Role reversal: Millions of children are caregivers

More kids are providing care to family members without pay, support or recognition. **In Money**

Vikings' star receiver signs historic $140M megadeal

Jefferson's contract makes him highest-paid wide receiver in NFL history. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

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EMMA MCINTYRE/ GETTY IMAGES

Missy Elliott shares her 'pinch-me moment'

Rapper describes what her thoughts were while getting inducted into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and how she's preparing to tour. **In Life**

E2

Tough job ahead for Mexico's president

Newly elected leader has rift to heal with US

Lauren Villagran
USA TODAY

When Mexicans elected a new president, they also chose the next negotiator-in-chief who will make tough choices with the United States on issues from immigration and trade to fentanyl trafficking.

Mexicans voted overwhelmingly for Claudia Sheinbaum, giving her more than 58% of the vote and a substantial mandate to govern the second-largest economy in Latin America and the No. 1 trading partner for the U.S.

When President Andrés Manuel López Obrador leaves his post and Sheinbaum takes office on Oct. 1, she'll inherit a country that is reeling from slow economic growth and violence linked to organized crime. She'll also face a fractured relationship with the United States. Despite deep cross-border economic ties, the U.S.-Mexico relationship has been tested by the countries' shared problems with global migration and drug trafficking.

"The two countries have been suffering from an incredible fumbling of the ball in dealing with each other," said Tony Payan, director of the Center for the U.S. and Mexico at Rice University's Baker Institute. "I think the two countries need to come back to the table."

Americans may love "taco Tuesday" and vacationing in Cancun, but the complexity of the U.S.-Mexico relationship is often lost amid marketing and political rhetoric. Mexico's stamp on the U.S. is everywhere.

It's in the Mexico-made car parts that keep U.S. autoworkers employed in Detroit, in the windmill blades exported to U.S. clean energy plants, in the pacemakers saving the lives of American patients with heart failure, and in the $15 avocado toast on restaurant menus nationwide.

U.S. exports to Mexico include grains grown in the Midwest and natural gas pumped in Texas. Mexico sends fruits and vegetables north, keeping grocery costs lower amid volatile inflation in the U.S.

The country became the United States' largest trading partner last year, pushing China to the No. 2 spot,

See MEXICO, Page 2A

Claudia Sheinbaum, the first woman to be elected president in Mexico, inherits a relationship with its northern neighbor, the United States, that has been strained by illegal immigration and drug trafficking.
ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/REUTERS

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY HONOR FLIGHT

HEROES' RETURN

66 WWII vets make way back to site of D-Day invasion

Michael Collins USA TODAY

EN ROUTE TO FRANCE – Robert Pedigo had a hunch. ● He and his bomber crew, based in England, had been flying missions against the Nazis. Then, on a late spring evening in 1944, a commander took each squadron into a nearby wheat field to give them special instruction. ● "Men, go get a good night's rest," he said, "because we have an important mission tomorrow." ● The commander, he has always remembered, was Jimmy Stewart, the star who had left Hollywood to lead air attacks throughout World War II. Pedigo and the rest of the flight crew bedded down. The wake-up call would come at 2:30 the next morning, June 6.

Pedigo, from Indianapolis, had sold scrap metal and worked other jobs during the Great Depression to help support his family before enlisting in the Army Air Corps. Now he was a nose gunner and air bomber on a crew of 10 in the 453rd Bombardment group. Their B-24J Liberator, nicknamed the Silent Yokum, took off into the morning sky.

As they crossed the English Channel, Pedigo looked down and couldn't believe his eyes. He had been right. It was something big.

Instead of just water, he saw ships, so many that he could have walked across the channel, using the boats as stepping stones.

Instead of just sky, he saw fighters, heavy bombers, every kind of plane imaginable.

It was June 6, 1944, the day the rest of the world would soon know as D-Day.

From his seat at the nose gun, Pedigo could see it happening. Above, below and all around him, every boat and plane was headed in the same direction he was. Toward Normandy.

See D-DAY, Page 3A

ABOVE: More than 60 World War II veterans gather Friday at the headquarters of American Airlines in Fort Worth, Texas.

TOP: Robert Pedigo,100, sits Friday with dozens of other veterans as they prepare to fly to France ahead of ceremonies to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy on June 6. PHOTOS BY NITASHIA JOHNSON FOR USA TODAY

"Your presence here reminds us that behind the monumental scale of D-Day are real people, individuals with their own stories."

Denise Campbell Bauer, U.S. ambassador to France

Sky show is ready for Act II – and beyond

'Space weather' forecast: Bigger, brighter auroras

Trevor Hughes
USA TODAY

BOULDER, Colo. – Skygazers eager for their next chance to see the northern lights have a powerful ally on their side: a small group of space weather forecasters monitoring the sun for the next big solar explosion.

Last month's thrilling display of the aurora, which was visible as far south as Florida was highly unusual. But experts say the next several years could see even bigger displays as the sun enters the height of its typical 11-year sunspot cycle.

And in a secure facility in Boulder, Colorado, forecasters with the federal Space Weather Prediction Center are eagerly awaiting its next move. Inside the center, which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, giant screens display images of the sun through various filters, from visible light to its powerful magnetic field and the solar flares constantly boiling off its surface.

"We're always just trying to figure out what's going to hit our little blue marble," senior forecaster Shawn Dahl said.

See AURORAS, Page 4A

"We still haven't reached the peak," says senior forecaster Shawn Dahl at the Space Weather Prediction Center, which monitors solar disturbances.
TREVOR HUGHES/USA TODAY

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Cease-fire proposal receives support

Kirby disputes 'gaps' exist between US, Israel

John Bacon and Jorge L. Ortiz
USA TODAY

Families and supporters of hostages kidnapped during the deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas protest at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem on Monday. RONEN ZVULUN/ REUTERS

Hamas and Israel's opposition leader both expressed support Monday for a cease-fire deal that President Joe Biden said was proposed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, even as Netanyahu disputed Biden's version of the plan.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said Monday that Hamas views Netanyahu's proposal, unveiled by Biden last week, "positively," according to a translation by the Times of Israel. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby, in a briefing Monday, said the U.S. is awaiting an official response from Hamas on the proposal, which the group received Thursday.

Biden said Friday that Netanyahu's proposed three-phase deal includes a first phase lasting six weeks with the "complete cease-fire and withdrawal" of Israeli forces from all populated areas of Gaza. It would also include the release of some hostages, including women, the elderly and the wounded in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

Phase 2 would include the release of all remaining living hostages, full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the "cessation of hostilities permanently."

Phase 3 would include a major reconstruction plan for Gaza, and the bodies of any of other hostages killed in captivity would be returned to their families.

Netanyahu reportedly told a closed-door meeting that "gaps" exist between Israel's position and the plan that Biden laid out last Friday, according to The Times of Israel. Biden's version was "incomplete" and "incorrect" in its characterization of Israeli's conditions, Netanyahu reportedly said.

But White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Monday that the two countries have the same position on the proposal. "I know of no gaps to speak of," he said.

"We're confident that it accurately reflects that proposal – a proposal that we worked with the Israelis on."

Israeli politicians reject deal, threaten to dissolve government

Israeli far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich described the proposed deal as an "offer of surrender" he and his Religious Zionist Party would not support. He blamed the Israeli War Cabinet for the offer and said they continue to "humiliate Israel."

Right-wing Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir accused Netanyahu of "whitewashing" the proposed cease-fire deal and threatened to pull his political party out of the fragile ruling coalition if it is approved. Ben-Gvir said his repeated efforts to view details of the deal have been rejected by Netanyahu's office.

Netanyahu political rival Yair Lapid, however, urged the government to approve the deal and promised to provide a "political safety net" if the prime minister's far-right partners follow up on threats and pull out of the ruling coalition.

"The Israeli government should agree to Netanyahu's proposal and send a delegation to Cairo today to finalize the final details and bring home the men, the young women, the elderly, the soldiers and the female soldiers who are imprisoned in the tunnels," Lapid said.

Israel military confirms 4 more hostages are dead

The Israeli military said Monday that it told the families of four people kidnapped during the Oct. 7 attacks that they have been confirmed dead and their bodies are being held by Hamas.

The military said it confirmed through its sources that Haim Perry, Yoram Metzger, Amiram Cooper and Nadav Popplewell had died, adding, "The circumstances of their death in Hamas captivity are still under examination by all the relevant professionals."

Israel has said Hamas and its allied militant groups are holding more than 130 hostages in Gaza, but it's not known how many of them are alive. About 250 were kidnapped and 1,200 killed during Hamas' initial incursion. More than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's retaliatory offensive, according to Gaza health officials.

About a million Palestinians, the estimated number who had been sheltering in Rafah to escape the war in other parts of Gaza, are being displaced again as Israel pushes its offense in pursuit of Hamas in the southern border city, the U.S. said Monday.

No deal to reopen Rafah border crossing

U.S., Egyptian and Israeli officials have been conducting meetings aimed at reopening the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza, but that won't happen until Israel returns control to Palestinians on the Gaza side, Egyptian Foreign Minister Shoukry said Monday.

Last month, Israel seized Gaza's entire border with Egypt including the crossing during its offensive in Rafah. The crossing was the primary access point for the flow of humanitarian aid as well as a lifeline to the outside world for more than 2 million Palestinians living in the Israeli-besieged territory.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant says Israeli forces are working to destroy tunnels between Gaza and Egypt used by Hamas to smuggle weapons and to escape the war. Egypt denies such tunnels exist.

UN experts urge all nations to recognize Palestine

A coalition of more than two dozen U.N. human rights experts on Monday urged all nations to recognize a Palestinian state and use all available political and diplomatic resources to forge an immediate cease-fire in Gaza.

The call came less than a week after Spain, Ireland and Norway joined more than 140 nations in officially recognizing a Palestinian state. Israel has repeatedly condemned such action, saying it strengthens Hamas. The U.S. has sided with Israel, saying a solution must be negotiated.

Contributing: Francesca Chambers and Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy

Senate nears vote on contraception access measure

Will make senators show position in election year

Riley Beggin
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Senate will vote Wednesday on legislation that would protect access to contraception at the national level, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., announced in a letter to colleagues Sunday.

A vote on the bill, which is led by Sens. Ed Markey, D-Mass., and Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, is an effort to force Republicans to stake out a position on a hot-button issue during an election year. Many Republican lawmakers have backed a wide range of abortion restrictions at the state level, and their Democratic colleagues have accused them of wanting to go further.

In the letter, Schumer called the overturning of Roe v. Wade in June of 2022 "one of the worst Supreme Court decisions of modern times." The decision allowed each state to pass their own abortion rights or restrictions, uprooting national protections for the procedure.

"As horrific as these state abortion bans are, they're just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the consequences of the Republican attacks on reproductive freedom," he wrote.

The legislation defines contraception as "any drug, device, or biological product intended for use in the prevention of pregnancy."

Though some Republicans may support the bill, most are likely to vote against it and dismiss it as a political messaging play. GOP senators have previously said Republicans back access to birth control, but they don't believe legislation is necessary on the federal level.

Former President Donald Trump said during an interview last month that he was open to restrictions on birth control, but later said he "has never and will never" support such a policy.

The vote is also part of a larger battle for control of the Senate, which Democrats currently hold with a narrow 51-49 majority. Democratic incumbents are defending their seats in multiple competitive races this fall.

Other reproductive rights issues have been front and center in Congress as lawmakers look to the November election. Democrats in the Senate attempted to hold a vote on legislation that would have protected a federal right to in vitro fertilization, known as IVF, earlier this year after an Alabama Supreme Court ruling that frozen embryos should be considered children. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., blocked the vote, arguing it was a "vast overreach" from the federal government over states.

Republican Sens. Ted Cruz, of Texas, and Katie Britt, of Alabama, introduced their own legislation to protect the procedure by blocking Medicaid funding to states that enact an outright ban on IVF. When asked about the bill by reporters, Schumer said, "We have a much better proposal and Republicans ought to support it."

Mexico

Continued from Page 1A

and the two neighbors now do nearly $800 billion in trade annually, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

But it's a fraught relationship. Mexico is also the transit country for hundreds of thousands of U.S.-bound migrants, which has provoked repeated humanitarian crises at the U.S. border. And it's the source country for the fentanyl that kills tens of thousands of Americans each year.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada foreign trade agreement, known as the USMCA – negotiated during the Trump administration – is up for renegotiation in 2026. U.S.-based business leaders are concerned that renegotiating the deal could create uncertainty and hurt both countries' economies.

High stakes for both nations

"Mexico is now the U.S.'s main trading partner," said Jennifer Apperti, director of the Texas-Mexico Center at Southern Methodist University. "To again reopen the door to things that have just been negotiated would be, honestly, not the best use of time. And business time is of the essence."

Domingo Garcia, president of the U.S.-based League of United Latin American Citizens, said in a statement that he looked forward to "building bridges" with the Sheinbaum administration. In past meetings, Garcia said, he found Sheinbaum "open, engaging, and willing to listen and share her thoughts on moving forward. Mexicans are vital to the United States' economic future and our hemisphere's overall robust vibrancy. At the same time, we must consider environmental and scientific initiatives in the interest of our well-being today and for future generations."

With an estimated 60% turnout for Sunday's vote, it was one of Mexico's biggest elections in history. Nearly 100 million people were eligible to vote.

For the first time, Mexican citizens living in the United States were able to cast their ballots in person at 20 consulates in the U.S., including in Phoenix.

Contributing: Rafael Carranza, Arizona Republic

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American flags are everywhere as World War II veterans, ranging in age from 95 to 107, head toward their gate at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport to fly to Paris on Friday. For many, it would be the first time they returned to France since the end of the war, a trip that has been more than a year in the making.
PHOTOS BY NITASHIA JOHNSON FOR USA TODAY

Veteran Sid Edson, 100, holds the rapt attention of U.S. Air Force Academy cadets at the airline gate before a flight from Dallas to France on Friday. On D-Day, Edson supported the invasion from the air, never setting foot in France.

D-Day

Continued from Page 1A

May 30, 2024: Fort Worth, Texas

With the ballroom lights dim, a 50-member choir of cadets from the U.S. military academies assembled on stage. They launched into the closing event of the evening.

Spread out in front of them was a crowd of hundreds, but 66 were particularly important.

World War II veterans, each was accompanied by a family member or guardian. Eight decades after D-Day, they were gathering in Texas for the start of a new mission.

They had been chosen to make an honor flight aboard a chartered Boeing 787 provided by American Airlines. The party also included six Medal of Honor winners from wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam and two "Rosie the Riveters," women who made invaluable contributions to the war effort by working in factories and shipyards. In total, some 280 people would make up the entourage.

Together, they would be headed back to France, back to the scene of D-Day itself.

The journey would lead them to the beaches once code-named Omaha and Utah, where several of the men among the 66 had fought in some of the bloodiest combat of D-Day.

Atop the steep cliffs above Omaha Beach, President Joe Biden and other world leaders will mark the 80th anniversary of the invasion on Thursday.

The 66 vets will be there, too, at Normandy American Cemetery, where more than 9,000 fallen Americans – people who were once just like them – rest forever beneath French soil.

The trip to get there required more than a year of planning. But its official beginning was with a gala ball on May 30, the night before departure.

One or two at a time, the vets entered.

Some rode in wheelchairs. Others, slightly stooped, leaned on canes. A few wore military uniforms decorated with medals.

Dan Dougherty, an Army veteran who was on the first ship to go directly from the United States to France during the war, celebrated his 99th birthday. The entire room serenaded him with "Happy Birthday."

The mood was celebratory, but statistics added some poignancy to the pageantry.

The youngest of the 66 making the journey was 95; the oldest 107. Their average age: 100.8.

About a third of the adult male population of the United States served at some point during World War II. The armed forces included about 16.5 million men and women in all.

Today, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, less than 1% of them are still alive.

For some of the 66 veterans, this flight would be their first trip to Normandy since the war. For all of them, it would most likely be their last.

Watching him was Dominick Critelli, 103, an Army veteran who landed on Utah Beach a few days after the D-Day invasion.

Critelli had immigrated to the United States from Italy when he was only 8, during the dictatorship of Benito Mussolini. "I can't forget that," he said.

In America, he found a new home, one he would later fight for.

Finally, the choir took to the stage. The song filled the room.

From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam.

From his table at the back, Critelli silently mouthed the words.

1944: Omaha Beach, France

Sid Edson got up early and went from breakfast to a briefing and then to his bomber.

"My God," he thought just before he climbed into his plane. "Today is the day."

Edson had been a welder in Brooklyn before he was drafted into the Air Force in 1943. He worked as a radio operator and a gunner in a B-24 Liberator as part of Bomb Squadron 491. On the morning of June 6, the squadron's mission was to bomb a German airfield in France.

"We were hoping it would help the soldiers invading all of the beaches," recalls Edson, who now lives in Lake Worth, Florida.

Edson wouldn't remember much about the flight to France that day. He was too focused on doing his job. A radio operator had to make sure the flight crew was monitoring correct frequencies. Edson also doubled as a gunner.

An eerie radio silence filled the plane as it neared its target.

May 31, 2024: Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport

By 5 p.m. Friday, a sizable crowd had begun to form in Terminal D.

Boy Scouts in tan-and-green uniforms waved American flags. Travelers hurrying to catch a flight slowed to check out the commotion.

American Airlines began planning the trip 18 months ago. The Old Glory Honor Flight, a nonprofit group that has arranged other trips for veterans, helped recruit applicants, train their guardians and provide the medical staff volunteers. A foundation led by actor Gary Sinise also helped.

Most of the veterans stayed in wheelchairs for the short ride from gate D24 to D29. They would board a plane for the 5,000-mile, 8½-hour flight to Paris.

Willie Clemons, 96, who joined the Navy after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, saluted the cheering crowd that swelled with each passing minute.

Andi Goldsticker of Dallas stood off to the side and held a sign. "Because of YOU," it read, "we are safe and free."

Goldsticker's father-in-law, Ralph Goldsticker, 102, a bombardier who flew missions on D-Day, was making the trip to France.

As she watched, she recalled the way her father-in-law had described the war. "Every time I dropped a bomb," he would say, "I thought I was going to die."

At the boarding gate, the wheelchairs turned down the jetway.

Over the intercom, the announcements were tailored to the century-old travelers.

Take your medicines. Drink plenty of liquids. Be sure to change sitting positions every few hours.

In the rows behind the vets was a 12-member volunteer medical team. Emergency room doctors and nurses, a paramedic and nurse practitioners would roam the plane throughout the flight.

Anyone experiencing a health issue should alert the crew right away.

The orange Texas sunset glared through the cabin windows as the plane rolled, lifted off and pointed toward France.

1944: Omaha Beach, France

Dead bodies lay scattered on Omaha Beach when Vernon Mitchell landed.

Mitchell, a gunner, had known precious little about the military before he enlisted in the Army in 1940. But jobs were hard to come by in St. Augustine, Texas, after the Great Depression. A few short years later, he was wading ashore in France.

It was Wednesday, June 7. The first wave of the Allied invasion – and the most intense fighting – had taken place the day before. Over the course of the invasion, about 2,400 U.S. soldiers, more than 1,400 British and nearly 1,100 Canadians would be killed.

When Mitchell and other members of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division stepped onto the shore, they were smacked by German artillery fire.

"They were still bombarding the place," Mitchell remembers. "It was terrible."

Mitchell and his comrades fought their way out of Omaha Beach. Days later, however, Mitchell was heavily wounded when a German shell hit his squad. Two of his fellow soldiers died.

June 1, 2024: Somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean

The overhead lights in the first-class cabin were on dim. A little past midnight, there were still 2,300 miles to go – roughly the halfway point to Paris.

Several veterans dozed as a medical crew roamed periodically through the cabin. John Gleeson, however, was wide awake.

A blanket thrown over his legs to stay warm, Gleeson, 100, of Honolulu, was recalling the story of how he ended up among these 66 veterans.

His midnight memories were snippets of the entire war.

How the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor had enraged him as a teenager in Long Beach, California.

How he couldn't pick out Oahu on a map, but the day after Dec. 7, 1941, he enlisted in the Army.

How he was sitting on a bluff overlooking the beach three years later when the radio blared with the news about D-Day.

Gleeson recalled going to his commanding officer and asking to go to gunnery school. How he was finally sent to fly combat missions over Europe.

"I just had a feeling," he remembered. "I've got to do something to help save the world, or save the United States."

World War II veterans greet well-wishers as they head to their gate for an Honor Flight taking them to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day in France. Less than 1% of the 16.5 million men and women who served in the U.S. military during World War II, are alive today, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1944: Utah Beach, France

The landing craft pitched and swayed on the choppy water as it approached Utah Beach. But Martin Sylvester never got seasick.

Maybe, he surmised in his 2009 memoir, he was just too frightened.

The Brooklyn native landed as part of the third wave of Allied forces on June 7. He and the other troops could hear gunfire in the distance as they waded through 3 feet of water and approached the shore. Yet they encountered no resistance.

They walked to the top of a hill, where they came across a cement bunker with dead Germans inside and a field strewn with the corpses of animals – cows, horses, pigs and dogs, all killed by Navy artillery fire that had overshot the beach.

The crackle of small rifle fire suddenly filled the air. The Germans were shooting at them. The soldiers quickly ducked into a patch of hedgerows about seven feet apart and fired back. "When we fired, we went from hedgerow to hedgerow," Sylvester recalled in an interview.

Sylvester and his comrades suffered only minimal casualties. The following January, however, he was hit by a sniper and taken as a prisoner of war in Fuhren, Germany. He escaped a couple of months later and hid in the basement of a one-room schoolhouse until he was picked up by an American armored unit. He was recuperating in a Paris hospital when, on May 8, 1945, he heard loud noises and celebrations in the street.

The Germans had surrendered. The war would soon be over.

June 1, 2024: Paris

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Paris," a member of the flight crew announced as the plane touched down at 11:48 a.m. Saturday.

One at a time, the veterans disembarked with the help of family members and assistants, who pushed their wheelchairs down the narrow jetway. Inside the terminal, a long line of spectators held up photos of the veterans, waved French and American flags and shouted "thank you" in French accents.

At a brief airport ceremony, a handful of veterans slowly rose from their wheelchairs as young students in blue sweaters sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the French national anthem, "La Marseillaise."

In France, veterans who had a role in the D-Day landings are not only considered honored guests, but are embraced as "cherished heroes," Denise Campbell Bauer, the U.S. ambassador to France, told the gathering.

"Your presence here reminds us that behind the monumental scale of D-Day are real people, individuals with their own stories," she said.

While in Paris, the veterans would attend a ceremony at Suresnes American Cemetery and another beneath the Arc de Triomphe. Then on Monday, they would board buses to Normandy for the final leg of their journey, to stand where thousands of other Americans – people who were once just like them – rest forever beneath French soil.

Aboard the buses would be Martin Sylvester, 98, who had endured each day as a POW on two slices of bread and a cup of watery soup.

Vernon Mitchell, 103, who survived the shelling that killed two of his comrades, and was later awarded with the Purple Heart, Bronze star and the French Legion of Honor.

Sid Edson, 100, who dropped his bombs successfully that day and only later pondered the fact that he had been in the air the entire time – and never set foot on French soil.

And 100-year-old Robert Pedigo, who always had the feeling that on June 6, something important was going to happen.

Doorbell camera captures chaotic scene

Weekend Akron shooting leaves 1 dead, 25 injured

Julia Gomez and Stephanie Warsmith
USA TODAY NETWORK

Joyous Payne, 21, and Treasure Bell, 31, who were at the birthday party, talk about having a good time and dancing before running for their lives when the shooting started on Kelly Avenue in Akron, Ohio, over the weekend.
PHOTOS BY MIKE CARDEW/USA TODAY NETWORK

Police tape is tied on a street sign with a memorial from a different incident that happened on 8th Avenue, looking toward Kelly Avenue, at the site of a mass shooting in Akron that injured more than two dozen people.

A birthday celebration was ended by a mass shooting that left one person dead and 25 injured, two of them critically, in Akron, Ohio, over the weekend, and police have offered a $22,500 reward as they try to piece together what happened.

A neighbor's doorbell camera and witness accounts have detailed the chaotic scene when shots rang out at an outdoor party that had been broken up by police earlier on Saturday night.

"Our city is reeling after the devastation of senseless violence," said Akron Mayor Shammas Malik and Police Chief Brian Harding in a joint statement on Sunday. "With more than two dozen victims, the pain and trauma reverberates across all of Akron today as we search for answers."

According to Harding, here's what unfolded:

- Police broke up a large birthday celebration in Akron around 10 p.m. Saturday. Harding said there were fireworks and "loud noises." Over 200 people attended the party and "had taken over the street."
- The party got started again sometime after the police left.
- After midnight, police began receiving reports of gunshots coming from the same location.

"The scene was littered with spent shell cases," said Harding at a news conference. "Mostly pistol caliber rounds."

According to Harding, the way the shell cases were laid out on the scene is "consistent with someone driving by shooting out of a car."

Police also believe people who attended the party may have shot back at the suspect, but officers don't know if the shooter or their vehicle was hit. Investigators do not know how many shooters there were, but believe a rifle was used. Police have also recovered two handguns.

Witnesses, neighbor's doorbell camera describe chaotic scene

A doorbell camera caught footage of the shooting. Multiple gunshots and people screaming can be heard in the background as they run away from the scene, while cars are speeding away.

"You don't expect to go from having fun to having to run for your life," Joyous Payne, who was at the party, told Akron Beacon Journal, part of the USA TODAY Network.

Payne, 21, said music was playing, people danced and sang, and nobody at the party was fighting.

"There was no drama," she said.

But, while everyone was "just having fun," then bullets suddenly began to fly and everyone was running away. Some even got trampled, Payne said.

Treasure Bell, 31, another partygoer who spoke with the Akron Beacon Journal, said he saw a man with a bullet hole in his face.

"I can't believe all of that happened," said Payne. "That was crazy!"

Payne, who recently moved to the area where the party was held, said the people she went to the party with were not among those injured.

Who are the victims?

A 27-year-old man died in the shooting, reports the Akron Beacon Journal, part of the USA TODAY Network. According to a spokesman from Summa Health, he was dead when he reached the hospital.

At least two victims were in critical condition and a total of 25 people were injured, according to a news release from the mayor's office released Sunday night.

At the news conference, Harding said the victims' ages range from 19 to 43, but most of them are in their 30s.

Reward worth thousands

The city of Akron announced anyone with information that leads to an arrest could receive up to a $22,500 reward.

Police are asking anyone with information to contact the Akron Police Department Detective Bureau at 330-375-2490 or 330-375-2TIP.

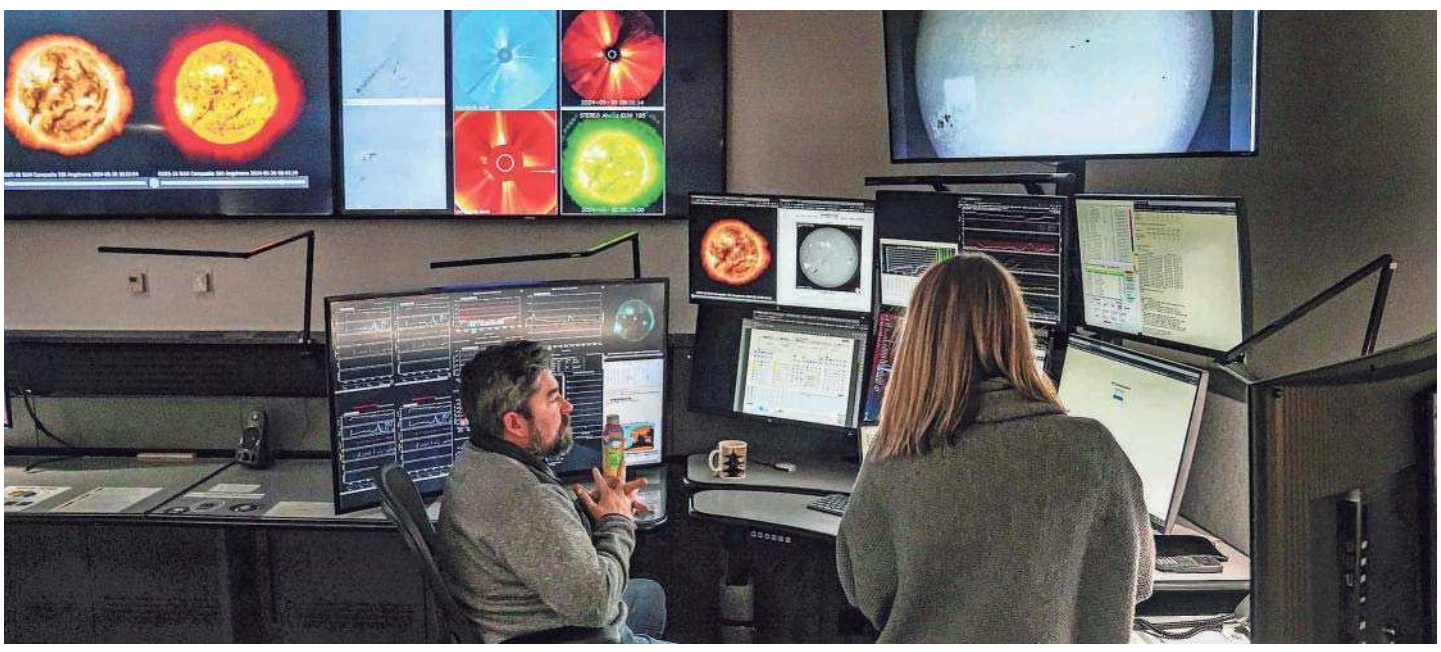
Those wishing to remain anonymous do the following:

- Call Summit County Crimestoppers at 330-434-COPS.
- Text TIPSCO with your tips to 274637.

Gomez reports for USA TODAY; Warsmith reports for Akron Beacon Journal.

Auroras

Continued from Page 1A



At the federal Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colo., forecasters monitor screens displaying images of the sun through various filters so they can track violent solar flares and changes in the sun's magnetic field. TREVOR HUGHES/USA TODAY

Extra-strong sunspots, which are often accompanied by the sun ejecting vast amounts of superheated plasma, can trigger auroras but also pose a danger to satellites, airplanes, GPS navigation and the power grid.

Tapping into data from a constellation of satellites aimed at the sun, forecasters are watching the sunspot group known as Region 3697, along with solar flares and what are known as coronal mass ejections – massive eruptions of plasma so strong they have their own magnetic fields.

Displayed as a gray disturbance on the sun's surface, it's hard to understand the region's scale: That sunspot cluster is 15 times larger than Earth. And the sun is 93 million miles away.

'You can't steer yourself around it'

Dahl said that while the center's forecasts are widely used by electric utilities, satellite operators and other large organizations, they are only now becoming familiar to ordinary people.

On May 10, as the aurora display was just about to begin, a nephew doing spring planting in North Dakota called to report the GPS on the tractor was off by 12 feet when it's usually accurate to a centimeter, Dahl said.

"This is the first time in my life I've gotten a space weather report from a family member," Dahl said. "I'm used to getting called, being asked: 'How much snow are we going to get? What's the threat from hail today?' And he's telling me the system was taking them in circles."

In last month's event, the impact from the plasma was so strong it temporarily shoved the Earth's magnetic field closer to the planet, causing some satellites to lose their orientation. Government-funded satellites are typically built to withstand solar storms and have multiple redundant navigation systems, but smaller, cheaper satellites may not.

The Environmental Defense Fund, which earlier this year launched a methane tracking satellite from California, temporarily halted some calibration work on its $88 million device while the storm passed, said Peter Vedder, senior director of mission systems for MethaneSAT. Built in Colorado, the 770-pound satellite is still getting into its operating location about 360 miles above the Earth.

Though light from solar flares and coronal mass ejections reaches the Earth in about eight minutes and charged particles known as protons arrive in 15 minutes, ejected particles may take two to four days to hit and be deflected by the Earth's magnetic field. Usually, auroras are most pronounced around the poles because of the shape of the Earth's magnetic field.

"You can't steer yourself around it, you can't fly around it. You have to design (the satellite) to be robust enough to handle it," Vedder said. "You tend to turn off some more sensitive electronics and wait it out for a day."

Scrambled systems

Starlink, the Elon Musk company that has launched more than 4,000 satellites to provide worldwide internet service, said it had weathered the May storm without incident: "Starlink satellites are under a lot of pressure, but holding up so far," Musk posted on his social media platform, X, on May 11.

In 2022, 38 newly launched Starlink satellites burned up after a mild solar storm created unexpected conditions in the Earth's upper atmosphere. Starlink and forecasters at the prediction center in Boulder now work more closely to monitor potential disruptions, especially during satellite launches.

Starlink satellites orbit closer to Earth than many other satellites, and scientists discovered that solar storms can temporarily "thicken" that area, creating unanticipated drag.

Solar flares and coronal ejections also can affect long-distance power lines used to transmit electricity. Because solar storms jostle the Earth's magnetic field, they can create power surges that burn out transformers and other equipment.

In 1989, an estimated 6 million Canadians and northern New England residents lost power for nine hours as a result of solar-induced surges. With warning, utilities can take steps to reduce the damage, and one of the largest transmission groups recently installed a first-of-its-kind system to automatically protect its power lines.

The most powerful geomagnetic storm in history, 1859's Carrington Event, sparked auroras so bright they reportedly woke gold miners inside their tents in Australia, burned out telegraph equipment and lit the sky brighter than the full moon.

Solar storms also alter how radio waves travel through the atmosphere and can mess with radar and radio communications.

Dahl said commercial airliners often must take longer routes closer to the equator during solar storms so their radio communications with air traffic control officials remain reliable. And planes taking over-the-pole flights may have to detour to avoid heavier-than-usual radiation exposure.

Forecasting is never easy

Leading up to and during the May storm, space weather forecasters held regular briefings with power utilities and other groups to answer questions, and six hours before the storm's "strong, sudden arrival" drove home warnings of just how powerful it would be.

"That gave them six hours of lead time, to say this is going to happen, be ready," Dahl said. "And they were ready. There were plenty of effects, they were busy ... and fortunately, as far as we know, they did not suffer any bulk system impact."

In the future, Dahl said, space weather forecasters probably will play a role in safety considerations for space tourists and for NASA's efforts to return to the moon and send astronauts to Mars. He said upcoming satellite launches will improve the center's space forecasts but noted how hard it can be to accurately forecast the weather on Earth.

"We're forecasting stuff from 93 million miles away, so it's very difficult. And our science is limited," Dahl said. "We can do a great job of predicting the probability that the flare will happen, and if so, what level it might get to, and the same with radiation storms, but we have no way of knowing that a flare is imminent.

"That science doesn't exist. We have to wait for them to happen."

Keep looking up

Dahl, an amateur astronomer and night sky photographer who missed the May 10 display because he was working, said he's hopeful for a new aurora display. Dahl also noted that sunspot activity is expected to increase for the next year, then ramp down again, giving skywatchers plenty of opportunities for more displays.

"We still haven't reached the peak," he said. "We're not even close to being done with this cycle yet."

Kidney stones can be hidden summer peril

Risk rises as people don't stay hydrated amid heat

Ken Alltucker
USA TODAY

A 2023 study published in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases reported emergency room visits to New York state hospitals for kidney stones, urinary tract infections and other kidney injuries increased during warmer months. GETTY IMAGES

Warm weather brings days at the beach, sunscreen and ... kidney stones?

Researchers say people who don't stay properly hydrated face a higher risk of these painful mineral deposits as temperatures and humidity rise in the summer. On top of that, they noted that in general people whose diet is packed with too much sodium, fat and sugar, could find themselves among the 1 in 10 Americans who will get a kidney stone in their lifetimes.

Kidney stones are formed when minerals from urine crystalize into a small stone or pebble-like mass. These stones can become lodged in the ureter, the tube connecting the kidney to the bladder. The stones sometimes cause an obstruction that makes it difficult to urinate and triggers a sharp pain in the side or lower back. Some stones pass on their own and cause little or no discomfort.

Summer is a key time to pay attention to these deposits, since there's a greater risk of kidney stones when temperatures rise and people don't stay hydrated, said Dr. Ivan E. Porter, a nephrologist at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. When its hot and people sweat more but don't drink sufficient water or other fluids, those conditions "absolutely can relate to an increased risk of both stone events and stone formation," Porter said.

A 2023 study published in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases reported emergency room visits to New York state hospitals for kidney stones, urinary tract infections and other kidney injuries increased during warmer months, particularly during "transitional" months of May when weather warms and September as summer trails off.

The research suggests people likely aren't prepared when temperatures rise, said Dr. Shao Lin, a professor of environmental health at State University of New York at Albany and study co-author. The problem, she said: People spend too much time in the sun, don't drink enough water or don't turn on their air conditioner when temperatures rise.

"The human body has not yet adapted to the hot weather in May," Lin said. "People are not ready for that."

Beyond elevated risk due to heat and lack of hydration, other factors likely have accelerated the rising number of kidney stone cases. Kidney stone rates in the United States increased from 3.8% in the late 1970s to about 10% a decade ago, according to the National Kidney Foundation.

"Over the last couple of decades, where we've seen some other diseases drop off or slow down, kidney stones have not. It's continued to increase," said Dr. Timothy Averch, a urologist in Columbia, South Carolina.

Averch said warming temperatures worldwide might contribute to rising rates of kidney stones, but, he said, diets are also likely a major explanation.

"What we eat is not super healthy when it comes to kidney stones, and even some of the things we consider healthy can have a negative effect on kidney stone formation," Averch said.

What can I do to lower my risk of kidney stones?

The most important thing is to drink plenty of water or other fluids with citrate, such as lemonade or lemon juice, to stay hydrated, Averch said. Equally important is avoiding or minimizing intake of drinks that can dehydrate such as coffee and alcohol.

Doctors also recommend avoiding foods with a lot of sodium. Processed foods are often packed with sodium and should be avoided, Porter said.

"The majority of salt we get in a normal American diet does not come from the salt shaker," Porter said. "It comes from processed foods. So it's something out of a can or something out of a bag."

People also should avoid eating diets with an excess amount of animal proteins and fats. Averch cited one study from Italian researchers that showed diets heavy in animal protein led to hypercalcemia, or too much calcium in the blood.

Researchers also have busted diet myths. A few decades ago, people were advised they could be at risk for kidney stones if they drank too much milk or consumed a lot of dairy products such as cheese or yogurt. But diet studies have shown that such calcium-rich foods had the opposite effect – they reduced the risk of a type of kidney stone called calcium oxalate stones.

"Those who increased dairy intake with cheese, milk, yogurt, those patients actually had lower metabolic risk factors for stones," Porter said.

However, people who take large dosages of calcium supplements might face a higher risk, he said. "So a diet rich in calcium is good. Calcium supplements, not so good," Porter said.

What to do if you have kidney stone symptoms

People with kidney stones might first recognize sharp pain in the lower back or side that radiates down to the groin. Others have described having a more general pain or stomachache that won't go away.

Other symptoms can include blood in the urine or a burning sensation when urinating, as well as nausea, vomiting, fever and chills.

Doctors can check whether you have a stone or might order imaging tests to determine the size of the stone. They may also order blood tests to check for signs of calcium, phosphorus and uric acid tests. Many patients are able to pass stones on their own, but some need them removed. If you've had a stone, you have a 50% risk of developing another within five to seven years, according to the National Kidney Foundation.

If you suspect you might have one, it's always better to get checked, doctors said.

"If you're not sure what that is, and never had a kidney stone before, you should probably seek medical care," Averch said.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, speaks during a House hearing on reparations for slavery on June 19, 2019, in Washington, D. C. She announced over the weekend that she is being treated for pancreatic cancer. HANNAH GABER/USA TODAY

Texas Rep. Lee announces pancreatic cancer diagnosis

Emily DeLetter
USA TODAY

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, announced over the weekend that she has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

In a statement posted to X on Sunday, Lee, 74, said that her doctors have confirmed pancreatic cancer and that she is being treated.

"I am confident that my doctors have developed the best possible plan to target my specific disease," Lee said in the statement. "The road ahead will not be easy, but I stand in faith that God will strengthen me."

Jackson Lee has been in office since 1995 representing Texas' 18th District in the House of Representatives. Now in her 15th term, Jackson Lee is a member of the House judiciary, homeland security and budget panels and is a member of the judiciary subcommittee on crime, terrorism and homeland security.

Jackson Lee made no mention of stepping down, writing that she is instead "committed to working with our Congressional leadership including Leader Hakeem Jefferies and the Speaker of the House to serve this nation and be present for votes on legislation that is critical for the prosperity and security of the American people."

Pancreatic cancer is rarely found in the early stages because it does not cause symptoms until after it has spread to other organs.

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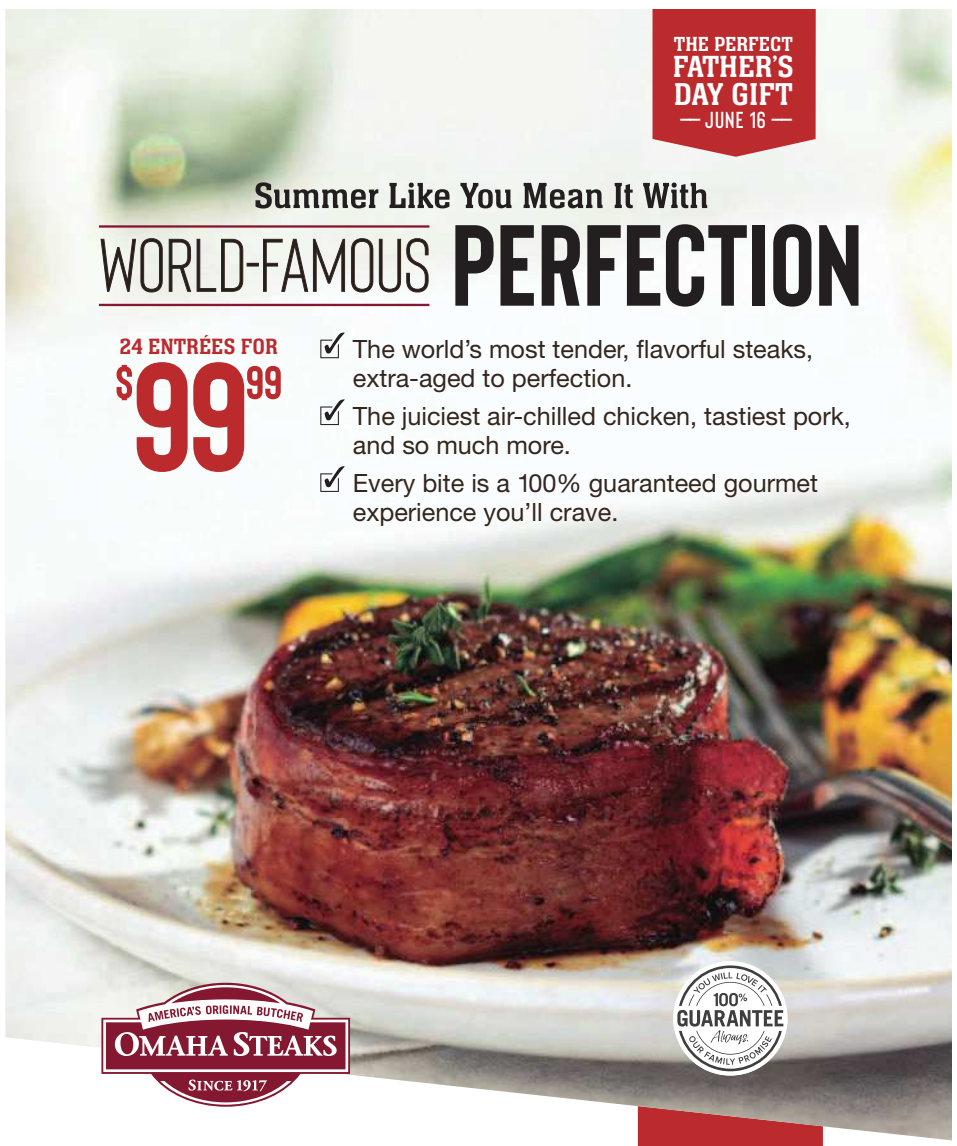

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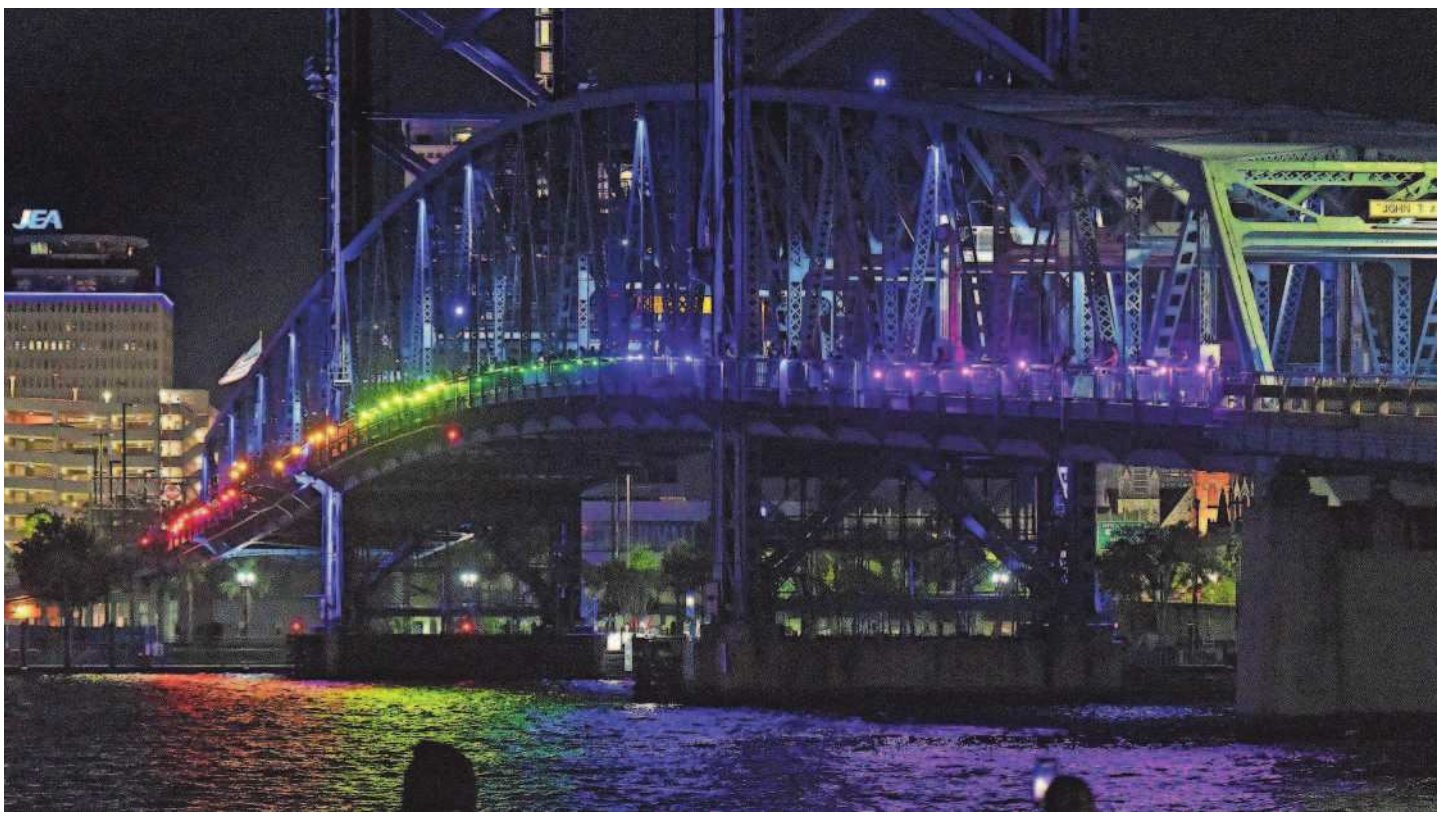
Fla. bridge alight in rainbow colors

Residents protest policy on eve of Pride Month

David Bauerlein
(Jacksonville) Florida Times-Union
USA TODAY NETWORK



Supporters of Jacksonville's LGBTQ+ community organized a rainbow lighting of the Main Street Bridge on Friday night as a counter to the Florida governor's "Freedom Summer" mandate that the state's bridges, including Jacksonville's Acosta Bridge, would be lit in red, white and blue. PHOTOS BY BOB SELF/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – As night fell Friday on downtown Jacksonville, 70 people lined the pedestrian walkway of the Main Street bridge and lit the structure in a ribbon of rainbow colors stretching over the river.

The display on the eve of Pride Month came after Florida's Department of Transportation decided the nearby Acosta Bridge would be lit in red, white and blue for the state government's "Freedom Summer," meaning it won't have rainbow lights for Pride Month as it did the previous three years.

In response, a group from the LGBTQ+ community and allies took over the Main Street bridge – illuminating it in the colors of the LGBTQ+ Pride flag instead.

"I thought it came off great," said Jacksonville resident Matt McAllister, who helped organize the effort, which came together in 48 hours.

"We thought we'd get 35 people for the bridge," he said. "We thought that would be a good night – that we'd get a couple of pictures and send them to our friends and say we did something. That this took off in such a way is so pleasing."

The 70 people holding flashlights on the bridge were cheered on by a crowd watching from the Southbank riverwalk. It was a night of many lights in downtown: Friendship Fountain sent columns of multi-colored water into the air where the crowd watched the Main Street bridge, fireworks went off over the baseball field at the sports complex after a Jumbo Shrimp game, downtown towers had their usual array of decorative lighting, and the Acosta Bridge had red, white and blue lights running down the middle.

