



Noa and 3 other Hamas hostages safe after daring rescue in Gaza



SAVED!

Noa Argamani celebrates freedom with her father, Yakov, following a Saturday-morning raid by Israeli special forces soldiers in Gaza. The 26-year-old woman became the face of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack after her savage kidnapping by a motorcycle-riding terrorist (inset). Three other hostages were rescued. **PAGES 4-6**

Petition to fix 1-day week 'mess' Kid ahead of DOE schedule



Jeaneh Moon

SEIZE THE DAY: Issac Regnier, 12, emailed Mayor Adams noting the folly of a one-day week before Christmas.

By RICH CALDER

Hey, teacher, leave them kids at home!

A 12-year-old Brooklyn student is leading the charge in demanding the city Department of Education drop a bizarre scheduling plan that requires students to show up for a one-day school week before Christmas break.

Isaac Regnier, a seventh-grader at IS 96 in Bensonhurst, started an online petition drive two weeks ago that has already garnered 6,400 signatures calling on Chancellor David Banks to "Fix the NYC Schools Calendar."

Currently, the DOE has kids coming in on Monday, Dec. 23, the day before winter break begins.

Isaac's ingenious plan: cancel class and make it up by extending the academic year by one day, to Friday, June 27.

"I know it's not an easy job with so many holidays on the school calendar. (I have them memorized.) But I hope it's not too late to avoid a silly one-day week," says the petition.

During an interview from his Bay Ridge home, Isaac said he's always been interested in calendars — and was flabbergasted to see the DOE had sched-

uled the one-day school week.

He predicted attendance will be very low Dec. 23 because many families will pull kids out of class to begin winter vacation three days earlier, on Friday, Dec. 20.

He's concerned a lack of students and teachers coming to school Dec. 23 will result in little classroom learning that day, plus the cancellation of annual winter holiday parties that usually occur the day before winter break.

Ignored by pols

The precocious pre-teen said he first tried appealing directly to Mayor Adams and Banks but was blown off.

"I emailed Mayor Adams [in April] but he did not write back," the student recalled. "Then I tried calling him, but he wouldn't respond. Then I emailed NYC Chancellor David Banks [in May] but he didn't respond, and I tried calling him as well, but when I called him he wouldn't respond."

Undeterred, he solicited help from his father and 10-year-old sister, Susanna, and drafted the online petition.

"We are very proud

From Isaac Regnier [redacted]@gmail.com
To mayorer@cityhall.nyc.gov
Date Apr 11, 2024 at 5:39 PM

Good evening Mayor Adams! My name is Isaac and I'm a 7th grader at Seth Low I.S. 96. I just wanted to let you know that on the DOE calendar for next year it says that winter break is from December 24-January 1. I think it's inconvenient that it starts on a Tuesday (December 24) instead of Monday (December 23). The reason why I think it's inconvenient is because the week before that we have a full week of school. Why would you want to spend a full week of school and then spend one more day of school before winter break?! Can you please change it to December 23-January 1 before the DOE calendar is finalized? I would really appreciate that!
Sincerely, Isaac.

that he has put his argument out there, and we hope it succeeds," dad Michael Regnier said.

Isaac proposed adding the extra day at the end of the school year because NYC schools must operate at least 180 days under New York law or risk losing state funding.

In 2019, the same scheduling snafu existed and a group of city school teachers successfully petitioned to keep schools closed Dec. 23, per Chalkbeat.com, which first reported Isaac's petition drive. The teach-

ers cited at least four other previous academic years where public schools were closed when Dec. 23 fell on a Monday.

'Common sense'

Carl Abend, a Bronx high school teacher, said he plans to sign the petition and hopes the DOE will come to its senses.

He said keeping schools open Dec. 23 "will be a major mess" because many teachers will use banked vacation days to take off.

"If they decide to keep the schools open, all they're gonna hear are crickets," he said.

City Hall spokesperson Amaris Cockfield said "we are proud of our students for speaking up for what they believe in and practicing their civic engagement skills, and we thank this student for their work in gathering signatures for their petition."

However, Cockfield encouraged "all students and families to ensure their child's attendance on Dec. 23."

Adams: There's a grand jury?!

Mayor Adams boisterously asserted he had "no idea" a grand jury had convened for the federal corruption probe into his campaign fundraising.

"I don't know, I'm not a lawyer. I'm Eric Adams, the mayor! Excop!" Hizzoner told clambering reporters (inset) upon his arrival at the 39th Annual 116th Street Festival in East Harlem on Saturday.

"No idea. No idea. No idea," he added as his team shot down further questions from the media.

Adams, 63, arrived two hours late to the city's Latin Festival just one day after The Post reported that the grand jury was reviewing evidence in the FBI probe, likely for the purpose of issuing subpoenas in the case.



Robert Miller

At least one person connected to the mayor was served a subpoena connected to the investigation, sources said.

Adams claimed he wasn't aware of the recent developments, despite repeatedly admitting he is a close reader of The Post.

"They don't tell me stuff. Let it follow the process... Speak to the counsel. The counsel will explain to you the normal process," he said.

The mayor did not speak again on the topic before taking the stage.

His former election rival, Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa, however, had plenty to say.

"The walls are closing in," the 2021 Republican mayoral candidate said at the festival. "'Swagger Man' has no plan to get out of this. He's not going to the White House. He originally thought he was. He may be going to the big house in chains and shackles."

Marie Pohl and Katherine Donlevy

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK

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- Evening Nos. Sat.: **375**
- Evening Win-4 Sat.: **9163**
- Evening Take-5 Sat.: **4, 13, 19, 23, 27**
- Pick-10 Sat.: **1, 3, 4, 11, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 39, 42, 50, 58, 65, 66, 68, 69, 72**
- Cash-4-Life Sat.: **6, 33, 41, 52, 60; Cash Ball: 4**
- Lotto Sat.: **7, 13, 14, 15,**

- 18, 35; Bonus: 16;**
- Powerball Sat.: **8, 38, 52, 54, 64; Powerball: 15;**
- Power Play: x3**

NEW JERSEY

- Pick-3 Sat.: **777; Fireball: 8**
- Pick-4 Sat.: **3207; Fireball: 8**
- Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **17, 18, 23, 37, 43; Xtra: 2**

CONNECTICUT

- Play-3 Sat.: **516; Wild: 4**
- Play-4 Sat.: **9345; Wild: 0**
- Cash-5 Sat.: **4, 21, 27, 33, 34**

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Tribeca firehouse serves up 'spirits'



WHO YA GONNA CALL? FDNY Ladder Co. 8 in Tribeca celebrates Ghostbusters Day for the original film's 40th anniversary. The event raises funds for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.



Shark-bite amputation

A woman had part of her arm amputated and two teens were hospitalized after back-to-back shark attacks off the Florida panhandle on Friday, per local officials.

The woman, 45, was swimming at Watersound Beach in Walton County when a shark bit her while she and her husband were just beyond the sandbar, South Walton Fire District Chief Ryan Crawford told reporters.

The shark bite caused "significant trauma" to her midsection and she had to have part of her left arm amputated, Crawford said, per ABC News. She was airlifted to HCA Fort Walton-Destin Hospital in critical condition.

Just 90 minutes later, about four miles down the beach, two girls, 15 and 17, were also attacked while swimming with their group of friends in waist-deep water, officials said. One of the girls suffered "significant injuries" to her upper leg and hand and was airlifted to Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola Hospital in critical condition, Crawford said. *Patrick Reilly*

QNS. PIZZA 'REEK'A

Pie boasts infamously foul fruit

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

The stink on this pizza can't be topped.

D.T. Restaurant in Flushing, Queens, is serving up \$14 piping-hot pies packed with the smelliest fruit on the planet — durian.

Inside the cavernous New York Food Court in Flushing, where the air was filled with the metallic clanging of cooks at stalls hawking Taiwanese-style steak and noodles, hungry diners proved divided on the pungent pizza's appeal.

"It is going to be stinky," plumber David Wang, 55, warned *The Post*.

The spiky tropical fruit — which can grow to the size of a football — is considered a delicacy by many across Southeast Asia, owing to its yellow, custard-like texture and flavor recalling notes of

caramel and vanilla, along with a slight bitterness.

At the same time, durian has garnered international notoriety for its wretched odor — a stench so overwhelming it has been mistaken for a gas leak and gotten the fruit banned from public transit and in hotels in Vietnam and Singapore.

Odor's up!

"I don't want to smell it too strongly — a little bit can give me a headache," Yuam Bing Liu, 36, said of durian, before chomping down on one of D.T.'s pies during her lunch break.

The pie, she raved, had a light sweetness from the fruit and a "very rich" mouthfeel, thanks to its broiled mozzarella cheese.

The offensive aroma, though far

tamer than that of the raw fruit, was nonetheless very palpable to those at the table.

"It turned out very delicious," she said, before adding, "I think it's better not to smell it too much."

Many diners pointed out that durian pizza for years has graced menus in China and Thailand. The combination, they added, isn't that different from another sweet — and divisive — pizza topping.

"People put pineapple on pizza. This is the same thing," said Elmhurst wholesaler Summer Yu, 30.

D.T. Restaurant isn't the only Big Apple eatery experimenting with the infamous fruit, which can cost over \$5 a pound.

Jeffrey Wang, owner of the East Village coffee shop Not As Bitter, told *The Post* that its best-selling menu item is a durian latte, mixed



FLAGRANT FRAGRANCE: Queens diner Bing Liu eats a slice topped with the stinky fruit durian.

with the fruit's pulp.

Sarah Huang, 24, a data policy analyst from Stamford, Conn., had only one gripe about D.T. Restaurant's pizza: more durian, please.

"It's too much cheese," she complained. *Additional reporting by J.C. Rice*

ISRAELI RAID



ARNON ZAMORA
Israeli anti-terror commander.

Fallen soldier an elite leader

The lone Israeli soldier killed in the operation to rescue four hostages in Gaza was a commander in the country's elite counterterrorism force, officials said.

Arnon Zamora's unit played a pivotal role in the successful return of hostages Noa Argamani, Almog Meir Jan, Andri Kozlov and Shlomi Ziv, who were being held captive at the Nuseirat refugee camp.

"Behind every rescue mission, are Israeli men and women who risk their lives. We are devastated to share that Chief Inspector Arnon Zamora, commander and tactical operator in the Yamam [National Police Counter-Terrorism Unit], who was critically wounded in the operation to rescue hostages this morning, has succumbed to his wounds," Israeli's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on X.

Zamora, 36, lived in Sde David, near the Israeli city of Sderot, less than 15 miles from the Gaza border. He leaves behind wife Michal, two children and his parents, Reuven and Ruthi, Haaretz reported.

He fought Oct. 7 at the Battle of Yad Mordechai, halting the advance of dozens of Hamas terrorists, officials said.

According to the Times of Israel, Ziv's sister, Revital Nasi, told Zamora's family, "We are so sorry and just want to say thank you."

Jon Levine
and Matthew Sedacca



via Reuters

Tearful reunion after 8 months Dad: 'What a gift I received'

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

Noa Argamani, who came to symbolize Hamas' savage attack on the Jewish state after video of her abduction went viral, received a tearful embrace from her father following her rescue Saturday by Israeli forces in Gaza.

Argamani, 26, a Chinese-born Israeli citizen, was seen in footage screaming as she was dragged off by Hamas terrorists to Gaza during their Oct. 7 terrorist rampage on the Jewish state.

She was rescued from the home of a well-off Gaza family, whom she had to convince to let her bathe and who seldom allowed her to see daylight, the former captive told her family, according to Israeli Channel 12. She also learned some Arabic from the family, and the father reportedly told her that she "was blessed by God" to be in their hands.

Following eight months in Hamas' clutches, Argamani hugged and kissed her father, Yakov, when the pair reunited, footage on social media showed (above).

They were also caught on cam-

era sharing a pair of Coca Colas in a hospital room in the Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv.

The elder Argamani said his daughter appeared to be "fine" and revealed his birthday coincided with the day of her rescue.

"See what a gift I received for my birthday," Yakov Argamani said in a statement.

He said of the remaining 116 hostages, including Noa Argamani's boyfriend, Avinatan Or, "We must make every effort, in every way possible, to bring them here to Israel, to their families."

"I am so happy to be here," Noa said on a phone call with Israeli President Isaac Herzog. "Thank you for everything, thank you for this moment."

"I am very moved," she said on another call with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "I haven't heard Hebrew for so long."

Argamani later reunited with her mother, Liora, who is battling stage four brain cancer, and in December pleaded to President Biden to secure her daughter's freedom so that she might be able to see her one more time.



via Reuters

Almog Meir Jan, 21 (with mom)



via Reuters

Andri Kozlov, 27



via Reuters

Shlomi Ziv, 41

FREES 4 HOSTAGES

Rescued in daring, 'complex' op within Gaza refugee camp

By MATTHEW SEDACCA, OLIVIA LAND and JON LEVINE

Israel Defense Forces freed four hostages held captive by Hamas during a daring raid in central Gaza on Saturday — including Noa Argamani, the young Israeli woman who became the terrified face of the murderous incursion on the Jewish state.

The audacious mission involved several days of highly covert preparations and even a diversionary operation to distract the terrorists, officials said.

"This is a clear message to Hamas," said IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari. "We are very determined to return the hostages home and will do so in any way and by any means possible."

The IDF, together with the Israeli police's Yamam elite counterterrorism unit and the Shin Bet intelligence unit, launched the "Seeds of Summer" rescue mission at 11 a.m. in the central Gazan Nuseirat refugee camp, where they targeted two Hamas-occupied buildings about 650 feet apart from each other housing the captives, the IDF said.

The "complex" operation to save Argamani, 25, Almog Meir Jan, 21, Andri Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41, took weeks of preparation, was based on "precise intelligence" and took place "under heavy fire," Hagari said.

In the days leading up to the mission, the Yamam unit drilled various means of extraction on models of the two buildings, which military officials compared to the famous 1976 Entebbe raid in Uganda.

When the order was given Saturday morning, Yamam officers simultaneously entered the two three- to four-story buildings where the four hostages were being held, the Times of Israel reported.

The military also launched an operation to the east of Nuseirat in an effort to reduce Hamas' manpower in the city and create a cover for the rescue mission.

Israeli forces received additional support from an American cell, a US official told CNN. No further details were available on the US role.

"They are back home in Israel. They are alive. They are well," Hagari said.

In other developments Saturday:

■ Rozita Ziv, the mother of rescued hostage Shlomi Ziv, was seen getting out of a car on the street blowing kisses as she rushed toward the hospital to greet her son. Shlomi Ziv was treated by Sheba Tel-HaShomer Medical Center's director of nursing, Mali Zander, whose daughter, Noa Zander, was among those murdered Oct. 7.

■ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thundered that Israel wouldn't abandon its mission to free the remaining 116 who were kidnapped by Hamas, before meeting with the hostages at the hospital. "We will not let go until we complete the mission and return all our hostages home, both the living and the dead," he said.

■ Hundreds rallied in Jerusalem's Paris Square on Saturday night, continuing to call for a hostage deal while celebrating the rescue, Times of Israel reported.

The rescue of Jan, Kozlov and Ziv from the third floor of one of the structures resulted in a "major gun battle," during which Yamam Chief Inspector Arnon Zamora was mortally wounded. He later died.

The hostages, however, were unharmed. "We have the diamonds in our hands," the commandos radioed, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Footage shared by the IDF showed the heart-stopping moment a helicopter swooped down and extracted the hostages from a temporary helipad.

The rescued hostages were all in good condition, according to initial medical assessments.

The raid was the largest single recovery of hostages captured by Hamas, bringing the number rescued up to seven.

Hamas officials claimed over 210 Palestinians were killed during the mission, including women and children. The IDF acknowledged civilians were injured and killed, but blamed Hamas for holding the hostages in a civilian environment.

President Biden said, "We won't stop working until all the hostages come home and a cease-fire is reached." *With Wires*

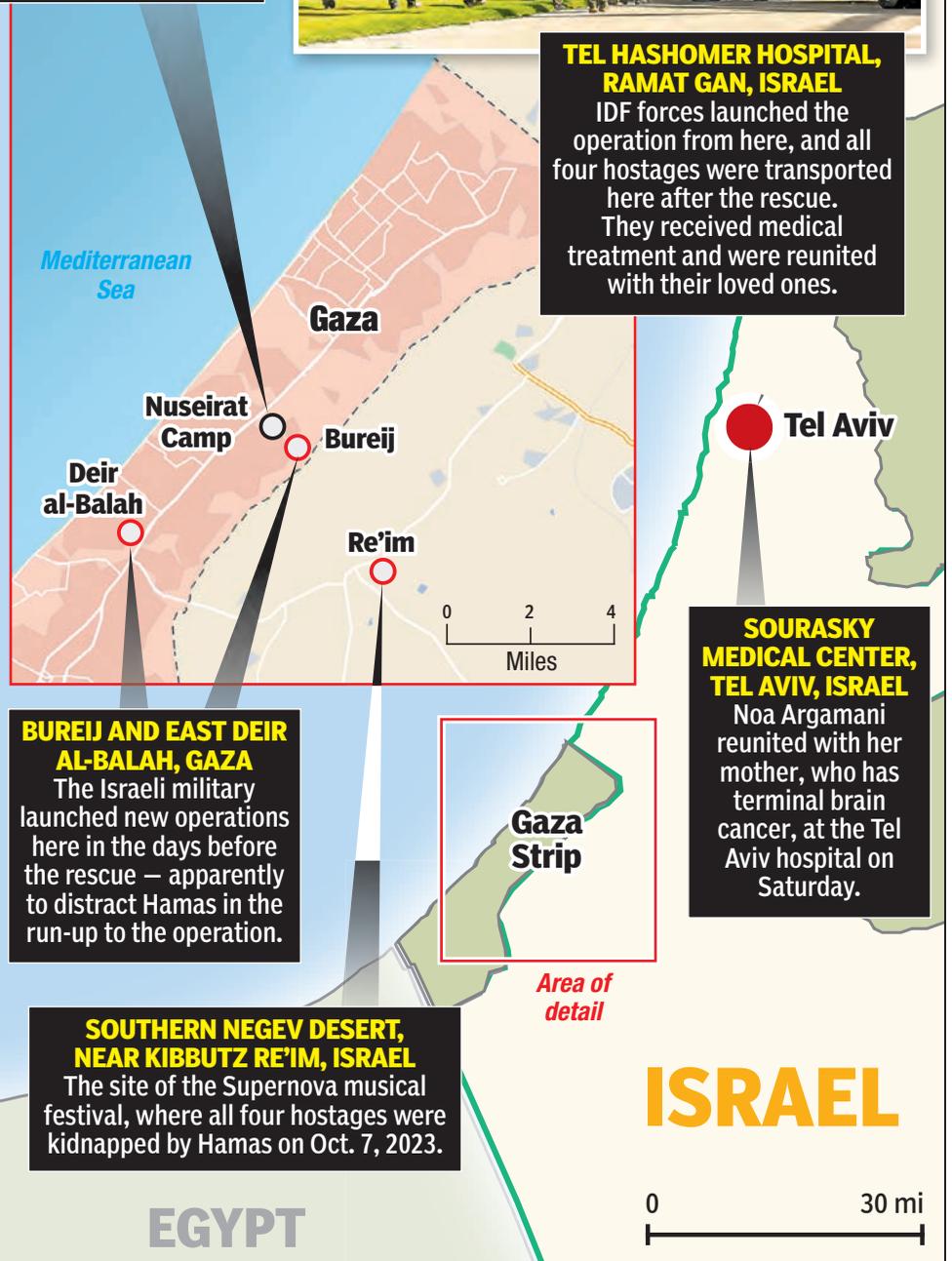
NUSEIRAT, CENTRAL GAZA

Four Israeli hostages — Noa Argamani, 25, Almog Meir Jan, 21, Andri Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41 — were rescued from two separate buildings in the city on Saturday morning.



TEL HASHOMER HOSPITAL, RAMAT GAN, ISRAEL

IDF forces launched the operation from here, and all four hostages were transported here after the rescue. They received medical treatment and were reunited with their loved ones.



BUREIJ AND EAST DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA

The Israeli military launched new operations here in the days before the rescue — apparently to distract Hamas in the run-up to the operation.

SOUTHERN NEGEV DESERT, NEAR KIBBUTZ RE'IM, ISRAEL

The site of the Supernova musical festival, where all four hostages were kidnapped by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023.

SOURASKY MEDICAL CENTER, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Noa Argamani reunited with her mother, who has terminal brain cancer, at the Tel Aviv hospital on Saturday.

ISRAEL

0 30 mi

ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

Elite kids learning Jew hate

Top schools' hail hell

By GEORGIA WORRELL
and DEIRDRE BARDOLF

Antisemitic hate is thriving in some of the city's most elite public high schools.

At Brooklyn Tech, Stuyvesant and Bronx Science — three of the city's nine specialized high schools — students have been tormented by peers giving Nazi salutes and accusing them of being part of a “genocide” of Palestinians, while school administrators and teachers also spew pro-Palestine propaganda, according to students and evidence obtained by The Post.

Last week, Stuyvesant's business manager Dina Ingram blasted out an email containing an anti-Israel protest guide from a George Soros-funded nonprofit to the entire school community “on behalf of Principal [Seung] Yu.”

The “School's Out for Palestine toolkit” encouraged students to sign up for the May 31 walkout calling for “an immediate ceasefire in Gaza & an end to US support for Israel's genocide of Palestinian people.”

The eight-page guide included resources for the youngsters to “prepare for & respond to backlash” and noted they didn't need their school's permission to participate.

An hour later, principal Yu (inset) emailed an apology and claimed the materials were “mistakenly included” instead of a letter about the walkout.

“We are deeply apologetic about this mistake,” read Yu's



email. “I want to reiterate that we do not endorse the walkouts and protests.”

Jewish families were “disturbed,” one parent said.

Students at Brooklyn Tech said they have been subjected to antisemitism since even before Oct 7. This week, one senior recalled an ugly episode two years ago where students in her sophomore history class booed and threw pennies at her while she gave a presentation on Israeli scholar Mordechai Kedar's “Eight State Solution.”

Shayna, now a senior, said another student gave the Hitler salute during her speech.

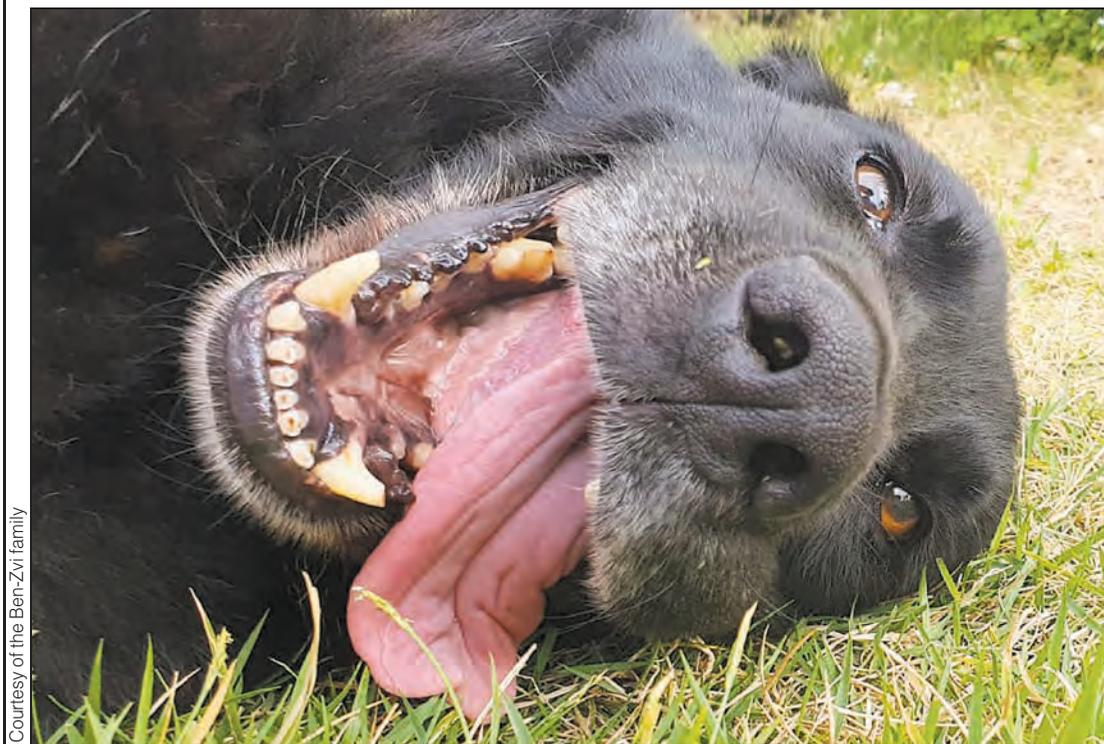
“I was kind of afraid to go to school after that, but more than fear, I feel disappointed that this is so normalized that there are no consequences,” she told The Post this week.

When she reported the behavior to administrators, Shayna claimed their response was, “It's not that serious.”

Antisemitism in the school has gotten worse since Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, according to Shayna and other Brooklyn Tech students.

This week, a two-page letter by pro-Palestine students posted on the walls of Bronx Science pressured the school community to join them in spewing anti-Israel rhetoric.

“With disregard to the genocide occurring and the lack of attention to the suffering of millions in Palestine, the school has decided to support Israel,” the letter laments.



Courtesy of the Ben-Zvi family

Fam's Oct. 7 hero pooch 'moves to farm upstate'



The heroic dog who saved her family's life when Hamas terrorists attempted to raid their home during the Oct. 7 attacks has died, her family told The Post.

As terrorists smashed through a kitchen window to the Ben-Zvi family's home in Kibbutz Be'eri in southern Israel, 11-year-old Petel, a Labrador mix, began madly barking from the safe room.

“She's jumping on the door, barking like crazy,” recalled Ela Ben-Zvi, 38.

The dog's bellowing was picked up by a baby monitor in the safe room linked to the house's stereo, which began blasting out the dog's snarls — sending the terrorists running.

“The same group of terrorists went inside two of neighbors' houses and killed them,” she added. “It's safe to assume her presence . . . saved our lives.”

When Israeli troops reached the Ben-Zvis' home later in the day,

the dog refused to leave the house.

“We couldn't carry her because I had one kid on my back and was dragging another, my husband was holding the youngest and the backpack with one set of clothes each,” she said, adding the soldiers couldn't carry the pooch and protect the family at the same time.

Before fleeing on foot under a volley of bullets, the couple locked Petel in their room with food and water, with plans to return in a couple of days.

The following Tuesday, however, the Ben-Zvis learned that Petel was found wounded at the kibbutz's front gate.

Soldiers bandaged the dog and brought her to a veterinarian clinic in Rehovot, where she underwent surgeries to fix a broken leg and remove shrapnel.

In March, the Ben-Zvis moved to a home with a yard, where they reunited with their furry champion, keeping her by their side until her sudden but peaceful death last week. *Matthew Sedacca*

GOOD GIRL: Petel the Labrador mix was injured on Oct. 7 after protecting her family. She died peacefully last week with her loved ones.



KATE MIDDLETON
Missed king's birthday prep.

Kate pens rehearsal apology

Kate Middleton apologized to the Irish Guards Saturday for missing a major rehearsal for King Charles' official birthday parade, the Trooping the Colour.

"I wanted to write and let you know how proud I am of the entire Regiment ahead of the . . . Trooping the Colour," Middleton, the honorary colonel of the Irish Guards, wrote in a letter.

"Being your Colonel remains a great honour," the letter continued, "and I am very sorry that I'm unable to take the salute at this year's Colonel's Review . . . however I do hope that I am able to represent you all once again very soon."

The procession at Horse Guards Parade in London marks the state-set King's Official Birthday on the second Monday of June. Charles was born Nov. 14, 1948.

The Princess of Wales has remained out of the public eye since she revealed her cancer diagnosis in March.

Nicholas McEntyre

Abused twirler catches \$4M

A national two-time baton-twirling champion won a \$4.2 million jury verdict in Brooklyn last week after suing the US Twirling Association for negligence, claiming she'd been drugged and sexually assaulted by a "creepy" local during a 2019 goodwill trip to Peru.

The victim, identified only as Jane Doe, testified during the nearly three-week trial in Brooklyn Federal Court against the Nassau County-based USTA's chaperone, Koralea Slagle, and President Karen Cammer.

Kathianne Boniello

\$14 / SCREAM CONE



BLOODY SUNDAE: Angelina Piro works the pricey New York Ice Cream truck Wednesday at Astoria Park. She blamed inflation for high prices.

Qns. uproar at truck's high-price small print

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

They all scream at this price tag! Queens parents are having a meltdown over an ice-cream truck's astronomical prices — including \$14 for a waffle cone.

On a scorching Tuesday afternoon, unsuspecting parents found themselves digging back into their wallets to afford double-digit frozen treats from the bubblegum-pink New York Ice Cream truck set up near Astoria Park.

"I gave her \$20, thinking I was going to get some change back, and then she told me it's more. They got me good!" exclaimed Henry Fernandez, who forked over \$26 to treat his two kids to a small sundae and shake float after playing soccer in the park.

"Some people are taking advantage of inflation," Fernandez added. "I was thinking it'd cost me maybe \$8."

Many patrons griped they were unaware that they were paying so much until the treats were in their

kids' hands — because the prices are displayed in a tiny font near the roof of the truck.

"Once you give your kids ice cream, you're going to take it away from them? They're going to get pissed at you and you're going to have a difficult afternoon," said Alison Bruce, who forked over \$14 for a waffle cone for her 11-year-old son.

'It's out of control!'

Other Big Apple ice cream trucks have raised their prices during inflation but customers are suffering less sticker shock.

In Union Square, a pair of Mister Softee trucks sold waffle cones and sundaes for \$8 cash, or \$9 for those using a credit card, including tax. And prices were clearly displayed next to product images.

Ice cream vendors in Downtown Brooklyn and Manhattan's Upper West Side had identical prices.

Even the youths think that their parents are getting taken for a



ride by the Astoria vendor.

"It's out of control!" cried 11-year-old Isabella Diaz (pictured above right, with sister Angelina), whose mother coughed up \$10 for her double ice cream cone.

Steven Christensen, executive director for the North American Ice Cream Association, said the \$14 waffle cone is likely the result of simple opportunity.

"A lot of times, you're striking while the iron is hot," he said. "You've got a captive audience."

Joe's bad economy

Christensen added that ice cream trucks and shops have raised prices in recent years between 5% to 10% annually, due to

higher labor, food and gasoline costs.

At the pricey Astoria Park truck, other tabs included: \$5 for a cake cone — but only if paid in cash; \$10 for a double cone, \$12 for a sundae or shake, and \$14 for floats. All customers using credit card and digital payments get dinged with a 99-cent fee, plus tax.

Angelina Piro, 19, who operated the truck, admitted the prices were "not completely perfect" but justified her employer's sky-high fees as the result of inflation and premium pricing for the location.

"In The Bronx, you could get a cone for \$3," she said.

Reps for New York Ice Cream did not respond to requests for comment. msedacca@nypost.com

DON NOM OR BUST



LOCK HIM UP? Donald Trump arrives to speak to a campaign rally at the Las Vegas Convention Center in 2020. Now there's a chance he might be behind bars for this year's Republican Convention in Milwaukee on July 15.

By JON LEVINE

GOP plans for 'if Trump's in jail' during convention

Republican grandees are planning “contingencies” in the event former President Donald Trump is incarcerated after his sentencing next month, officials and insiders say.

Trump will be sentenced on July 11 by Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan after he was convicted of 34 felony counts stemming from hush-money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels.

Merchan has a buffet of possible sentences he could impose on the presumptive GOP nominee — including prison time.

The Republican convention in Milwaukee is scheduled to begin on July 15.

“I was at a dinner where that question was asked by a donor and RNC staff said that there were contingency plans in place,” said one Trump fundraiser, who said party officials declined at the time to get into details. “My understanding is Trump could [accept the nomination] from

wherever. Does he physically need to be there? I don’t think so.”

‘We have to be ready’

One recently departed official from the Republican National Committee told The Post “my suspicion of what you do if the guy is actually in jail — which, who knows, right — I think you probably have him do some kind of video in advance just in case.”

One Republican delegate from New York said there had been some chatter about possibly moving up the convention. The idea is discussed as an emergency possibility in the convention rules adopted in November 2023 — as Trump’s trial loomed.

Trump does not need to be physically present at the convention to accept the nomination, according to multiple insiders.

“We have to be ready for anything,” said RNC co-chair Lara Trump on CNN last week. “Whether its from Trump Tower in Manhattan, whether it’s from Mar-a-Lago, whether it’s from our convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, we will nominate Donald Trump as our Republican nominee and that’s what ultimately matters.”

While prison time has been speculated as unlikely — due to Trump’s advanced age and his hitherto clean criminal record — legal insiders close to Trump say it’s not as remote as people think.

Allen Weisselberg, former

chief financial officer of the Trump Organization, was sentenced to five months at Rikers Island by Merchan in January 2023 after pleading guilty to an array of fraud and tax crimes. Weisselberg, 76, also had no prior criminal history.

People close to Weisselberg said Merchan made it known it would have been worse had the defendant not pled guilty and forced a jury to render a verdict — as Trump did.

Should Trump be remanded on July 11, his legal team would make an emergency appeal to the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department, which could decide to let him out — but not before he would be forced to spend at least a few hours behind bars.

Jimmy's spirit is strong

Former President Jimmy Carter has experienced “no change” to his health condition since entering hospice care nearly 16 months ago in Georgia, his grandson said.

Jason Carter, the oldest of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter’s 22 grandchildren, recently told Southern Living magazine the frail 99-year-old ex-commander in chief (inset) is “experiencing the world as best he can as he continues through this process.”



Rosalynn died in November.

“After 77 years of marriage . . . I just think none of us really understand what it’s like for him right now,” said Jason Carter. “We have to embrace that fact, that there’s things about the spirit that you just can’t understand.”

Average hospice stays are around 70 days. Carter entered hospice care in his hometown of Plains, Ga., in February 2023.

Jason said he visited his grandfather a few weeks back, adding they watched an Atlanta Braves game and talked about the ex-president’s nonprofit Carter Center and the family.

“I told him, I said: ‘Pawpaw, you know, when people ask me how you’re doing I say, ‘honestly I don’t know,’” recalled Jason. “And he kind of smiled and he said, ‘I don’t know, myself.’”

Rich Calder

\$30K grooming for Chi. mayor

Progressive Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson spent a jaw-dropping \$30,000 in campaign-finance funds on personal grooming since launching his bid for office, according to a report.

Johnson used contributions to his Friends of Brandon Johnson campaign fund to pay for makeup and hair appointments, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Nearly all of the money went to makeup artist and “skin-care enthusiast” Denise Milloy, according to a campaign finance report.

Johnson’s campaign rep had previously boasted how a majority of the mayor’s campaign contributions came from “working class people” and from labor unions, who funneled cash into his progressive campaign. *Patrick Reilly*



Michael Goodwin

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JOE Biden's trip to France proved two big things: He's no Ronald Reagan, and he forgot to pack his patriotism.

Along the way, he also managed to cheapen historic heroes by trying to score partisan political points with attacks on Donald Trump and House Republicans.

Whatever happened to the tradition that partisanship stops at the water's edge?

Other than that, heckuva job, Mr. President.

Biden's visit to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion was overshadowed from the start by Reagan's exceptional speech at the same spot 40 years earlier. Although the contrast must have eaten at Biden, who bitterly opposed almost everything Reagan did and stood for, White House aides used the Gipper's speech as a guide for Biden's.

That was their first mistake. Their second was to so closely echo Reagan's description of the Army rangers who climbed the cliffs of Omaha and Utah beaches in the face of withering German fire that Biden is being accused on social media of plagiarism.

Reagan saluted the "boys of Pointe du Hoc," some of whom sat before him with tears in their eyes.

"These are the men who took the cliffs," he said. "These are the champions who helped free a continent. These are the heroes who helped end a war."

Biden cited the "ghosts of Pointe du Hoc," and said "These rangers put mission and country above themselves. Does anyone believe they would exact any less from every American today?"

An actual similarity both presidents faced are the global circumstances. Reagan was trying to hold a fractured alliance together in the face of the Soviet Union's occupation of much of Europe, while Biden struggles to hold NATO together to counter Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But once again, there was no comparison in the quality of ideas or in expression. Reagan came off as a towering international leader, while Biden, as usual, sounded an uncertain trumpet.

Peggy Noonan, credited with writing most of Reagan's speech, describes what she called the "speech within the speech."

"The Western alliance was falling apart," she writes in her Wall Street Journal column. "Its political leaders were under severe pressure at home. British, West German and Italian peace movements had risen and gained influence in 1982 and 1983, pushing to stop the U.S.-Soviet arms race . . .



A bitter mockery of Reagan on D-Day

In New York, a million antinuclear protesters had marched from Central Park to the United Nations."

It was, she recalls, "one of the tensest moments of the Cold War."

For Biden, the global picture took a back seat to domestic politics. Reagan also faced re-election in the year of his Normandy speech, but he handled that challenge in a way that shames Biden's approach.

Gipper and Griper

Reagan never cited, even indirectly, his opponent or any domestic issue. Instead, he focused on America's role of leading the free world against Soviet communism.

Seven years earlier, before becoming president, he had outlined his vision of American policy toward the Soviets as, "We win, they lose."

In 1984, that remained an extremely controversial idea, with the smart set in Washington and Europe convinced the USSR would remain a permanent power and that containment was the only realistic hope.

But Reagan had a big idea, and the Soviet Union would break up two years after he left office.

Biden's only idea is a second term, and the speech within his speech was all about Trump.

He used the dramatic backdrop to restate his constant claims that democracy will end if Trump wins, although he didn't mention

his opponent's name.

Speaking of the Army rangers in one telling sequence, he said, "They're not asking us to scale these cliffs. They're asking us to stay true to what America stands for."

The media, prompted by the White House, got the message. The headline in The New York Times declared, "Biden Straddles the Patriotic and the Political in Speech at Normandy."

The Wall Street Journal was more explicit, writing "Against D-Day Backdrop, Biden Puts Democracy at Center of Anti-Trump Pitch."

Biden's other big no-no came during a Paris meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, where he groveled over a delay in sending military aid.

"I apologize for the weeks of not knowing what was going to pass, in terms of funding, because we had trouble getting the bill that we had to pass, that had the money in it," he told Zelensky. "Some of our very conservative members were holding it up."

Imagine that. America has expended vast resources to help Ukraine defend its territory, and Republicans held out to get Biden's commitment to defending America's southern border.

That sure sounds like democracy in the way the Framers imagined it. And for that the president apologizes?

Not incidentally, Biden's former boss, Barack Obama, was also fond of traveling abroad and complaining about Americans.

Most notably, he did it in Cairo in his apology to Muslims for America's history.

If Trump did that, he would face an avalanche of criticism for trashing his own country on foreign soil.

Democrats and their media mouthpieces would declare that breaking norms is the greatest sin in politics and absolute proof of unfitness for the Oval Office.

Which is what they say every time Trump does something they don't like.

Calling foul

The instant historians at The Washington Post once listed the top 20 norms Trump broke during his presidency.

CNN limited itself to 10, saying he "flouted the limits of presidential power unlike any of his recent predecessors," and cited a "daily deluge of controversial tweets and distractions."

Ah yes, mean tweets. Off with his head!

The WaPo list of Trump's sins included firing people, presumably including the crooked FBI director Jim Comey — no doubt a Post source — and insulting allied leaders.

Although the outlet acknowledged that norm-smashers of yore

included Thomas Jefferson, Woodrow Wilson and FDR, only Trump was singled out as a flagrant violator.

The entire concept, of course, is ridiculous.

For example, No. 15 on the Post list was that Trump used "government resources for partisan ends," which the paper said included attacks on "political enemies during official presidential addresses."

Doesn't Biden do that almost daily?

Also relevant was No. 10 on the WaPo list — "Politicizing diplomacy and foreign policy."

Which perfectly describes what Biden just did in France.

And that's not even to mention Democrats' efforts to ban Trump from state ballots, bankrupt and imprison him.

All of those are historic firsts, and yet Trump is the threat to democracy?

As stupid as the argument sounds, it's not trivial. It is part of the core case against Trump, which is that he doesn't play by the rules Washington established and therefore can't be trusted.

It could be a powerful argument — except that most Americans now believe Washington is indeed a cesspool of crooks and self-dealers and that their government is failing them.

In that sense, Biden's biggest problem isn't Trump. It's that he keeps proving the public is right.

'Divorcing' Jen-Ben dumping manse



Jennifer Lopez and husband Ben Affleck are reportedly selling their \$60 million Beverly Hills marital home amid rumors of their looming divorce.

Multiple sources told TMZ Saturday that for about two weeks, The Agency Realtor Santiago Arana has been showing the California home Lopez and Affleck bought in May 2023, 10 months after they tied the knot.

Arana has reportedly been showing the home for about two weeks but there haven't been any buyers yet.

TMZ said the stars are asking "around \$65 million" — a loss of "millions of dollars" because of the broker's commission, "a new tax on super-expensive properties and significant money they plunked down in improvements."

Tamantha Ryan

©CelebCandidly/MEGA

Hit-&-miss migrant scam

Jump in cars' path

By GEORGIA WORRELL

Migrants are brazenly jumping in front of moving cars in Brooklyn in a bid to get hit and squeeze cash out of frightened drivers.

Since The Post first reported on the scam earlier this year, they have apparently ramped up their harrowing efforts to get hit, according to Rockaway residents.

Dash-cam video shared with The Post shows what appears to be a migrant launching himself in front of a moving vehicle traveling in the right lane on Flatbush Avenue South, causing the driver to swerve into the left lane and narrowly avoid hitting him.

"All of the sudden, I see a

man in front of my car with eyes wide open, screaming, staring at me in the eye. . . He was trying to get me to run him over," said the 37-year-old driver, who only gave the name Christina.

She said the incident occurred on May 6 just before 7:30 a.m. as she drove to work in Bensonhurst.

Christina, who lives in Rockaway Beach, suspects the man lived at the emergency migrant shelter at nearby Floyd Bennett Field.

At least three other Rockaway Beach residents have almost become victims to the twisted trick, according to posts in an area Facebook group.

"Someone did this to me outside the 7/11 on Flatbush about three weeks ago," one



"HITTING THE ROAD": Dashcam footage reportedly shows someone trying to jump in front of a moving vehicle.

person wrote.

In a separate post on May 6, another woman wrote that "a man jumped in front of my daughter's car this morning" on Flatbush Avenue. "She was able to brake in time and didn't hit him."

In January, a retired NYPD cop from Bergen Beach told The Post that details of the apparent extortion scheme were dis-

cussed by concerned residents and 63rd Precinct cops at a neighborhood meeting.

"They're scaring people saying, 'You just hit me, and I'm going to report it if you don't give me the money,'" he explained.

The NYPD said no reports about such incidents have been filed with the department.

'Insure fraud' curb

Two state lawmakers are pushing bills to try to curb insurance fraud.

Sen. Neil Breslin (D-Albany) proposed a measure to make staging construction accidents a class E felony carrying jail sentences from one to five years, plus fines. Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Queens) introduced a companion bill in the Assembly.

The two also seek to beef up an existing law on arranging car crashes, which is already a felony.

Breslin's measure, introduced on Jan. 29, is opposed by the New York AFL-CIO, which claims it could jeopardize worker safety by making it more

difficult for legitimately injured hardhats to be compensated.

But it's got the backing of Staten Island DA Michael McMahon.

"Sadly, these insurance scams have become all too common," McMahon wrote Breslin on May 6 in his role as president of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York.

The letter was prompted by growing concern among prosecutors that gangsters are behind the flurry of fake construction accidents, according to a source close to McMahon.

Both bills are stuck in committee. *Brad Hamilton*

ITALY

Hailstorms, droughts and landslide-inducing downpours around the northern town of Asolo have created a prosecco-production crisis.

The weather has damaged the glera grapes used to create the popular sparkling wine.

To ward against the weather, farmers are using nets to guard the grapes against rain and planting fig trees to help shade the vines.

JAPAN

The government is promoting the export of anime and manga games and music as part of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's "new capitalism" initiative.

In a draft of the plan, the art forms are referred to as "proud as-sets of Japan."

AUSTRALIA

There was no snow to be found on the opening day of the Down Under ski season Saturday.

The only ski-on chairlift in the entire nation was at Mount Buller in the southeast state of Victoria, which had to resort to artificial snow to coat the slopes.

Officials blame climate change and fear a "no winter" financial calamity in coming years.

SOUTH AFRICA

The African National Congress political party, which has governed the country since the end of apartheid in 1994, is working on a proposal to transform the state's leftover COVID financial grants to "alleviate poverty and hunger for all vulnerable people."

The effort, a form of universal basic income, would make South Africa the first nation with a policy of paying a regular grant to everyone between the ages of 18 and 59, without a condition that they have to be looking for employment.

However, the ANC lost its majority in Parliament in May elections, which means it must now engage in negotiations with rival parties to advance the plan.

ICELAND

The famed Blue Lagoon in Grindavík was evacuated for the third time in two months after volcanic eruptions threatened the geothermal spa in a lava field.

The shutdown of one of the country's most popular tourist attractions came after the fifth eruption since December of a volcano between the Hagafell and Stora Skogfell mountains in the southwest. *Angela Barbuti, Wires*

LOVE AND 'WAR'



FRENCH KISSED: WWII vet Harold Terens, 100, and Jeanne Swerlin, 96, arrive Saturday for their wedding in Normandy, France.

Vet, 100, bride, 96, wed in Normandy

By ANGELA BARBUTI

A 100-year-old World War II veteran married his 96-year-old sweetheart Saturday near the D-Day beaches of Normandy, France.

New York City natives Harold Terens and Jeanne Swerlin tied the knot at the town hall of Carentan, where the famous World War II Battle of Carentan took place between the US and Germany, just two days after the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

"It's not just for young people, love, you know? We get butterflies. And we get a little action, also," said Swerlin, who wore a long pink dress.

The couple, who are both widowed, have been dating since 2021. Terens is from The Bronx

while Swerlin is a native of Brooklyn.

Onlookers, some donning WWII-era clothing, lined up at the town hall an hour before the wedding to wish the happy couple well on their big day. There was also a pipe and drum band on hand to provide some sweet serenades. Although their vows were read by Carentan's mayor, Jean-Pierre Lhonneur, in English, the couple still said, "Oui," meaning "Yes," in French instead of "I do." Lhonneur's office stated that the wedding was not legally binding, but a symbolic ceremony, since he cannot wed foreigners who are not residents of Carentan, and the couple did not ask for legally binding vows.

After the celebration, Terens proposed a toast to the crowd

gathered outside.

"To everybody's good health," he said. "And to peace in the world and the preservation of democracy all over the world and the end of the war in Ukraine and Gaza."

'Greatest kisser'

On Saturday night, the newlyweds were guests of honor at a dinner at the Elysee Palace in Paris, home to France's President Emmanuel Macron, with Macron and President Biden in attendance.

On June 6, 1944, more than 150,000 Allied troops invaded five Nazi Germany-occupied beaches in Normandy, which ultimately led to the end of the war.

D-Day, which claimed the lives

of 4,000 Allied soldiers, was the largest naval, air and land invasion in history.

Terens enlisted in 1942 and was sent to Great Britain the following year, serving as a radio repair technician for a four-pilot P-47 Thunderbolt fighter squadron. All his original pilots died in the war.

On D-Day, he aided in repairing planes coming back from France and said half his company's pilots died that day.

The spunky seniors weren't shy about expressing their affection for one another on their wedding day.

"He's the greatest kisser ever, you know?" Swerlin said before they had a passionate embrace.

With Wires
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LUCY MORGAN
Freak badminton accident.

Tragic angel's eerie question

Just weeks before being killed in a freak badminton accident, a 6-year-old New Jersey girl approached her mother with an eerie question.

Lucy Morgan asked her mother, Bethany, "how to be with God and be saved" two weeks before part of a

splintered badminton racquet pierced her skull on a family vacation, according to the obituary shared with The Post by her pastor father, James.

"Bethany explained it to her, offering to pray together, but in her characteristic independence,

Lucy wanted to do it herself," her obituary said. "She went to her room and prayed to God . . . She later journaled about it, expressing her love for God in words and pictures."

Lucy loved drawing, dancing, soccer, attending church and spending time

with her family, her obituary revealed.

"Lucy's loving spirit touched the hearts of all who knew her," it added.

A GoFundMe campaign established to support the family has already raised more than \$100,000.

Chris Harris

Old cricket enclave thrives amid World Cup

Wild & wicket in NY

By CHRIS HARRIS

The eyes of the cricket-loving world are fixed on Long Island Sunday, as the Cricket World Cup continues with archrivals Pakistan and India playing before 34,000 diehards.

But it's on a different New York island where the bat-and-ball game has thrived for more than 150 years.

The Staten Island Cricket Club is the oldest continuously active cricket club in America, founded in 1872 by British Wall Street traders.

"In New York City, the Staten Island Cricket Club remains the most diverse," offered Clarence Modeste, 94, the club's president. "And the club's view has always been cricket belongs to everyone."

Over the decades the club has played host to legends of the sport, including Australian cricket pioneer Don Bradman, iconic English batsman Geoffrey Boycott and Garry Sobers, the Barbados cricketer who played for the West Indies from 1954 to 1974.

Modeste, who hails from Tobago and had to give up playing

the game six years ago at the ripe age of 88, grew up around cricket.

"What's important is the spirit of the game — that it is not just a game," Modeste said. "You don't just go out to beat your opponent. You do want to win, but you go about it in a gentlemanly way — a civilized way."

Modeste, a Queens Village resident who's retired from the medical field, learned about the Staten Island Cricket Club in 1961, and quickly joined.

Social occasion

"Cricket has great meaning to us," he said. "Playing the game is of primary importance. Winning the game is a secondary concern. The social aspect of cricket is extremely important."

At SICC, matches honor traditional cricket rules, where play can last all day. The ones being played on Long Island are T20 matches, which are generally faster, higher-scoring affairs.

"The younger teams playing the T20 version, they go, they play, and they go home — they don't



NY Post: Chad Rachman

BOWLING FOR FUN: A Staten Island Cricket Club bowler (above) throws against a Columbia University batsman Saturday at Walker Park (below) in Livingston, Staten Island, part of a tradition going back to 1872.

Cricket anyone?

What: Cricket World Cup

Where: Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, East Meadow, LI, 34,000 capacity

Big match: India vs. Pakistan, Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Traffic alert: Park Boulevard closed 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Merrick Avenue closed 7 a.m.-6 p.m. from Hempstead Turnpike to Lindbergh Boulevard

TV viewing: WillowTV on Sling and Fubo



socialize," said Modeste. "With the traditional game, you have the social aspect. After the match, you go have a beer with your opponents in the clubhouse, and try to enjoy the camaraderie that envelops cricket and perpetuates it."

Today, the club boasts some 50 members hailing from India, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Ireland, England, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the US. They come from across the five boroughs and New Jersey to the 5-acre Walker Park in Livingston to play the game they love.

A fire in 1932 destroyed the clubhouse and its earliest records, so Modeste doesn't know how many members the club had at its inception, but at its height, it had 500.

Like baseball, the game features cork-and-leather balls and wooden bats, and teams attempt to score as many runs as they can. But the cricket playing field is circular, teams have 11 players instead of nine and fielders don't wear mitts. There are no bases, and there are bowlers instead of pitchers.

Overs and overs

In the middle of the field, or "oval," is "the pitch."

Teammates stand on opposite ends of the pitch, in front of catchers and two stumps. Each holds a bat. The bowler launches the ball towards the batter. If the batter hits it into the air or grounds it, the two teammates

start running back and forth across the pitch until a fielder returns the ball.

Each time the two players cross paths, a run is scored, and each team plays until it gets 50 overs, or outs. Then, the game's over.

Six missed bowled balls results in an over. And if the bowler happens to hit the batter's stumps, dislodging the wickets atop them, that, too, is an over. An over can also result from a caught ball.

After soccer, cricket is the world's most popular sport, with an estimated 2.5 billion fans. However, in the United States, it remains a fringe sport, with an estimated 30 million fans calling America home, according to the International Cricket Council.

Cruise ship's 2nd tragic fall Bathroom vapers smoked out

A passenger died Thursday when he went overboard on an MSC Cruises ship that was sailing through the deepest fjord in Norway, the second time within three months somebody fell from the vessel.

The man "in his late 50s" plunged from the MSC

Euribia at around 2 a.m. as the ship sailed through the Sognefjord, known as the King of the Fjords, Norwegian newspaper Bergens Tidende reported.

A rescue helicopter recovered the man from the 4,300-foot-deep waters about an hour later and

flew him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The circumstances around the incident were not clear, but a police officer told the paper that it is being investigated as a "suspicious death."

Katherine Donlevy

Middle school students in one Long Island town won't be sneaking in any more smoke breaks, after school officials had the bathrooms fitted with "vape detectors."

Lindenhurst MS installed the FlySense FS300 vape detectors which are capable of detecting the presence of

both nicotine and THC — found in marijuana — in the air.

The detectors can sense air quality as well as shifts in sound, meaning they can even alert school officials when fights break out inside the restrooms.

Derek Peterson of Soter

Technologies told CBS the detectors possess an AI algorithm that can differentiate between a door and toilet lid slam and "when somebody is roughhousing in the bathroom."

Peterson said there are no microphones built into the detectors. Chris Harris

Social worker savaged

An upstate New York social worker is clinging to life after being savagely beaten nearly to death while conducting a home visit last month.

Maria Coto, 56, of Westchester, has been on life support ever since the savage May 14 attack in Peekskill left her with facial fractures and severe brain swelling and bleeding.

Authorities have arrested the suspected attacker, Hasseem Jenkins, 31, and charged him with attempted murder and assault with intent to cause physical injury, according to online court records.

Coto was checking on a client when the unprovoked attack unfolded.

Jenkins “repeatedly punch[ed] Coto with his fists and did repeatedly kick Ms. Coto with heavy boots ... above the head and body causing Ms. Coto to sustain severe brain bleed, swelling of the brain, and multiple facial fractures,” reads the criminal affidavit, obtained by the Peekskill Herald.

She was rushed to the Medical Center in Valhalla, where she underwent surgery.

After the attack, Westchester County Executive George Latimer approved an emergency contract, expanding security escorts for social workers. Oftentimes, case-workers will conduct home visits in pairs. *Chris Harris*

Truck kills Citi biker

A cyclist on an electric Citi Bike was killed when he was struck by a beer-delivery truck in Manhattan, police said.

The Lagunitas beer truck was turning from West 50th Street onto 11th Avenue shortly after 2 p.m. Friday when it struck the 32-year-old cyclist, authorities said.

EMS pronounced the man dead at the scene, cops said.

“The operator of the truck remained on the scene, there are no arrests and the investigation is ongoing,” an NYPD spokesman said.

The man’s name was withheld pending family notification.

Dean Balsamini

BATTLE 'GROUND



By DEIRDRE BARDOLF, CLAIRE SAMSTAG and JON LEVINE

The war of the concrete jungle gym has erupted on the Upper West Side, where tensions are in full swing at a playground on West 90th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues as housing-project residents battle to keep private-school families, including those from the \$64,000-a-year Trinity School, out of their renovated playground.

“Once they redid the playground, everybody and their mamas started coming,” said Cheryl Russell, 62, a 13-year resident of the Stephen Wise Towers. “They give these looks like we’re the visitors.”

The tug-of-war escalated last week when signs went up banning nonresidents in Cassone Playground, also known as “Llama Park” for its concrete horses often mistaken for llamas.

“Can’t you read,” angry residents have shouted at parkgoers. One nanny said a resident yelled at her, “You tell the other nannies that they can’t come here, either.”

Residents say the rich kids disrespect residents and the space, which was renovated earlier this year after a private management company took over for the New York City Housing Authority.

“I’ve heard kids say in several cases, ‘Oh, I can’t play with you because you’re black’ or, ‘Why you in my park?’” said Russell.

She said people let their kids run through and even pee in the gardens because there are no public bathrooms — which resulted in a neighbor temporarily hanging a sign that read, “Curb your child.”

They beautified the place, why can’t we keep it that way?” she said.

Tenants say more outsiders than residents fill the park some days. “It’s okay if you want to come, but don’t monopolize,” Russell added.

“We love all kids, but treat everybody the same,” another longtime resident, Beverly, said.

She once witnessed a resident



FOUL PLAY? Kids, including some in private school uniforms, fill refurbished Cassone Playground, which is meant for residents of the Stephen Wise Towers projects.

