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Texas edges closer to national softball title

Teagan Kavan and the top-seeded Longhorns have still not given up a single run in this Women’s College World Series. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

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BRYAN TERRY/
USA TODAY NETWORK

E2

First major heat wave of 2024 is on way

The heat in Death Valley, Calif., could reach 124 degrees by the end of the week, a record for this early in the year, forecasters say.

DAVID MCNEW/
GETTY IMAGES



Temps could be deadly in parts of the West

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

The USA’s first major heat wave of the summer will overspread the West over the next few days, forecasters said, pushing temperatures to dangerous and even “life-threatening” levels across several states, including California, Nevada and Arizona.

By later this week, temperatures in Phoenix and Las Vegas could reach 111

degrees, the National Weather Service said. Many record highs are possible.

Notorious hot spot Death Valley, California, could reach 124 degrees by the end of the week, which would be a record warm temperature for this early in the year.

In Phoenix, where an excessive heat warning was in effect, the National Weather Service warned that “extreme heat will significantly increase the potential for heat-related illnesses, particularly for those working or participating in outdoor activities.”

See **HEAT**, Page 3A

HUNTER BIDEN TRIAL

Both sides lay out arguments in gun case

Prosecutor: President’s son lied about purchase

Xerxes Wilson, Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Esteban Parra, Bart Jansen, Kinsey Crowley and Rachel Barber
USA TODAY NETWORK

WILMINGTON, Del. – “No one is above the law. It doesn’t matter who you are or what your name is,” special prosecutor Derek Hines told the jury Tuesday in opening arguments in Hunter Biden’s felony gun trial.

The president’s surviving son faces three felonies. He is charged with lying on a federal form that asked if he was addicted to drugs, lying to the gun dealer about his status as an addict, then possessing the gun for 11 days.

The trial is the first criminal case against an American president’s child, starting just days after former President Donald Trump became the first U.S. president to be convicted of a felony.

As Biden’s wife, half-sister and first lady Jill Biden sat in the courtroom, Hines made the initial case for Justice Department special counsel David Weiss’ team.

“Each day in courtrooms like this one, defendants from all walks of life are tried because of the choices they make, not the people they are,” Hines said. “Choices they made to break the law. This case is no different.”

Hines said Gordon Cleveland, the Delaware gun dealer who sold Hunter Biden a .38-caliber revolver in 2018, will testify that he watched the president’s son fill out a form stating he was not an unlawful drug user or addicted to controlled substances.

“What Mr. Cleveland didn’t know was that Mr. Biden was an unlawful user and he lied,” Hines said.

Hallie Biden, the widow of Hunter Biden’s brother Beau, will testify about his drug use and her own under a grant of immunity. She became a drug user but stopped using before October 2018, Hines said.

She was in a relationship with

to be convicted of a felony.

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See **HUNTER BIDEN**, Page 3A

Give addicts alcohol? Plan aims to save lives



San Francisco’s Managed Alcohol Program, or MAP, focuses on a targeted number of the city’s homeless by housing them and giving them small amounts of alcohol to ease them out of their addiction. GARY CORONADO/LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

San Francisco initiative allows liquor doses to fight addiction

Jorge L. Ortiz, Claire Thornton and Phaedra Trethan
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO – The toll of homelessness and decades of substance abuse is evident in Bruce and Lisa, two clients of San Francisco’s controversial Managed Alcohol Program, from her missing teeth and gravely voice to his bloodshot eyes.

He once dropped a bottle of gin and then sucked the spilled liquid off the floor with a straw, desperate for the alcohol. She recently ventured out of the residential program’s building in search of additional booze and promptly wound up in a hospital with

“I was killing myself. I would have been dead for sure if they had not taken me in.”

Lisa, MAP program client

a broken arm she still can’t explain.

One fact they’re both clear on: Without the innovative city venture, they would be dead by now.

Under MAP, as the initiative is known, up to 20 homeless people with severe alcohol use disorder are housed in a former hotel and given predetermined doses of liquor at specific intervals.

It’s not exactly happy hour at the corner bar. The drinks, dispensed by nurses as a form of medication, are meant to prevent the clients from becoming overly intoxicated while avoiding the worst effects of withdrawal, which may lead to seizures and can be fatal for those physically dependent on alcohol.

The need goes well beyond San Francisco. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about 178,000 Americans die every year of alcohol abuse.

MAP focuses on a small subset of the homeless population with the most severe alcoholism – a group that drains a

See **ALCOHOL ABUSE**, Page 5A

Stint as poll worker gave me a whole new appreciation

Deborah Barfield Berry
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – There was a hum as the ballot glided into the voting machine. I scanned a barcode and confirmed with the voter that the information on the screen was her precinct and, yes, that was her political party.

I pointed to the far side of the room where she would take her completed ballot. Then I stepped away, giving her privacy as she cast her ballot in the

nation’s capital primary.

I helped my first voter that recent morning. This veteran journalist also became a poll worker.

For two days last week, I joined the ranks of thousands of poll workers across the country who help run elections in their communities. This army of retirees, students, neighbors – and yes journalists – not only navigates voters through the process, but also help protect it.

See **POLL WORKERS**, Page 2A



USA TODAY national correspondent **Deborah Barfield Berry** joined hundreds of others in Washington, D.C., for two days last week as a poll worker at early voting sites. AMAYA BERRY/USA TODAY

Poll workers

Continued from Page 1A

I have a whole new appreciation for poll workers.

I must have interviewed hundreds of poll workers over the years questioning many about why they do it. I’ve talked to young folks who stepped up to do the work. I’ve written about election officials desperately recruiting poll workers. More recently, I’ve interviewed some afraid to do the job because of attacks against election workers.

It was at the suggestion of Thomas Hicks, a commissioner with the federal Election Assistance Commission, that I decided to see for myself what it’s like to work on the inside.

“I wish Americans who have skepticism about the process see the hard work that their neighbors put in to serve our country and democracy,” he told me. “Without poll workers, there is no election.”

District of Columbia election officials welcomed the idea. So along with nearly 1,700 of my Washington neighbors and others who work for the city government, we fanned out last week to 25 early voting centers a few days ahead of the June 4 primary.

Voting machines undergo rigorous testing

Weeks earlier in April, I waited in the lobby of the operations center until 10 a.m. when the public was allowed inside a huge room to watch technicians verify the accuracy of the voting machines.

“You can start,” someone yelled out.

Inside the brightly lit room, technicians stood in front of rows of electronic voting machines. They checked each machine wiping off any previous elections, verifying ballot information and making sure each complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The process could take up to 30 minutes per machine depending on the information on the ballot. That day technicians would spend hours meticulously checking 94 machines that would later be sealed to await delivery to voting centers.

By election time, district technicians will have checked about 300 machines.

The verification process “is basically to demystify elections and then to just have complete transparency with the process,” Monica Holman Evans, executive director of the District of Columbia Board of Elections, told me. “We’re not trying to operate in the dark or operate in secrecy.”

Poll workers must go through training class

My journey as a poll-worker-in-training started in April with a mandatory four-hour training class.

By 9 a.m. that Tuesday, I joined about a dozen other would-be ballot clerks in a room with a white board and a big screen at the front of the class. We watched a video about cybersecurity and another about making sure polls were accessible.

“Transparency is built into the election process,” a person on the video told us.

There is no one system for running elections across the country. In Washington, voters affiliated with the Democratic Party, Republican Party or DC Statehood Green Party can vote in the primary. Others can only vote in the general election in November.

Unlike in many places, noncitizens in the nation’s capital can vote for local elections. Officials also set up in-person voting at the Department of Corrections where 252 incarcerated people had voted by Thursday. Some served as poll workers.

Elections officials have ramped efforts to engage voters and recruit more poll workers, including turning to social media, radio and posting signs in Metro stations.

“There’s a lot that goes into elections behind the scenes,” Evans said. “I think that when people have a greater appreciation of everything that goes into elections, then that means they have a greater appreciation for us and what we do and for the electoral process.”

In the training class, instructors explained our role as ballot clerks and how to help voters cast their ballots using



Deborah Barfield Berry, right, national correspondent for USA TODAY, serves Wednesday with another ballot clerk, Nehanda Headley, for the District of Columbia Board of Elections in Washington, during the early voting period for the June 4 primary. Berry’s training began in April with a mandatory four-hour class. AMAYA BERRY/USA TODAY



Headley helps a voter at an early voting center. She says she first worked at the polls when she was a student at Howard University years ago. AMAYA BERRY/USA TODAY

Elections officials have ramped efforts to engage voters and recruit more poll workers, including turning to social media, radio and posting signs in Metro stations.

voting machines or paper ballots. The session included hands-on simulations.

I teamed with a classmate to test our new knowledge. We coached each other, sharing reminders about what we had just learned.

Then we returned to the classroom for a quiz!

‘Our people died for the right to vote’

Lights were still low when I walked into the Takoma Recreation Center last Wednesday for the six-hour morning shift. It was so quiet in the community-room-turned-polling site.

I set up at a table with the bold “ballot clerk” signs. Steps away were six voting machines.

Many of my fellow poll workers had served in the past and had mastered the machines. They knew where to steer voters. Me, not so much.

The day before I reread the 265-page spiral bound “Vote Center Operations Manual” officials gave us during training. I had aced the quiz after class, but couldn’t remember whether to put the ballot in the machine first or to first scan the barcode with the voter’s info. In my defense, the class was a month ago and I didn’t have a voting machine at home to practice on. I’m sticking with that.

Seasoned veterans kindly offered a mini refresher.



Bernice Rink shows the badge she's had for more than 20 years as a poll worker. She says she particularly likes greeting voters when she again worked the polls on Wednesday. DEBORAH BARFIELD BERRY/USA TODAY

Others clearly were not new to this. I watched as Bernice Rink walked into the polling site, plopped her bag on a clerk table and greeted everyone on her way to sign in. She sported a name badge encased in a clear plastic cover. She told me later she’s had it for more than 20 years.

The 74-year-old poll worker had worked nearly every position – voter assistance clerk, registration clerk and ballot clerk. She particularly liked greeting voters.

“Have you voted today?” she would ask.

Rink said as a child she marched for voting rights in places like Selma, Alabama. That work, she said, isn’t over. “We’re not treated equally yet,” she said. “It still takes a vote.”

For some, working the polls is also a way to make a few extra dollars. Poll workers here get paid \$100 per six-hour

shift, including the training class.

Nehanda Headley, 44, first worked at the polls years ago when she was a student at Howard University, a historically Black college in Washington, D.C. “I needed to pay for school,” she said.

These days, she also encourages others, especially young folks, to work the polls and to vote.

“Our people died for the right to vote,” she said. “It should be respected.”

The few voters who did come to the center seemed excited. Some were downright appreciative. “Thank you for working the polls,” one voter told us.

At times there were more election workers than voters. Election officials said mail-in ballots, which were sent to all registered voters, contributed to less traffic at the polls.

A few voters trickled in to drop their mail-in ballots in a white box sealed with red tape. One voter told me she didn’t trust the postal service.

Primaries also tend to attract fewer voters, officials said. Still, they said, that morning was extra slow.

“There’s usually a nice flow,” said Terri Butler, a site coordinator, who had worked three elections. (She also happened to be an instructor during my training class.) “It’s good that people are still voting. They’re just not coming in.”

Some wait to vote on Primary Day or Election Day in November, Butler explained. They come as a group and make it a celebration, then go out for lunch.

“They come in so happy,” she said.

Voters trickle in, but are excited to cast ballots

The next afternoon I was assigned to the Raymond Recreation Center where the gym had been converted to a polling site. Voters inserted completed ballots into a tabulator near a basketball hoop.

The huge gym felt cavernous with the four voting stations and eight voting machines. Election workers here also outnumbered voters.

Voters trickled in. There was a bicyclist wearing a helmet. A woman gripping her mail-in ballot. By the end of the day, only 71 people had cast ballots there during the early voting period.

At one point, a center employee (not part of the elections team) walked into the gym and announced that Trump had been found guilty. “I don’t know how ya’ll feel about that, but I’m happy!” she yelled.

No one reacted. Election sites are nonpartisan. But that was the most excitement all afternoon.

There were more quiet highlights during my short stint as a poll worker. I met many people who really cared about helping others vote.

I’m going to donate my stipend to College Bound, a wonderful nonprofit that helps students prepare for college.

By the end of Thursday’s shift, I had helped only a handful of voters, but I smiled when 30 minutes before closing a family with 8-year-old and 6-year-old sisters walked in. The parents were excited to show them how voting worked.

I learned too and I left with my own “I voted” sticker.



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Jill Biden spends birthday at Hunter’s trial

First lady, family are an unusual presence

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy
USA TODAY

WILMINGTON, Del. – Jill Biden spent her birthday in a federal courtroom.

The first lady took a front-row seat as Hunter Biden, the son of President Joe Biden, sat in U.S. District Court in Delaware on Monday for the first day of his trial on felony gun charges. Flanked by her daughter Ashley and her daughter-in-law Melissa Cohen Biden, they made a trifecta of support as the highly watched case got underway.

Ashley Biden is Hunter’s half-sister and Cohen Biden is Hunter’s wife. The first lady raised Hunter Biden after the death of the president’s first wife in a 1972 car accident. As courtrooms scenes go, the show of presidential family figures in full view of the jury made for an unusual sight – and it’s one that continued on Tuesday when the three women returned for opening statements.

Wearing a purple monochromatic pantsuit, Valentino stilettos and a perfectly coiffed mane, Jill Biden was a powerful presence on Monday in the courtroom.

As the jury selection process got underway, she could be seen paying rapt attention and taking notes as well as frequently whispering to the women by her side.

During breaks, she would wait for Hunter Biden to leave the defense table and give him a hug before exiting the room.

It was apparent that the first lady’s



First lady Jill Biden leaves the J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building after jury selection in Hunter Biden’s trial for federal gun charges in Wilmington, Delaware on Monday. JASPER COLT/USA TODAY

stature was that of any ordinary relative of a defendant.

She got up, with everyone else in the courtroom, to “All rise” when U.S. District Court Judge Maryellen Noreika entered.

By the afternoon on Monday, a diverse jury had been selected.

The first lady sat across from everyday Delaware residents who would soon decide her son’s fate.

The scene was reminiscent of former President Donald Trump’s hush money trial and conviction in a New York City courtroom last week.

It’s a rare moment in history to see so

many presidential figures and wannabes packed into courtrooms where their fates and families’ fortunes are being decided.

Hunter Biden faces three felonies over whether he lied on a federal gun form in 2018 that asked if he was addicted to drugs.

Among Hunter Biden’s family who were conspicuously absent Monday were his ex-wife Kathleen Buhle and Hallie Biden, his former sister-in-law whom he dated in the aftermath of his brother’s death.

They are both expected to be called on as witnesses by the prosecution.

For many, Joe Biden’s focus on family is a big part of his image.

In 2014, Biden, then vice president, famously sent a message to his staff, that said, in part: “If I find out that you are working with me while missing important family responsibilities, it will disappoint me greatly.

“This has been an unwritten rule since my days in the Senate.”

Having lost his first wife and daughter at age 29 has shaped the president and the way he views his commitment to family.

In 2015, tragedy struck again when he lost his older son, Beau Biden at age 46 to a brain tumor.

The president spent Sunday night with family in their Delaware home and was off on a campaign trip to Connecticut Monday afternoon.

Still, for some, the legal spectacles have sown more doubts.

Among potential jurors at the Biden trial, there were some who said they believed that government and law enforcement “investigates and prosecutes individuals because of politics.”

Some pointed to the Trump trial as an example.

Still others said they felt Biden was being unfairly targeted because of his father.

Among supporters at the courtroom was Ricky Mouse, president of the Delaware chapter of the NAACP and a longtime Biden friend.

“I have known Hunter from when he was about 3 years old,” he said.

“He’s getting crucified because of his name. And that’s wrong.”

Both Hunter and Jill Biden hugged Mouse when they saw him.

“Hunter said I took a lot of tension off of him,” he said afterward.



Hunter Biden, son of President Joe Biden, arrives at the federal court Tuesday with his wife, Melissa Cohen Biden, for opening arguments in his trial in Wilmington, Del., on criminal gun charges. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

Hunter Biden

Continued from Page 1A

Hunter Biden at the time of the gun purchase. She told law enforcement she found a gun in his vehicle and threw it away outside a Delaware supermarket.

Prosecutors will also call Zoe Kestan, Hunter Biden’s former girlfriend, to discuss his frequent use of crack cocaine, Hines said. Kestan also has a grant of immunity.

FBI agent Erika Jensen was expected to testify about Biden’s messages discussing his drug use. “I was sleeping on a car smoking crack on 4th Street and Rodney,” was one of the messages prosecutors disclosed in a court filing. In another, he said he was behind a minor league baseball stadium in Wilmington “waiting for a dealer named Mookie.”

Defense: Can’t prove addiction

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell told jurors emphatically that prosecutors can’t prove his client knowingly lied on the gun form at the heart of the trial.

“Hunter bought a small handgun. It was never loaded. He never used it. It was thrown out 11 days later by the person he was dating at the time. Just 11 days later,” Lowell said. “For this, three felonies.”

Pounding the lectern, Lowell said nobody will dispute that Hunter Biden struggled with drug use. He has been open about his longtime struggles with crack cocaine addiction, writing about it in a 2021 memoir.

But Lowell emphasized that much of the evidence prosecutors outlined deals with episodes well before or after the gun purchase in October 2018.

Lowell said Biden didn’t knowingly lie because he had recently completed a stint in rehabilitation. He emphasized that prosecutors can’t prove that Biden believed himself to be addicted at the time he bought the gun.

A cash connection?

Prosecutors said his drug abuse occurred during the gun purchase. Lowell disagreed: “Hunter was not using when he bought the gun.”

In addition, prosecutors argued that Biden routinely withdrew large amounts of cash, including \$5,000 the day he bought a gun in October 2018.

Rather than paying for drugs, the president’s son didn’t have a credit card and was paying thousands for drug recovery programs, Lowell said.

Moreover, the gun shop cut corners, Lowell said. It didn’t receive verification of his address, as stores are legally required to do. “A sale is a sale, and that was their goal that day,” he said. “You will hear they wanted it done quickly.”

The federal form defined terms such as “fugitive” but not portions asking about drug use, Lowell said. It asked whether a person “is” using drugs, not “have you ever” used drugs. He implored jurors to listen to testimony from the gun dealer to determine whether they knew what the drug-related terms meant. At least two employees from the gun store are expected to testify at the trial, as is a former state police officer who wrote the final investigative report on the incident.

One juror dropped out Tuesday for lack of transportation to the courthouse.

Contributing: Reuters
Wilson and Parra report for the Delaware News Journal. Ramaswamy, Jansen, Crowley and Barber report for USA TODAY.

Heat

Continued from Page 1A

Little overnight relief will make for dangerous conditions for those without effective cooling or adequate hydration, the weather service said.

Forecasters and local officials are urging residents to stay in air-conditioned areas, drink plenty of fluids and check on neighbors and relatives.

“Extreme heat is an invisible but dangerous consequence of climate change, and CA’s outdoor workers, seniors + children are particularly vulnerable,” California’s Environmental Protection Agency said on social media.

To put this early heat in context, the high temperature forecast for Las Vegas on Thursday is 111 degrees, the weather service in Las Vegas said. That would tie the earliest 111-degree reading in Las Vegas on record.

Weekend wildfires in California

Wildfires ignited in California over the weekend as the heat began to build. 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 has become the first 10,000-acre fire this year in California,” said AccuWeather meteorologist Brandon Buckingham. “Given the heat, dryness, and sunshine this week, there will likely be more fires breaking out that can quickly spread.”

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 till late Thursday, warns of “dangerous hot conditions.” Temperatures of 95 to 108 degrees are possible.

‘Heat dome’ is coming

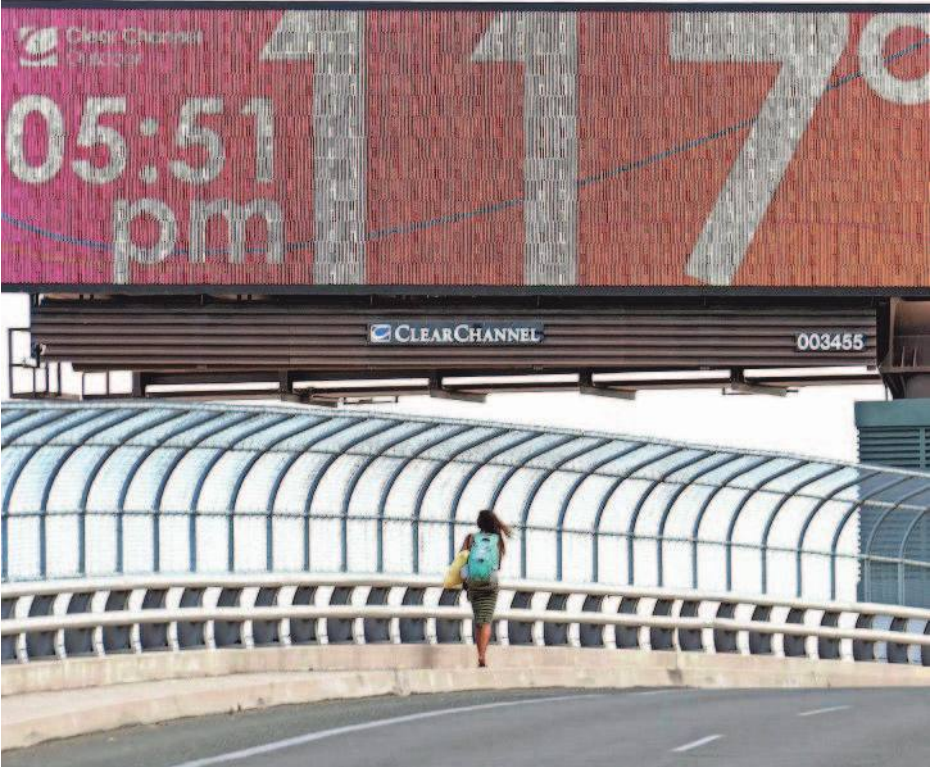
The coming heat is partly related to a heat wave that has been scorching Mexico for the past few weeks and led to dozens of deaths. The dangerous heat in Mexico is the result of a strong “heat dome” of high pressure that’s nudging its way north into the western United States.

A heat dome is “a bubble of high pressure and warm air that suppresses clouds and rain and diverts the storm track well to the north,” Weather.com meteorologist Jonathan Erdman said. “When those happen in the heart of summer, they can lead to extended heat waves near their core.”

Extreme heat and humidity can challenge the body’s ability to cool itself. Those at greatest risk of heat illness are people 65 or older or children under 2, plus those living with chronic diseases or mental illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People can prevent heat-related illness by drinking water, sheltering in air conditioning, limiting outdoor activity, spending time in the shade when outside, and cooling off in a pool or other body of water.

Contributing: Christopher Cann and Cady Stanton, USA TODAY; Reuters



Temperatures in downtown Phoenix were well above 100 degrees in July 2023. This week, more than a month earlier in the season, similar numbers are expected in the city. ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY NETWORK

Pressure on Israel for a truce intensifies

Government: 43 of 124 hostages confirmed dead

John Bacon
USA TODAY

The pressure was intensifying Tuesday for Israel to make a cease-fire deal and gain freedom for scores of hostages after the government confirmed the deaths of four more captives, fueling more protests and angst among family members of those still held in Gaza.

The government says more than a third of hostages – 43 of the 124 – are now confirmed dead. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition partners Shas and United Torah Judaism said Tuesday that they would support a hostage deal even if it involves a major change in war strategy. At least two far-right coalition partners, however, have warned they could dissolve the coalition if a deal is reached that does not include the destruction of Hamas.

The four men most recently confirmed dead were among more than 250 people seized in the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attack on Israeli border communities that killed almost 1,200. Military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said new intelligence led to the latest confirmations, saying they died together in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis months ago while Israel was conducting military operations there. It was not yet clear whether they were executed or died in the assault.

The International Red Cross warned Tuesday that time was of the essence. “With every day that passes, more and more hostages die in captivity,” the agency said on social media. “This loss of human life is not inevitable. All hostages must be released immediately and unconditionally.”

Five American hostages are still believed to be alive; three are confirmed dead. National security adviser Jake Sullivan was set to meet with families of the Americans, NBC reported.

Biden: Netanyahu could be prolonging Gaza war

In an interview with Time magazine released on Tuesday, President Joe Bi-



A photograph taken on the Israeli border with the Gaza Strip shows Israeli army tanks maneuvering inside Gaza, on Tuesday amid the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. MENAHEM KAHANA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

den said Netanyahu may be stalling on ending the war in Gaza for political reasons.

The comments in the May 28 interview were made a few days before Biden detailed the cease-fire proposal and as the Israeli prime minister struggles with deep political divisions at home.

Asked whether he thought Netanyahu was prolonging the war for his own political reasons, Biden said: “There is every reason for people to draw that conclusion.”

The Israeli assault has killed more than 36,000 people in Gaza, according to health authorities there, who say thousands more bodies are buried under rubble.

A few arrests were made and hundreds of anti-government protesters were dispersed early Tuesday after blocking a highway and lighting a bonfire outside Israeli military headquarters in Tel Aviv. The protesters were demanding a deal for the release of remaining hostages.

Arab lawmakers in Israel pitch two-state solution

An Israeli legislative conference hosted by an Arab-Israeli lawmaker drew calls for recognition of a Palestinian state and angry rebuttals from other

lawmakers.

The conference, sponsored by Aida Touma-Suleiman, focused on last week’s recognition of a Palestinian state by Spain, Norway and Ireland. More than 20% of Israelis are Arab, and several lawmakers spoke in favor of the two-state solution. Yosef El-Tawana told the mostly pro-Palestinian participants that the only solution to the conflict is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and granting the Palestinian people their full rights.

“The vast majority of the countries of the world recognized the Palestinian state and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,” El-Tawana said. “Only the fascist Israeli government insists on ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people and continuing the conflict.”

Lawmaker Tally Gotliv, a member of Netanyahu’s Likud Party, drew boos for briefly arguing against Palestinian statehood before walking out of the conference. Polls show most Israelis oppose Palestinian statehood.

Israel hits UN school compound, says it was a base for Hamas

Israeli drones struck Hamas militants early Tuesday in a compound with a U.N. school in the Al Buriz area of

Central Gaza, the Israeli military said in a social media post. The site included headquarter buildings, weapon depots, rocket launch positions, observation posts and other infrastructure, the military said.

Israel has drawn global outrage for multiple strikes on U.N. buildings and equipment the military said was being used by Hamas militants, including an attack two months ago that inadvertently killed seven World Food Kitchen aid workers.

After Tuesday’s strike, the military published photos of weapons it said were seized at the site.

“The attack was carefully planned and carried out using precise weaponry and avoiding as much as possible harm to those not involved,” the military statement said.

The Israeli military said it had seized rocket warheads stashed in U.N.-marked bags, destroyed a tunnel almost 1 mile long and killed multiple militants in targeted raids on the Sabra neighborhood of Rafah.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Defense Ministry announced a \$3 billion deal with Lockheed to buy 25 stealth F-35 jets. Up to five planes will be delivered annually starting in 2028, the ministry said in a statement.

Iranian general reportedly killed in Israeli airstrike in Syria

Iranian government media reported that a Revolutionary Guard adviser stationed in Syria, Gen. Saeed Abyar, was killed in an Israeli airstrike near the city of Aleppo. Several other people also were killed in the attack Monday, Syria’s defense ministry said.

The attack comes two months after two senior Revolutionary Guard generals and five other officers were killed and a building was destroyed in an airstrike on an Iranian diplomatic compound in Damascus, Syria’s capital. That strike led to retaliatory strikes by both sides that put the two nations on the brink of war.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request from USA TODAY for confirmation or comment on the report.

Contributing: Reuters

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

New Joint-Supporting “Miracle Oil” Capsule Delivers Hip, Knee, and Shoulder Comfort in Just Days

Thousands of Americans are rediscovering normal freedom of movement thanks to a “miracle oil” capsule that’s outperforming hemp in promoting joint comfort.

According to the official figures from the CDC, more than 58 million Americans are living with joint discomfort. This epidemic has led to a search for alternative approaches – as many sufferers seek relief without the harmful side effects of conventional “solutions.”

Anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears is leading the way with a new formula he calls “the most significant breakthrough I’ve ever found for easing joint discomfort.”

The capsule is based on a “miracle oil” historically treasured for its joint health-supporting properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And to this day, Ayurvedic practitioners rely on it to promote optimal joint health.

Now, with a modern twist backed by science, Dr. Sears is making this natural solution for joint health available to the public.

Your Body’s Hidden “Soothing System”

Joint health research changed forever with the discovery of the endocannabinoid system (ECS) in 1992. Up until that point, research on cannabinoids focused on psychoactive effects. Now, scientists were looking at a new way to fight occasional aches and pains.

Your ECS serves as a central “signaling system” that tells your body how to react to things you do every day. It controls several critical bodily functions such as learning and memory, sleep, healthy immune responses – and your response to discomfort.

A recent study revealed a direct link between the ECS and creaky, sore joints. Researchers at the University of Edinburgh studied the aging of mice

with endocannabinoid deficiencies versus “normal” mice.

As they aged, the deficient mice had a whopping 60% more joint degeneration than the mice with a healthy ECS.

As the name suggests, the ECS responds to cannabis. At the time it was discovered, scientists assumed that was the best way to support it. But thanks to Dr. Sears’ all-natural solution, you can power up your ECS without marijuana.

“Calling it the ‘endocannabinoid system’ was a misnomer from the very beginning,” Dr. Sears explained. “Modern research reveals that you don’t need cannabis to activate this incredible system. You don’t need to ‘get high’ to get joint relief.”

A scholarly review found that plants and herbs that don’t produce mind-altering effects can support the ECS and help it maintain its healthy functions.

This includes common foodstuffs, such as kava, chocolate, black pepper, and most significantly – the star ingredient to Dr. Sears’ own **Mobilify** formula - frankincense.

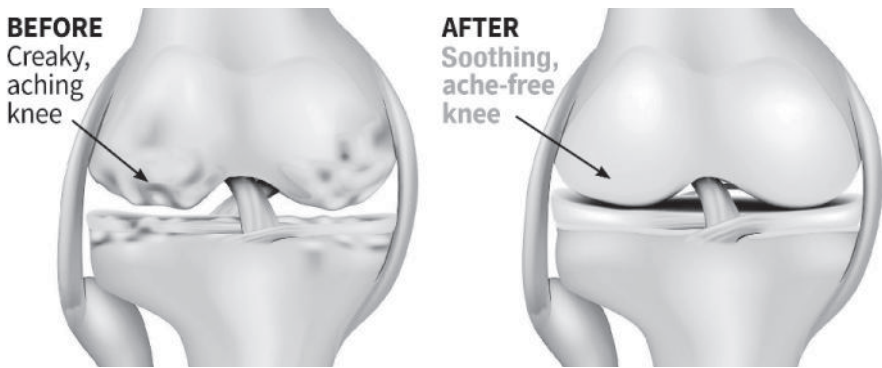
Modern scientists say this natural ingredient meets “cannabinoid tetrad” – the signs used to determine if something supports the ECS. While it doesn’t produce a “high” like cannabis does, it binds to the same receptors to support a healthy response to discomfort.

All the Benefits of CBD – Without Cannabis

Indian frankincense, the chief ingredient in **Mobilify**, has been shown to provide all the benefits of cannabis without any feelings of sluggishness or sleepiness.

And studies show that users don’t have to wait long for the comfort they’re looking for.

In a study published in the International Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian frankincense “significantly”



The active ingredient in Mobilify soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days

supported healthy joint function and relieved discomfort in as little as five days.

Additional research linked regular use to lasting comfort.

In another study, 48 participants were given an extract made from frankincense for 120-days. When the results came in, researchers determined the extract strongly supported joint comfort – especially in the knees.

These results were all achieved without marijuana. Research continues to back up the idea that you can support smooth, strong, and healthy joints naturally – without tiredness or sluggishness.

Get Moving Again with Mobilify

Mobilify has already helped thousands of Americans stay on their feet and breeze through their daily activities with ease.

One user even reported getting results the same day it was used.

“**Mobilify** really helps with soreness, stiffness, and mild temporary discomfort,” Joni D. said.

Larry M, another user, compared taking **Mobilify** to living a completely new life.

“After a week and a half of taking **Mobilify**, the discomfort, stiffness, and minor aches went away...it’s almost like being reborn,” he said.

Dennis H. said it helped him get back to his favorite hobby.

“I can attest to **Mobilify** easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried,” he said.

How to Get Mobilify

Right now, the only way to get this powerful, unique **Mobilify** formula that clobbers creaking joints without clobbering you is directly from Dr. Sears. It is not available in stores.

To secure your bottle of this breakthrough natural joint discomfort reliever, buyers should call with Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-341-7198**. “The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers.”

Dr. Sears believes in this product so much, he offers a 100% money-back guarantee on every order. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I’ll send you your money back,” said Dr. Sears.

The Hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number may be shut down to allow them to restock. Call **1-800-341-7198** to secure your limited supply of **Mobilify**. If you are not able to get through due to extremely high call volume, please try again! Call NOW to qualify for a significant discount on this limited time offer. To take advantage of this exclusive offer use Promo Code: **MBUSAT47** when you call.

Alcohol abuse

Continued from Page 1A

disproportionate share of the city’s emergency resources – and it has drawn fire from critics who contend San Francisco is spending millions of dollars enabling addiction.

Bruce and Lisa offer a counterpoint.

“Before I came to MAP, I was drinking my breakfast, lunch and dinner. I couldn’t even walk. I was a total mess,” said Bruce, 65, who along with Lisa spoke on condition their last names not be used because of safety concerns. “MAP has helped me take my medications, make my appointments. I wouldn’t be doing all that if it wasn’t for this program. They saved my life.”

Said Lisa, 62: “I was killing myself. I would have been dead for sure if they had not taken me in.”

Following the science

The notion of a famously liberal city providing free drinks to alcoholics has made for easy fodder in some conservative circles, with “taxpayer-funded” vodka played up in headlines. Officials with San Francisco’s Department of Public Health say clients and staffers have been harassed in person and on-line by right-wing media outlets whose personnel have approached them during outings and taken photos through the closed building’s windows.

Dr. Paul Linde, a substance abuse expert and longtime city resident, concedes that “on the face of it, to the average person this does seem nuts.”

But Linde, a professor emeritus at the University of California, San Francisco, who provided psychiatric emergency services at S.F. General Hospital for 24 years, said there’s solid science behind the idea of limiting the damage caused by addiction.

Recovery without abstinence

MAP relies on harm reduction, a model that emphasizes decreasing the negative effects of substance use without requiring abstinence. Linde said harm reduction is better understood in relation to intravenous drug use that can lead to communicable diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis C and other infections. He believes the concept also is applicable to alcohol abuse, which can result in liver, heart and brain damage in addition to an increased risk of cancer.

“The science is very strong in showing physical health, mental health and quality of life benefits from reducing and not needing to stop,” said Linde, adding that patients on harm reduction typically drop their substance use by 50% to 75%. “From a public health perspective this program makes a ton of sense. It’s not just the alcohol, it’s the contact and the social support that’s there, and the door is always open for more traditional treatment if people want it.”

Traditional treatment, espoused by Alcoholics Anonymous and the Salvation Army, among others, is based on abstinence. Linde said that focus sometimes leads to a rigid mentality among those whose lives have benefited from absolute sobriety and see it as the only way to overcome alcohol use disorder (AUD).

A new metric for recovery

Two years ago, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism changed its definition of recovery, and it no longer requires abstinence. “An individual may be considered ‘recovered’ if both remission from AUD and cessation from heavy drinking are achieved and maintained over time,” the institute says on its website, defining such “cessation” as having no more than 14 drinks a week for men and seven for women, with limits on the daily amounts.

Linde, now a medical director for the telehealth care provider Ria Health, said some of his patients thrived by going through the AA program and others flourished.

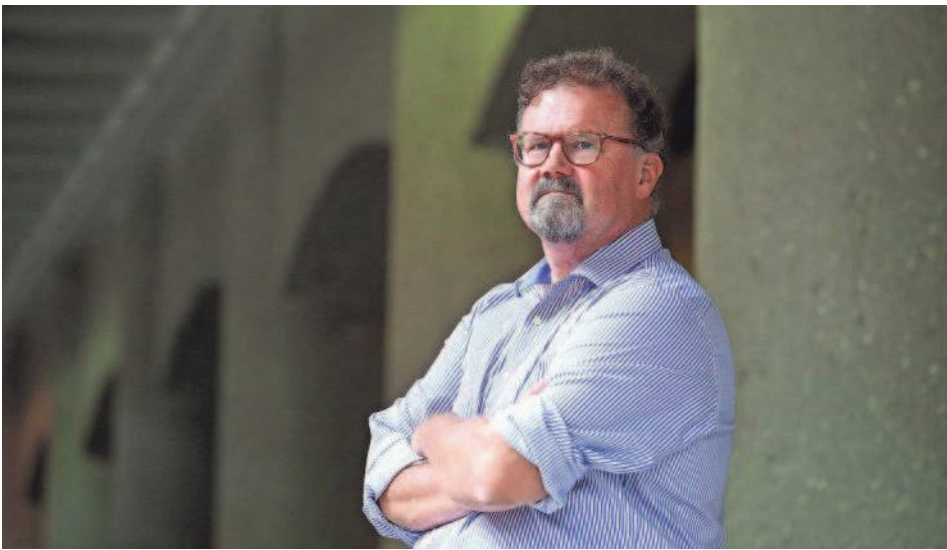
“AA is terrific for some people. AA has saved countless lives,” Linde said. “It’s a wonderful model, but only if it’s a good fit for the individual. It’s not the only way to recover from alcohol use disorder. It’s one way.”

There are plenty of skeptics about San Francisco’s embrace of harm reduction, including its mayor, London Breed. In February, Breed said the approach was ineffective and was “making things far worse” when it comes to the city’s soaring fentanyl-related deaths.

But Breed has not cut MAP’s \$5 million yearly budget, and her spokesman Jeff Cretan said via e-mail that the program helps the city keep some of its most problematic people “off the streets and indoors, while trying to get them connected to more services.”



Major California urban centers such as San Francisco and Los Angeles have struggled with a rising tide of homelessness and tent cities in part because of a crisis in affordable housing. MEDIANEWS GROUP/EAST BAY TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES



Dr. Paul Linde, a substance abuse expert in San Francisco, says there’s solid evidence harm reduction works, though “on the face of it, to the average person this does seem nuts.” LEA SUZUKI/SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE VIA GETTY IMAGES

Better uses for the money?

Krystyl Wright, a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist with Diamond Recovery Group based in Los Angeles, said she would prefer to see the money assigned to MAP spent on treatment for more people, especially the most vulnerable, including those without health insurance or stable housing.

“I am not in total disagreement with harm reduction,” Wright said. “But I am concerned because alcoholism is an addiction. ... I see (MAP) as enabling, and if we’re thinking of bringing this to Los Angeles, I pray we keep it as a pilot program. ... I don’t think this is a one-off solution.”

Lisa and Bruce said they’ve tried to quit drinking before without success. They both acknowledge past drug use – crack and crystal meth for her, meth and IV drugs for him. Bruce, who has been at MAP for five months after years of bouncing from one emergency room to another, said he hasn’t injected drugs in more than 10 years.

“That was easier to quit than alcohol. The alcohol, that’s the beast of all beasts,” said Bruce, who has battled drinking problems for 45 years and ultimately wants to achieve sobriety. “MAP has helped me somewhat get rid of that beast. Some of the medication I’m taking, I don’t have the cravings I used to have.”

Health officials say that though versions of MAP were used elsewhere as part of isolation and quarantine efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, San Francisco is the first city to implement the model permanently. Fifty-five clients have gone through the treatment – they’re expected to stay at least a year – and they’re offered medication and therapy in addition to the drinks, which can be beer, wine or vodka.

A fifth of gin a day

Lisa joined MAP in its infancy during the early days of the pandemic in 2020, when officials trying to keep the city’s large homeless population safe placed them in hotels and motels. Some who were addicted to alcohol were provided liquor to allay their cravings and head off withdrawal. The surprising success of that endeavor begat the current undertaking.

At the time, Lisa said she was consuming more than a fifth of gin a day. She’s now down to four standard daily drinks.

“I would drink myself into a seizure and then fall and have somebody call an

ambulance,” she said. “And then when I’d wake up in the morning, if I didn’t have a drink I’d have a seizure then. Since I’ve been at MAP all my seizures have stopped.”

Dara Papo, director of the health department’s Whole Person Integrated Care, oversees MAP, which began as a pilot program modeled after similar efforts in Canada and Europe.

Papo is aware MAP’s \$5 million price tag and unorthodox approach make it a magnet for criticism. She points to the 2022 internal analysis that found the city saved \$1.7 million over six months through a drastic reduction in emergency room visits (73%), emergency medical system activations (65%) and hospitalizations (45%) from frequent users of services enrolling in MAP.

Just as much as that, Papo highlights the human connections made by people who have regained “dignity they did not have when they were frequently found lying on the sidewalk in their own bodily waste.”

Success stories

A recent example was a man who had transitioned to an abstinence-based program and, when stopping by to provide an update on his progress, shared the news that he had restored relations with his adult children and met a grandchild he didn’t know he had. In May, Bruce and other clients joined staffers in a birthday celebration for Lisa.

Papo lists caring for clients in a humane way, reducing use of emergency services and benefitting the community – through increased EMS availability

and less interaction with distressed addicts – as three keys for MAP’s success.

“The endgame is stabilization and greater health and wellness,” Papo said. “We have some people that have chosen recovery. We have people that have gone from 18 drinks a day to two. They’re not sober, but they’re able to function having two drinks a day.”

The problem with stigma

Papo also corrected some misconceptions about the program, saying only staffers and clients are allowed in the facility – no one can just wander in for a free pop. She noted clients are referred to MAP and screened upon intake, then given an individualized care plan.

And while the department offers other rehabilitation services with the goal of abstinence, Papo said MAP has been most effective at stabilizing those with chronic, severe alcoholism, who commonly reduce their consumption even if they don’t quit drinking altogether. Also, department officials say, none of the booze used in the program is purchased with taxpayer dollars.

The San Francisco Fire Department has endorsed MAP, saying in a statement that its members know well how frequently chronic alcoholics require emergency services – some of them daily – and calling the initiative “an incredibly impactful intervention” in reducing unnecessary calls.

“Since MAP’s inception in 2020, our Department has seen a marked decrease in EMS utilization from this small but highly vulnerable population,” the statement said.

Vitka Eisen, CEO of HealthRIGHT 360 – a San Francisco nonprofit that advocates for treatment of substance use disorder – said some alcoholics will ingest hand sanitizer or mouthwash to avoid withdrawal if they can’t access liquor.

Gary McCoy, the organization’s vice president, can relate. McCoy, 45, said his use of heroin, meth and alcohol caused him to shuttle between homelessness and jail until finding sobriety – and sticking with it – through a harm reduction program more than 14 years ago. He sees the approach as a valuable tool to get addicts into recovery and eventually abstinence but realizes the backlash it can evoke.

“That’s the problem with stigma,” McCoy said. “When you start bringing your morals into things, you forget to look at the bigger picture, and the data and the research that support programs like this.”



San Francisco Mayor London Breed has called the harm reduction approach to drug addiction ineffective but has not cut the Managed Alcohol Program’s \$5 million annual budget. TAYFUN COSKUN/ANADOLU AGENCY VIA GETTY IMAGES



Crews repair a water main break in downtown Atlanta that caused massive disruptions across the city beginning Friday. PROVIDED BY CITY OF ATLANTA

Parts of Atlanta remain under boil advisory

Water main breaks cause trouble across city

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

Residents across Atlanta woke up on Tuesday under a boil-water advisory for the fifth day as authorities – including the Army Corps of Engineers – raced to finish repairs on one of two water mains that burst on Friday, causing sweeping disruptions and outages throughout the city.

Here’s what we know about the ongoing water crisis in Atlanta:

Atlanta water main breaks cause citywide trouble

The first water main break occurred Friday morning in downtown Atlanta and immediately caused widespread problems, affecting two area hospitals, two local jails, a pair of stadiums, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and thousands of homes and businesses.

Hours later, a pipe in the Midtown neighborhood started gushing water, leaving more residents, businesses and public facilities under boil-water advisories and, in some cases, without service altogether.