McAllister said he was in Leipzig, Germany, on a honeymoon with his husband when he learned about the state Transportation Department's directive for the red, white and blue lights from Memorial Day to Labor Day on all state-owned bridges. That also prevents rainbow lights for Pride Month on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay and the Ringling Bridge in Sarasota.

Hearing the news while he was in a city that used to be part of East Germany, McAllister said he decided that when he got back home, it was important to take action in response to the state's decision on the Acosta Bridge. He said being able to see the Acosta in red, white and blue and the Main Street bridge in rainbow colors at the same time symbolizes that freedom and diversity are not mutually exclusive but depend on each other.

"If this is about freedom, let's go exercise our freedom, and that's what is so special about what we did tonight," he said.

As for whether the bridge lighting was a celebration of Pride Month or a protest of the state's decision, he said there was a wide range of views among those who turned out.

"This is definitely a response and more than a response in protest," said Jacksonville resident Jessica Griffith, who watched the lights from the shore with her father.

"We're always going to celebrate who we are, welcome others and make sure they know there are safe, wonderful, affirming, embracing places."

She said her father has "always been a huge supporter of me" and they had been trying for several years to do the annual Pride march over the Acosta Bridge.

They weren't able to make the marches, so when they heard about the Main Street lighting, they went to it.

"It just reflects the joy and authenticity of everyone here," she said.

Jacksonville resident Sherwin Salla was on the bridge holding an orange-beaming flashlight.

"The biggest thing was just showing solidarity and making sure that our freedom is holding," he said. "It was more of a fun celebration to show our community that we still stand strong."

From his spot on the bridge, he couldn't see the impact of the lighting across the span until a friend texted him a photo.

"When I first saw it, you could really tell the colors on the bridge," he said. "It was amazing."

Clover Anglin holds a small LGBTQ+ flag as he stakes out his position on the Main Street Bridge in preparation for lighting it in pride rainbow colors on Friday night.

A volunteer leans over the railing of the Main Street bridge and shines a flashlight with a blue filter over it to help make a rainbow display Friday night on the eve of Pride Month.

Corral wildfire burns east of San Francisco

Blaze is 75% contained as more heat is on way

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

The Corral Fire started on Saturday southwest of Tracy and quickly grew, driven by wind gusts in the East Bay.
PROVIDED BY CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Hundreds of emergency responders on Monday continued battling a 14,000-acre wildfire east of San Francisco that has injured two firefighters and triggered evacuations ahead of high temperatures forecast for this week.

The Corral Fire started Saturday afternoon near the city of Tracy in San Joaquin County, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Fueled by high winds, the blaze spread across hundreds of acres of tall grass, prompting authorities to order evacuations and deploy hundreds of firefighters and other emergency responders to the remote area.

As of Monday morning, 75% of the fire has been contained, and it has burned about 22 square miles, CalFire said. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Officials said the fire broke out on property maintained by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a federal lab about 40 miles southeast of downtown Oakland that conducts experiments on nuclear reactions, lasers, atomic structure and molecular biology. The lab's proximity to the fire did not immediately pose a threat, authorities said.

On Sunday, authorities had downgraded evacuation orders to evacuation warnings and requested residents "remain vigilant and prepared for potential changes."

Meanwhile, roads were closed to nonresidents in some areas, and some residents were asked to boil their tap water.

Citing a water outage, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water and the San Joaquin County Health Department on Sunday urged residents in the CSA 16 Par Country Estates Water System, which serves more than 50 properties, "to use boiled tap water or bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes as a safety precaution."

"DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST," the warning said. "Failure to follow this advisory could result in stomach or intestinal illness."

More than 475 emergency personnel are involved in the emergency response, which has involved more than 40 fire engines, 16 bulldozers and dozens of crews.

Air tankers from around the country are flying fire suppression missions as conditions allow, according to CalFire.

On Sunday evening, authorities said favorable weather conditions have helped firefighters make progress in constructing and maintaining control lines.

But the favorable weather may not last long.

The National Weather Service warned excessive heat will bear down this week across a vast stretch of central California, including the San Joaquin Valley.

The advisory, which will be in effect from 11 a.m. Tuesday to 8 p.m. Thursday, warns of "dangerous hot conditions," with temperatures of 95 to 108 degrees possible.

"This level of heat risk means that there will likely be little to no overnight relief for those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration," the weather service said.

"Heat related illnesses increase significantly during extreme heat events, particularly for those working or participating in outdoor activities."

Contributing: Jorge L. Ortiz and Trevor Hughes

OPINION

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Nuke test victims running out of time

James Moylan and Leslie Begay
Opinion contributors

The 20th century saw no shortage of patriotic Americans stepping up to serve our nation. We both know this well: As young men, we served in the U.S. military – Mr. Leslie Begay as a combat Marine in Vietnam, and Rep. James Moylan as a veteran of the Army. As a country, it is our solemn responsibility to support those who have made sacrifices on our behalf.

We should also honor many thousands of Americans who did not enlist yet also sacrificed for our national security.

Begay

These patriots of the Manhattan Project and Cold War were unknowingly poisoned by their own government in the creation of our nuclear arsenal, and they deserve our support. The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), which aims to address those harms, expires Friday unless Congress acts immediately.

This is urgent: Congress has only a few working days left to act before RECA expires.

As we mined uranium and built and tested nuclear weapons that defended our country, we exposed countless service members and communities across the country to dangerous, often deadly levels of radiation without their knowledge or consent. In some cases, we're only just learning the full extent of that harm, with impacted Americans succumbing to new cancers every day.

RECA was created in 1990 to provide an apology and a small reimbursement for critical medical care for some victims. It is a valuable program, but it has excluded far too many Americans who were harmed, and nearly 35 years later, it is still woefully inadequate despite years of studies and reports proving the need for improvement.

In Guam, for example, a 2005 report determined that residents during nuclear testing in the Pacific received substantial unwarranted radiation and should be eligible for RECA. Yet nearly 20 years later, they are still awaiting recognition and support.

Additionally, uranium workers are only eligible for RECA if they were employed through 1971, despite a flood of studies showing that they faced just as grave health impacts after that year.

Leslie Begay, in wheelchair, and Republican Guam Rep. James Moylan, right, listen to Sen. Ben Ray Luján, D-N.M., at a news conference about the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act on May 16 at the U.S. Capitol. RECA expires Friday unless Congress acts. PROVIDED BY OFFICE OF SEN. BEN RAY LUJÁN, D-N.M.

This means that patriotic Americans like Mr. Begay have been suffering for decades with no avenues for support.

Uranium miner lost both lungs due to radiation exposure

Mr. Begay was born and raised in the Navajo Nation. After serving in Vietnam, he came home and spent eight years mining the uranium that built our nuclear weapons.

He was given a hard hat and no mask, was never told he was being poisoned, and he ended up losing both lungs due to radiation exposure. Given just a month to live, he received a double lung transplant. As he recovered, he decided to dedicate his remaining years to helping his people and improving RECA.

As lucky as he feels to have a new set of lungs, his health issues are far from over. With no cancer center or veterans' hospital on the Navajo Nation, he had to move away from his wife and grandkids to live near a hospital in Mesa, Arizona, so that he could attend almost weekly medical appointments.

He is on 22 medications that he'll take for the rest of his life – and they don't come cheap.

He has had to sell all his cattle to pay for these expenses, and sometimes he and his wife don't know where the money will come from to cover his next medical bill. Even worse – he's just had a biopsy because of a possible new cancer diagnosis.

The people of Guam and miners like Mr. Begay are far from alone.

Across the West, communities living downwind of nuclear testing – including those downwind of the very first nuclear test in New Mexico – were excluded from RECA seemingly arbitrarily.

Victims of illegally stored nuclear waste in Missouri have also suffered from devastating illnesses, with nowhere to turn.

The United States asked its people for a great deal of sacrifice to win the Cold War – some willingly as part of their service and many thousands unknowingly.

We have a duty now to take care of everyone sickened by their own government in the creation of our nuclear arsenal. It's long past time that Congress does its job and improves RECA so these patriotic Americans can get the recognition and help they so richly deserve.

Some have called for a plain extension of RECA as is, but we know that would only be an extension of injustice. We must not blindly extend such an obviously flawed program, knowing that it would leave so many Americans behind.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, please bring RECA to a vote

On May 16, we stood together with dozens of advocates who had traveled to Washington, D.C., from across America to fight for RECA.

They traveled on behalf of their loved ones – many of whom are sick and dying – and pleaded with Congress: Don't let us go home without good news; don't keep letting our people die.

In March, armed with new information about the true scope of Americans harmed by our Cold War nuclear program, the Senate passed a bill with overwhelming bipartisan support to hugely improve RECA.

Now, that bill is sitting on House Speaker Mike Johnson's desk waiting to be brought to a vote.

Speaker Johnson: Please hear our prayers. It's time to finally support these patriots, harmed by their own government, and get them the justice that they deserve.

Rep. James Moylan, Guam's delegate in the 118th Congress, is a lead sponsor of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023. He is an Army veteran and a native of Guam from the village of Tumon.

Mr. Leslie Begay is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and a resident of Coyote Canyon, New Mexico. He is a post-1971 uranium miner, Vietnam War veteran and volunteer member of the Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee. He previously worked at Fort Wingate Army Depot.

GOP wants us to ignore the Alito flag flap

Rex Huppke
USA TODAY

If there's one thing we know for certain it's that conservative Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's wife loves flags.

Absolutely adores the things, apparently. She's the one he pointed the finger at after The New York Times reported on an upside-down American flag – a sign of distress co-opted by Jan. 6 insurrectionists – hanging outside the justice's home following the attack on the U.S. Capitol in 2021.

Alito said his wife also hung an "Appeal to Heaven" flag – another symbol co-opted by Jan. 6 rioters and Christian nationalists – outside their New Jersey vacation home.

'My wife is fond of flying flags' is Alito's excuse for a pro-insurrection symbol

After Democratic lawmakers called on Justice Alito to recuse himself from cases involving the Jan. 6 insurrection, he wrote: "My wife is fond of flying flags. I am not.

"My wife was solely responsible for having flagpoles put up at our residence and our vacation home and has flown a wide variety of flags over the years."

Cool! Aside from hoping Martha-Ann Alito also is fond of the bottom of the bus her husband threw her under, I wonder if conservative supporters of Alito's flag-losophy would be equally just fine with other Supreme Court justices hoisting flags of their own?

Would it be OK for a liberal justice to fly a Black Lives Matter flag?

Say, for example, a Fox News reporter noticed a Black Lives Matter flag flying outside liberal Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's home.

I assume folks at that network as well as social-media-thirsty Republicans like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Sen. J.D. Vance and convicted felon/presidential candidate Donald Trump would be just fine with that, right?

They'd utter nary a peep. After all, we must respect our right to bear flags.

And if anyone on the right did take issue with it and Jackson explained her husband is a big fan of flags and he's the one who put it up, that would make everything OK, scandal-wise, right?

How about a Puerto Rican flag symbolizing resistance?

Suppose liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor, whose parents were from Puerto Rico, had a black Puerto Rican flag – a symbol of resistance and grief – flying outside her vacation home. That'd be all good, right?

And maybe someone reported on it and she explained that a family member staying with her had put it up and, like Alito with his wife, she just couldn't get the relative to take it down.

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and his wife, Martha-Ann Alito, view the casket of the Rev. Billy Graham in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in 2018. Two flags connected to the "Stop the Steal" movement have been seen flying at homes owned by the Alitos, according to reports in The New York Times.
ALEX EDELMAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

I'm sure Fox News would be cool as a cucumber about a story like that.

An upside-down US flag in a liberal justice's yard? The right would be up in arms.

Let's use a hypothetical that's more direct: It's 2016 and Trump was just elected president. A neighbor shows a New York Times reporter a photo of an upside-down American flag flying outside the home of liberal Justice Elena Kagan.

Radical liberal groups across America had recently adopted the upside-down American flag to express their violent opposition to the new president.

Would Republicans let that one go without batting an eye?

Would the right-wing media ecosystem calmly roll its eyes and move on?

No, everyone on the right would be apoplectic. Fox News headquarters would spontaneously combust from the ensuing rage.

But with Alito and his insurrection-curious wife and her unflagging flag enthusiasm, it's no biggie.

Alito's flags represent a dark undercurrent in politics

After the flag stories broke, Democratic senators asked Chief Justice John Roberts to meet with them to discuss the scandal.

Roberts said no. Nothing to see here.

But there's definitely something to see here, folks.

And if a liberal justice were raising ideological flags of any sort, Republicans would surely see the problem clear as day.

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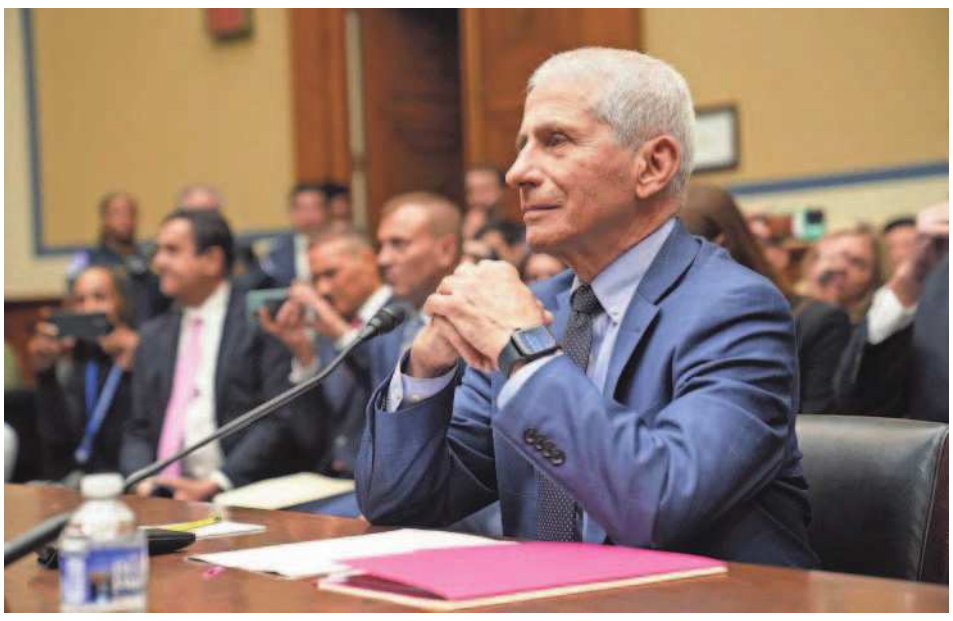
Fauci himself in House COVID-19 hearing

GOP lawmakers question doctor's past statements

Elizabeth Weise
USA TODAY



Anthony Fauci, former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testifies Monday in front of the House Oversight and Accountability Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

During a contentious hearing Monday on Capitol Hill, Dr. Anthony Fauci defended himself against vague accusations of helping fund Chinese government efforts to create the COVID-19 virus, hiding medical data about the pandemic and making up U.S. guidelines that kept people 6 feet apart during the height of the pandemic.

Fauci, who said none of that was true, has become a focus of anger and frustration for his stands on vaccination, science and social distancing – the same qualities that make him highly admired by others.

He remained calm during the more than three-hour hearing, outlining the threats that he, his wife and his three daughters have received over the course of the pandemic, including death threats.

"There have been credible death threats leading to the arrests of two individuals and credible death threats means someone who clearly was on their way to kill me," Fauci said.

He appeared voluntarily at Monday's hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, as he has a number of other times he has been called before Congress to discuss COVID-19.

Fauci said widespread threats against public health workers during and after the pandemic have robbed America of some "very good talent," young people who might have gone into public health but now chose not to. "They're reluctant to put themselves and their families through what they see us going through," he said.

Several Republican representatives questioned Fauci about the $120,000 grant his agency provided through another organization to China's Wuhan Institute of Virology. If the virus that causes COVID-19 originated in a lab, that lab was most likely at the Wuhan Institute, which had an annual budget of $6 billion. "If they were going to do something on the side, then they would have had plenty of money to do it," Fauci said.

But it is not biologically possible for the money his agency provided to have led to the creation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, Fauci testified. Even if the virus came out of the Wuhan lab, it had to have come from a different virus than the one the U.S. money supported, he said.

"The viruses were phylogenetically so far removed from SARS-CoV-2 virus that it's molecularly impossible for those viruses to have evolved into SARS-CoV-2 virus," he said. "It's just a biological fact."

He also vigorously denied that he had somehow "bribed" scientists to change their stance on the origins of the virus by offering millions of dollars in grant money, calling the accusation "simply preposterous."

The Republicans on the committee have spent 15 months looking for information suggesting Fauci behaved improperly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which Democrats on the committee said they had failed to find.

"We haven't seen a damned thing to suggest that these accusations are accurate," said Rep. Kweisi Mfume, R-Md.

Another topic was the Committee's release on Friday of information about two of Fauci's former employees, Dr. David Morens and Greg Folkers, whose emails during the pandemic appear to show they were trying to avoid federal transparency laws and also circumvent Freedom of Information Act requests, in part by using personal email.

Fauci said multiple times that he "knew nothing" of these attempts and that he had never knowingly used his personal email for his official position. "I knew nothing of Dr. Morens' actions," he said.

A number of Republicans mentioned COVID-19 guidelines meant to slow the spread of the virus and the ways in which they disrupted life – and were rejected by and infuriated many Americans. Fauci said the guidelines represented the best-known information at a time when faced with a virus no one had ever seen before.

But the American public didn't get to see the scientific data to support the guidelines, said Dr. Richard McCormick, R-Ga.

"Americans were aggressively bullied, shamed and silenced for debating issues such as social distancing, masks, vaccines or the origins of COVID," he said. "Americans do not hate science, but Americans know hypocrisy when they see it."

On the topic of whether the 6-foot social distancing guidelines were scientifically valid, several committee members questioned Fauci on his statement during a closed-door hearing in January in which he said, "It sort of just appeared that 6 feet was going to be the distance" and that it was not based in science.

Fauci clarified first that the 6-foot requirement came from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, not the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He also said that his testimony spoke to the measure of feet, not to the scientific veracity of the guidelines, given what was known about COVID-19 at the time.

There were no specific clinical trials that tested whether 3 feet, 6 feet or more were the best, he said. But given the CDC's knowledge at the time, that droplets were a main route of transmission for the COVID-19 virus, the guidelines fit well with known research on the safest distances.

The hearing took a loud turn about two hours in when Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., began a line of questioning in which she pointedly used the honorific Mister rather than Doctor for Fauci, who served as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases from 1984 to 2022 and was chief medical adviser to the president from 2021 to 2022.

When other representatives objected, Green said, "That man does not deserve to have a license and in fact he deserves to be in prison."

(Though vilified by AIDS activists early in that epidemic, Fauci was later credited with promoting research into drugs that have saved millions of lives worldwide and transformed the disease from a death sentence to a chronic illness. He also helped oversee the U.S. response to other health crises, including Ebola, Zika and swine flu.)

A few minutes later Greene attempted to speak further and the head of the committee, Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., instructed Capitol Police to escort her out of the chamber.

Later, Rep. Robert Garcia, D-Calif., said "This might be the most insane hearing I've actually attended."

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World-Renowned MD's "Balanced Blood Sugar" Discovery Stuns Medical World

Thousands scramble to get this natural blood-sugar breakthrough that supports a healthy insulin response, skyrockets energy levels, and sharpens your mind, according to a new study.

Picture this: You wake up every morning bursting with youthful energy. You look down and marvel at how much flatter and tighter your waistline looks. And your mind is crystal clear, like a "mental fog" has been lifted.

According to a new announcement from Dr. Al Sears, America's #1 anti-aging pioneer, that's now the reality for thousands of folks just like you who have tried his "balanced blood sugar" discovery. This happens without restrictive diets, grueling workouts, or ineffective supplements.

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Take Kevin O., for example. He had been trying a variety of ways and methods to maintain optimal insulin and blood sugar balance for over 10 long years. But then he decided to give Dr. Sears's blood sugar breakthrough a try. The decision changed his life, almost overnight.

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The secret lies in a new formula yielding amazing results. It naturally 'jumpstarts' metabolism, so it's easier for your body to maintain healthy blood sugar levels in the normal ranges.

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"The best options are the ones that are simple. If it's easy to understand and easy to do, then my patients find it easier to see results quickly," Dr. Sears explains.

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In an 8-week double-blind study on women struggling to maintain a healthy body weight, scientists found that chromium intake reduced hunger and cravings to a normal, healthy level.

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And a massive review of over 60,000 adults linked higher chromium intake to healthier blood sugar balance.

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A landmark human trial published in a respected health journal found a potent natural compound — Grape Seed Extract — goes a long way in targeting metabolic health.

In just 8 weeks, researchers confirmed positive support for both insulin production, and the cells' ability to respond and use glucose in a healthy way.

Grape Seed Extract's positive effect is welcome news, because over 1 in 3 American adults now have less than optimal insulin function. And the numbers only get worse with age.

Dr. Sears researched and selected a high-quality Grape Seed Extract and included amounts matching the studied dose. He says, "I couldn't be happier that my new formula has the potential, with regular usage, to help improve the lives of a third of all Americans."

Cinnamon bark is another ingredient revealed to be one of nature's most powerful glucose disposal age, helping move sugar out of your bloodstream and into your cells to be burned for energy.

Clinically Proven Results

Dr. Sears is known for recommending regular physical movement, like his PACE program made famous for optimizing metabolism and insulin response.

However, the results shown in these studies reveal metabolic enhancements in people who maintained their regular diet and lifestyle. It's no wonder people from all over the world wanting to support their metabolism are lining up to try this new protocol.

"Since the ingredients in this formula are completely natural and backed by reams of peer-reviewed research , I can confidently say anyone who tries it should see a positive effect on their metabolic health, guaranteed. Or they get their money back."

Dr. Sears stated when interviewed at his Florida office.

Overwhelming Demand for Ultra Metabolic Rescue

With results like these, it's no surprise that the demand for **Ultra Metabolic Rescue** has been overwhelming.

When Dr. Sears began developing this new formula, it was only supposed to be for his private clients who were looking for more.

But when patient after patient started feeling better and seeing numbers that were more balanced for their age and weight - without crash dieting or hours of grueling exercise - his phone started ringing off the hook.

Dr. Al Sears, M.D., is considered among top doctors as the leading pioneer in anti-aging medicine.

He has published over 500 articles and regularly holds conferences where thousands listen to him speak.

He is also a published author who has appeared on various media outlets including ABC News, CNN, Discovery, National Geographic and many more.

New Ultra Metabolic Rescue from Dr. Al Sears MD is a blood sugar balancing wonder

Potential Stock Shortage Due To High Demand

And now, with the release of **Ultra Metabolic Rescue**, his company can barely keep up with demand. "If sales continue at this rate," says Dr. Sears, "we may soon run out of stock."

Right now, the only way buyers can their hands on the new **Ultra Metabolic Rescue** is directly through Dr. Sears.

To get yours today, call the Sears Health Hotline at **1-888-824-1705.** "The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers," Dr. Sears said.

How to Get Ultra Metabolic Rescue 100% Risk-Free Today

Dr. Sears believes in the formula so much he offers a 100% money-back guarantee on every order. "If you're not completely satisfied, I'll send you your money back," Dr. Sears added.

The Hotline is open and taking orders now while supplies last. After that, the phone number may be shut down to allow them to restock. Call **1-888-824-1705** to secure your limited supply of **Ultra Metabolic Rescue**.

If you are not able to get through due to extremely high call volume, please try again! To take advantage of this exclusive offer use Promo Code: **UMRUSAT2** when you call.

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You can check the headlines from your home state or city

We survey and compile the top news stories from all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. **Page 3B**

Chevy's Silverado electric pickup is powerful but pricey

Vehicle exists to outshine rivals. But GM has yet to overcome affordability obstacle. **Page 4B**

MONEYLINE

BRIANNA PACIORKA/USA TODAY NETWORK

EVERYTHING, EVEN BUC-EE'S, WILL BE BIGGER IN TEXAS

Buc-ee's is opening its biggest location in the country in Texas next month. Spread over 75,000 square feet, the new Buc-ee's in Luling "will be the largest Buc-ee's location in the country, bringing the largest Buc-ee's back (to) where the legend began," the company said in a news release Tuesday. The new store will replace the city's current Buc-ee's store, which was the brand's first family travel center, built in 2003. Buc-ee's new store in Luling will replace the store in Sevierville, Tennessee, as the largest ever Buc-ee's outlet. The store in Tennessee, which opened last June, is more than 74,500 square feet. However, the Luling store won't remain the largest for long as the company has an 80,000-square-foot location in Ocala, Florida, in the works.

SOME LINCOLN AVIATORS RECALLED FOR CAMERA

Ford Motor Company is recalling over 100,000 of certain Lincoln Aviator vehicles due to an issue with the rearview camera. In the notice posted May 24, Ford says the accessory protocol image module (APIM) can be affected by electromagnetic interference with a cellphone, which can cause the rearview camera image to flicker or become distorted. In all, 109,283 Lincoln Aviator vehicles from model years 2020-24 are affected. Ford says owners are not advised to use their cellphones while reversing until the remedy is completed.

DOLLAR TREE ACQUIRES 99 CENTS ONLY LEASES

Dollar Tree has acquired the leases of 170 99 Cents Only Stores and will reopen these stores with its own products as early as this fall, the company said Wednesday. The 170 leases span Arizona, California, Nevada and Texas, according to a news release. Dollar Tree also acquired the North American intellectual property of 99 Cents Only Stores, as well as some furniture, equipment and fixtures.

FIJI WATER RECALLED FOR ELEVATED MANGANESE

About 79,000 cases of Fiji water sold through Amazon between have been recalled over elevated levels of a commonly found mineral and bacteria. In an enforcement report, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said that testing by Fiji Water maker Natural Waters of Viti Limited found "manganese in addition to three bacterial genera" in cases of the water sold between Feb. 1 and March 3. The FDA classified the recall of the roughly 1.9 million bottles on Thursday as the lowest level of seriousness, in which a product "is not likely to cause adverse health consequences." The recall was initiated March 4, though the company did not issue a news release then. A company spokesperson told USA TODAY that they did not do so as to not cause "unnecessary public concern."

PHILLIP FARAONE/GETTY IMAGES

Kids make up hidden caregiving component

Emotional, financial toll can be steep on youth

Medora Lee
USA TODAY

As soon as 12-year-old Aleisha Thompson wakes up, she gets her mom's medication ready.

Then she gets ready for school. She makes sure her mom eats before walking to the school bus stop. In between classes, she texts her mom around midday to remind her to take her medicine and eat.

It's important "she eats," Thompson said. "She has to eat."

Thompson's mother, Shelia Boatley, 49, has diabetes and is disabled. She has been disabled since 2000, with numerous health problems, including nerve and bone issues, poor vision because of her diabetes and "severely elevated" white blood cell counts that doctors are still trying to figure out. Her deteriorating health over the past couple of decades prevents her from taking care of her children the way mothers usually do.

Instead, roles are reversed in her household and, quietly, in millions more across America, putting a financial and emotional strain on families and children, health care experts say.

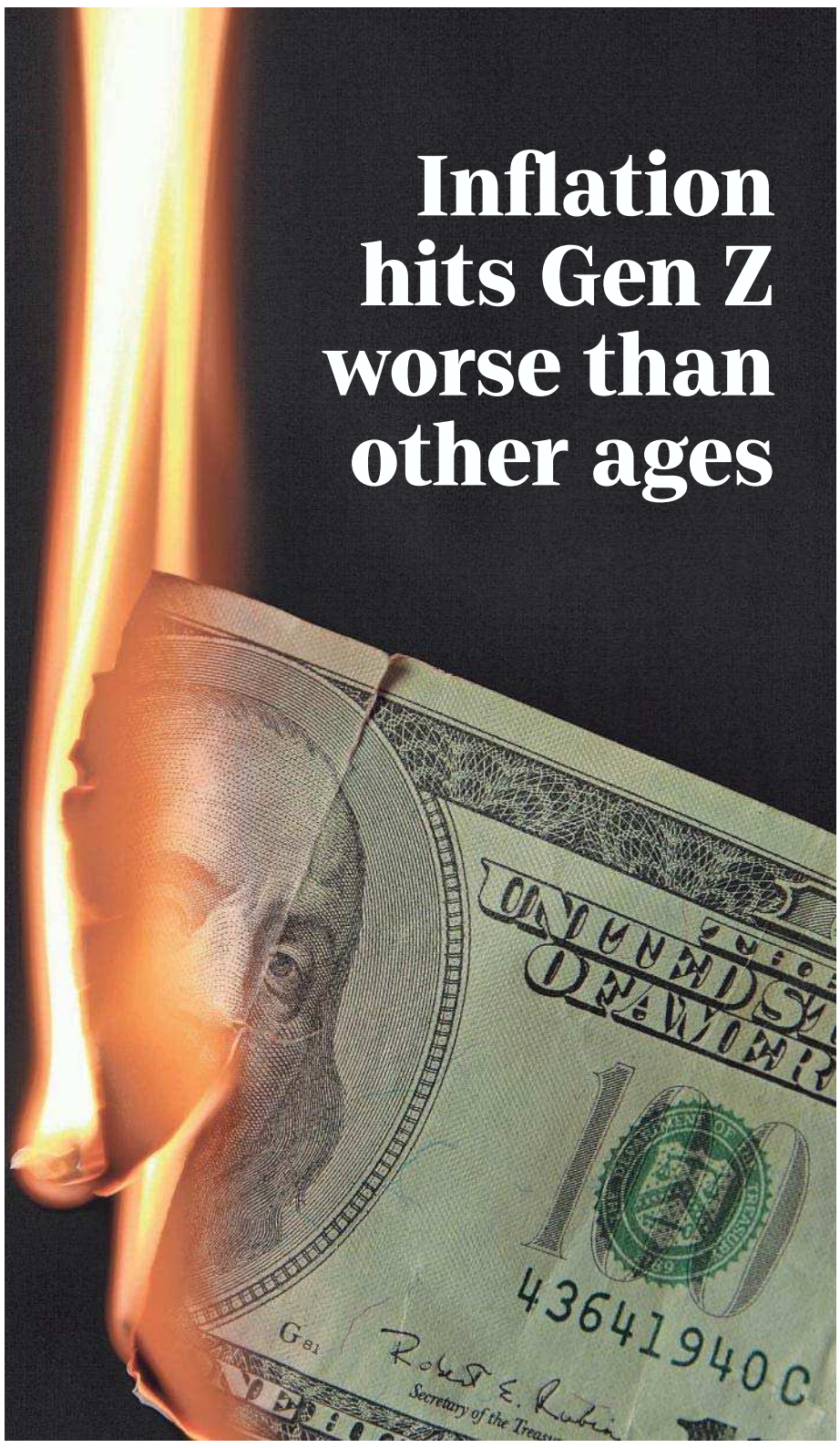
"Caregiving youth are not on people's radar," even though there are growing numbers of them, said Connie Siskowski, founder of the nonprofit American Association of Caregiving Youth (AACY), which advocates for and supports young caregivers.

How many youth caregivers are there?

An estimated 5.4 million children under 18 provided care to parents, grandparents or siblings with chronic medical conditions or functional decline in 2019, up from about 1.3 million to 1.4 million in 2005, according to reports from the National Alliance for Caregiving and others.

But those numbers are a "gross underestimate," Siskowski said. "I think it's at least 7.5 million, conservatively."

See CAREGIVING, Page 2B



GETTY IMAGES

Inflation hits Gen Z worse than other ages

Financial health could be damaged for years

Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

Freshly minted college graduates are grappling with more than just trying to land their first jobs.

There's the cost of rent. And eating out with friends. And gasoline. And car insurance.

Gen Z members (born between 1997 and 2012) have been hit harder by inflation than all other age groups, and the effects could cast a shadow over their financial health for years to come, according to studies by Moody's Analytics and TransUnion, the credit reporting agency.

"Gen Z's experience with inflation has been different than all other generational cohorts," says Moody's economist Matt Colyar. "It's been hotter."

Young adults, ages 12 to 27, are bearing the brunt of a historic spike in prices over the past few years that has financially strained most Americans. That's because Gen Z's incomes are lower because they're just entering the workforce. And they're big consumers of some of the chief inflation drivers, like housing and meals out, Colyar says.

But relief appears to be on the horizon, with some of those price increases poised to slow in coming months.

How much has inflation slowed?

Overall inflation has eased substantially from a 40-year high of 9.1% in mid-2022, according to the Labor Department's consumer price index (CPI). But after dropping last year, it picked up in early 2024 and has been stuck at about 3.4% since autumn.

Moody's crunches government data on the share of income each age group spends on various goods and services tracked by the Labor Department. It uses that information to come up with a generation-specific CPI that's roughly similar to the broader index.

Which generation is hit hardest?

Based on that generation-specific measure, yearly inflation in March was

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On Travel
Christopher Elliott
USA TODAY

The latest junk fees cross a line for travelers

Good luck avoiding junk fees when you travel this summer.

There are transaction fees, convenience fees, resort fees – and a beef cost surcharge.

That's what Alan Levine says he found on his bill when he stopped at a steakhouse in Moab, Utah.

"My server claimed the beef cost surcharge was standard," says Levine, a retired editor from New York. "But I had ordered chicken."

Junk fees – hidden, mandatory extras added to your final bill – have mushroomed in recent months, and travelers are crying foul. The government is waging a public war against these annoying extras, but businesses still love hitting their customers with extras because fooling them into paying more is highly profitable.

How much do they love them? Consider what happened when the Department of Transportation recently said it would start requiring airlines to quote an all-in price on airline tickets instead of separating fees for carry-on luggage and canceling or changing a reservation. In response, the airline industry sued the agency last week, claiming it had overreached its authority.

But the latest junk fees are too much, and as it turns out there's a reason they're multiplying. There are also proven ways to avoid these unethical extras.

It's difficult to escape junk fees

Fees are everywhere when you travel – and worse, companies seem unwilling to remove them.

- **Junk fees are getting creative.** Instead of a mandatory resort fee in addition to the room rate, tour operator Phyllis Stoller found a $30-a-day "urban fee" on her Los Angeles hotel bill. The fee covers a daily newspaper, phone calls and free internet access. "I wasn't paying attention when I checked out and paid it," she says.
- **The unwanted extras are often impossible to justify.** How about a 3% transaction fee? That's what Robert Kraus, a meeting planner from Alexandria, Virginia, found on his hotel bill in Chicago. When he asked about it, a representative told him it was to cover the cost of paying by credit card. So Kraus offered to pay with cash. "They said they couldn't waive the fee," he says.
- **Often the fees can't be explained.** Alan Craig, retired CEO of an automotive accessories company, recently found a $2 surcharge at a

See JUNK FEES, Page 2B

Gen Z

Continued from Page 1B

running about half a percentage point higher for Gen Z than for every other cohort – millennials, Gen X, baby boomers and the "silent" and "greatest" generations – a significant difference.

Besides earning lower incomes than other age groups, young Americans buy a disproportionate share of products and services that have soared in price. For instance, they devote nearly 20% of their income to rent compared to 7% for the average American, Moody's data shows.

Few Gen Z members own their homes, which means those who aren't still living with their parents or other relatives are probably renting. Rent has jumped 5.4% in the past year and 21% since early 2021, the CPI shows. And housing broadly has accounted for 36% of the rise in consumer prices in recent months.

Young people also spend 5.5% of their income on dining out, compared with 4.5% for the average person; 5.3% on gasoline versus an average of 3.2%; and 2.6% on auto insurance versus an average of 2.3%, the Moody's analysis shows.

Auto insurance has leaped almost 23% in the past year, and young Americans typically pay higher premiums because insurance companies believe they're more likely to get into accidents and make poor decisions.

'Living paycheck to paycheck'

Hannah Mains, 22, who graduated this month from Auburn University in Alabama, has two part-time jobs: marketing manager for a staffing firm in the clothing industry and stylist for a clothing subscription service.

But her pay for the 25 hours a week she logs is barely enough to cover her sharply rising bills for utilities, car insurance, groceries, dining out and other items, even with her parents covering the rent for the off-campus apartment she continues to share this summer. Her auto insurance premium has climbed $200 to $300 a year in the past few years, she estimates.

"I still find myself living paycheck to paycheck," Mains says, and hasn't been able to build any savings.

Mains, who majored in apparel merchandising and media studies, has applied to hundreds of public relations and marketing jobs but has had just a few interviews in a cooling labor market. New grads are competing not just among themselves but with laid-off white-collar workers in fields such as tech and consulting, according to a LinkedIn report.

Although she eats out with college friends three or four times a week, she has been gravitating to restaurants and bars that offer discount specials.

Mains

At the end of the summer, she plans to move back in with her parents in Atlanta and hunt for a PR or marketing job in New York City or Los Angeles. She isn't sure how she'll afford the astronomical rents.

"It's definitely disheartening, but it's just how it is."

What is the average credit card debt held by Gen Z?

The additional costs that Gen Zers face have led them to amass more credit card debt than millennials at the same age, according to a TransUnion study last month. Gen Zers ages 22 to 24 had an average credit card balance of $2,834 late last year, compared with an inflation-adjusted $2,248 for millennials at the same age in late 2013.

And 1.6% of Gen Z card holders were 60 or more days delinquent on their payments in late 2023, vs. 1% of millennials a decade ago.

"Gen Z is struggling more than millennials did 10 years ago," says Michele Raneri, vice president and U.S. research head at TransUnion.

Although Gen Zers and millennials each dealt with a crisis – the Great Recession and pandemic downturn, respectively – inflation has left Gen Zers more debt-burdened, Raneri says. In 2021 and 2022, they benefited from COVID-19-related stimulus checks and other federal aid. But that money largely has run dry, forcing many in that age group to turn to credit cards or other types of loans, she says.

The government's financial cushion is gone, but the spending may have "turned into a habit (they) can't afford," Raneri says.

Such debt can weigh on young adults and affect their credit scores for years because they haven't yet built credit histories, says Charlie Wise, TransUnion's senior vice president and global research head. Today's historically high interest rates make that debt particularly onerous, Raneri says.

The outlook, however, isn't all gloomy for young Americans.

Gen Z's median inflation-adjusted wages have been higher than those of previous generations at the same age. And they've risen faster, at least partly offsetting the higher costs, Colyar says, citing Federal Reserve data. Many work in industries – such as restaurants, hotels and retail – that have boosted pay sharply in response to pandemic-related labor shortages.

Also, young adults tend to switch jobs more often than older colleagues to take advantage of bigger raises, Colyar says.

"Gen Z went to work when there was a 'help wanted' crisis," he says.

What is the forecast for inflation in 2024?

He says the cost of services hit hardest by inflation should rise more slowly or stabilize in the coming months. Rent for new leases has dropped, but that change has been slow to filter through to tenants on existing leases. It should happen, though, by the second half of the year, Colyar says.

The rise in car insurance costs should also ease in the months ahead, he says. New car prices have dropped recently, and that should moderate insurance premium increases, Colyar says.

At the same time, Gen Zers devote much less of their income to health care, an expense that's projected to rise dramatically this year.

"Relief is on the way," Colyar says.

Caregiving

Continued from Page 1B

An aging population, more drug and alcohol use, mental health problems, shorter hospital stays and long COVID have likely boosted the need for kids to help in the home, experts said.

Additionally, "sometimes families don't talk about it because they're afraid if people knew, the child could be removed from the home," she said.

Why are more youth taking on caregiving responsibilities?

In-home care and nursing homes are hard to find and unaffordable for most, especially if you're still relatively young, experts said. At 49, for example, Boatley could need care for another 30 years or more.

"Everyone lives so long but not necessarily healthier," said Patrick Simasko, elder-law attorney and financial adviser at Simasko Law in Mount Clemens, Michigan.

Most people also don't want to live in a nursing home away from their family for that many years, he said.

At the same time, "no child in the United States should have to drop out of school or life to provide care for family members."

Is there government help for families and children?

"There's literally nothing out there in the way of government benefits to help," Simasko said.

President Joe Biden took executive action last year to expand care and raise wages, but none of them help young caregivers.

Other countries like the U.K. and Australia recognize "young carers" through legislation and policy and offer stipends, Siskowski said. Unpaid youth caregiving labor is estimated at more than $8.5 billion a year, she said.

In the U.S., Medicare doesn't pay family members to provide care, and low-income families on Medicaid can be reimbursed only for adults.

If parents use their own money to pay the child and later get Medicaid benefits, the government penalizes parents by calling it a "gift," Simasko said.

Disabled people, along with their personal attendants and allies, protest to demand a meeting with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to discuss improving the wages and benefits for personal attendants on May 14 in Austin, Texas. Low wages make it difficult for people with disabilities to find the caregivers they need to continue living at home. JAY JANNER/USA TODAY NETWORK

Medicaid usually has a five-year look-back period from the date you apply to prevent applicants from gifting assets to meet Medicaid's asset limit. Money gifted for high school graduation, a vehicle donated to a local charity or payments to a personal care assistant without a formal contract are examples of what could be considered violations and disqualify you.

Can nonprofits help?

Help is left to nonprofits in the U.S., experts said.

For example, AACY identifies young caregivers from 6th grade and helps build their caregiving skills, mental health and connections to others like them so "they know they aren't alone," Siskowski said.

AACY "has helped me with many things: mental health, tutoring, a computer, and they have activities we may attend and sign up for," Thompson said. "Sometimes we have camp and learn life skills or visit college campuses."

She has also met her best friends there. "I don't have friends who go to my school, really," she said. "A group tried jumping me, and I told the principal, so I stay in my own lane." She said she prefers kids at AACY who are more like her and "a lot more open and polite. They show respect for others, aren't rude and know how to communicate really well."

AACY's work "is to try to prevent that trauma, help kids today and tomorrow," Siskowski said. "What people don't realize, investment in this population can both help the workforce for the future, and if the kids enjoy what they're doing, they can go into health care as I did as a nurse."

A study funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation found 22% of young adults who dropped out of school did so to care for a family member.

"If they drop out of school, society's affected as well as you and your family," Siskowski said, noting that they'll more likely have low income, dependency problems or teen pregnancies.

What can families do?

Once in the situation, families have few options. "You can't buy house insurance when your house is on fire," Simasko said.

But if you're still healthy and young, he said, you can plan with:

- Long-term care insurance to help pay for assisted care, but you must buy it when you're young and still healthy. Otherwise, it's extremely expensive and premiums may rise.
- Hybrid life insurance, which pays for long-term care if you need it from your death benefit or a larger life insurance benefit if you don't.

Junk fees

Continued from Page 1B

hamburger restaurant. No one could tell him what it was for or whether it was mandatory. "I paid it, but I let them know these fees are bad for business," he says.

Bottom line: Travelers will probably feel as if they're drowning in junk fees this summer. They'll be kicking themselves because somewhere in the fine print or in their hotel folio, the mandatory extras were disclosed. And businesses have proved reluctant to remove the junk fees.

Why are there so many junk fees?

Why are junk fees spreading despite government intervention? Businesses are under relentless pressure to turn a profit, and junk fees are a shortcut to higher earnings, experts say.

"Appearing to provide the lowest cost of travel is a great way to attract customers," says Eric Chaffee, a law professor at Case Western Reserve University. "Even if it is, in fact, not true."

That's especially true of airlines, and one reason why the U.S. airlines are suing the federal government. The true cost of flying is far higher than the airfare you're being quoted.

"Airlines have begun to charge for a lot more things in order to stay in business," Chaffee says. "Hiding these fees until later is one way of ensuring that."

But hiding fees – basically, not disclosing the true price of your product – irritates customers. Price transparency, which is what the government wants, "is the fair thing to do," he says.

It's not just airlines that are being targeted by the government. A California ban on junk fees, which will outlaw many restaurant surcharges, takes effect on July 1. And there, too, the restaurant industry is reportedly considering a lawsuit to fight the ban. (The law disappointingly allows car rental companies and car dealerships to continue charging some fees. Oh well, you can't win 'em all.)

Bottom line: There are so many junk fees because they make businesses so much money.

How to avoid junk fees this summer

You don't have to be a victim when you travel this summer. You can avoid most junk fees with a few simple precautions.

- **Always read the fine print:** Junk fees are often hidden in plain sight. Businesses disclose them on their websites or in the confirmations they email you. They read them to you over the phone in monotone (they're reading from a script). They tell you in a way that's utterly forgettable. That's why you have to pay attention when you travel. Don't zone out. Read the fine print.
- **Fee-proof yourself:** One way to protect yourself from fees such as luggage surcharges is to join an airline loyalty program (although I'm not a fan of loyalty programs, as I've noted before). "Obtaining status can help you save money in the long run," says Bob Bacheler, managing director of a medical transportation service and a frequent traveler. (But just be careful to not trade one set of fees for another. Some co-branded credit cards have high annual fees.)
- **Go fee-free:** There are travel companies that have taken a stand against junk fees. For example, Southwest Airlines doesn't charge passengers for checked or carry-on luggage. Most name-brand car rental companies (Avis, Enterprise, Hertz) quote all-in prices. The other car rental companies, not exactly. Find these fee-free businesses and patronize them. It sends a message that you want fair pricing.

What to do when you're charged a junk fee this summer

You can read the fine print, join a loyalty program and patronize a fee-free business but still get stuck with a junk fee this summer. Yeah, that's how pervasive they are.

Levine, the editor who got slammed with a beef cost surcharge for his chicken dinner – and was told it was a standard charge – had a ready response.

"I told them that my standard way of dealing with thieves is to walk away," he says. "They took the charge off the bill."

I have another idea: If a business hits you with a hidden junk fee, you need to do three things. First, let the company know that you are unhappy with the fee and ask it to remove the charge. Second, never do business with the company again.

And third, warn everyone you know about the unethical whether it's on social media, a letter to the editor or a review on a restaurant website. Sooner or later, it will get the message.

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Montgomery: The U.S. Department of Labor has filed a lawsuit against three Alabama companies, including a Hyundai plant, hoping to bar them from using child labor, the federal agency said.

ALASKA Anchorage: Police said one man was killed in a shooting downtown, and another man was injured by officers responding to the scene, Alaska Public Media reported.

ARIZONA Phoenix: A bill allowing a memorial to Don Bolles, the Arizona Republic reporter killed by a car bomb that went off under his car on June 2, 1976, be placed on the mall at the Arizona State Capitol has again legislatively died in the state Senate.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: The Arkansas Supreme Court rejected a bid to make major changes to the process of adding a referendum or other measure to the ballot.

CALIFORNIA Ventura: The Ventura Pier, which has been closed since January 2023, is scheduled to reopen before the end of June. The pier has been shut to visitors since storms whipped up heavy surf and knocked out multiple support pilings.

COLORADO Fort Collins: Poudre School District's Board of Education has hired an outside investigator to determine the nature of a relationship between Superintendent Brian Kingsley and a school district employee, the Fort Collins Coloradoan has confirmed.

CONNECTICUT Hartford: If you've ever watched the HGTV show, "The Ugliest House in America," you know that it features the comedian known as "Retta" traveling around the country, looking for the ugliest houses she can find. After "crowning the worst of the worst" in each season, the winner gets a $150,000 renovation on their ugly house. In a recent episode, Retta visited three homes in Connecticut.

DELAWARE Dover: Downtown Dover redevelopment projects have already received $15.1 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and $10 million in state funds in the fiscal year 2025 bond bill. Now the federal government has awarded another $1 million to clean up what's referred to as "brownfield" sites downtown that have contaminants or hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead paint or underground fuel tanks.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: Nearly 70 cars with piled up unpaid tickets have been towed within two months under a new program launched in D.C. by the Department of Public Works, WUSA reported.

FLORIDA Miami: Florida's annual python hunt in the Everglades will run Aug. 9-18, Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez announced. Burmese pythons are an invasive species that pose a threat to wildlife. Florida pays hunters annually to catch the snakes. State-approved hunters can win up to $25,000 this year, Nuñez said.

HAWAII Honolulu: STEM-focused esports summer camps are being held at Hawaii Pacific University for kids aged 9 to 15, Hawaii News Now reported.

IDAHO Boise: Capital High School has notified students and staff that phones will not be allowed in classes starting next year, KTVB reported.

ILLINOIS Peoria: Another minor milestone has been achieved in Peoria's push to bring Amtrak passenger rail to the city. The Peoria City Council has approved a $400,000 agreement to hire an engineering firm out of Chicago to conduct step one of Peoria's initial rail corridor identification and development program.

INDIANA Evansville: The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees has selected Steven Bridges, its vice president of finance and administration, to serve as interim president following outgoing President Ron Rochon's announcement he would be leaving this summer.

IOWA Des Moines: After 203 weeks – just shy of four years – Iowa has finally escaped drought, a new report shows, with only abnormally dry conditions, a step below drought, lingering in about a quarter of the state. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor report shows 24% of Iowa remains in abnormally dry conditions, primarily in northeast and central Iowa. It's a drastic change from late December, when about four-fifths of Iowa was gripped in mostly severe or extreme drought.

