6-1-4 20-1

## Yonkers Results

### FIRST: mile pace; 3-6yo50/75; purse \$23,000

**TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:04 TIME-26.1; 55.0; 1:22.0; 1:49.4**  
1 PundFPund(GBrenn) 3.00 2.10 2.10  
1 MyUltimateByronA(JBrtlett) 2.60 2.10  
4 Big Dream Fella (J Stratton) 2.10  
● Exacta (6/1) \$2.95 ● Triple (6/1/4) \$5.30 ● \$1.10 Superfecta ()  
Scr: Gds Thunder Gb.

### SECOND: mile pace; 3-5 yo opn; purse \$35,000

**TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:25 TIME-27.3; 57.0; 1:24.4; 1:52.1**  
1 Duval Street (A Siegelman) 30.00 11.60  
4 Dunkin' (J Marohn) 4.20  
2 Its A Me (Mario (J Bartlett) 4.20  
● Exacta (1/4) \$44.25 ● Triple (1/4/2) \$81.75 ● Daily double (6/1) \$19.40

### THIRD: mile pace; invitation; purse \$39,000

**TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:47 TIME-26.3; 55.1; 1:22.3; 1:50.2**  
6 EnergctHnovr(JBrtlt) 4.40 2.60 2.20  
3 Big Gulp (S Zeron) 3.50 2.60  
1 Nandolo N (L Tritton) 3.40  
● Exacta (6/3) \$7.10 ● Triple (6/3/1) \$34.50 ● \$1.10 Superfecta (6/3/1/5) \$7.45

### FOURTH: mile pace; 3-5yo 30c; purse \$18,000

**TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 8:10 TIME-27.0; 56.3; 1:25.0; 1:54.1**  
4 HumnCocktl(MKkley) 7.00 2.40 2.10  
1 Laz (B Holland) 2.10 2.10  
3 Century Iglesias (J Stratton) 5.10  
● Exacta (4/1) \$7.20 ● Triple (4/1/3) \$37.75 ● \$1.10 Superfecta (4/1/3/7) \$13.50 ● \$1 Pick 3 (1/6/4) \$172.00 ● \$1 Pick 4 (3/6/1/6/4) \$332.00

### FIFTH: mile pace; nw15000IS; purse \$21,000

**TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 8:34 TIME-26.4; 56.0; 1:23.3; 1:51.3**  
4 CadillacBym(PLchnce) 6.90 3.40 3.30  
8 AnothrmstrpncN(JBrtlett) 3.50 4.00  
6 Air Force Hanover (GBrennan) 10.20  
● Exacta (4/8) \$12.30 ● Triple (4/8/6) \$140.75 ● \$1.10 Superfecta (4/8/6/5) \$56.65 ● \$1 Pick 3 (6/4/4) \$38.25

### SEVENTH: 1 Mile \$15,000 FM2000CLM; PACE

- CaviartSabrina(ASiegelman) 8-8-7 20-1
- Dandy's Showtime (JBartlett) 1-4-8 2-1
- Just Rosas Luck (BHolland) 1-5-4 9-5
- Duck Into TheNite(JStratton) 3-4-1 12-1
- Sunset Soph (DDube) 4-4-4 12-1
- Bluebird Graf (MMacDonald) 4-1-5 20-1
- BettorshighlightN (GBrenn) 4-1-4 12-1
- SheikhYabootyN (JBongiorn) 1-6-7 4-1

### EIGHTH: 1 Mile \$18,000 HGW2BNM5; PACE

- Lovers Trouble (JBongiorn) 3-1-4 4-1
- Caviart Justice (JStratton) 8-8-5 20-1
- Sinbad N (MMacDonald) 6-2-1 9-2
- Bonaparte (SZeron) 6-2-6 7-2
- Endofstory (TButer) 4-1-1 5-2
- Mikiteen (JBartlett) 2-1-5 6-1
- Rayray (GBrennan) 2-5-3 20-1
- Midnight Thunder(BHolland) 1-8-1 12-1

### NINTH: 1 Mile \$16,000 HGNW2PM; PACE

- Alritealritealrite (SZeron) 8-5-3 2-1
- Levi Sonic (GBrennan) 3-7-4 6-1
- MoneyExchange (JBongiorn) 2-7-8 5-1
- Surfrider (JBartlett) 10-1-4 20-1
- lccaco Hanover (BHolland) 9-6-1 15-1
- Firearm (ASiegelman) 3-3-5 8-1
- Chrchviewcamlot Ir (TButer) 1-1-X 6-1
- Mr Three O Five (JStratton) 3-2-4 5-2

### TENTH: 1 Mile \$21,000 NW15071LS; PACE

- Walkinshaw N (TButer) 7-6-7 5-1
- Sling Shock (JStratton) 5-4-3 10-1
- Komodo Beach (JBartlett) 3-3-8 5-2
- Semi Tough (GBrennan) 4-1-2 9-5
- Cyrus N (BHolland) 2-3-1 6-1
- Greg The Leg (SZeron) 5-3-3 5-1

### ELEVENTH: 1 Mile \$18,000 NW10471LS; PACE

- Fortify (GBrennan) 4-1-5 9-5
- The Real One (PLachance) 2-6-6 6-1
- Alex Tye (BHolland) 4-8-5 8-1
- Shazam Blue Chip (JBartlett) 2-7-5 5-1
- Shakespear (SZeron) 1-3-8 9-2
- Strengthfromabove (JBngrn) 3-2-7 6-1
- VenierHanover(ASiegelman) 3-5-7 20-1
- Hunting Zone (JStratton) 3-7-7 12-1

### TWELFTH: 1 Mile \$24,000 NW2181LS; PACE

- Real Willey (GBrenn) 4-1-2 6-1
- Lou's Sweetrevenge(TButer) 5-4-1 4-1
- Adam Crocker A (GBrennan) 6-2-6 8-1
- NauticalHanover (PLachnce) 3-4-3 8-1
- Just Bet It All (JBartlett) 5-2-1 3-1
- Ultimaroca (JStratton) 1-1-3 5-1
- Deetzy (BHolland) 2-2-2 15-1
- VenturesomeArdenN (JMrhn) 2-1-7 5-1

### SIXTH: mile pace; nw5,000IS; purse \$13,000

**TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 8:55 TIME-27.1; 56.2; 1:24.3; 1:53.2**  
2 Fulsome (JBongiorn) 6.90 2.80 2.10  
3 Hazeville (B Holland) 2.10 2.10  
4 Kimble A (M Kakaley) 2.10  
● Exacta (2/3) \$6.80 ● Triple (2/3/4) \$10.20 ● \$1.10 Superfecta (2/3/4/8) \$4.67 ● \$1 Pick 3 (4/4/2) \$55.50  
Scr: Karloo Bradley N.

### SEVENTH: mile pace; nw20000IS; purse \$24,000

**TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:18 TIME-27.2; 56.4; 1:25.0; 1:52.3**  
2 FunthbchN(Jstrtrn) 4.00 2.40 2.10  
6 CaptvateHanover(MKkley) 3.80 3.00  
1 Rolling With Sam (P Lachance) 6.10  
● Exacta (2/6) \$7.10 ● Triple (2/6/1) \$43.00 ● \$1.10 Superfecta (2/6/1/7) \$19.32  
Scr: Windsun Ricky.

### EIGHTH: mile pace; 30000clm; purse \$18,000

**TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:40 TIME-27.1; 56.1; 1:24.3; 1:53.1**  
2 MajorDesre(JBartlett) 6.70 3.10 2.50  
5 OzoneBlueChp(PLachance) 4.50 3.40  
4 Dance On The Beach(JBongiorn) 2.50  
● Exacta (2/5) \$23.90 ● Triple (2/5/4) \$67.75 ● \$1.10 Superfecta (2/5/4/8) \$80.75

### NINTH: mile pace; nw10000IS; purse \$18,000

# AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
<b>Yankees</b>	42	19	.689	—	—	8-2	W-5	18-8	24-11
Baltimore	38	20	.655	2½	—	+5½	8-2	W-1	21-12
Boston	30	30	.500	11½	3½	4-6	L-1	13-17	17-13
Tampa Bay	29	31	.483	12½	4½	4-6	W-1	17-18	12-13
Toronto	28	31	.475	13	5	5-5	L-1	14-14	14-17

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	39	20	.661	—	—	7-3	L-1	20-7	19-13
Kansas City	36	25	.590	4	+2	4-6	W-1	22-10	14-15
Minnesota	33	26	.559	6	—	7-3	W-1	16-13	17-13
Detroit	30	30	.500	9½	3½	7-3	W-2	14-15	16-15
Chicago	15	45	.250	24½	18½	0-10	L-11	10-21	5-24

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	34	27	.557	—	—	7-3	W-3	21-11	13-16
Texas	29	31	.483	4½	4½	5-5	L-1	14-14	15-17
Houston	27	34	.443	7	7	4-6	W-1	16-17	11-17
Oakland	24	37	.393	10	10	4-6	L-1	13-16	11-21
Los Angeles	22	38	.367	11½	11½	2-8	W-1	8-21	14-17

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Monday

Baltimore 7, Toronto 2  
 Detroit 2, Texas 1  
 Houston 7, St. Louis 4  
 L.A. Angels 2, San Diego 1

## Tuesday

Minnesota at **Yankees**, 7:05  
 Kansas City at Cleveland, 6:40  
 Tampa Bay at Miami, 6:40  
 Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07  
 Atlanta at Boston, 7:10  
 White Sox at Cubs, 8:05  
 Detroit at Texas, 8:05

St. Louis at Houston, 8:10  
 San Diego at L.A. Angels, 9:38  
 Seattle at Oakland, 9:40

## Wednesday

Minnesota at **Yankees**, 7:05  
 Atlanta at Boston, 1:35  
 St. Louis at Houston, 2:10  
 Kansas City at Cleveland, 6:40  
 Tampa Bay at Miami, 6:40  
 Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07  
 White Sox at Cubs, 8:05  
 Detroit at Texas, 8:05  
 San Diego at L.A. Angels, 9:38  
 Seattle at Oakland, 9:40

# NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	42	19	.689	—	—	5-5	W-1	25-9	17-10
Atlanta	33	24	.579	7	+5½	4-6	W-1	19-12	14-12
Washington	27	32	.458	14	1½	5-5	L-1	10-14	17-18
<b>Mets</b>	25	35	.417	16½	4	4-6	W-1	13-21	12-14
Miami	21	39	.350	20½	8	5-5	L-2	11-21	10-18

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	36	24	.600	—	—	7-3	L-1	18-10	18-14
Chicago	29	31	.483	7	—	2-8	L-1	16-13	13-18
St. Louis	28	30	.483	7	—	6-4	L-1	13-12	15-18
Pittsburgh	27	32	.458	8½	1½	4-6	L-1	12-15	15-17
Cincinnati	27	33	.450	9	2	7-3	W-2	14-17	13-16

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	38	23	.623	—	—	5-5	W-2	21-12	17-11
San Diego	32	31	.508	7	+1½	5-5	L-2	13-19	19-12
San Francisco	29	32	.475	9	½	4-6	L-5	17-14	12-18
Arizona	28	32	.467	9½	1	4-6	W-3	14-15	14-17
Colorado	21	38	.356	16	7½	5-5	L-3	13-15	8-23

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Monday

**Mets** 8, Washington 7  
 Philadelphia 3, Milwaukee 1  
 Houston 7, St. Louis 4  
 Cincinnati 13, Colorado 3  
 Arizona 4, San Francisco 2  
 L.A. Angels 2, San Diego 1  
**Tuesday**  
 Mets at Washington, 6:45  
 L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
 Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 6:40  
 Tampa Bay at Miami, 6:40  
 Atlanta at Boston, 7:10  
 White Sox at Cubs, 8:05  
 St. Louis at Houston, 8:10

Cincinnati at Colorado, 8:40  
 San Diego at L.A. Angels, 9:38  
 San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40

## Wednesday

**Mets** at Washington, 4:05  
 Atlanta at Boston, 1:35  
 St. Louis at Houston, 2:10  
 Cincinnati at Colorado, 3:10  
 San Francisco at Arizona, 3:40  
 Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 4:05  
 L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
 Tampa Bay at Miami, 6:40  
 White Sox at Cubs, 8:05  
 San Diego at L.A. Angels, 9:38

## Mets 8, Nationals 7

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor ss	3	0	1	1	0	.228	
Alonso lf	5	0	0	0	0	.234	
Nimmo 1b	5	0	2	0	0	.216	
Martinez dh	4	2	1	0	1	.278	
Marte rf	5	2	3	0	0	.275	
Vientos 3b	3	2	2	1	2	.339	
Bader cf	3	0	2	0	0	.265	
Iglesias 2b	5	2	3	1	0	.455	
Torrens c	4	0	1	2	0	.367	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Thomas cf	5	0	2	0	0	.218	
Rosario rf	4	1	2	0	1	.184	
Garcia 2b	4	1	0	0	1	.267	
Ruiz dh	4	1	1	0	2	.204	
Senzel 3b	4	2	1	0	1	.244	
Winker lf	4	0	3	1	0	.241	
Núñez pr	0	0	0	0	0	.000	
Vargas ss	5	1	1	0	0	.284	
Gallo 1b	3	1	1	2	1	.156	
Meneses ph	0	0	0	1	0	.240	
Millas c	4	0	0	0	1	1.100	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	

Mets	010	241	000	—	8	13	2
Washington	010	310	002	—	7	11	1

**E:** Iglesias (2), Bader (2), Barnes (1). **LOB:** New York 9, Washington 11. **2B:** Nimmo (10), Torrens (1). **HR:** Vientos (5), off Gore; Gallo (5), off Megill. **RBIs:** Bader 2 (18), Vientos (10), Lindor (30), Iglesias (2), Torrens 2 (2), Winker 3 (28), Vargas (9), Gallo 2 (9), Meneses (30). **SB:** Marte (10), Iglesias (1), Lindor (9). **CS:** Winker (3). **SF:** Bader 2, Meneses **RISP:** New York 3 for 10; Washington 3 for 11. **DP:** New York 1 (Iglesias, Lindor, Alonso); Washington 1 (Thomas, Senzel, Thomas).

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Megill, W, 1-2	5.0	7	5	4	3	4	87	3.00
Houser, H, 1	2.1	2	0	0	0	2	49	6.65
Smith, H, 4	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.53
Ottavino, H, 11	0.1	2	2	2	1	0	13	5.92
Diekman, S, 2-4	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	9	4.12

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gore, L, 4-5	4.1	7	6	6	4	2	92	3.57
Floro	0.2	2	1	1	0	0	14	1.23
Barnes	1.0	2	1	0	0	1	25	5.09
Weems	2.0	1	0	0	0	3	24	5.24
Rainey	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	21	9.00

T: 3:18. A: 20,575 (41,376).