Over the next two days, the disruptions piled up. A pair of Megan Thee Stallion concerts scheduled for Friday and Saturday at State Farm Area were canceled. Shelters across downtown reported water outages. The Georgia Aquarium and Zoo Atlanta closed. And the city asked residents not to drink from public water fountains and to limit their usage at home.

Repairs and a lifted advisory

On Sunday, the city announced that crews completed repairs on the water main break in downtown, though boil-water advisories were still in effect. These repairs restored service to the airport, Mercedes-Benz Stadium and State Farm Arena, the Fulton County Jail, Atlanta City Detention Center, high-rise apartments and many other homes and businesses, the city said.

On Monday, the Atlanta Department of Watershed Management lifted the boil-water advisory for the area affected by the water main break downtown.

This came after officials confirmed the area’s drinking water met or exceeded U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards, the city said in a statement.

An advisory remains in place for Midtown and several other neighborhoods in east Atlanta as of Tuesday morning. Atlanta Public Schools for the second day canceled summer school and other programs, citing citywide water main breaks.

What caused the water main breaks?

Al Wiggins Jr., the commissioner for Atlanta’s Department of Watershed Management, has said corrosion and decay caused the downtown leak, adding that it was difficult to repair because the break occurred at a junction of three water main pipes.

Officials have not provided much information on the Midtown leak, which also occurred at a water main junction. Wiggins said in a news conference that city workers were unaware what caused the break.

When speaking about the ongoing water main repairs and disruptions, Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens pointed to aging infrastructure.

In a statement on the Army Corps of Engineers’ involvement in efforts to repair the Midtown leak, Dickens said, “We have sought their assistance because they have the most experience in handling a crisis like this.”

“They will help us develop a plan to assess and evaluate our aging infrastructure.”

The latest on repairs

The city on Tuesday said the damaged water pipe causing outages and advisories in neighborhoods across east Atlanta has been removed and installation has begun.

Around 2 a.m., crews removed the rusty pipe and started digging out the hole and pumping out the excess water, the city said in a post on social media. Three hours later, sections of 30-inch pipe were lowered and crews began installing them to the water system.

“Some of the remaining steps include completing the installation, making two taps, and pressurizing the line,” the city said in a statement. “Thank you for your continued patience and support.”

LGBTQ+ population faces higher cancer risk

Community has barriers to care, research shows

Eduardo Cuevas
USA TODAY

LGBTQ+ people are more likely to face cancer risks and to experience barriers when trying to detect and treat the disease, new research shows.

LGBTQ+ people smoke cigarettes, consume alcohol and have obesity at a higher rate than heterosexual and cisgender people, prompting concern from researchers at the American Cancer Society that they also face higher cancer burdens. New survey data presented Monday by Dana-Farber Cancer Institute also indicates that LGBTQ+ people experience discrimination in doctors’ offices that prevents them from getting adequate screening and care. The Dana-Farber survey shows that many health providers aren’t attuned to the bias patients face.

Together, the new studies flag a problem in caring for a major sector of the population: Health care providers are not adequately identifying and treating cancer in LGBTQ+ patients. The new findings come amid a push to expand data so it better identifies people by their gender identity or sexual orientation.

“There may be folks that are avoiding health care because they don’t feel welcome,” Dr. William Dahut, chief scientific officer at the American Cancer Society, told USA TODAY. “Then, when they do present for care, their cancer will be at a place where it’s more likely to lead to morbidity, or potentially even mortality.”

Using federal health data from 2020 to 2022, American Cancer Society researchers found bisexual women who were 40 and older had much higher smoking rates compared with heterosexual women, according to a study published last week in the society’s journal, Cancer. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people also smoked cigarettes at higher rates than their heterosexual or cisgender peers.

The study found that lesbian and bisexual women had higher rates of excess body weight and tracked higher obesity rates in bisexual women. And the research found bisexual women and transgender people were less physically active. Bisexual women also had higher alcohol intake, meaning more than seven drinks a week.

One explanation for the increased risk factors was “minority stress,” from shouldering discrimination that leads to an increased mental health or substance use problems, or behaviors that increase cancer risk.

Cancer screening and vaccinations – including for HIV and HPV – were equally sought or sought more frequently among LGBTQ+ patients than heterosexual or cisgender people. But cervical or colorectal cancer screening was lower among transgender men, the study found. Also, the prevalence of cancer-causing infections was higher among gay and bisexual men than in other demographics despite the decline in these infections in recent decades.

The American Cancer Study report acknowledged there is a scarcity of data about LGBTQ+ people of color, who may face increased risk because of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The new research also identified barriers with health providers. Nine states, most in the South and the Midwest, permit health providers or insurers to deny care or services to LGBTQ+ people based on their beliefs, according to the Movement Advancement Project, which tracks religious exemption laws.

Even when doctors felt they were treating everyone equally for cancer, patients reported that bias had seeped into their care, according to findings presented Monday by Dana-Farber Cancer Institute investigators at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference. Dana-Farber teamed with the Moffitt Cancer Center and Prime Education to survey 817 LGBTQ+ cancer patients and 115 oncology providers.

About 80% of patients said they hadn’t received appropriate preventive cancer screening, according to a study abstract. One of the most pernicious barriers was providers not mentioning taking a screening for cancer. The survey found that 28% of participants had no health provider. Less than a quarter of respondents said they felt at least moderately comfortable disclosing their gender identity or sexual orientation to a care provider. Just more than a third of patients said their partners or caregivers felt welcome at appointments, and only 4% felt respected by their care team.

“It harms people’s health to be silent, to be invisible, to not be their full selves when they’re facing something as life-changing as cancer,” said Dr. Shail Maingi, the study’s lead author and an oncologist in Dana-Farber’s cancer care equity program.

In another Dana-Farber study, 84% of doctors said they felt comfortable treating LGBTQ+ cancer patients, and close to two-thirds of providers thought the patients felt safe. The contrast appeared to show a disconnect between these patients and their providers.

Researchers agreed that the dearth of data makes it difficult to adequately identify issues in improving cancer outcomes for LGBTQ+ people.

“Until we begin to have data that we can trust as far as incidence and outcomes, it’s going to be hard to intervene in a meaningful way,” Dahut said.



A person waves a flag to kick off Pride Month in New York. Recent studies about cancer patients and providers reveal disparities in LGBTQ+ people likely facing greater cancer risks while continuing to experience barriers to adequately detect and treat cancer. DANIEL DELOACH/USA TODAY NETWORK

Biden order allows US to turn away migrants at border

Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – With Congress in gridlock and his reelection in question, President Joe Biden is leaning on executive powers to curb migration his administration had insisted he did not have.

Biden said he was driven to action by a worldwide migrant crisis that could result in an unlimited number of people trying to enter the country.

“The goodwill of the American people is wearing thin right now,” Biden said Tuesday in an address from the East Room of the White House. “Doing nothing is not an option. We have to act.”

Biden issued a directive Tuesday that compels the U.S. to turn away migrants who do not enter the country through legal ports of entry anytime unlawful crossings hit an average of 2,500 people a day in a given week. The temporary measures take effect immediately and will remain in place until such crossings dip below an average of 1,500 people a day.

The Democratic president backed a failed bipartisan measure earlier in the year that would have authorized him to put similar restrictions in place.

Endorsing it, Biden said: “It’ll also give me, as president, the emergency authority to shut down the border until it could get back under control. If that

bill were the law today, I’d shut down the border right now and fix it quickly.”

But with Congress frozen in place, Biden said Tuesday that he would act alone, using the same authority that former President Donald Trump once relied on to restrict immigration to the United States.

“Frankly, I would have preferred to address this issue through bipartisan legislation, because that’s the only way to actually get the kind of system we have now fixed,” he said. “But Republicans have left me no choice.”

Biden has for months been looking for measures his administration thought would stand up in court.

Asylum will still be available to mi-

grants who seek it through the established legal pathways, Biden said.

Biden’s order is expected to face legal challenges.

In a statement, Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., levied heavy criticism on Biden. Padilla said the order would not fix the problems at the border and would lead to migrants with legitimate asylum claims being turned away.

“By reviving Trump’s asylum ban, President Biden has undermined American values and abandoned our nation’s obligations to provide people fleeing persecution, violence, and authoritarianism with an opportunity to seek refuge in the U.S.,” he said.

Contributing: Riley Beggin

OPINION

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You can also comment directly on columns.

Too late: Biden acts on chaos at border



After watching illegal crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border explode throughout his presidency, President Joe Biden has finally decided it's time to act.

Nearly four years into his term, it feels more than a little late. Apparently, Biden can no longer ignore the polls.

The president has hemmed and hawed that he's helpless to slow down border encounters that have more than doubled during his tenure and that he's reliant on Congress to help out.

That was always untrue.

In his first days in office, after all, Biden used his executive authority to end Trump administration policies like "Remain in Mexico" that were helpful in curbing asylum claims that have overwhelmed our border.

Border chaos is a top concern among voters in '24 election

Biden simply chose to ignore the problem. Plus, he didn't want to pick fights with progressives in his party who'd rather there not be any limits on the border.

That strategy has backfired spectacularly. Biden's tanking poll numbers are due in no small part to his mismanagement of illegal immigration.

Immigration, along with the economy and inflation, has soared to one of the top issues on voters' minds as we head toward the presidential election. It's not just a border problem anymore,



President Joe Biden delivers remarks Tuesday on an executive order that will more strictly cap the number of illegal border crossings. KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

as cities – often large, Democratic ones like Chicago and New York – are dealing with an influx of migrants.

It's no surprise that voters trust former President Donald Trump over Biden by double digits on these issues: Trump has a 17-point lead on immigration and a 14-point lead on the economy and inflation, according to an ABC News/Ipsos poll from last month.

Biden announced an executive order Tuesday, in the presence of some mayors from border communities. The order will more strictly cap the number of illegal crossings.

If the number of crossings average 2,500 a day, then border officials would be able to quickly expel migrants without a chance for asylum.

While numbers have fallen since late last year, they have remained high. In December, there was an all-time monthly record of migrant encounters – 250,000 – crossing into the United States from Mexico.

In the first three weeks of May, the U.S. Border Patrol reported a daily average of 3,700 apprehensions of migrants, according to internal government data obtained by CBS News.

So Biden's new order will have immediate consequences if these numbers remain high.

In addition to all the surveys showing Americans don't trust Biden to handle the border crisis, there could be something else that nudged the president to take action this week.

Trump, who was convicted in his hush money trial Thursday, isn't the only one in the hot seat.

Biden's son Hunter is in court in Wilmington, Delaware, as his felony gun trial begins.

The younger Biden is charged with lying on a federal gun form in 2018 about his drug addiction. A jury was selected on Monday.

Separately, he faces three felony tax offenses and six misdemeanors in a California federal court after he failed to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes, instead spending the money "on drugs, escorts and girlfriends."

'Jill and I love our son': But Hunter Biden's trial can't be good

All of this is bad enough, not to mention the attention Republicans in Congress have brought to Hunter Biden's shady business deals.

In other words, it's embarrassing for the president, who's trying to write off all his son's bad behavior as a result of his addiction.

"Jill and I love our son, and we are so proud of the man he is today," Biden said in a statement.

That may be. But these aren't the kind of headlines that will buoy a floundering reelection campaign.

So why not try to change the conversation with a presidential executive order on immigration?

Biden's now taking the right action. He just shouldn't have waited nearly four years to do it.

Ingrid Jacques is a columnist at USA TODAY. You can contact her at ijacques@usatoday.com or on X, formerly Twitter: @Ingrid_Jacques

Congress chose illegal immigration in 1924



Presidential candidates Joe Biden and Donald Trump have agreed to debate, and there is no doubt immigration will feature prominently.

We already know what they'll say: Trump will insist that Biden opened the floodgates, while Biden will blame Trump for torpedoing a congressional bill to cut entries. They have taken the immigration debate back 100 years – the last time both parties wanted to slash immigration.

In May 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed the National Origins Quota Act, which included the first permanent cap on legal immigration. This law laid the groundwork for a century of legal immigration restrictions.

The fundamental elements of America's system came from this law: a low overall cap and country-by-country limits, with preferences for relatives of U.S. citizens.

This law has walled off the legal immigration system to most people who would like to come, leading to massive amounts of chaotic illegal immigration.

What our new research shows

In new research published by the Cato Institute, I show that the National Origins Quota Act resulted in immediate and lasting devastation to the legal immigration system. From 1888 to 1921, 98% of applicants for permanent residence were approved. Every year since 1924, a minority has been approved.

By the 1930s, more than 90% were blocked annually, including Jews fleeing the Holocaust.

Even though Congress slowly began to open the system back up after World War II, its loosening of restrictions never undid the basic framework of the 1924 law. By 1995, more than 10 million requests were submitted.

This year, the number of applications has hit an unprecedented 35 million – only 3% of which will likely be approved, matching the lowest rate on record.



In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed the National Origins Quota Act, which included the first permanent cap on legal immigration. From 1888 to 1921, 98% of applicants for permanent residence were approved, according to the Cato Institute. Every year since 1924, a minority has been approved. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

It's not just that the United States admits a low percentage of applicants. The backlog also is so large that millions of people – likely a majority of pending applicants – will die before they can immigrate legally.

There is no hope just around the corner. Even most of the highest-skilled applicants face the prospect of waiting more than a century for a green card.

America's century of restrictions didn't just fail: It backfired.

Illegal immigration results when legal immigration is too difficult

When most people can't come and live here legally, many give up and come illegally. As a result, the United States has had to deal with decades of illegal immigration.

Border Patrol has made nearly 60 million arrests from 1925 to 2024, including about 20 years with more than a million or more arrests.

Illegal immigration was a choice, and in the 1920s, everyone knew why it was

happening. Congress had just passed a law to prohibit most immigration. Commentators analogized it to alcohol Prohibition, labeling human smuggling networks as "bootlegging in people."

There was no doubt that Congress had created the problem or that it could end it the way that it did with alcohol bootlegging: re-legalize immigration.

Today, most people in our country do not understand how difficult it is to immigrate legally.

Only 41% of Americans believe that illegal immigration happens because legal immigration is too difficult, according to Cato's polling.

In addition, 80% say immigration should take five years or less, yet we are still processing some family-sponsored applicants who applied before 9/11.

Americans see undocumented immigrants without jobs in homeless shelters, and they have decided that we have too many immigrants.

But immigrants are ending up in shelters because we don't let them line up jobs and housing in advance of them

coming, and they are prohibited from working legally for many months after they are released at the border.

Despite all these issues, the Congressional Budget Office recently found that recent immigration will reduce deficits by \$1 trillion and increase the size of the economy by \$7 trillion.

Immigration is working – or, more accurately, immigrants are working.

It's our legal system that's broken.

Why we need more immigrants

Indeed, we don't have too many immigrants. We have too few. The United States has nearly 8.5 million open jobs and a record period of low unemployment rates.

Our labor force would be declining without immigration at a time when we are tens of millions of workers short to pay into retirement systems and care for our elderly population.

While some people claim that America's policy is already "the most generous in the world," the United States ranks in the bottom third of wealthy countries for its foreign-born share of the population.

We let in more immigrants than any other country, but America is a huge country. We let in far fewer on a per-capita basis.

For America to reach the foreign-born share of Canada, we'd need to let in 35 million immigrants tomorrow. Even admitting that many over five years and increasing immigration fivefold wouldn't catch the U.S. foreign-born share up to our neighbor to the north.

The United States has plenty of room to grow. The only question is whether our political institutions will allow it.

A century of immigration restrictions hasn't worked for America. It has made America a smaller and less prosperous country, but it hasn't stopped immigration. It has made it more chaotic, disorderly and illegal.

America should return to its pre-1924 traditions. If you're willing to come legally, work and contribute, America should welcome you, just like it welcomed generations of immigrants a century ago.

David J. Bier is the director of immigration studies at the Cato Institute.

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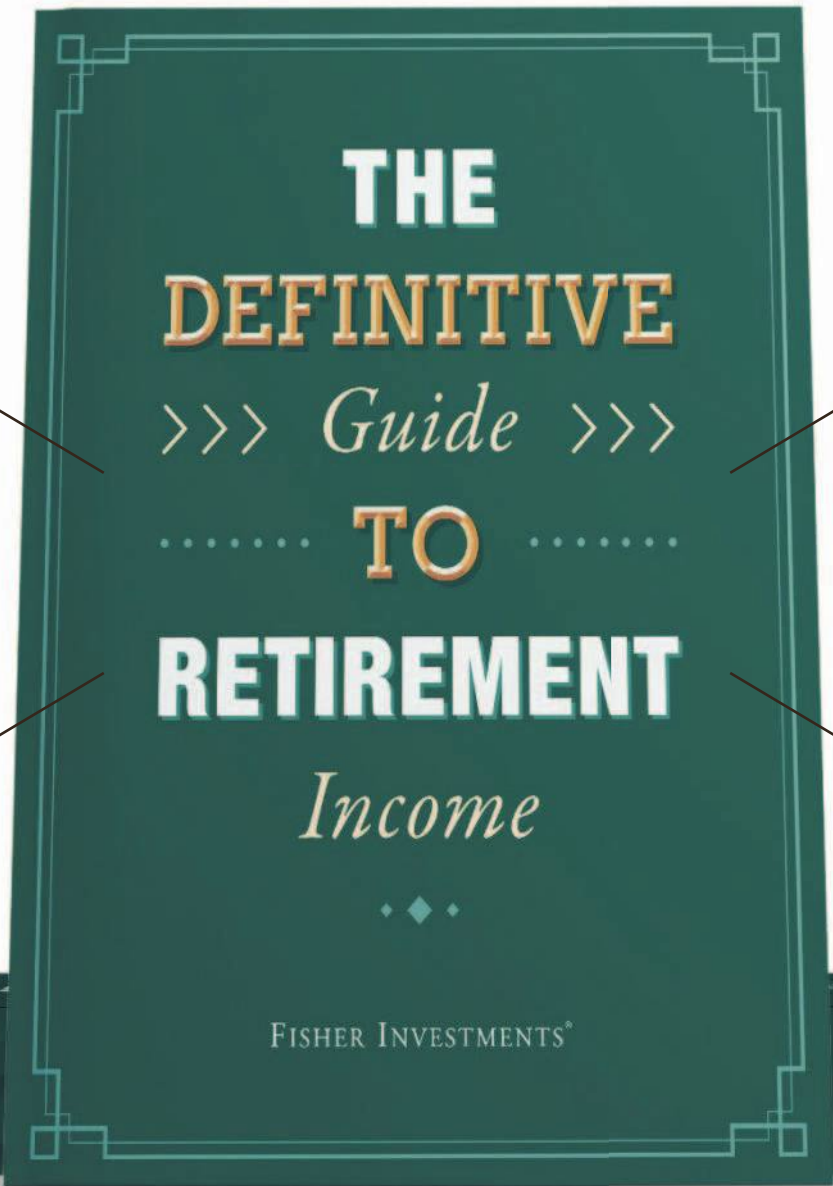
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MONEYLINE



RALPH FRESO/GETTY IMAGES

SOUTHWEST RAISES PRICES
OF EARLYBIRD CHECK-IN

Southwest Airlines passengers may have to pay a little more for certain perks. The carrier announced it was raising the fee range for EarlyBird Check-In and Upgraded Boarding late last month. The new fees are \$15-\$99 one-way per passenger for EarlyBird Check-In and \$30-\$149 per passenger per segment for Upgraded Boarding. The previous caps for these ancillary fees were \$25 and \$80, respectively. Both EarlyBird Check-In and Upgraded Boarding allow Southwest passengers to receive a priority boarding position. The airline says it has yet to sell the perks for top-of-the-range prices.

MEDLINE BED RAILS
RECALLED FOR HAZARD RISK

About 1.5 million portable bed rails were recalled Thursday over asphyxia hazards following two deaths at care facilities, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced. Two models of the Medline Industries bed rails are being recalled. “When the recalled bed rails are attached to an adult’s bed, users can become entrapped within the bed rail or between the bed rail and the side of the mattress,” the commission wrote. Consumers with bed rails should check for the following model numbers: MDS6800BA (sold individually) and MDS6800BAH, sold in cases of three units. Between July 2009 and March 2024, Medline sold about 1.5 million of the recalled bed rails. The bed rails were sold through Medline’s websites, Medline.com and athome.medline.com, as well as Amazon and Walmart.com, online pharmacies, and online medical supply stores.

AIR PASSENGER ARRESTED
FOR UNRULY BEHAVIOR

An unruly passenger on a flight from Indianapolis to New York was arrested Friday. Shari Ann Chinnis “became disruptive,” forcing the plane to return to the gate, according to a probable cause affidavit from the Indianapolis Airport Police Department. Chinnis, who was traveling with her daughter and another woman, became “verbally argumentative” after being asked to stow her bags for takeoff, a flight attendant told law enforcement. Flight crew requested she be removed, according to the affidavit. She initially refused, saying she would have to be arrested to deplane, but she and her companions did so after officers boarded the aircraft. While speaking to officers, Chinnis and her daughter “became very loud” and were “argumentative.” She was arrested for disorderly conduct in an airport.

‘Build-to-rent’ takes off
with home prices rising

Developers target
younger tenants

Bailey Schulz
USA TODAY

Richard Belote’s new home checks nearly every box on his wish list. He shares a spacious four-bedroom, 3½-bath house in Montgomery, Texas, with his fiancée and their two huskies, Leto and Ryder. Their appliances are new, the neighborhood is friendly, and he loves watching the wildlife at the local lake. The only thing missing? He rents the home instead of owning it. Belote, 46, is part of a growing subset of Americans living in “build-to-

rent” communities – neighborhoods designed for renters. Though leasing may not fulfill the typical “American Dream” of homeownership, experts say these communities could help address an acute housing shortage that has contributed to an estimated two-thirds of Americans struggling to find affordable housing in their area, according to a YouGov survey in July of 1,000 U.S. citizens. The home Belote moved into last November is “a fantastic stopgap,” he told USA TODAY. “This is a space between where I want to be and where I have to be.”

A new American dream?

Build-to-rent communities have

served senior populations for decades. In recent years, though, developers have targeted these projects for younger tenants who cannot afford to own yet but want to upgrade from apartments. In 2023, builders completed an estimated 97,000 build-to-rent residential homes – including those outside build-to-rent communities – an increase of 45% from the year before and a record for the sector, according to estimates from John Burns Research and Consulting, which provides independent research on the U.S. housing industry. The properties remain a relatively niche sector of the housing market, making up a record 7.9% of all single-family housing starts in 2023, according to

See BUILD TO RENT, Page 2B

AUTO REVIEW

Tesla, Ford EV owners
can now share stations



The 2024 Ford Mustang Mach-E electric SUV improved power, range and charging time. PROVIDED BY FORD MOTOR CO.

Mark Phelan
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

SEATTLE – The 2024 Ford Mustang Mach-E gets more power, a longer range and quicker charging, but the performance upgrade owners are likely to enjoy most will arrive by mail, in a cardboard box not much bigger than your smartphone came in. “Our gift to you,” the card inside reads: “Thousands more fast chargers.” It’s the long-awaited adapter allowing Ford electric vehicles access to Tesla’s network of DC fast chargers, the largest and most user-friendly way to top up the battery quickly on long drives. It’s everything owners have been hoping for, based on my experience as one of the first people outside Ford Motor Co. to use the adapter. Equally important, it addresses one of the main reasons many people have resisted buying an EV: concern over the availability and dependability of fast-charging for vacations and weekend



Ford is sending
adapters for
Tesla’s DC fast
charging network
to its EV owners.
MARK PHELAN/
USA TODAY NETWORK

getaways.

2024 Ford Mustang Mach-E trim
levels and prices

- Select: \$38,100
- Premium: \$42,100
- GT: \$52,100
- Rally: \$58,100

Source: Ford. Prices exclude \$1,895 destination charge.

See ADAPTER, Page 2B

More earn \$400,000, Biden’s tax-hike threshold

Daniel de Visé
USA TODAY

During the 2020 presidential campaign, candidate Joe Biden presented voters with a bold pledge: He wouldn’t raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$400,000. President Biden has carried the same promise, and the same round sum, into his reelection campaign in 2024. If your income falls short of \$400,000, you’re immune to tax hikes. If you earn more than that, your taxes may go up, and you just might be audited by the IRS. But a lot more people make \$400,000 now than in 2020. Between 2019 and 2023, the number of American households earning more

“The threshold is not indexed to inflation, and it’s not indexed to average growth. So, over time, more and more households are going to get hit by it.”

Michael Strain
Director of economic policy studies at the
American Enterprise Institute

than \$400,000 swelled by nearly half, from 2.6 million to an estimated 3.8 million out of roughly 131 million households. The figures come from census data compiled by the Economic Innovation Group, a public policy think tank based in Washington, D.C. Earnings are up for most Americans,

both because of a strong economy and in response to rising consumer prices. Average hourly wages rose by more than one-fifth between January 2020 and April 2024, from \$28.44 to \$34.75, federal data show. \$400,000 doesn’t have the same buying power in 2024 And \$400,000 doesn’t have the same buying power. If you adjust the figure for inflation, a \$400,000 salary in 2020 would be worth about \$486,000 now. “Back then, \$400,000 was a more notable number,” said Jonathan Swanburg, a certified financial planner in Houston. Perhaps it is too much to ask a candidate to apply a cost-of-living adjustment

to a campaign pledge. If Biden hit the trail in 2024 promising not to raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$486,000, voters might react with puzzlement. And therein, some economists say, lies one of the problems with invoking an arbitrary figure when setting policy. “I think it’s kind of a ridiculous line to draw in the first place,” said Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, another Washington think tank. “The threshold is not indexed to inflation, and it’s not indexed to average growth,” Strain said. “So, over time, more and more households are going to get hit by it.” See TAX HIKES, Page 2B

Build to rent

Continued from Page 1B

Arbor Realty Trust, a real estate investment trust company. Even so, some experts view any addition to the housing supply – including more rental properties – as positive, especially when homeownership remains out of reach for many.

Renting is now more affordable than owning a home in nearly 90% of U.S. counties, according to a report in January by the research firm ATTOM Data Solutions. Factors that put buying out of reach? A 30-year mortgage rate holding steady at around 7% and soaring home prices. The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index showed a 6.5% rise in March from the year before – the index’s sixth record high within the past 12 months.

“For many, renting is just the only affordable option,” said Susan Wachter, a real estate professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School.

Why choose build-to-rent?

Build-to-rent communities give renters more living options and offer upgraded appliances, community events and amenities like dog parks and walking trails. Renting may not allow them to build equity, but some renters view it as a stepping stone to a down payment on a home.

“The goal was to get in here ... get all of our ducks in a row, and then spend the year ... trying to get into a house,” Belote said. “We’ll cross our fingers that interest rates drop down to something a little more manageable.”

Build-to-rent is also appealing to the institutional investors and builders who own and maintain these communities.

Institutional investors have taken to purchasing individual single-family homes to rent out, initially targeting foreclosed and other distressed sales in the aftermath of the Great Recession. But that practice has become more difficult amid rising competition from potential buyers and backlash from lawmakers, who want to stop investors from out-bidding everyday Americans.

Many communities target young families looking for additional space for pets or kids, offering large yards, more square footage, and perks like on-site maintenance.

The build-to-rent community where Belote lives, located about an hour outside of Houston, is building a dog park, walking trails, a playground and a pool for its members, according to its website. Monthly rents posted on the site start at under \$2,000 for a detached three-bedroom compared with the median monthly housing payment of roughly \$2,500 in metro Houston, according to the real estate platform RedFin.

Alessandra Warren, a build-to-rent tenant in Atascocita, Texas, moved from a three-bedroom home owned by her brother to a four-bedroom build-to-rent townhome last year. She now pays about \$2,500 in rent, an extra \$800 a month compared with her previous home, but she said the extra amenities are worth the money.

“It’s very family-oriented,” she said. “The lagoon alone is something that I definitely enjoy very much.”

While some build-to-rent communities market to middle-class renters who are stuck renting – the Urban Institute in 2022 said households earning median incomes or less could afford just 20% of homes on the market – others target



Richard Belote and his two huskies, Leto and Ryder, inside his rental home. PROVIDED BY RICHARD BELOTE

high-income households choosing to rent.

Developer Seneca, a division of Christopher Homes, recently opened its first luxury build-to-rent community, Seneca at Southern Highlands, 15 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip. The community is designed for high-income tenants who might not want to tie themselves to one area by buying a home, or who are attracted to the low-maintenance lifestyle that comes with renting. The homes cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000 a month.

Seneca co-founder and president Michael Stuhmer said residents enjoy the perks that come with the community, like the community garden, maintenance-free private backyards and Tesla-powered solar panels on every home. Demand has been high, according to Stuhmer, and Seneca is already planning two more build-to-rent communities farther south in Henderson, Nevada.

“The dream is to live in a home. It might not be to own it anymore,” he told USA TODAY. “It takes out all of the headache of homeownership.”

Concerns around build-to-rent

There have been concerns about the build-to-rent trend. Some worry it is replacing entry-level homes with rentals, as reported by The Washington Post in 2022.

Others say more homes is never a bad thing, and point out that the trend allows investors to build their own properties to rent instead of competing with potential residents for homes on the market.

“It actually helps moderate home prices,” said Laurie Goodman, founder of the Housing Finance Policy Center at the Urban Institute and co-author of a report on the build-to-rent sector.

With the U.S. estimated to be short anywhere between 1 million and 7 million single-family homes, depending on the source, “more housing is always better,” according to Albert Saiz, associate professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

The Urban Institute report notes that homebuilders can more easily build during times of economic uncertainty, when potential homeowners are more likely to pull back from the market, if they know they can rent out the properties or sell them to an institutional investor.

Though the build-to-rent trend has been booming, new builds may slow in the coming years.

Higher interest rates already have slowed construction by making it more difficult for developers to borrow. Residential construction starts hit a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.36 million in April, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

earners. “If you’re making \$400,000, you’re wealthier than 97% of Americans, and your median net worth is \$6.4 million,” said David Kass, executive director of the nonprofit Americans for Tax Fairness. “Obviously, these are folks who are doing well.”

“There’s this kind of myth out there that there’s disagreement between the parties over tax increases,” Strain said. “The reality is that one party, the Republicans, don’t want to raise taxes on anybody, and the other party, the Democrats, don’t want to raise taxes on 98% of the people, and that’s just a terrible situation to be in.”

The Economic Innovation Group charted the growing ranks of Americans who earn \$400,000 for The Wall Street Journal, which published the data in a story that asked whether the campaign pledge might ultimately backfire. That report focused on data from 2022. For this report, the think tank updated some of its figures through 2023.

Many \$400,000 households live in blue states

According to the group’s research, two-thirds of the households that earned more than \$400,000 in 2022 live

Adapter

Continued from Page 1B

More power, longer range, faster charging

In addition to the adapter – more on that shortly – the 2024 Mustang Mach-E got a raft of changes thanks to a variety of software and software upgrades.

Buyers wanted better acceleration and faster charging, Mach-E chief engineer Donna Dickson said.

Ford achieved that – and reduced costs – in part by adopting the rear motor it uses in the F-150 Lightning electric pickup.

It also changed electronic components in the front motor – all-wheel drive electric vehicles have at least two separate motors, one on each axle; some have three or four.

The mechanical changes are the reason the power and range improvements aren’t available via over the air software changes to owners of previous model years. Software changes include pre-conditioning the battery for optimum charging on a road trip.

The least expensive ’24 model – standard battery/ rear-wheel drive – gains 20 miles range, to 230 miles. The longest-range model – Premium trim, extended range, RWD – also gains 20 miles, to 320 miles.

The Mach-E GT – standard extended range battery, AWD – gains 10 miles, to 280 miles on a charge.

The long-range battery’s charging time also decreases about 20%, or 8.8 minutes, to 36.2 minutes to charge from 10% to 80%.

The standard range battery’s 10%-80% time drops 5.7 minutes, to 32.3 minutes

Those are meaningful improvements. I look forward to testing them on a long-range drive in a 2024 Mach-E soon.

Tesla charging, at last

The first automaker to gain access to Tesla’s renowned DC fast-charging network, Ford isn’t shy about rubbing its superiority in other automakers’ faces. The adapters are in short supply now. Ford will mail them to owners, but it’s not saying how many have received them yet or when everybody should have one.

As frustrating as the waiting will be, the payoff is worth it, based on my experience charging a Mach-E Premium in an IKEA parking lot in suburban Seattle.

Tesla’s DC chargers, which the EV specialist calls superchargers, account for more than half of all public DC fast chargers in the United States.

They’re not just more common than DCFCs from independent charging companies like EVgo and Electrify America, though. They’re widely recognized as more reliable and easier to use

My brief experience supported that. I pulled the Mach-E up to one of Tesla’s elegant red and white charging kiosks, waved to the puzzled-looking occupant of a Tesla Model 3 compact sedan, clicked the adapter onto the charging cable and connected to the Ford on my first try. A light on the Mach-E told me within a few seconds that charging had begun.

EV charging the way it should be

If that sounds like business as usual,

you’re a gasoline, not electric, driver. EV owners cross their fingers every time they approach a DC fast charger.

Using the independent charging companies is an act of faith more than a commercial transaction: Will it start charging? Recognize my account for billing? Will any of that happen on the first try? Will it stop charging without notifying me when I walk away for coffee?

We’ll need behind the wheel and on the road time to see how Tesla’s network holds up as more vehicles use it, but the upside is huge.

There is one significant, and disappointing, asterisk to access to Tesla’s chargers: The EV specialist isn’t making all 15,000 of its chargers available to third-party automakers.

Charging apps, including Ford’s embedded route-planning system, will direct drivers to the chargers they can use.

2024 Ford Mustang Mach-E key changes

- Faster charging
- Longer range
- 480 horsepower for GT
- New rear motor
- New headlights match Mustang coupe and convertible
- Sync 4 infotainment system
- Blue Cruise 1.3 hands-free driving system
- Cloud-based route-planning that considers geography, traffic, weather and driving behavior
- Apple Map route-planning compatibility
- Plug & Charge billing compatible

Driving impressions

I drove a RWD Mach-E Premium with 365 horsepower and 500 pound-feet of torque on a rainy day.

It had all the acceleration most owners will ever want, leaping forward when traffic cleared and entering the highway.

The motor delivered power smoothly for traction and control in heavy urban and suburban traffic.

The one-pedal driving setting increased electric regeneration for added range. It was also easy to modulate, feeling intuitive in a matter of minutes as I negotiated everything from stop and go city traffic to a congested highway that led to fast, sweeping curves.

The Mach-E GT’s two motors generate 480 hp and 700 pound-feet of torque. It shares that drivetrain, including standard all-wheel drive, with the new Rally model I’ll review May 30.

The Mach-E has the latest version of Ford’s Blue Cruise hands-free driving system.

It performed admirably for me in heavy rush hour traffic and occasional construction zones outside Seattle.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is investigating a pair of accidents where Mach-Es using Blue Cruise struck disabled vehicles in the road, however. Three persons died in the two crashes.

Why get one?

The 2024 Ford Mustang Mach-E delivers an outstanding set of improvements to a vehicle that was already more than competitive for price, performance and comfort. Throw in easy access to Tesla’s charging system before other automakers can offer it, and the ’24 Mach-E deserves a long look by anybody considering a midsize SUV, electric or not.

Does it mean possible tax increases for a couple who earn \$400,000 together, or only for an individual who earns that much alone? And is it gross income, or taxable income?

Biden’s most recent budget raises the top income tax rate from 37% to 39.6% for single filers who make more than \$400,000 in taxable income. For married couples, however, the bar rises to \$450,000.

How does the \$400,000 income threshold work with audits?

And what about audits? Biden has pledged to raise billions of dollars in new revenue by going after wealthy tax cheats, again pledging not to target anyone earning less than \$400,000.

But does that cutoff for audits apply only to individual earners with \$400,000 income, or to entire households? On that point, Biden’s pledge was “a little vague,” said one senior IRS official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to be quoted for attribution.

Either way, the official said, a household with income of \$400,000 or even \$500,000 does not face a much higher risk of audit now than in years past.

Tax hikes

Continued from Page 1B

Biden administration officials say the \$400,000 pledge was meant to signal his commitment not to raise taxes on anyone but the rich and his quest to ensure that the rich don’t cheat on their taxes.

“President Biden’s pledge not to raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000 is a clear, direct and easy-to-understand commitment to the American people that, as long as he is president, he will not raise taxes on the middle class by one penny,” said Jeremy M. Edwards, a White House spokesperson, adding that the president “will instead fight for a tax system that finally asks the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations to pay their fair share”

Even now, more than 95% of Americans earn less than \$400,000

Biden officials note that, even now, well over 95% of American households earn less than \$400,000.

The \$400,000 pledge sits well with advocates for progressive taxation, the principle of raising the tax rate for higher

in states Biden carried in 2020.

These four states and the District of Columbia had the most families earning more than \$400,000 in 2022:

- District of Columbia (6.1% of households earning at least \$400,000)
- California (4.4%)
- Massachusetts (4.2%)
- New Jersey (4.1%)
- Connecticut (4%)

The state with the fewest families above the \$400,000 line, 0.8%, was Mississippi.

Who earns \$400,000 a year?

A growing number of lucrative professions now pay \$200,000 or even \$300,000 a year, on average, based on federal data for 2023. A few jobs pay \$400,000.

- Among the top earners:
- Pediatric surgeons (\$449,320 in average annual salary)
- Cardiologists (\$423,250)
- Radiologists (\$353,960)
- Chief executives (\$258,900)
- Psychiatrists (\$256,930)
- Airline pilots (\$250,050)

The president’s \$400,000 pledge, simple as it sounds, gets complicated when it comes to policy decisions.

Scams targeting seniors on the increase

We share some ways to protect yourself

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Scams against older consumers are on the rise as more people have turned to online methods of communication and scammers have expanded their tactics. June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. USA TODAY spoke to two financial experts for tips on how older consumers can protect themselves from becoming victimized.

What is an elder scam?

Though scams can victimize consumers of any age, financial crimes against senior citizens ages 60 and older are on the rise. The number of victims and amount lost to scams in various reports differs greatly. The FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center said in a report released in April that the number of elder fraud complaints it received rose 14% from the previous year with 101,000 victims in 2023. Collectively, those victims lost \$3.4 billion, the agency said. Meanwhile an AARP report in 2023, using data from multiple reports, including the FBI’s, estimated that victims over 60 had lost \$28.3 billion to scams every year. The number is probably higher, said Darius Kingsley, head of Consumer Banking Practices at Chase, who notes that there often is a level of shame that keeps victims from reporting the crime. “With scams, it’s such a personal thing and it’s just so mortifying and embarrassing that people don’t want to admit it,” Kingsley said in an interview with USA TODAY. But victims should not feel ashamed because even savvy consumers can fall victim to the sophis-

ticated crimes, he said. The growth in scams includes “focusing specifically on consumers and trying to take advantage of those most vulnerable in society,” said Jeffrey Bashore, senior vice president for bank fraud operations for USAA. Bashore told USA TODAY one of the most important things to do is “to help arm consumers with information on what to be looking for and how to recognize what could be someone trying to take advantage of them through fraud or a scam.”

What are some top scams targeting older adults?

Here are some scams that often target older adults – and tips from Chase and USAA on how to help prevent them:

- **Artificial intelligence scams.** Scammers are using AI to clone voices, posing as friends or family. A phone call will sound like a loved one in trouble, requesting money urgently. Kingsley suggests having a code word with your friends and family to verify their identity. Also, hang up and call back a known number for the person.
- **Romance scams.** Be wary of any romantic interests or new friends asking you to send them money, especially if you’ve never met in person. Never send money to anyone you don’t know well, met online or have never met in person.
- **Tech support scams.** Don’t fall for pop-up messages on your computer or phone saying there’s a problem. Don’t give remote access to your computer or pay any fees. Also, beware of fake emails that seem to be an invoice for something you didn’t order or a fake receipt for something you didn’t pay for, meant to get you to click for more information.
- **Familiar bank or company impersonations.** Scammers will pretend to be from a reputable company to warn you about problems with your account or or-

der. They’ll try to trick the consumer into sharing personal or financial information. Don’t pick up phone calls from numbers you don’t recognize or answer unsolicited texts, Bashore said.

- **Government or law-enforcement impersonations.** Scammers will pose as representatives from the IRS, Social Security or law enforcement, demanding immediate payments or threatening law-enforcement action. The government will not call you to demand urgent action or threaten you. In most instances, government officials will contact you by mail if there is a problem.
- **Investment scams.** If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Tips to avoid being scammed

Use these tips from Chase to identify potential scams or fraud:

- **Demands for urgent action and sharing of personal information.** Scammers will usually have a sense of urgency, and you may be threatened with losing money or access to your accounts or even arrest if you don’t comply.
- **New, sudden relationships that take an interest in your money.** Financial abuse often happens from a person known to the victim. It might be a caretaker or a newly found friendship. Be careful of any new friends who approach you with investment opportunities or take an interest in your finances.
- **Unusual financial activity.** If you see withdrawals or changes to your accounts, or if you see your loved one suddenly making changes to financial accounts, contact the financial institution.
- **Wrong number.** Some scammers will text or call someone, hoping you’ll answer saying it’s the wrong number, Kingsley said. Then they’ll try to get friendly with you to get your defenses down.

What should you do if you’re the victim of a scam?

Contact authorities and your financial institutions as soon as possible, Bashore said. Don’t be ashamed about what happened and seek help. “There is that risk of the intense fear, the shame, the anxiety, depression, loss of independence for this population,” Bashore said. “It’s important for people to understand just how prevalent these (scams) are, how sophisticated and advanced they’re becoming, particularly with these imposter scams that are increasingly challenging even for savvy consumers to spot. “They should not be ashamed at all to reach out to and engage trusted members of their family or community,” he said. Those friends or loved ones can help advocate for you. The quicker a financial institution knows there is a problem, the better the chances are that some of the lost money might be recoverable, Bashore said. But liability for the fraud does vary for each case, he said, and often if the consumer has willingly transferred the money to a scammer, it could prove difficult to recover. “Financial institutions will always make their best efforts to recover funds,” he said. “If a consumer believes they fell victim to a scam, it’s so important that they contact their financial institution right away because time is precious, particularly with the speed of payments.” If you’re in the middle of a scam and realize it, disengage from the contact, Kingsley said. Kingsley likens the response to the fire education tip of “stop, drop and roll.” “Pause, think about it, don’t panic. Whatever it is, you probably don’t have to respond that second. Try to take a breath. And then what I recommend is, again, have that trusted contact.”

Are you dreaming of purchases while online?

Americans spend hours a day dreamscrolling

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Psst. Close that browser window about your dream house or vacation and get back to work. You’re not alone, though. A new study reveals that the average American spends nearly 2½ hours a day “dreamscrolling,” or looking at dream purchases or things they’d like to one day own. According to the study by Empower, a financial services company, Americans are spending an average of 2½ hours a day – or 873 hours a year – dreamscrolling on the phone or computer. Half of the 2,000 respondents to the study said they dreamscroll while at work, and of those, 1 in 5 admit spending three to four hours a day multitasking while on the job.

Age makes a difference

Gen Zers spent the most time dreamscrolling at a little more than three hours a day, and boomers spend the least, or about an hour. The majority of those who responded, or 71%, however, said dreamscrolling is time well spent because it motivates them to reach their financial goals. “People see dreamscrolling as one way they’re investing in themselves and envisioning what they want out of life – whether that’s when they want to retire, their dream home or next vacation,” said



Gen Z’ers spent the most time dreamscrolling at a little more than three hours per day, while boomers spend the least, or about an hour. GETTY IMAGES

Rebecca Rickert, head of communications at Empower. Here’s some more study insights:

- More than half (56%) of the recipients have dream purchases left open in tabs and windows or saved in shopping carts. Those respondents estimate it would cost \$86,593.40 to afford everything they have saved.
- Overall, 34% say they’ve purchased fewer things on their dream list than they should at their age, and millennials feel the most behind (39%). Some of the

main reasons holding them back are rising prices (54%), inability to save money (29%) and growing debt (21%).

- More than 2 in 5 respondents say they dreamscroll more when the economy is uncertain (43%).
- Roughly half of the respondents say they’re spending more time dreamscrolling now than in years past (45%) and plan on buying something off their dream list this year (56%).
- The top dreamscrolling items are clothing, shoes and accessories (49%),

followed by gadgets and technology (30%) and home decor or furniture (29%). One in 5 respondents are looking at homes or apartments (21%), nearly a quarter search for vacation spots (25%), 23% look for beauty or self-care products, and 19% are shopping for their furry family members.