HIGHLIGHT: GEORGIA

Live oak seedlings are stored in the Savannah Tree Foundation's nursery at the SeaPoint Industrial Terminal Complex. JOHN DEEM/USA TODAY NETWORK

Savannah: On a sun-splashed morning, an imposing icon of Savannah's past stands sentry near the gate of a fenced compound protecting ingredients to the city's future. Inside the enclosure, neatly arranged rows of young live oaks in small, black containers await their deployment. "We have an aging tree canopy," Savannah Tree Foundation Executive Director Zoe Rinker said. "What hasn't been lost to storms is getting older and hasn't been replanted at the rate that it should." Rinker aims to change that and, through a partnership with the company operating SeaPoint Industrial Terminal Complex, her organization now has its first extensive supply of local seedlings. About 1,500 early-stage trees occupy a portion of the outdoor nursery. Eventually, that number will grow to 4,000.

KANSAS Topeka: The Kansas Highway Patrol could soon add a new make and model of muscle car to its vehicle fleet. While Dodge Durangos and Dodge Chargers are the most common vehicles in the KHP fleet, the agency has an open request for proposals for Ford Mustangs.

KENTUCKY Henderson: Contracted school employees in Henderson County are getting a raise. The Henderson County Board of Education approved a 3% pay increase and a $1,000 supplement for the employees.

LOUISIANA Baton Rouge: A lawyer has been suspended from practicing law for a year after he reportedly styled himself as a god-king.

MAINE York: The students behind a recently approved town-wide single-use plastics ban are celebrating their victory, but they and others believe there is still work to do to combat plastic pollution.

MARYLAND Elkridge: Four family members are dead and a fifth suffered life-threatening injuries following what police believe to be an apparent triple murder-suicide case at a Maryland home late Thursday night.

MASSACHUSETTS Carlisle: Over 200 pride flags were stolen from a display in a Massachusetts town outside of Boston just days before a local pride event and the start of Pride Month, according to town officials. The flags were taken from the rotary at the center of Carlisle, the Carlisle Police Department said in a news release.

MICHIGAN East Lansing: The investigation into whether Michigan State University trustees bullied each other and broke codes of ethics and conduct has surpassed the $2 million mark. That's in addition to the approximately $325,000 the university has paid so far to cover the legal fees of trustees during and after the investigation.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis: Police said an investigation is underway after one man was killed in a shooting, KARE reported.

MISSISSIPPI Lorman: Nearly 60 days into his tenure, Alcorn State University President Tracy Cook shared his plans and visions for the future of the institution. It's a future, he said, that will be built on acquiring resources, economic development and accessibility.

MISSOURI Ozark: After Green Bridge was closed to traffic earlier this year due to safety concerns identified by state inspectors, Christian County and the city of Ozark are working to save one of the area's most historically significant bridges.

MONTANA Helena: U.S. Republican Sen. Steve Daines of Montana is blocking the nomination of a lawyer who, if confirmed by the Senate, would be the first Native American to serve as a federal judge in the state, States Newsroom reported.

NEBRASKA Grand Island: Officials said two urns containing ashes and a vase were stolen from a mausoleum at Grand Island Cemetery, Grand Island Independent reported.

NEVADA Carson City: Parents in Nevada will have to wait until September to receive benefits from a popular free food program designed to cover kids during summer vacation, Nevada Current reported.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Exeter: The Exeter Police Department is investigating after several goats were reported missing from the area of Newfields Road.

NEW JERSEY Trenton: Legislation sponsored by Union City Mayor and state Sen. Brian Stack that would make it harder to track how much county officials are paid cleared committee in the upper chamber. The bill would get rid of the requirement for compensation such as stipends and bonuses to be approved through ordinances for county commissioners, department heads and county executives and only make ordinances necessary for annual salaries.

NEW MEXICO Santa Fe: The U.S. Marshals Service District of New Mexico Southwest Fugitive Team has taken a woman into custody after she evaded authorities for 24 years.

NEW YORK Albany: Gov. Kathy Hochul has revealed her push to ban students from bringing smartphones into New York schools amid ongoing efforts to address intersecting educational and youth mental health crises. The Democratic governor has plans to introduce a bill banning schoolchildren from carrying smartphones on school grounds. She aimed to approve it during the 2025 legislative session that begins in January, which tees up politically charged debate between educators, lawmakers and tech companies in coming months over the issue.

NORTH CAROLINA Asheville: While the effort to bring passenger rail back to Western North Carolina has gained steam in recent months, funding has remained a question for local officials and state legislators as the project requires more non-federal funding to stay on pace.

NORTH DAKOTA Wahpeton: Police arrested a man after a fire broke out at a home and caused extensive damage, KVRR reported.

OHIO Dayton: Larry Connor, a Dayton billionaire entrepreneur, will soon embark on another groundbreaking exploration. Connor, founder and managing partner of The Connor Group, a real estate company based in Dayton, plans to take a deep-sea submersible to "Titanic-level depths" to prove that the personal-sub industry is safe.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: The number of people experiencing homelessness in Oklahoma City has grown by 28% this year in comparison to last year, according to the annual Point in Time survey. At least 1,838 people had no place to call their home on Jan. 25 this year, when volunteers conducted a "snapshot" survey of the city's homeless population in compliance with federal grant funding requirements. Data gathered for the report showed an increase of 402 homeless people from the 1,436 counted for the same survey in 2023.

OREGON Brookings: A historic U.S. Forest Service cabin available for rent in southern Oregon was recently broken into and vandalized, leading to its temporary closure. Packer's Cabin, located in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, sustained extensive damage, including the removal of doors, window frames and shutters, graffiti, and trash, the agency said in a news release. The cabin had been temporarily closed due to roof damage and the need to replace the wood stove.

PENNSYLVANIA Erie: The Erie Zoo is welcoming new members with the addition of two Canadian lynx kittens. As this was the first litter from the zoo's current Canadian lynx cats, the zoo said in a news release it's a significant milestone in their efforts towards conservation and education.

RHODE ISLAND Bristol: From the base of the Mount Hope Bridge, U.S. Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse alongside Congressman Gabe Amo and Gov. Dan McKee Thursday highlighted $27 million in federal funding heading to Rhode Island to support much-needed improvements to the historic span connecting Bristol and Portsmouth.

SOUTH CAROLINA Spartanburg: A deputy at the Spartanburg County Detention Center was arrested at his home accused of smuggling contraband into the facility.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: After all nine South Dakota tribes unified over the banishment of Gov. Kristi Noem, one tribe is again asking for solidarity as it takes a stance against the state's highest elected official. Oglala Sioux Tribe President Frank Star Comes Out announced the tribe will not take part in a Tribal Public Safety Crisis Summit scheduled June 24 in Pierre.

TENNESSEE Nashville: The city is launching an independent investigation into the Metro Nashville Police Department following explosive allegations in a complaint from a retired police lieutenant detailing an alleged culture of mismanagement, failure to investigate misconduct and an overall lack of transparency.

TEXAS Austin: The city of Austin is treating Lady Bird Lake for algae blooms for the fourth year in a row.

UTAH Logan: Utah State University held a groundbreaking ceremony for the state's first veterinary college, KSL reported.

VERMONT Underhill: A Vermont state game warden had to kill an aggressive black bear in Underhill May 24 after the bear adopted a "predatory stance" with its head lowered, and began to approach and circle the warden.

VIRGINIA Arlington: A black bear was found dead in a plastic bag near a park's walking trail in Arlington.

WASHINGTON Bainbridge Island: In the works for nearly two decades, a path connecting New Brooklyn Road, Madison Avenue and Bainbridge High School is ready to offer cyclists and pedestrians a safe route from neighborhoods to Bainbridge High School, Ordway Elementary and the Bainbridge Aquatics Center. Known as Dana's Trail, the path is named after Dana Berg, a 12-year president for Squeaky Wheels, a bicycle advocacy organization based on Bainbridge Island.

WEST VIRGINIA Charleston: John Hutchinson, who was Charleston's mayor from 1971 to 1980, has died at age 89, WSAZ reported.

WISCONSIN Madison: Gov. Tony Evers said he's waiting for more information before judging whether Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent Keith Posley should lose his job after the district failed to submit crucial financial reports.

WYOMING Cheyenne: Former President Donald Trump was found guilty on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records by a Manhattan jury on Thursday, but for many conservatives, the criminal convictions were nothing more than a rallying cry, especially in ruby-red Republican states. In Wyoming, a state where Trump received over 70% of the state's presidential votes in 2020 and carried all but two of the state's 23 counties, political players from across the state's increasingly divided Republican Party have united in condemning the trial's outcome.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

Pricey Chevy Silverado EV pickup is robust

Mark Phelan
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Chevrolet's eagerly awaited Silverado EV electric full-size pickup inches closer to mainstream buyers as the 754-horsepower $94,500 RST model arrives in dealerships this spring.

Affordability is a major obstacle when many consumers consider electric vehicles, and it's one General Motors has yet to successfully address.

The automaker's technically impressive new generation of EVs using its Ultium suite of technologies and components has spent more time flirting with six-digit prices than approaching the average price of a new vehicle: $47,218, as reported by Cox Automotive.

The gap will narrow when Chevy's 2024 Equinox EV hits the road in meaningful numbers this spring, but it's no accident you don't hear GM's "EVs for everybody" motto anymore.

The Silverado EV RST is a no-apologies showpiece for GM's most advanced technologies, if anybody missed that point when Ultium arrived with prices starting at $98K three years ago. It exists to outshine, not outsell, existing electric pickups – the Ford F-150 Lightning, Rivian R1T and Tesla Cybertruck.

Customers who want a Silverado EV priced to compete with non-electric pickups, or even midrange models of the Ford F-150 Lightning, will have to wait until the non-fleet WT work truck and LT trim level go on sale later this year.

2024 Chevrolet Silverado EV trim levels and prices

- Work Truck (fleet sales): $72,905
- RST: $94,500

Upcoming trim levels include 2024 single-unit work truck, LT and 2025 Trailboss.

Source: Edmunds. Prices exclude $1,995 destination charge.

Driving impressions

The Silverado RST is powerful and luxurious. With standard all-wheel drive coming from front and rear electric motors, it can produce 754 hp and reach 60 mph in less than 4.5 seconds, according to Chevrolet. It's fast and quiet on the road, capable in mild off-roading.

The popular one-pedal braking feature is easy to modulate, combining with judicious application of the brakes for vehicle control and to increase electric regeneration when decelerating.

Available drive modes include Wow, a setting that delivers 754 hp and 784 pound-feet of torque. Other modes include tow/haul, off-roads, normal and customizable "my mode."

GM doesn't reveal power output in other driving modes, but acceleration was impressive as I drove an RST on rural roads around southeast Michigan's hills and lakes.

The standard air suspension cushions bumps and keeps the RST level and stable around curves, braking and accelerating. It can also change ride height up to 2 inches for access, off-roading or aerodynamics.

The steering is direct and responsive.

The RST's sport drive mode increases steering effort and rear steering input. Four-wheel steering is standard, a feature that's increasingly common on EVs with big battery packs under the floor. The 4WS delivers a smaller turning radius that's handy both in parking lot maneuvers and negotiating tight turns on off-road trails.

EV pickups' power and range

- Chevrolet Silverado RST: 754 hp, 440 miles
- Ford F-150 Lightning Platinum extended range: 580 hp, 300 miles
- Rivian R1T: 665 hp, 400 miles
- Tesla Cybertruck Cyberbeast: 600 hp, 320 miles

Free Press research

Apple CarPlay did it better

I've had mixed results with the infotainment system in GM's new line of EVs. The automaker banned Apple CarPlay, the widely used interface that makes easy to use iPhone features like phone calls, text messages, navigation, music and more.

GM's Google-based system was acceptable, though not equal to, CarPlay's performance in the first two vehicles in which I used it: A 2024 Chevrolet Blazer EV and Equinox EV.

The 2024 Chevrolet Silverado EV RST electric pickup is on sale now.
PROVIDED BY CHEVROLET

It fared worse in the Silverado RST, loading slowly, and denied access to some features I expect:

- An incoming phone call from a colleague in my contacts list was not identified, simply displaying as a 10-digit number of the infotainment screen.
- My library of music loaded slowly, not displaying artist, track and album information for several minutes after I started driving.

Until more time behind the wheel of GM's new EVs convinces me otherwise, I can't say their smartphone interface is as good as CarPlay.

The Google-based system does promise real-time, interactive route-planning, including charging stops, in addition to cloud-based voice recognition, navigation and apps.

Key features

- Vehicle to home charging
- Power-opening front trunk
- Power-opening midgate connecting cabin and bed
- Removable rear window
- Adaptive air suspension
- Four-wheel steering
- All-wheel drive
- 24-inch wheels
- Multi-Flex tailgate
- 17.7-inch infotainment touchscreen
- Google built-in for navigation, apps, etc.
- Bluetooth connectivity for iPhones
- Super Cruise hands-free driving system
- Up to 11 outlets and 10.2 kW of off-board power

Unique looks, 440-mile range and a fancy tailgate

The Silverado EV RST doesn't resemble anything on the road, but still looks like a vehicle capable of towing, hauling and covering great distances.

The four-door crew cab has plenty of space for five passengers and gear. It has a midgate that opens between the bed and cabin, creating up to 10 feet, 10 inches of cargo floor when the tailgate is open with its cargo-stop deployed.

The mostly black interior is wrapped in leather and soft materials with contrasting red stitching.

The Silverado RST's lithium-ion battery reportedly has a 200kW capacity and can charge at up to 100 miles in 10 minutes in 350kW DC fast charging, assuming ideal battery and charger conditions. It can add up to 34 miles an hour with the 240v charging most EV owners use overnight.

The EPA rates the RST's range at 440 miles on a full battery. There's no standardized test for how towing affects EV range, so automakers do not cite that element of performance.

2024 Chevrolet Silverado EV RST at a glance

- Full-size crew-cab electric pickup
- All-wheel drive
- Drivetrain: Front and rear electric motors
- Output: 754 hp and 785 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: Single-speed direct drive
- Maximum speed: 109 mph
- Battery size: Reportedly 200 kW
- Range: 440 miles on a charge
- Charging: Up to 100 miles in 10 minutes with 350kW DC charging; Up to 34 miles an hour with 240v charging.
- 0-60 mph: Under 4.5 seconds
- Payload: 1,500 pounds
- Towing capacity: 10,000 pounds
- Assembled in Detroit/Hamtramck, Michigan

Stanley Cup Final set: Oilers will face Panthers for title, 3C

- MLB power rankings: Astros keep falling, **3C**
- WNBA rookie power rankings: Reese leads, **7C**

Latest news, results, opinions 24/7 at sports.usatoday.com

See who advanced in the softball Women's College World Series, plus NCAA baseball regionals

Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson agreed to a contract extension that will make him the highest-paid wide receiver and non-quarterback in NFL history. The extension kicks in for the 2025 season. JEFFREY BECKER/USA TODAY SPORTS

MOVIN' ON UP

Justin Jefferson signs Vikings megadeal worth $140M over four years

Chris Bumbaca
USA TODAY

The Minnesota Vikings and Justin Jefferson agreed to a contract extension Monday that makes him the highest-paid wide receiver and non-quarterback in NFL history.

According to ESPN, which first reported the deal, the contract is for four years and $140 million with $110 million guaranteed. Jefferson will also receive a signing bonus of $88.743 million, the highest ever for a non-quarterback.

Since the Vikings selected Jefferson with the 22nd overall pick in the 2020 draft, the former LSU Tiger has distinguished himself as one of the NFL's best receivers. He finished second in 2020 Offensive Rookie of the Year voting following a 1,400-yard campaign. The following season, Jefferson snagged 10 touchdown passes and caught 108 passes on his way to a 1,616-yard season.

Jefferson, 24, solidified his status in 2022 by leading the league with 1,809 receiving yards and 128 catches. He averaged 106.1 receiving yards per game and was voted the Offensive Player of the Year in addition to being a first-team All-Pro. He has 30 career touchdowns and been to three Pro Bowls.

"The time has finally come, the deal I've been waiting for since I was a little kid," Jefferson said in a video message he posted on social media.

The extension kicks in after the 2024 season. Jefferson will play this season on the fifth-year option of his rookie deal.

The Louisiana native mentioned not being a highly touted recruit –he had a three-star ranking – or the first wideout in his class to be drafted as motivating factors that led to his payday.

"This whole journey hasn't been easy," he said.

Jefferson also thanked his parents, his brothers, Vikings fans, Minnesota head coach Kevin O'Connell and general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah.

"I've always dreamt of this moment," Jefferson said.

Jefferson missed seven games last year with a hamstring strain, but he eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark.

"Over the first four seasons of his career, Justin entrenched himself as the best wide receiver and one of the most electric players in the NFL," Vikings owners Mark and Zygi Wolf said in a statement. "He is a special talent, a committed teammate and an excellent representative of the Vikings. Justin has earned this contract, and we are thrilled he will remain a Minnesota Viking for a very long time."

The Vikings are entering a new era at quarterback after Jefferson was on the other end of Kirk Cousins spirals for the first part of his career. Cousins left for the Atlanta Falcons in free agency, and Minnesota drafted J.J. McCarthy with the 10th overall pick.

NFL's highest-paid wide receivers

All figures are from overthecap.com and based on average contract value.

1. Justin Jefferson, Minnesota Vikings: $35 million (four years, $140 million)
2. A.J. Brown, Philadelphia Eagles: $32 million (three years, $96 million)
3. Amon-Ra St. Brown, Detroit Lions: $30.002 million (four years, $120.01 million)
4. Tyreek Hill, Miami Dolphins: $30 million (four years, $120 million)
5. Jaylen Waddle, Miami Dolphins: $28.25 million (three years, $84.75 million)
6. Davante Adams, Las Vegas Raiders: $28 million (five years, $140 million)
7. Cooper Kupp, Los Angeles Rams: $26.7 million (three years, $80.1 million)
8. DeVonta Smith, Philadelphia Eagles: $25 million (three years, $75 million)
9. Nico Collins, Houston Texans: $24.25 million (three years, $72.75 million)
10. DK Metcalf, Seattle Seahawks: $24 million (three years, $72 million)

Mike Freeman
Columnist
USA TODAY

Mazzula, Kidd rare leading Finals duo

The year was 1975. It wouldn't be long before Apple computer was founded. A show called "Saturday Night Live" premiered on NBC. There was disco, 8-Track players and bell-bottom pants.

Also, that year the NBA Finals featured two Black head coaches in Golden State's Al Attles and Washington's K.C. Jones. It wasn't just the first time two Black head coaches faced off in the Finals, it was also the first major sports championship in U.S. history featuring two Black head coaches.

"K.C. and I were players who became coaches, but the credit goes to the team owners who had faith in us," Attles told Andscape in 2017. "Bill Russell was the first African American coach, and then Earl Lloyd, myself and K.C. came in. You have to give credit to the people who hired you. We couldn't do it by ourselves.

"Someone had to give us the leeway to do it, which is why I give (then-Warriors owner) Mr. (Frank) Mieuli so much credit. It wasn't something that was done every day back then. I remember talking about it with Mr. Mieuli. He never, ever thought it was a big deal.

"It was a big deal."

We fast-forward to now (minus the bell-bottoms).

There are again two Black head coaches in the Finals: Dallas' Jason Kidd and Boston's Joe Mazzulla.

This is just the second NBA Finals featuring two Black head coaches. Now, there's a caveat, and even that technicality is fascinating in this unique moment in league history. The last time we saw two Black head coaches in the Finals was the 2016 Cleveland-Golden State series. The head coaches were Tyronn Lue for the Cavaliers, who is Black, and Steve Kerr for the Warriors.

See FREEMAN, Page 7C

K.C. Jones coached the Washington Bullets in the NBA Finals in 1975.
FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES

Memories of 50-year anniversary of 10 Cent Beer Night

Bob Nightengale
Columnist
USA TODAY

They still talk about it, laugh about it now and then, occasionally watch videotape of the infamous game, but they vividly remember 50 years ago hilarity being replaced by anger, fear and panic.

"I've never really talked about this before," Dave Duncan, who was on the Cleveland Municipal Stadium field that night, tells USA TODAY Sports. "It was just too crazy. Dangerously crazy. Stupid, really."

It was the night of June 4, 1974.

Two months after Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's all-time home run record, two months before Richard Nixon resigned as president after Watergate, and four months before Tommy John surgery was introduced to the baseball world, it was 10 Cent Beer Night.

The promotion that led to one of the most chaotic nights in baseball history.

It began as a baseball game between the Texas Rangers and Cleveland Indians, turned into a raucous atmosphere and, by the end of the evening, a full-fledged riot.

Seven people were sent to the hospital.

Nine people were arrested.

An estimated 60,000 beers were consumed.

"I don't remember being nervous or scared until we were back in the clubhouse," says Mike Hargrove, one of the Rangers players on the field that night, "and that's when it hit me. 'Oh, my God.'

"I mean, we saw everything out there."

The Cleveland team, averaging just 13,756 fans a game in a 78,000-seat stadium for a squad that had not had a winning record since 1968, tried anything and everything to attract fans.

So, team officials decided to have four 10 Cent Beer Night promotions.

And, on June 4, 1974, the first one was staged, drawing twice the average-sized crowd with 25,134 fans in attendance.

"We didn't really think anything of it at the time," said Tom Grieve, the former Rangers DH who later became their general manager. "I mean, there was never anybody at that stadium. It was always cold, dingy, and the stadium was

See NIGHTENGALE, Page 4C

Yuka Saso rallies for 2nd US Open win

Beth Ann Nichols
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

LANCASTER, Pa. – At the end of Yuka Saso's winner's press conference, a USGA official handed her a whoopie pie. The chocolate cake-like sandwiches, filled with a fluffy cream center, originated in Lancaster County, and legend has it that when Amish children found the desserts in their lunch pails, they'd yell "Whoopie!"

Saso shifted her seat around so that cameras couldn't catch her taking a bite behind the Harton S. Semple trophy. It was the only shy moment of the day for the woman who stormed to the finish line at demanding Lancaster Country Club to claim her second U.S. Women's Open title in three years.

When Saso won her first in a playoff at The Olympic Club at age 19, she represented her mother's native Philippines, giving that country its first major golf championship. On Sunday in Lancaster, she represented Japan, giving her father's native homeland its first U.S. Women's Open champion.

"It's just a wonderful feeling that I was able to give back to my parents in the same way," said Saso, who got emotional during the trophy presentation when talking about her family.

The 79th edition of this championship will long be remembered as a week of surprises. It started with 29-year-old Lexi Thompson's stunning retirement announcement. Two days later, Nelly Korda made a 10 on her third hole of the championship, putting three balls into the water on the par-3 12th, and it suddenly felt like the championship got punched in the gut.

The player who'd dominated the entire season, winning six of her last seven starts, wasn't even around for the weekend. But the bleeding didn't stop with Korda. The list of stars who exited early was a who's who of favorites, including Rose Zhang, Brooke Henderson and Lydia Ko.

The only professional left in the field getting any kind of national buzz was Charley Hull, who lit up the internet after a reporter took video of her smoking a cigarette in the autograph line.

Yuka Saso, facing camera, hugs Sakura Koiwai after winning the U.S. Women's Open on Sunday at Lancaster Country Club. JOHN JONES/USA TODAY SPORTS

One silver lining: The mass exodus gave room for a surprise veteran – Wichanee Meechai – to step up to the mic and win over hearts with the rarest kind of honesty. The way the 31-year-old talked about what pressure does to her body was a masterclass in letting people into an athlete's mind. The fact that she told a few ghost stories along the way was icing on the whoopie pie.

By the time Sunday rolled around, only five players were under par and two-time major winner Minjee Lee was the undisputed favorite. Lee shared the lead at the start of the day with the winless Meechai and Andrea Lee, an American who'd won at every level but never the really big titles.

A couple of major champions who hadn't done much lately, Saso and 2019 AIG Women's Open champion Hinako Shibuno, rounded out the top five.

As the afternoon got underway in front of some of the biggest galleries players will see this decade, Lee jumped out to an advantage but struggles off the tee kept her from pulling away. Instead, the leaderboard felt like a free-for-all as every player who started the day in the red struggled with the pressure.

By the time American Ally Ewing posted a closing 66 to finish at even par for the tournament, it felt for a moment like she could pull off a come-from-behind finish for the ages.

But then Saso, who four-putted for double on the sixth hole, found another gear when she drained a rare birdie on Nelly's nemesis 12th hole and kept going, pouring in more birdies on 13, 15 and 16. The 3-wood she hit from the tee on the drivable par-4 16th to 16 feet sent a powerful statement as she now led the field by three.

A clutch up-and-down on the 18th, where she'd struggled with a similar shot the day prior, sealed the three-shot victory for Saso, who made a staggering 422 feet of putts for the week.

Three years ago, Saso, who modeled her swing after her favorite player, Rory McIlroy, matched Inbee Park as the youngest champion in U.S. Women's Open history in 2021 at 19 years, 11 months and 17 days. On Sunday, she became the youngest to win multiple titles at 22 years, 11 months and 13 days.

"We thought it was the perfect golf course for her," said Saso's veteran caddie, Dylan Vallequette. "She hits it long; she hits it high."

Saso's $2.4 million payday is the largest first-place prize ever given at a women's major. Shibuno's closing 72 gave Japan a historic 1-2 finish. The Smiling Cinderella earned $1.3 million for her efforts and was asked how she planned to spend her money.

"I will ask Yuka to buy me something," she joked.

For Andrea Lee, this was a massive building block as the former Stanford star found herself playing in the final group of a major for the first time.

"I was extremely nervous," said Lee, who took a share of third with Ewing, "but I feel like I learned a lot about how to control my emotions out here."

For Meechai, the week held a slew of firsts. Her share of sixth is her first top-10 finish in a major. She leaves Lancaster with an untold number of new fans and, hopefully, a world of confidence.

"I'm just going to keep doing what I'm doing right now and just believe in myself that I can do it," she said, "that I can win the tournament. I think that's the key for me now."

Minjee Lee, the most grizzled veteran of the bunch in terms of success, posted the highest final round among the contenders, a 78. She dropped all the way down to a share of ninth.

"Obviously, I'm going to acknowledge my disappointment and then come back stronger," she said, "take the positives out of the week, you know."

The classy Minjee, the 2022 USWO champion, stood in the back of the flash area with Saso's father during the winner's press conference. Shibuno stuck around, too, for her friend.

Asterisk Talley, the brace-faced, fearless 15-year-old who was in the top five after two rounds, shared low amateur honors with 2023 U.S. Women's Amateur champion Megan Schofill and Southern Cal's Catherine Park. All three finished in a share of 44th.

For Saso, this victory likely means a return to the Olympics in Paris under a new flag as she vaults up the Rolex Rankings. It certainly means a return to the spotlight, where her name will be mentioned on a short list of players who pose a threat to Korda's towering command.

In the meantime, Saso was off to find some dinner before she gets back to that whoopie pie. Can't have too much sugar on an empty stomach, she explained.

After all, she was already on a natural high.

Robert MacIntyre wins Canadian Open with dad on the bag

Adam Schupak
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

HAMILTON, Ontario – Dougie MacIntyre was sitting on his couch at home in Oban, Scotland. It was 8 o'clock on a Saturday night when "Bob" popped up on his phone for a FaceTime.

His son, the professional golfer Robert MacIntyre, was in Dallas and had missed the cut the day before at the Charles Schwab Challenge and parted ways with his fourth caddie in the last 18 months. He asked, "How would you like to come to Canada and caddie for me?"

Dougie was busy at home, where he is a greenskeeper at Glencruitten Golf Club. But his wife, Carol, gave him a look and said he needed to go be there for his son. Robert admitted he had asked a few others to be on the bag but no one wanted a one-week gig.

The next morning at 8 o'clock, Dougie was on a direct flight to Toronto, and seven days later they were embracing on the 18th green at Hamilton Golf & Country Club as Robert closed in 2-under 68 to win the RBC Canadian Open. It marked the 27-year-old rookie's first PGA Tour title, a one-stroke victory over Ben Griffin. MacIntyre became the first player to win with his father as his caddie since Heath Slocum at the 2005 Sanderson Farms Championship.

"We've got a house between where you cross the road for four holes at Glencruitten and we used to go out every night in the summer, no matter the weather, we would play four holes every night," Robert said. "He taught me the game of golf."

MacIntyre opened his week with a 64, and after back-to-back 66s he held a four-shot lead after 54 holes. Dougie had given Robert the tough love that he needed when he had fallen four strokes back during the third round. Walking down the 10th hole on Saturday, he reminded him he had 27 holes to go.

"I don't know what happened. He played (out of his mind)," said Dougie of the three birdies and eagle that turned the tide in Robert's favor.

Robert MacIntyre and his caddie-dad, Dougie, celebrate his first PGA Tour win. DAN HAMILTON/USA TODAY SPORTS

Dougie woke up Sunday, saw the rain and groaned, "Oh, big bag." He had carried a lightweight bag the first three days but he lugged a tour bag for the extra space for rain gear Sunday.

The left-hander would need his dad by his side as his lead was gone before he left the third tee as he opened with a bogey and Canadian Mackenzie Hughes tied him at 13 under. But MacIntyre carded three birdies to push his lead back to four at the turn. He canned a 21-foot birdie at No. 11 and looked to be coasting to victory before he made bogeys at Nos. 12 and 13 and Griffin and Victor Perez, who finished third, attempted to apply some pressure. Dougie kept his son calm when he needed him most.

"He just kept telling me, 'We just stay in the fight,' and he actually said to me – with four or five holes to go, he goes, 'If we play this in 1-under par, they got to come get ya.' He knows what to say, when to say it."

MacIntyre knew victory was his when he knocked his second shot at 18 to 10 feet. He finished with a 72-hole total of 16-under 264 to become the fifth player from Scotland to win on the PGA Tour since 1940, joining Sandy Lyle, Paul Lawrie, Martin Laird and Russell Knox.

Cindric's win brings massive shake-up to Cup playoffs

Aaron Bearden
RACER.com | USA TODAY NETWORK

The NASCAR Cup Series playoff picture has its first major shake-up.

Heading into Sunday's Enjoy Illinois 300, the Cup Series season had mostly followed season-long trends. The only driver outside of the current top 16 in points to win was Daniel Suarez, and he did so in the second race of the year, so the win's been something teams could account for from early on.

All other wins had come from drivers sitting 11th or better. With only two drivers within 80 points of the playoff cutline, there were also few drivers worth tracking in the points. The bubble seemed well-defined and few drivers beyond the top 16 had shown any likelihood of winning.

Enter Austin Cindric.

It took engine woes for Christopher Bell and Ryan Blaney running out of fuel to make it happen, but Cindric surged to the lead when it counted and scored his second Cup win. The win was well-earned, following a front-row qualifying run and a consistent race. In the scope of the season, though, it seemingly came from nowhere. Cindric entered the weekend 20th in the standings, well beyond the cutline on points.

Now he's locked into the playoff field, which means there's one fewer spot available on points. The drivers vying for those final positions also saw their situations change.

One thing affecting all of them is uncertainty over just how many positions they're competing for. NASCAR has yet to decide on the playoff eligibility waiver request sent in for Kyle Larson after he skipped the start of the Coca-Cola 600 to contest the Indianapolis 500. Should NASCAR elect to award Larson the waiver, the Californian's two wins and strong points position will make him a playoff lock. If the sanctioning body deems him ineligible, then Larson's exit will allow another driver a chance to compete for a title. The tour's latest points report listed Larson second in the standings, but without any playoff points.

The biggest loser at World Wide Technology Raceway was last year's big winner, Kyle Busch. Busch was battling with Larson in the final lap of Stage 2 when the pair came together heading into Turn 1. After repeated side-by-side contact down the front straight, Larson was racing to Busch's inside for 10th and snapped loose, sliding into Busch and sending the two-time champion up into the outside wall in Turn 2. "It looked like (Larson) got loose, I guess, down the front straightaway into Turn 1," Busch said afterward. "He was on older tires and trying to get us for a spot. Not sure what that single point was really gonna mean for him, but certainly hurt us a lot because (it) took that point away as well as the others that we'd get for the stage, and then also the rest of the day. Very frustrating." The incident brought Busch's day to a halt, leaving him 35th when the checkered flag flew.

Austin Cindric celebrates after winning the Enjoy Illinois 300 NASCAR Cup Series race at World Wide Technology Raceway. JOE PUETZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

The best finisher of the bubble drivers was Joey Logano in fifth, the 2022 winner benefiting from the same strategy play that took Cindric to victory lane. Chris Buescher made the most of a quiet day in 14th, with Chase Briscoe finishing three spots back in 17th. Bubba Wallace fell to 21st at race's end. Blaney went from a winner to a 24th-place finisher after he ran out of fuel on the final lap.

With Suarez and Cindric locked into the playoffs with wins, the final spot on points sits in either 14th or 15th pending the waiver decision for Larson. Should Larson be granted the waiver, then Blaney (+47), Wallace (+13) and Buescher (+10) will be the drivers above the cutline. Briscoe (-10) would be the first one out, with Logano (-14) and Busch (-20) both within reach.

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Oilers beat Stars, will face Panthers

Mike Brehm
USA TODAY

The Edmonton Oilers are heading to the Stanley Cup Final for the first time in the Connor McDavid era, and the team captain played a huge role in making it happen in clinching Game 6 of the NHL Western Conference finals.

McDavid had a highlight-reel goal and an assist in a 2-1 victory against the Dallas Stars on Sunday night that earned the Oilers their first trip to the championship round since 2006.

They will face the Florida Panthers in the best-of-seven series, starting Saturday in Sunrise, Florida. The Panthers, back in the Final for the second consecutive season, are seeking their first Stanley Cup title. The Oilers have five championships and last won in 1990.

McDavid has been the NHL's best player since being drafted No. 1 overall in 2015 and is a three-time winner of the Hart Trophy. But the furthest he has reached in the playoffs previously was the Oilers being swept in the 2022 conference finals.

The Oilers broke through during a season in which they started 3-9-1, fired coach Jay Woodcroft and hired Kris Knoblauch. They turned their season around with a 16-game winning streak, and McDavid joined rare company with a 100-assist season. McDavid leads all playoff scorers with 31 points.

Here's how the Oilers won Game 6, and what's next for them and the Stars:

How the Oilers won Game 6

McDavid gave the Oilers a 1-0 lead at 4:17 of the first period with a spectacular goal. He took a pass on the power play, stickhandled between Sam Steel and Miro Heiskanen and roofed a shot past Stars goalie Jake Oettinger.

McDavid helped add to the lead when he fed Zach Hyman on the power play. Hyman scored his league-leading 14th goal of the playoffs.

The Oilers emerged from the first period with a 2-0 lead despite being outshot 12-3.

The Stars continued to press in the second period with Roope Hintz hitting the post.

TheOilers killed off a delay of game penalty to Leon Draisaitl in the third period, but Mason Marchment cut the Stars' deficit to 2-1 at 9:18.

Oilers goalie Stuart Skinner finished with 34 saves for the victory in a game in which Edmonton was outshot 35-10.

The Oilers didn't touch the Clarence S. Campbell Bowl awarded to the Western Conference champion. The Panthers didn't touch the Prince of Wales Trophy on Saturday, either.

What's next for the Oilers?

They will open on the road against the Panthers in the Stanley Cup Final. But they have won the past two rounds without having home-ice advantage and won Game 7 against the Vancouver Canucks on the road.

Oilers center Connor McDavid (97) celebrates his goal against Stars goalie Jake Oettinger during the first period of Game 6. WALTER TYCHNOWICZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

The Panthers won the season series 2-0.

The Oilers have four power-play goals in their last two games after none in the first four games against the Stars. That will be a plus against a Panthers team that allowed only one power-play goal against the New York Rangers. But Edmonton also has been excellent at penalty killing, perfect in its last 10 games.

The matchup of Selke Trophy winner Aleksander Barkov and McDavid should be fun to watch.

What's next for the Stars?

The Stars have fallen in the Western final for the second consecutive season.

Trade-deadline acquisition Chris Tanev played a big role in their playoff run and is an unrestricted free agent.

So is Joe Pavelski, 39, and Matt Duchene, who scored 25 goals this season after being bought out by the Nashville Predators. The list also includes backup goalie Scott Wedgewood and defenseman Jani Hakanpaa.

Defenseman Thomas Harley is their key restricted free agent.

MLB POWER RANKINGS

Once formidable dynasty keeps sinking

Gabe Lacques
USA TODAY

Odd enough that the American League West is, objectively, a bad division. Odder still that it looks increasingly unlikely the Houston Astros will finish atop it.

The division that produced both AL finalists a year ago will crown a champion, as Major League Baseball bylaws require. But just one division team is above .500 as we near the halfway point – this, one year after three AL West teams won at least 88 games, and the Astros and Texas Rangers met in the AL championship series.

But the Astros' streak of six consecutive division titles grows increasingly imperiled with each cold streak and moderate displays of competence from the Seattle Mariners. Seattle took three of four games from Houston this past week and then, because the Mariners have performed so poorly at the plate this year, fired their bench coach and offensive coordinator, Brant Brown.

The Astros then lost a weekend series at home to Minnesota, to drop 7 ½ games back and slide three more spots in USA TODAY Sports' MLB power rankings.

A look at this week's rankings:

1. New York Yankees (-)

• Gerrit Cole begins a rehab assignment Tuesday.

2. Philadelphia Phillies (-)

• Things might get a little misty when Rhys Hoskins returns.

3. Baltimore Orioles (-)

• Elbow matters: John Means and Tyler Wells out for the season, but Kyle Bradish pitching like a Cy Young candidate.

4. Cleveland Guardians (+1)

• Daniel Scheenemann, a 33rd-round pick in 2018, hits a two-run double in his first at-bat.

5. Los Angeles Dodgers (-1)

• Clayton Kershaw close to getting on the radar.

6. Milwaukee Brewers (+2)

• Are they really going to run away with the NL Central?

7. Atlanta Braves (-1)

• Might as well learn to spell it now: Spencer Schwellenbach.

8. Kansas City Royals (-1)

• Here we go folks: Three-game set at Cleveland, starting Tuesday.

9. Seattle Mariners (-1)

• Offensive offense loses its coordinator.

10. Minnesota Twins (-)

• Jhoan Duran has just 14 strikeouts in 15 innings.

11. San Diego Padres (+1)

• Slowly pulling away from Giants, Diamondbacks in first runner-up race.

12. Boston Red Sox (+4)

• Offense should get a boost once Tyler O'Neill and Masato Yoshida return.

13. Texas Rangers (+4)

• Once again, Max Scherzer taking tentative steps toward return.

14. Detroit Tigers (+1)

• Another trip to the minor leagues for 2929 No. 1 overall pick Spencer Torkelson.

15. Chicago Cubs (-4)

• Shota Imanaga finally looks human, and club suddenly looks vulnerable.

16. San Francisco Giants (-3)

• Yankees demolition was simply a varsity vs. JV situation.

17. Tampa Bay Rays (-)

• Jose Siri kept a bad week from being much worse.

18. Washington Nationals (+5)

• Reliever Hunter Harvey has a 0.71 WHIP in last 17 games.

19. St. Louis Cardinals (+2)

• Lars Nootbaar's oblique injury pokes another hole in outfield.

20. Toronto Blue Jays (+5)

• Throwback weekend: Vladimir Guerrero Jr. starts a game at third base.

21. Arizona Diamondbacks (-3)

• Dropping two to Rangers shows Arizona's hangover is worse than the World Series champs'.

22. Houston Astros (-3)

• 5-13 in one-run games.

23. Cincinnati Reds (-3)

• Nice to see TJ Friedl win them a game.

24. Pittsburgh Pirates (-2)

• Paul Skenes, meet Mookie Betts and Shohei Ohtani.

25. New York Mets (-1)

• Will take their unique form of misery to London this weekend.

26. Oakland Athletics (-)

• Miguel Andujar off to a 13-for-33 (.394) start as an Athletic.

27. Los Angeles Angels (-)

• No choice but to ship struggling pitcher Reid Detmers back to the minor leagues.

28. Colorado Rockies (-)

• Snap a seven-game losing streak at Dodger Stadium.

29. Miami Marlins (-)

• Bum shoulder once again sends Sixto Sanchez to injured list.

30. Chicago White Sox (-)

• This 11-game losing streak is rock bottom. At least for now.

FRENCH OPEN

Djokovic shrugs off injury in another French epic

Shrivathsa Sridhar
REUTERS

PARIS – Defending champion Novak Djokovic toiled to subdue Argentine Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 on Monday and reach the quarterfinals of the French Open after the top seed recovered from a knee issue during the milestone victory.

The Serb, who is chasing a record-extending 25th Grand Slam title, sealed his 370th match victory at the majors that broke a tie with Swiss great Roger Federer, but his title rivals will be smelling blood after another up-and-down display.

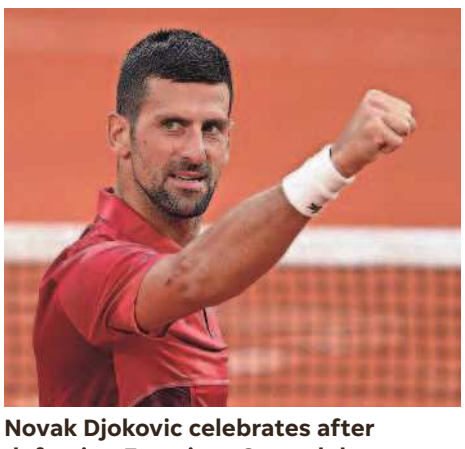
The 37-year-old showed no early signs of fatigue from his marathon third-round win over Lorenzo Musetti, a 4 ½-hour epic that ended in the early hours of Sunday morning, as he blitzed clay-court specialist Cerundolo in the opening set.

He sustained a right knee issue early in the next and needed treatment on court before saving four break points to draw level at 3-3 with a backhand bullet, but Djokovic allowed his opponent a way back in by surrendering his serve in the 12th game.

Cerundolo grabbed another break early in the next set to go up 3-0 and comfortably got ahead in the clash as alarm bells began to ring for Djokovic in a second straight match at the clay-court Grand Slam he has won three times.

The finish line seemed to appear for Cerundolo when he went up 4-2 in the next set, but the 25-year-old squandered the advantage as Djokovic sent down two big serves and produced a spectacular drop en route to holding for 6-5 before leveling the contest.

Having dropped serve after a fast start, Djokovic took a nasty tumble during a point and ranted about the state of the Court Philippe Chatrier surface before dusting himself off to close out a superb victory.



Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Francisco Cerundolo.
BERTRAND GUAY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Nightengale

Continued from Page 1C

always pretty empty.

"The only difference this time was that there was noticeably a bigger crowd."

It took two innings for everything to change.

A woman ran onto Cleveland's on-deck circle in the second inning, exposed her breasts, rushed to home plate umpire Nestor Chylak, and tried to kiss him.

In the fourth inning, while Grieve was circling the bases after his second home run, a naked man wearing nothing but two black socks ran onto the field and slid into second base.

An inning later, a father and son ran onto the field behind home plate, went to center field, dropped their pants, and mooned the Rangers outfielders.

"There was no security back then," says Hargrove, who entered the game in the fifth inning. "The security was ushers in the stands."

Soon, with fans overtaking several concession stands and pouring themselves beer, firecrackers were going off in the stands and being thrown into the Rangers bullpen in the seventh inning. By the ninth inning, there had been perhaps 200 drunken fans who had run across the field, along with beer cups, coins, rocks, batteries, golf balls, tennis balls and folding chairs thrown onto the field.

"I was playing first base, and I had about 20 pounds of hot dogs thrown at me," Hargrove said. "There was an empty gallon jug of Thunderbird wine thrown about 20 feet from me. I thought the grounds crew would pick it up. Instead, some guy came down from the stands, picked it up, and took it back into the stands.

"That was my first indication that, 'Oh-oh, this isn't going to go real well.' "

Jim Sundberg, Hargrove's roommate for 3 ½ seasons, remembers talking with Hargrove that evening and wondering whether this was the norm for baseball games in Cleveland. It was the first time they'd ever been to Cleveland and they didn't know any better.

"It was getting scary as the game went on," Sundberg said, "and it was about the sixth inning when the concern was growing. Everything just started to intensify."

The Rangers, who had led the game since Grieve's home run to center field off Fritz Peterson in the second inning, had a 5-3 lead entering the bottom of the ninth. Cleveland began a rally with George Hendrick's one-out double. Four batters later, the score was tied, with two outs, Rusty Torres on second base and Jack Brohamer, who was hitting .336, at the plate.

Steve Foucault, who relieved future Hall of Famer Fergie Jenkins in the sixth inning, never threw another pitch.

Terry Yerkik, a 19-year-old fan who was the state wrestling champion in his senior year at Richfield Heights (Ohio), jumped down from the stands, ran toward Rangers right fielder Jeff Burroughs and swiped the cap off his head. Burroughs tried to kick him, slipped, and fell to the ground.

Rangers manager Billy Martin, believing that Burroughs had been hit by Yerkik, immediately instructed everyone to grab their bats, charge the field, and save Burroughs.

"Billy says, 'Let's go get them, boys!' " Grieve said. "It was like the Charge of the Light Brigade."

Said Sundberg: "Everybody ran to right field. I made the mistake of throwing my helmet and mask down."

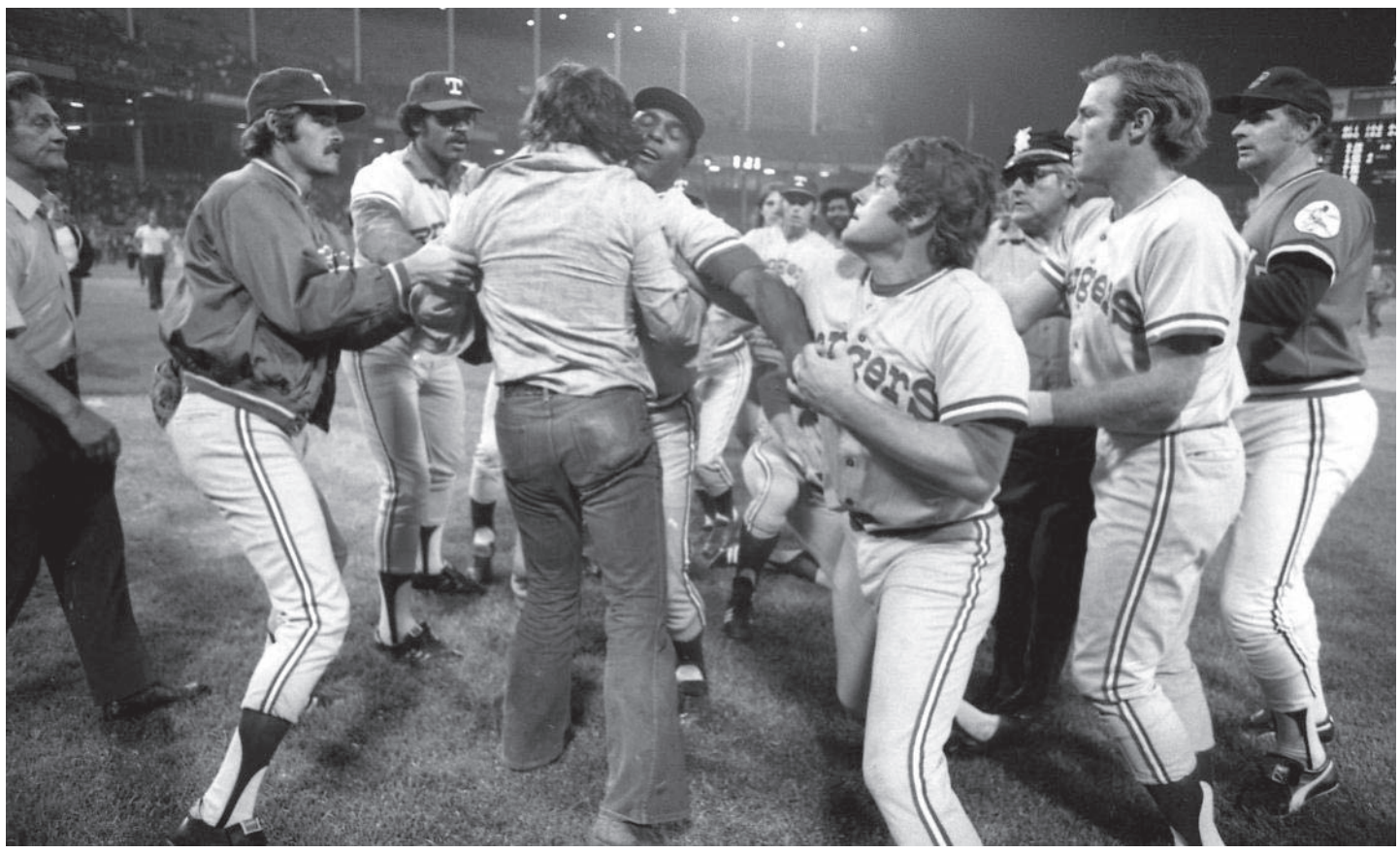
The fans, believing it was their duty to rescue Yerkik, stormed the field. Some threw chairs onto the field, with Cleveland reliever Tom Hilgendorf ushered off the field with his head bleeding from a steel folding chair. Hargrove tackled one fan in the outfield, held down another with his left hand, and was punching another with his right hand.

"People had been happy and drunk most of the game and just having a blast," Grieve said. "It was just a happy group of drunks. I don't think it occurred to anybody until later that if 1,000 people went onto the field and got pissed off, what are we going to do about it."

Said Sundberg: "I remember there was a guy that seemed to be pretty serious about wanting to kick my butt. Dave Duncan tackled him before he got to me. Then I saw Billy kicking him in the face. Good ol' Billy, he loved to fight."