## Astros 7, Cardinals 4

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Winn ss	5	0	1	0	0	.297	
Burleson rf	5	1	1	0	0	.271	
Goldschmidt 1b	4	1	1	0	0	.222	
Gorman 2b	3	2	2	1	1	.230	
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	0	1	.257	
Donovan lf	3	0	0	0	1	.242	
Herrera c	3	0	2	0	1	.269	
Carpenter dh	4	0	0	0	0	.188	
Siiani cf	3	0	0	0	0	.205	
Fermin ph	1	0	0	0	0	.143	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	5	0	1	1	0	.289	
Tucker rf	1	0	1	0	0	.266	
Dubón ph-lf	3	1	0	0	1	.298	
Alvarez dh	3	2	2	2	1	.287	
Bregman 3b	4	1	1	0	2	.229	
Meyers cf	4	1	2	1	0	.281	
Peña ss	3	0	1	0	0	.296	
Singleton 1b	2	0	0	1	2	.217	
J.Abreu ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	.115	
Diaz c	4	1	2	2	2	.249	
McCormick lf-rf	4	1	0	0	1	.200	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	

St. Louis	201	010	000	—	4	8	2
Houston	002	001	04x	—	7	9	1

**E:** Gorman (5), Winn (10), Bregman (5). **LOB:** St. Louis 7, Houston 7. **2B:** Goldschmidt (9), Alvarez (12), Altuve (12). **HR:** Burleson (7), off Verlander; Gorman 2 (13), off Verlander; Alvarez (12), off Gibson; Bregman (9), off Romero; Diaz (4), off Romero. **RBIs:** Burleson (21), Gorman 2 (30), Arenado (27), Alvarez 2 (27), Meyers (23), Bregman (29), Diaz 2 (25), Altuve (21). **SB:** Tucker (10), Herrera (2), Peña (9), McCormick (3). **S:** Peña. **RISP:** St. Louis 2 for 5; Houston 3 for 9.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gibson	5.2	5	3	3	3	8	96	3.69
Kittredge, H, 16	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.88
Romero, L, 2-	1.0	3	4	3	0	2	30	2.10
1, BS, 0-2								
Loutos	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	5	0.00

**Houston** IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA  
 Verlander 5.0 7 4 4 2 4 104 3.63  
 Mushinski 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 12 5.23  
 Martinez 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 14 1.95  
 Montero, W, 1-11.0 1 0 0 1 2 20 2.81  
 Hader, S, 9-10 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 14 3.54

T: 2:56. A: 33,638 (41,000).

## Phillies 3, Brewers 1

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	4	0	1	0	0	.298	
Contreras c	4	0	0	0	0	.311	
Yelich lf	4	0	0	0	0	.313	
Adames ss	4	0	0	0	0	.255	
Frelick rf	3	0	0	0	0	.253	
G.Sánchez ph	1	0	0	0	0	.226	
Hoskins dh	2	1	1	1	0	.243	
Bauers 1b	2	0	1	0	1	.213	
Ortiz 3b	2	0	0	0	1	.289	
Perkins cf	3	0	2	0	0	.247	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	10	3	5	35	42	27
Cincinnati	10	3	3	33	23	16
<b>NYCFC</b>	9	5	2	29	24	17
<b>Red Bulls</b>	8	3	5	29	29	22
Charlotte FC	7	6	4	25	18	18
Toronto FC	7	7	3	24	26	26
Columbus	6	2	6	24	21	13
Philadelphia	4	4	8	20	27	23
Nashville	4	5	7	19	20	22
D.C. United	4	6	7	19	25	31
Orlando City	4	7	5	17	16	24
CF Montréal	4	7	5	17	23	35
Atlanta	4	8	4	16	22	21
Chicago	3	8	6	15	17	29
New England	3	10	1	10	11	27
WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	9	2	6	33	36	19
Los Angeles FC	9	4	3	30	28	19
Minn. United	8	3	4	28	27	20
LA Galaxy	7	3	7	28	31	25
Vancouver	7	5	4	25	24	19
Austin FC	6	6	5	23	21	25
Houston	6	6	4	22	18	18
Colorado	6	7	4	22	29	31
Portland	5	7	5	20	32	32
Seattle FC	4	6	6	18	19	19
St. Louis City	3	4	8	17	23	25
FC Dallas	3	8	4	13	17	24
San Jose	3	11	2	11	24	39
Sporting K.C.	2	9	5	11	24	31

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

#### Saturday

Red Bulls at New England, 7:30pm  
Seattle FC at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm  
FC Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30pm  
Portland at St. Louis City, 8:30pm

#### Friday, June 14

Columbus at NYCFC, 7:30pm

## Soccer

#### Irish Premier Division

Sligo 2, Drogheda Utd 1  
Dundalk 3, St. Patrick's Athletic 2  
Derry City 3, Waterford 0  
Galway Utd vs. Shamrock Rovers, ppd.  
Bohemians vs. Shelbourne, ppd.

#### International Friendly

England 3, Bosnia and Herzegovina 0  
Germany 0, Ukraine 0  
Albania 3, Liechtenstein 0  
Scotland 2, Gibraltar 0  
Croatia 3, North Macedonia 0

#### Women's International Friendly

Argentina 1, Costa Rica 0  
Australia 2, China 0  
Japan 4, New Zealand 1

#### FIFA World Cup Qualifying- CAF

Tanzania vs. Eritrea, canc.  
Maurice Revello Tournament  
Saudi Arabia U23 3, South Korea U21 0  
Ivory Coast U20 2, France U20 0

## NASCAR

#### NASCAR Cup Series Schedule-Winners

May 26 — Coca-Cola 600 (Christopher Bell)  
June 2 — Enjoy Illinois 300 (Austin Cindric)  
June 9 — Toyota / Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.  
June 16 — Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol, Newton, Iowa  
June 23 — NASCAR Cup Series Race at New Hampshire, Loudon, N.H.  
June 30 — Ally 400, Lebanon, Tenn.  
July 7 — Grant Park 165, Chicago  
July 14 — HighPoint.com 400, Long Pond, Pa.  
July 21 — Brickyard 400, Speedway, Ind.  
Aug. 11 — Cook Out 400, Richmond, Va.  
Aug. 18 — FireKeepers Casino 400, Brooklyn, Mich.  
Aug. 24 — Coke Zero Sugar 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.

# 'WHITE BITCH'

## ESPN's McAfee profanely refers to WNBA star Clark in ugly rant

By RYAN GLASSPIEGEL

Pat McAfee has walked back his wording after a segment about Caitlin Clark drew backlash because he referred her as a “white bitch” in a monologue during his ESPN show that was complimenting her for how much attention she has drawn to the WNBA.

In a post on X on Monday, McAfee apologized for wording it in that manner. “I shouldn’t have used “white bitch” as a descriptor of Caitlin Clark. No matter the context, even if we’re talking about race being a reason for some of the stuff happening, I have way too much respect for her and women to put that into the universe,” McAfee wrote.

“My intentions when saying it were complimentary just like the entire segment but, a lot of folks are saying that it certainly wasn’t at all. That’s 100% on me and for that I apologize... I have sent an apology to Caitlin as well. Everything else I said... still alllllll facts. #Journalism #WNBAProgram #SheIsTheOne”

Clark has remained a hot-button topic as she moved from contributing to record women’s college basketball ratings to the WNBA, and just about every sports talk

show has weighed in over the cheap shot she received from Sky guard Chennedy Carter during a game on Saturday.

McAfee, who lives in Indianapolis and was at the Fever-Sky game in question, disputed the idea that the whole WNBA rookie class, which also includes Angel Reese, Cameron Brink and Kamilla Cardoso, is responsible for the growth of the league — when so much of the spotlight has been squarely on Clark.

“I do have a message for the sports media or the ex-WNBA players, there seems to be this notion, and maybe we’re wrong on it, that this whole evolution of success and popularity in the WNBA is because of this entire rookie class. I think there’s a chance Chennedy Carter of Chicago, whenever she’s going to Caitlin, you see [Sky rookie] Angel Reese get all jacked up about it and celebrating, I think that’s because she thinks Angel Reese deserves more credit than what she’s getting,” McAfee said.

“Caitlin’s getting all this credit and you hear a lot of

sports media, ‘This is an entire class, this rookie class is the reason why this is happening it’s the next generation,’ well that’s fun.”

McAfee then introduced a sarcastic quiz game called “Guess which rookie?” and pointed to the fact that Clark’s Fever games have drawn higher TV ratings than the games involving Reese and Brink, who play in big-market cities Chicago and Los Angeles, respectively.

“I would like the media people that continue to say, ‘This rookie class, this rookie class, this rookie class.’

Nah, just call it for what it is, there’s one white bitch for the Indiana team who is a superstar, and is it because she stayed in Iowa and put an entire state on her back and took a program from nothing to a multiple-year success story?” McAfee asked.

Clark, who is averaging 15.6 points, 5.1 rebounds and 6.4 assists, is coming off one of the worst games of her career after being held to just three points in a loss to the Liberty at Barclays Center on Sunday.

[rglasspiegel@nypost.com](mailto:rglasspiegel@nypost.com)

**HE DID APOLOGIZE:** ESPN talking head Pat McAfee (inset) issued a mea culpa following his poor choice of words Monday to describe Caitlin Clark, the former Iowa star and current member of the WNBA’s Indiana Fever.

Michelle Farsi

## Sky coach calls out own player for hip-check

By RYAN GLASSPIEGEL and CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Chicago Sky head coach Teresa Weatherspoon admitted that Chennedy Carter’s hip-check on Caitlin Clark over the weekend was inappropriate.

Though Carter has avoided expressing any remorse — saying: “I don’t have any regrets with anything.” — for checking Clark to the ground Saturday in a clear non-basketball play, Weatherspoon issued a statement about the matter Monday.

“Physical play, intensity, and a competitive spirit are hallmarks of Chicago Sky basketball. Chennedy got caught up in the heat of the moment in an effort to win the game,” Weatherspoon said.

“She and I have discussed what happened and that it was not appropriate, nor is it what we do or who we are. Chennedy understands there are better ways to handle situations on the court, and she will learn from this, as we all will.

“As a team, we will grow together and continue to work hard

to display strong leadership and set a positive example for our competitors, fans, and partners.”

Carter was initially only called for a common foul on the play, though the WNBA later revised it to be a Flagrant 1.

In the immediate aftermath, Angel Reese, who had a rivalry with Clark in college, celebrated the play and later embraced Carter as she came to the bench.

“I’m a competitor, and I’m going to compete no matter who you are, and no matter who’s in front of me. So that’s just what it was,”

Carter told reporters Monday. “Heat of the moment play. We’re getting at it. We’re getting back and forth. It’s basketball. It’s all hoops. After we finish the game, it’s all love.”

One of the inexplicable aspects of the sequence was that none of Clark’s teammates came to her defense.

Numerous people, including former NBA enforcer Matt Barnes, have called on the Fever to add a player who will respond with physicality in Clark’s defense when she gets pummeled.

# The *POST* Line



**MLB**

**Tuesday**

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	\$140-165	Twins
Mets	-105-115	NATIONALS
GUARDIANS	-105-115	Royals
Orioles	OFF	BLUE JAYS
RANGERS	OFF	Tigers
Mariners	\$135-160	ATHLETICS
Dodgers	\$155-185	PADRES
PHILLIES	OFF	Brewers
Reds	\$115-135	ROCKIES
D'BACKS	\$100-120	Giants
Rays	\$100-120	MARLINS
Braves	\$145-170	RED SOX
CUBS	\$235-290	White Sox
ASTROS	\$125-150	Cardinals
Padres	OFF	ANGELS

**NBA Playoffs-Finals**

**Thursday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
CELTICS	6.5 (214.5)	Mavericks

**Home Teams in CAPS**

**NHL Stanley Cup Finals**

**Saturday**

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
PANTHERS	\$115-135	Oilers

**UFL- Week 10**

**Saturday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
STALLIONS	6.5 (43)	Panthers

**Sunday**

BATTLEHAWKS	3.5 (44.5)	Brahmas
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## SPORTS SHORTS

### BASEBALL: Urquidy seeing doc

The Astros still aren't ready to say whether starter **José Urquidy** is done for the season amid reports that a second Tommy John surgery is possible.

ESPN was first to report the right-hander will visit **Dr. Keith Meister** in Arlington, Texas. ESPN reported Meister is expected to recommend Tommy John surgery.

● In Norman, Okla., starter **Gabe Van Emon** did not allow a run in 7 1/3 innings and **Korey Morton** and **Maddix Dalena** both hit home runs with a runner on base in the fourth to help Connecticut eliminate No. 9 national seed Oklahoma with a 7-1 victory in the championship game of the Norman Regional. UConn (35-24) advances to play Florida State in a best-of-three super regional with a berth in the College World Series on the line. The Huskies have not played in the CWS since 1979 when they made their fifth appearance.

● In Philadelphia, **Rhys Hoskins** homered for the Brewers in his return to Citizens Bank Park, but **David Dahl** went deep in his Philadelphia debut to back **Zack Wheeler** and the Phillies in a 3-1 victory.

● In Toronto, **Austin Hays** hit two home runs and **Grayson Rodriguez** pitched two-run ball into the seventh inning, helping the Orioles beat the Blue Jays, 7-2.

● In Arlington, Texas, **Jake Rogers** homered twice, including a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning, and the Tigers beat the Rangers, 2-1, to get back to .500.

### NBA: Mourning cancer-free

Hall of Fame center **Alonzo Mourning** is cancer-free after having his prostate removed in March following a diagnosis of stage 3 cancer.

Mourning, 54, told ESPN on Monday the

cancer did not spread. Mourning — a seven-time All-Star, NBA champion, and Olympic gold medalist — missed the 2002-03 season with kidney disease and underwent a kidney transplant in 2003.

Mourning finished his 15-season NBA career with 14,311 points, averaging 17.5 with 8.5 rebounds and 2.6 blocks.

### SOCCER: Mbappé to Real Madrid

**Kylian Mbappé** has signed a contract to play for Real Madrid in a union of the sport's top talent and its most successful club.

Madrid said on Monday that Mbappé agreed to a five-year contract.

The 25-year-old World Cup winner with France joins a Madrid team that is already loaded with talent and still celebrating its record-extending 15th European Cup title.

Until now, Mbappé has played club soccer only for French teams — first at Monaco and for the past seven seasons at Paris Saint-Germain, which he left as a free agent after the club failed to persuade him to extend his contract.

### GOLF: No Memorial for RBC winner

**Robert MacIntyre** of Scotland withdrew from this week's Memorial Tournament, one day after winning his first career PGA Tour title at the RBC Canadian Open.

MacIntyre's victory in Hamilton, Ontario, earned him a spot in the signature event in Ohio hosted by **Jack Nicklaus**. But it would have been his sixth tournament in six weeks.

● PGA Tour veteran **Matt Kuchar** and 2012 U.S. Open winner **Webb Simpson** were among those who locked up their spots in this month's U.S. Open — to be played June 13-16 at Pinehurst — via final qualifying on Monday, often called "Golf's Longest Day."

## ACTION TOP PLAY

# Yanks gonna feast on Twinkies

By TANNER McGRATH  
actionnetwork.com

The Yankees are arguably the best team in baseball, sporting the league's best record (42-19) and run differential (+107).

Part of that is because the rotation has stepped up in Gerrit Cole's absence, including Tuesday's starter, Luis Gil.

Gil sports a 1.99 ERA and a 32 percent strikeout rate through 11 outings this season. He has allowed only three earned runs across his past six starts, striking out 44 batters during the stretch.

He's leaned into his changeup more, which generates plenty of weak contact. Meanwhile, his fastball-slider combination is nearly unhittable, with a combined whiff rate nearing 35 percent.

I think he'll carve up an average Minne-

sota lineup (100 wRC+ against right-handed pitching this season).

The other part of New York's dominance is its obscure production against right-handed pitching. The Bombers have posted a 145 wRC+ against righties over the past month, a full 19 points higher than the second-best team.

They should mash Minnesota starting pitcher Bailey Ober, who boasts an ERA pushing five on the year, including a 5.52 mark in 31 road innings.

I believe the Yankees bullpen is vastly overvalued, and the Twins relievers have been red-hot. But I feel comfortable putting my money behind Gil and against Ober in the first half on Tuesday.

