Social media purchases lead to buyer's remorse

Survey: Many have made "unnecessary" orders, believe overspending is encouraged. **In Money**

Classic or romance? Any book can be a beach read

Summer suggestions whether you're lounging on the sand or taking a long flight. **In Life**

DAN POWERS/USA TODAY NETWORK

'Madden' video game finally stars 49ers player

Running back Christian McCaffrey will be athlete on worldwide cover of "Madden 25." "It's just extremely humbling," he says. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | $3 | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024

HUNTER BIDEN TRIAL

Verdict: Guilty on all three charges

Jury deliberates 3 hours to decide felony gun case

Xerxes Wilson and Bart Jansen
USA TODAY NETWORK

WILMINGTON, Del. – A federal jury convicted Hunter Biden of gun charges Tuesday, a historic first for the child of a sitting president, after a trial featuring wrenching emotional testimony about his drug use.

The jury took three hours to reach its verdict. After it was announced, Biden patted his lawyer Abbe Lowell on the back and hugged other members of his defense team. He held his wife's hand as they left.

The indictment charged Biden, 54, with knowingly deceiving a firearms dealer by buying a Colt Cobra 38SPL revolver in October 2018; falsely filling out a federal form denying he was addicted; and knowingly possessing the revolver despite the restrictions against people addicted to drugs owning firearms.

See HUNTER BIDEN, Page 5A

No. 1 cause of soldiers' death: Suicides

5 years of Pentagon data reveal startling facts

Tom Vanden Brook
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – U.S. soldiers were almost nine times more likely to die by suicide than by enemy fire, according to a Pentagon study for the five-year period ending in 2019.

The study, published in May by the Defense Health Agency, found that suicide was the leading cause of death among active-duty soldiers from 2014 to 2019. There were 883 suicide deaths during that time period. Accidents were the No. 2 cause with 814 deaths. There were 96 combat deaths.

The suicide figures from 2019 predate some Army and Pentagon initiatives to combat suicide, including a workforce that addresses harmful behaviors like alcohol abuse that can contribute to deaths by suicide. In addition, combat deaths declined from 31 in 2014 to 16 in 2019 as deployments to war zones in the Middle East and Afghanistan decreased.

Suicide, meanwhile, has increased among active-duty soldiers, according to figures obtained by USA TODAY. So far in 2024, 55 soldiers have died by suicide.