- While 65% are optimistic they’ll someday be able to buy everything on their dream list, nearly 1 in 4, or 23%, say they don’t think they’ll ever be able to afford most of the items.

Deadline looms for \$45 million Walmart grocery settlement

Emily DeLetter
USA TODAY

The deadline for Walmart customers who purchased certain weighted groceries or bagged fruit to be included in a \$45 million settlement after a class action lawsuit is fast approaching. The deadline to join is Wednesday, June 5 for a class action lawsuit filed in

October 2022, which claimed that the grocery giant overcharged customers who purchased sold-by-weight groceries. It claims Walmart falsely inflated product weight, mislabeled the weight of bagged produce and overcharged for clearance items. Customers who bought eligible weighted groceries from Walmart between Oct. 19, 2018, and Jan. 19, 2024,

qualify to be included in the settlement. The settlement has not yet been fully approved, and a final approval hearing has been scheduled for June 12.

Walmart grocery settlement: Who can submit a claim?

The deadline for opting out of the settlement, May 22, has passed.

Those who bought an eligible product and have a receipt “will be entitled to receive 2% of the total cost of the substantiated Weighted Goods and Bagged Citrus Purchased, capped at five hundred dollars,” the settlement site said. Those who doesn’t have a receipt can submit a claim for a payment between \$10 and \$25, depending on how many products they attest to purchasing.

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA **Montgomery:** The MH-139 Grey Wolf made its official appearance in Montgomery at a Friday aircraft unveiling ceremony at Maxwell Air Force Base.

ALASKA **Wasilla:** Verne Rupright, who was Wasilla’s mayor from 2008 to 2014, has died at the age of 72, KTUU reported.

ARKANSAS **Victoria:** According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates, the town of Victoria is the smallest town in Arkansas with only 18 residents, KNWA reported.

CALIFORNIA **Del Mar:** A man has been hospitalized after a shark attack Sunday in Del Mar. The 46-year-old male victim sustained “injuries that are significant but not believed to be life-threatening” including bites on the torso, left arm and hand, according to a news release by the city.

COLORADO **Estes Park:** An 8-year-old child was attacked by a cow elk last week, wildlife officials say. According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the victim was riding her bike when a female cow elk charged in her direction. The animal attacked the girl by stomping on her several times.

CONNECTICUT **Moosup:** Moosup resident Steve Zeiba wanted to make a statement against food insecurity. The statement? A 562-mile bike ride from Calais, Maine, along the Maine-Canadian border to Moosup, Connecticut. This bike ride is to raise money for the Project PIN Food Pantry in Moosup.

DELAWARE **Dover:** The Delaware Department of Labor offered little explanation as to why an embezzlement investigation into the state’s unemployment insurance fund was never disclosed by the department until media outlets began asking questions. The department confirmed that former unemployment insurance administrator Michael Brittingham was found embezzling more than \$181,000 from the state’s unemployment insurance trust fund last year.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **Washington:** The Washington Post’s executive editor stepped down on Sunday after internal disagreements about the outlet’s future, including the decision to separate its newsroom into segments, according to multiple reports.

FLORIDA **Tallahassee:** As of January next year, financial institutions can delay a transaction from a senior citizen if they have a reasonable belief the person is being ripped off, thanks to a new bill Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law.

GEORGIA **Savannah:** Another spring-time avian migration period has largely passed, but not before an estimated 40 million birds crossed over Savannah in their semiannual rite. The northward flow peaked on May 1, when nearly 2 million nighttime travelers passed through the area, according to the BirdCast dashboard managed by the Cornell Lab at Cornell University, Colorado State University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

HAWAII **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park:** The Kilauea volcano on Hawaii’s Big Island erupted on Monday following hours of seismic activity below the volcano’s summit, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

IDAHO **Kimberly:** Authorities said a 76-year-old man who was riding his bicycle died after he ran a stop sign and was hit by a car, KTVB reported.

ILLINOIS **Springfield:** The Pillsbury Project has just taken a huge step forward in the safe demolition of the Pillsbury Mills, with over \$2 million in funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency going toward cleaning up the last environmental dangers and beginning demolition in the fall.

INDIANA **Michigan City:** A baby bobcat was safely returned to Washington Park Zoo about 36 hours after escaping.

IOWA **Des Moines:** The Iowa Attorney General’s Office will resume paying for emergency contraceptives – the so-called “morning after” pill – for victims of sexual assault after pausing reimbursement for more than a year in conjunction with an audit. However, Republican Attorney General Brenna Bird, an abortion opponent, said she will permanently end the office’s practice of reimbursing for abortions in rare cases where a sexual assault victim seeks a procedure following an attack.

HIGHLIGHT: ARIZONA



The Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team selectively breed wolves in captivity to produce genetically strong pups. MARK HENLE/USA TODAY NETWORK

Phoenix: State and federal wildlife agencies have fostered 27 captive-born Mexican gray wolf pups into wild dens this spring, the most released in the program to bolster the endangered population’s genetic diversity. The Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team – a collaboration between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona and New Mexico’s Game and Fish departments and other agencies – selectively breed wolves in captivity to produce genetically strong pups. Before the pups reach 2 weeks old, they are placed with similarly aged pups in a wild wolf den. This process helps the field team diversify the population’s gene pool.

KANSAS **Topeka:** Kansas voters have no fundamental right to vote under the bill of rights in the state constitution, the Kansas Supreme Court has ruled.

KENTUCKY **Louisville:** A Louisville doctor has been tapped to lead the country’s largest medical association. Dr. Bruce Scott, a head and neck surgeon, will be named president of the American Medical Association on June 11, a spokesperson with the association said.

LOUISIANA **Shreveport:** A state-issued report on the city of Shreveport’s water system revealed a failing grade, primarily due to infrastructure challenges, rather than water quality problems.

MAINE **Kittery:** Owners of noisy chickens and roosters could be subject to fines under a proposed addition to existing rules about disturbing the peace in town.

MARYLAND **Baltimore:** Authorities are investigating after two fetuses were found on a city bus in Baltimore over the weekend, police said.

MASSACHUSETTS **Southborough:** A teacher in Massachusetts has been placed on paid administrative leave after holding a mock slave auction and using a racial slur during instruction in a fifth grade class, according to a letter sent to parents by the local school superintendent.

MICHIGAN **Mackinac Island:** For years, lawmakers in Michigan have tried and failed to expand the state’s Freedom of Information Act to cover the Legislature and the governor’s office. But some lawmakers advocating for transparency have said they see an opening this year for action. The Senate Oversight Committee recently held its first hearing on legislation to expand FOIA.

MINNESOTA **St. Cloud:** The first shipment of the Inspiration Mock Orbiter arrived Monday in St. Cloud.

MISSISSIPPI **Jackson:** Jackson Public Schools officials announced a grant of more than \$9 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to buy energy efficient school buses. JPS Transportation Executive Director Stephanie Harris-Martin said the EPA’s award of \$9.5 million will fund the purchase of 25 new electric buses and supporting infrastructure. According to Harris-Martin, JPS is the first school district in the metro area to begin such a program.

MISSOURI **Kansas City:** A foot-long American alligator that went missing at a Kansas City middle school event has been found nearly two weeks after the reptile went missing.

MONTANA **Browning:** Montana Department of Revenue officials said Browning residents will receive refunds for an error that increased property taxes in the area, the Missoulian reported.

NEBRASKA **Lincoln:** A woman who was pronounced dead at a Nebraska nursing home was found to be alive after she was taken to a nearby funeral home Monday, according to local law enforcement.

NEVADA **Reno:** The Biggest Little City is now 4.1% bigger. Reno is now the 80th-largest city in the United States, up from 82nd in 2020, according to the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The government agency estimated Reno’s population at 274,915 as of July 1, 2023, an increase of more than 10,000 since the official Census count of April 1, 2020.

NEW HAMPSHIRE **Portsmouth:** Two books looking back at the city’s celebration of its 400th anniversary in 2023 are being published. Portsmouth NH 400, which organized last year’s events, is releasing “History Lights Our Way, the Official Portsmouth NH 400th 2023 Commemorative Book” and “400 x 400: Portsmouth NH 400th in 400 Photos.”

NEW JERSEY **Trenton:** With a deadline looming, the Stay NJ Task Force released a 100-page report detailing recommendations for the state to implement the Stay NJ program. Stay NJ was created during last year’s budget process and though it has already received funding, it is not set to launch until 2026.

NEW MEXICO **Carlsbad:** A deadly fungus that’s killed millions of bats nationwide was found in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, where hundreds of thousands of bats roost every year amid the iconic caves and underground landforms.

NEW YORK **New York:** One of the most pristine stegosaurus skeletons ever discovered is set to be sold to the highest bidder and could become one of the most expensive fossils ever sold at auction. The stegosaurus, named Apex, will be auctioned July 17 at Sotheby’s in New York City, the auction house announced. The skeleton is one of the largest and most well-preserved ever discovered, measuring approximately 27 feet long and 11½ feet tall, Sotheby’s said. It carries an estimate of \$4 million to \$6 million, “making it one of the most valuable dinosaur fossils ever offered,” Sotheby’s said in a release.

NORTH CAROLINA **Fayetteville:** Fayetteville State University communications staff racked up more than half a million dollars in improper credit card charges from January 2022 to August 2023, according to a report from the state auditor’s office.

NORTH DAKOTA **Bismarck:** A North Dakota man is accused of scaling the John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge in Kentucky and forcing police officers to climb up after him, according to court documents.

OHIO **Columbus:** Children sent to a state-licensed facility for mental health care are subjected to chokeholds and slaps, being pinned to the ground and verbally abused, and are regularly leaving the campus, according to an investigation conducted by Disability Rights Ohio.

OKLAHOMA **McCurtain County:** A fisherman caught a flathead catfish weighing a whopping 95 pounds in southeast Oklahoma, setting a record for the largest flathead ever caught in the lake, wildlife officials announced.

OREGON **Tualatin:** Campbell Soup said it plans to close its Tualatin site. The Goldfish crackers owner said it will close the Oregon facility in phases and expects to stop its operations by July 2026, with the first phase in August this year to impact 120 of its 330 employees.

PENNSYLVANIA **Philadelphia:** Residents and business owners in more than two dozen Philadelphia ZIP codes may be eligible for \$25 reimbursement as a result of a Bristol Township chemical spill last year.

RHODE ISLAND **Providence:** Another person associated with Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos’ campaign for Congress last year has been charged criminally with election-related offenses, including knowingly falsifying and submitting nomination papers, Attorney General Peter F. Neronha said.

SOUTH CAROLINA **Pelzer:** Eric Childs, a combat veteran and Democratic candidate for South Carolina’s State House of Representatives, died Friday in a car accident.

SOUTH DAKOTA **Sioux Falls:** The Avera Research Institute has received a \$5.4 million grant from the federal Healthy Start initiative to improve both maternal and infant health, according to a news release.

TENNESSEE **Nashville:** Tennessee has joined a growing list of states that are requiring websites with adult content to age-verify viewers, a move that is raising alarm from some First Amendment advocates who warn the law may have wider-reaching impact than initially expected. Gov. Bill Lee signed the Protect Tennessee Minors Act into law following overwhelming, bipartisan passage in the legislature earlier this year. No lawmaker voted against the measure.

TEXAS **Terrell:** Wildlife officials shot and killed nearly 250 white-tailed deer, most of which had so-called “zombie deer disease,” following a yearslong battle with a rancher. Officials with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said state agents used rifles and pistols to eradicate the animals infected with chronic wasting disease, a contagious and fatal degenerate deer-specific infection.

UTAH **Provo:** Criminal charges have been filed against a California man accused of threatening a Utah Transit Authority bus driver and passengers, KSL reported.

VERMONT **Burlington:** Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak has taken the first steps to addressing Burlington’s public safety concerns with the formation of a group of community safety advisors. The group of community leaders met for the first time last month to set the project in motion.

VIRGINIA **Richmond:** Research animal breeder Envigo pleaded guilty in Virginia to federal animal welfare and environmental crimes, resolving a two-year U.S. Justice Department probe into its mistreatment of thousands of beagles. Indiana-based Envigo agreed to pay \$22 million in fines – \$11 million of which represented the largest-ever Justice Department fine in an animal welfare case – plus \$13.5 million more to support animal welfare and environmental projects, cover law enforcement expenses and improve its own facilities.

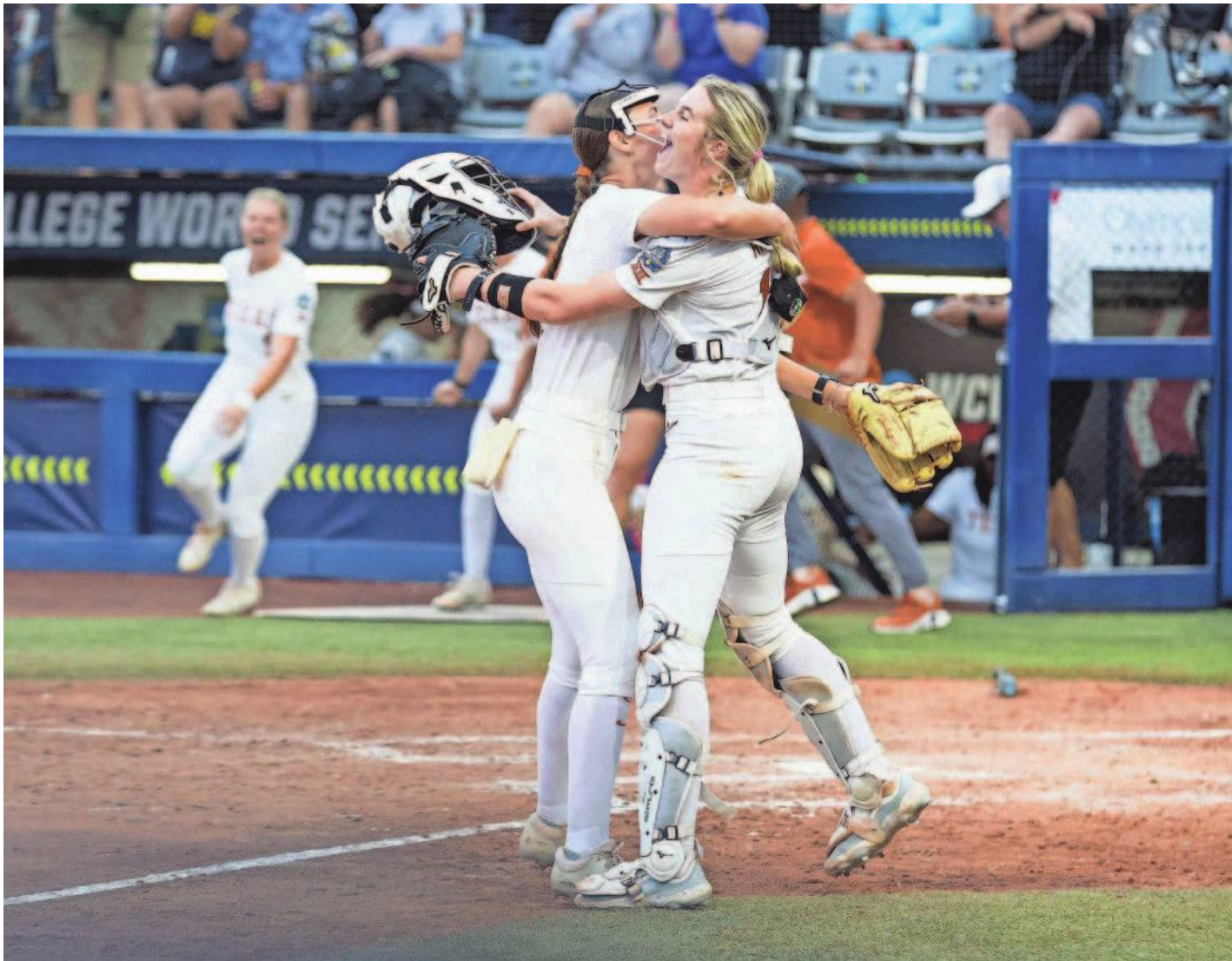
WASHINGTON **Olympia:** Insurers now have to provide customers a clear explanation for increases in their auto and home insurance premiums at the time of renewal, Washington State Standard reported.

WEST VIRGINIA **Charleston:** West Virginia was ranked as the most affordable state for retirement in a new analysis by Lending Tree’s Deposit Accounts, WV News reported.

WISCONSIN **Milwaukee:** After state officials went public with serious concerns about missing financial reports from Milwaukee Public Schools, school board members voted to delay a vote on the district’s proposed budget for the next school year, which would cut nearly 300 staff positions. Board members are required under state law to approve a budget by the end of June.

WYOMING **Jackson:** A renowned wildlife photographer challenged in court a traffic ticket he received while documenting an injured bear after a suspected car strike in October, Jackson Hole News and Guide reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports



Texas starting pitcher Teagan Kavan, left, hugs catcher Reese Atwood after the Longhorns defeated the Stanford Cardinal 1-0 in the WCWS semifinals Monday at Devon Park in Oklahoma City. BRETT ROJO/USA TODAY SPORTS



Gabe Lacques
Columnist
USA TODAY

MLB's gambling scandal reckoning is coming

Major League Baseball's reckoning with legalized sports gambling has only just begun. Now, the only questions are how deep it will go – and whether more prominent players will be ensnared in gambling on their sport.

It wouldn't be accurate to call the lifetime ban of utility infielder Tucupita Marcano and the one-year suspensions of four more players a wake-up call. It's more like when you awaken a few minutes before the alarm clock is set to go off, and you toss and turn, awaiting its inevitable buzz.

Now, it's too late to hit the snooze button.

The 2018 Supreme Court ruling that has brought legalized sports gambling to 38 states made Tuesday's actions – in which five players violated baseball's hallowed Rule 21 – only a matter of time. No, there's no evidence of game-fixing or sharing of privileged information, but it's also a great time to remind ourselves we don't know what we don't know.

But Marcano's banishment, along with suspensions to Andrew Saalf-rank, Michael Kelly, Jose Rodriguez and Jay Groome – the lone player yet to make his major league debut – only confirmed the inevitable trappings of a post-PASPA world.

A look at what this gambling span has confirmed – and what we might look for going forward:

This is only the beginning

In case you didn't know it by now, it's true: The Apps are in the clubhouse.

MLB isn't wrong in crediting the co-operation of legal sportsbooks in catching the players running afoul of Rule 21. If nothing else, it confirms what we learned from college and NFL gambling violations that preceded this one: It's pretty easy to catch wrongdoers.

But it also crystallizes a modern reality where a player can dial up his FanDuel account one moment, and then amble in the training room to see who's hurt the next. To place a seemingly harmless and MLB-legal NBA bet one second and compete for nine innings moments later.

And to exist in a bubble where even the simple act of watching another MLB game on MLB TV will be accompanied by an incessant wave of FanDuel commercials – the music set to "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" – imploring viewers to bet over/unders on

See LACQUES, Page 4C

Pitching, defense, timely hits, oh my

Texas softball squad has it all during run to WCWS championship series

OKLAHOMA CITY – Late in the postgame press conference, a disruptive cellphone went off and prompted moderator Nate Feken to gently scold the guilty party. • "Please silence your phones," he reprimanded the media. • "Uh," Texas softball coach Mike White sheepishly said, "that was me." • As the gathered press erupted in laughter, the Longhorns coach added, "It's kind of blowing up right now. It's probably (Chris) Del Conte."

Hey, in three games at this burnt orange-colored Women's College World Series, that's about the only thing that's gone wrong.

Texas is the only 3-0 team and has toyed with the competition up here in the shadows of the University of Oklahoma and is threatening to dethrone the three-time defending national champion Sooners. Texas will get its opportunity against Oklahoma after the Sooners ousted Florida 6-5 in eight innings Tuesday.

And if it was Del Conte buzzing White, it was probably the Longhorns athletic director giving him a big raise after clinching a spot in the best-of-three championship series starting Wednesday (8 p.m. EDT, ESPN).

Quite simply, White and his top-seeded Texas team have been virtually



Kirk Bohls
Austin
American-
Statesman

flawless since arriving here a week ago. It's getting ferociously stingy pitching, clutch hitting and breathtaking defense from outfielders Bella Dayton and Kayden Henry.

And pretty damn good coaching, cellphone decorum aside.

That trend of sheer perfection on the game's biggest stage continued Monday night. Relentless freshman Teagan Kavan threw her second consecutive one-hit shutout in this WCWS, and the Longhorns held off No. 8 seed Stanford and softball strike-out queen NiJaree Canady 1-0 in front of 11,465 drained spectators at Devon Park.

Texas won by making something happen.

A team that has clubbed an outrageous 92 home runs, including three over Florida on Saturday, beat Stanford. How? On a botched safety squeeze bunt.

Not one of Reese Atwood's 23 home runs. Not with a string of RBI from Dayton or Mia Scott. Not from some instant offense from freshmen Katie Stewart and Henry. Not with a pair of five-run innings as against Florida.

Nope. The Longhorns scored the only run when the Cardinal screwed up a rundown on a squeeze play.

White's team had turned aggressive the inning before when Atwood singled and swift pinch-runner Adayah Wallace stole second for her sixth



Texas' Joley Mitchell celebrates after hitting a double in the seventh inning Monday. BRYAN TERRY/THE OKLAHOMAN

See BOHLS, Page 4C

Jason Kidd's ability to coach shines with Mavs



Jeff Zillgitt
Columnist
USA TODAY

Jason Kidd needed to draw up a play late in a game against the Los Angeles Lakers. But he didn't have a timeout to use, so Kidd "accidentally" intentionally spilled a soda on the court so that it required a cleanup – giving Kidd and his staff a quick moment to show players what play to run.

The year was 2013. Kidd was in his first season as head coach of the Brooklyn Nets, 15 games into his coaching ca-

reer and just retired from his playing days one season prior.

The J-Kidd hijinks didn't go over well with the NBA office, which fined the timeout-needing, soda-spilling Kidd \$50,000.

It's a long way from a 4-11 start a decade ago to the NBA Finals in 2024. From coaching Brooklyn to coaching Milwaukee and now Dallas, Kidd will coach in his first NBA Finals with the team he won a title as a player.

"It's humbling. It's surreal to be on (the Mavs) as a player to win a championship we weren't favored to win," Kidd said. "And so to be able to pull that off as

See ZILLGITT, Page 4C



Jason Kidd talks to Luka Doncic during Game 1 of the second round of the NBA playoffs against the Oklahoma City Thunder. ALONZO ADAMS/USA TODAY SPORTS

Foul-mouthed Pat McAfee needs to go



Mike Freeman
Columnist
USA TODAY

I don't know if Pat McAfee has a conscience. I'm not sure if he understands, fully understands, or cares, that referring to WNBA star Caitlin Clark as a "white bitch" is misogynist and racist trash. I'm not sure if he will look around at the goons who will back him no matter what he says and gets solace from them. Not sure if McAfee looks beyond his ratings. Not sure if he's introspective. Not sure if he looks in a mirror and ever says: What in the hell did I just do?

What I do know is that ESPN should be doing all of these things. One of the most powerful media entities ever created should have higher standards than allow someone to use its network to refer to a woman in that way. Some of you will laugh at the notion of ESPN being responsible, but it has shown remarkable aggression in the past in policing on-air personalities. The network got big mad when Jemele Hill said things it didn't like.

On Monday's "The Pat McAfee Show" he was ranting about this year's WNBA rookie class when he said: "I would like the media people that continue to say, 'This rookie class, this rookie class, this rookie class.' Nah, just call it for what it is. There's one white bitch for the Indiana team who is a superstar."

He later apologized on X. "I shouldn't have used 'white bitch' as a descriptor of Caitlin Clark. No matter the context...even if we're talking about race being a reason for some of the stuff happening...I have way too much respect for her and women to put that into the universe.

"My intentions when saying it were complimentary just like the entire segment but, a lot of folks are saying that it certainly wasn't at all. That's 100% on me and for that I apologize...I have sent an apology to Caitlin as well. Everything else I said... still allllll facts."

Not really allllll facts. In part of his rant, McAfee talked about how Clark basically put Iowa basketball on the map. However, Iowa made the NCAA Tournament 10 of the 12 years prior to Clark arriving. The team made the Elite Eight in 2019, the year before Clark first put on a Hawkeye uniform.

None of this is to denigrate Clark.



Pat McAfee talks on set before the 2024 College Football Playoff national championship game between Michigan and Washington at NRG Stadium in Houston on Jan. 8. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

She's a historic talent. But McAfee continues to prove he's remarkably ill equipped to handle this huge platform.

If ESPN could suspend Hill for what she did, the network could *easily* suspend McAfee's show for this, which is infinitely worse. Sure, ESPN might be scared of McAfee, but it's *ESPN*. The network is infinitely more powerful than McAfee. It needs to act like it.

I also don't think McAfee apologized because of a conscience or introspection. I think he did out of sheer panic and fear of being blackballed by Clark and the Indiana Fever.

His apologies also don't mean much because he constantly issues them and doesn't seem to learn, or want to learn, how to grow from mistakes. He apologized over the lies Aaron Rodgers told. He apologized (sorta) for a dumb Larry Nassar post on X.

There's a lot of things involving Clark these days, and some of them are just bonkers. An MSNBC morning host said the foul on Clark was assault. She wasn't alone. The Chicago Tribune Editorial Board wrote of the foul: "Outside of a sporting contest, it would have been

seen as an assault."

Outside of the fact I have no acting ability, I'd be Denzel Washington. Some of this stuff is absurd. At its core, what's happening to Clark is about a level of competitiveness toward her that is standard given her extremely high profile.

Other issues are far more insidious, and as some of us predicted some time ago, and many others tried to refute, much of it has de-evolved around racial and class lines. This is America. This is how large swaths of the country think and sticking head-in-sand won't change that. What McAfee was doing, without question, was feeding into some of the belief systems of mostly right wing and conservative people, people who just a few years ago couldn't find a WNBA team with their Waze, but are suddenly experts on the league, who are saying Clark is being treated differently because she's white.

These are the same people who will spend every waking minute and terabyte saying how everyone else (especially Black Americans) talk too much about race. Now, those same people won't shut up about it.

This whole notion picked up steam after the hard foul heard around the world. You would think Clark was hit with a two-by-four. The shot was dirty and not typical of WNBA play. However, if you've watched the WNBA for more than a minute, it is an intensely physical league. In many ways it's more physical than the NBA. Just because you don't know this history, that's a you problem.

Clark is being treated aggressively because she's a star and a rookie. Rookies always get roughed up. Rookie stars get it even more. There weren't sonnets written and constitutional amendments passed after Alyssa Thomas was ejected for an absolutely brutal foul against rookie Angel Reese.

In so many ways, we are in different territory in this country. Some of the ways we're in trouble as a nation are guttural and even frightening. Our institutions, of all kinds, need to fight indecency, and ESPN is a powerful force that can do that. When it wants to.

What people like McAfee do is take conversations like these into the sewer. What ESPN does is let him do it. Time to stop that.



Kyle Larson drove his car for the Coca-Cola 600 qualifying the weekend of the Indianapolis 500. JIM DEDMON/USA TODAY SPORTS

NASCAR grants Larson's playoff waiver request

Kelly Crandall
RACER.com | USA TODAY NETWORK

Kyle Larson has been granted a waiver by NASCAR to remain eligible for the Cup Series playoffs after not starting the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Hendrick Motorsports requested the waiver after Larson was kept in Indianapolis to compete in the 108th Indianapolis 500. The start of the race May 26 was delayed by four hours due to inclement weather. Larson qualified fifth (in the middle of the second row) in his Arrow McLaren machine and finished 18th after a late-race speeding penalty.

Justin Allgaier started the Coca-Cola 600 in Larson's No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, and because of the driver change Allgaier dropped to the rear of the 40-car field for the green flag.

The plan was for Larson to complete the Indianapolis 500 and take over his Cup Series car after arriving at Charlotte

Motor Speedway. Larson arrived on pit road in Concord at approximately 9:30 and was preparing to get into the car when the race was red-flagged because of rain and then went into a lightning hold.

A severe thunderstorm then moved into the area, and NASCAR deemed the race official nearly two hours later due to the weather and high humidity hampering track drying efforts that would likely have pushed the resumption of the event past 1 a.m.

Allgaier ran the race's 249 laps and finished 13th. He will be the driver of record for the Coca-Cola 600, with Larson not earning points for the event because he did not start the car.

The waiver was necessary because the NASCAR Rule Book states, "Unless otherwise authorized by NASCAR, driver(s) and Team Owner(s) must start all Championship Events of the current season to be eligible for The Playoffs."



Belmont Stakes hopeful Sierra Leone gallops at Churchill Downs in April. PAT MCDONOGH/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Derby runner-up is early favorite for Belmont Stakes

Jason Frakes
The 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 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 Bel-

mont's traditional distance of 1½ miles. Post time is set for 6:50 p.m. EDT Saturday (Fox).

Field: Post positions, horse, trainer, jockey, odds

1. Seize the Grey, D. Wayne Lukas, Jaime Torres, 8-1
2. Resilience, Bill Mott, Junior Alvarado, 10-1
3. Mystik Dan, Kenny McPeck, Brian Hernandez Jr., 5-1
4. The Wine Steward, Mike Maker, Manny Franco, 15-1
5. Antiquarian, Todd Pletcher, John Velazquez, 12-1
6. Dornoch, Danny Gargan, Luis Saez, 15-1
7. Protective, Todd Pletcher, Tyler Gaffalione, 20-1
8. Honor Marie, Whit Beckman, Florent Geroux, 12-1
9. Sierra Leone, Chad Brown, Flavien Prat, 9-5
10. Mindframe, Todd Pletcher, Irad Ortiz Jr., 7-2

Catchings’ unique perspective on Fever

Christine Brennan
USA TODAY

Basketball Hall of Famer Tamika Catchings, one of the legends of her game, has seen it all in the WNBA. She played for the Indiana Fever for 15 seasons, leading the team to the 2012 league title as Finals MVP. A 10-time WNBA All-Star, she also won four Olympic gold medals with Team USA from 2004 to 2016.

So when Catchings calls something “unprecedented,” as she did in a phone interview Monday to describe this moment in the WNBA – with its epicenter right where she is, in Indianapolis – we can safely say that it’s something the league has never seen before.

At this crucial moment early in the 2024 season, with historic TV ratings, attendance, interest and now controversy, Catchings spoke with USA TODAY Sports on a variety of subjects, including Chennedy Carter’s blindside hit on Caitlin Clark in Indiana’s victory over Chicago Saturday, Angel Reese’s reaction to the foul, which was later upgraded to a Flagrant 1, and the way Clark has adjusted to the WNBA, and vice versa.

Catchings said she was in attendance at the Fever-Sky game Saturday where the controversial hit occurred.

“The cheap shot, I don’t agree with that, I don’t agree with that, especially that’s where injuries happen,” she said. “The play itself was wrong. As a whole, we all have a responsibility to make sure that things like that don’t happen, for anybody to get hit like that.

“From the league standpoint, you have to protect your players. The fact that the referees didn’t take the time within the game to go and look at it, I was really surprised. I was at the game. I was really surprised that they didn’t look at it and that they just kept it moving. That’s not a basketball play.”

Catchings said she too was a target of cheap shots. “I remember the cheap shots; I remember getting held,” she said. “It happens. So the reaction as far as some of the players goes is, ‘We’ve been playing too, she and the other rookies have to still come in and prove themselves’ – but not with cheap shots.”

Angel Reese’s reaction to her teammate Carter’s hit on Clark was captured by ESPN’s cameras. Reese immediately stood and applauded, then hugged Carter when she came to the bench.

“I have not talked to Angel,” Catchings said. “I am 100% sure as a team within the organization they are talking



Former Indiana Fever star Tamika Catchings walks the celebrity red carpet during the 108th running of the Indianapolis 500. MICHELLE PEMBERTON/INDYSTAR

about how they are going to handle it and what they need to do internally.

“From Angel’s standpoint, same as Caitlin, all eyes are watching you. ... Angel has got to be herself but there’s got to be a maturity level from all of our rookies, as you grow in this game and as you become more mature, you understand what is acceptable and what’s not acceptable. And you learn from the mistakes that you make.

“Angel hopefully has the right people around her that are like, hey, you know what, not cool right there. And how do you adjust and how do you learn from the situation.”

Catchings, who says she has told Clark, “If you need me, I’m here,” talks to her now and then.

“Obviously Caitlin is a tremendous player, she comes in with a lot of success in the college game, I love her personality, love who she is and definitely happy to have her here in Indianapolis and I think she’ll have a great career here and in the WNBA,” Catchings said. “There is a lot of weight on her shoulders and she’s handling it very well.”

She has watched as the 22-year-old superstar has faced the most interesting welcome to the WNBA.

“Every single night, the opponent’s game plan is structured around Caitlin Clark,” she said. “It’s huge. They’re guarding her at the half-court line because of the fact she makes the logo 3s. They’re face-guarding her, they are picking her up on the free-throw line on the defensive end. Every single night

she’s going to get single-teamed, double-teamed, triple-teamed, quadruple-teamed. That is a huge compliment.”

With a talent the likes of Clark, it makes sense, said Catchings, who five times was named the WNBA defensive player of the year.

“Anytime a great player is coming in, or anybody that’s getting the attention, even for me, the competitor in me came out where it’s like every single night when I went up against Diana (Taurasi), when I went up against Sue (Bird), my job and my mind and my responsibility was to make sure I limit touches and they’re not going to score as many points as whatever their average was. My goal was to make sure they scored half of what their average was. That was my only goal, my mindset. Well, that’s going to be the same goal of the players Caitlin is going up against every day.”

Highs and lows are to be expected

Although Indiana is 2-9 after a murderers’ row start of 11 games in 20 days, six of which were against the league’s top three teams – by far the most grueling opening schedule of any team in the league – Catchings sees bright spots for Clark and the team.

In her first 10 games, Clark scored more than 150 points and had more than 50 rebounds and 50 assists, a feat previously accomplished only by Sabrina Ionescu in WNBA history. She also became the first rookie and only the fourth player ever in the league to record 30

points, five rebounds, five assists, three steals and three blocks in a game, joining Taurasi, Angel McCoughtry and Breanna Stewart. On Monday, she was named WNBA Rookie of the Month for May.

Clark currently is fourth in the league in assists per game, 18th in points per game and tied for second in three-pointers. She also leads the league in turnovers.

“She has been so comfortable with her college teammates, so now Caitlin and her new teammates are trying to figure out how to play together,” Catchings said. “It’s the adjustment of coming into a totally different system, totally different coach and coaching staff. The only thing that is consistent is basketball. She knows how to play the game of basketball. A lot of the turnovers are adjusting to playing with her teammates and they are adjusting to her. She had a 30-point game and she has had single-digit games. She has had her highs and lows, but that’s to be expected.”

Learning to play as a team

The Fever players’ relative unfamiliarity with each other also might be the reason the “enforcer” that social media so desperately wants Indiana to have to protect Clark has yet to materialize, Catchings said.

“I’m on the outside looking in, but I would just say this: There have been injuries and very few practices and they are still trying to learn with each other and they are still trying to learn how to play for each other so when you talk about an enforcer, you enforce because you’re a team and you know and understand how to protect each other. None of this happens without a team effort. I think they’re still trying to get to that point.”

But there is no doubt that Clark and the team are already a complete success at the box office. In just five 2024 home games, Indiana already has surpassed its entire 2023 home attendance.

“People are saying, let me see what this hype is all about,” Catchings said. “When you get in the arena, in Gainbridge, all the way to the top of the stadium is packed. We’re talking regular season games, it’s crazy right now. You used to be able to pull up right before a game. Now you can’t do that, the parking lots are full. All these Iowa license plates, Illinois, even Tennessee: they heard about Caitlin Clark and now they want to see her.”

Billie Jean King: ‘Don’t blow it with animosity’

Christine Brennan
USA TODAY

At the 1971 US Open, tennis legend Billie Jean King brought the veteran players together and told them their jealousy toward 16-year-old sensation Chris Evert needed to stop right then and there.

“She’s the reason we had all those people watching us,” King recalled in a phone interview with USA TODAY Sports. “I told them Chris is fantastic for our sport. Look at the crowds. You could not get in the place. She’s the next superstar. She’s going to put more money in our pockets.”

But, King continued, “That means everyone has to be more hospitable. When you’re on the court against her, you gotta play tough as always, but no cheap shots. It’s our job to make sure she is treated fairly.”

As the WNBA deals with its first three weeks of the season with rookie sensation Caitlin Clark, King said she has thought back to those days and the lessons she learned.

“As great as the WNBA has been, with amazing stars like Maya Moore, Sheryl Swoopes, Candace Parker, Diana Taurasi, A’ja Wilson and Breanna Stewart, among others, this year is a turning point, and it’s because of Caitlin,” she said. “Breaking the college records, everyone wearing the No. 22 jerseys. Things are going good for the WNBA, for women’s sports. They are amazing for everyone with all these sellouts and all this interest and we’ve got to keep that going now.

“Whether you like it or not, Caitlin is the reason for so much of this interest. She’s a superstar. When she does well, everyone does better. The league is going to do better. The veterans were the building blocks and now Caitlin and this rookie class have this incredible platform to take the league to an entirely new place.”

King said the extraordinary attention being paid to the WNBA makes this opportunity especially crucial. “This generation is so important for the WNBA, you have to set an example. Children are watching. How do you want to be remembered? This generation has a chance to set this league on fire. Don’t blow it with animosity. Do not blow it. Just play ball. Play hard but no cheap shots.”

On X (formerly Twitter), Evert praised King’s actions back in 1971 and also made the comparison to the WNBA and Clark:

“Yes, there was jealousy towards me...It didn’t feel good. I was just a teenager. BJK stood up for me. I hope women’s basketball follows suit. @CaitlinClark22 is making the sport better.”

King, who said she met Clark for the first time after the Indiana Fever-New York Liberty game May 18, also praised how Clark has handled herself during the first three weeks of her pro career.

“Caitlin has shown great leadership here,” King said, “just trying to stay down the middle, being inclusive and not getting dragged into anything.”

King noted the similarities between the impact Evert had on the 1971 Open and what Clark has done in both college and the pros, selling out arenas and driving TV ratings for women’s basketball to unthinkable heights.

“As I told the players in 1971, ‘Do you realize how many more people are watching us because of Chris?’

“And they answered, ‘Well, the crowds are really there, they’re packed.’

“And I said, ‘Yeah, were they packed two days ago before Chris?’

“ ‘Well, not really,’ they said.

“ ‘Well, hello.’ ”

Said King: “I’ve seen this before. It’s a different time, it’s bigger now, everything is bigger, but it’s the same principles.”

Angel Reese says she is part of league’s growth too

John Leuzzi
USA TODAY NETWORK

Angel Reese has broken her silence following Saturday’s highly talked about cheap shot Caitlin Clark took from Reese’s Chicago Sky teammate Chennedy Carter.

The Sky forward said she is OK with being perceived as the “bad guy” in the WNBA, something that the Baltimore native had to deal with over the course of her final two years in college with LSU following the 2023 NCAA women’s basketball national championship game.

“It all started from the (2023) national championship game and I’ve been dealing with this for two years now. Understanding like negative things have probably been said about me, but honestly I’ll take that because look where women’s basketball is,” Reese said Monday. “People are talking about women’s basketball who you’d never think would be talking about women’s basketball. People are pulling up to games, we’ve got celebrities coming to games and sold-out arenas because of one single game.

“Just looking at that, I’ll take that role. I’ll take the bad guy role and I’ll continue to take that on and be that for my teammates. ... I’ll look back in 20 years and be like, ‘The reason why we’re watching women’s basketball is not just because of one person. It’s because of me, too.’ I want y’all to realize that.”

Reese’s comments come in response to recent attention and comments from those of the Indiana Fever organization, including Clark, believing opponents have defended Clark more physically than any other player in the WNBA.

The most recent example of this occurred during the Fever-Sky game on



Rookie Angel Reese talked about her role with the Sky and and the WNBA. ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

Saturday at Gainbridge Fieldhouse where Carter pushed Clark down to the floor from behind with a cheap shot along the baseline late in the third quarter. Carter was originally assessed a common away from the ball foul but it was later upgraded to a Flagrant 1 foul by the WNBA on Sunday.

There’s also a different angle of the foul, where Reese stands up from the Sky bench and is clapping. Later in the game, Clark appeared to fall to the ground after making contact with Reese while in transition but it remains unclear if it was an intentional cheap shot or not from the “Bayou Barbie.”

Reese was fined \$1,000 by the WNBA on Sunday for not making herself available to the media in Indianapolis following the Sky’s 71-70 loss to the Fever on Saturday.

Through seven games with Chicago, Reese is averaging 10.6 points, 8.9 rebounds and 1.9 assists. The Sky hosted the New York Liberty on Tuesday at Wintrust Arena in Chicago.

Lacques

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strikeout totals or anytime home runs. All using current MLB players as examples.

Hey, that’s how official partnerships go.

This isn’t to suggest hundreds of players do not take Rule 21 seriously. It’s simply to note that the collision of legalized sports gambling and clubhouse culture was going to create friction.

This is a world where the March Madness pool in any clubhouse might feature more money changing hands than you take home in several months. Where fantasy football dominates the late-season and offseason discourse – and those that can afford it cough up five figures simply for the buy-in.

It’s all relative in a room where the average salary is in the seven figures. Yet the messaging – further driven home carpet-bombing advertising to glean market share – is problematic.

Young man blues

The least surprising element of the players suspended? Their ages.

Only Kelly, a 31-year-old who’s pitched for the Athletics, Guardians and Phillies, was old enough to rent a car in most states when he placed the bets that got him in trouble.

Rodriguez was 20. Groome was 21, betting on baseball in the bubble when he began wagering on MLB games in July 2020. Saalfrank was 24 and Marciano 23, all of them barely above the legal gambling age of 21 in most states (it’s 18, amazingly enough, in Kentucky, Rhode Island, Wyoming, New Hampshire and the District of Columbia).

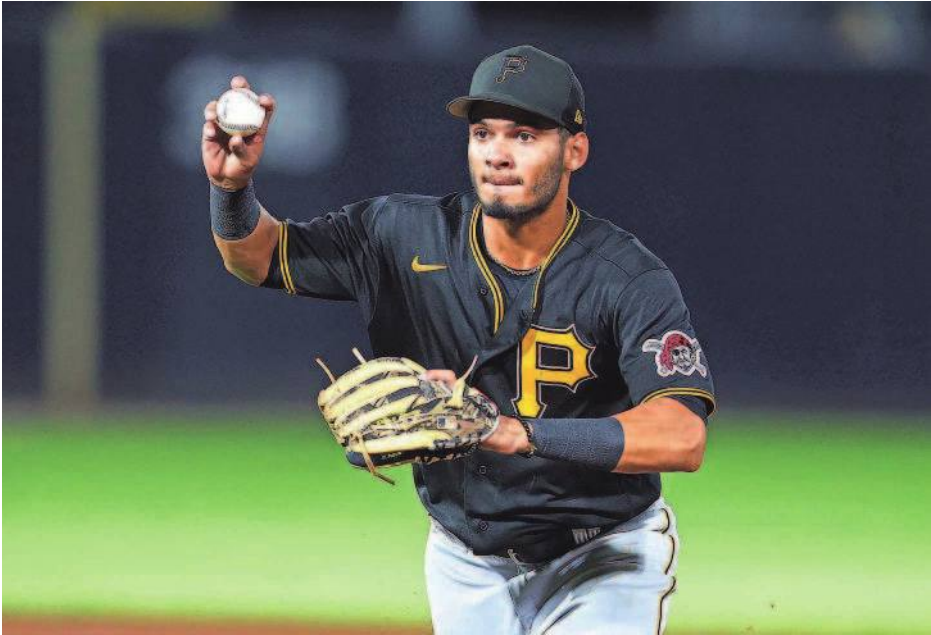
According to the Responsible Gambling Council, people between the ages of 18 and 24 are “at high risk of developing gambling problems,” thanks to a still-developing brain, and incomplete emotional and logical development.

This isn’t surprising to anyone who’s been around a young person, almost always male, discovering the joys of a late-night odyssey to a gambling mecca or the dopamine of a three-team parlay. In coming years, the MLB player population will be comprised of individuals accustomed to betting on apps, perhaps even on baseball, perhaps even with a friendly campus bookie.

Sports gambling will become even more normalized. The young player of the future will likely require even more training and education beyond spring training seminars and a QR code posted in a clubhouse.