**THE PLAY:** Yankees F5 ML  
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		W-L	ERA	IP	ERA		
Twins	Ober (R)	5-3	4.89	5-6	—	—	—	1-2	14.0	8.36			
Yankees	Gil (R)	7-1	1.99	9-2	—	—	0-0	3-0	20.1	0.89			
Mets	Peterson (L)	0-0	4.60	0-1	—	—	3-1	0-0	5.0	3.60			
Nationals	Williams (R)	5-0	2.22	9-2	—	—	3-2	1-0	15.0	3.00			
Royals	Lugo (R)	9-1	1.72	9-3	—	—	0-0	3-0	18.2	1.93			
Guardians	McKenzie (R)	6:40pm	2-3	3.77	8-3	—	4-2	0-0	16.2	4.32			
Orioles	Burnes (R)	5-2	2.35	8-4	0-0	1.50	1-0	1-0	12.0	2.25			
Blue Jays	TBD	7:07pm											
Tigers	Flaherty (R)	2-4	3.46	5-6	—	—	0-0	1-1	12.1	3.65			
Rangers	TBD	8:05pm											
Mariners	Kirby (R)	4-5	4.08	5-7	—	—	3-0	0-2	18.0	5.50			
Athletics	Spence (R)	9:40pm	4-2	3.52	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	7.2	3.52			
Dodgers	Glasnow (R)	6-3	3.04	8-4	—	—	—	0-2	17.0	4.76			
Pirates	Jones (R)	6:40pm	3-5	3.55	4-7	—	—	1-1	16.1	6.06			
Brewers	TBD												
Phillies	Sánchez (L)	6:40pm	3-3	2.83	5-6	—	0-0	1-0	18.1	1.47			
Reds	Montas (R)	2-4	4.60	3-7	—	—	1-2	0-1	17.0	5.29			
Rockies	Blach (L)	8:40pm	2-2	4.15	3-2	—	0-1	1-1	16.2	5.40			
Giants	Harrison (L)	4-2	4.15	9-3	1-0	3.00	1-1	1-1	15.0	6.60			
D'backs	Walston (L)	9:40pm	0-0	2.16	0-1	—	—	0-0	4.2	0.00			
Rays	Pepiot (R)	3-2	3.88	5-4	—	—	2-0	0-0	11.2	6.17			
Marlins	Luzardo (L)	6:40pm	2-4	4.18	3-6	—	0-2	2-1	20.0	1.35			
Braves	Fried (L)	5-2	2.97	8-3	—	—	1-0	2-1	21.1	1.69			
Red Sox	Crawford (R)	7:10pm	2-4	3.29	3-9	0-0	3.00	0-0	16.0	6.75			
White Sox	Flexen (R)	2-5	5.50	2-8	—	—	0-1	0-2	13.2	8.56			
Cubs	Imanaga (L)	8:05pm	5-1	1.86	8-2	—	—	0-1	16.1	3.86			
Cardinals	Pallante (R)	1-1	3.94	1-0	—	—	0-0	1-0	9.0	2.00			
Astros	Arrighetti (R)	8:10pm	3-5	5.98	4-5	—	—	2-1	17.1	3.63			
Padres	Mazur (R)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Angels	Sandoval (L)	9:38pm	2-8	5.34	3-9	—	1-0	0-2	15.2	6.32			

\* REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

## STITCHES

# I Love LA and Glasnow

"White bitch?" And here I always thought Pat McAfee ended his weekly show appearances with Aaron Rodgers on good terms. ... Madonna is being sued for subjecting fans at her show to what is being called "pornography without warning" leading to "emotional distress." The makers of the drug Nurtec will have a keen interest in the outcome after letting Lady Gaga peddle their drug in a TV ad while playing piano in her fish-nets and underwear. Quite distressing.

The Dodgers' overpaid lineup is in

Pittsburgh. Tyler Glasnow comes off a strong outing at Citi Field. Pirates rookie Jared Jones had allowed 11 runs in his last 16 innings. Play \$50 on the Dodgers.

-\$

The cardiac kids. The Mets, prone to late-inning crashes, led 8-5 and held off the pesky Gnats, 8-7. Jake Diekman caught Drew Millas looking to end it. But it gets better. The Reds had more hits (18) than Madonna and Lady Gaga and clocked the Rockies 13-3. Winner, winner. Debt down to -627 rondarlings.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups		HOME	AWAY				
	TODAY June 4	WED June 5	THU June 6	FRI June 7	SAT June 8	SUN June 9	MON June 10
	<b>Minnesota</b> 7:05 YES WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	<b>Minn.</b> 7:05 Prime Video WFAN	<b>Minn.</b> 7:05 YES WFAN	<b>L.A.D.</b> 7:05 YES Apple TV+ WFAN	<b>L.A.D.</b> 7:35 Fox WFAN	<b>L.A.D.</b> 7:10 ESPN WFAN	<b>K.C.</b> 8:10 YES WFAN
	<b>Washington</b> 6:45 SNY WCBS 880 AM	<b>Wash.</b> 4:05 SNY WCBS	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>+Phila.</b> 1:10 Fox WCBS	<b>+Phila.</b> 10:10 a.m. ESPN WCBS	<b>NO GAME</b>
	<b>Chicago</b> 8:00 MY9	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Atl.</b> 7:00 MY9	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Conn.</b> 1:00 ABC	<b>Wash.</b> 3:00 MY9	<b>NO GAME</b>

**+in London**

Saturday	Friday, June 14	Saturday
<b>New England Revolution</b> 7:30 Apple TV+	<b>Columbus Crew</b> 7:30 Apple TV+	<b>Angel City FC</b> 12:30 CBS

## Today's Sports on the Air

<b>MLB</b>	6:45 p.m.	Mets at Nationals	SNY, WCBS (880 AM)
	7:05 p.m.	Twins at Yankees	YES, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
	9:30 p.m.	Giants at Diamondbacks	MLBN
<b>WNBA</b>	8 p.m.	Liberty at Sky	MY9
<b>Tennis</b>	6 a.m.	The French Open, Quarterfinals	
	5 a.m. (Wed.)	The French Open, Quarterfinals	
<b>Soccer</b>	Noon	Men's International Friendly: Armenia at Slovenia	
	2:30 p.m.	Men's International Friendly: Finland at Portugal	
	7:30 p.m.	Women's International Friendly: Mexico at Canada	
	8 p.m.	Women's International Friendly: South Korea at United States	

## SOCCKER

### MLS Cup winner

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Inter Miami	+190	Seattle Sounders	66/1
Los Angeles FC	+600	DC United	66/1
FC Cincinnati	+800	Charlotte FC	66/1
Los Angeles Galaxy	11/1	St. Louis City SC	66/1
Real Salt Lake	12/1	Houston Dynamo	80/1
Columbus Crew	14/1	Portland Timbers	80/1
NYCFC	14/1	Nashville SC	80/1
Red Bulls	16/1	CF Montreal	100/1
Minnesota United	20/1	Sporting K.C.	125/1
Vancouver Whitecaps	25/1	FC Dallas	200/1
Austin FC	33/1	San Jose Earthquakes	250/1
Philadelphia Union	33/1	Orlando City	250/1
Toronto FC	33/1	Chicago Fire	300/1
Atlanta United	40/1	New England Revolution	300/1
Colorado Rapids	50/1		

### Top MLS goalscorer (including playoffs)

PLAYER	ODDS	PLAYER	ODDS
Cristian Arango	+175	Georgios Giakoumakis	50/1
Lionel Messi	+225	Luciano Acosta	66/1
Luis Suarez	+350	Julian Carranza	66/1
Christian Benteke	+600	Raul Ruidiaz	66/1
Denis Bouanga	12/1	Felipe Mora	80/1
Daniel Gazdag	25/1	Evander	80/1
Dejan Joveljic	33/1	Brian White	80/1
Emil Forsberg	50/1	Hugo Cuypers	80/1
Rafael Navarro	50/1	Jeremy Ebobisse	80/1

## ODDS & ENDS

### STANLEY CUP

#### FINAL Series odds

TEAM	ODDS
Panthers	-130
Oilers	+110

#### Correct series result

RESULT	ODDS
Panthers in 4	11/1
Panthers in 5	+550
Panthers in 6	+500
Panthers in 7	+400
Oilers in 7	+550
Oilers in 6	+450
Oilers in 5	+750
Oilers in 4	13/1

#### Series game spread

TEAM	ODDS
Panthers +2.5	-650
Panthers +1.5	-250
Panthers -1.5	+160
Panthers -2.5	+310
Oilers -2.5	+450
Oilers -1.5	+190
Oilers +1.5	-200
Oilers +2.5	-400

#### Series total games

RESULT	ODDS
4 games	+600
5 games	+260
6 games	+200
7 games	+200

#### Conn Smythe Trophy winner

NAME	ODDS
Connor McDavid	+200
Sergei Bobrovsky	+400
Aleksander Barkov	+400
Matthew Tkachuk	+600
Leon Draisaitl	+700
Evan Bouchard	+750
Carter Verhaeghe	25/1
Sam Reinhart	40/1
Gustav Forsling	50/1
Zach Hyman	100/1
Stuart Skinner	200/1
Sam Bennett	250/1
Brandon Montour	300/1
Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	300/1

#### Goalie specials

SPECIAL	ODDS
Sergei Bobrovsky with 20+ saves in every game	+225
Stuart Skinner with 20+ saves in every game	-160
Sergei Bobrovsky with 35+ saves in any game	+225
Stuart Skinner with 40+ saves in any game	+310

#### Connor McDavid specials

SPECIAL	ODDS
1+ points in every game	+195
2+ shots in every game	+110
1+ assist in every game	+625
2+ goals in any game	-105

## ACTION BET SMART

# Final-ize these series standouts



**JAYSON'S THE BOS':** The NBA Finals MVP almost universally goes to the championship-winning team, making All-NBA forward Jayson Tatum (-120, ESPN Bet) of the favored Celtics a solid bet to take home extra hardware against the Mavericks.

By ANDREW NORTON  
*actionnetwork.com*

The 2024 NBA Finals, which tip off with Game 1 on Thursday, feature the Mavericks and Celtics.

Let's break down NBA Finals props, including which player will score the most points and which one will secure the coveted NBA Finals MVP.

### NBA Finals MVP

With Kristaps Porzingis back from injury, the Celtics will not have to worry about their defensive shortcomings on the interior, which nearly cost them several games, particularly against the Pacers. Porzingis' ability to protect the rim and play elite drop coverage in the pick-and-roll will cause some problems for the loblant Mavericks.

Ultimately, Boston should take this series in five or six games. The Celtics are an elite road team, boasting a 6-0 record away from TD Garden in this year's playoffs. Now that they are completely healthy, they should bulldoze the Mavs, similar to their two meetings in the regular season.

If history tells us anything, the winning team of the NBA Finals will have a player awarded the NBA Finals MVP. Jerry West is the only player to win the Finals MVP (1969) despite his team losing.

Thus, Boston will likely roster this year's NBA Finals MVP. Will it be Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown or someone else?

All signs point to Tatum securing his first NBA Finals MVP award this year; he has led his team in points (26.0), rebounds (10.4) and assists (5.9) this postseason.

His all-around offensive game and massive presence on the glass give him an inherent advantage over other players, as he will stuff the stat sheet in every game, including ones in which he is not shooting well.

Tatum has also had his way with Dallas recently, averaging 31.7 points, 11.3 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game in his past six outings against the Mavericks.

Dallas has defended small forwards

much better than power forwards this season, which is not great news for Brown, who is deployed at the three in the Celtics' starting lineup.

In fact, the Mavs hold opposing small forwards to the second-fewest points of any team in the NBA while allowing opposing power forwards (Tatum) to post the ninth-most points and dish out the fifth-most assists per game.

**Best bet:** Jayson Tatum to win Finals MVP (-120, ESPN Bet)

### NBA Finals top scorer

Luka Doncic is the far-and-away favorite (-205, DraftKings) to be the top scorer, and rightfully so. He is the second-leading scorer in playoff points per game (31.4) in NBA history, behind only Michael Jordan.

Double teams don't work on Doncic, and the array of obstacles in his way this postseason, including sickness and minor knee and ankle injuries, has hardly slowed him down.

Further, Boston benefits from having five players (Porzingis, Derrick White, Jrue Holiday, Brown and Tatum) who could lead the team in scoring on any given night. That is a large part of what makes the Celtics so incredibly dangerous. However, it won't help them have anyone outscore Doncic throughout an entire series.

Doncic has Kyrie Irving, who could explode for a 30-point night in one or two games. However, he has not come close to leading any of the Mavericks' previous series in total points, so there is no reason to believe that will change in this spot, especially with two of the best point-of-attack defenders in the NBA (Holiday and White) hounding him.

Holiday and White will also help defend Doncic, but the Mavericks guard has a considerable size advantage over them.

Heavy favorites are hardly attractive, but this is an exception.

**Best bet:** Series total points leader: Luka Doncic (-205, DraftKings)

*Andrew Norton analyzes the NBA for Action Network.*

BOSTON  
CELTICS

NBA Finals

DALLAS  
MAVERICKS

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

BOSTON — When Celtics guard Derrick White stood in the corner behind the 3-point line late in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference Final as teammate Jaylen Brown drove into the lane, drew defenders and flipped a pass toward him, White felt prepared for the moment.

That's because Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla had simulated scenarios just like it throughout the season.

"It starts in practice with them championship stations that Joe loves to do," White recalled. "It starts there and then just continue to trust one another."

White trusted that Brown would make the correct basketball play. He did, and it ended with White connecting on a tie-breaking 3 that ultimately secured Boston's place in the NBA Finals and a matchup with the Mavericks.

The play may also be a perfect example of how in his second year as coach, Mazzulla has managed to help the Celtics recover from the disappointment of a season that ended on the cusp of the Finals a year ago, to a run this season that again has them four wins away from capturing the franchise's 18th championship.

White's shot, Mazzulla said, is a microcosm of the kind of a team culture he's tried to cultivate over the past two years. One that puts details first.

"Things that you can't take for granted," said Mazzulla, who at age 35, is the youngest head coach to reach the NBA Finals since Bill Russell (also 35) did it in 1969. "Sometimes, it's as small as getting the ball inbound. But just try to pick little things, that we see on a nightly basis that can impact winning and can affect losing. And, we just practice them over, over and over again until they become second nature."

What's equally become central to the Celtics' success this sea-

ONE  
FOR  
ALL

## Celtics buying in to Mazzulla's egoless philosophy keyed return to NBA Finals

**IT'S THE MOMENT:** Celtics head coach Joe Mazzulla (center) celebrates with his players after Boston secured a sweep of the Pacers in the Eastern Conference Final, giving the franchise its second NBA Finals berth in three seasons and first with Mazzulla at the helm. AP

son is the buy-in to an egoless, team-first philosophy in which individual credit is secondary on a roster loaded with current and past All-Stars like Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Jrue Holiday, along with White, 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis, and a deep bench.

Meanwhile, Mazzulla has also benefited from working alongside a coaching staff he was able to choose this offseason. That's something he didn't have last season after being thrust into a job he didn't expect to have following predecessor Ime Udoka's suspension just days before the start of training camp.

Lead assistant Charles Lee and Sam Cassell have helped Maz-

zulla tweak a system build around 3-point shooting and defense, which saw the Celtics rank first and third, respectively, in offensive and defensive rating during the regular season.

Those rankings have remained the same this post-season for a team that is 6-0 on the road and 3-0 in close-out games.

But as much as Mazzulla and



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**Fri., June 14:** at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

**Mon., June 17\*:** at Boston, 8:30 p.m.

**Thurs., June 20\*:** at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

**Sun., June 23\*:** at Boston, 8 p.m.

\* if necessary

his staff have been driven home their philosophies via X's and O's, they've also continued to focus on the mental aspects of the game.

Last season it was in film sessions that began with Mazzulla showing the team images of sand-

— requiring them to be rebuilt.

It was something Tatum said was "a little cheesy" but "something we bought into."

Mazzulla's tactics were on display again during a blowout win back in March over Phoenix. He went viral after he sprinted to contest Phoenix's Royce O'Neale's practice basket heading into a timeout.

"I saw a guy going in to get a shot and he hadn't made one and I didn't want him to feel good about himself going to the bench," Mazzulla explained at the time. "That's the bench rule. ... If I'm going to ask the guys to contest, staff's going to do the same thing." — AP

## JVG up for role as Boston assistant next season



**JEFF VAN GUNDY**

By PETER BOTTE

Jeff Van Gundy could be headed back to the bench with the Celtics.

The former Knicks head coach and longtime TV analyst is being considered for an assistant role on Joe Mazzulla's coaching staff for next season, according to veteran NBA reporter Marc Stein on his Substack account.

The 62-year-old Van

Gundy has been serving as a senior consultant to Boston team president Brad Stevens since he was let go by ESPN last year.