Army officials, in an interview with

See SUICIDES, Page 2A

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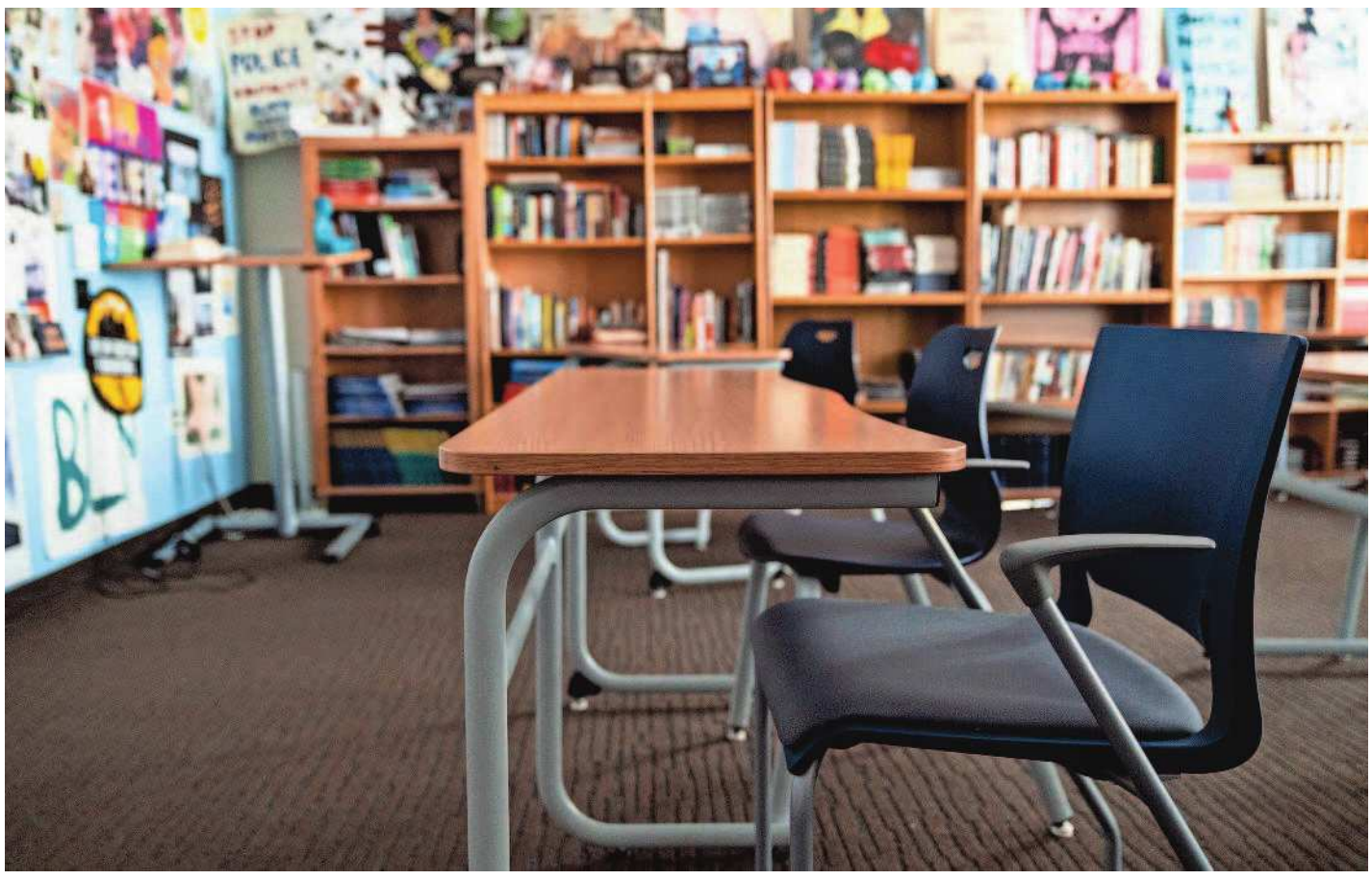
Classroom scourge: Chronic absenteeism



School attendance was hit hard amid closures and the shift to online learning at the height of the coronavirus pandemic. But even with the end of the crisis, absenteeism has persisted and even worsened. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Kids struggle with boredom, disconnection, depression

Alia Wong USA TODAY

Cur'ra McCoy is one of millions of students who missed weeks of school over the past few years. Instead, the Baltimore teen often slept in or played on her phone. She did a whole lot of nothing, for the most part. McCoy blames her absences on boredom, which led to her not doing well in some classes. That made her dislike school even more.

"When I don't do nothing, I don't feel like doing nothing at all," the 18-year-old said. "So I stopped trying."

> **"When I don't do nothing, I don't feel like doing nothing at all. So I stopped trying."**
> **Cur'ra McCoy, 18**
> Now a graduate

Chronic absenteeism – when students miss at least 10% of the school year – has become an epidemic in America's schools. Though educators and advocates hoped attendance would improve after the instability of the pandemic, in many cases it has become more pervasive and intractable. From 2018 to 2023, the rate of chronic absenteeism nearly doubled, from 15% to 26%.

The problem, which has contributed to lower performance even among students who aren't chronically absent, became one of the most pressing challenges this past school year. The American Enterprise Institute, a right-leaning think tank, has described it as "the biggest problem facing schools right now." And it's not just low-income kids who are missing class time: Students across the socioeconomic spectrum are skipping school at record-high rates.