Gambling is hard – and ‘experts’ aren’t any better

Shoutout to MLB for posting the Ls of



Tucupita Marciano played 149 games in the majors over parts of three seasons but now is banned for life. NATHAN RAY SEEBECK/USA TODAY SPORTS

the five suspended players. Marciano lost a staggering 95.7% of bets placed on MLB games, this out of \$150,000 wagered on baseball.

The others’ wagers are more relatable to the everyman – although it’s staggering to think they might have thrown away careers for such picayune ventures.

Saalfrank placed one bet on college baseball – and lost a \$1.80 parlay. He bet \$444 and lost \$272 on major league games.

Groome bet \$454 and had a net loss of \$434. Kelly bet \$99 on baseball, an average of \$9.92 per bet. He had a net win of \$28.30.

That’s less than a third of daily meal money allotted major league players.

The grander point is that treading water is largely the best-case scenario for sports gamblers – even those highly knowledgeable in their field.

Addiction knows no boundaries

The 37-page indictment tying Ippei Mizuhara to more than \$41 million in gambling losses was a startling glimpse into the depths of addiction. Mizuhara, fired by the Dodgers in March when he was accused of stealing nearly \$17 million from superstar Shohei Ohtani, ultimately bet on overseas contests he knew nothing about and domestic games for which he only had a passing knowledge.

And the vast majority of his bets came in a state where gambling is not legalized.

Thirty-eight states have legalized sports gambling, and MLB says it’s OK to gamble in all of them, provided you don’t bet on baseball. Yet addiction does not recognize state lines, which is how Mizuhara ended up in hock with a California bookmaker for eight figures, and how former Ohtani teammate David

Fletcher reportedly placed bets with that same bookie (Fletcher remains under MLB investigation).

California, Texas and Florida are among the states that have not yet legalized sports betting; they are home to nine MLB franchises. And so the seeds of addiction can be sown in places where it’s legal, yet what’s a young man with tons of disposable income to do for some action when he’s landlocked?

In short, we probably have not seen the end of Rule 21 violations that involve illegal betting – even as legal betting seems like it’s everywhere.

MLB’s symbiotic gaming relationship

Weird dance the sports leagues got going there – upholding “the integrity of the games” while aiming to profit off legalized wagering.

Legalized gambling is tangibly and intangibly very good for baseball. It already provides significant revenue in terms of official partnerships and data licensing. It also markedly increases “engagement” with the game, and anyone who’s hung around to watch the end of a 7-1 game with a total of 8.5 knows of said engagement.

And ensnaring the five rulebreakers shows how cooperation with casinos and regulators can, in fact, catch wrongdoers. Perhaps it will head off an even bigger scandal down the road.

Yet there are other intangibles to consider, including the distaste regular fans have shown for incessant gambling ads – from broadcasts to ballparks.

After the 2018 PASPA ruling, perhaps the leagues had little choice but to fully embrace the new reality. It will come with collateral damage, and we’ve likely only seen the first of it.

Zillgitt

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a player and now to be able to help guide these young men as a coach to (try to) win a championship, it’s just real and it’s a lot of fun. It can be nerve-racking at times, but it’s actually been a highlight of my basketball journey and so we’ve got to find a way to beat Boston. We got four games to try to figure that out.”

The NBA Finals between the Dallas Mavericks and Boston Celtics begins Thursday (Game 1, 8:30 p.m. EDT, ABC), and the Mavs are trying to win their first title since Kidd and Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas to a championship against the Miami Heat in 2011.

Kidd did a fantastic job with Dallas this season, leading it to a 50-32 record, including a 16-4 finish to the season that included 16 victories in 18 games. The Mavs earned the fifth seed in a deep West where the top three teams team won, 57, 57 and 56 games. There were multiple factors that led to Dallas’ success in the regular season and playoffs.

Using the court vision that made him a Naismith Basketball Hall of Famer – Kidd is No. 2 on the all-time assist list – he extracted the best out of Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving individually and as a pair.

Doncic had one of his best seasons, posting career highs in points (33.9 per game), 3-point percentage (.382), assists (9.8 per game) and free throw shooting percentage (.786). Doncic finished third in MVP voting, his best finish.

Irving produced his fifth season averaging at least 25 points, 5.0 rebounds and 5.0 assists.

In the playoffs, Irving and Doncic became the first backcourt mates to each score 30 points in a playoff game four times in a single postseason.

“He understands me and Kyrie’s role because he’s been in that role,” Doncic said.

Kidd also managed the incorporation of Daniel Gafford and P.J. Washington into the lineup after they were acquired in trade-deadline deals in February.

Post-trade, the Mavs were one of the best teams in the league, improving offensively and defensively. That carried over into the playoffs. Dallas beat three 50-win teams to reach the Finals.

“He’s a great coach,” Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said. “They’re one of the teams that we study a lot in late-game situations and the concepts they do. And his ability to create buy-in in his role guys and then put his best players in position to be successful. He’s done a great job.”

Kidd isn’t interested in accolades. “It’s not easy to be a coach in this league, but as I’ve told people, I can care less what you write about me,” he said. “It’s all about that group in that locker room and that group responds, and that’s what it’s all about.”

Kidd’s best finish for Coach of the Year honors was third in 2014-15 when he guided the Milwaukee Bucks to a 41-41 record. He received one third-place vote this season.

“My job is to help these young men get paid and also to find a way to win a championship,” Kidd said, “and I’ve done that since I was a player and since I’ve been a coach.”

But the bottom line is Kidd can coach. In his first season with Dallas in 2021-22, the Mavs were 52-30 and lost to Golden State in the Western Conference finals.

He was pivotal in the development of Doncic in Dallas and Giannis Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee, and those who have worked with him say he sees the game in a way only a few players can and has the ability to convey that. There aren’t many coaches like that. Magic Johnson and Larry Bird struggled with that aspect of coaching.

Kidd assembled a strong coaching staff: Sean Sweeney, Jared Dudley, Alex Jensen, Eric Hughes, Darrell Armstrong, Josh Broghamer, Marko Milic, God Shammgod and Keith Venev.

He’s also a gym rat. He loves being on the court – teaching and competing. His status as one of the all-time great point guards and even-keeled approach resonate with players.

“He’s walking into the locker room and asking, ‘So what do we think?’” Mavs rookie center Dereck Lively II said. “Being able to have a coach like that who’s going to make the players speak, make the players talk to one another, and then say what he thinks is an amazing process.”

The soda-spilling incident was a poor idea, but it points to Kidd’s competitiveness that he had has a player and brings as a coach.

Bohls

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swipe of the year and then went to third on the catcher’s throwing error.

Even though she was stranded at third, Texas’ speed once more created issues for an opponent.

“When you’re facing a great pitcher like NiJaree, you’re not going to score a lot of runs,” White said. “She gave up like six runs against LSU (in her super regional opener), then came out and threw two donuts against them. And that, to me, is a mark of an excellent pitcher with a lot of guts.”

Canady had guts for sure. But she didn’t have the ironclad defense behind her that Kavan did.

One inning after Stanford second baseman Taryn Kern smothered Henry’s rocket of a grounder to end the frame, she fumbled Washington’s routine roller to lead off Texas’ pivotal seventh. Joley Mitchell doubled with her first hit of the WCWS, a sharp hit to left that allowed her to reach second when the left fielder foolishly threw to third with no chance of a play on Washington.

Maloney then laid down the less-than-perfect bunt back to the circle, but Washington turned it into magic and barely slid under the tag at home.

“I froze up a little bit,” Washington said. “Instead of going back, I wanted to beat her, get into that rundown. What was going through my head was whatever it takes to score.”

The heads-up play gave the Longhorns the only run they needed. That’s all that was necessary when their pitching is stacking up zeroes like Kavan and Mac Morgan have been.

“We’re definitely sticking together, leaning on one another,” Washington said. “It’s not going to be just one person, it’s going to take all of us to do the job, to win the big games.”



Texas outfielder Kayden Henry (21) dives to make the final out in the third inning Monday against Stanford. BRYAN TERRY/THE OKLAHOMAN

Texas has already clinched a spot in the championship series and is taking aim on its first natty in softball. The Longhorns have plain been dominant.

Mighty Texas has flexed its muscles and won all three games – a run-rule 10-0 whitewash of Florida and two wins over Stanford – and still hasn’t given up a run. Those teams have managed just six hits against Texas. Not a one has gone for extra bases.

Heck, not a single Cardinal even advanced to second.

Other than a slapped single into right field in the second inning by Jade Berry and a two-out walk in the fourth, Kavan was perfect. She struck out seven and retired the last 10 in a row.

“Tremendous job by Teagan against a World Series contender, showing no nerves,” White said of his fabulous freshman. “I now call her Ice Kavan.”

Kavan, meanwhile, gets some rest before the final series. Of course, White may turn to Mac Morgan, who was one walk away from a perfect game in the regional, didn’t allow an earned run in five-plus innings against the Aggies in the super regional and tossed a one-hit shutout over Florida.

Or White could even turn to Citlaly Gutierrez, Texas’ No. 2 pitcher all year long who hasn’t even been needed yet.

Who knows who might get the call from White because we do know his phone is always on.



Novak Djokovic reacts after falling during his match Monday against Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo. EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Knee injury knocks out Novak Djokovic from French Open

Dan Wolken
USA TODAY

In a development that changes the landscape of men's tennis in both the near and possibly long-term, Novak Djokovic withdrew from the French Open on Tuesday due to a meniscus tear in his right knee.

Djokovic, who holds the all-time men's record with 24 Grand Slam titles, was visibly struggling with the issue during Monday's round of 16 match against Francisco Cerundolo but found a way to get through in five grueling sets.

The problem for Djokovic, however, is that it was his second consecutive five-setter with more than nine hours on the court combined. Although Djokovic blamed the slippery condition of the clay court at Roland Garros and not the physical toll of playing such long matches, he also acknowledged he had been carrying

an injury into the tournament.

Djokovic's withdrawal means that Casper Ruud, the No. 7 seed and two-time French Open finalist, advances to the semifinals.

More important, it elevates the 22-year-old Italian Jannik Sinner to No. 1 in next week's world rankings regardless of how the rest of the tournament plays out. Sinner, who broke through at the Australian Open, defeated Grigor Dimitrov on Tuesday.

It wasn't immediately clear if Djokovic's knee injury will cause him to miss upcoming big events like Wimbledon and the Olympics, the latter of which was his primary focus coming into the season.

Regardless, the injury is yet another blow in a season full of question marks for Djokovic, who has not won a tournament title and struggled with opponents ranked well outside the top 10.

Jannik Sinner holds off Grigor Dimitrov challenge

Shrivathsa Sridhar
REUTERS

PARIS – Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner stepped up his bid for a second Grand Slam title by securing a 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (3) victory over Grigor Dimitrov on Tuesday to reach the French Open semifinals, minutes after it was confirmed he would be the new world No. 1.

Although he didn't know it at the time, the second seed will take the top spot in the rankings on Monday regardless of who wins the French Open after defending champion Novak Djokovic pulled out with a knee injury before his quarterfinal match.

Djokovic's withdrawal will mean that Sinner will become the first Italian to take the top spot since the ATP rankings were first published 51 years ago.

"What can I say? First of all it's every player's dream to be No. 1. On the other hand, seeing Novak retiring here is, for everyone, disappointing. I wish him a quick recovery," Sinner said amid applause from the crowd.

"I try not to think much about this. This is a tournament I used to struggle a lot, especially the last two years. I'm happy to be in the semifinals.

"It's a special moment for me. I'm very happy to share this with you guys (the fans) and everyone at home watching from Italy."

Sinner has a perfect record in Grand Slams this year, but a trickier test could

be in the cards for the Australian Open champion, however, as he faces a potential clash against fellow young gun Carlos Alcaraz, who played Stefanos Tsitsipas later in the day.

Sinner tested Dimitrov's backhand early in the contest on Philippe Chatrier, and the lanky 22-year-old got a double break over his 10th-seeded opponent en route to take the opening set without getting out of second gear.

A searing crosscourt forehand winner set up break point at the start of the next set, and Sinner held firm to edge ahead, before shrugging off a back twinge to extend his dominance and lay the platform for a 33rd victory of a near-flawless season.

World No. 10 Dimitrov, who lifted his first title since 2017 at Brisbane earlier this year and reached two more finals, battled on bravely in the third set and forced a tiebreak where a clinical Sinner wrapped up the match with no trouble.

"I am very happy. We have played a couple of times before and I know what to expect. We played a final in Miami and it is always tough to play against him," Sinner said. "He is such a great talent and nice guy. My performance was very solid, especially the first two sets.

"I had a little bit of pressure when serving for the match, but this is normal, this is tennis."

Contributing: Rohith Nair

Ruthless Swiatek crushes Vondrousova

Shrivathsa Sridhar
REUTERS

PARIS – Defending champion Iga Swiatek declared that she was in the zone as her quest for a fourth French Open title hit top gear after a 6-0, 6-2 victory over former runner-up Marketa Vondrousova sent her through to the semifinals on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old's 62-minute workout set up a seismic last-four encounter with American Coco Gauff in a repeat of the 2022 final won by the Pole, who will look to improve her 10-1 overall record against the third seed.

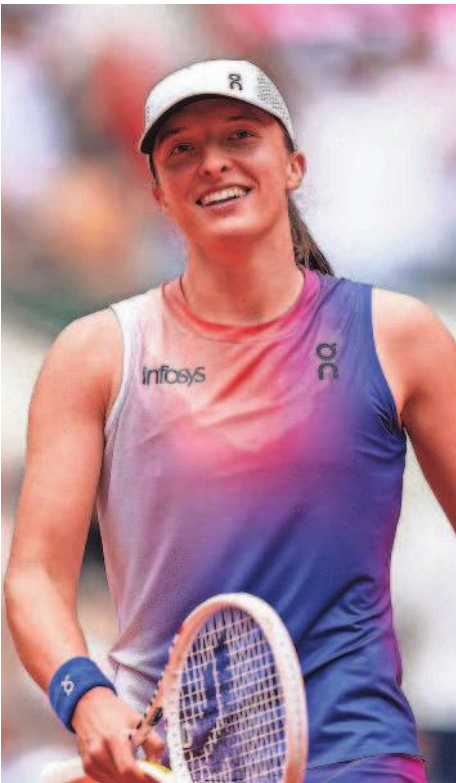
"Today it was pretty straightforward. I'm happy that I kept my focus. Sometimes I felt the game was pretty intense," Swiatek said after making the Roland Garros semifinals for the fourth time in five years.

"Sometimes the intensity went down a bit. I wanted to just play my game no matter what was coming back from Marketa. I felt like I was in the zone today."

Swiatek wasted little time to start firing in the clash of reigning Grand Slam champions on Court Philippe Chatrier as she built a 5-0 lead over Wimbledon winner Vondrousova and wrapped up the opening set when the fifth seed hit a shot long.

It was the top seed's third bagel in a row following her demolition of Russian Anastasia Potapova and she achieved it by dictating points from all parts of the court to completely overwhelm 2019 finalist Vondrousova.

The Czech cut a frustrated figure but finally got on board in the second set following a rare Swiatek mistake and earned a break point in the next game, but she could not stop her ruthless rival from extending her winning



Iga Swiatek celebrates winning her French Open quarterfinal match against Marketa Vondrousova on Tuesday. SUSAN MULLANE/USA TODAY SPORTS

run on clay to 17 matches.

Madrid and Rome champion Swiatek broke for a 3-1 lead and never looked back, sealing victory when Vondrousova hit a shot into the net, and she quickly turned her attention to Gauff.

"It's good to keep going and not think of this match as something huge," Swiatek said.

"Against Coco it isn't easy. She really likes clay, especially here. I'll just focus on myself and I'll prepare tactically and we'll see."

Coco Gauff can make it 'Big Four' says Jabeur

Rohith Nair
Reuters

PARIS – Coco Gauff's game intelligence and fighting spirit will go a long way in establishing herself in the "Big Four" of women's tennis, Tunisia's Ons Jabeur said after losing to the American in the French Open quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Third seed Gauff battled back from a set down to beat Jabeur 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 to reach the semifinals for the second time. She finished runner-up in 2022.

Since Ash Barty's retirement, world No. 1 Iga Swiatek, Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina have won six of the last eight Grand Slam titles to earn the "Big Three" tag.

But 20-year-old Gauff – who won her first Grand Slam title at last year's US Open – has climbed up to third in the rankings, sandwiched between the big-hitting Sabalenka and Rybakina.

"I think Coco is an amazing player. My favorite thing about Coco is her fighting spirit. I think she's playing great tennis right now," Jabeur told reporters.

"Obviously, she's such a fighter, she always tries to find ways, she's really smart on the court. I definitely see her becoming maybe (a member of) the 'Big Four.' They have the 'Big Three' right now," she added with a smile.

"I think she has a long way (to go). She's what, No. 3 right now? And having a lot of things to improve, it's actually good news for a player."

Although Gauff had struggled dur-



Coco Gauff defeated Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in three sets Tuesday. DIMITAR DILKOFF/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ing the clay court swing as she looked to fine-tune her serve, the American has worked on her weaknesses to turn it into a potent weapon.

Against Jabeur, Gauff consistently hit 124 mph, with one serve clocking 127 mph – the fastest serve hit by a woman at Roland Garros this year.

"It was a tough match today, which I expected. Coco plays really well," Jabeur added. "At certain moments it was difficult for me to return her serves, mainly on my forehand.

"Coco was better (in) the moments, especially in the third set."

Nair reported from Bengaluru, India

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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	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

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 3

Tuesday's Games
Kansas City at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Miami
L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh
Milwaukee at Philadelphia
N.Y. Mets at Washington
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees
Baltimore at Toronto
Atlanta at Boston
Chicago at Chicago
Detroit at Texas
St. Louis at Houston
Cincinnati at Colorado
San Diego at L.A. Angels
San Francisco at Arizona
Seattle at Oakland

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.

Thursday's Games
Baltimore at Toronto, 1:07 p.m.
Kansas City at Cleveland, 1:10 p.m.
Seattle at Oakland, 3:37 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
Atlanta at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
Colorado at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Boston at Chicago, 8:10 p.m.
Arizona at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	10	5	3	35	42	27
Cincinnati	10	3	3	33	23	16
N.Y. City FC	9	5	2	29	24	17
N.Y. 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
L.A. 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

Saturday's Games
D.C. United 2, Toronto FC 2
Inter Miami CF 3, Saint Louis 3
N.Y. Red Bulls 1, Orlando City 0
Philadelphia 2, CF Montreal 2
Minnesota 3, Sporting KC 1
Nashville 1, New England 2
Chicago 2, L.A. Galaxy 1
Real Salt Lake 5, Austin FC 1
Los Angeles FC 1, FC Dallas 0
Portland 2, Houston 2
Vancouver 2, Colorado 1
Sunday's Game
Atlanta 2, Charlotte FC 3
Saturday, June 8
N.Y. Red Bulls at New England, 7:30 p.m.
FC Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Portland at Saint Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Sporting KC, 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
N.J./N.Y. 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

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
N.Y. Liberty at Chicago
Phoenix at Seattle
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.
Friday's Games
Indiana vs Washington at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 10 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: Florida 9, Oklahoma 3
Game 13: Texas 1, Stanford 0
Tuesday, June 4
Game 12: Oklahoma 6, Florida 5 (8)
Championship series
Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m., ESPN
Oklahoma vs. Texas

GOLF

PGA Tour Statistics
Through June 4
Season Points
1, Scottie Scheffler, 4,351. 2, Xander Schauffele, 2,689. 3, Rory McIlroy, 1,930. 4, Wyndham Clark, 1,906. 5, Sahithi Theegala, 1,661. 6, Collin Morikawa, 1,571. 7, Byeong Hun An, 1,540. 8, Ludvig Aberg, 1,510. 9, Hideki Matsuyama, 1,349. 10, Shane Lowry, 1,302.
Scoring Average
1, Scottie Scheffler, 68.56. 2, Xander Schauffele, 69.44. 3, Rory McIlroy, 69.77. 4, Billy Horschel, 69.86. 5, Alex Noren, 69.88. 6, Keith Mitchell, 70.08. 7, Maverick McNealy, 70.10. 8,

Sports Weekly

On newsstands: We look at the backcourt play that is sure to define the NBA Finals between the Celtics and Mavericks and preview the Stanley Cup Final between the Oilers and Panthers. Is Florida too tough for Edmonton and Connor McDavid? We pick the winners. In baseball, we consider the first-place Phillies' hottest hitter. (Hint: It isn't Bryce Harper or Kyle Schwarber or Trea Turner. Should the injured shortstop worry?) Plus, we take a nostalgic look at MLB's eight oldest stadiums and sample the best ballpark food. Heading into college baseball's super regionals, we look at how Tennessee's vaunted lineup got even better and at a Kentucky team that is chasing program history. The issue also includes MLB power rankings, statistics, team notes and box scores as well as NBA and NHL playoff box scores. You can order the edition at onlinestore.usatoday.com and subscribe to the magazine by calling 800-872-1415.



Davis Thompson, 70.25. 9, Ludvig Aberg, 70.28. 10, Ben Griffin, 70.28.
Driving Distance
1, Cameron Champ, 318.30. 2, Rory McIlroy, 318.10. 3, Byeong Hun An, 314.10. 4, Kevin Dougherty, 313.80. 5, Wyndham Clark, 313.70. 6, Chris Gotterup, 313.30. 7, Min Woo Lee, 312.30. 8, Gary Woodland, 311.50. 9, Alejandro Tosti, 311.40. 10, Jhonattan Vegas, 311.00.
Driving Accuracy Percentage
1, Collin Morikawa, 78.00%. 2, Sepp Straka, 76.54%. 3, Shane Lowry, 75.40%. 4, Tommy Fleetwood, 74.71%. 5, Si Woo Kim, 74.49%. 6, Lucas Glover, 74.47%. 7, Russell Henley, 74.05%. 8, J.T. Poston, 73.43%. 9, Aaron Rai, 72.61%. 10, Scottie Scheffler, 72.53%.
Greens in Regulation Percentage
1, Scottie Scheffler, 73.90%. 2, Corey Connors, 72.22%. 3, Aaron Rai, 71.56%. 4, Kevin Yu, 71.00%. 5, Alex Noren, 70.86%. 6 (tie), Lanto Griffin and Patton Kizzire, 70.83%. 8, Xander Schauffele, 70.41%. 9, Byeong Hun An, 70.26%. 10, Jhonattan Vegas, 70.19%.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series
Winning Leaders
Through June 4
Denny Hamlin, 3, 534.
William Byron, 3, 488.
Kyle Larson, 2, 513.
Christopher Bell, 2, 437.
Chase Elliott, 1, 507.
Tyler Reddick, 1, 473.
Brad Keselowski, 1, 437.
Austin Cindric, 1, 305.
Daniel Suárez, 1, 290.
Martin Truex Jr., 0, 490.
Ty Gibbs, 0, 465.
Kyle Bowman, 0, 417.
Ross Chastain, 0, 417.
Ryan Blaney, 0, 405.
Bubba Wallace, 0, 371.
Chris Buescher, 0, 368.
Chase Briscoe, 0, 358.
Joey Logano, 0, 354.
Kyle Busch, 0, 348.
Josh Berry, 0, 264.
Carson Hocevar, 0, 259.

Todd Gilliland, 0, 258.
Noah Gragson, 0, 255.
Michael McDowell, 0, 255.
John H. Nemechek, 0, 228.
Erik Jones, 0, 228.
Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 0, 223.
Daniel Hemric, 0, 217.
Ryan Preece, 0, 211.
Austin Dillon, 0, 210.
Justin Haley, 0, 205.
Corey LaJoie, 0, 194.
Harrison Burton, 0, 155.
Zane Smith, 0, 131.
Kaz Grala, 0, 122.
Jimmie Johnson, 0, 35.
Derek Kraus, 0, 32.
David Ragan, 0, 17.
Cody Ware, 0, 17.
Kamui Kobayashi, 0, 8.

DEALS

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS – P Andrew Saalf-rank Placed on Restricted List. P Andrew Saalf-rank Suspension Announced By League one year for illicit gambling.
ATLANTA BRAVES – Brian Anderson Signed as Free Agent one-year contract. P Tyler Matzek Transferred to 60-Day IL Left elbow inflammation.
BALTIMORE ORIOLES – P Julio Teheran Signed to a Minor League Contract.
MIAMI MARLINS – RF Avisail Garcia Designated for Assignment. RF Avisail Garcia Removed From 10-Day IL Left hamstring strain. RF Avisail Garcia Recalled From Minors Rehab.
MINNESOTA TWINS – 3B Royce Lewis Recalled From 10-Day IL Strained right quad. 3B Royce Lewis Recalled From Minors Rehab.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS – P Michael Kelly Placed on Restricted List. P Michael Kelly Suspension Announced By League one year for illicit gambling.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES – 2B Jose Rodriguez Placed on Restricted List. 2B Jose Rodriguez Suspension Announced By League one year for illicit gambling.
SAN DIEGO PADRES – Tucupita Marcano Placed on Restricted List. Jay Groome Placed on Restricted List. Jay Groome Suspension



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Announced By League one year for illicit gambling. Tucupita Marcano Suspension Announced By League lifetime ban for illicit gambling. Tucupita Marcano Removed From 10-Day IL Recovery from right ACL surgery. WASHINGTON NATIONALS – DJ Her Called Up From Minors. P Trevor Williams Placed on 15-Day IL Right flexor muscle strain.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS – LB Shayne Simon signed.
BUFFALO BILLS – T Tommy Doyle cut. CB Daquan Hardy signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). T Tylan Grable signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). DE Javon Solomon signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). LB Edefuan Ulofoshio signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). C Sedrick Van Pran-Granger signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). RB Ray Davis signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). DT DeWayne Carter signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). S Cole Bishop signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). MIAMI DOLPHINS – RB Jaylen Wright signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). WR Tajhi Washington signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). WR Malik Washington signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). LB Mohamed Kamara signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). WASHINGTON COMMANDERS – TE Logan Thomas signed to San Francisco 49ers one-year contract (through 2024).
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
MONTREAL CANADIENS – G Connor Hughes Signed as Free Agent One-year, entry-level contract.

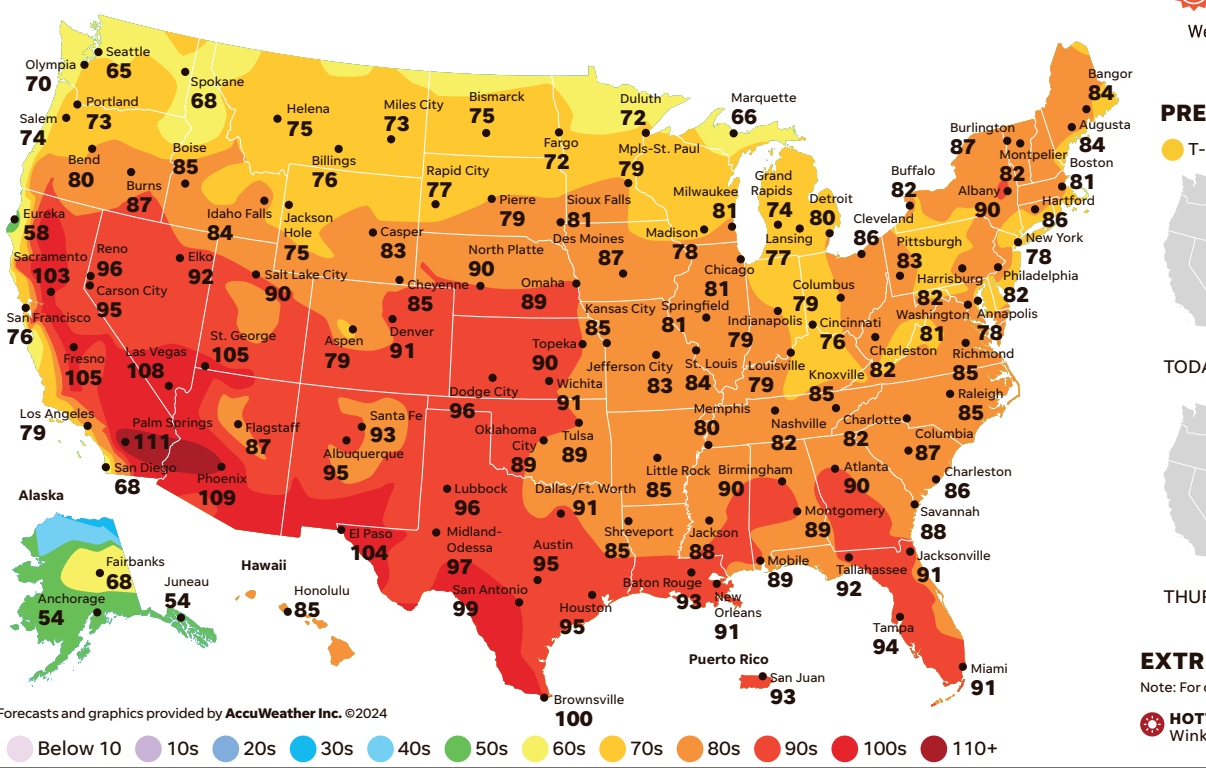
WEATHER WEATHER ONLINE USATODAY.COM

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TODAY'S FORECAST

A cold front moving across the central and eastern portions of the nation will spread showers and thunderstorms across much of the **East** today. Some thunderstorms can become severe from **Michigan** and **Ohio** to southern **Arkansas**, northern **Mississippi** and northern **Alabama** and will be capable of producing flooding downpours, hail and locally damaging wind gusts. Spotty thunderstorms can move into the **Northeast** and the **Southeast** by the afternoon hours. Meanwhile, a storm will bring showers and thunderstorms to parts of **Minnesota**, **Wisconsin** and **Iowa**. Gusty winds and small hail can accompany any downpour. Most of the **West** will be dry as high pressure remains in control of the weather, and record-challenging heat will continue across portions of the **Southwest**.

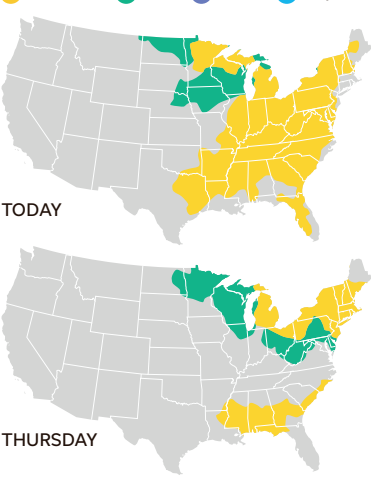
TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



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PRECIPITATION FORECAST

● T-storms ● Rain ● Snow ● Ice/mix



EXTREMES
Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday
● HOTTEST: 99° Wink, Texas
● COLDEST: 31° Fairplay, Colo.

TOP TRAVEL CITIES

ATLANTA		BALTIMORE		BOSTON		CHARLOTTE		CHICAGO		DALLAS/FT. WORTH		DENVER		DETROIT		HONOLULU		HOUSTON		LAS VEGAS		LOS ANGELES	
WED	☁️ T-storms 90/71	WED	☁️ Heavy t-storms 81/70	WED	☀️ Warmer 81/65	WED	☁️ Stray t-storm 82/70	WED	☁️ Stray t-storm 81/62	WED	☁️ Stray t-storm 91/70	WED	☀️ Sunny, warm 91/55	WED	☁️ T-storms 80/61	WED	☁️ Partly sunny 85/72	WED	☁️ Stray t-storm 95/75	WED	☀️ Very hot 108/83	WED	☀️ Turning sunny 79/61
THU	☁️ Stray t-storm 86/69	THU	☁️ Shower, hot 91/65	THU	☁️ T-storms 71/63	THU	☁️ Stray t-storm 87/67	THU	☁️ Shower 76/57	THU	☁️ Very warm 95/75	THU	☁️ Mostly sunny 87/61	THU	☁️ T-show-er 77/55	THU	☁️ Mostly cloudy 87/71	THU	☁️ Humid 95/75	THU	☀️ Very hot 111/83	THU	☁️ Partly sunny 77/63
FRI	☀️ Mostly sunny 85/64	FRI	☁️ Breezy 81/59	FRI	☁️ A few showers 71/58	FRI	☀️ Mostly sunny 85/63	FRI	☁️ Breezy 72/55	FRI	☁️ Stray t-storm 94/74	FRI	☁️ Stray t-storm 91/60	FRI	☁️ T-storms 67/53	FRI	☁️ Partly sunny 86/71	FRI	☀️ Humid 95/75	FRI	☁️ Very hot 110/83	FRI	☁️ Clouds to sun 80/63
AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Moderate		AQI Moderate		AQI Moderate	
MIAMI		MPLS-ST. PAUL		NEW ORLEANS		NEW YORK		ORLANDO		PHILADELPHIA		PHOENIX		SALT LAKE CITY		SAN DIEGO		SAN FRANCISCO		SEATTLE		WASHINGTON	
WED	☁️ Showers around 91/79	WED	☁️ Showers around 79/59	WED	☁️ Humid 91/77	WED	☁️ Partly sunny 78/68	WED	☁️ Stray t-storm 93/73	WED	☁️ Stray t-storm 82/69	WED	☀️ Hot 109/83	WED	☀️ Sunny 90/65	WED	☀️ Turning sunny 88/61	WED	☁️ Mostly sunny 65/45	WED	☁️ Partly sunny 81/73	WED	☁️ Heavy t-storms 81/73
THU	☁️ Stray t-storm 90/79	THU	☁️ Shower 70/54	THU	☁️ Stray t-storm 90/76	THU	☁️ T-storms 81/66	THU	☁️ Stray t-storm 95/74	THU	☁️ T-storms 88/68	THU	☁️ Very hot 112/84	THU	☀️ Hot 90/76	THU	☁️ Mostly cloudy 70/63	THU	☁️ Mostly sunny 70/55	THU	☀️ Sunny, nice 70/51	THU	☁️ Very warm 87/67
FRI	☀️ Stray t-storm 94/80	FRI	☀️ Windy 73/58	FRI	☀️ Stray t-storm 94/77	FRI	☁️ A.P.M. shower 84/64	FRI	☀️ Mostly sunny 97/75	FRI	☁️ A.P.M. shower 84/63	FRI	☀️ Hot 112/85	FRI	☁️ Hot 96/69	FRI	☁️ Mostly cloudy 73/64	FRI	☁️ Breezy 69/54	FRI	☁️ Partly sunny 75/52	FRI	☁️ Partly sunny 82/62
AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Good	

44 in Open after longest day

Todd Kelly

Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

They call it Golf’s Longest Day, but for those who survived and advanced it’s the fulfillment of a dream.

Final qualifying for the U.S. Open was already held at three locations on May 20, but on Monday there were 10 more, one in Canada and nine across eight states, from the East Coast to West, with hundreds of golfers competing over 36 holes at each locale for a golden ticket to Pinehurst No. 2 in the Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The field for the Open, which takes place June 13-16, will be 156, with 44 of those entries coming Monday, a day that started with 687 golfers from the PGA Tour and LIV Golf as well as a slew of amateurs.

The 124th U.S. Open field is now at 127. Check out this list of who made it, as well as some notables who did not, during Golf’s Longest Day.

Cherry Hill Club

Where: Ridgeway, Ontario

What’s at stake: 66 players, 7 spots

Who made it: Mark Hubbard won medalist honors by three shots after finishing at 15 under. Adam Svensson was solo second at 12 under, Rico Hoey was solo third at 11 under, Davis Thompson was solo fourth at 10 under, Aaron Rai birdied the last to tie Greyson Sigg for fifth at 9 and Canadian Ashton McCulloch (a) grabbed the last spot at 8 under.

Who missed out: Matt Wallace, Keith Mitchell, Ben Griffin, Bud Cauley, Sam Ryder, Stewart Cink, Hayden Springer, Maverick McNealy (WD), Charley Hoffman (WD) and Alex Gaugert, caddie for Erik van Rooyen, who is in the U.S. Open field.

The Bear’s Club

Where: Jupiter, Florida

What’s at stake: 73 players competing for 5 spots

Who made it: Matt Kuchar won medalist honors at 7 under, while Daniel Berger and Dean Burmester tied for second at 6 under. Luke Clanton (a) was solo fourth at 5 under. Willie Mack III, Thomas Ponder (a) and Brendan Valdes (a) were tied at 3 under and faced off in a 3-for-1 playoff, and when Valdes three-putted the second playoff hole, Mack, who lost his status on the Korn Ferry Tour, got in the field at Pinehurst.

Who missed out: Anirban Lahiri, Joaquin Niemann, Patrick Rodgers, Cameron Tringale, Graeme McDowell, Luke Donald, Ryan Armour (DNF), Charl Schwartzel (DNF), Peter Uihlein (DNF), Branden Grace (DNF)

The Golf Club of Georgia

Where: Alpharetta, Georgia



Daniel Berger was one of the five Open qualifiers from Monday at The Bear’s Club. PROVIDED BY SCOTT HALLERAN

What’s at stake: 68 players competing for 3 spots

Who made it: Jackson Buchanan (a) and Chris Petefish tied for first at 13 under, one shot better than Frederik Kjettrup (a). This qualifier was loaded with amateurs, 36 in all out of the 68-man field, and two of them finished in the top three.

Who missed out: Jason Dufner, Andy Ogletree, Jackson Koivun (a), Christo Lamprecht (a) and Hudson Swafford (DNF).

Woodmont Country Club

Where: Rockville, Maryland

What’s at stake: 64 players competing for 3 spots

Who made it: Tim Widing and Isaiah Salinda shared medalist honors at 9 under while Wells Williams (a) finished a shot back at 8 under.

Who missed out: Lucas Herbert, Sebastian Munoz, Marc Leishman, Kevin Chappell (DNF), Jimmy Walker (WD)

Canoe Brook Country Club

Where: Summit, New Jersey

What’s at stake: 72 players competing for 4 spots

Who made it: Benjamin James (a) and Max Greyserman were co-medalists at 11 under. Andrew Svoboda was third at 9 under and Jim Herman snagged the final spot after surviving a 4-for-1 playoff against Raul Pereda, Michael Miller and Peter Bradbeer.

Who missed out: Chris Gotterup, Harrison Crowe, Michael Thorbjornsen.

Duke University Golf Club

Where: Durham, North Carolina

What’s at stake: 84 players competing for 7 spots

Who made it: Frankie Capan III wins

it at 6 under. Blain Campbell and Sam Bennett tied for second at 5 under. Chesson Hadley and Webb Simpson tied for fourth at 4 under. Harry Higgs and Carter Jenkins then survived a 7-for-2 playoff after eliminating Ryan Gerard, Spencer Oxendine, Matt McCarty, Rhein Gibson and Satoshi Kodaira.

Who missed out: Spencer Levin, Cole Hammer, Harold Varner III, Doc Redman, Russell Knox, Miles Russell (a).

Ohio State University Golf Club

Where: Columbus, Ohio

What’s at stake: 68 players competing for 5 spots

Who made it: Seamus Power and Justin Lower tied for co-medalist honors at 10 under. Brendon Todd, Gunnar Broin (a) and Chris Naegel then survived a 4-for-3 playoff, eliminating Otto Black.

Who missed out: Luke List, Hayden Buckley, Ben Taylor, Jhonattan Vegas, Andrew Putnam and K.H. Lee (WD).

Springfield Golf Club

Where: Springfield, Ohio

What’s at stake: 64 players competing for 4 spots

Who made it: Zac Blair won medalist honors at 9 under. Beau Hossler and Carson Schaaake tied for second at 8 under. That left the Australia duo of Adam Scott and Cam Davis in a 2-for-1 playoff. Scott bogeyed three of his last five holes, including the 18th, to end up in the playoff. On the third playoff hole, Davis made a 3-foot putt to end it and take the last spot in this qualifier. Scott’s streak of playing in 91 straight majors is in jeopardy.

Who missed out: Troy Merritt, Maxwell Moldovan, Robert Streb, Zach Johnson and Austin Greaser (a).

Lake Merced Golf Club

Where: Daly City, California

What’s at stake: 84 players, 4 spots

Who made it: David Puig won the qualifier at 12 under, one shot ahead of an amateur from UCLA, Omar Morales. John Chin and Charles Reiter tied for third at 10 under.

Who missed out: Barclay Brown (a), Matt Jones (WD), Taylor Montgomery (WD).

Pronghorn Resort

Where: Bend, Oregon

What’s at stake: 44 players competing for two spots

Who made it: Joey Vrzich won it at 5 under. Colin Prater, an amateur and a 29-year-old science teacher from Colorado Springs, finished second at 3 under.

10 LIV players set to play US Open

Todd Kelly

Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

Monday started with 83 golfers, including eight members of LIV Golf, already in the 156-man field for the U.S. Open.

Golf’s Longest Day, an annual rite of passage for those seeking to qualify for the national championship, was the final chance for those not in to punch their ticket to Pinehurst No. 2.

Among the 687 golfers who were spread across 10 qualifying sites on Monday were 19 LIV golfers, who normally play 54-hole events over three days but for this they had to navigate 36 holes in one day.

Of those 19, just three earned a golden ticket, which brings the LIV total for Pinehurst to 10.

There were 16 LIV golfers who played in the PGA Championship in May and 13 who were in Augusta in April for the Masters.

Unlike those two events, however, there are rarely special exemptions for the U.S. Open so you either have to be a recent major winner, a recent PGA Tour winner, high enough in the Official World Golf Ranking or be one of those who managed to battle through qualifying.

David Puig had the best day, as he won the qualifier at Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City, California, at 12 under, after posting scores of 68 and 64.

Here’s the breakdown of the LIV golfers who are in, and who fell short, of making it.

Already in prior to June 3 (8)

Bryson DeChambeau, Brooks Koepka, Dustin Johnson, Martin Kaymer, Cameron Smith, Jon Rahm, Phil Mickelson and Adrian Meronk.

Made it through June 3 qualifying (2)

David Puig and Dean Burmester.

Failed to make it through qualifying (17)

Sergio Garcia, Joaquin Niemann, Carlos Ortiz, Abraham Ancer, Matt Jones, Cameron Tringale, Graeme McDowell, Anirban Lahiri, Charl Schwartzel, Peter Uihlein, Branden Grace, Andy Ogletree, Lucas Herbert, Marc Leishman, Hudson Swafford, Wade Ormsby and Sebastian Munoz.

Canadian amateur champ crashes qualifying party

Adam Schupak

Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

RIDGEWAY, Ontario – Of the top 18 finishers at the U.S. Open Final Qualifying at Cherry Hill Club, 17 were card-carrying members of the PGA Tour who had played the past weekend at the RBC Canadian Open. Then there was Michigan State rising senior Ashton McCulloch, the Canadian amateur champion, who crashed the party and earned the final of seven spots available at the U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2.

Before McCulloch teed off in his morning round, his brother called to wish him luck and said he was going to mark the week of the Open as out of office so he could caddie for him.

McCulloch shot a 36-hole total of 8-under 134 to qualify for his first major championship. Last week he played in the Canadian Open, too, and missed the cut, ranking dead last in strokes gained: putting for the first two days. But it was an experience he said he’ll never forget.

“I figured out it is my passion to play on the PGA Tour so I’m just excited to get back out there and play against the best again,” he said.

Cherry Hill Club, a Walter Travis course that is more than 100 years old, surrendered four 63s on Monday, which tied the course record. Mark Hubbard just missed a 12-foot birdie putt at the last for 62.

But that was nearly the only putt that didn’t drop with a TaylorMade Spider putter he inserted in the bag just last month.

“It’s the last putter I ever thought I’d use,” he said. “But that’s the best I’ve



Ashton McCulloch reacts to his shot from the fourth tee during the first round of the RBC Canadian Open last Thursday. MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES

putted in as long as I can remember. I feel like I rolled it really well last week and I couldn’t read the greens at all. I got out here and this is an old-school course with lots of slope and I was so happy to be on a green where I could be confident it was going left.”

Hubbard is having a solid season on the PGA Tour and hasn’t missed a cut this season.

“I was joking that if I qualify today does that count as another made cut?” said Hubbard, who qualified for the Open for the first time. (He got into Winged Foot during the COVID year.) “And if I don’t does that count as my first missed cut?”

He shot 64-63 to take medalist hon-

ors, three shots better than Canadian Adam Svensson.

Rico Hoey was alone in third after rounds of 68-63. Hoey has struggled as a PGA Tour rookie this season and missed his fourth consecutive cut last weekend at the RBC, where he battled a cold in addition to his game. He spent Saturday in bed and considered skipping the qualifier.