The Celtics, who will open the 2024 NBA Finals at home Thursday against the Mavericks, are losing at least one assistant coach from Mazzulla's staff. Charles Lee was named the new head coach of the Hornets last month.

"Jeff's been great," Stevens said of Van Gundy before the playoffs began. "I've known Jeff a long time and gotten a chance to spend a lot of time with him over the years.

"It is fun watching a game with him when he doesn't have to speak in 15-second sound bites. He's pretty entertaining."

Van Gundy served as the Knicks' head coach from

1995 to 2001 — leading them to the Finals in 1999 — and in the same role with the Rockets from 2003-07 before making the transition to his broadcasting career.

ESPN let go of Van Gundy and fellow longtime analyst Mark Jackson last summer. The Post reported at the time that one of the reasons Van Gundy was let go was because ESPN felt

he could leave the network for a coaching position.

The move backfired when replacement Doc Rivers bolted the network in January to accept the Bucks' head coaching job. JJ Redick, who replaced Rivers alongside Doris Burke and Mike Breen, is considered the front-runner for the Lakers' coaching vacancy.

pbotte@nypost.com

# Lifetime ban possible for player accused of betting

By PETER BOTTE

Major League Baseball is facing another potential gambling controversy.

Months after Shohei Ohtani's long-time interpreter was charged with stealing \$16 million from the Dodgers superstar to pay off sports gambling debts, MLB is investigating injured Padres infielder Tucupita Marcano for violating baseball's gambling policy — with the possibility of a lifetime ban, according to a report Monday by the Wall Street Journal.

The 24-year-old Marcano has been accused of betting on games involving the Pirates, his former team, while he was on the injured list with Pittsburgh last season. The Venezuela native was claimed off waivers by the Padres in the offseason, but he hasn't played since last July due to a torn ACL.

Four other players also are facing possible disciplinary action for betting on baseball while in the minor leagues, according to the report.

Marcano declined to comment to

the Journal through his representative, as did MLB and the MLB Players Association.

"We are aware of an active investigation by Major League Baseball regarding a matter that occurred when the player in question was a member of another organization and not affiliated with the San Diego Padres," the Padres told the outlet in a statement. "We will not have any further comment until the investigative process has been completed."

The NBA banned Raptors forward Jontay Porter in April for violating that league's gambling policy, specifically for providing inside information to bettors and limiting his own playing time for betting purposes.

After Ohtani's former interpreter, Ipei Mizuhara, reached an agreement to plead guilty last month, it was reported that MLB also is investigating Angels infielder David Fletcher, Ohtani's former teammate, for allegedly betting on sports with the same illegal bookmaker.



**IN HOT WATER:** Injured Padres infielder Tucupita Marcano is being investigated by MLB for betting on games involving the Pirates when he was on the team last season.

AP



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# 'SEIZE' THE NO. 1 POST

By SPENCER RIPCHIK

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Preakness winner Seize the Grey drew post position No. 1 on Monday, and Kentucky Derby champion Mystik Dan will start in post No. 3 for the Belmont Stakes taking place Saturday at Saratoga Race Course.

Kenny McPeek-trained Mystik Dan, who finished second in the Preakness, is the only horse in the field for all three Triple Crown races. At 5/1 and being ridden again by Brian Hernandez Jr., he is the third choice behind favorite Sierra Leone, who opened at 9/5, and Mindframe at 7/2.

McPeek favored his inside post position, and Mystik Dan co-owner Lance Gasaway had his eye on the No. 3 post.

"Lance Gasaway sent me a message this morning, 'Go there and get post No. 3,'" McPeek said.

## Lukas' Preakness winner will be on inside track at upstate Belmont

"He said it's his lucky number, I guess. We're thrilled with that. I think that was great. It's out of our control now. It's up to Brian."

Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas' Seize the Grey is right behind Mystik Dan with 8-1 odds after a wire-to-wire win in the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Sierra Leone, who drew the No. 9 post position in the 10-horse field, was second in the Derby, losing to Mystik Dan by a nose. Trainer Chad Brown hopes to get a similar run out of the horse this time, with a jockey change to Flavien Prat.

"He bounced out of the Derby, which can obviously be a tough



**D. WAYNE LUKAS**

### Belmont Stakes field

PP Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Odds
1. Seize the Grey	D. Wayne Lukas	Jaime Torres	8/1
2. Resilience	Bill Mott	Junior Alvarado	10/1
3. Mystik Dan	Kenny McPeek	Brian Hernandez Jr.	5/1
4. The Wine Steward	Michael Maker	Manuel Franco	15/1
5. Antiquarian	Todd Pletcher	John Velazquez	12/1
6. Dornoch	Danny Gargan	Luis Saez	15/1
7. Protective	Todd Pletcher	Tyler Gaffalione	20/1
8. Honor Marie	D. Whitworth Beckman	Florent Geroux	12/1
9. Sierra Leone	Chad Brown	Flavien Prat	9/5
10. Mindframe	Todd Pletcher	Irad Ortiz Jr.	7/2

**Post time:** Saturday, 6:41 p.m. **Purse:** \$2 million  
**Distance:** 1 1/4 miles **TV:** Fox

race on horses," Brown said. "He's bounced out well. ... He's trained really good here. Just hoping for a good trip. Obviously, we have half as many horses to run down, so that should be

hopefully a little easier on him." Brown has had success with Prat onboard.

"Hopefully Flavien can sort of survey the inside and just pick his spot where he wants to be in

the first turn and just be prepared for him," Brown said. "As long as we're prepared for him and he runs straight, he should run big."

Trainer Todd Pletcher is saddling the most horses in the 1 1/4-mile race at Saratoga. His trio of colts is led by undefeated Mindframe, who will start from the outside No. 10 post. Mindframe's résumé is short with just two starts and two wins, but it was enough to push him ahead of the Preakness and Kentucky Derby champions in the odds.

"He's a very talented colt," Pletcher said. "His two races have been very impressive. ... Of course, we're giving up a lot of seasoning, a lot of experience to some really good horses, so that's the main concern."

Pletcher also has No. 5 Antiquarian (12/1) and No. 7 Protective (20/1).

"He needs to continue to move forward," Pletcher said. "We think he'll appreciate the added distance: the first opportunity to run a mile and a quarter. He shows up, he tries hard every time." — AP

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## ♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

If you have another go at a task that proved too much for you in the past you are sure to make a success of it now. With Mercury, your ruler, linked to luck planet Jupiter the universe will make it easy for you - IF you make an effort.

## ♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You seem to be worrying about something that the logical part of your mind tells you is of no consequence at all. Sometimes you can let your emotions get out of hand and this appears to be one of those occasions. Reassert your left-brain authority!

## ♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

All things are possible for those who believe in themselves and with so much cosmic activity working in your favor at the moment you should be believing like never before. What is too much for your rivals to deal with you will handle with total

confidence.

## ♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

What occurs today will no doubt amaze you but if you think back to recent events you will realize it is the culmination of a long process of cause and effect. You will also realize that you are perfectly placed to take advantage of the situation.

## ♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

The more positive energy you send out into the world the more you will benefit from the events of the next few days. For every action there is an equal reaction, so make sure your actions are constructive and help other people - and the universe will help you.

## ♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Good news about your money

situation will cheer you up between now and Thursday's new moon but you must NOT think of it as an invitation to go on a spree. If you are lucky enough to get a financial windfall add it to your rainy day fund.

## ♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Partners and loved ones can see things that you have missed, so listen carefully to what they tell you and don't hesitate to act on their good advice. If you have to admit that you got something wrong then do so - don't let your ego get in the way.

## ♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

An activity that you previously found to be a bit of a chore will become easier to deal with over the next 24 hours and you may even start to enjoy it. You are at your best when faced with

challenges that compel you to raise your game.

## ♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

The Sun's link to Venus in your fellow Air sign of Gemini means there is a special aura about you at the moment, one that other people find hugely attractive. Both in your private life and in your work you are very much flavor of the month!

## ♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

If you force yourself to tackle a task you have been doing your best to avoid in recent weeks not only will you make a success of it but your can-do attitude will win points with people in positions of power. Seize the initiative and make good things happen.

## ♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

You have never been so popular and will be inundated with social invitations over the next few days. You cannot possibly grace them all with your presence, so select those that excite you the most and where you are likely to make new friends.

## ♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

There will be times today when it seems as if others are being unreasonable, especially where money is concerned, but there is no point making a fuss about it as they hold all the cards. More to the point they hold the purse strings as well.

### BIRTHDAY TUESDAY

There will be a lot more love and laughter in your life this year as the Sun, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury, your ruler, come together to brighten your days and spice up your nights! Don't let a single negative thought or feeling enter your head or your heart.

## Post Weather Report

Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>Today:</b> Sunny to partly cloudy and not as warm. High 73 to 79.	<b>Tomorrow:</b> Pleasant with some sun. High 73 to 79.
<b>Tonight:</b> Partly cloudy. Low 61 to 67.	<b>Tomorrow night:</b> Showers and a heavier t-storm. Low 63 to 69.
Thursday	Friday
Heavy t-storms. High 74 to 80.	A few showers. High 76 to 82.
<b>Evening:</b> Mostly cloudy. Low 63 to 69.	<b>Evening:</b> A stray shower. Low 61 to 67.

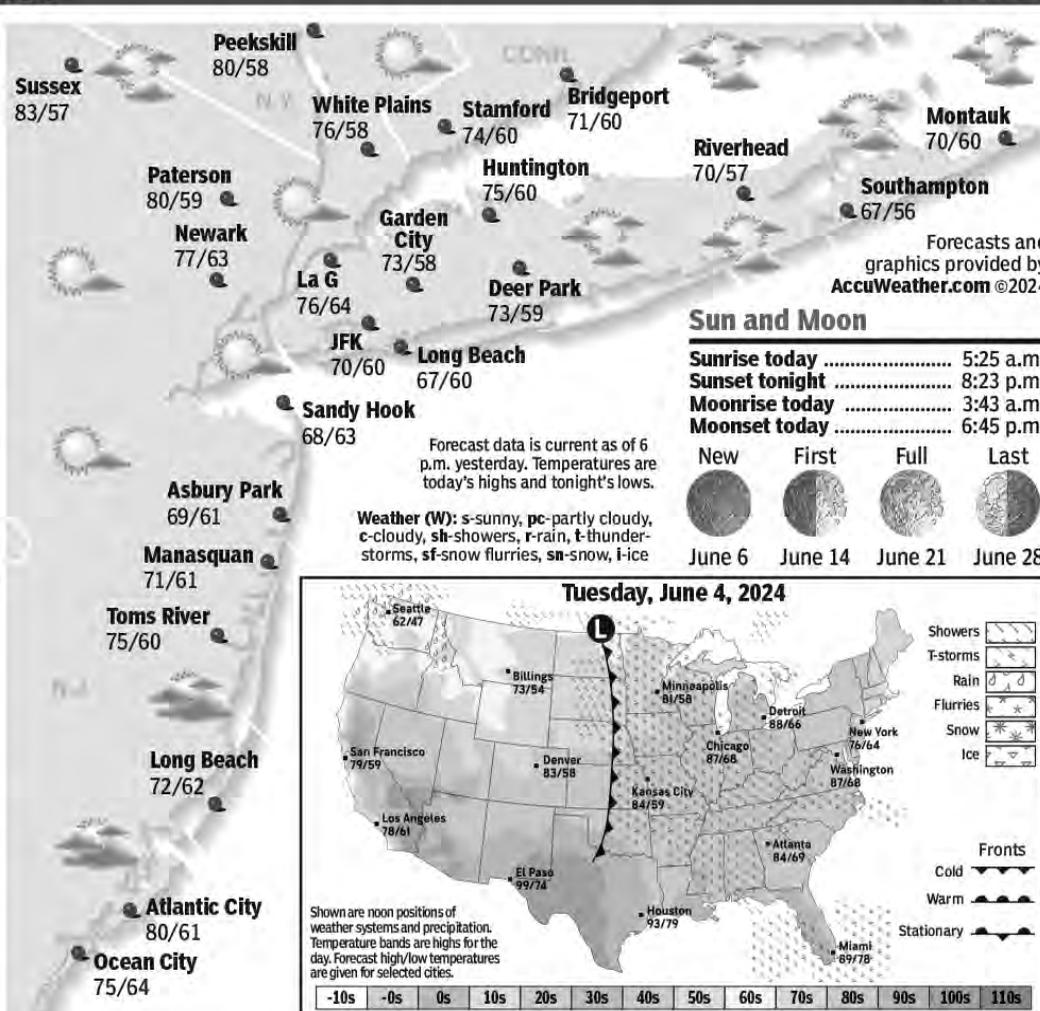
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YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

**Temperature**  
High: 86, Low: 72, Mean: 79  
**Departure from Normal**  
Yesterday: +11 degrees  
**Precipitation**  
Yesterday: trace, Month: trace, Year: 23.97", Normal year to date: 19.78"  
**Cooling Degree days yesterday** ..... 14  
**Total for the month (normal)** ..... 30 (13)  
**Total since Jan. 1 (normal)** ..... 139 (94)  
**Last year to date** ..... 108  
**Heat Index (at noon yest.)** ..... 82  
**UV Index (for Tue.)** ..... 10 (Very High)  
**Humidity (at noon)** ..... 41%

### AIR QUALITY

**Pollen:** Moderate Predominant pollen: Pine, Oak, Hickory, Pecan  
**AQI rating:** (for Tue.) ..... Moderate



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New York Tides	TODAY	TOMORROW
High Tide for	1st 6:31a 2nd 6:56p	1st 7:25a 2nd 7:45p
Coney Island	6:29a 7:06p	7:21a 7:57p
Fire Island	10:37a 10:48p	11:28a 11:36p
Hempstead	10:24a 10:37p	11:15a 11:26p
Huntington	6:15a 6:40p	7:09a 7:29p
Jones Inlet	7:38a 8:08p	8:29a 8:57p
Montauk Point	10:45a 10:55p	11:37a 11:43p
Port Washington	6:35a 7:00p	7:29a 7:49p
Sandy Hook		

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	87/62/s	84/67/pc
Danbury	79/57/s	79/65/c
Glens Falls	85/58/s	79/62/t
Gr Barrington	81/54/pc	80/63/pc
Kingston	82/56/pc	81/65/c
Liberty	80/55/pc	75/61/t
Monticello	82/54/pc	76/62/t
Newburgh	83/57/pc	80/64/c
Poughkeepsie	83/58/pc	80/64/c
Saratoga Springs	87/60/s	83/64/t
Stroudsburg	84/56/pc	75/64/t
Torrington	78/54/s	79/62/pc
Syracuse	89/65/pc	83/65/t

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	94/71/s	92/72/s
Baghdad	113/83/s	114/84/s
Beijing	90/66/pc	79/63/pc
Berlin	70/54/pc	71/52/sh
Cairo	101/75/s	102/76/s
Dublin	61/40/pc	57/43/pc
Geneva	72/53/pc	78/55/s
Hong Kong	82/76/r	84/77/r
Jerusalem	92/68/s	91/67/s
Kabul	85/58/pc	83/59/s
London	68/48/c	63/45/pc
Madrid	87/64/pc	92/66/pc
Mexico City	87/61/s	87/59/c
Montreal	87/65/s	85/67/sh
Moscow	74/60/sh	79/63/pc
Paris	74/56/pc	68/51/c
Rio de Janeiro	78/69/r	76/69/r
Rome	76/56/pc	78/58/s
Sydney	64/51/pc	65/54/r
Tokyo	79/62/c	81/65/r

# TIME TO GROW

By BRIAN LEWIS

Jordi Fernandez's first comments to reporters since his introductory press conference came at a clinic for local kids. It was fitting, as the new Nets head coach made his name in player development, and his staff doubles down on that.

A nine-man coaching staff with a developmental bent — but no former NBA head coach to help steady the first-timer — shows where the Nets are in their rebuild and what they're focusing on going into next season.