Rich kids fill UWS projects' new park

FOR WISE TOWERS RESIDENTS ONLY

Once they redid the playground, everybody and their mamas started coming. They give these looks like we’re the visitors.

— Cheryl Russell



tell a man it was against the rules to have his dog in the park. “The man turned around and said, ‘shut up, you bitch,’” Beverly said.

The police were called to the location twice regarding disputes, but no arrests were made, sources said.

On May 24, before the official signs went up, someone taped the gate closed and hung up flyers saying, “This park is for Wise

Tower residents only” and “This is not a public park.”

The residents appear to be within their right to limit access. The playground is not under jurisdiction of the Parks Department.

“NYCHA campuses are private property,” an authority spokesman told The Post, noting residents have expressed concerns about access to the playground and

treatment of the new equipment.

“We support Wise Towers’ residents and their desire to restrict use of the space to residents of the development and the property manager’s signage to notify nonresidents that the courtyard is not a public space,” he said.

Trinity previously had an agreement to use the space for kindergarten classes and recess, the West Side Rag reported — but in a May 28 email, the school said it would no longer be using the grounds. Wrote principal Kristin Crawford, “I suggest families also suspend playing there after school and over the weekends.”

B’nai Jeshurun, an Upper West Side Hebrew school, had to stop using it as well, parents said.

“I understand both sides but I would hate to see this place get shut off to the community,” said David Owens, a dad of two who lives nearby and has visited the park for over 50 years. “You want to bring the community together — playgrounds are what do that.”

Helaine Seligman

Smith headed for a 'slappy' ending



JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI

A month ago, I was sitting on a beach in Florida talking to a new friend about upcoming summer movies.

When I mentioned “Bad Boys: Ride or Die,” which hit theaters this weekend, the New Jersey woman’s response was instant — and angry. “Will Smith is dead to me,” she said.

Ouch.

Two years after the infamous Oscars smack — when Smith stormed the stage of the Dolby Theater and slapped presenter Chris Rock for making a jab about Smith’s wife, Jada Pinkett Smith — it still stings for many ticket-buyers.

Let alone Rock.

The actor’s televised assault of the comic and unheeded shouts of “Get my wife’s name out of your f---king mouth!” shattered his public image as a charismatic and funny life of the party who could wring laughs even out of a devastating alien invasion.

The hit was enough to get him banned from the Oscars until 2032.

Frankly, he’s lucky that he wasn’t arrested. Any of us normals would have been fired on the spot and hauled away.

Smith got to make a Best Actor speech and keep the trophy.

Falling star

Now, he is attempting a big Hollywood comeback with “Ride or Die,” the mediocre fourth entry in the buddy-cop series, which looks to open to about \$50 million this weekend.

That’s a healthy number, if about \$10 million behind the last installment’s opening.

But could its success be less indicative of Smith’s mass appeal than that of the popular, 20-year-old brand and his hilarious co-star Martin Lawrence?

“Just can’t look at Will the same, but Martin is my guy [and I] wish him nothing but success,” another woman wrote on TikTok.

Can the stained star still carry a



IMAGE TAKES A HIT: Will Smith stars, with Martin Lawrence, in “Bad Boys: Ride or Die,” his biggest film since he slapped Chris Rock at the Oscars.



major film alone?

“Bad Boys” is Smith’s biggest movie since he won an Oscar and lost his mind, but not the first.

In late 2022, he starred in a prestige drama for Apple called “Emancipation,” about a runaway slave during the Civil War. Critics gave it mixed reviews, and nobody watched it.

That flop might be a blip. But it’s also a bad sign for the “Bad Boy.”

At 55 years old, Smith’s action-hero clock is ticking.

And meaty dramas such as the tremendous “King Richard,” the Serena and Venus Williams biopic for which he won Best Actor, are essential to him sticking around.

Yes, there are older action stars in Hollywood, but Denzel Washington, Liam Neeson and Tom Cruise don’t deliver the youthful, sexy, comedic mix that Smith does.

That steamy — rather than gritty

— style gets more awkward the older the lead gets.

If you’re too long in the tooth on a beach in Miami, all of a sudden you’re “The Golden Girls.”

Not to mention that to succeed in Oscar-bait films, the actor must have women on his side.

They represent a sizable audience for that tricky genre, and their review cannot be: “Will Smith is dead to me.”

That harsh opinion could soften. He wasn’t canceled, MeToo’d or charged with a crime.

But the shift will take a while for the actor, who curiously hasn’t been asked any questions about the slap during his smiley press tour.

Time heals all wounds is a cliché for a reason.

But, no matter what he does, the best years of Will Smith’s career are behind him.



Warhol ‘art haul’ auction

M’m! M’m! Good!

They may not be Campbell Soup cans, but tasty, original works from pop-art icon Andy Warhol’s formative years are currently under the hammer.

“Andy Warhol by Hand: The 1950s” predates his exploration into screenprinting, according to Artnet Auctions, which is hosting the online sale.

The crème de la crème is Warhol’s ink-on-paper “Butterfly Lady” circa 1953 — which could bring upward of \$100,000 — the highest pre-sale piece in the 27-lot auction.

The “rare-to-market drawings offer a vivid picture of Warhol’s early, whirlwind years in New York City,” the website trumpets.

Items are up for bid through June 20.

A portrait of English actress Hilda Trevelyan (above) — best remembered for creating the role of Wendy in “Peter Pan” — is expected to sell for at least \$20,000.

Dean Balsamini

‘Bad Boys’ a ‘\$low’ sequel

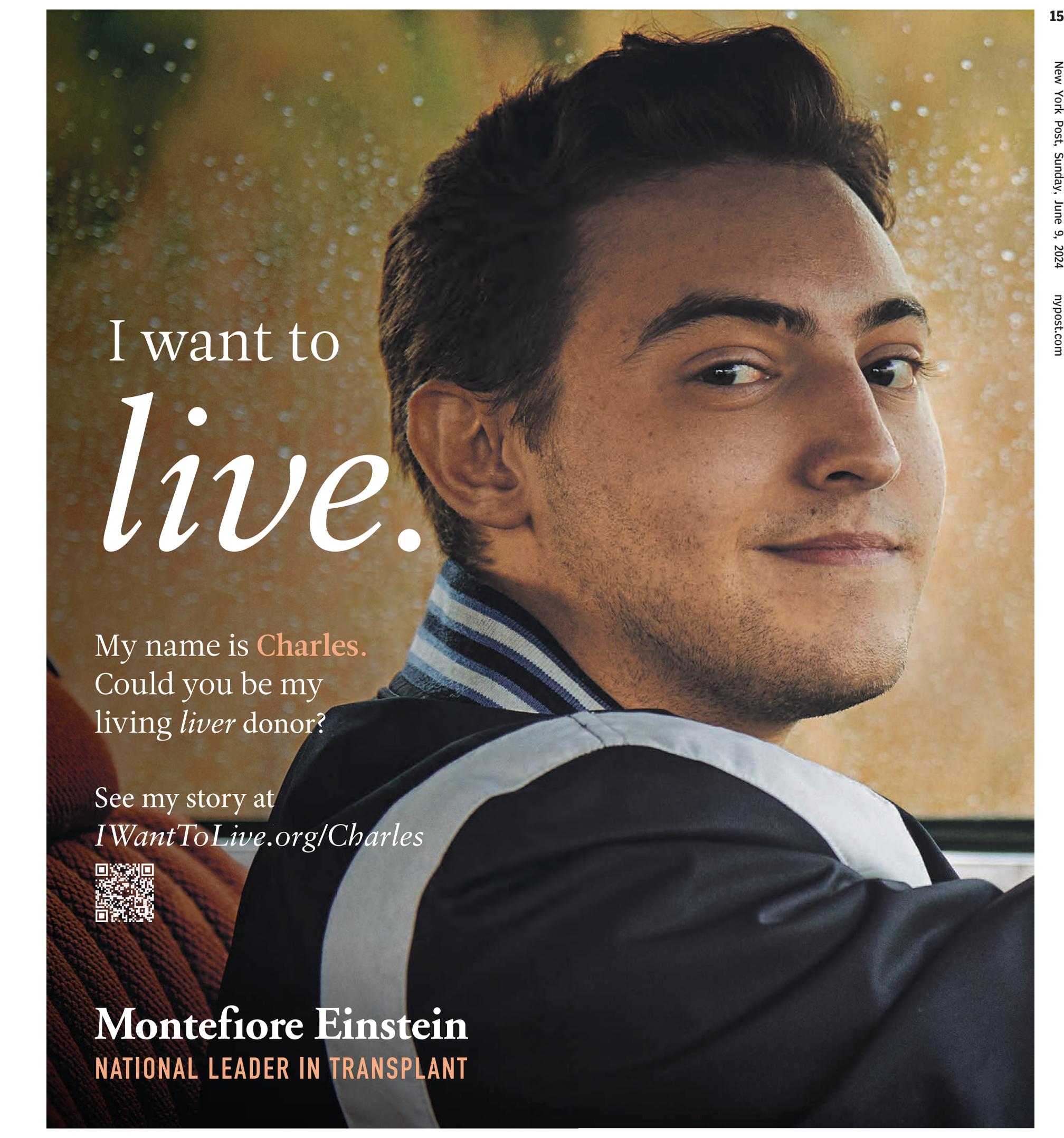
Moviegoers have a thing for “Bad Boys.”

“Bad Boys: Ride or Die” was No. 1 at the box office on Friday, its opening day.

The fourth installment of the Bad Boys franchise, which stars Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, raked in \$21.6 million, movie data website The Numbers said.

The sum pales in comparison to its predecessor, 2020’s “Bad Boys for Life,” which enjoyed a \$62.5 million opening domestically, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Angela Barbuti



I want to
live.

My name is **Charles**.
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See my story at
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Festival flies to new grounds

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The G.A.U.L.T.!

JEAN Paul Gaultier threw a party this week to launch a special edition of his fragrance for Pride Month. The bottle is emblazoned with “Once Upon a Time,” a mural Keith Haring painted in 1989 in the LGBT Community Center’s bathrooms to mark the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. At the Houdini estate in LA, the party included carnival games, a performance by **Gigi Goode** and **Symone**, and music by DJs **Ty Sunderland** and **Succubus**. Guests included **Kerri Colby**, **Adam Lambert**, the Clermont twins, **Zane Phillips**, **Rickey Thompson**, **Zack Lugo**, **Patrick Ta**, **Cara Santana** and **Joey Graceffa**. We hear the bash continued at the Edition in West Hollywood.



Playing the field

JAMIE Kenna was a semipro soccer player before he chucked it to become an actor, but he cheerfully told Page Six he was a “terrible footballer, that’s why!” Kenna, who stars in the second season of “House of the Dragon,” shared that he didn’t kick a ball on set. “If you see my costume,” he explained, “it was hard enough to walk in.” Kenna (above) then read our minds: “Going to the toilet in it was a whole different,” he trailed off, adding, “You had to time your visits to the toilet for sure. You were very careful what you ate for lunch, let’s put it that way!”

AFTER hitting turbulence at a Hamptons airport, **Kygo’s** Palm Tree Music Festival will go on after all — on land owned by the Shinnecock Indian Nation in Southampton.

We exclusively reported that the electronic-music fest — to be headlined by Swedish House Mafia — was set to go down at Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach on June 22 for the fourth year.

But the Federal Aviation Administration rejected the fest’s permit, even after the music event appealed.

A source told us of the reasons for the rejection, “Most of the questions from the FAA had to do with timelines of runway closures, be-

cause it’s an active airport.” The fest was then left without a home.

A statement from Palm Tree said: “To all our eagerly anticipated attendees, we’re excited to inform you that the Palm Tree Music Festival will be held at a new location for its fourth annual event: the Shinnecock Nation in Southampton. Our partnership with the Shinnecock Nation promises significant benefits for the festival guests and for the community, and we are committed to making this year’s festival successful and memorable once again.”

A statement from the Shinnecock Nation added: “We look forward to working with Palm Tree Crew to bring together a successful

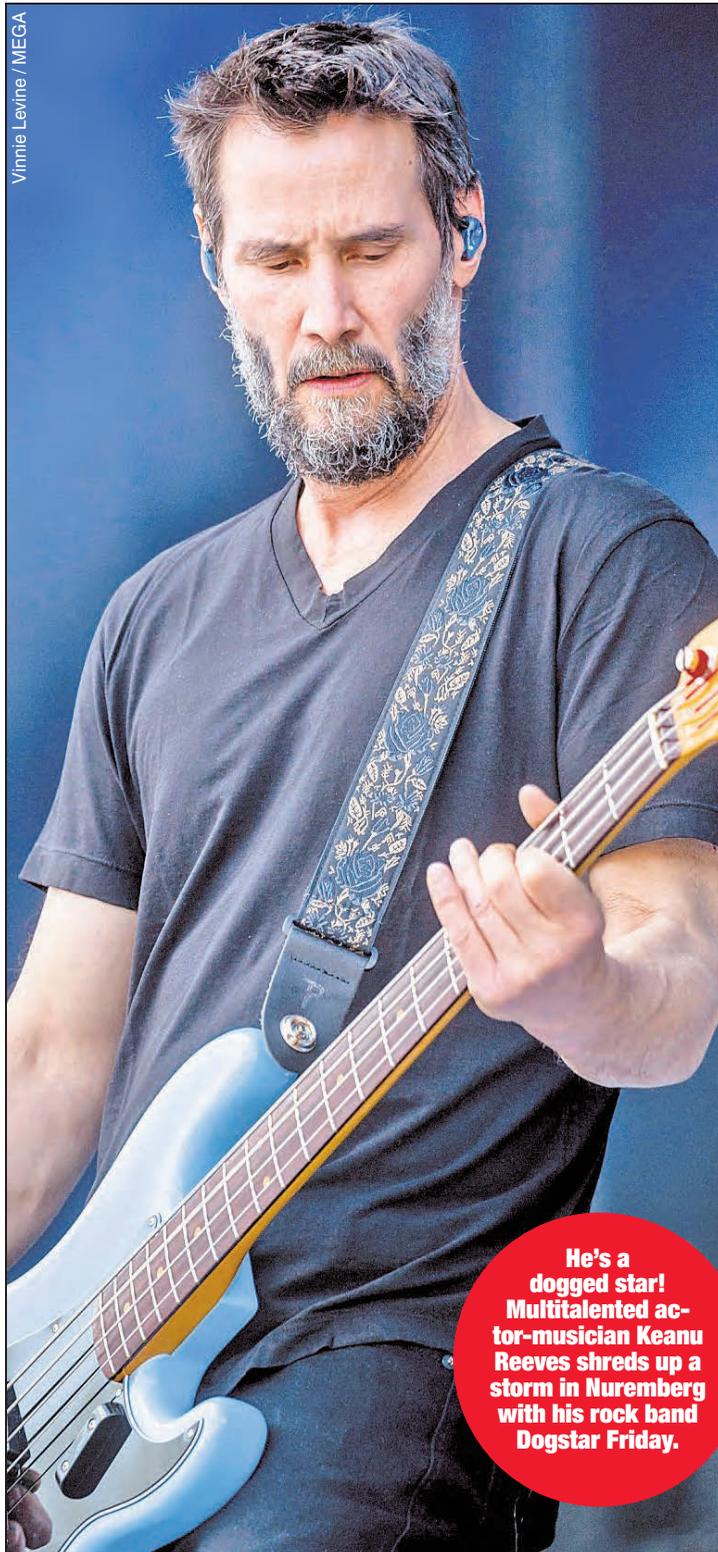
and safe event.”

The nation’s website says it’s also hosting events including the 78th annual Shinnecock Indian Powwow starting Aug. 30.

The Palm Tree concert will also feature acts including **Kygo**, **Sofi Tukker**, **Purple Disco Machine**, **Xandra**, **Will Sass** and **Flat Stanley**.

Sponsors include Don Julio, Abercrombie & Fitch and Geojam, a statement said.

Shinnecock is one of the oldest self-governed tribes in New York state. The tribe and local residents in the tony enclave have previously battled over bright billboards on tribal land along Route 27.



He’s a dogged star! Multitalented actor-musician Keanu Reeves shreds up a storm in Nuremberg with his rock band Dogstar Friday.

Safety in numbers

JULIANNE Moore, **Gus Wenner** and **Karen Elson** co-hosted an anti-gun violence event at the Soho Sessions HQ on Manhattan’s Centre Street this week that moved people to tears. Concert producer **Nicole Rechter** told a personal story about being on the phone with her daughter while there was an active shooter at a mall. “It was very powerful,” a guest said of the event. “People were listening.” The night ended on a much lighter note when the Struts played, stepping in at the last minute for **Kelsea Ballerini**, who we hear fell ill. Guests included **Chris Meloni**, and the event benefited the gun safety movement Everytown.

Life after Larry

SUSIE Essman may have wrapped up playing foulmouthed Susie Greene on “Curb Your Enthusiasm” — but that doesn’t mean she’s slowing down. “I’m so busy,” the 69-year-old told Page Six at the Gotham TV Awards. “I’ve got a million irons in the fire that I’m not allowed to talk about.” The veteran stand-up told us she’s excited for what’s ahead. “I feel like my best years are ahead of me as an old woman!”



‘Mean’ Maggie

BRITISH actress **Lesley Manville** knows all about Princess Margaret’s capricious and often cruel behavior. Having played the royal in “The Crown,” the Oscar nominee (above) told Page Six, “She was quite rattish and she gave people a hard time, she didn’t suffer fools gladly.” Queen Elizabeth’s younger sister, who died in 2002 at the age of 71, was barred from marrying her true love, Peter Townsend, a married RAF officer, and instead embarked on an unhappy union with Antony Armstrong-Jones, which ended in divorce. “I think her life wasn’t straightforward,” Manville explained of Margaret, “and I think that she went through a lot that we all go through: heartache and loneliness. She wasn’t unique in that way.”

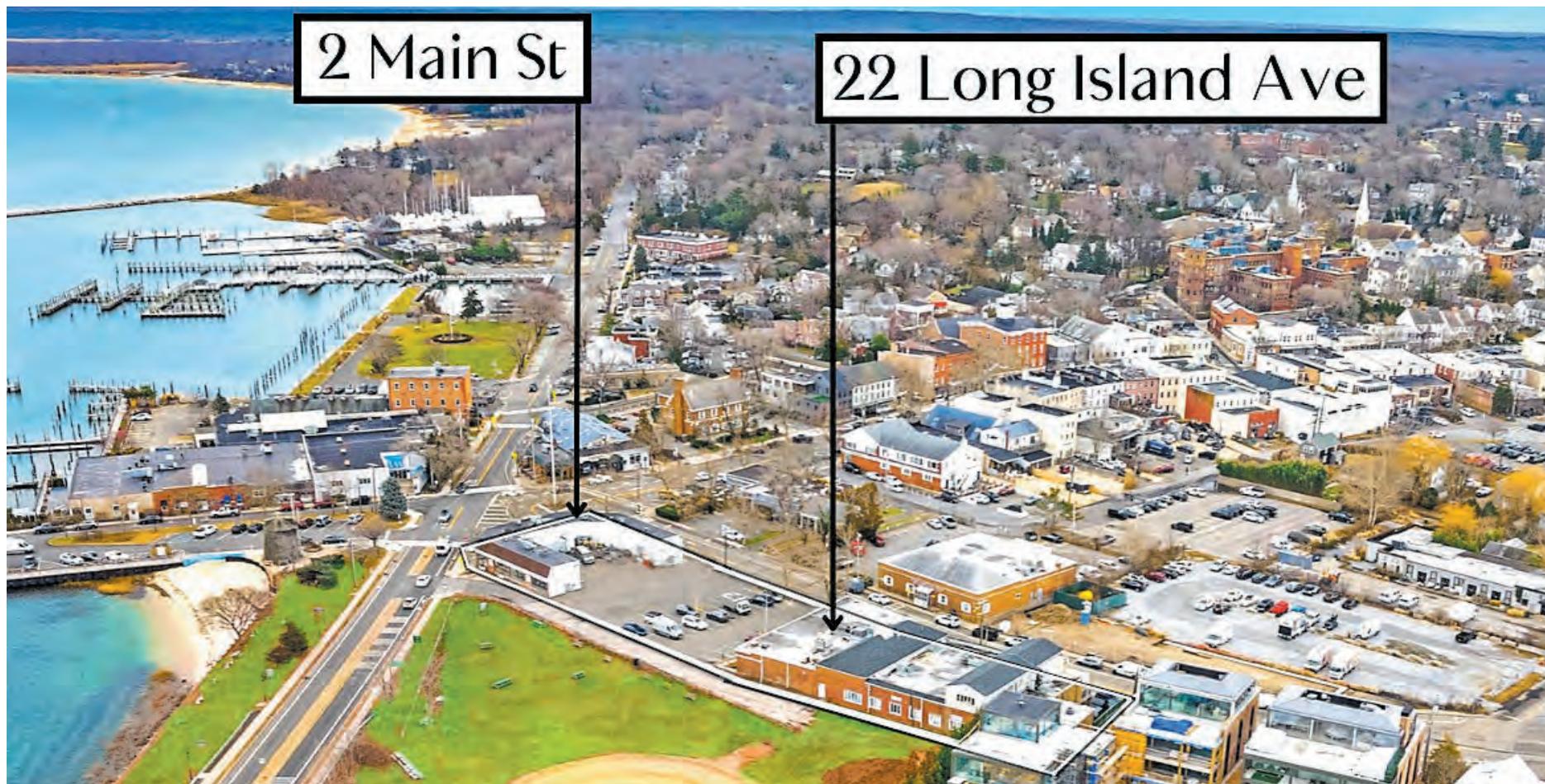
‘Monster’ hit . . . then crickets

DIRECTOR **Patty Jenkins** revealed that after the success of her 2003 movie “Monster” — which garnered **Charlize Theron** an Oscar for Best Actress — she couldn’t get another job. “No one would make my second movie,” she said at the Chanel Tribeca Festival luncheon at the Greenwich Hotel to celebrate the “Through Her Lens” program. “I went all over the place and the industry embraced me with open arms and said, ‘Oh, we’d love you to direct this movie about a hooker with a heart of gold or this female pretending to be a man’ . . . but nobody wanted to hear my voice.” Jenkins didn’t direct another movie until 2017’s “Wonder Woman.” She also noted that later on she “looked at my peers that I started with and they got seven indie films made — like **Christopher Nolan** — and I started at the same time, but he got movie after movie made and I couldn’t get anything made.” Tribeca Festival co-founder **Jane Rosenthal** brought the audience to tears when she asked everyone to raise a glass to late producer Paula Weinstein, who passed away this March at 78. Guests included **Katie Holmes**, **Kerry Washington**, **Rachel Weisz** and **Emily Mortimer**.

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Gimme Shelter

JENNIFER GOULD



Central Park Tower

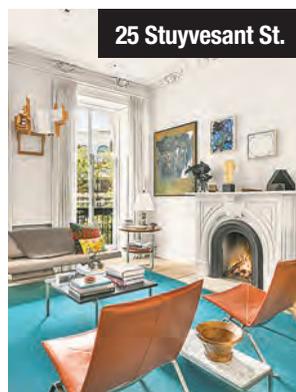
SKY'S THE LIMIT

THERE'S a new trophy sky pad in town — and it's now on the market for \$150 million. This 127th- and 128th-floor penthouse duplex is at Central Park Tower — the tallest residential building in the world. It's also the second most expensive dwelling now for sale in town, the first being a \$195 million aerie located in the same building. Named "Sky House," the Billionaires' Row residence is 1,382 feet above street level and a minute-long elevator ride above the clouds. That's 100 feet higher than the top floor of the Empire State Building, said **Shlomi Reuveni**, the president and CEO of Reuveni Development Marketing, who is co-listing the property with Christie's International Real Estate Group. The building is developed by **Gary Barnett's** Extell Development Corp. Nearby, Extell also developed the city's first "billionaires' building" — and the Big Apple's first \$100 million condo — at One57. The eight-bedroom, nine-bathroom penthouse at 217 W. 57th St. measures 11,535 square feet. It comes with a



1,500-square-foot grand salon with a glass-curtain wall showcasing 270-degree views of Central Park and the city skyline. The home is anchored by spiral stairs — but also includes its own private elevator if you ever get too tired to walk. Details include extra-wide hallways and a chef's kitchen.

Dorna Dotan/DDReps (3)



25 Stuyvesant St.

Ed Menashy/Evan Joseph Studio

Munk-y business

A LANDMARKED East Village townhouse owned by journalist and author **Nina Munk**, and the artist **Peter Soriano** (both below), is now on the market for \$7.25 million. The five-story, 19th-century Anglo-Italianate property at 25 Stuyvesant St. is one of a long row of houses built in 1861. It is believed to be designed by James Renwick Jr., the architect of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The red brick residence, restored in 2013, is filled with art by Soriano — like an orange wood-cut print in the front hall — and from the couple's collection. They bought it for \$3.7 million in 2012 from the late PR maven Jean Way Schoonover. The 3,400-square-foot home comes with four bedrooms and a curved staircase. The listing brokers are **Robert McCain** and **Amber Gregory** of Compass.



Getty Images

Max Lakner/BFA/Shutterstock



301 E. 52nd St.

Elyan Stern Weber/Evan Joseph

A happy medium

SHE'S known as the Latina Medium, but can she channel the sale of her New York City home? **Zulema Arroyo Farley** (below) has put her posh penthouse duplex with massive outdoor space on the market for \$6.95 million. The 5,000-square-foot home, at 301 E. 52nd St. in Midtown, comes with four bedrooms and three baths. Farley bought it in 2013 for \$4.49 million. While Farley is known for her psychic gifts, with clients including **Dayanara Torres**, a former Miss Universe and ex-wife of **Marc Anthony**, and **Adamari López**, the Puerto Rican actress and former Telemundo host, she is also a one-time managing director at Young & Rubicam. In addition, Farley is an author who shares her story as a rare cancer survivor. The unit opens to a foyer that leads to a dining room and a living room and upstairs, there's a media room that opens to the 1,400-square-foot terrace. The listing brokers are **Marzena Wawrzaszek** and **Ryan Serhant** of Serhant.



155 E. 69th St.



Zoe Weitherr

In the abstract

YOU may not be able to pay \$186 million for a Mark Rothko (inset) masterpiece like Russian oligarch **Dmitry Rybolovlev** once did. But you can buy Rothko's New York studio, where he created his paintings for the famed Rothko Chapel in Houston, for \$9.5 million. This former studio is now a grand, skylit duplex tucked away inside a historic 19th-century carriage house on the Upper East Side. It had been on the market for \$10.15 million last year. The four-bedroom, four-bath home, at 155 E. 69th St., is part of a "stable row," one of the side streets between Lexington and Third avenues where wealthy Manhattanites kept their horses during the Gilded Age. Rothko is considered to be one of the greatest abstract artists of the 20th century and rented the carriage house when he worked on the Chapel paintings. **Jed Garfield** and **Thomas Wexler** of Leslie J. Garfield have the listing.

Getty Images

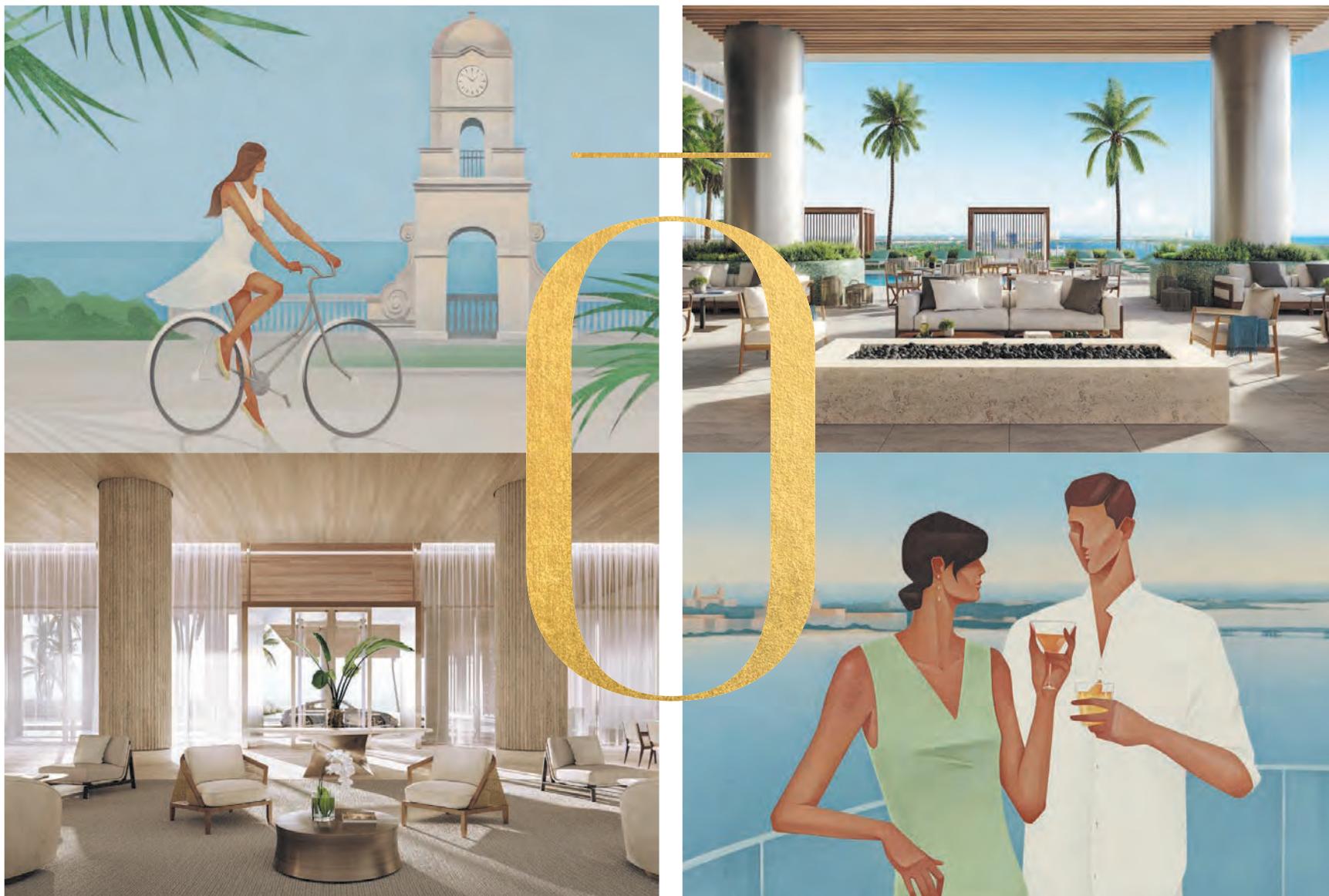


Come Hither look



9 Hither Lane

If you're seeking sophisticated Southern flair in the Hamptons, check out this East End home from developer and interior designer **James Michael Howard**. The new-construction residence at 9 Hither Lane, in East Hampton, is on the market for \$24.95 million. Although the home is on the formal side, it also comes with Southern comfort because it — for the steep price — comes fully furnished, curated with antiques, custom furnishings and finishes, and is turn-key ready. But potential buyers will have to wait until the fall to move in as the dwelling has already been rented for the summer. Howard and his wife, **Phoebe**, are high-end interior designers with furnishing brands and stores in Southern cities. At a roomy 11,644 square feet, the eight-bedroom pad comes with a pool and sits on 1.1 acres. The listing brokers are **Martha Gundersen** and **Paul Brennan** of Douglas Elliman.



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By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

A religious war is erupting in Brownstone Brooklyn.

A historic enclave in Bedford-Stuyvesant is being considered for landmarking, and some Orthodox Jews living there say it's part of a scheme led by antisemites and Councilman Chi Osse to push them out.

On May 21, the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to add stretches of Willoughby Avenue and Hart Street between Nostrand and Marcy avenues to the calendar for consideration as a new historic district.

Landmark status severely limits owners' abilities to renovate or expand their homes. Large Orthodox families often must expand their houses, Jewish homeowners explained, so limiting their ability to alter them will essentially force them to move or be unable to sell to other Orthodox families.

'Need big houses'

"We need big houses," Rabbi Shaya Saks (below), who owns a house on Hart, said recently while surrounded by a group of observant Jews on Willoughby. "We don't have one or two children."

"We feel that this is antisemitism because they are trying to stop us from moving in here," said Hart homeowner Herman Bodek, an Orthodox Jew. "This will have us moving out."

The roughly 50 Jewish owners on the leafy brownstone-lined blocks are speaking out after the commission's decision to potentially create the so-called Willoughby-Hart Historic District.

The 100-plus homes in



Orthodox Jews: Landmark bid antisemitic



THINKING BIG: Orthodox Jews on Brooklyn's Willoughby Avenue are opposing a bid backed by City Councilman Chi Osse (top left) to landmark their neighborhood because it would bar them from enlarging their homes.

A 'historic' B'klyn battle

the enclave were built around 150 years ago and the area is unique for "the quality of its architecture," the commission said.

The commission said it received a letter of support for the designation from Osse, a far-left politician whose district includes Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights, as well as one from pro-Israel Democrat state Assemblywoman Stefani Zinerman (D-Brooklyn) and state Sen. Jabari Brisport, a member of Democratic Socialists of America.

Osse and Brisport are perceived as anti-Israel. Brisport was one of the hosts of a rally last month for an Assembly bill cutting off funding to pro-Israel charities, according to Politico.

"Of course they won't say, 'No we don't want Jews here,'"

Saks said. "They won't say that, but they will use government agencies like LPC against us."

'Discrimination'

The Orthodox group's attorney, Adam Leitman Bailey, said: "This is de facto discrimination against Jews. By landmarking this district, these Orthodox Jews with extremely large families requiring multiple and extensive alterations will be forced to move.

Osse, who declined to comment, has posted pro-Palestine messages on his X account, like this one two days after Hamas' horrific attack on innocent Israelis:

"Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and its dominion over the Gaza Strip . . . are the primary root of the violence." He has also denounced acts of antisemitism on X.

Michael Williams, 67, is a life-

time resident of Willoughby who favors landmark status for "one of the best blocks" in Bed-Stuy. He added, "If you look at all the tree lines and all the brownstones, it's beautiful."

Williams said if his neighbors need to expand their homes they should just "buy a bigger house."

In a petition to the commission, which garnered 1,129 signatures, the Willoughby Nostrand Marcy Block Association said the two blocks are the only "remaining blocks of exclusively brownstones" and deserve protection.

The Orthodox group amassed 1,755 signatures in a rival petition, arguing "the landmarking of these blocks would significantly impede the community's growth and compromise the integrity of the buildings."

The commission will hold a public hearing on the matter Tuesday.

Plaque thief with no honor

A thief took a bronze plaque from a Manhattan flower bed — removing a tribute to a man once known as "the mayor" of East 10th Street.

The heist happened just after 9 a.m. on May 27, when a man in a cap used the claw end of a hammer to remove the memorial honoring Ron Allaire, surveillance video (above) shows.

Allaire — who worked as an audio engineer on albums including Jessica Simpson's "A Public Affair" and Keith Richards' "Main Offender" — had been living in the six-story, 125-year-old building for at least 20 years before he succumbed to lung cancer in his early 50s in 2018, the building's co-op board president and Allaire's old friend, Harold Levy, said.

"I just don't understand why it happened. All of us are kind of confused by that. It's a shame," Levy said. "Ron was kind of the mayor of the block — everyone knew him and he was loved by everyone in the building. The board decided we wanted to honor him after he passed."

The co-op installed the 10-by-5-inch bronze memorial bearing the message, "In memory of Ron 'Ronzie' Allaire," at the cost of \$235. The owner of a Brooklyn scrap yard said bronze sells at \$2.30 per pound.

Tim Fulton, the owner of T&T Scrap in Williamsburg, told The Post it's not uncommon for "sick" individuals to try to sell him what are clearly sentimental items they've pilfered.

"We would never buy something like a memorial plaque," Fulton said.

Georgia Worrell



J.C. Rice

Dog aids owner in ruff spot

Talk about man's best friend.

A loyal pooch ran 4 miles through the Oregon wilderness to find help for its injured owner — who spent the night stranded after driving off a steep cliff into a ravine.

Brandon Garrett's dog arrived at a Baker County campsite around 9:30 a.m. Monday, alerting the camping party to the trouble, the county sheriff said.

They immediately launched a search party, finding his truck lying on its side at the edge of a creek several hundred feet off a roadside cliff.

Another one of Garrett's dogs was standing watch over the truck, officials said.

Unable to reach the crash zone themselves, the family called for a rescue team.

Garrett's condition was not available, but officials confirmed all his dogs survived.

Katherine Donlevy

\$500M TRAFFIC 'STOP'

Congestion tech questions

By RICH CALDER

The Hochul administration is staring at the grim prospect of having to flush a half-billion dollars in taxpayer money down the toilet over the botched congestion pricing scheme.

The boondoggle could've been avoided had Gov. Hochul and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority seriously studied what the economic impact on New York residents and businesses would be by charging drivers \$15 to enter parts of Manhattan, critics said.

"One-hundred percent they should've done an economic analysis," said Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella, a plaintiff in one of many pending lawsuits trying to per-

manently kill the plan.

"They couldn't wait until all the t's were crossed and i's were dotted," he added. "It's just emblematic of the arrogance and desire to push this through, and look what happened? Not only are they not getting their money, but they wasted a half-billion dollars."

E-Z Pass readers, license plate-scanning cameras and other infrastructure needed for the program are already mounted on traffic poles at 110 locations south of 60th Street.

TransCore, a Nashville, Tenn.-based company, completed the bulk of the work under a six-year, \$507 million contract the MTA awarded in 2019 to design, build and operate the wildly unpopular program.

Hochul on Wednesday

slammed the brakes on the program's June 30 rollout, saying she's pausing it "indefinitely" because it's not the right time with New Yorkers facing a cost-of-living crisis.

The governor's sudden flip-flop left the MTA's budget in limbo: The cash-strapped agency was banking on the new tolls to raise another \$1 billion in yearly revenues.

The move raises serious questions about what to do with the sensors and other infrastructure TransCore installed.

Meanwhile, the Greater New York Automobile Association, an advocacy group for car dealerships, is set to host a fundraiser for the governor Tuesday in Queens with suggested donations of \$5,000 to \$10,000.



TOUGH BRAKE: Now that Gov. Hochul has indefinitely paused the congestion pricing plan, the tech is in limbo.

Robert Mecea



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Berkowitz vic's circus strength

Why I survived, says trapeze artist

The newly revealed first victim of the Son of Sam's murderous rampage in New York City 48 years ago credits her survival in the attack to her time growing up in Europe as a trapeze artist.

"Being a trapeze artist and contortionist, I was very strong," Wendy Savino (pictured) said of allegedly being shot five times by .44 Caliber Killer David Berkowitz as she sat in her car in The Bronx on April 9, 1976.

"They said it was my beautiful big lungs that saved me," the 87-year-old said a week after The Post revealed that NYPD detectives recently determined she was actually the first victim in the spree that targeted women and left six people dead. "I really thought I was dying."

She is now considered one of the eight victims who were shot but lived.

Savino began performing acrobatics and dance at a theater when she was just a child in Dartford, England, about 20 miles from London, because she was "always hanging upside down." She was a fixture in theaters by the time she was a preteen.

"I appeared in many shows as a young child and at 12 I became a professional," said Savino, who lives in Rockland County. "I took an audition and was immediately employed."

She began working with a group of 12 girls on the Isle of Man "doing mostly dancing and acrobatics." By the time she was 15, she was touring England with a partner.

Sometimes, after finishing a Saturday night show, the group would travel to its next gig by train. Savino was so small she would sleep on top of the luggage rack.

"I adored it up there," she said.



J.C. Rice

She would eventually perform with singer Petula Clark and English comedians Dudley Moore and Peter Cook, among others.

When she was 19, she auditioned for the Windmill Theatre in London. While there, she did a contortionist act with her friend, Sadie, where Savino would coax her body into backbends and splits. But that grew old after a time so they both learned a trapeze act.

Her American dream

There, she also met the husband who would eventually sweep her off to America.

"The owner came and said 'There's an American out front who'd like to meet you,'" she said, recalling that she put her foot down. "I'm here to enter-

tain on stage."

When "the loud, noisy American" persisted, she finally agreed to meet him.

The man was Joseph Savino and she moved to an apartment on Westchester Avenue in The Bronx to be with him in 1963 and waited four years to marry him.

She never performed on stage again but had a trapeze in the backyard of her Westchester County home.

She has no doubt her experience as a gymnast helped her survive being shot in her face, back, arm, chest and right eye, which she lost.

"I was very strong," she said of playing dead in the front seat of her 1976 Jaguar's bucket seat until she could escape Berkowitz that day. "I knew if I could just hold on I'd be OK." *Tina Moore*



NIGHTMARE: YouTuber and landscaper Manny Grossman (above) says deranged letters (pictured) penned by serial killer David Berkowitz (right, in 1979) indicate there may be some as-yet-unidentified victims tied to his long-ago reign of terror.

By DEAN BALSAMINI
and TINA MOORE
Police Bureau Chief

There may be others.

The citizen sleuth who recently helped police identify the Son of Sam's first true victim is now telling "very interested" cops to look for additional bodies around two key dates — Dec. 14, 1976, and Feb. 25, 1977, he told The Post.

That's when serial killer David Berkowitz authored and dated two twisted letters — part of the "apartment writings" found by police in Berkowitz's Yonkers digs following his Aug. 10, 1977, arrest — according to YouTuber Manny Grossman.

It was Grossman's dogged de-

ductive work that led to the stunning revelation splashed across The Post front page last week that the .44-caliber killer had one more victim than previously known, his first, and that his deadly spree had begun three months earlier than believed. NYPD cold-case detectives concluded last week that Wendy Savino, now 87, was the first official victim of the Son of Sam.

'I will go & spill blood'

"I identified a pattern where Berkowitz would go crazy about dogs barking, he would write a letter and go absolutely nuts," Grossman, 51, told The Post.

The Bronx resident added chill-

Letters hint at more dead, says 'Son of Sam' sleuth



TUESDAY 12/17/76
~~the limit~~ DEATH DAY SUPPERING DAY
 Sam CARR IS King!
 SAM CARR is King!
 SAM CARR'S dog
 SAYS Spill Blood tonight
 DAVID. SAM'S Dog has
 been Screaming For blood
 all day today. He is
 So hungry he won't stop.
 Kill FOR SAM CARR!!

All day long the Devil Dog as been
 - yelling in pain - there is no
 ceasing. I begged the Wicker
 street cult to leave me alone.
 I am there slave. Today the
 demon has not stopped for a
 moment. How much blood does
 he want me to spill for him?
 3/8/77 9:15AM

Friday February 25, 1977
 Today is Friday, blood day.
 Today I will spill blood for the people
 of **Address** and **Address**
Address "The House of Joquin Blood,"
 and "The Honor Hotel."
 My ears are ringing because the
 dogs are hungry and they are
 screaming loudly in pain.

COLD CASE CLUES

ingly, "There's two letters in there. Both say 'Today's the day I will go and spill blood for Sam Carr.'"

Berkowitz believed a demon lived in and spoke through a black Labrador retriever owned by his neighbor, Sam Carr.

Grossman believes there is an "established pattern" of Berkowitz "writing these letters, dating these letters and then going out and shooting." The YouTuber "presented the letters" to Bronx homicide detectives on May 28, the day before investigators interviewed Berkowitz at Shawangunk Correctional Facility in upstate Ulster County.

"They were very interested in the theory," Grossman said. "They wrote down the dates for

sure. What they did afterwards I do not know."

The NYPD did not respond to questions from The Post regarding additional Berkowitz victims.

Berkowitz previously left clues to his carnage in his letters.

'Screaming for blood'

Virginia Voskerichian — victim No. 9 and fatality No. 3 — was 20 when she was shot and killed by Berkowitz around 7:30 p.m. on March 8, 1977, on a quiet street in Forest Hills, Queens.

In a letter dated that same day at 9:15 a.m., Berkowitz wrote, "The dog is screaming for fresh blood and meat to quench his thirst and pangs of fresh blood"

and later rages, "Today the demon has not stopped for a moment. How much blood does he want me to spill for him?"

Grossman pored over online files at thepeoplevsdavidberkowitz.com, which claims to be the "largest public repository of investigatory files and documents" relating to the Son of Sam case.

The treasure trove of information was obtained through the Freedom of Information Act and public records, the website says.

Grossman cold-called a retired Berkowitz detective in Yonkers and subsequently teamed up with the lawman's son, Mike Lorenzo, also a retired Yonkers investigator.

"He started showing me his dad's files and we just established a great

working relationship and friendship and it led to a new analysis of the case," Grossman explained.

"It was really Mike Lorenzo who came up with the philosophical framework that Wendy Savino fit. That Berkowitz was a stalking sniper who had other victims."

15 minutes of fame

The Manhattan-born, Riverdale-bred Grossman said he "grew up in a journalistic household." His dad, Jim, was a "big New York City p.r. guy" who had reporting stints with The Wall Street Journal, Charlotte Observer and San Juan Star.

"All I ever wanted to be was a rock drummer," Grossman laughed.

The landscaper confessed he only started looking into the unsolved Savino shooting because he had time on his hands during COVID. Grossman is content with his 15 minutes of fame.

"I don't expect to be part of their investigation, nor do I particularly want to," he said of NYPD probers. "I'm very happy with the way they handled the Savino case."

In today's high-tech world, the Son of Sam would have a smaller body count, Grossman theorized.

"It could never happen today because he might be able to do one, maybe two, but he would get photographed everywhere... especially crossing the bridges of New York City."

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Parker Zols*

Angie has Brad in the Pitts

EX FACTOR: Although Brad Pitt has recently won a series of legal battles against ex-wife Angelina Jolie, it appears she is winning the war — at least when it comes to their kids.

By SARA NATHAN

FATHER'S Day will come and go for Brad Pitt — and he may not even hear from his six kids.

Things seem to have finally reached a tipping point as the children he shares with his ex-wife Angelina Jolie are, one by one, making it clear whose side they've chosen.

Although Pitt, 60, has won a series of recent legal challenges against Jolie, 48, it is the actress who is winning the family war. Several of the Jolie-Pitt children no longer use Pitt in their surname, Page Six can reveal.

"It's extremely upsetting," admitted a Pitt source, claiming, "She has used the kids as a weapon against Brad . . . she has separated them from him.

"There is a whole pattern: Any time he has a win in court, she hits back with something to do with the kids."

Name change

The "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" star has been embroiled in a custody fight with Jolie since their 2016 split and things have become increasingly bitter over the years.

Pitt won 50-50 custody in 2021, but the agreement was overturned that same year and sealed for privacy. Just weeks ago, the family's former security guard Tony Webb alleged in court documents that Jolie had encouraged the children to "avoid" their father during visits.

And now, their daughter Shiloh Jolie-Pitt, whom Page Six is told was home schooled alongside her siblings, has legally applied to remove the "Pitt" from her surname.

Multiple reports stated that Shiloh hired — and paid for — her own lawyer when she turned 18 on May 27. Page Six has seen the filing, issued on behalf of Shiloh by LA-based lawyer Peter K. Levine, which she has signed as Shiloh Jolie.

However, Pitt insiders question who was really behind the move, telling Page Six: "Reasonable people should draw their own conclusions as to who was actually behind it."

Pax attack

The Post can also confirm that the couple's oldest son, Maddox, 22, who has been studying in South Korea and has no relationship with Pitt, dropped "Pitt" back in 2021 and just goes by Jolie.

In the Playbill for the new Broadway musical "The Outsiders," which 15-year-old daughter Vivienne helped Jolie produce, she's listed as "Vivienne Jolie."

It is unclear if her twin brother, Knox, still uses their father's name. The two turn 16 next month.

Meanwhile, Pitt and Jolie's eldest daughter Zahara, 19, introduced herself as "Zahara Marley Jolie" upon joining the Mu Pi chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority at Spelman College last November.

Son Pax, 20, made an explosive Instagram rant against Pitt on Father's Day 2020.

"Happy Father's Day to this world class a--hole! You time and time again prove yourself to be a terrible and despicable person," he wrote. "You have no consideration or empathy toward your 4 youngest children who tremble in fear when in your

Corbis via Getty Images;
Charles Sykes/Invision/AP



Why actors' six kids are shedding their dad's name

presence.”

Jolie filed for divorce in September 2016 after a now-infamous flight from Nice to the United States when she alleged that Pitt grabbed her by the head and shook her, then choked one of their children and struck another when they tried to defend her.

She claimed that Pitt poured alcohol on her and the kids.

He was cleared by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and never charged with any offense.

The couple, both Oscar winners, have been battling over assets and custody ever since.

‘Very difficult’

“Brad admitted that his behavior on the plane was wrong,” said the Pitt source. “He took steps to improve himself.”

Indeed, Pitt told GQ in 2017 that he had quit smoking and drinking, adding that, “I don’t have that ability to do just one or two [drinks] a day. It’s not in my makeup. I’m all in. And I’m going to drive into the ground. I’ve lost my privileges.”

Still, an industry source who knows Jolie points out that Pitt has never actually apologized for what happened on the flight.

Twins Knox and Vivienne are the only minor children and the only ones who would be held to a visitation agreement with their father.

However, when Pitt does see his children, “it’s very difficult,” admitted the Pitt insider.

Aside from their custody fight, Pitt and Jolie have been scrapping over their French vineyard, Chateau Miraval.

Jolie sold her \$62 million stake to Russian billionaire

Yuri Shefler in 2021, which Pitt argues went against their agreement to offer the other person right of first refusal.

Last month, the “Tomb Raider” actress was ordered by a judge in LA Superior Court to produce every NDA agreement that she signed with a third-party over an eight-year period from 2014 — the year they married — to 2022.

Wine, no roses

NDA's have become a key battleground in the dispute over Miraval after Jolie claims she backed out of their agreement because Pitt asked her to sign one as part of their business deal.

Jolie is now challenging the judge’s decision on the NDAs, The Post was told.

Pitt insiders also feel that Jolie should have never even sold her share of Miraval and instead, help build it up for their children.

“This is only for her benefit,” argued another Pitt source. “How does separating your children from their father help and how does selling your share of Miraval help them? Anything related to Brad has been directed or choreographed by her to inflict the maximum pain on him without any regard for the long-term damage it does to the family.

“She’s made Miraval into a thing about the family when it was just a business dispute and she introduced the family into it,” the source said.

Pitt is currently filming an as-yet-untitled movie about Formula One and living with his jeweler girlfriend Ines de Ramon in Los Angeles, while Jolie looked triumphant as she and daughter Vivienne supported Kristen Bell at the opening night of the “Reefer Madness: The Musical” revival in LA on May 31.

“He has consistently refused to comment on anything relating to his children or to say anything negative about their mother despite all of these efforts to separate him from his kids,” said the Pitt insider.

As for the future with his children, his friends have encouraged him to believe that things will get better.

“As the kids get older and end up having a life as their own,” the Pitt insider said, “he can only hope that they will forget a relationship.”



Monica Schipper/Getty Images

VIVIENNE: In the Playbill for Broadway’s “The Outsiders,” which Jolie produced, her 15-year-old with Pitt is listed as Vivienne Jolie.



Felipe Ramalho/SplashNews.com

ZAHARA: In a Spelman College sorority video last fall, the 19-year-old introduced herself on camera as “Zahara Marley Jolie.”



MEGA/GC Images

PAX: In 2020, Pax, now 20, posted a Father’s Day Instagram message calling his father a “terrible and despicable person.”



Reuters/Amanda Andrade-Rhodes

MADDOX: The 22-year-old, who has been studying in South Korea, dropped Pitt from his name three years ago, a source said.



Ricky Vigil/M/GC Images

SHILOH: After turning 18 on May 27, Pitt’s biological daughter filed a legal motion to drop his surname and go by Shiloh Jolie.



Beretta/Sims/Shutterstock

KNOX: Little is known about Pitt’s lookalike youngest son with Jolie. Knox will turn 16 along with his twin sister, Vivienne, in July.

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NJ MAGICIAN PORN BUST

Fury at kid-showman's pol wife

By CHRIS HARRIS

Angry parents in a New Jersey suburb are calling on a local politician to step down following the recent arrest of her ex-husband — a disgraced children's magician — on child-porn charges.

Scott Morley, former proprietor of Morley's Magic Theater in Butler, was arrested May 15 for possession of images of child sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child. He was released from custody without bail.

Police recovered the disturbing images from his computer and found a pair of girls' underwear in his home.

The 48-year-old was best known as Morley the Magician, working children's parties throughout the tri-state area.

Co-owned biz

He and his soon-to-be ex-wife also owned and operated Morley's Magic Shop in Butler since 2014, offering after-school programs and magic and puppet-making workshops. During the holidays, Morley's Magic Theater welcomed children in for Christmas pictures — with the Morleys playing Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Since the bust, Morley has made his social-media pages and website disappear.

Morley's estranged wife,



BAD SANTA: Scott Morley and wife Britni (left) welcomed children for holiday photos, dressing as Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Yelp

Britni Morley, sits on Butler's borough council. While she has not been charged with any crimes, seven Butler parents who spoke to The Post on condition of anonymity accused her of knowing about her ex-husband's crimes and demand she step down.

The couple separated in February and Britni filed for divorce in March.

'Alleged witness'

An alleged witness came forward in April, according to an arrest affidavit. He was hired to paint the theater inside Morley's Magic Shop.

At some point during the renovation, the worker allegedly stumbled upon a bag containing the underwear and a number of USB flash drives. The purported witness, authorities allege

in the affidavit, confronted Morley about the horrific find, and the magician began smashing the thumb drives with a hammer.

Some in Butler believe Britni knew what was going on well before her husband's arrest.

The councilwoman's father, Walter Orcutt, is also an area politician, serving as Blairstown's deputy mayor.

Britni Morley's divorce attorney, Andrew DeLaney, said his client cooperated fully with the investigation into her husband.

Scott Morley did not respond to requests for comment. His attorney, Robert Bianchi, said his "client maintains his innocence, and we're satisfied that the court saw fit to release him over the objections of the prosecutor."

Jailed ex-cop moved for safety

Former NYPD Sgt. and whistleblower Steven Lee has been transferred from Rikers Island to Westchester County Jail — almost immediately after The Post shed light on him being locked up alongside a cop-killer and murderous drug dealer in the notorious Big Apple jail.

Lee, who helped bring to light a karaoke-bar corruption scandal a decade ago in a

Queens precinct, was sentenced to six months in Rikers in May over his involvement in a 2021 off-duty brawl at a Chelsea nightclub. He was found guilty of two counts of misdemeanor assault.

"People say cops should break the 'blue wall of silence' and speak up against the corruption of the NYPD. Well, this is the reason why cops won't speak up," he said

Friday from the Westchester jail where he's being held in solitary confinement to protect him from other inmates.