Why has the problem become so grave? The causes are usually complex and multidimensional. Here are five key explanations:

See ABSENTEEISM, Page 3A

Cur'ra McCoy, of Baltimore, right, saw her attendance and grades improve with the help of her tutor and mentor, Raiana Davis. ALIA WONG/USA TODAY

Space travel seems to advance aging

Civilians Hayley Arceneaux, from left, Chris Sembroski, Jared Isaacman and Sian Proctor allowed themselves to be researched from top to bottom as they circled in low-Earth orbit in 2021. PROVIDED BY JOHN KRAUS/INSPIRATION4

Karen Weintraub
USA TODAY

Humanity's future may involve getting to a planet other than Earth – but first people will have to survive the journey. That's why in a new series of papers scientists explore the impact of space travel on the human body from skin to kidneys to immune cells to genes.

Four civilian astronauts allowed themselves to be researched from top to bottom as they circled in low-Earth orbit for three days aboard the 2021 SpaceX Inspiration4 mission and then returned to their normal lives.

One of the most important observations was that although their bodies were stressed and showed dramatic signs of aging during the journey, 95% of the indicators studied returned to normal within a few months.

See SPACE TRAVEL, Page 5A

Study: Israel keeps support of Christians

War hasn't altered views on nation, Palestinians

Marc Ramirez
USA TODAY

Participants in the "United for Israel" march, led by The Pursuit NW Christian Church, stop in front of an encampment protesting the University of Washington's ties to Israel and Boeing on the university's campus in Seattle, on May 12.
JASON REDMOND/ AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

More Christians are likely to support Israel rather than Palestinians in the the latest war between Israel and Hamas, a survey of American Christians has found, with Catholics standing out as the major Christian group least likely to support Israel and pro-Israel policies.

This was despite Jews' favorable view of Catholics compared with other Christian denominations, the researchers behind the survey wrote, indicating that relations between Jews and Catholics in the U.S. remain complicated despite the long strides the two faith communities have made over the past 60 years.

"We hope this study provides yet another impetus for American Jews and Catholics to rethink their relationship and start correcting these fissures," wrote authors Motti Inbari, a professor of Jewish studies at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and Kirill Bumin, associate dean of Metropolitan College, Boston University.

The survey of 2,033 Christian adults, conducted in March, was part of the researchers' ongoing research project measuring American Christian attitudes toward Jews, Israel and the broader Israel-Hamas conflict.

It found 40% of Christians support Israel, compared with just 8% who support Palestinians. One in 3 supported neither or both. Support for Israel remained highest among evangelicals, with 47% saying they either strongly supported, supported or leaned toward supporting Israel, compared with 32% of Catholics.

In a 2023 survey of American Jews conducted by Inbari and Bumin, 44% of respondents said they viewed Catholics positively, compared with 32% who said they had similar perspectives of Protestants and Muslims, and 21% who said they had such views of evangelicals.

Seven in 10 Christians said religious beliefs had little to do with how they felt about the conflict. The figure was highest among Catholics (79%) and lowest among evangelicals (62%), a third of whom credited their beliefs for their support of Israel.

Arthur Urbano, a professor of theology at Providence College, a Catholic institution in Rhode Island, said he wasn't surprised by the high portion of Catholics who expressed that view given the Catholic Church's complex position on relations with Israelis and Palestinians in general. Urbano was not affiliated with the survey.

Urbano noted that the church's diplomatic relations with Israel, formally established in 1993, followed improved relations with Jews after the Second Vatican Council, the congress of 2,300 Catholic bishops called by Pope John XXIII beginning in 1962 to reconcile church doctrine with the zeitgeist. At the same time, he said, there existed "a small, but important Palestinian Catholic community for which the Catholic Church has pastoral responsibility."

That's knowledge Urbano said he finds lacking among many Catholics he encounters in college classrooms or at parish adult education classes, despite the church's consistent support of a two-state solution to the conflict and recognition of a Palestinian state in 2015.