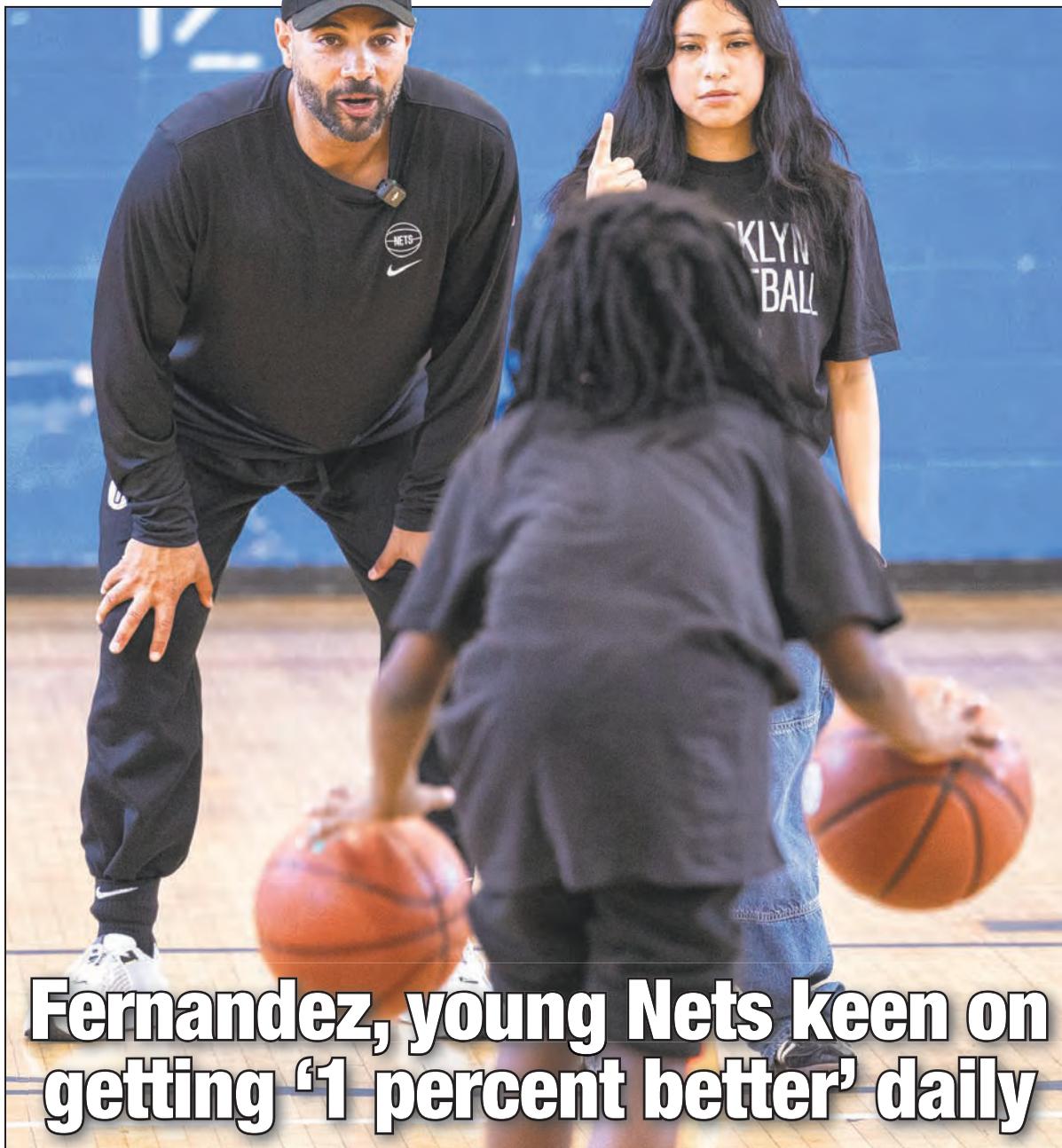
"Right now, I feel like we have that energy that the guys need because if we bring the energy as a coaching staff, players have no choice [but to do the same]," said Fernandez, 41. "And that's what we're going to do every single day, and getting 1 percent better every day, which is going to take us into getting better every week, every month.

"And [across] 82 regular-season games, it's very important. And I have a lot of guys who have a lot of experience in player development and guys that can still play, former players that have won everything. So I'm very confident that we have the best group for what we're trying to do, and I'm very excited about the process."

Fernandez was speaking at a basketball clinic at Charles O. Dewey Middle School in Brooklyn. While Monday was lighthearted work with middle-schoolers — teaching them the value of "sweat equity" — Fernandez is just starting the real work of fixing a team that went just 32-50 last season. He's already visited Ben Simmons in Miami, and his players have started voluntary workouts.

The Nets ended last season as the league's seventh-youngest team, with two of the four youngest players in the NBA. While they might hesitate to use the word "rebuild," the composition of Fernandez's staff implies it.

Fernandez added assistants Steve Hetzel, Juwan Howard, Deividus Dulkys,



## Fernandez, young Nets keen on getting '1 percent better' daily

**KIDDING AROUND:** Nets head coach Jordi Fernandez works with middle-schoolers Monday at Charles O. Dewey Middle School in Brooklyn, where he spoke to the media for the first time since his introductory press conference. *Corey Sipkin*

Connor Griffin and Travis Bader to holdovers Jay Hernandez, Adam Caporn, Ryan Forehan-Kelly and Corey Vinson on a high-energy, development-heavy group.

"The common thread is bringing energy on the court, a lot of player development-oriented coaches, and also coaches with a lot of experience as players," Fernandez said. "I was not a professional player, so it's important that we have enough guys that've done it. Juwan, obviously, has done at a very high level, and

some other coaches that have played at a high level, and they can still hoop with the guys. That's important."

Several have been G-League head coaches, and Howard is a former All-Star who coached Michigan. But what the staff lacks is a former NBA head coach to help Fernandez the way Steve Nash had first Mike D'Antoni and then Steve Clifford.

"Yeah, I think everything is valid. All coaches are valuable. We decided as an organization — with the front

office and myself — to build the coaching staff in this way because we feel that's what fits myself and what we're trying to do better," Fernandez said. "Making players better is important.

"There's no better player development in the world than playing real minutes. And we value real minutes, not just in the NBA but also the G-League. And we have all the resources we need to help our guys get better. But at the end of the day, we're going to value team success over every-

thing else. So it's gonna be a clear message from the beginning; we're gonna expect these guys to work really hard every day."

➤ Barclays Center was the top-grossing venue in the world for the month of April, per Billboard.

➤ The Liberty made a \$2 million profit from their home opener, the Associated Press reported. The team confirmed to The Post that figure is a WNBA record.

*blewis@nypost.com*

# Teen to make Tour debut

By LARRY LAGE

DETROIT — Miles Russell, the 15-year-old from Florida who became the youngest player in Korn Ferry Tour history to make a cut, has accepted a sponsor exemption to make his PGA Tour debut at the Rocket Mortgage Classic.



**MILES RUSSELL**

Will play in Rocket Mortgage Classic at 15. the PGA

Tour and test my game against the best players," Russell said Monday. "I'm looking forward to making the most of the experience later this month."

Rickie Fowler will try to defend his Rocket Mortgage Classic title at the Detroit Golf Club starting June 27.

Russell shot a 5-under 66 in April at the Lecom Suncoast Classic in Longwood, Florida, to make the cut on the PGA Tour's developmental circuit. The high school freshman from Jacksonville Beach has been taking online classes since the eighth grade.

He was the American Junior Golf Association player of the year in 2023, which included his seven-shot win in the Junior PGA Championship and becoming the youngest winner of the Junior Players Championship.

Russell is expected to return to the Detroit area in July to compete at the U.S. Amateur at Oakland Hills Country Club.

Earlier this year, the left-hander nearly qualified for a PGA Tour event before losing in a playoff in a Monday qualifier for the Puerto Rico Open.

Guan Tianlang, at 14 in 2013, was the youngest to make the cut in a PGA Tour-sanctioned event.

# Dallas Hall of Fame guard Allen, 52, dies suddenly on vacation

Larry Allen, the dominant Hall of Fame offensive lineman who spent 12 of his 14 NFL seasons with the Cowboys, died suddenly on Sunday while on vacation with his family in Mexico, the team announced Monday.

He was 52. "Larry, known for his great athleticism and incredible strength, was one of the most respected, accomplished offensive linemen to ever play in the NFL," the Cowboys said in a statement.

"His versatility and dependability were also signature parts of his career. Through that, he continued to serve as inspiration for many other players, defining what it meant to be a great teammate, competitor and winner."

No cause of death was immediately released for Allen, who is survived by his wife Janelle and children, Jayla, Lorian and Larry III.

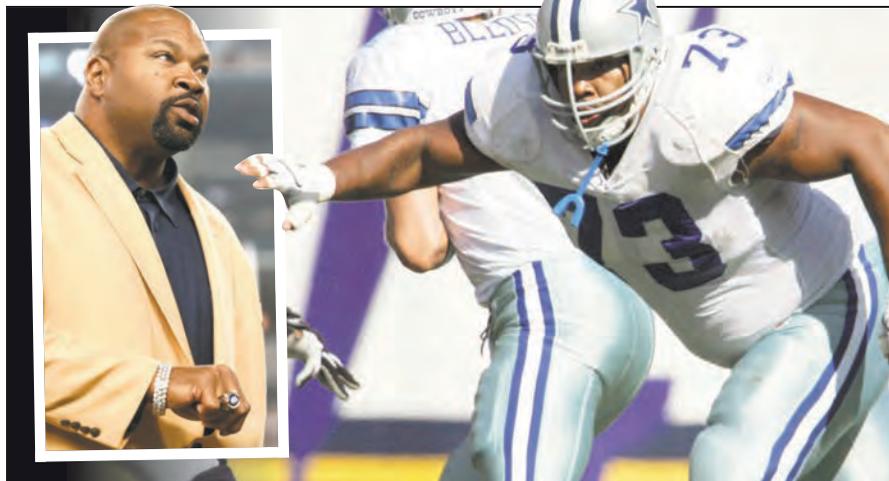
"The Jones family and the Cowboys extend their deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers to the Allen family and grieve

along with the many other friends and Cowboys teammates that also loved Larry," the statement continued.

Allen, a second-round pick out of Sonoma State in 1994, was an 11-time Pro Bowler, mostly as a guard, for the Cowboys from 1994-2005, and was a member of Dallas' 1995 Super Bowl-winning squad.

He played his final two NFL seasons with the 49ers and was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio in 2013.

"Just received the heartbreaking news of the passing of our beloved teammate Larry Allen," Troy Aikman posted on X, along with a broken-hearted emoji. "He was a HOF offensive lineman that dominated opponents regardless of the position played.



**GIANT LOSS:** Larry Allen, who made the Hall of Fame after 14 years in the NFL that included a Super Bowl win with the 1995 Cowboys, died suddenly at 52. Getty Images; AP

Off the field, he was a gentle giant that loved his family. Rest in Peace LA."

Known for his speed for his size (6-foot-3, 335 pounds) and his strength

— he reportedly once bench-pressed 700 pounds — Allen anchored the Cowboys' offensive line in front of star quarterbacks Aikman and Tony Romo.

Allen also played left and right tackle, but he was named to the All-Decade team of the 1990s and 2000s as a left guard.

"The National Football

League is filled with gifted athletes, but only a rare few have combined the size, brute strength, speed and agility of Larry Allen," Hall of Fame president Jim Porter said in a statement. "What he could do as an offensive lineman often defied logic and comprehension."

The Compton, Calif., native once was stabbed 12 times while protecting one of his brothers, and he attended four different high schools before playing collegiately at Butte College and Sonoma State. "Wow...def someone I hoped to meet one day! RIP LEGEND!!" current Cowboys star Micah Parsons posted on X, along with a crying emoji.

The Cowboys said memorial service arrangements were in the process of being planned.

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# TOP OF 'D' LINE

## Williams, Lawrence in battle to be best DT with Rams' Donald retired

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

The title of “Best Defensive Tackle in the NFL” is open for the first time in at least seven years, and New York has two viable candidates.

The Giants' Dexter Lawrence and Jets' Quinnen Williams are among 10 NFL defensive tackles earning more than \$20 million per year — all of whom would like to ascend to the throne vacated by Aaron Donald. The three-time Defensive Player of the Year surprisingly retired from the Rams in March.

So, who's the best now? Could it be Lawrence, whose 81 quarterback pressures when lined up as a true nose tackle over the last two seasons are five times more than co-runners-up Christian Barmore (Patriots) and Derrick Brown (Panthers), with 16 apiece?

“It could be,” Lawrence said. “I’ve just got to keep working on my weaknesses and getting better with my strengths. A lot of respect to [Donald] for what he brought. There probably won’t be another one of him.”

Or maybe the best now is Williams. He was anointed before last season to eventually “surpass” Donald by then-teammate John Franklin-Myers, who played on defensive lines with both stars.

Donald finished last season as the No. 2-graded interior defender in the league by Pro Football Focus, sandwiched between Lawrence (No. 1) and Williams (No. 3).

“A guy who did it the right way, he laid the blueprint for every person after him, such as myself,” Williams said. “He helped build the attributes of every D-tackle behind him because every one of us watches film and tries to take tools



AARON DONALD

from him and do the things that he can do — with the ab workouts [at] 285 pounds and different stuff like that.”

Donald changed the way defensive tackles were scouted and deployed — expanding beyond big-bodied run-stuffers to more athletic pass-rushers with a straight line to the quarterback's face.

When Donald entered the league as the No. 13 pick in the 2014 draft, defensive tackles accounted for only six of the 50 biggest defensive contracts. That number has increased to 16 in 2024 and it would have been 17 if Donald — who became the NFL's first \$22 million-per-year defensive tackle in 2018 and first \$30 million-per-year non-quarterback in 2022 — hadn't walked away with one year left on his deal.

Pass-rushers get rewarded. Donald totaled 111 sacks over 10 seasons.

“I can do a lot of good things in pass rush, but I feel like I have a lot of things to work on when it comes down to more moves and different counters,” said Williams, who has 33 career sacks and led all defensive tackles last season with 15 tackles for loss or no gain. “Adding a bigger pass-rush bag was really my main [offseason] focus.”

Lawrence was challenged by Giants de-

fensive line coach Andre Patterson to not be satisfied after back-to-back Pro Bowl seasons.

“Coach Dre kind of shifted my mindset a little bit to work on things that I wasn't good at,” Lawrence said. “That's the next step in being better. Kudos to him for helping me think about things that I wasn't necessarily. You go to your natural habits to do what you can do to improve in the game. More tools is what I'm working on — speed rushes, using my hands a little more in my rushes.”

The most likely immediate successor to Donald is the Chiefs' Chris Jones, a First-Team All-Pro in each of the last two seasons who has 75.5 career sacks and three Super Bowl rings in eight seasons. He is about to turn 30, however, after signing a five-year, \$158.75 million extension earlier this offseason.

Lawrence and Williams, both 26, entered the league together as 2019 first-round picks and both signed four-year extensions in excess of \$87 million before the 2023 season. They are halfway to the length of Donald's career before he gave in to burnout.

“Look, 10 years is a long time, but, you know, you expect more,” Lawrence said. “But he left the game on top.”

Lawrence has played in two career playoff games. Williams has played in zero, but envies Donald “going out as a champion” for the Super Bowl ring he won by making a game-sealing play in 2021.

“I'm just focused on winning football games now,” Williams said. “We haven't had the success we want to have, but ... we're going in the right direction to where we want to be — the playoffs and the Super Bowl.”

rdunleavy@nypost.com



Dexter Lawrence

Quinnen Williams

N.Y. Post: Charles Menzelberg, Bill Kostroun; AP

## Jefferson agrees to record-setting \$140M deal with Vikes

By JUSTIN TASCH

Justin Jefferson is staying with the Vikings on a record-setting contract.

The star wide receiver has agreed to a four-year, \$140 million contract extension with \$110 million guaranteed, according to multiple reports, making him the highest-paid receiver and highest-paid non-quarterback in NFL history.