The Cleveland players rushed out of the dugout to take on their own fans in support of the Rangers, trying to restore peace. It was useless.

Chylak, realizing that it would be impossible to resume the game, called a forfeit. The Rangers were officially declared 9-0 winners, much to Martin's delight and Chylak's fury.



Members of the Texas Rangers restrain a fan from running onto the field during a game against the Cleveland Indians on June 4, 1974, at Cleveland Municipal Stadium. Texas was awarded a win by forfeit 5-5 when the game was called by the umpires, due to fans storming the field during 10 Cent Beer Night. PAUL TEPLEY COLLECTION/DIAMOND IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

Cleveland pitcher Tom Hilgendorf is helped off the field after suffering a minor injury during the game. PAUL TEPLEY COLLECTION/DIAMOND IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

Fans stand on top of the Cleveland Indians dugout during the game against the Texas Rangers. PAUL TEPLEY COLLECTION/DIAMOND IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

Chylak, who fought in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II and earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart, was so incensed that he walked through the tunnel to the umpire's room, took off his mask, and smashed every light bulb along the way.

"I'll never forget that," Grieve said.

The Cleveland Police Department came to the stadium after the game was called, taking about 30 minutes to clear the field and making nine arrests.

"(Bleeping) animals!" Chylak, who died eight years later, told reporters after the game. "You just can't pull back a pack of animals. When uncontrolled beasts are out there, you got to do something. I saw two guys with knives, and I got hit with a chair. ...

"If the (bleeping) war is on tomorrow, I'm going to join the other side to get a shot at them."

The Rangers, with their clubhouse doors locked, stayed inside for hours, with Martin saying, "That was the closest you're ever going to be to seeing someone get killed in this game of baseball."

The Rangers stayed in the clubhouse for hours until they were escorted by police to their downtown Cleveland hotel, the Hollenden House. They were ordered to immediately go to their hotel rooms and not to leave until noon the next day.

"I remember Jeff Burroughs coming up to me and saying, 'Hang in there,' " Grieve said.

"I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'We won by forfeit. So your two home runs don't count.' I said, 'You got to be (expletive) me.'

"Maybe 10 seconds later, he said, 'Just kidding.' "

The following day, American League President Lee MacPhail said "there was no question that beer played a part in the riot" and halted all promotional events pending league review.

The ban was eventually lifted. Cleveland, which had a "Nickel Beer Day" in 1971, had another 10-cent beer night promotion six weeks later on July 18, attracting 41,848 fans. This time fans were limited to two cups per person.

The prelude to the chaotic evening actually began six days earlier in Texas, the players will tell you.

The Rangers had their own 10-Cent Beer promotion with no real incidents when Texas second baseman Lenny Randle aggressively slid into Cleveland second baseman Brohamer to break up a double play in the fourth inning. Cleveland pitcher Milt Wilcox retaliated in the eighth inning by throwing a pitch at Randle that missed him but went between his legs. Randle responded one pitch later by laying down a perfect bunt toward first base, and when Wilcox picked it up, Randle lowered his shoulder into Wilcox and leveled him. Cleveland first baseman John Ellis punched Randle.

The brawl was on.

Even the fans wanted to join the action. One fan dumped his 8-ounce cup of beer over Duncan's head. Duncan was so incensed that he climbed over the dugout and had to be restrained from attacking the fan.

"There was no one madder in the state of Texas than Dave Duncan," Grieve said.

Said Hargrove: "Dave Duncan was one of the toughest guys you ever saw. If I was going to pour beer over someone's head, Dave would be the last guy."

The Rangers won the game 3-0, and afterward Martin was asked whether he believed there would be repercussions when the two teams played again the following week.

"Nah, they don't have enough fans there to worry about," Martin said.

The joke went over like the Cuyahoga River in Ohio catching fire again, with one radio host, Pete Franklin, riling up fans all week, and The Cleveland Plain-Dealer running a picture on the front page of the sports section with their mascot, Chief Wahoo, wearing boxing gloves with the caption: "Be Ready For Anything."

"It didn't even cross my mind at the time there would be a carryover," Sundberg said. "I then started picking up on things fairly quick when I got to the ballgame and realized that Cleveland had promoted it.

"I put two and two together and said, 'Well, this could be interesting.' "

The infamous night was born.

"That was my first trip into Cleveland," said Hargrove, who won the AL Rookie of the Year award in 1974, spent his last seven seasons playing in Cleveland and became its manager in 1991.

"I had never been to Cleveland before. So that was my first impression. Not a real good one.

"Who would have thought I'd end up making it my home."

Now, 50 years later, Hargrove lives in Richfield, Ohio, works as an adviser to the Guardians front office and, yes, he still has a framed picture of the chaotic 10 Cent Beer Night.

"Can you believe it," Grieve said. "It's been 50 years, and look, here we are, still talking about it.

"What a night."

Biles shows herself to be first-class human

Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

Simone Biles won her ninth U.S. title, extending her own record. But her most memorable moment Sunday had nothing to do with competing and everything to do with her competition. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

FORT WORTH, Texas – The best thing Simone Biles did on her way to her ninth U.S. title won't show up in the score sheet.

Biles hasn't lost an all-around gymnastics meet in more than a decade, and that streak was never in jeopardy at U.S. nationals. She had a commanding lead after the first night, and after breezing through her routine on a balance beam that tripped up many other competitors, it was clear it was going to be more of the same Sunday night.

But at 27, Biles has a perspective she wouldn't have – couldn't have – had as a younger gymnast. So when she noticed Suni Lee, whose career was nearly derailed last year by a kidney ailment, have a scary turn on vault, Biles did something not often seen in the sport.

Biles went to find Lee, who had gone backstage to try to compose herself, and ask if she was OK. She asked if Lee had gotten lost in the air, as Biles had at the Tokyo Olympics. When Lee said no, Biles told her to take a deep breath and trust in her gymnastics. Everything, Biles said, was going to be all right.

"She just helped boost me up and get my confidence back up because, at that point, I was kind of like thinking that this was over," Lee said. "It was really nice having her in my corner. It just felt so good because I knew I was having a hard time, and she was just there."

Though Biles' World Champions Centre teammates were beginning their rotation on floor exercise, Biles stayed with Lee, offering her more words of encouragement before she went up on bars. As Lee climbed up on the podium, still looking apprehensive, Biles stayed close by, cheering her on from the floor. Her shouts of "C'mon! C'mon!" could be heard as Lee did her routine – a near-flawless one, mind you – and she clapped enthusiastically when Lee landed her dismount.

With Lee once again on sure footing, Biles headed back to floor, where she would soon have to compete herself. As she trotted off, Jess Graba, Lee's longtime coach, reached out to give the four-time Olympic champion a pat of gratitude on the back.

"That's what a good leader does," Graba said. "She saw what was going on. First event, that can throw you off. (She said), 'Just stay in your game.' "

This was Lee's first time doing the all-around since she had to cut short her final season at Auburn because of the kidney ailment, and the months in between have been filled with dark moments and doubts about whether she'd be able to do gymnastics again. Of course she'd be thrown by what happened on vault, where she stubbed her toe on the runway and had to decide in the air to water down her vault or risk a precarious landing.

Something like that can send a gymnast sideways, especially someone who's still trying to get her feel for competition back.

"I just knew that she needed some encouragement and somebody to trust her gymnastics for her and to believe in her. So that's exactly what I did," Biles said.

"I've been in her shoes," Biles said, alluding to her experience in 2021 in Tokyo, where mental health issues and the isolation of COVID restrictions resulted in a case of "the twisties," causing her to lose her sense of where she was in the air. Unwilling to risk her physical safety, Biles withdrew from four individual event finals before returning to win a bronze medal on the balance beam, and it would take many, many months before she could trust her gymnastics again.

"I know how traumatizing it is, especially on a big stage like this, and I didn't want her to get in her head," Biles said. "So we just went and talked about it while she was in the back and then, when she came out, I went to support her."

It might seem small, that moment of kindness among competitors. But Biles didn't have to do it. There's an Olympic team to be made at the end of the month, after all, and everyone is a rival.

OK, maybe not for Biles. She won the U.S. title, extending her own record, and did it in a rout. In a sport where medals can be determined by tenths and hundredths of a point, Biles won by almost six points, with a total score of 119.75. She is all but assured of a spot on the Paris team.

But Biles' WCC teammates are still fighting for their places on that squad. As is Lee, the reigning Olympic all-around champion. Biles could have left Lee to fend for herself, and no one would have thought a thing of it. She could have said nothing, and no one would have noticed.

But Biles knows how scary it is when your body doesn't do what you expect it to. What you've always been able to make it do. It's disorienting, physically and psychologically, and if Biles can spare someone else that pain, she will.

"I don't think I could have done it without her," Lee said. "She's been one of my biggest inspirations for a long time.

"I know we're kind of teammates and competitors, but she's somebody that I look up to. So to hear those words coming from her means a lot."

Biles did not have to show grace to a competitor who was struggling. That she did speaks volumes about who she is, in a way her many medals cannot.

Lee overcomes disastrous vault with two signature events

Tom Schad
USA TODAY

Suni Lee had top-four finishes on her two signature events, uneven bars and balance beam, on Sunday. JEROME MIRON/USA TODAY SPORTS

FORT WORTH, Texas – For reigning Olympic all-around champion Suni Lee, the U.S. gymnastics championships were all about proving something – yes, in part to the selection committee that will pick the team for the Paris Games. But mostly to herself.

In her first all-around competition in more than a calendar year, Lee overcame a disastrous and fluky vault Sunday night to finish fourth at nationals, with top-four finishes on her two signature events: uneven bars and balance beam. After battling a kidney ailment for the better part of 2023, as well as creeping doubts about her own ability upon returning, it was the type of performance that she said has put her "on the right track" as she turns to the U.S. Olympic trials in her home state of Minnesota at the end of the month.

"It helps me a lot, knowing that I can come back from that," Lee said of her vault, which she landed in a sitting position, resulting in significant deductions. "I feel like I don't even need to be perfect on beam and bars to get where I want to be. That's just the reminder that I just have to go out there and do my normal."

Lee, 21, acknowledges that she's her own toughest critic. And after tripping or slipping – or perhaps both – on vault in her first rotation of the night Sunday, she said she started thinking "that this was over," and the lousy vault would spill over into her other events.

She retreated to the entryway of a tunnel in a corner of Dickies Arena, practicing handstands in privacy while trying to regain her composure. Encouraging words from Simone Biles helped, she said. In an unusual move, Biles sought Lee out to comfort her and stayed near the uneven bars during her next routine, cheering "You got this!" as Lee grasped the bar. "It was really nice having her in my corner," Lee said.

The Auburn product proceeded to nail the routine, pumping her fists and then smiling after her dismount. Even with a routine that is far short of her maximum difficulty, she registered a 14.500 – tied for the second-best score on the apparatus of the weekend.

Lee's longtime coach, Jess Graba, spoke before the meet about how the gymnast is now physically capable of doing all the skills and elements, with her kidney ailment in remission. But he said she still needs to prove in her own mind that she can do it.

Going from a disastrous vault to an outstanding bars routine is sure to help.

"I know she's capable of it. I'm not sure she did," Graba said.

"I told her that after, I'm like, 'That's who you are. That's what makes you, you.' I mean, everything can be stacked against you and I always put my money on her. So I wasn't that nervous. I just needed to have her calm down and just do what she can do."

Graba has encouraged Lee to recognize she can be competitive without perfection – that even on off days, she is still good enough. While putting together the Olympic team figures to be complicated, good enough may be all Lee needs to book a ticket to her second Olympic Games. NBC analyst John Roethlisberger said on the air Sunday, "If she can add some difficulty to her bars (routine) and hit (it), I don't see how they keep her off of (the team)."

Lee said she plans to do just that in the coming weeks, adding new elements to her bars routine, as well as a few other tweaks and adjustments. And she happily noted that the Olympic trials are almost a full month away, calling it "a pretty long time to get everything back."

Asked if this weekend has helped her mental comfort with the sport catch back up to her physical recovery, Lee said she isn't totally sure – but her confidence is growing.

"I feel like I'll never really think that I'm going to be fully ready. Obviously, I'm my hardest critic," she said. "But I think I'm definitely on the right track. I feel like a couple more weeks under my belt and I'll be right where I want to be."

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FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees	42	19	.689	–
Baltimore	37	20	.649	3
Boston	30	30	.500	11½
Tampa Bay	29	31	.483	12½
Toronto	28	30	.483	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	39	20	.661	–
Kansas City	36	25	.590	4
Minnesota	33	26	.559	6
Detroit	29	30	.492	10
Chicago	15	45	.250	24½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	34	27	.557	–
Texas	29	30	.492	4
Houston	26	34	.433	7½
Oakland	24	37	.393	10
L.A. Angels	21	38	.356	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	41	19	.683	–
Atlanta	33	24	.579	6½
Washington	27	31	.466	13
N.Y. Mets	24	35	.407	16½
Miami	21	39	.350	20

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	36	23	.610	–
St. Louis	28	29	.491	7
Chicago	29	31	.483	7½
Pittsburgh	27	32	.458	9
Cincinnati	26	33	.441	10

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	38	23	.623	–
San Diego	32	30	.516	6½
San Francisco	29	31	.483	8½
Arizona	27	32	.458	10
Colorado	21	37	.362	15½

Sunday's Scores
Minnesota 4, Houston 3
Tampa Bay 4, Baltimore 3
Detroit 8, Boston 4
Atlanta 3, Oakland 1
Toronto 5, Pittsburgh 4
Washington 5, Cleveland 2
Texas 6, Miami 0
Arizona 5, N.Y. Mets 4
Kansas City 4, San Diego 3
Milwaukee 6, Chicago 3
Cincinnati 5, Chicago 2
N.Y. Yankees 7, San Francisco 5
L.A. Dodgers 4, Colorado 0
Seattle 5, L.A. Angels 1
St. Louis 5, Philadelphia 4

Monday's Games
Milwaukee at Philadelphia
N.Y. Mets at Washington
Baltimore at Toronto
Detroit at Texas
St. Louis at Houston
Cincinnati at Colorado
San Diego at L.A. Angels
San Francisco at Arizona

Tuesday's Games
Kansas City at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Miami, 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Atlanta at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Chicago at Chicago, 8:05 p.m.
Detroit at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
San Diego at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
Seattle at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Atlanta at Boston, 1:35 p.m.
St. Louis at Houston, 2:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 3:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 4:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Miami, 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Chicago at Chicago, 8:05 p.m.
Detroit at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
San Diego at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
Seattle at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	10	3	5	35	42	27
Cincinnati	10	3	3	33	23	16
NY City FC	9	5	2	29	24	17
NY Red Bulls	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 Montreal	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

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	9	2	6	33	36	19
Los Angeles FC	9	4	3	30	28	19
Minnesota	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	4	6	6	18	19	19
Saint Louis	3	4	8	17	23	25
FC Dallas	3	8	4	13	17	24
San Jose	3	11	2	11	24	39
Sporting KC	2	9	5	11	24	31

Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Saturday's Games
D.C. United 2, Toronto FC 2
Inter Miami CF 3, Saint Louis 3
NY Red Bulls 1, Orlando City 0
Philadelphia 2, CF Montreal 2
Minnesota 3, Sporting KC 1
Nashville 1, New England 2
Chicago 2, LA Galaxy 1

Sunday's Game
Atlanta 2, Charlotte FC 3

Saturday's Games
New England vs. NY Red Bulls, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota vs. FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Sporting KC vs. Seattle, 8:30 p.m.
St. Louis vs. Portland, 8:30 p.m.

NWSL
Friday's Games
Racing Louisville vs. Houston, 8 p.m.
San Diego vs. Orlando, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Games
NJ/NY Gotham vs. Angel City, 12:30 p.m.
Chicago vs. Bay FC, 7:30 p.m.
Utah vs. Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Portland vs. North Carolina, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Game
Kansas City vs. Seattle, 6 p.m.

NBA

FINALS
All games on ABC
(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)
Dallas Mavericks vs. Boston Celtics
Thursday, Game 1: at Boston, 8:30 p.m.
June 9, Game 2: at Boston, 8 p.m.
June 12, Game 3: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
June 14, Game 4: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
x-June 17, Game 5: at Boston, 8:30 p.m.
x-June 20, Game 6: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
x-June 23, Game 7: at Boston, 8 p.m.

NHL

CONFERENCE FINALS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Florida Panthers 4, New York Rangers 2
Game 1: Panthers 3, Rangers 0
Game 2: Rangers 2, Panthers 1 (OT)
Game 3: Rangers 5, Panthers 4 (OT)
Game 4: Panthers 3, Rangers 2 (OT)
Game 5: Panthers 3, New York 2
Game 6: Panthers 2, New York 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Edmonton Oilers 4, Dallas Stars 2
Game 1: Oilers 3, Stars 2 (OT)
Game 2: Stars 3, Oilers 1
Game 3: Stars 5, Oilers 3
Game 4: Oilers 5, Stars 2
Game 5: Oilers 3, Stars 1
Sunday, Game 6: Oilers 2, Stars 1

Stanley Cup Final
(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)
Florida Panthers vs. Edmonton Oilers
All starts at 8 p.m. on ABC
Game 1: Saturday, June 8, at Florida
Game 2: Monday, June 10, at Florida
Game 3: Thursday, June 13, at Edmonton
Game 4: Saturday, June 15, at Edmonton
x-Game 5: Tuesday, June 18, at Florida
x-Game 6: Friday, June 21, at Edmonton
x-Game 7: Monday, June 24, at Florida

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	8	0	1.000	–
N.Y. Liberty	7	2	.778	1½
Atlanta	4	3	.571	3½
Chicago	3	4	.429	4½
Indiana	2	9	.182	7½
Washington	0	8	.000	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	6	2	.750	–
Las Vegas	4	2	.667	1
Seattle	5	3	.625	1
Phoenix	4	5	.444	2½
Dallas	3	4	.429	2½
L.A. Sparks	2	6	.250	4

Sunday's Games
Connecticut 69, Atlanta 50
Phoenix 87, L.A. Sparks 68
N.Y. Liberty 104, Indiana 68
Minnesota 87, Dallas 76

Tuesday's Games
Washington at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Liberty at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Las Vegas at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Chicago vs Washington at Washington, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Liberty at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Women's College World Series
At Devon Park, Oklahoma City
Double elimination
Thursday, May 30
Game 1: UCLA 4, Alabama 1
Game 2: Oklahoma 9, Duke 1
Game 3: Texas 4, Stanford 0
Game 4: Florida 1, Oklahoma State 0
Friday, May 31
Game 5: Alabama 2, Duke 1
Game 6: Stanford 8, Oklahoma State 0
Saturday, June 1
Game 7: Oklahoma 1, UCLA 0
Game 8: Texas 10, Florida 0
Sunday, June 2
Game 9: Florida 6, Alabama 4
Game 10: Stanford 3, UCLA 1
Monday, June 3
Game 11: Oklahoma vs. Florida
Game 12: Florida vs. Oklahoma, if necessary
Game 13: Stanford vs. Texas
Game 14: Texas vs. Stanford, if necessary

Championship series
Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m., ESPN

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series
Enjoy Illinois 300
World Wide Technology Raceway at Gateway
Sunday
1. (2) Austin Cindric, Team Penske, 240, 56 points.
2. (6) D. Hamlin, Joe Gibbs Racing, 240, 42.
3. (7) Brad Keselowski, RFK Racing, 240, 40.
4. (5) Tyler Reddick, 23XI Racing, 240, 36.
5. (12) Joey Logano, Team Penske, 240, 39.
6. (18) Austin Dillon, Richard Childress Racing, 240, 33.
7. (4) Chris Bell, Joe Gibbs Racing, 240, 50.
8. (20) Carson Hocevar, Spire Motorsports, 240, 32.
9. (21) Justin Haley, Rick Ware Racing, 240, 28.
10. (13) Kyle Larson, Hendrick Motorsports, 240, 27.
11. (9) Ty Gibbs, Joe Gibbs Racing, 240, 30.
12. (16) Ross Chastain, Trackhouse Racing, 240, 25.
13. (17) Chase Elliott, Hendrick Motorsports, 240, 32.
14. (26) Chris Buescher, RFK Racing, 240, 23.
15. (11) William Byron, Hendrick Motorsports, 240, 27.
16. (35) Todd Gilliland, Front Row Motorsports, 240, 21.
17. (23) Chase Briscoe, Stewart-Haas Racing, 240, 24.
18. (28) Daniel Hemric, Kaulig Racing, 240, 19.
19. (36) Z. Smith, Spire Motorsports, 240, 18.
20. (24) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, JTG Daugherty Racing, 240, 17.
21. (8) Bubba Wallace, 23XI Racing, 240, 16.
22. (27) Noah Gragson, Stewart-Haas Racing, 240, 15.
23. (31) Daniel Suárez, Trackhouse Racing, 240, 14.
24. (3) Ryan Blaney, Team Penske, 240, 29.
25. (1) Michael McDowell, Front Row Motorsports, 239, 21.
26. (22) E. Jones, Legacy Motor Club, 239, 11.
27. (33) John H. Nemechek, Legacy Motor Club, 239, 10.
28. (14) Alex Bowman, Hendrick Motorsports, 239, 9.
29. (32) Ryan Preece, Stewart-Haas Racing, 239, 8.
30. (25) Derek Kraus, Kaulig Racing, 239, 7.
31. (30) Harrison Burton, Wood Brothers Racing, 239, 6.
32. (15) C. LaJoie, Spire Motorsports, 239, 5.
33. (34) Cody Ware, Rick Ware Racing, 238, 4.
34. (19) M. Truex Jr, Joe Gibbs Racing, 237, 3.
35. (10) Kyle Busch, Richard Childress Racing, 139, Accident 2.
36. (29) Josh Berry, Stewart-Haas Racing, 109, Accident 1.

IndyCar Series points leaders
1. Scott Dixon 216
2. Alex Palou 198
3. Will Power 185
4. Patricio O'Ward 160
5. Alexander Rossi 150
6. Kyle Kirkwood 148
7. Colton Herta 147
8. Scott McLaughlin 141
9. Felix Rosenqvist 140
10. Josef Newgarden 128
11. Christian Lundgaard 122
12. Santino Ferrucci 117
13. Marcus Armstrong 116
14. Marcus Ericsson 108
15. Rinus Veekay 103
16. Graham Rahal 101
17. Romain Grosjean 86
18. Linus Lundqvist 81
19. Kyffin Simpson 76
20. Agustín Hugo Canapino 74
21. Pietro Fittipaldi 67
22. Jack Harvey 60
23. Théo Pourchaire 58
24. Christian Rasmussen 55
25. Sting Ray Robb 55
26. Tom Blomqvist 46
27. Callum Ilott........ 39
28. Conor Daly 21
29. Kyle Larson 21
30. Takuma Sato 19
31. Helio Castroneves 15
32. Ed Carpenter 14
33. Luca Ghiotto 14
34. Tristan Vautier 12
35. Colin Braun 10
36. Nolan Siegel 10
37. Ryan Hunter-Reay 6
38. Marco Andretti 5
39. Katherine Anne Legge 5

GOLF

PGA Tour RBC Canadian Open
Sunday
Hamilton Golf and Country Club, Hamilton, Canada
Purse: $9.4 million
Yardage: 7,084; Par: 70
Final Round
Robert MacIntyre......64-66-66-68–264 (-16)
Ben Griffin......70-65-65-65–265 (-15)
Victor Perez......70-68-64-64–266 (-14)
Tom Kim......70-68-65-64–267 (-13)
Rory McIlroy......66-72-65-64–267 (-13)
Corey Conners......69-67-67-65–268 (-12)
Ryan Fox......66-64-70-70–270 (-10)
Mackenzie Hughes......69-64-67-70–270 (-10)
Maverick McNealy......74-65-66-65–270 (-10)
Sam Burns......63-71-67-70–271 (-9)
Joel Dahmen......67-65-69-70–271 (-9)
Keith Mitchell......69-67-68-67–271 (-9)
Chandler Phillips......69-70-68-64–271 (-9)
Jacob Bridgeman......69-68-68-67–272 (-8)
Beau Hossler......70-70-66-66–272 (-8)
Michael Kim......71-68-66-67–272 (-8)
Andrew Novak......66-67-70-69–272 (-8)
Aaron Rai......67-70-65-70–272 (-8)
Sam Stevens......68-68-68-68–272 (-8)
Carson Young......68-69-67-68–272 (-8)
Tommy Fleetwood......67-70-64-72–273 (-7)
Taylor Pendrith......69-69-66-69–273 (-7)
David Skinns......62-71-73-67–273 (-7)
Zac Blair......67-68-71-68–274 (-6)
Tyler Duncan......67-71-68-68–274 (-6)
Chad Ramey......68-70-66-70–274 (-6)
Stewart Cink......70-66-72-67–275 (-5)
Trace Crowe......66-68-67-74–275 (-5)
Sean O'Hair......63-71-71-70–275 (-5)
Thorbjørn Olesen......68-68-72-67–275 (-5)
Jhonattan Vegas......70-69-69-67–275 (-5)
Matt Wallace......68-72-65-70–275 (-5)
Shane Lowry......72-68-68-68–276 (-4)
Vince Whaley......68-69-69-70–276 (-4)
Pierceson Coody......70-66-70-71–277 (-3)
Ryo Hisatsune......69-69-69-70–277 (-3)
Nicolai Hojgaard......68-69-72-68–277 (-3)
Ryan Palmer......65-73-70-69–277 (-3)
C.T. Pan......70-70-68-69–277 (-3)
Ben Silverman......68-71-70-68–277 (-3)
Sami Valimaki......70-67-71-69–277 (-3)
Harry Hall......69-71-71-67–278 (-2)
Nick Hardy......66-69-70-73–278 (-2)
Garrick Higgo......69-69-70-70–278 (-2)
Mark Hubbard......70-68-70-70–278 (-2)
Kelly Kraft......70-70-69-69–278 (-2)
Nate Lashley......71-69-72-66–278 (-2)
Adam Scott......70-69-70-69–278 (-2)
Erik van Rooyen......66-70-70-72–278 (-2)
Kevin Yu......70-70-67-71–278 (-2)
Joseph Bramlett......68-72-69-70–279 (-1)
A. Dumont De Chassart......67-72-70-70–279 (-1)
Lanto Griffin......68-71-72-68–279 (-1)
Chesson Hadley......71-69-69-70–279 (-1)
Adam Svensson......72-68-69-70–279 (-1)
Gary Woodland......70-70-70-69–279 (-1)

LPGA Tour
U.S. Women's Open 2024
Sunday
Lancaster Country Club
Lancaster, Pa.
Purse: $12 million
Yardage: 6,583; Par: 70
Final Round
Yuka Saso......68-71-69-68–276 (-4)
Hinako Shibuno......71-70-66-72–279 (-1)
Ally Ewing......74-72-68-66–280 (0)
Andrea Lee......69-69-67-75–280 (0)
Arpichaya Yubol......72-72-68-69–281 (+1)
Ayaka Furue......71-72-71-68–282 (+2)
Wichanee Meechai......69-67-69-77–282 (+2)
Atthaya Thitikul......74-72-68-68–282 (+2)
Sakura Koiwai......72-69-70-72–283 (+3)
Minjee Lee......70-69-66-78–283 (+3)
Rio Takeda......74-69-69-71–283 (+3)
Jin Hee Im......73-68-70-73–284 (+4)
Hyo Joo Kim......75-73-67-69–284 (+4)
Miyu Yamashita......72-71-70-71–284 (+4)
Ruoning Yin......73-71-69-71–284 (+4)
Hannah Green......76-71-72-66–285 (+5)
A Lim Kim......74-71-70-70–285 (+5)
Mi Hyang Lee......74-67-71-73–285 (+5)
Carlota Ciganda......72-73-72-69–286 (+6)
Charley Hull......75-72-72-67–286 (+6)
Chisato Iwai......70-71-73-72–286 (+6)
Yan Liu......73-74-72-67–286 (+6)
Jenny Shin......70-78-71-67–286 (+6)
Wei-Ling Hsu......72-69-74-72–287 (+7)
Jiwon Jeon......75-71-71-70–287 (+7)
Aditi Ashok......73-71-73-71–288 (+8)
Min Byeol Kim......72-71-70-75–288 (+8)
Sophia Popov......72-72-71-73–288 (+8)
Pia Babnik......70-77-72-70–289 (+9)
Jodi Ewart Shadoff......72-71-75-71–289 (+9)
Sarah Kemp......75-72-72-70–289 (+9)
Su Ji Kim......73-73-70-73–289 (+9)
Jin Young Ko......75-73-72-69–289 (+9)
Xiyu Lin......72-73-73-71–289 (+9)
Albane Valenzuela......72-71-76-70–289 (+9)
Kristen Gillman......73-75-73-69–290 (+10)
Anna Nordqvist......74-72-70-74–290 (+10)
Amiyu Ozeki......74-72-69-75–290 (+10)
Yui Kawamoto......71-71-73-76–291 (+11)
Hyun Kyung Park......74-73-74-70–291 (+11)
Gaby Lopez......75-72-73-71–291 (+11)
Yuna Nishimura......73-74-72-72–291 (+11)
JiYai Shin......73-72-75-71–291 (+11)
Mariel Galdiano......71-76-74-71–292 (+12)
Nasa Hataoka......73-70-74-75–292 (+12)
Megan Khang......75-73-74-70–292 (+12)
Alison Lee......78-70-72-72–292 (+12)
Catherine Park......70-72-72-78–292 (+12)
Megan Schofill......70-71-77-74–292 (+12)
Asterisk Talley......70-71-78-73–292 (+12)
Ashleigh Buhai......74-73-71-75–293 (+13)
A. Forsterling......70-78-71-74–293 (+13)
Sofia Garcia......75-73-71-74–293 (+13)
Danielle Kang......74-69-76-74–293 (+13)
Gabriela Ruffels......75-73-75-70–293 (+13)
Hae Ran Ryu......77-71-73-72–293 (+13)
Yuri Yoshida......70-74-75-74–293 (+13)
Na Rin An......74-72-77-71–294 (+14)
Celine Boutier......72-75-75-72–294 (+14)
Amelia Garvey......76-71-74-73–294 (+14)
Kim Kaufman......76-72-70-76–294 (+14)
Maude-A. Leblanc......71-75-73-75–294 (+14)
Jeongeun Lee6......75-71-70-78–294 (+14)
Alexa Pano......76-72-72-74–294 (+14)
Emily Pedersen......75-73-72-74–294 (+14)
Alana Uriell......76-72-72-74–294 (+14)
Adela Cernousek......69-79-69-78–295 (+15)
Ai Suzuki......72-70-73-80–295 (+15)
Caroline Inglis......74-74-76-72–296 (+16)
Madelene Sagstrom......73-75-73-75–296 (+16)
Marissa Steen......73-74-74-75–296 (+16)
Casandra Alexander......71-74-77-75–297 (+17)
Isi Gabsa......73-74-74-78–299 (+19)
Akie Iwai......75-71-76-79–301 (+21)
Cheyenne Knight......75-71-75-81–302 (+22)

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DEALS

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
CHICAGO CUBS – P Daniel Palencia Sent to Minors. P Daniel Palencia Removed From 15-Day IL Right shoulder strain. P Daniel Palencia Recalled From Minors Rehab.
SEATTLE MARINERS – LF Jonatan Clase Sent to Minors.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
MINNESOTA VIKINGS – WR Justin Jefferson re-signed Four-year extension (through 2028).
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS – G Damian Clara Signed Three-year, entry-level contract.

WEATHER

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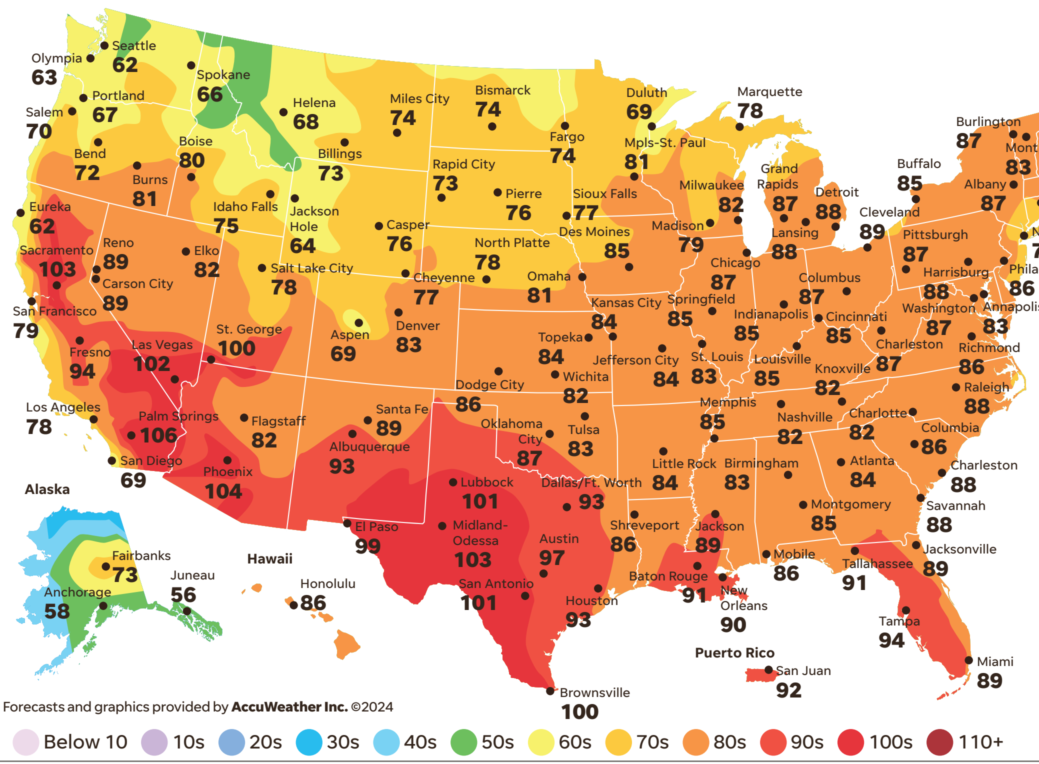
TODAY'S FORECAST

Thunderstorms developing ahead of an advancing cold front will have the potential to become severe today from northern **Minnesota** into parts of the southern **Plains**, bringing the threat of hail, strong wind gusts and downpours that may lead to flooding. A more general thunderstorm risk will continue eastward into the **Tennessee** and **Ohio** valleys, also reaching the **Virginia** and **North Carolina** coastline by day's end. Afternoon thunderstorms may also build across interior sections of the **Southeast**.

Rain will continue to fall in the **Pacific Northwest** as a disturbance winds down, with heat expanding in the **Southwest**.

Thundershowers will also pop up in the afternoon through some interior sections of the **Northeast**, mainly over the central **Appalachians**.

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather Inc.** ©2024

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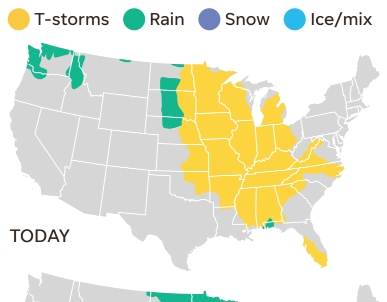
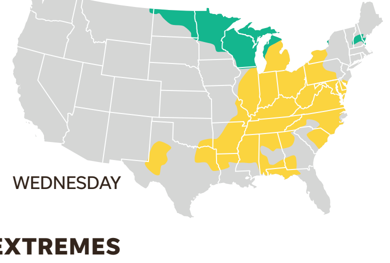
PRECIPITATION FORECAST

T-storms Rain Snow Ice/mix



TODAY



WEDNESDAY

EXTREMES

Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday

HOTTEST: 97° Presidio, Texas
COLDEST: 24° Angel Fire, N.M.

TOP TRAVEL CITIES Air quality index (AQI)

ATLANTA
TUE A P.M. t-storm 84/69
WED T-storms 87/72
THU Stray t-storm 89/72
AQI Good

BALTIMORE
TUE Stray t-shower 86/67
WED T-storms 76/70
THU Shower 88/65
AQI Moderate

BOSTON
TUE Mostly sunny 67/58
WED Warmer 80/63
THU T-storms 71/63
AQI Good

CHARLOTTE
TUE Stray t-storm 82/68
WED Stray t-storm 83/69
THU Stray t-storm 89/67
AQI Good

CHICAGO
TUE Stray t-storm 87/68
WED Stray t-storm 81/63
THU Shower 76/60
AQI Good

DALLAS/FT. WORTH
TUE Breezy, humid 93/75
WED Very humid 90/77
THU Very warm 95/75
AQI Moderate

DENVER
TUE Windy 83/58
WED Sunny, warm 90/56
THU Mostly sunny 87/61
AQI Moderate

DETROIT
TUE Fog 88/66
WED T-storms 80/61
THU A few showers 77/57
AQI Moderate

HONOLULU
TUE A few showers 86/74
WED Shower 86/71
THU Mostly cloudy 87/73
AQI Moderate

HOUSTON
TUE Humid 93/79
WED Humid 93/76
THU Humid 95/75
AQI Moderate

LAS VEGAS
TUE Hot 102/81
WED Very hot 108/82
THU Very hot 111/83
AQI Moderate

LOS ANGELES
TUE Partly sunny 78/61
WED Partly sunny 77/61
THU Partly sunny 77/63
AQI Moderate

MIAMI
TUE Stray t-storm 89/78
WED Mostly sunny 92/78
THU Stray t-storm 90/79
AQI Good

MPLS-ST. PAUL
TUE Heavy t-storms 81/58
WED Showers around 78/60
THU Not as warm 70/54
AQI Good

NEW ORLEANS
TUE Humid 90/77
WED Humid 91/77
THU Stray t-storm 90/76
AQI Good

NEW YORK
TUE Not as warm 76/64
WED Partly sunny 76/66
THU Heavy t-storms 77/66
AQI Moderate

ORLANDO
TUE Mostly sunny 92/71
WED Stray t-storm 95/73
THU Stray t-storm 98/74
AQI Good

PHILADELPHIA
TUE Sun, clouds 86/66
WED Mostly cloudy 80/69
THU T-storms 84/66
AQI Moderate

PHOENIX
TUE Very warm 104/79
WED Hot 110/83
THU Very hot 112/84
AQI Moderate

SALT LAKE CITY
TUE Partly sunny 78/59
WED Warmer 90/67
THU Hot 96/70
AQI Moderate

SAN DIEGO
TUE Partly sunny 69/61
WED Partly sunny 68/61
THU Mostly cloudy 72/63
AQI Good

SAN FRANCISCO
TUE Warmer 79/59
WED Mostly sunny 77/54
THU Mostly sunny 72/55
AQI Good

SEATTLE
TUE Rain 62/47
WED Some sun 65/49
THU Sunny, nice 70/51
AQI Good

WASHINGTON
TUE Sun, warm 87/68
WED T-storms 78/70
THU Shower, warm 87/67
AQI Moderate

c Cloudy **f** Fog **i** Ice **r** Rain **sf** Snowflurries **sn** Snow **w** Windy **dr** Drizzle **h** Haze **pc** Partly cloudy **s** Sunny **sh** Showers **t** Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES

	TODAY	WED
Akron, Ohio	86/64pc	79/59t
Albany, N.Y.	87/62s	84/67pc
Albuquerque	93/65pc	94/67s
Allentown, Pa.	85/60pc	77/67t
Amarillo, Texas	93/64pc	93/66pc
Anaheim, Calif.	79/61pc	79/61pc
Anchorage, Alaska	58/47pc	54/47r
Aspen, Colo.	69/42pc	78/45s
Atlantic City, N.J.	74/64pc	75/66c
Augusta, Ga.	86/66t	87/67t
Austin, Texas	97/77t	96/74pc
Bakersfield, Calif.	94/75pc	104/78s
Baton Rouge, La.	91/76t	92/76pc
Billings, Mont.	73/54w	78/50w
Birmingham, Ala.	83/72t	89/69t
Bismarck, N.D.	74/54w	74/53w
Boise, Idaho	80/56s	84/57s
Buffalo, N.Y.	85/68pc	81/65t
Burlington, Vt.	87/65s	84/64t
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	82/57t	81/56pc
Charleston, S.C.	88/71pc	86/75t
Charleston, W.Va.	87/63pc	79/64t
Cheyenne, Wyo.	77/56w	85/51w
Cincinnati	85/67t	75/63t
Cleveland	89/67pc	83/62t
Colorado Springs	83/55pc	90/61s
Columbia, S.C.	86/69t	87/71t
Columbus, Ohio	87/67t	77/62t
Corpus Christi, Texas	95/81w	95/80pc
Dayton, Ohio	88/68t	78/62t
Daytona Beach, Fla.	87/71s	90/72s
Des Moines, Iowa	85/57t	84/58pc
Duluth, Minn.	69/52t	71/52sh
Durham, N.C.	87/67t	82/69t
El Paso, Texas	99/74s	107/78s
Fairbanks, Alaska	73/54c	69/48sh
Flagstaff, Ariz.	82/47pc	87/51s
Fargo, N.D.	74/56t	72/56sh
Fort Myers, Fla.	94/76t	93/76t
Fort Smith, Ark.	81/70t	91/67t
Fort Wayne, Ind.	88/67t	77/59t
Fresno, Calif.	94/72s	105/74s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	87/69c	74/58t
Green Bay, Wis.	84/68pc	81/59sh
Greensboro, N.C.	85/65t	79/68t
Greenville, S.C.	79/66t	83/67t
Harrisburg, Pa.	88/67sh	77/71t
Hartford, Conn.	81/57s	82/66pc
Indianapolis	85/67t	78/64t
Islip, N.Y.	72/59s	75/66pc
Jackson, Miss.	89/73t	89/70t
Jacksonville, Fla.	89/70pc	89/71t
Jefferson City, Mo.	84/70t	88/66pc
Kansas City	84/59t	86/65pc
Key West, Fla.	89/81t	89/80pc
Knoxville, Tenn.	82/66t	83/67t
Laredo, Texas	107/81pc	108/80t
Lexington, Ky.	85/69t	78/62t
Lincoln, Neb.	79/53t	89/58pc
Little Rock, Ark.	84/73t	87/67t
Long Beach, Calif.	75/63pc	75/63pc
Louisville, Ky.	85/69t	80/65t
Lubbock, Texas	101/71s	94/71t
Madison, Wis.	79/64t	80/59sh
Manchester, N.H.	79/57s	83/64pc
Memphis, Tenn.	85/72t	83/70t
Milwaukee	82/66t	81/61sh
Mobile, Ala.	86/76t	88/76s
Modesto, Calif.	100/69s	103/67s
Montgomery, Ala.	85/70t	91/72s
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	84/72pc	84/74t
Nags Head, N.C.	79/69t	79/73c
Nashville, Tenn.	82/70t	79/65t
Newark, N.J.	77/63pc	78/67pc
New Haven, Conn.	73/60s	76/64pc
Norfolk, Va.	82/70sh	81/72c
Oakland, Calif.	81/57s	78/55s
Oklahoma City	87/67pc	88/69c
Omaha, Neb.	81/56t	87/60pc
Palm Springs, Calif.	106/78pc	112/79s
Pensacola, Fla.	85/76pc	89/75s
Pierre, S.D.	76/56pc	78/52w
Pittsburgh	87/65pc	81/63t
Portland, Maine	69/53s	73/58pc
Portland, Ore.	67/53sh	73/52pc
Providence, R.I.	73/56s	76/61pc
Raleigh, N.C.	88/69t	84/70t
Rapid City, S.D.	73/53pc	76/48s
Reno, Nev.	89/63s	97/67s
Richmond, Va.	86/67t	81/71t
Rochester, N.Y.	84/66pc	84/65t
Sacramento, Calif.	103/69s	104/63s
San Antonio	101/79t	99/76pc
San Jose, Calif.	89/64s	92/60s
Santa Fe, N.M.	89/53pc	92/58s
Sarasota, Fla.	92/76t	91/76t
Savannah, Ga.	88/70pc	86/73t
Scottsdale, Ariz.	100/78pc	106/81s
Shreveport, La.	86/75t	91/73t
Sioux Falls, S.D.	77/55t	79/54w
South Bend, Ind.	88/68t	78/62t
Spokane, Wash.	66/44w	69/47s
Springfield, Mo.	84/66t	85/65pc
Springfield, Ill.	85/68t	82/64t
St. Louis	83/72t	88/69t
St. Petersburg, Fla.	92/76t	92/75t
Syracuse, N.Y.	89/65pc	83/65t
Tallahassee, Fla.	91/69pc	92/72t
Tampa, Fla.	94/77t	94/77t
Toledo, Ohio	91/66t	79/61t
Topeka, Kan.	84/58t	91/64s
Tucson, Ariz.	100/70pc	105/73s
Tupelo, Miss.	85/74t	86/71t
Tulsa, Okla.	83/69t	90/70c
Virginia Beach, Va.	79/69pc	78/72c
Wichita, Kan.	82/65t	91/68s
Wilmington, Del.	84/64pc	77/68c
Winston-Salem, N.C.	85/65t	82/68t
Worcester, Mass.	77/56s	79/60pc

WORLD CITIES

	TODAY	WED
Beijing	90/66h	79/63h
Buenos Aires	56/52pc	59/55pc
Cancun, Mexico	92/79s	93/80t
Dubai, UAE	102/88s	103/86h
Frankfurt	73/55pc	73/52pc
Hong Kong	82/76r	84/77r
Istanbul	90/69h	85/69h
Jerusalem	92/68s	91/67s
Johannesburg	56/38s	65/47s
London	68/49c	64/46pc
Mexico City	86/60s	89/58c
Montreal	87/65s	85/67sh
Moscow	74/60sh	79/63pc
Mumbai, India	95/84t	93/83t
Paris	74/56pc	69/52c
Rio de Janeiro	77/68r	76/69r
Rome	76/57pc	78/57s
Seoul	83/61pc	84/64s
Singapore	88/79c	90/80t
Sydney	65/51pc	64/55r
Toronto	78/61pc	80/63t
Tokyo	79/63sh	79/66sh

WNBA ROOKIE POWER RANKINGS

Angel Reese, Caitlin Clark stand out

Lindsay Schnell
USA TODAY

Three weeks into the 2024 season, Sky forward Angel Reese leads the WNBA in offensive rebounds per game. KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI, USA TODAY SPORTS

Three weeks into the 2024 WNBA season and one thing has become abundantly clear: This rookie class is going to impact the league for years to come.

You can argue all you want about stats. Wins matter. This group of newcomers would be the first to say it. All of the women ranked below experienced tremendous success in college as individuals, but their proudest moments came from lifting their teams to new heights. Caitlin Clark's allure wasn't just that she could shoot as soon as she crossed half-court, but that she was a homegrown kid who took the Iowa Hawkeyes to back-to-back Final Fours. Lots of good players have come through the LSU women's basketball program, but no one before Angel Reese had led the Tigers to a national championship. The list goes on and on.

But it's been a struggle for some to lift their new pro teams to the same heights – or even help them get wins. There's a learning curve to this league, and they can't do it alone. Still, their play has stood out and given us a glimpse at what we can expect for years to come. The best part is, each of these players, and their teams, are only going to get better.

1. Angel Reese, Chicago Sky

Stats through seven games: 10.6 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 1.9 apg, 35.3% FG

Breakdown: In college, Reese was a menace on the boards, constantly putting herself in position to grab rebounds. That's translated to the pros, where Reese not only grabs more rebounds than any other rookie but leads the league in offensive rebounds per game (5.0 per game). She's also shown a talent for drawing fouls: Her 5.6 free-throw attempts per game rank sixth in the WNBA, and in Chicago's surprise 90-81 win over New York on May 23, she got veteran forward Jonquel Jones in foul trouble early, helping the Sky build as much as a 14-point lead. Perhaps most impressive of all, Reese has helped Chicago, which is in the midst of a complete rebuild, to three early wins.

2. Caitlin Clark, Indiana Fever

Stats through 11 games: 15.6 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 6.4 apg, 29.7% 3FG

Breakdown: Over the weekend, Clark became just the second rookie in WNBA history to score 150-plus points, grab 50-plus rebounds and hand out 50-plus assists in her first 10 games as a pro. The only other newbie to do that? New York Liberty All-Star Sabrina Ionescu. Not bad company. Clark has had somewhat of a rough transition given the physical play in the league, but she's adjusted reasonably well. She's done a terrific job of getting her teammates uncontested shots, and would average more assists if those players knocked down open looks. She's already one of the league's best rebounding guards. The Fever have played more games than any other team in the league, and Clark is in desperate need of some rest. With four days off before Indiana's next game at Washington, it's entirely possible Clark and her fresh legs go off against the worst team in the league.

3. Cameron Brink, Los Angeles Sparks

Stats through eight games: 8.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 2.6 bpg, 47.2% FG3

Breakdown: Brink continues to be one of the best rim protectors in the league, altering nearly every shot in the paint; her 2.6 blocks per game are third best in the league. Her biggest issue is that when she gets in foul trouble – she's averaging 4.3 fouls per game – she has to go to the bench. If she can increase her minutes, up from her current average of 24.6, her production is sure to follow.

4. Kate Martin, Las Vegas Aces

Stats through five games: 5.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.8 apg

Breakdown: Through five games one thing has become abundantly clear: Las Vegas did not keep Martin merely to be a practice player. The surprise second-round pick of the 2024 draft averages almost 21 minutes per game and has been on the floor in clutch situations more than once. The Aces are still without guard Chelsea Gray, who's recovering from a lower left leg injury, and once Gray returns it'll be interesting to see how much Martin plays. But given Martin's production right now – she's usually in the right place at the right time – it's hard to keep her off the floor.