The church's religious teachings on the meaning of the state of Israel, a subject he said was intentionally avoided during Vatican II, are vague. While they now require more consideration, "it's not surprising that most Catholics, who probably only hear about Israelis and Palestinians from news media and not the pulpit, have a view that's mostly politically formed."

Christian attitudes largely unaffected by the war

Christian attitudes about Jews and the larger Israeli-Palestinian conflict have been largely unaffected by the current conflict, the survey found, with results similar to those found in previous ones.

"The scale of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict does not seem to impact how most respondents perceive the conflict and which party to the conflict they support," said Bumin, of Boston University's Metropolitan College. "Once attitudes about the conflict are formed and crystallized, new information is not likely to significantly dislodge them."

More than half of respondents said they supported Israel because Israelis had the right to defend their state, while 3 in 10 said it was because Israel is the closest U.S. ally in an unstable region. Slightly less said it was because Jesus was a Jew.

Nearly half said Hamas was mostly to blame for the war, while 39% said both sides were to blame. One in 5 said Israel's response was mostly unjustified, compared with 45% who called it mostly justified.

One in 4 said it was "probably true" Israel was committing genocide, compared with 41% who said such charges were "probably false." One in 5 said it was probably true that Israel was targeting Palestinian civilians, while more than half said that charge was probably false.

Age was a significant predictor of attitudes toward Israel, which the researchers said was partly evidenced by widespread protests against the war on college campuses. Respondents aged 50 to 64 were most supportive of Israel, while those under 30 were less likely to express strong support.

"Older people have the experience of viewing Israel and Jews fighting for their survival in a hostile world, while younger generations have seen Israel mostly as an aggressor toward the Palestinians," Inbari said.

The survey also found that attitudes varied among first-generation immigrants based on how long they'd lived in the U.S. "American pro-Israel culture changes immigrant attitudes over time," Inbari said.

Conservatives were 28% more likely to strongly support Israel, the survey found, while adherents of premillennialism, the belief in Jesus' second coming and subsequent 1,000-year rule, were 83% more likely to support Israel.

Meanwhile, Black Americans were much less likely to support Israel than those of other racial or ethnic backgrounds. The likelihood of strongly backing Israel also fell among those who support a two-state solution, those with a positive view of Muslims and those with a high level of education.

'An unspeakable tragedy which can never be forgotten'

The survey found Catholics were least supportive of Jewish interests and causes, with 29% saying the statement "Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust" was "probably true."

Matthew Tapie, director of the Center for Catholic & Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University in Florida, called the statement an "immoral and repugnant idea" and one "absolutely opposed" to church teachings and "the solemn and serious attitude toward the Shoah" – the Hebrew word for "destruction" that is often associated with the Holocaust – exemplified by leaders such as Pope Francis and St. Pope John Paul II.

"The Shoah is an unspeakable tragedy which can never be forgotten," said Tapie, an associate professor of theology who also serves as a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's committee for ethics, religion and the Holocaust. "It is a major fact of history and must concern all people today."

Tapie, also unaffiliated with the survey, said Catholics should strive to understand the views of both Palestinians and Jews, especially those in Israel.

A similar survey of American Christians conducted in July 2022 by Saint Joseph's University's Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations in Philadelphia found that American Catholic views of Jews had significantly improved since the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. Before that, the authors said, the church had taught that Jews were responsible for Christ's crucifixion.

Adam Gregerman, a professor of theology and religious studies at Saint Joseph's and co-director of the institute, was also unaffiliated with the more recent survey. While it was difficult to find a consistent through-line in the newer data, he said, it's important to remember the positive strides that once-troubled Jewish-Catholic relations have made over the last several decades.

"For the most part, there's much to celebrate in the relationship between Jews and Christians in America," Gregerman said. "The trajectory has been a positive one. That really deserves the most attention."

Suicides

Continued from Page 1A

USA TODAY, pointed to increasing rates of suicide in U.S. society as whole that are reflected in their ranks. They also talked about new tactics they're using to reduce suicide.