"Their careers will be side-roaded, they will be targeted and arrested, maliciously prosecuted and will get no help in return because people are scared of the criminal justice system retaliating against them." *Tina Moore and Matthew Sedacca*

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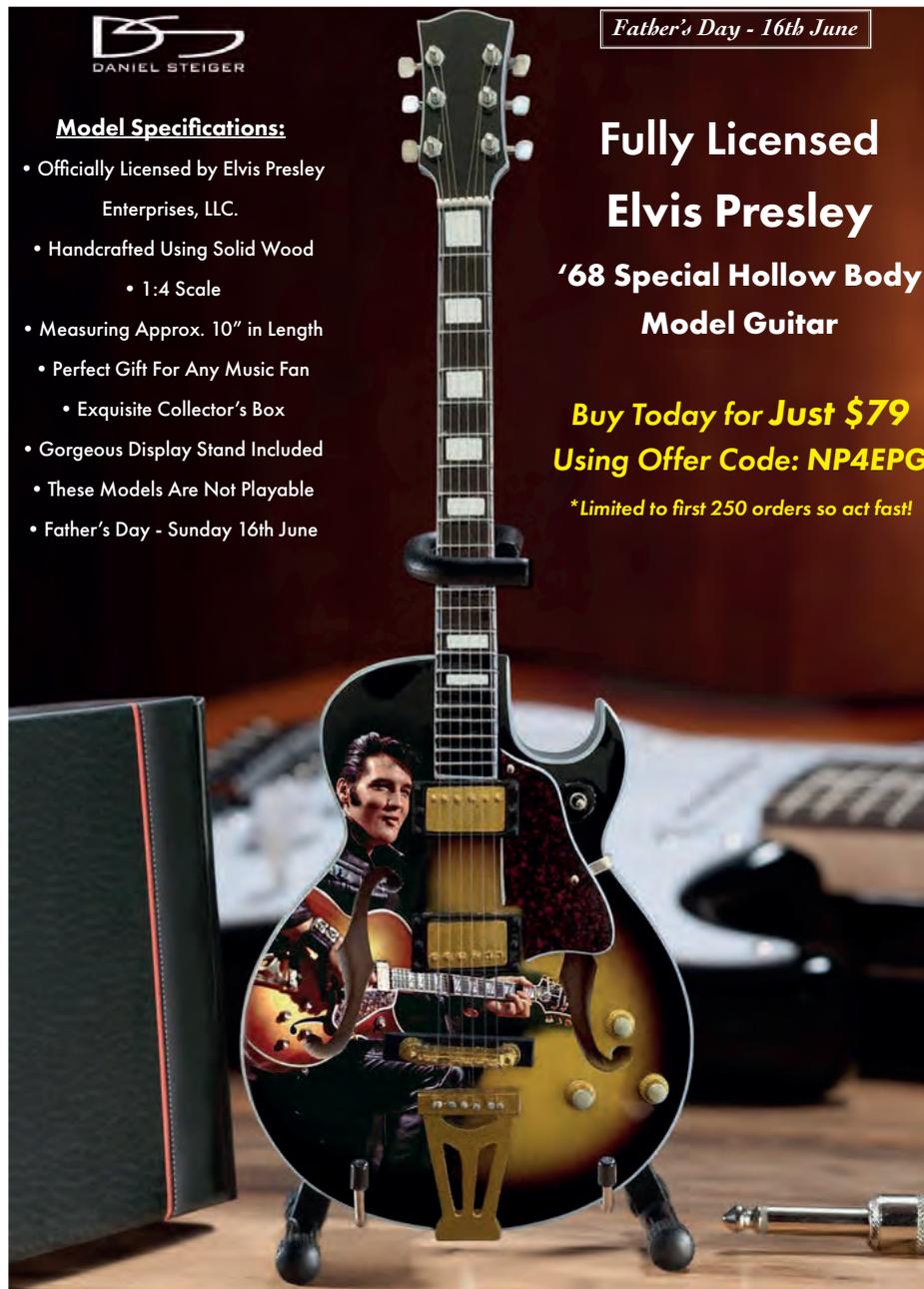
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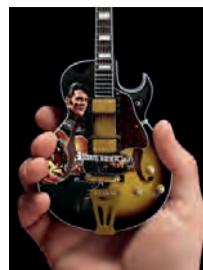
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Justices haul it in



GIFTED: Ketanji Brown Jackson reported Beyoncé tickets.

Annual perk\$ reveal

Free Beyoncé tickets and massive book deals are among the perks of being a Supreme Court justice, financial disclosures released Friday revealed.

The filings from eight of the court's nine justices listed outside income, gifts received and investments made by the jurists last year, all of which they are required to disclose annually.

Four justices — Brett Kavanaugh, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Neil Gorsuch and Sonia Sotomayor — reported raking in nearly \$1.6 million from book deals and royalties in 2023.

The highest sum was reported by Jackson, who received a \$893,750 advance from Penguin Random House for her upcoming memoir, "Lovely One."

Kavanaugh disclosed that he earned \$340,000 in royalty income for a yet-to-be-published "legal memoir."

Gorsuch reported \$250,000 in book royalties from HarperCollins Publishers, and Sotomayor listed nearly \$87,000 in book-related income from Penguin Random House.

The disclosures also require the justices to itemize any gifts received.

Jackson reported receiving four concert tickets valued at \$3,700 from Grammy Award-winning singer Beyoncé Knowles-Carter. She also said she was gifted artwork for her Supreme Court chamber valued at \$12,500.

Justice Clarence Thomas, who previously failed to disclose trips he took with billionaire Republican donor Harlan Crow, noted that in 2023 he received two photo albums from Terrence and Barbara Giroux worth \$2,000.

Justice Samuel Alito did not file his disclosures and received a 90-day extension.

Victor Nava

Crash kills astronaut

American astronaut William Anders — a member of the Apollo 8 crew — was killed while piloting a plane that crashed off the Washington state coast Friday, according to a report. He was 90.

"The family is devastated," the trailblazer's son, Greg Anders, said. "He was a great pilot and we will miss him terribly."

The plane, a vintage Air Force T-34 Mentor owned by Anders, went down into the

waters off the San Juan Islands, according to flight data and FAA records obtained by FOX 13 Seattle.

Dramatic video shows the plane completing a loop before nosediving into the ocean in a fiery blaze.

The plane crash-landed around 11:45 a.m., the US Coast Guard Pacific Northwest said.

The FAA told The Post that "only the pilot was on board."

Katherine Donlevy, Wires

PTSD FROM

Actor Andrew McCarthy made a documentary about how the '80s label scarred him & famous pals

By DANA KENNEDY

FOR almost 40 years, actor and writer Andrew McCarthy has suffered from what he terms PTSD — but it doesn't involve the usual Hollywood ills like substance abuse, stays in rehab or messy divorces.

His trauma stems from a notorious New York Magazine cover story from 1985, about a group of popular young actors (including Rob Lowe, Judd Nelson, Emilio Estevez and others), that was headlined: "Hollywood's Brat Pack."

Reading it today, David Blum's article about hanging out with a group of movie stars with the world — and many women — at their feet as they hit Hollywood clubs and sow their wild oats seems tame and fun.

But for McCarthy, now 61, the "Brat Pack" label ghettoized and diminished the actors, who were part of a talented new generation of young stars heating up the box office with movies like "St. Elmo's Fire" — considered the pre-eminent Brat Pack film — "The Breakfast Club," "Taps," "The Outsiders," "Pretty in Pink," "About Last Night," "Sixteen Candles" and others.

"Oh f—k," was McCarthy's first reaction to seeing the cover story, as he reveals in "BRATS," a new documentary he wrote, directed and stars in.

"I just thought that was terrible instantly. And it turns out, I was right. The article was scathing about all these young actors. And the phrase being such a clever, witty phrase, it caught the zeitgeist instantly and burned deep and that was it. From then on my career and the career of everyone involved was branded to the 'Brat Pack,'" he says in the doc.

"BRATS," which premiered at the Tribeca Festival this weekend and begins airing on Hulu Thursday, is McCarthy's somewhat head-scratching journey into what was, for him, the heart of darkness of that bygone era immortalized by Blum's catchy phrase.

"We were branded as 'partying, wanting to have a good time, get famous,'" he says in the movie. "I've never talked to anybody about what that was like. It certainly was the defining thing in my life. And I imagined it was in theirs as well. So I

thought it might be interesting to try and contact everyone who was in the Brat Pack or who might have been associated with it."

Exactly who was officially a member remains a bit of a parlor game to this day.

Estevez, Lowe, McCarthy and Nelson, along with Anthony Michael Hall, Demi Moore, Molly Ringwald and Ally Sheedy, are often cited as the pre-eminent Brat Pack members — with Tom Cruise, Sean Penn and Timothy Hutton sometimes included in the group.

Brat Pack-adjacent members include Jon Cryer, James Spader, Robert Downey Jr., Kevin Bacon, Matthew Broderick, Lea Thompson and Mare Winningham.

Clever, not cruel

Blum's story was originally just supposed to profile Estevez, now 62. But when Estevez, who is Charlie Sheen's older brother, invited Blum out to a night at the Hard Rock Cafe with his buddies and co-stars including Lowe and Nelson, Blum realized there was a bigger piece showing life inside their hot, privileged bubble.

"The Brat Pack is to the 1980s what the Rat Pack was to the 1960s — a roving band of famous young stars on the prowl for parties, women and a good time," Blum wrote in the 1985 article. "And just like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Peter Lawford and Sammy Davis Jr., these guys work together, too — they've carried their friendships over from life into the movies. They make major movies with big directors and get fat contracts and limousines. They have top agents and protective PR people. They have legions of fans who write them letters, buy them drinks, follow them home. And, most important, they sell movie tickets."

McCarthy is mentioned only once in Blum's article, in a derogatory aside made by one of his co-stars in "St. Elmo's Fire" who was not named.

"He plays all his roles with too much of the same intensity. I don't think he'll make it," the unidentified castmate said of McCarthy.

Blum, who has in the past expressed some regrets over the article, did not return a call from The Post. He appears briefly in the doc with



McCarthy, People writes, and the two have a rapprochement as Blum explains the infamous headline was meant to be clever, not cruel.

Fortunately for McCarthy, many of his big-name former co-stars and peers of that era, including Estevez, Lowe, Sheedy, Hutton, Cryer and Moore agreed to be interviewed for "BRATS." Most of them he hadn't seen, McCarthy says in the documentary, for 35 years.

'Stabbed in the back'

To an extent, that unidentified castmate was right.

McCarthy has not had the same success as some of the group he started out with, like Moore, Cruise and Lowe, but he's worked steadily as an actor and director and has had a critically lauded career as an author and travel writer.

He is married to his second wife, Irish writer and actress Dolores Rice, and has three children, one of whom, Sam McCarthy, 22, is an actor.

In the film, McCarthy is seen driving everywhere from Estevez's Malibu home to somewhere in the upstate New York woods to check in with Hutton. An especially gracious

BEING BRAT PACK



REEL LIFE: Nearly 40 years after the actors of "St. Elmo's Fire" (from left: Ally Sheedy, Judd Nelson, Emilio Estevez, Demi Moore, Rob Lowe, Mare Winningham, Andrew McCarthy) and "The Breakfast Club" (above, clockwise from left: Sheedy, Nelson, Estevez, Molly Ringwald and Anthony Michael Hall) were dubbed the "Brat Pack" by a magazine writer, McCarthy has made a movie about it.

Columbia Pictures/MCA

Ally Sheedy talks to McCarthy in her living room. None of the actors seem to be as affected by the Brat Pack label as McCarthy, but they all gamely play along, reflecting on their own issues with it. A running theme in the documentary is McCarthy's frequent admissions of what appears to be low self-esteem. In the film, he refers to himself

as sometimes being "shame-based" and often feeling as if he is being "stabbed in the back" for no reason. "I always felt like he was sort of an insider in some clubs, and I always felt like a guy on the outside," McCarthy muses as he drives to Estevez's house. "I lived in New York, all the other guys lived here and Emilio seemed to know more than any-

body, like, what the deal was." Estevez, like Sheedy and, to some degree, Lowe and others, agreed that he didn't like the article and had felt betrayed. "I had done some press but nothing to the extent of a real profile and it really made me think it was naive of me to think that this journalist would, in fact, be my friend," Estevez tells McCarthy in the film. "The most

upsetting part of it was that I had already seen a different path for myself and I felt derailed." McCarthy visits a barefoot, blue-jean clad Moore at her home and she is sympathetic to his belief that the Brat Pack label was a bit of a stigma. But then she leans into McCarthy as if she were his therapist and gives him a bit of a reality check.

"Why did we take it as an offense? That's, why did we take it as something bad?" asks Moore, whose own real-life traumas include a neglectful, alcoholic mother, a father who killed himself and being raped as a teenager. Moore was once engaged to Estevez and admits she had a sober minder on the set of "St. Elmo's Fire" as she successfully battled to stay sober. "I was irritated and felt it was a real limited perspective," she says in the movie about reading the article for the first time. "But I don't know if I took it as that personal over time, maybe then as you did. Yes, it came out and it tried to diminish us but it was also an opportunity to rise above it and say no, I am I am much more than that."

'Againstness'

Moore suggests to McCarthy that the Brat Pack article was a form of something she called "an againstness," adding that for McCarthy to continue to view it as something negative and see people as against him would only perpetuate the problem. "Againstness only provokes againstness," Moore said. "Then you're pre-disposed to re-creating it until you hit a point where you don't want to do that anymore." Molly Ringwald, who is seen in clips from her movies, declined to participate in the documentary but, according to McCarthy, sounded as if she adheres to Moore's philosophy. "Molly said she'd think about it," McCarthy tells Jon Cryer when they meet up and Cryer asks if he's spoken to their "Pretty In Pink" co-star, "but that she'd probably just like to keep looking forward."

Getty Images (4)



'PACK' IT UP: Judd Nelson (left) declined to participate in Andrew McCarthy's (right) documentary, "Brats," but Rob Lowe, Demi Moore and Ally Sheedy (second from right, with Molly Ringwald) speak about the "Brat Pack" stigma.

LI'er top local donor with 231 pints since '75

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

Henry Bickoff of Huntington, LI, is the metro area's best blood banker, having donated 231 pints of blood — one donation shy of 29 gallons — over the past 49 years.

He started in 1975, and gave 10 pints before officials began keeping computer records of donations.

All told, his blood has helped 693 people, according to the New York Blood Center.

He has donated the equivalent of 310 cans of Coke, 870 single-serve scoops of ice cream or nearly six, five-gallon office water-cooler bottles.

Bickoff, who weighs 157 pounds, was surprised to learn he is the top donor in the tri-state area.

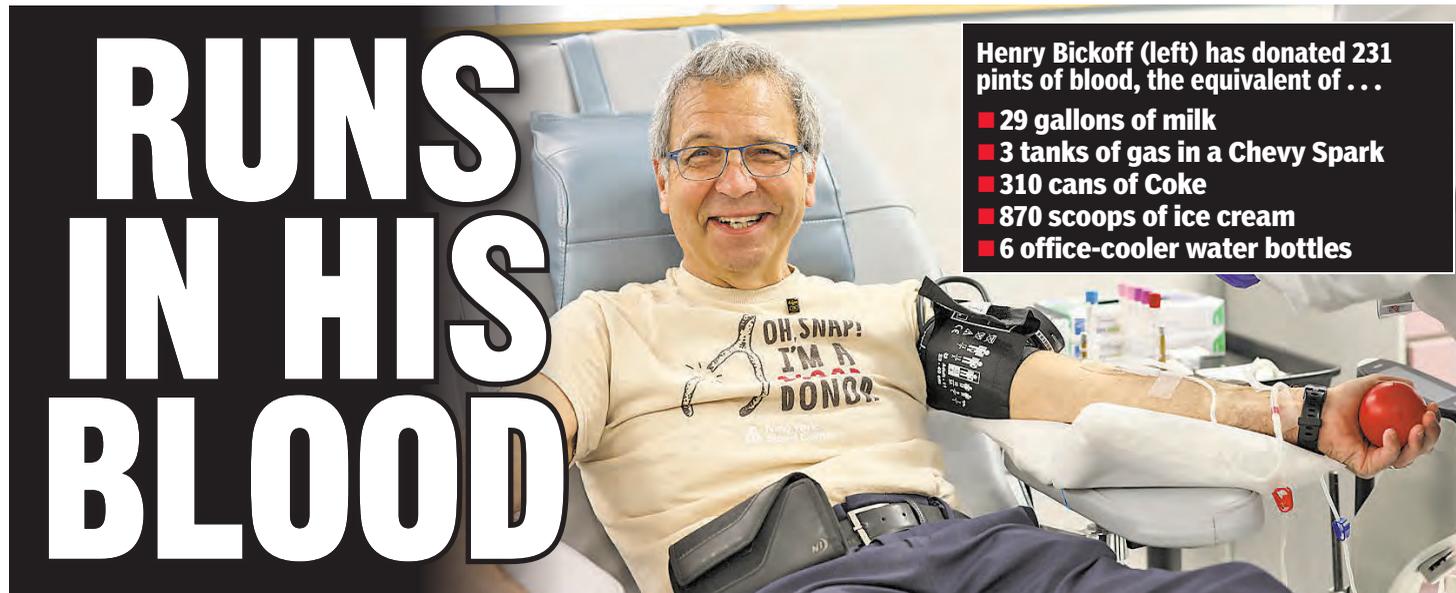
"I've been doing it for a while," he said.

"It's something I've committed to and it's actually nice to get a little bit of recognition for it."

The optometrist made his first donation while in college.

"Everybody was doing it," Bickoff said. "It was a save-the-world kind of situation of do something good for everybody."

That first experience was not a good one. He was not well-hydrated, -fed or -rested, so he was



Henry Bickoff (left) has donated 231 pints of blood, the equivalent of . . .

- 29 gallons of milk
- 3 tanks of gas in a Chevy Spark
- 310 cans of Coke
- 870 scoops of ice cream
- 6 office-cooler water bottles

RUNS IN HIS BLOOD

"very dizzy" afterward, but it didn't stop him from returning.

"This may sound silly, but I consider it my main act of charity," Bickoff said. "It's something I can do and it doesn't take a lot of time. I consider it multitasking — making blood cells while I'm doing everything else in my life. And it's just that hour every two months to go down

to the blood center and donate."

Bickoff is in a class of his own. "Less than one-half a percent of the donor base have donated 20 gallons or more," said Andrea Cefarelli, senior vice president at NYBC. "The average person donates a couple of times in their lifetime."

With a B-negative blood type, Bickoff's blood is in high demand.

"It's one of the blood types that is often in short supply because it's only 2% of the population," Cefarelli said. "AB-neg can only receive B-neg or O-neg. O-neg is the universal blood type — it can be safely transfused to anyone — but it's only present in 6% of the population."

Up until the past five to 10 years, Bickoff donated every 56 days like

clockwork. With age, "I stretch it out a little bit," he said. He prepares for game day with an iron supplement.

If he were to apply for it, Bickoff would hold the Guinness World Records title for the most whole-blood donations by a male, a Guinness spokesperson said.

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Dennis A. Clark



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MoMA 'crack' pot 'explosion' 4 saved from fiery airplane

A Los Angeles woman with a fancy \$200 pot from the Museum of Modern Art's Design Store was left seriously hurt after the glass vessel "exploded" on the stove top, according to a lawsuit.

Lisa Palencia, a nanny, claims MoMA didn't adequately warn consumers despite multiple reviews that the pot is defective and can crack — and then "quietly delisted" the item from its online catalogue instead of issuing a recall.

She hadn't bought the pot herself, but was using it in the home of a family she works for, according to her

lawyer, Shane Seppinni.

"MoMA continues to misleadingly market and sell glass cookware despite being aware of the danger stove-top glass cookware poses to its loyal patrons," Palencia, 36, contends in her litigation.

She'll need "six-figure reconstructive surgery because of MoMA's defective product and negligence," according to court papers, in which Palencia is seeking unspecified damages.

MoMA stopped selling the glass pot in 2018, a museum spokesperson said.

Kathianne Boniello

Yer out! Ax #2 for Shohei 'ex'

Shohei Ohtani's ex-interpreter received the boot from yet another job.

Ippei Mizuhara was banned from delivering for Uber Eats, a day after The Post shared exclusive photos of the ex-Dodgers employee making deliveries in Los Angeles amid his betting scandal. Mizuhara's banishment from the delivery app is due to his pending litigation, the company told NBC LA.

Nicholas McEntyre

4 saved from fiery airplane

A small plane crashed in the front yard of a Colorado home and neighbors jumped to extract the two adults and two children from the fiery wreckage.

The plane experienced engine trouble shortly after takeoff from Centennial Airport and the pilot tried to put it down on a residential street, officials said.

The 1969 Beechcraft 35 hit a fence and a tree before it crashed and burst into flames in Arvada just outside of Denver on Friday, KDVR reported.

The passengers suffered burns and were taken to a hospital, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

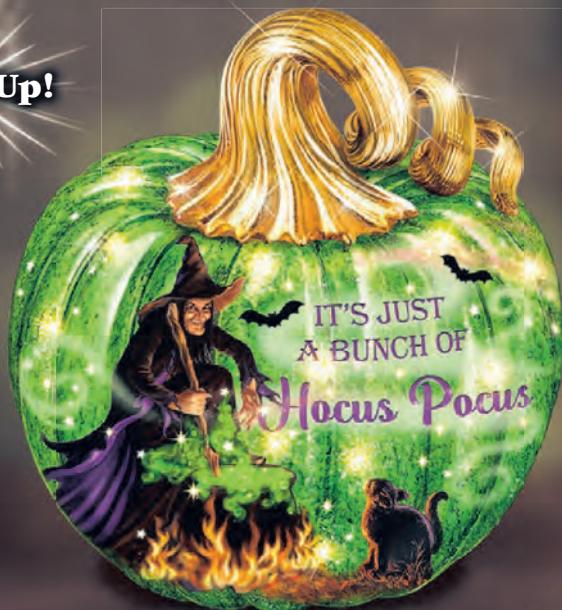
When the aircraft crashed in Randy Hamrick's front yard, he and his wife thought their house might collapse. "It felt like it was falling in. I mean, it was just that violent," he said.

Patrick Reilly

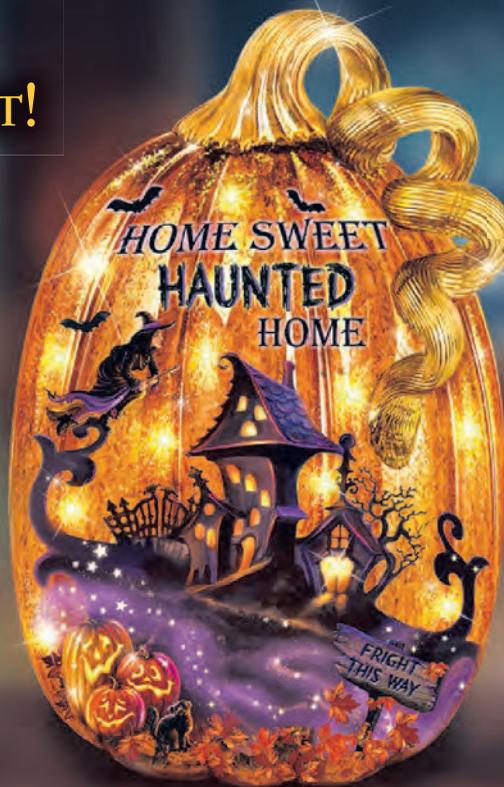
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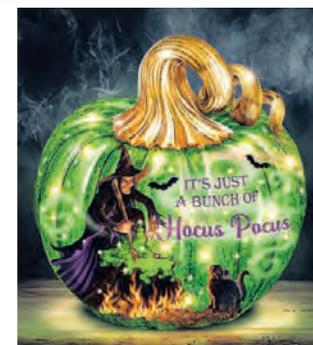


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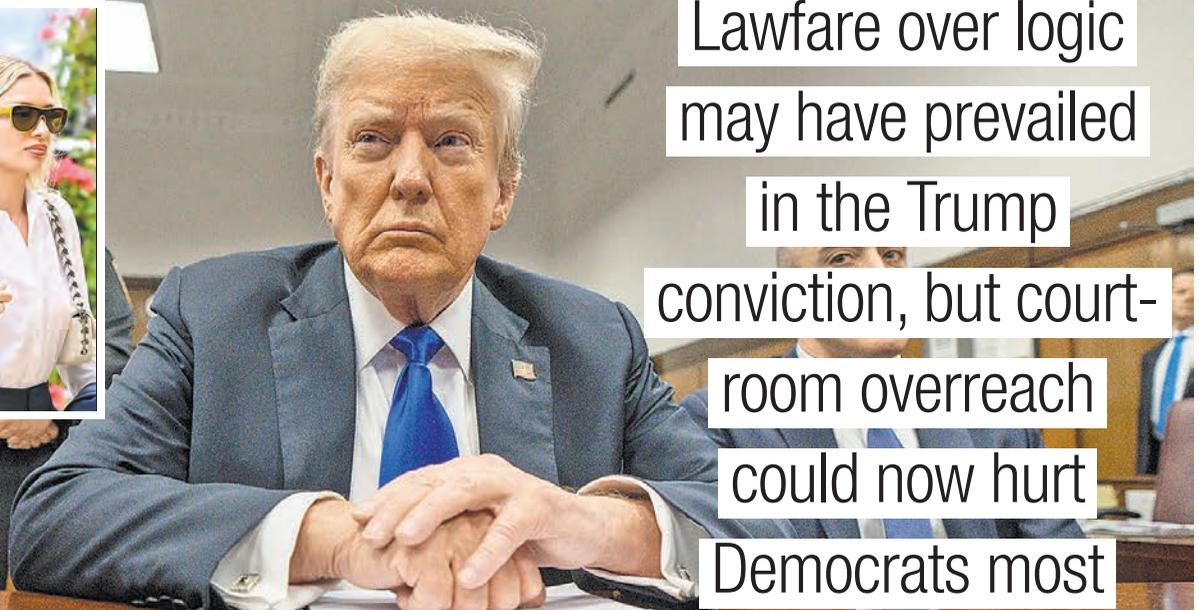
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Inside
Panama's
tropical
island
laboratory
P. 40-41



Hunter Biden's trial (above) on gun charges may be a direct result of Democrats pushing to try and convict Donald Trump, as happened last week (right).



Lawfare over logic
may have prevailed
in the Trump
conviction, but court-
room overreach
could now hurt
Democrats most

JUSTICE DECRIED

THE Democrats finally got their ounce of Donald Trump's flesh in a Manhattan courtroom last week but like Shakespeare's Antonio in "The Merchant of Venice," the bloodlust may be their own undoing.

The guilty verdict should be reversed by the New York appellate or federal courts and likely will be at some point — but perhaps only after the clear election interference objective of the Democrats has been met. Never before have state prosecutors charged a defendant with federal election reporting violations (state courts don't have jurisdiction) and never have non-disclosure agreements been found by a jury in any criminal trial to be a reportable federal campaign expenditure.

In a game of legal hide the ball, Trump was denied the time-honored constitutional right to notice of the charges against him and to a unanimous jury verdict on those charges. Instead, the jury was allowed to cherry-pick non-unanimously from a menu of "additional charges" — unproven federal campaign, tax and other bookkeeping charges — that Alvin Bragg needed in order to manufacture a felony out of an expired misdemeanor bookkeeping violation.

When independent counsel Ken Starr pursued President Clinton criminally for covering up an affair, Democrats cried foul, arguing that prosecutors were using the law highly selectively to go after a political opponent — the classic definition of lawfare. How things have situationally changed in a few short years.

What has changed most is the in-



**JULIAN
EPSTEIN**

dustry of lawfare. Democrats were dumbfounded by Trump's 2016 nomination and subsequent election. President Obama's Department of Justice commenced controversial counterintelligence investigations of Trump campaign officials and Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign paid for a bogus "Steele Dossier" claiming Trump to be a Russian mole.

Tellingly, Bragg never even considered prosecuting Clinton for misreporting this ill-begotten hit job as a "legal expense" even though the parallels to the Trump case are eerily similar. In Clinton's case, the FEC appropriately fined the Clinton campaign a modest sum — which is what, at most, should have happened in Trump's NDA case.

But the original sin of the Steele Dossier birthed the new era of lawfare for the Democrats. As the allegations of Trump's Russia collusion grew during Trump's presidency, liberal cable networks found a new salve for their previously slumbering ratings, mainstream print grew new subscribers and previously obscure left wing legal Cassandras got book deals and television contracts. Never mind the absence of any actual evidence of a Trump criminal conspiracy.

For the Democratic party, the fantasy of Trump's criminal relationship with the Russians became near obsession during his presidency. Democrat leaders like Adam Schiff promised hard evidence of the criminality, and liberal television hosts breathlessly parroted supposed confirmatory nuggets in their breathless dawn to dusk coverage. A Columbia Journalism Review investigation later exposed how

this culture of opinion journalism had replaced the more serious institution of independent journalism moored by facts, independent investigation and skepticism.

When special counsel Robert Mueller exculpated Trump on the Russian collusion but found four possible instances of obstruction of justice, the left, without apology, just moved on. The new charges may have been enough to keep the show going, but the cynicism was unmasked by the fact that the Biden DOJ and all the liberal pundits seem to forget about it once Biden was in office and in position to do something about it.

This is not a defense of Trump's conduct. I was very critical publicly of Trump's failure to demand that Jan. 6 rioters stand down, his far-fetched theories under the 12th Amendment to overturn certified 2020 election results and his classified documents' mis-

deeds. And there should be appropriate consequences for each. But the bigger issue is the somnolent groupthink on the left that endorsed the new legal authoritarianism blinded by bloodlust in the pursuit of lawfare.

The Jan. 6th riots occurred over three years ago. Are we really to believe there are no politics behind the DOJ decision (and that of Georgia's ethically controversial Fani Willis) to delay prosecution until just months before the 2024 election?

Is it really okay with Democrats when partisan prosecutors like Alvin Bragg and state Attorney General Letitia James — deeply conflicted by their political ambitions — use the immense power of prosecutors to go after political opponents with unprecedented applications of the law?

Like Shakespeare's Antonio, Democrats will be unlikely to cabin their ounce of flesh. They will have less ground to stand on if, for example, a Trump DOJ comes after a former President Biden for his

mishandling of classified documents, or Democratic candidates for inevitable campaign reporting disclosure errors.

Hunter Biden's prosecution for allegedly lying on federal gun applications — a case that would normally never have been brought — may just be the first instance of the boomerang. And as the lawfare floodgates open, the irony may be that in the Manhattan case the Democrats unleashed a profound threat to our democracy of their own.

Julian Epstein is the former Democratic Chief Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee.

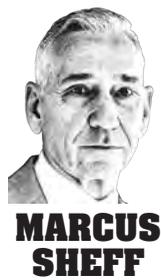


Ken Starr's probe (inset) of President Bill Clinton was labeled selective, while Hillary Clinton's campaign was wrist-slapped over the Steele Dossier.

POSTSCRIPT Culture Club

As Biden pushes for a Saudi-Israel deal, the Kingdom's classrooms are being reformed first

THE grim news coming out of the Middle East casts a dark cloud over prospects for the region. But there are developments pointing towards a different, more positive road ahead. Last week's publication of a study into the curriculum taught in schools in Saudi Arabia is one such opportunity. In fact, the strides being made in Saudi education are an instructive insight into how the region as a whole might actually look one day.



MARCUS SHEFF

More than perhaps any other state-issued document, textbooks provide a window into the future. Within them, we find the values and principles that governments hope their children of today will enact as the adults of tomorrow. With that in mind, the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se), issued a report on the 2023/24 curriculum in Saudi Arabia. Following a critical review of 371 Saudi textbooks from 2019 to 2024, IMPACT-se evaluated changes made to textbooks for the current school year. As always, we measured them against internationally recognized UNESCO standards of peace and tolerance in education.

What we found was very encouraging. Continuing a steady positive trend in Saudi textbooks over the last several years, passages that endorsed violent jihad have been removed, antisemitic language is no longer found and texts that in the past promoted male superiority over women have been removed or altered, providing much-needed gender-parity in a region where it's been lacking. Meanwhile, Zionism is no longer portrayed as the product of Euro-



BOOK REPORT

Last week's study of Saudi Arabian textbooks (right) found encouraging signs, including the removal of antisemitic and sexist content.

AFP via Getty Images; moe.gov.sa

pean colonialism.

As Saudi ruler Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) works towards implementing his comprehensive vision for his Kingdom's future, the way Saudi children are being educated is instructive. It is no coincidence that these textbook changes are taking place as MBS, who has faced scrutiny, opens his Kingdom up to the world. As the Saudi desire for economic development, modernization and closer relations with the West

persists, a curriculum which is increasingly tolerant and inclusive makes this prospect all the more likely.

This will be music to the ears of President Biden, who reminded the world last week of his vision for a cooperative and peaceful Middle East. Such cooperativeness is unfolding in other parts of the region, as well. In the United Arab Emirates, textbooks have been revised to include the Abraham Accords to emphasize tolerance, coexistence and friendly relations with non-Muslims.

In Morocco, their curriculum now embraces minorities including Jews and Amazigh. Meanwhile, in Egypt, a year-by-year reform of textbooks has seen major improvements in attitudes toward Jews and Judaism. These developments remind us that a different version of the future is not only possible, but that positive steps are already being taken towards it.

However, President Biden would

also do well to note that the opposite trend is unfolding in Palestinian textbooks. In his speech last week, President Biden looked to the "day after" Israel's war with Hamas — pledging "a rebuilding of Gaza . . . [with] Arab nations and the international community, along with Palestinian and Israeli leaders."

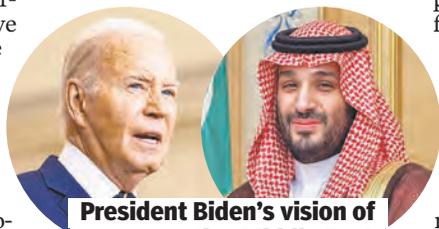
Presumably the Palestinian leaders he has in mind include the Palestinian Authority (PA). And yet, our extensive research of PA textbooks has consistently found them replete with Jew-hatred, incitement to violence, martyrdom and jihad across all grades and subjects. Nowhere in PA textbooks is peace mentioned as a possibility. Instead, the future envisaged is tragically bleak — a grade five study card tells students that their duty towards the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem is "committing jihad and dying as a martyr

for the sake of liberating it."

As a litmus test for change, textbooks are revealing. Over 20 years ago, Mohammed Atta and 18 of his terrorist accomplices — 15 of whom were Saudi — steered two planes into the World Trade Center, murdering thousands and changing the face of the region forever. Nobody would have believed then that Saudi textbooks in 2024 would increasingly embrace tolerance and moderation. The fact that others in the region are undergoing a similar educational evolution suggests this trend has staying power.

Yet, if the Biden vision for Gaza, for Palestinians, for Israelis and indeed for the Middle East is to be realized, then a wholesale transformation in Palestinian education is imperative. Without it, Palestinian children will continue to be at odds not only with Israelis, but with their contemporaries across the region.

Marcus Sheff is CEO of the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education



President Biden's vision of a cooperative Middle East has an unlikely supporter in Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Chatter

"This is just a massive amnesty under the guise of prosecutorial discretion."

— former immigration judge Andrew Arthur, on the Biden administration closing some 350,000 asylum cases since 2022

"Part of making New York City more livable is tackling the little things."

— Mayor Adams, unveiling new public restrooms in the five boroughs

"There was no study that did masks on kids."

— Former White House COVID czar Dr. Anthony Fauci, in contradictory House testimony

"Let's be real, a \$15 charge... puts the squeeze on the very people who make this city go."

— Gov. Hochul, announcing the indefinite delay of congestion pricing in Manhattan



**MARK
BAUERLEIN**

SHAKESPEARE is the great wordsmith of the English language, creator of “to be or not to be” and “kiss me, Kate.” He’s the most performed playwright in American history. We call him “the Bard.”

But, we are told, we shouldn’t use that term. “Bard” has racial undertones, explains Prof. Farah Karim-Cooper in her 2022 essay “Shakespeare through Decolonization.” To raise Shakespeare so highly, she says, is to make him “an icon of white heritage and excellence: the conception of the man as Bard is, I argue, endemic to coloniality.”

If these allegations of supposed white guilt came from a professor of no distinction, we might ignore it. But Karim-Cooper has been made head of the most renowned Shakespeare center in the world, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. Opened in 1932, the Folger contains 200,000 items from the Renaissance period, including the largest collection of Shakespeare materials in existence.

The Folger’s announcement praises Karim-Cooper as “a field leader in examining Shakespearean plays through the lens of social justice.” She leads the Antiracist Shakespeare Webinar, too — a set of videos showing scholars finding race matters in every play in the corpus. She has labored to stop the Renaissance field from suppressing racial topics and ghettoizing scholars of color.

It’s a bizarre situation, but one we see often across academia. Individuals take the reins of cultural institutions with the intent of denigrat-



Getty Images (3)

BARD IDEA

New leadership at Washington’s Folger Library need to stop trying to make Shakespeare woke

Prof. Farah Karim-Cooper heads the Folger Shakespeare Library in DC but wants to “interrogate Shakespeare’s primacy” within the English canon.

ing their prized mission. Karim-Cooper likes Shakespeare, but wants to pull him down a few pegs. We must “interrogate the canon and Shakespeare’s primacy within it,” she insists. She also insists “the Bard has a race problem,” as a Washington Post profile of her put it. Teach “Othello,” she says, but set it alongside Toni Morrison’s “Be-loved” and Keith Hamilton Cobb’s play “American Moor.” Stop making Shakespeare so special.

The founder of the Folger Library had other intentions. Henry Folger idolized Shakespeare and believed

America had a marvelous relationship with him. His wife Emily stated that Henry saw Shakespeare as “one of the wells from which we Americans draw our national thought, our faith and our hope.” That’s why he located the library just behind the US Capitol. The library was not to be an ivory tower only. It was to bring Hamlet and Caesar to Americans of all kinds.

The race obsessions of the new director, however, are an elite matter. People who saw Ralph Fiennes in “Macbeth” in DC this year aren’t interested in anti-racist catechisms.

They want electric acting and eloquence for the ages. Kids in DC schools who read “Romeo and Juliet” in 9th grade and “Hamlet” in 10th won’t necessarily appreciate those masterpieces more if their teachers apply a “lens of social justice.” That the stewards of Henry Folger’s creation believe antiracist Shakespeare will excite the public only shows how clueless they are about common tastes. They want a scholar-activist who will propel the Folger into the multicultural 21st century, but their action illustrates something else: the divorce of elite institutions from the

American people.

This withdrawal is especially regrettable at the present time. In 1970, 1-in-13 bachelor’s degrees were in English. Today, it’s less than 1-in-60. The field is marginal, and with good reason. Will an undergrad who enjoyed “Henry IV” in high school want to take a class with a teacher who trades in white guilt?

A few years ago, a pack of angry students at Penn pulled down a portrait of Shakespeare in the English department and replaced it with one of contemporary poet Audre Lorde. Faculty didn’t stop them. Why select a field that its own practitioners don’t respect?

Leisure habits are declining as well. Twenty years ago the National Endowment for the Arts reported

that 43% of 18-24-year-olds had not read a single poem, play, novel, or short story in the preceding 12 months.

Since then, with every successive iPhone, literary reading has diminished ever more. This is a terrible loss. We need the Folger and other institutions to maintain Shakespeare, Whitman, etc. in the lives of ordinary Americans. Make it fun and illuminating, not troubling and culpable. The director of the Folger regrets that people consider

Shakespeare a unique “source of wisdom and humanity,” but that faith is what keeps the legacy going.

People like Karim-Cooper who traffic in identity politics are righteous scolds. They dislike our laughter at Falstaff’s railery and fascination with Iago’s deviltry. These leaders will pass away, just as the Puritans who closed the theaters did in the 17th century. Unfortunately, the damage they do will outlive them.

Mark Bauerlein is Emeritus Professor of English at Emory University and an editor at First Things magazine

SAFETY NET FRET

Americans are increasingly worried or extremely worried about the future availability of key programs.

Medicare

2022 **67%**

2024 **73%**

Social Security

2022 **75%**

2024 **80%**

— Gallup



“We won.”

— NY City Council member Joe Borelli on X

“In electoral politics, revenge is a dish best served hot.”

— Political consultant Hank Sheinkopf on how Sen. Bob Menendez’s running as an independent could hurt Democrats

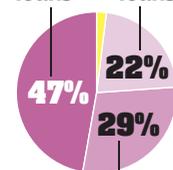


“Hunter did. It was a terrible experience I went through.”

— Hallie Biden, when asked who introduced her to crack cocaine

DIPLOMA DILEMA

US adults are divided on the value of a college degree. Worth it, but only without loans (47%). Worth it, even with loans (22%). Not worth it (29%).



— Pew



ERIC SPITZNAGEL

In a world that often feels like it has no more mysteries to discover (at least on land), scientists from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) have recently proven otherwise.

It happened on Barro Colorado Island in Panama, home to a one-of-a-kind rainforest laboratory that's celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

During a geological expedition, visiting scientists uncovered hundreds of fossilized mangrove wood specimens, perfectly preserved in lava and estimated to be over 22 million years old.

In their findings published in March, researchers revealed almost unimaginable details about this long-lost prehistoric forest, where trees grew 130 feet tall and long-extinct animals once thrived.

Carlos Jaramillo, a Colombian geologist who was involved in the study — and has worked as a staff scientist for the STRI for 19 years — is amazed that a petrified forest had gone unnoticed for so long. “It just tells you how little we know about the tropics,” he told The Post, “even in the most-studied tropical rainforest in the world.”

Discoveries like this are what continue to attract thousands of anthropologists, ecologists, ethologists, evolutionary biologists, paleontologists and physiologists from across the globe to the BCI, as the island is known.

They come to live and study in this rainforest haven, home to some 1,400 plant species, 500 tree species, and more than 100 types of mammals.

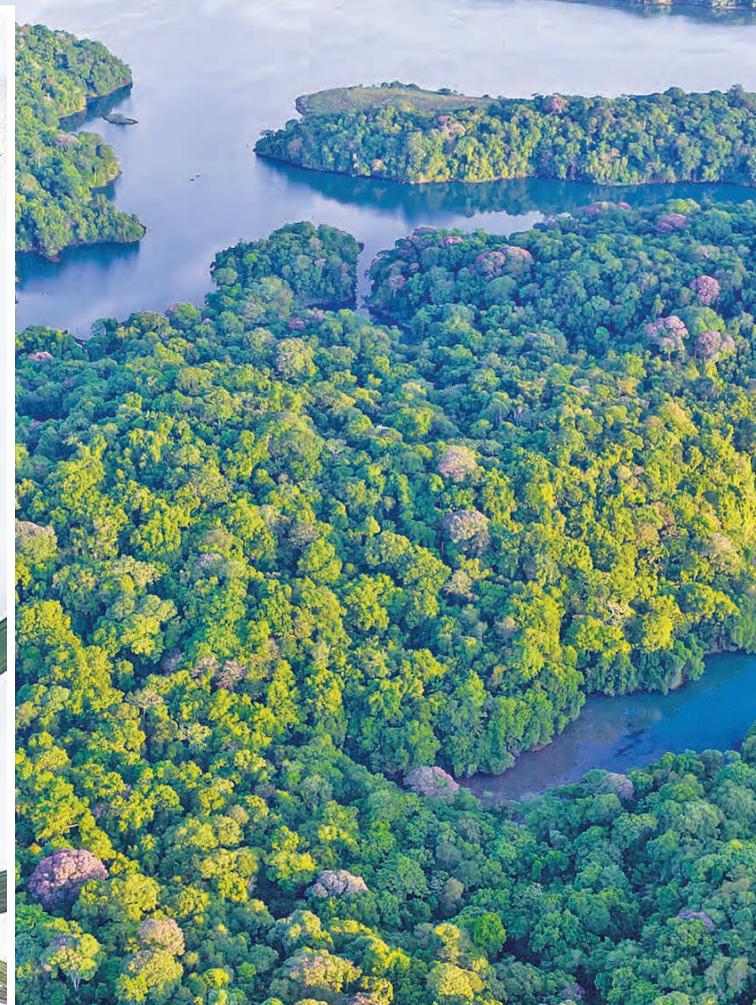


Arriving scientists make the trek of some 200+ stairs from the shoreline to the island's hilltop dorms and laboratories.

Courtesy of Smithsonian



How a tropical island in the middle of the Panama Canal became the world's most innovative research institute



THE STRI is the only bureau of the Smithsonian Institution based outside the US, and its work in Panama isn't confined to the island. They have laboratories near Panama City in the Gamboa Rainforest Reserve — with an amphibian rescue center, insectaries and an experimental greenhouse that tests tropical plant response to elevated carbon dioxide — and several facilities near the entrance to the Panama Canal. In Panama City's Natural Metropolitan Park, the STRI uses towering cranes to study forest ecology literally among the treetops. Recent research has also demonstrated that two out of every five of the world's amphibians are threatened with extinction — and just last year, the Institute lobbied the Panama government to expand the country's protected marine area by 557%.

But the BCI remains its biggest draw for scientists. “You eat, breathe, drink science,” ecologist Erin Spear says of her experiences on BCI,

where she's conducted research for almost two decades. “Everyone around you is a scientist, and everything you're doing is science.”

Biologist Sharon Martinson, who spends three months every year at the institute, tells The Post visiting the island for the first time “is like stepping into Conrad's ‘Heart of Darkness.’”

“It was sensory overload to fly here from Wyoming and realize this is on the same planet.”

Despite being a wonder of nature, the island itself is man-made. It was formed in 1914, when the Chagres River valley was flooded to create Gatun Lake, the main channel of the Panama Canal. Now surrounded by water, BCI was one of the hilltops that remained, and in April of 1923 it was declared a tropical forest reserve for scientific study. The research station officially opened to scientists on March 29, 1924, with the only cost being the \$50 ticket (\$913 in 2024 dollars) for the six-day voy-

age from New York City. The Smithsonian took the reins in 1946, and renamed it the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in 1966, making it the institute's first federally-funded bureau located outside the United States.

The accommodations haven't changed much since the research station first opened as a sort of “little America” amid the heat and humidity Central America. The only transportation to the island is by boat, and then there's the 200-plus-step climb from the base of the island to the dormitories and laboratories above. Visitors and residents have access to a cafeteria and research facilities overlooking the lake and Panama Canal, and modest housing units — there's room for around 50 researchers and staff — that feel like a youth hostel.

But what the island lacks in luxury it more than makes up for with freedom. Getting access to the island lab involves submitting a research pro-

 **Smithsonian**



Courtesy of Smithsonian

Institute director Joshua Tewksbury marvels at Barro Colorado's biological bounty as “100 years of data” to observe.

posal and permit application. If accepted, what a researcher does with his or her time there is pretty much up to them.

“The staff's scientists are free to pursue what they want,” says Nancy

Eden



Panama's Barro Colorado Island is the only branch of the Smithsonian not on US soil. It's celebrating 100 years as a research station that draws scientists from around the world for its uniquely preserved rainforest wonders (like white-faced capuchin monkeys, left).



Barro Colorado Island opened to scientists for research on March 29, 1924, with a six-day voyage for scientists costing \$50 — about \$913 in today's dollars. Its global draw (left) has expanded rapidly in the decades since, but the “sensory overload” of untouched wilderness remains, researchers say.

War II that female scientists and administrators were finally invited to the island. Despite being located in Panama, English was also the STRI's predominant language well into the 21st century — only changing in the years following the Canal's shift to Panamanian rule back in 1999.

More recently, 16 female scientists shared stories of sexual misconduct from their male colleagues at the STRI, according to a 2021 BuzzFeed report. Within a year, the institute launched a full investigation, with director Tewksbury posting a detailed summary of the STRI's commitment to institutional reform.

The STRI has persevered, likely because it offers a unique scientific experience. Here, it isn't necessary to bring samples back to a laboratory. Because the island, six square miles (Manhattan is 22 square miles by comparison), is the laboratory.

Martinson, the director of the Listening Lab at Colorado State University, travels to the STRI to track the mating songs of male katydids. “It's really, really hard to find a katydid,” says Martinson, who would venture through the thick tropical forest at 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., when katydids are most active. “They've had millions of years to get really good at hiding. But on a good night on BCI, we'd find hundreds of them.”

Martinson also plays banjo professionally — she's recorded several albums with her band the Littlest Birds — and she sometimes brings her banjo to the island, playing along with the sounds of the rainforest. “I think it's important to keep both the science side of the brain and the creative arts side of the brain equally in tune,” she says.

It's a sentiment shared by anthropologist Clarence Carpenter, who did groundbreaking studies of howler monkey behavior on the Barro Colorado Island in the 1960s, and described the BCI as a place “mixed with both poetry and science.”

MARTINSON and Carpenter weren't the only eccentrics drawn to the institute. Rodolfo Flores, a Panamanian botanist and STRI intern, discovered 10 new species of plants on the island over the last decade, four of which he's had

tattooed for prosperity on his body. It's a quirk that's landed him in a Panama jail at least once, when authorities confused him for a gang member. “Tattoos in Panama are still a taboo and the police can easily arrest you under that pretext,” he explains.

The rich biodiversity on Barro Colorado Island may be what attracts researchers, but it's people like Flores and Martinson that make it such a fascinating place to live and work. And not just because of their idiosyncrasies.

“You go to dinner and all you talk about is science,” says Spear, whose research focuses on tree disease and mortality. Once, while dining with fellow scientists at the BCI cafeteria, she mentioned that she had no idea how to grow fungi in petri dishes. “Can you teach me how to do it?” she asked the group. Several of them volunteered.

The focus on collaboration is one of the main things that keeps Martinson coming back. “It's rare in science to have people from disparate areas coming together, living together, working together,” she says. “And with that comes the higher likelihood that something really creative and different is going to be figured out.”

The relationships formed on Barro Colorado Island — including a handful of marriages — have often been as significant as (and beneficial to) the research itself, so much that one

of the biggest events of the STRI centennial is the upcoming alumni reunion, scheduled for this June.

In the end, the secret to why the STRI hasn't just survived but thrived over the last century goes beyond its bountiful biodiversity and reputation as the greatest rainforest laboratory in the world. Although regular folks can visit the island with a bit of advanced planning, it's the scientists who've fostered a community on this island.

“I think everybody here is super passionate about science,” says Spear. “They're all curiosity-driven, which sounds kind of simplistic but it's true. All of us want to make a positive change in the world.”



“You eat, breathe, drink science,” ecologist Erin Spear (left) says of her two decades of research on the island. “Everyone around you is a scientist and everything you're doing is science.”



The Panamanian island is only accessible by boat — assuming your research proposal and permit have been approved.

Knowlton, a coral reef biologist who worked at the STRI for much of the '80s and '90s. “Without the need for really large research grants.”

This freedom has resulted in a staggering array of research, with

over 13,000 studies published on the Island's biology ranging from primate behavior to the effects of climate change on tropical ecosystems.

“There are very few other locations worldwide . . . where we have 100 years of data to help us understand how forests change, how nutrient cycles work, and how populations of animals change through time,” Joshua Tewksbury, the institute's current director, tells *The Post*.

WHILE the intent has always been noble, the STRI's history hasn't always been a welcoming scientific melting pot. David Fairchild, an American botanist and one of the first scientists to call the island home in the 1920s, fought to keep women away from Barro Colorado. “Let us keep a place where real research men can find quiet, keen intellectual stimulation, freedom from any outside distraction,” he wrote. It wasn't until after World

NEW YORK POST

AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

Whose Politics?

Hallelujah: The compelling evidence that COVID leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology finally made it into The New York Times.

The paper ran molecular biologist Alina Chan's essay laying out the damning facts, and her mild comment that, for years, "partisan politics have derailed the search for the truth about a catastrophe that has touched us all."

Just whose "partisan politics" did Chan have in mind? The Times doesn't say, but the omission sticks out like a COVID-inflamed lung. After all, back in 2021, the Times' lead COVID reporter, Apoorva Mandavilli, not only dismissed the possibility the bug escaped from the Wuhan lab but suggested such claims were racist: "Someday we will stop talking about the lab leak theory and maybe even admit its racist roots," she tweeted.

The Gray Lady itself aimed to suppress any suspicion COVID originated in a lab. Even before the pandemic fully erupted, it mocked Sen. Tom Cotton for merely wondering if a lab-leak was possible, calling the idea a "fringe theory."

The Times wasn't the only one practicing "partisan politics": CNN and MSNBC called lab-leak suspicions a "debunked" conspiracy theory. NPR (falsely) asserted, "Scientists Debunk Lab Accident Theory of Pandemic Emergence."

Social-media companies outright *censored* lab-leak claims: Facebook banned a Post opinion column by Steven Mosher for speculating on the possibility.

As recently as last Monday, an AP story bizarrely claimed "many scientists believe the virus most likely emerged in nature" and "there's no new scientific information" backing the lab-leak explanation.

Feeding the suppression drive were the very culprits behind the dangerous Wuhan research: Anthony Fauci, his National Institutes of Health boss Francis Collins, Peter Daszak at EcoHealth (which oversaw the research) and other researchers — all of whom conspired to falsely claim the bug jumped naturally from an animal to humans.

In congressional testimony Monday, Fauci backtracked and weaseled his way around numerous troubling questions on his actions and assertions during the pandemic. But for years, left-leaning outlets discredited anyone who dared to question "the science" or people like Fauci, who once claimed he was science.

Chan is certainly right to fault "partisan politics" for the long delay in facing these facts — a tragic delay: Unraveling that mystery early might've helped scientists better understand the bug itself, perhaps leading to a faster vaccine.

And early clarity could've led to stronger efforts to push China to be cooperative *and* added pressure to end the risky research likely behind the virus' creation.

Good on the Times for running Chan's piece, but boo on it, along with others on the left, for putting those pernicious "politics" first.

Emily Gallagher, Hypocrite

Assembly Member Emily Gallagher (D-Brooklyn) hates cars — except her own.

The upstate-transplant socialist and "safe streets" lover has notched at least 46 (!!!) tickets these past 2½ years, for a total of more than \$4,000.

Turns out the white Buick of this tatted tribune of the people was caught illegally blocking fire hydrants.

Power to the workers! Unless their building's on fire, in which case: Screw 'em.

Far worse, the Rochester-reared revolutionary's car has ripped through at least one red light — in The Bronx, a borough that's almost 90% people of color. Guess black lives DON'T matter when ol' Emily's in a rush.

No wonder she slammed driving as a "very kind of aggressive activity" in a 2022 interview. She clearly assumes everyone *else* drives like a lead-footed suburbanite sociopath, too.

And (as is by now customary for New York's left-ist pols) she's a massive hypocrite when it comes to her own preferred vices. When she's not blithely endangering lives by blowing through reds or doing her personal best to make sure the FDNY can't

put out fires, she's taking *other* drivers to task.

By (for example) going on X to lambaste people for parking in crosswalks, though she got caught doing the exact same thing. Or backing laws to drop speed limits to 10MPH and to shrink the number of car lanes on super-busy McGuinness Boulevard.

Don't forget screaming about climate change while driving in a city with major public-transit capacity. Can't ride the subway; that's for those icky poors! Right, Em?

And when confronted with evidence of her scoff-lawism, she simply scoffs some more: "I don't have speeding or school-zone violations. Just some parking tickets I've paid," she sneered to The Post.

Yeah, *four grand* worth. That's enough scratch for a seat in first class, set on fire. And it's funny how she "forgot" the red-light run-through.

After getting called out, she launched into a weepy, delusional meltdown on X, accusing Post reporters of being "operatives" (for the Vast Legal Parking & Traffic Light Conspiracy, no doubt).

It's almost funny how clockwork-predictable the cycle is: *Leftist pol gets caught in obvious hypocrisy and throws a full-diaper tantrum.*

A MERICAN schoolbooks often employ romanticized language to describe the hippie era. A fairly typical passage from the textbook "America, Past and Present," describes hippies as idealistic young activists who "challenged the prevailing adult values in clothing, hairstyles, sexual conduct, work habits, and music." Comfortable trousers and strings of beads "took the place of business suits and wrist-watches... long hair, bare feet, and bralessness for women became the new uniform." At the



WILFRED REILLY

macro-level, monogamous two-parent families and dull suburban subdivisions "gave way to communes for the 'flower children' of the 1960s."

A major article ran in (of all places) Gentleman's Quarterly a few years back titled "The Hippies Were Right After All." In the piece, author Devin Friedman declares: "The secret truth is that hippie culture won... You don't believe me? How many yoga studios come up in Google Maps when you open it?"

In addition to the impression that hippies constituted a majority or at least a sizable plurality of society, coverage of this kind almost invariably conveys an undertone of sympathy for even the most extreme elements of the counterculture. In the same source, the often-violent Students for a Democratic Society is described as a "radical" organization but also as one that legitimately wanted to "rid American society of poverty, violence [!], and racism." For all their flaws, members are called serious people who pursued a new form of "salvation" via "the individual rather than the group."

The modern-day romanticization of the hippies represents yet another example of scholars unable to admit the failure and unpopularity of left-leaning revolutions. Not only has the modern world rejected the hippie aesthetic, but history has proven the key elements of their project to be incorrect.

For a variety of reasons, including frequent public lewdness by anti-war activists and their treatment of Vietnam combat veterans, the anti-war and hippie movements were extraordinarily unpopular with most non-elite citizens.

Such was the actual perception of the Aquarians, during their age.

In step with our decades-later reverence for the hippie scene and the peace/sex movements, the mainstream "schoolbook" take on the Vietnam War today seems to be that it was an epic tragedy, unpopular at the time and now known to have been fought for amoral and illogical reasons. In reality, American attitudes toward Vietnam were quite normal if not — given the length of the war and the prevailing patterns



Hippie culture has a whitewashed legacy thanks to decades of romanticized accounts emphasizing flower power over sex and drug abuse.

of media coverage of it — balmier than might have been expected.

There were logical reasons underlying both of these dead-common perspectives. Simply put, people disliked hippies because they struck the average taxpayer as slovenly, money-bumming drug addicts. Pieces like Joan Didion's "Slouching Towards Bethlehem" (1968) painted an amusing but disturbing picture of the hip scene in outposts like San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district — one full of open-air drug markets, doped-up street kids on the nod in public, pimps preying on young flesh, and the occasional lunatic bow-man hunt-



Joan Didion (left) wrote ominously in 1968 of the hippie mecca of San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury nabe.