5. Rickea Jackson, Los Angeles Sparks

Stats through eight games: 10 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 46.7% FG3

Breakdown: Jackson has been a bright spot off the bench for the Sparks and filled in as a starter when LA has needed it, averaging 24.3 minutes per game. A prolific scorer in college, Jackson is what the kids call "a walking bucket." When she gets the ball, she's always looking to the rim, and few know how to stop her. But as she adjusts to the pros, Jackson should do more to create looks for her teammates; she averages 0.4 assists per game.

6. Kamilla Cardoso, Chicago Sky

Stats through one game: 11.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 71.4% FG

Breakdown: Cardoso has played less than 20 minutes this season because of a shoulder injury that sidelined her for a couple of weeks, but when healthy it's easy to see why she went No. 2 overall in the draft. A mobile 6-foot-7, Cardoso has tremendous body control for her size and is practically guaranteed to score when she catches the ball in the paint. She and Reese will soon be the most feared frontcourt tandem in the league.

7. Aaliyah Edwards, Washington Mystics

Stats through eight games: 6.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 42.0% FG

Breakdown: There's an argument to be made that Edwards, who came from WNBA factory UConn, is the most pro-ready of the 2024 rookie class. Her stats, at just 20 minutes per game, are impressive. But wins matter, and the Mystics are still looking for their first victory of the season, which is why Edwards is ranked low.

8. Alissa Pili, Minnesota Lynx

Stats through six games: 4.2 ppg, 1.3 rpg, 64.3% FG

Breakdown: The rookie from Utah finally had the breakout game she'd been waiting for, scoring 20 points on 7 of 9 shooting in a blowout win over Phoenix on May 31. It's been somewhat of a rough transition otherwise for Pili, who's only averaging 6.9 minutes per game.

Not ranked: **Julie Vanloo**, Washington Mystics (8.4 ppg, 5.6 apg, but Mystics still winless); **Nika Mühl**, Seattle Storm (has only played 12 total minutes in three games); **Jacy Sheldon**, Dallas Wings (is only playing 11 minutes per game)

REMEMBRANCE

Dallas great Larry Allen was intimidating

Nate Davis
USA TODAY

Larry Allen was an 11-time Pro Bowler at right guard, left guard and left tackle for the Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers during his Hall of Fame career from 1994 to 2007. ANDREW WEBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

The NFL has lost a legend.

The Dallas Cowboys on Monday announced the death of Hall of Fame offensive lineman Larry Allen. He was 52.

"The Dallas Cowboys are very saddened to share that Cowboys legend, Super Bowl Champion, Cowboys Ring of Honor member and Pro Football Hall of Famer Larry Allen passed away suddenly while on vacation in Mexico with his family on Sunday," the team said in a press release.

"Larry, known for his great athleticism and incredible strength, was one of the most respected, accomplished offensive linemen to ever play in the NFL. 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.

"He was deeply loved and cared for by his wife, Janelle – whom he referred to as his heart and soul – his daughters Jayla and Lariana and son, 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."

Allen played 14 years in the NFL, 12 with Dallas and his final two for the San Francisco 49ers. A second-round pick out of Sonoma State in 1994, he became a fixture at guard and was a starter for the Super Bowl 30 champs during the 1995 season, the Cowboys' most recent championship.

Allen was an 11-time Pro Bowler and six-time first-team All-Pro who was named to the NFL's All-Decade teams in both the 1990s and 2000s. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2013, his first year of eligibility. Allen was also named to the league's all-century team as part of the NFL's celebration of its 100th season in 2019.

Known for his legendary strength, Allen could bench press 700 pounds – which understandably made him one of the most intimidating players to ever grace the gridiron. Yet the 6-3, 335-pounder was also light on his feet, making him a devastating blocker on sweeps and pulls – and also a guy who might even run down a defender after an interception.

Though he spent the bulk of his career at guard, Allen was also versatile enough to man the left tackle position at an elite level if asked. On a team best known for stars like quarterback Troy Aikman, running back Emmitt Smith, wide receiver Michael Irvin and cornerback Deion Sanders, Allen had a legitimate case as the Cowboys' best player during his prime.

Details of Allen's memorial service will be revealed at a future time.

Freeman

Continued from Page 1C

Kerr missed portions of the series due to a back injury. Mike Brown, who is Black and was the acting head coach, filled in for Kerr. So while you had two Black coaches in the championship matchup, it wasn't for the full series.

So officially, to be precise, this is the third time in league history we've seen this. Practically, however, this is just the second, and it's been an extremely long time since the first.

The last time you had a situation like this, with two Black coaches for a full series (hopefully neither coach will injure his back or wear bell-bottoms) was the mid-'70s.

The fact it's only the second time (technically) this has occurred is remarkable considering the fact the NBA is majority-Black and has been for some time. This speaks to the same situation as the NFL, which also has a substantial number of players of color but has struggled to diversify its coaching ranks.

There's been a historic reluctance in both leagues to share power, but the presence of Kidd and Mazzulla shows how the NBA is changing. Slowly, but it's changing. Slowly. Did I say slowly?

On the final day of the regular season there were 13 Black coaches in the NBA or 43%. It's been as high as 16 in the past two seasons.

Entering the 2017 season there were five Black head coaches. So things are definitely getting better. Slowly. Did I say slowly (again)?

One of the reasons for the better numbers is of course an increasingly open-minded front office and ownership. But there's another. As the number of Black head coaches grew, they supported other Black coaches. They opened up the pipeline to one that traditionally was closed. Lue spoke about this important phenomenon to Andscape.

"Every time I saw (Doc Rivers) in Boston he would tell me, 'I'm telling you when you're done playing, you can coach for me,' " Lue said. "I was like, 'Yeah, OK.' And when I finished up in 2009 I gave him a call and said, 'Doc, I want to try this coaching thing.' The next day he had a coaching job for me, and it started from there.

Al Attles coached the Warriors in the NBA Finals in 1975. 1980 FILE PHOTO BY FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES

"He just said that I had that 'it' factor. He said that most of the things that people talk about are X's and O's. The biggest thing is you have to be able to deal with personalities and egos, and he saw the way I handled myself and the way people gravitate and respond towards me. He said I did a good job of telling someone to do something and making those guys respond by the way I said it."

Black coaches were able to break through the old boys' NBA coaching steel barricade of a ceiling by lifting each other up.

Maybe this is just the beginning. Maybe we'll see two Black head coaches in the Finals again, sooner than later. Hopefully before bell-bottoms return.

Therapy dogs do good work at WCWS

Jordan Mendoza
USA TODAY

There is one team nearly every player in Oklahoma City is the most hyped to see during the 2024 Women's College World Series – and it's not back-to-back-to-back defending champion Oklahoma, or 12-time champion UCLA, or even Texas, the No. 1 team.

Except this team doesn't wear cleats … because the stars have paws. It's not a team full of dominant pitchers or home run hitters, but a group of pups bringing love to everyone they meet and led by a 115-pound Rottweiler named Ripley.

The dogs of A New Leash on Life, a therapy dog and service dog training program, have become celebrities for every team trying to win the NCAA softball national championship. A few years ago the organization was reaching out to teams about therapy dog meetups. Now teams are reaching out to them hoping to schedule pets and play time.

"It's good to be able to see these teams," David Rudkin, Ripley's owner and the scheduling coordinator for A New Leash on Life, told USA TODAY. "It relieves a little bit of stress and they have a great smile on their face."

'A lot of fun, different size dogs'

The lineup of pups has become such a hit with teams, the program started doing meetups outside of the Women's College World Series. Teams that visited the Sooners for a series this season received therapy dog sessions, and since the Big 12 softball tournament was in Oklahoma City, conference teams got visits, too. They've also met with gymnastic teams visiting the city.

With such a busy schedule and visits that go up to two hours, one might think the dogs would be exhausted and their social batteries drained. While Ripley does get tired – taking extensive naps after she gets home – she appears to find joy in the visits just as much as the people do.

"The dogs love it," Rudkin said.

Ripley is the star of the show, but the crew she brings along is special in its own way. Rudkin said he doesn't like the term, but he describes the dogs that do visits as "washed-out service dogs." Basically, these dogs didn't pass the training to become a service dog.

But hope wasn't lost in them helping people, since they've instead become therapy dogs clearly great at their job.

There are some personalities, too. There's Luna, a small rescue dog who loves to jump and play dead. There's also Parker, a chihuahua who draws "awws" anytime she makes an appearance.

"A lot of fun, different size dogs, and dogs that have their own personality," Rudkin said.

The program plans for continued growth and sharing puppy love with more people. With Oklahoma moving to the SEC for the 2024-25 academic year, that means a whole new crop of athletes coming to the Norman-Oklahoma City area can meet the pups. Rudkin also wants to involve more sports teams in addition to softball, like football and baseball teams.

Why visits with therapy dogs are so special

The visits never get old for Rudkin, thinking about the reactions players have once the hounds are released and they get to bask in their presence. Most visits are surprises, and that's what created one of his most memorable moments.

When Washington was in Oklahoma City for last year's World Series, the players were told they all needed to go into a room in the team hotel. The players thought they were in trouble and awaited punishment. But they were shocked to see the dogs come instead, and "they just rushed" to see all the dogs. Other notable visits involve Texas and Hofstra softball since the player's families were also there for the sessions.

It didn't take long for teams to reach out to Rudkin after they punched their ticket to this year's World Series. Duke, which is playing in its first WCWS, was the first team to get a visit from Ripley and the gang. On Wednesday, top-ranked Texas got to soak in the experience.

Rudkin added there are other teams wanting visits, but with such a packed schedule and games underway, they are still trying to work out available times.

A Rottweiler named Ripley, seen here getting love from Duke players, leads a team of therapy dogs bringing increased mental health and team performance to NCAA softball teams competing for the national title.
PROVIDED PHOTO BY DAVID RUDKIN/A NEW LEASH ON LIFE

Rudkin said these visits are truly special for everyone involved, considering how grueling it can be to play in the postseason as a college athlete, especially when several games are played away from home.

"It's being a D-I athlete, then you add 'student' on top of that, and then you're halfway across the country from your family. You're away from everything. Then there's the nerves, the pressure," Rudkin said. "I don't know if the NCAA is doing anything to help with mental health, but we come in and provide that for them."

One could make the case the visits help teams have success at Devon Park, where the WCWS is played. Last season all the teams that got visits ended up winning their game afterward, including 2023 national champion Oklahoma. So if a team wants to have success and possibly be crowned the 2024 national champions, then look no further than Ripley and her lineup of extraordinary dogs.

Netflix's kidnapping drama 'Eric' inspired by true crimes

Spoilers! We break down the limited-series finale with creator Abi Morgan. **Page 2D**

Busy Philipps seeks honesty with children about sexuality

"Your kids are figuring out who they are," she says, following her daughter's lead. **Page 4D**

LIFELINE

HENRIK MONTGOMERY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
ABBA IS AWARDED

The four members of Sweden's iconic pop group ABBA reunited Friday to receive one of the country's top honors at a ceremony in the royal palace in Stockholm. Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad, who rarely make public appearances together and are now in their 70s, were handed their Royal Vasa Orders from King Carl XVI Gustaf "for very distinguished contributions within Swedish and international music life," according to the Royal Court. Sweden this year resumed the awarding of chivalry orders to Swedes after a 50-year pause.

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Angelina Jolie is 49. **Skip Marley** is 28. **Keith David** is 68.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY
More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). Engaging interactions? This is a particularly lucky day for meeting new people.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Craving a bit of luxury? The sun's alignment with Venus presents an opportunity to invest in yourself.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Oozing charisma? You magnetically attract friends and lovers!

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Private party? Your imagination springs to life. Make sure to jot down inspiring ideas!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Group activities? This is an excellent day for outings, celebrations and social gatherings with like-minded souls.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In the spotlight? This gives your reputation a positive boost. A career opportunity is incoming.

Libra (Sept.23-Oct. 23). Traveling well? You're comfortable in whatever setting you're dropped into.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Intimate encounters? You're taking a business or romantic relationship to the next level.

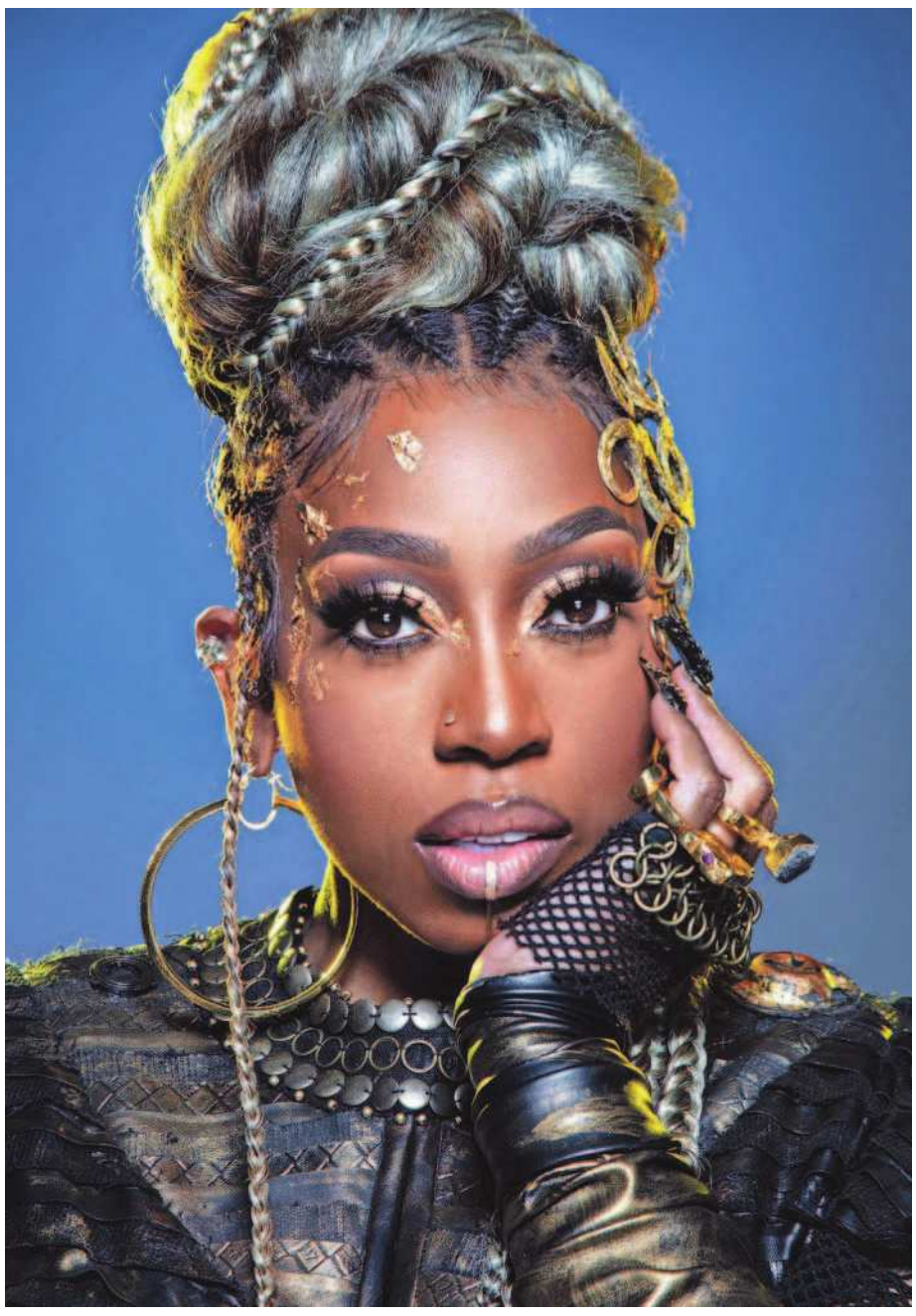
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Feeling the love? Someone sees your worth but only because YOU saw it first!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Feeling good in your skin? A healthy attitude facilitates a healthy mind and body.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Prioritizing pleasure? Let passion steer your decisions. Invoke confidence to make magic today!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). (Chosen) family celebrations? Your focus is on upholding harmony in the household.

MUSIC



Missy Elliott became the first female hip-hop artist inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2023. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DEREK BANKS

It's Missy's World and we can dance in it

Melissa Ruggieri USA TODAY

First it was induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as the inaugural female hip-hop artist. ● Then, the announcement that after a 25-plus year career a first-ever headlining tour would be unveiled this summer. ● Add to that a prominent role in Pharrell Williams' currently untitled movie project about his life and clearly, it's a Missy Elliott-palooza. ● On July 4, a few days after she turns 53, Elliott will embark on the Out of This World tour with co-stars Busta Rhymes and Ciara, as well as Timbaland, who has known Elliott since high school and helped innovate smashes including "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)," "Hit Em Wit Da Hee," "Get Ur Freak On" and "Work It."

The 30-date run, which kicks off in Vancouver, will wind through Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Houston, Tampa, Atlanta, Baltimore, Brooklyn and Philadelphia among its stops.

Elliott, who lives in Atlanta, also is filming the Williams movie in Richmond, Virginia – both hail from the Virginia Beach area – while prepping for her tour. She'll star alongside Oscar winner Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Oscar nominee Brian Tyree Henry and fellow music luminary Janelle Monáe.

Here is what Elliott had to say about this fulfilling period in her life.

Question: Your performance at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame ceremony in November was electrifying. What was going through your mind that night after being inducted as the first female rapper?

Answer: Whenever I go into any performance it's a lot of thought process, from the clothes to what songs you're going to perform to the dances. I think most of the time I'm engulfed in everything. But this time I felt like I was floating because I was in the room and watching many artists that had been around for way longer than I have just getting into the Rock Hall. It's still a pinch-me moment, like "Wow, I'm here." ... Until stuff like that happens, like (being inducted into) the Songwriters Hall of Fame, those things felt like they were so out of reach until I was on that stage.

Ciara, left, Elliott and Busta Rhymes will join forces along with Timbaland on the Out of This World tour.

With you, Eminem, LL Cool J and several other hip-hop artists getting into the Rock Hall, do you think they've improved their acknowledgement of the genre?

It's a good thing, an amazing thing, and hopefully me being the first female, it opens the door for other females and hip-hop artists in general because it has had such an impact on so many genres of music. I go to Japan and all of the stores are playing nothing but hip-hop.

It's hard to believe this is your first headlining tour, so why now?

My first tour was Lilith Fair (in 1998). Then I did Rock the Mic with Jay-Z and 50 Cent (in 2003), and my last tour (in 2004) was me, Beyoncé,

See ELLIOTT, Page 2D

STREAMING PREVIEW

'Clipped' saga still resonates off the court

Kelly Lawler
USA TODAY

It was the iPhone recording heard round the world. And now we all get to hear it again in Hulu's "Clipped."

A decade ago, the sports world was rocked by a tape of then-Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling making racist, condemnable comments about Black people to his mistress/confidante, V. Stiviano. The recording, which was published by TMZ as the Clippers played in the first round of the NBA playoffs, led to international outrage and forced an eventual sale of the team and a lifetime ban of Sterling from the NBA. But he and his wife also made a cool $2 billion from the sale, and racism didn't end with him.

It was a saga that played out in the public eye, with jaw-dropping TV interviews from Stiviano, Sterling and his wife, Shelly, protests by NBA players, statements by President Barack Obama and peanut-gallery commentary by anyone with a keyboard.

It might seem unnecessary to dramatize the Sterling saga; it was covered wall-to-wall by the media and internet commenters back in 2014, and is still fresh in our collective memory. But "Clipped" (streaming Tuesdays, ★★★☆) makes a case to revisit this story. Created by Gina Welch and based on the ESPN "30 for 30" podcast "The Sterling Affairs," "Clipped" succeeds as a compelling way to relive one of the biggest NBA stories of the 21st century and a bigger picture discussion about racism, capitalism, and who really "wins" in American society. It's the only basketball TV series you'll see with almost no time spent on the court. Instead, you'll see riveting meetings in hotel ballrooms.

J. Alphonse Nicholson is Chris Paul in "Clipped." PROVIDED BY KELSEY MCNEAL/FX

The series begins as Doc Rivers (Laurence Fishburne) joins the Clippers as head coach, and it takes its time setting up all the players in this off the court game before the tape is released and chaos reigns. Ed O'Neill plays Sterling with a notable commitment to embodying the wealthy man's off-putting egotism and smarm in his every scene and sordid dialogue. As portrayed in the series, Sterling is exactly the kind of man who would say the words on that tape, letting out casual racism, sexism and general offensiveness in nearly every word. He's trailed by his "assistant," V. Stiviano (Cleopatra Coleman), who really is his platonic mistress/confidante/chauffeur and records the insane and indecent things he says, including the infamous "don't bring Black people to my games" rant. His wife, Shelly (Jacki Weaver), thinks of herself as the voice of reason and kindness within her marriage and their businesses, but as the series goes on it doesn't paint her with a particularly flattering brush.

O'Neill puts on a showy performance, and Fishburne brings such intensity to Rivers' anger and emotion I thought he might give himself an aneurysm. But the series champion is Coleman, who has the exceedingly difficult job of bringing humanity to an enigmatic and only briefly public figure known mostly for her erratic behavior. The series spends ample time examining her state of mind, her status as a biracial woman with her own internalized racism and the power and

See CLIPPED, Page 2D

STREAMING

‘Eric’ is inspired by multiple true-life crime cases

Patrick Ryan USA TODAY

Spoiler alert! The following story contains major plot details about the series finale of “Eric” (now streaming on Netflix).

Benedict Cumberbatch is a monster of a man.

In the Netflix drama “Eric,” the two-time Oscar nominee plays Vincent Anderson, a vicious alcoholic who helps run “Good Day Sunshine,” a “Sesame Street”-style children’s TV show in 1980s New York. At home, Vincent is a terror to his wife, Cassie (Gaby Hoffmann), and 9-year-old son, Edgar (Ivan Howe), who vanishes one day on his way to school. Vincent spirals and embarks on a drug-addled search that takes him to New York’s underbelly, accompanied by a giant puppet named Eric, who appears as a hallucination.

Although Edgar’s disappearance was thought to be a kidnapping, we eventually learn that he ran away. And in the series’ sixth and final episode, Vincent wears an Eric costume and makes a televised plea for his son to come home, leading to a teary reunion.

But it’s a decidedly unhappy ending for Michael (McKinley Belcher III), a Black gay cop who is forced to keep his sexuality secret as AIDS panic sweeps the city. Meanwhile, his search for a missing Black teen named Marlon Rochelle ends in heartbreak.

“It’s a parallel journey of (Vincent and Michael) trying to find themselves,” says creator Abi Morgan (“The Iron Lady”), who broke down the series finale for USA TODAY.

The imaginary Eric, a puppet come to life, joins Vincent (Benedict Cumberbatch) on the search for his missing son. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

Is ‘Eric’ based on a true story?

Although true-crime series continue to be wildly popular on Netflix, “Eric” isn’t one of them. “It wasn’t based on any one story,” Morgan says. “I think if I’d wanted to do that, I would have really gone deep into that story.” Rather, it’s loosely based on several cases she had heard about growing up in the U.K. “There were several children who disappeared. I wanted to create a kind of everychild; the simple act of going out one day and not coming home felt very resonant.”

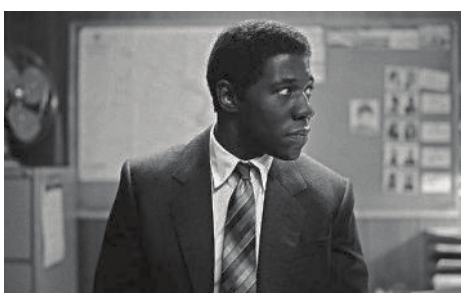
How does the show end for Cumberbatch’s character?

The series ends with Vincent on the set of “Good Day Sunshine.” Edgar walks in wearing Eric’s costume and introduces himself as the monster. “Pleased to meet you,” Vincent says. “Have we not met before?” The camera pans up to the “real” Eric, watching father and son from afar before the end credits roll.

“I wanted to get back to the idea of the boy reclaiming the monster; I always had this very strong image of the boy crawling back inside,” Morgan says.

“At its most simple metaphor, it’s about the inner child: Vincent goes on this quest to find his son, and inadvertently, you realize it’s a quest to find himself.”

Ultimately, “it’s about this boy understanding his father in a way that Vincent doesn’t even understand himself. In going on this journey, he sees that Edgar has laid out this incredible lesson for him, which is to be careful not to neglect your children because they listen and observe.”



Detective Michael Ledroit (McKinley Belcher III) reels from the death of his lover, but reconnects with an old flame in the series finale.

What is the song in the series finale?

The series ends with “I’m Not in Love,” a bittersweet 1975 ballad by the British group 10cc. It’s a callback to the first episode, when Edgar listens to the song as he walks to school the day he goes missing. “There’s a haunting romanticism,” Morgan says. “We hear it as Edgar disappears, but in his returning, it’s played in a much gentler way so that we can just enjoy it as a track. We lean into the reassuring resolution of the father and son coming back together at the end.”

What happens to Marlon Rochelle and his mom?

Through security camera footage, Michael discovers that Marlon was molested by a closeted politician and murdered by racist police detectives behind a nightclub. His body was taken by garbage men to a landfill, and in a devastating scene, we watch as his mother, Cecile (Adepero Oduye), searches through the refuse for her son. “My son deserved to live in a city that protected him,” Cecile says at a news conference after the case is closed. “For all of our sons, please do better.”

Writing Marlon’s story, Morgan was inspired by Stephen Lawrence, a Black British teen who was murdered in 1993, as well as the killing of George Floyd by police in 2020. She wanted to show the audience that when it comes to justice, there is no “neat resolution.”

Not only is Cecile a mom who has lost her child, but she also represents “a mother for a lost generation,” Morgan says. “That symbolic line she has at the end is a nod to Arthur Miller’s ‘All My Sons,’ which is about taking responsibility. Cecile is calling for collective responsibility of how we raise and support our sons, be that through the body of a family, our police force or our government.”

Will there be an ‘Eric’ Season 2?

“Eric” is a miniseries that gives closure to most of its major characters. But if the show proves a hit, could a second season explore a different missing person case or pocket of New York? Morgan finds that potential “interesting” but says it was never her intent.

“The joy of a limited series is that it hopefully burns bright for that period, so I never saw it beyond that. I feel those characters have exorcised their demons and come to a resolution, and as an exploration of the city at that time, we’ve probably grappled with everything there. It feels like it landed for me in six episodes, so I don’t know I would take it any further than that.”

Elliott

Continued from Page 1D

Alicia (Keys) and Tamia. I had the opportunities to tour alone, but because I was so engulfed in writing and producing for myself and other artists, I never felt like I wanted to be out that long without being able to continue doing that. But then one day I was like, “I want to go out.” My management, they didn’t believe me. But my manager called me the next day and said, “Are you serious?” and I said, “Yeah, I want to go out.” I believe God aligned it. Mentally, I was ready. Physically, I was ready.

Why is it called the Out of This World tour?

The first thing I thought of is anything that I have done sonically, musically, visually has been kind of out of this world. I felt even Busta, who I’ve watched before I even came along, has been that way, too. And Ciara and Tim(baland), his music has been futuristic. So that title was fitting for all of us. I believe we all embody being out of this world.

What can you share about the show or production?

It’s going to be a little bit of everything. I’m biting my nails wanting to tell what will happen, but I want everybody to come and see it. I can tell you the energy is going to be through the roof. I tell people bring your slides, no heels, no shoes, because you’re gonna dance the whole night.

Since touring isn’t typical, how are you preparing?

It’s most definitely a grind. You have to be in a good mental space. I have Busta and Ciara and Timba out there so it’s going to feel like family and not, I’m going to work. On top of that, I have a physical therapist I’m starting with and they put these big things on my legs to loosen everything up. And I have to start eating right. I am most definitely putting down any sweets, and that is hardest thing for me. I’m gonna eat my last cupcake in a week. But I hike the mountains every day.

Is there anything you have to bring with you on the road?

My (Yorkie) dog, Fendi. I lost one of my dogs in November and that crushed me, so she’s like my best friend. She calms my anxiety. She’s living her best life. She’s in a couple of Instagram photos (on my page), and she has her own page and her own fans.

As you get ready for a headlining tour and look back at what you’ve accomplished, do you feel you’ve become a pioneer for women in hip-hop?

I guess now I can say that yeah, I get a chance to sit back and look back at all the new females coming. People don’t know how hard it is when you’re a female coming up. My hat goes off to them for doing it for real. You have to be tough and strong and consistent, and I’m on the sideline cheering them on.

Timbaland has been friends with Missy Elliott since high school and will join his longtime collaborator on tour this summer. PROVIDED BY THOMAS DANG

Clipped

Continued from Page 1D

financial hierarchy of Los Angeles. Coleman doesn’t give us a caricature, and the sensitive portrayal is to her credit.

The series, however, slightly fails in its portrayal of the Clippers. Big names show up as part of the story, from Chris Paul (J. Alphonse Nicholson) to Blake Griffin (Austin Scott) to JJ Redick (Charlie McElveen) to DeAndre Jordan (Sheldon Bailey). These men are in the thick of the controversy simply by being team members (and most of them are Black), and yet there isn’t quite enough depth to them as they debate how to protest Sterling’s words and whether they should play for his team at all. The series could have spent more time with them, because as it is, their scenes feel like a cursory check-in before the action goes back to Sterling, Rivers and Stiviano. The best and most nuanced discussions about race and basketball and America come not from the locker room but from Rivers and, of all people, LeVar Burton, playing himself.

As with many true stories like this, “Clipped” ends on an underwhelming, unsatisfying note. But that is the way it has to be, because the problem of American racism – in the NBA and sports and our everyday lives – is nowhere near solved. The fictionalized versions of the players lament that they weren’t able to make this moment about more than one “bad apple.” Nods to the killing of Trayvon Martin and protests in Ferguson, Missouri, which happened later in 2014, only emphasize this. And any viewer who has paid attention to the past decade of news can think of so many more “moments” meant to change the way we talk and act about race in this country that fizzled into nothingness.

How are all those diversity, equity and inclusion pledges from 2020 looking in 2024, hmm?

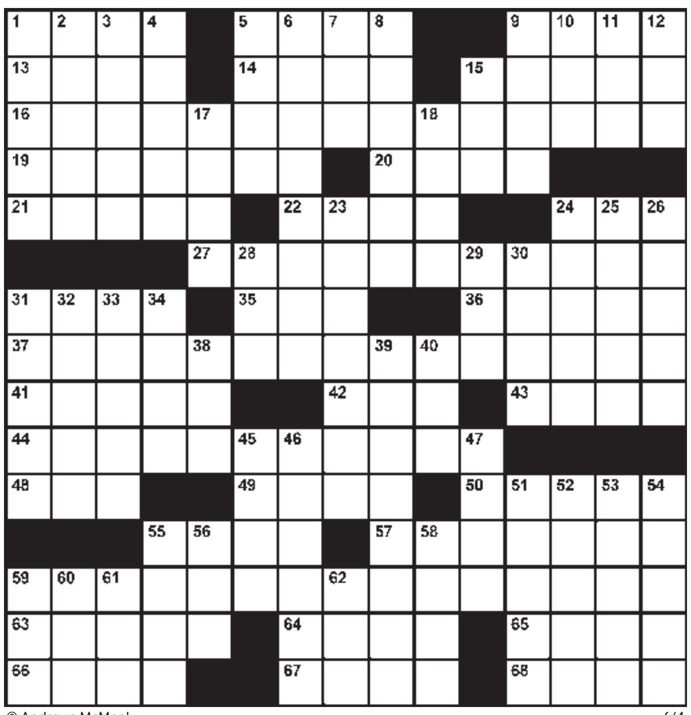
Jacki Weaver is Shelly Sterling, Ed O’Neill is Donald Sterling, Cleopatra Coleman is V Stiviano in “Clipped.” PHOTOS PROVIDED BY KELSEY MCNEAL/FX

Laurence Fishburne, right, is Clippers coach Doc Rivers in “Clipped.”

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Jared Goudsmit
BY Carolyn Davies Lynch

I JUST CAN'T EXPLAIN IT (FREESTYLE)



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ACROSS
1 Base cards in solitaire
5 Sums up
9 Look after
13 "___ Lisa"
14 Word after "fava" or "navy"
15 Air ___ (small convection oven)
16 Eating plans with lots of fruits, veggies, etc.
19 Brand that helps people digest dairy
20 Currency in Cyprus
21 To be, in Spanish
22 Relax and do nothing
24 Dry ___ bone
27 BBC nature documentary series
31 "Yay!"
35 Winter hrs. in Ottawa
36 The real ___ (genuine thing)
37 "The joke was hilarious, but it's hard to retell"
41 "Are too!" retort
42 "This second!"
43 Ice cream brand aka Dreyer's
44 Queues outside box offices
48 Rock concert shirt
49 Before long
50 Remove, like a doodle
55 Places that might offer cucumber water
57 Enraged
59 Literature assigned in school
63 Blended hair-coloring technique
64 Kitchen or den
65 "Vengeance" actress Rae
66 Two pills, e.g.
67 "Go away!"
68 Animal such as Bambi

DOWN
1 More than enough
2 Coke, Pepsi, etc.
3 Put into law
4 ___ Monica, California
5 "A League of Their Own" co-creator Jacobson
6 Behind every other racer
7 German article
8 "Bless you!" elicitor
9 Group of three
10 "She has an ___ for detail"
11 Meshy defense against mosquitoes
12 Neurologists and such (Abbr.)
15 Social Security prez
17 Waterproof sheet
18 Song such as "What Is This Feeling?"
23 Banderas who voiced Puss in Boots
24 Followed a curved trajectory
25 "A likely ___!" ("Doubtful!")
26 "Now I understand!"
28 Was in first place
29 CPR expert
30 Tummy pain
31 Civil rights activist Addie
32 Buddy
33 One of 32 in a quart
34 "Gotcha"
38 Had some lomo saltado
39 Tennessee music festival
40 Mother sheep
45 Old Russian leader
46 Players who don't get the W
47 Sonic Blast video game publisher
51 Tried again on
52 Get up
53 Sight or taste
54 Name that's an anagram of "raged"
55 Positive
56 Key lime dessert
58 Fish in a Pixar film
59 Towel holder
60 Introspective music genre
61 TD throwers
62 "How foolish of me!"

Monday's Answer

6/3

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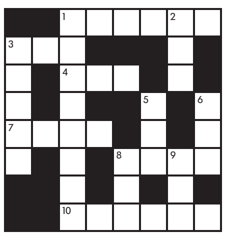
TXTPERT



6/4

Across	Down
1. 746637	1. 77746553
3. 287	2. 344
4. 782	3. 24876
7. 7463	5. 965
8. 7546	6. 726
10. 368733	8. 738
	9. 423

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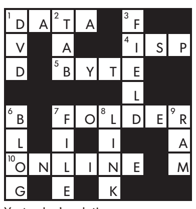
Today's theme
Cooking

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C ... and 5678 could be LOST



6/3

Yesterday's solution

Numbers

More puzzles: **puzzles.usatoday.com**
Want solutions? **answers.usatoday.com**
Feedback: **feedback@usatoday.com**

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

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

6/4 DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

© Andrews McMeel

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

		1	4	6	
	6		1		
1		6	5		4
3		5	6		1
		2		1	
	1	3	2		

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

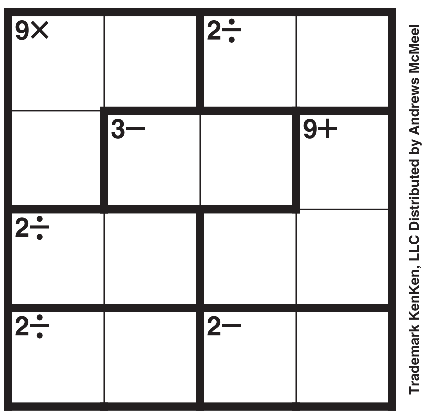
Monday's Answers

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

2	5	3	6	4	1
6	4	1	5	2	3
1	3	5	4	6	2
4	2	6	3	1	5
5	6	2	1	3	4
3	1	4	2	5	6

6/3

KENKEN



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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 though 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

5+ 4	1	6× 3	2
7+ 3	4	2÷ 2	4+ 1
6× 1	2 2	4	3
2	3	3− 1	4

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KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo — Difficulty: MEDIUM

	(33)	(32)	(24)	(47)
(31)	13	2		
(36)		11		16
(34)	7		9	
(35)			8	12

Solution to Monday's puzzle

11	15	16	14
2	3	10	6
5	1	7	13
12	8	9	4

Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 6/4

Find and Circle:
Five parts of the eye ☑☐☐☐☐
Three four-letter amphibians ☐☐☐
Three five-letter flowers ☐☐☐
Two countries ending with Y ☐☐
Two neighboring U.S. states ☐☐

Monday's answer: MERCURY VENUS EARTH MARS / KAYAK KNOCK KIOSK / SCIENCE HISTORY MATH / GIRAFFE LEOPARD CHEETAH / FENWAY PARK

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

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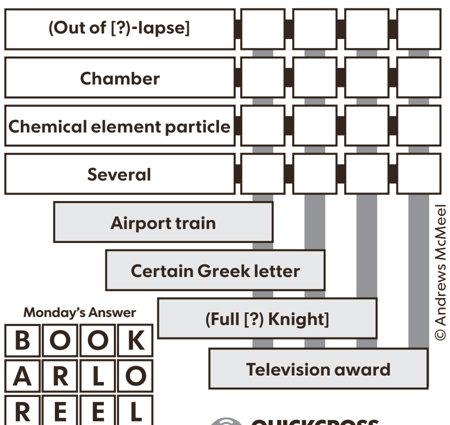
QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 6/4



Monday's Answer

B	O	O	K
A	R	L	O
R	E	E	L
S	O	O	N

6/3

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QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 6/4

1. **NOT** ______
2. ______
3. ______
4. ______
5. ______
6. ______
7. ______ **PARLOR**

Clues:
1. Right
2. Navigation mistake
3. Flip to the other side
4. Done
5. Way to order a burger
6. Plain pie
7. Type of Italian eatery

Monday's Answer
CLIFF DIVING
DIVING BOARD
BOARD MEETING
MEETING PLACE
PLACE SETTING
SETTING SUN
SUN GOD

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Basketball coach Pat Riley talks about teamwork.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
CAREERS CREATE DEFINE GREAT ONLY

"______ TEAMWORK IS THE ______ WAY WE ______ BREAKTHROUGHS THAT ______ OUR ______." 6/4

Monday's Answer: "All love is lucky, even when it breaks your heart." - Madonna

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES / **SOLUTIONS**
1 sundae topper (6) ______
2 anchored in place (9) ______
3 pleasing aroma (9) ______
4 people at dining tables (6) ______
5 pretending on stage (6) ______
6 pioneering comedian Phyllis (6) ______
7 bite-sized burgers (7) ______

DIL	MO	CH	FRA	RY
UN	ACT	VAB	NCE	RS
LE	LER	EA	ER	DE
SLI	RS	ING	TE	GRA

Monday's Answers: 1. BATTED 2. SIGNING 3. MIDWIFE 4. BEDAZZLED 5. ADULTHOOD 6. SHUTTERS 7. MOZZARELLA 6/4

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MMMYO
VRRIE
PCNOOH
RAOFDF

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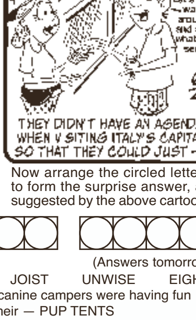

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ◯◯◯◯ ◯◯ ◯◯◯◯

(Answers tomorrow)

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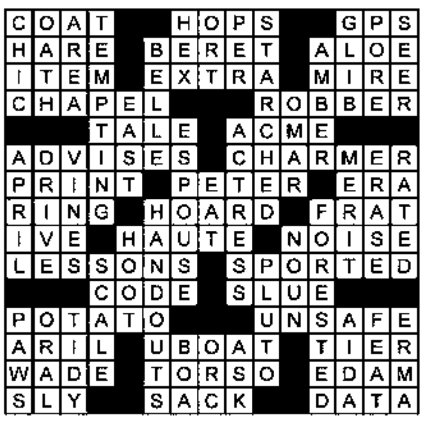
Yesterday's Jumbles: GUPPY JOIST UNWISE EIGHTY
Answer: The young canine campers were having fun setting up their — PUP TENTS

BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Speak in a throaty voice
5 Tempo
9 Stuff to eat
13 Hurt
14 Moon of Saturn
15 Wash against
16 Poke
17 Tin Man's need
18 Toward shelter
19 Tranquil
21 Pencil end
23 Nothing
24 Low platform for a panel
25 Disdain
30 Man of the cloth
34 Compass pt.
35 Was reckless enough
37 Talon
38 Brake part
40 Make fun of
41 Bristle
42 Opposed
43 Give way
46 Can. province
47 Slept
50 "I'm — of a white Christmas ..."
52 Currier and —
54 Cuckoo
55 Garden pavilion
57 Mile High City
61 "By —!"
62 Bear
65 River in Africa
66 Soon
67 Wyoming range
68 Greek mountain
69 Alley with stables
70 Gaelic
71 Sob

DOWN
1 Knocks
2 "God's Little —"
3 With footgear
4 Stuffy scholar
5 Chart shape
6 — — standstill
7 Showed concern
8 Snare
9 Greek literary works
10 Healthy
11 Past
12 — small voice
14 "— & Louise"
20 Knotted
22 Melody
25 Fragrant wood
26 Cat- — - — -tails
27 Cozy places
28 Say grace
29 Neither hot nor cold
31 Tropical resin
32 Beelzebub
33 Nasal resonance
36 Caribou
39 Nation's populace
44 Heavy
45 Copenhagen native
48 "All About —"
49 Argue
51 Small fish
53 Serious
55 "— in 60 Seconds"
56 Assert
58 Gripping device
59 "If all — fails ..."
60 Do a farm job
61 Cram
63 "— a Wonderful Life"
64 Unknown John —

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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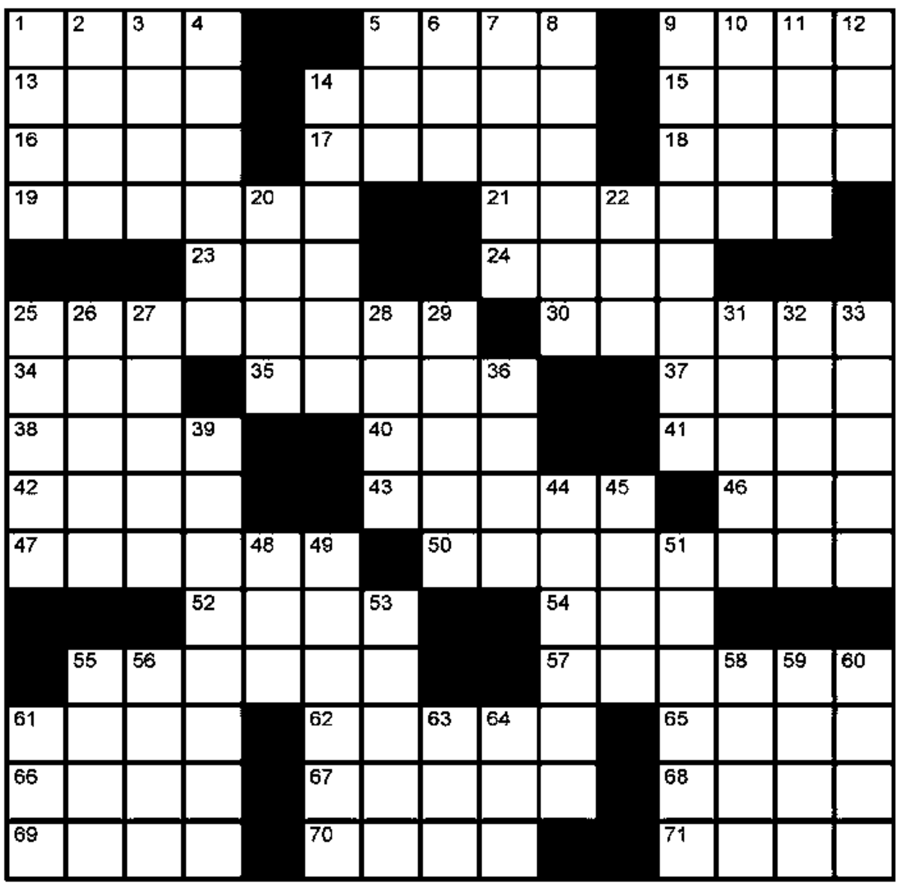

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Philipps says parents should be open when kids talk gender identity

David Oliver
USA TODAY

Busy Philipps, like most parents, wants happy, healthy, children. So when her daughter Birdie, 15, came out and decided to use they/them pronouns (though has since switched back to she/her), Philipps didn't miss a beat.

"I love and trust my child," the 44-year-old "Girls 5Eva" actress and late-night talk show host said on a Zoom call ahead of Pride Month. "And so when my child tells me a thing about themselves, how wonderful that I have information that I didn't have before, and what other job do I have but to support that?"

Research shows a parent's support is crucial for teens in these situations. More than one-third of LGBTQ+ young people who hoped for mental health care but ultimately never got it didn't want to ask for their parent or caregiver's permission, according to The Trevor Project's 2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People.

But Philipps has taken her daughter's lead when it comes to the LGBTQ+ experience: "If your child is telling you that they identify in a way, how can you not support them?"

Busy Philipps wants happy, healthy children. So when her daughter Birdie, 15, came out as gay, Philipps didn't miss a beat. ARTURO HOLMES/GETTY IMAGES

'Your kids are figuring out who they are'

Philipps suggests parents center on their child's experience, not their own, when it comes to discovering where they may fit on the LGBTQ+ spectrum.

Parents also should practice self-awareness. Just because you consider yourself a "liberal person," for example, doesn't make you immune to biases.

She has little patience for those who are unsupportive.

"You love (your kids), you want them to be the best version of themselves, and they're telling you how they feel they're going to be the best version of themselves," she says. "And whether or not you think it's forever or it's for the time being doesn't matter. Doesn't matter what you think. Your kids are figuring out who they are. And thank goodness they have the freedom and the language for it, when so many of my peers didn't."

She praises pal Sophia Bush coming out: 'I love her dearly'

She shouted out pal Sophia Bush, who came out as queer in an essay for Glamour earlier this year. Bush wrote: "I've experienced so much safety, respect, and love in the queer community, as an ally all of my life, that, as I came into myself, I already felt it was my home. I think I've always known that my sexuality exists on a spectrum."

She added: "I think the word that best defines it is queer. I can't say it without smiling, actually. And that feels pretty great." Bush has since gone red-carpet-official with retired soccer star Ashlyn Harris (and clarified over the weekend that no, she's not engaged).

Philipps called the piece "incredibly beautiful."

"I'm so proud of my friend," she says. "I love her dearly, and more of that, more being open to that we don't know all the answers about everything, even our children that we think we know everything about. You don't. We don't."

Overall, she's grateful that kids today "have awareness and are able to figure it out. Like we're all figuring it out. I'm still figuring it out."

And if she's not too "busy" for that, other parents shouldn't be, either.