Jefferson, 24, was the subject of trade rumors during the offseason as he was entering the final year of his rookie contract.

The Vikings announced the contract but did not confirm the financials.

“Something that once was a dream is now my reality,” Jefferson wrote in an X post with an accompanying video of him thanking his family and the Vikings.

“There are so many people that I can sit here and thank but you all know who you are that helped me along the way. But we ain't stopping here.... There's more to be done... SKOL!!!!!!”

The three-time Pro Bowler had 1,074 yards and five touchdowns in 10 games last season, and over four seasons he's totaled 5,899 yards and 30 touchdowns.

Jefferson becomes the latest receiver to get a big-money contract extension this offseason, joining A.J. Brown, Amon-Ra St. Brown, Jaylen Waddle, DeVonta Smith and Nico Collins.

When the Vikings entered the offseason with quarterback uncertainty as Kirk Cousins was coming off a torn Achilles and entering free agency, specula-

tion mounted about whether Jefferson, the No. 22 pick in the 2020 NFL Draft out of LSU, would be on the move.

Publicly, the team conveyed a trade was not something it was considering.

“That is not something that has once crossed my mind,” Vikings general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah said during the

NFL combine in February. “You got a blue(-chip) player, a blue(-chip) person, you try to keep as many of those as you can.”

Adofo-Mensah added that the two sides got “unbelievably close” on an extension last year and said Jefferson “should be compensated as” the best wide receiver and one of the best non-quarterbacks in the league.

WASHINGTON — Improving plate discipline was a major focus heading into last offseason for Mark Vientos.

Through two weeks since his recall from Triple-A Syracuse, the Mets third baseman seems to have it figured out. On Monday he reached base four times in helping lead his team's 8-7 victory over the Nationals.

### METS NOTES

Vientos went 2-for-3 with a homer and walked twice as part of the Mets' 13-hit attack.

"It starts in the [batting] cage and taking it very seriously, even with flips," said Vientos, who owns a 1.070 OPS. "Flips, as easy as it is ... sometimes we take it off and start swinging at anything. The guy is flipping the ball 20 mph, imagine the guy throwing it 90-something during the game. I take it seriously as soon as I step in the cage and tell myself to swing at strikes."

Vientos' blast leading off the fourth against MacKenzie Gore gave him five homers for the season, three of which have been hit against left-handers.

"Honestly I didn't think I got it until I saw the exit velocity," said Vientos, whose shot left the bat at 104.7 mph. "Then I said, 'OK, I hit it pretty well.'"

► **Francisco Alvarez** won't accompany the Mets to London for their two games against the Phillies this weekend, but could be activated from the injured list on



**BEING SELECTIVE:** Mark Vientos is congratulated in the dugout after scoring in the fifth inning of the Mets' 8-7 win over the Nationals on Monday. Getty Images

## More patient Vientos starts to make impact

the ensuing homestand, according to Mendoza.

The catcher, who is returning from surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb, has appeared in three games for Double-A Binghamton since beginning his rehab assignment.

**Luis Torrens**, who arrived in a trade with the Yankees on Friday, was behind the plate for a second straight game on Monday. The Mets also have veteran **Tomas Nido**, who has handled most of the catching duties in Alvarez's absence.

► **Drew Smith** was fully available to pitch, a day after Mendoza said the reliever was only an option in an emergency situation. Mendoza was asked why Smith was activated from the injured list Sunday if he was only available for an emergency. Mendoza said Smith's limited availability was still more than the Mets would have had from **Josh Walker**, who pitched the previous day. Walker was optioned to Triple-A Syracuse as the corresponding roster move.

## Novak wins, but may be out of French

PARIS — Novak Djokovic was laying on his back on a French Open sideline early in the second set Monday, wincing while his injured right knee was manipulated by a trainer — and worrying that he might need to quit playing the match.

After stumbling and limping around, then finding himself down by a set and a break against a younger, eager opponent, Djokovic regained his verve with the help of what he said a tournament doctor told him was the maximum dose of pills allowed to dull the pain and reduce any inflammation.

So, yes, Djokovic kept at it and came back to win in five sets across about 4 1/2 hours for the second consecutive time, surging past No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the fourth round at Roland Garros for his record 370th win in a Grand Slam match. But

here's the catch: Djokovic said he could not be certain whether he would be healthy enough to play in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

"I don't know what will happen tomorrow — or after tomorrow, if I'll be able to step out on the court and play," the 37-year-old Djokovic said. "You know, I hope so. Let's see what happens."

Djokovic is supposed to meet No. 7 seed Casper Ruud on Wednesday. The other men's quarterfinal Wednesday will be Alex de Minaur, who beat 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev, against Alexander Zverev, a 4-6, 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (2), 6-2 winner against Holger Rune in a match that ended at 1:40 a.m..

The women's quarterfinals on Wednesday: Aryna Sabalenka vs. Mirra Andreeva, and Elena Rybakina vs. Jasmine Paolini. — AP

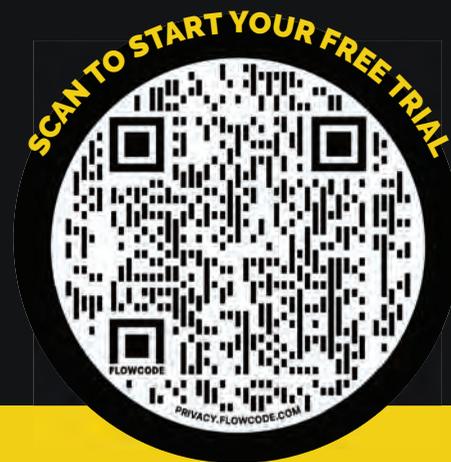
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By MOLLIE WALKER

Recognizing the silver linings in the Rangers' second conference final loss in three years, as well as the organization's fifth in the past 12, is difficult to do — but they're certainly there.

None is more prominent, or important, than the ascension of Alexis Lafreniere.

The 2020 first-overall pick was one of the Rangers' most consistent skaters in the playoffs after sending shock waves throughout the NHL during the regular season, banging the drums and alerting the masses that he has finally arrived.

It took three coaches and four seasons to get to this point, but you know what they say: Better late than never.

"It was really fun watching him play during the entire season, to see how he really improved," his linemate, Artemi Panarin, said through an interpreter during the postseason. "It's fun to play on the same line with him."

After obliterating his previous career highs by scoring 28 goals, dishing 29 assists and posting 57 points in 82 games this season despite logging limited time on the second power-play unit, Lafreniere did what so many struggle to do and followed it up with an even more impressive playoff run.

The 22-year-old tied for the most goals on the team with eight, in addition to ranking fourth in points with 14, which again smashed his previous career postseason highs. But Lafreniere's contributions were also notably impactful — game-changing even — on both the scoreboard and the way the Rangers measured up to opponents.

Of his eight goals, seven either tied the game (four) or took the lead (three).

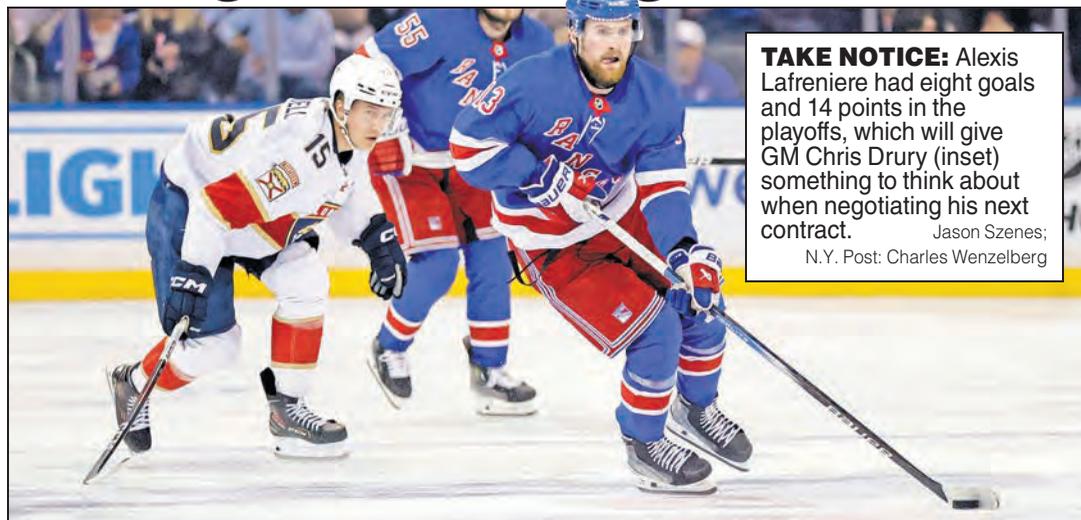
Playing with an edge and a persistent level of physicality, Lafreniere exuded confidence more and more every time he had the puck.

Even after he inadvertently tipped in Carter Verhaeghe's centering feed to give Florida a backbreaking 2-0 lead late in the third period of the Rangers' Game 1 loss in the conference fi-

# GLASS LAF' FULL



## After breakout season, 22-year-old has Rangers looking ahead to big things



**TAKE NOTICE:** Alexis Lafreniere had eight goals and 14 points in the playoffs, which will give GM Chris Drury (inset) something to think about when negotiating his next contract.

Jason Szenes;

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

nal, Lafreniere went on to play a major role in keeping his team competitive in the series by scoring four of their 12 total goals.

After being heavily scrutinized for underperforming as a top draft pick, Lafreniere under-

standably never said much about his breakout season. Instead, the Canadian wing repeatedly credited his linemates, Panarin and Vincent Trocheck, who doubters say are responsible for his success anyway.

But Lafreniere was a factor on that unit in his own right, especially when it mattered most in the playoffs.

"What we've seen is a player who's come in and found real chemistry with a couple of guys,

and that line has been really effective and really productive," Peter Laviolette said of Lafreniere, who the Rangers head coach started in the top-six to begin the season despite a tough training camp. "His ability to attack the ice, his ability to make plays and his skill level has been on display the entire year. But the chemistry with that line — Panarin, and for the most part now, just Trocheck — I think they've been a line that has just created almost every game."

Now entering the final season of a two-year, \$4.65 million contract, Lafreniere's next deal will be something president and general manager Chris Drury will want to begin looking at sooner rather than later.

The probability of Lafreniere's role expanding next season is high, and it could include more special teams opportunities.

Now that's a silver lining worth looking forward to.

mwalker1@nypost.com

## Passed up for Blueshirts job, ex-Hartford coach

By MOLLIE WALKER

Coming off of coaching nearly five seasons in the American Hockey League with the Hartford Wolf Pack in the Rangers organization, Kris Knoblauch accepted his first NHL head coaching job in mid-November and walked into an Edmonton Oilers locker

room — occupied by some of the NHL's biggest stars in Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl — that was in disarray.

One of the Stanley Cup favorites to begin the season, the Oilers had gotten off to a disastrous 3-9-1 start that got their coach, Jay Woodcroft, fired.

In came Knoblauch, who

was passed over twice for the Blueshirts job during his time in Hartford, and Edmonton ultimately finished in second place in the Pacific Division with a 46-18-5 record.

Now, Knoblauch and the Oilers are four wins away from climbing hockey's Mount Everest against the team that knocked his

former employers out in the other half of the NHL playoff bracket, the Florida Panthers.

"I saw a team that was very hard on themselves, a team that was very frustrated," Knoblauch said, per the Canadian Press, before his team eliminated the Stars in the Western Conference Final on Sun-

day. "Things hadn't been going their way ... a team that was trying probably too hard. You just get so caught up and you're not thinking straight."

"When you try to do too much or are trying to do everything, ultimately you're doing other people's jobs, and then you're not doing your job as well.

Everything's disconnected."

Inheriting a club that not only qualified for the playoffs in each of the previous four seasons, including the qualifying round in the 2020 bubble postseason, but also reached as far as the conference final just two years ago, certainly helped.

# Gil can bolster his case to be ASG starter

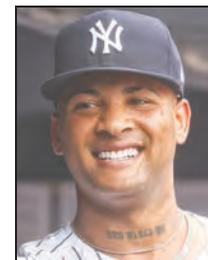
By GREG JOYCE

The All-Star Game is still over a month away.

But one of the leading candidates to be the American League's starting pitcher will have a chance to continue building his case on Tuesday at Yankee Stadium when Luis Gil takes the ball against the Twins — the team that traded a then-20-year-old Gil to the Yankees in 2018 for outfielder Jake Cave.

"Luis has been as good a pitcher as there is in the league," manager Aaron Boone said Sunday. "So the impact has been enormous."

Gil, thriving in the rotation spot created by Gerrit Cole's injury, entered Tuesday with a 1.99 ERA through his first 11 starts. As of Monday — Gil's 26th birthday — that was good for the fifth-lowest mark overall among qualified starters and third-lowest in the AL, trailing only Royals right-hander Seth Lugo (1.72) and Red Sox right-hander Tanner Houck (1.85).



**LUIS GIL**  
Third in AL in ERA.

## YANKEES NOTES

Gil's .135 batting average against was the best in the majors among qualified pitchers, and the second-best was not particularly close (Phillies lefty Ranger Suarez at .167).

Those stingy numbers were thanks in large part to a dominant May, which earned Gil American League Pitcher of the Month and Rookie of the Month honors on Monday. In six May starts, Gil went 6-0 with a 0.70 ERA. He struck out 44 across 38<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings while allowing just 14 hits and 12 walks.

"He's got the big fastball, which has always been his calling card, but he's gotten really polished," Boone said. "As we've seen here these first two months, to see him hunger to get better and learn from everything that he's gone through, build a really solid routine, that's what's been really satisfying about Luis."

► In a surprise to no one, **Aaron Judge** was named the American League Player of the Month on Monday after tearing up his opponents. He hit .361 with a 1.397 OPS, 14 home runs, 12 doubles, 22 walks and 27 RBIs in 28 games.

The Yankees captain capped off the huge month by relishing his first career series at Oracle Park, the stadium he grew up going to as a boy.

"This was a pretty fun weekend, getting a chance to come in here and get the sweep," Judge said. "It was a packed house, lot of cheering, booing, whatever going on. But I loved it. I loved getting a chance to be out there. It lived up to it."

► **Michael Tonkin** pitched a pair of scoreless innings in relief Sunday to pick up the win. In 10 games with the Yankees, he has allowed two earned runs across 15 innings.

**FUTURE IS BRIGHT:** Alexis Lafreniere went into the season with many questions about his future, but silenced those doubts with a breakout season, scoring 28 goals while adding 29 assists and carrying the Rangers' offense at times in the playoffs.

Getty Images



# has Oilers on brink of Cup

But Oilers general manager Ken Holland credited Knoblauch for saving their 2023-24 season, per ESPN.

Knoblauch led the Wolf Pack to a 119-90-32 record with one run to the second round of the Calder Cup Playoffs. The Rangers were surely happy with his work in the AHL, but the organization was never

going to hand the keys over to a first-year coach when it was in win-now mode.

"I'm super happy for him," Zac Jones told The Post in late December of Knoblauch getting a NHL gig. "I always figured it would come. I didn't think when it would come, but I knew that he would be a

head coach in the NHL at some point. I'm really, really happy for him and his family.

"I really liked him. I really enjoyed having him as a coach for three years almost. It was good. He taught me a lot and put me in a lot of good situations down there, so I really enjoyed playing for him."