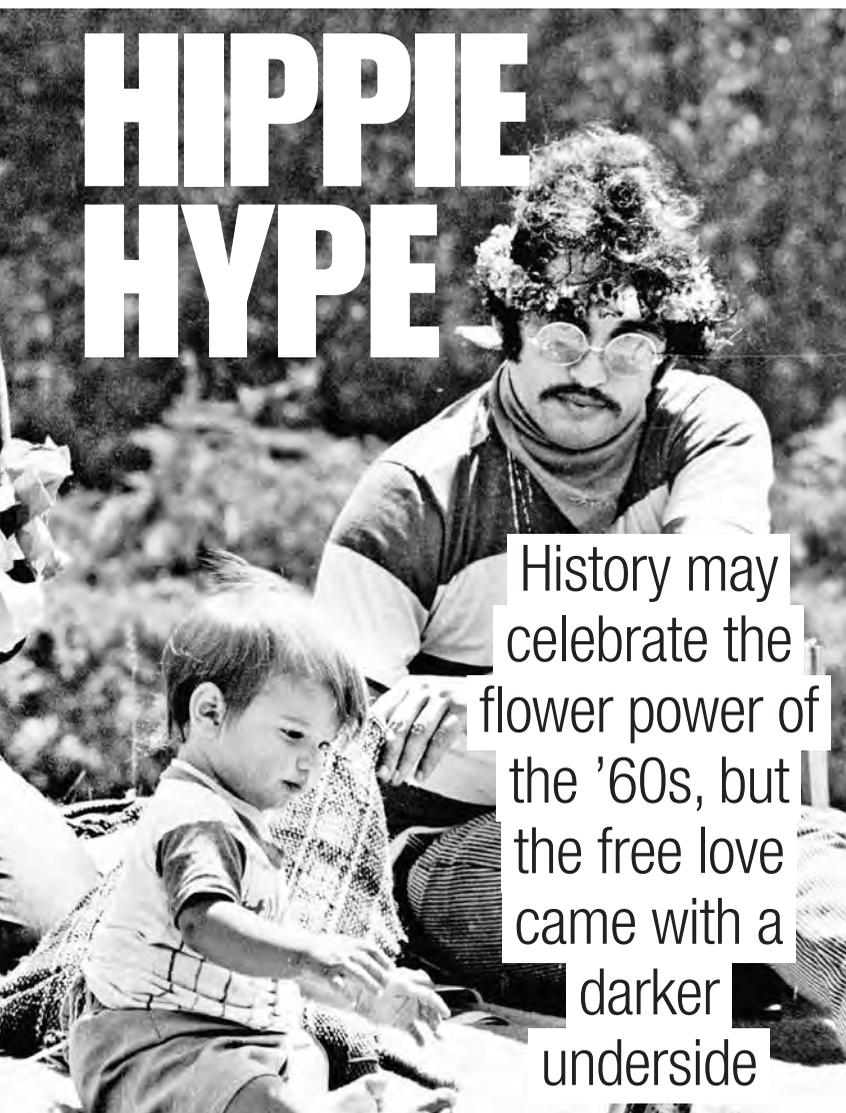
Courtesy via Getty Images

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HIPPIE HYPE



History may celebrate the flower power of the '60s, but the free love came with a darker underside

Getty Images (2)

ing stray cats for food.

One piece in this vein, “The Death of the Hippies” — the Atlantic’s 2015 requiem for its older article — opens by discussing the joy and hope that many at first associated with the famous Summer of Love. However after less than a year, any basic civilizational restraints essentially disappeared. “Over time,” says Samberg, “more and more people started using hard drugs. All the [hippie] stuff about higher consciousness was just sort of dropped.”

At around this same time, damaged and often sexually abused teenage kids — especially girls — started showing up in San Francisco and Berkeley in droves. One pack of Berkeley middle-school girls became known as the Minnie Mob because they often hit the avenue in their Mickey Mouse-themed “tween”

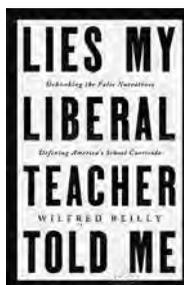
13, maybe 14. But they just consumed anything.”

Simply put, the 1960s “movement,” now almost universally lauded, was widely hated in its own time, but that didn’t stop it from doing damage. In a sense... the hippies did “win,” but not in a way we should truly applaud. Their pro-free love, anti-establishment, anti-war, pro-drug ethos left a trail of destruction in its wake. The negative effect that it had on public attitudes toward the Vietnam War was a real, if minor, factor that contributed directly to the defeat of the domino theory strategy. And that defeat had a devastating eventual effect as the dominoes fell in Southeast Asia.

To some degree, the Western hippies gleefully chanting “Ho! Ho! Ho Chi Minh!!!” bear responsibility for the killing fields halfway across the world. Six

decades later, young radicals continue to chant today for issues such as “Palestine” — believing that their cause is rooted in love, though as misguided as their predecessors back in Berkeley and the City by the Bay.

Wilfred Reilly is a political-science professor at Kentucky State University and the author of “Lies My Liberal Teacher Told Me.”



CHATTER

Loyalty pays

Mayor Adams presents us another episode in the continuing saga of the “confederacy of dunces” (“Troubled jail big’s new gig,” June 4).

Louis Molina failed to right the ship that is Rikers Island. So the mayor puts him in charge of the city’s copy machines, office supplies and fleet of take-home vehicles used by his deputy mayors and commissioners.

Only in NYC politics can you fail at one job and be promoted to take on another one.

Gene Roman, The Bronx

India’s election

The results of India’s latest election, the world’s largest democratic exercise, indicate a significant shift in the political landscape (“India PM wins, but needs help,” June 5).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s tenure has been marked by polarizing rhetoric, notably his inflammatory comments labeling Muslims as “infiltrators.” His opponents argue these have stoked communal tensions. Journalists critical of his administration have faced harassment, with reports of expulsions, investigations and raids becoming alarmingly common.

As India navigates its complex political future, this election has punctured Modi’s hubris and demonstrated the resilience of the nation’s democratic spirit. The results offer a glimmer of hope for those advocating for a more inclusive and secular India, reaffirming the

electorate’s desire for a leadership that addresses pressing economic and social issues rather than fostering division.

Jagjit Singh, Los Altos, Calif.

Honoring D-Day

Let us never forget the Greatest Generation and all they sacrificed and accomplished on D-Day, at Iwo Jima and throughout WWII and the Korean War (“D-Day: Heroes Who Changed History,” Editorial, June 6).

The Selective Service program helped keep many young men who didn’t or couldn’t pursue a college education from developing bad habits or getting into trouble. Virtually everyone of draft age was pretty much in the same boat with very few exceptions.

The likelihood of being drafted was not only in the backs of teenage minds but it became a viable option for men whose lives were somewhat “rudderless.”

As my father, a WWII veteran, told me in my teen years, “Once you graduate high school you either go to college, get a job or join the Army, but no son of mine is going to be a bum.”

Vincent Ruggiero, Scottsdale Ariz.

Double standards

This report by Steven Hillman about how he was marched back and forth through a maze of security gates by NYPD officers just to watch the Israel Day Parade strikes me as quite infuriating (“I get searched, punks get pass,” June 4).

Especially when it is contrasted with the indulgence of aggressive, hostile and antisemitic activists. No attendees of parades on Thanksgiving, St. Patrick’s Day or any other holiday had to suffer these “security precautions.”

Stanley M. Rubin, Fresh Meadows

Broadway blues

Crime and inflated hotel prices are factors in Broadway’s falloff (“Tourist Trouble,” Nicole Gelinias, PostOpinion, June 3).

But let’s not kid ourselves. The bigger factor is our theater industry’s ill-advised commitment to wokeism.

If Broadway started producing hummable boy-gets-girl shows that don’t alienate half the population, maybe its box office would pick up. Until then, only Bialystock and Bloom will make money.

Darren McKinney, Washington, DC



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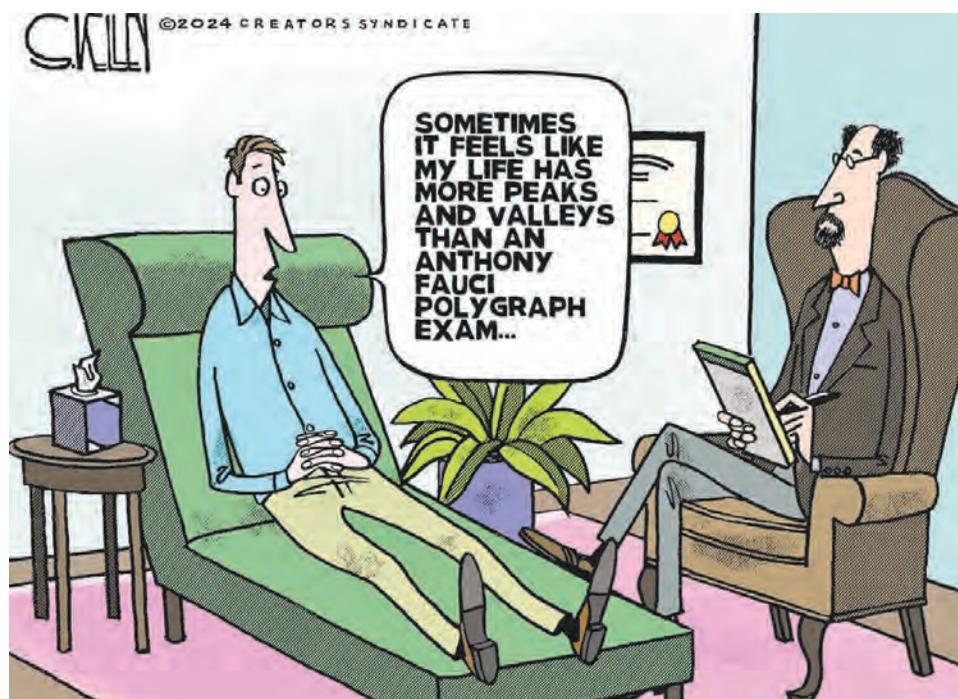
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REQUIRED READING
by Hailey Eber

The Friday Afternoon Club: A Family Memoir

Griffin Dunne (Penguin Press)
The actor/writer/director — and son of Vanity Fair crime reporter Dominick Dunne — recalls growing up in rarefied circles in Hollywood and Manhattan and getting kicked out of boarding school. Sean Connery rescued him from drowning when he was 8 years old. In his early teens, he went to a launch party for Tom Wolfe’s “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test” hosted by his aunt Joan Didion — in an attempt to hook up with Janis Joplin. In his twenties, he was roommates and best pals with Carrie Fisher while she was filming “Star Wars.”



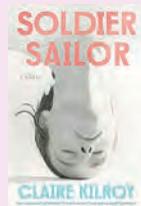
Godwin

Joseph O’Neill (Pantheon)
O’Neill’s first novel, 2008’s Pen/Faulkner-award winning “Netherland,” used cricket as a window into post-9/11 immigrant life in New York City. His latest employs soccer to examine global capitalism and the aftermath of colonialism. A British soccer agent convinces his half-brother, a writer based in Pittsburgh, to go with him to Africa to scout a talented teen whom he thinks could be the next big football phenom.



Soldier Sailor: A Novel

Claire Kilroy (Scribner)
This bleary portrayal of new motherhood drew big raves when it was released in the UK last year. An unnamed narrator known only as “Soldier” relays truths both hilarious and brutal to an infant son she calls “Sailor.”



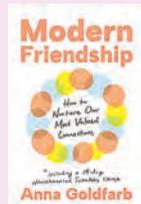
Sing Like Fish: How Sound Rules Life Under Water

Amorina Kingdon (Crown)
We assume the depths of the ocean to be quiet and peaceful, but they’re not. Kingdon, an award-winning science writer, examines the rich underwater soundscape, from whalesongs to aquatic volcanoes, and the unique way sound travels in the ocean, depending on the current, temperature and salinity.



Modern Friendship

Anna Goldfarb
A journalist looks at the state of friendships in the modern age — how many of us struggle to find the time to be good friends and yet also struggle with feelings of loneliness — and offers up actionable tips for improving bonds.



In the Shadows: True Stories of High-Stakes Negotiations to Free Americans Captured Abroad

Mickey Bergman and Ellis Henican (Center Street)
Bergman, who helped secure the release of Brittney Griner, shares tales of high-level hostage negotiations with foreign adversaries.



Inside the NCAA corruption scandal

COURTSIDE CONNIMEN

by GAVIN NEWSHAM

THERE wasn’t anything Marty Blazer wouldn’t do for his clients, as Guy Lawson explains in “Hot Dog Money: Inside the Biggest Scandal in the History of College Sports” (Little A).

As financial manager for a clutch of highly-rated college athletes, he considered himself a big brother to his young charges. “Blazer did whatever they needed and had their backs whenever they screwed up,” writes Lawson.

From obtaining Valtrex for players with STDs to organizing what he called “CSI cleanings” of apartments when players hooked up with women they shouldn’t, nothing was too much trouble.

Once, he even got emergency medical help for a player’s date whose breast implants had burst.

“Blazer had to find a doctor for the girl, lest her life be in jeopardy,” the journalist recounts.

Louis Martin “Marty” Blazer III was a Pittsburgh-based financial advisor who looked after gifted college football and basketball players on their journey to the professional game.

But he was also a hustler, a thief and a liar.

Whenever he gave his pitch to a prospective signing, he always said the same thing. “He said he came from the future, and he knew how the story would play out — the money, girlfriends, family demands, hangers-on, real estate, and investment opportunities,” writes Lawson.

And so what if the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) had rules against paying players and their friends and family, it was nothing he couldn’t circumnavigate. “I had never had to try too hard to disguise what I was doing,” he told Lawson in a series of interviews.

“Use cash, don’t create a paper trail, don’t talk about breaking the rules on the phone — it was simple to circumvent NCAA rules.”

But Blazer had other ideas for his clients’ money. There were movies he wanted to make and a music management

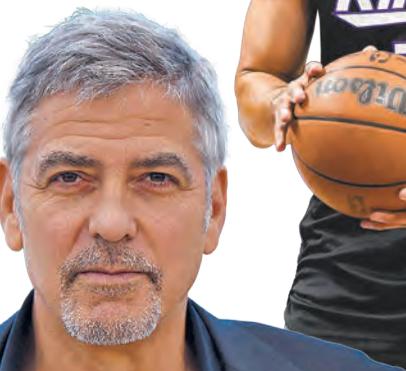


The FBI’s investigation of the NCAA for financial misdeeds took a chaotic turn with the embezzlement conviction of case agent Scott Cooper (above, at right), who gambled cash meant to entice college coaches.

company he wanted to get going — and they required investment.

INITIAALLY, it was easy pickings for Blazer, not just because the NCAA lacked the teeth to investigate wrongdoing but also because too many people in college sport were doing very nicely from the arrangements.

George Clooney has secured the movie rights to “Hot Dog Money,” which depicts the career downfall of promising NBA hopefuls like Brian Bowen Jr. (right).



In short, everyone was at it. As he told Lawson: “The NCAA was a joke. Everyone involved in college sports knew that the NCAA regulators were incompetent fools.

“The coaches and agents and financial advisers and runners all knew they were in on a good thing and that scandals helped no one in the long term when the status quo was so lucrative.”

In 2013, officials with the Securities and Exchange Commission began investigating Blazer over allegations he defrauded five of his clients, taking around \$2.5 million of their money and investing it in his vanity projects.

As the investigation progressed, Blazer admitted paying college athletes on the understanding they became his clients when they turned professional, a practice outlawed by NCAA rules.

Among the charges

TNS, Getty Images

Getty Images (2)

that revealed the dark side of college basketball



Sports manager Marty Blazer (oval) died in January after revealing his ethically dubious exploits in Guy Lawson's "Hot Dog Money," with incidents including a bungled booze- and cash-fueled sting op in Las Vegas.

Everyone involved knew that the NCAA regulators were incompetent fools.

—Marty Blazer

Instead, the lead case agent, Scott Carpenter, took full advantage of the state-funded hospitality, drank a six-pack of beer and nearly a whole bottle of vodka before taking \$13,500 from the safe and losing it all in \$700-a-hand games of Blackjack at the Bellagio.

"Later that year, Scott Carpenter rose in court in Las Vegas to plead guilty to a misdemeanor count of embezzlement of \$13,500 in federal funds, the crime ironically — or perhaps, predictably — captured on the casino's security camera," writes Lawson.

Marty Blazer wasn't surprised. "I saw the trouble coming as I watched Scott get caught up in the money and glamor," he told Lawson. "It is intoxicating — in Scott's case, literally."

While Scott Carpenter was sentenced to 90 days in jail, Marty Blazer avoided a custodial sentence and, in 2020, was given just one year of probation and ordered to repay \$1.56 million in restitution to those he defrauded.

With the investigation over, Blazer slipped out of the limelight, taking a job in the tech industry and, alongside wife Trish, trying to help their three kids through college.

He was a changed man. "After all that I put my family through, I crave a quiet life," he told Lawson.

But Marty Blazer never got his wish.

This past Jan. 8, soon after Lawson had finished "Hot Dog Money," Blazer died suddenly of natural causes at his home near Pittsburgh, Pa.

He was just 53 (although his story will live on far beyond just Lawson's book; George Clooney has bought the rights to turn it into a movie).

"It seemed to me that Marty Blazer personified the age-old contradiction at the heart of so many stories about crime and punishment," writes Lawson.

"Yes, I lied then, but now I'm telling the truth."



Blazer faced were wire fraud, identity theft, securities fraud and making false statements and documents.

FACED with a lengthy prison sentence, Blazer took the only option available — to become a "cooperating informant" and assist the FBI in their investigations into corruption in college sport and the NCAA.

"I was an insider who spoke the language," he told Lawson.

As part of operation "Ballertz," Blazer posed as a business manager, helping the FBI make hundreds of recordings that detailed the extent of corruption at play in the NCAA, with vast sums of "Hot Dog Money" changing hands in order to steer athletes towards certain schools or brands, often without the students' knowledge.

The trade in players was nothing short of immoral. "It didn't seem

like they [the FBI] understood how big what was happening was — the trafficking of kids at the hands of their trusted coaches," Blazer told Lawson.

With Blazer's assistance, the FBI penetrated the dark underbelly of college sport, where connen operated with impunity, resulting in 11 indictments and 10 convictions for crimes relating to bribes paid to athletes, their relatives and coaches, including ones for coaches from Oklahoma State, Arizona, Southern California and Auburn, and prison sentences for an Adidas executive, Merl Code, and two associates.

Code's pursuit of basketball player Brian Bowen Jr. was typical of the kind of operation that carried out.

As one of the most sought-after players in collegiate basketball, Bowen had turned down offers from colleges including Michigan State, UCLA and Arizona to take a place

at the Adidas-affiliated University of Louisville.

During the FBI's investigation, however, it transpired a six-figure sum had been given to Bowen's father as a sweetener and Code, who worked as a consultant to Adidas, was the man who made it happen.

Inevitably, it was the athlete that paid the price.

Brian Bowen Jr. was suspended from the Louisville basketball team, transferred to University of South Carolina and then forced by the NCAA to sit out for two seasons.

WHILE he tried to enter the draft in 2018 and 2019, the case followed him and, instead, he opted to leave the United States and play in Australia, his dream to play in the NBA all but shattered.

But the investigation also revealed how even the FBI agents were seduced into the seedier side of collegiate sport, compromising their inquiries.

During one sting in July 2017, the FBI took over the Chelsea Suite penthouse at the Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas and filled the safe with \$135,000 of federal cash intended to bribe visiting coaches and capture the deals on hidden cameras.



Guy Lawson



NYP Post

POSTSCRIPT Books

by ARTURO CASADEVALL

VIDEO game-turned-HBO series “The Last of Us,” of course, is science fiction. Yet the idea is loosely based on a real fungus, *Cordyceps*, that infects and manipulates the behavior of a wide range of insects, including ants. These *Cordyceps* infect an ant, grow inside its body and then force the ant to climb to a high point on a plant or tree, where it can release fungal spores to infect and take over the greatest number of ants possible.

This behavior manipulation is what has earned the real-life fungi the nickname “zombie-ant fungi,” as the ant behaves as if it is controlled by a “zombie” force. It’s a fascinating example of how fungi can manipulate other organisms for their own benefit.

A relative of the zombie-ant fungus, *Cordyceps sinensis*, known as Dongchongxiacao (winter-worm summer-grass) in Chinese, is one of the most popular traditional Chinese medicines, recommended for everything from anti-aging to cancer suppression. *Cordyceps*, like so many other fungi, have properties both beneficial and dangerous — if you are an ant, that is.

The setup for “The Last of Us” series is a one-minute scene, purportedly a 1968 talk show interview with experts on fungi. It felt all too real to me.

“A fungus cannot survive if its host’s internal temperature is over 94 degrees [Fahrenheit],” one actor playing a scientist tells the others. “And currently there are no reasons for fungi to evolve to be able to withstand higher temperatures.”

Then he proposes what might have seemed a highly unlikely scenario in the 1960s: “But what if that were to change? What if, for instance, the world were to get slightly warmer?”

He goes on to say, “Well, now, if there is reason to evolve, one gene mutates and then... any one of them

SPORES OF TERROR



The fungi-fueled monsters of “The Last of Us” (inset) aren’t here yet, but the pandemic parallels are worth studying.



A scientist explores the wild world of fungi — where the horrors of ‘The Last of Us’ could possibly come true

when SARS came along in 2003, an epidemic that sickened more than 8,000 people and killed 774, mostly in China and Hong Kong, did we understand that coronaviruses could be pandemic threats. COVID-19 confirmed it on a massive worldwide scale.

Just as retroviruses and coronaviruses once were, the fungal kingdom remains an afterthought. Like the generals who prepare for the last war, we focus on known threats. That’s why we’re so often surprised and unprepared when something new does emerge. A fungal pandemic remains unlikely today because fungi, generally speaking, don’t spread efficiently from human to human. But it may not always stay this way. Quietly, fungi are being revealed more as a potential enemy building strength. We don’t necessarily know which fungi will strike, or where, or in what numbers.

What we do know is that we need to stop ignoring fungi and the threats they pose, treating them as less dangerous than bacteria or viruses. They should no longer be second-class citizens in the world of pathogens. We need new and better ways to protect ourselves and the crops on which we rely.

At the same time, let’s continue to focus on the incredible natural abilities of fungi to potentially protect us from radiation, from depression, from single-use plastics, from so many other big problems that need solving. Science can win if we put our resources — financial, human, and more — behind it.

This piece was excerpted from “What if Fungi Win?” by Dr. Arturo Casadevall; Copyright 2024 Johns Hopkins University Press

could become capable of burrowing into our brains and taking control not of millions of us but billions of us. Billions of puppets with poisoned minds permanently fixed on one unifying goal, to spread the infection to every last human alive by any means necessary. And there are no treatments for this, no preventatives, no cures. They don’t exist. It’s not even possible to make them.”

“So, if that happens?” asks the wide-eyed host. “We lose,” comes the somber reply.

People keep asking me if a fungal crisis like the one in “The Last of Us” could really happen. I’ve told them, in science, you never say no. Sure, it’s far-fetched that a fungus will turn people into zombies, even though it actually does that to ants.

But what are scientists who are

studying *Cordyceps* learning about how the fungus is able to replace the nervous system of ants? Maybe, someday, this basic science could help us understand how a fungus can cause paralysis, and maybe that understanding could lead to technology that could help someone walk again. That is also not out of the realm of scientific possibility.

While the plot of the television show firmly resides in the world of make-believe, there’s no question in my mind that we’re likely to see dangerous new fungal pathogens emerge. We already have. With climate change continuing its march, we will undoubtedly see more.

I often think about how when I went to medical school in the late 1970s and early 1980s, we learned that retroviruses (such as HIV,

which we hadn’t yet identified), known to cause disease in other animals, were harmless to humans. Scientists had studied these retroviruses, which caused experimental tumors in mice in the lab, mainly because they were trying to determine whether they could learn something useful in the war on cancer. Well, in my second year of medical school a retrovirus was associated with a rare human disease known as tropical spastic paraparesis, and a few years later we learned that HIV was the cause of AIDS.

In those days, we were also taught that coronaviruses would do nothing more than give people the sniffles. Only



BUZZ BOOK: Blondie ambition

IN the late 1980s, Blondie stars Debbie Harry and Chris Stein were dining at a fancy Times Square restaurant with Iggy Pop when Jean-Michel Basquiat walked in with a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Basquiat pulled out some weed and began rolling a joint when Iggy, of all people, asked him to stop.

As Stein writes in his new memoir, “Under a Rock” (St. Martin’s Press, out June 11), Basquiat became “performatively annoyed and started a beef with Iggy,” which Stein found hilarious.

“Iggy arguing for the rule of law was somewhat absurd,” Stein writes, noting that the two yelled at each other before Basquiat acquiesced.

Stein and Harry began dating in 1973, when they played in The Stilettoes. They formed Blondie, named after a trucker’s cat-call of Harry, the following year.

When they opened for Iggy Pop, David Bowie served as Iggy’s keyboardist.

While Stein and Harry were famously a couple, this didn’t stop Bowie from casually asking Harry, “Can I f--k you?” She merely replied, “I don’t know, can you?”

More dangerously weird were



their interactions with music legend Phil Spector, who they visited at his mansion in Alhambra, Calif.

“Phil came to the door with a bottle of Manischewitz wine in one hand and a presumably loaded model 1911 .45 automatic in the other,” Stein writes.

Spector and Harry sang a few Ronettes songs; then Spector “stuck the .45 into the top of Harry’s right boot and said, ‘Bang, bang!’ which he obviously thought was hysterically funny.”

While Stein wrestled with addiction for years, a sense of rock and roll weirdness permeated his life even when he was clean.

During his first time at Burning Man, in 2000, he was so unprepared for the desert that he cut arm holes in a sleeping bag and wore it as clothing.

Walking into a makeshift Burning Man radio station in his sleeping bag attire, he was asked if he had anything he wanted to say on the air.

“I said, ‘Can I plug my band?’” Stein writes.

“The DJ asked what band and when I said Blondie they thought I was crazy and threw us out.”

— Larry Getlen

Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.

A 10x10 grid with black squares forming a pattern. White squares are for digits 1-9. Clues are numbers in triangles pointing into the grid. Diagonal clues are sums of the white cells below them. Horizontal and vertical clues are sums of the white cells to their right.

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#454 ▲

Chess

Computer science

By Andy Soltis

It takes time for a computer to stop thinking like a clueless human.

If you ask a chess-playing engine to examine this week's game, it may react initially to Black's seventh move the same way we would: "How can such a crazy sacrifice work?"

But once the machine calculates for several seconds – and several moves into the

future -- it will evaluate the position as awful for White after the stunning blows that follow.

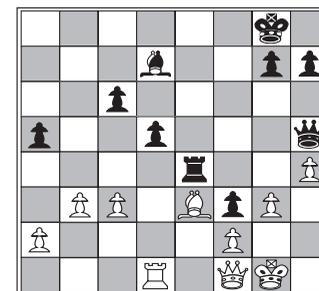
It can see, for example, how bad White's position would be after 10 Nxf7? Qf6.

In fact, Black's moves get high ratings from machines, until he passed up the faster winning line, 16...Qxh4!

White resigned before a deadly check on e1 or d4.

RUY LOPEZ Bundesliga 2024

Ivan Cheparinov	Kirill Shevchenko
1 e4.....e5	14 Ne2.....Nxf3+
2 Nf3.....Nc6	15 Kc3.....Nd4
3 Bb5.....Nge7	16 Rxh4.....Nxe2+?
4 Nc3.....Ng6	17 Qxe2.....Bxe2
5 h4.....Nd4	18 Rh2.....Rf8
6 Bc4.....h5	19 Rxe2.....Qf1
7 Ng5.....d5!	20 Rh2.....c6
8 Bxd5.....Bg4	21 Be6.....Rxf7
9 f3.....Nxf4!	22 Bxf7+.....Kxf7
10 d3.....Be7	23 Rxh5.....Kg8
11 Nxf7.....Nhxf3+!	24 Rf5.....Qg1
12 gxh3.....Bh4+	25 Rxe5.....c5!
13 Kd2.....Qf6	26 Resigns



Black to play and win.

Sevian-So

American Cup 2024

Last week: 1 Nxe6+! fxe6 2 h5! (2... Rhg8 3 Rxc8 Rxc8 4 Qxg6+).

KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

A 6x6 grid with cages and operations. Cages are outlined boxes with a target number and an operation (+, -, ×, ÷). Operations are only used in cages with more than one cell.

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Sunday Word Force

ARITHMETIC

From the word or phrase above, form at least 40 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

"Are you superstitious?" a club player asked me.

"It's bad luck to be superstitious," I replied. "I guess I'm merely 'stitious."

"I wondered if you have superstitions about guessing missing queens," he said, "such as 'the queen lies over the jack' or 'finesse in the direction of city hall.'"

Players may have idiosyncrasies about resolving a guess for a queen, but there will invariably be clues from the bidding and play. If no clues are evident, an expert declarer will delay his guess while he goes looking for information.

Against today's four hearts, West

led the deuce of clubs: five, ten, three. East shifted to a trump, and West took the ace and led another club. East won with the jack and tried to cash the ace, and declarer ruffed and drew trumps.

South was in no hurry to guess in diamonds. He took the K-A of spades and ruffed a spade, as West followed with the deuce, nine and jack. South then reflected that West probably had no more spades: With Q-J-9-2 or J-10-9-2, his opening lead would

have been a spade honor, not a risky club from a broken suit. Moreover, West's lead of the deuce of clubs suggested a four-card holding. So declarer placed West with 3-2-4-4 distribution -- and the odds were four to two that he held any particular diamond, including the queen.

That wasn't all. It appeared that

West's clubs were Q-9-x-x. If his diamond holding were, say, 9-8-7-3, he might have preferred to lead a passive diamond. So putting it all together, South judged to lead a diamond to dummy's jack.

Making four. South dealer N-S vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ A 7 5
 ♥ 10 9 4 2
 ♦ K J 5
 ♣ K 7 5

WEST
 ♠ J 9 2
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ Q 9 7 3
 ♣ Q 9 4 2

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 8 4 3
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ 8 6
 ♣ A J 10 8

SOUTH
 ♠ K 6
 ♥ K Q J 8 5
 ♦ A 10 4 2
 ♣ 6 3

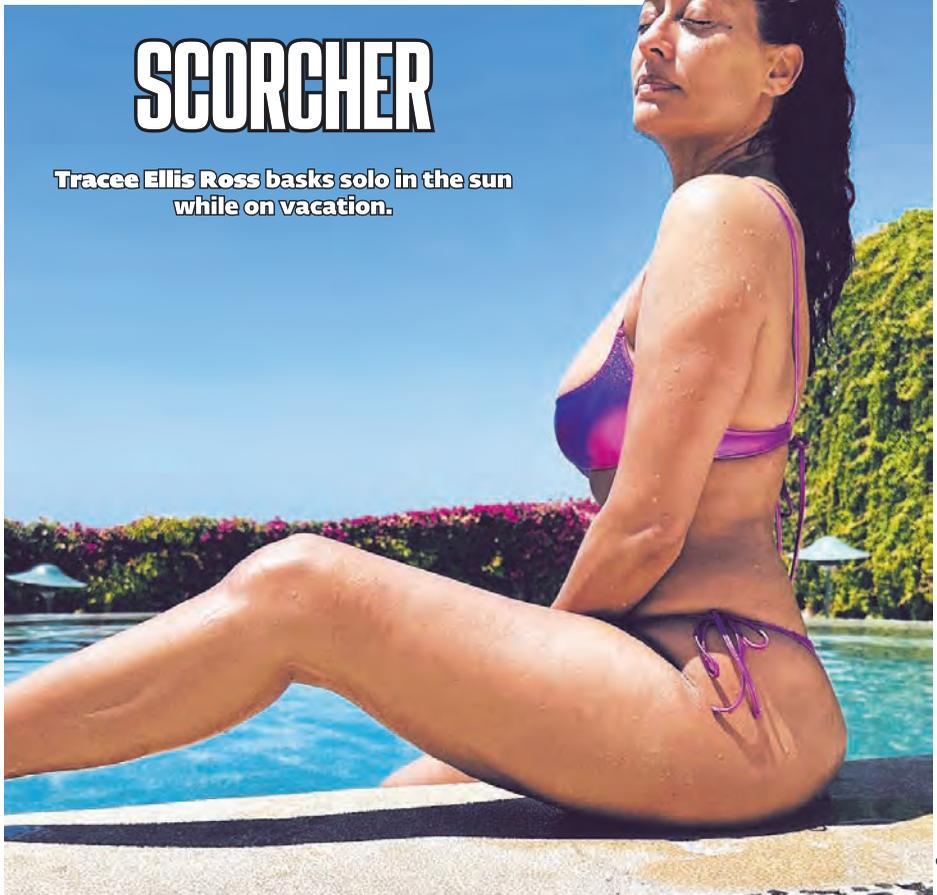
South 1♥ West Pass North 3♥ East Pass

Opening lead - ♣ 2

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By Maude Campbell, Tori Schneebaum & Donna Grace

Snaps



SCORCHER

Tracee Ellis Ross basks solo in the sun while on vacation.

traceeellisross/Instagram



Heidi Klum cheers to her 51st birthday with hubby Tom Kaulitz by her side.

IN FULL KLUM

heidiklum/Instagram



Austin Butler stays in character while promoting his new film "The Bikeriders" in Sydney.

CAN'T HARLEY WAIT

BIANCA DE MARCHI/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock



Mama Priyanka Chopra spends a cozy day at home twinning with 2-year-old daughter Malti.

CUDDLE HUDDLE

priyankachopra/Instagram

Katie Holmes models herself after New York's famous black and white cookie out in Soho.

GC Images



'BOYS' NIGHT

At the Tribeca screening of "Bad Boys: Ride or Die," funnymen Will Smith (from left), Tracy Morgan and Martin Lawrence can't keep a straight face.

Getty Images for Sony Pictures Entertainment

Getty Images for the Gotham Film & Media Institute



AWE & ORDER

Former "SVU" co-stars Stephanie March (left) and Mariska Hargitay reunite at the Gotham TV Awards in the Financial District.



SHINING STAR

At the Pride Parade in Los Angeles, Lizzo is ready for warm and cold fronts.

GC Images

TRENCH THOROUGHFARE



Snaps



MASK APPEAL

Demi Moore can't hide her signature style at a Cartier gala in Vienna.

Brian Prahli / SplashNews.com



PLANET JANET

Wearing the original top from Janet Jackson's "If" music video (inset), Kim Kardashian honors the singer by wearing it to her California concert.



kaiagerber/Instagram

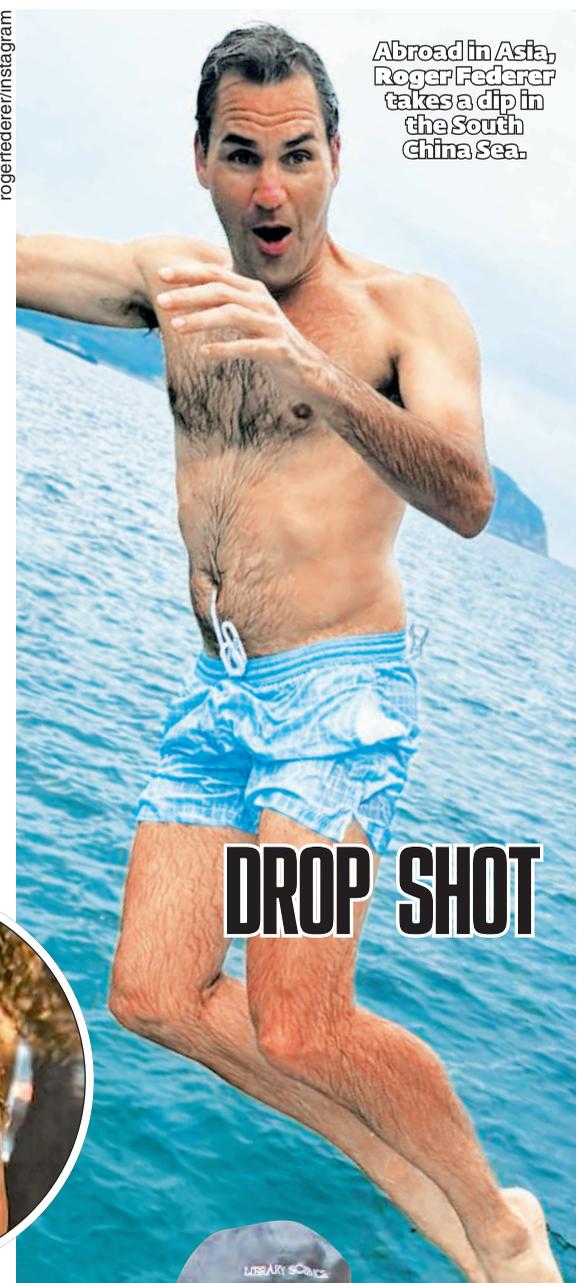


CUCKOO FOR COCONUTS

Model Kaia Gerber kicks back and relaxes in the Cayman Islands.

demimoore/Instagram

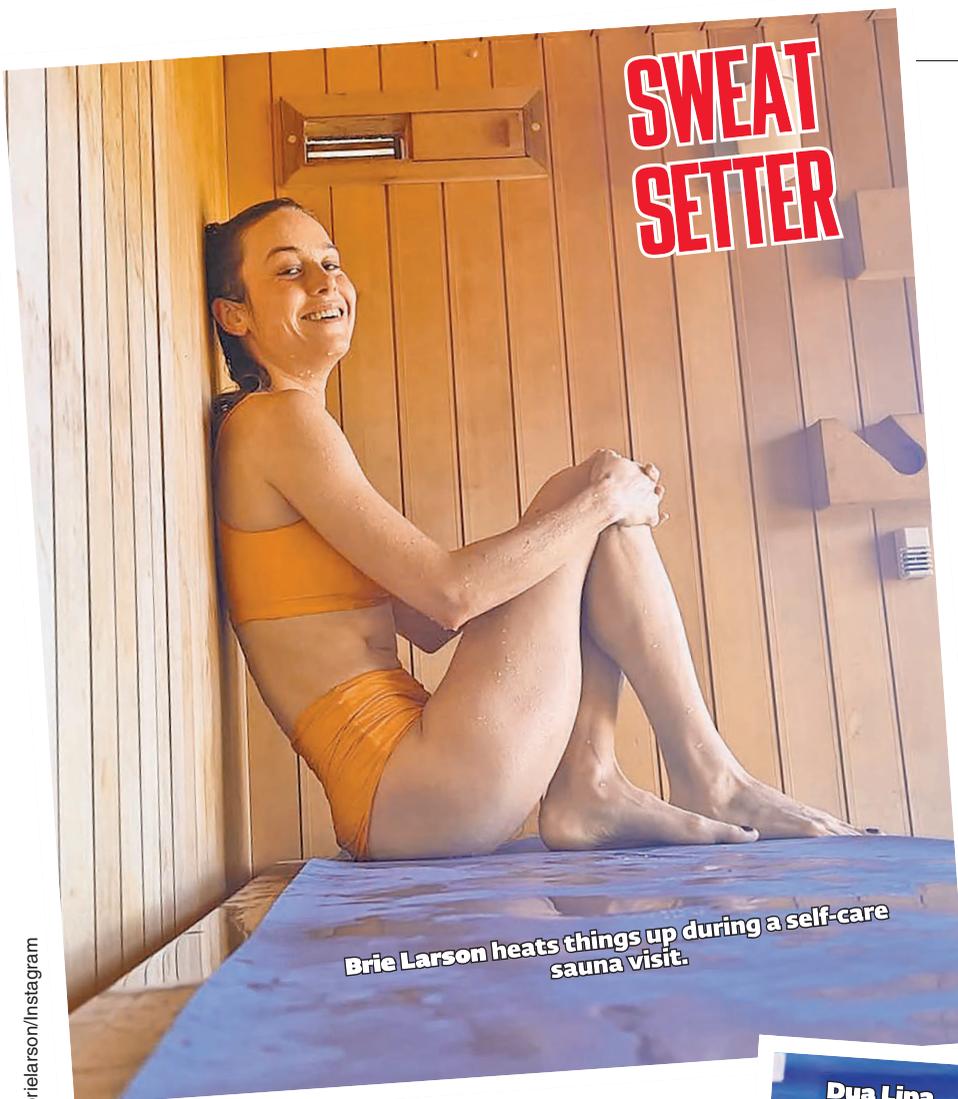
rogerfederer/Instagram



DROP SHOT

Abroad in Asia, Roger Federer takes a dip in the South China Sea.

SWEAT SETTER



Brie Larson heats things up during a self-care sauna visit.

brielarson/Instagram

annehathaway/Instagram



"Evergreen Pines and the Fading Summer" co-stars Jordan Alexa Davis (from left), Christian Convery, Anne Hathaway and Maisy Stella make mischief on the Georgia set of the film.

DOWN SOUTH & DIRTY

stellamccartney/Instagram

FOALING AROUND



Mark Wahlberg is a proud papa after daughter Grace, 14, wins a first-place ribbon at a California horse show.

markwahlberg/Instagram

Dua Lipa works her middle while rehearsing for her "Radical Optimism" tour.



duaipa/Instagram

AB FAB DAY OUT

BUDDY SYSTEM



Bestie to the rescue! In London, Taylor Swift (right) visits Cara Delevingne backstage at one of Cara's last performances of "Cabaret."

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS



LIVE WITH KELLY AND MARK

9:00 a.m. / ABC
Monday: George Stephanopoulos, Andrew McCarthy (above)

Tuesday: Theo James, Idina Menzel

Wednesday: Amy Ryan



TODAY WITH HODA & JENNA

10:00 a.m. / NBC
Monday: Terry Crews, Chris Appleton

Tuesday: Will Ferrell, Celine Dion (above), Jove Meyer

Wednesday: Theo James, Cyndi Lauper



TONIGHT SHOW JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m. / NBC
Monday: Steve Carell, Amanda Stenberg (above), Noah Lyles

Tuesday: Will Ferrell, Meghan Trainor

Wednesday: Camila Cabello, Questlove

Sunday June 9, 2024

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies Sports New

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	
2	WCBS	2	2	2	News	60 Minutes	60 Minutes		Elsbeth: Artificial Genius (R)		Elsbeth: Sweet Justice (R)		CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) CBS 2 News	
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Live from Detroit: The Concert at Michigan Central	Password		America's Got Talent: Auditions 2 (R)				News 4 New York at 11	News4 NY	
5	WNYW	5	5	5	NASCAR Cup Series	UFL Football: Conference Championship: San Antonio Brahmas at St. Louis Battlehawks from The Dome at America's Center. Live.			The 10 O'Clock News		Sports Extra		In Depth	Raw Travel (R)	
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Family Feud (R)	NBA Countdown Live.	2024 NBA Finals: Game 2: Dallas Mavericks at Boston Celtics from TD Garden. Live.				NBA Post-game Live.		Eyewitness News at 11	
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Chicago P.D.: Trigger	Chicago P.D.: Black and Blue	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	
11	WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	I Am Legend (2007, Science Fiction): A military scientist is immune to a virus that transforms humans into monsters. Will Smith. ★★★			The Conners		PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		PIX11 Sports Nation	Yankees Nation	
13	WNET	13	13	13	Through Our Eyes	Elton John: The Million Dollar Piano		Grantchester: Investigating Life's Mysteries			Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen: Cat Among the Pigeons			Restless: Being	
21	WLIW	21	21	21	PBS News	Great Performances: Rodgers & Hammerstein's (R)		Luther Vandross - Always (R)			Ancient Remedies with Dr Josh Axe (R)				
25	WNYE	25	22	25	(5:30) TBA	GZero	Profiles (R)	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Voyager	Feet	Confucius Was a Foodie	
31	WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: After Hours		NCIS: Scope		NCIS: Reasonable		NCIS: Charade		NCIS: Return to Sender	
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	Cero ruido VIP		Cash, el peso del dinero		De noche pero sin sueño		Aquí y ahora		Noticiero Noticiero	
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP: Amigos		Top Chef VIP: Amigos		Billboards: Mujeres Latinas en la música			Noticiero	Noticias (R)	
55	WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	In Focus	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning		Paid	Judge Judy	Paid	Women Of Wrestling		
A&E	46	46	181		Angels (R)	Hells Angels (R)		Hells Angels (R)	Hells Angels (R)		(10:01) Hells Angels (R)		(11:04) Hells Angels (R)		
AMC	54	43	231		(3:00) The Hunger Games (2012, Action)	Jennifer Lawrence. ★★★		Interview with Vampire		Interview with the Vampire: "Don't be			Interview		
BET	37	54	270		(5:00) Dreamgirls (2006, Musical)	Jamie Foxx. ★★★		What's Love Got to Do with It? (1993, Drama)	Angela Bassett. R ★★★				Sistas (R)		
BBCAM	71	101	189		Stripes (1981, Comedy)	Bill Murray. R ★★★		Tommy Boy (1995, Comedy)	Chris Farley. PG-13 ★★★				Men at Work (1990) ★★★½		
BRAVO	18	44	185		Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		The Real Housewives of New Jersey		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)	Watch What		
CNBC	15	24	102		Greed	American Greed: Scams		American Greed: Scams	American Greed: Scams	American Greed: Scams	American Greed: Scams	American Greed: Scams	American Greed: Scams		
CNN	78	25	100		Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		The Whole Story with		Violent Earth: Wildfire		Secrets & Spies: Traitors	The Whole Story with (R)		
COM	45	50	190		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	South Park	South Park	
DIS	49	31	250		Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City Greens the Movie (R)		Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	
DSC	66	27	120		(6:00) Naked and Afraid XL: A Parasite	Naked and Afraid XL: Caiman Killers on the Loose				(10:03) Naked and Afraid			(11:03) Naked and Afraid		
E!	24	51	196		(6:00) Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (2011, Fantasy)	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (2016, Adventure)		Eddie Redmayne.							
ESPN	28	36	70		Baseball	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees. Live.		SportsCenter with Scott Van Pelt Live.		Sports Live.			Sports Live.		
ESPN2	29	35	74		Flashback	NBA Live.	College Baseball: NCAA Super Regionals: Oregon Ducks at Texas A&M Aggies.			30 for 30: I'm Just Here for the Riot					
FBN	43	106	117		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	
FNC	44	26	118		Fox Report	The Big Weekend Show		Life, Liberty & Levin	Sunday Night		Weekend Show (R)		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)		
FOOD	50	97	164		Grocery (R)	Guy's Grocery Games (R)		Ciao House: Festival Fiasco		Alex vs America (R)		Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby		
FREFRM	38	49	199		(5:18) Coco (2017) ★★★½	(7:45) Inside Out (2015, Comedy)	Amy Poehler. ★★★	(9:50) Tangled (2010, Fantasy)	Mandy Moore, Zachary Levi. PG ★★★						
FS1	400	99	83		America's	NHRA Drag Racing: Bristol: from Bristol Dragway in Bristol, Tenn.. Taped.		NASCAR Cup Series: Sonoma Taped.							
FX	10	40	53		(5:30) Bad Boys for Life (2020, Action) R	Ghostbusters: Afterlife (2021, Comedy) Finn Wolfhard. PG-13 ★★★		Ghostbusters: Afterlife (2021) PG-13 ★★★							
HALL		191	240		In Niagara	Savoring Paris (2024, Romance) Bethany Joy Lenz.		When Calls the Heart		Romance in Style (2022, Romance)	Jaicy Elliot. G				
HGTV	64	98	165		Love It (R)	Love It or List It (R)		Fixer Upper: Midcentury	(9:01) Celebrity IOU	Hunters	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	
HIST	40	47	128		Disney (R)	The Mega-Brands (R)		The Mega-Brands: Music	The Mega-Brands That	Disney: World of Disney			(11:05) The Mega-Brands		
ID	23	171	123		Scary (R)	Very Scary People (R)		Survive Killer (R)	Surviving a Serial Killer	Signs of a Psychopath		Psychopath	Psychopath		
LIFE	62	45	140		(6:00) The Girl Locked Upstairs (2024)	Gaslit By My Husband: The Morgan Metzger Story NR		(10:03) Sleeping with the Enemy (1991, Thriller) R ★★★½							
MeTV	33	33	3		Collector	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Family	Family	Family	Family	Ed Sullivan	Burnett	Van Dyke	Van Dyke
MSG	27	87	78		JB Smoove	The Juice	The Bettor	The Juice	The Juice	Club 30: Eli Manning		Club 30: Mike Richter		The Bettor	The Juice
MSG Plus	48	88	80		(12:00) FanDuel	Racing		United Fight Replay.	United Fight Taped.	World Poker Tour Replay.		World Poker Tour Replay.	World Poker Tour Replay.		
MSNBC	14	23	103		The Sunday	Ayman (R)		Ayman	Rachel Maddow	Inside With Jen Psaki (R)		Ayman (R)	Ayman (R)		
MTV	20	53	210		Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	
NATGEO	65	162	121		Gordon (R)	Gordon Ramsay (R)		Gordon Ramsay (R)	Gordon Ramsay	World Eats Bread		Gordon Ramsay (R)	Gordon Ramsay (R)		
NICK	6	121	252		SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
OWN	173	180	145		(6:00) 20/20	20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN: Captive	20/20 on OWN: Evidence	20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)	20/20 on OWN (R)		
PARMT	36	56	54		Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue: 3rd Pocket's		Bar Rescue: Fresh Bread	Bar Rescue: My Brother's	Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue (R)	Bar Rescue (R)		
SNY	26	60	77		(6:00) Broadway	Boxing Replay.		Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Broadway Boxing: Broadway	Boxing 2402 Replay.		Sports Live.	Sports Live.	
SYFY	17	48	180		G'buster 2	(7:05) Jurassic Park (1993, Science Fiction)	Sam Neill, Laura Dern. PG-13 ★★★½	The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) Jeff Goldblum.							
TBS	8	39	52		Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Ace Ventura: Detective	
TCM	82	41	230		(5:45) Designing Woman (1957) NR ★★★	The Lost Weekend (1945, Drama) Ray Milland. ★★★½		Alias Nick Beal (1949, Mystery) Ray Milland. NR ★★★							
TLC	52	28	139		90 Day Fiancé: Happily: Pornocchio (R)	90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?: The Liar		MILF Manor: MILF'y		(11:03) 90 Day Fiancé					
TNT	3	37	51		(5:57) Avengers: Infinity War (2018, Action)	Robert Downey Jr. ★★★½		The Lazarus Project (R)		(10:05) Lazarus Project		(11:10) The Martian (2015)			
TVLAND	85	34	241		Mike	Mike	Mike	Men	Men	Men	Men	Men	Men	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50		(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU		
VH1	19	52	217		(6:00) The Big Wedding (2013) R ★★	Titanic (1997, Romance) Leonardo DiCaprio. PG-13 ★★★½									
WE	59	42	149		Law & Ordr	Law & Order: Trust		Law & Order: Vengeance	Law & Order	Law & Order		Law & Order	Law & Order		
YES	53	89	76		Yankees	Star Boxing Rockin Fights: Rockin' Fights 47 Replay.		Forbes	Brooklyn	Postgame	Yankees		History of the: 1957-1979		
HBO	511	301	400		Ren Faire	(7:01) Wanted (2008, Action)	James McAvoy. R ★★★	Ren Faire		Ren Faire		Ren Faire	Last Week	Ren Faire	
MAX	531	371	420		(6:11) The Informant! (2009, Thriller) ★★★	White Men Can't Jump (1992) Wesley Snipes. R ★★★		Get Hard (2015, Comedy) Will Ferrell. R	Kingpin ★★★						
MGM Plus	595	395			Spectre (2015, Action) Daniel Craig. PG-13 ★★★	Billy the Kid		Transformers: Rise ★★★½							
PARSHO	551	321	365		(5:45) Mission: Impossible Ghost (2011)	Mayor of Kingstown		The Chi: Legacy		Couples	Couples	The Chi	Boogie R		



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TV

8 THINGS TO WATCH THIS WEEK

Reigning 'American Ninja Warrior' champ Vance Walker reflects on his career

By KAREN KEMMERLE

VANCE WALKER has always been one of "American Ninja Warrior's" brightest stars. After winning back-to-back seasons on "American Ninja Warrior Junior," he graduated to the main show as a 16-year-old rookie for Season 13 and promptly proved that his dominance on the junior circuit was well-earned. After becoming the youngest and shortest ninja (at 5'5") to scale the Mega Wall in his qualifying round, he was one of four competitors to make it to Stage Three in the National Finals in Las Vegas. While he didn't complete Stage Three, it was still a very promising start to his adult ninja career. "My rookie year was my first time really getting to test my abilities against some of those competitors," said Walker, looking back at his beginnings.

In Season 15, Walker became only the fifth competitor in the history of "American Ninja War-

MILLION DOLLAR VANCE



"American Ninja Warrior" airs Mondays at 8 p.m. ET/PT on NBC.

Elizabeth Morris/NBC (2)

rior" to achieve Total Victory, completing all obstacles in all three Stages at the National Finals and then besting Mt. Midoriyama. By finishing 1.24 seconds ahead of fellow Texan Daniel Gil, Walker took home the \$1 million dollar prize. "Even today, I can't really put it into words," said Walker when asked to describe what it felt like to win. "I'm 19 years old. I started when I was 10," explained Walker. "It's the one thing that

I've always wanted to do." Walker stopped by the Page Six studio to speak with DECIDER just ahead of the Season 16 premiere where he talked in depth about his remarkable career and his respect for his fellow ninjas.

DECIDER: I have never seen a more dominant performance on the ninja circuit than your time competing on American Ninja Warrior Junior as a

kid. What was it like moving to the main stage with that reputation?

VANCE WALKER: It was pretty smooth. Going from perfection to actually being on the big show, my first run felt scary. Once I hit my first buzzer, once I got up the Mega Wall, I knew I could make the transition from the junior course to the adult course.

I have to imagine you felt a lot of pressure.

Yes, definitely, but I've always done pretty well with that.

What was it like competing against your heroes as a rookie and in the following seasons?

I really enjoyed it. I've always looked up to those guys and I've always wished that I could compete against them. I've always dominated my group, but I had never been able to actually compete with the adults before. My rookie year was my first time really getting to test my abilities against some of those competitors.

Let's talk about Season 16. What was your head space like after winning Season 15?

Going into Season 16, I had just won the show. I had just achieved my dream. That took a lot of the pressure off. I was just having fun. That was the goal. Nobody's ever come back and won it all twice. I wasn't really expecting anything. I was weighing my options if I wanted to come back so soon and try to achieve total success again. I'm not ready to give this up, though. I want to do this as long as I can. I love the show. I love competing. I love being a part of all this stuff. I'm going to stay as long as I can.

2 PRESUMED INNOCENT

Wednesday / Apple TV+

LIMITED SERIES PREMIERE

Jake Gyllenhaal (left) executive produces and stars in this new eight-episode-long series. Based on Scott Turow's novel of the same title, the series follows Rusty Sabich (Gyllenhaal), a chief deputy prosecutor who becomes a suspect in a murder case.



3 CELINE'S STORY: AN NBC NEWS SPECIAL WITH HODA KOTB

Tuesday 10 p.m. / NBC

This NBC News Exclusive marks **Celine Dion's** (right) first TV interview since her Stiff-Person Syndrome diagnosis. The special will feature a look at the Amazon documentary "I Am: Celine Dion."



4 HOW MUSIC GOT FREE

Tuesday / Paramount+ SERIES PREMIERE

Including interviews with **50 Cent** (left), Eminem, Timbaland, and more, this two-part docuseries details the fascinating, and often funny, inside story of the technology-driven disruption that changed music during the late-90s and early-2000s.

5 BRATS

Thursday / Hulu

The documentary from director Andrew McCarthy examines the stars of popular 1980s films who became classified as part of the "Brat Pack," such as McCarthy, Emilio Estevez, Demi Moore, Ally Sheedy, and Rob Lowe.

6 HANNAH EINBINDER: EVERYTHING MUST GO

Thursday / Max

"Hannah Einbinder: Everything Must Go" marks the "Hacks" star's first stand-up comedy special, in which she covers a vast array of topics such as being queer, her faith, climate change, and her stoner roots.