The rate of suicide, measured by deaths per 100,000 soldiers, generally has been climbing since 2019 when the rate was 28.8 per 100,000. For active-duty soldiers in 2020, the rate was 36.2 per 100,000. It declined in 2021 to 36.1, and in 2022 it fell to 28.9. In 2023, it jumped to 36.6. In 2024, the rate is 31.8 through most of May, according to figures obtained by USA TODAY.

For all Americans, the rate of suicide has climbed 37% since 2000. In 2021, the last year of available data, the rate per 100,000 was 14.1.

The Army's struggle to curb suicide grew especially acute in Alaska during the study's timeframe and after.

At Fort Wainwright in Alaska's isolated, frigid interior, 11 soldiers died by suicide between January 2014 and March 2019. That spike alarmed Army officials, and a commission examining the problem called for spending more than $200 million for better barracks for soldiers and sheltered garages to maintain their combat vehicles.

Spending didn't stop problem

The spending didn't stem the problem. There were eight suicide deaths among soldiers posted to Alaska in 2019, seven in 2020 and 17 in 2021. Following a USA TODAY investigation, the Army, prodded by Congress, surged dozens of mental health professionals to the state and suicides dropped to six in 2022.

Last September, acting on recommendations made by an independent commission studying suicide in the military, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin outlined the Pentagon's strategy to prevent more deaths. It includes improving access to mental health counseling and incentives for safe storage of firearms, which account for 70% of suicide deaths.

The Pentagon plans to hire as many as 2,000 people over the next four years to focus on preventing problem behaviors, like excessive drinking, that can lead to suicide and sexual assault. The first members of the Integrated Primary Prevention Workforce were deployed to bases at highest risk last year.

Gunshot wounds accounted for 65% of the Army's suicide deaths, according to the study.

"Evaluation of various public health suicide prevention programs and services, and a greater emphasis on firearm storage and safety, may be needed to reduce suicide," the study's authors noted.

The Army has been seeking to normalize safe storage of guns among soldiers a reflex, like fastening a seat belt, said Carrie Shult, the Army's suicide prevention program manager. Secured guns are less likely to be seized by a solider having a suicidal impulse.

At Fort Cavazos in Texas, a program that emphasizes regular conversations by leaders and peers about gun storage has resulted in better planning by soldiers, Shult said.

"We've seen some great initial results from that project and we're also looking to extend that in other areas," she said.

The Army's approach to suicide prevention has evolved over the past four years, said Col. Kevin Goke, an official in the Army's directorate of Prevention, Resilience & Readiness. The focus has shifted from suicide as solely a mental-health problem to addressing a variety of stresses on soldiers, including financial woes and broken relationships that can contribute to a crisis.

Training has also aimed at reducing the stigma about seeking help when needed, he said. Soldiers have been taught to ask one another if they're thinking of hurting themselves.

"As a behavioral health provider, it's a very easy question for me to ask," Goke said. "But we triggered that question down to a healthy-hand approach that folks are willing to ask that question."

USA TODAY
Volume 42, No. 190

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FDA panel weighs in on Alzheimer's drug

Donanemab endorsed despite some concerns

Ken Alltucker
USA TODAY

Eli Lilly's experimental Alzheimer's drug donanemab was endorsed by a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel. MYKAL MCELDOWNEY/USA TODAY NETWORK FILE

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel has endorsed the experimental Alzheimer's drug donanemab, which studies showed slowed early stages of the fatal mind-robbing disease.

The recommendation came despite pointed questions from advisory committee members about the potential side effects of Eli Lilly's drug, an antibody that removes beta-amyloid that accumulates in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

The FDA is not compelled to follow the recommendation of the advisory committee of outside experts, but it often does so. A notable exception was when the advisory committee recommended the agency reject Biogen's amyloid-clearing drug aducanumab; nevertheless, the FDA in 2021 approved the drug. Biogen halted sales and gave up ownership of the drug earlier this year.