“Golf can be so dark. I was like I don’t know if I should or not, it’s going to be a joke, an embarrassment,” Hoey said. “I decided I owe it to myself to come out and play and I’m glad I did. These are the times that I’ll look back and say, you did it and you can keep rolling through those bad times.”

Hoey heated up on the front nine of his second round, playing the first six holes in 6 under and going out in 29.

“I made six threes in a row and said, ‘God, this might happen,’” said Hoey, who was a hard-luck loser last year at qualifying for the Open in Los Angeles, not far from where he grew up.

He qualified for his first major and will compete at Pinehurst, where his former college coach, Chris Zambri, lives and works for the USGA.

Davis Thompson is heading to Pinehurst too. He shot the first 63 in the morning round at Cherry Hill and finished at 10 under.

Greyson Sigg shot 64-69 to tie for fifth with Aaron Rai. The Englishman used a local member as a caddie, who guided him around to a 70 in the morning and then he got his bearings. He holed out a 9-iron from 138 yards at the fourth hole and finished with three birdies in his final four holes to tie the course record and seal the deal.

Rai played in the U.S. Open once before at Erin Hills in 2017. He’s been to Pinehurst once, competing in the U.S. Kids Worlds Championships at age 12.

“I have very fond memories of that,” he said. “That will be special to go back to a place where I played junior golf but this time going back for a major.”

Keith Mitchell missed a 10-foot birdie putt at 18 that would’ve forced a playoff with McCulloch, but he returned to 18 and made a 6-foot birdie to secure first-alternate status. Matt Wallace is the second alternate.

Sixty-seven players registered for the Cherry Hill site for the seven spots available.

No. 1 Tennessee next for surprising Evansville

Chad Lindskog
Evansville (Ind.) Courier & Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Cinderella story will continue. Facing elimination in the Greenville Regional, Evansville rallied to upset No. 16 overall 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 Fougrousse's fourth homer of the regional and program-tying 21st on the season in the first inning. Then, after ECU took the lead in the fifth, Mark Shallenberger belted a three-run, go-ahead homer in the sixth.

Evansville didn't relinquish the lead as the 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," Purple Aces 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. The Purple Aces will play a best-of-three series in Knoxville, Tennessee, for a trip to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

This is Evansville's fourth NCAA Tournament appearance at the Division I level (1988, 2000, 2006) while East Carolina 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.

ECU finished 29-6 on its home field at Clark-LeClair Stadium. Two of the losses came to Evansville during the regional.

In their third meeting with ECU in four days, the Aces took a 2-0 advantage on the Fougrousse homer and an RBI single from Cal McGinnis. After the Pirates



The University of Evansville baseball team celebrates its NCAA Greenville Regional championship on Monday after defeating East Carolina 6-5. PROVIDED BY EVANSVILLE ATHLETICS

scored the next five runs, Fougrousse 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.

"This is his last ride and he was going to leave it all out there for us," Carroll said of Harris. "I needed him to get three outs for us, and boy did he. What a gutsy performance."

This team has proved time and time again that it won't quit, having won eight of nine games this postseason. It's set single-season team records for doubles, home runs and runs scored. Its 38 wins are the sixth most in program history.

Now, they'll get to keep adding to those marks against the best team in college baseball.

"To come in here and earn this in one of the most hostile environments in the country, I couldn't be more proud," Carroll said.

NCAA BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Super regional field

- No. 1 Tennessee (won Knoxville regional)
- No. 2 Kentucky (won Lexington regional)
- No. 3 Texas A&M (won Bryan-College Station regional)
- No. 4 North Carolina (won Chapel Hill regional)
- No. 6 Clemson (won Clemson 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)

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. 4 North Carolina vs. West Virginia (North Carolina hosts)
- No. 6 Clemson vs. Florida (Clemson hosts)
- No. 8 Florida State vs. UConn (Florida State hosts)
- No. 9 Georgia vs. No. 10 North Carolina State (Georgia hosts)
- No. 13 Virginia vs. Kansas State (Virginia hosts)

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LIFELINE



JEROME MIRON/USA TODAY SPORTS

MAKING WAVES
DOLLY PARTON

Dolly Parton wants to clock in for the remake of "9 to 5." The country music legend told E! News she was excited about the Jennifer Aniston-produced remake of her 1980 film and first heard of the idea while filming the 2018 Netflix movie "Dumplin'" with the "Friends" alum. "There was some mention she might want to do '9 to 5,' and I said, 'Oh, that would be great,'" Parton told E! "I'm hoping they use my song and I'm hoping they might find a way to have Lily (Tomlin), Jane (Fonda) and me come back in."



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Troye Sivan is 29. Mark Wahlberg is 53. Pete Wentz is 45.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY
More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). Getting all the good intel? As the moon and Mercury align, take lots of notes, but wait to draw conclusions.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Gut investment? This gamble could go either way. Talk out the pros and cons.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). How are you feeling? No shyness here! You'll tell anyone who will listen!

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Meditative mood? There's a lot on your mind. Thoughts of the past dominate.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Sensitive subject matter? Discussions get intense in your social circle.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Seeking career recognition? You're in self-promotion mode. Remember to keep it professional!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Asking lots of questions? The moon's alignment with Mercury helps you reach across the aisle to make unexpected connections.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Talking through the tough stuff? Dare to be vulnerable. You have nothing to lose.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Ready to sign that contract? Consider holding off. Use today to talk through the details.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Seeing colleagues with fresh eyes? You form bonds in the workplace.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Love on the brain? The moon's alignment with Mercury inspires you to express what's in your heart.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Surrounding yourself with your chosen family? Keep your circle small.

MUSIC



Robert Plant and Alison Krauss are back on the road.

Plant and Krauss are a playful pair as they head out

Melissa Ruggieri USA TODAY

You might not expect a comedy routine during a conversation with Robert Plant and Alison Krauss. ● But the rock 'n' roll lion and the bluegrass chanteuse who became an unlikely musical pair 17 years ago with their rootsy collaboration "Raising Sand" are relaxed, playful and exceptionally respectful of each other. ● And very funny. ● In a joint interview a few days before Sunday's launch of another summer of touring behind "Raise the Roof," their 2021 acclaimed follow-up to the Grammy-winning "Raising Sand," the pair begin by disagreeing about when their last tour ended (it was July) and tease each other while answering how they might change the set list for this run of dates.

"We haven't started yet, but we have 39 shows. so I think we'll consolidate and play to our strengths initially," Plant says.

"And then we'll play to our weaknesses," Krauss jokes.

"See what I'm dealing with?" Plant responds with mock exasperation.

For 25 minutes, the pair banter about aging (he is 75, she 52), why sleep is "crucial" while touring and the art of harmonizing.

"I'm trying my best to learn how to get it right," Plant, one of the mightiest singers in rock history, says with discernable humbleness.

Here is what else the twosome had to share.

Question: What have you both been doing since getting off the road last year?

Robert Plant: I've been very busy following my north star and reaching

into the great old world of R&B for songs I might do something with down the road.

And watching football (soccer).

Alison Krauss: I've been watching documentaries about The Mothman. And have been in the studio with Union Station working on a new album.

What is it like making the shift from touring with Robert to going back into the studio?

Krauss: It's much more laid-back with Robert.

The studio has its own unpleasantness, and it's a much more relaxed environment here. I can't believe I get to do both.

Plant: You have a lot more notes to worry about in that band. I've learned a lot in my time around Alison and the

See PLANT/KRAUSS, Page 4D



Plant and Krauss have released two acclaimed albums together and will tour throughout the summer. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DAVID MCCLISTER

STREAMING

The Force is not yet with 'The Acolyte'

Kelly Lawler
USA TODAY

"Star Wars" is a complicated beast. Sometimes it's dark, complex and ambitious, like Disney+ series "Andor" or "The Last Jedi" film. Sometimes it's rousing, epic and feel-good ("Return of the Jedi.") And sometimes it's just weird, silly and unsatisfying (prequel "The Phantom Menace").

So perhaps it's only fitting that the prequel to that prequel, Disney+'s new series "The Acolyte" (streaming Tuesdays, 9 EDT/PDT, ★★☆☆) falls into that last category. Full of logical fallacies, hokey dialogue and nonsensical plots, "Acolyte" feels entirely of a piece with the worst elements of the prequel trilogy, which many hardcore fans love to hate, even 25 years later. The series, created by "Russian Doll" producer Leslye Headland, certainly has ambition as it tries to tell a showy story about the mythology and magic of the Jedi and the Force. But even the best of intentions can go awry.

All the sci-fi/fantasy jargon, dramatic costumes, brightly colored lightsabers, fancy hairdos and ominous villains Headland can stuff into "Acolyte" can't make a good story on their own. There has to be some emotion and depth to the characters and their woes. There has to be more than perfunctory plot points. There has to be a sense of adventure and wonder. And there has to be something that captures the *feeling* of "Star Wars," not just the aesthetics. "Acolyte" doesn't have it, no matter how hard it tries.



Amandla Stenberg stars as Mae in "The Acolyte." PROVIDED BY LUCASFILM

A century before Obi-Wan (Ewan McGregor) and Qui-Gon (Liam Neeson) felt a disturbance in the Force in "Phantom," a rogue "Force-user" is hunting and killing Jedi masters across the galaxy. At first thought to be former Jedi Padawan Osha (Amandla Stenberg), it turns out the Jedi killer is her twin sister, Mae (also Stenberg), long presumed dead after a mysterious fire when the two were children. The blaze resulted in the death of their family and Osha being taken into the Jedi order. (This "twist" is revealed in the first few minutes of the series premiere.)

Determined to bring in Mae or Osha (or both) and figure all this out is Jedi Master Sol (Lee Jung-jae, "Squid Game"), who trained Osha before she left the order. He's joined by a handful of other colorful and utterly forgettable Jedi: Is Mae out for revenge for what she believed happened to her family all those years ago? Or is there a more nefarious power brewing in the galaxy? There's the pickle, and a flashback episode featuring Jodie Turner-Smith as the girls' mother, Aniseya, and the leader of a "witch coven" doesn't provide many answers.

It's all a little too complex (witches, in this galaxy?) and a little too simple (ah yes, the old evil-twin twist). The reveal of Mae comes too early in the series, removing much of the mystery element that makes "Acolyte" unique in the ever-expanding "Star Wars" canon. There are too many characters with too many quirks to make them stand out from one another. You'll be hard-pressed to tell the difference between various aliens paired with Charlie Barnett's Jedi knight Yord.

See ACOLYTE, Page 4D

MUSIC

Lauper just wants to have fun on her farewell tour

Melissa Ruggieri
USA TODAY

In her fifth decade of fame, Cyndi Lauper is finding that life is still a succession of hellos and goodbyes.

Her complex history – from her multicultural upbringing in Brooklyn and Queens to her abusive stepfather to her pre-solo-career success with Blue Angel – is examined in the documentary “Let the Canary Sing,” now on Paramount+.

For many, it will be an illuminating introduction to a backstory far deeper than casual fans would expect of the zany, flame-haired “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” singer. There are plenty of smiles, too, as Lauper recalls an early job as a secretary (“I’d fall asleep reading the mail”) and landing on Tipper Gore’s infamous “Filthy Fifteen” song list for the taboo-at-the-time “She Bop.”

But Lauper, soon to be 71, also is realistic about the sands of time and on Oct. 18 will embark on a 23-date farewell arena tour, including her first headlining show at Madison Square Garden in her native New York on Oct. 30. A ticket pre-sale began Tuesday, and general sales start Friday at 10 a.m. local time.

“It was all like a perfect storm,” Lauper tells us.

In “Let the Canary Sing,” directed by Alison Ellwood (“Laurel Canyon,” “The Go-Go’s”) and named for a comment made in a judicial ruling in her favor during a long-ago court case with a former manager, Lauper’s varied career (remember the wrestler era?) is presented briskly and colorfully.

Lauper also remains committed to her philanthropic work with her True Colors United foundation, which assists homeless LGBTQ+ young people, and her more recently established Girls Just Want to Have Fundamental Rights fund to benefit women’s rights and reproductive health.

The always-loquacious, ever-forthright Lauper checked in recently to talk about plans for her final tour, why she finally agreed to a documentary, the status of “Working Girl” on Broadway, and why she doesn’t listen to music at home.



Cyndi Lauper’s long career is examined in the documentary “Let the Canary Sing,” streaming on Paramount+. PROVIDED BY LAURIE PALADINO/PARAMOUNT+

Question: So you’re really saying farewell to touring. Why was this the right time?

Answer: Because right now this is the best I can be. It’s an arena tour, which I haven’t done in a long time. I just want to thank everybody, say goodbye, celebrate with fans that have been so loyal and sweet and were there for every crazy-ass concert or thing that I did, and I’m excited about doing it. I don’t think physically in another five years I will be as good, but now I can do it, you know?

If this is being billed as a goodbye, what are you thinking as far as the setup of the show and the set list?

I’m going to include a piece of everything – (songs from) Blue Angel, “Shine” – and combine art and moving visuals, use a lot of color and design. I haven’t had a fun tour since ’84, so now it will be the ’24 fun tour!

I love the documentary footage of you on tour in the ’80s, flying over the crowd in a garbage can like in the (live) video for “Money Changes Everything.”

I asked for a cherry picker and they gave me a garbage pail! I thought it was

on a pulley system, but it was 10 men pulling me. They had me sign my will before (going up). I don’t want any more garbage cans. I want more class.

For years you’d been reluctant to do a documentary. What changed?

A lot of people had come to me before and said “Let’s do a documentary,” and I thought: “Wait, I’m still here. I’m not dead.” And people said, “You should do it while you’re here so you can get it right.” So I figured OK. I had been watching all these documentaries during COVID and I saw “Laurel Canyon” and I was really moved. I thought, she did a documentary but she’s a freakin’ filmmaker and she can tell a story. So when people started again on a documentary for me, I was like, you know, this woman Alison looks like a real filmmaker and I think she would tell a truthful story.

A lot of music documentaries lately seem to be multi-part and many hours, but yours in an efficient 90 minutes. Did you specifically want it to be easily digestible?

Listen, it’s not my whole entire life; it’s just a time period. It’s good that Alison didn’t make it 2½ hours. Do you real-

ly need to see me that much? I’m excited because they’re going to show (the film) at the (TCL) Chinese Theatre and, come on, I get to do the handprints. It’s so kitsch, I love it.

Your sister Ellen says in the documentary that singing is like your church. Do you still feel that way?

Yeah, it has to be. I start to get bogged down and (need to) go back to the source, which is a spiritual source. I have to do that or I can’t sing. I always ask, “What is my highest purpose?” when I’m singing because that’s the most important thing. The fact that I was given that ability – that was a gift. It saved my life, and when you don’t feel so great, singing is fantastic.

Do you sing a lot when you’re not performing?

Not since the whole (home) stereo thing went kaput. I don’t sing around the house or listen to music. I don’t like listening on the computer. I think it sucks. It’s not like it used to be having the big stereo console in your living room and everybody laughing and singing and dancing.

You’ve been involved with turning “Working Girl” into a musical since 2016 and certainly put in your time with your Tony-winning “Kinky Boots” in 2013. Do you find the pace of Broadway frustrating?

I can say that in 2025 we will be out of town and in 2026 we will come to Broadway. (The pace) is a little frustrating. When you do an album you have a budget, you’re working, you finish it. Everyone is working on the same thing. On Broadway, it’s everybody trying to make a living, and if you’re a creative, you don’t get paid (until rehearsals) and then directors don’t get paid until they direct. It’s a whole different thing.

How are things going from the music standpoint?

This story takes places in the ’80s, so easy-peasy, right? I brought (longtime collaborator and founder of The Hooters) Rob Hyman in because for a moment we *were* the ’80s. I called on Salt from Salt-N-Pepa to write something, too. You really just want to get it right.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Expert offers nuance to gender debate

David Oliver
USA TODAY

When you were born, someone likely told you that you’re a boy or that you’re a girl. And while your reproductive organs, yes, revealed the sex you were born as, your gender identity was far from predetermined, says child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Jack Turban.

Turban is the founding director of the Gender Psychiatry Program at the University of California, San Francisco, who regularly speaks out about gender-affirming care in media. His new book, “Free to Be,” arrived Tuesday.

“A big hope for the book is that it’ll expand the nuance through which people think about gender,” Turban says over a recent Zoom call. “Younger generations think about gender with much more nuance than older generations, and they think about all these different dimensions of it and complexity, in a way that’s been really beautiful to see as a psychiatrist.”

The interview below has been edited and condensed for clarity.

It seems like people love to cherry-pick data points that fit their viewpoint (either for or against gender-affirming care). Is that where you see most of the misinformation stem from?

Also just misrepresenting data. One of the worst misrepresentations is the idea that 80% of trans kids are going to change their mind and grow out of it, so we should just ignore their gender diversity, which is certainly not true. And we talk about that research. Also, we see a lot of just making things up out of thin air.

The bathroom debate is the perfect example that unfortunately, people with really big platforms, including J.K. Rowling, for example, are out there saying that trans-inclusive spaces are going to increase sexual assault risk, providing no data, sometimes providing anecdotes, when we do have these research studies that show that, those trans-inclusive spaces actually improve safety for trans people, and don’t make it any worse for cis people.

If trans people are using the bathroom that is not corresponding to their gender identity, (they’re) actually more at risk for something going



When you were born, someone likely told you that you’re a boy or that you’re a girl. And while your reproductive organs, yes, revealed the sex you were born as, your gender identity was far from predetermined. PROVIDED BY REBECCA NOBLE

wrong, right?

Exactly. And the other thing that I was really hoping people would take from the book is hearing actual stories of trans people and trans kids, because I think too often these debates become totally intellectualized and removed from reality. And it’s really easy to get off into a space that is not correct when you do that. Again, bathrooms are a good example. Because if you knew a teenage transgender girl, if you had to actually watch that girl be forced to go use a boy’s bathroom, it would create that understanding. This is not safe for that child. This is embarrassing to this child. It’s cruel. But often trans people aren’t part of the conversation. Kids definitely don’t have the voices. And so I was hoping to highlight some of their voices a little bit more.

Something that gets missed a lot in talking about this is that some kids are going to go on puberty blockers. Some aren’t. Some will eventually want surgery, some won’t. How do you think that nuance gets to be more mainstream?

I have a lot of faith. Not everyone shares this faith. But from my vantage point, I do see a lot of that nuance being erased in older generations and in political debates and among people who have

lot of power in society. If you’re on Twitter or reading the news, it can feel like those are the predominant ideas in society. But the reality is I sit with young people all day, and they don’t think about it that way. They love their trans friends. They’re really open, accepting of gender diversity.

It’s inevitable that as time passes, things are going to get better.

What I gather is that kids are talking about trans issues, but not in the same way that adults are talking about it. Do you think that’s fair to say?

I think that’s fair. The different generations are thinking about it intensely in different ways. Adults are thinking about it in this very politicized, binary way. And then interestingly, kids are largely not thinking about those things. Like they don’t care when their friend uses the bathroom.

Transphobia appears to be something that we learn, not that we’re born with.

When did gender-affirming care become such a political issue?

(Gender-affirming care has) been around for decades. Doctors were practicing, they were doing this, families were benefitting, we were having these same involved nuanced conversations. But then it was really the past five years

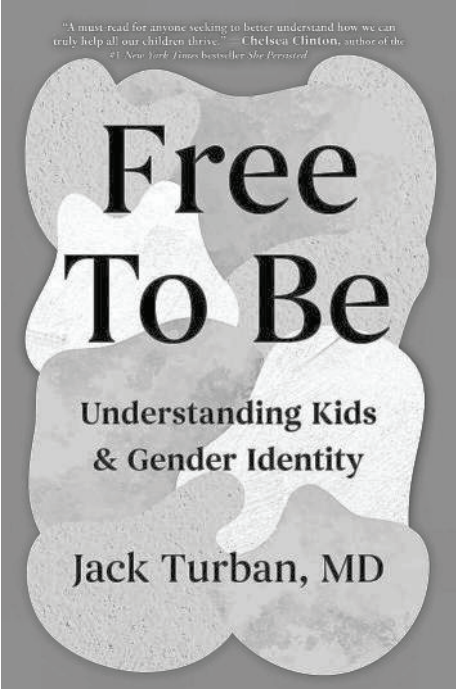
or so that it became really politicized and made everything more difficult.

You talked about optimism for the future. Can you expand on that?

Part of that is where we are with gender. I’m not a political scientist, by any means. But living in the world, it does feel like we are at a difficult political time, broadly, not just limited to this, where there are a lot of things happening in politics that I didn’t see coming. And it seems like it’s harder and harder to predict.

If you had told me this would be the situation in the world five years ago, I would have never believed you. And so I’m hesitant to, to necessarily predict what things are going to be like in five years.

But I do really, truly think that trans people are becoming more visible. Younger people are thinking about this with more nuance, younger people don’t have as much stigma around it. It’s not being hidden, more closeted as often. So I think we’re making progress. There’s all this anti-trans rhetoric and legislation right now that probably is forcing a lot of people back into the closet and making people more afraid to talk. But I do think that probably is going to be a blip and things will continue to improve.



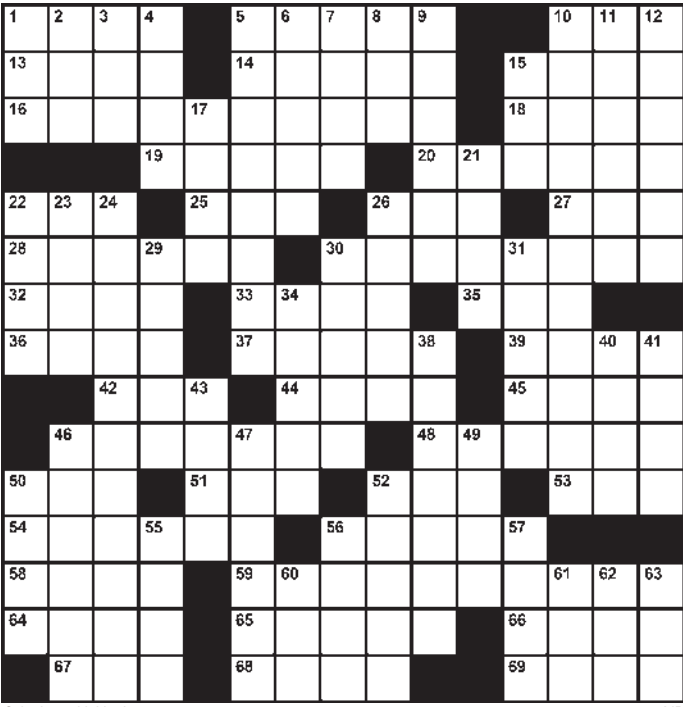
PROVIDED BY SIMON & SCHUSTER

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Amanda Rafkin
BY Caroline Darya Framke & Olivia Mitra Framke

PREDATORS OF THE DEEP

- ACROSS**
- 1 Perched upon
5 Rainbow or Women Holding Hands, e.g.
10 Word before “walk” or “smear”
13 Nickname that drops “line” or “lyn”
14 Clear plastic wrap
15 NYC museum
16 Shrimp relative with stripes
18 Good or bad sign
19 Mushroom variety
20 Press the “tab” key
22 Place to input a PIN
25 ____ Plaines, Illinois
26 ____-cone (icy treat)
27 “Don’t touch my bone!”
28 Pursues
30 Sea creature with a large wingspan
32 “Mamma Mia! ____ We Go Again”
33 Rip-off
35 Pie ____ mode
36 Plaything on a string
37 Fertile spot in a desert
39 Tawantinsuyu resident
42 British watering hole
44 DNA sequence
45 Honolulu’s island
46 Long fish with canine teeth
48 What each Scrabble tile has on it
50 Taste a pinot, say
51 Cook in oil
52 “The Challenge” network
53 Distinct chunk of history
54 Spanish for “wife”
56 XL and XS, for two
58 Verb in a deviled eggs recipe
59 Crustacean with spindly legs
- Answers:** Call 1-900-988-8300, 99 cents a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-320-4280.



© Andrews McMeel

6/5

- 64 Reality TV icon
65 Boo-boo
66 Verdi opera
67 Tax form ID
68 Stir up
69 “Friends” character who couldn’t get his couch to “PIVOT!”
- DOWN**
- 1 Perform a role
2 ____ chi
3 Nonprofit URL ending
4 Work by Rumi or Hafez
5 Coffee in most lattes
6 Colts’ mamas
7 Spoken out loud
8 Body part that can “drop”
9 Seventh-____ stretch
10 Auspicious fruit in Armenian culture
11 Egyptian deity
12 Snack closet
15 Online admin
17 Took the subway

- 21 City with a French Quarter, for short
22 Sore
23 “The White Lotus” actor James
24 Julie Andrews’ Oscar-winning role
26 “Salt Fat Acid Heat” author Nosrat
29 1988 Olympics site
30 Painter’s prop
31 Mary Ann Evans aka George ____
34 Secretive
38 Bubbly addition to some batter
40 “Believe” singer
41 Vibe
43 Super-close pals
46 They’re granted by genies
47 Pink part of a pencil
49 Happily ____ after
50 Stitched
52 PMS-fighting brand

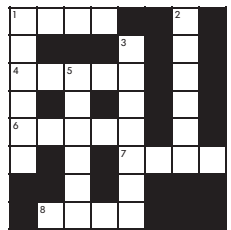
Tuesday’s Answer



6/4

CROSSWORDS
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TXTPERT



- Across**
1. 8646
4. 28762
6. 44262
7. 6254
8. 5267
- Down**
1. 862246
2. 272945
3. 2242627
5. 792632

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Today’s theme
Countries



Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C ____, and 5678 could be LOST



Yesterday’s solution

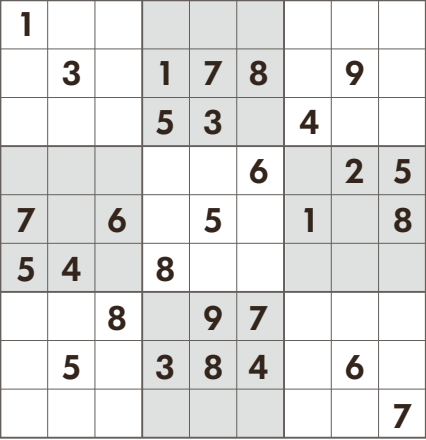
Numbers

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).



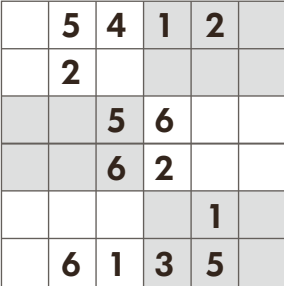
6/5

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★

SUDOKU FUSION
ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

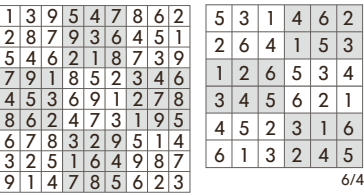
© Andrews McMeel

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).



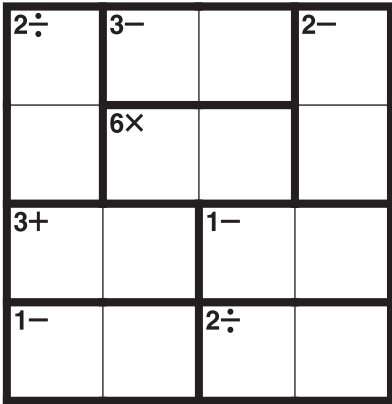
DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★

Tuesday’s Answers



6/4

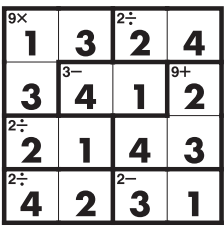
KENKEN



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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

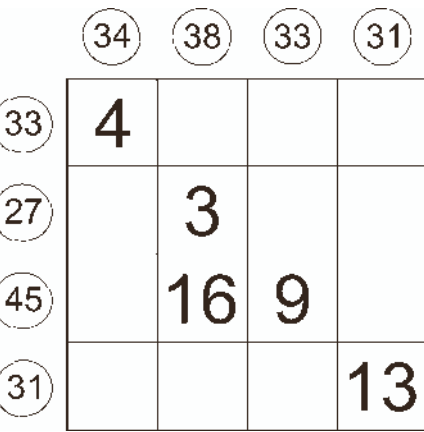


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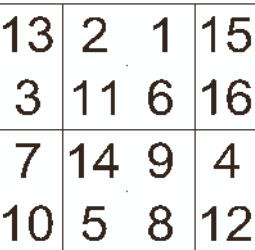
3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo Difficulty: HARD



Solution to Tuesday’s puzzle



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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6/5/24

Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

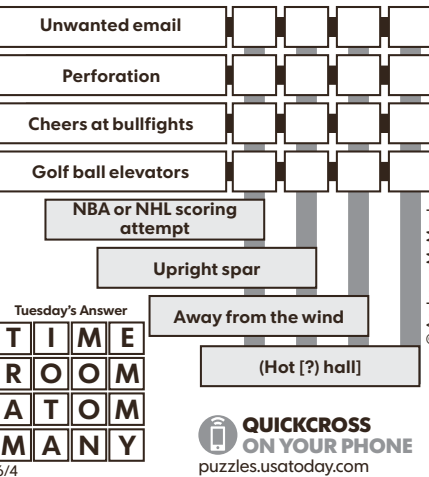
- Find and Circle:
Three citrus fruits
Three words with J in the middle
Three words for “huge home”
Three seven-letter countries
Three mountain chains

Tuesday’s answer: CORNEA RETINA PUPIL LENS IRIS / FROG TOAD
NEWT / DAISY LILAC TULIP / GERMANY HUNGARY / ARIZONA UTAH

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

6/5



© Andrews McMeel

QUICKCROSS
ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

DON’T QUOTE ME

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama talks about purpose.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
HELP HURT LEAST LIFE OTHERS PRIME

OUR _____ PURPOSE IN THIS _____ IS TO
HELP _____ AND IF YOU CAN’T
THEM, AT _____ DON’T _____ THEM.

Tuesday’s Answer: “Great teamwork is the only way we create breakthroughs that define our careers.” - Pat Riley

BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Pack animal
6 Microwaves
11 Thwarted
12 Like a dream
14 Books checker
16 See
17 In accord (2 wds.)
18 Bracket shape
20 Biblical weeds
21 Gradual breakdown
24 Newspaper section
25 U.K. network
28 Playlet
29 Naughty child
32 Fly up and around
34 Speedy plane, briefly
35 Hit very hard
39 Infuriate
41 Pigskin prop
43 Worker in a ward
44 Become expert in
46 Hit
48 Little bit
49 Hydro
50 Actor — Pitt
52 Energy
53 “— — Wing and a Prayer”
56 Sound loudly

- 59 Rec room game
62 Time
63 Class
67 Generally
69 Objects of worship
71 Music hall event
72 Decorates
73 Crippled
74 Core principle

DOWN

- 1 Boor
2 Italian resort
3 Skirt shape (hyph.)
4 Lengths
5 Fuss
6 Major airport
7 Formerly, formerly
8 Bailiwick
9 — incognita
10 Held on to
11 D.C. agcy.
12 One way to fly
13 Minus
15 Oppose
19 Landscape spoiler
22 Approves
23 Pen point
25 Gunshot sound
26 — fide
27 Smallish machine parts

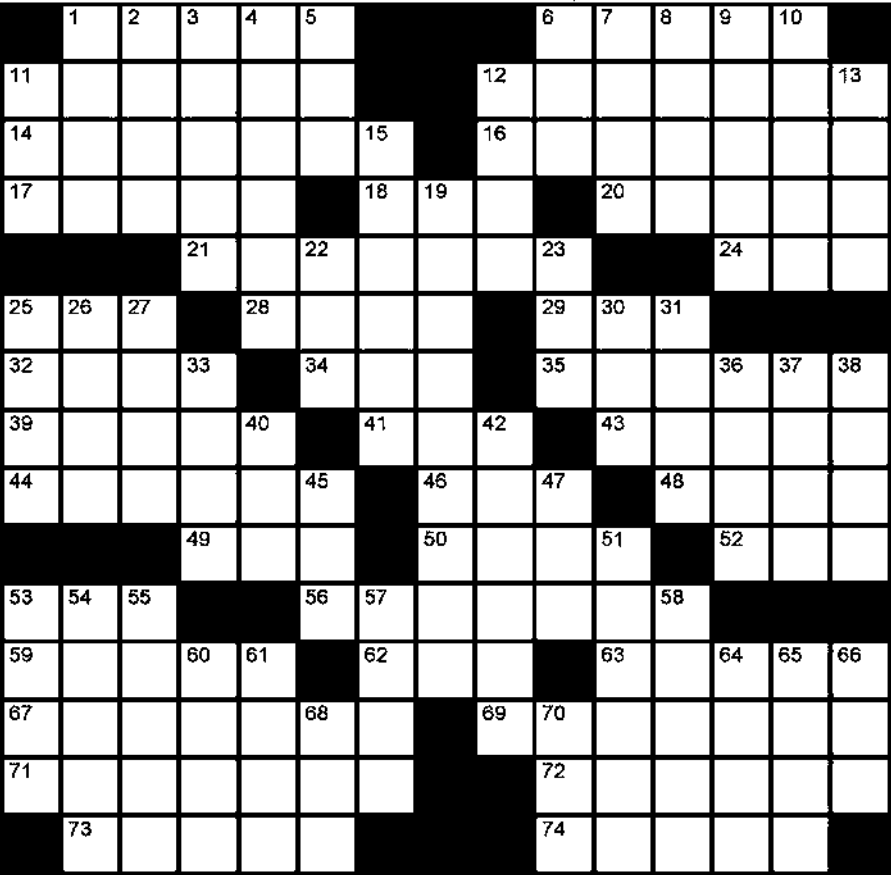
PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



6-5-24

© 2024 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

- 30 “No Country for Old —”
31 Purple color
33 Cats and dogs
36 Stumble
37 Punta del —
38 Profound
40 Delegate
42 Was entitled to
45 Betrayer
47 Ink-soaked sponge
51 Determine
53 Scent
54 Central point
55 Betel palm
57 Corridor
58 Boca —
60 Remove the excess
61 Glut
64 “Your majesty”
65 Pavilion
66 Curved letter
68 Young fellow
70 Devour



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.

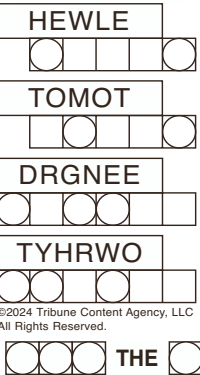
- CLUES**
- 1 soon-to-be grads (7)
2 Hershey competitor (6)
3 crying like a baby (7)
4 cedes the crown (9)
5 units of KFC chicken (7)
6 barbecue site (8)
7 “Lorenzo’s Oil” star Nick (5)
- SOLUTIONS**
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Tuesday’s Answers: 1. CHERRY 2. UNMOVABLE 3. FRAGRANCE 4. EATERS 5. ACTING 6. DILLER 7. SLIDERS

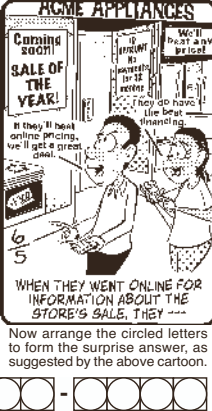
JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday’s Jumbles: MOMMY RIVER PONCHO AFFORD
Answer: They didn’t have an agenda when visiting Italy’s capital so that they could just — ROAM IN ROME

MOVIES

Yay rah! These cheerleading films show team spirit

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

Warm up, grab a cheer stick, and if you’ve got spirit fingers, it’s time to raise ’em high.

There’s a new entry to cheerleading movie canon – and a good one, to boot. (Because let’s just say with these films, all that glitter bombs is not gold.) The coming-of-age drama “Backspot” (in theaters now) – featuring an ambitious athlete (Devery Jacobs) dealing with the downsides of being part of an all-star squad – joins “Bring It On,” “But I’m a Cheerleader” and others that add nuance and perspective to a fierce sport.

We’ve got spirit, yes we do, and in that vein, we’re enthusiastically ranking the best 10 cheerleader films. (Don’t agree? Well, this is not a democracy, it’s a cheerocracy.)

10. ‘Sugar & Spice’ (2001)

The comedy is very much of its spoofy teen-movie time yet also boasts a bit of satirical edge. Diane (Marley Shelton) is a popular cheerleader knocked up by star quarterback beau Jack (James Marsden). When both are kicked out of their homes, Diane gets the idea while watching “Point Break” that robbing banks could be a way to make ends meet, so the girls don doll masks and begin a high-jinks-filled crime spree.

● **Where to watch:** On-demand platforms.

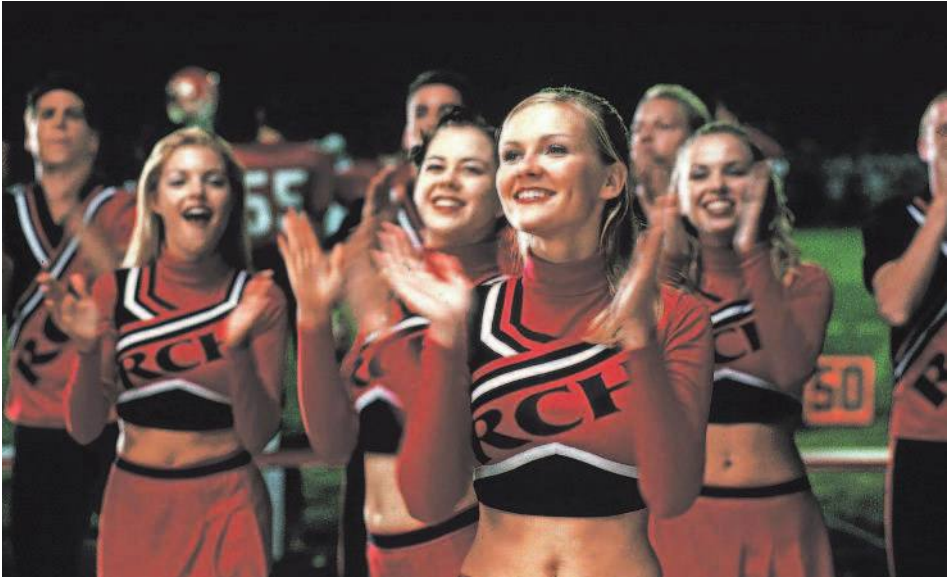
9. ‘All Cheerleaders Die’ (2014)

Cheerleading movies have been a part of the horror genre since the 1970s, usually with such titles as “Cheerleader Camp” and “Satan’s Cheerleaders.” This savagely vengeful gem stars Caitlin Stasey as a high school senior who hatches a plan to join her school’s cheer crew so she can disrupt the life of the cocky football captain. One fatal car accident and some magic rocks later, the squad wakes up as a bunch of undead menaces.

● **Where to watch:** Tubi.

8. ‘The Replacements’ (2000)

So technically the Keanu Reeves grid-



Cheer captain Torrance (Kirsten Dunst, center right) leads her Toros in the teen comedy “Bring It On.” PROVIDED BY KEN JACQUES/UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

iron comedy is a football movie, but there is a whole large subplot that’s, dare we say, cheertastic. Brooke Langton plays Reeves’ love interest as well as the captain of the Washington Sentinels spirit squad, which is down a number of members. She has to recruit a bunch of new dancers, and those of the exotic variety are hired, creating helpful distractions for the misfit dudes in helmets.

● **Where to watch:** On-demand platforms.

7. ‘Zombies’ (2018)

A gateway for your kids into cheerleading movies *and* horror flicks, the musical comedy stars Meg Donnelly as Addison, a Seabrook High teen who falls for football-playing zombie Zed (Milo Manheim), a close bond that causes ruffles on her cheer squad and among his friends. Peppy songs and dance numbers go down nicely with a fun love story, brain-eating humor and a nice little social message.

● **Where to watch:** Disney+.

6. ‘Buffy the Vampire Slayer’ (1992)

Before there was the beloved “Buffy” TV show, there was the “Buffy” movie written by future show creator Joss

Whedon. Kristy Swanson stars as the big-screen Buffy Summers, a SoCal cheerleader told one day by a strange old guy (Donald Sutherland) that she’s destined to slay vampires. The campy flick also acts as memorial for three talented actors: Luke Perry as Buffy’s cool-guy partner, Rutger Hauer as the main big bad and Paul Reubens as a hilarious bloodsucker.

● **Where to watch:** On-demand platforms.

5. ‘Bottoms’ (2023)

The two-fisted teen comedy stars Rachel Sennott and Ayo Edebiri as high school social outcasts who start a fight club for the express purpose of hooking up with their cheerleader crushes (Havana Rose Liu and Kaia Gerber) but run afoul of the football team. A surprising amount of female empowerment ensues, lessons are learned, and in outrageously violent fashion, the girls end up having to save the guys in the end.

● **Where to watch:** Prime Video.

4. ‘Backspot’ (2024)

A former gymnast, Devery Jacobs (“Reservation Dogs”) does her own tumbling and cheer stunt work as Riley, an

ambitious athlete who ascends to an all-star team with her girlfriend (Kudakwashe Rutendo) but struggles with the intense pressure. With Evan Rachel Wood as the demanding cheer coach, the drama effectively immerses the viewer “Black Swan”-style in the constant anxiety and brutal physicality Riley endures.

● **Where to watch:** In theaters and on-demand platforms.

3. ‘Jennifer’s Body’ (2009)

The cult horror comedy stars Megan Fox as a small-town cheerleader who becomes a succubus with a hunger for killing and devouring dudes, while Amanda Seyfried is her longtime pal trying to stop the blood feasting. Written by Oscar winner Diablo Cody, this tale of a demonically possessed man-eating teen gets better the more you watch it, using satire and slasher tropes to explore female sexuality and coming-of-age issues.

● **Where to watch:** On-demand platforms.

2. ‘But I’m a Cheerleader’ (1999)

Natasha Lyonne notched her breakout role in this quirky and winning satire starring as Megan, a 17-year-old vegetarian Melissa Etheridge fan who’d rather stare at her fellow cheerleaders than smooch her boyfriend. When her parents suspect she might be a lesbian, they send her to a conversion therapy camp, where she figures a whole bunch of things out, falls in love and fully accepts her sexuality.

● **Where to watch:** Tubi

1. ‘Bring It On’ (2000)

Did you know there are seven “Bring It On” movies? And a “Bring It On” Broadway musical co-created by Lin-Manuel Miranda? Director Peyton Reed’s delightfully subversive original became a teen comedy staple and featured an energetic Kirsten Dunst as Torrance, the competitive cheer captain who finds out her team’s moves were stolen from an inner-city squad and their steadfast leader (Gabrielle Union).

● **Where to watch:** On-demand platforms.

Plant/Krauss

Continued from Page 1D

world that comes with her, and it’s been a spectacle of charm, politeness and peach cobbler.

You mean, Southern?

Plant: Yes! You do a studio session in Nashville and you have to make your way through the baked goods. In England it’s much more rough and ready. The people in Nashville, there is a standard and quality and texture there.

You’ve had these songs out on the road the past couple of summers. What has changed in either the set-list or your approach to the music?

Krauss: All of these songs, they turn into something else the longer you live with them – like I wish we would have recorded it this way or phrased it like that. When you sing the same song (live), the stories change.

Is your rapport deep enough now that you can look at each other onstage and know the song is going somewhere?

Krauss: I know when he looks at me he’s going somewhere, but I don’t know where.

Plant: I never sang harmony in Led Zeppelin except for “Thank You.” I really didn’t know about singing with another person. I do believe that Henry “The Horse” (Smith), our guitar roadie, and Jimmy (Page) sang the harmonies with me on that one. But I loved listening to what Alison sang.

Robert, do you think if you hadn’t connected with Alison a couple of decades ago, that you would have stayed in music?

Plant: I’ve been really fortunate because it was such a formative time in my life when Led Zeppelin came to a screeching halt and I had to keep moving and find a new place to do what I do and challenge myself. ... This woman sitting next to me is manna from heaven.

You’re also going on tour with Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson. Are you technically the opening act?

Plant: I think they’re doing ice cream sundaes and hot dogs when we play. But I do think there is one person on before us. Regardless, I’m proud to be standing next to Alison before the master (Dylan) takes the stage.

Alison, tell me about your friend-



Robert Plant and Alison Krauss joined for “Raise the Roof,” released in 2021. PROVIDED BY DAVID MCCLISTER

ship with Def Leppard since you sang on a couple of songs on their “Diamond Star Halos” album.