7 BRIDGERTON

Thursday / Netflix

Just under a month after "Bridgerton" Season 3, Part 1 was released, Part 2 arrives, following the relationship between Nicola Coughlan's **Penelope Featherington** (left) and Colin Bridgerton (Luke Newton).

8 THE BOYS

Thursday / Prime Video

The hit Prime Video series returns for Season 4, where fans will be reunited with characters such as Claudia Doumit's Victoria Neuman and **Antony Starr's** Homelander (right), and also meet new ones, including Susan Heyward's Sister Sage and Valorie Curry's Firecracker.



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You've had your fill of taking orders from people you don't respect and must let them know that from here on in you will be doing things your way whether they like it or not. They will be amazed, and a bit scared, that you dared to bite back!

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You won't get important things done on your own this week, so accept that you must work closely with friends and colleagues and strive to find ways to accommodate both their ambitions and your own. Chances are they are not so far apart.

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

If the pressure gets a bit much for you over the next few days take that as a sign from the universe that you need to cut back on your activities. It's good that you are so ambitious but there is no need to take it to

extremes.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

You may not realize it but you are a role model for colleagues who admire the way you get on with the job without a fuss. One of those colleagues will praise you to the skies this week and, of course, you will be embarrassed - but it's well deserved!

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You are in no mood to let others come between you and your goals. With both the Sun and Jupiter moving through the most adventurous area of your chart you will believe that all things are possible - maybe not for others but certainly for yourself.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

The message of the stars for the

coming week is that if you are prepared to take risks and push boundaries you will discover that you are capable of more than you can possibly imagine. Life is always what you choose to make of it.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Not only are you tougher than you look physically but there is a ruthless mental side to your nature as well - and over the next few days anyone who makes the mistake of thinking you are an easy touch is going to seriously regret it!

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

You must finish a project that has been dragging on too long and become a bit of a slog. Giving up on it is not an option, to set aside the necessary time to get it done and don't let your

attention wander from it for even a moment.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

If you can't get what you want one way you will get it another way, because you are in one of those moods when you refuse to be beaten. Don't expect the same commitment from other people though - not everyone can be as motivated as you.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Don't kick yourself too hard, mentally or physically, if you find you have made a silly mistake. Life is a learning experience and having made an error once you are not the sort to make it again. It's only your pride that might hurt a little.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Pluto's influence will help you force through changes you know are needed but which other people might prefer to avoid. Use your formidable powers of persuasion to get important people on your side, then everyone else will join you as well.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

You will be in the mood to take a few risks over the coming week but be careful you don't go too far or you could turn important people against you. Rock the boat a bit if you must but don't rock it so hard that everyone falls out!

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

As the Sun squares up to Saturn on your birthday it's clear you will have to make a commitment that takes up a great deal of time and energy. Don't try to get it done in one mad rush though - take a small step each and every day.

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword

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

Su Doku

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

Very Easy #6,574

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

Difficult #6,364

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

Challenging #454

Super Su Doku

7	1	3	8	4	5	12	11	9	6	2	10
9	5	11	4	6	3	10	2	7	8	1	12
10	2	6	12	1	8	7	9	11	5	4	3
5	8	10	7	2	1	9	12	6	3	11	4
6	11	4	9	8	7	5	3	2	12	10	1
12	3	1	2	11	4	6	10	8	7	9	5
3	9	5	10	7	2	4	6	1	11	12	8
2	7	8	11	12	10	3	1	4	9	5	6
1	4	12	6	5	9	11	8	3	10	7	2
11	10	2	1	3	12	8	7	5	4	6	9
4	12	7	3	9	6	1	5	10	2	8	11
8	6	9	5	10	11	2	4	12	1	3	7

Kakuro

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

Kakuro #454

KEN KEN

24x	3	4	2	6	1	5
11+	2	5	6	1	3	4
3+	5	2	1	4	6	3
10+	4	1	3	5	2	6
18x	1	6	4	3	5	2
3-	6	3	5	2	4	1

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Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Specify 6A-Located
8A-Moon 9A-Atom 11A-Organic 12A-Hundred
2D-Piccolo 3D-City 4D-Slumber 5D-Stomach
7D-Detente 10D-Aged B-Paul McCartney

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

DELL, GLEN, DALE, BLUFF, CLIFF,
CHASM, PLAIN, CANYON

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

Y	O	U	T	H	E	N	RACK 1 =	71
R	O	U	T	I	N	E	RACK 2 =	57
V	A	R	N	I	S	H	RACK 3 =	76
P	A	R	A	G	O	N	RACK 4 =	60
B	O	N	F	I	R	E	RACK 5 =	62

PAR SCORE 260-270

TOTAL 326

Sunday Word Force

attic	chime	hater	mirth	tamer	tract
caret	crate	heart	miter	teach	trait
cater	cream	icier	reach	their	treat
chair	crime	irate	react	theta	trice
charm	earth	march	remjt	timer	trite
chart	ethic	match	retjt	tithe	
cheat	harem	merit	tacit	trace	

Wonderword answer: AMSTERDAM

THE WEEK'S WINNERS



MIKE LYNCH

Tech entrepreneur once hailed as Britain's Steve Jobs was acquitted of fraud over the disastrous sale of his firm Autonomy to Hewlett-Packard in 2011.

FLORIDA

Disney set to invest \$17 billion under a plan that includes a fifth major theme park at Disney World after settling its feud with Gov. Ron DeSantis.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

In boon for the city, Elon Musk's xAI is planning a new facility to house a giant supercomputer.

LOSERS



BIG TECH

Feds launching an antitrust probe into Microsoft, OpenAI and Nvidia over "monopoly choke points" in the artificial-intelligence industry.

PARAMOUNT GLOBAL

Shares of Shari Redstone's media giant dropped as hopes of a merger with Skydance faded, while executives revealed a plan to cut costs.

CALIFORNIA

Fast-food chains have slashed 10,000 jobs due to the state's \$20-an-hour minimum-wage law, a trade group found.

FAILING, WOKE 'WAPO'

Lefty dogma a \$\$ loser



CHARLES GASPARINO

In case you haven't noticed, The Washington Post, despite its long-held reputation as a fearless defender of truth, has caught the woke mind virus — putting what's left of its stature and bottom line at risk.

As I point out in my soon-to-be released book titled, fittingly, "Go Woke, Go Broke," businesses that channel left-wing dogma — think Budweiser, Target, Disney, all those floundering legacy media companies — have suffered the consequences of American consumers who don't like to virtue-signal when they drink beer, buy clothing or watch the news.

The Washington Post went there as well. It's suffering the consequences, which if you know how to read a balance sheet are existential.

The man brought in to fix the mess isn't a seasoned business turnaround specialist, but a veteran ink-stained wretch named Will Lewis, the paper's newish publisher. (Full disclosure: Lewis and I are acquaintances. Our time overlapped when he was CEO of Dow Jones, a sister company of the New York Post and Fox Business. He didn't return requests for comment.)

He's a long-time reporter and editor, though I have my doubts he has the business chops to do what's necessary. Journalists might be good at covering business, but they're not normally ruthless change agents, which this job definitely requires. A true turnaround specialist would start taking the blowtorch to WaPo's woke newsroom and start bringing in new blood to create some diver-

sity of thought to return the publication to its glory days.

Last year, the paper lost an estimated \$70 million to \$100 million; its circulation is down 50% since 2020. Its business trajectory is equally dismal, I hear. Management, I am told, is hamstrung by the staff's union, which is oblivious to the root cause of the paper's decline.

Under normal circumstances it would be filing for Chapter 11, but it's owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who bought the paper in 2013. With a net worth of around \$200 billion, Bezos has money to burn, if he wants to burn it on the broadsheet. Apparently he no longer wants to, hence Lewis' recent announcement to divide the newsroom into three parts: news, opinion and some ill-defined social-media strategy. Lewis is also bringing in some new managers from the outside who are presumably not bitten by the woke bug.

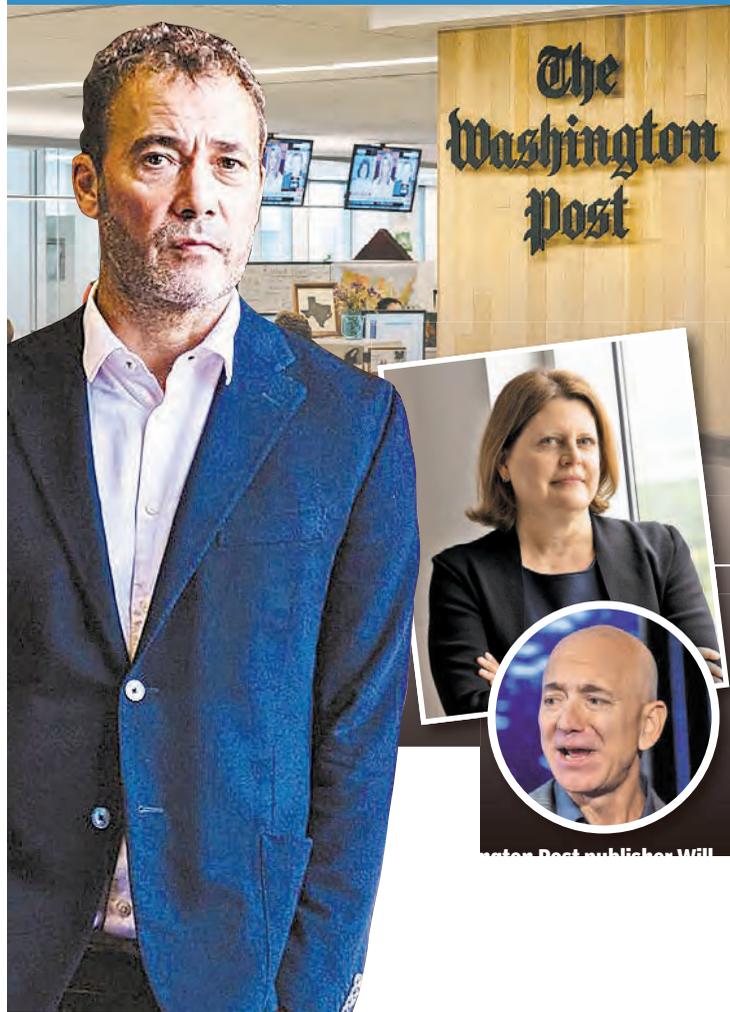
When Lewis announced the new business model last week, editor Sally Buzbee, who initially agreed to work in the new system, suddenly quit.

Wokesters in the newsroom then went nuts. Their biggest gripe was not how their jobs will change, or if there will be job cuts given all the losses, but that Lewis' new management structure included bringing in three white dudes to help carry out his vision.

Lewis tried to appease the woke mob with vows to make the paper and its management more diverse. All of which gets straight to the problem that afflicts the Washington Post. Its biggest problem isn't diversity in a woke sense but a lack of ideological diversity in its opinion pages and how it approaches news. It's the fealty to report stuff that just doesn't sell.

Even a causal reader can see that

'Bad news' bearer



the paper is more of a conformist rag to the leftist cultural establishment than a truth-to-power muckraker in the tradition of Woodward and Bernstein, as well as others who still remain, producing excellent journalism that gets drowned out by the trite and transparently leftist propaganda that passes for reporting on its pages.

Churning out drivels

The publication's slide into irrelevance and near-insolvency, it is fair to say, can be traced to its march to the far left on its news pages that has been getting worse since the Trump presidency in 2016 — when reporters thought they were doing God's work by attacking the "Orange Man" for scandals mostly unreal and largely imagined. It's been churning out leftist drivels since.

The examples are endless. Last month, the Post broke a "news" story, with faux scandalous overtones, that Jewish business leaders in the Big Apple had the cajones to call Mayor Adams and demand that he break up that antisemitic student sit-in at Columbia University celebrating Hamas' butchering of innocent Israelis on Oct 7.

The message of this absurd piece

of reporting: Every group in the world gets to demand justice from its elected officials, except Jews looking to protect Israel, the ultimate target of left-wing hate as we are so aware of these days.

I do feel for Lewis. First, his restructuring announcement leaked to The New York Times so he had to scramble to address the fallout late Sunday night and early Monday morning.

He pleaded with his staff to try to make his changes work because the only alternative is insolvency.

"The game is up ... We have to move into fully pursuing untapped audiences ... If we keep doing the same things in the same ways ... we're nuts," he said, according to the publication NOTUS.

Going forward, he will have to deal with some of the wokest reporters on the planet, who bizarrely attacked him on management diversity when they could be fired in a year because the business is falling apart.

Plus, if Lewis doesn't turn things around, he will ultimately have to deal with Bezos.

Charles Gasparino is the author of the forthcoming book "Go Woke, Go Broke: The Inside Story on the Radicalization of Corporate America."

nypost.com
New York Post, Sunday, June 9, 2024

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION

Instructor (NY, NY) Instruct & mentor students in International Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) certification exam prep'n; Dsgn & formulate lesson plans, curriculum & teaching methods; Assess, grade, track & analyze students' performance, & rtd duties. Master in MLS & 3 yrs clinical lab exp, or Bachelor in MLS & 5 yrs clinical lab exp. Exp must involve immunohematology, chemistry, hematology & microbiology. Must have passed all MLS or International MLS certification exams or hold MLS or International MLS certification. Mail CV to Brilliant Compliance Consulting Inc, 250 Park Ave, Rm 7056, NY, NY 10177.

FINANCIAL

Accounting Supervisor (New York, NY). Manage all accounting & operations of a client engagement, incl maintaining the day-to-day relationship as the main liaison & team lead. Oversee the setup of & perform an in-depth review of all client deliverables, incl capital calls, distributions, workpapers, financial statements, waterfalls, IRRs & other metrics. Review the general ledger, workpaper schedules, & financial statements for accuracy & compliance in accordance w/the governing docs. Telecommuting/working from home remotely allowed. Reqs Bach's in Biz Admin, or foreign equiv, & 3 yrs of exp w/Private Equity fund admin & waterfall models. Sal \$57,346/yr. Mail resumes to HR, Reliant Fund Services LLC, 22 West 38th St., 7th Flr New York, NY 10018.

Accounting Specialist

Perform financial calculations, such as amounts due, interest charges, balances, discounts, equity, and principal. Calculate, prepare, and issue bills, invoices, account statements, and other financial statements according to established procedures. Salary: \$54,912 or higher per year. Bachelor's degree in accounting or business administration is required. Send resume to: Midasoft, Inc., 450 7th Ave. Suite 2505 New York, NY 10123

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GENERAL HELP WANTED

Sr Toxicologist, Beauty Avenues, LLC, NY, NY. Deliver safety assessments for raw materials & finished product & conduct final review & sign-off of safety reports. Single point-of-contact for all product safety matters related to raw materials & finished product. Collaborate w/Product Devt, Fragrance Devt, Commercialization, Regulatory & Clinical to provide safety-related support. Manage safety-related activities to drive solutions. Participate on industry committees to ensure have most current info related to product safety & regulatory issues. Stay current on new trends in animal alternatives & risk assessment. Telecommuting option - employee must live in NYC area. Min. req include: Master's in Toxicology or Pharmacology plus 5 yrs exp incl 3 yrs of industry exp in personal care/cosmetics or related industry & knowledge re global regulations & safety requirements, ingredient safety positions, risk assessment methodology & animal alternative approaches. Salary \$90,730 - \$157,000/yr To be considered for this position, apply online at <http://careers.bathandbodyworks.com> go to "Job Search" link & type 047LZ in "Keyword Search" field. EOE.

Vardaris Tech, Inc. is looking for an Experienced Roofer to work full time within the tri-boro, with minimum 2 years of roofing experience. Responsibilities: Install, repair, and maintain various types of roofing systems including shingles, metal, and flat roofs. - Inspect roofs to determine the best repair or replacement procedure. Interested candidates should send their to vardaristechinc@gmail.com.

Administrative Manager (New York, NY): Act as liaison between administrative personnel and senior management. Initiate and coordinate goals, deadlines, and projects. Implement customer service standards. Develop procedures to improve operations. Procure supplies for office. Ensure a safe, secure, and well-maintained facility. Provide technical and logistical support for administrative personnel. Utilize Microsoft Teams, Zoom, QuickBooks, Adobe Suite, and Microsoft Dynamics. Minimal travel required. Remote work permitted. Salary Offered: \$79,581 to \$85,000 per year. Must hold a high school diploma/GED, or foreign equivalent, and 2 years of experience as an Administrative Manager, with 1 year of experience in a position utilizing Microsoft Teams, Zoom, QuickBooks, Adobe Suite, and Microsoft Dynamics. Please email resumes to Richard Scott French, General Manager, Three-P Enterprises, Inc. at scott@verynewyork.com.

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Cook. Prep & cook menu items flw/g recipes & standards. Ensure freshness of food & ingredients by checking for quality, keeping track of old & new items, & rotating stock. Flw food safety & sanitation guidelines. Participate in creation & seasonal adjustments of menus. Op kitchen equip safely & responsibly. Collab w/ rest of kitchen staff to ensure meals are prep'd on time. Asst in training new kitchen staff as req'd. Req High School Diploma & min 4 yrs of proven exp as Cook or in relevant culinary roles. \$45000/yr. Send resume to: A&I Cake Corporation, 1715 Emmons Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

Deli Cook, Montauk, NY: Insp & clean food prep areas, such as equip & work surfaces & serving areas to ensure safe & sanitary food-handling pract. Grill, Cook, & Prep foods: Salads, sides, gourmet sandwiches with fresh ingredients, made to order breakfast & lunch items, French Fries, Eggs & Pancakes. Mail resume to Montauk Market 805 Inc, Montauk, NY 11954

Landscape Foreman, Southampton, NY: Involve in overseeing maint of lawns & gardens, & ensuring proper use of pesticides, fertilizers, & other chem. Install & manage landscape projects from incep to compl. Involve in design w/ pre-install est & decision making, onsite layout, & eff & precise install & compl of each project. Involve in compl invent checks & equip inspec. Resp for crew mgmt & coord w/ the Landscape Facilitator. Ensures all safety rules & comp policies are followed by all crew mem. Provide workers w/ assist in perf duties as nec to meet deadlines. Mail resume to Raynor Landscaping, LTD, 49 Breese Lane, Southampton, NY 11968.

Caregiver(Suffern, NY) Maint records of patient care & condition to report to supervisor; prov patients w/ help moving in & out of beds, baths, wheelchairs. Visiting patients' homes in north part of NY & NJ area as needed. HS Diploma Req'd. Salary \$32,000/year Res to Good Day Home Care 400 Rella Blvd #165 Suffern, NY 10901

Food Scientist - F/T in Bronx, NY - Master's Degree in Food Science or rel field plus 3 years post-MS degree progressive experience as Food Scientist and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification required. Salary range: \$118K-\$125K. Mail cover letter and resume to David Mosner Inc, Attn: Peter Cherubini, VP, 355 Food Center Drive, Ste. E8, Bronx, NY 10474.

Carpenter, Hampton Bays, NY: Involve in carpentry work. Install of doors, windows, ext & int trim. Involve in framing, ext, int, trim siding, deck roofing. Involve in install of closets & kitchens. Involve in Decking, ext & int siding, framing, & tile install. Shape or cut mater to spec meas, using hand tools, mach, or power saws. Assem & fasten mater to make frameworks or props, using hand tools & wood screws, nails, dowel pins, or glue. Mail resumes to VP Builders, 302 East Montauk Highway, Hampton Bays, NY 11946.

Maintenance & Repair Workers, New York, NY: Perf cleaning acty such as dusting, mopping, Perf minor fixes such as repair broken locks, filling gaps on walls. Check control panels & elect wiring to id issues. Install apps & equip. Do garden/yard upkeep by mowing lawn, collect trash. Cond maint tasks such as replace light bulbs. Insp & trbl equip & sys. Check funct of safety sys. Collab w/ workers & other prof during reno. Report to a facilities or maint manager for issues. Mail resumes to Asbury On The Sea LLC, 230 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Carpenter Assistant (Integral Contracting Services LLC, Port Washington, NY) to help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties incl using, supplying, or holding materials or tools, & cleaning work area & eqpmnt. Salary \$28,000. 00. F/T. Mail resumes to 130 Shore Rd, Unit 109, Port Washington, NY 11050.

Construction Foreman, Montauk, NY: Insp work prog, equip, or const sites to verify safety or to ensure that specs are met. Ope Heavy equip such as bulldozers/payloaders. Install Masonry. Involve in equip repair. Read specs, such as B/P, to det const req or to plan proce. Ana worker or prod problems & recomb solutions, such as improving prod methods or imple motivational plans. Plan, imple & manage const tasks in acc w/ priorities & goals. Mail resume to Chris Behan Construction Co LTD, 68 Madison Drive Montauk, NY 11954.

Diamond Pave Setter in NYC to be responsible for all types of stone settings, including diamonds, rubies, specialty emeralds, and other precious stones in jewelry items in accordance with the company's aesthetic and quality requirements. Ability to precisely set/pave/repair, and replace diamonds and other precious stones. Ability to cut and file gold and other precious metal settings to accommodate the stones. Responsible for sorting the stones by size, clarity, and quality. Req: 2 yrs Exp in diamond pave setting. Experience in working with pave setting, including rubies, emeralds and other precious stones. Salary: \$61,069.00. Send resumes to JSA Jewelry Inc. at jsany1028@hotmail.com.

PROFESSIONAL

NY, NY - Diamond and jewelry dealer seeks Data Analyst to sprrt co. optn's as cntct for data rpts & queries eg invntry plnning & dmdn 4cting bsd on past sales \$s, gbl & ntrl Dsets for lab grw dmn's & jwrlry via stitcl anal ysis w/ Python & SQL. Crte & mnge optn's dshbrd via python to track key mtrcs. Advse CEO on fsblty of new biz opps by analyzing mrkt data, sales vol., co. rvnue & prctng grwth rate & viablt. Analyze str wide sales data by time/style for trnds & prctng strtgies to prvide bst prdct & optmize invntry plnning. Mntr & rprt on key prfrmce indctrs for e-cmerce eg sales, rtrns, mrktng expndtres, ROAS, CAC. Create rpts w/ SQL/Tableau & mke rcmndat'n for optml prfrmce. Mntor cmptive lndscpe to rprt on prcng dscrepancies & yrly sales trnds. Act as pnt of cntct for co.'s data rtd gries, sys u/grde, mntnce & implmta'n. Crte & Mnge analytics dshbrd for rl time gries, prct'ns & advrtng prfrmce. FT. \$100K/yr. Min Req: Masters in Business Analytics or related field + 1 yr exp as a Data Analyst. Mail Resumes to: Amit Mehta - Secretary and Treasurer - Fenix Diamonds LLC - 529 Fifth Ave., 8th Fl, NY, NY 10017

Designer wtd by Triviatown Inc. (New York, NY) to provide graphic design for a branding, marketing, digital development agency; create design for branding, visual identity, website, packaging, books, annual reports, maps, billboards, print collateral, promotional merchandise, digital, & social, etc.; Work is remote in the greater NYC Area. Sal \$51,626/yr. Resume: info@darkroastmedia.com

PROFESSIONAL

Lighting Designer (NY, NY) Dsgn interior & exterior lighting systems for commercial, pharmaceutical, & office buildings using CAD s/ware together w/ other business s/ware applications such as Excel & Word. \$70,000/yr. Bach Deg. in Lighting Dsgn, Interior Dsgn, or rtd field of study. Send via mail cvr letter, resume, & list of refs to Attn: Brandston Partnership, Inc. 121 W 27th St, Ste 903, NY, NY 10001. Refer to Job No. LD-01 on all docs

Logistics Specialist is needed in New York, NY to manage the flow of purchase orders. Associate degree in any field or Foreign Degree Equivalent. 3 years of work experience in a related occupation. Maximum annual salary of \$79K. Mail resume to CEO of Indus USA, Inc. at 1441 Broadway, Suite 2402, New York, NY 10018.

Digital Communication Specialist (NY, NY) wage \$70,491/yr. Dvlp & implmt online promotion strategies & PR campaigns on various social media to promote brand; Create PR content (video, flyers, blogs, etc.); manage & enhance PR across social media; 1st contact for media queries; Manage & update media databases & rtd duties. Bachelor in Social Media, Digital Media or rtd & 2 yrs exp as PR specialist or rtd performing visual communication, interactive mktg & social media mgmt, or Master in Social Media, Digital Media or rtd w/ courses taken in visual communication, interactive mktg & social media mgmt. Exp or education must involve digital storytelling. Adobe Ae & Creative Suite, WordPress, SEO Strategy & Google Analytics. Mail CV to Manhattan ACE Inc at 244 5th Ave, Ste L251, NY, NY 10001

Paralegal (NY, NY) Reid & Wise LLC - Prep, administer & file a range of US employment-based & investment immigration cases, incl visa classifications (EB2, EB3, EB5, & L-1 visa apps); support attorneys - draft, edit, & assemble visa app docs, ensure accuracy before submission; support legal research, explore past cases, regs & essential rules; conduct citation checks, format verification, & proofreading; manage caseload; communicate w/ clients & govt agencies for case processing. Must have a bachelor's w/ paralegal cert from accredited institution; familiar w/ MS Office & mgmt systems. \$73,000/yr. Qualified applicants mail resumes to HR: 250 W 34th St., One Penn Plaza, Ste. 2015, NY, NY 10019.

Head of Operations (for Fixed Income Investor Network), NYC office. \$72,779/yr. Mail resume to J. Banaria, Invisio US LLC, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 1100, NY, NY 10020.

Social Media Coordinator in Flushing, NY: Create & edit social media content, respond feedback; develop marketing & influencer strategy. BA in JRN/COMM, 2yrs exp w/ major social media platforms; proficiency w/ video & photo editing tools; \$52000/yr Email to Eglance Bookstore at egllancebookstore@gmail.com

NY, NY- Capial finance products and services provider seeks Snr Associate to dvlp fnc'l mdls for evaluat'n of ptent'l investmnts in dbt & eqty for rl estate assets, rvwing trnsct'ns for fsblty & rsk. Asst in cmrnc'l loan undrwrtng & intial due dlgnce. Asst w/ prep of loan cmmtmts. Rcvng brwrs fnc'l data, analyzing rvnue & expense line items. Use data to bld, incorporate & rprt via prprty fnc'l mdl systs. Analyze cmplx fnc'l docs & clucal'n's eg. EBITDAR, loan/val, dscted csh flws, dbt svrc/intrst/fx chrg & mt cvrge, rvnue srce analysis & opratng mrgn. C'mnicate w/ brwrs re prprty, gnrl & excss liability, auto & prfssnal resnse. Rvw brwrs yrly prfmas & bdgts, prvide TP comprsn & rprt to snr mgmnt, crdt c'ttee & TP stkhldrs. Analyze hstrcl & prctcd fnc'l's for fsblty & esclate as necc. Mntr drct dly intrfce w/ brwrs, fiancng cntprty's & stkhldrs. Asst w/ orgnat'n & undrwrtng via D analytics, ste vsits & opt'nl rsk due dlgnce. Ngiate dl trms w/ ptent'l clnts & brwrs. FT. \$140K/yr. Min Req: Bachelors in Economics, Finance or rtd fld. Send Resume to Jonathan Litt - Treasurer - Greystone Monticello LLC, via <https://www.greystone.com/careers/>

Auditor (NY, NY) meticulously review our clients' fin'l records, suggest enhancements, uphold regulatory compliance, & coord w/ relevant parties for audits. Master's deg in acctg or a rtd field such as bus admin w/ acctg & auditing coursework. 1 yr work exp providing fin'l reporting & audit analysis for corporate clients incl public companies, non-public companies, & governmental units. Proficiency in MS Excel. Telecommute is permitted. Wage range \$115,000/yr-\$130,000/yr. Send resume HR@marcumasia.com or Marcum Asia CPAs LLP c/o HR, 7 Penn Plaza, Ste. 830, NY, NY 10001.

Graphic Designer (Great Neck, NY) Create graphics for promotional needs. Bachelor's Deg in Graphic Dsgn, Communication Dsgn, or any Dsgn-rtd major req'd. Salary range \$51,626-\$60,000. Resume to Kayla NYC Inc., 158 Middle Neck Rd, #A, Great Neck, NY 11021

Industrial Designer - New York, NY: Conceptualize, develop and create designs for the wholesale distributor of mobile accessories; evaluate the use, function, marketing goal and brand image of a product to determine the most efficient and appealing designs for customers. Bachelor in Industrial Design or a related field req'd. \$53,352/yr. Send Its/res to iOttie, Inc., 235 Pegasus Ave., Northvale, NJ 07647, Attn: Julie Ko.

Market Research Analyst, Gadura Mortgage LLC 106-09 101st Avenue, Suite #1F, Ozone Park, Queens, NY 11416. 40 hours/week, \$57,000/year. Job Duties: Prepare written reports of findings, using graphical illustrations to convey complex data; Collect and analyze customer data to identify potential markets and factors affecting demand; Measure the effectiveness of marketing, advertising, and communications programs and strategies; Provide management with proposals on product promotion, distribution, design, and pricing. Job Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or equivalence; 12 months of work experience in any field; Travel is not required. To apply, send your Resume to manisha@gaduramortgage.com

RESTAURANT & HOSPITALITY

Chef-Supv activities of food prep, seasoning & cooking of food. Ensure qual control & sanitation standards. Est food consumptn. Assist in rolling out menu items. Participate in cooking dishes. Trn kitchen employees. Make sure restaurant is up to date in safety procedures, hood cleanings, fire inspections, maint of kitchen equipment. Worksite: Bklyn, NY. FT, 2 yrs exp. \$75,587/yr. Resume: Pebble Corp. d.b.a. Sweet Chick, 1776 Ludlow St. NY, NY 10002

Cook, Italian style. Cook dishes such as seafood fra diavolo, pizza, walnut macedo dijon lamb, etc. 2 yrs. exper. required. 40 hrs/wk. Salary \$44,720-45,760/yr. Send resume to: Lavoro Duro dba Pasta Pasta, 234 E Main St., Pt. Jefferson, NY 11777.

TECH CAREERS

IT Support Specialist - Port Washington, NY: Support end-users with IT-related problems; provides PC/Desktop, software application, IT help desk support; answers users' inquiries regarding computer software and hardware operation to resolve problems. Associate degree in Computer Science, System Engineering, or a related field req'd. \$60,632/yr. Send ltr/res to Dashing Diva Franchise Corp. 1 Harbor Park Dr., Port Washington, NY 11050, Attn: Lia Jeong.

System Administration (York healthcare LLC, Elmhurst NY) - Maintain internal network, monitor security tools, manage desktop support, troubleshoot servers, perform back-ups, repair computers, assist in network development. Setup DNS, Mail, Web, and databases \$73029/yr. Req'd Bach degree in computer Eng'g or computer Sci + 2 yrs exp in any rel computer system. Send res to: mel@yorkhealthny.com. Attn HR

TECH CAREERS

New York Power Authority (White Plains, NY) seeks Lead RSA Archer Configuration Analyst to support & maintain eGRC application and rel. modules in an RSA Archer Environment. Coordinate & carry out recurring sys. maintenance. Plan & manage medium- to large-scale system development/implementation efforts. Req. MS deg. in CS, Eng. Mgmt. or IT-related field. & 2 yrs. exp. Salary: \$115,918 - 155,000. Email resumes to careers@nypa.gov.

Electrical and Computer Engineer (Bronx, NY) Optimize HVAC systems or energy conservation to improve the energy efficiency; Dsgn the electrical system that control & power HVAC eqpm; Dsgn & implmt HVAC control systems to regulate temperature & humidity; Research & optimize bldg load calculation s/ware process; Dsgn & dvlp solutions to complex applic problems, system admin issues or n/work concerns. Master's deg of Electrical & Comp Engg is req'd; Req'd course certificate: HVAC Engineering Fundamentals & HVAC Design Best Practices. Annual wage: \$110,802. Send resumes to: SB HVAC Services Corp, 798 Westchester Ave, Bronx, NY 10455.

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NEW YORK POST

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

UCC Public Sale Notice

Please take notice that Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc. ("JLL"), on behalf of LSC WEST 36TH & 39TH ST LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Secured Party"), will offer for sale at public auction on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. (Eastern Time)** at the offices of Cole Schotz P.C., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 19th Floor, New York, New York 10019, with access afforded in person and remotely via Zoom or other web-based video conferencing and/or telephonic conferencing program selected by Lender, in connection with a Uniform Commercial Code sale: one hundred percent (100%) of the limited liability company membership interests in 28 W. 36TH STREET SOLE MEMBER LLC and 32 W. 39TH STREET SOLE MEMBER LLC (together with their permitted successors and assigns, collectively, jointly and severally, the "Borrower"). The sale will consist of: (i) one hundred percent (100%) of the limited liability company membership interests in 28 W. 36TH STREET SOLE MEMBER LLC, a Delaware limited liability company that are owned by 28 W. 36 HERALD PROPERTIES LLC, a New York limited liability company (the "36th Street Pledged Interests"); and (ii) one hundred percent (100%) of the limited liability company membership interests in 32 W. 39TH STREET SOLE MEMBER LLC, a Delaware limited liability company that are owned by 32 W. 39TH MIDTOWN PROPERTIES, LLC, a New York limited liability company (the "39th Street Pledged Interests" collectively, with the 36th Street Pledged Interests the "Pledged Interests").

The Secured Party, as lender, made a loan (the "Loan") to the Borrower. In connection with the Loan, 28 W. 36 HERALD PROPERTIES LLC and 32 W. 39TH MIDTOWN PROPERTIES, LLC granted to the Secured Party a first priority lien on the Pledged Interests pursuant to those certain Pledge and Security Agreements, dated as of March 4, 2022 (the "Pledge Agreements"). The Secured Party is offering the Pledged Interests for sale in connection with the foreclosure on the pledge of such Pledged Interests.

The sale of the Pledged Interests will be subject to all applicable third-party consents and regulatory approvals, if any, as the outstanding balance due on the Loan pursuant to the terms of the Loan Documents, as supplemented, amended, and modified. Without limitation to the foregoing, please take notice that there are specific requirements for any potential successful bidder in connection with (i) obtaining information and (ii) bidding on the Pledged Interests, including but not limited to, that each bidder must deliver such documents and pay such amounts as required by the applicable governing documents relating to the Pledged Interests and meeting any requirements shall be at the sole risk, cost, and expense of a prospective bidder.

Subject to Secured Party's rights set forth herein, the Pledged Interests will be sold in a single unit or in multiple units, with whichever method of sale results in the highest aggregate bid will be utilized to select the ultimate purchaser(s). The Pledged Interests will first be offered as a collective whole (the "Bulk Sale") and shall subsequently be offered in two individual auctions at which bids will be accepted for the 36th Street Pledged Interests and the 39th Street Pledged Interests individually (the "Individual Auctions"). The Pledged Interests are being offered "as-is, where-is," with no express or implied warranties, representations, statements, or conditions of any kind made by the Secured Party or any person acting for or on behalf of the Secured Party, without any recourse whatsoever to the Secured Party or any other person acting for or on behalf of the Secured Party and each bidder must make its own inquiry regarding the Pledged Interests. The winning bidder shall be responsible for the payment of all transfer taxes, stamp duties and similar taxes incurred in connection with the purchase of the Pledged Interests.

Secured Party reserves the right to credit bid, set a minimum reserve price, reject all bids (including, without limitation, any bid that it deems to have been made by a bidder that is unable to satisfy the requirements imposed by Secured Party upon prospective bidders in connection with the sale or to whom in Secured Party's sole judgment a sale may not lawfully be made), terminate or adjourn the sale to another time, and to sell the Pledged Interests at a subsequent public or private sale and to impose any other commercially reasonable conditions upon the sale of the Pledged Interests as Secured Party may deem proper. Secured Party further reserves the right to determine the qualifications of any bidder, including a prospective bidder's ability to close the transaction on the terms and conditions referenced herein and to modify these terms of sale. Secured Party further reserves the right to verify that each certificate for the Interests to be sold bears a legend substantially to the effect that such interests have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and to impose such other limitations or conditions in connection with the sale of the Interests as the Secured Party deems necessary or advisable in order to comply with the Securities Act or any other applicable law.

All bids (other than credit bids of the Secured Party) must be for cash, and the successful bidder must be prepared to deliver immediately available good funds within ten (10) New York business days after the sale and otherwise comply with the bidding requirements. Further information concerning the Pledged Interests, the Data Room, the requirements for bidding on the interests, and the Terms of Sale can be found at NYCMidtownSouthOfficeUCCSale.com or by contacting JLL using the contact information below.

Contact information for JLL: Attn: Brett Rosenberg, Tel: (212) 812-5926, E-mail: Brett.Rosenberg@JLL.com

LEGAL REAL ESTATE

BANKRUPTCY SALE MIXED-USE PROPERTY



LOCATION: 114 Macon St, Brooklyn, NY 11216

AUCTION: Tues June 18, 2024 @ 10:30 am • Online: Via Zoom
Bid Deadline: Fri June 14, 2024 @ 5:00 pm (EST)

Opening Bid: \$500,000 • \$50,000 Req Dep • 6% Buyer's Prem

PROPERTY: Lot Size: 1,667 Sq Ft • (3) Retail + (3) Resid Units

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PHONE
(347) 273-1258

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Please contact
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& additional info



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Swiatek wins third straight French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — For a few minutes, anyway, it seemed as if Iga Swiatek was a bit off in the French Open final against Jasmine Paolini. Swiatek kept making mistakes early Saturday, was broken in the third game and trailed at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Might a true surprise be in the offing? Could Paolini not only make a match of this, but actually win it? Um, no. Not even close. Not with the way Swiatek can dominate opponents, especially on red clay.

The top-seeded Swiatek quickly recalibrated her wayward strokes and simply overwhelmed Paolini, grabbing 10 games in a row en route to a 6-2, 6-1 victory that gave her a third consecutive championship at Roland Garros and fourth in five years.

The 23-year-old from Poland had to save a match point in a second-round victory against Naomi Osaka last week, but in the five matches after that three-set escape, Swiatek dropped a total of just 17 games.

"This tournament has been pretty surreal with its beginning and with second round, and then I was able to get my game better and better every match. I'm really proud of myself because the expectations obviously have been pretty high from the outside. Pressure, as well," said Swiatek, who is 35-2 overall at the French Open, including a current streak of 21 straight victories. "I'm happy that I just went for it and I was ready to deal with all of this — and I could win."

She is the first woman with three trophies in a row in Paris since Justine Henin from 2005-07.

The 12th-seeded Paolini, a 28-year-old from Italy appearing in her first Slam final, called facing Swiatek at Roland Garros "the toughest challenge in this sport."

Swiatek also won the French Open in 2020 and the U.S.

Open in 2022 and is 5-0 in major finals.

She added this triumph to those on clay at Madrid and Rome last month, becoming the first woman to win all three events since Serena Williams did it in 2013.

"I never played a player that has this intensity before in my life," Paolini said. "For me, right now, I think it was the most challenging match I played in my entire career."

Alcaraz going for Slam title No. 3

When Carlos Alcaraz was a kid growing up in Spain — which, considering he's just 21, was not all that long ago — he used to run home from school and flip on the TV to check out the French Open.

Long before he was preparing to play in Sunday's final in Paris against Alexander Zverev, Alcaraz watched a lot of matches involving Rafael Nadal, as his countryman was accumulating a record 14 titles at Roland Garros.

"I wanted to put my name on that list of the Spanish players who won this tournament. Not only Rafa," said Alcaraz, who then rattled off champions such as Juan Carlos Ferrero (who happens to be his coach), Carlos Moya and Albert Costa, calling them "legends from our sport that won this tournament."

He just might join them. Alcaraz has triumphed on the U.S. Open's hard courts in 2022, and Wimbledon's grass courts in 2023, and now he is one victory away from holding a trophy on the red clay of Court Philippe Chatrier in southwest Paris. He would be the youngest man to own a major championship on all three surfaces — as it is, he's the youngest to make it to finals on every surface.

Zverev, who is from Germany, is trying to claim his first Grand Slam title. He was the runner-up to Dominic Thiem at the 2020 U.S. Open after blowing a two-set lead and losing in five.

Golf

LIV Golf Houston
At Golf Club of Houston; Houston; Purse: \$20 million; Yardage: 7,353; Par: 72

Second Round

David Puig	68-66	134	-10
Paul Casey	67-67	134	-10
Carlos Ortiz	66-68	134	-10
Adrian Meronk	65-69	134	-10
Patrick Reed	67-68	135	-9
Matthew Wolff	69-67	136	-8
Jason Kokrak	71-68	137	-7
Graeme McDowell	69-68	137	-7
Lucas Herbert	67-68	137	-7
Sergio Garcia	67-70	137	-7
Martin Kaymer	65-72	137	-7

PGA Tour -the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday
At Muirfield Village Golf Club; Dublin, Ohio; Purse: \$20 million; Yardage: 7,569; Par: 72

Third Round

Scottie Scheffler	67-68-71	206	-10
Adam Hadwin	66-72-72	210	-6
Collin Morikawa	68-74-68	210	-6
Sepp Straka	72-70-68	210	-6
Ludvig Aberg	68-72-72	212	-4
Xander Schauffele	68-73-71	212	-4
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	72-67-74	213	-3
Nick Dunlap	70-73-70	213	-3
Victor Perez	71-74-68	213	-3
Sahith Theegala	73-71-69	213	-3
Tony Finau	71-70-73	214	-2
Sungjae Im	76-71-67	214	-2
Rory McIlroy	70-71-73	214	-2
Tommy Fleetwood	69-73-73	215	-1
Viktor Hovland	69-69-77	215	-1
Si Woo Kim	72-70-73	215	-1
Shane Lowry	74-73-68	215	-1
Akshay Bhatia	69-72-75	216	E
Max Homa	71-73-72	216	E
J.T. Poston	75-69-72	216	E
Seamus Power	69-74-73	216	E
Byeong Hun An	71-73-73	217	+1
Keegan Bradley	70-69-78	217	+1
Sam Burns	71-75-71	217	+1
Jason Day	73-75-69	217	+1
Matt Fitzpatrick	73-70-74	217	+1
Brian Harman	77-69-71	217	+1
Hideki Matsuyama	73-70-74	217	+1
Will Zalatoris	74-70-73	217	+1
Russell Henley	73-71-74	218	+2
Eric Cole	70-75-74	219	+3
Thomas Detry	72-76-71	219	+3
Austin Eckroat	77-71-71	219	+3
Billy Horschel	69-74-76	219	+3
Peter Malnati	72-73-74	219	+3
Denny McCarthy	76-70-73	219	+3
Alex Noren	70-74-75	219	+3
Cory Connors	68-76-76	220	+4
Matt Kuchar	75-71-74	220	+4
Andrew Putnam	77-71-72	220	+4
Nick Taylor	73-73-74	220	+4
Davis Thompson	73-73-74	220	+4
Lee Hodges	71-73-77	221	+5
Adam Svensson	72-73-76	221	+5
Cameron Davis	73-72-77	222	+6
Taylor Pendrith	74-71-77	222	+6
Justin Thomas	71-77-74	222	+6
Tom Hoge	72-74-77	223	+7
Tom Kim	70-75-78	223	+7
Emiliano Grillo	70-78-76	224	+8
Cameron Young	76-72-76	224	+8
Jackson Koivun	72-76-78	226	+10

LPGA Tour ShopRite Presented by Acer Par

At Bay Course; Galloway, N.J.; Purse: \$1.8 million; Yardage: 6,197; Par: 71

Second Round

Jenny Shin	63-69	132	-10
Albane Valenzuela	65-68	133	-9
Na Rin An	64-70	134	-8
Ssu-Chia Cheng	69-65	134	-8
Wei-Ling Hsu	65-69	134	-8
Megan Khang	65-69	134	-8
Ayaka Furue	67-68	135	-7
Stephanie Kyriacou	65-70	135	-7
Jeongeun Lee6	67-68	135	-7
Yealimi Noh	66-69	135	-7
Mao Saigo	67-68	135	-7
Alena Sharp	67-68	135	-7
Yu Jin Sung	67-68	135	-7

DP World Tour - Volvo Car Scandinavian Mixed

At Vasatorps Golfklubb; Helsingborg, Sweden; Purse: \$2 million; Yardage: 7,295; Par: 72

Third Round

Sebastian Soderberg	63-66-66	195	-21
Calum Hill	69-67-67	203	-13
Alexander Bjork	69-67-68	204	-12
Alice Hewson	69-68-67	204	-12
Santiago Tarrion	71-68-65	204	-12
Rafa Cabrera Bello	68-70-67	205	-11
Jens Dantorp	68-67-70	205	-11
Scott Jamieson	67-65-73	205	-11
Andy Sullivan	69-69-67	205	-11
Jesper Svensson	68-67-70	205	-11
Jorge Campillo	68-67-71	206	-10
Alex Fitzpatrick	65-71-70	206	-10
Linn Gran	67-68-71	206	-10
David Law	67-70-69	206	-10
Nastasia Nadaud	73-67-66	206	-10
Adrien Saddier	71-68-67	206	-10

Steve Allan	70-69	139	-5
Shane Bertsch	71-68	139	-5
Thomas Bjorn	69-70	139	-5
Greg Chalmers	71-68	139	-5
Chris DiMarco	72-67	139	-5
Steve Flesch	70-69	139	-5
Brian Gay	71-68	139	-5
Thongchai Jaidee	71-68	139	-5
Duffy Waldorf	69-70	139	-5
Mark Hensby	73-67	140	-4
Miguel Angel Jimenez	72-68	140	-4
Scott McCarron	71-69	140	-4
Cameron Percy	70-70	140	-4
Boo Weekley	68-72	140	-4
Y.E. Yang	72-68	140	-4
Stephen Ames	73-68	141	-3
Lee Janzen	69-72	141	-3
Justin Leonard	70-70	141	-3
Kevin Sutherland	72-69	141	-3
Ken Tanigawa	73-68	141	-3
Michael Wright	72-69	141	-3
Doug Barron	70-72	142	-2
Paul Broadhurst	72-70	142	-2
Angel Cabrera	73-69	142	-2
Darren Clarke	71-71	142	-2
Glen Day	68-74	142	-2
Scott Dunlap	70-72	142	-2
Matt Gogel	70-72	142	-2
Ricardo Gonzalez	73-69	142	-2
Skip Kendall	70-72	142	-2
Tom Pernice	74-68	142	-2
Tim Petrovic	70-72	142	-2
John Senden	72-70	142	-2

LPGA Tour ShopRite Presented by Acer Par

At Bay Course; Galloway, N.J.; Purse: \$1.8 million; Yardage: 6,197; Par: 71

Second Round

Jenny Shin	63-69	132	-10
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Megan Khang	65-69	134	-8
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Stephanie Kyriacou	65-70	135	-7
Jeongeun Lee6	67-68	135	-7
Yealimi Noh	66-69	135	-7
Mao Saigo	67-68	135	-7
Alena Sharp	67-68	135	-7
Yu Jin Sung	67-68	135	-7

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Alice Hewson	69-68-67	204	-12
Santiago Tarrion	71-68-65	204	-12
Rafa Cabrera Bello	68-70-67	205	-11
Jens Dantorp	68-67-70	205	-11
Scott Jamieson	67-65-73	205	-11
Andy Sullivan	69-69-67	205	-11
Jesper Svensson	68-67-70	205	-11
Jorge Campillo	68-67-71	206	-10
Alex Fitzpatrick	65-71-70	206	-10
Linn Gran	67-68-71	206	-10
David Law	67-70-69	206	-10
Nastasia Nadaud	73-67-66	206	-10
Adrien Saddier	71-68-67	206	-10

Tennis

At Stade Roland Garros; Paris; Purse: Euro19,280,000; Surface: Red clay; Saturday (seedings in parentheses): Women's Singles - Championship Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, def. Jasmine Paolini (12), Italy, 6-2, 6-1.

UFL

Conference Championships

Saturday - USFL Conf.

Birmingham 31, Michigan 18

Sunday - XFL Conf.

San Antonio at St. Louis, 7pm

Championship

Sunday, June 16

At St. Louis

TBD, 5pm

CFL

Week 1

Thursday

Montreal 27, Winnipeg 12

Friday

Calgary 32, Hamilton 24

Saturday

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Yankees	45	21	.682	—	—	8-2	L-2	21-10	24-11
Baltimore	41	22	.651	2½	+8½	7-3	W-2	21-12	20-10
Boston	32	33	.492	12½	1½	4-6	L-2	14-18	18-15
Tampa Bay	31	33	.484	13	2	5-5	L-2	17-20	14-13
Toronto	31	33	.484	13	2	6-4	W-1	16-15	15-18

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	41	22	.651	—	—	5-5	W-1	21-8	20-14
Kansas City	39	26	.600	3	+5½	5-5	W-3	24-10	15-16
Minnesota	33	31	.516	8½	—	3-7	L-5	16-13	17-18
Detroit	31	33	.484	10½	2	4-6	L-3	14-17	17-16
Chicago	17	48	.262	25	16½	2-8	W-2	12-22	5-26

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	36	30	.545	—	—	6-4	L-2	21-11	15-19
Texas	30	34	.469	5	3	5-5	L-2	15-17	15-17
Houston	30	35	.462	5½	3½	6-4	W-2	17-18	13-17
Oakland	26	40	.394	10	8	3-7	L-1	15-19	11-21
Los Angeles	24	40	.375	11	9	3-7	L-2	10-23	14-17

*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

L.A. Dodgers 11, **Yankees** 3
 Kansas City 8, Seattle 4
 Toronto 7, Oakland 0
 Pittsburgh 4, Minnesota 0
 San Francisco 3, Texas 1
 Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 0
 White Sox 6, Boston 1
 Milwaukee 5, Detroit 4
 Cleveland 8, Miami 0
 Houston 6, L.A. Angels 1
Sunday
 L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, 7:10
 San Francisco at Texas, 1:05
 Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 1:35

Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 1:40
 Cleveland at Miami, 1:40
 Milwaukee at Detroit, 1:40
 Boston at White Sox, 2:10
 Seattle at Kansas City, 2:10
 Houston at L.A. Angels, 4:07
 Toronto at Oakland, 4:07

Monday

Yankees at Kansas City, 8:10
 Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 6:50
 Colorado at Minnesota, 7:40
 Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:10
 White Sox at Seattle, 9:40
 Oakland at San Diego, 9:40
 Houston at San Francisco, 9:45

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	45	19	.703	—	—	7-3	W-4	27-9	18-10
Atlanta	35	27	.565	9	+4½	4-6	L-2	19-12	16-15
Washington	29	35	.453	16	2½	4-6	W-2	12-17	17-18
Mets	27	36	.429	17½	4	5-5	L-1	13-22	14-14
Miami	22	42	.344	23	9½	3-7	L-1	12-24	10-18

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	38	26	.594	—	—	7-3	W-2	18-10	20-16
Cincinnati	32	33	.492	6½	—	8-2	W-7	17-17	15-16
Pittsburgh	31	33	.484	7	½	6-4	W-2	16-16	15-17
Chicago	31	34	.477	7½	1	3-7	L-3	18-13	13-21
St. Louis	30	33	.476	7½	1	4-6	L-1	14-14	16-19

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	41	25	.621	—	—	7-3	W-3	21-12	20-13
San Diego	34	34	.500	8	+½	4-6	W-2	15-20	19-14
San Francisco	32	33	.492	8½	—	4-6	W-3	17-14	15-19
Arizona	30	35	.462	10½	2	5-5	L-2	15-16	15-19
Colorado	23	41	.359	17	8½	4-6	W-1	13-17	10-24

*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Philadelphia 7, **Mets** 2
 L.A. Dodgers 11, **Yankees** 3
 Washington 7, Atlanta 3
 Pittsburgh 4, Minnesota 0
 San Francisco 3, Texas 1
 Cincinnati 4, Cubs 3
 Colorado 6, St. Louis 5
 Milwaukee 5, Detroit 4
 Cleveland 8, Miami 0
 San Diego 13, Arizona 1
Sunday
Mets at Philadelphia, 10:10 a.m.
 L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, 7:10

San Francisco at Texas, 1:05
 Atlanta at Washington, 1:35
 Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 1:35
 Cubs at Cincinnati, 1:40
 Cleveland at Miami, 1:40
 Milwaukee at Detroit, 1:40
 Colorado at St. Louis, 2:15
 Arizona at San Diego, 4:10

Monday

Colorado at Minnesota, 7:40
 Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:10
 Oakland at San Diego, 9:40
 Houston at San Francisco, 9:45

Dodgers 11, Yankees 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Betts ss	4	2	1	0	1	0	.311
Ohtani dh	4	2	1	1	1	1	.311
Freeman 1b	5	2	2	2	0	1	.293
Smith c	3	1	1	0	2	1	.292
T.Hernández rf	4	2	2	6	1	1	.262
Pages cf	4	0	1	1	1	1	.259
Rojas 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.283
K.Hernández 3b	3	2	1	1	1	1	.206
Taylor lf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.102
Totals	36	11	11	11	7	9	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Volpe ss	5	0	1	0	0	2	.285
Verdugo lf-cf	5	0	2	0	0	1	.257
Judge rf	4	2	2	2	1	1	.298
Stanton dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Rizzo 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.224
Torres 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.229
LeMahieu 3b	3	0	2	0	1	0	.207
Wells c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.200
Trevino ph-c	1	0	1	0	0	0	.261
Grisham cf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.083
Jones ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Totals	37	3	10	3	3	8	

Los Angeles	011	011	043	—	11	11	0
Yankees	011	000	001	—	3	10	1

E: Torres (10). **LOB:** Los Angeles 5, New York 10. **2B:** Freeman 2 (19), Verdugo (13). **HR:** T.Hernández (14), off Cortes; K.Hernández (4), off Cortes; T.Hernández (15), off Kahnle; Judge (22), off Stone; Judge (23), off Yarbrough. **RBIs:** T.Hernández 6 (47), Ohtani (41), K.Hernández (11), Freeman 2 (40), Pages (19), Wells (7), Judge 2 (57). **SB:** T.Hernández (4). **RISP:** Los Angeles 4 for 10; New York 0 for 7. **DP:** New York 2 (Rizzo, Volpe, Judge; Volpe, Rizzo).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Stone, W, 7-2	5.2	8	2	2	2	6	101	2.93
Vesia, H, 4	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	22	1.20
Yarbrough	2.0	2	1	1	1	1	32	3.12

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cortes, L, 3-5	5.1	7	4	4	1	4	83	3.68
Tonkin	1.2	0	0	0	2	20	0.93	
Kahnle	0.1	1	4	3	2	1	30	6.00
Santana	1.1	3	3	3	2	39	6.26	
Cabrera	0.1	0	0	0	2	0	12	0.00

T: 3:17. **A:** 48,374 (47,309).

Nationals 7, Braves 3

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Albies 2b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.266
Riley 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.234
Ozuna dh	4	1	2	0	0	0	.319
Olson 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.239
Duvall rf	3	0	0	0	1	3	.184
Arcia ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Harris cf	3	1	0	0	0	2	.244
Murphy c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.147
Kelenic lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.259
Totals	33	3	7	2	1	13	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Abrams ss	4	1	1	0	2	2	.246
Thomas rf	4	2	2	0	0	1	.217
Winker lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.262
Rosario dh	4	0	2	3	0	0	.188
Garcia 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.266
Ruiz c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.200
Senzel 3b	3	2	3	3	1	0	.243
Gallo 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.157
Young cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.272
Totals	34	7	12	7	1	8	

Atlanta	000	011	100	—	3	7	2
Washington	210	112	00x	—	7	12	0

E: Riley (5), Morton (2). **LOB:** Atlanta 5, Washington 6. **2B:** Olson (15), Albies (17), Rosario (9), Senzel 2 (9), Garcia (11). **HR:** Murphy (1), off Law; Senzel (6), off Lee. **RBIs:** Albies (30), Murphy (4), Rosario 3 (23), Abrams (28), Senzel 3 (16). **CS:** Abrams (5). **S:** Winker. **RISP:** Atlanta 0 for 5; Washington 4 for 14. **DP:** Atlanta 1 (Olson, Arcia, Olson); Washington 1 (Abrams, Garcia, Gallo).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Morton, L, 3-3	5.0	7	5	4	0	3	87	4.12
Lee	1.0	2	2	2	0	2	14	3.70
Herr	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	14	2.35
Hernández	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	19	0.00

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gore, W, 5-5	5.0	6	2	2	1	7	99	3.57
Law, H, 6	2.0	1	1	1	0	3	26	2.79
Floro	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1.15
Garcia	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	4.58

T: 2:29. **A:** 33,998 (41,376).