At the FDA's Peripheral and Central Nervous System Advisory Committee hearing on Monday, officials at Eli Lilly said clinical trials showed the drug slowed cognitive and functional decline for people with early stages of the disease.

The advisory committee unanimously agreed the studies showed that donanemab was effective at treating people with an early stage of Alzheimer's disease, a stage known as mild cognitive impairment. The panel also said the benefits of the drug outweighed potential risks for people with early stages of the disease.

Last July, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported Eli Lilly's Alzheimer's drug slowed decline by 35% compared with a placebo group based on a measure of daily activities such as driving, managing finances and talking about current events.

Like other drugs that target and clear amyloid from the brain, studies showed donanemab had side effects that included brain swelling and tiny bleeds that could be detected via MRI.

At Monday's hearing, Eli Lilly officials said people taking donanemab had a slightly higher rate of MRI-visible injuries, known amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA), compared with people who took a placebo. Most people who had serious reactions to the drug tended to get them during the first six drug infusions and they decreased over time, Lilly experts said.

Three people died from ARIA-related injuries during the study, and another two who continued taking the drug after the study finished also died from ARIA injuries. Lilly officials said 2% of people who received donanemab during the study died compared with 1.7% of people who received a placebo.

Several panel members questioned Eli Lilly experts about the higher risk some patients face who carry two copies of the Alzheimer's susceptibility gene APOE4. Though the panel did not vote on specific recommendations for people who carry two copies of APOE4, some panel members said these patients were at risk of side effects and appeared to benefit less from donanemab.

Other members of the panel urged Eli Lilly to continue to study the effect of the drug on Black and Hispanic patients, people with Down syndrome and others with a known family risk for the disease.

Reisa Sperling, a professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School, testified about the benefits and risks of the drug. She said it's crucial to inform doctors that they should monitor for potential side effects and for doctors to discuss with patients the risks and benefits of the drug. She also said side effects are inherent with amyloid-clearing drugs, which appear to be the best-known way to slow Alzheimer's disease progression. "We haven't yet hit the full home run," Sperling said. "But right now it is critical to do whatever we can to have an impact to slow this terrible, inexorably progressive disease and allow older people to be able to enjoy this time with their families."

Michelle Papka, founder and president of the Cognitive and Research Center, a clinical trial site in Springfield, New Jersey, said donanemab is a better option for some patients than the treatments now available. "Donanemab is not a miracle cure. It does not stop cognitive decline," Papka said. "But it could be part of an effective cocktail, and we've got to start somewhere."

Last year, the FDA approved Eisai and Biogen's drug Leqembi but required the drug provide a warning about the drug's known side effects, which include brain swelling and tiny bleeds. Leqembi was the first amyloid-targeting drug to gain traditional FDA approval. Medicare said it would cover Leqembi and other anti-amyloid drugs that gain traditional FDA approval as long as prescribing doctors participate in a registry, or a database that tracks how well the drug works.

Absenteeism

Continued from Page 1A

Aaris Johnson, Concentric Educational Solutions' director of home visits in Baltimore, visits the home of a student in April, but no one is there. He left a pamphlet explaining what resources are available. ALIA WONG/USA TODAY

Kids are bored and disconnected.

McCoy, the Baltimore teen, loved math when she was little. She appreciated its simplicity, the fact that it's a universal language.

But as she got older, she says, she started "slacking." The instruction became boring, zapping her energy and will to put in effort. In eighth grade, she decided math was no longer for her. By the time she got to high school, she began failing some of her classes.

"We barely had any activities," said McCoy, who added she learns best when she gets one-on-one support. "When I started getting worse at math, I just stopped coming."

A nationally representative poll published in April found that nearly 2 in 3 teens say school is boring. Just 2 in 5 of the roughly 1,000 respondents said they liked going to school, and almost a third said going is a waste of time. Such disengagement leads to absences. And sometimes, schools' strategies for handling absenteeism – like fines for truancy – exacerbate rather than solve the problem.