Krauss: All of the bluegrass-ers love Def Leppard. Their harmonies, the way they would blend. It was so incredible to do those songs. They were so generous and nice.

Plant: So different than Robert (laughs).

Krauss: Right, not like Robert. I said they were so generous and nice (laughs). It was a fantasy. There are plenty of people who grew up playing the kind of music I did and fantasized about playing a (rock) part.

There are always a few reconstructed Led Zeppelin songs in your show. Robert, do you enjoy doing them or is it more obligatory?

Plant: I love them and am very proud of them, and to get to change them around and to hear that voice next to me, it allows for an exotic overview of the more dramatic elements. At times I’m emotional about it because I’m hearing these songs – they are all beautiful adaptations that I could never have dreamt. It’s a great achievement.

Since it’s been almost a year since you last toured, do you have to do anything health-wise to get ready?

Krauss: Just sleep.

Plant: Sleep is crucial. Having jet lag, that’s a crippler. You’ll be awake at 4 a.m. sending notes to people, thinking “Should I read a book for awhile? No, go to sleep!”

Have you discussed any future recordings together so it won’t be another 14 years between albums?

Plant: Time is a funny thing, isn’t it? Alison is going back on the bluegrass trail, so I guess if she wants me back, she can give me a call.



Jedi Master Indara (Carrie-Anne Moss), Master Sol (Lee Jung-jae), Jedi Master Kelnacca (Joonas Suotamo) and (second from right) Master Torbin (Dean Charles Chapman) in “The Acolyte.” PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LUCASFILM

Acolyte

Continued from Page 1D

But “Acolyte” has its moments. The final scene of Episode 4 (the last made available for review) captures a real sense of horror and fear when a villain is introduced. Perhaps that bodes well for the final four episodes in the season. Jung-jae and Stenberg make a great pair, and the former nicely proves his acting chops in English (he won an Emmy for “Squid,” which was entirely in Korean). And it’s always nice to see “Matrix” star Carrie Ann Moss, who appears briefly in two episodes, wielding a lightsaber as if she’s done it all her life.

Certainly a segment of the “Star Wars” fandom will devour every frame of “Acolyte.” For them, the complex mythology is the meat of the meal, not a frilly and silly garnish. But superfans can forgive a lot of sins. Some genre TV series can make their mythology and internal world-building more interesting and engaging than this (Amazon’s late, great “The Expanse,” among many others). As it stands, though, the Jedi lore is obtuse and dull. It needs spicing up.

Like the young Padawans (the “Star



Aniseya (Jodie Turner-Smith) is mother to the twins Osha and Mae.

Wars” term for students or apprentices) that are omnipresent in the series, “Acolyte” has a great deal of potential. “The Mandalorian” made “Star Wars” a Western. “Andor” made it a revolution. “Acolyte” could have made it a great work of fantasy and mystery.

But mostly it’s a great big sigh.

NATION&WORLD

EXTRA

INSIDE
Rare fossil of
adolescent “Teen
Rex” found by kids in
U.S. 7NN

U.S. BORDER POLICY

Biden imposes sweeping asylum ban

President says it will stay in place until illegal entries diminish

Ted Hesson and Mica Rosenberg
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden on Tuesday instituted a broad asylum ban on migrants caught illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, a major enforcement move in the run-up to November elections that will decide control of the White House.

Migrants caught crossing illegally could be quickly deported or turned back to Mexico under the measure, which will take effect just after midnight. There will be exceptions for unaccompanied children, people who face serious medical or safety threats and victims of trafficking, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said.

Biden, a Democrat, has toughened his approach to border security as immigration has emerged as a top issue for Americans in the run-up to Nov. 5 elections where he will face Republican Donald Trump, who made a hard-line stance on immigration a centerpiece of his administration and vowed a wide-ranging crackdown if reelected.

See ASYLUM, Page 8NN



ABOVE: Migrants arrive at a temporary staging area in Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif., after a sweeping border security enforcement effort was announced on Tuesday. Migrants caught crossing illegally could be quickly deported under the measure. GO NAKAMURA/REUTERS

TOP: President Joe Biden has toughened his approach to border security as immigration has emerged as a top issue for Americans in the run-up to Nov. 5 elections. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Israel nears decision on Lebanon offensive

Conflict with Hezbollah intensifies along border

Dan Williams, Henriette Chacar
and Maya Gebeily
REUTERS

Israel is ready for an offensive along the northern border with Lebanon and is nearing a decision, the chief of staff said on Tuesday, as the Hezbollah movement said it was not seeking to widen the conflict but was ready to fight any war imposed on it.

The conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, which has been fought in parallel to the Gaza war, has intensified in recent days, adding to concerns that an even wider confrontation could break out between the heavily armed adversaries.

Israeli Military Chief of General Staff



People work to extinguish flames sparked by Hezbollah rocket attacks in Dishon, northern Israel, on Tuesday. AMMAR AWAD/REUTERS

Herzi Halevi said the Israel Defense Forces were ready to move to an offensive in the north.

See LEBANON, Page 6NN

GOP bill to sanction ICC passes in US House

Patricia Zengerle
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would impose sanctions on the International Criminal Court over its prosecutor’s decision to seek arrest warrants for Israeli officials related to the war in Gaza.

The vote was 247 to 155, with 42 Democrats joining Republicans in backing the measure. There were no Republican “nay” votes, although two voted “present.”

The measure is not expected to become law, but reflects continuing support for Israel in Congress amid international criticism over the Middle East country’s campaign in the Gaza Strip.

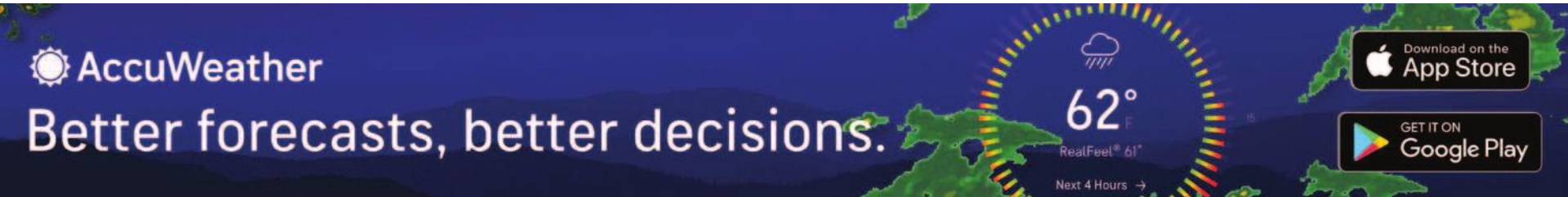
The White House last month criticized the ICC’s decision to seek the warrants.



The bill is not expected to be brought up for a vote in the Senate, which is narrowly controlled by Biden’s fellow Democrats.

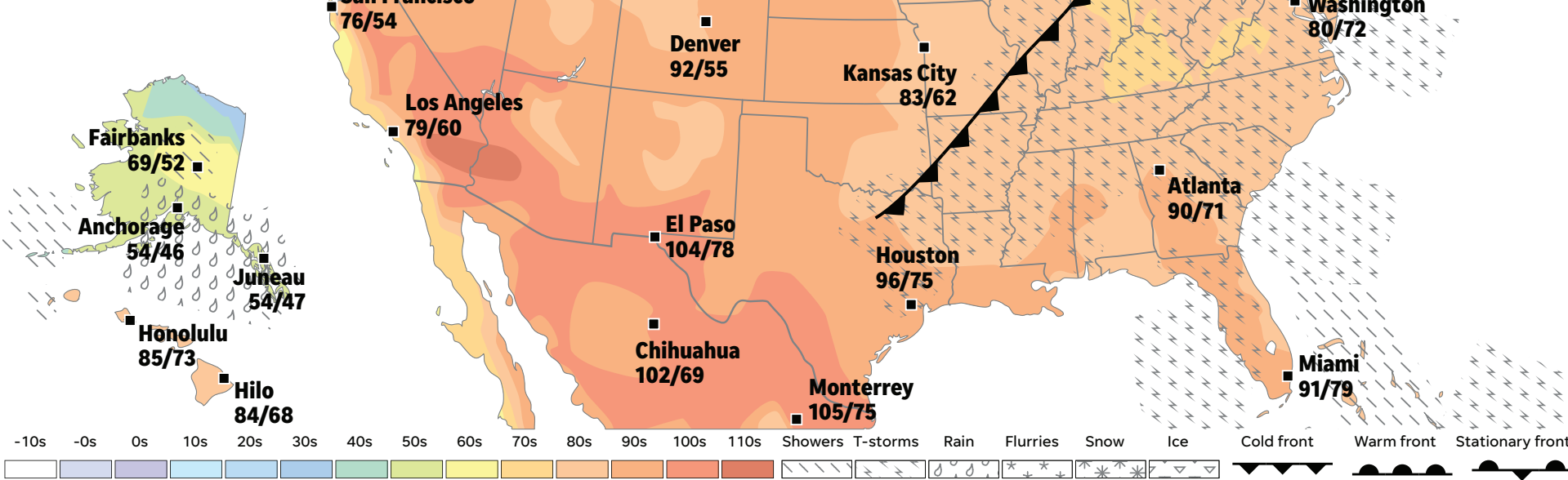
The legislation would impose sanctions on people involved in ICC prosecutions of Americans or citizens of U.S. allies that are not ICC members, including Israel. It also would block such ICC officials’ entry to the United States, revoke any U.S. visas and restrict them from U.S. property transactions.

ICC prosecutor Karim Khan said last month – after more than seven months of war in Gaza – that he had reasonable grounds to believe that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Netanyahu’s defense chief and three Hamas leaders “bear criminal responsibility” for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.



NATIONAL SUMMARY

A cold front will push thunderstorms into much of the East today. Some thunderstorms are forecast to be severe from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi Valley. Showers and thunderstorms will develop across the Upper Midwest as a storm moves eastward across southern Canada. Much of the West will be dry and warm, with extreme heat in the Southwest.



TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 111 at San Angelo, TX
Low: 30 at Tower Falls, WY
Precip: 2.28" at Montgomery, AL

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High: 119 at Bilma, Niger
Low: 15 at Hall Beach, Canada
Precip: 5.68" at Barahona, Dominican Republic

TODAY IN HISTORY

Out-of-season frosts proved fatal to many crops, and snow fell in Boston, in June 1815. 1815 was known as the "year without a summer." Strong evidence credits a major volcanic eruption in Tambora, Indonesia, that year.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What is lightning's favorite target?

NATIONAL CITIES WEDNESDAY

	High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality
● Aberdeen, SD	78/52/s	39	● Evansville, IN	79/60/t	33	● Levittown, PA	84/70/t	57	● Rochester, NY	85/69/t	68
● Abilene, TX	94/70/pc	51	● Fall River, MA	79/65/pc	54	● Lincoln, IL	81/63/t	46	● Rockford, IL	80/58/pc	46
● Accomac, VA	80/71/t	61	● Farmington, NM	95/52/s	37	● Louisville, KY	79/64/t	29	● Ruidoso, NM	85/61/sh	48
● Adrian, MI	78/60/t	36	● Fayetteville, NC	86/71/t	52	● Lubbock, TX	95/70/pc	57	● Salem, OR	74/50/s	30
● Akron, OH	81/62/t	42	● Fond du Lac, WI	78/57/t	39	● Manitowoc, WI	76/58/sh	44	● Salina, KS	93/61/s	45
● Alamogordo, NM	102/69/s	52	● Fort Myers, FL	94/76/t	41	● Mansfield, OH	82/61/t	42	● Salinas, CA	80/54/s	41
● Alexandria, VA	80/71/t	74	● Fort Smith, AR	87/60/t	63	● Marshall, NC	78/63/t	23	● Salisbury, MD	82/70/t	60
● Alliance, OH	82/64/t	46	● Framingham, MA	87/66/pc	58	● Marshfield, WI	74/54/t	40	● San Angelo, TX	99/71/pc	52
● Amarillo, TX	95/67/pc	52	● Freeport, IL	80/57/pc	38	● Massillon, OH	82/63/t	38	● Sarasota, FL	91/78/t	53
● Ames, IA	88/56/sh	35	● Fremont, OH	83/62/t	41	● McLean, VA	80/70/t	73	● Savannah, GA	88/71/t	42
● Anderson, SC	86/69/t	31	● Fort Collins, CO	93/56/s	38	● Melbourne, FL	90/74/s	28	● Sheboygan, WI	75/57/sh	45
● Appleton, WI	75/57/t	42	● Gadsden, AL	88/69/t	28	● Memphis, TN	80/68/t	32	● Shelby, NC	84/66/t	31
● Asheville, NC	78/64/t	24	● Gainesville, FL	93/70/t	41	● Middletown, NY	81/66/t	68	● Sherman, TX	89/65/t	43
● Ashland, OH	82/62/t	41	● Galesburg, IL	84/58/s	40	● Milford, MA	85/65/pc	59	● Shreveport, LA	85/72/t	28
● Athens, GA	88/69/t	32	● Gastonia, NC	84/68/t	34	● Milwaukee, WI	82/61/pc	51	● Silver City, NM	97/62/s	55
● Augusta, GA	87/70/t	43	● Glen Rose, TX	91/69/pc	82	● Monroe, MI	78/61/t	48	● Sioux Falls, SD	81/55/sh	35
● Austin, TX	95/71/pc	119	● Gonzales, LA	93/76/pc	30	● Monroe, LA	81/71/t	28	● Somerset, PA	74/65/t	46
● Bartlesville, OK	86/60/pc	61	● Great Falls, MT	72/42/s	40	● Montgomery, AL	90/71/s	29	● Somerville, NJ	83/69/t	63
● Battle Creek, MI	75/60/t	32	● Green Bay, WI	78/58/t	38	● Muncie, IN	79/60/t	31	● South Bend, IN	77/61/t	45
● Bedford, IN	75/58/t	26	● Greenville, SC	85/68/t	29	● Murfreesboro, TN	83/67/t	24	● Spartanburg, SC	84/67/t	32
● Binghamton, NY	80/64/t	64	● Hackensack, NJ	83/68/pc	70	● Naples, FL	92/77/t	40	● Springfield, IL	81/64/pc	49
● Bluffton, SC	85/75/t	40	● Hagerstown, MD	77/68/t	68	● Nashville, TN	83/67/t	23	● Springfield, MO	80/59/pc	67
● Bremerton, WA	66/42/s	25	● Hattiesburg, MS	93/74/t	31	● Neptune, NJ	75/68/pc	59	● St. Augustine, FL	87/73/s	41
● Brockton, MA	86/66/pc	57	● Henderson, KY	78/59/t	32	● New Bedford, MA	78/63/pc	51	● St. Cloud, MN	77/57/t	49
● Brownwood, TX	95/70/pc	86	● Hendersonville, NC	78/64/t	25	● New Bern, NC	88/74/pc	53	● St. George, UT	105/73/s	36
● Burlington, IA	81/59/s	39	● Herkimer, NY	89/67/t	68	● New Philadelphia, OH	82/65/t	39	● Staunton, VA	78/65/t	55
● Burlington, NC	83/68/t	47	● Hillsdale, MI	75/58/t	31	● Newark, OH	84/65/t	36	● Stevens Point, WI	77/55/t	39
● Burlington, VT	87/69/t	46	● Holland, MI	70/58/t	41	● Newton, NJ	81/68/t	68	● Stockton, CA	105/65/s	49
● Cambridge, OH	83/67/t	40	● Hornell, NY	81/67/t	58	● New York, NY	78/68/pc	67	● Stroudsburg, PA	80/66/t	72
● Camdenton, MO	81/60/pc	53	● Houma, LA	91/77/pc	26	● Norwich, CT	81/66/pc	45	● Stuart, FL	89/75/sh	27
● Canandaigua, NY	84/69/t	64	● Howell, MI	77/58/t	35	● Ocala, FL	94/72/t	37	● Sturgis, MI	75/59/t	33
● Canton, OH	81/64/t	39	● Hutchinson, KS	92/61/s	50	● Oklahoma City, OK	87/66/pc	58	● Tallahassee, FL	93/72/t	36
● Carlsbad, NM	100/72/s	76	● Hyannis, MA	74/65/pc	46	● Opelousas, LA	90/74/t	28	● Thibodaux, LA	92/75/pc	27
● Chambersburg, PA	77/67/t	63	● Indianapolis, IN	78/61/t	24	● Oshkosh, WI	77/58/t	42	● Topeka, KS	87/61/s	62
● Cherry Hill, NJ	84/71/t	58	● Iowa City, IA	83/57/pc	38	● Palm Beach, FL	89/80/sh	27	● Tuscaloosa, AL	89/71/t	32
● Cincinnati, OH	81/62/t	28	● Ithaca, NY	83/68/t	62	● Palm Springs, CA	111/80/s	87	● Utica, NY	88/68/t	71
● Clarksville, TN	80/63/t	20	● Jackson, MS	88/72/t	37	● Panama City, FL	87/79/s	30	● Ventura, CA	68/59/pc	51
● Coldwater, MI	76/59/t	31	● Jackson, TN	79/65/t	23	● Pekin, IL	83/62/pc	44	● Victorville, CA	102/65/s	54
● Columbus, OH	83/65/t	39	● Jacksonville, FL	91/70/t	40	● Pensacola, FL	87/77/s	29	● Vineland, NJ	82/69/c	60
● Corning, NY	82/68/t	60	● Jacksonville, NC	87/73/pc	53	● Peoria, IL	82/62/pc	45	● Visalia, CA	103/70/s	55
● Corpus Christi, TX	95/78/pc	104	● Kent, OH	82/63/t	45	● Petersburg, VA	84/71/t	58	● Washington, DC	80/72/t	79
● Daytona Beach, FL	90/72/s	33	● Kewanee, IL	81/59/pc	42	● Phoenix, AZ	109/82/s	65	● Watertown, SD	74/52/pc	29
● Deming, NM	103/65/s	50	● Keyser, WV	76/67/t	52	● Port Huron, MI	78/57/t	46	● Wausau, WI	77/55/t	33
● DeRidder, LA	91/72/t	39	● Kinston, NC	90/72/t	59	● Portsmouth, NH	84/64/t	48	● Waynesboro, PA	77/68/t	69
● Des Moines, IA	88/59/sh	34	● Knoxville, TN	83/68/t	29	● Poughkeepsie, NY	85/67/pc	70	● White Plains, NY	79/67/pc	69
● Detroit, MI	80/61/t	56	● Lafayette, IN	77/60/t	32	● Providence, RI	81/65/pc	53	● Wichita Falls, TX	92/68/pc	44
● Devils Lake, ND	67/52/sh	27	● Lafayette, LA	91/76/t	26	● Pueblo, CO	98/58/s	42	● Wilmington, DE	78/71/t	61
● Dover, NH	84/61/t	42	● Lakeland, FL	96/74/t	49	● Quincy, MA	86/66/pc	55	● Wilmington, NC	90/74/pc	53
● El Paso, TX	104/78/s	58	● Lansing, MI	75/58/t	36	● Redding, CA	107/73/s	29	● Wisconsin Rapids, WI	78/55/t	39
● Elmira, NY	84/68/t	58	● Las Cruces, NM	103/68/s	51	● Reno, NV	96/67/s	43	● Wooster, OH	80/62/t	41
● Erie, PA	81/64/t	61	● Lebanon, PA	78/69/t	72	● Ravenna, OH	82/63/t	46	● Worcester, MA	84/65/pc	58
● Eugene, OR	76/46/s	24	● Leesburg, FL	93/74/t	40	● Richmond, IN	79/59/t	25	● York, PA	79/70/t	76

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

	Wednesday High/low/W	Thursday High/low/W		Wednesday High/low/W	Thursday High/low/W		Wednesday High/low/W	Thursday High/low/W		Wednesday High/low/W	Thursday High/low/W
● Acapulco	88/74/pc	88/72/s	● Cape Town	61/55/sh	60/52/r	● La Paz	65/32/s	64/30/s	● San Jose	80/68/t	82/68/t
● Addis Ababa	80/56/pc	80/56/pc	● Caracas	90/78/t	92/78/t	● Lagos	89/77/t	89/76/r	● San Salvador	84/72/t	82/71/t
● Algiers	85/60/s	91/69/c	● Casablanca	78/66/c	77/66/c	● Lima	68/60/pc	68/61/pc	● Santiago	61/45/c	63/48/c
● Amman	96/73/s	99/75/s	● Colombo	88/80/sh	88/80/sh	● Lisbon	77/58/pc	82/63/pc	● Sao Paulo	71/57/c	75/58/pc
● Amsterdam	60/47/s	62/47/pc	● Copenhagen	65/49/pc	61/49/c	● London	63/47/pc	64/46/pc	● Sarajevo	77/53/pc	84/54/t
● Ankara	93/58/s	91/62/c	● Damascus	108/68/pc	109/70/pc	● Madrid	94/62/c	95/66/pc	● Shanghai	74/65/sh	75/66/r
● Asuncion	87/65/s	88/66/s	● Dublin	58/42/pc	58/47/sh	● Manila	90/80/t	91/78/r	● Singapore	90/80/t	87/78/t
● Athens	93/72/s	89/74/pc	● Geneva	79/54/pc	76/58/c	● Mexico City	88/60/pc	89/59/c	● Stockholm	69/46/pc	63/48/pc
● Auckland	61/49/pc	63/49/pc	● Guatemala City	84/67/pc	80/65/r	● Milan	80/61/pc	82/63/c	● Sydney	66/55/r	64/51/r
● Baghdad	113/82/s	113/86/s	● Hanoi	86/75/r	83/76/t	● Mombasa	89/74/s	89/73/r	● Taipei	80/71/c	79/72/sh
● Bangkok	93/81/t	93/81/t	● Harare	85/55/s	82/54/s	● Montevideo	62/54/c	69/57/sh	● Tegucigalpa	85/71/t	84/69/r
● Beijing	86/65/pc	91/69/pc	● Havana	93/75/sh	92/73/t	● Montreal	88/69/sh	76/62/t	● Tehran	90/73/s	91/76/s
● Beirut	86/74/pc	87/76/pc	● Helsinki	67/58/s	64/53/r	● Moscow	78/63/s	75/60/sh	● Tokyo	80/65/s	79/68/pc
● Belgrade	78/60/pc	86/63/s	● Hong Kong	83/77/r	84/78/r	● Nairobi	79/58/s	75/58/c	● Toronto	77/64/t	77/56/t
● Berlin	70/52/sh	69/48/pc	● Jakarta	92/77/pc	93/76/c	● New Delhi	109/86/s	106/87/c	● Tunis	83/62/s	87/66/s
● Bogota	67/50/r	67/49/r	● Jerusalem	91/69/s	94/71/s	● Panama City	87/76/r	87/77/t	● Vancouver	63/49/pc	65/50/pc
● Brussels	63/44/pc	64/45/pc	● Johannesburg	62/46/s	70/35/s	● Paris	68/50/sh	68/48/pc	● Vienna	78/59/s	80/61/c
● Bucharest	89/60/pc	88/59/s	● Kabul	83/57/c	79/56/t	● Port-au-Prince	92/76/t	95/75/pc	● Warsaw	76/59/pc	73/57/pc
● Budapest	78/57/pc	85/61/s	● Khartoum	111/88/pc	112/88/pc	● Rio de Janeiro	76/68/r	78/69/pc	● Yerevan	84/60/s	87/63/s
● Buenos Aires	59/55/pc	64/57/c	● Kyiv	78/61/t	79/62/pc	● Riyadh	111/84/s	114/86/s	● Zagreb	79/56/s	83/58/s
● Cairo	103/77/s	106/78/s	● Kingston	91/82/t	91/82/t	● Rome	78/58/s	81/58/s	● Zurich	74/53/pc	75/57/pc

● Denotes possible travel delays Wednesday

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



SWITZERLAND

Hands off

Around 60 years ago, when rabies was widespread in Europe's fox population, Switzerland invented an innovative way to stop the disease. Officials in the wealthy Central European country stuffed chicken heads with vaccines and dropped them from helicopters.

The vulpine scavengers gobbled up the laced meat, the Times of India wrote. By 1999, rabies disappeared in Switzerland, and other countries have since adopted the approach, which is much more efficient than catching critters and giving them a shot.

Today, the Swiss are still trying to innovate how vaccines are delivered, though now more controversially.

When Swiss voters cast their ballots in a referendum on Sunday, they will decide whether or not to "exclude any obligation to vaccinate," in order to preserve the "freedom of physical integrity," reported Swissinfo.ch, a state-owned news outlet.

The referendum question would ensure that citizens suffer no "penalty or social or professional prejudice" from refusing a jab.

Swiss leaders have recommended that voters say no to the idea, Le News wrote. First, they argued, enforcing the law could be difficult. The government can hardly tell people whether or not they can harbor opinions. Secondly, they acknowledged that sometimes people who have not been vaccinated must be treated differently for medical reasons. Doctors and people with compromised immune systems might want to know if someone else is unvaccinated, for example.

Swiss leaders, meanwhile, are generally not excessive in their promotion of vaccines. Last year, for instance, according to the National Desk, they opted to suggest that citizens not receive COVID-19 vaccinations because they likely had already been exposed to the virus and didn't need extra protection.

The populist right-wing Swiss People's Party is backing the idea.

Opponents, however, say the mea-



sure is unnecessary and even damaging to the public interest: For example, physical and mental integrity are already protected under the Swiss constitution, which guarantees the right to "self-determination" in matters of health and life in general, the Local.ch wrote. As a result, nobody can be forced to be immunized against their will in Switzerland.

More interesting, the Local says, is, "Since the initiative doesn't specifically refer to medical interventions but generally covers any actions by the federal government, cantons and communes that involve physical contact, it implies that police would no longer be able to arrest a suspect without his or her authorization – as such actions would involve physical contact that could impact a person's mental state."

SOUTH KOREA

Talking trash

South Korea plans to suspend a 2018 military pact with North Korea, the government announced Monday, after tensions escalated in recent weeks because Pyongyang sent hundreds of balloons carrying trash to its southern neighbor, the Independent reported Monday.

Last month, North Korea began

launching balloons filled with cigarette butts, waste paper and vinyl to South Korea, spreading garbage across the country.

Over the weekend, Pyongyang sent out around 600 trash balloons, prompting anger from South Korean officials.

On Monday, South Korea's National Security Council proposed suspending the military agreement put in place to lower military tensions between the two neighbors.

A full suspension would allow Seoul to conduct military drills near the border and take immediate measures in response to North Korea's provocations.

Soon after Seoul's announcement, North Korean officials said they were suspending the launching of the garbage-filled inflatables.

Observers said Pyongyang's move was part of a retaliatory campaign against propaganda balloons sent to North Korea from defectors and South Korean activists. The propaganda inflatables contained anti-Pyongyang leaflets with food, medicine, money and USB sticks containing popular K-pop songs.

North Korean officials had previously complained about the propaganda balloons and warned it would resume its trash deliveries if activists in Seoul did not refrain from sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets.

DISCOVERIES

Alive and furious

Earth's neighbor Venus is not "dead" – at least in terms of volcanism, a new study revealed.

Recent re-analyses of data collected by NASA's Magellan spacecraft in the 1990s unveiled compelling evidence of ongoing volcanic activity on Venus.

"Using these maps as a guide, our results show that Venus may be far more volcanically active than previously thought," lead author Davide Sulcanese said in a statement for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "By analyzing the lava flows we observed in two locations on the planet, we have discovered that the volcanic activity on Venus could be comparable to that on Earth."

He and his team discovered changes in the radar signal brightness in two of Venus' areas: The Sif Mons volcano and the Niobe Planitia plain. These variations point to active lava flows, challenging the long-held belief that Venus is a "dead" planet.

The researchers confirmed the volcanic origin of these changes by ruling out other causes such as atmospheric interference or observational errors. Their findings indicate that the two locations are producing lava at rates similar to average terrestrial volcanoes, with estimated annual outputs of 1 to 1.5 cubic miles.

This suggests that Venus' activity may be comparable to Earth's.

The findings build on a 2023 study that identified volcanic activity near the Maat Mons volcano near Venus' equator.

These findings have significant implications for upcoming missions to Venus.

NASA's VERITAS and the European Space Agency's EnVision, both set to launch in the early 2030s, will focus on these regions to further investigate Venus's volcanic activity. These missions aim to provide more detailed observations than Magellan.

Sunak, Starmer spar on UK economy

Heated debate a recent feature of British politics

Elizabeth Piper, Andrew MacAskill and William James
REUTERS

LONDON – Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour challenger Keir Starmer went head-to-head on Tuesday over how to boost Britain's economy, with the PM accusing the opposition party of wanting to increase taxes if it wins power in the July 4 election.

Both Sunak, a Conservative, and Starmer stuck to their campaign lines in their first debate just weeks before a general election opinion polls suggest Labour is set to win, with Sunak saying only he had a plan to spur Britain's paltry economic growth and Starmer portraying the Conservatives as presiding over 14 years of economic chaos.

In a heated debate – a recent feature in Britain and one which sees more voters tune into politics – the two leaders battled over how to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, growing waiting lists in the public health service and reducing immigration.

Most of the questions illustrated what many voters are contending with: a cost-of-living crisis when some struggle to pay their household bills, long waits for the health service and lower standards in the education system.

Little new was gleaned from their answers, but an opinion poll taken immediately after the debate suggested Sunak had won the contest.

"Keir Starmer is asking you to hand him a blank check when he hasn't said what he'll buy with it or how much it's going to cost you," Sunak said in his closing comments. "In uncertain times we simply cannot afford an uncertain prime minister."

Starmer responded saying he would never offer "the gimmicks or unfunded promises that Rishi Sunak does."

"Imagine how you would feel waking up on July 5 to five more years of the Conservatives, five more years of decline and division, the arsonists handed back the matches," he said.

"Now imagine turning the page with



Julie Etchingham hosts Labour leader Keir Starmer, center, and Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, right, during their first head-to-head debate in Salford, England, on Tuesday. JONATHAN HORDLE/ITV VIA GETTY IMAGES

a Labour government that rolls up its sleeves and gets on with the job... The choice at this election is clear: more chaos with the Conservatives or the chance to rebuild Britain with a changed Labour Party."

Sunak on the attack

Sunak repeated the Conservatives' attack line that Labour had no plan for the country beyond putting "everyone's taxes up by 2,000 pounds" (\$2,550).

"Mark my words, Labour will raise your taxes. (It) is in their DNA. Your work, your car, your pension, your name it, Labour will tax it," Sunak said.

Starmer did not deny the charge immediately, but he later called the 2,000 figure "nonsense." Labour has repeatedly said it will not raise income tax or National Insurance social security contributions if it wins power.

"My dad worked in a factory, he was a toolmaker, my mum was a nurse. We didn't have a lot of money when I was growing up," the Labour leader told an

audience member who said she was struggling to pay her bills.

"So, I do know the anguish of worrying when the postman comes with a bill, what bill is it, am I going to be able to I pay it? I don't think the prime minister quite understands."

Starmer attacked the Conservative Party for presiding over 14 years of chaos and Sunak's plans to introduce mandatory national service.

The prime minister drew groans when he blamed growing waiting lists at the National Health Service on strikes, and was greeted by laughter when he said the numbers were going down "because they were higher" before.

But he seemed to make up some ground with the audience when discussing how he planned to tackle immigration, portraying his plan to send illegal asylum-seekers to Rwanda as a deterrent the Labour Party was lacking and saying he would put the country's security above any foreign court.

Starmer said he also had a plan to tackle immigration, which has become a

prominent concern among voters, and that he would consider processing asylum claims in a third country if doing so didn't breach international law.

Sunak, whose campaign has yet to reduce Labour's lead of around 20 percentage points in opinion polls, was on the attack, repeating the line that only his party had a plan, whereas voters did not know what Starmer intended to do if he won power.

The two-way leaders' debate comes a day after populist Nigel Farage said he was running in the election, a major blow to Sunak with the Brexit campaigner expected to peel off the votes of many right-wing voters.

At an earlier campaign launch, Farage said he would be a thorn in the Conservatives' – and Labour's – side.

"I will be unafraid, despite what everybody says, despite what names they call me, they are so stupid it only encourages me really," he told dozens of supporters in southeastern England. "Send me to parliament to be a bloody nuisance."

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Stocks rise after weak jobs data

Chibuike Oguh
REUTERS

NEW YORK – U.S. stocks ended a shade higher on Tuesday following softer-than-expected labor market data that reaffirmed expectations of an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

Data on Tuesday showed that U.S. job openings fell to their lowest level in more than three years in April, signaling an easing in labor market tightness that supported a Fed rate cut this year. The U.S. Treasury yields slipped following the report.

Wall Street’s main indexes gained ground after paring earlier losses. Equities in real estate and consumer staples sectors advanced ahead of others, while materials and energy stocks were the biggest losers.

The labor market data was the latest in a string of recent reports that pointed to cooling U.S. economic growth. Data on Monday showed that U.S. manufacturing activity had slowed for the second straight month in May.

“What we’ve seen in the data so far this week is that it’s been relatively weak, starting with manufacturing PMI and job openings today,” said James St. Aubin, chief investment officer at Sierra Mutual Funds in Santa Monica, California.

“That has had a total effect of helping the rally in the bond market; but for the stock market, it’s a double-edged sword because they’re looking for a rate cut announcement, which has a rising probability with weaker data,” St. Aubin added.

Market expectations for a September rate reduction now stand around 65%, versus below 50% last week, according to the CME’s FedWatch tool. The closely watched non-farm payrolls data for May is due on Friday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 140.26 points, or 0.36%, to 38,711.29, the S&P 500 gained 7.94 points, or 0.15%, to 5,291.34 and the Nasdaq Composite gained 28.38 points, or 0.17%, to 16,857.05.

Megacap technology stocks, including Amazon.com, Alphabet, Nvidia and Microsoft, ended higher after losing ground early in the session.

Oil giants Exxon Mobil and Chevron fell 1.6% and 0.8%, respectively, as demand concerns weighed on crude prices.

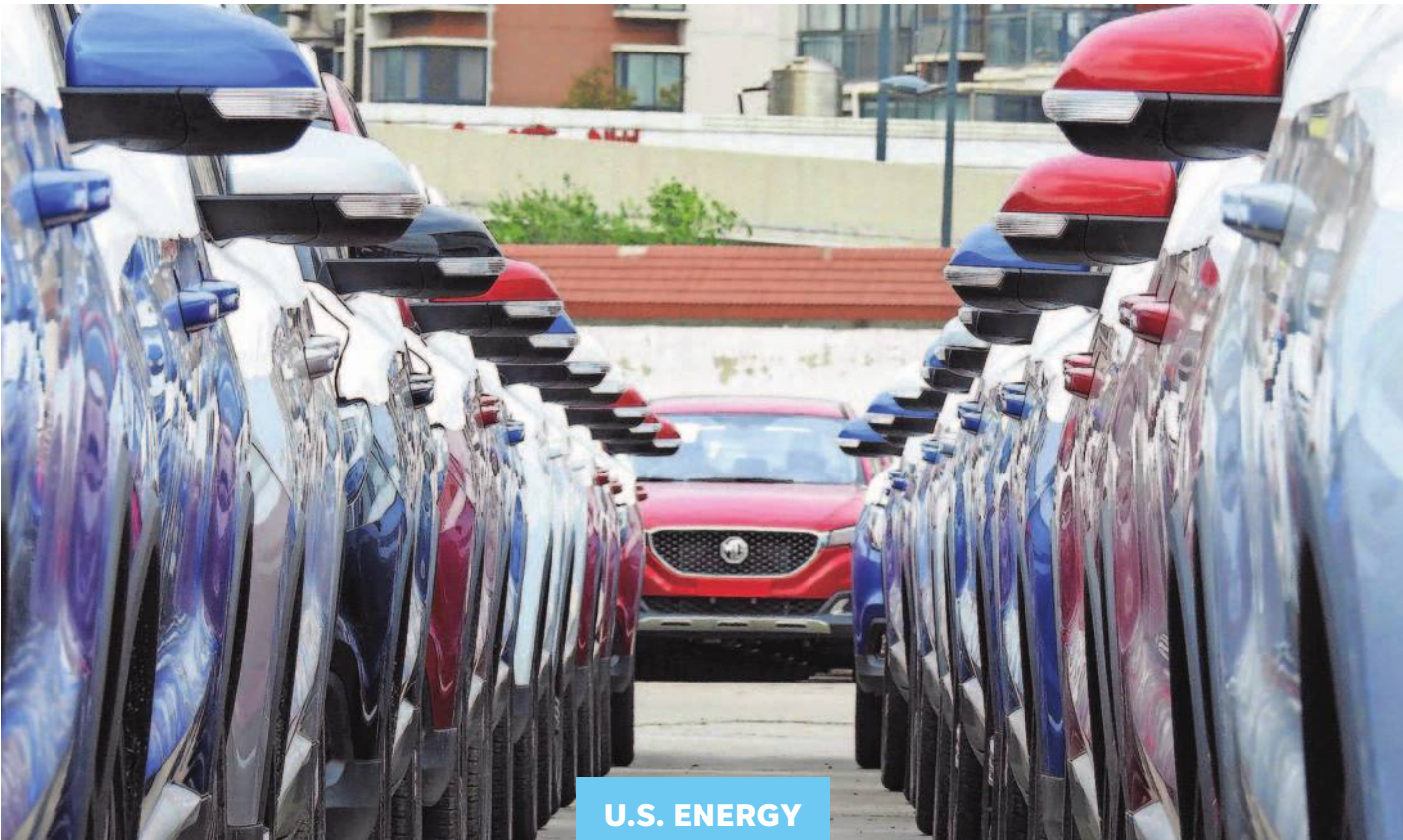
Bath & Body Works slumped 12.8% after a lower revision to its quarterly profit forecast. Axos Financial dropped after Hindenburg Research disclosed a short position in the lender.

Paramount Global fell 4.4% after the media conglomerate said it was exploring strategic options or a joint venture for its Paramount+ streaming service.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 1.32-to-1 ratio on the NYSE.

On the Nasdaq, 1,468 stocks rose and 2,762 fell as declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 1.88-to-1 ratio.

The S&P 500 posted 19 new 52-week highs and 6 new lows while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 40 new highs and 134 new lows.



Granholm: US tariffs on Chinese vehicles crucial

David Shepardson, Timothy Gardner, Valerie Volcovici and Leah Douglas
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said on Tuesday quadrupling import duties on Chinese electric vehicles to over 100% in August as planned is crucial to the health of the U.S. auto sector.

“We need to have this industry here. And if we didn’t do that, we would just be ceding the entire territory to China like we saw happen with solar panels,” Granholm said in an interview Tuesday with Reuters reporters and editors.

China’s “plan is very aggressive on industrial policy and we had done nothing and now we are doing something about it.”

Washington is investing hundreds of billions of dollars in clean energy tax subsidies to develop U.S. EV, solar and other new industries, and has said China’s state-driven excess production capacity in these sectors threatens the viability of U.S. companies.

President Joe Biden’s administration aimed the tariffs, which are set to take effect starting Aug. 1, at protecting American jobs from a feared flood of cheap Chinese imports.

“We want to have a manufacturing backbone. We have to be tough about it,” Granholm said.

She said U.S. automakers “are doing everything they can to continue to reduce prices,” rejecting the suggestion that keeping lower-priced Chinese EVs out of the U.S. would deter American automakers from cutting prices.

Asked about Republican criticism of EVs, Granholm said it would be “political malpractice” for a future Congress to reverse EV tax credits benefiting workers building vehicles in Republican-voting states.

“I think it would be hard for a member of Congress to undo these tax credits that are creating jobs in your district,” Granholm said. “I think the business community would be very strongly opposed to that.”

Granholm also said she expected about 1,000 public EV charging stations to be operational by the end of the year from a \$7.5 billion federal government program that so far has resulted in a small number of stations up and running.

Power-hungry data centers spur US talks with Big Tech

Biden’s administration is asking big technology companies to invest in new climate-friendly power generation to cover their surging demand, Granholm told Reuters.

The talks come as a surprising surge in electricity demand has been driven by the adoption

of technologies like generative artificial intelligence that require power-hungry data centers. This development could complicate Biden’s target of decarbonizing the power sector by 2035 to fight climate change.

“We’ve been talking with data companies. The large ones have commitments to net-zero and would like to see clean baseload power,” Granholm said.

She said the administration had discussed the possibility that companies could band together to make use of small modular reactors for nuclear energy, and could simultaneously place orders to reduce costs.

“If the tech companies are coming in and are going to pull clean power from the grid, they should bring the power with them,” she said.

She did not name any of the companies involved. Data centers could use up to 9% of total electricity generated in the U.S. by the end of the decade, more than doubling their current consumption, the Electric Power Research Institute said in a report last week.

US could boost rate of replenishing oil reserve

The U.S. could hasten the rate of replenishing the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as maintenance on the stockpile is completed by the end of the year, Granholm said Tuesday.

Granholm said she believes the global oil market is well-supplied and that she does not expect a big increase in oil and gas prices in the “next short while.”

The Energy Department this year has been buying about 3 million barrels of oil per month for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve after selling 180 million barrels in 2022 following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Biden directed the sale, the largest ever from the SPR, in an effort to control gasoline prices after the invasion. But the move dropped levels in the reserve to the lowest in 40 years, leading to criticism from Republicans that it left the U.S. emergency oil buffer too thin.

“It could pick up more than that,” Granholm told Reuters about the 3 million-barrel-per-month pace. She said that a couple of the SPR’s four sites on the coasts of Texas and Louisiana have been in maintenance.

“All four sites will be back up by the end of the year, so one could imagine that pace would pick up, depending on the market,” she said.

The U.S. has bought back about 38.6 million barrels and canceled congressionally mandated sales of 140 million barrels through 2027. The administration has said it wants to keep buying oil as long as the price remains below \$80 a barrel.

Energy secretary says auto sector will depend on them



Energy chief Jennifer Granholm said U.S. automakers “are doing everything they can to continue to reduce prices.”

AUDREY RICHARDSON/
USA TODAY NETWORK

TOP: Chinese-made cars wait to be loaded on a ship for export in Lianyungang, China, in 2019.

STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Pa. judge cuts Bayer Roundup verdict

Dietrich Knauth
REUTERS

NEW YORK – A Pennsylvania judge on Tuesday slashed a \$2.25 billion verdict against Bayer to \$400 million for a Pennsylvania man who said he developed cancer from exposure to the company’s Roundup weedkiller.

A jury in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas found that John McKivison’s non-Hodgkins lymphoma was the result of using Roundup for yard work at his house for several years, and it ordered Bayer to pay \$250 million in compensatory damages and \$2 billion in punitive damages.

Judge Susan Schulman granted some of Bayer’s post-trial motions challenging that verdict, reducing compensatory damages to \$50 million and

punitive damages to \$350 million.

Bayer said it would continue to appeal to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, challenging the trial court’s decision to allow the jury to hear what it called misleading and “inflammatory” testimony.

“While the court’s decision reduces the unconstitutionally excessive damage award, we still disagree with the ruling on the liability verdict, as the trial was marred by significant and reversible errors,” a Bayer spokesperson said Tuesday.

Bayer also called for U.S. legislative reform to protect companies whose products comply with federal labeling requirements.

Bayer has said that decades of studies have shown Roundup and its active ingredient, glyphosate, are safe for hu-

man use. Roundup is among the most widely used weedkillers in the United States, though the company phased out its sales for home use last year.

But the company has taken a string of losses in Roundup trials in late 2023 and early 2024, resulting in more than \$4.25 billion in verdicts. Some of those verdicts, like McKivison’s, were later reduced, but the cases ended a nine-trial winning streak for Bayer and shattered investor and company hopes that the worst of the Roundup litigation was over.

Around 165,000 claims have been made in the U.S. against the company for personal injuries allegedly caused by Roundup, which Bayer acquired as part of its \$63 billion purchase of U.S. agrochemical company Monsanto in 2018. Most plaintiffs, like McKivison, allege that the product caused non-Hodgkins



Bayer faced a string of losses in Roundup trials in late 2023 and early 2024, resulting in more than \$4.25 billion in verdicts.

ANDREW KELLY/REUTERS FILE

lymphoma.

In 2020, Bayer settled most of the then-pending Roundup cases for up to \$9.6 billion but failed to get a settlement covering future cases. More than 50,000 claims remain pending.