Phillies 7, Mets 2

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	5	0	1	1	0	0	.231
Realuto c	5	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Harper 1b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.276
Bohm 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.290
Castellanos rf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.215
Stott 2b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.244
Sosa ss	4	1	1	1	0	0	.292
Merrifield lf	4	1	1	3	0	1	.174
Pache cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.203
Totals	37	7	11	7	1	6	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor ss	4	2	2	0	1	1	.239
Alonso 1b	4	0	2	0	1	2	

Brewers 5, Tigers 4

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	4	2	2	0	1	0	.307
Contreras c	5	0	1	0	0	0	.309
Yelich dh	4	0	2	2	0	1	.329
Adames ss	4	0	0	1	0	1	.240
Hoskins 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.233
Frelick rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.259
Ortiz 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.291
Perkins cf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.255
Chourio lf	4	1	2	2	0	0	.216
Totals	35	5	10	5	3	3	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Vierlick 3b-rrf-3b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.276
Greene cf	3	2	0	0	1	0	.238
Canha dh	4	0	1	1	1	1	.236
Urshela 1b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.262
Keith 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.215
McKinstry 2b-3b-2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.196
Malloy lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.143
Baddoo rf	1	1	0	0	1	0	.190
Ibáñez ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Pérez ph-rr	1	0	0	0	1	0	.247
Báez ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.183
Kelly c	4	1	2	1	0	2	.236
Totals	33	4	5	3	5	11	

Milwaukee	102 002 000 — 5 10 3
Detroit	130 000 000 — 4 5 2

E: Frelick (2), Hoskins (3), Contreras (6), Keith (7), Báez (7). **LOB:** Milwaukee 7, Detroit 8. **2B:** Chourio (5). **RBIs:** Yelich 2 (29), Adames (43), Chourio 2 (21), Urshela (14), Kelly (14), Canha (26). **SB:** Turang (23), Yelich (10). **CS:** Chourio (2). **SF:** Yelich. **R. DP:** Detroit 2 (Báez, Keith, Urshela); Milwaukee (McKinstry, Urshela).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peralta	3.1	4	4	3	0	3	94	3.95
Koenig, W, 6-1	1.2	0	0	0	0	2	28	1.84
Paredes, H, 2	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	12	0.00
Hudson, H, 9	1.1	0	0	0	0	3	28	1.03
Payamps, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	3.52
Megill, S, 9-10	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.12

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mize, L, 1-4	5.1	8	5	3	2	1	97	4.73
Miller, BS, 0-3	1.2	1	0	0	2	26	3.72	
Foley	1.0	0	0	0	0	10	3.04	
Chafin	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	12	5.14

T: 3:03. **A:** 32,333 (41,083).

White Sox 6, Red Sox 1

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Duran lf	3	0	0	0	2	1	.263
Valdez 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.186
Westbrook ph-2b-3b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.200
Refsnyder dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.333
Devers 3b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.284
McGuire ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.216
Wong c-2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.331
Smith 1b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.223
Dalbec rf	3	1	1	1	1	2	.159
Hamilton ss	4	0	2	0	0	2	.277
Rafaela cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.216
Totals	30	1	5	1	6	13	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Julks lf	4	1	0	0	0	1	.274
DeLoach rf	2	1	0	0	2	0	.091
Ellis pr-cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Vaughn 1b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.217
Sheets dh	4	1	3	4	0	0	.246
DeJong ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	.234
Colás cf-rr	4	0	1	0	0	1	.235
Sosa 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.230
Mendick 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.221
Maldonado c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.074
Totals	33	6	10	6	4	3	

Boston	000 010 000 — 1 5 0
Chicago	000 050 10x — 6 10 0

LOB: Boston 9, Chicago 7. **2B:** Mendick (7). **HR:** Dalbec (1), off Nastrini; Sheets (7), off Bello; DeJong (11), off C.Anderson. **RBIs:** Dalbec (7), Vaughn (22), Sheets 4 (27), DeJong (24). **SB:** Duran 2 (14), Hamilton (12), Ellis (3). **RISP:** Boston 1 for 11; Chicago 3 for 9. **DP:** Boston 1 (Smith, Hamilton); Chicago 1 (Vaughn, DeJong, Vaughn).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bello, L, 6-3	4.2	9	5	5	3	2	95	4.78
Kelly	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.00
C.Anderson	3.0	1	1	1	1	1	41	4.41

T: 2:51. **A:** 26,248 (40,241).

Orioles 5, Rays 0

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	4	1	1	3	1	2	.263
Rutschman c	4	0	1	0	1	1	.300
Mountcastle 1b	4	0	1	0	1	2	.281
O'Hearn rf	4	2	2	1	0	0	.285
Hays lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.211
Santander dh	4	0	1	0	1	1	.227
Westburg 3b-2b	5	0	1	0	1	0	.278
Stowers lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.300
Cowser lf-rr	1	0	0	0	1	0	.229
Norby 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.214
Urias 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Mullins cf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.170
Totals	36	5	9	5	6	11	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.246
B.Lowe 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.208
Arozarena dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.173
Paredes 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.288
J.Lowe rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.224
Siri cf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.194
Walls ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.286
Palacios lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.253
Jackson c	3	0	0	0	0	3	.043
Totals	29	0	2	0	0	14	

Baltimore	000 100 013 — 5 9 0
Tampa Bay	000 000 000 — 0 2 0

LOB: Baltimore 10, Tampa Bay 2. **2B:** Santander (13), Hays (6). **3B:** Westburg (4). **HR:** O'Hearn (9), off Bradley; Henderson (20), off Maton. **RBIs:** O'Hearn (21), Westburg (39), Henderson 3 (45). **SB:** Cowser (4), O'Hearn (2). **RISP:** Baltimore 2 for 7; Tampa Bay 0 for 1.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradish, W, 2-0	6.0	1	0	0	0	9	88	2.62
Coulombe, H, 13	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	30	2.42
Pérez	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	11	4.02

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradley, L, 1-4	5.0	3	1	1	1	7	99	5.17
Armstrong	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	23	3.56
Poche	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	28	6.10
Adam	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	20	2.00
Maton	0.1	3	3	3	2	0	31	5.24
Kelly	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	5	3.00

T: 2:48. **A:** 20,485 (25,025).

Rockies 6, Cardinals 5

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Blackmon dh	4	2	3	0	1	0	.259
Doyle cf	4	1	1	1	1	0	.269
Tovar ss	4	2	4	4	0	0	.294
McMahon 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.267
Montero 1b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.205
Jones rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Stallings c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Cave lf	4	0	1	0	1	0	.239
Toglia rf-1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.155
Trejo 2b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.128
Totals	35	6	12	6	2	9	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Winn ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.303
Burleson rf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.274
Siani cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.203
a-Fermin ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.120
Goldschmidt 1b	4	1	1	0	1	0	.227
Gorman 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.227
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.248
Donovan lf-rr	4	0	1	0	0	1	.241
Herrera c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Carpenter dh	3	2	1	1	1	1	.200
Carlson cf-rr-cf	3	1	1	0	0	1	.167
Totals	34	5	5	3	12		

Colorado	100 002 300 — 6 12 2
St. Louis	000 004 100 — 5 5 2

E: Trejo (1), Montero (3), Herrera (2), Gorman (9). **LOB:** Colorado 5, St. Louis 3. **2B:** Montero (8), Blackmon (13), Donovan (15). **HR:** Tovar (9), off Gibson; Tovar (10), off Kittredge; Carpenter (2), off Vodnik. **RBIs:** Tovar 4 (28), Cave (6), Doyle (17), Goldschmidt (25), Arenado (30), Carpenter (5). **SB:** Blackmon (5), Doyle (17). **S:** Trejo. **RISP:** Colorado 5 for 10; St. Louis 1 for 8. **DP:** St. Louis 3 (Gorman, Winn, Goldschmidt); Winn, Gorman, Goldschmidt; Gorman, Goldschmidt).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Feltner	5.1	2	4	0	1	7	89	5.74
Vodnik, W, 1-0	1.2	2	1	1	0	2	26	2.68
Beeks, H, 4	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	4.06
Kinley, S, 4-4	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	7.71

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gibson	6.0	8	3	3	2	7	93	3.76
Kittredge, L,	1.0	3	3	3	0	1	22	3.54
0-3, BS, 0-3								
Roycroft	2.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	3.38

The *POST* Line



NBA Finals

	Sunday	
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
CELTICS	7.5 (214.5)	Mavericks

WNBA

	Sunday	
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LIBERTY	12.5 (159.5)	Mystics
WINGS	2.5 (164.5)	Mercury
LYNX	2.5 (162.5)	Storm
Aces	15 (164.5)	SPARKS

UFL- Conference Championships

	Sunday	
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
BATTLEHAWKS	3 (44)	Brahmas

CFL- Week 1

	Sunday	
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Lions	5.5 (47.5)	ARGONAUTS

	MLB	
Favorite	Sunday	Underdog
	Money Line	
Dodgers	\$105-125	YANKEES
Phillies	\$120-140	*Mets
Orioles	\$115-135	RAYS
ROYALS	-105-115	Mariners
Red Sox	OFF	WHITE SOX
Astros	\$140-165	ANGELS
Blue Jays	OFF	ATHLETICS
Braves	\$140-165	NATIONALS
Cubs	\$105-125	REDS
CARDINALS	\$150-180	Rockies
PADRES	OFF	D'backs
RANGERS	OFF	Giants
Twins	-105-115	PIRATES
Guardians	-110-110	MARLINS
TIGERS	OFF	Brewers

*London, U.K.

SPORTS SHORTS

GOLF: Rahm pulls out at LIV event

Former Masters champion **Jon Rahm** withdrew from LIV Golf's Houston event during the second round due to an injury — an infection in his left foot, per Golf Channel — that has put into question the Spaniard's status for next week's U.S. Open.

David Puig had a 6-under 66 to join a four-way share of the lead.

● In Dublin, Ohio, **Scottie Scheffler** posted a 1-under 71 and increased his lead to four shots up on **Collin Morikawa** and **Adam Hadwin** ahead of the final round of the Memorial.

● The PGA Tour reported progress without details from a face-to-face meeting between its negotiating committee and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia as it tries to work toward a deal.

● In Galloway, N.J., **Jenny Shin** shot a 2-under 69 at the Bay Course at Seaview Resort and will take a one-shot lead over **Albane Valenzuela** into the final round of the ShopRite LPGA Classic as she seeks her first victory since 2016.

SOCCER: US swatted in Copa tuneup

Colombia scored three goals in an 11-minute span late in the second half to rout a sloppy United States, 5-1, in a Copa America warm-up match in Landover, Md. **Tim Weah** got a 58th-minute goal for the U.S., which has six losses and two draws against the Colombians since 2005.

● In Foxborough, Mass., the Red Bulls could not overcome the Revolution's **Emmanuel Boateng** scoring late in the first half in a 1-0 loss.

MLB: O's 2-hit Rays in St. Pete

Kyle Bradish went six innings and combined with two relievers on a two-hitter. **Gunnar Henderson** drove in three runs with his 20th homer of the season, and the Orioles beat the Rays, 5-0, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

● In Washington, **Nick Senzel** homered for the first time in nearly six weeks and drove in three runs, **Eddie Rosario** had three RBIs against his former team and the Nationals defeated the Braves, 7-3.

● In Chicago, **Gavin Sheets** hit his first career grand slam, and the White Sox won their second straight after a franchise-record 14-game losing streak, beating the Red Sox, 6-1.

● In Oakland, Calif., **Kevin Gausman** pitched the first shutout of his 12-year career, a five-hitter, and the Blue Jays beat the Athletics, 7-0.

ETC.: Hall of Famer Walker dead

Chet Walker, a seven-time NBA All-Star and Hall of Famer, has died, ESPN reported, citing the players association. He was 84.

● Former LSU basketball player **Josh Maravich**, son of late Hall of Fame basketball player **Pete Maravich**, died Friday at age 42, the university announced. No cause of death has been released.

● In Rome, **Marcell Jacobs** clocked a season-best 10.02 to win the 100-meters on his home track and defend his European Championship title.

● In Eugene, Ore., **McKenzie Long** of Mississippi captured titles in the 100 meters, 200 and 400-meter relay, while Arkansas won the team title at the NCAA women's outdoor track and field championships.

ACTION TOP PLAY

Don't bet on Game 2 rebound

By ANDY FENELON
actionnetwork.com

As the No. 5 seed coming out of the West, the Mavericks have started all four of their playoff series on the road, losing Game 1 three times. In their three previous series against the Clippers, Thunder and Timberwolves, they entered Game 2 as two-score underdogs.

And all three times they came out victorious.

Coming off a blowout loss to the Celtics in the NBA Finals opener, Dallas enters Sunday's Game 2 as a 7.5-point dog.

An outright upset (-270, FanDuel) might be asking too much this time, but can the Mavs keep it close? If so, they'll have to improve greatly on the two

things that got them this far in the playoffs: 3-point efficiency and interior lob scoring.

And Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving will have to step up on both ends of the court. Doncic led all scorers in Game 1 with 30 points but finished with just a single assist after averaging 9.8 in the regular season.

Irving finished with just 12 points (and two assists), hitting 31.6 percent of his shots from the field and missing all five of his 3-point attempts.

Maybe things get better when the series moves to Dallas next week, but Game 2 appears set for another blowout.

THE PLAY: Celtics -7 (-110)
Andy Fenelon analyzes the NBA for Action Network.

Pitching Form

		Game time	2024			'24 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Dodgers	Glasnow (R)		6-4	2.93	8-5	—	—	4-2	0-2	18.0	3.00
Yankees	Gil (R)	7:10pm	8-1	1.82	10-2	—	—	—	3-0	20.1	0.44
*Mets	Quintana (L)		1-5	5.17	5-7	—	—	0-2	0-1	16.0	5.06
Phillies	Walker (R)	10:10am	3-1	5.73	4-3	0-0	5.80	1-3	0-1	15.2	6.89
Orioles	G. Rodriguez (R)		6-2	3.28	7-3	—	—	2-0	2-1	17.2	3.57
Rays	Littell (R)	1:40pm	2-3	3.56	6-6	0-0	4.50	0-0	0-1	18.2	3.86
Mariners	Kirby (R)		5-5	4.05	6-7	1-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	17.0	4.24
Royals	Ragans (L)	7:10pm	4-4	3.21	7-6	—	—	0-0	1-1	17.0	1.59
Red Sox	Kelly (R)		0-1	2.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White Sox	Flexen (R)	2:10pm	2-5	5.19	2-9	—	—	1-0	0-1	14.2	4.30
Astros	Verlander (R)		3-3	3.63	4-5	—	—	10-11	1-0	18.0	3.00
Angels	Sandoval (L)	4:07pm	2-8	5.00	4-9	—	—	0-5	0-2	15.2	6.32
Blue Jays	TBD					—	—	—	—	—	—
Athletics	Spence (R)	4:07pm	4-3	3.86	1-3	—	—	—	1-1	14.1	3.77
Braves	Waldrep (R)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nationals	Herz (L)	1:35pm	0-1	9.00	0-1	—	—	—	0-1	4.0	9.00
Cubs	Imanaga (L)		5-1	1.88	9-2	—	—	—	0-1	15.2	4.60
Reds	Montas (R)	1:40pm	3-4	4.00	4-7	—	—	—	0-1	12.0	5.25
Rockies	Blach (L)		2-3	4.54	3-3	—	—	0-1	1-1	18.2	3.86
Cardinals	TBD	2:15pm				—	—	—	—	—	—
D'backs	McGough (R)		1-3	6.75	—	0-0	9.00	—	—	—	—
Padres	Mazur (R)	4:10pm	0-0	1.50	0-1	—	—	—	0-0	6.0	1.50
Giants	Winn (R)		3-6	6.17	3-6	—	—	—	0-3	8.1	18.36
Rangers	Eovaldi (R)	1:05pm	3-2	2.70	5-4	—	—	2-4	1-0	14.0	1.93
Twins	Ober (R)		5-4	4.94	5-7	—	—	—	1-2	15.0	6.60
Pirates	Jones (R)	1:35pm	4-5	3.35	5-7	—	—	—	1-1	16.1	4.41
Guardians	Carrasco (R)		2-5	5.66	3-7	—	—	5-2	0-3	16.0	5.63
Marlins	Rogers (L)	1:40pm	1-7	5.68	1-11	—	—	—	0-1	15.0	5.40
Brewers	Wilson (R)		3-2	3.35	4-3	—	—	0-1	0-0	12.2	5.16
Tigers	Skubal (L)	1:40pm	7-1	1.97	9-3	—	—	—	1-1	18.0	2.50

*REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started. *In London, U.K.

STITCHES

Ride with O's, Gray-Rod

Dick Van Dyke, 98-years-young, is now the oldest ever to win a Daytime Emmy Award. Up next, considering the current crop of candidates, a run for the White House.

As hot as the Yankees have been, the Orioles are still in the same area code. Baltimore is in Tampa, which is well back of the top pair. The Rays' Zack Littell faced the Orioles just six days ago. The O's attacked Zack, scoring three runs on 11 hits. The Orioles counter

with Grayson Rodriguez, who comes off a 6 2/3-inning, one-run gem at Toronto. Going with Gray-Rod and the Blackbirds. Play \$50 on the Orioles.

-\$

The 156th running of the Belmont. Van Dyke wasn't at the first one, but Joe Biden had the exacta. Mindframe left us second-best. Then the Cards dealt us another bad hand, losing to the Rockies, 6-5. Down -641 secretariats.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups	HOME	AWAY
	TODAY June 9 L.A. Dodgers 7:10 ESPN WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	MON June 10 K.C. 8:10 YES WFAN
	TUE June 11 K.C. 8:10 YES WFAN	WED June 12 K.C. 8:10 Prime Video WFAN
	THU June 13 Philadelphia 10:10 a.m. ESPN WCBS 660 AM	FRI June 14 Mia. 7:10 SNY WCBS
	SAT June 15 S.D. 7:15 Fox WFAN	SUN June 16 S.D. 4:10 PIX11 WCBS
	NO GAME	NO GAME
	NO GAME	Las Vegas 3:00 ABC

+in London

Saturday	Friday	Saturday
Nashville 7:30 Apple TV+	Columbus Crew 7:30 Apple TV+	Racing Louisville FC Noon ESPN

Today's Sports on the Air			
MLB	10:10 a.m.	Mets vs. Phillies (in London)	ESPN, WCBS (880 AM)
	1:30 p.m.	Orioles at Rays	MLBN
	4:30 p.m.	Diamondbacks at Padres (in progress)	MLBN
	7:10 p.m.	Dodgers at Yankees	ESPN, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
NBA Finals	8 p.m.	Mavericks at Celtics, Game 2	ABC, ESPN (98.7 FM)
WNBA	3 p.m.	Mystics at Liberty	MY9
Tennis	6 a.m.	The French Open, Doubles Finals	Tennis
	9 a.m.	The French Open, Men's Final	NBC
Football	7 p.m.	XFL Conference Championship: St. Louis at San Antonio	Fox
Golf	6:30 a.m.	DP World Tour: The Volvo Car Scandinavian Mixed, Final Round	Golf
	12:30 p.m.	PGA Tour: The Memorial Tournament, Final Round	Golf
	1 p.m.	LIV Tour: Houston, Final Round	PIX11
	2:30 p.m.	Champions Tour: The American Family Insurance Championship, Final Round	Golf
	2:30 p.m.	PGA Tour: The Memorial Tournament, Final Round	CBS
	8 p.m.	LPGA Tour: The Shop Rite LPGA Classic, Final Round	Golf
	Auto Racing	12:30 p.m.	F1: The Canadian Grand Prix
	3:30 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: The Toyota/Save Mart 350	Fox
	3:30 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: XPEL Grand Prix at Road America	NBC
Track and Field	2 p.m.	USATF New York Grand Prix	NBC
Soccer	6 p.m.	Canadian Premier League: Vancouver FC at York United	FS2
College Baseball	Noon	Super Regional: Georgia vs. N.C. State	ESPNU
	2:30 p.m.	Super Regional: Clemson vs. Florida	ESPN
	3 p.m.	Super Regional: W. Virginia vs. N. Carolina	ESPN2
	3 p.m.	Super Regional: Kansas St. vs. Virginia	ESPNU
	6 p.m.	Super Regional: Evansville vs. Tennessee	ESPNU
	7:30 p.m.	Super Regional: Texas A&M vs. Oregon	ESPN2
Horse Racing	9 p.m.	Super Regional: Kentucky vs. Oregon St.	ESPNU
	Noon	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
Rugby	12:30 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
	3 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS1
	4 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
	4 p.m.	MLR: Anthem RC at San Diego Legion	FS1

ODDS & ENDS

NBA
Mavericks at Celtics Game 2, Sunday

MONEYLINE	ODDS
Mavericks	+220
Celtics	-275
TOTAL POINTS	ODDS
Over 214.5	-115
Under 214.5	-105
PLAYER POINTS	O/U
Luka Doncic	31.5
Jayson Tatum	26.5
Kyrie Irving	22.5
Jaylen Brown	22.5
Kristaps Porzingis	15.5
Derrick White	14.5
Jrue Holiday	12.5
P.J. Washington	11.5
Al Horford	8.5
Daniel Gafford	7.5
Derrick Jones Jr.	7.5
Dereck Lively II	6.5
Josh Green	3.5
Jaden Hardy	3.5
Sam Hauser	3.5
Payton Pritchard	3.5
PLAYER 3-POINTERS	O/U
Luka Doncic	4.5
Jaylen Brown	2.5
Jayson Tatum	2.5
Kyrie Irving	2.5
Derrick White	2.5
Al Horford	1.5
Jrue Holiday	1.5
P.J. Washington	1.5
Kristaps Porzingis	1.5
PLAYER REBOUNDS	O/U
Jayson Tatum	9.5
Luka Doncic	9.5
Al Horford	6.5
Dereck Lively II	6.5
Jaylen Brown	5.5
Jrue Holiday	5.5
P.J. Washington	5.5
Kristaps Porzingis	5.5
Daniel Gafford	4.5
Derrick White	3.5
Kyrie Irving	3.5
Derrick Jones Jr.	3.5
SERIES WINNER	ODDS
Celtics	-450
Mavericks	+340
FINALS MVP	ODDS
Jayson Tatum	+115
Jaylen Brown	+300
Luka Doncic	+350
Kristaps Porzingis	+650
Kyrie Irving	40/1
Derrick White	66/1
Jrue Holiday	150/1
Al Horford	350/1
P.J. Washington	500/1
Derrick Jones	500/1
Daniel Gafford	500/1
Dereck Lively	500/1

ACTION BET SMART

Sonoma paves road to riches

By NICK STERLING
actionnetwork.com

The NASCAR Cup Series heads to Wine Country this weekend for its annual trip to Sonoma Raceway. This marks the second road course race of the season, after William Byron won at COTA in March.

Road-course racing can bring surprising results, but it will be tough to top last week's finish. Christopher Bell had the dominant car before a late engine issue cost him a top-five finish. Then, Ryan Blaney ran out of gas while leading on the final lap.

FanDuel has past road-course winners Martin Truex Jr. (+600), Kyle Larson (+750) and William Byron (+750) as the favorites.

You can watch the Toyota Save/Mart 350 on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. on FOX. Here are some of our best bets:

Ty Gibbs to win (+900, Caesars)

Gibbs has been one of the best road-course drivers since entering NASCAR. He scored four road course wins in the Xfinity Series before moving to the Cup Series.

Since the beginning of 2023, he ranks fourth in total speed across all road-course races. He's had the second-fastest car in three straight road-course races, leading to a trio of top-five finishes.

He wasn't great in last year's Sonoma race, but I wouldn't let that discourage you. Gibbs has had much more speed in 2024.

Elliott, Bell, Ross Chastain, Daniel Suarez and Tyler Reddick scored their first career wins on road courses. It wouldn't surprise me if Gibbs joined that group on Sunday.

Tyler Reddick top-five finish (+160, bet365)

Not long ago, Elliott was the road-course king in the Cup Series. Elliott remains a threat on road courses, but Reddick might be the new best road-course racer in the Cup Series.

Over the past 13 road-course races,

Reddick has two finishes worse than eighth. That includes three wins and seven top-five finishes.

Reddick is a good pick to win Sunday, but Sonoma has been the one road-course track that has given him issues.

Still, I believe he will overcome the issues and contend for a top-five finish.

Chris Buescher-AJ Allmendinger top-10 finish (+140, Caesars)

Buescher has finished in the top 10 in 10 of the past 11 road-course races, with the lone exception being an 11th-place finish.

Sonoma has been especially kind to Buescher, who has ranked first and second in speed rankings over the past two races. Buescher finished top-five in both races.

My top-10 parlay combines Buescher with Allmendinger. Road-course races are Allmendinger's specialty, as he has eight top-10 finishes in his past 10 starts at the track type.

I'd expect both drivers in contention on Sunday, with a top-10 finish being their floor.

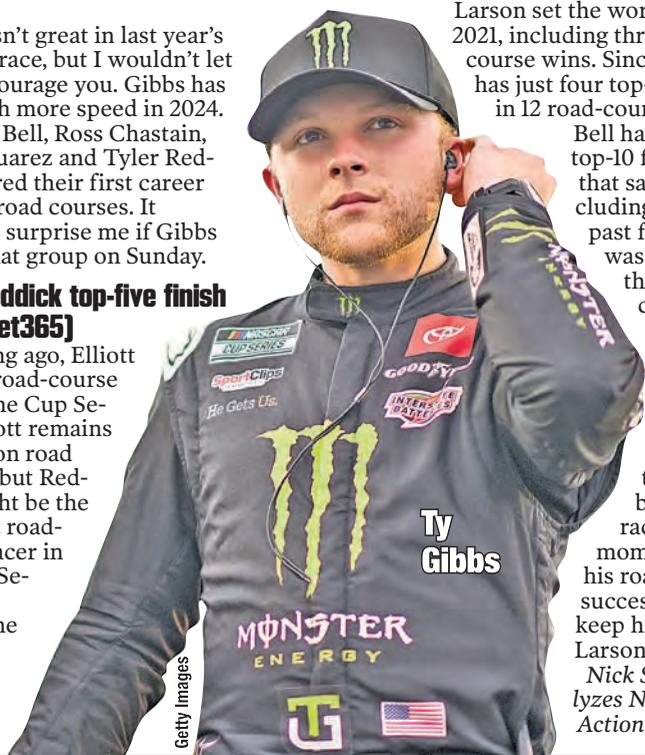
Christopher Bell over Kyle Larson (-115, DraftKings)

This marks the second straight week I'm fading Larson in a driver matchup. That won't happen often, but I don't see the same upside in Larson as in Bell at Sonoma.

Larson set the world on fire in 2021, including three road-course wins. Since then, he has just four top-10 finishes in 12 road-course races.

Bell has eight top-10 finishes in that same span, including four in his past five races. He was far better in the lone road-course race of 2024, finishing second to Larson's 17th.

Bell has been the car to beat in back-to-back races. That momentum, plus his road course success, should keep him ahead of Larson at Sonoma. *Nick Sterling analyzes NASCAR for Action Network.*



Getty Images

SETTING THE SUN

Liberty first to knock off Connecticut this season

By PETER BOTTE

The challenge of facing the WNBA's lone remaining unbeaten team on the road was not too daunting for the Liberty to overcome.

In the first head-to-head meeting since taking three of four from Connecticut in last year's league semifinals — before losing the title to the Las Vegas Aces — Sabrina Ionescu scored 24 points to lead the Liberty to an 82-75 win Saturday over the previously undefeated Sun at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn.

With the win, the Liberty clinched the Eastern Conference spot in the 2024 Commissioner's Cup championship game.

"There were so many excuses we could have had. ... But we didn't do that," said Ionescu, who became the fastest to 300 made 3-pointers (117 games) in WNBA history. "We understood this was a huge game for us, a statement game. They were undefeated. It's huge for the Commissioner Cup.

"So regardless of how ugly the game was looking, how sloppy it was at times, we stayed poised and played our style of basketball."

Jonquel Jones, who won MVP honors as a member of

the Sun in 2022, contributed 22 points with eight rebounds and four blocked shots for the Liberty (10-2).

Starting guard Courtney Vandersloot missed her second straight game due to personal reasons, but reigning league MVP Breanna Stewart scored 11 of her 13 points in the second half for the Libs, who have won six straight games.

Ionescu and Stewart also were among the 12 players who reportedly will be named to the U.S. Olympic roster — with Fever rookie Caitlin Clark excluded — that will compete in Paris later this summer. Ionescu told ABC during the game that she wouldn't comment on the Olympic team until the roster is officially announced.

The Sun (9-1) were looking to become the fourth team in WNBA history — and the first since 2016 — to start a season 10-0. DeWanna Bonner shot 4 for 14 but led Connecticut with 16 points, and Alyssa Thomas had 10 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists.

"I don't think we were under any impression that we were going to go through this season undefeated," Sun coach Stephanie White said. "Certainly we want to win the ones we're supposed to, and when you have an opportu-

nity to play a team that has been where you want to go, you want to take advantage of it. We didn't do that tonight."

The Libs trailed by as many as seven in the third quarter and by 60-57 entering the fourth. Stewart netted eight points in the third after scoring just two on two field-goal attempts through two quarters.

Jones' 3-pointer and Ionescu's floater helped give the Liberty a 66-64 advantage with under six minutes remaining before another Jones trey expanded the cushion to six with 3:23 to go.

Close-range buckets by Bonner and Dijonai Carrington closed the Sun within 74-72 with 1:59 to play. Tyasha Harris and Jones traded 3-pointers for a 79-75 game going into the final minute before Ionescu cut to the rim to push the lead to six with 43.0 seconds left.

"I think the chemistry we built last year and the experiences that we had, it helps us now," Liberty coach Sandy Brondello said. "We settled down [in the fourth quarter] and our defense and our connections went to another level, regardless of what happens in the other quarters.

"I felt confident going in, but we just went to another level."

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SAB' DRIVE: Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu slashes to the basket past the Sun's Alyssa Thomas on Saturday at Mohegan Sun Arena. With the win, the Liberty clinched the Eastern Conference's spot in the Commissioner's Cup championship game. Getty Images



Lavelle nets winner as Gotham tops Angel City

By JARED SCHWARTZ

GOTHAM FC 2
ANGEL CITY FC 1

Gotham FC star forward Rose Lavelle sprouted when the team needed her most.

Lavelle capped off a budding attack and provided the game-winning goal during Gotham's 2-1 win over Angel City FC on Saturday afternoon at Red Bull Arena.

Lavelle combined expertly with Emily Sonnett on the right side of Angel City's box, and after a give-and-go be-

tween the two, Lavelle fired a left-footed shot past DiDi Haracic in the 62nd minute.

It came not long after goalie Ann-Katrin Berger conceded a soft equalizer, beaten by an awkward deflection from Sydney Leroux following a cross into the box from Clarisse Le Bihan in the 51st minute. But a momentary

thorn made way for a rose.

"It doesn't affect them," head coach Juan Carlos Amorós said. "We know what we do, we know the game plan, and they're gonna win the game. A lot of credit to the players."

It was just Lavelle's second goal — and second goal contribution — this season and with Gotham (6-3-2, 21 points) after signing with the team this past offseason.

Gotham's other new star,

Crystal Dunn, finally made her mark and opened the scoring in the first half. Yazzeem Ryan collected the ball on the left flank on a counter attack and did well to dribble past Madison Curry before playing an exquisite through ball to Dunn just in front of Angel City's box. Dunn shifted the ball to her favored right foot before firing past Haracic to give Gotham a 1-0 lead in the 26th minute.

Dunn had come off the

bench the previous three games, but she returned from the NWSL's international break with a chance from Amorós to start on the right side of their attack. And she rewarded the decision, scoring her first goal — and delivering her first goal contribution — of the season and with her new team.

"It's always exciting to be on a new team and then also feel like you're contributing," Dunn said. "Today

was a special day."

Berger bailed out Gotham's defense on numerous occasions — particularly a point-blank save on Alyssa Thompson's header just before half-time and a kick save, from another shot by Thompson, to start the second half.

Gotham is unbeaten in their last seven matches.

"The success is down to the work that the players are doing," Amorós said.

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Post Time: 12:50 p.m.
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Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Speightful Lily (4th)
Lock Record: 2 for 3 (67%)
Meat Record: 9/36 \$91.20

1 2 3/8 miles(T); \$150,000; Steinman; stplchs

Fun while it lasted. See you this summer. A steeplechase on closing day. **FREDDY FLINTSHIRE** runs off layoff for Brion. Ran 3rd in Grade 1 here last summer. Jump record 3 for 8 and never off the board. **ABAAN** is the M/L fave after winning 4 in a row. **PROVEN INNOCENT** moved lower and picked up his 4th win from 12 starts. **RAMPOLDI PLAN** enters off a Grade 1 upset at 13-1.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	West Newton(GB),146	H Beswick	5-1-2	Hendriks	12-1
2	Proven Innocent,144	G Watters	1-3-8	Fisher	6-1
3	Rampoldi Plan,148	J Barqary	1-2-5	Young	7-2
4	Awakened,152	T Garner	4-3-3	Fisher	9-2
5	Abaan,158	B Dalton	1-1-1	Dalton	5-2
6	Freddy Flintshire,146	S Mulqueen	3-2-1	Brion	7-2
7	Jimmy P,146	D Mullins	6-5-2	Brion	10-1
8	Gordon's Jet(IRE),142	E Dwan	7-7-7	Fisher	20-1

2 6 1/2 fur; \$62,000; cfm(\$32,000); 4up

The **EMERALD FOREST** drops for Potts after getting beat a 1/2 dozen lengths. Winner racing for 50k at this longer distance at the Big A. **TETSU** edges higher for Dutrow after winning by a neck. 0 for 3 at this distance. Falcone's **FUNNY JOKE** hasn't competed in 15 months. Went 1 for 2 early 2023. We will wait. **KNEEDEEPSNOW** Losing streak is at 11 after finishing 2nd with similar. Rice gets Irad to snap the skid.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Emerald Forest(L),118	J Castellano	6-4-2	Potts	5-1
2	Sagamore Mischief(L),118	K Davis	6-3-4	Barrera	20-1
3	Nolo Contesto(L),118	J Rosario	3-4-3	Abreu	10-1
4	Lafitte's Fleet(L),118	D Davis	5-2-6	R Dutrow	12-1
5	a-Tetsu(L),118	L Saez	1-8-4	R Dutrow	5-2
6	Poppy's Pride(L),118	L Luzzi	1-5-8	Noda	12-1
7	Kneedeepsnow(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	2-5-2	Rice	3-1
8	Funny Joke(L),118	F Prat	4-1-3	Falcone	15-1
9	Bronx Bomber(L),118	R Maragh	6-3-3	Kantarmaci	30-1
10	Market Alert(L),120	E Cancel	4-2-1	Kantarmaci	12-1
1A	a-Excellent Timing(L),118	M Franco	4-3-2	Atras	5-2
1B	Dangerous Ride(L),120	K Carmouche	5-6-1	Nevin	8-1

3 7 fur; \$125,000; Mike Lee; 3YO

The 1st of six NYB stakes is the Mike Lee. **ANTONIO OF VENICE** enters off back-to-back stakes wins. Defeated **DOC SULLIVAN** by 2 lengths but the Doctor rebounded to top optional claimers. **MISCHIEF JOKE** beat top pick in January but was 9 lengths back of Antonio last out. Board hitter 10 of 11. Best value with Saez up. **GRAND OPENING** graduated at 2nd asking. Won handily wire-to-wire at Pimlico. Speedy, but a tough spot.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Antonio of Venice,122	M Franco	1-1-2	Rodriguez	6-5
2	Mischief Joke,122	L Saez	2-1-2	Maker	12-1
3	Elysian Meadows,120	J Lezcano	4-6-4	Mott	6-1
4	Doc Sullivan,120	J Castellano	1-2-2	Miceli	5-2
5	Grand Opening,118	J Barbosa	1-3-x	Bailes	8-1
6	That's Money,120	I Ortiz, Jr	4-1-1	Pletcher	4-1

4 7 fur; \$90,000; alw; 3up(f)

SPEIGHTFUL LILY smashed her debut by 14+ lengths. Led late, settled 2nd next out. Bond shaves a furlong; rider change to Alvarado. **CAP FERRAT** won her opener as well. By a neck at Gulfstream. Fast filly is well spotted, same distance. **SCORING CHANCE** was 3rd with comparable. Tightness to proven distance. Prat replaces McCarthy who moves to

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Reining Chick(L),123	T McCarthy	6-4-7	Walder	15-1
2	Thirteen Red Flags(L),120	J Castellano	4-4-4	Chichakly	12-1
3	Mel's Baby Sister(L),120	D Davis	6-1-2	Giddings	20-1
4	Big Hazel(L),123	J Gomez	5-5-2	Donk	20-1
5	Cap Ferrat(L),120	E Zayas	1-x-x	Joseph	5-2
6	Speightful Lily(L),125	J Alvarado	2-1-x	James Bond	1-1
7	Mommasgottagun(L),120	J Lezcano	1-4-x	Rice	10-1
8	Scoring Chance(L),123	F Prat	3-10-1	Abreu	8-1
9	Mysaria(L),118	R Maragh	8-3-1	Hills	20-1

5 1 1/16 miles(T); \$45,000; mdn cfm(\$40,000); 3up

First dance. **DANCINGINHPARK** makes his career debut. Morley trains the War Dancer 3YO. Johnny V at a price. **BIG EGO** moves lower to make grass debut. Offered little all 3 dirt starts. Irad a good sign. **FOUR EYES** makes turf debut after going 0 for 9. Distant 2nd in latest. Has never made 2 turns. Gomez on the longshot.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Awsome Force(L),125	L Luzzi	6-6-9	DiPrima	15-1
2	Malibu Margarita(L),118	F Prat	3-7-5	Rodriguez	10-1
3	Four Eyes(L),125	J Gomez	2-5-7	Follett	30-1
4	Dunedin Causeway(L),118	K Davis	10-3-4	Paraqqallo	30-1
5	Az U Chase Me(L),118	J Castellano	4-6-6	Jimenez	9-2
6	Triple Word Score(L),118	R Maragh	3-5-6	Bernardini	30-1
7	Dancinginthepark(M),118	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Morley	8-1
8	Kid Kreesa(L),125	E Ruiz	8-7-10	Dixon	10-1
9	Big Ego(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	6-11-4	Gulvas	5-2
10	Charming Jim(L),125	T McCarthy	6-6-3	Hennig	8-1

6 1 1/8 miles; \$200,000; Commentator; 3up

Going to **DRAKES PASSAGE** in the Commentator. Runnerup last pair with allowance, latest off the layoff. Won the Albany at this distance under Franco here last summer. **OLYMPIC DREAMS** Turf to dirt for Quick. All out to wire claimers then a tired 7th in the Excelsior, last 2 dirt starts. 4 for 8 at the distance. **UNION FLEET** won 2 of last 3. The loss in a stake. Maryland shipper will be a price. **SHERIFF BIANCO** and **DONEGAL SURGES** ran 2-3 in the Affirmed Success. Sheriff Bianco was 2nd in the Empire Classic at this longer distance. Donegal Surges won previous pair; both sprints.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Sheriff Bianco,126	J Lezcano	2-3-2	Rice	6-1
2	Drake's Passage,126	M Franco	2-2-5	Clement	7-5
3	Dr Ardito,126	F Prat	5-3-1	C Brown	5-1
4	Whittington Park,126	K Carmouche	6-4-1	Englehart	6-1
5	Donegal Surges,124	I Ortiz, Jr	3-1-1	Pletcher	5-1
6	Union Fleet,126	A Chavez	1-3-1	Magana	20-1
7	Olympic Dreams,126	T McCarthy	5-7-1	Quick	9-2

7 1 1/16 miles(T); \$45,000; mdn cfm(\$40,000); 3up(f)

More ground for **ROZAY SUMMER**. Ran even 4th of 10 in her opener. Moves lower for Clement. Franco on the Tampa invader. **STARTS NOW** makes seasonal for Kantarmaci. 0 for 8 with mdn spl wts. Length short racing this distance here last year. Blinkers off. **DETONATE** makes grass debut for Clement after a debut dud on dirt. Rosario on the wildcard. **BOSSY JEANS** was 3rd at this distance before going on the shelf in November. And **RAININGATTHEBEACH** moves dirt to turf after finishing well for 2nd at a mile.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Sendera(L),118	K Carmouche	3-4-9	Rice	12-1
2	Dell Arte(L),118	K Davis	7-5-6	Quick	30-1
3	Lucky and Gorgeous(L),118	J Castellano	3-3-6	Reynolds	10-1
4	Detonate(L),118	J Rosario	5-x-x	Clement	8-1
5	Starts Now(L),125	E Cancel	8-9-5	Kantarmaci	7-2
6	Tour Jete(M),118	I Ortiz, Jr	12-2-x	De Paz	6-1
7	The Splendid One(L),125	T McCarthy	5-6-4	Hennig	6-1
8	Rainingatthebeach(L),118	F Prat	2-5-x	Rodriguez	10-1
9	Bossy Jeans(L),118	L Saez	3-5-8	Maker	5-1
10	Rozay Summer(L),118	M Franco	4-x-x	Clement	4-1
11	Tongue Twister(L),118	D Davis	7-2-x	Handal	5-1
12	Holder Close(M),118	L Luzzi	5-4-11	Ferraro	10-1
13	La Fiere(L),118	J Gomez	5-x-x	Donk	20-1
14	Tone of Silence(M),118	J Castellano	5-x-x	Bernardini	20-1
15	Alotta Jays(L),118	R Maragh	5-8-6	Schettino	30-1
16	Saving Memories(L),118	R Maragh	10-7-4	Donk	12-1

8 1 1/8 miles; \$200,000; Critical Eye; 3up(f)

Love **VENTI VALENTINE**. Always shows up. Board hitter last 9 including a pair of stake wins. Irad rides for Abreu. **FINGALS CAVE** beat top pick in the Bay Ridge last winter. Midpack in the Grade 2 Ruffian last out. 2 for 2 at the Spa and at this distance. Johnny V on the M/L favorite. Rice's **BUSTIN BAY** and Cox' **MIDTOWN LIGHTS** both move to a stake after scoring at a mile. Bustin Bay is proven at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Sweet Mystery,124	T McCarthy	4-2-2	Quick	12-1
2	Venti Valentine,126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-3-2	Abreu	3-1
3	Amanda's Folly,126	J Lezcano	3-5-1	Rice	20-1
4	Lavon,124	R Maragh	1-2-7	Coffey	30-1
5	Bon Adieu,124	F Prat	7-2-1	Rodriguez	12-1
6	Midtown Lights,124	M Franco	1-1-5	Cox	6-1
7	Sunset Louise,126	J Castellano	4-5-2	Levine	8-1
8	Fingaal's Cave,126	J Velazquez	4-3-1	Donk	4-1
9	Scoring Chance,124	K Carmouche	1-2-1	Rice	4-1

9 1 1/16 miles(T); \$90,000; alw; 3up

Wide open. **GEM MINT TEN** got beat a nose racing this distance off the layoff. Moves forward. Prat rides for Handal. **LAUREL VALLEY** led, gave way in latest. Luke-warm fave, same distance. Broke made here last summer. **RELATE** wired claimers at Saratoga last year. Hasn't raced since. Meets better off the break for Rudy Rodriguez. Gomez subs for Saez who will ride Laurel Valley. **SLAPINHTHEFACE** graduated on his 5th attempt. Competitively spotted for Dutrow.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Starquist(L),124	J Lezcano	6-5-6	Kimmel	20-1
2	The Paddock Pastor(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	4-1-x	Clement	6-1
3	Miracle Mike(L),124	E Cancel	1-5-3	Morley	10-1
4	Laurel Valley(L),124	L Saez	3-4-8	Maker	7-2
5	SlapintheFace(L),124	M Franco	1-3-2	A Dutrow	8-1
6	Relate(L),124	J Gomez	1-7-5	Rodriguez	8-1
7	BettrLUckythanGood(L),126	D Davis	1-3-2	Clement	10-1
8	Gem Mint Ten(L),124	F Prat	2-8-9	Handal	5-1
9	Shinsun(L),124	R Maragh	6-11-3	Tagg	15-1

10 Whistler's Honor(L),124 R Vazquez 5-6-10 Abreu 12-1

11	Boss Three O Two(L),118	J Rosario	4-1-x	R Dutrow	10-1
12	Union Trail(L),126	K Davis	1-4-3	Tagg	15-1
13	Sonic Speed(L),124	J Velazquez	2-4-1	Morley	8-1
14	ThethrillofVictory(L),124	T McCarthy	2-4-1	Walder	15-1
15	Image of Quality(M),124	E Cancel	7-8-8	Englehart	30-1
16	Bad Larry(L),124	L Luzzi	4-1-3	Potts	4-1

10 1 mile(T); \$125,000; Mount Vernon; 4up(f)

Home cooking. **SILVER SKILLET** ran home a couple of lengths short at Aqueduct off the layoff. 2 for 2 at the Spa including a stake. **TOUGH STREET** won latest and has a W over the wet. Right back if we're off turf. **SNOWY EVENING** comes off a weak effort. Lost twice to top pick at Saratoga but in the money 8 of the other 10 on turf. And **MARVELOUS MAUDE** has hit the board 10 of 12 on grass. **OVERACTING** lost to Snowy Evening then won next out.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Silver Skillet,120	J Rosario	4-4-2	Clement	2-1
2	Lady Jasmine,118	F Prat	7-2-5	Englehart	20-1
3	Lisa's Vision,118	L Saez	6-3-6	Duggan	15-1
4	Master of the Tunes,118	K Carmouche	5-6-1	Lee	10-1
5	Marvelous Maude,120	I Ortiz, Jr	3-1-4	C Brown	5-2
6	Snowy Evening,118	J Velazquez	10-6-3	Donk	12-1
7	Sweetest Princess,118	L Rivera, Jr	4-5-4	Ferraro	20-1
8	Overacting,118	M Franco	1-2-3	C Brown	9-2
9	Stonewall Star,118	I Castillo	1-6-6	De Paz	6-1
10	Tough Street,124	M Franco	1-2-2	C Brown	8-5

11 7 fur; \$125,000; Bouwerie; 3YO(f)

If the shoe fits...**THE SHOE LADY** moves to the Bouwerie after defeating optional claimers on the front end. Clements filly will be vying for the lead at a price. Ward's **LANDED** exits a front running score as well. Filly suggests she will be a shorter price. **SUNDAY GIRL** is 2 for 2. Both at Aqueduct; latest in a NYB 200K. **LA BANQUERA** won her debut by a hard fought 1/2 length. Should be sitting off top two. **CALDWELL LUVS GOLD** is 2 for 2 at the Spa but 0 for her last 5.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	P Mutter Pickle,118	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-x	Antonacci	8-1
2	Tricky Temper,122	J Rosario	3-1-9	Englehart	6-1
3	Caldwell Luv's Gold,122	M Franco	6-3-5	Cox	6-1
4	Sunday Girl,122	K Davis	1-1-x	Duggan	8-1
5	La Banquera,118	J Castellano	1-x-x	Jimenez	4-1
6	Tough Love Torres,118	L Saez	2-1-x	Maker	10-1
7	Landed,120	J Velazquez	1-2-1	Ward	3-1
8	The Shoe Lady,120	D Davis	1-1-4	Clement	10-1
9	Bernietakescharge,120	T McCarthy	7-2-3	Schettino	10-1
10	Carol T,118	E Cancel	1-7-8	Jimenez	20-1

12 1 1/16 miles(T); \$125,000; Kingston; 4up

Last call. **SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS** brings a 3 race winning streak to the Kingston. Again for Chad Brown. **CITY MAN** ran 3rd then 2nd to top pick but won the Kingston last year. **DAKOTA GOLD** ran 5th then 3rd to top pick. 0 for 7 at this distance. **ITSALLCOMINTOGETHA** moves to a stake off a gate-to-wire victory. Extreme value. **SARATOGA FLASH** rallied to be a close 2nd in the Appleton mile.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Spirit of St Louis,124	M Franco	1-1-1	C Brown	8-5
2	Disarmed,118	J Lezcano	5-6-1	Rodriguez	30-1
3	Jerry the Nipper,120	I Ortiz, Jr	9-3-5	Pletcher	6-1
4	Itsallcomintogetha,120	J Gomez	1-6-2	Serpe	30-1
5	Maker's Candy,118	L Saez	4-3-6	Maker	15-1
6	Coinage,120	J Alvarado	10-4-7	Casse	50-1
7	Conan,120	J Velazquez	8-2-1	Casse	30-1
8	Eye Witness,120	D Cabrera	2-7-11		

GOOOOOOOOOOOOAL! Bryce Harper celebrates his fourth-inning solo home run off Sean Manaea (right) at London Stadium on Saturday as if he scored for West Ham United, sliding on his knees and egging on the crowd.

AP; N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

Fourth is not with Manaea

By MIKE PUMA

LONDON — Sean Manaea was starting to make it look easy, and then all hell broke loose.

The Mets left-hander surrendered a solo homer to Bryce Harper in the fourth inning Saturday that was the start of the Phillies scoring six runs and knocking Manaea out of the game before the frame was complete.

Manaea allowed only one base runner through the first 3 1/3 innings and was starting to become efficient, getting fast outs before Harper unloaded a bomb to right field.

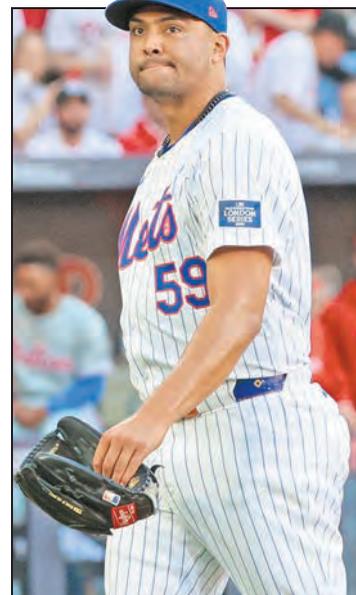
“It was all just a blur, but it went from there,” Manaea said following the Mets’ 7-2 loss at London Stadium.

It was a second straight clunker from Manaea, who surrendered six runs (five of which were earned) over 5 2/3 innings against the Diamondbacks the previous Saturday.

On this day, Alec Bohm singled following Harper’s blast and Bryson Stott drew a two-out walk after Manaea got ahead 0-2 in the count before Starling Marte lost Edmundo Sosa’s fly to right for a single that extended the inning. Whit Merrifield’s ensuing three-run homer buried Manaea and the Mets.

“Stuff happens and I didn’t do a good job of reeling it back in,” Manaea said.

“They are a very good team and definitely no breathing room and they have guys that make you work and then, if you make any kind of mistake, they put good



swings on it. A very tough lineup.”

Manager Carlos Mendoza tried to get Manaea through the inning, but that decision backfired as Cristian Pache doubled and Kyle Schwarber delivered an RBI single. Mendoza finally summoned Sean Reid-Foley, who retired J.T. Realmuto, the 10th batter who came to the plate in the inning.

“[Manaea] was really good the first three innings,” Mendoza said. “Especially with the fastball, live and staying on the attack and pounding the zone. And then in that [fourth] inning he hung that pitch to Harper, but the 0-2 and then he ends up walking Stott was, for me, the at-bat there. He couldn’t finish it.”

McNeil could finally see field again in London

By MIKE PUMA

LONDON — Jeff McNeil’s exodus from the Mets’ starting lineup is likely to end Sunday.

With the team set to end a string of four straight games against left-handed starting pitchers, manager Carlos Mendoza indicated Saturday that McNeil will probably be the starter against Taijuan Walker.

McNeil had little to say before Saturday’s game about his recent exclusions from the lineup other

than he will be ready when called upon.

Reminded that he hasn’t been platooned before, McNeil alluded to Jose Iglesias’ addition to the roster.

“We’ve also never had a backup second baseman who is a right-handed hitter,” McNeil said before the Mets lost, 7-2, to the Phillies at London Stadium.

Mendoza said there was nothing to McNeil’s exclusion from the lineup beyond the fact the Mets faced four straight lefties and Igle-

METS NOTES

sias was playing well. Iglesias went 2-for-4 on this day and owns a .935 OPS since arriving from Triple-A Syracuse on May 31.

Mendoza downplayed any significance to team brass’ recently telling Brett Baty he should be prepared to see action at second base for Syracuse. Mendoza said Baty’s inclusion in the second-base mix would only be as an emergency option.

“He’s still a third baseman,” Mendoza said. “We are very pleased with where he is at in his progression defensively. It was just more, instead of having his first game an inning or two at the big league level, maybe we do that in Triple-A just in case something happens if needed here at some point.”

➤ Mendoza confirmed that **Kodai Senga**’s timeline is now for the second half of the season, saying it’s safe to assume the right-hander won’t pitch for the team be-

fore the All-Star break. Senga, whose rehab had a setback last month, could throw a bullpen Monday or Tuesday.

➤ Saturday’s game drew 53,882 at London Stadium — a non-sellout, but an impressive showing by fans nonetheless, according to **Harri-son Bader**. The stadium’s capacity for baseball is listed at 60,000.

“I think these games are a lot of fun to play in, but even more so for the fans,” Bader said. “It’s just been a great experience so far.”

Tasty treats

Some fantasy waiver options with flavor

PLAYING fantasy baseball is like going into an ice cream shop that comes out with new flavors every week.

Sometimes the best-selling flavors, like Rocky Road (Corbin Carroll), underperform in sales, which leads to a hot new flavor, like Rainbow Cookie (David Fry), flying off the shelf, leaving only a few scoops left.

Sometimes flavors are out of stock for the season (Ronald Acuna).

Sometimes the flavors

of the week (hot players you pick up) melt before you have a chance to try it. Here is a look at some of this week's most added flavors in ESPN leagues this week and whether they will last:

After an awful April in which he hit .196 with four homers, 12 RBIs, 38 strikeouts and a .624 OPS, Nolan Gorman has been scorching hot in his past 22 games before Friday. The Cardinals' second baseman homered 10 times while going 24-for-75 (.320) with 19 RBIs, 21 runs, two stolen bases and a 1.167 OPS in that stretch.

Since May 10, Gorman (27.5 percent rostered) had the second-most homers in the majors and ranks seventh in runs, eighth in RBIs, 12th in average, 11th in on-base percentage and third in OPS. He also ranked

second in slugging percentage (.760) and was 23rd in walk rate (12.8 percent).

Though this is one prolonged stretch, which raised his average from an ugly .172 to a still pretty ugly .230, it is hard to believe this is the new normal for Gorman. This is a career .232 hitter we're talking about, and his .243 xBA backs that up. He has had an unsustainable .412 BABIP during this stretch and struck

out 31 times (36 percent strikeout rate, which was the second-worst mark in the majors). He isn't going to

stay this hot.

That being said, though he strikes out a ton and will never hit for an elite average, he is one of the best power sources at his position. He also entered Friday with the most homers among second basemen, and ranked in the top 5 in OPS, slugging, walks and RBIs. He was also in the top 10 in OBP and runs.

VERDICT: Solid flavor.

TJ Friedl (34 percent rostered) was on the IL with a fractured thumb for a good portion of the season, and entered Friday hitting .220 with a .741 OPS. In his first six games this month, however, he hit .300 with two homers, seven RBIs, two stolen bases and a 1.132 OPS. He scored at least one run and had at least one hit in five of those games and has primar-

ily been hitting leadoff.

VERDICT: New go-to flavor.