In her junior year, McCoy started getting tutored and mentored through a company called Concentric Educational Solutions, whose staff also occasionally visited her home to check in with her. Her attendance began to improve, as did her grades. She appreciated the personalized attention she got from her tutors, especially a mentor named Raiana Davis. Davis would come to get her on days she had slept in, McCoy explained. "It just made my energy change."

McCoy graduated early this month, and she wants to become an engineer. She plans to enroll in college or pursue her career through the Navy.

Their mental health is suffering.

Many children decide not to attend school because of poor mental health. These challenges, especially among adolescents, have worsened in recent years: More than 4 in 10 teenagers reported in 2021 that they felt persistently sad or hopeless. One analysis in Los Angeles found anxiety and depression were the top health-related reasons kids missed class.

School avoidance – when children refuse to attend or struggle being in school for the entire day – is a growing problem. USA TODAY has reported on this type of refusal becoming pronounced since the COVID-19 pandemic.

One student, Anna, described the heart palpitations and body shakes she felt in the mornings as she approached her high school campus. It wasn't that she didn't want to go to school, she told USA TODAY, but that she couldn't.

"It's scary because it's not voluntary at all," said Anna, who asked to be identified only by her first name because of stigmas faced by people who struggle with mental illness. "It's just kind of happening to you."

They're being bullied.

Bullying, which is pervasive in many schools, prompts kids to avoid school, too. Just a third of teens in the April EdChoice poll said they felt their school was adequately addressing bullying. Separate research reveals students who are bullied are more likely to miss class.

In a recent segment, NPR's "Morning Edition" featured a sophomore in Colorado named Neomi who has been chronically absent. Asked what was behind the absences, Neomi cried as her mother explained she had been bullied and taunted after a breakup. Her peers laughed and talked behind her back. "I don't have friends," the sophomore said. "I don't have any people."

When students have limited connections with adults, their odds of missing school are greater. Surveys have found that fewer than a quarter of teens and preteens say many or all of their teachers try to understand what their lives are like outside school.

They're confused about the rules.

During the pandemic, families were instructed to keep kids out of school at any sign of illness. The rules evolved as society gained a better understanding of COVID-19. The ever-shifting protocols fueled confusion over what to do when a child has the sniffles or complains about a headache.

Hedy Chang, founder and executive director of Attendance Works, says such puzzlement has persisted among parents. "We were pretty dramatic about quarantining and staying home, and I still think there's a lot of confusion," she said. "At the same time, we said to people: 'If you're worried about being ill, shift to online learning. ... That's just as good as learning in person.'"

Those messages have had "lasting effects," according to Chang, and many schools no longer have a virtual option for sick days.

USA TODAY regularly visited a pair of elementary schools in Virginia last year to understand, among other questions, why chronic absenteeism has persisted. One school distributed thermometers so parents could check if children who said they weren't feeling well were truly too sick to attend class. It also hosted educational coffee hours and published a checklist on its homepage to help families determine what to do when a child appears symptomatic.

The other school discovered higher absenteeism rates on Mondays – a day many students' parents had off work. Perhaps parents were keeping their children home that day because it was the only time they could spend together, school officials concluded. That finding hinted at another ripple effect of the pandemic: the perception among some families that school is optional.

During quarantines and closures, kids learned through their computers at home. Daily in-person attendance has felt less crucial to certain parents ever since. That attitude plays out in different ways for different families. A single mom who needs her high schooler to care for her 2-year-old while she is at work might request the teen skip school. An affluent family that wants to go on a two-week vacation might choose to do so during school days to avoid the crowds.

"Whatever your chronic absenteeism level was pre-pandemic, it tended to double," said Chang, alluding to the problem's impact across income levels.

As absences have worsened across the board, they've also exacerbated disparities, according to Chang. High-income families are more likely than lower-income ones to be able to afford resources – such as summer test prep and tutoring – to make up for lost time.

They're navigating family, safety or transportation challenges.