**KRIS KNOBLAUCH**  
Former AHL Wolf Pack coach.

# STRESS RELIEF

## Diekman helps Mets survive near-collapse in 9th to escape with win over Nats


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**at Nationals**  
 Tuesday, 6:45 p.m.,  
 SNY, WCBS (880 AM)

**LHP David Peterson**

**2024 stats:**  
 0-0, 3.60 ERA

**Career vs. WAS:**  
 3-1, 3.68 ERA

**Last start:**  
 Wed., vs. LAD;  
 5 IP, 2 ER, 3 SO

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**
**27%** 4-Seamer  
**25%** Sinker  
**20%** Slider

**RHP Trevor Williams**

**2024 stats:**  
 5-0, 2.22 ERA

**Career vs. NYM:**  
 3-2, 3.83 ERA

**Last start:**  
 Thurs., at ATL;  
 5.2 IP, 1 ER, 4 SO

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**
**39%** 4-Seamer  
**20%** Sweeper  
**18%** Changeup

**UP NEXT**
**WEDNESDAY:** at Nationals,  
 4:05 p.m., SNY, WCBS  
**RHP Luis Severino**  
 vs. **LHP Patrick Corbin**
**SATURDAY:** vs. Phillies,  
 1:10 p.m., Fox, WCBS\*  
**TBD vs. TBD**  
 \* In London

**INJURY REPORT**

■ **Francisco Alvarez**, who is rehabbing from surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb, will likely be activated from the injured list on the Mets' next homestand.

**NATIONAL PLEASURE:**

Brandon Nimmo, who leaped into the netting to catch a foul ball hit by Luis Garcia Jr. to end the sixth inning (far right), celebrates with Starling Marte and Harrison Bader after the Mets' 8-7 win over the Nationals. Jake Diekman, who blew the save in the ninth on Sunday, is congratulated by catcher Luis Torrens (left) after securing his second save of the season.

By MIKE PUMA

WASHINGTON — Jake Diekman kept his thoughts to simple math as the bullpen door opened in the ninth inning Monday night with a Mets victory hanging in the balance.

The left-hander had blown the save the previous day against the Diamondbacks on Ketel Marte's two-run homer in the ninth inning in a harrowing Mets loss. Diekman had flushed that memory and was now charged with sanitizing Adam Ottavino's mess.

"Try to get two outs there before they score two," Diekman said of his mindset.

Diekman got the two outs and Washington scored only once in a nail-biting 8-7 victory for the Mets at Nationals Park.

Diekman struck out Drew Millas with the tying run at third base and go-ahead run at first to end it, as the Mets (who lead the major leagues with 10 losses when leading after seven innings) narrowly avoided another disaster.

The struggling Ottavino, entrusted with an 8-5 lead, recorded only one out in the ninth and allowed a run before leaving with the bases loaded. Diekman fell behind 3-0 in the count to Joey Meneses before retiring him on a sacrifice fly. It took Diekman only three pitches — all four-seam fastballs — to strike out Millas.

"[Diekman] has been in this game a long time and he was able to slow the game down and just think small, one pitch at a time," manager Carlos Mendoza said. "He got back in the count and got the sacrifice fly there and back on track for the last out of the game. Hell of a job, especially after the outing he had [Sunday]."

Ottavino's disastrous ninth undermined what had been a strong night of work by the Mets bullpen. The Mets have won only four times in their last 14 games, but in three of those victories Adrian Houser has left an imprint as a reliever. On this



night he pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings in relief before Drew Smith, in his first appearance off the injured list, got the final out in the eighth.

As a starter Houser has pitched to an 8.55 ERA in seven appearances this season. In his five relief outings he's been a completely different pitcher, owning a 1.42 ERA. Houser

also had multi-inning relief appearances against the Giants and Diamondbacks on the last homestand in which he pitched well and the Mets won.

Taylor Megill scuffled in his third start off the injured list, allowing five runs, one of which was unearned, on seven hits with three walks and four strikeouts over five innings. Megill's chances of working deeper evaporated during a fifth inning in which he faced seven batters but surrendered only one run.

"It's just one of those starts where the command isn't there and you try to grind through it

and make quality pitches," Megill said.

Starling Marte and Mark Vientos walked in succession to begin the second, allowing the Mets to go ahead 1-0 on Harrison Bader's sacrifice fly following a wild pitch. The Mets loaded the bases in the inning, but Pete

Alonso was retired on a deep fly to left to end the threat.

Bader dropped Nick Senzel's fly ball to deep right-center leading off the second for a two-base error that led to the Nationals tying it 1-1 on Jesse Winker's RBI single.

Vientos homered against MacKenzie Gore to lead off the fourth. The blast, which put the Mets ahead 2-1, was Vientos' fifth of the season — three of which have been hit against lefties. Francisco Lindor delivered an RBI single in the inning after Jose Iglesias singled and stole second.

Joey Gallo blasted a three-run homer in the fourth that allowed the Nationals to regain the lead at 4-3. Senzel and

Winker each singled before the Nationals had a call overturned at first base, allowing Ildemaro Vargas to reach and extend the inning. Vargas was initially ruled out on what would have been an inning-ending double-play grounder.

The Mets loaded the bases in the fifth before Bader's second sacrifice fly of the night tied it 4-4. Iglesias' third hit of the game, an RBI single, put the Mets ahead before Luis Torrens extended the lead to 7-4 with a two-run double.

But Megill barely survived the fifth, allowing a run on two singles and two walks to pull the Nationals within 7-5. Megill escaped with the bases loaded by retiring Vargas for the final out.

Jacob Barnes' throwing error gifted the Mets a run in the sixth. Starling Marte singled and J.D. Martinez raced to third, with the throw from right field hitting him. Barnes grabbed the ball and attempted to nail Marte, who had taken a wide turn at first, and threw it away.

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**8**  
**7** **Boxscore**  
**Page 36**



## Struggling McNeil sits 'to work on some things'

By MIKE PUMA

WASHINGTON — Jeff McNeil appeared to have turned a corner on the Mets' last road trip, but his latest turn is toward the bench.

After a 5-for-32 (.156) home-stand, the slumping second baseman was absent from the lineup as the Mets began their three-game series against the Nationals on Monday. It was the second time in four games that Jose Iglesias started in McNeil's spot, but unlike the last instance the desire to give McNeil a rest wasn't cited by manager Carlos Mendoza.

"We're giving Jeff another day to continue to work on some things and get back on track," Mendoza said before the Mets won 8-7 at Nationals Park.

Iglesias produced big on this night, finishing 3-for-5 with an RBI and stolen base.

"It's a perfect time for me to be on this great team that wants to win, and contribute and continue to communicate with the players like we have been doing" said the veteran infielder Iglesias, who was selected from Triple-A Syracuse on Friday.

"There's so many ways that you can contribute to a team,



**JOSE IGLESIAS**

Went 3-for-5 with an RBI.

not necessarily with the bat or the defense. There's the energy and you keep pushing teammates and supporting them. It's about vibe."

McNeil, according to Mendoza, is lifting the ball too much.

"He's a guy that won a batting title by hitting line drives from line to line and right now we're not seeing that consistently," Mendoza said. "There's been stretches of a couple of games where you go, 'OK, he's back,' and then he goes some games where he is just missing pitches. We want him to square baseballs

and hit line drives the way he is capable."

McNeil homered in consecutive games two weeks ago in Cleveland as part of a 7-for-23 (.304) stretch, but entering play had only one extra-base hit since then and was without a multi-hit game.

The fact lefty MacKenzie Gore started for the Nationals likely weighed into Mendoza's decision. But McNeil has equally underperformed against lefties and righties this season.

Against righties entering play he had a .618 OPS. Against lefties he had a .613 OPS. Overall he owned a disappointing .227/.296/.320 slash line with three homers and 14 RBIs.

Mendoza was noncommittal about the possibility of a platoon between McNeil and Iglesias.

"When [McNeil] is on it doesn't matter who is on the mound," Mendoza said. "He's pretty good against lefties when he's on. When he's feeling right ... this is not strictly a righty or lefty matchup. It's just more getting Jeff back on track. Right now he is working through something."

**Mets notes / P. 47**

# SECOND HELPING

## In Year 2, Volpe becoming vital part of the Bombers' success

By GREG JOYCE

Anthony Volpe lost his 21-game hitting streak, which had put him into select company, a little over halfway through the Yankees' West Coast trip.

But it didn't take a stat putting him in the same sentence as Joe DiMaggio to prove what kind of impact Volpe has been making on the Yankees while continuing to take a step forward in his second year in the big leagues.

"He's playing like a stud on both sides of the ball," manager Aaron Boone said. "Just turning into a really special player."

Aaron Judge and Juan Soto garnered most of the attention during the 10-day, nine-game trip through California in which the Yankees went 7-2 to enter Monday with the best record in baseball.

But the hitter in front of them was right in the thick of things as well, as Volpe consistently

produced from the top of the lineup to stay hot. The 23-year-old shortstop capped off the trip by going 2-for-5 with a clutch RBI triple that helped fuel the Yankees' ninth-inning comeback win over the Giants on Sunday.

"I just wanted to have a good at-bat, get a pitch I

could handle and pass it on to Soto and Judge and the rest of the guys," Volpe said. "Simple approach."

It is one that has paid major dividends for Volpe.

Over his past 25 games, Volpe is batting .324 with a .890 OPS and four triples. On the season, through 60 games, he is batting .284 with a .792 OPS. He got off to a blazing start in the first two-plus weeks, then cooled off for about three weeks, but has now spent the better part of nearly the last month providing steady production for a lineup that is clicking.

"He's using the whole field — that's the No. 1 thing that jumps off the chart," Judge said. "That's what I saw in all the videos when he was coming up through the minor leagues is gap to gap, have a little pop to the pull side and to the opposite field."

"Finally starting to see that this year where it doesn't matter if there's two strikes, first pitch of the game. He's driving the ball up the middle, driving it to the right side, doing it with guys on base. He starts the party for us at the top."

The Yankees already have two of the best players in the game in Judge and Soto. But Volpe has joined them in the top 10 in fWAR

through the first two-plus months of the season. Judge was first at 4.0, Soto second at 3.9, and Volpe just behind Shohei Ohtani in eighth at 2.8.

And Judge thinks there may still be more to come.

"I think he's still improving," Judge said. "He's still getting better as the season's going on. As he gets more at-bats under his belt, he's going to continue to improve. ... When he uses the whole field and he uses his speed, he is one of the best shortstops in the game. We're lucky to have him and I'm happy he's hitting in front of Juan and I."

While his 21-game hitting streak ended Thursday — he had become only the second Yankee to have a hitting streak of at least 20 games at the age of 23 or younger, joining DiMaggio — Volpe still has a career-high 29-game on-base streak that is matched only by Judge.

And after winning a Gold Glove as a rookie last season, Volpe's defense has continued to improve. It was on full display in Wednesday's win over the Angels, when he made a diving play to his right and fired a one-hop throw to Anthony Rizzo for the out to help Luis Gil get through an inning.

"Man, he's been tremendous," Gil said through an interpreter. "When you look at the way he's playing baseball right now, he's making things happen in the box and defensively, wow. He's doing everything right."

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**OFF AND RUNNING:** After cooling off for three weeks, Anthony Volpe has been raking at the plate, including his pivotal triple in Sunday's ninth-inning rally. And his defense hasn't missed a beat after he won the Gold Glove as a rookie.

Getty Images; AP

USA TODAY Sports

**Anthony Volpe, batting leadoff most of the season, has improved on most of his stats from his rookie season. Here's a look at his improvement (numbers in parenthesis for cumulative stats are season projections based on his current numbers):**

2023		2024
159	<b>Games</b>	60
541	<b>At-bats</b>	243
.209	<b>Avg.</b>	.284
21	<b>HRs</b>	6 (16)
60	<b>RBIs</b>	25 (66)
24	<b>Steals</b>	11 (29)
27.8	<b>K rate</b>	20.5
.283	<b>OBP</b>	.352
.383	<b>SLG</b>	.440
.666	<b>OPS</b>	.792
2.0	<b>fWAR</b>	2.8 (7.4)

More Yankees / P. 49

# Time for Yanks to make it reign and end city's endless sports drought

**M**ADISON Square Garden was quiet and dark Monday. There were no suites to clean, no ice to tend to and smooth, no concession stands to prep, no organ to tune. Next door, at The Theater, there was a Bryson Tiller concert scheduled. Melanie Martinez is up next in the big room, Wednesday and Thursday. Billy Joel will be there Saturday.

The Rangers weren't there Monday, and so they won't be there next Monday, either, which is when the Stanley Cup Final would've started if Game 1 was going to be in New York instead of Sunrise, Fla. The Knicks won't be there. The varsity co-tenants won't be back until October. The Panthers saw to that Saturday night, trimming the Rangers 2-1 in Game 6, ending the most enjoyable hockey season around the Garden in years.

Soon came a recalculation of New York's recent championship miseries, which has become a regular part of our seasonal aftermath now. Josh Dubow of the Associated Press was kind enough to point out that with the Rangers elimination, the eight teams bearing New York City's name — Yankees, Mets, Giants, Jets, Knicks, Nets, Rangers, Islanders — have now gone an even 100 combined seasons without winning a championship.

Peter Botte of The New York Post was then clever enough to look at this in an equally dark and depressing way and come up with the number 287 — the total of all those teams' current championship droughts (for the record: Jets 55; Knicks 51; Nets 47; Isles 41; Mets 37; Rangers 30; Yankees 14; Giants 12).

*(And as I am a faithful citizen of New Jersey, I'll helpfully point out that if you toss the Devils onto those piles both numbers swell to 112 and 308, respectively.)*

And, well, what's pretty clear now is that New York needs what it has always needed. It needs the Yankees to keep acting and playing like the Yankees. It needs these Yankees to end this madness so we can move on with the rest of our lives. It needs the Yankees to paraphrase a longtime Yankees fan named Paul Simon.

A city turns its lonely eyes to you, Yankees. (Woo, woo, woo.)

"I know we got something special in that room, there's no question about that," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said after the Yankees wrapped up a 7-2 swing through the West Coast with a feel-great 7-5 comeback win against the Giants at San Francisco's Oracle Park on Sunday.

"Where that takes us, we'll see. We do have a long way to go and they all understand that. But the sin-

gular focus on the team and on winning and on what can we do today to win a game and the purpose — I keep saying that word all year. It just feels like the purpose they're playing the game with, and for one another, you can feel that in here every day. That's fun to be a part of."

It's become fun and downright addicting to watch. We're barely into June and we're already 100 percent allowed to compare Juan Soto and Aaron Judge's brief partnership to some of the iconic 1-2 punches in team history — to Bernie Williams/Derek Jeter and Thurman Munson/Reggie Jackson, whom many of us saw. But, yes: even to Mickey Mantle/Roger Maris, to Joe DiMaggio/Yogi Berra, to —

sacri-lege alert — Babe Ruth/Lou Gehrig, which are comps most of us can only speculate about.

They've been that good so far.

And yes, Boone is right: It's dangerous to get too far out over your skis in the first week in June. No team has been more proficient at teaching us that lesson in recent years than the Yankees. The 2022 team was 61-23 on July 8; it finished 39-40. Last year's club was 36-25 on June 4, when Judge hurt his foot in Los Angeles. They finished 46-55.

History is littered with teams that peaked too soon. But it doesn't feel that way with the Yankees. Gerrit Cole is coming back soon. Luis Gil has been a revelation. Jasson Dominguez is waiting in the wings. And sometimes, with good teams, you can just spot good karma from a NASA picture taken from outer space.

"That was a fun one to be a part of," Judge said of Sunday's game, though he could've been talking about every game since March 28.

It's the Yankees' turn, maybe their time. It's happened before. If not for the Yankees, there would've been similar droughts in New York between 1940 and 1954, between 1956 and 1968. Each time the city (minus a faction of Dodgers/Giants/Mets fans) turned its lonely eyes to the Yankees.

By October, assuming the Mets haven't received a heart transplant, those streaks will be 101 and 288 and the city will be doing the same all over again. It's time.

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Mike Vaccaro



Juan Soto

Aaron Judge



**INJURY REPORT**

■ **Gerrit Cole** (elbow nerve inflammation) will begin a rehab assignment Tuesday with Double-A Somerset, putting him in line to return by the end of the month if all goes well.

■ **Scott Effross** (Tommy John and back surgery) has gained momentum in his bullpen sessions in recent weeks, inching him closer to starting a rehab assignment.