Biden heads to France for D-Day anniversary



ABOVE: French troops disembark from a U.S. landing craft during a joint amphibious landing operation showcase on Tuesday at Omaha Beach in France. LOIC VENANCE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

MIDDLE: Gene Kleindl, a 102-year-old World War II veteran from Rockford, Ill., receives a kiss from Chantell Boivin on Tuesday in Colleville-sur-Mer, France. Kleindl was a medic in the U.S. Army's 90th Infantry Division. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

RIGHT: Enthusiasts in replica WWII attire ride a truck in Saint-Come-du-Mont, France, on Tuesday. MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Jeff Mason REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden is heading to France to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day on a trip designed to underscore his commitment to U.S. allies in Europe and contrast his vision of democracy with his 2024 political opponent, Donald Trump.

Biden was set to depart Tuesday evening for five days in France that will include D-Day celebrations in Normandy, where U.S. and allied forces stormed French beaches in an attack that helped defeat Nazi Germany in World War II, as well as a high-profile speech and a formal state visit with President Emmanuel Macron.

“That war (WWII) showed the world the value of strong alliances and partnerships, which is a lesson that continues to resonate today in Europe and well beyond,” White House spokesperson John Kirby told reporters on Tuesday.

Kirby said the potential use of some \$300 billion in frozen Russian assets to aid Ukraine would be discussed by Biden and Macron during the visit.

Biden is running for reelection in November against Trump and has made preserving and strengthening U.S. democracy a key part of his campaign in the aftermath of Trump’s chaotic four years in office.

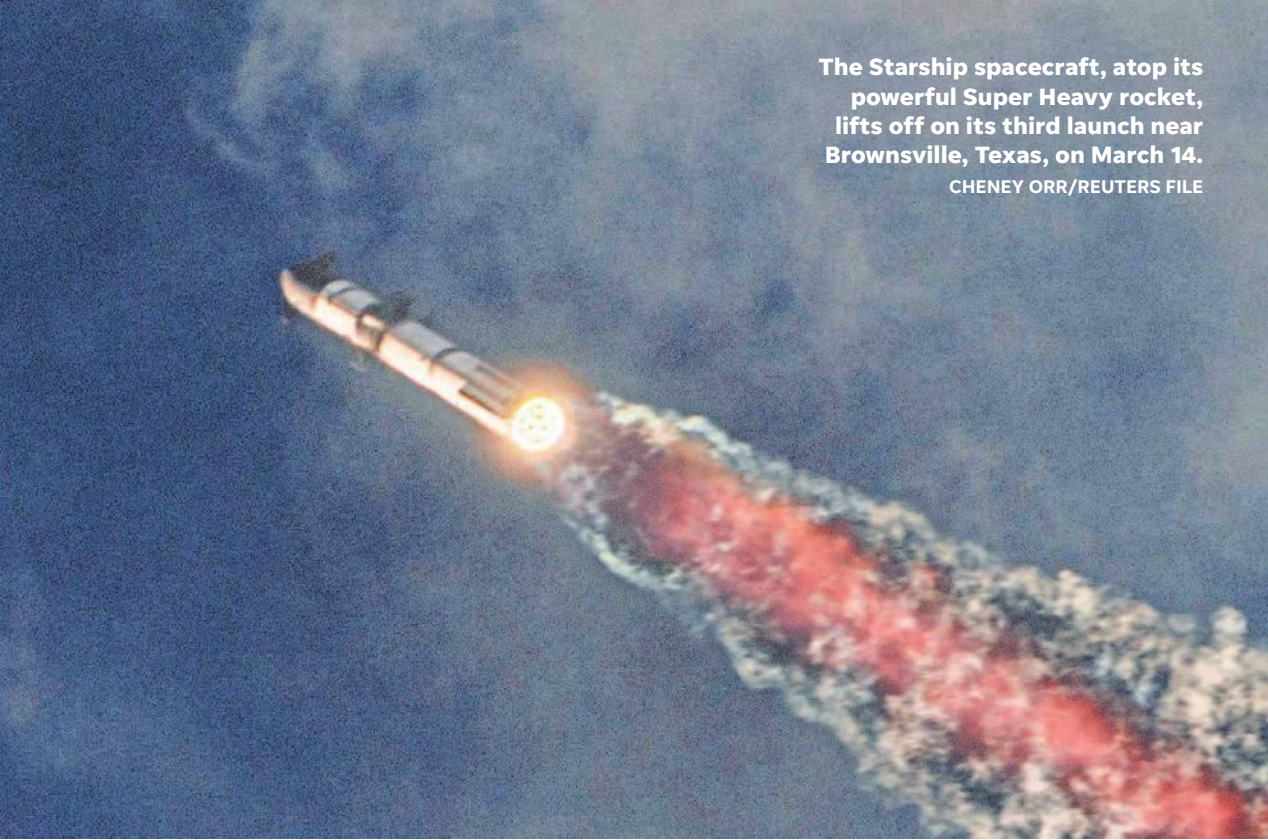
Trump refused to accept the results of the 2020 election, which sparked a deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol by his supporters on Jan. 6, 2021. He has also vowed to go after political opponents, deport immigrants and punish whistleblowers in a second term.

Trump has threatened to abandon NATO allies if they do not bolster their defense spending and some fear he would pull the United States out of the alliance altogether if he were elected president again.

Biden’s message on democracy is complicated by his staunch backing of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the war against Hamas in Gaza, which has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, after Hamas attacked Israel in October last year, killing over 1,000.

The International Criminal Court has charged Netanyahu with war crimes and some international allies and left-leaning voters in the U.S. want Biden to stop the flow of U.S. military aid to Israel.

The D-Day commemorations are set against a backdrop of a modern conflict in Europe: Russia’s war with Ukraine. Biden will meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy while in Normandy, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Tuesday, adding the United States is not planning to send U.S. military trainers to Ukraine.



The Starship spacecraft, atop its powerful Super Heavy rocket, lifts off on its third launch near Brownsville, Texas, on March 14. CHENEY ORR/REUTERS FILE

SpaceX’s rocket test gets FAA go-ahead

Joey Roulette REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration on Tuesday said it issued a license for SpaceX’s fourth flight of its Starship rocket system, another test mission along the company’s path to building a reusable satellite launcher and moon lander.

SpaceX, owned by Elon Musk, is aiming to launch its nearly 400-foot-tall, two-stage Starship as early as Thursday morning from its rocket facilities in south Texas, from which past flights in the company’s test-to-failure development campaign have launched.

Starship represents the future of SpaceX’s dominant satellite launch and astronaut business. It is designed to be fully reusable and cheaper – but more powerful – than the company’s workhorse Falcon 9. NASA plans to use Starship later this decade to land the first crew of astronauts on the moon since 1972.

Each Starship rocket has made it farther in its testing objectives than previous tests before blowing up. The first launch in April 2023 exploded minutes after liftoff, and the most recent flight in March broke apart in Earth’s atmosphere as it attempted to return from space halfway around the globe.

On Thursday, the rocket system’s first stage, called Super Heavy, will ignite its 33 Raptor engines to lift off, then separate from the Starship second stage, which will blast further into space.

Meanwhile, Super Heavy will reignite some engines and return toward the Gulf of Mexico for a “soft splash-down” to simulate a landing that would otherwise be



People work on the SpaceX Starship ahead of its fourth flight test in south Texas on Tuesday. CHANDAN KHANNA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

on land.

In space, Starship will trek around the globe and head for the Indian Ocean, where it will make a second attempt to survive the intense heat of atmospheric reentry – the crucial point at which it failed during the March test.

“The main goal of this mission is to get much deeper into the atmosphere during reentry, ideally through max heating,” Musk, CEO of SpaceX, wrote on X on Saturday.

Starship is shielded with hundreds of small black tiles on its exterior that SpaceX hopes will protect it from the extreme heat the spacecraft endures while plunging through Earth’s atmosphere at hypersonic speeds.

Much is riding on SpaceX’s swift development of Starship, a key pillar of NASA’s moon program that rivals China’s moon ambitions.

Trump asks judge to lift gag order

Luc Cohen REUTERS

NEW YORK – Donald Trump on Tuesday asked the judge who oversaw his criminal trial on charges stemming from hush money paid to a porn star to lift a gag order on the case, in which the former president was convicted last week.

Before the trial began in April, Justice Juan Merchan restricted Trump’s public statements about jurors, witnesses and others involved in the case. Prosecutors argued Trump’s history of making threatening statements showed he could derail proceedings in the case unless the judge acted.

“Now that the trial is concluded, the concerns articulated by the government and the Court do not justify continued restrictions on the First Amendment rights of President Trump,” defense lawyer Todd Blanche wrote in a letter dated June 3 and made public on Tuesday.

A Manhattan jury last week found Trump guilty on all 34 counts he faced of falsifying business records to cover up a \$130,000 payment his former lawyer Michael Cohen made to adult film actress Stormy Daniels before the 2016 election for her silence about a sexual encounter she says they had.

Trump, the Republican candidate in the 2024 election, denies having sex with Daniels and has vowed to appeal the conviction. He has often called the gag order an unconstitutional violation of his right to free speech.

A spokesperson for Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, whose office brought the case, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

During the trial, Merchan fined Trump \$1,000 for each of 10 violations of the gag order. Those included a social media post in which he called Cohen a “serial liar” and an interview in which he said, “that jury was picked so fast – 95% Democrats.”

The judge on May 6 threatened to jail Trump for any future violation.

In the letter, Blanche argued that Democratic President Joe Biden – Trump’s opponent in the November election – had commented publicly about the verdict, and that the two men were slated to debate on June 27. He also noted that Cohen and Daniels continued to attack Trump in public.

The order does not limit Trump’s comments about the case in general. Merchan in an April 30 ruling said that witnesses who publicly criticize Trump likely do not need to be protected by the gag order, and on May 6 he rejected two of prosecutors’ requests to fine Trump over comments about Cohen.



Trump

Columbia settles lawsuit on safety

Will provide ‘walking escorts’ across campus

Jonathan Stempel
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Columbia University will provide safety escorts and take other steps to protect its students, to settle a lawsuit claiming its campus had become unsafe during recent pro-Palestinian protests.

Under a settlement filed on Tuesday in Manhattan federal court, the Ivy League school will through year end offer round-the-clock “walking escorts” across campus, and appoint a “Safe Passage Liaison” to address student concerns over protests.

Columbia’s chief operating officer will get authority to order alternative means to enter and leave the campus, and students unable to finish exams or key assignments because of protests can seek accommodations.

The university also pledged “a continued commitment to the academic tradition of free thought and open debate.”

Protests sprouted on college campuses around the world this spring, with many students establishing camps and demanding that schools divest from Israel over its treatment of Palestinians during the war against Hamas.

The Columbia encampment began on April 17, and a camp there was dismantled following the April 30 arrests of dozens of protesters who had taken over a nearby academic building.

University President Minouche Shafik has pledged to make Columbia “safe for everyone.”

Tuesday’s settlement resolves a pro-



Police stand guard near an encampment of pro-Palestinian protesters at Columbia University in New York City on April 30. CAITLIN OCHS/REUTERS FILE

posed class action filed by a female Jewish student known as C.S.

She said Columbia’s decision to let students take classes online in response to the protests showed that the school had become too dangerous for Jewish students to receive the education they

were promised.

A Columbia spokeswoman said the university remained “committed to our number one priority: the safety of our campus so that all of our students can successfully pursue their education and meet their academic goals.”

Jay Edelson, a lawyer for C.S., said: “This settlement sets the bar for how Columbia must protect its students. The next step for the Columbia community is just as important: we’re looking toward a return to a real debate on campus.”



Rockets fired from Lebanon set off wildfires on Monday. AYAL MARGOLIN/REUTERS

Lebanon

Continued from Page 1NN

“We are prepared after a very good process of training up to the level of a General Staff exercise to move to an offensive in the north,” he said in a recorded statement. “We are approaching a decision point.”

The hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah have been their worst since they waged war in 2006, and tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border have been forced to flee their homes.

Hezbollah, an ally of Palestinian militant group Hamas, says it has been striking Israel in support of Palestinians under Israeli bombardment in Gaza. It has previously said it will cease fire when the Israeli offensive on Gaza stops.

Hezbollah deputy leader Sheikh Naim Qassem told broadcaster Al Jazeera that the group’s decision was not to widen the war but that it would fight one if it was imposed on it. Qassem said the Lebanon front would not stop until the Gaza war stops, Al Jazeera quoted him as saying.

Israel has gone to war numerous times in Lebanon.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said Washington does “not support a full war with Hezbollah” but Israel had the right to defend itself from Hezbollah attacks.

“We’ve heard Israeli leaders say the solution that they prefer is a diplomatic solution. And obviously that is the solution that we prefer too and that we’re trying to pursue,” he said.

The United States views Iran-backed Hezbollah as a terrorist group.

Israeli government spokesperson David Mencer said the fighting in the area was “not a sustainable reality,” adding that Israel was committed to ensuring the return home of tens of thousands of Israelis evacuated from the north.

“It is up to Hezbollah to decide if this can be accomplished by diplomatic means or by force,” he said. “We are defending this country and no one should be surprised by our response.”

Amos Hochstein, a senior adviser to President Joe Biden at the heart of diplomatic efforts seeking deescalation, said last week a land border agreement between Israel and Lebanon implemented in phases could dampen the conflict.

‘We must ... destroy them’

Earlier on Tuesday, Israeli far-right ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir urged more military action.

“There cannot be peace in Lebanon while our land is hit and people here are evacuated,” Ben-Gvir said following a tour in the northern city of Kiryat Shmona in a video statement shared on X. “They’re setting fires here, we must burn all of Hezbollah’s strongholds, de-

stroy them. War!”

Ben-Gvir and Smotrich are members of Israel’s security cabinet but not of the war cabinet.

The violence, which has oscillated for months, escalated in recent days. Hezbollah announced on Tuesday it had launched a squadron of one-way attack drones at an Israeli military barracks for a second consecutive day, calling it a response to a deadly Israeli attack in Naqoura, Lebanon.

Sirens sounded in northern Israel, where rockets fired from Lebanon set off wildfires on Monday.

The Israeli military said a “suspicious aerial target” that crossed from Lebanon fell in the Mount Hermon area, with no injuries reported.

Israeli warplanes struck a member of Hezbollah in Naqoura, as well as two other locations in southern Lebanon. Israeli artillery struck five locations in the south, the Israeli military said.

Israeli strikes have killed about 300 members of Hezbollah since Oct. 7 and around 80 civilians, according to Reuters tallies of deaths announced by the group and medical and security sources. Attacks from Lebanon on Israel have killed 18 Israeli soldiers and 10 civilians, the Israeli military says.

On Monday, Hezbollah said it launched a squadron of drones against an Israeli target in response to Israel’s killing of a Hezbollah member. While Hezbollah has used drones in the conflict, it marked the first time it had declared launching a squadron of them.

Alleged plot targeted Interpol database

US assists in Moldovan raids

Alexander Tanas
REUTERS

CHISINAU – Police in Moldova, aided by French and U.S. colleagues, raided dozens of premises on Tuesday as part of an investigation into an alleged plot to block the actions of Interpol against fugitive criminals, a top prosecutor said.

Veronica Dragalin, the country’s top anti-corruption prosecutor, told a news conference the operation was launched on the basis of information provided last month by France’s financial prosecutor acting at the behest of Interpol.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation was also involved, as were British officials, she said. Thirty-three premises were searched, Dragalin said, digital equipment seized and four people detained for 72 hours.

“This morning, anti-corruption prosecutors conducted searches as part of a joint investigation by Moldova and France, with assistance from the FBI in connection with a corruption scheme,” Dragalin told reporters.

She said that evidence from the investigation showed that criminal groups with links in Russia, Ukraine and other countries allegedly bribed individuals in exchange for help in removing “red notices” from Interpol’s database.

Investigators, she said, believed that several million dollars were paid out to civil servants to prevent such notices being issued about individuals who may have taken refuge in Moldova or elsewhere.

The French financial prosecutor said it had launched its investigation in August 2023. French and Moldovan authorities clinched an agreement last month at the Dutch headquarters of the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.

Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organization with 196 members, issues a “Red Notice” as a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and detain a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

Pro-European Moldovan President Maia Sandu was elected by a landslide in 2020 on a platform of uprooting corruption and has made EU membership the cornerstone of her policies.



Liam Fisher lies next to his discovery – the femur and tibia of a juvenile Tyrannosaurus rex in Marmarth, N.D.



‘Teen Rex’ found by children in US

Adolescent Tyrannosaurus is a rare find

Will Dunham
REUTERS

A rare fossil of an adolescent Tyrannosaurus rex has been excavated in North Dakota’s badlands – a find noteworthy for the scientific insight it may offer into the life history of this famous dinosaur and for the tale of the kids who found it.

The discovery of the fossil, nicknamed “Teen Rex,” was announced on Tuesday by the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, where it will be studied and displayed.

In July 2022, brothers Liam and Jessin Fisher, 7 and 10 at the time, and their cousin, Kaiden Madsen, who was 9, were hiking and looking for fossils with Sam Fisher, father of Liam and Jessin, on land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management about 10 miles from the town of Marmarth in southwestern North Dakota. Liam and his father noticed a large leg bone sticking out of the ground.

“My dad hollered for Jessin and Kaiden to come, and they came running,” said Liam, now 9. “And dad asked,

‘What is this?’ And Jessin said, ‘That’s a dinosaur.’”

“I didn’t know what type,” said Jessin, now 12.

Sam Fisher texted a picture to paleontologist Tyler Lyson, a Marmarth native and his former high school classmate who now is curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Lyson obtained excavation permits, and in July 2023 everyone returned to the site.

Initially, it appeared that the leg belonged to a plant-eating duckbilled dinosaur.

“However, on day one of the excavation, Jessin and I uncovered the lower jaw with several big T. rex teeth sticking out of it,” Lyson said.

Tyrannosaurus, which roamed western North America, was one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs.

It appears this Tyrannosaurus was about 13-15 years old, two-thirds adult size, 25 feet long and 3,500 pounds. T. rex was fully grown at around 18-21 years. Perhaps the largest-known Tyrannosaurus, a specimen named Sue at the Field Museum in Chicago, is 40 ½

The discovery of the fossil was announced on Tuesday by the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. PHOTOS BY GIANT SCREEN FILMS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

feet long.

This individual lived about 67 million years ago, near the Cretaceous Period’s end. Tyrannosaurus and the rest of the dinosaurs, aside from their bird descendants, were wiped out 66 million years ago after an asteroid struck Earth.

The fossil comes from the Hell Creek Formation region that “preserves Earth’s last dinosaur ecosystem” right before the mass extinction, Lyson said. Based on the soft sandstone in which it was found, the animal’s body apparently ended up on a sandbar in an ancient river system.

A documentary crew was present during the excavation, with the film “T. REX” set to be released on June 21.

The completeness of the skeleton remains unclear because a lot of the bones remain embedded inside a three-ton chunk of rock, now being studied at the museum.

IN BRIEF

US Rep. Kim wins New Jersey Democratic Senate primary

U.S. Rep. Andy Kim has won New Jersey’s Democratic primary to run in the Nov. 5 election for the Senate seat currently held by Bob Menendez, who is on trial over corruption charges, Edison Research projected on Tuesday.

Menendez is not on the Democratic ballot and is running as an independent.

Edison Research projected Kim defeating labor union activist Patricia Campos Medina with 75.8% of the vote to her 15.5% after an estimated 50% of the vote was counted.

Menendez is “still very much a favorite” of Cuban American voters in a region of New Jersey that has been known as “Havana on the Hudson,” said Ross Baker, distinguished professor of American politics at Rutgers University.

Baker added, however, that Menendez would likely not prevail as an independent.

House lawmakers seek antitrust probe of OPEC, oil companies

A group of Democratic U.S. House lawmakers asked the Justice Department on Tuesday to probe allegations of antitrust behavior among U.S. oil producers and OPEC and said the two largest U.S. oil companies have been conspiring to keep fuel prices high.

Nine House Democrats, in a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland, cited a complaint by the Federal Trade Commission in May alleging the former CEO of Pioneer Resources engaged in an “outrageous scheme ... to coordinate pricing between U.S. oil companies and foreign producers.”

The letter, led by Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, also cited the big profits earned last year by Exxon Mobil Corp. and Chevron, the two largest U.S. oil companies.

“Major oil producers appear to be colluding with each other and foreign cartels to keep prices high, padding their profits at the expense of American consumers,” the lawmakers said.

Manchin encourages companies to sue over EV tax credits

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin said on Tuesday he was urging U.S. companies to sue the Treasury Department over the local content rules it set for companies to receive clean energy tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act.

Manchin told Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen during a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee that U.S. manufacturers were being damaged by the content rules, which he said Treasury had halved from the original language in the law.

“I’m encouraging every manufacturer to sue you, and I will do the amicus brief on (their) behalf and you’ll lose every suit,” he said, holding up posters comparing the content requirements included in the legislation with those set in final rules by Treasury, which is implementing the IRA.

Manchin, often a thorn in the side of the Biden administration, last week left the Democratic Party and registered as an independent.

The 76-year-old West Virginia lawmaker has been particularly incensed by Treasury’s implementation of the IRA, arguing that its final local content rules have watered down the original intent of the bill and are hurting U.S. companies.

Southwest expected to roast with pre-summer heat wave

Millions of Americans from the Gulf Coast of Texas to California’s San Francisco Bay Area were warned on Tuesday to curb outdoor activity and stay well-hydrated during a major pre-summer heat wave expected to roast much of the Southwestern U.S. this week.

Unseasonably high daytime temperatures were forecast to soar above 100 degrees across several states into Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

Forecasters attributed the excessive heat, coming more than two weeks before the official June 20 start of the summer season, to a strong ridge of atmospheric high pressure parked over the region and intensifying.

Areas of particular concern for triple-digit temperatures included California’s inland Central Valley and the state capital, Sacramento, where an “excessive heat warning” was in effect.

In low-elevation areas of Arizona and Nevada, forecasters warned that temperatures would climb above 110 degrees, likely topping 112 degrees in Las Vegas on Thursday. Phoenix could see highs reaching 115 on Thursday.

Reuters

FDA panel votes against PTSD treatment

Sriparna Roy and Pratik Jain
REUTERS

Advisers to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday voted against a therapy based on the mind-altering drug MDMA for patients with post-traumatic stress disorder, marking a setback to the nascent field of psychedelic treatments.

The panel voted 10-to-1 against the first MDMA-based PTSD treatment, saying the benefits did not outweigh its risks, while nine members said the available data did not show its effectiveness in PTSD patients.

Much of the panel’s discussion centered on the way the trials were conducted, as well as issues pertaining to their design and data collection.

“It seems like there are so many problems with the data – each one alone might be okay, but when you pile them on top of each other, there’s just a lot of questions still I would have about how effective the treatment is,” said Melissa Barone, a panel member who voted against the treatment’s benefits.

The agency is not required to follow the panel’s advice, but usually does so and is expected to make its final decision by August.

Commonly known as ecstasy or molly, MDMA has long been seen by advocates as a potential treatment for mental health disorders and to have therapeutic applications beyond their illicit use.

The treatment, a capsule form of MDMA made by public-benefit corporation Lykos Therapeutics, is intended to be administered along with sessions of talk therapy by a licensed mental health provider.

Other nonprofit medical groups, including the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review and American Psychological Association, had earlier said there was “insufficient” evidence to show the benefits of the MDMA-assisted PTSD treatment.

An ICER report also highlighted concerns related to inappropriate therapist behavior in a mid-stage study, which a majority of the panelists said was concerning.



MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy or molly, has been long seen as a potential therapy for mental health disorders, despite being known for its illicit use.

ADEK BERRY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

More than 190 patients, who received doses of MDMA in addition to therapy, showed a significant reduction in PTSD scores compared to placebo.

“We are disappointed in today’s vote given the urgent unmet need in PTSD,” Lykos CEO Amy Emerson said in a statement.

Issue disrupting US wireless calls resolved

David Shepardson
REUTERS

AT&T said late on Tuesday that an issue that had prevented making some calls to other wireless carriers had been resolved.

Earlier, AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile said they were all experiencing issues with some calls between carriers.

“The interoperability issue between carriers has been resolved. We collaborated with the other carrier to find a solution and appreciate our customers patience,” AT&T said in a statement.

Some customers in multiple states had said they were unable to complete calls, prompting the Federal Communi-

Some customers in multiple states had said they were unable to complete calls, prompting the Federal Communications Commission to investigate.

Verizon said in a statement earlier that its network was operating normally, but some customers in the U.S. Northeast and Midwest were “experiencing issues when calling or texting customers served by another carrier.”

Tracking website Dwnndetector.com showed more than 2,300 outage reports as of 5:46 p.m. EDT, with the New York

City borough of Brooklyn, Chicago and Philadelphia among the most reported locations.

T-Mobile US said it was “not experiencing an outage. We are seeing Down Detector increases with other providers, so this likely could be challenges our customers are having connecting with users on other networks.”

The FCC and New York Attorney General Letitia James said in February they were investigating the cause of an AT&T outage that month as well as the telecom firm’s response. The outage lasted more than 10 hours and impacted more than 70,000 customers.

AT&T credited customers a full day of service for the outage.

Ariz. adds migrant measure to ballot

Would make crossing border a state-level crime

Liliana Salgado and Ted Hesson
REUTERS

PHOENIX – Arizona voters will be able to decide in the Nov. 5 election if they support or reject a Republican-led measure that would make it a crime to cross the state border from Mexico and allow state judges to order deportations. Arizona’s Republican-led House of Representatives voted along party lines 31-29 on Tuesday to add a ballot mea-

sure that will pose to voters whether the state should create its own immigration penalties. The Arizona Senate, where Republicans also hold a majority, approved the ballot measure last month after Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs vetoed related legislation in March. The U.S. federal government historically has enforced immigration policy, but Republicans in Arizona have pushed in recent months to create state-level penalties. Texas, Oklahoma and Iowa have all passed similar laws, sparking legal battles with the U.S. Department of Justice.



Lake

Immigration and abortion have been top issues in the battleground state of Arizona in the run-up to Nov. 5 elections. Such states are hotly contested because their population can swing either to Republicans or Democrats. Abortion supporters also aim to add a ballot measure that would protect abortion rights. Polls show Democratic President Joe Biden and Republican challenger Donald Trump in a tight race in Arizona, one of a handful of states that could decide

the winner. The race for a U.S. Senate seat in Arizona could also be close. The leading Democratic candidate is U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, a military veteran, and the leading Republican is former television broadcaster Kari Lake, a Trump ally. Samara Klar, a University of Arizona professor, said ballot initiatives can “mobilize voters who otherwise might not have an incentive to vote” and help boost turnout. Arizona passed a state-level immigration enforcement law in 2010 known as S.B. 1070 but the U.S. Supreme Court struck down key provisions of the measure.



Asylum-seeking migrant children from Ecuador play near the border wall in Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif., Tuesday. GO NAKAMURA/REUTERS

Asylum

Continued from Page 1NN

Biden took office in 2021 vowing to reverse some of Trump’s restrictive immigration policies but grappled with record levels of migrants caught crossing illegally, a trend that has strained U.S. border authorities and cities receiving new arrivals. During a White House press conference explaining the proclamation, Biden said asylum access would remain available to migrants who registered for an appointment using an app known as CBP One or used other legal pathways instead of crossing illegally. “This action will help us gain control of our border and restore order into the process,” Biden said. “This ban will remain in place until the number of people trying to enter illegally is reduced to a level that our system can effectively manage.” Even as Biden rolled out new restrictions, he criticized Trump’s most controversial policies, including separating migrant families at the border and comments that immigrants in the U.S. illegally were “poisoning the blood of our country.” “I will never demonize immigrants,” Biden said. When it comes to immigration policy, registered voters prefer Trump over Biden by a 17 percentage point margin, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in mid-May.

Questions remain

The new asylum ban becomes active when the daily average of border arrests tops 2,500 over a week, and figures are currently higher than that, officials said on a call with reporters, requesting anonymity as a condition of the call. U.S. border arrests averaged 4,300 per day in April, according to the most recent government statistics available. The ban will be paused when arrests drop below an average of 1,500 per day for three weeks. The last time crossings fell to that level was in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in July 2020 when global travel was at historic lows. Key operational questions about the measure’s implementation remained unclear, including how the administration would quickly deport migrants from far-away and uncooperative countries and how many non-Mexican migrants Mexico would accept under the new enforcement regime. The new restrictions resemble simi-



Migrants from India wait Tuesday at a temporary staging area in Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif. The new asylum ban becomes active when the daily average of border arrests tops 2,500 over a week. GO NAKAMURA/REUTERS

lar policies implemented by Trump and use a legal statute known as 212(f) that served as the underpinning for Trump’s travel bans blocking people from several majority-Muslim nations and other countries. The Biden ban was attacked by critics on both sides of the political spectrum on Tuesday. Lee Gelernt, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, said they intended to sue over the new restrictions. The group and other immigrant advocacy organizations have criticized Biden for adopting Trump-like policies and backtracking on U.S. legal obligations to asylum-seekers. In advance of the announcement, Trump’s campaign issued a statement criticizing Biden for high levels of illegal immigration and said the move to exempt unaccompanied minors would encourage child trafficking. Republicans also slammed Biden’s moves as politically motivated and insufficient.

Inaction in Congress

Biden has pushed unsuccessfully for months to pass a Senate bill crafted by a bipartisan group that would toughen border security but Republicans rejected it after Trump came out in opposition. In addition to the latest measure, the Biden administration has taken a number of steps over the past year to

toughen the asylum process, including issuing a regulation in May 2023 that heightened the standard for an initial asylum claim. The number of migrants caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally dropped in recent months, a trend U.S. officials partly attribute to increased Mexican enforcement. Claudia Sheinbaum was elected as Mexico’s first female president in a landslide victory on Sunday and will take office on Oct. 1. Biden’s border restrictions could put pressure on Sheinbaum, the successor to current President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, to keep illegal border crossings down. Biden thanked Lopez Obrador on a phone call Tuesday for his continued cooperation on immigration and Lopez Obrador at his daily press conference said the two countries “have been making good progress” on the issue. Enrique Lucero, the director of migrant affairs in Tijuana, Mexico, warned the new measures could overwhelm migrant shelters as more people will be stuck waiting or returned. He said he thought desperate people would continue to find ways to cross the border illegally. “The question is where are all those people going to go?” Lucero said. “Many will end up on the streets or prey to traffickers.” Across the border from Tijuana in San Diego, California, a 31-year-old Colombian man who identified himself as

Anger at Biden’s immigration order on US border

Some human rights activists and left-leaning immigration experts were sharply critical of Biden’s new border measure, while Republicans said it did not go far enough or was too late.

Amy Fischer, Amnesty International

“This executive action plays into false narratives about invasions at the border and advances a policy grounded in white supremacist ideas at the expense of people in search of safety in the U.S. This is an utterly shameful move for a country that once helped draft the Refugee Convention.”

Florencia Soto Nino, U.N. spokesperson

“Access to asylum for those in need is paramount and any person who claims to have a well-founded fear of being persecuted in their country of origin should have access to safe territory and have this claim assessed before being subjected to deportation or removal.”

Ruben Gallego, Arizona Democratic Rep.

“(The) announcement is a step in the right direction, but we still have more work to do. We also need to hire more border patrol agents, fix our broken asylum system, and keep our communities safe.”

Donald Trump

“Biden is pretending to finally do something about the border ... but in fact, it’s all for show because he knows we have a debate coming up in 3 weeks.”

Ted Cruz, Texas GOP senator

“He could have stopped this every single day of his presidency...What the White House is doing today is they’re just playing a political game.”

Silky Shah, Detention Watch Network

“Biden is using the same legal authority to justify his order that Trump used in 2017 for the ‘Muslim Ban.’ We were outraged then and we are outraged now – particularly as Biden has completely abandoned the values he once touted of implementing a ‘fair and humane’ immigration system that helped him get elected.”

Reuters

John said he spent eight days and 20 million Colombian pesos (\$5,200) to cross into the U.S. and seek asylum. He said his immigration court hearing is scheduled for April 25. “It would have been very painful to have to start over, in debt,” John said. “People give up everything they have.”

SPORTS EXTRA

NBA FINALS

Mavs, Celtics stars set to collide for crown



Jeff Zillgitt
Columnist
USA TODAY

Stan Van Gundy selected his words with thought.

He called Dallas Mavericks star guards Kyrie Irving and Luka Doncic “the most talented backcourt in NBA history.”

The TNT analyst was careful. He didn’t say “best” backcourt in history. He said talented. It’s a distinction.

Doncic and Irving have prompted a discussion about their place among the all-time great backcourts.

That’s sports talk show debate, and at the very least, it’s a worthwhile conversation so that great backcourt

combos are remembered in historical context. Knowing what Detroit’s Isiah Thomas and Joe Dumars brought to the game is as important as understanding the impact and contribution Golden State’s Steph Curry and Klay Thompson have had.

More specifically, Doncic and Irving are the best shotmaking guards in the same backcourt the league has seen in a long time. Yes, Curry and Thompson have an argument, but in terms of creativity and proficiency, Doncic and Irving are a unique pair with their outside shooting and nifty work near the rim.

Do they have enough shotmaking – and defensive grit – to beat the Boston Celtics in the NBA Finals? Game 1 of the best-of-seven series is Thursday in

See ZILLGITT, Page 2NS



Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving celebrates during Game 5 of the Western Conference finals against the Timberwolves. JESSE JOHNSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

MLB



Yankees starting pitcher Luis Gil reacts during the sixth inning of Tuesday’s game against the Minnesota Twins at Yankee Stadium in New York. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

YANKS’ GIL SHARP IN WIN OVER TWINS

Rookie Luis Gil allowed one hit in six scoreless innings to win his seventh straight start and combined with three relievers on a two-hitter as the New York Yankees earned a 5-1 victory over the visiting Minnesota Twins on Tuesday night. It was the ninth time Gil has allowed one run or fewer in 12 starts this season. He has given up one run or fewer in seven straight starts of at least six innings, the first pitcher in team history to achieve that feat. **ROUNDUP, 4NS**

TENNIS FRENCH OPEN

Sinner secures top ranking, reaches semifinals

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

No. 2 seed Jannik Sinner of Italy and No. 3 seed Carlos Alcaraz of Spain will collide in the French Open semifinals after each star posted straight-sets wins in the quarterfinals on Tuesday in Paris.

Sinner defeated No. 10 seed Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (3). Alcaraz topped No. 9 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Sinner, the Australian Open champion last January, has yet to lose in a Grand Slam this calendar year. His win coupled with Novak Djokovic’s withdrawal from the tournament due to a knee injury guaranteed that Sinner will become the No. 1 player in the ATP rankings on Monday.

“What can I say? First of all, it is every player’s dream to become No. 1 in the world,” Sinner said. “In the other way, seeing Novak retiring here I think is disappointing. I wish him a speedy recovery.”

Sinner hit eight aces without a double fault and won a whopping 43 of his 53 first-service points (81.1 percent). He lost the first point of the third-set tiebreaker before storming ahead 5-2 and ultimately winning on his first match point.

“We have played a couple of times before and know what to expect,” Sinner said of Dimitrov. “We played a final in Miami and it is always tough to play against him. He is such a great talent

See FRENCH OPEN, Page 3NS



Jannik Sinner celebrates winning his match against Grigor Dimitrov at the French Open on Tuesday in Paris. SUSAN MULLANE/USA TODAY SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Catchings weighs in on Clark, cheap shot



Christine Brennan
Columnist
USA TODAY

Basketball Hall of Famer Tamika Catchings, one of the legends of her game, has seen it all in the WNBA. She played for the Indiana Fever for 15 seasons, leading the team to the 2012 league title as Finals MVP. A 10-time WNBA all-star, she also won four Olympic gold medals with Team USA from 2004 to 2016.

So when Catchings calls something “unprecedented,” as she did in a phone interview Monday to describe this moment in the WNBA – with its epicenter right where she is, in Indianapolis – we can safely say that it’s something the league has never seen before.

At this crucial moment early in the 2024 season, with historic TV ratings, attendance, interest and now controversy, Catchings spoke with USA TODAY Sports on a variety of subjects, including Chennedy Carter’s blindside hit on Caitlin Clark in Indiana’s victory over Chicago Saturday, Angel Reese’s reaction to the foul, which was later upgraded to a Flagrant 1, and the way Clark has adjusted to the WNBA, and vice versa.

Catchings said she was in attendance at the Fever-Sky game Saturday where the controversial hit occurred.

“The cheap shot, I don’t agree with that, I don’t agree with that, especially that’s where injuries happen,” she said. “The play itself was wrong. As a whole, we all have a responsibility to make sure that things like that don’t happen, for anybody to get hit like that.

“From the league standpoint, you have to protect your players. The fact that the referees didn’t take the time within the game to go and look at it, I was really surprised. I was at the game. I was really surprised that they didn’t look at it and that they just kept it moving. That’s not a basketball play.” Catchings said she too was a target



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark drives against Liberty forward Betnijah Laney-Hamilton on Sunday in New York. WENDELL CRUZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

of cheap shots in her career.

“I remember the cheap shots, I remember getting held,” she said. “It happens. So the reaction as far as some of the players goes is, ‘We’ve been playing too, she and the other rookies have to still come in and prove themselves’ – but not with cheap shots.”

Angel Reese’s reaction to her teammate Carter’s hit on Clark was captured by ESPN’s cameras. Reese immediately stood and applauded, then hugged Carter when she came to the bench.

“I have not talked to Angel,” Catchings said. “I am 100 percent sure as a team within the organization they are talking about how they are going to handle it and what they need to do internally.

“From Angel’s standpoint, same as Caitlin, all eyes are watching you. ... Angel has got to be herself but there’s got to be a maturity level from all of our rookies, as you grow in this game and as you become more mature, you understand what is acceptable and what’s not acceptable. And you learn from the mistakes that you make.

“Angel hopefully has the right people around her that are like, hey, you

know what, not cool right there.”

Catchings, who says she had told Clark, “If you need me, I’m here,” talks to her now and then.

She has watched as the 22-year-old superstar has faced the most interesting welcome to the WNBA.

“Every single night, the opponent’s game plan is structured around Caitlin Clark,” she said. “It’s huge. They’re guarding her at the half-court line because of the fact she makes the logo 3s. They’re face-guarding her, they are picking her up on the free-throw line on the defensive end. Every single night she’s going to get single-teamed, double-teamed, triple-teamed, quadruple-teamed. That is a huge compliment.”

With a talent the likes of Clark, it makes sense, said Catchings, who five times was named the WNBA defensive player of the year.

Highs and lows expected

Although Indiana is 2-9 after a murderers’ row start of 11 games in 20 days, six of which were against the league’s top three teams – by far the most grueling opening schedule of any team in the league – Catchings sees bright

spots for Clark and the team.

In her first 10 games, Clark scored more than 150 points and had more than 50 rebounds and 50 assists, a feat previously accomplished only by Sabrina Ionescu in WNBA history. She also became the first rookie and only the fourth player ever in the league to record 30 points, five rebounds, five assists, three steals and three blocks in a game, joining Taurasi, Angel McCoughtry and Breanna Stewart. On Monday, she was named WNBA Rookie of the Month for May.

Clark currently is fourth in the league in assists per game, 18th in points per game and tied for second in three-pointers. She also leads the league in turnovers.

“She has been so comfortable with her college teammates so now Caitlin and her new teammates are trying to figure out how to play together,” Catchings said. “It’s the adjustment of coming into a totally different system, totally different coach and coaching staff.”

Learning to play as a team

The Fever players’ relative unfamiliarity with each other also might be the reason the “enforcer” that social media so desperately wants Indiana to have to protect Clark has yet to materialize, Catchings said.

“I’m on the outside looking in, but I would just say this: There have been injuries and very few practices and they are still trying to learn with each other and they are still trying to learn how to play for each other so when you talk about an enforcer, you enforce because you’re a team and you know and understand how to protect each other. None of this happens without a team effort. I think they’re still trying to get to that point.”

But there is no doubt that Clark and the team are already a complete success at the box office.

In just five 2024 home games, Indiana already has surpassed its entire 2023 home attendance.

“People are saying, let me see what this hype is all about,” Catchings said.

Zillgitt

Continued from Page 1

Boston.

And the Celtics also have two talented shotmaking perimeter players in Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown.

Doncic and Irving, and Tatum and Brown are the stars in the series, and while others will help determine the outcome, those four will have the biggest impact.

Irving has a title with the 2015-16 Cleveland Cavaliers, but Tatum and Brown or Doncic will win their first NBA title – the kind of achievement that begins to cement legacies.

This is Doncic’s first Finals appearance, and Tatum and Brown lost to Golden State in the 2022 Finals. Irving will play in his fourth Finals, and he is responsible for one of the biggest shots in Game 7 Finals history, making the go-ahead and winning 3-pointer against Golden State with 53 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

The Doncic-Irving combination has worked in Dallas. It took time. The Mavs had searched for the right player around Doncic and tried with Kristaps Porzingis, who is now with Boston. Dallas acquired Irving from Brooklyn at the 2023 trade deadline, but the Mavs missed the play-in game and the playoffs (intentionally so they could retain their lottery pick in the draft).

Doncic, who finished third in this season’s MVP voting, averaged a career-high in in points (33.9) and assists (9.8) and posted 9.2 rebounds and 1.4 steals per game while shooting 48.7% from the field and 38.2% on 3s, another career-high.

Irving had an unappreciated season and just missed a spot in the respected 50-40-90 club. He shot 49.7% from the field, 41.1% on 3s and 90.5% on free throws and averaged 25.6 points, 5.2 assists, 5.0 rebounds and 1.3 steals.

They have continued that production in the playoffs. Doncic and Irving have scored 51.6 points per game in 17 playoff games. Doncic has eight playoff games with at least 30 points, and Irving has six.

Each scored 36 points in the decisive Game 5 of the Western Conference finals, marking the fourth time in



Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, right, shoots vs. Pacers forward Pascal Siakam on May 25 in Indianapolis. TREVOR RUSZKOWSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

this season’s playoffs that they have each scored at least 30 in the same game – an NBA record for a backcourt duo in the same playoffs.

“It’s a beautiful combination,” Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. “Those two play off of each other, and you can see that they care about one another. They’re in competition right now with who’s playing the best defense. And that’s kind of cool to see because we used to look at Kai and Luka a lot of times they’re not known for our defensive guys, but they’re competing and it’s fun to see internally and it’s a healthy thing.”

Can they keep that offense going against the Celtics? The Mavs just beat Minnesota, which owned the league’s best regular-season defense. Now, they get the Celtics, who were No. 2 defensively and have better perimeter defenders than Minnesota when you include All-Defensive selections Jrue Holiday and Derrick White alongside Tatum and Brown

Boston will make it difficult on Doncic and Irving with double-teams on Doncic and different defenders on both players. The Celtics will try to wear them down. Will Doncic and Irving have enough to give defensively against the Celtics who have four wings capable of scoring 20 points? That’s the next challenge, and so far, the Mavs have aced whatever comes their way.

WNBA ROUNDUP

Sun improve to 9-0 at expense of the Mystics

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

DeWanna Bonner paired 20 points with eight rebounds as the Connecticut Sun pulled away from the visiting Washington Mystics to remain undefeated, winning 76-59 in a WNBA Commissioner’s Cup game on Tuesday at Uncasville, Conn.

Brianna Jones added 15 points on 6-of-8 shooting for the Sun, who became the seventh team in WNBA history to begin a season 9-0. All of the previous six reached the WNBA Finals, with three winning the championship. Alysia Thomas tallied seven points, seven rebounds and seven assists as Connecticut beat Washington for the seventh-straight time.

Mystics rookie and former UConn star Aaliyah Edwards bundled a career-high 14 points with nine rebounds for Washington, which set a franchise record with its ninth-straight loss to open the season. Myisha Hines-Allen supplied 10 points off the bench.

The Sun seized control by outscoring Washington 26-10 in the third quarter to flip their one-point halftime deficit into a 58-43 lead.

Connecticut blitzed the Mystics by opening the third quarter on a 13-2 run, which Tyasha Harris capped with a trey to give the Sun their first double-digit lead at 45-35 with 5:24 left in the period. Harris scored eight points in the third and finished with 14.

Liberty 88, Sky 75

Breanna Stewart had 33 points and 14 rebounds to help visiting New York beat Chicago.

The Liberty (8-2) won their fourth in a row and avenged their loss to the Sky (3-5) on May 23. New York went on a 15-2 run to start the fourth quarter after Chicago erased a 17-point first-half deficit.

Guard Sabrina Ionescu added 24 points and seven rebounds for Liberty, who held the Sky to a season-low 32.4 percent from the floor.