Philipps, right, shouted out pal Sophia Bush, who came out as queer in an essay for Glamour this year. JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES

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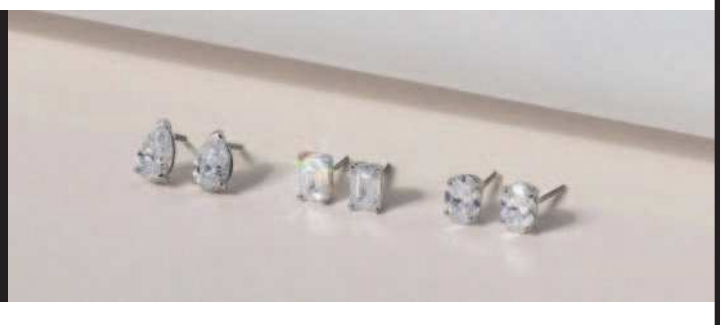

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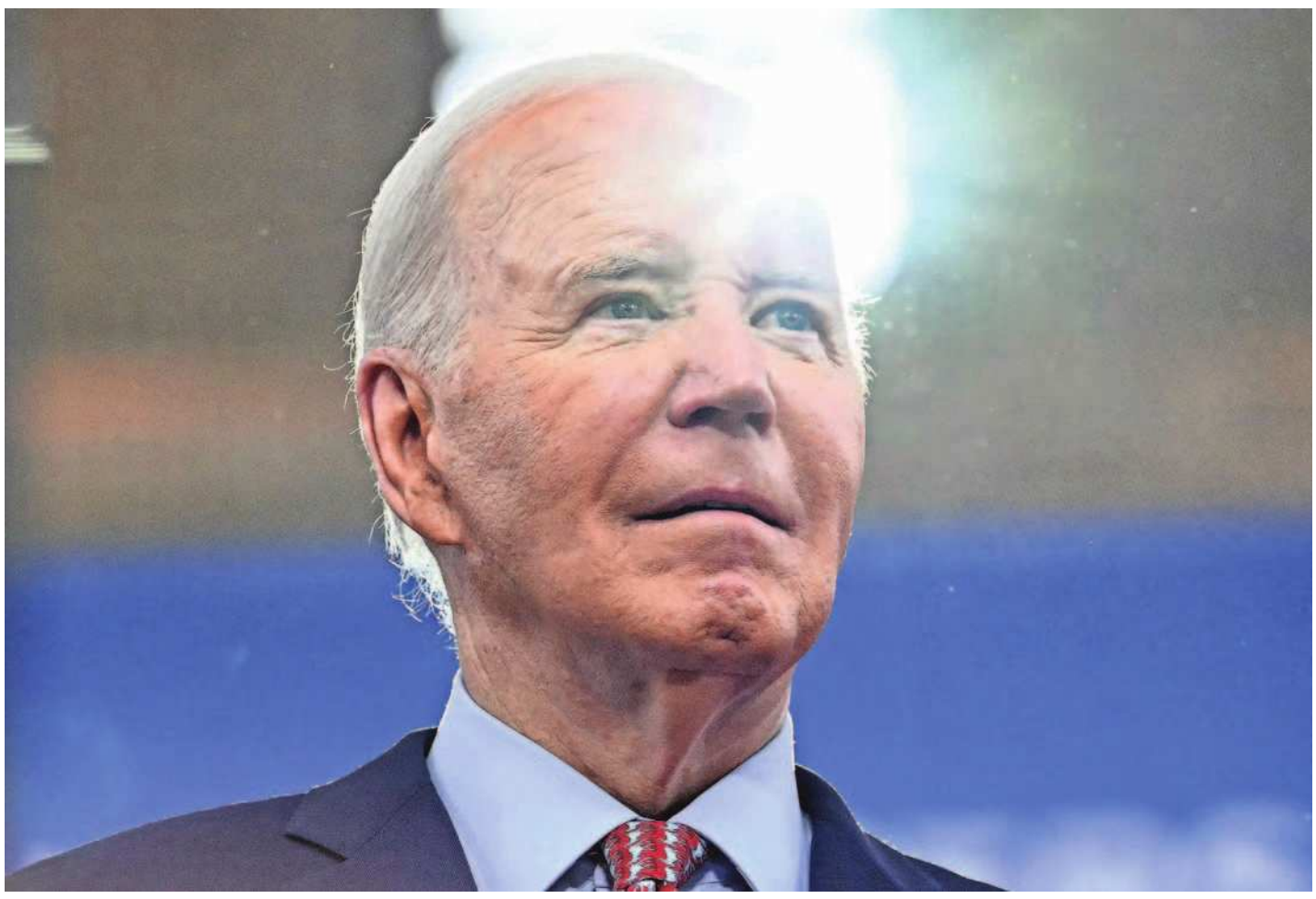
NATION&WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE
U.S. summer home power bills likely to jump by nearly 8%, study says. **4NN**



Last week President Joe Biden called Donald Trump and Republicans "reckless" and "dangerous" for suggesting Trump's jury trial had been rigged. MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

BIDEN HEIGHTENS TRUMP CRITICISM

Campaign had been mostly silent on conviction

Jarrett Renshaw and Stephanie Kelly REUTERS

GREENWICH, Conn. – President Joe Biden on Monday called former President Donald Trump a "convicted felon" who poses a higher threat to the United States if he wins a second term.

Trump became the first U.S. president to be convicted of a crime last week when a New York jury found him guilty of falsifying documents to cover up a payment to silence a porn star ahead of the 2016 election.

"For the first time in American history, a former president that is a convicted felon is now seeking the office of the presidency," Biden told a small group of donors during a fundraiser in Greenwich, Connecticut.

> **"Throughout this campaign Trump has made it clear he is running to exact for revenge."**
>
> **President Joe Biden**
> At campaign fundraiser Monday

"But as disturbing as that is, more damaging is the all-out assault Donald Trump is making on the American system of justice," Biden said.

The president's comments offer a glimpse into how he and his campaign could use Trump's conviction to make the case to voters Trump is unfit for office – an issue that could help define this year's presidential race by push-

See BIDEN, Page 8NN

Supporters of former President Donald Trump gather outside Trump Tower after he was convicted in his hush-money trial in New York City on Thursday. TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Fauci denies COVID scheme

Says he didn't work closely with adviser

Ahmed Aboulenein
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Former top U.S. infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci strongly denied suppressing the theory that COVID-19 originated from a lab leak in China, telling lawmakers he never influenced research on the origins of the virus.

In his first time addressing the allegations publicly since a 14-hour hearing held behind closed doors in January, Fauci also reiterated that he believes the most likely origin of the pandemic was animal-to-human transmission.

"I've also been very, very clear, and said multiple times, that I don't think the concept of there being a lab (leak) is inherently a conspiracy theory," he said.

"What is conspiracy is the kind of distortions of that particular subject, like it was a lab leak, and I was parachuted into the CIA like Jason Bourne and told the CIA that they should really not be talking about a lab leak," he told a U.S. House of Representatives panel.

Fauci, who retired in December 2022 after 54 years at the National Institutes of Health, including 38 years serving as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, was testifying before the House Oversight and Accountability Select Subcommittee on the coronavirus pandemic.

The committee, set up to discover the origins of the virus, has uncovered emails showing top NIH officials trying to hide public records by evading Freedom of Information Act requests.

The private emails suggest some officials, including a long-time Fauci adviser and aide, deleted correspondence and used private emails to get around public record laws.

Fauci downplayed how closely he worked with the adviser, David Morens, saying he was unsure if Morens even reported to him directly and that their offices were in different buildings.

He denied ever using a private email address to discuss government business. Morens had told the subcommittee he may have sent emails discussing government business to Fauci's personal email address.

Fauci said Morens had repeatedly violated NIAID policy and denied ever seeking to avoid a FOIA request.

He also described harassment and death threats he and his family have received after being vilified by many Republican lawmakers over his pandemic stances and championing of COVID vaccines, as well as accusations, without evidence, of being involved in a massive coverup related to the global health crisis.

Testifying Monday, Dr. Anthony Fauci denied ever using a private email address to discuss government business. LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

No date set for Netanyahu's address

Israeli PM will speak to joint session of Congress

REUTERS

WASHINGTON – No date has been set for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned address to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, his office and congressional sources said on Monday, following reports that the leader's speech had been set for June 13.

Without citing a source, a Punchbowl News reporter said on X that Netanyahu would address a meeting of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate on June 13. Politico and Bloomberg later reported the same date, citing unnamed sources.

That would bring the Israeli premier to Washington when President Joe Biden, who has clashed with Netanyahu over the Gaza war, is expected to be in Puglia, Italy, for a June 13 to 15 G7 leaders' summit. The U.S. is Israel's main ally and provides billions of dollars in aid.

The Israeli prime minister's office said in a statement that a date for his address to Congress had yet to be set, but that it would not take place on June 13 due to a Jewish holiday.

Addresses to joint meetings of Congress by foreign leaders are a rare honor generally reserved for the closest U.S. allies or major world figures. Netanyahu has already given three such addresses, most recently in 2015.

This speech would make Netanyahu the first foreign leader to address joint meetings of Congress four times. He is currently tied at three with Britain's wartime prime minister, Winston

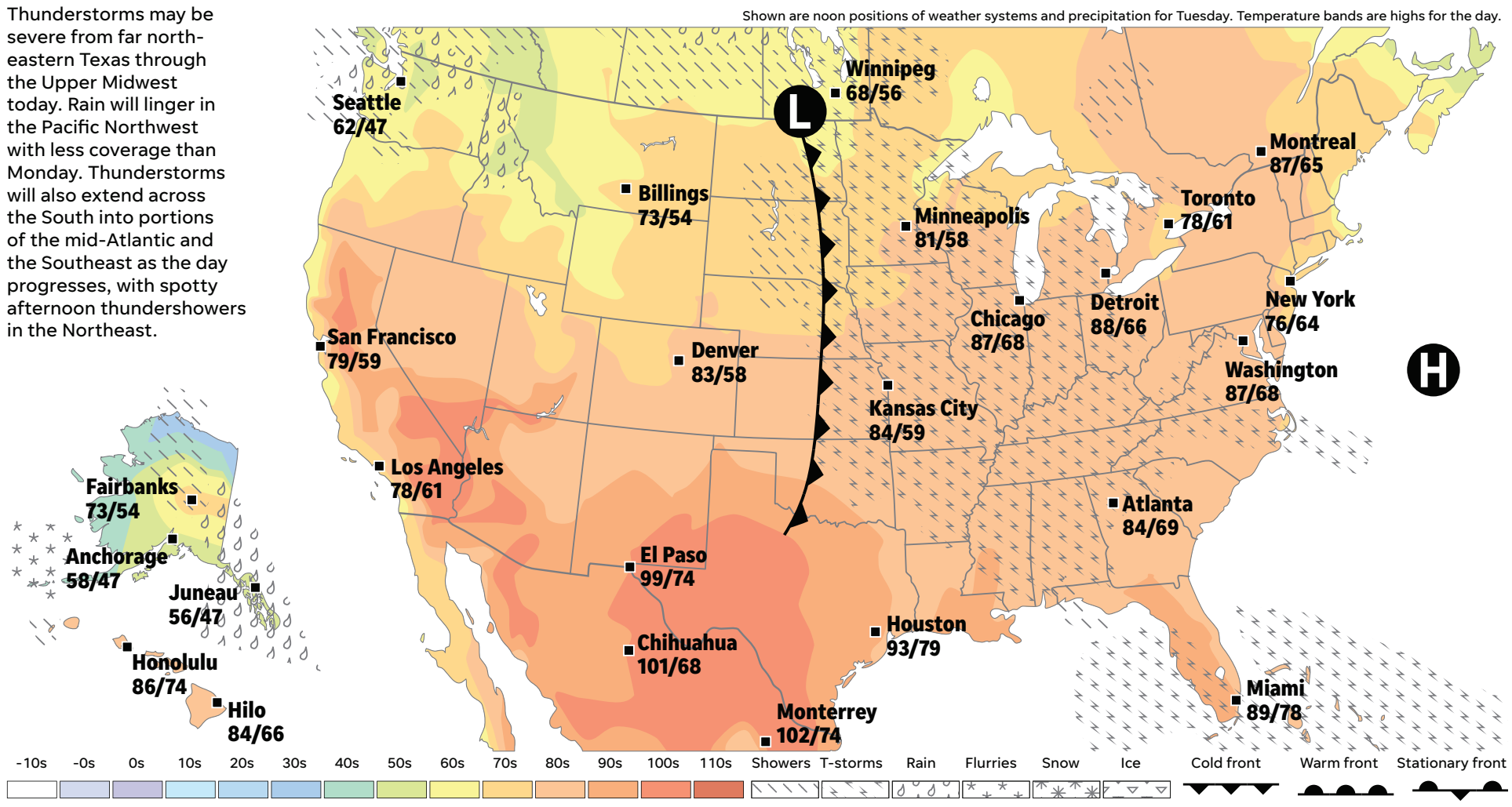
See MIDEAST, Page 6NN

NATIONAL SUMMARY

Thunderstorms may be severe from far northeastern Texas through the Upper Midwest today. Rain will linger in the Pacific Northwest with less coverage than Monday. Thunderstorms will also extend across the South into portions of the mid-Atlantic and the Southeast as the day progresses, with spotty afternoon thundershowers in the Northeast.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Tuesday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



MONDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High:	**107** at San Angelo, TX
Low:	**24** at Angel Fire, NM
Precip:	**2.96"** at Independence, KS

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High:	**118** at Bilma, Niger
Low:	**10** at Hall Beach, Canada
Precip:	**3.90"** at Hkamti, Myanmar

TODAY IN HISTORY

High and low records were set on June 4, 1985. Williston, N.D., had a low of 31 that broke the record from 1910. Macon and Augusta, Ga., reached 100 degrees or higher.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: Who invented the lightning rod?

A: Ben Franklin

NATIONAL CITIES TUESDAY

● Denotes possible travel delays

	High/low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	75/52/t	23
Abilene, TX	105/72/s	46
Accomac, VA	80/65/pc	63
Adrian, MI	88/66/t	64
Akron, OH	86/64/pc	38
Alamogordo, NM	98/61/pc	65
Alexandria, VA	86/67/pc	58
Alliance, OH	87/64/pc	40
Amarillo, TX	93/64/pc	59
● Ames, IA	85/54/t	50
● Anderson, SC	80/66/t	44
● Appleton, WI	83/65/t	47
● Asheville, NC	77/62/t	41
Ashland, OH	87/65/pc	47
● Athens, GA	81/67/t	46
Augusta, GA	86/66/t	45
● Austin, TX	97/77/pc	109
● Bartlesville, OK	82/64/t	34
Battle Creek, MI	88/68/c	64
● Bedford, IN	83/66/t	49
Binghamton, NY	81/61/sh	62
Bluffton, SC	83/73/pc	46
Bremerton, WA	62/42/r	23
Brockton, MA	75/55/s	50
Brownwood, TX	102/73/s	75
● Burlington, IA	85/66/t	32
● Burlington, NC	86/64/t	50
Burlington, VT	87/65/s	55
Cambridge, OH	86/66/pc	44
● Camdenton, MO	82/67/t	29
Canandaigua, NY	85/65/pc	53
Canton, OH	87/66/pc	46
Carlsbad, NM	103/71/s	89
Chambersburg, PA	86/65/sh	55
Cherry Hill, NJ	86/64/s	72
● Cincinnati, OH	85/67/t	47
● Clarksville, TN	80/69/t	32
Coldwater, MI	87/67/c	62
Columbus, OH	87/67/t	51
Corning, NY	86/61/pc	50
● Corpus Christi, TX	95/81/pc	66
Daytona Beach, FL	87/71/s	43
Deming, NM	96/64/pc	68
DeRidder, LA	88/77/t	32
● Des Moines, IA	85/57/t	52
Detroit, MI	88/66/pc	61
Devils Lake, ND	68/55/t	30
Dover, NH	72/51/s	31
El Paso, TX	99/74/s	74
Elmira, NY	86/60/pc	50
Erie, PA	80/68/pc	38
Eugene, OR	70/52/c	27
● Evansville, IN	82/68/t	43
Fall River, MA	74/56/s	51
● Farmington, NM	88/54/pc	58
Fayetteville, NC	87/69/pc	56
● Fond du Lac, WI	83/66/t	47
Fort Myers, FL	94/76/t	46
● Fort Smith, AR	81/70/t	35
Framingham, MA	78/55/s	54
● Freeport, IL	82/65/t	33
Fremont, OH	89/69/t	56
Fort Collins, CO	85/57/pc	52
● Gadsden, AL	81/67/t	34
Gainesville, FL	91/69/pc	47
● Galesburg, IL	86/65/t	34
● Gastonia, NC	80/65/t	45
Glen Rose, TX	95/74/pc	85
Gonzales, LA	91/75/t	30
● Great Falls, MT	68/44/pc	20
● Green Bay, WI	84/68/pc	51
● Greenville, SC	79/66/t	43
Hackensack, NJ	79/60/s	80
Hagerstown, MD	86/66/pc	58
Hattiesburg, MS	88/75/t	35
● Henderson, KY	81/67/t	38
● Hendersonville, NC	75/62/t	40
Herkimer, NY	86/61/sh	62
Hillsdale, MI	86/65/c	61
Holland, MI	80/67/c	66
Hornell, NY	85/62/pc	48
Houma, LA	89/76/t	27
Howell, MI	87/65/t	57
● Hutchinson, KS	82/62/pc	33
Hyannis, MA	67/56/s	40
● Indianapolis, IN	85/67/t	49
● Iowa City, IA	84/62/t	27
Ithaca, NY	85/64/pc	58
● Jackson, MS	89/73/t	36
● Jackson, TN	81/71/t	27
Jacksonville, FL	89/70/pc	54
Jacksonville, NC	84/68/pc	52
Kent, OH	86/64/pc	44
● Kewanee, IL	85/66/t	32
Keyser, WV	84/64/t	50
Kinston, NC	86/67/t	56
● Knoxville, TN	82/66/t	40
● Lafayette, IN	88/68/t	54
Lafayette, LA	89/78/t	29
Lakeland, FL	96/73/s	54
Lansing, MI	88/67/t	67
Las Cruces, NM	98/69/pc	64
Lebanon, PA	86/62/pc	59
Leesburg, FL	93/73/pc	49
Levittown, PA	85/62/s	69
● Lincoln, IL	85/69/t	42
● Louisville, KY	85/69/t	64
Lubbock, TX	101/71/s	77
● Manitowoc, WI	70/60/pc	53
Mansfield, OH	86/65/pc	51
● Marshall, NC	78/61/t	40
● Marshfield, WI	78/57/t	22
Massillon, OH	87/66/pc	48
McLean, VA	87/67/pc	55
Melbourne, FL	89/73/s	42
● Memphis, TN	85/72/t	34
Middletown, NY	81/54/pc	63
Milford, MA	78/54/s	57
● Milwaukee, WI	82/66/t	54
Monroe, MI	83/66/pc	63
Monroe, LA	86/74/t	36
● Montgomery, AL	85/70/t	43
Muncie, IN	88/68/t	57
● Murfreesboro, TN	81/69/t	35
Naples, FL	92/76/t	46
● Nashville, TN	82/70/t	33
Neptune, NJ	69/61/pc	87
New Bedford, MA	72/56/s	46
New Bern, NC	87/68/pc	50
New Philadelphia, OH	87/65/pc	41
Newark, OH	87/64/pc	46
Newton, NJ	83/57/pc	62
New York, NY	76/64/s	89
Norwich, CT	75/56/s	62
Ocala, FL	93/70/pc	47
● Oklahoma City, OK	87/67/pc	53
Opelousas, LA	88/76/t	30
● Oshkosh, WI	83/67/t	47
Palm Beach, FL	88/80/pc	31
Palm Springs, CA	106/78/pc	55
Panama City, FL	86/74/pc	36
● Pekin, IL	85/69/t	41
Pensacola, FL	85/76/pc	43
● Peoria, IL	85/68/t	46
● Petersburg, VA	86/66/t	47
Phoenix, AZ	104/79/pc	88
Port Huron, MI	86/61/pc	65
Portsmouth, NH	72/55/s	26
Poughkeepsie, NY	83/56/pc	71
Providence, RI	73/56/s	58
Pueblo, CO	90/56/pc	60
Quincy, MA	71/56/s	44
Redding, CA	101/70/s	45
Reno, NV	89/63/s	36
Ravenna, OH	87/63/pc	41
Richmond, IN	88/66/t	56
Rochester, NY	84/66/pc	54
● Rockford, IL	84/68/t	47
Ruidoso, NM	86/56/pc	66
Salem, OR	70/54/c	25
Salina, KS	84/60/t	36
Salinas, CA	78/58/s	38
Salisbury, MD	84/63/pc	65
San Angelo, TX	108/73/s	48
Sarasota, FL	92/76/t	55
Savannah, GA	88/70/pc	48
● Sheboygan, WI	71/60/pc	54
● Shelby, NC	78/64/t	44
● Sherman, TX	90/71/t	56
Shreveport, LA	86/75/r	44
Silver City, NM	92/62/pc	67
Sioux Falls, SD	77/55/t	38
Somerset, PA	80/62/t	44
Somerville, NJ	80/59/s	71
● South Bend, IN	88/68/t	65
● Spartanburg, SC	79/65/t	50
● Springfield, IL	85/68/t	45
● Springfield, MO	84/66/t	24
St. Augustine, FL	86/74/pc	46
St. Cloud, MN	82/53/t	29
St. George, UT	100/69/pc	47
● Staunton, VA	81/62/t	48
● Stevens Point, WI	79/61/t	28
Stockton, CA	104/68/s	50
Stroudsburg, PA	84/56/pc	65
Stuart, FL	88/75/pc	39
● Sturgis, MI	86/67/t	62
Tallahassee, FL	91/69/pc	43
Thibodaux, LA	90/75/t	28
● Topeka, KS	84/58/t	33
● Tuscaloosa, AL	84/72/t	36
Utica, NY	86/59/t	64
Ventura, CA	68/58/pc	35
Victorville, CA	97/59/pc	45
Vineland, NJ	83/61/s	72
Visalia, CA	94/67/s	55
Washington, DC	87/68/pc	62
Watertown, SD	73/53/t	23
● Wausau, WI	79/61/pc	25
Waynesboro, PA	87/65/sh	58
White Plains, NY	76/58/s	78
● Wichita Falls, TX	96/70/s	40
Wilmington, DE	84/64/s	66
Wilmington, NC	86/72/pc	55
● Wisconsin Rapids, WI	80/60/t	24
Wooster, OH	87/64/pc	44
Worcester, MA	77/56/s	58
● York, PA	86/66/s	67

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W
Acapulco	88/73/s	88/73/s
Addis Ababa	82/57/pc	80/56/pc
Algiers	81/59/pc	85/60/s
Amman	98/72/s	95/72/s
● Amsterdam	68/53/sh	61/47/s
Ankara	92/59/pc	93/60/s
Asuncion	81/66/s	87/66/s
Athens	94/71/s	92/72/s
Auckland	60/46/pc	61/45/pc
Baghdad	113/83/s	114/84/s
Bangkok	93/80/t	92/81/t
Beijing	90/66/pc	79/63/pc
Beirut	86/73/s	85/74/s
Belgrade	78/60/s	80/61/t
Berlin	70/54/pc	71/52/sh
Bogota	65/51/r	67/49/r
Brussels	70/56/pc	62/45/r
Bucharest	88/60/t	90/58/pc
Budapest	72/55/t	80/56/pc
Buenos Aires	55/52/pc	60/55/pc
● Cairo	101/75/s	102/76/s
Cape Town	67/57/r	62/54/c
Caracas	90/77/t	90/78/t
● Casablanca	80/65/pc	79/68/pc
Colombo	88/81/sh	88/81/sh
Copenhagen	66/59/c	65/49/c
Damascus	107/69/pc	106/69/pc
● Dublin	61/40/pc	57/43/pc
Geneva	72/53/pc	78/55/s
● Guatemala City	85/66/t	84/66/c
● Hanoi	91/77/r	86/76/r
Harare	83/52/s	84/55/s
Havana	90/74/t	93/75/sh
Helsinki	67/57/s	66/57/s
● Hong Kong	82/76/r	84/77/r
● Jakarta	91/77/r	93/77/t
Jerusalem	92/68/s	91/67/s
Johannesburg	56/38/s	64/47/s
Kabul	85/58/pc	83/59/s
Khartoum	112/88/pc	112/87/pc
● Kyiv	82/62/t	80/61/t
● Kingston	90/82/t	91/82/t
La Paz	63/32/s	64/32/s
Lagos	90/77/t	89/77/t
Lima	67/60/s	68/62/pc
Lisbon	84/61/pc	80/58/pc
● London	68/48/c	63/45/pc
Madrid	89/60/pc	94/63/pc
Manila	93/80/t	90/78/t
Mexico City	87/61/s	87/59/c
Milan	76/59/sh	81/61/pc
Mombasa	90/75/pc	89/74/r
Montevideo	56/46/pc	64/52/pc
Montreal	87/65/s	85/67/sh
Moscow	74/60/sh	79/63/pc
Nairobi	78/58/t	79/58/s
New Delhi	107/87/pc	107/87/pc
● Panama City	87/77/t	85/76/r
Paris	74/56/pc	68/51/c
Port-au-Prince	94/75/t	91/76/c
Rio de Janeiro	78/69/r	76/69/r
Riyadh	111/83/pc	111/84/s
Rome	76/56/pc	78/58/s
San Jose	82/69/r	81/68/t
● San Salvador	86/71/t	84/71/t
Santiago	67/47/c	63/45/c
● Sao Paulo	64/58/c	71/58/c
Sarajevo	78/50/pc	79/53/pc
Shanghai	85/68/s	74/65/pc
Singapore	88/80/c	89/80/t
Stockholm	73/55/s	68/45/pc
Sydney	64/51/pc	65/54/r
Taipei	80/71/r	77/71/c
● Tegucigalpa	86/70/t	85/70/t
Tehran	92/72/s	91/73/s
● Tokyo	79/63/sh	79/66/sh
Toronto	78/61/pc	80/63/t
Tunis	82/66/pc	83/63/s
Vancouver	65/48/r	63/48/s
Vienna	73/56/sh	79/57/s
Warsaw	70/57/pc	77/58/pc
Yerevan	82/59/c	85/61/s
Zagreb	73/56/sh	79/55/s
Zurich	73/55/pc	75/54/pc

● Denotes possible travel delays Tuesday

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

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DAILY CHATTER NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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NAMIBIA

Drill to the core

The southwest African country of Namibia has long been isolated geographically and politically. A former German colony that came under a white-minority government under South African control after World War I, Namibia only gained its independence in 1990.

Now, however, things here are changing fast.

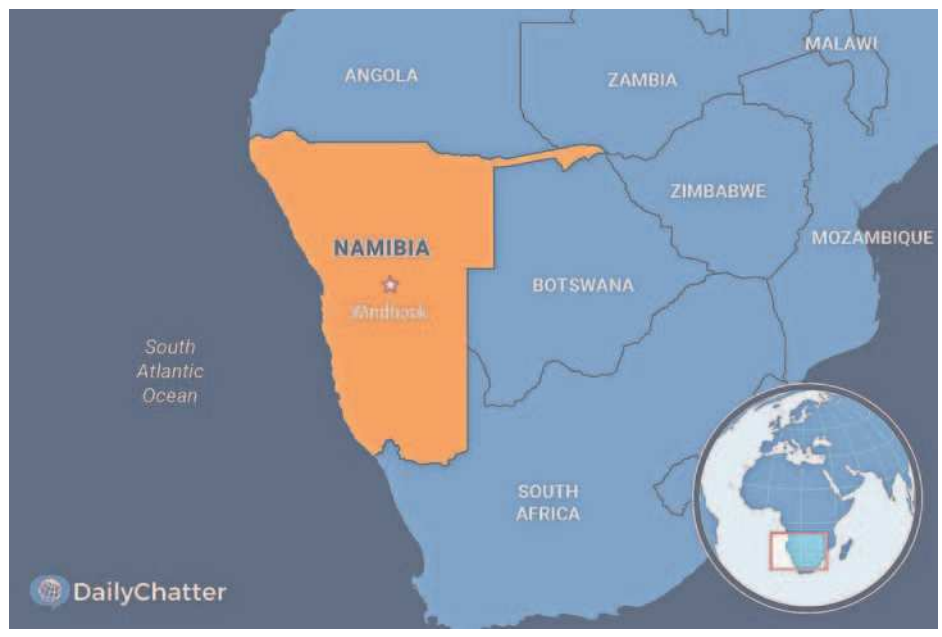
As MercoPress wrote recently, Namibia is on track to receive billions of dollars in exchange for allowing oil drilling projects as Chevron, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation, the Hess Corporation, Total, Shell, and ExxonMobil hunt for new supplies outside the volatile Middle East and Russia.

"Oil companies are flocking to Namibia," wrote Reuters.

These oil deposits are both offshore and in areas like the Kavango Basin, explained Upstream, heralding massive revenues to help the poor country – while also triggering environmental concerns. According to studies cited in the Namibian Sun, however, the country will likely benefit more than suffer from these riches – so long as officials carefully manage the industry and their newfound wealth.

Namibia's general election set for November is therefore one of the most important in the country's memory. Due to the death of 82-year-old President Hage Geingob in February, as the Washington Post reported, Namibian voters have a chance to install a new government to manage their potential prosperity, too.

Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah will represent the South West Africa People's Organization, the freedom-fighter group that fought for independence against South Africa, wrote the African Center for Strategic Studies. She would be the country's first elected female leader if she wins.



Billions in potential oil deposits herald massive revenues to help the poor country – while also triggering environmental concerns. According to studies cited in the Namibian Sun, however, the country will likely benefit more than suffer from these riches.

Nandi-Ndaitwah has appealed to voters' sense of nostalgia about SWAPO's fight for independence, reported Xinhua. She can also rightly point to freedom of speech, an independent judiciary, and other signs of good government that have developed under SWAPO's watch.

But her rival, Panduleni Itula of the Independent Patriots for Change party, is expected to give Nandi-Ndaitwah a run for her money because SWAPO's share of the vote has been declining in recent years. While concerns about corruption are driving the decline, the country's political system has also become healthier and more diverse.

SWAPO has run the country for 34 years.

Itula can exploit how the country's economy has been stagnant as oil companies prepare to drill, added Deutsche Welle. Unemployment in Namibia is 34 percent, while youth unemployment is 48 percent. The country is the second-most unequal country in the world, wrote AllAfrica.com.

The pressure between the two candidates is building. SWAPO leaders recently accused the European Union of seeking to meddle in the election when bloc officials recently met with Itula, for example, noted the Africa Report.

It was just lunch, Itula's supporters said. That's politics in a free society, they add.

And free it is, compared to many other countries on the continent.

For example, after Geingob died, his successor, interim President Nangolo Mbumba, took the helm. Instead of trying to stay on, he said at his swearing-in in February: "I am not going to be around for the elections, so don't panic."

DISCOVERIES

Whales just want to have fun

For the past five years, young killer whales – or orcas – have been attacking boats and other vessels along the waters off the coast of Spain, Portugal, France and Morocco.

Authorities and scientists have documented more than 673 attacks since they started recording them in 2020, including the sinking of at least five sailboats and two fishing boats

The phenomenon has sparked theories about what's causing these incidents, with one suggesting they are revenge attacks led by a grieving orca mother.

But marine researchers suggested that the cause is actually more mundane: The teenagers are bored, USA Today reported.

Last month, an international group of orca researchers released a report explaining why this phenomenon is happening and how mariners can avoid these juvenile delinquents.

"It starts in the spring, goes way off the charts in the summer and goes away in fall," said Naomi Rose, a scientist who was part of the working group. "That's because the whales and boats are in the same area at the same time."

Rose and her colleagues explained that these young whales – belonging to a group of Iberian orcas – are interacting with the vessels because it's an enriching experience for them.

They noted that the sea is a "very boring place" for the youngsters, adding that the young whales are usually "more playful and courageous in approaching boats."

The team suspected that attacking the boats – especially the rudders – has become a fad among the orcas, as killer whale groups often copy each other's behavior.

"Obviously, they don't understand that that play can mean harm to the boats," said Alexandre Zerbini, another author of the report.

India's Modi eyes biggest win yet

Investors have cheered prospect of another term

Yp Rajesh
REUTERS

NEW DELHI – India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to win a record-equaling third consecutive term in office on Tuesday when the 642 million votes cast in the world's largest election are counted.

Exit polls have projected a big win for Modi and if they are confirmed – they have often got the outcome wrong in India – Modi's Hindu nationalists will have triumphed in a vitriolic campaign in which parties accused each other of religious bias and of posing a threat to sections of the population.

Investors have already cheered the prospects of another Modi term, expecting it to deliver for India further years of strong economic growth and pro-business reforms, while a possible two-thirds majority in parliament could allow major changes to the constitution, rivals and critics fear.

Nearly 1 billion people were eligible to vote in the seven-phase, seven-week poll which began on April 19 and concluded on June 1, held in searing summer heat with temperatures touching nearly 122° Fahrenheit in some parts.

Yet more than 66% of registered voters turned out, just 1 percentage point lower than the previous election in 2019, belying fears that voters might shun a contest thought to be a foregone conclusion in Modi's favor.

Modi, 73, who first swept to power in 2014 by promising growth and change, is seeking to be only the second prime minister after India's independence leader Jawaharlal Nehru to win three straight terms.

He began his campaign by showcasing his record in office including economic growth, welfare policies, national pride, Hindu nationalism and his own personal commitment to fulfilling promises which he called "Modi's Guarantee."

However, he changed tack after low voter turnout in the first phase and accused the opposition, especially the Congress party which leads an alliance of two dozen groups, of favoring India's 200 million Muslims – a shift analysts said made the campaign coarse and divisive.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi first swept to power in 2014 by promising growth and change.
SAHIBA CHAWDHARY/REUTERS FILE

Muslim voters stand in line outside a polling station during the last phase of India's general election in Varanasi on Saturday. PRIYANSHU SINGH/REUTERS

They said the pivot may have been aimed at firing up the Hindu nationalist base of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party to draw them to vote.

Modi defended himself against criticism that he is stoking divisions between Hindus and Muslims to win votes and said that he was only faulting the opposition campaign.

Very hopeful, says opposition

The opposition INDIA alliance, led by Rahul Gandhi's Congress party, denied it favored Muslims in the Hindu-majority country and said Modi would destroy the constitution if he returned to power and end affirmative action enjoyed by the so-called backward castes. The BJP rejects this.

The opposition alliance also promised more welfare measures and handouts, with surveys saying unemployment, inflation and rural distress were the main concerns of voters.

TV exit polls released on Saturday after voting ended projected the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance could win a two-thirds majority in the 543-member lower house of parliament.

Several major polls projected the BJP alone could win more than the 303 it won in 2019.

The projections pushed Indian shares to lifetime highs on Monday while the rupee gained and bond yields dropped, as investors were buoyed by expectations of sustained economic growth.

Exit polls, which are conducted by polling agencies, have a patchy record in India, with analysts saying it is a challenge to get them right in the large and diverse country.

Opposition parties dismissed them saying they were unscientific and did not reflect reality.

"We are very hopeful that our results are completely opposite to what the exit poll is saying," former Congress party president and Rahul Gandhi's mother, Sonia, said on Monday.

Nozzles spray a mist of water on fans in 116-degree heat at Chase Field in Phoenix on July 19, 2023. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC FILE

Home power bills in US set to rise nearly 8% this summer

REUTERS

NEW YORK – U.S. home energy bills are expected to rise by 7.9% this summer as extreme heat increases cooling costs, according to a study released on Monday by the National Energy Assistance Directors Association and the Center for Energy, Poverty, and Climate.

Mid-Atlantic and West Coast states are forecast to have the biggest hikes in home electricity costs from June to September, jumping about 12% from the same period last year, said NEADA and CEPC, which are both Washington-based policy organizations focused on affordable energy access for people with low incomes. Steep rises of about 10% are also likely for Midwestern states and parts of the U.S. South, the organizations said.

Rising summer home power bills due to extreme temperatures and growing electricity demand disproportionately affect low-income families, who are at higher risk of power shutoffs and dangerous heat exposure caused by lacking air conditioning access.

Summer cooling bills from June to September in 2024 are expected to reach $719 for households compared to $476 a decade earlier, the organizations said.

The U.S. South is likely to see overall highest costs, with power bills in Texas and surrounding states expected to hit $858 this summer, the organizations said.

Utility consumer debt, which is a measure of what power customers owe their electricity providers, rose to $20.3 billion in December 2023 from $17.5 billion in January of that year, the organizations said.

NEADA and CEPC estimates 21.2 million U.S. households, or 16%, are behind on their energy bills.

"Access to affordable cooling is more than a matter of comfort," the report said. "For many Americans, especially low-income households and members of vulnerable populations, the difference can be as stark as either staying safe and cool or ending up in the emergency room as a result of heat stroke, heart attacks, or other heat-related conditions."

Data: Lower-income US travelers booked fewer hotel stays in April

Doyinsola Oladipo
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Lower-income Americans dialed back their travel spending in April as reduced savings, higher credit card delinquencies, and inflation weighed on household budgets, according to data from commercial real estate analytics firm CoStar.

While wealthier Americans continued to travel, lower-income travelers booked fewer hotel stays in the U.S. Costar adjusted its full-year forecast to account for slowing GDP and lower demand from frugally minded travelers.

Overall U.S. hotel room demand in April fell 0.5% due to declining demand for midscale and economy hotels, CoStar said in a presentation at the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference on Monday.

"The increased cost of living is affecting lower-to-middle income households and their ability to travel, thus lessening demand for hotels in the lower-price tier," Amanda Hite, STR president, said in a statement.

U.S. room demand in April fell about 2.7% and 3.9% for mid-scale and economy hotels, respectively. Revenue per available room, an important industry metric, fell about 1.7% and 3%, respectively.

Overall U.S. hotel room demand in April fell 0.5% due to lower demand for midscale and economy hotels. INDEPENDENT MAIL FILE

U.S. debt levels rose by $184 billion, or 1.1%, in the first quarter to $17.69 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Overall borrowing levels are $3.5 trillion above where they were at the end of 2019.

CoStar downgraded its previous 2024 forecasts for the industry, now expecting average daily room rates will rise 2.1% this year compared to its previous forecast of 3.1%. In 2023, room rates rose 4.3%.

Revenue per available room is expected to rise 2% in 2024, compared to previous forecasts of 4.1% and after a 5% increase in 2023.

Occupancy levels are expected to fall year-over-year to 62.8% from 63% in 2023, compared to previous forecasts for a slight increase. Supply is expected to grow 0.8% this year, compared to 0.3% growth in 2023.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Choppy session affected by glitch

GameStop soars after influencer's Reddit post

Chibuike Oguh
REUTERS

NEW YORK – S&P 500 and the Nasdaq edged higher in a choppy session on Monday amid soft manufacturing sector data and as a glitch on the NYSE briefly caused trading halts in dozens of equities.

A glitch at the New York Stock Exchange had triggered massive swings in the shares of Berkshire Hathaway and Barrick Gold. Trading in at least 60 NYSE-listed stocks were halted due to the volatility, before the exchange fixed the technical issue and activity resumed.

Benchmark S&P 500 and the Nasdaq finished higher after paring earlier losses on the session, while the Dow lost ground. Technology stocks were the biggest gainers, while energy equities were the biggest drag.

Markets had weighed data showing U.S. manufacturing activity had slowed for the second straight month, raising concerns of weakening economic growth.

"It's one of those days where people are waiting for the next catalyst with a choppy move after earnings," said Keith Lerner, co-chief investment officer at Truist Advisory Services in Atlanta.

"There's bit of a tug of war between the market seeing weakening data and the expectation that the Fed may cut rates," Lerner added.

Traders see a 59% chance that the Fed will begin cutting rates in September, up from about 53% before the ISM data was released, according to the CME's FedWatch tool. Benchmark U.S. 10-year note yields fell to a two-week low following the soft manufacturing data.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 115.29 points, or 0.30%, to 38,571.03, the S&P 500 gained 5.89 points, or 0.11%, to 5,283.40 and the Nasdaq Composite gained 93.66 points, or 0.56%, to 16,828.67.

Nvidia rose 4.9% after CEO Jensen Huang revealed that the company's next-generation AI chip platform would be rolled out in 2026.

Shares of other megacaps, including Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, and Meta closed higher. Microsoft and Tesla finished lower.

GameStop soared 21% after a weekend Reddit post from stocks influencer Keith Gill, also known as "Roaring Kitty," showed a $116 million bet on the gaming retailer.

Investors will be eyeing a data-packed week that includes surveys on the services sector, factory orders and Friday's closely watched nonfarm payrolls report, which could provide clues to the Fed's likely course of action with regards to rates.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 1.03-to-1 ratio on the NYSE. On the Nasdaq, 2,146 stocks rose and 2,171 fell as declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 1.01-to-1 ratio.

The S&P 500 posted 25 new 52-week highs and 3 new lows while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 68 new highs and 101 new lows.

Total volume of shares traded across U.S. exchanges was about 11.5 billion shares, compared with the 12.6 billion average over the last 20 trading days.

Grant program for Black-owned businesses blocked

Mike Scarcella
REUTERS

Venture capital fund Fearless Fund cannot resume making grants to Black women-owned businesses, a divided U.S. appeals court ruled on Monday, siding with an anti-affirmative action group that sued over the program.

The Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that the group's discrimination lawsuit was likely to succeed, reversing a judge's decision that the program should be allowed to continue while the case moves forward.

The ruling is a victory for Edward Blum, the conservative activist behind the successful U.S. Supreme Court challenge to race-conscious college admissions policies.

Blum's group American Alliance for Equal Rights last year alleged the Fearless Fund was violating a 19th-century federal law that bars racial bias in private contracts.

The lawsuit targeted a Fearless Fund program that awards Black women who own small businesses $20,000 in grants and other resources to grow their businesses.

Businesses owned by Black women in 2022 received less than 1% of the $288 billion that venture capital firms deployed, the Fearless Fund said.

The 11th Circuit panel, led by Circuit Judge Kevin Newsom, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, concluded that Fearless Fund's program did not warrant speech protections under the First Amendment.

Another Trump appointee, Robert Luck, joined Newsom's order. Circuit Judge Robin Rosenbaum, an Obama-era appointee, dissented, accusing the plaintiffs of pretending to be harmed by the program. The grant initiative had been on hold following an earlier decision from the appeals court.

Attorneys for Fearless Fund in a statement said Monday's ruling contradicted more than 150 years of civil rights law. They said the decision "is not the final outcome in this case."

Fearless Fund had argued to the court in January that it had a constitutional right to express its belief in the importance of Black women to the economy through charity.

Blum in a statement on Monday said federal "civil rights laws do not permit racial distinctions because some groups are overrepresented in various endeavors, while others are under-represented."

Epstein accuser sues psychiatrist

Says he turned her into a 'sex slave'

Jonathan Stempel
REUTERS

NEW YORK – A prominent 91-year-old psychiatrist who was once close friends with Jeffrey Epstein was sued on Monday by a onetime model who said he enabled the late financier's sex trafficking, and turned her into his "modern-day sex slave."

In a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, the plaintiff, using a pseudonym Jane Doe 11, said Henry Jarecki raped her repeatedly starting in 2011, after Epstein referred her for mental health treatment following his own sexual abuses.

Doe also said Jarecki was Epstein's "go-to" doctor for treating young women experiencing depression, shared victims' confidential medical information with Epstein, and shielded Epstein from law enforcement.

"The allegations will be shown to be entirely false and baseless," said Sarita Kedia, a lawyer for Jarecki. "Dr. Jarecki never engaged in any abusive conduct with the complainant or any other person."

Doe's civil lawsuit seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages for sexual battery, emotional distress, and violating the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Jeffrey Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan jail cell in August 2019 at age 66 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS FILE

Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan jail cell in August 2019 at age 66 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

Jarecki, of Rye, New York, is the latest of many people sued over their ties to the registered sex offender.

He is a longtime Yale University faculty member whose works include the book "Modern Psychiatric Treatment."

Jarecki also became wealthy trading commodities, and from selling MovieFone, which he co-founded with his son, to America Online for about $388 million in stock in 1999.

While Jarecki was in Epstein's public address book, Monday's lawsuit appears to be the first over their relationship.

'Best doctor in New York City"

Monday's complaint said Doe came to the United States in 2010, seeking a visa to work as a model, when another model told her that Epstein could help her career.

She said Epstein sent her to Jarecki after she became depressed, calling him "the best doctor in New York City."

But instead of helping, Jarecki allegedly promised to "save" Doe from Epstein, pushing her to move into an apartment he could monitor from his own bedroom around the corner in Manhattan's Gramercy Park neighborhood.

Doe said Jarecki, then in his late 70s, began using the apartment to force her into sex, threatening her work status or to return her to Epstein if she failed to comply.

She also said Jarecki ordered her to go to bed at 10 p.m., calling her to demand she sleep if he saw the light on at 10:15, and expressed displeasure when she didn't smile enough.

The complaint accused Jarecki of "raping Jane Doe 11 by force on dozens of occasions in New York," and trafficking her to his private Caribbean island where he sexually abused her.

Others sued over their ties to Epstein include former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell.

A U.S. appeals court is considering whether to overturn her conviction and 20-year prison sentence for aiding Epstein's sex trafficking.

Brad Edwards, a lawyer for Doe and more than 200 other Epstein accusers, declined to elaborate on Monday's lawsuit but said "we want other survivors to know that it is safe to come forward."

The case is Doe v Jarecki, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 24-04208.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, told reporters on Monday that he was planning to take Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty off the case if she had not dropped the charges, the Star Tribune newspaper reported.
ZACH DWYER/ST. CLOUD TIMES FILE

Attorneys say politics led to dropped case in Black man's death

Minn. trooper shot motorist last summer

Brendan O'Brien and Daniel Trotta
REUTERS

Attorneys for the family of a Black man shot dead by a Minnesota state trooper accused prosecutors on Monday of bowing to political pressure in dropping the charges.

The Hennepin County Attorney's Office on Sunday dismissed charges of unintentional murder and manslaughter against State Trooper Ryan Londregan in the 2023 shooting death of Ricky Cobb II, citing Londregan's intention to testify that he acted in self-defense.

Prosecutors said dropping charges did not exonerate Londregan, but they no longer believed they could meet their burden of proof at trial given his expected testimony.

"While we are disappointed, we are not surprised because, like many, we have come to expect the absence of justice and accountability when Black lives are lost in this country," attorneys representing the Cobb family said in a statement.

"Instead of prosecuting him for murder, the County Attorney's Office has bowed to political pressure to drop the charges," attorneys Bakari Sellers, Harry Daniels and F. Clayton Tyler said without elaborating on how the office may have been pressured.

Troopers stopped Cobb on July 31, 2023, for driving at night without headlights. The troopers told Cobb, 33, he was wanted for an offense in another county and that they planned to arrest him, according to the complaint filed against Londregan.

Londregan shot Cobb twice after Cobb put the car in gear and took his foot off the brake as another trooper reached inside the vehicle, trying to unbuckle his seat belt, the complaint said. Cobb's killing took place in Minneapolis.

In a press conference on Monday, Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty said the decision to drop charges came after Londregan's defense team told the court in April the trooper planned to tell the jury he shot Cobb during a traffic stop because he thought Cobb reached for his service pistol, putting a fellow officer in imminent danger.

"We do not believe we would have even made it to a jury," Moriarty said.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, told reporters on Monday that he was planning to take Moriarty off the case if she had not dropped the charges, the Star Tribune newspaper reported. Walz previously criticized Moriarty's decision to charge Londregan with murder after the defense filed documents showing that a use-of-force expert had advised the prosecution that Londregan had acted reasonably.

Shark experts probe attack on swimmer in Calif.

Del Mar beach closed Monday

Daniel Trotta
REUTERS

Experts are investigating a shark bite of a swimmer near San Diego, seeking to determine the species and uncover any clues to explain the rare event, a leading shark researcher said on Monday.

A 46-year-old man who was swimming with about a dozen others in Del Mar was bitten on the torso, left arm and hand about 100 yards from shore on Sunday, a Del Mar lifeguard spokesperson said, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

The beach remained closed on Monday, posted with a "shark incident" notice.

Sharks including great whites come close to swimmers, surfers and paddlers virtually every day in the waters off Del Mar and the Torrey Pines beach of San Diego, experts say.

But there have been only 20 unprovoked bites recorded in San Diego County in the past 98 years, according to the International Shark Attack File database.

In May, a shark knocked a surfer off their board about 40 miles up the coast in San Clemente, the city said.

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.

Shark bites are less likely in aggregation sites, probably because those sharks are accustomed to humans and less likely to confuse them for more typical prey.

The Shark Lab team also hopes to gain access to medical records and the swimmer's wet suit to measure the bite marks, which also could reveal the shark's size and approximate age, Lowe said.

"There are a lot of sharks there and a lot of people around each other every single day. So we're not really sure why this particular event occurred," said Lowe, whose team has tagged 225 juvenile white sharks and monitors their movements.

The San Diego waters, similar to those in the Santa Cruz-Monterey area, are considered aggregation sites where sharks frequently feed.

Shark bites are even less likely in those areas, Lowe said, probably because those sharks are accustomed to humans and less likely to confuse them for more typical prey such as sea lions.

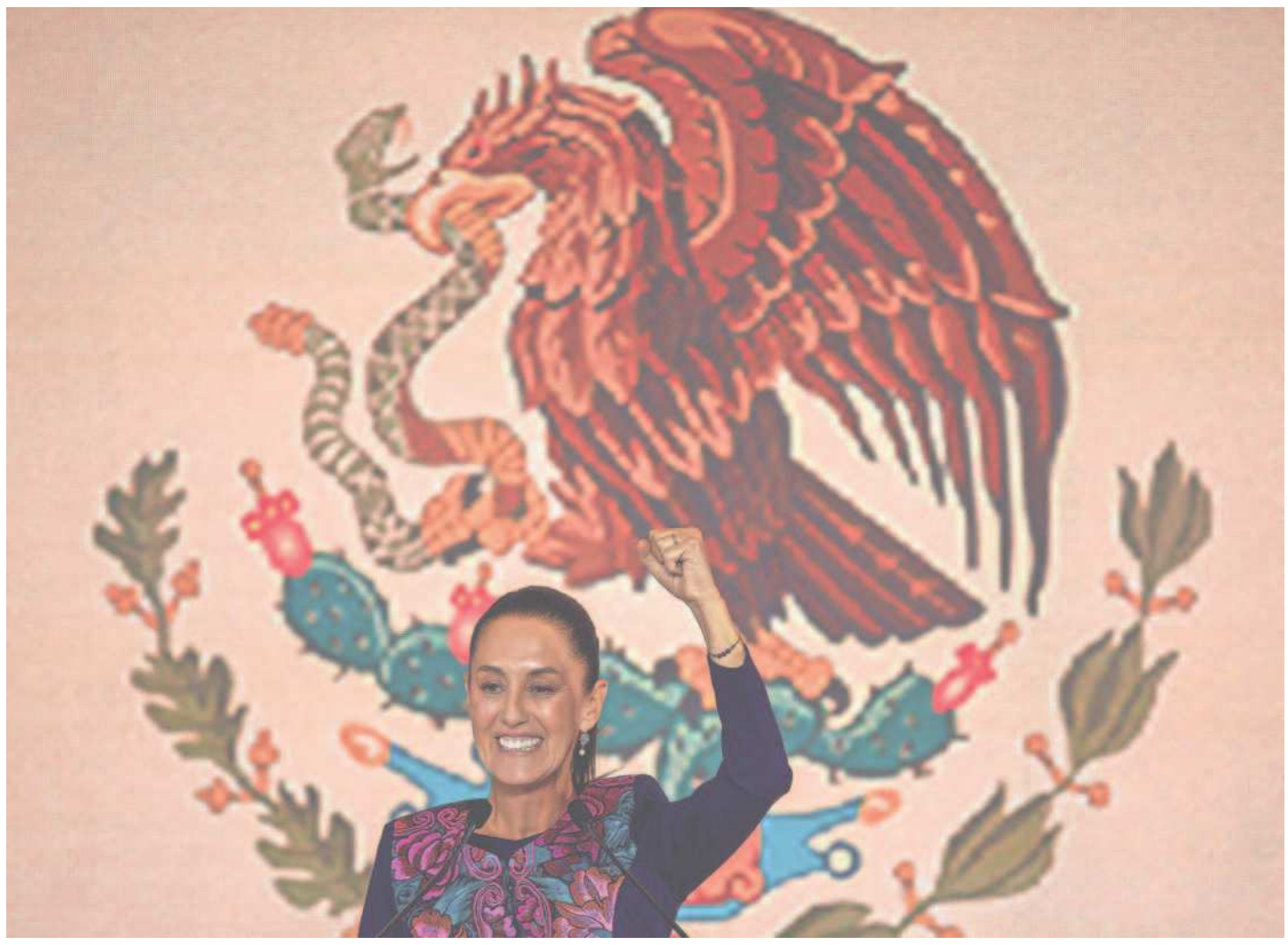
"It could have been a new shark to the area that was coming in and wasn't used to people and made a mistake," Lowe said.