**vs. Twins**

Tuesday, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

**RHP Luis Gil**



**2024 stats:**  
7-1, 1.99 ERA

**Career vs. MIN:**  
0-0, 7.50 ERA

**Last start:**  
Wed. at LAA;  
8.0 IP, 2 H, 1 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**56%** Fastball | **27%** Changeup | **17%** Slider

**RHP Bailey Ober**



**2024 stats:**  
5-3, 4.89 ERA

**Career vs. NYY:**  
First appearance

**Last start:**  
Wed. vs. KCR;  
5.0 IP, 9 H, 6 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**39%** Fastball | **24%** Changeup | **22%** Cutter

**UP NEXT**

**WEDNESDAY:** vs. Twins, 7:05 p.m., Amazon, WFAN  
LHP Carlos Rodon  
vs. RHP Chris Paddack

**THURSDAY:** vs. Twins, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN  
RHP Marcus Stroman  
vs. RHP Pablo Lopez



## SHINE BRIGHT LIKE A DIAMOND

Netflix has renewed "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar" for a second season after the show became the streaming giant's most-watched Indian series back in May. The show is still firmly ensconced in the global Netflix Top 10.



**SMOOTH CRIMINAL**  
"Sons of Anarchy" star Charlie Hunnam (left) has been tapped to play the lead in "Criminal," a new show coming to Prime Video. Hunnam will star alongside Adria Arjona and Richard Jenkins in the adaptation of author Ed Brubaker's graphic novel series.

# TV Tuesday

Jackie Goldschneider on this exceptionally tense season of 'Real Housewives of New Jersey'

By SAMANTHA NUNGESESSER

In reclaiming her voice, "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" star Jackie Goldschneider is no longer submitting to the "blind loyalty" she felt her former BFF Margaret Josephs expected of her. While Bravoholics have been privy to some sort of friendship-ending feud between the two women, most assumed it had everything to do with Goldschneider's budding relationship with Josephs' sworn enemy Teresa Giudice. However, tensions between the once-close pals appeared high from the very first episode of Season 14, meaning something deeper must have been at play.

"I think that back almost a year ago, there was an incident that I won't go into, where I felt like she showed me that I was not that important to her anymore," Goldschneider told DECIDER when asked if something happened before filming started. "As time went by, other things would happen where I felt sort of like when my status on the show changed, my importance to her changed. And I was okay with that but I needed to take a step back from that relationship."

Everything came to a head during the May 26 episode of "RHONJ" when Josephs defended Danielle Cabral for not inviting Goldschneider to her party. Their argument escalated when Josephs called Goldschneider a "disgrace" for failing to check in on the first anniversary of her ex-husband's death and neglecting to give her an early copy of her book, which Goldschneider has since refuted, telling DECIDER that she gifted the entire cast an early copy once it was completely finished. The author called her disagreement with Josephs at the softball game the "tip of the iceberg," though teased a future scene in



Jackie Goldschneider (above) has maintained an integral role on "RHONJ" this season.

which Josephs allegedly did something "so bad" to her that it was "very hard to come back from."

Goldschneider, who was brought back as a "friend" last season after four seasons on the full-time cast, also shut down Melissa Gorga's recent speculation on "Watch What Happens Live" that she befriended Giudice to get her previous position on the cast back. "That's a very convenient narrative for her because nobody wants to accept the fact that I could possibly like someone that they hate so much," Goldschneider said, noting that she and her family are "happy with the friend role."

She continued, "My relationship with Teresa evolved and I think that really bothered certain people, Melissa included. I never had a fight with Melissa this season. She just went with the team mentality and put herself on a team. I did not do that. So she aligned with people who didn't like me and that's a very convenient narrative for her."

Goldschneider recently stopped by DECIDER's office to chat about the drama in Season 14 that made "RHONJ" feel more like a "competition show" than a reality show, her newfound "confidence era" and her blossoming friendship with Giudice. Check out the in-

terview below.

**DECIDER: I'm super excited about Season 14. How are you feeling about this season now that we're a few episodes in?**

**JACKIE GOLDSCHNEIDER:** I have mixed feelings. It's hard to watch back some of the bad parts. Obviously, it's not easy to watch a friendship fall apart. But I'm excited. I love knowing that my book is going to be showcased there. I am excited for people to see the evolution of new friendships in my life, and I think there's a lot of drama but there's also some good things coming.

**Were you shocked to**

**find yourself getting closer to Teresa Giudice and Jennifer Aydin after so many years of feuding?**

I think I was initially shocked at how little I cared about the fight that we had years ago. I was trying to be really authentic to myself and think about whether I wanted to move forward with our friendship just because other friendships were falling apart or if this was something I really wanted. I was surprised at how much I really wanted to see if there was friendship there.

**You've been so brave to open up about your recovery - you've written on Instagram that you're in your "confidence era." What tips do you have for women (or people in general) looking to bring out their inner confidence?**

Yeah, therapy. My No. 1 tip. I am such an advocate of therapy. And when I say therapy, get a therapist who does not coddle you. My therapist now does not take it easy on me. She pushes me and she makes me create boundaries and she makes me talk about things that are uncomfortable, really uncomfortable, and she doesn't tell me what I want to hear. So get yourself a therapist who really is going to push you to be your best self.

**Is there anything else you can tease about the rest of the season?**

I mean, it's not great. The season's great, but the things I'm going to tease are not. There's a lot of friendships that fall apart. There's a lot of nasty fighting. There are some good times. But, you know, a lot of questions get answered. I'm just gonna say "stay tuned." You're gonna see - a lot of your questions are gonna get answered.

*This interview has been condensed for space. To read it in full, please visit [decider.com/rhonor](https://decider.com/rhonor).*

*"The Real Housewives of New Jersey" airs Sunday nights on Bravo at 8pm ET.*

## Droughtlander

Fans of "Outlander" have been getting impatient waiting for Starz to schedule Part 2 of the show's seventh season. Part 1 wrapped way back in August of 2023, but now they can circle Friday, November 22 on their calendar for the return of Jamie and Claire (below).



## Summer of Suits

Good news for all those zoomers and millennials that spent last summer bingewatching "Suits." Season 9 of the show is set to finally arrive on Netflix on July 1.



### What's on Tonight



### DRAMA

**The Book of Eli:** 11 p.m. on AMC. Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman. A drifter protects a sacred book that holds the secrets to humanity's salvation.



### FANTASY

**Avatar: The Way of Water:** 11:03 p.m. on HBO. Joel David Moore, Edie Falco. Jake must work with Neytiri and the army of the Na'vi race to protect their home.



### ACTION

**The Meg:** 11:30 p.m. on TNT. Jason Statham, Li Bingbing. A group of scientists encounter the largest marine predator that has ever existed.

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2	WCBS	2	2	2	CBS News Norah	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	FBI: Creating a Monster (R)	FBI: International: Magpie (R)	FBI: Most Wanted: Hollow (R)	CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) Late Show		
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	America's Got Talent: Auditions 2	Password: Johnny Knoxville & Jimmy Fallon	News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show			
5	WNYW	5	5	5	Family Feud (R)	Extra (R)	TMZ (R)	Beat Shazam: School's Out	The Quiz with Balls: The Southern Showdown	The 10 O'Clock News	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)		
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune: Brendan Hunt (R)	Celebrity Jeopardy!: Quarterfinal #4: Steven (R)	The \$100,000 Pyramid: Taran Killam vs Cedric (R)	News	(11:35) Kimmel Live		
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Dish Nation (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	WNBA Basketball: New York Wintrust Arena. Live.	Liberty at Chicago Sky from	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Chicago Fire: I Will Be Walking		
11	WPIX	11	11	11	PIX11 Evening News	Sports Nightly	The Big Bang Theory	Police 24/7: On the Run	Hostage Rescue: Kidnapped in Monterrey	PIX11 News at Ten	Seinfeld: The Busboy	Seinfeld: The Switch		
13	WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS NewsHour	Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives	American Masters: Hopper: An American Love (R)	Amanpour and Company					
21	WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Doc Martin	(7:50) Ms Fisher's	(8:40) Silent Witness	Royal Myths: Henry VIII	Grown Up	Show Me	BBC News		
25	WNYE	25	22	25	Report	TBA	Science	History Presents On NYLife	New York	Secrets NY	To Be Announced			
31	WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) Fire	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire: Then Nick	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire: Off the Grid				
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	La rosa de Guadalupe	Golpe de suerte	El amor no tiene receta	Noticiero	Noticiero				
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP	(7:58) Top Chef VIP: Memorias, Parte 2	Noticiero	Noticias					
55	WLNY	55	10	10	Queens	Man	Man	News 8pm	48 Hours: Dangerous	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	
A&E	46	46	181	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor
AMC	54	43	231	(4:00) The Green Mile (1999, Drama) R	Tombstone (1993, Western) Kurt Russell. R ★★★½	The Book of Eli (2010) R								
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud	Celebrity Family Feud	Celebrity Family Feud	What's At Stake: 2024	Madea Goes to Jail ★½					
BBCAM	71	101	189	Bones	Bones: Family in Feud	Bones: Suit on the Set	Bones: Past in Present	Bones: Future in the Past	Bones: Partner Divorce					
BRAVO	18	44	185	The Valley	The Valley (R)	The Valley (R)	The Valley: Opening Bars	(10:15) Real Housewives	The Valley: Opening Bars					
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	The Office	The Office	The Office	(8:20) The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Daily Show	South Park	
DIS	49	31	250	Hamster	Big City	Big City	Hailey's	Hailey's	Moon Girl	Miraculous	Miraculous	Miraculous	Villains	Villains
DSC	66	27	120	Dead. Ctch	Deadliest Catch (R)	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch	(9:06) Deadliest Catch (R)	(10:06) Deadliest Catch	(11:06) Deadliest Catch				
E!	24	51	196	(5:30) Fast Five (2011, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★★	The Fast and the Furious (2001, Action) Paul Walker. PG-13 ★★★	E! News	Kardashian							
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports Live.	Sports	ESPN Original Documentaries	E60	The Ultimate	SportsCenter Live.					
ESPN2	29	35	74	ESPN BET L	Horn	Pardon the Interruption	The Ultimate	ESPN Original Documentaries	E60					
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)	Legends & Lies: Patriots	Legends & Lies: Patriots	Legends & Lies: Patriots	Legends & Lies: Patriots					
FNC	44	26	118	Sp. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle	Jesse Watters Primetime	Hannity	Gutfeld!	Fox News @ Night					
FOOD	50	97	164	Chopped	Chopped (R)	Chopped: Pleasures	Chopped: Truffle (R)	To Be Announced	Supermarket (R)					
FREFRM	38	49	199	Toy Story 3 (2010, Comedy) Tom Hanks. G ★★★★★	Toy Story 4 (2019, Family) Tom Hanks. G	The 700 Club (R)								
FS1	400	99	83	NASCAR	International Friendly: Portugal at Finland. Replay.	NASCAR Cup Series: World Wide Technology Raceway Replay.								
FX	10	40	53	Spider-Man	Black Widow (2021, Action) Scarlett Johansson. PG-13 ★★½	The Bear	The Bear	Spider-Man: No (2021)						
HALL	191	240	Snowkissed	Field Day (2023, Comedy) Rachel Boston.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022) Ashley Williams. G	Golden	Golden							
HGTV	64	98	165	Demo Reno	Who's Afraid of a Cheap	Farmhouse Fixer (R)	Farmhouse Fixer	Hunters	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)				
HIST	40	47	128	The Secret	The Secret: Bad Taste (R)	The Secret: The Flash (R)	The Secret of Skinwalker	(10:03) Beyond Skinwalk	The Secret: Bad Taste (R)					
ID	23	171	123	See No (R)	See No Evil (R)	Body Cam: Talk to Me (R)	Gone Viral	Gone Viral	Body Cam: Scene (R)	Body Cam: Psycho 1 (R)				
LIFE	62	45	140	Castle	Castle: Knockout	Castle: Rise	Castle: Heroes & Villains	Castle: Head Case	Castle: Kick Ballistics					
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	The Juice	Club 30: Eli Manning	2024 Roland Garros: Round of 16 Replay.								
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(6:00) World Poker Tour	Fight Sports World									
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	Catfish: The TV Show	In a Secret Relationship	In a Secret Relationship	In a Secret Relationship					
NATGEO	65	162	121	Life Below	Life Below Zero (R)	Life Below Zero (R)	Life Below Zero: Canada	Fiennes Return to Wild	Life Below Zero (R)					
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Loud House	Loud House	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
OWN	173	180	145	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil: Dentist Lover	Deadline: Tamron Hall	Deadline: Tamron Hall	Deadline: Tamron Hall	Deadline: Tamron Hall					
PARMT	36	56	54	Men	Men	Men	The Dark Knight Rises (2012, Action) Christian Bale. PG-13 ★★★★★							
SNY	26	60	77	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Washington Nationals. Live.	Post Game	Sports Live.	Sports Live.	Sports Live.	Sports Live.					
SYFY	17	48	180	(3:57) 2012 (2009, Action)	Escape Room: Tournament of Champions (2021)	The Core (2003, Drama) Aaron Eckhart. PG-13 ★★								
TBS	8	39	52	Pre-Game	MLB Baseball: Minnesota Twins at New York Yankees. Live.	Post-Game	Family	Family	Family					
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) The Velvet Touch (1948, Mystery)	Bright Eyes (1934) Shirley Temple. ★★★	Moon Over Miami (1941, Musical) Don Ameche. ★★★	Gang ★★½							
TLC	52	28	139	Doubling	Doubling Down with (R)	Doubling Down with	OutDaughtered: Chaos	7 Little Johnstons	Unexpected (R)					
TNT	3	37	51	Pirates: Dead (2017) ★★★	Pregame	Women's Soccer Live.	Postgame	The Lazarus Project (R)	The Meg					
TVLAND	85	34	241	(6:24) Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens				
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU	WWE NXT Live.	(10:08) Tag (2018, Comedy) Ed Helms, Jake Johnson.							
VH1	19	52	217	Martin	Martin	Martin	Juice (2018, Drama) Iida-Maria Heinonen. NR ★★★	What's At Stake (R)	All Eyez on Me (2017) ★★½					
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) 9-1-1	9-1-1: Powerless	9-1-1: What's Next?	9-1-1: The New Abnormal	9-1-1: Alone Together	9-1-1: Future Tense					
YES	53	89	76	Pregame	MLB Baseball: Minnesota Twins at New York Yankees. Live.	Yankees Postgame Live.	Forbes	MLB Game						
HBO	511	301	400	The Great	Real Time with (R)	Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000) PG-13 ★★½	(10:03) Ren Faire (R)	Avatar: The Way (2022)						
MAX	531	371	420	Keanu (2016, Comedy) Jordan Peele. R	Altitude (2017, Action) Denise Richards.	(9:28) Whiteout (2009, Thriller) R ★★½	(11:09) The Visit (2015)							
MGM Plus	595	395	(6:20) 80 for Brady (2023, Comedy)	French Girl (2024, Comedy) Zach Braff. R ★★★	(9:55) Mean Girls (2024, Comedy)	Bottoms R								
PARSHO	551	321	365	(5:50) Mission: Impossible II (2000) ★★½	Fellow Travelers	(9:05) The Inspection (2022, Drama) ★★½	The Chi: City of Gold	Black ★½						



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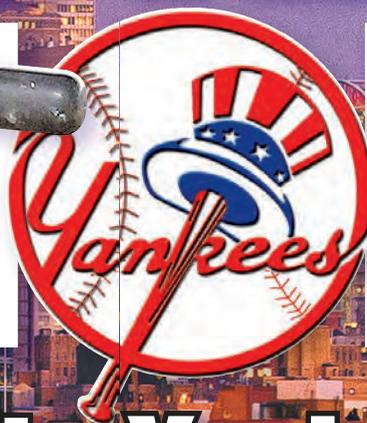
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## Vaccaro: Up to Yankees to end NY's 100-season championship drought

Aaron Judge and Juan Soto have led the Yankees to the best record in baseball as New York City looks for its first championship since the Giants won the Super Bowl in 2012. Since then, the eight teams that represent New York have gone 100 combined seasons without a title. P. 53

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