New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (30) drives to the basket against the Sky on Tuesday in Chicago. KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/USA TODAY

Chicago rookie Angel Reese was ejected after receiving two technical fouls with 2:31 remaining in the game. Reese finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds but shot 3 of 12 from the floor in the loss.

Storm 80, Mercury 62

Ezi Magbegor, who earlier in the day signed a contract extension through the 2025 season, had 21 points and nine rebounds to lead Seattle to a victory over visiting Phoenix.

Seattle earned its fifth straight win while Phoenix lost for the fifth time in six games.

Magbegor, an All-Star center who is in her fifth WNBA season, all with the Storm, was set to become a free agent after this season.

The Storm took the lead for good after a 12-0 run gave them a 14-4 edge with 3:53 left in the first quarter. Magbegor had six points in the run.

The Storm built their lead to 38-18 after scoring 11 unanswered points, capped by two free throws by former Mercury guard Skylar Diggins-Smith (17 points, four assists).

WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Coleman sends Sooners into final vs. Longhorns

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

OKLAHOMA CITY – Jayda Coleman delivered a walk-off home run to lead off the bottom of the eighth inning to give Oklahoma a 6-5 win over Florida on Tuesday in the Women's College World Series semifinal.

Coleman belted Keagan Rothrock's 2-1 pitch over the left field wall to send the Sooners to the WCWS Championship Series against Texas.

Oklahoma (57-7) will take on Texas in the best-of-three series beginning Wednesday. The Sooners are going for an unprecedented fourth consecutive title.

Florida (54-15) jumped ahead 2-0 and then 4-2, thanks to a pair of two-run home runs in the first two innings off Kelly Maxwell. Jocelyn Erickson went yard in the first inning, and Ariel Kowalewski homered in the second after Oklahoma's Ella Parker hit a tying two-run shot in the bottom of the first.



Oklahoma's Jayda Coleman celebrates after her walk-off home run in the eighth inning vs. Florida on Tuesday. SARAH PHIPPS/THE OKLAHOMAN

NASCAR CUP SERIES



Kyle Larson attempted to race both the Indy 500 and Coca-Cola 600 on the same day but bad weather thwarted his plans. JIM DEDMON/USA TODAY SPORTS

Larson granted playoff waiver after double try

Kelly Crandall
RACER

Kyle Larson has been granted a waiver by NASCAR to remain eligible for the NASCAR Cup Series playoffs after not starting the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Hendrick Motorsports requested the waiver after Larson was kept in Indianapolis to compete in the 108th Indy 500. The start of the race (May 26) was delayed by 4 hours due to inclement weather. Larson qualified fifth (in the middle of the second row) in his Arrow McLaren machine and finished 18th after a late-race speeding penalty.

The plan was for Larson to complete the Indianapolis 500 and take over his Cup Series car after arriving at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Justin Allgaier started the Coca-Cola 600 in Larson's No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet and because of the driver change, Allgaier dropped to the rear of the 40-car field for the green flag.

Larson arrived on pit road in Concord at approximately 9:30 p.m. ET and was preparing to get into the car when the race was red-flagged because of rain and then went into a lightning hold.

A severe thunderstorm then moved into the area, and NASCAR deemed the race official nearly two hours later due to the weather and high humidity hampering track drying efforts that would likely have pushed the resumption of the event past 1 a.m. ET.

Allgaier ran the race's 249 laps and finished 13th. He will be the driver of record for the Coca-Cola 600, with Larson not earning points for the event because he did not start the car.

The waiver was necessary for Larson to remain eligible for the postseason because the NASCAR Rule Book states, "Unless otherwise authorized by NASCAR, driver(s) and Team Owner (s) must start all Championship Events of the current season to be eligible for The Playoffs."

French Open

Continued from Page 1

and nice guy. My performance was very solid, especially the first two sets. I had a little bit of pressure when serving for the match, but this is normal, this is tennis."

Alcaraz and Sinner are tied 4-4 in their all-time head-to-head series. Sinner is 2-0 against Alcaraz at the Grand Slams.

"It's a really difficult challenge," Alcaraz said of facing Sinner. "Right now, he's the best player in the world, or the player who is playing the best tennis right now. What can I say about him? We've played great matches ... high level, and I'm glad to have him in the tour at this level."

"Thanks to him, I push myself to be better, to be a better player, to give my 100 percent every day, to wake up in the morning and want to improve my game to try to beat him."

Alcaraz did not encounter much trouble finishing off Tsitsipas in just two hours and 15 minutes. He converted 4 of 6 break-point opportunities and won 45 of 61 first-service points (73.8 percent).

Tsitsipas had 26 winners, nearly matching Alcaraz's 27, but committed 33 unforced errors while Alcaraz had 21.

"I think it was a really good match," Alcaraz said. "I played great. I think there weren't up and downs in my game. I controlled very well my emotions, myself on the court."

"I was really calm in the moments I had to be and I'm really happy with the way that I managed everything, the way that I played and to play a semifinal here again in Roland-Garros."

Swiatek, Gauff to meet in semis

No. 1 seed Iga Swiatek and No. 3 Coco Gauff will clash in the French Open semifinals after winning in different ways on Tuesday.

Swiatek, the two-time defending champion from Poland, crushed reigning Wimbledon champ Marketa Vondrousova 6-0, 6-2 in 62 minutes. Swiatek, who also won at Roland Garros in 2020, extended her winning streak on the Parisian clay to 19 matches.

Gauff had a tougher time in the quarterfinals with No. 8 seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia, rallying for a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory in just under two hours. The 20-



Coco Gauff of the United States celebrates winning her match against Ons Jabeur of Tunisia on Day 10 of the French Open on Tuesday in Paris. SUSAN MULLANE/USA TODAY SPORTS

year-old American will face Swiatek for the third straight year at the French Open after losing to her in the title match in 2022 and the quarterfinals in 2023.

Swiatek is 10-1 against Gauff but is approaching the high-profile match with caution.

"It's good to just keep going and not think about this match as something huge – just another match – to not put too much baggage on your shoulders," Swiatek said. "But I guess Coco is not easy. She really likes playing on clay, especially here. I'll just focus on myself and I'll prepare tactically and we'll see."

Swiatek followed up a double-bagel win over Anastasia Potapova in the fourth round by winning the first seven

games against Vondrousova. She finished with 25 winners to just 10 unforced errors and saved the only break point she faced against her Czech opponent.

"Everything worked. I feel like I've been serving better than in previous rounds, so that gave me an extra boost of confidence," Swiatek said. "I could just play my game and really go with my tactics and not really overthink anything."

Gauff struggled early against Jabeur, committing 14 of her 28 unforced errors in the first set before setting the pace and turning things around. Jabeur tallied 28 of her 38 errors in the final two sets.

"She was playing really well the whole match. She was hitting a lot of

winners on me, which is something I'm not used to against anybody," Gauff said. "So today I was just trying to just be aggressive toward the end."

Gauff saved six of eight break points in the match, compared to just one of five for Jabeur.

"My favorite thing about Coco is her fighting spirit. I think she's playing, like, great tennis right now, but I saw her playing better before," Jabeur said. "Obviously she's such a fighter. She always tries to find ways. She's really smart on the court."

The other semifinalists will be determined Wednesday when No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus faces 17-year-old Russian Mirra Andreeva and No. 4 seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan takes on No. 12 Jasmine Paolini of Italy.

MLB

TUESDAY’S ROUNDUP

Gil wins 7th start in row as Yanks top Twins

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Rookie Luis Gil allowed one hit in six scoreless innings to win his seventh straight start and combined with three relievers on a two-hitter as the New York Yankees earned a 5-1 victory over the visiting Minnesota Twins on Tuesday night.

New York, which is riding a six-game winning streak, has won 10 of its past 12 games and 17 of its past 21.

Gleyber Torres went deep and Aaron Judge had a two-run double for the Yankees. Giancarlo Stanton ripped his 15th homer of the season, a two-run shot, in the eighth inning to complete the scoring.

A day after being named American League Rookie of the Month and AL Pitcher of the Month for May, Gil (8-1) allowed only a double to Christian Vazquez with one out in the third. The former Minnesota farmhand struck out six, walked three and threw 53 of his 88 pitches for strikes.

It was the ninth time Gil has allowed one run or fewer in 12 starts this season. He has given up one run or fewer in seven straight starts of at least six innings, the first pitcher in team history to achieve that feat.

Phillies 2, Brewers 1, 10 innings

Nick Castellanos hit a walk-off double to right field in the 10th inning as host Philadelphia defeated Milwaukee.

With pinch-runner Whit Merrifield on second base to open the bottom of the 10th, the Brewers’ Joel Payamps (1-2) intentionally walked Bryson Stott before Castellanos hit a first-pitch sinker for the winning hit.

Alec Bohm hit a solo home run and Castellanos and Kyle Schwarber each drew two walks for the Phillies, who have won the first two games in the three-game series. Philadelphia has five wins in the past six contests.

Phillies starter Cristopher Sanchez tossed six innings and allowed four hits and one run with three strikeouts and one walk.

Seranthony Dominguez (2-2) earned the win in relief.

Braves 8, Red Sox 3

Ozzie Albies and Orlando Arcia each homered and Max Fried struck out a career-high 13 to propel visiting Atlanta over Boston.

The score was 3-3 until Albies hit a three-run home run against Red Sox starter Kutter Crawford (2-5) in the sixth inning. Austin Riley and Marcell Ozuna scored on Albies’ fourth homer of the season.

Arcia stretched the lead to 7-3 when he hit a solo home run off reliever Chase Anderson in the seventh. It was his sixth home run of the season.

Fried (6-2) went seven innings. He surrendered four hits and three runs (two earned).

First baseman Dominic Smith hit his second home run of the season for the Red Sox. Smith also made two errors in the second inning that led to two unearned runs.

Rays 9, Marlins 5

Brandon Lowe drove in five runs as visiting Tampa Bay continued to dominate Miami.

Since 2019, the Rays are 22-3 against Miami.

Pete Fairbanks entered the game with the bases loaded and no outs in the bottom of the ninth. However, he got three consecutive outs, allowing no runner to advance for his seventh save of the season.

Lowe stroked a three-run homer and added a two-run double. He was hitting just .170 with one homer and eight RBIs in 53 at-bats through the end of May, but in 11 at-bats this month, he is batting .364 with one homer and five RBIs.

Miami’s Bryan De La Cruz homered and knocked in two runs, and Otto Lopez also had two RBIs.

Reds 4, Rockies 1

Frankie Montas took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, Elly De La Cruz homered and Cincinnati beat Colorado in Denver.

Montas (3-4) struck out a season-high nine and walked two. He had his no-hitter broken up by Elias Diaz’s lead-off double in the bottom of the seventh but retired the next three batters in order to wrap up his longest outing of the season.

It was the second-longest no-hit bid



The Phillies’ Nick Castellanos, center, celebrates with teammates after hitting a walk-off RBI single in the 10th inning of Tuesday’s game against the Milwaukee Brewers in Philadelphia. BILL STREICHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

of Montas’ career. He didn’t allow a hit for 7⅓ innings against the Seattle Mariners on June 23, 2022, when he pitched for the Oakland Athletics.

Stuart Fairchild, Tyler Stephenson and Spencer Steer had two hits apiece for Cincinnati, which has won three in a row. The Reds finished with 12 hits a night after collecting a season-best 18 in another win over the Rockies.

Diaz finished with two hits and Brendan Rodgers had an RBI double in the ninth for Colorado, which has dropped four in a row.

Mets 6, Nationals 3

Harrison Bader had two hits, including a two-run homer, David Peterson pitched into the seventh inning and visiting New York beat Washington.

Pete Alonso had a solo homer and a single for the Mets, who have won the first two games of the three-game series.

Peterson (1-0) was making his second start in his return from offseason hip surgery. He went 6⅓ innings, allowing two runs on five hits with two walks and two strikeouts.

Washington left-hander DJ Herz (0-1) was called up to make the start after Trevor Williams was placed on the 15-day injured list with a right forearm flexor muscle strain. Herz, 23, gave up four runs on seven hits over four-plus innings in his major league debut. He struck out three and walked two.

Jacob Young had three hits and drove in two runs for the Nationals, and Jesse Winker scored three runs. CJ Abrams went 1-for-4 in his return after missing three games due to a shoulder issue.

Pirates 1, Dodgers 0

Rookie Jared Jones tossed six scoreless innings and Jack Suwinski belted a solo homer in his return to the majors, lifting host Pittsburgh over Los Angeles.

Jones (4-5) scattered three hits, three walks and struck out six to record his first win since May 16.

Colin Holderman and Aroldis Chapman each worked around a leadoff hit to complete one scoreless inning of relief. Chapman, in fact, slammed his glove to the ground after Teoscar Hernandez made contact on a long flyout to center field, with the former apparently thinking that he had surrendered a three-run homer in the eighth inning.

David Bednar retired the side in order in the ninth for his 12th save of the season.

Suwinski, who was recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis earlier Tuesday, deposited a 3-2 fastball from Tyler Glasnow (6-4) over the wall in right field in the third inning. The homer was the fifth of the season for Suwinski, who started in center field in place of Ji Hwan Bae (right wrist sprain) after the latter was placed on the 10-day injured list retroactive to Monday.

Guardians 8, Royals 5

Tyler Freeman’s two-run, tying homer highlighted a five-run seventh inning and Cleveland rallied from a five-run deficit to down visiting Kansas City.

Cleveland trailed 5-3 in the seventh with Royals ace Seth Lugo still on the mound. Will Brennan opened with a single and Freeman chased Lugo by golfing a breaking pitch into the left field stands to make it 5-5.

Later in the inning, the Guardians loaded the bases against relievers Sam

Long (0-1) and Angel Zerpa. With two outs, Cleveland’s David Fry hit a chopper to Royals shortstop Bobby Witt Jr., who failed to touch second base for a force while throwing wild to first – allowing all three runners to score.

Kansas City couldn’t answer and wasted a pair of two-run homers by Witt in the opener of a three-game set, losing for the seventh time in nine games.

Lugo, who entered 9-1 with a 1.72 ERA, allowed a season-high five runs with six hits in six-plus innings. He struck out five and walked one.

Orioles 10, Blue Jays 1

Ryan Mountcastle had two home runs and five RBIs, right-hander Corbin Burnes pitched seven strong innings and visiting Baltimore routed Toronto.

Connor Norby added a two-run shot for his first hit in the majors, and the Orioles have won the first two games of the four-game series.

Mountcastle continued his success against the Blue Jays. He has 17 home runs and 48 RBIs in 56 career games against them.

Burnes (6-2) allowed one run, four hits and one walk while striking out five. It was his career-best eighth consecutive quality start (at least six innings, three or fewer runs).

George Springer hit a solo home run for the Blue Jays, who dropped to 2-3 on their seven-game homestand.

Astros 8, Cardinals 5

Yainer Diaz homered for the second consecutive game and Houston held off a late charge from visiting St. Louis for a win.

Diaz capped a four-run third inning with his fifth home run of the season, a three-run shot to right field that gave the Astros a 6-1 lead. Diaz hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning Monday that carried Houston to victory in the series opener.

Despite that cushion, the Astros needed insurance runs in the fourth and seventh innings Tuesday to keep the Cardinals at bay. Jeremy Pena drove in Alex Bregman with a sacrifice fly in the fourth to give Houston a 7-2 lead and Victor Caratini knocked in Jake Meyers to push the Astros’ lead to 8-5 in the seventh.

Alec Burleson gave the Cardinals a 1-0 lead with his eighth home run in the first inning. Astros rookie right-hander Spencer Arrighetti, who gave up the homer, departed after three innings with a left calf contusion sustained when Ivan Herrera hit a comebacker off Arrighetti’s leg in the second.

Arrighetti allowed one run on three hits and three walks with four strikeouts. Cardinals starter Andre Pallante (1-2) allowed six runs, six hits and three walks with a strikeout in three innings.

Cubs 7, White Sox 6

Ian Happ had three hits, including a two-run, go-ahead double in the bottom of the eighth, as the host Chicago Cubs rallied from an early 5-0 deficit to beat the Chicago White Sox.

The White Sox have now lost 12 games in a row.

Happ went 3-for-4 with two doubles, two runs and two RBIs, while Christopher Morel and Patrick Wisdom both homered for the Cubs.

Luke Little (2-1) picked up the win with a 1-2-3 eighth and Hector Neris earned his eighth save with a scoreless

ninth, picking off Duke Ellis, the tying run, at second in the process.

Luis Robert Jr. homered and finished with two hits and two runs while Lenyn Sosa went 2-for-3 with a two-run shot for the White Sox, who have matched the third-longest losing streak in franchise history.

Tigers 3, Rangers 1

Zach McKinstry and Riley Greene each homered and Jack Flaherty exited after tossing five scoreless innings as Detroit beat Texas in Arlington, Texas.

Flaherty (3-4) threw a season-low 60 pitches and allowed two hits and didn’t issue a walk. He struck out four.

Alex Faedo, Shelby Miller and Tyler Holton followed Flaherty before Jason Foley retired the only batter he faced for his 12th save. Detroit has won three straight and eight of its past 11.

Texas avoided being shut out when, in the ninth inning, Josh Smith scored from second base on Ezequiel Duran’s two-out single against Holton.

Rangers shortstop Corey Seager drew a walk in the sixth inning to extend his on-base streak to a career-high 27 games. His hitting streak ended at 16 games after he went 0-for-3.

Angels 4, Padres 2

Zach Neto’s two-run double in the seventh inning snapped a 1-1 tie and helped lift Los Angeles over San Diego in Anaheim, Calif.

Los Angeles has won back-to-back games at home for the first time this season. The Angels are just 9-21 on their own field.

The Angels loaded the bases with no outs against Padres reliever Yuki Matsui (3-2) to begin the seventh. Enyel De Los Santos replaced Matsui and got the first out of the inning when Mickey Moniak grounded into a forceout, with Cole Tucker getting cut down at home.

Up stepped Neto, who hit a hanging slider over the head of left fielder Jurickson Profar to drive in Logan O’Hoppe and Jo Adell, putting the Angels up 3-1. Moniak scored on a wild pitch later in the inning.

San Diego threatened to come back in the eighth, as Fernando Tatis Jr. and Manny Machado began the inning with back-to-back singles off Angels reliever Luis Garcia. Garcia struck out the next two batters before Jake Cronenworth singled home a run, cutting the Padres’ deficit to 4-2.

Diamondbacks 8, Giants 5

Lourdes Gurriel Jr., Gabriel Moreno and Kevin Newman had two RBIs apiece to help Arizona notch a victory over slumping San Francisco in Phoenix.

Blaze Alexander had three hits, two runs and one RBI as Arizona stretched its winning streak to four games. Ketel Marte reached base four times on three hits and a walk for the Diamondbacks, who have won the first two contests of this three-game series.

Mike Yastrzemski hit a pinch-hit, three-run homer in the eighth inning for San Francisco, which extended its season-worst losing streak to six games.

In the ninth inning, Arizona’s Paul Sewald hit Thairo Estrada with a pitch before striking out two of the next three hitters for his sixth save.

The Diamondbacks pushed across three runs in the third inning against San Francisco’s Kyle Harrison (4-3) to grab the lead for good.

Mariners 4, Athletics 3

J.P. Crawford, Josh Rojas, Ty France and Luke Raley all doubled during a three-run third inning that helped Seattle edge host Oakland in the opener of a three-game series.

Rojas finished with three hits and Raley had two for the Mariners, who won their fourth game in a row.

Seattle starter George Kirby and A’s counterpart Mitch Spence traded zeroes before Crawford and Rojas led off the third with doubles, putting runners at second and third.

After Julio Rodriguez grounded out, France doubled in both runners and then scored on Raley’s double that made it 3-0.

That’s all the support Kirby (5-5) and five Mariners relievers would need. Kirby ended up lasting five-plus innings, giving up two runs on six hits. He walked one and struck out nine.

Kirby was pulled after allowing a single to JJ Bleday and a double to Brent Rooker to open the sixth. He left with Seattle leading 4-1.

MLB

TUESDAY'S BOX SCORES

Cleveland 8, Kansas City 5												
KC.....	003	200	000	-	5	10	1					
CLE.....	000	300	50x	-	8	7	0					
Kansas City												
Garcia 3b		AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.				
		4	2	2	0	1	1	.267				
Witt Jr. ss		5	2	3	4	0	2	.319				
Pasquantino 1b		4	0	0	0	0	0	.239				
Perez c		3	0	1	0	1	1	.315				
Velazquez dh		3	0	0	0	1	1	.215				
Loflin 2b		4	0	2	0	0	0	.269				
Frazier lf		4	0	0	0	0	3	.205				
Renfroe rf		4	1	1	1	0	0	.179				
Hampson cf		4	0	1	0	0	2	.311				
Totals		35	5	10	5	3	10					

Cleveland												
Kwan lf	4	2	1	0	0	0	.361					
Gimenez 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.271					
Ramirez 3b	3	2	1	1	1	1	.272					
Naylor 1b	3	2	1	0	0	0	.229					
Fry c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.342					
Manzardo dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.212					
Brennan rf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.244					
Freeman cf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.219					
Schweemann ss	2	0	1	0	1	0	.400					
Rocchio ss	1	0	0	0	1	0	.201					
Totals	32	8	7	5	3	8						

E: Witt Jr., 2B: Perez (15), Kwan (7), HR: Witt Jr. 2 (11), Renfroe (5), Naylor (16), Freeman (5), RBI: Witt Jr. 4 (46), Renfroe (21), Ramirez (58), Naylor 2 (44), Freeman 2 (24), SB: Garcia (14). Runners left in scoring position: Kansas City 4 (Witt Jr., Frazier 3), Cleveland 3 (Ramirez 2, Manzardo). RISP: Kansas City 2 for 5, Cleveland 1 for 6. GIDP: Garcia, Perez. DP: Cleveland 2.

Kansas City								
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lugo	6.0	6	5	5	1	5	98	2.13
Long L, 0-1	0.2	1	2	0	1	1	23	0.00
Zerpa	0.1	0	1	0	1	0	12	2.28
Anderson	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	4.03
Cleveland								
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McKenzie	5.1	9	5	5	2	7	86	4.16
Smith W, 3-0	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	11	1.67
Barlow H, 15	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	3.91
Clase S, 19	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	20	0.30

Lugo pitched to 2 batters in the 7th. Inherited runners: Zerpa 2-0, Smith 1-1. HBP: Kwan. WP: McKenzie. Umpires: HP-Metz, 1B-Miller, 2B-Thomas, 3B-O'Nora. T: 2:22. A: 23,260 (34,830).

N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 3												
NYM.....	000	230	001	-	6	13	0					
WAS.....	000	010	101	-	3	6	0					

N.Y. Mets												
Lindor ss	5	0	2	0	0	1	.232					
Alonso 1b	5	2	2	1	0	2	.237					
Nimmo lf	4	1	2	0	1	0	.222					
Martinez dh	5	0	1	0	0	2	.275					
Marte rf	3	2	1	2	1	0	.276					
Vientos 3b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.339					
Bader cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.271					
Iglesias 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.400					
Nido c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.229					
a-Stewart ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.188					
Torres c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.167					
Totals	37	6	13	6	2	6						

Washington												
Abrams ss	4	0	1	0	1	0	.249					
Thomas rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.211					
Meneses dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.236					
Senzel 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.236					
Vargas 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.274					
Winker lf	2	1	0	0	1	1	.244					
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.199					
Gallo 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.359					
Young cf	3	0	3	2	1	0	.282					
Totals	32	3	6	3	4	5						

a-grounded into a double play for Nido in 8th.

2B: Lindor (14), Iglesias (1), 3B: Marte (2), HR: Alonso (14), Bader (3), RBI: Alonso (31), Marte 2 (25), Vientos (11), Bader 2 (20), Gallo (10), Young 2 (16), SB: Nimmo (5), Winker (11), SF: Vientos. Runners left in scoring position: N.Y. Mets 5 (Martinez 3, Marte, Stewart), Washington 4 (Thomas 3, Vargas), RISP: N.Y. Mets 2 for 13, Washington 3 for 10. GIDP: Marte, Stewart, Meneses. DP: N.Y. Mets 1, Washington 2.

N.Y. Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peterson W, 1-0	6.2	5	2	2	2	2	81	3.09
Nunez H, 2	1.1	0	0	0	1	1	15	2.31
Garrett	1.0	1	1	1	2	2	21	3.19
Washington	IP <th>H</th> <th>R</th> <th>ER</th> <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th> <th>NP</th> <th>ERA</th>	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Herz L, 0-1	4.0	7	4	4	2	3	75	9.00
Law	3.0	3	1	1	0	2	37	2.78
Barnes	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	14	4.82
Finnesen	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	15	1.88

Herz pitched to 2 batters in the 5th. Inherited runners: Nunez 2-2, Law 2-0. HBP: Thomas. Winker. WP: Herz. Umpires: HP-Willis, 1B-Fairchild, 2B-Clemmons, 3B-Torres. T: 2:34. A: 21,570 (41,380).

Tampa Bay 9, Miami 5										
TB.....	000	450	000	-	9	12	2			
MIA.....	300	000	110	-	5	11	0			
Tampa Bay										
Diaz 1b	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.			
Arozarena lf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.247			
Ramirez dh	1	1	1	0	2	0	.166			
Paredes 3b	5	2	1	0	0	1	.273			
Lowe 2s	5	2	2	2	0	1	.294			
Rosario ss	4	2	2	5	1	2	.203			
Siri cf	4	1	3	1	1	0	.303			
DeLuca rf	5	0	1	1	0	1	.189			
Jackson c	5	0	0	0	0	2	.171			
Totals	4	0	0	0	0	1	.049			
	38	9	12	9	4	9				

Miami												
Chisholm Jr. cf	5	0	0	0	1	0	.251					
De La Cruz dh	5	1	1	2	0	1	.248					
Burger 3b	5	1	2	0	0	3	.228					
Bell 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.247					
Sanchez rf	5	0	0	0	2	.244						
Lopez 2b	3	0	1	2	0	0	.297					
Gordon lf	3	1	1	0	0	1	.233					
Anderson ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.180					
Fortes c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.259					
a-Brujan ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.259					
Totals	38	5	11	5	0	12						

a-was announced for Fortes in 9th. E: Diaz, Jackson. 2B: Diaz (12), Lowe (3), Siri (7), Bell (12), 3B: Bell (1), HR: Lowe (2), De La Cruz (10), RBI: Paredes 2 (34), Lowe 5 (13), Rosario (21), Siri (21), De La Cruz 2 (27), Bell (29), Lopez 2 (17), CS: DeLuca (2), SF: Lopez. Runners left in scoring position: Tampa Bay 3 (Ramirez, DeLuca 2), Miami 4 (Burger, Bell 2, Anderson). RISP: Tampa Bay 6 for 12, Miami 2 for 11.

Tampa Bay								
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pepiot	6.0	5	3	3	0	8	89	3.96
Stern	2.0	3	2	1	0	2	36	2.25
Maton	0.0	3	0	0	0	0	9	4.09
Fairbanks	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	17	.350
Miami								
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo	4.1	9	9	9	2	2	83	3.50
Cronin	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	8	1.27
Brazoban	2.0	0	0	0	1	3	44	4.50
Ramirez	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	25	1.35
Scott	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	23	1.50
Maton pitched to 3 batters in the 9th								

SOCCER USWNT 3, SOUTH KOREA 0

Yohannes, 16, scores as US women cruise

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Lily Yohannes, making her U.S. women’s national team debut, became the third-youngest player to score for the squad as the United States recorded a 3-0 victory over South Korea on a rainy Tuesday night in Saint Paul, Minn.

At 16 years, 358 days, she is the eighth-youngest player to debut for the U.S. and the youngest since March 2001.

Yohannes made quite the first impression in the 82nd minute, just 10 minutes after entering the match, when she slotted a shot from the top of the box after a pass from Trinity Rodman for the final score.

Crystal Dunn had a rare goal in the 13th minute to make it 1-0 and Sophia Smith doubled the lead in the 67th, five minutes after coming off the bench.

Dunn put the U.S. in front with her 25th career goal but first in 75 matches since Oct. 20, 2018. The Tuesday contest marked her first start at forward since July 30, 2017.

She was in the 6-yard box and got her left foot on the perfectly placed service from the left flank by Jenna Nighswonger that slid between a South Korean defender and the goalkeeper.

Nighswonger earned her first U.S. assist.

Casey Murphy, in her second start of the season, preserved the lead with a full-extension save on line drive 20-yard free kick by Ji So-Yun that was earmarked for the right corner in the 30th minute.

Smith extended the lead off a give-away with a difficult angle shot from the left side after a Mallory Swanson setup.

The match was the second for U.S. coach Emma Hayes, who was hired on Nov. 14 but remained with her English club, Chelsea, until early May. The U.S. defeated South Korea 4-0 in Commerce City, Colo., on Saturday.

Now, the hard part begins for Hayes because this was the last match before she must pare the roster to 18 for the Paris Olympics, which begins with a Group B match on July 25 vs. Zambia.

Prior the that, the Olympic team will play friendlies July 13 against Mexico in Harrison, N.J., and July 16 vs. Costa Rica in Washington.



US women’s national team midfielder Lily Yohannes (6) controls the ball as South Korea midfielder Cho So-hyun defends during the second half of Tuesday’s game in St. Paul, Minn. MATT KROHN/USA TODAY SPORTS

GOLF

Nicklaus: Uniting PGA, LIV ‘above my pay grade’

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Jack Nicklaus would like to see the best golfers in the world in the same place more than four times a year, but figuring out how is another matter.

Speaking on Tuesday ahead of the Memorial Tournament this week, where he is the tournament host, the 84-year-old golf legend was asked how critical he thinks it is to reunite men’s professional golf and said it’s “a question I don’t know how to answer.”

The Memorial is one of the PGA Tour’s signature events, and most of the top-ranked players in the world will play for a \$20 million purse. But the signature event status and elevated prize pools only came about after LIV Golf enticed several elite players to leave the tour for lofty paychecks.

“You can look at it two ways,” Nicklaus said. “One is that we’ll have a very successful tournament here and a lot of PGA Tour tournaments will have very successful tournaments and have great fields and great players. I think the LIV tournaments have had – you know, have some good players and they have – and they compete at the major championships.

“... I don’t know whether that’s imperative that (reunification) happen. I think it would be better if they all played together more often. I do think that. But, you know, that’s above my pay grade, I think, to really answer that 100 percent because I don’t know all the ramifications of it.”

Negotiations between the PGA Tour and LIV’s financiers, the Saudi Arabia Public Investment Fund (PIF), are supposedly ongoing, though little headway has been made nearly a year to the day since they announced a shock merger.

For now, stars from the PGA Tour and LIV Golf only share a stage at the four major championships.

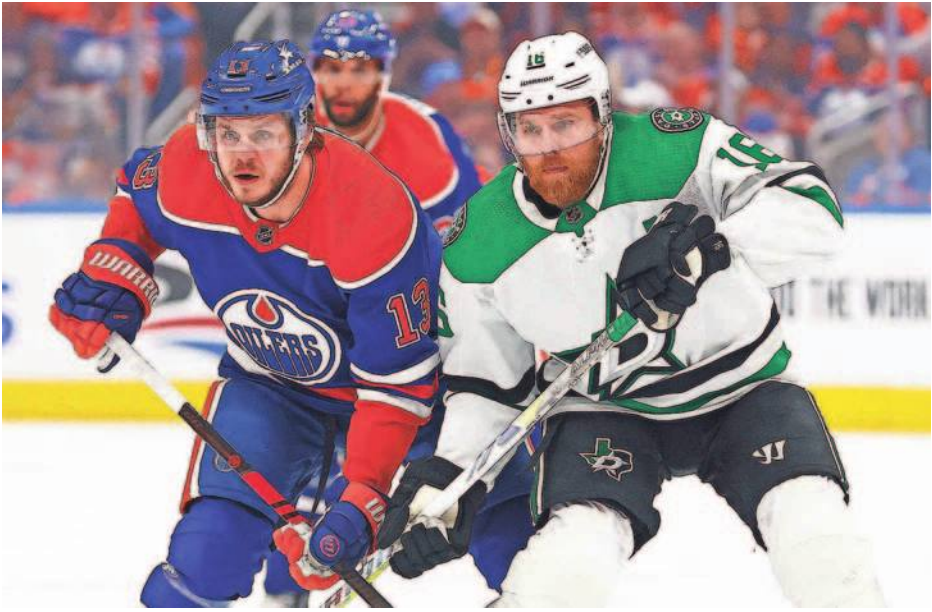
Nicklaus recited an anecdote he also shared two months ago at the Masters, saying he spoke to PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan and asked whether or not the tour was doing all right – without filling him in on the specifics, because he didn’t want to lie to the press.

“And he said, ‘We’re doing fine.’ I said, ‘That’s all I need to know,’ “ Nicklaus said. “So as far as I know, the Tour’s doing fine and their problems are going to get worked out. How it is, I don’t know.”



Jack Nicklaus tips his cap on the 18th hole during the Folds of Honor Greats of Golf on May 4 in The Woodlands, Texas. AARON M. SPRECHER/GETTY IMAGES

NHL



Oilers forward Mattias Janmark, left, and Dallas Stars forward Joe Pavelski battle on Sunday in Edmonton. PERRY NELSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

Stars’ Pavelski plans to retire after 18 seasons

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Dallas Stars forward Joe Pavelski told reporters Tuesday that he intends to retire.

“This was it for me. It was known for a while, probably,” Pavelski said at the team’s exit interview day. “The plan is not to play next year.”

Pavelski clarified that his retirement was not yet official, but it’s his intention not to be back for what would be a 19th NHL season in 2024-25.

“We’re still moving back at some point here, decompressing and figuring all this stuff out and logistics and stuff,” Pavelski said. “... There will be more to come on that. Everything is still so raw, nothing official. There will be more words. I’m going to need a little bit of time to really put it together and figure it out that way. Most likely that was it, and couldn’t ask for a better opportunity and a better group of guys to be around.”

Pavelski will turn 40 in July and was one of the oldest players in the league this season.

Pavelski spent the first 13 seasons of his career with the San Jose Sharks and

was their captain from 2015-19. He played in four NHL All-Star Games along with two Stanley Cup Finals, once with San Jose (2016) and once with Dallas (2020), though his teams lost in both cases.

Pavelski holds the NHL record for most playoff goals scored by a United States-born player, with 74 in 201 games.

In 1,332 career regular-season games, Pavelski tallied 1,068 points (476 goals, 592 assists).

Pavelski signed with the Stars as an unrestricted free agent in 2019. On Tuesday expressed gratitude for his time in Dallas, whose season ended with a six-game loss to Edmonton in the Western Conference finals.

“As athletes, you expect the best out of you,” Pavelski said. “You get to a certain level, felt like I was coming in from San Jose to here at an extremely high level, and I believed in that. ... I still had a high expectation for my game, and I was glad to see it get back to that level and then sustain it. It wasn’t just all about me. I played with some great players and came into an organization that had good people and good talent.”

NFL NOTEBOOK

Report: 49ers RB McCaffrey gets extension

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey is signing a two-year, \$38 million extension, ESPN reported Tuesday.

The deal reportedly includes \$24 million in guarantees for the 2023 NFL Offensive Player of the Year, who led the league with 1,459 rushing yards last season.

With an average annual value of \$19 million per season, McCaffrey raised his own bar for NFL running backs. His previous deal averaged \$16 million per year.

Alvin Kamara of the New Orleans Saints ranks second at the position with \$15 million per season, per Spotrac.

The extension also keeps McCaffrey under contract with the 49ers through 2027.

McCaffrey, who turns 28 on Friday, also led the NFL with 2,023 yards from scrimmage and in 16 starts shared the league lead with 21 rushing/receiving touchdowns, along with Miami's Raheim Mostert.

A three-time Pro Bowl selection and two-time first-team All-Pro, McCaffrey has rushed for 6,185 yards and 52 touchdowns. He also has 509 receptions for 4,320 yards and 29 scores in 91 games (84 starts) with the Carolina Panthers (2017-22) and 49ers (2022-23).

McCaffrey was the eighth overall pick in 2017 by Carolina, who traded him to San Francisco on Oct. 20, 2022 for a package of draft picks.

Cowboys WR Lamb absent from mandatory minicamp

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Cee-Dee Lamb missed the start of a mandatory minicamp on Tuesday as he seeks a contract extension.

Head coach Mike McCarthy confirmed the absence of Lamb, who also skipped voluntary OTAs last month.

Lamb, 25, is due to earn \$17.99 million in 2024 under his fifth-year option. That's a bargain-basement price for a player coming off a record-setting All-Pro season in 2023.

Lamb will be subject to fines for missing minicamp. Those fines would total \$16,953 for missing Tuesday, \$33,908 for Wednesday and \$50,855 if the mini-



San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey (23) runs with the ball against Kansas City Chiefs safety Mike Edwards during Super Bowl 58 on Feb. 11 in Paradise, Nev. JOE CAMPOREALE/USA TODAY SPORTS

camp extends to a third day, according to The Dallas Morning News.

His absence Tuesday came one day after Minnesota Vikings star Justin Jefferson reset the wide receiver market with a reported four-year, \$140 million extension.

Colts owner Irsay leads list of Hall of Fame presenters

Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay will present Dwight Freeney for enshrinement into the Pro Football Hall of Fame this summer, the third time Irsay has done such honors.

The seven-member Class of 2024 will be enshrined on Aug. 3 in Canton, Ohio. The other inductees, and their presenters are:

–Randy Gradishar: Tom Jackson, former Denver Broncos teammate

–Devin Hester: Juanita Brown, mother

–Andre Johnson: Gary Kubiak, former Houston Texans head coach

–Steve McMichael: Jarrett Payton,

longtime friend and son of McMichael's teammate, Walter Payton

–Julius Peppers: Carl Carey, longtime friend, mentor and agent

–Patrick Willis: Ernicka Willis, sister
The presenter introduces the enshrinee via video and is present on stage as the bronze bust is uncovered.

Irsay previously presented Colts greats Marvin Harrison (2016) and Edgerrin James (2020).

It's the second time for Payton, who was just 12 when he presented his father for enshrinement in 1993.

Jets LB Reddick skipping OTAs, not in contact with coach

The New York Jets acquired Pro Bowl pass-rusher Haason Reddick from the Philadelphia Eagles this offseason, but their coach has yet to even speak with Reddick.

Jets coach Robert Saleh said he's had no communication with Reddick since the trade on March 29, and he does not know why Reddick is not with the team

at OTAs this week.

"I'm focused on the guys who are here and Haason's a pro," Saleh told reporters. "He's been in this league a while. He's produced it at a very high level for a long time. He's got his routine and if it makes people feel better, we know where he's at, we know what he's doing and we know he's working his tail off to get where he needs to get you to have a productive '24 season."

The prevailing theory is that Reddick, who was unhappy with his contract in Philadelphia, still wants a new deal. Saleh deferred to general manager Joe Douglas on contract questions.

Saleh said he expected Reddick to attend the Jets' mandatory minicamp next week. Reddick has already forfeited a \$250,000 workout bonus by skipping OTAs and would be subject to fines if he does not report to minicamp.

Colts S Scott to miss 2024 season

Indianapolis Colts safety Daniel Scott will miss his second straight season due to injury in 2024.

Scott, 25, ruptured an Achilles tendon during a practice last week, coach Shane Steichen confirmed Tuesday

A fifth-round pick in 2023, Scott missed his entire rookie season with a torn ACL sustained during OTAs last June.

Scott played college football at Cal from 2018-22, recording 137 tackles and seven interceptions.

Commanders sign K Ahmed after releasing McManus

The Washington Commanders signed kicker Ramiz Ahmed on Tuesday as a possible replacement for Brandon McManus.

The Commanders, who had signed McManus to a one-year, \$3.6 million contract in March, released him on Sunday night, several days after the veteran player was accused of sexual assault in a lawsuit.

Ahmed, 28, has played in one NFL game, kicking six kickoffs with three touchdowns for a 61.7-yard average for the Green Bay Packers against the Dallas Cowboys in 2022. He did not attempt an extra point or field goal.

SCOREBOARD


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All times Eastern

MLB				
American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees	43	19	.694	—
Baltimore	39	20	.661	2½
Boston	30	31	.492	12½
Tampa Bay	30	31	.492	12½
Toronto	28	32	.467	14
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	40	20	.667	—
Kansas City	36	26	.581	5
Minnesota	33	27	.550	7
Detroit	31	30	.508	9½
Chicago	15	46	.246	25½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	35	27	.565	—
Texas	29	32	.475	5½
Houston	28	34	.452	7

Oakland	24	38	.387	11
L.A. Angels	23	38	.377	11½
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	43	19	.694	—
Atlanta	34	24	.586	7
Washington	27	33	.450	15
N.Y. Mets	26	35	.426	16½
Miami	21	40	.344	21½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	36	25	.590	—
Chicago	30	31	.492	6
St. Louis	28	31	.475	7
Pittsburgh	28	32	.467	7½
Cincinnati	28	33	.459	8
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	38	24	.613	—
San Diego	32	32	.500	7
Arizona	29	32	.475	8½
San Francisco	29	33	.468	9
Colorado	21	39	.350	16

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 Scores				
Cleveland 8, Kansas City 5				
Tampa Bay 9, Miami 5				
Pittsburgh 1, L.A. Dodgers 0				
Philadelphia 2, Milwaukee 1				
N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 3				
N.Y. Yankees 5, Minnesota 1				
Baltimore 10, Toronto 1				
Atlanta 8, Boston 3				
Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 6				
Detroit 3, Texas 1				
Houston 8, St. Louis 5				
Cincinnati 4, Colorado 1				
L.A. Angels 4, San Diego 2				
Arizona 8, San Francisco 5				
Seattle 4, Oakland 3				

Wednesday's Games				
Atlanta (Schwollenbach 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 White Sox (Flexen 2-5) at Chicago Cubs (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 Cubs (Assad 4-1) at Cincinnati (Greene 3-2), 7:10 p.m.				
Colorado (Quattrill 4-4) at St. Louis (Gray 7-3), 7:45 p.m.				
Boston (Houck 5-5) at Chicago White Sox (Woodford 0-1), 8:10 p.m.				
Arizona (Ceconni 1-4) at San Diego (Vasquez 1-3), 9:40 p.m.				

NBA				
FINALS				
(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)				
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.				

WNBA				
Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	9	0	1.000	—
N.Y. Liberty	8	2	.800	1½
Atlanta	4	3	.571	4
Chicago	3	5	.375	5½
Indiana	2	9	.182	8
Washington	0	9	.000	9

Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	6	2	.750	—
Seattle	6	3	.667	½
Las Vegas	4	2	.667	1
Dallas	3	4	.429	2½
Phoenix	4	6	.400	3
L.A. Sparks	2	6	.250	4

Tuesday, June 4				
Connecticut 76, Washington 59				
N.Y. Liberty 88, Chicago 75				
Seattle 80, Phoenix 62				

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.				

Friday, June 7				
Indiana vs Washington at Washington, 7:30 p.m.				
Seattle at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.				
Dallas at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.				
Minnesota at Phoenix, 10 p.m.				

MLS				
Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pts	GF
Inter Miami CF	10	3	35	42
Cincinnati	10	3	33	23
N.Y. City FC	9	5	29	24
N.Y. Red Bulls	8	3	29	22
Charlotte FC	7	6	25	18
Toronto FC	7	7	24	26
Columbus	6	26	24	21
Philadelphia	4	6	20	27
Nashville	4	5	19	20
D.C. United	4	6	17	25
Orlando City	4	7	17	24
CF Montreal	4	7	17	23
Atlanta	4	8	16	22
Chicago	3	8	15	17
New England	3	10	1	10

Western Conference				
	W	L	Pts	GF
Real Salt Lake	9	2	33	36
Los Angeles FC	9	4	30	28
Minnesota	8	3	28	27
L.A. Galaxy	7	3	28	31
Vancouver	7	5	24	24
Austin FC	6	6	23	21
Houston	6	6	22	18
Colorado	6	7	22	29
Portland	5	7	20	32
Seattle	4	6	18	19
Saint Louis	3	4	17	23
FC Dallas	3	8	13	17
San Jose	3	11	11	24
Sporting KC	2	9	5	11

Saturday, June 8				
NY Red Bulls at New England, 7:30 p.m.				
FC Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.				
Portland at Saint Louis, 8:30 p.m.				
Seattle at Sporting KC, 8:30 p.m.				

GOLF		
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