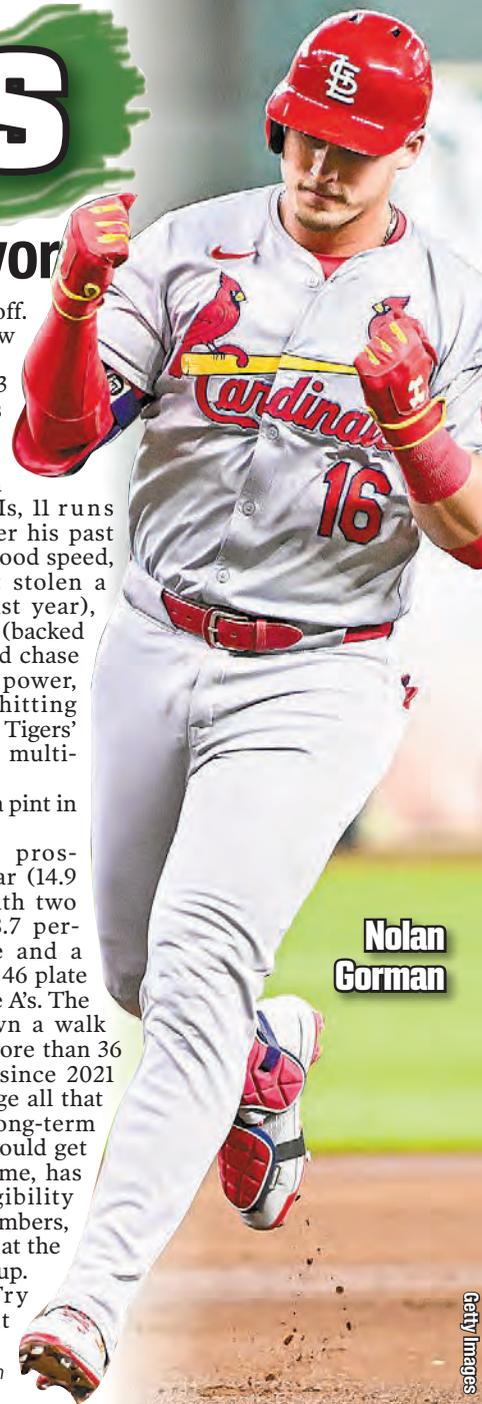
Matt Vierling (24.3 percent) raised his average from .261 on May 19 to .281 after hitting .327 with four homers, 13 RBIs, 11 runs and a 1.021 OPS over his past 14 games. He has a good speed, despite having not stolen a base (he had six last year), good plate discipline (backed up by solid whiff and chase metrics) and solid power, and is primarily hitting toward the top of the Tigers' lineup. He also has multi-position eligibility.

VERDICT: Keep a pint in the freezer.

Former Yankees prospect Miguel Andujar (14.9 percent) hit .311 with two homers, 12 RBIs, 8.7 percent strikeout rate and a .793 OPS in his first 46 plate appearances with the A's. The fact he hadn't drawn a walk and hasn't played more than 36 games in a season since 2021 doesn't get Roto Rage all that excited about his long-term prospects, but he should get plenty of playing time, has multi-position eligibility and solid contact numbers, and has been hitting at the top of Oakland's lineup.

VERDICT: Try a free sample, but might melt fast.

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Nolan Gorman

Getty Images

Finding ways to 'save' day

FANTASY baseball has gone retro this year, as more and more players are understanding the massive value in winning the saves and steals categories.

Dominating in these categories was a proven winning strategy back in the 1990s, and it appears as if we are headed in that direction once again. The new rules implemented by Major League Baseball last season have sent stolen base

By HOWARD BENDER

FANTASY ALARM



totals into the stratosphere. But though steals can be acquired with relative ease, saves are a different story. The volatility at the closer's position is well-documented, but the turnover this season has not been what it once was.

Players you may have expected to lose their jobs by this point of the season — Kyle Finnegan, Carlos Estevez and Tanner Scott, for example — have been entrenched as their respective team's closer, which means what's left on the waiver wire is all injury-related.

With Jordan Romano landing on the IL, the Blue Jays' ninth-inning situation is somewhat fluid. Yimi Garcia seems to be the first choice to replace Romano, and Garcia is having a solid year with a 2.16 ERA and 11.88 K/9, but the 33-year-old still posted an ERA above 4.00 in two of the past three seasons. If Garcia is available, he becomes a must-add, but don't count out Chad Green.

Out with a shoulder issue for most of May, Green was recently reinstated and has allowed just one hit in four scoreless appearances (4¹/₃ innings). When Romano was injured coming out of spring training, it was Green who filled in as the Jays' closer. If you are desperate for saves and your waiver wire has been picked clean, he presents a possibility.

You also can turn to the Seattle bullpen. Andres Munoz suffered a back injury last week during a collision at home plate. His availability for this weekend is up in the air, and a stint on the IL is still being considered. Right-hander Ryne Stanek and southpaw Tayler Saucedo should split the role in his absence, with Stanek having the edge.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.



BIG HITS

Cristopher Sanchez SP, Phillies

Hasn't allowed more than three earned runs in a start since May 7, going 2-0 with a 1.95 ERA and 30 strikeouts in his past six starts.

Nick Gonzales 2B/SS, Pirates

Entered Friday with 13 RBIs in his past 11 games (and six in his past two), hitting .357 with two homers, seven runs and a 1.000 OPS in that stretch.

Bryan Woo SP, Mariners

Allowed three earned runs over his past four starts (all coming in one start) while going 2-0 with a 1.13 ERA and .145 opponents' average.

Mark Vientos 3B, Mets

In his first 17 games since being recalled, he is 19-for-59 (.322) with four homers, 10 RBIs, 11 runs and a .981 OPS. He has hit .353 with two homers and a 1.135 OPS in five games since Brett Baty's demotion.



BIG WHIFFS

Jordan Montgomery SP, Diamondbacks

Allowed 17 hits and 14 earned runs over his past two starts while walking six. Opponents hit .486 against him in those outings.

Luis Campusano C, Padres

Entered Friday with two hits in his past 36 at-bats (.056) with no homers or RBIs and a .206 OPS. Has just six hits in 21 games since May 11.

Triston McKenzie SP, Guardians

Allowed nine homers and issued 12 free passes in his past four starts in which he owns a 5.32 ERA and .262 opponents' average. He has allowed 11 homers in seven starts since May 1.

Luis Matos OF, Giants

After striking out twice in his first 12 games, he was 5-for-35 (.143) with eight strikeouts and a .327 OPS in his next nine games.



CHECK SWINGS

● After going 0-4 with a 9.78 ERA and .336 opponents' average over his first six starts, the Astros' **Hunter Brown** was 1-1 with a 3.25 ERA and .210 opponents' average over his past six appearances before taking the mound Saturday.

● In **Corbin Carroll's** first 61 games this year, the reigning NL Rookie of the Year hit .201 with two homers, 20 RBIs, 30 runs, 10 stolen bases and a .575 OPS. Saying this is a sophomore slump would be putting it mildly.

● The Guardians' **Tanner Bibee** lowered his ERA from 4.91 on May 8 to 3.73 on Thursday after going 2-0 with a 2.12 ERA, 32-6 strikeout-walk rate and .196 opponents' average in his past five starts.

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

Call J.G. Wentworth, 877-Glasnow

Submit team names to: @NYPost_Roto

'HURST SO GOOD



Getty Images (5)

Xander Schauffele

Scottie Scheffler

Wyndham Clark

Jon Rahm

Rory McIlroy

Wide collection of contenders as Open heads to Carolina

By MARK CANNIZZARO

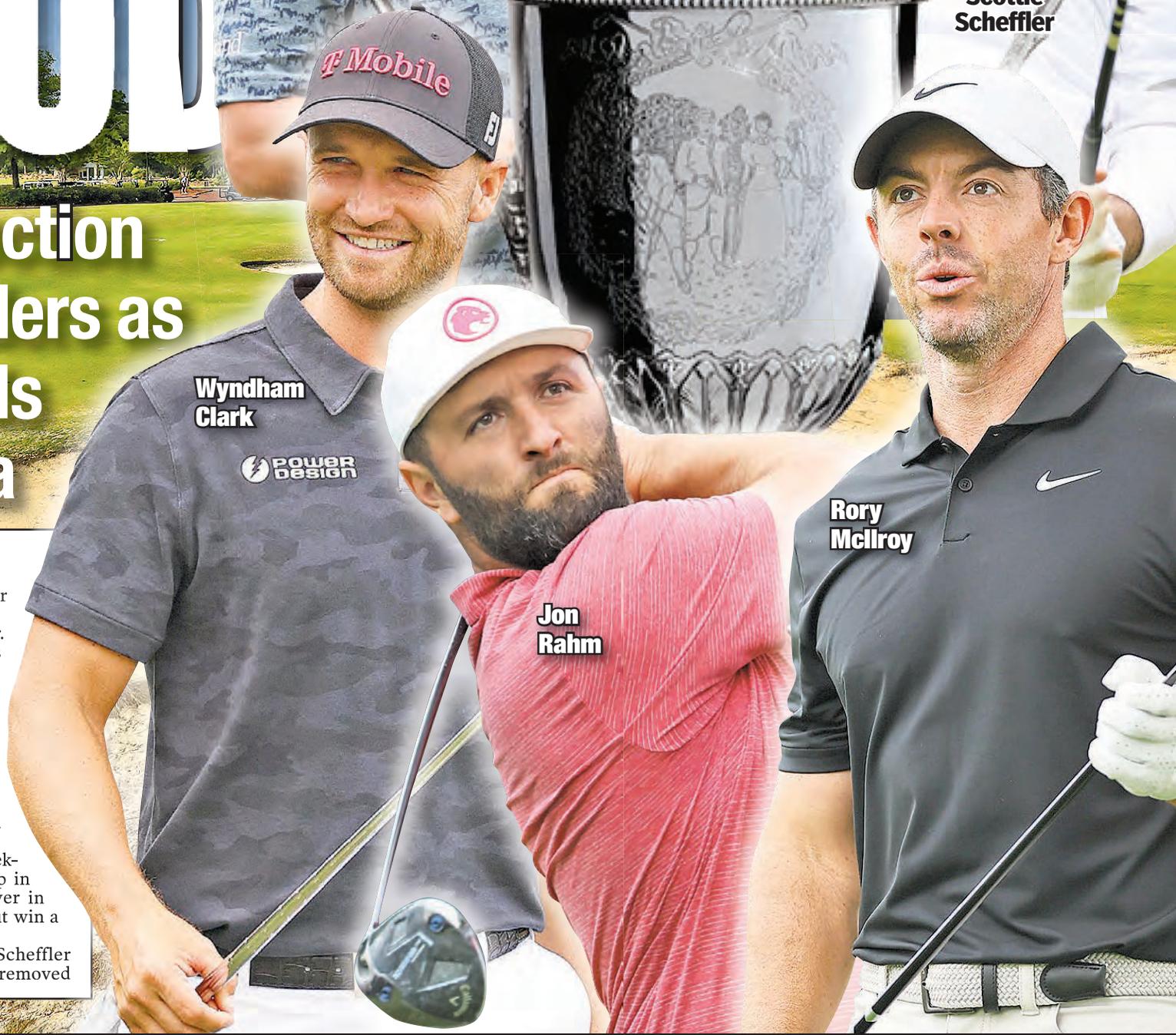
PINEHURST, N.C. — Xander Schauffele got his last month. Wyndham Clark got his last year. Who will get theirs at this week's U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2?

Surely Schauffele, fresh off his first career major with a PGA Championship victory at Valhalla, enters this week with his confidence at an all-time high.

Clark, who won the U.S. Open last year at L.A. Country Club, will enter the week with good feelings.

How will Rory McIlroy feel, seeking his first major championship in 10 years? The No. 3-ranked player in the world has done everything but win a major in the past decade.

How will world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler respond this week, just a month removed



from his arrest mess at Valhalla that included a mug shot and being detained in jail? Scheffler will be looking to resume some normalcy to his world, which means contending in majors.

What about Jon Rahm, who's coming off a missed cut at the PGA and a tie for 45th at the Masters in the year's first two majors? It feels like he's been in witness protection since he left the PGA Tour to join LIV Golf. He was ranked No. 2 in the world when he signed on with LIV and is now No. 7.

Watch out for Bryson DeChambeau, who finished runner-up at the PGA and in a tie for sixth at the Masters, and his confidence has to be at an all-time high.

The same cannot be said about Tiger Woods, a three-time U.S. Open winner who was given a special exemption into the field.

The 48-year-old Woods — who missed the cut at the PGA; finished 60th at the Masters, which was last among the players who made the cut; and withdrew from the Genesis Invitational — has become a ceremonial golfer these days.

For Pinehurst No. 2, this is the fourth time it's hosted a men's U.S. Open and the first since 2014, when Martin Kaymer won.

Its first came in 1999 when Payne Stewart won, staying off Phil Mickelson at the end.

Mickelson famously was wearing a beeper because his wife, Amy, was about to give birth to their first child, daughter Amanda.

"It's hard to believe it's 25 years ago, but it's like they say, 'The days are slow and the years are fast,'" Mickelson told *The Post* last week. "It's amazing how fast the years have gone by."

Kaymer might not agree considering that his 2014 U.S. Open win was the last tournament he has won — a resounding eight-

shot victory.

"Obviously the last 10 years, if you would have told me at the press conference that I'm not going to win the tournament

from 2014 until 2024, I would have thought you were crazy," Kaymer told reporters this week at the LIV Golf event in Houston. "But this is the reality, and this obviously is quite difficult for me to handle, that I haven't won since then."

In 2005, Michael Campbell, a New Zealander, won the U.S. Open at Pinehurst, edging out Woods by two shots.

This week, many eyes will be on Scheffler and Schauffele, whose world ranking elevated to No. 2 after a runner-up at the Wells Fargo Championship then the win at the PGA.

How will Scheffler play now that he has been freed up by the dropped arrest charges and tries to win another major?

Speaking to reporters in advance of last week's Memorial, he said he "definitely hadn't moved past" his arrest.

"It's not something that I love reliving, just because it was fairly traumatic for me," he said. "It's not something that I love talking about, and it's something that I'm hoping to move past."

"It was definitely a bit of a relief [having the charges dropped], but not total relief because that's something that will always, I think, kind of stick with me. That mug shot, I'm sure is not going anywhere anytime soon."

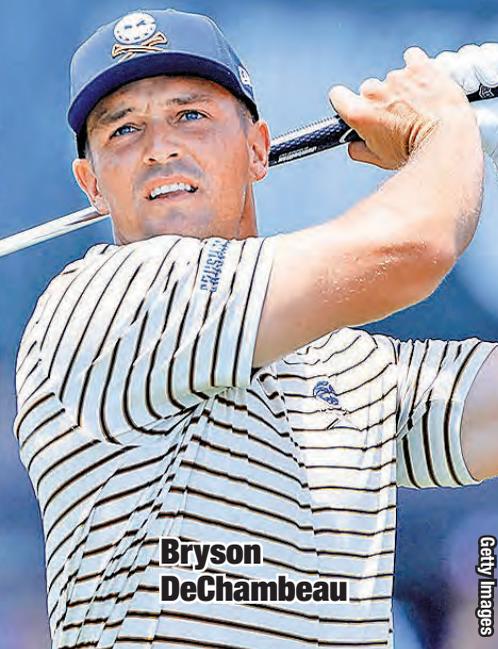
Schauffele, whose world ranking elevated to No. 2 with his PGA Championship victory, said he "really tried to enjoy" the PGA win with a couple weeks off afterward.

"I feel really lucky to be able to win and have two weeks off after," he told reporters in advance of the Memorial. "Not everyone's so fortunate to be in that position where they can kind of unwind, decompress, and look around and kind of take it in a little bit."

Asked what his mindset will be entering this week's U.S. Open, Schauffele said, "Kind of just rinse and repeat."

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It's getting easier to understand DeChambeau'



Bryson DeChambeau

Getty Images

PINEHURST, N.C. — Phil Mickelson, in a conversation about this week's U.S. Open at Pinehurst, was speaking to *The Post* about Bryson DeChambeau and the things that make him one of the most fascinating figures in golf.

"He's willing to take on things and try to go down a different route if he thinks it might help him play better, and then he dedicates himself to it and does it 100 percent, he doesn't hold back," Mickelson said. "He goes all-in, and that willingness to take risks and to try different things and to see things differently is leading to him having an advantage over other players in a lot of areas."

When it was pointed out to Mickelson that his description of DeChambeau easily could be someone describing him, he laughed over the phone.

"Maybe I do see a lot of similarities," Mickelson said. "Even though we do things differently, that same type of internal makeup is probably why I'm drawn to him."

The fact is, just about anyone who's interested in golf is drawn to DeChambeau.

That was as evident as ever at the PGA Championship last month at Valhalla, where the fans wildly embraced him as he nearly won the Wanamaker Trophy before Xander Schauffele seized it with clutch golf on the final few holes.

Valhalla went nuts for DeChambeau, whom many golf fans used to mock for being quirky and on the wrong side of a weird rift with then-rival Brooks Koepka just a couple of years ago.

DeChambeau with an electric 7-under-par final round, finished 20-under par at Valhalla, one shot short of Schauffele's winning score of 21-under.

Entering this week at Pinehu-



Mark Cannizzaro

rst, the winner of the 2020 U.S. Open at Winged Foot stands as one of the favorites to win his national championship.

If DeChambeau does win this week, it will be a popular victory for a player who has transformed his public image in a similar way to how he has transformed his golf game over the years.

Other than winning over fans with his rare skills on the golf course, DeChambeau has welcomed them into his world with his keen use of social media, particularly his own YouTube channel.

"I think he's had a vision for how to promote the game of golf, and how to inspire and attract young kids and the younger generation through social media and his YouTube channel," Mickelson said. "He's doing it, and the reception of him has been so positive. He's a very charismatic individual, and he's got he's got a unique way of seeing the world and playing the game of golf."

"And his use of his YouTube channel and social media presence has allowed him to connect with fans at a level that is very rare in any sport. It was very noticeable by the way the fans reacted to him at Augusta and at the PGA."

I recalled having a conversation with DeChambeau while walking a practice round with him at Tiger Woods' Hero World Challenge a few years ago, before there was LIV Golf, and he spoke then about his vision to connect with fans via his own social channels.

And here we are now.

"I've worked really hard to have people hopefully understand who I am a little bit better," DeChambeau said at the PGA. "YouTube has been a great platform to help that out. I love doing it. It's a lot of fun. It just keeps my brain fresh and in an entertainment mode, and realizing what the game is all about: not just for myself and winning money or winning trophies, but entertaining as well."

DeChambeau has spent much of his career misunderstood largely because he does have a quirky personality and sometimes says things without a filter that people can perceive as arrogant.

Some saw his dramatic bulk-up during the pandemic and his cock-sure public belief that he was going to revolutionize the sport as arrogant and misguided.

I've known DeChambeau as an introspective, charitable person who does a lot of things behind the scenes, such as visiting ailing children in hospitals. He had been that way years before his brand became what it is today.

I credit DeChambeau's maturity for eventually realizing his incredible-bulk program wasn't going to be sustainable, and he transformed his body again — this time to a leaner, more flexible state.

"He's always willing to try something different," Mickelson said, "and he's willing to admit when he's wrong and go back."

That, too, is part of the draw to DeChambeau.

"Even for me as a professional, I'm drawn to him to watch because he can do things that nobody else can," Mickelson said. "He's just very charismatic and draws everybody, from fans to other fellow professionals, in to watch him perform."

NOT SO FAST ...

What if Jets' reconstruction doesn't hold up as planned?



FINGERS CROSSED: The Jets are hoping (from left) Aaron Rodgers is still elite, Morgan Moses and Mike Williams stay healthy, and that Nathaniel Hackett is good at his job.

N.Y. Post photo illustration

WE ARE in happy season in the NFL.

Everyone is undefeated. Everyone's draft picks look amazing. The players coming back from injury look ready for a big comeback. The coaches have come up with new and exciting plans. Everything is rosy.

Jets fans, you've been through this enough. May and June always feel good around here. It is November and December that usually hurt, and sometimes September and October, too.

The optimism about the Jets has been overflowing this spring. The league gave them six prime-time games, believing they will be must-see TV. ESPN wrote an article predicting they would win the Super Bowl.

The Jets know all about off-season banners and what can go wrong once the season comes. There are reasons to believe in this roster, starting with a healthy Aaron Rodgers under center. But I'm here to pump the brakes on the Super Bowl parade. Hey, someone has to.

There are some things I can foresee tripping up this team as I've watched this spring. Here are

four reasons the Jets might not be as good as people think:

1. What if Aaron Rodgers is not the same Aaron Rodgers?

I know this could be blasphemy. Look, Rodgers has been as advertised during this spring's OTAs. He makes at least one throw in every session that makes you say, "Wow." He has given the Jets' social media team content for days

with his no-look passes.

But take a deep breath. This is spring. Rodgers is supposed to look like this when there are no

pads and no pass rush. It would be an actual story if he didn't look good.

I feel like everyone is assuming the Jets are going to get MVP Rodgers from 2020 or 2021. But are we sure that is what they will get in 2024? His most recent MVP is now three years ago. His final season with the Packers was fine for most quarterbacks, but not Rodgers. His 12 interceptions were the second-most in his career, and his 26 touchdowns were his second-fewest in a season where he played at least 10 games.

He missed all of last season with the torn Achilles, so now he is going to be coming back after a

No worse for wear



Haason Reddick (right) wore a Jets shirt to a charity event in Camden, N.J., on Saturday, but he would not comment on whether he is engaged in a holdout.

full season away and three years removed from a really good year. He is 40 years old. There will be a decline at some point. Just four quarterbacks have posted a passer rating of 80 or above once they hit 40 — Tom Brady, Drew Brees, Brett Favre and Warren Moon.

Would it be a surprise if Rodgers joins that list? Absolutely not. But I also don't think everyone should just assume a 40-year-old coming off a major injury is going to light up the league.

2. Can they stay on the field?

Health is an issue for every team in the NFL, but the Jets have a lot of key players returning from injuries, and at advanced age. Rodgers is at the top of the list. Can they keep him upright for 17 games?

Tyrod Taylor is an upgrade at backup quarterback, but you still don't want him playing more than 2-3 games, and he has durability concerns of his own.

The biggest free-agent acquisitions all come with health concerns. Wide receiver Mike Williams is coming off a torn ACL. Tackle Morgan Moses had pectoral surgery after last season. Tackle Tyron Smith has not played 16 games since 2015.

That is a lot of "if they can stay healthy" players on one roster.

3. Should we trust the offensive coaches?

Nathaniel Hackett has had a rough couple of seasons. The Jets were abysmal last year on offense in his first year as coordinator. His

brief stint as Broncos head coach went about as bad as it possibly could.

Rodgers has told Jets fans that they should believe in Hackett because he does, and they worked well together in Green Bay. But coach Matt LaFleur ran the offense for the Packers. Until we see the Jets offense actually flourish, it will be hard to put faith in Hackett or the entire offensive staff.

4. What if the defense takes a step back?

Besides Rodgers returning to form, it feels like the other assumption around this team is the defense will be great. It is tough to maintain the level of play this defense has, finishing in the top five in each of the past two years. It would not be shocking if there is a little dropoff this season. The defense lost Bryce Huff and John Franklin-Myers up front, and will try to replace their production with Will McDonald and Haason Reddick.

It may work, but there is also a chance this defense slips. The other factor is this defense has stayed very healthy over the past few years. A few players have missed a few games, but there has not been a major injury that would test their depth. If that happens, can the defense survive it?

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Brian Costello

SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ...

Bobby

OKEREKE

Giants linebacker Bobby Okereke, a free-agent addition before the 2023 season, tackles some Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby.

Q: Describe the challenge of now going against Saquon Barkley twice a year?

A: It's going to be very challenging. I saw it on the practice field every day. He's a very good route-runner, he's a very patient runner, he's physical, he's a big back, strong legs. He's a pretty total package back, so it'll be a great challenge for us.

Q: Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said he told a heckling Giants fan, "We got your best player."

A: I still see Dexter [Lawrence] and A.T. [Andrew Thomas] on the field, so I think we're good (laugh).

Q: Devin Singletary is Saquon's replacement.

A: Very veteran presence. He's a pro's pro. He knows how to practice hard. He's a good running back, physical, patient, good vision. He's gonna be a great addition for us.

Q: What's it like standing behind Sexy Dexy on game-day?

A: It's great. It makes my job a lot easier. He takes up two, three blocks at a time, and allows me to just go run and hit.

Q: I know you were upset when Wink Martindale left. Describe new defensive coordinator Shane Bowen.

A: Yeah, Wink was my guy, I loved him. But Shane is an incredible defensive coordinator. He's very smart, he has a very bright football mind, and I'm glad he's my defensive coordinator.

Q: What changes as far as defensive philosophy?

A: I think we're going to have a lot more rules, a lot more process of decision-making that's going to allow us to play fast.

Q: What can Brian Burns mean for this defense?

A: He could be a game-changer. He's an electric athlete, fast, physical, silky when he pass rushes. He can take over games.

Q: How would you describe Kayvon's Thibodeaux's style?

A: Kayvon's dominant, Kayvon's physically dominant. He's strong as an ox, and he's very technically sound.

Q: Sounds like it's going to be ...

A: Thunder and Lightning (laugh).

Q: What is Dex?

A: Dex is "The Hammer" (laugh).

Q: What do you think the on-field personality of this defense can be or will be?

A: Imposing. Imposing of our will. Imposing of our physical dominance. Yeah we're just going to take over.

Q: Can this be a top-five defense?

A: Easily.

Q: Thoughts on first-round draft pick Malik Nabers?

A: I love him. He has elite body control. Great ball-tracking skills. He's a guy who's made for the bright lights.

Q: How much better can Nabers make Daniel Jones?

A: They talk about a thing called youthful exuberance, and I think that's what Nabers has. He has energy, he has confidence, I think that's going to inspire Daniel and everybody on offense.

Q: Are you made for the bright lights?

A: I am.

Q: Why do you say that?

A: They call me "Broadway Bobby" (laugh).

Q: I saw clips of you singing and performing in "Chicago The Musical."

A: That was fun. I sang choir in high school, we did some musical theater stuff, so it's not new to me.

Q: Do you get into Manhattan a lot?

A: Maybe once a week. I try to stay out of there. ... It's a little too fun (laugh).

Q: Any favorite New York City things?

A: Central Park is a very beautiful place. It's calming. Soho House is very nice. Lagos the restaurant has good food. And then Broadway shows.

Q: It's the New York Giants' 100th anniversary season.

A: It's a very important year, for our organization, for our front office, for our owners ... an organization to just remind people the pride of the New York Giants.

Q: Thoughts on the Century Red uniforms?

A: I like them. It's a throwback to the original New York Giants. Paying homage to the guys who have paved the way.



N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

Q: What did you know about New York Giants tradition before you came here?

A: Obviously won Super Bowls here. Had a lot of pride. And just had a lot of great players. You see guys like Osi Umenyiora, Justin Tuck, Eli Manning, all those guys come back. It's a very historic or prestigious organization.

Q: What does it mean for you to be a captain, and does anything change with Saquon, Xavier McKinney, and Adoree' Jackson and Leonard Williams gone?

A: It means a lot to be Captain, because my teammates trust me. It means my teammates see how hard I'm working, and see how much I care about them. And yeah, with that void of leadership, obviously Saquon is an incredible leader. X. has been here for a while, was a very good leader. Adoree', Leonard like we talked about. ...

Yeah, it's an opportunity for me to step up, be more vocal, just be myself. I've had success in this league, I know what it takes, I've been around great leaders and great players, so just trying to impart that wisdom on the young guys.

Q: You didn't miss a snap last season. How do you explain your durability?

A: Discipline. I had a very disciplined routine, from my sleep to nutrition to recovery. I was always in the training room stretching, trying to do prehab as opposed to rehab, just

staying on top of it ... controlling everything I can.

Q: Did it tick you off not making the Pro Bowl?

A: A little bit. There were definitely great players who earned it. So now I got to just do better and leave no doubt.

Q: How has the "Hard Knocks" experience been?

A: It's been subtle. There's not too much fanfare about it. I know they got cameras in the building, but business as usual.

Q: What was it like interning for Condoleezza Rice?

A: That was really cool. I was there at the prestigious Hoover Institution [Stanford]. In the summer I got to work with her for her KPMG program, where she brought underprivileged girls in and held a golf tournament for them.

Q: Is politics something you would ever consider?

A: Sure. Growing up, if you asked me what I wanted to be when I was a kid, I would have told you president of the United States. Yeah, I think politics would potentially be in my future.

Q: You have to be 35 to be president.

A: I got some time (laugh).

Q: Politics is such a headache. Why would you want to ...

A: I feel like I've grown up wanting to help people. Being a first-generation Nigerian-American, understanding the struggle that my parents went through and some of my relatives go through back in Nigeria ... being a Boy Scout, I was an Eagle Scout. So over my time, did a lot of community service projects, helped with the homeless.

Q: Three dinner guests?

A: Will Smith, Barack Obama, Elon Musk.

Q: Favorite movie?

A: "I Am Legend."

Q: Favorite actor?

A: Will Smith.

Q: Favorite actress?

A: Angelina Jolie.

Q: Favorite singer/rapper/entertainer?

A: Giveon.

Q: Favorite meal?

A: Sushi. Shrimp tempura roll.

Q: What did you think about the way the Knicks and Rangers captivated New York?

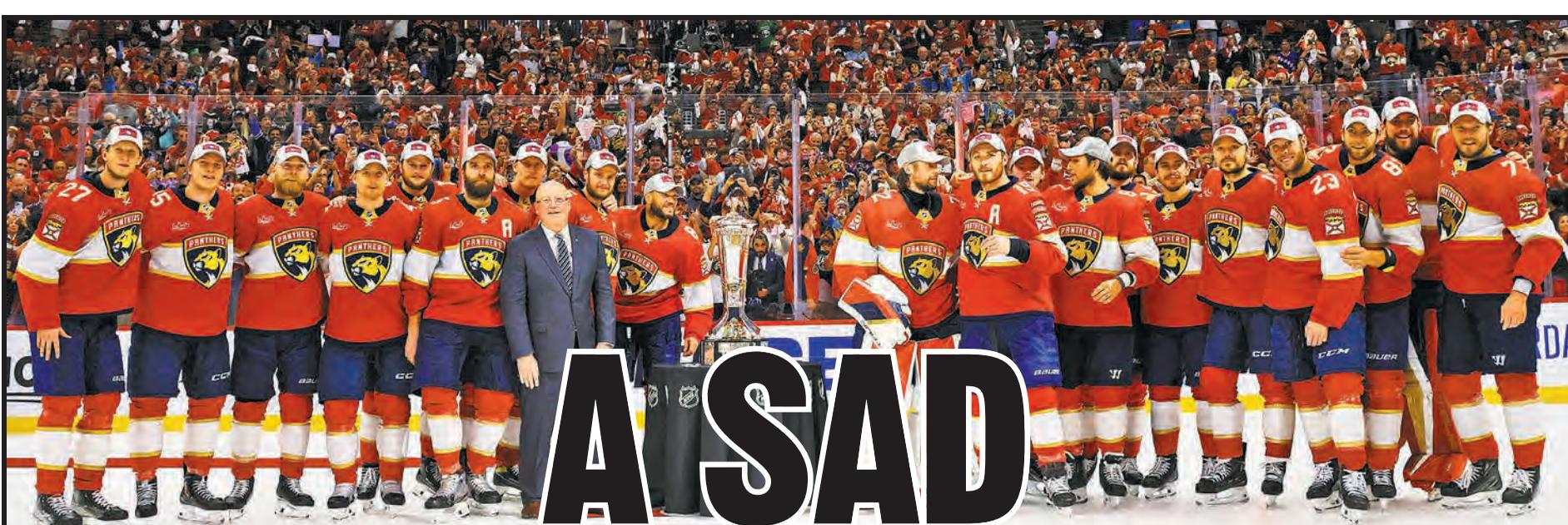
A: It was inspiring. It showed us the potential that we have to really make our mark.

Q: What are Giants fans like?

A: I love them. They're very into the game. They love you when you're up, they talk s--t when you're down. But ultimately they just want to see you win.

Q: Nobody believes in this team. What are your thoughts on that?

A: I love it. You know when you're an underdog, you fight a little harder, you're a little hungrier.



A SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS

NHL must address tax inequality among franchises

MAYBE this represents a snapshot in time where it is a coincidence that four of the six no-state-tax teams have accounted for 11 of the aggregate 20 conference final spots over the past four years.

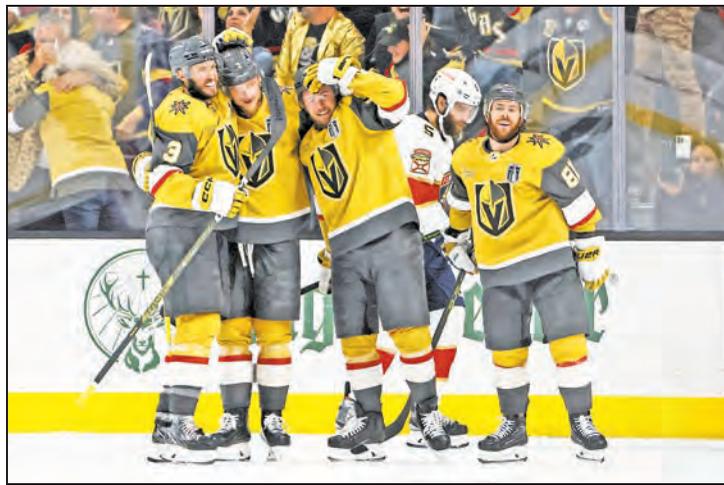
And if Florida prevails over Edmonton in the Stanley Cup Final, the NHL would have its fourth champion in the past five seasons coming from a no-tax state, after Tampa Bay won in 2020 and 2021, and Vegas won last year. Colorado in 2022 is the exception.

This is not about Rangers-Panthers. I've been writing about the inequity within the hard-cap system over tax rates way before the Puddy Tats grew into Ferocious Cats. It is hard to miss. There is a benefit attached to a team being able to offer somewhat less on a contract because of tax matters.

Tampa Bay, Vegas and Dallas have each been to the conference final three times in the past five years. Florida has been there twice. Nashville and Seattle — the other two no-tax state teams — did not make it.

Bill Zito has done outstanding work as GM in Florida, the same for Jim Nill in Dallas, the same for Steve Yzerman and Julien BriseBois in Tampa Bay, and George McPhee and Kelly McCrimmon in Vegas. They're all sharp and disciplined. They've built programs that have lasted.

They don't need help.



DOLLARS & SENSE: One year after the Vegas Golden Knights claimed the Stanley Cup, another team from a no-tax state, the Panthers, is on the cusp of a championship. (Getty Images (2))

By the way, all of the six teams other than Dallas tapped into LTIR this year so that not even the inherent advantage these teams own could cover the cap. Yes, it will begin to ease next season — when does next season become this season? — when the cap increases, but the advantage will not disappear.

Every individual's tax situation is unique. So is every venue's. It's not like you would just subtract 10 percent of the cap for no-tax state teams. It would be a complex matter to derive a formula that allows for equivalence, but surely there are experts in the field who would

be able to solve the puzzle.

It is not the NHLPA's responsibility to coordinate a change. Indeed, the PA might oppose it. Ninth Avenue certainly has no interest in it.

But the owners of the league's other 26 teams should agitate for a change that evens the playing field. Why would a minority of six hold sway? Why won't the owners of the Rangers, Islanders, Oilers, Kings and Ducks band together to address the inequity in the cap system that puts their teams at a disadvantage?

Yes, the Oilers have emerged from a Canadian province with high tax rates. It can be done. The inequity in the system can be overcome. But the Oilers might be

an exception that proves the rule.

The CBA expires following the 2025-26 season. The Board of Governors should appoint a committee to study the tax inequities in the cap ahead of the next round of bargaining.

► **Sheldon Keefe** was a solid hire in New Jersey. He's a coach who brought structure to the Maple Leafs over a five-year run through which he dealt with elite talent and high-end egos.

I don't care at all for the public disrespect he showed to **Jimmy Vesey** during and after the winger's short, unproductive and unhappy stay in Toronto, but I guess who's perfect, and hopefully that was a one-off and that kind of stuff is behind the coach.

Of course, GM **Tom Fitzgerald** has the obligation to acquire a no-doubt No. 1 goaltender whose work will infuse the team with confidence instead of leaving a litany of doubt. I think that's been written before.

It may be a draft-day deal, with the Devils willing to yield the 10th-overall selection and a matter of who bites, but Boston's **Linus Ullmark** — a year removed from the Vezina, months away from losing the No. 1 spot to **Jeremy Swayman** and a year away from free agency — and Calgary's **Jacob Markstrom** lead the parade of candidates with **Jake Allen** in place as the backup.

The Devils have to bulk up, too, there is no question about it. They are too dependent on skill. It's never too early to get ahead of the

conference final curve.

(Oh, I forgot, **Kurtis MacDermid**.)

I think, too, that entering his sixth season and at age 23, **Jack Hughes** might want to drop the surfer-dude pose and present himself as a serious leader of his team.

Don't get me wrong, I was touting No. 86 as a Hart Trophy candidate two years ago, I could watch him play all night. But I thought a touch of arrogance crept into his public persona the second half of last season, and it was not particularly flattering.

Again, Keefe dealt with young, elite talents under a white-hot spotlight and, leaving playoff shortfalls aside, took an imbalanced team with erratic goaltending to between 102-115 points in each of his three full seasons behind the Toronto bench. Keefe's first two seasons were shortened by COVID.

► If **Chris Kreider** and **Mika Zibanejad** return as linemates next camp, I'd be all for giving the first opportunity to **Brennan Othmann** to ride shotgun on their right wing, and unless it became apparent early that it would not work, the opportunity would be an extended one.

► This just in: **Kelly Sutherland** wasn't selected as one of the four referees to work the Cup Final, but we have learned he is going on a lecture tour instead.

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Larry Brooks

Slap Shots

Panthers pounce

Bobrovsky dominates in net as Florida takes 1-0 Stanley Cup lead

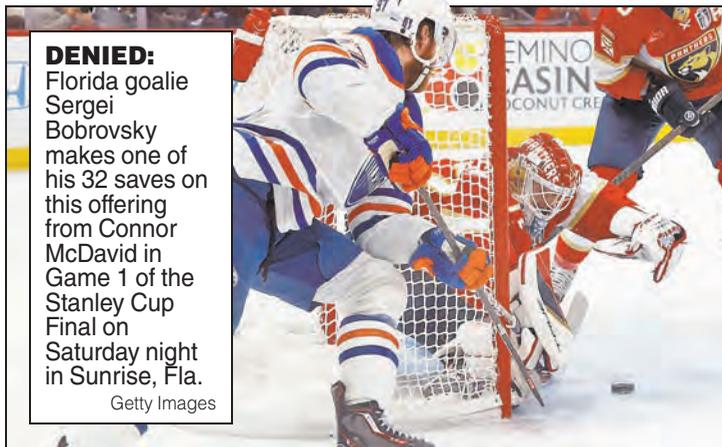
SUNRISE, Fla. — Sergei Bobrovsky turned the puck over on the first shift and recovered. He lost his stick for 30 seconds at one point and still made saves. Connor McDavid put six shots on net, and none of them went in.

Bobrovsky put on a master class against McDavid and every other player who dared test him and his teammates pounced when given the chance. As a result, the Panthers are off and rolling in the Stanley Cup Final.

With the goalie everyone simply calls “Bob” unbeatable in stopping all 32 shots he faced from every angle and in every situation in one of the most memorable playoff goaltending performances in recent history and thanks to goals from Carter Verhaeghe and Evan Rodrigues, the Panthers beat the Oilers, 3-0, on Saturday night in Game 1 of the NHL’s best-of-seven championship series.

“It’s fun to play those guys, those elite guys and it’s a fun atmosphere,” Bobrovsky said. “I am just alive for the opportunity, and I enjoy every second of it.”

Chants of “Bobby! Bobby!” repeated themselves over and over as Bobrovsky turned aside multiple breakaways, stopped McDavid when the reigning and three-time MVP went into turbo mode and flew all around and outside the crease to make Florida’s net an impenetrable fortress.



DENIED: Florida goalie Sergei Bobrovsky makes one of his 32 saves on this offering from Connor McDavid in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final on Saturday night in Sunrise, Fla.

Getty Images

Bobrovsky, a two-time Vezina Trophy winner for his stellar regular-season play, registered his second shutout of this run and third in the playoffs over his 14-

year career. Thanks to him, the Panthers have a lead in the Cup final for the first time in franchise history and are three wins away from hoisting hockey’s hallowed



STANLEY CUP FINAL

Game 1: Panthers 3, Oilers 0

Panthers lead series, 1-0

Mon.: at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC

Thu.: at Oilers, 8 p.m., ABC

Sat. at Oilers, 8 p.m., ABC

June 18*: at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC

June 22*: at Oilers, 8 p.m., ABC

June 24*: at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC

* if necessary

trophy for the first time.

It didn’t even matter that they were outshot 32-18. Back in the final for a second consecutive season and healthier and more prepared for the moment than in the five-game loss to Vegas a year ago, Flor-

ida showed experience on this stage does matter, handling pressure and tense moments throughout like most of its players have been here before.

“We kind of know what it takes this year,” Verhaeghe said. “We know how challenging it is, the ups and downs of playoffs and the grind of it. I think that makes us more equipped this year.”

The goals by Verhaeghe and Rodrigues came on the first five shots on net against Edmonton’s Stuart Skinner, who was left out to dry by a slow backcheck and a lost race to the puck. Skinner, who has had his ups and downs this postseason and whose play looked like the biggest question in the series, was hardly to blame for either one.

“Lots to like,” McDavid said. “We didn’t give up too much, [but] what we did give up was dangerous.”

Edmonton controlled much of the game 5-on-5, extended its streak of penalties killed to 30, and its power play did just about everything right except score. Despite all that, the Oilers find themselves trailing in this series. — AP

Post Weather Report

AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

Sunday

Today: A stray a.m. t-shower; some sun, breezy. High 75 to 81.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 59 to 65.

Monday

Tomorrow: Pleasant with times of clouds and sun. High 73 to 79.
Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 55 to 61.

Tuesday

 Clouds and sun. High 73 to 79.
Evening Partly cloudy. Low 59 to 65.

Wednesday

 Partly sunny. High 77 to 83.
Evening Mainly clear. Low 63 to 69.

Forecast data is current as of 12 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, r-rain, t-thunderstorms, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

Sun and Moon
 Sunrise today 5:24 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 8:26 p.m.
 Moonrise today 8:01 a.m.
 Moonset today 11:40 p.m.

June 14 June 21 June 28 July 5

New York Tides

	TODAY	TOMORROW
High Tide for	1st 10:48a 2nd 10:53p	1st 11:40a 2nd 11:43p
Coney Island	10:36a 11:07p	11:30a 11:57p
Fire Island	1:50a 2:33p	2:33a 3:17p
Hempstead	1:46a 2:24p	2:32a 3:09p
Huntington	10:32a 10:37p	11:24a 11:27p
Jones Inlet	11:52a ---	12:18a 12:46p
Montauk Point	1:56a 2:41p	2:36a 3:23p
Port Washington	10:52a 10:57p	11:44a 11:47p
Sandy Hook		

Regional cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	72/55/r	71/52/c
Danbury	75/54/t	76/52/pc
Glens Falls	70/51/r	68/52/c
Gr Barrington	69/51/r	68/49/c
Kingston	75/53/r	74/49/c
Liberty	69/51/c	65/46/c
Monticello	70/51/c	65/47/c
Newburgh	77/55/t	73/51/pc
Poughkeepsie	76/54/t	75/51/pc
Saratoga Springs	71/55/r	70/54/c
Stroudsburg	77/53/c	72/50/pc
Torrington	73/53/r	72/49/pc
Syracuse	69/55/c	63/51/sh

Almanac

YESTERDAY’S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

Temperature
 High: 73, Low: 63, Mean: 68
Departure from Normal
 Yesterday: -2 degrees
Precipitation
 Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 0.77", Year: 24.74", Normal year to date: 20.61"
Cooling Degree days yesterday3
Total for the month (normal)66 (39)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)175 (120)
Last year to date114
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 73
UV index (for Sun.) 6 (High)
Humidity (at noon) 51%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Pine, Oak, Hickory, Pecan
AQI rating: (for Sun.) Good

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

World cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	91/71/s	92/71/s
Baghdad	116/81/pc	115/84/pc
Beijing	96/67/c	95/70/pc
Berlin	69/49/s	66/53/pc
Cairo	96/73/s	96/77/s
Dublin	57/43/sh	61/44/pc
Geneva	73/60/t	73/52/pc
Hong Kong	88/81/t	89/82/t
Jerusalem	86/65/s	84/64/s
Kabul	84/57/c	87/58/s
London	65/51/pc	62/46/sh
Madrid	75/57/sh	74/57/t
Mexico City	83/62/s	88/60/pc
Montreal	66/56/t	63/54/sh
Moscow	72/58/s	71/61/sh
Paris	70/49/pc	64/47/sh
Rio de Janeiro	80/69/s	84/71/pc
Rome	84/65/pc	79/63/pc
Sydney	67/53/pc	64/47/pc
Tokyo	81/67/c	82/67/pc

BOSTON
CELTICS

Finals

DALLAS
MAVERICKS

THE WHIZ KIDD

BOSTON — It was more than a decade ago, the first and only season for Jason Kidd as head coach of the Brooklyn Nets.

He was a neophyte on the sideline back then, struggling to manage a grumpy point guard and a couple of aging-out Hall of Famers transplanted from Boston. Kidd had a lot to learn. And he did over the years. That's why he's coaching in the NBA Finals for the Mavericks, the third stop of his coaching career. But you don't have to learn instincts. They're instinctual.

And Kidd is instinctually tactical, calculating. It was the same when he played. Kidd was never the most athletic player but he found the angles.

So down the stretch of his 13th game, the former point guard told one of his own players, Tyshawn Taylor, "Hit me." Taylor obliged by running into his coach, and Kidd's soda cup spilled onto the Barclays Center court. Suddenly, there was a mess to clean up. You can't play on wet hardwood. The action stopped. And Kidd used that time to talk to his team about the final nine seconds with a two-point deficit. He needed a timeout, didn't have one, and found the angle.

Fast forward to Saturday and Kidd was throwing a verbal

Mavs coach pulls out all the stops, trying to divide Celtics' star duo after Game 1 debacle

soda on the NBA Finals. Asked about defending against Jaylen Brown, the Mavs coach made it a point to call him Boston's best player — twice.

"Well, Jaylen's their best player," Kidd said. "So just looking at what he does defen-

sively. He picked up Luka [Doncic] full court. Got to the free-throw line. He did everything — and that's what your best player does. Just understanding he plays both sides, plays offense at a high rate. And he's been doing that the whole playoffs. He was the

Eastern Conference Finals MVP. And he picked up where he left off."

This was no accident. There's long been debate around the Celtics about the hierarchy of the two best players, and, if anybody is No. 1, it is Jayson Tatum. Not Brown. Tatum was First Team All-NBA this season. Brown didn't even make it to Third Team.

But the debate again hit a national stage recently when Brown was voted top player of the Eastern Conference Finals. It became an indictment on Tatum, whose biggest knock on his rise to stardom has been folding in the biggest moments. He was a disaster in the NBA Finals two years ago, shooting just 36.7 percent and averaging fewer points than Brown. In Game 1, Tatum was just as inefficient while shooting 6 for 16 with just 16 points. But he was picked up by Brown and Kristaps Porzingis.

Kidd was savvy enough Saturday to mention Brown is the Conference Finals MVP. He knows what he's doing. Why not give their

best players something else to think about, something other than team success? Sow discord. Jealousy is never productive among teammates.

Tatum understands what's going on. It's psychological warfare. Now everybody will be talking about Tatum vs. Brown instead of the way Kyrie Irving and Luka Doncic struggled in Game 1.

"People try to drive a wedge between us," Tatum said. "I guess it's a smart thing to do or try to do.

"We've been in this position for many years of guys trying to divide us and say that one of us should be traded or one is better than the other. So it's not our first time at this rodeo."

Asked how he and Brown have handled the "wedge" attempts, Tatum responded, "We've had conversations about it before. In all reality, we've just had to deal with it for a very long time," Tatum said. "I think it's part of us maturing as men, right? Very, very young coming into this league, and just had to deal with all the ups and downs of, essentially, the success that we've had. There's been positive things and there's been negative things that come with that.

"We are not the first duo to go through that process, and we won't be the last. So understanding that side of it, and just keeping the main thing the main thing, and focusing on the job that we have in front of us."

That's the correct answer. Brown was the same when presented with Kidd's

**NBA FINALS**
All games on ABC**Thu.:** Celtics 107, Mavericks 89*Celtics lead series, 1-0***Sunday:** at Boston, 8 p.m.**Wednesday:** at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.**June 14:** at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.**June 17*:** at Boston, 8:30 p.m.**June 20*:** at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.**June 23*:** at Boston, 8 p.m.

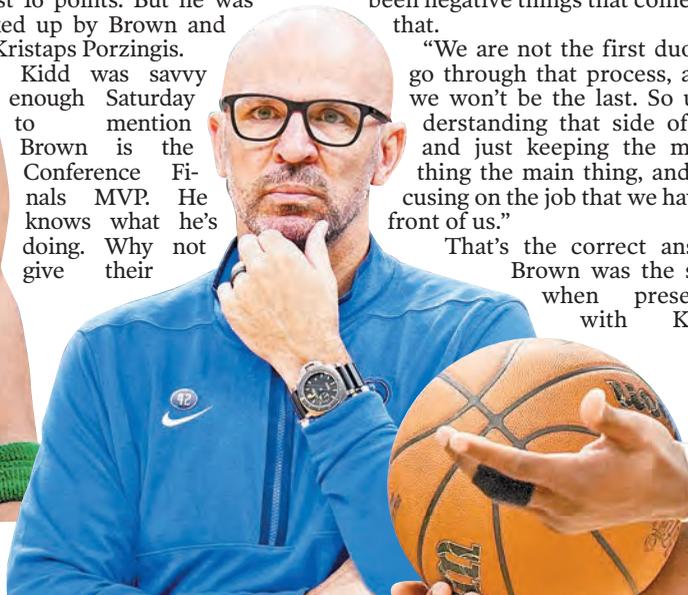
* if necessary

comment, saying, "It's a team game and everybody has their own opinions."

But it can't hurt to try something different. Perhaps Tatum will have the ball down the stretch in Sunday's Game 2 and try to beat a double team instead of passing it to an open teammate. Or maybe he jacks up a contested fadeaway 3-pointer on a pivotal possession because he needs to be the hero. The Mavericks, after all, looked out-matched in Game 1, like a team much closer to getting swept than hoisting the championship trophy. Difficult problems prompt creative solutions. Like spilling soda on the floor. That tactic in 2013 didn't work, by the way. His fizzy plot went flat because the Nets still lost.

We'll see if his latest maneuver makes a difference.

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**Stefan Bondy**

STIRRING IT UP: Mavericks coach Jason Kidd (center) is trying to sow chaos in the Celtics' ranks, making a point to call Jaylen Brown (right) the Celtics' best player when Jayson Tatum, who has disappointed in his playoff career, was First Team All-NBA this season.

AP (2); Getty Images

Pitino: Lot of work left to improve SJU

By DAVE BLEZOW

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Rick Pitino acknowledges his team made progress in his first season at St. John's, but says there's still much work to be done to build a consistent Big East winner in Queens.

Sitting in his VIP box in the clubhouse at Saratoga Race Course — where he is spending the weekend rooting on friend, and St. John's alumnus and booster, Mike Repole's horses — Pitino laid out the challenges ahead.

"We had a very good year," Pitino said of the Red Storm's 20-13 overall and 11-9 Big East records. Though those numbers did not result in a bid to the NCAA Tournament, they were an improvement over the 18-15 and 7-13 marks from the final year of the Mike Anderson era.

"What's difficult is building a culture," Pitino said. "I don't know if it's impossible, but I think it's not easy to do because of the turnover. Good or bad, it's a new ballgame, and you can't really build a culture. Your culture is a yearly thing."

The Red Storm will have a new backcourt next season with former Seton Hall star Kadary Richmond and Utah transfer Deivon Smith along with ex-North Texas wing Aaron Scott. But Pitino says there are a lot of alterations needed behind the scenes to get this house in order.

"Most of St. John's work has to be done away from the court, not on the court," the 71-year-old Hall of Fame coach said. "On the court, it's like any other job. Off the court, you have to deal with major things which must improve."

"It's almost a time warp that St. John's was living in. Right now, we've got to build a first-class program in every phase — weight room, meeting rooms. Everything from a training standpoint is way behind the times, and we're doing something about that right now."

Pitino is clear that the financial support the team receives from Repole, the billionaire entrepreneur and now-renowned horse owner, is critical.

"Without Mike, we can't do what we're doing now," he said. "It would be impossible. We don't have that type of backing. Without Mike, we would be a low person on the totem pole, or in the bottom three."

Repole spent much of his week visiting his horses and trainer Todd Pletcher in the barn area at Saratoga. Saturday, his horse Crupi made a dash from last to first to win the Grade 2 Suburban. And later on this day, he would be sweating out the 156th Belmont Stakes, which featured two of his horses, Mindframe and Protective. But his thoughts are never far from his beloved Johnnies, even here.

"What Rick and his staff have done is amazing. When Rick started last year putting together his staff and getting acclimated to St. John's, over a year in now, it's a different story," he told The Post. "They played amazing at the end of last year, and he's upgraded the team, and we could have the best backcourt in the country."

"We got a little taste at the end of last year what the Garden could be, and I think next year you're going to feel it at another level."

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HORSING AROUND: St. John's head coach Rick Pitino smiles from the VIP section at Saratoga Race Course on Friday. Jason Szenes



FORGET PARIS: Caitlin Clark has taken the sports world by storm, but according to multiple reports, the Indiana Fever rookie was left off the U.S. Olympic team roster. USA TODAY Sports

Clark barred Caitlin snubbed from Olympic team

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The Caitlin Clark show will not be going to Paris.

The uber-popular women's basketball phenom, who has generated significant interest in the sport over the past year with her long 3-pointers and flashy passing, was not selected for USA Basketball's women's national team, according to reports.

Five-time gold medalist Diana Taurasi was invited. So, too, was Phoenix Mercury teammate Brittney Griner, who was detained in a Russian prison for 10 months in 2022 and has said she will only play internationally with USA Basketball. Olympic veterans such as the Liberty's reigning WNBA MVP Breanna Stewart, A'ja Wilson, Napheesa Collier, Jewell Loyd and Chelsea Gray, will also be on the team. Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu, Alyssa Thomas and Kahleah

Copper will be first-time Olympians who all played for the American team in the 2022 World Cup.

Clark's absence, though, overshadows those who made the team.

"I don't know how you leave the country without her," four-time Olympic gold medalist Lisa Leslie told The Sporting News in April.

Team USA's decision makers reportedly found a way, though the roster has yet to be officially announced.

Clark is coming off a fantastic performance, equaling a WNBA rookie record with seven 3-pointers Friday night for the Indiana Fever in front of the largest league crowd in 17 years — 20,333 in Washington. The NCAA's all-time leading scorer, Clark is averaging 16.8 points, 6.3 assists and 5.3 rebounds while shooting 32.7 percent

from 3-point range for the rebuilding Fever.

One potential reason, floated by USA Today, is that Clark's popularity may have worked against her. Two sources told the outlet that there was some concern about how fans would react to her seeing limited action on a loaded roster. Rookies have been included on the U.S. Olympic teams in the past, most notably Christian Laettner on the men's side playing for the 1992 Dream Team.

The 22-year-old Clark has become a national sensation. Fans have lined up before and after games for her autograph. She has become a topic of the hot-take circuit, her every move analyzed. Clearly, Clark would have created more notoriety for the U.S. women's team, which last lost an Olympic game in 1992, no matter what she did on the court.

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GOOD things come to those who wait. At least to those who wait it out.

MLB on Friday night was forced to show the Dodgers-Yankees to the nation's two largest TV markets on both YES and L.A.'s cable network, as well as on a previously exclusive paywalled streaming service, because Rob Manfred and Associates bit off more Apple TV+ than it could chew, let alone was willing to swallow.

Thus, the biggest matchup of the season to date, Ohtani vs. Judge for starters, was seen simultaneously on three separate domestic networks, all producing their own telecasts. Otherwise MLB would have allowed a huge audience to again be fractionalized by its own just-show-me-the-dough greed.

Friday was similar to how "Monday Night Football" avoided Congressional subpoena by allowing the competing teams to be seen on local over-the-air channels in addition to ESPN. For now.

Then there was the MLB-asked-for-it calamity two years ago when the Yanks were bolted to Apple TV+ with Aaron Judge already having hit 61 home runs.

And that likely made this past Friday — with multiple radio stations, including Japanese, plus three U.S. TV networks — the busiest broadcast night in the history of all Yankee Stadiums.

I'm terrible at math. I'm not allowed to keep the scorecard in golf because I've difficulty carrying the 1. My grade in my high school math final was unprecedented: "See Me!!!" circled in red ink.

So I've been reduced to a two-plus-two guy, the kind of problem I can handle. Thus:

Friday, as per a rare lesson learned, MLB did not want to again suffer the ignominy of having an anticipated must-watch appearing only to a minimized audience.

So Apple's \$85 million per deal with MLB would need to be "adjusted" or MLB would have been re-



Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME



**Holy cow!
What a single!**

VIEWERS WIN!