The beach in Del Mar, Calif., remained closed on Monday. MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

Mexico election causes market angst

Peso, stocks tumble over fears of supermajority

Karin Strohecker and Rodrigo Campos
REUTERS



Claudia Sheinbaum addresses her supporters after winning the presidential election in Mexico City, Mexico, Monday. RAQUEL CUNHA/REUTERS

LONDON/NEW YORK – Mexican stocks fell over 6% on Monday and the peso closed at its weakest to the dollar since November after the country's ruling party scored a surprisingly strong election result and looked poised for a supermajority in Congress that markets fear might bring constitutional change and diminish checks and balances.

Claudia Sheinbaum won a landslide victory in Sunday's presidential election, as had been widely expected. But the scale of the gains for the Morena party and its allies took markets by surprise, with some fearing the results would pave the way for the ruling coalition to pass constitutional reforms without opposition support.

A two-thirds supermajority in both chambers of Congress is still in the cards for Morena, which also won the mayoral race in Mexico City by a double-digit margin.

The Mexican peso earlier hit a fresh seven-week low of 17.754 to the dollar, a 4.29% drop, LSEG data showed. It ended the session down 3.8% at 17.671 per dollar, its weakest daily close since November.

"The question is whether the Morena party has done so well that it could command a supermajority and try to pursue market nonfriendly policies of constitutional reform," said Chris Turner, global head of markets at ING.

The latest losses mean the peso has weakened more than 4% since the start of 2024, a sharp turnaround for the currency, which was, until recently, one of the few in emerging markets to have gained ground against a strong dollar this year.

Mexico's benchmark stock market index ended the session down 6.1%, while the MSCI index, priced in dollars, dropped 8.8%.

The iShares MSCI Mexico ETF closed 10.7% lower.

"The main challenge for president-elect Claudia Sheinbaum will be to bolster market sentiment and provide a predictable and investment-friendly policy and regulatory framework," Alberto Ramos, head of Latin America economics research at Goldman Sachs, said in a client note.

"Ultimately, the new administration will be challenged not to encroach on private sector activity and free markets, and to avoid further erosion of institutional quality."

Conciliatory tone

Foreign currency sovereign bonds were little changed overall, with the spread measured by JPMorgan's EMBIGD index widening by six basis points to 306 bps. The cost to insure five-year Mexican sovereign debt via CDS rose by six basis points to 101 bps, according to S&P Global, while those of Pemex ticked up one basis point to 471 bps. The local debt benchmark bond yield rose 16 basis points to 9.934%, the highest since April 30 according to LSEG.

Sheinbaum, a climate scientist and former mayor of Mexico City, won the presidency with just shy of six votes in 10, with 92% of ballots counted, in what is set to be the highest vote percentage in Mexico's democratic history.

"Even if Morena fell a bit short of achieving a two-thirds majority in the Senate, opposition parties could swing and favor Morena on issues that could significantly impact the business environment" said Alejo Czerwonko, chief investment officer for emerging markets Americas at UBS Financial Services.

The latest losses mean the peso has weakened more than 4% since the start of 2024, a sharp turnaround for the currency, which was, until recently, one of the few in emerging markets to have gained ground against a strong dollar this year.

In February, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had proposed sweeping constitutional reforms, including measures to overhaul the judiciary, electoral law, pensions and environmental regulations.

Lopez Obrador said in a morning press conference on Monday that Mexico's finance minister, Rogelio Ramirez de la O, will remain in his post for some time to help facilitate the transition.

When asked about the possibility of pursuing major reforms in Congress once new lawmakers are seated on Oct. 1, Lopez Obrador said he would discuss the topic with his successor.

"We have to get on the same page to discuss these initiatives with Claudia, as well as other things we need to work on together," Lopez Obrador said. "I don't want to impose anything."

Throughout the course of his tenure, Lopez Obrador had doubled the minimum wage, reduced poverty and oversaw a strengthening peso and low levels of unemployment – successes that made him incredibly popular.

Sheinbaum has promised to expand the welfare policies that drove the current president's popularity and led to her election triumph, but it will be a tricky task because of the hefty budget deficit and low economic growth.

JPMorgan noted the conciliatory tone of Sheinbaum's acceptance speech, which she directed to all Mexicans. She also "sought to calm down markets by stressing that her administration will guarantee an autonomous central bank, keep the division between economic and political powers, abide by legality and preserve a disciplined fiscal stance," JPMorgan said in a client note.

Mideast

Continued from Page 1NN

Churchill.

Humeyra Pamuk, Patricia Zengerle and Jasper Ward

US appeals for UN backing for proposed Gaza cease-fire deal

The U.S. said on Monday it wants the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution backing the proposal outlined by Biden to end fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

It circulated a one-page draft text, seen by Reuters, to the 15-member council. A resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the U.S., France, Britain, China or Russia to pass.

The draft calls on Hamas to accept the deal and "fully and implement its terms without delay and without condition." It also "stresses the importance of the parties adhering to the terms of the deal once agreed, with the aim of bringing about a permanent cessation of hostilities."

The U.S. proposal comes a week after Algeria proposed a draft Security Council resolution demanding a Gaza cease-fire, release of all hostages held by Hamas and essentially ordering Israel to "immediately halt its military offensive" in Rafah.

Biden on Friday laid out what he described as a three-phase Israeli proposal for a cease-fire in Gaza in return for the release of Israeli hostages, saying "it's time for this war to end" and winning a positive initial reaction from Hamas.

"Numerous leaders and governments, including in the region, have endorsed this plan and we call on the Security Council to join them in calling for implementation of this deal," said U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield in a statement.

Palestinians inspect the damage to a house after it was hit in an Israeli strike in al-Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip on Monday. BASHAR TALEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

She urged council members to adopt the resolution. "We must speak with one voice in support of this deal," she said.

Leaders of the Group of Seven major democracies said in a statement that they "fully endorse and will stand behind the comprehensive" cease-fire and hostage release deal. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Egypt said it was important to "deal seriously and positively."

The G7, of which Italy holds the rotating presidency for 2024, reaffirmed support "for a credible pathway towards peace leading to a two state solution."

Michelle Nichols and Angelo Amante

Palestinians seek to join Gaza genocide case at World Court

Palestinian authorities have filed an application with the International Court of Justice to join South Africa as a party in its Gaza genocide case against Israel, the court said on Monday.

In a statement the ICJ said the Palestinian authorities "filed ... an application for permission to intervene and a declaration of intervention in the (South Africa v. Israel) case."

On May 31, the Palestinian authorities officially recognized the authority of the ICJ to resolve all disputes that may arise or have already arisen under Article IX, which paved the way for them to request to join South Africa's case against Israel as a party.

If granted by the court, the request could allow the Palestinian authorities to also add an ad hoc judge of their choosing to the ICJ panel which currently has 16 judges, 15 of the court's regular judges and one Israeli ad hoc judge.

South Africa and Israel have been invited to furnish written observations on the Palestinian application for permission to intervene as a party.

The Palestinian authorities became a signatory to the genocide convention in 2014 after they were granted United Nations permanent observer state status.

Charlotte Van Campenhout, Bart Meijer, Stephanie van den Berg

San Francisco police detain protesters at Israeli consulate

San Francisco police detained a group of pro-Palestinian demonstrators who entered the lobby of the building housing the Israeli consulate after they refused to leave, authorities said Monday.

An unspecified number of people were "detained for potential arrest," police said in a statement. "Officers have been making multiple warnings to the individuals to disperse and exit the private property on their own."

A Reuters witness estimated about 50 people were inside the building on the ground floor. Police led protesters out of the building one by one and loaded them into police vehicles, their hands bound by zip ties.

Protesters, who were voicing opposition to Israel's incursion into Gaza, had said they planned to stay until forcibly removed, the San Francisco Chronicle reported from the scene.

A group called the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network said on Instagram that 100 people participated in the protest. The network, which says its membership is Jewish, posted images of banners they hung such as, "Committing a genocide makes Jews less safe; Not in my name!"

The Israeli consulate said it was "appalled, but not surprised" by the protesters who entered the lobby of the building where the consulate is located. The Israeli statement labeled the protesters as "pro-Hamas rioters."

Carlos Barria, Kanishka Singh and Daniel Trotta

Dalai Lama set to visit US for knee treatment

Washington mum on plans for any meetings

REUTERS

NEW DELHI – Tibetans' spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, will travel to the U.S. this month to undergo medical treatment for his knees and will not hold his usual public engagements from June 20, his office said on Monday.

The 88-year-old monk 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.

It did not mention when he would return to Dharamsala, a town in the northern Indian Himalayas where he lives in a compound next to a temple ringed by green hills and snow-capped mountains.

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet and is regarded by Beijing as a dangerous separatist. Chinese officials chafe at any interaction he has with officials from other countries.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner has worked for decades to draw global support for linguistic and cultural autonomy in his remote, mountainous homeland.

He has met U.S. officials, including U.S. presidents, in previous U.S. visits, but Washington was mum on whether any meetings were set for the June trip.

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet and is regarded by Beijing as a dangerous separatist. TENZIN SANGMO/AFPTV/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"While there is longstanding precedent for meetings between U.S. officials and respected religious figures, including the Dalai Lama, we do not have anything to confirm at this time," a U.S. State Department spokesperson told Reuters.

U.S. President Joe Biden's National Security Council did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Since taking office in 2021, Biden has yet to meet with the Dalai Lama. As a candidate in 2020, Biden criticized Donald Trump for being the only president in three decades who had not met or spoken to the Tibetan spiritual leader, calling this "disgraceful."

Any such engagement would raise hackles in Beijing at a time when the U.S. and China have sought to stabilize rocky ties.

The Atlantic magazine said the Dalai Lama's visit to the U.S. would follow one to Dharamsala to see the spiritual leader later this month by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, as part of a congressional delegation. Washington's relations with Beijing took a nose dive in 2022 after Pelosi, then-Speaker of the House, visited China-claimed but democratically self-governed Taiwan.

Pelosi's spokesperson, Ian Krager, declined to comment on Pelosi's "upcoming or potential foreign travel," citing security reasons.

Chinese embassy spokesperson Liu Pengyu said China "firmly opposes any anti-China separatist activities conducted by Dalai in any capacity or name in any country, and opposes any forms of contact by officials of any country with him."

Climate change doubled likelihood of floods in Brazil

REUTERS

SAO PAULO – Climate change made the recent flooding that devastated southern Brazil twice as likely, a team of international scientists said on Monday, adding that the heavy rains were also intensified by the natural El Nino phenomenon.

More than 170 people were killed and nearly 580,000 displaced after storms and floods battered Brazil's southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul last month, with local authorities describing it as the worst disaster in the region's history.

Even in the current climate, experts from the World Weather Attribution group said, the heavy rainfall that submerged entire towns and destroyed critical infrastructure was an "extremely rare" event expected to occur only once every 100 to 250 years. But it would have been even rarer without the effects of burning fossil fuel, the group said.

"The climate in Brazil has already changed," said Lincoln Alves, a researcher at Brazil's space research center INPE. "This attribution study confirms that human activities have contributed to more intense and frequent extreme events, highlighting the country's vulnerability to climate change."

A soccer club's training center next to the Beira Rio Stadium in Porto Alegre, Brazil, sits underwater after flooding on May 30. SILVIO AVILA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The El Nino phenomenon, which contributes to higher temperatures in many parts of the world and boosts rainfall and flood risk in parts of the Americas, also played a part in the recent disaster, the scientists noted.

The study estimated El Nino increased the probability of the event by a factor of 2 to 5, while making the rainfall 3% to 10% more intense.

Failure of critical infrastructure, deforestation and the rapid urbanization of cities such as Rio Grande do Sul's capital Porto Alegre, home to 1.3 million people, helped to amplify the effects of the disaster, the scientists added.

Regina Rodrigues, a researcher at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, said well-maintained flood protection infrastructure and appropriated urban planning are necessary to minimize the impact of "such extreme events."

Russian soldiers' wives demand mobilized men return from front

Lucy Papachristou
REUTERS

LONDON – A group of Russian women staged a small but rare protest outside the Defense Ministry in Moscow on Monday to demand the return of mobilized soldiers from the front in Ukraine.

For months, different groups of Russian women have organized sporadic demonstrations to exert pressure on authorities to return their husbands, sons and brothers who were mobilized after a decree by President Vladimir Putin in September 2022.

One of the woman at Monday's protest, who gave her name as Paulina, told Reuters that the group of 18 women had gathered to appeal personally to Defense Minister Andrei Belousov, an economist by training whom Putin appointed to the job last month.

Paulina, who said she was 20 years old and had a husband fighting in Ukraine, said the women want Belousov to impose strict limits on how long soldiers can serve before they must rotate out of active duty.

The women's protests are sensitive for the authorities, given that the Kremlin presents what it calls the "special military operation" in Ukraine as having the overwhelming support of the Russian people.

In February, dozens of reporters, including a Reuters video journalist, were briefly detained while covering a demonstration by an organization called Way Home.

Paulina said Monday's action was not affiliated with Way Home, which Russia on Friday designated a "foreign agent," a term that carries negative Soviet-era connotations of spying.

She said none of the 18 women were arrested.

Pictures and videos Paulina published on the Telegram app showed women holding signs with slogans including "Please bring Papa home." Several participants had brought along their school-aged children and toddlers in strollers.

No ministry officials came out of the building to speak with the women, Paulina said.

IN BRIEF

Report: New York set to restrict social media algorithms for teens

New York is planning to prohibit social media companies from using algorithms to control content to youths without parental consent under a tentative agreement reached by state lawmakers, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Social media platforms have in recent years come under scrutiny for its addictive nature and impact on the youth.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said in February that his administration has filed a lawsuit against social media companies including Meta Platforms' Facebook and Instagram for fueling mental health crisis among the youth.

The legislation is aimed at preventing social media companies from serving automated feeds to minors, the report said.

Oregon jury orders J&J to pay $260 million in latest talc trial

Johnson & Johnson must pay $260 million to an Oregon woman who said she got mesothelioma, a deadly cancer linked to asbestos exposure, from inhaling the company's talc powder, a jury found on Monday.

The verdict in the 4th Judicial District Circuit Court in Portland comes as the company continues to pursue a proposed $6.48 billion settlement of most talc-related lawsuits against it through a prepackaged bankruptcy. The jury's award includes $60 million in compensatory damages and $200 million in punitive damages, and includes damages for both the plaintiff and her husband.

Erik Haas, J&J's worldwide vice president of litigation, said in a statement that the verdict "is irreconcilable with the decades of independent scientific evaluations confirming talc is safe, does not contain asbestos, and does not cause cancer." He said the company would appeal and was confident it would get the verdict reversed.

The plaintiff in the case, Kyung Lee, was diagnosed last year with mesothelioma at age 48.

Lee alleged that she inhaled asbestos-tainted talc over more than 30 years, beginning when her mother used it on her when she was a baby and later when she used it herself as a deodorant.

Iraq detains at least 12 after latest attack on Baghdad KFC

Iraqi security forces cracked down on rioters in Baghdad who were attacking a KFC on Monday, wounding three with live fire and detaining at least 12, security and medical sources told Reuters.

The attack on a KFC on the city's Palestine Street is at least the third in just over a week and was reported just as a senior official in the Iran-backed Iraqi armed group Kataib Hezbollah released a statement calling on Iraqis to "boycott and expel" U.S. brands.

The attack caused significant damage but no injuries to staff or customers, the sources said.

The store was opened by Americana Group, the Middle East and North Africa franchisee of fast-food restaurants KFC and Pizza Hut.

The KFC brand, previously known as Kentucky Fried Chicken, is owned by U.S.-based Yum! Brands.

Iraq has been trying to encourage foreign businesses to set up shop in the country amid a period of relative stability that has at times been shaken by security incidents.

China's Chang'e-6 probe lifts off from far side of the moon

China's Chang'e-6 probe has lifted off from the far side of the moon, starting its journey back toward Earth, China's national space agency announced on Tuesday.

The probe's successful departure from the moon means China is closer to becoming the first country to return samples from the far side of the moon, which permanently faces away from Earth.

The probe, which departed the moon at 7:38 a.m. local time, successfully completed its sample collection from Sunday and Monday.

China's National Space Administration said in a statement that Chang'e-6 "withstood the test of high temperature on the far side of the moon."

Compared with its predecessor Chang'e-5, which retrieved samples from the near side of the moon, Chang'e-6 faced an additional technical challenge of operating without direct communications with ground stations on Earth, according to CNSA.

Reuters

The Trump campaign and RNC said they received more than 2 million donations at an average of $70.27 each in May. LUKE HALES/GETTY IMAGES

Trump, RNC raise $141 million in May

Guilty verdict boosts GOP fundraising haul

Nathan Layne
REUTERS

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's campaign and the Republican National Committee said on Monday they had raised $141 million in May, nearly doubling the prior month's haul thanks to a flood of support following his conviction.

The tally includes the $53 million the Trump campaign said it raised in the 24 hours after a New York jury convicted the former president of falsifying business records related to a payoff to silence a porn star on the eve of the 2016 presidential election. Trump had denied any wrongdoing.

For months, Trump and his allies had worked to paint the New York prosecution as politically motivated and orchestrated by President Joe Biden, a Democrat, even though there is no evidence that Biden played any role in the state-level case.

In a statement, the campaign and the RNC said the fundraising showed that supporters saw through "the sham Biden trial" and the verdict had outraged and motivated Americans.

Up until the past few months, Biden's reelection campaign had routinely surpassed Trump's in fundraising ahead of the Nov. 5 election. Trump for the first time in April outraised Biden, pulling in $76 million.

The Biden campaign, which has not yet announced its fundraising total for May, had one of its best 24 hours of fundraising after the New York jury found Trump guilty last week, according to a person familiar with the matter.

"We'll see how the numbers actually shake out come July, but one thing's for certain: Trump's billionaire friends are propping up the campaign of a white-collar crook," Biden campaign spokesperson Ammar Moussa said.

The Trump campaign and RNC said they received more than 2 million donations at an average of $70.27 each in May. It said one-quarter of the month's donors gave funds for the first time in this election cycle.

The numbers will not be confirmed until filings are submitted to the Federal Election Commission.

Court will weigh bid to disqualify Willis in October

Trump is seeking delay in Ga. case

Sarah N. Lynch
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – 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 onetime 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.

The Georgia election interference case is one of three criminal trials that Trump still faces, though all three have been delayed for a variety of reasons.

Last week, Trump became the first former president in U.S. history to be convicted of a crime after a jury in New York City found him guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records to conceal a hush-money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels in the weeks before the 2016 election.

The Georgia election interference case is one of three criminal trials that Trump still faces, though all three have been delayed for a variety of reasons.

The Georgia appeals court did not specify when in October it will hear arguments on whether to disqualify Willis, but the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that the case will be heard Oct. 4.

Willis is also separately expected to ask the court to overturn a lower court ruling that dismissed several counts against Trump in the 2020 election subversion case on the grounds that the indictment was not detailed enough to sustain those charges.

At issue is whether the prosecution is tainted as a result of District Attorney Fani Willis' past affair with her onetime top deputy. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Biden

Continued from Page 1NN

ing Trump's felonies to the center of the election.

A Trump campaign spokeswoman said on Fox News its "shameful" for the Biden campaign to call Trump a convicted felon. Trump said on Sunday he would accept home confinement or jail time after his historic conviction but that it would be tough for the public to accept.

Earlier in the day, Biden's son Hunter was in court for a criminal case against him over his purchase and possession of a revolver in 2018, a historic criminal prosecution of a sitting president's son with the potential to influence the 2024 presidential election.

Biden did not comment on his son's legal troubles. He had issued a statement earlier in the day saying "Jill and I love our son and we are so proud of the man he is today," and added that a lot of families have loved ones who have overcome addiction.

At the Greenwich fundraiser, Biden also called Trump "unhinged" and unable to accept defeat. He stressed on Trump's earlier comments about terminating the U.S. Constitution and wanting to be a dictator on day one if he wins a second term.

"Throughout this campaign Trump has made it clear he is running to exact for revenge. Now after his criminal convictions it's clear he's worried about preserving his freedoms," Biden said.

While most Democrats were thrilled to see Trump convicted last Thursday on 34 felony counts, some are wrestling with how central Trump's felonies should be to Biden's reelection campaign. Many – including top officials – are taking a wait-and-see approach to advertising and new strategies and want to see polls and voter feedback before they react strongly to this unprecedented moment in U.S. history.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll last week found 10% of Republican voters said they are less likely to vote for Trump in November after his conviction.

Biden's reelection campaign has told supporters that Trump can only be beaten at the ballot box, and has asked supporters for money.

In more than a dozen interviews, Biden campaign officials and Democrats involved in campaigns in battleground states told Reuters they think whatever political pain Trump endures will largely happen organically due to intense media attention and without the need for them to amplify and frame the issue.

If polls in the coming days and weeks show the verdict is really swaying voters, they may pivot.

"Talk to me again in 10 days, when the headlines go away," said one senior Democrat. "We could see some independents who can't vote for a felon move to Biden, or we could see a surge of soft Biden supporters who feel this is overreach move to Trump. We just don't know yet."

Also on Monday, a Biden campaign account on social media platform X, Biden-HarrisHQ, posted an unflattering photo of Trump with the words "convicted felon."

The soft focus approach toward Trump so far is frustrating some Biden supporters who want to use the conviction to highlight a message that Trump is unfit for office, including outside political action committee; they want Biden to use his bully pulpit to press the case against his Republican challenger.

"I think that this needs to be tattooed on Donald Trump's forehead that he is a convicted felon," said Jeff Timmer, senior adviser at the Lincoln Project, an anti-Trump group formed by former Republican strategists. Biden should include the felony in his opening statement on the first presidential debate scheduled for June 27, he said.

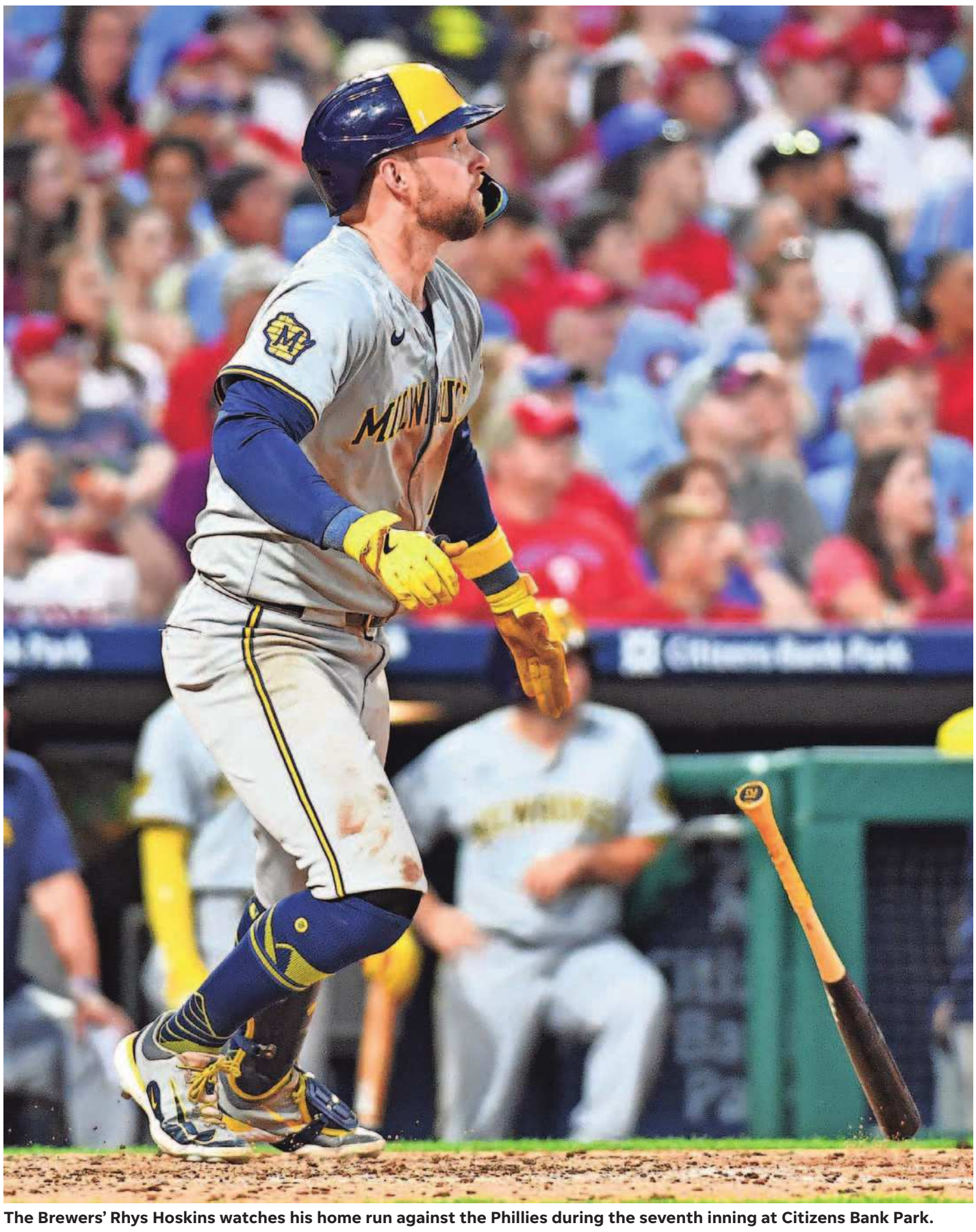
MoveOn.org, a progressive advocacy group, has already given away some 50,000 "Trump is a felon" stickers, 10 times the amount of any similar giveaway in years, said Britt Jacovich, a MoveOn spokesperson.

Last week Biden, a Democrat, called Trump and Republicans "reckless" and "dangerous" for suggesting the jury trial had been rigged, just before pivoting to a new, surprise Israeli cease-fire plan, snatching some of the media spotlight from Trump's conviction.

At the Greenwich, Conn., fundraiser Monday, President Joe Biden called GOP contender Donald Trump "unhinged" and unable to accept defeat. ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

SPORTS EXTRA

MLB



The Brewers' Rhys Hoskins watches his home run against the Phillies during the seventh inning at Citizens Bank Park.
ERIC HARTLINE/USA TODAY SPORTS

HOMECOMING HOME RUN

Facing his former team, Rhys Hoskins hit a solo home run for the Brewers, but Zack Wheeler tossed seven strong innings and the host Phillies won 3-1 on Monday. **ROUNDUP, PAGE 4NS**

MLB

Active player faces ban for gambling

Gabe Lacques
USA TODAY

Major League Baseball's biggest nightmare since sports gambling's widespread legalization has come to fruition: An active player faces a suspension and potential lifetime ban for betting on baseball.

Marcano

Tucupita Marcano, a utility player on the San Diego Padres' injured list, is under investigation by MLB for gambling on baseball, according to the Wall Street Journal. Marcano, a 24-year-old native of Venezuela, reportedly placed the bets in 2023, when he was a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Marcano suffered a torn ACL in his right knee in July 2023 and has been on the injured list since. The Padres, who originally signed him out of Venezuela in 2016, claimed him off waivers from Pittsburgh in November.

Under MLB's gambling policy, players face a one-year ban for betting on a major league game and a lifetime ban if they placed bets on games involving their own team. The Journal reported that he placed bets on games involving the Pirates.

"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 said in a statement released to news outlets, including USA TODAY Sports. "We will not have any further comment until the investigative process has been completed."

Said the Pirates in a statement: "We are aware of the matter that's under investigation and are fully cooperating. We will refrain from further comment at this time."

MLB's relationship with illegal gambling – dating to the 1919 World Series infamously thrown by the Chicago White Sox, through the shame of all-time hits leader Pete Rose earning a lifetime ban for betting on games he managed for the Cincinnati Reds – has given way to an uneasy embrace, since the 2019 Supreme Court decision that left legalized gambling up to the states.

The league – and virtually every team – has signed multiple official agreements with online and physical casinos, while maintaining a ban on baseball betting for its players.

TENNIS FRENCH OPEN

Djokovic endures another marathon

Shrivathsa Sridhar
REUTERS

PARIS – Defending champion Novak Djokovic produced a superhuman effort to subdue Argentine Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 on Monday and reach the quarterfinals of the French Open, as the top seed shrugged off a knee issue for a milestone win.

Big-hitting women's title contenders made short work of their opponents earlier as second seed Aryna Sabalenka thrashed American Emma Navarro 6-2, 6-3 while fourth seed Elena Rybakina eased to a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Ukraine's Elina Svitolina.

Rybakina will be playing in her WTA Tour-leading ninth quarterfinal of 2024. She faces No. 12 Jasmine Paolini of Italy, who reached the final eight in a Grand Slam for the first time by rallying for a 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 win against Russia's Elina Avanesyan.

Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva then outclassed former compatriot and newly-French Varvara Gracheva 7-5, 6-2 to end home hopes in the afternoon, but all eyes were on a potential upset that was brewing on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Djokovic, who is chasing a record-extending 25th Grand Slam title was taken to five sets for the second time in less than 48 hours but showed his class to seal a record 370th match victory at the majors that broke a tie with retired Swiss great Roger Federer.

The Serb also celebrated reaching his 59th major quarterfinal – the most by any men's player - to eclipse his long-time rival Federer again, while an 11th

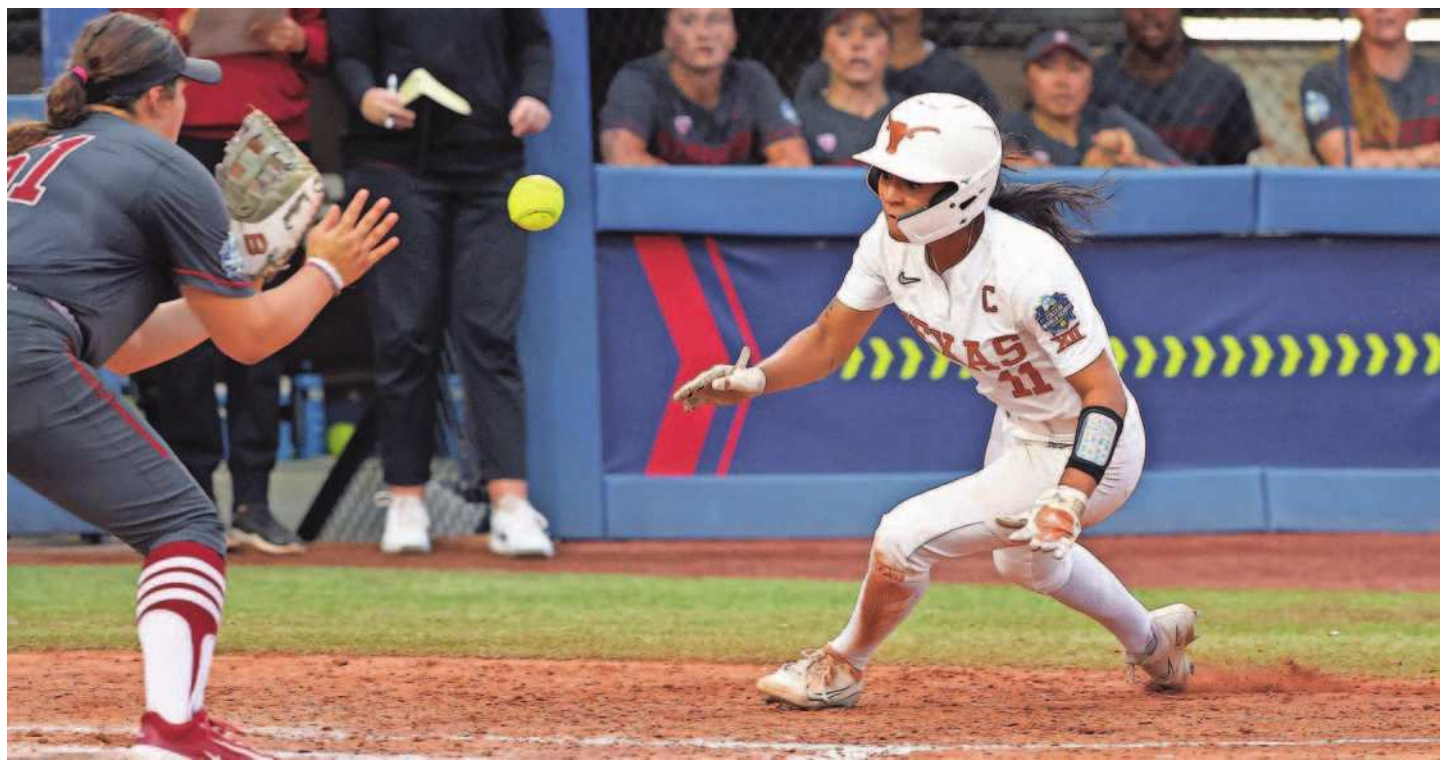
See TENNIS, Page 2NS

Novak Djokovic eyes the ball during his men's singles match against Francisco Cerundolo at the French Open. EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Texas edges Stanford to reach championship series

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA



Texas' Alyssa Washington (11) runs home to score a run as Stanford's Ava Gall (51) catches the ball in the seventh inning of a Women's College World Series semifinal game at Devon Park in Oklahoma City on Monday. BRYAN TERRY/THE OKLAHOMAN

OKLAHOMA CITY – Texas finally broke through in the seventh inning against Stanford star NiJaree Canady, pushing a run across in the top half to beat the Cardinal 1-0 in the Women's College World Series on Monday.

The Longhorns advanced to the WCWS Championship Series, where they'll take on either Oklahoma or Florida. The series begins Wednesday.

Texas is in the best-of-three championship series for the second time in three seasons. They lost to Oklahoma in the 2022 final.

Canady, the national player of the year, mostly befuddled Longhorns hitters until the seventh, when Alyssa Washington started the inning by reaching on an error, followed by Joley Mitchell's double.

Washington then came across to score on Ashton Maloney's squeeze bunt.

While Canady was excellent, allowing five hits and walking none with seven strikeouts, Texas' Teagan Kavan was even better.

Kavan held the Cardinal to just one hit with one walk and seven strikeouts in a complete-game effort to send the Longhorns to the championship series.

Texas (55-8) has yet to allow a run in the WCWS.

Stanford's lone hit came with one out in the second, and the inning was quickly ended with a double play.

Kavan then retired 15 of the next 16, including the final 10, to keep the Longhorns in the game.

Florida 9, Oklahoma 3

Florida hit four home runs, including two by Skylar Wallace and an inside-the-parker by Kendra Falby, as the Gators knocked off Oklahoma.

The teams will play again Tuesday in an elimination game for a berth in the WCWS Championship Series. The if-necessary game was originally scheduled to be played immediately after the first, but a lengthy rain delay before the game caused the NCAA to shift the schedule.

The loss snapped Oklahoma's NCAA-record 20-game NCAA Tournament winning streak. The Sooners' last tournament loss came during the semifinals of the 2022 WCWS.

Falby had a strong performance before her homer, making a catch at the wall that kept the Sooners (56-7) off the board in the second.

When Falby came to the plate with two outs in the bottom of the inning, she was hitless in her last 20 at-bats.

But Falby slapped the ball to left and Oklahoma's Rylie Boone gave chase, diving but coming up short. The ball bounced past Boone and into the corner, and Falby easily scored for just the third inside-the-park home run in WCWS history, putting the Gators (54-14) up 2-0.

Wallace followed with a solo shot to make it 3-0.

Reagan Walsh added a three-run blast in the fourth to make it 7-1 and Wallace added a two-run shot in the fifth.

Keagan Rothrock pitched all seven innings for Florida and scattered seven hits and seven walks with three strikeouts.

Oklahoma starter Nicole May was tagged with the loss after lasting just two innings and yielding three runs on six hits with a walk and two strikeouts.

HORSE RACING

Sierra Leone early favorite in Belmont

Jason Frakes
Louisville Courier-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A field of 10 horses — including Kentucky Derby winner Mystik Dan and Preakness Stakes winner Seize the Grey — is entered for Saturday's $2 million Belmont Stakes.

Sierra Leone is the morning-line favorite for the Belmont at 9-5 odds. Trained by Chad Brown, Sierra Leone was the runner-up in the Kentucky Derby, a nose behind Mystik Dan. Sierra Leone drew the No. 9 post for the Belmont.

Mindframe, who is 2 for 2 for trainer Todd Pletcher, is the second choice in the morning line at 7-2 odds.

Pletcher has won the Belmont four times and has three horses in this year's edition — Peter Pan winner Antiquarian, Peter Pan third-place finisher Protective and Mindframe.

With Belmont Park being renovated, the Belmont Stakes will be held at Saratoga.

The distance for Saturday's race will be 1¼ miles, shorter than the Belmont's traditional distance of 1½ miles.

Post time is set for 6:50 p.m. Saturday. The race will be televised by FOX.

Belmont Stakes 2024 post positions, horse, trainer, jockey, morning-line 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, Mike Maker, Manny Franco, 15-1
5. Antiquarian, Todd Pletcher, John Velazauez, 12-1
6. Dornoch, Danny Gargan, Luis Saez, 15-1
7. Protective, Todd Pletcher, Tyler Gaffalione, 20-1
8. Honor Marie, Whit Beckman, Florent Geroux, 12-1
9. Sierra Leone, Chad Brown, Flavien Prat, 9-5
10. Mindframe, Todd Pletcher, Irad Ortiz Jr., 7-2

Belmont Stakes hopeful Sierra Leone gallops at Churchill Downs in April.
PAT MCDONOGH/SPECIAL TO LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL

Tennis

Continued from Page 1NS

five-sets Roland Garros win tied him with Gael Monfils and Stan Wawrinka in the Open Era.

"Again a big, big, big thank you because once again like the last match. The win is your win," an exhausted Djokovic told the crowd in fluent French.

But Djokovic's title rivals in Paris will be smelling blood after another up-and-down display.

The 37-year-old showed no early signs of fatigue from his marathon third-round win over Lorenzo Musetti, a 4½ hour epic that ended in the early hours of Sunday morning, as he blitzed claycourt specialist Cerundolo in the opening set.

He sustained a right knee issue early in the next and needed treatment on court before saving four break points to draw level at 3-3 with a backhand bullet, but allowed his opponent a way back in by surrendering his serve in the 12th game.

Cerundolo grabbed another break early in the next set to go 3-0 up and comfortably got ahead in the clash as alarm bells began to ring for Djokovic in a second straight match at the clay court Grand Slam he has won three times.

The finish line seemed to appear in sight for Cerundolo when he raced up 4-2 in the next set, but the 25-year-old squandered the advantage as Djokovic sent down two big serves and produced a spectacular drop en route to holding for 6-5 before levelling the contest.

Having dropped serve after a fast start in the deciding set, Djokovic took a nasty tumble during a point and ranted about the state of the Court Philippe Chatrier surface.

He dusted himself off and the smile returned shortly after as he executed a sensational drop volley while doing the splits at 3-3 and celebrated the point by lying on the court with his arms outstretched in a superhero pose.

With the crowd firmly behind him, Djokovic closed out a superb victory and paid tribute to fans on the main showcourt at around 9 p.m local time.

"I actually felt great coming into the match, as good as I could under the circumstances and played really well first set," Djokovic told reporters.

"Then in the third game of the second set, I slipped, one of the many times that I slipped and fell today. That affected the knee... At one point I didn't know, to be honest, whether I should continue or not."

Next up for the tournament's top seed is a rematch of last year's final against Norway's Casper Ruud after the seventh seed defeated American Taylor Fritz 7-6(6), 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Alex de Minaur broke a long Australian jinx as the 11th seed battled from a set down to stun Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 and become the first man from his nation in two decades to make the last-eight at Roland Garros.

He will face fourth seed Alexander Zverev after the German outlasted 13th seed Holger Rune 4-6, 6-1, 5-7, 7-6(2), 6-2 in a match that ended in early morning hours.

Aryna Sabalenka returns a shot during her match against Emma Navarro at the French Open on Monday. SUSAN MULLANE/USA TODAY SPORTS

NHL STANLEY CUP FINAL

Panthers' defense preps for Oilers' offense

Colby Guy
Special to Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oilers center Connor McDavid (97) shakes hands with Stars left winger Jamie Benn (14) at the end of the third period of Game 6 of the Western Conference Final on Sunday. WALTER TYCHNOWICZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The age-old sports question - Does offense or defense win championships? - will be answered in the Stanley Cup Final.

When Florida clashes with Edmonton in the best-of-seven championship round starting Saturday night in Sunrise, it will be a battle of the NHL's best offense (Oilers) vs. the best defense (Panthers).

Headlined by centers Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl, the Oilers are a dominant force offensively. The top four point-scorers in the Stanley Cup Playoffs all reside in Edmonton: McDavid 31, Draisaitl 28, star defenseman Evan Bouchard 27 and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins 20.

The Panthers, meanwhile, finished with the fewest goals-against per game in the regular season (when discounting shootout goals) and the fewest out of any of the teams that advanced past the first round. They look to stick to their structure and limit the chances of Edmonton's superstars.

"With those guys especially, each series has specific players that we kind of key in on, but they have two of the best players in the world," defenseman Brandon Montour said. "Those are two players that you cannot necessarily shut down but you can limit and you gotta make it tough on them.

"I think you can see how every team plays against these guys. They try to find a game plan to stop them and they obviously find their way. It's just how talented they are, but you have to make it tough on them and limit their chances the best you can."

But even looking past their dominant numbers in the offensive zone, the Oilers, who won the Western Conference Final against the Dallas Stars Sunday night in six games, also have been one of the best defensive teams in the postseason. The same can be said about Florida's offense and the star power that comes with Matthew Tkachuk, Aleksander Barkov and others.

"Their defensive analytics are almost as good as ours and we are a better offensive team than people know as well, so it's both sides of the puck," Florida coach Paul Maurice said. "You have to defend against the whole group. They have an active back end and clearly have superstars up front. Then we've got some really good players, too.

"So, both sides of the puck are equally weighted. We play an aggressive defensive game and we feel the same about their game. Their defensive game is far stronger, far more structured than I think I hear when I'm watching the games or I read about them."

Oilers were 3-9-1 in November before firing coach Jay Woodcroft

The Oilers did not look this structured at the start of the season. They were one of the worst teams in the NHL at 3-9-1 when they fired head coach Jay Woodcroft on Nov. 12.

After hiring Kris Knoblauch, their 46-16-8 record was the best in the league in that span.

They also scored the second-most goals per game (3.72) and allowed the fifth-fewest goals per game (2.68) since making the coaching change. Their power play was the third-best in that span while their penalty kill was seventh-best.

McDavid might make the highlight plays — and a lot of them — but the reason they are here goes much further than him. They are one of the most complete teams in the NHL.

They have continued to prove that in the playoffs, especially on the penalty kill. Edmonton's penalty kill is the best of every postseason team at 93.9 percent. Florida is second with an 88.2 percent efficiency shorthanded.

The Oilers are on a 28-straight penalty kill streak.

They went 14-for-14 in the Western Conference final. Pair that with a power play that is clicking at a near-40 percent rate and the Panthers will have their hands full on special teams.

"Obviously, it's going to be a challenge," center Carter Verhaeghe said. "They have some pretty special players over there and we are definitely going to embrace it. I think anytime you go against some of the best players in the world, it's always fun and challenging and anytime you get challenged is awesome, so it's going to be a good series."

GOLF

Kuchar, Simpson qualify for U.S. Open

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Matt Kuchar was the medalist at his U.S. Open qualifying site in Jupiter, Fla. STEPHEN LEW/USA TODAY SPORTS

PGA Tour veteran Matt Kuchar and 2012 U.S. Open winner Webb Simpson had to qualify for this year's U.S. Open the old-fashioned way.

Kuchar and Simpson were among those who locked up their spots in this month's major championship via final qualifying on Monday, often called "Golf's Longest Day."

A total of 672 players competed in 36-hole qualifiers at locations around the United States and Canada to try to earn one of 44 available spots into the field at the U.S. Open, to be played June 13-16 at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club (Course No. 2) in North Carolina.

Kuchar, 45, was the medalist at his qualifying site. He shot rounds of 70 and 67 at The Bear's Club in Jupiter, Fla., to go 7 under for the day. While Kuchar has never won a major, he has nine wins on the PGA Tour and once ranked as high as No. 4 in the Official World Golf Ranking. But due to a lack of recent success, he did not qualify for any exemptions into the U.S. Open field.

Simpson's exemption for winning the 2012 U.S. Open expired after 2022. He did not qualify last year and hasn't made a cut at a major since the 2022 PGA Championship. It will be a different story this year, as Simpson recorded a 67 and a 69 at Duke University Golf Club in Durham, N.C., which tied him for fourth, two shots behind medalist Frankie Capan III. Simpson finished one stroke above a 7-for-2 playoff that determined the final two of the site's seven berths. Carter Jenkins and Harry Higgs won those spots via the playoff.

Australia's Adam Scott is in danger of missing the U.S. Open, which would end the longest active streak of major starts in the sport. He has played in every major since the 2001 Open Championship, a stretch of 91 straight.

But he is not currently exempt for this year's edition. On Monday, he followed an opening-round 64 with a second-round 69 to get to 7 under at Springfield (Ohio) Country Club, but other players were still on the course, and Scott was not projected to receive one of the four invites on offer.

However, there is one more chance for Scott to receive an exemption. Anyone in the top 60 of the OWGR as of June 10 will be invited if not already eligible. Scott enters the week at exactly No. 60, and he will not play in the Memorial later this week.

LIV Golf member Dean Burmester of South Africa tied for second in Florida, one stroke behind Kuchar. However, fellow LIV player Joaquin Niemann of Chile finished one stroke out of a 3-for-1 playoff for the fifth and final spot.

Niemann, once ranked in the top 15 in the world, is on track to miss the U.S. Open unless the USGA extends a special exemption to him. The PGA of America gave Niemann a special invite to last month's PGA Championship, where he tied for 39th.

MLB

MONDAY'S ROUNDUP

Phillies take down Brewers

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Phillies pitcher Zack Wheeler throws a pitch against the Brewers during the seventh inning at Citizens Bank Park. ERIC HARTLINE/USA TODAY SPORTS

David Dahl hit a solo home run and a single, Zack Wheeler tossed seven strong innings and the host Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 3-1 on Monday.

Johan Rojas added two singles and an RBI for the Phillies, and Edmundo Sosa had an RBI single.

Facing his former team, Rhys Hoskins hit a solo home run for the Brewers. Blake Perkins had two hits.

Milwaukee had its five-game winning streak snapped.

Tigers 2, Rangers 1

Jake Rogers hit a pair of solo homers as the Detroit Tigers opened a three-game series against the Texas Rangers with a victory in Arlington, Texas.

Rogers recorded his third multi-homer game of his career and broke a 1-1 tie with a two-out homer in the eighth inning against Jose Leclerc (3-4).

Beau Brieske (1-0) pitched three scoreless innings of relief for Detroit, which won its second straight game despite being held to four hits.

The Rangers brought the winning run to the plate when Ezequiel Duran doubled with two outs in the ninth before Leody Taveras flied out to center field.

Marcus Semien homered and Wyatt Langford tripled and singled for Texas, which went 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position.

Tigers relief pitcher Beau Brieske (4) and catcher Jake Rogers (34) celebrate the victory over the Rangers at Globe Life Field. JEROME MIRON/USA TODAY SPORTS

Mets 8, Nationals 7

Starling Marte and Jose Iglesias each had three hits as the visiting New York Mets held off the Washington Nationals.

Mark Vientos homered, singled and walked twice for New York.

The Nationals rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth before Jake Diekman struck out Drew Millas with runners at first and third for his second save.