Dodgers-Yankees breaks exclusive streaming curse

SCREEN MACHINE: Instead of being streamed exclusively on Apple TV+, Friday's Yanks-Dodgers game also was on local cable. N.Y. Post photo illustration

duced to explaining — or ignoring — why two of its biggest-market teams were reduced to a boutique viewership.

This three-telecasts decision, I'm told, was reached weeks ago — perhaps was also inspired in some part by the NFL's absurd, money-talks decision to place January's Dolphins-Chiefs playoff game in prime time and only on NBC's Peacock pay streaming channel.

That Roger Goodell-certified decision cost the NFL at least 15 mil-

lion viewers, and it cost attendees toes as the night was so cold amputations followed.

But as "Hacksaw" Goodell boasts, "It's all about our fans" — even those who now must use canes to remain devoted in-house out-of-pocket Chiefs patrons.

So, at least for one night, what was prematurely and exclusively sold by MLB for those who'd "cut the cable cord" and were able and willing to purchase Apple TV+ was seen by many, many more.

Imagine! A greater-good decision from a sport in self-assigned popular decline.

Brings to mind the tale told about Mark Koenig, an allegedly disagreeable infielder who played for the 1927 Yankees.

Koenig, legend holds, was known to hold sportswriters in contempt until softening to become friendlier just before he retired. It was thus written of him, "He was saying hello when it was time to say goodbye."

WEDNESDAY after the Nationals **Jesse Winker** singled against the Mets, he was seen on SNY standing on first and immodestly gyrating his hips at his dugout teammates' urging.

Did it matter that the Nats were losing, 2-0. Or that Winker next would be thrown out trying to steal? Or that the Nats lost, 9-1?

Nah. After all, he'd hit a single!

➤ Given that these new Nike-issue "City Connect" uniforms were revealed on **Rob Manfred's** watch, he should be compelled to wear one around town. I'd put him in those Padres' clown suits, those with one pink sleeve, the other one lime green.

Or was **Emmett Kelly** (Google it or ask your old man) from San Diego?

➤ How does Disney's ESPN allow **Pat McAfee** to apologize on the air for being an uncouth lout on the air when he was hired because he's an uncouth lout on the air?

Or didn't ESPN see this coming?

➤ Now that I know that it's not just me — lots of emails from readers who have had difficulty hearing what the ABC/ESPN NBA trio of **Mike Breen**, **Doris Burke** and **JJ Redick** said from court-side during the playoffs — do I bother to again ask that it be fixed?

Oh, well, you know the old lament, "Wait till next year!"

Mushnickphilip@gmail.com

Throwing harder puts pitchers on shelf longer

ONE DOESN'T know whether to place an emergency phone call to the Hospital for No Longer Special Surgery or to the Humane Society.

There's something sickly wrong — as in physically disabling — with baseball that continues to be untreated and certainly uncured as it spreads.

Last Saturday, The Post's "Sports Shorts" box included three items about MLB pitchers:

The Orioles' **John Means** and **Tyler Wells** will miss the rest of the season to undergo surgery to treat "elbow problems," and the Blue Jays' **Alek Manoah** will be on the injured list with "a sprained elbow."

The day before we learned that Yankees starter **Clarke Schmidt** will be out for up to two months with a lat strain, but ace **Gerrit Cole** is rehabbing well after being lost since spring training with an elbow injury.

It was reported as good news that Cole's fastball hit 97 mph in a rehab session.

Tuesday, the Astros lost pitchers **Cristian Javier** and **Jose Urquidy** "to season-ending elbow surgery," joining several other elbow and shoulder-disabled Houston pitchers.

And on and on. And then on and on.

The need-for-speed, now as requisite as baseball's game-wrecking addiction to math-centric analytics, have reduced starting pitchers to delicate five-inning, multimillion dollar lab rats.

Just throw as hard as you can for five innings every five games — use your arm like a slingshot — then head for postgame treatment that now often includes MRI exams followed by speed dials to Triple-A. Maybe we'll see you again in a month, a year, never or at an Old-Timer's Game.

Everyone sees it, every-

one knows it, yet nothing is done about it as media, managers and GMs marvel at 98-102 mph velocities and total strikeouts as if there's no other way to measure a starting pitcher's ability to produce an out.

Meantime, transient relievers are treated with analytics-blinded unintended extra care, assigned to produce just three outs, be they on six pitches or 26. Let the next relievers then the "closer of the week" win or lose the game.

See? Says so right here on my dugout laptop! How he pitched Tuesday is how

he'll pitch Thursday. Fail-proof!

As **Ron Darling**, who threw 37 complete games, several years ago said while witnessing MLB losing its collective mind and appeal: "They pay millions to starters then ask relievers to win the games."

This worsening epidemic of arms gone bad is not going to be cured on a wish. It's not a head cold to be beaten by a good night's sleep.

But this is MLB, which legislates remedies such as automatic intentional walks and enlarged bases. So don't just do something, stand there!

NEW YORK POST

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2024 BELMONT STAKES RACING FESTIVAL at Saratoga



Matthew DeSantis is a handicapper and content producer for NYRA Bets. He has been following horse racing for 30-plus years and has covered the sport for various national media outlets. For more of his selections, go to NYRA Bets X and NYRABets.com.

SIZZLIN' STAKE

Race 12: Kingston Stakes (1 1/16 miles on turf for 4 years old and up New York-breds)

1 Spirit of St Louis (8/5): The Chad Brown runner has done very little wrong in his career, being a winner of six of eight career starts with his only two losses being runner-up efforts. He made a successful return to the track in April for the first time in five months, beating open stakes company in the Dangers Hours Stakes, and should only continue to move forward while dropping back down to face fellow New York-breds. Horse has good tactical speed to give jockey Manny Franco plenty of options while saving ground for the rail.

LONG SHOT OF THE DAY

Race 9: Allowance (1 1/16 miles on dirt for 3 years old and up New York-breds)

10 Whistler's Honor (12/1): The son of Tonalist has had a hard time stacking races together between taking breaks from the track. However, the horse is finally healthy and coming back with a second race after a layoff, which are the same conditions under which he won his first race. Expect him to come flying late for trainer Jorge Abreu, who already has had a winner during this Belmont Stakes Racing Festival Weekend at Saratoga.

EXOTIC PLAY OF THE DAY

Race 5: Maiden Claiming (1 1/16 miles on turf for 3 years old and up New York-breds)

Exacta Key Box 5 (key) with 7, 12 (\$4 bet on a \$1 base): The morning-line favorite, 9 Big Ego (5/2), is trying turf for the first time, and I'm going to try and get around that runner. 5 Az U Chase Me (9/2) is coming back from a layoff but is dropping down in class from maiden special weight to state-bred maiden claiming company, which should suit him much better. Meanwhile, 12 Unaudited (6/1) is second back from a layoff while getting back on the turf after getting rained off in his first start of 2024, and 7 Dancininthepark (8/1) is a debut runner sired by War Front who has very good numbers for his turf route offspring for trainer Tom Morley and picks up Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez.

Jason Szentes (2)



17-1 long shot hangs on late for Belmont Stakes stunner at Spa

DOR!

By DAVE BLEZOW

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Dornoch's Kentucky Derby start may have been the horse racing equivalent of a 6-4-3 double play as he finished 10th, 18 lengths behind the winner.

But on Saturday, he very much hit a home run when he won the 156th Belmont Stakes, the first contested at Saratoga Race Course due to a multi-year renovation of Belmont Park.

The reason for the baseball analogies is that Dornoch's co-owner is Jayson Werth, a power-hitting member of the 2008 Philadelphia Phillies World Series team.

"I didn't do anything. That's what these guys are for. I've got good partners and a good trainer, and a great horse," said Werth, who hit 229 homers in a 15-season MLB career. "I'll put this up there with anything I've ever done.

"Horse racing is the most underrated sport there is," Werth continued. This is as big as it gets. The emotions you feel when you play in a playoff game, when you win a World Series game, it is the top of sports, and this is where we're at."

BELMONT STAKES 1 1/4 miles; \$2,000,000; 3YO

Time: 22.4, 47.1, 1:10.3, 1:35.2, 2:01.3

Winner: Dornoch; Trainer: Danny Gargan

Horse	PP	St	1/4	1/2	3/4	str	Fin.	Jockey	Odds
Dornoch	6	2	2	2	1	2	1	Saez	17.70
Mindframe	10	4	3	3	3	1	2	I Ortiz	5.00
Sierra Leone	9	9	9	9	10	3	3	Prat	1.70
Honor Marie	8	10	10	10	8	6	4	Geroux	14.10
Antiquarian	5	6	5	5	4	5	5	Velazquez	12.60
Protective	7	8	8	8	9	8	6	Gaffalione	19.60
Seize The Grey	1	1	1	1	2	4	7	Torres	5.30
Mystic Dan	3	5	7	7	6	7	8	Hernandez	6.40
The Wine Steward	4	7	6	6	5	9	9	Franco	18.00
Resilience	2	3	4	4	7	10	10	Alvarado	12.80

Off: 6:45. Start good, for all by 8 and 9.

Payouts

6 - Dornoch	\$37.40	17.60	8.10
10 - Mindframe		6.80	4.20
9 - Sierra Leone			2.60

\$1 Exacta (6-10) \$163.25

\$0.50 Trifecta (6-10-9) \$236.50

\$0.10 Superfecta (6-10-9-8) \$320.05

But as the field turned for home in front of a roaring crowd of 50,000, Dornoch won the sprint to the finish line in 2:01.64, paying \$37.40. He held off Mindframe by a half length, with favorite Sierra Leone another length back in third.

Lukas' Seize the Grey held the lead through the first turn before Dornoch overtook him on the backstretch. Mindframe made his move coming out of the final turn and drew even with Dornoch with a furlong to go but had an erratic finish, bearing out and back in as Dornoch darted straight for the wire.

"I'm still just taking it in. It's pretty exciting," said Dornoch's trainer, Danny Gargan. "It's a special thing just to be a part of these races, not to mention to win one with a horse you ... have had it for its whole [racing] life."

Gargan said a slow start out of the one-hole in the Derby made it "game over" early, but that was far from the case Saturday.

"We got overlooked a little bit because he ran one bad race. Now, they'll look at us a little more next time, hopefully. I never lost faith in him," said Gargan, who saddled just his second Belmont Stakes entrant. "He's a big, powerful

HOME STRETCH: Dornoch, with jockey Luis Saez in the red and white silks, paid \$37.40 for his victory in the Belmont Stakes on Saturday in Saratoga. Former Phillies outfielder Jayson Werth (inset, right, behind New York Gov. Kathy Hochul) found his way to the winner's circle as one of Dornoch's co-owners.



DASH!

horse. You just have to be patient and not lose focus and just grind away, and hopefully, you get lucky and win one of these."

Jockey Luis Saez won his second Belmont Stakes, following up his victory on Essential Quality in 2021. He admitted he feared the race might be slipping away when Mindframe came alongside him on the outside.

"At that point, I thought the other horse was going to beat us," Saez said. "But Dornoch, he kept finding. He never let the other one get by. Pretty nice horse, big heart."

Mindframe's trainer, Todd Pletcher, who also finished fifth with Antiquarian and sixth with Protective, agreed a misstep or two were the difference.

"[Jockey Irad Ortiz Jr.] said he drifted out on him a little bit and it felt like he [Mindframe] lost focus for a moment," Pletcher said. "He angled him back inside so he could see Dornoch and he re-engaged and was closing but just ran out of time."

Queens-born-and-bred entrepreneur Mike Repole, co-owner of Mindframe and owner of Protective, continued to roll up the Belmont success. Last year, he finished second with Forte; in 2022 he took the top two

spots with Mo Donegal and Nest, and in 2011 he had a runner-up finish with Stay Thirsty.

About 4½ hours earlier, Repole watched his 4-year-old colt, Crupi, come from last place and roar home to win the Grade 2 Suburban, paying \$7.10.

The result was special for Repole as he named Crupi after a late friend who helped him select many of the horses he has purchased.

"His name is Jimmy Crupi and may he rest in peace, he's got a graded stake for him on this track," said Repole, the St. John's alumnus and booster who has a group of 70 family members and friends — including Red Storm men's basketball coach Rick Pitino — in Saratoga rooting on his horses this week.

Vic C. called it!

Dornoch's victory as a 17-1 long shot at the Belmont Stakes at Saratoga on Saturday was a surprise to most — but not The Post. Racing handicapper Vic Cangialosi picked Dornoch to win in Saturday's editions, writing: "Does best running on the lead and Luis Saez will have him forwardly placed."

dblezow@nypost.com



IT'S NOT HOW YOU START ... Crupi, coming from last place, crosses the finish line (top) to win The Suburban on Saturday afternoon at Saratoga before jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. receives a fist bump from owner Mike Repole, with the group posing together in the winner's circle.

Jason Szenes (3)

A METS fan friend said something to me during the throes of their most recent tough stretch that gave me pause and made me think:

"I wish," he said, "that the Dodgers never left Brooklyn."

And that notion does invite pondering a definite sliding-doors moment and a worthwhile alternate history discussion — especially since he was born in 1967, 10 years after the Dodgers fled for the West Coast. It's not like he has a surplus of watercolor memories of fond afternoons spent inside Ebbets Field.

But if you are a Mets fan, as he is, it does make a certain amount of sense:

● Though the Dodgers and Giants did head to California as a package deal, the clear priority before that happened was for New York City to take care of the Dodgers. The Giants might've had the deeper history in New York, but New York tried to work with Walter O'Malley to keep the team here. They just had different ideas how to do it. O'Malley had his eyes on the plot of land around Atlantic Avenue that's now Barclays Center; Robert Moses preferred Flushing Meadows in or around the site that would one day host Shea Stadium (and, later, Citi Field).

● Giants fans hurt just as much as Dodgers fans when they left, but the truth is there were simply far fewer of them by the time they moved. The Giants drew just 653,923 in 1957, still just three years removed from a championship. The Dodgers drew 1,028,258. The Giants would likely have moved somewhere soon — maybe San Francisco, maybe Minneapolis, and maybe, if they were smart, Los Angeles. The time for three big league baseball teams in New York had passed.

● But the Dodgers and the city never could come close to an agreement. "The Dodgers in Queens," O'Malley said, and not without truth, "would no longer be the Brooklyn Dodgers."

Nor would they be in L.A., either, but O'Malley figured in for a dime in for a dollar — and he wound up printing dollars once he made the move west, and the Dodgers really haven't stopped printing them since.

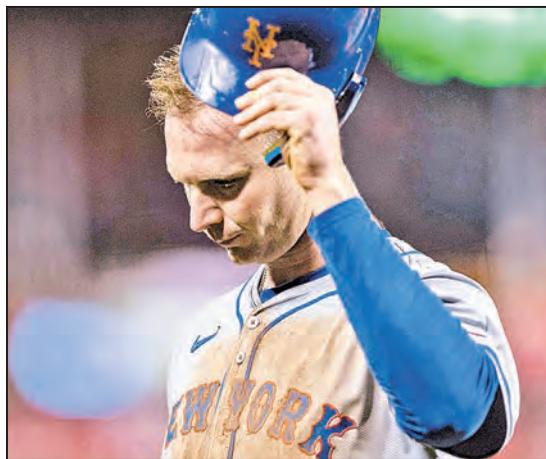
If the Dodgers stayed in Brooklyn, there is no groundswell to bring National League baseball back to New York because it never would have left in the first place. So the Mets would



Mike Vaccaro

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OPEN MIKE



TRADING PLACES: While the Mets have known mostly heartbreak since their inception in 1962, the Dodgers have been one of baseball's top franchises after relocating to L.A. from Brooklyn. USA TODAY Sports; AP

A BUMMER

Alternate history where Dodgers never left may have been kinder to NY

never have been a glint of anyone's eye, let alone an expansion team in 1962. Now, understand: We are not trying to marginalize the Mets or their history. There are a lot of teams in a lot of sports that don't have a whole history worth of snapshots that the Mets assembled in 1969 and 1986 alone. The Mets are also 62 years old now. They have a longer modern National League history now than the Dodgers did in 1957.

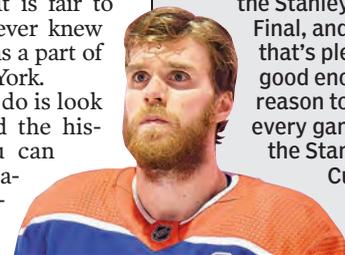
Still, what the Dodgers have done is a matter of public record. After winning their only title in Brooklyn in 1955, the Dodgers have added six more in L.A. — 1959, 1963, 1965, 1981, 1988 and 2020. So there's that. But they have been overwhelmingly competitive for all 67 years they've been in L.A. There were lulls — notably the Frank McCourt Era. But there is little question now that the Dodgers are one of the two or three

franchises in the sport that would be referred to as "model."

Now, maybe there is something about being in Southern California that added a little something extra to the past 67 years. And anytime you dabble in alternate history there's a chance that any one flap of a butterfly's wings can cause all the rest of the dominoes to fall in a different way.

And, again, most of the people who walk among us as Mets fans were born that way. It is fair to point out that they never knew life with the Dodgers as a part of National League New York.

Still, all you need to do is look at the standings. And the history books. And you can understand the occasional lapse into wistfulness.



VAC'S WHACKS

YELL all you want about **Caitlin Clark** not being on the women's Olympic team. That's still not nearly as grievous a snub as **Jalen Brunson** being left off the men's team.

➤ I'm late to "Loot" on Apple TV, but it is a genuine hoot.

➤ **David Wright** had a happy reunion with his close friend **Daniel Murphy** in London this weekend. Wright and Murphy, along with fellow alumni **Mike Piazza** and **Mookie Wilson**, are representing the Mets at the London games vs. the Phillies. "I'm in California and Murph is in Florida, so we don't get to see us that much," Wright said. "Our wives are close too, so it should be a fun few days. I've never been to London, so I am looking forward to going as a tourist, too."

➤ **Connor McDavid** is in the Stanley Cup Final, and to me that's plenty good enough reason to watch every game of the Stanley Cup Final.

Matthew McMillan: We may want to see Roy Hobbs destroy that light tower and Jimmy Chitwood swish that final shot, but in the best baseball movie of all time, Kelly Leak was called out at home plate (though I still say he was safe). And it was exactly as it was supposed to be, so Tanner Boyle could deliver that immortal closing line.

Vac: Hard to argue with anyone

WHACK BACK AT VAC

who wants to make a case for "The Bad News Bears."

Michael Gijanto: So Mika Zibanejad thinks the Rangers "deserve" to be there (in the Final?). As Clint Eastwood says to Gene Hackman before sending him to his reward in

"Unforgiven," "Deserve's got nothin' to do with it!"

Vac: Maybe they should hang that above the entrance of every arena and stadium in the area. **@bg23on28:** I know I'm being small but I will never forgive Tiki Barber for throwing Tom

Coughlin under the bus. I'm no longer a season ticket holder so if they honor him, nobody would have to put up with my booing.

@MikeVacc: I know folks are still mad at Tiki for this stuff, but it's been 17 years. I don't think he deserves a capital sentence.

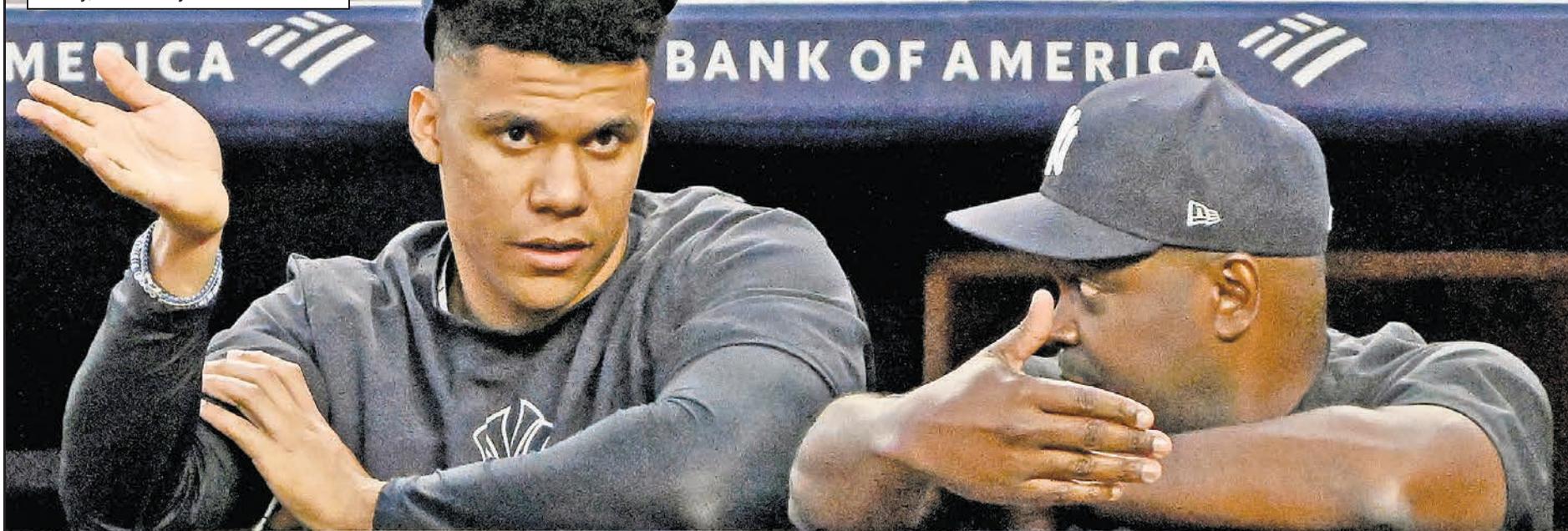
George Stein: Ed Westphal's 18 should be the next Islanders number retired alongside all the living players whose numbers are already hanging agree.

Vac: There were a lot of terrific alternates suggested for all nine teams. This one is probably right: terrific player and one of the voices of the glory years after he retired. A worthy choice.

EVERY SUNDAY MIKE VACCARO RESPONDS TO READERS' QUESTIONS AT VAC@NYPOST.COM AND @MIKEVACC ON X

HEAL TURN: Juan Soto sat out Friday night's extra-innings loss to the Dodgers after experiencing inflammation in his elbow. Manager Aaron Boone said of the star slugger's return: "When he's ready, he's ready." Bill Kostroun

Rest assured



By ANDREW CRANE

Yanks leaning toward giving Soto 'couple days' off to heal achy arm

The Yankees' starting lineup didn't include Juan Soto again on Saturday against the Dodgers, with manager Aaron Boone saying that they're "leaning toward giving it a couple days" before the outfielder returns.

But Soto plans to hit in the cage at some point Sunday, he told The Post's Greg Joyce after the Yankees lost to Los Angeles, 11-3, in The Bronx. Soto, who exited Thursday's win against the Twins with left forearm soreness, didn't play Friday after undergoing an MRI exam that revealed elbow inflammation — and, perhaps more importantly,

didn't reveal anything else. That led to him feeling "relief," as he described it.

When asked Saturday if a stint on the injured list remained a possibility if Soto didn't show improvement, Boone said, "I guess" but added that he doesn't anticipate that scenario materializing.

"When he's ready, he's ready," Boone said pregame.

Soto went through his "nor-

mal prep stuff" Saturday, and when Boone asked Soto — who was receiving treatment — earlier in the afternoon how he was feeling, the outfielder responded that he was good and "noticeably better, in his eye," Boone said.

So for the second consecutive night, the Yankees used Trent Grisham in center field and shifted Aaron Judge to right with Alex Verdugo in left.

Soto's absence left a glaring hole in the Yankees' lineup, though, with the 25-year-old hitting .318 — the second-highest average in the American League behind the Royals' Bobby Witt Jr. (.322) — and launching 17 homers.

Soto hadn't missed consecutive games since back tightness sidelined him for three straight in August 2022. He didn't sit out a single Padres game last year.

He even played through the forearm soreness for about a week-and-a-half or two weeks this season, he said Thursday.

Soto's latest absence doesn't mean his current forearm inflammation has reached a concerning or alarming status. But the opposite of that doesn't necessarily correlate to an instant return, either.

"I think he sees the big picture in all this, too," Boone said. "And as much as this environment, this series, I mean I'm sure there's part of it that's killing him, not being in it."

"But I think he's also like, 'I also know I want to get this inflammation out of here and we can roll.'"

Torres' luck runs out as error comes back to bite him

By DAN MARTIN

YANKEES NOTES

Gleyber Torres made an error on a routine play for the second straight night in Saturday's 11-3 loss to the Dodgers.

After dropping a pop-up in shallow right field Friday on a play he pursued nonchalantly, Torres booted an easy grounder by Shohei Ohtani in the top of the eighth Saturday.

While Torres was bailed out by a pickoff Friday, he wasn't as fortunate this time as Ohtani scored on Teoscar

Hernandez's grand slam off Tommy Kahnle.

"You've got to be able to let it go," Aaron Boone said of Torres' errors. "That's a hard thing. ... When Gleyber's at his best, he plays free and easy and sometimes it gets him in a little trouble, but it allows him to make a lot of plays."

On the grounder Saturday, Boone thought Torres may

have gone in the other direction, saying he tried to "over-secure it."

Torres said he was frustrated by the mistakes, but added he wasn't putting too much pressure on himself.

"I just made an error," said Torres, who has 10 errors on the year after making 15 last season. "Especially in that situation, you have to make sure you get one out. ... I'll try to figure it out [Sunday]."

► **Gerrit Cole** is set to make his second rehab start Sunday at Double-A Somers-

et, with Boone saying the right-hander is expected to be in the 50-60 pitch range.

And the manager added that Cole may not get fully built up in the minors before making his season debut for the Yankees after being sidelined with elbow inflammation during spring training that's caused him to miss the first two-plus months of the regular season.

"It's possible he doesn't come to us at 100 pitches," Boone said. "What that point is, I don't know. Gerrit will have a big say in that, as well."

Boone also noted that Cole may throw fewer pitches once he returns to the Yankees than whatever he ends up throwing in his final rehab appearance, due to the increased level of competition.

► Boone said the team "had some conversations" after Friday night's 11-inning loss to the Dodgers about possibly adding another bullpen arm, but decided against it.

The Yankees are in the middle of a 13-day stretch

without an off day.

"This is one of the times in the season it gets a little bit challenging," Boone said. "Fortunately, we've gotten pretty good, consistent length from our starters throughout the year and feel like we're OK."

After churning through three more relievers Saturday, the Yankees resorted to having **Oswaldo Cabrera** get the final out of the top of the ninth. The infielder walked two before getting **Miguel Rojas** to ground out.

THRIFT SHOPPING

If Hal spends less, keeping Soto requires creativity



BELIEVE the Yankees will try mightily to sign Juan Soto long term after this season.

I just wanted to get that out of the way. Because when Hal Steinbrenner said last month, “Look, I’m gonna be honest, payrolls at levels we’re at right now are simply not sustainable for us financially,” the Hot Take Industrial Complex immediately went to work and saw this as prepping the fan base for Soto to be one-and-done in pin-stripes.

Sure, maybe. But it is not what I took from that. I think Steinbrenner wants a championship contender and sees how good Soto is for that, and for business, and will personally and financially invest in the process to keep him, as he did with Aaron Judge.

I know Soto and his representative, Scott Boras, will insist they are open to bids from all 30 teams. But I sense that Soto in his time with the Padres did not like home games ending at 1 a.m.-ish Eastern time, when his family back home (especially his mom) was asleep.

Still, even if limited to Chicago eastward, Soto will not lack for suitors. He is among the greatest hitters before age 26 in history — and he does not even turn 26 until Oct. 25, which just happens to coincide with World Series Game 1. A lot can occur between now and then, as the scare with Soto’s forearm in the past few days accentuated.

But on this trajectory, the Yankees likely will have competition.

Will Steve Cohen simply not allow himself to be outbid for Soto?

Shohei Ohtani offered unique opportunities both as a player and for his marketability. Thus, teams might not be willing to extend quite as far for Soto. Nevertheless, the Cubs and Blue Jays were in on Ohtani, and I would imagine they would try to be aggressive on Soto considering his age and impact.

Could the Nationals decide to try to have their baseball cake and eat it too? They are getting the benefits of their return from trading Soto to the Padres with players such as CJ Abrams and Mackenzie Gore plus, among others, outfielder James Wood, not far away. Keibert Ruiz has six years at \$40 million left, and that is the only long-term money Washington has invested moving forward.

There are persistent rumors that the Nationals will be sold. If it happens in the short term, would there be any greater statement to the fans than bringing Soto home?

But for the purposes of this exercise, let’s just say the Yankees keep Soto. And despite the phone call I am about to receive from Boras

saying I am low, let’s make his annual value \$47 million, because that would be a record — eclipsing the true current value of Ohtani’s heavily deferred contract.

At that number, the Yankees would have Soto, Aaron Judge, Gerrit Cole, Giancarlo Stanton, Carlos Rodon, Marcus Stroman and DJ LeMahieu at \$205.5 million (everything will be for luxury-tax purposes, because Steinbrenner was lamenting

not just the payroll but how much that payroll will cost in additional tax). That is just seven players, and another \$10 million has to be added to cover the gift that keeps on giving to the Yankees — Aaron Hicks’ final contract year.

It’s roughly another \$20 million to cover items that all teams are charged for, benefits and the 0-to-3 arbitration pool. The only arbitration-eligible players the Yankees currently seem

sure to arbitrate with are Nestor Cortes, Clarke Schmidt and Jose Trevino, plus the Yankees probably will pick up Luke Weaver’s \$2.5 million 2025 option. All told that should take them to around \$250 million.

So if, for example, Steinbrenner’s plan is to take them definitely under the \$301 million top threshold next year, that will be a challenge, and if it is under the \$281 million second threshold, that will be extremely difficult.

The Yankees would have to look inward to inexpensively replace looming free agents. Alex Verdugo is showing himself to be a terrific all-around complementary player. But Jason Dominguez is ready to fill his spot. Clay Holmes has been among the majors’ best relievers since joining the Yankees in 2021. But the Yankees have done a brilliant job for years now of unearthing and developing good arms into effective relievers — such as Holmes. So it might fall to Weaver or Ian Hamilton or someone else to do the closing job for much less.

Are Jon Berti, Oswald Cabrera, Caleb Durbin or

Oswald Peraza ready individually or in some combination to replace Gleyber Torres? Anthony Rizzo is due \$17 million in 2025 or a \$6 million buyout, so it is an \$11 million decision. Rizzo has been below par on both sides of the ball this year. He has time to rectify that, and his closeness to Judge should not be dismissed considering Judge’s influence with Steinbrenner. But what if the Yankees think lefty-swinger Ben Rice, promoted in the past week to Triple-A after producing 12 homers and an .849 OPS in 49 Double-A games, is ready to handle first in the majors?

Clearly, the Yankees are going to need youngsters to step up and step in. However, if they still need to cut payroll, they could try trading a starter. The emergence of Luis Gil and Clarke Schmidt to go along with Gerrit Cole would give the Yankees a cornerstone for 2025. They could then consider moving one from among Nestor Cortes, Carlos Rodon and Marcus Stroman.

Cortes will make around \$9 million next season in his last year before free agency. Stroman is due \$18 million with an \$18 million player option for 2026 if he reaches 140 innings this year (and he is at 74). Rodon is due four years at \$108 million.

Keep in mind Robbie Ray made one start last year, needed Tommy John surgery and was sure not to pitch, at minimum, the first half this season, yet the Mariners were able to trade him with three years at \$73 million left to the Giants and take on \$47.5 million of Anthony Desclafani and Mitch Haniger. Rodon, in the midst of a rebound season, should have value if he stays healthy, especially if the Yankees were to eat some money or take back dollars. Rodon does have a complete no-trade clause.

None of these decisions would be easy. All the starters — Verdugo and Holmes, for example — have been instrumental in the Yankees’ storming to the AL’s best record. But this would be like having a salary cap at whatever payroll Steinbrenner established. Like in salary-cap leagues, you can’t have it all. Look, we can have a discussion about Steinbrenner opening his books or that he can afford more. But he has said for years that he does not believe you need a \$300 million payroll to win, so I assume he is going to work to sink below that — and more. It might be easier after 2026 when LeMahieu and Stanton are done, but by then the Yankees will have to think about a long-term deal for Anthony Volpe — maybe before.

It is going to take a lot of creativity for the Yankees to retain Soto, maintain excellence and drop payroll.

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Joel Sherman
Hardball



Noah K. Murray

HARD WAY: Hal Steinbrenner (top) has said the Yankees need to trim payroll. There are ways to do that and still sign Juan Soto, but none of them are easy, writes Joel Sherman.

James' heart failure reversal is one for the record books.

"I don't know that I ever would've survived if I wasn't at Montefiore Einstein."

— James Bradley

When former White Plains Deputy Police Commissioner James Bradley suffered two massive back-to-back heart attacks, the specialists at Montefiore Einstein saved his life by implanting a mechanical support system called an LVAD. What happened next was a heart failure reversal for the record books. His team did what few have the expertise to do, they removed the LVAD, and James' heart continued to function well without needing a transplant.

See James' heart failure reversal story at montefiore.org/James



Montefiore Einstein



ENGLISH BREAKFAST



By MIKE PUMA

Mets eaten up by powerful Phillies in London

LONDON — Look kids, there's Big Ben, Parliament, a missed defensive play by the Mets.

It's been a theme this season — the Mets were second-to-last in the major leagues defensively by one measure as play began — and Saturday they took it to a new continent: Starling Marte lost a fly ball to right field that should have retired the Phillies in the fourth inning. Instead the ball fell, along with the Mets, in a 7-2 loss in front of 53,882 at London Stadium.

Marte said he couldn't see Edmundo Sosa's fly to

right and had to wait for it to come out of a shadow before moving on it.

"When I saw the reaction of the hitter, because he was also kind of lost, I knew that a ball had been hit, but I just couldn't pick it up right there," Marte said through an interpreter. "When I saw his reaction and saw him move I was able to pick it up shortly thereafter."

Marte's non-catch allowed the Phillies to pile on five runs against Sean Manaea in an inning in which Bryce

Harper's solo homer might have otherwise been the only damage. The Mets never recovered and had a three-game winning streak snapped.

The Mets will receive another opportunity in the London Series on Sunday before heading back to New York.

Entering the day, the Mets were 29th in MLB in Defensive Runs Saved at minus-30. Marte was a key contributor to that statistic at minus-9 in right field.

"I just think we need to

continue working on the positioning," Marte said. "I think a lot of the plays I have struggled with this year have been the ones that have been down the line and I think those are the conversations that me and the coaching staff need to have going forward."

Manaea allowed only one base runner over the first three innings, but it all crumbled for him in the fourth when he faced nine batters and surrendered six runs, with Marte's non-play a key factor. Manaea's outing of 3

$\frac{2}{3}$ innings matched his shortest of the season.

Marte stroked an RBI double in the first against Ranger Suarez that gave the Mets a 1-0 lead. Francisco Lindor smacked a leadoff double and J.D. Martinez was hit by a pitch with two outs before Marte delivered to keep his sizzling bat hot against the Phillies. Entering play, he owned a .370 lifetime batting average in 79 career games against the Phillies — the highest mark by an active player against

an individual team with a minimum of 200 at-bats.

But Marte's day was about to get worse: With two outs in the fourth and only one run across, Marte lost Sosa's fly to right field. The ball fell for an RBI single and the ensuing batter, Whit Merrifield, blasted a three-run homer that sank the Mets in a 5-1 hole.

Picking up fly balls was a challenge, according to Harrison Bader, as much as MLB worked in converting this soccer stadium into a baseball-friendly venue.

New time zone; same old story.



KINGDOM OF HURT: Sean Manaea grabs the ball after giving up a home run to Bryce Harper in the fourth inning of the Mets' 7-2 loss in London on Saturday.

THE CONVERSION rate, when it comes to baseball, is unchanged regardless of which side of the Atlantic you are on.

The Mets can't hang with the Phillies in the National League or the International League. The Mets lost three of four last month when the teams played two games at each club's stadium, which are separated by 116 miles.

Roughly 3,500 miles away at a facility mixed with fans of both teams — though with considerably more Phillies red on display than Mets orange and blue — nothing much changed. The Phillies were dominant, the Mets disappointing.

The Phillies were brutish before the British, clubbing three homers. Two came off starter Sean Manaea in a torture-chamber fourth inning in which Bryce Harper merged two sports: think sock-er. Starling Marte showed his poor defense is not limited to North America. And a Mets offense that percolated in the U.S. capital in scoring 23 runs in three games to sweep the Nationals was tamed in the capital of the United Kingdom.

The NL-best Phillies won, 7-2. The Mets will get one more shot Sunday, this time as the designated visiting team, to try to avoid a two-game sweep at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which houses London Stadium, before returning to Queens. For now, though, the 17 1/2 games that separate the Phillies from the Mets feels further away than home — a symbolic distance between teams that share a time zone and precious little else.

"The standings are the standings, you can't deny those," Carlos Mendoza said. "We have a good team obviously, but they are deep. They are a good team."

The Phillies excel at every phase of the game, are playoff tested and have a band-of-brothers unity about them. All nine position players recorded a hit Saturday and all but J.T. Realmuto either scored a run or drove one in. The Mets actually scored first in the opening inning via doubles by Francisco Lindor and Marte. But Ranger Suarez, who came in as MLB's ERA leader and one of four Phillies starters with a strong All-Star case, tamed the inopportune Mets afterward.

Meanwhile, a first-inning Harper double was the only ball that Manaea allowed out of the infield during three shutout innings to open the game.

But with one out in the fourth, Harper clobbered a homer to right field and celebrated theatrically by sliding on his knees as he approached the Phillies dugout, arms raised and roaring akin to how many soccer goals are celebrated here in the home of West Ham United.

What followed Manaea described as "a blur." Alec Bohm sharply singled. Nick Castellanos flied out. Manaea walked Bryson Stott after getting ahead 0-2. Still, the score was tied 1-1 at this point when Ed-

mundo Sosa lifted a lazy fly to right field.

Marte and center fielder Harrison Bader said the sunny field was making reads difficult. But they also acknowledged that both teams were dealing with the same conditions. And there is just no ignoring the decline in Marte's fielding. He must lead the majors in getting within 5 feet of catching a ball and not actually doing so.

Who knows if that was the third out. The score, after all, was still just 1-1. Manaea took accountability by stating, "I didn't do a good job of controlling anything."

Whit Merrifield hit his first multi-run homer since Aug. 12 of last year, a three-run shot, then Cristian Pache doubled and Kyle Schwarber drove him

in. Five runs scored after Marte's non-catch. With two days off before this series and one after, should Mendoza have had someone warming quicker and in the game quicker? Perhaps. By the time Sean Reid-Foley entered after the Schwarber hit, the game was essentially over.

"It was just one inning and it got away from us," Lindor said. "If they don't have that one inning, you know, but I guess that is what good teams do. They score when they have runners in scoring position."

It is what good teams do. Regardless, if the game is on one end of the New Jersey Turnpike or the other or five hours ahead of home in the London Series, you can change continents, but not constituents. The Phillies are who they are and the Mets have the third-worst record in the NL.

On Saturday, the environment changed. Nothing else.

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More Mets / Page 66



vs. Phillies
Sunday in London, 10 a.m.,
ESPN, WCBS (880 AM)

LHP Jose Quintana



2024 stats:
1-5, 5.17 ERA

Career vs. PHI:
0-2, 3.72 ERA

Last start:
Sun., vs. ARI;
4 IP, 3 ER, 4 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

33% Sinker **23%** Fastball **20%** Change

RHP Taijuan Walker



2024 stats:
3-1, 5.73 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
1-3, 3.44 ERA

Last start:
Sun., vs. STL;
5 IP, 4 ER, 5 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

25% Sinker **20%** Sweeper **19%** Splitter

UP NEXT

TUE.: vs. Marlins, 7:10 p.m.,
SNY, WCBS
TBD vs. TBD

WED.: vs. Marlins, 7:10 p.m.,
SNY, WCBS
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Edwin Diaz** is expected to pitch in a rehab game Sunday for Single-A Brooklyn that could be his final outing before rejoining the Mets on the next homestand.

■ **Kodai Senga** may throw a bullpen session Monday or Tuesday as he attempts to move forward in his rehab from a shoulder strain following a setback.

BRITISH INVASION: Phillies fans celebrate as Brandon Nimmo watches a three-run homer by Whit Merrifield clear the fence as the Mets lost the first game of the London Series, 7-2. J.D. Martinez (left) and the Mets' bats couldn't break through as the team's three-game win streak was halted.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg (4)

as defensive woes continue

"Normally [baseball] stadiums are much higher and here we are in a soccer stadium," Bader said. "Just the depth of the ball in the stadium is an adjustment you have to make on the run."

Bader said it took adjusting to the speed at which balls bounced off the turf, but overall he has no issue with the stadium.

"Both teams are dealing with the same thing, so you just adjust on the go," he said.

The Phillies started a new rally in the inning with Cris-

tian Pache's double and Kyle Schwarber's RBI single that gave the Phillies a 6-1 lead. Manaea exited and Sean Reid-Foley recorded the final out. The damage in the inning started with Harper's homer to right field.

Lindor singled leading off the fifth and, after Pete Alonso doubled, raced home on Martinez's ground out, pulling the Mets within 6-2.

Suarez was removed with two outs in the sixth following consecutive singles by Jose Iglesias and Luis Tor-

rens, who have provided surprising contributions at the bottom of the lineup over the last week. Orion Kerker entered to strike out Lindor, ending the threat.

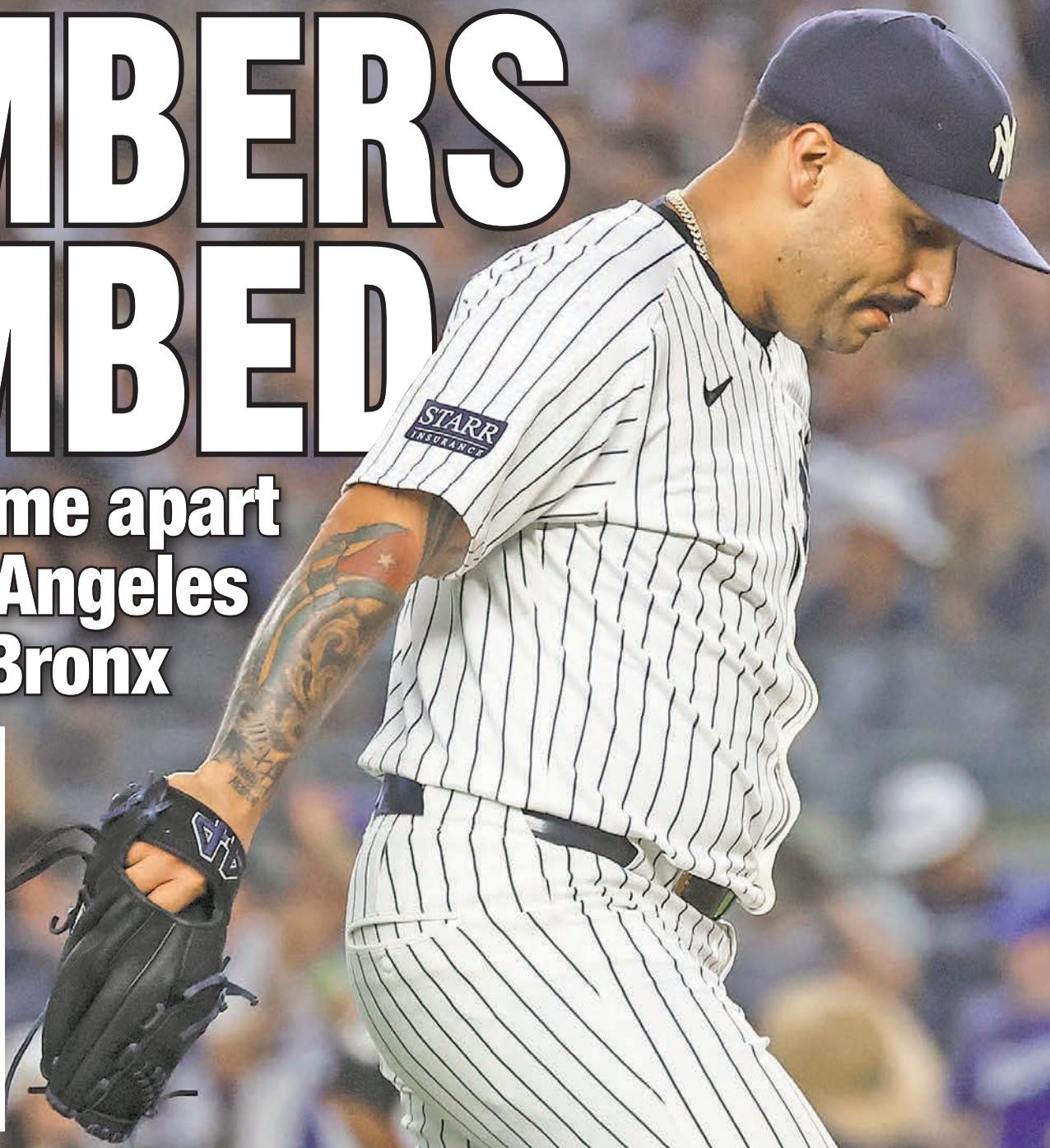
Nick Castellanos homered against Danny Young in the eighth to extend the Phillies' lead to 7-2.

"Overall, I thought we had good at-bats against Suarez, created traffic, but couldn't get the big hit," manager Carlos Mendoza said. "We couldn't get a big hit."

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BOMBERS BOMBED

Yankees come apart late as Los Angeles piles on in Bronx



By GREG JOYCE

DODGERS 11
YANKEES 3 **Boxscore**
Page 60

It may only last a few days — for now, anyway — but life without Juan Soto has not been kind to the Yankees.

With their star left-handed bat sidelined a second straight game because of forearm inflammation, the Yankees had another quiet night offensively and looked flat overall on the way to dropping just their third series of the season.

After the Yankees wasted some early chances in what was then a tight game, the night unraveled late and got ugly as they fell to the Dodgers, 11-3, on Saturday in front of a sellout crowd of 48,274.

The Dodgers (41-25) blew the game open in the eighth inning, which they entered with a 4-2

lead. Two walks from Tommy Kahnle and another fielding error from Gleyber Torres loaded the bases for Teoscar Hernández, who crushed his second home run of the night, this one a grand slam to put the Dodgers ahead 8-2.

By the end of the game, the Yankees (45-21) needed Oswaldo Cabrera to record the final out of the ninth inning for a scuffling Dennis Santana, though not before the utility man walked in a run.

"[Soto's absence] is a big part [of the last two games] — I'm not going to say it's not," Alex Verdugo said. "But at the end of the day, we've had our opportunities with him out of the

lineup to win. We just haven't cashed in. That's what good teams do, good pitching teams do, they buckle down. When it's two outs, runners in scoring position, they buckle down. We're seeing that right now, but at the end of the day, I thought today was a lot closer than what the score dictated toward the end."

The Yankees went 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position and left 10 men on base in a frustrating night for the offense. After going scoreless for the first 10 innings Friday night on the way to a 2-1, 11-inning loss, the Yankees scored a pair of early runs Saturday off right-hander Gavin Stone, but then went silent before Aaron Judge clubbed his second home run of the game in the ninth inning, his MLB-leading 23rd of the season.

After winning 16 of their first 20 series of the season, the Yankees will try to avoid their first sweep of the year Sunday, giving the ball to red-hot right-hander Luis Gil.

The better news for the Yankees was that Soto felt "way better" Saturday as he began to ramp up his baseball activities. The plan is for Soto to try to hit in the cage Sunday and see how he feels, though manager Aaron Boone said before the game that the Yankees were leaning toward giving Soto "a couple" more days to allow the inflammation to subside.

"It's just a presence, right?" Verdugo said of Soto. "Being able to work at-bats, it's a good way to see all the guy's pitches early. Obviously what Soto does, he drives the ball everywhere. It's a big bat out for us

right now but at the end of the day, we always know when one guy's down, the next guy's got to step up."

In Soto's absence, Verdugo has bumped up to batting second. But that weakens the middle of the lineup as the Yankees' four through six hitters (Giancarlo Stanton, Anthony Rizzo and Gleyber Torres) have gone 1-for-26 with a walk in the first two games of the series.

Meanwhile, Nestor Cortes was not as sharp as he typically has been at Yankee Stadium this season, getting tagged for a pair of home runs and four runs (tying a season-high) across 5 1/3 innings. He avoided any big innings but gave up single runs in the second, third, fifth and sixth.

"I thought I executed a lot of pitches, I just didn't get the results I

Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

Gil, Trevino partnership yields impressive rewards

By DAN MARTIN

Luis Gil will look to continue his incredible start to the season Sunday against the Dodgers, and the breakout right-hander credited Jose Trevino for part of his success.

Gil said Saturday through an interpreter that the catcher helps him “concentrate” while he’s on the mound.

And that’s no accident.

“First of all, he’s a special pitcher,” Trevino said when told of Gil’s praise. “He’s the one throwing the ball. He’s young, he doesn’t have that many innings in the big league and I feel like I can help him.”

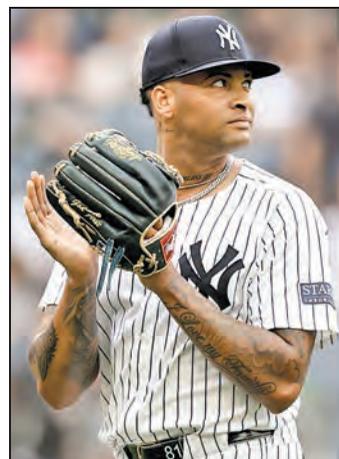
Trevino said he works with Gil on game situations and chats with him between innings with one main goal: “Clearing his head. I want him to throw the ball, I don’t want him to think about anything. I just want him to throw the ball to me. Let me handle everything.”

The strategy has worked.

Gil has put himself into the All-Star conversation and if given the chance to be on the team, Gil said it would be a “blessing.”

Trevino has played a significant role in getting him to this point.

In 50 1/3 innings over eight starts,



DYNAMIC DUO: Luis Gil has pitched to a 0.54 ERA in just over 50 innings working with catcher Jose Trevino.

Getty Images

Gil has a 0.54 ERA with Trevino behind the plate compared to a 5.21 ERA in 19 innings over four outings pitching to Austin Wells.

Because Gil pitched in just one game with the Yankees in 2022 and didn’t take the mound at all for them last year when he was coming back from Tommy John surgery, he and Trevino never worked

together until this past spring training.

“I caught him in a live BP and said to myself, ‘This is good,’” Trevino said. “Then I caught him in a game against the Mets in spring training and said again, ‘This is good.’”

That start came after Gil had been sent to minor league camp and then brought back to the big league side following Gerrit Cole’s injury.

Gil was involved in the competition for the fifth starter, but Trevino didn’t look too far ahead.

“I wasn’t making any assumptions,” Trevino said of the battle for the fifth spot. “I knew he was really good. All the guys were. I just knew at some point, we’ll see him again.”

Gil never went away and has been the Yankees’ top starter in Cole’s absence.

Asked if he saw this version of Gil so soon on the horizon, Trevino just laughed.

“It’s all about opportunity and preparation,” Trevino said. “That plays. He was prepared and he got an opportunity. Now, he’s doing what he’s doing. It’s special, but there’s still a long way to go. The crazy thing is, he’s still learning.”

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Struggling Rizzo remains in lineup

By DAN MARTIN

Anthony Rizzo has been in a horrendous slump for over three weeks. Now that Juan Soto isn’t around, there’s more of a spotlight on the first baseman’s struggles.

Over his previous 22 games, Rizzo had a .186 slugging percentage with just two extra-base hits — a pair of doubles — in 91 plate appearances.

And after another hitless night in the Yankees 11-3 loss to the Dodgers on Saturday, he’s in a 1-for-29 rut.

Still, Aaron Boone said he hasn’t considered giving Rizzo a rest to see if that might jumpstart him.

“I haven’t decided to do that yet because I feel like the work he’s been getting in has been good,” Boone said before the game. “It’s about trusting that work, making sure he’s letting that process happen. You go through struggles, you make adjustments and the work is good and you don’t get a result, it can be [frustrating].”

After dealing with back and concussion issues over the past two seasons, Rizzo said he feels OK this season, but his decline has continued.

And it’s gotten worse lately.

His 106-mph groundout in the bottom of the sixth was the first ball Rizzo has hit over 100 mph in over a week and he followed up with a 102-mph grounder up the middle that Mookie Betts handled.

Rizzo’s average exit velocity for the season is a career-worst 86.3 mph, according to Statcast.

He popped out and stranded a pair of runners to end the first inning, grounded out to second to finish the third and then led off the sixth with the hard grounder to second that resulted in another out.

And instead of heating up in the warmer weather, Rizzo has just one hit in June.

“We’ve got all the faith in the world [in Rizzo],” Alex Verdugo said. “It’s a very mental game. You have to keep your mindset and work ethic right. He’s a little bit in his head, but we’re working on some things.”

“He’s feeling it a little bit,” Boone said. “It’s part of going through [the season].”

If Boone and the Yankees wanted to rest Rizzo in hopes of sparking something on offense, they could

move DJ LeMahieu to first base and have Oswaldo Cabrera play third.

For now, they are getting virtually no production out of the position and have continued to thrive — largely because of the brilliance of Aaron Judge and Juan Soto.

But with Soto out of the lineup the last two games for the first time this season with left forearm discomfort, Rizzo’s slump is more problematic.

After scoring just one run in 11 innings in Friday’s loss to Los Angeles, they weren’t much more effective Saturday.

And having Rizzo hitting fifth hasn’t helped.

Just two years ago, Rizzo had a solid OPS of .817 and an OPS-plus of 130. This season, he’s been a sub-par player by any measure.

The Yankees have a \$17 million team option on the 34-year-old for next season that can be bought out for \$6 million.

For now, they have to figure out how to get more out of his bat.

More Yanks / Page 81

Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



INJURY REPORT

■ **Juan Soto** was held out of the starting lineup for a second straight game Saturday with left forearm discomfort.

■ **Gerrit Cole** will make his second rehab start Sunday at Double-A Somerset in his comeback from elbow inflammation.

■ **Jasson Dominguez** started in center for Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in his rehab from last year’s Tommy John surgery.



ON DECK

vs. Dodgers

Sunday, 7:10 p.m.,
ESPN, WFAN

RHP Luis Gil



2024 stats:
8-1, 1.82 ERA

Career vs. LAD:
1-0, 1.33 ERA

Last start:
Tue., vs. MIN;
6 IP, 1 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

56% Fastball
27% Change
17% Slider

RHP Tyler Glasnow



2024 stats:
6-4, 2.93 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
4-2, 2.74 ERA

Last start:
Tue., at PIT;
6 IP, 1 ER, 9 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

52% Fastball
26% Slider
16% Curve

UP NEXT

MONDAY: at Royals,
8:10 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

TUESDAY: at Royals, 8:10
p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

NASTY NIGHT: Yankees pitcher Nestor Cortes (65) shakes off the fifth-inning home run he allowed to the Dodgers’ Enrique Hernández, which was followed in the eighth frame by Teoscar Hernández (inset) taking Tommy Kahnle deep during Saturday night’s loss in The Bronx. Robert Sabo; Corey Sipkin

wanted,” said Cortes, who was pulled with a 1-0 count with runners on the corners after a mixup in which Boone said the Yankees called for a pickoff but the lefty heard a fastball called.

Either way, Michael Tonkin relieved Cortes and got a ground ball for the second out, but it scored Freddie Freeman — who had doubled on a line drive that went over the head of Verdugo, the normally reliable left fielder who started in on the ball — from third to extend the Dodgers’ lead to 4-2.

The Yankees then loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the inning, but Giancarlo Stanton’s fly ball fell just short on the center-field warning track, summing up their night in one swing.

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LONDON FALLING

AMAZIN'S GET KO'D BY PHILS IN UK DEBUT



P. 84-85, 66

SUNDAY

NEW YORK POST

Sport

JUNE 9, 2024

Yanks have no answers for Hernandez again in 2nd straight loss to Dodgers

TEOSCAR THE GROUCH



Robert Sabo/AP

After delivering the decisive blow for the Dodgers on Friday night, Teoscar Hernandez was back to torture the Yankees again Saturday. Hernandez launched an eighth-inning grand slam off Tommy Kahnle (inset) to seal the Yanks' fate in an eventual 11-3 loss. It was his second homer on a six-RBI night. **PAGES 86-87, 81**

DORNOCH HITS BELMONT HOMER

BLEZOW
P. 78-79