New York starter Tylor Megill (1-2) struggled but completed five innings while giving up five runs – four earned – on seven hits. He walked three and struck out four. Adrian Houser pitched 2⅓ scoreless innings of relief to help the Mets end a two-game skid.

Joey Gallo homered while Jesse Winker logged three hits and three RBIs for the Nationals, who have lost three of their past four games.

Washington starter MacKenzie Gore (4-5) allowed six runs on seven hits in 4⅓ innings. He issued four walks and fanned two.

Orioles 7, Blue Jays 2

Austin Hays had two home runs and three RBIs, Anthony Santander hit a two-run homer and the visiting Baltimore Orioles defeated the Toronto Blue Jays.

Ramon Urias added a solo shot for the Orioles, who have won nine of their past 11 games. Second baseman Connor Norby made his major league debut and went 0-for-3 with two strikeouts. He is the No. 6 prospect in Baltimore's organization, according to MLB Pipeline.

Baltimore starter Grayson Rodriguez (6-2) held Toronto to two runs (one earned) and seven hits in 6⅔ innings. Rodriguez didn't issue a walk and struck out four.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a solo home run for the Blue Jays, who are 2-2 on their seven-game homestand. Monday marked the opener of a four-game series.

Toronto starter Kevin Gausman (4-4) allowed six runs, six hits and one walk in 6⅓ innings. He fanned three.

Astros 7, Cardinals 4

Yainer Diaz socked a tiebreaking, two-run home run with two outs in the eighth inning to help the Houston Astros complete a comeback victory over the visiting St. Louis Cardinals.

The Astros pulled even at 4-4 earlier in the eighth when Alex Bregman rallied from an 0-2 hole to drill his ninth home run, a leadoff shot against JoJo Romero (2-1). It was the 174th career homer for Bregman, who tied George Springer for sixth place in club history.

Jake Meyers then singled. Following a sacrifice bunt and a strikeout, Diaz blasted a first-pitch slider out to left field, his fourth home run covering 393 feet. Jose Altuve capped the four-run frame with an RBI double off Ryan Loutos.

Cardinals second baseman Nolan Gorman clubbed a pair of homers off Astros right-hander Justin Verlander, who surrendered four runs on seven hits and two walks with four strikeouts over five innings.

Astros right fielder Kyle Tucker departed in the third inning after fouling a pitch off his right leg.

Reds 13, Rockies 3

Jeimer Candelario homered and doubled, Tyler Stephenson also went deep as part of a 2-for-5 night and the Cincinnati Reds beat the Colorado Rockies in Denver.

Jonathan India and Spencer Steer had three hits apiece and TJ Friedl and Will Benson each had two for Cincinnati, which finished with a season-high 18. The 13 runs were also a season high.

Reds starter Andrew Abbott (4-5) allowed three runs on seven hits in six innings. He walked one and struck out six.

Brendan Rodgers homered and finished with two hits while Brenton Doyle contributed three hits for Colorado, which has dropped three in a row.

Angels 2, Padres 1

Luis Guillorme's pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the eighth inning snapped a tie and lifted the Los Angeles Angels to a victory over the San Diego Padres in Anaheim, Calif.

The Angels ended a five-game losing streak by taking the opener of a three-game series. The Padres dropped their second game in a row after a 5-1 stretch.

Jo Adell began the winning rally with a double to right field off Adrian Morejon (1-1), then tagged and went to third on Zach Neto's fly to right-center. Padres manager Mike Shildt brought in reliever Jeremiah Estrada to pitch to Kyren Paris, but Angels manager Ron Washington countered and sent up Guillorme to pinch-hit. After swinging and missing on the first pitch of the at-bat, Guillorme drove an 84 mph splitter up in the zone to medium-deep center field, easily scoring Adell for what turned out to be the game-winner.

Pavin Smith of the Diamondbacks is dunked with water after hitting the game-winning two-run home run against the Giants during the ninth inning at Chase Field. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Diamondbacks 4, Giants 2

Pavin Smith clubbed a pinch-hit, walk-off two-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Arizona Diamondbacks a victory over the San Francisco Giants at Phoenix in the opener of a three-game series.

Jake McCarthy doubled to left field off Randy Rodriguez (1-1) and Smith followed by drilling a fastball that barely cleared the wall in center. The 424-foot blast gave Arizona its third straight victory. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit his 100th career homer and Blaze Alexander had two hits and one RBI for the Diamondbacks.

Heliot Ramos homered for the Giants, who lost their fifth straight game. Matt Chapman and Brett Wisely joined Ramos in having two hits.

MLB

MONDAY'S BOX SCORES

L.A. Angels 2, San Diego 1

San Diego	100	000	000 –	1	6	1
LAA	000	100	01x –	2	4	0

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Profar dh	3	0	2	0	1	0	.330
Tatis Jr. rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.261
Machado 3b	2	1	1	1	2	0	.242
Solano 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.373
Cronenworth 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.258
Kim ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.227
Merrill cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.273
Azocar lf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.234
e-Wade ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Higashioka c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.151
a-Peralta ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.188
Campusano c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.224
Totals	**31**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**3**	

L.A. Angels	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Schanuel 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.219
Rengifo 3b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.323
Ward lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Calhoun dh	3	0	2	1	0	0	.286
b-Tucker pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.195
O'Hoppe c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Moniak cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.164
c-Pillar ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.327
Adell rf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.204
Neto ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Paris 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.130
d-Guillorme ph-2b	0	0	0	1	0	0	.308
Totals	**27**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**4**	

a-was announced for Higashioka in 7th. b-ran for Calhoun in 7th. c-was announced for Moniak in 7th. d-was announced for Paris in 8th. e-was announced for Azocar in 9th.

E: Kim. **2B:** Profar (11), Tatis Jr. (10), Kim 2 (8), Adell (5). **HR:** Machado (6). **RBI:** Machado (31), Calhoun (7), Guillorme (2). **SB:** Machado (4), Azocar (3), Rengifo (13). **SF:** Guillorme. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 5 (Solano 2, Cronenworth, Peralta 2). **RISP:** L.A. Angels 1 for 3. **GIDP:** Paris. **DP:** San Diego 1.

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Waldron	6.1	2	1	1	0	4	95	3.98
Morejon	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	15	2.22
Estrada	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.48

L.A. Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Anderson	6.2	5	1	1	3	2	91	2.37
Strickland	1.1	1	0	0	1	0	14	1.75
Estevez	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	4.50

Inherited runners: Estrada 1-0, Strickland 2-2. **IBB:** Anderson (1), Strickland (1). **Umpires:** HP-Iassogna, 1B-May, 2B-Bucknor, 3B-Jimenez. A: 0.

Arizona 4, San Francisco 2

SF	000	100	100 –	2	8	0
Arizona.....	020	000	002 –	4	9	0

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Wisely 2b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.350
Bailey c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.288
Chapman 3b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.238
Conforto lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.272
Ramos rf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.295
Soler dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.216
Yastrzemski cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.209
Schmitt ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Brooks 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.111
Totals	**33**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**0**	**2**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Marte 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.270
Moreno c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.235
Pederson dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.296
Walker 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.260
Gurriel Jr. lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.236
McCarthy rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.276
Suarez 3b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.207
a-Smith ph	1	1	1	2	0	0	.255
Carroll cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.192
Alexander ss	3	0	2	1	0	1	.279
Totals	**33**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**0**	**8**	

a-homered for Suarez in 9th.

2B: Wisely (2), Chapman (16), Walker (9), McCarthy (6). **3B:** Suarez (1). **HR:** Ramos (4), Gurriel Jr. (8), Smith (2). **RBI:** Chapman (28), Ramos (17), Gurriel Jr. (33), Smith 2 (13), Alexander (18). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 3 (Chapman, Ramos, Soler), Arizona 3 (Marte, Walker, Gurriel Jr.). **RISP:** San Francisco 1 for 6, Arizona 2 for 7. **GIDP:** Yastrzemski, Brooks, Walker. **DP:** San Francisco 1, Arizona 2.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miller	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	15	3.86
Howard	4.2	4	2	2	0	3	67	2.08
Hjelle	1.1	1	0	0	0	2	25	2.55
Rogers	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	2.79
Rodriguez L, 1-1	0.1	2	2	2	0	1	14	3.57

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Nelson	7.2	6	2	2	0	1	80	5.44
Thompson W, 3-2	1.1	2	0	0	0	1	16	1.08

HBP: Carroll. **Umpires:** HP-Additon, 1B-Knight, 2B-Guccione, 3B-Morales. T: 2:12. A: 22,551 (48,405).

Cincinnati 13, Colorado 3

Cincinnati ..	013	313	002 –	13	18	1
Colorado	102	000	000 –	3	9	0

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Friedl cf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.200
Hurtubise lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.243
De La Cruz ss	4	1	1	1	0	0	.233
Candelario 3b	5	2	2	2	0	0	.233
Steer 1b	5	1	3	2	0	1	.243
Fraley rf	5	1	1	1	0	0	.291
Stephenson c	5	2	2	2	0	0	.253
Martini dh	5	1	1	0	0	1	.200
India 2b	4	2	3	0	0	1	.239
Benson lf-cf	3	2	2	3	0	0	.205
Totals	**41**	**13**	**18**	**12**	**0**	**3**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Tovar ss	5	0	1	0	0	1	.295
Rodgers 2b	4	2	2	1	0	0	.270
Diaz c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.294
Montero 1b	3	1	1	1	1	0	.218
Doyle cf	4	0	3	0	0	1	.270
Stallings dh	4	0	1	1	0	2	.316
Bouchard lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.208
Goodman rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.179
Trejo 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.098
Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**1**	**8**	

E: De La Cruz. **2B:** De La Cruz (11), Candelario (14), Martini (3), Tovar (19), Rodgers (12), Doyle (11). **3B:** Benson (2). **HR:** Candelario (7), Stephenson (6), Rodgers (3). **RBI:** Friedl (7), De La Cruz (25), Candelario 2 (23), Steer 2 (37), Fraley (9), Stephenson 2 (20), Benson 3 (20), Rodgers (18), Montero (22), Stallings (15). **SF:** Benson. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 1 (De La Cruz), Colorado 4 (Diaz, Stallings 2, Bouchard). **RISP:** Cincinnati 6 for 11, Colorado 2 for 7. **GIDP:** De La Cruz, Stephenson, Diaz, Trejo. **DP:** Cincinnati 2, Colorado 2.

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Abbott W, 4-5	6.0	7	3	3	1	6	96	3.39
Suter	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	33	4.09
Wilson	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	5.40

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Feltner L, 1-5	4.1	10	8	8	0	3	73	6.22
Rogers	2.2	4	3	3	0	0	33	5.40
Chivilli	2.0	4	2	2	0	0	30	9.00

Inherited runners: Rogers 1-0. **HBP:** De La Cruz, Goodman. **Umpires:** HP-Estabrook, 1B-Gibson, 2B-Ramos, 3B-Bacchus. T: 2:30. A: 25,140 (46,897).

Houston 7, St. Louis 4

St. Louis.....	201	010	000 –	4	8	2
Houston	002	001	04x –	7	9	1

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Winn ss	5	0	1	0	0	2	.297
Burleson rf	5	1	1	1	0	0	.271
Goldschmidt 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.222
Gorman 2b	3	2	2	2	1	1	.230
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.257
Donovan lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.242
Herrera c	3	0	2	0	1	1	.269
Carpenter dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.188
Siani cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.205
b-Fermin ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.143
Totals	**35**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**3**	**9**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	5	0	1	1	0	1	.289
Tucker rf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.266
a-Dubon ph-lf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.298
Alvarez dh	3	2	2	2	1	1	.287
Bregman 3b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.229
Meyers cf	4	1	2	1	0	1	.281
Pena ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.296
Singleton 1b	2	0	0	0	1	2	.217
c-Abreu ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.115
Diaz c	4	1	1	2	0	2	.249
McCormick lf-rf	4	1	0	0	0	1	.200
Totals	**34**	**7**	**9**	**7**	**3**	**11**	

a-walked for Tucker in 3rd. b-fouled out for Siani in 9th. c-struck out for Singleton in 8th.

E: Gorman, Winn, Bregman. **2B:** Goldschmidt (9), Altuve (12), Alvarez (12). **HR:** Burleson (7), Gorman 2 (13), Alvarez (12), Bregman (9), Diaz (4). **RBI:** Burleson (21), Gorman 2 (30), Arenado (27), Altuve (21), Alvarez 2 (27), Bregman (29), Meyers (23), Diaz 2 (25). **SB:** Herrera (2), Tucker (10), Pena (9), McCormick (3). **S:** Pena. **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 5 (Burleson, Donovan 2, Carpenter 2), Houston 4 (Dubon, Meyers, Diaz 2). **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 BS, 2	1.0	3	4	3	0	2	30	2.10
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, 1-1	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	20	2.81
Hader S, 9	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	3.54

Inherited runners: Kittredge 3-3, Romero 1-1, Loutos 1-0. **Umpires:** HP-Scheurwater, 1B-Baker, 2B-Carlson, 3B-Muchlinski. T: 2:56. A: 33,638 (41,168).

Detroit 2, Texas 1

Detroit	001	000	010 –	2	4	0
Texas	100	000	000 –	1	8	0

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Perez rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Greene cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.249
Canha 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Urshela 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.274
Keith 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Malloy dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Baddoo lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.176
Baez ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.188
Rogers c	3	2	2	2	0	0	.230
Totals	**31**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**10**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Semien 2b	3	1	2	1	1	1	.263
Seager ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.272
Grossman dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.198
a-Lowe ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Garcia rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.231
Heim c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.241
Langford lf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.230
Smith 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.281
Duran 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.270
Taveras cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.241
Totals	**34**	**1**	**8**	**1**	**2**	**10**	

a-flied out for Grossman in 8th.

2B: Greene (12), Duran (4). **3B:** Langford (2). **HR:** Rogers 2 (4), Semien (10). **RBI:** Rogers 2 (8), Semien (35). **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 1 (Canha), Texas 5 (Grossman 2, Smith, Duran, Taveras). **GIDP:** Grossman. **DP:** Detroit 1.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skubal	6.0	7	1	1	2	6	96	1.97
Brieske W, 1-0	3.0	1	0	0	0	4	53	1.59

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi	5.2	3	1	1	0	7	71	2.70
Leclerc L, 3-4	2.1	1	1	1	0	3	25	4.88
Hernandez	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3.50

Inherited runners: Leclerc 1-1. **Umpires:** HP-Hanahan, 1B-Visconti, 2B-Fletcher, 3B-Beck. T: 2:13. A: 28,620 (40,518).

N.Y. Mets 8, Washington 7

NYM	010	241	000 –	8	13	2
Washington .	010	310	002 –	7	11	1

N.Y. Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Lindor ss	3	0	1	1	1	0	.228
Alonso 1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.234
Nimmo lf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.216
Martinez dh	4	2	1	0	1	1	.278
Marte rf	5	2	3	0	0	0	.275
Vientos 3b	3	2	2	1	2	0	.339
Bader cf	3	0	0	2	0	0	.265
Iglesias 2b	5	2	3	1	0	0	.455
Torrens c	4	0	1	2	0	3	.167
Totals	**37**	**8**	**13**	**7**	**4**	**6**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Thomas cf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.218
Rosario rf	4	1	2	0	1	1	.184
Garcia Jr. 2b	4	1	0	0	1	1	.267
Ruiz dh	4	1	1	0	0	2	.204
Senzel 3b	4	2	1	0	1	0	.244
Winker lf	4	0	3	3	1	0	.241
a-Nunez pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Vargas ss	5	1	1	1	0	0	.284
Gallo 1b	3	1	1	2	1	1	.156
b-Meneses ph	0	0	0	1	0	0	.240
Millas c	4	0	0	0	1	1	.100
Totals	**37**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**6**	**6**	

a-ran for Winker in 9th. b-hit a sacrifice fly for Gallo in 9th.

E: Iglesias, Bader, Barnes. **2B:** Nimmo (10), Torrens (1). **HR:** Vientos (5), Gallo (5). **RBI:** Lindor (30), Vientos (10), Bader 2 (18), Iglesias (2), Torrens 2 (2), Winker 3 (28), Vargas (9), Gallo 2 (9), Meneses (30). **CS:** Winker (2). **SB:** Lindor (9), Marte (10), Iglesias (1). **SF:** Bader 2, Meneses. **Runners left in scoring position:** N.Y. Mets 6 (Lindor, Alonso 3, Martinez, Vientos), Washington 6 (Rosario, Garcia Jr. 2, Vargas 2, Millas). **RISP:** N.Y. Mets 3 for 10, Washington 3 for 11. **GIDP:** Garcia Jr.. **DP:** N.Y. Mets 1, Washington 1.

N.Y. 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	2	0	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	5.96
Diekman S, 2	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

Inherited runners: Smith 2-2, Diekman 3-2, Floro 3-0. **HBP:** Lindor, Ruiz. **WP:** Smith, Gore 2. **Umpires:** HP-Torres, 1B-Wills, 2B-Fairchild, 3B-Clemons. T: 3:18. A: 20,575 (41,380).

Baltimore 7, Toronto 2

Baltimore....	020	300	101 –	7	10	1
Toronto	010	100	000 –	2	8	1

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Henderson ss	5	0	1	0	0	0	.267
Rutschman c	5	0	1	0	0	0	.301
Mountcastle 1b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.284
O'Hearn dh	3	1	1	0	1	0	.270
Santander rf	4	2	2	2	0	1	.223
Westburg 3b-2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.292
Cowser cf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.236
Hays lf	4	2	2	3	0	1	.205
Norby 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Urias 3b	1	1	1	1	0	0	.239
Totals	**38**	**7**	**10**	**7**	**1**	**6**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Schneider 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.245
Jansen c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.284
Guerrero Jr. 1b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.295
Vogelbach dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Bichette ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.236
Springer rf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.211
Varsho lf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.215
a-Clement ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Kiner-Falefa 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.267
Kiermaier cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.206
Totals	**35**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**0**	**5**	

a-popped out for Varsho in 9th.

E: Henderson, Bichette. **2B:** Henderson (7), Cowser (12), Bichette (10). **3B:** Varsho (3). **HR:** Santander (11), Hays 2 (2), Urias (3), Guerrero Jr. (6). **RBI:** Santander 2 (33), Cowser (26), Hays 3 (9), Urias (6), Guerrero Jr. (27), Varsho (31). **SB:** O'Hearn (1), Westburg (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 3 (Mountcastle, Cowser, Norby), Toronto 3 (Schneider, Kiner-Falefa 2). **RISP:** Baltimore 1 for 7. **GIDP:** Vogelbach. **DP:** Baltimore 1.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez W, 6-2	6.2	7	2	1	0	4	86	3.28
Cano H, 14	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	13	2.67
Akin	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	4.28

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gausman L, 4-4	6.1	6	6	6	1	3	97	4.60
Little	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	18	10.13
Burr	1.2	2	1	1	0	2	32	2.70

Inherited runners: Cano 2-2, Burr 1-1. **Umpires:** HP-Cuzzi, 1B-Randazzo, 2B-Tosi, 3B-MacKay. T: 2:30. A: 23,842 (49,286).

Philadelphia 3, Milwaukee 1

Milwaukee ..	000	000	100 –	1	5	0
Philadelphia	020	100	00x –	3	7	0

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Turang 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.298
Contreras c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.311
Yelich lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.313
Adames ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.255
Frelick rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.253
a-Sanchez ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Hoskins dh	2	1	1	1	1	0	.243
Bauers 1b	2	0	1	0	1	1	.213
Ortiz 3b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.289
Perkins cf	3	0	2	0	0	1	.247
Totals	**29**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**8**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Schwarber dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.234
Realmuto c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Harper 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.271
Bohm 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.298
Stott 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Castellanos rf	3	1	0	0	0	0	.212
Dahl lf	3	2	2	1	0	0	.667
Pache lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.216
Sosa ss	3	0	1	1	0	0	.305
Rojas cf	3	0	2	1	0	0	.233
Totals	**30**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**1**	**1**	

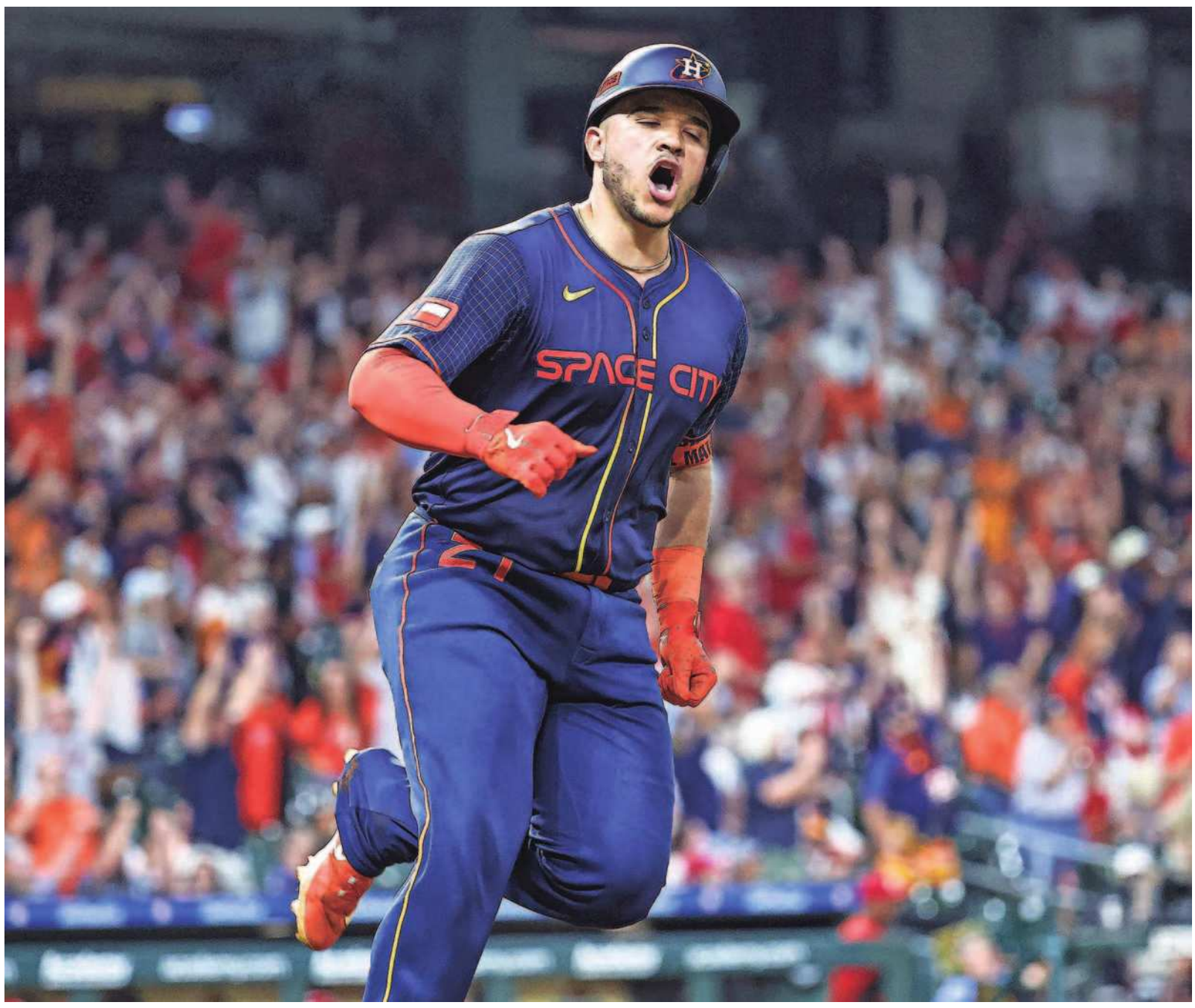
a-lined out for Frelick in 9th.

HR: Hoskins (10), Dahl (1). **RBI:** Hoskins (28), Dahl (1), Sosa (16), Rojas (19). **SB:** Hoskins (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Milwaukee 2 (Contreras 2), Philadelphia 1 (Schwarber). **RISP:** Milwaukee 2 for 4, Philadelphia 2 for 3. **GIDP:** Turang, Contreras. **DP:** Philadelphia 2.

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Koenig	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.05
Wilson L, 3-2	5.2	6	3	3	1	1	91	3.35
Milner	1.1	1	0	0	0	0	15	2.97

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wheeler W, 7-3	7.0	5	1	1	3	6	114	2.23
Hoffman H, 8	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	1.01
Alvarado S, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.08

Inherited runners: Milner 1-1. **Umpires:** HP-Barber, 1B-Porter, 2B-Blakney, 3B-Wolf. T: 2:10. A: 43,553 (42,792).



Astros catcher Yainer Diaz rounds the bases after hitting a home run during the eighth inning against the Cardinals at Minute Maid Park. TROY TAORMINA/USA TODAY SPORTS

Toronto's Guerrero homers on bobblehead night

Steve Keating
REUTERS

TORONTO – It was Vladimir Guerrero Jr. bobblehead night at the Rogers Centre on Monday as the Toronto Blue Jays paid tribute to one of the city's most popular sportsman, handing out the jiggly-headed collectible.

Guerrero added to the occasion by slamming a fourth-inning solo home run but the Blue Jays fell 7-2 to the Baltimore Orioles as trade rumors continue to swirl around the Toronto first baseman.

The son of Baseball Hall of Famer Vladimir Guerrero Sr., 'Vladdy' brought a slugger's swagger and mystique to the Jays that for a period of time made him one of Canada's most intriguing sporting figures.

But with the July 30 trade deadline approaching and the Blue Jays anchored to the bottom of the American League East, talk persists that Toronto is ready to entertain offers for Guerrero and shortstop Bo Bichette, who can both enter the free agent market after the 2025 campaign.

The chatter has been loud enough that Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins addressed the rumors at the weekend, saying they "just doesn't make any sense for us" and that he wanted the players to stay.

Blue Jays first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hits a single against the Orioles during the sixth inning at Rogers Centre. NICK TURCHIARO/USA TODAY SPORTS

"We believe in them, we believe in their futures and hope there's a way they can play here for a long time," Atkins told MLB Network.

Guerrero and Bichette are the cornerstones of a planned championship team that has been under construction since both made their Toronto Major League debuts in 2019.

A $400 million renovation of the Rogers Centre was completed this year but work on a World Series worthy roster continues.

The two young guns had the look of a sturdy foundation on which to build but Toronto has never lived up to carefully managed expectations.

Guerrero has not been able to match his 2021 breakout season when he led the major leagues in home runs (48) and runs scored (123).

He was named to the AL All-Star and voted the game's most valuable player.

Last year Guerrero Jr. won the All-Star Home Run Derby to join Vladimir Sr., who took the honor in 2007 – the two becoming the first father-son to accomplish the feat. But this season Guerrero and Bichette have suffered power failures, combining for just 10 home runs.

SCOREBOARD

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All times Eastern

MLB

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees	42	19	.689	–
Baltimore	38	20	.655	2½
Boston	30	30	.500	11½
Tampa Bay	29	31	.483	12½
Toronto	28	31	.475	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	39	20	.661	–
Kansas City	36	25	.590	4
Minnesota	33	26	.559	6
Detroit	30	30	.500	9½
Chicago	15	45	.250	24½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	34	27	.557	–
Texas	29	31	.483	4½
Houston	27	34	.443	7
Oakland	24	37	.393	10
L.A. Angels	22	38	.367	11½

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	42	19	.689	–
Atlanta	33	24	.579	7
Washington	27	32	.458	14
N.Y. Mets	25	35	.417	16½
Miami	21	39	.350	20½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	36	24	.600	–
Chicago	29	31	.483	7
St. Louis	28	30	.483	7
Pittsburgh	27	32	.458	8½
Cincinnati	27	33	.450	9

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	38	23	.623	–
San Diego	32	31	.508	7
San Francisco	29	32	.475	9
Arizona	28	32	.467	9½
Colorado	21	38	.356	16

Sunday's Scores

Minnesota 4, Houston 3
Tampa Bay 4, Baltimore 3
Detroit 8, Boston 4
Atlanta 3, Oakland 1
Toronto 5, Pittsburgh 4
Washington 5, Cleveland 2
Texas 6, Miami 0
Arizona 5, N.Y. Mets 4
Kansas City 4, San Diego 3
Milwaukee 6, Chicago 3
Cincinnati 5, Chicago 2
N.Y. Yankees 7, San Francisco 5
L.A. Dodgers 4, Colorado 0
Seattle 5, L.A. Angels 1
St. Louis 5, Philadelphia 4

Monday's Scores

Philadelphia 3, Milwaukee 1
N.Y. Mets 8, Washington 7
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2
Detroit 2, Texas 1
Houston 7, St. Louis 4
Cincinnati 13, Colorado 3
L.A. Angels 2, San Diego 1
Arizona 4, San Francisco 2

Tuesday's Games

Kansas City (Lugo 9-1) at Cleveland (McKenzie 2-3), 6:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Pepiot 3-2) at Miami (Luzardo 2-4), 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Glasnow 6-3) at Pittsburgh (Jones 3-5), 6:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rea 4-2) at Philadelphia (Sanchez 3-3), 6:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Peterson 0-0) at Washington (Williams 5-0), 6:45 p.m.
Minnesota (Ober 5-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 7-1), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Burnes 5-2) at Toronto (Manoah 1-2), 7:07 p.m.
Atlanta (Fried 5-2) at Boston (Crawford 2-4), 7:10 p.m.
Chicago (Woodford 0-1) at Chicago (Imanaga 5-1), 8:05 p.m.
Detroit (Flaherty 2-4) at Texas (Dunning 4-3), 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Pallante 1-1) at Houston (Arrighetti 3-5), 8:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Montas 2-4) at Colorado (Blach 2-2), 8:40 p.m.
San Diego (Darvish 4-3) at L.A. Angels (Sandoval 2-8), 9:38 p.m.
San Francisco (Harrison 4-2) at Arizona (TBD), 9:40 p.m.
Seattle (Kirby 4-5) at Oakland (Estes 1-1), 9:40 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta (Schwellenbach 0-1) at Boston (Pivetta 2-4), 1:35 p.m.
St. Louis (Mikolas 3-6) at Houston (Blanco 5-1), 2:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Ashcraft 4-3) at Colorado (Hudson 2-7), 3:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Hicks 4-2) at Arizona (Montgomery 3-3), 3:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Scott 0-2) at Washington (Corbin 1-6), 4:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Myers 1-2) at Philadelphia (Nola 7-2), 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Singer 4-2) at Cleveland (Allen 6-3), 6:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay (TBD) at Miami (Garrett 2-0), 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Paxton 5-0) at Pittsburgh (Skenes 2-0), 6:40 p.m.
Minnesota (Paddack 4-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 7-2), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Suarez 2-0) at Toronto (Berrios 5-4), 7:07 p.m.
Chicago (Flexen 2-5) at Chicago (Taillon 3-2), 8:05 p.m.
Detroit (Maeda 2-2) at Texas (Urena 1-5), 8:05 p.m.
San Diego (Cease 5-4) at L.A. Angels (Soriano 2-5), 9:38 p.m.
Seattle (Gilbert 3-3) at Oakland (TBD), 9:40 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Baltimore (Bradish 1-0) at Toronto (Kikuchi 2-5), 1:07 p.m.
Kansas City (Wacha 4-5) at Cleveland (Bibee 4-1), 1:10 p.m.
Seattle (Woo 2-0) at Oakland (Sears 4-4), 3:37 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 1-3) at Pittsburgh (Falter 3-2), 6:40 p.m.
Atlanta (Lopez 3-2) at Washington (Parker 4-3), 6:45 p.m.
Minnesota (Lopez 5-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 5-2), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago (Assad 4-1) at Cincinnati (Greene 3-2), 7:10 p.m.
Colorado (Quantrill 4-4) at St. Louis (Gray 7-3), 7:45 p.m.
Boston (Houck 5-5) at Chicago (Fedde 4-1), 8:10 p.m.
Arizona (Cecconi 1-4) at San Diego (Vasquez 1-3), 9:40 p.m.

NBA

FINALS

No. 1 Boston Celtics vs.
No. 5 Dallas Mavericks

Thursday: Mavericks at Celtics, 8:30 p.m.
June. 9: Mavericks at Celtics, 8 p.m.
June 12 Celtics at Mavericks, 8:30 p.m.
June 14: Celtics at Mavericks, 8:30 p.m.
x-June 17: Mavericks at Celtics, 8:30 p.m.
x-June 20: Celtics at Mavericks, 8:30 p.m.
x-June 23: Mavericks at Celtics, 8 p.m.

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL

(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)
Florida Panthers vs. Edmonton Oilers

Saturday: Oilers at Panthers, 8 p.m.
June 10: Oilers at Panthers, 8 p.m.
June 13: Panthers at Oilers, 8 p.m.
June 15: Panthers at Oilers, 8 p.m.
x-June 18: Oilers at Panthers, 8 p.m.
x-June 21: Panthers at Oilers, 8 p.m.
x-June 24: Oilers at Panthers, 8 p.m.

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	10	3	5	35	42	27
Cincinnati	10	3	3	33	23	16
NY City FC	9	5	2	29	24	17
NY Red Bulls	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 Montreal	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

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	9	2	6	33	36	19
Los Angeles FC	9	4	3	30	28	19
Minnesota	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	4	6	6	18	19	19
Saint Louis	3	4	8	17	23	25
FC Dallas	3	8	4	13	17	24
San Jose	3	11	2	11	24	39
Sporting KC	2	9	5	11	24	31

Sunday, June 2

Atlanta 2, Charlotte FC 3

WNBA

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	8	0	1.000	–
N.Y. Liberty	7	2	.778	1½
Atlanta	4	3	.571	3½
Chicago	3	4	.429	4½
Indiana	2	9	.182	7½
Washington	0	8	.000	8

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	6	2	.750	–
Las Vegas	4	2	.667	1
Seattle	5	3	.625	1
Phoenix	4	5	.444	2½
Dallas	3	4	.429	2½
L.A. Sparks	2	6	.250	4

Sunday, June 2

Connecticut 69, Atlanta 50
Phoenix 87, L.A. Sparks 68
N.Y. Liberty 104, Indiana 68
Minnesota 87, Dallas 76

Tuesday, June 4

Washington at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Liberty at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Wednesday, June 5

Las Vegas at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.

Thursday, June 6

Chicago vs Washington at Washington, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Liberty at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

GOLF

PGA Money Leaders

Through June 3

1, Scottie Scheffler, $20,024,553.
2, Xander Schauffele, $11,018,071.
3, Wyndham Clark, $9,164,429.
4, Sahith Theegala, $6,972,172.
5, Rory McIlroy, $6,960,665.
6, Ludvig Aberg, $6,511,053.
7, Hideki Matsuyama, $6,086,677.
8, Chris Kirk, $5,082,371.
9, Byeong Hun An, $4,975,236.
10, Collin Morikawa, $4,557,882.
11, Shane Lowry, $4,209,006.
12, Brian Harman, $3,901,266.
13, Matthieu Pavon, $3,879,043.
14, Will Zalatoris, $3,635,799.
15, Patrick Cantlay, $3,474,686.
16, Christiaan Bezuidenhout, $3,357,144.
17, Stephan Jaeger, $3,347,827.
18, Justin Thomas, $3,321,661.
19, Jason Day, $3,320,585.
20, Max Homa, $3,307,716.
21, Russell Henley, $3,184,894.
22, J.T. Poston, $3,056,826.
23, Sepp Straka, $3,050,988.
24, Akshay Bhatia, $3,003,116.
25, Tom Hoge, $2,968,093.
26, Jake Knapp, $2,895,420.
27, Thomas Detry, $2,865,999.
28, Keegan Bradley, $2,865,636.
29, Taylor Pendrith, $2,858,530.
30, Nick Taylor, $2,849,435.
31, Cameron Young, $2,845,627.
32, Sungjae Im, $2,833,372.
33, Si Woo Kim, $2,796,639.
34, Austin Eckroat, $2,654,485.
35, Tommy Fleetwood, $2,623,023.
36, Denny McCarthy, $2,587,230.
37, Sam Burns, $2,576,889.
38, Harris English, $2,566,355.
39, Grayson Murray, $2,471,532.
40, Luke List, $2,424,893.
41, Jordan Spieth, $2,389,369.
42, Tony Finau, $2,370,509.
43, Alex Noren, $2,307,013.
44, Peter Malnati, $2,303,876.
45, Matt Fitzpatrick, $2,278,620.
46, Adam Hadwin, $2,235,658.
47, Billy Horschel, $2,149,478.
48, Mackenzie Hughes, $2,133,355.
49, Viktor Hovland, $2,077,525.
50, Taylor Moore, $2,070,568.
51, Corey Conners, $2,054,601.
52, Erik van Rooyen, $2,030,363.
53, Davis Riley, $1,990,863.
54, Patrick Rodgers, $1,980,699.
55, Mark Hubbard, $1,878,129.
56, Eric Cole, $1,832,128.
57, Adam Schenk, $1,744,497.
58, Emiliano Grillo, $1,691,914.
59, Maverick McNealy, $1,691,541.
60, Brendon Todd, $1,659,229.
61, Lucas Glover, $1,619,231.
62, Andrew Putnam, $1,605,844.
63, Lee Hodges, $1,574,998.
64, Nicolai Hojgaard, $1,540,386.
65, Min Woo Lee, $1,505,679.
66, Adam Scott, $1,450,926.
67, Kevin Yu, $1,411,642.
68, Ben Kohles, $1,409,477.
69, Justin Rose, $1,400,433.
70, Kurt Kitayama, $1,386,933.
71, Seamus Power, $1,353,846.
72, Charley Hoffman, $1,347,616.
73, Cam Davis, $1,305,098.
74, Doug Ghim, $1,258,381.
75, Keith Mitchell, $1,232,117.
76, Brice Garnett, $1,207,638.
77, Aaron Rai, $1,141,156.
78, Tom Kim, $1,138,637.
79, Robert MacIntyre, $1,133,146.
80, Beau Hossler, $1,111,316.
81, Nate Lashley, $1,109,389.
82, Taylor Montgomery, $1,064,266.
83, Tyrrell Hatton, $1,038,587.
84, Davis Thompson, $1,028,582.
85, Justin Lower, $1,026,133.
86, Sami Valimaki, $1,025,038.
87, Ben Griffin, $976,149.
88, Chris Gotterup, $971,399.
89, Adam Svensson, $961,137.
90, Chandler Phillips, $957,135.
91, Andrew Novak, $911,022.
92, Kyoung-Hoon Lee, $903,704.
93, S.H Kim, $875,877.
94, Alejandro Tosti, $873,731.
95, Rickie Fowler, $856,759.
96, Chan Kim, $845,386.
97, Ryo Hisatsune, $838,830.
98, Nico Echavarria, $811,375.
99, David Skinns, $783,249.
100, Chad Ramey, $774,113.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series Schedule

May 12 – Goodyear 400 (Brad Keselowski)
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
June 23 – Race at New Hampshire, New Hampshire
June 30 – Ally 400, Nashville
July 7 – Grant Park 165, Chicago
July 14 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Pocono, Pocono
July 21 – Brickyard 400, Speedway, Ind.
Aug. 11 – Cook Out 400, Richmond, Va.
Aug. 18 – FireKeepers Casino 400, Brooklyn
Aug. 24 – Coke Zero Sugar 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Sept. 1 – Cook Out Southern 500, Darlington, SC
Sept. 8 – Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart, Hampton, Ga.
Sept. 15 – Go Bowling at The Glen, Watkins Glen International, NY
Sept. 21 – Bass Pro Shops Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.
Sept. 29 – Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 6 – YellaWood 500, Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 13 – Bank of America ROVAL 400, Concord, NC
Oct. 20 – South Point 400, Las Vegas, Nev.
Oct. 27 – Race at Homestead-Miami, Homestead, Fla.
Nov. 3 – XFINITY 500, Martinsville, Va.
Nov. 10 – NASCAR Cup Series Championship, Avondale, Ariz.

TRANSACTIONS

Monday's Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

ATLANTA BRAVES – C Chadwick Tromp Sent to Minors.
BALTIMORE ORIOLES – 2B Jorge Mateo Placed on 7-Day IL Concussion. P Nick Vespi Called Up from Minors. Connor Norby Purchased From Minors. P Thyago Vieira Designated for Assignment.
CHICAGO CUBS – P Daniel Palencia Sent to Minors. P Daniel Palencia Removed From 15-Day IL Right shoulder strain. P Daniel Palencia Recalled From Minors Rehab.
COLORADO ROCKIES – Angel Chivilli Called Up from Minors. P Peter Lambert Sent to Minors.
DETROIT TIGERS – Justyn-Henry Malloy Purchased From Minors. 2B Buddy Kennedy Designated for Assignment.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS – P Mitch White Outrighted to Minors.
MINNESOTA TWINS – 2B Edouard Julien Sent to Minors.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES – Weston Wilson Called Up from Minors. 2B Kody Clemens Placed on 10-Day IL Low back spasms. Michael Rucker Transferred to 60-Day IL Finger numbness, right hand. David Dahl Purchased From Minors. LF Brandon Marsh Placed on 10-Day IL Strained right hamstring.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS – P Blake Snell Placed on 15-Day IL Left groin strain. LF Michael Conforto Removed From 10-Day IL Strained right hamstring. LF Michael Conforto Recalled From Minors Rehab.
SEATTLE MARINERS – LF Jonatan Clase Sent to Minors.
TAMPA BAY RAYS – RF Josh Lowe Removed From 10-Day IL Strained right oblique. RF Josh Lowe Recalled From Minors Rehab. DH Jonathan Aranda Sent to Minors.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CINCINNATI BENGALS – G Max Scharping signed/unrestricted free agent to Philadelphia Eagles One-year contract (through 2024).
DENVER BRONCOS – WR Troy Franklin signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027).
GREEN BAY PACKERS – S Javon Bullard signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027).
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS – WR Jaray Jenkins signed to Pittsburgh Steelers.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS – WR Justin Jefferson re-signed Four-year extension (through 2028).
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS – T Andrew Stueber cut. WR David Wallis signed.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS – T Troy Fautanu signed/draft choice Four-year contract (fifth-year option). CB Luq Barcoo cut. WR Jaray Jenkins signed.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ANAHEIM DUCKS – G Damian Clara Signed Three-year, entry-level contract.
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS – D Denton Mateychuk Sent to minors Cleveland-AHL.
DETROIT RED WINGS – LW Jakub Rychlovsky Signed as Free Agent Two-year, entry-level contract.

NCAA BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Evansville rallies to win Greenville Regional

Chad Lindskog
Evansville Courier & Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Cinderella story will continue.

Facing elimination in the NCAA Tournament Greenville Regional, the fourth-seeded University of Evansville Purple Aces rallied to upset No. 16-ranked and top-seed East Carolina with a 6-5 victory in Monday's winner-take-all championship.

Evansville has clinched its first NCAA baseball regional title in program history and will advance to the super regional round this weekend. They're the ninth team ever to make a super regional after being seeded fourth in a regional.

The Aces (38-24) again used the long ball to their advantage, starting with Kip Fougerousse's fourth homer of the regional and program-tying 21st on the season in the first inning. Then, after ECU (46-17) took the lead in the fifth, Mark Shallenberger belted a three-run, go-ahead homer in the sixth.

UE didn't relinquish the lead as this veteran group continues to take the program to new heights.

"This means a significant amount to the University of Evansville, to our athletic department and to our city," UE coach Wes Carroll said postgame on the ESPN broadcast. "I couldn't be more proud to be an Ace right now. We went out and we earned that thing today. We delivered some big barrels when we needed to."

Next up for the Missouri Valley Conference champions is a showdown with No. 1-ranked Tennessee (53-11) this weekend after the Volunteers swept the Knoxville Regional. They'll play a best-of-three series in Knoxville, Tennessee, for a trip to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

This was only UE's fourth NCAA Tournament appearance at the Division I level (1988, 2000, 2006) while ECU sought its fourth regional championship in five seasons. History didn't matter. Neither did the Aces' 19-6 loss to the Pirates on Sunday night.

In their third meeting with ECU in four days, the Aces took a 2-0 advantage on the Fougerousse homer and an RBI single from Cal McGinnis. After the Pirates scored the next five runs, Fougerousse added another RBI when he singled in the sixth and Shallenberger came up clutch the next inning.

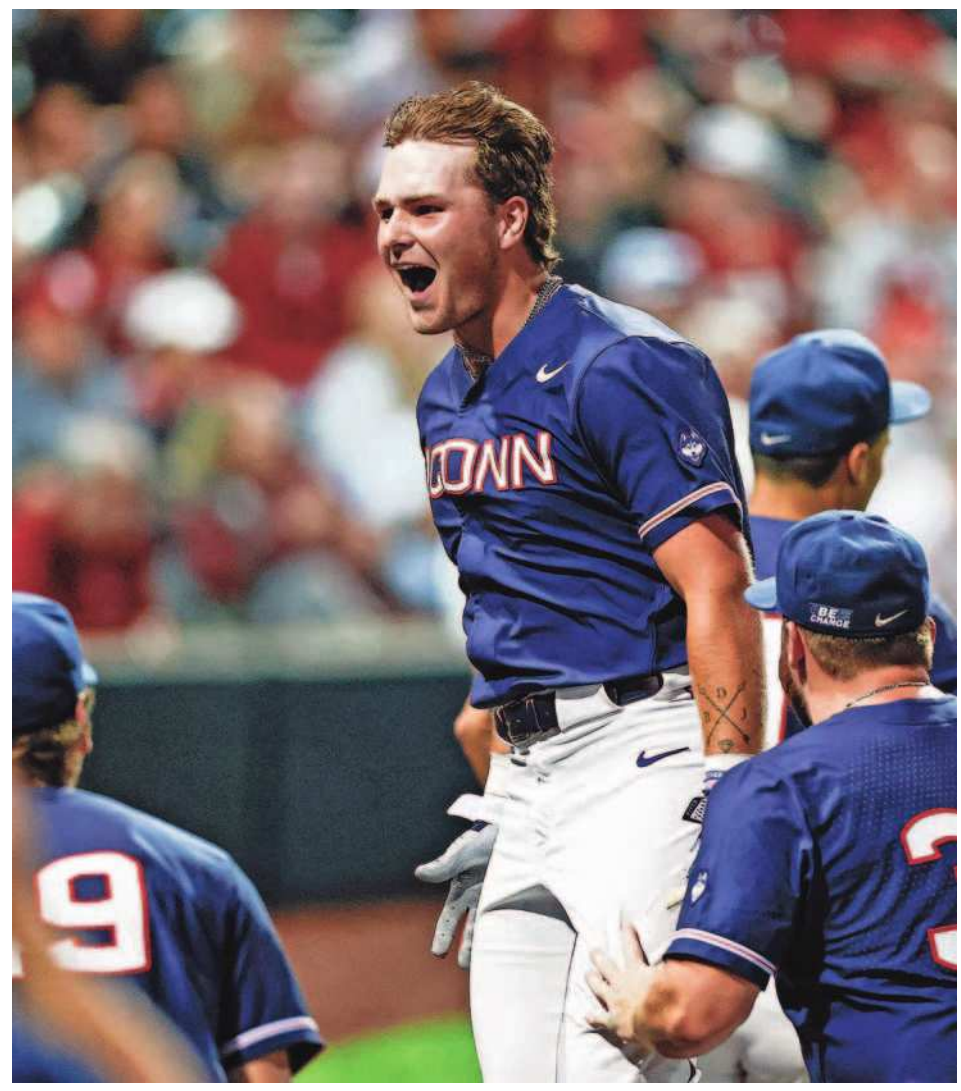
Meanwhile, right-handed pitchers Nick Smith, Max Hansmann and Shane Harris kept the Pirates at bay at the plate in high-leverage situations. Harris, who threw 81 pitches on Sunday, pulled off a 1-2-3 ninth inning to shut the door.

Super Regional teams

No. 1 Tennessee *(won Knoxville regional)*
No. 2 Kentucky *(won Lexington regional)*
No. 3 Texas A&M *(won Bryan-College Station regional)*
No. 6 Clemson *(won Clemson regional)*
No. 7 North Carolina *(won Chapel Hill regional)*
No. 8 Florida State *(won Tallahassee regional)*
No. 9 Georgia *(won Athens regional)*
No. 10 North Carolina State *(won Raleigh regional)*
No. 13 Virginia *(won Charlottesville regional)*
No. 15 Oregon State *(won Corvallis regional)*
Kansas State *(won Fayetteville regional)*
West Virginia *(won Tucson regional)*
Oregon *(won Santa Barbara regional)*
Evansville *(won Greenville regional)*
Florida *(won Stillwater regional)*
UConn *(won Norman regional)*

Super Regional matchups

No. 1 Tennessee vs. Evansville *(Tennessee hosts)*
No. 2 Kentucky vs. No. 15 Oregon State *(Kentucky hosts)*
No. 3 Texas A&M vs. Oregon *(Texas A&M hosts)*
No. 6 Clemson vs. Florida *(Clemson hosts)*
No. 7 North Carolina vs. West Virginia (*North Carolina hosts)*
No. 8 Florida State vs. UConn *(Florida State hosts)*
No. 9 Georgia vs. No. 10 N.C. State *(Georgia hosts)*
No. 13 Virginia vs. Kansas State *(Virginia hosts)*



UConn first baseman Maddix Dalena (43) celebrates in the dugout after hitting a home run during the fourth inning of an NCAA regional game at Oklahoma.
ALONZO ADAMS/USA TODAY SPORTS