Some kids aren't showing up for school because of family hardships or fears about campus safety. Housing insecurity and poverty continue to disrupt low-income students' routines.

Many schools have made it more difficult to enter buildings over fears of active shooters and other dangers, Chang said. These well-intended policies have, in some cases, created divisions between families and educators.

Logistical problems are another obstacle. USA TODAY shadowed during some home visits with Concentric in Baltimore this spring. The company's staff stops by the residences of families whose children have been flagged by their schools as chronically absent. At one home, a mom named Lynetric Brightful was parking just as the Concentric van pulled up. Her son hadn't been showing up for school, and Aaris Johnson, the Concentric engagement specialist and driver, asked her, "What resources can we help you get?"

Brightful explained that she works two jobs and has to leave the house early – before her son wakes up. It's difficult to ensure he attends class by the 7:45 a.m. start time, especially since he has to take a couple of city buses to get there, trekking through dangerous neighborhoods often before sunrise. Her husband recently died, and she has no one else to rely on for help. She had lost another job because she was staying home in the morning to drive her child to school.

School transportation options are limited in Baltimore, a problem that has hit more and more districts across the country. Nationally, school bus ridership is in decline, in part because of staff shortages, service changes and delays.

Brightful began to cry when Johnson told her his organization would try to provide support. She had been desperate for a solution, and it seemed as if no one was willing to help. Without better transportation, she feared her son would continue to miss school.

"I have to do what I have to do to live," she said. "I'm trying my best."

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Blinken meets with US hostage families

Envoy urges Hamas to OK cease-fire proposal

John Bacon
USA TODAY

Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Tuesday with the families of Americans being held captive in Gaza and urged Hamas to accept the cease-fire and hostage release proposal that drew the support of the U.N. Security Council.

Hamas spokesman Jihad Taha said Tuesday that the militant group supports the framework of the plan and that "efforts are continuing to study and clarify some matters to ensure implementation by the Israeli side."

The U.N. Security Council approved the plan in a 14-0 vote Monday; only Russia abstained. Blinken said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has not publicly approved the deal, "reaffirmed his commitment" Monday night. The U.S. remains committed to the defeat of Hamas and to ensuring that it won't govern Gaza again, Blinken said.

"We also believe strongly that while military means have been necessary, they're not sufficient," Blinken said. "There has to be a clear political plan, a clear humanitarian plan, in order to ensure that Hamas does not in any way, shape or form resume control of Gaza and that Israel can move forward toward more enduring security."

U.S. officials believe five Americans are among scores of hostages still held by militants. The bodies of three Americans also are being held in Gaza.

"We are determined to bring them home," Blinken said.

Blinken met with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, saying the U.S. welcomed reform announcements by the authority. The authority manages the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and the Biden administration wants a reformed version of the authority to take a leading role in governance of Gaza after the war.

Blinken also met with Benny Gantz, chairman of the National Unity Party, who this week withdrew from Netanyahu's coalition government. Gantz said in a social media post that he emphasized the importance of exerting maximum pressure on the mediators to get Hamas to agree to the plan.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, second from right, attends the "Call for Action: Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza" conference at the Dead Sea in Jordan on Tuesday. ALAA AL SUKHNI/REUTERS

Hamas leader: Palestinian deaths put Israelis 'right where we want'

Messages from Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar to other top Hamas officials reflect a willingness to sacrifice thousands of Palestinian lives to gain a permanent cease-fire – one that allows Hamas to declare a historic victory by outlasting Israel and claim leadership of the Palestinian national cause, The Wall Street Journal reports. The Journal says it reviewed the dozens of messages, including one where Sinwar cited civilian losses in Algeria, where hundreds of thousands died fighting for independence from France, saying, "these are necessary sacrifices."

In an April 11 letter to Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh after three of Haniyeh's adult sons were killed by an Israeli airstrike, Sinwar wrote that their deaths would "infuse life into the veins of this nation, prompting it to rise to its glory and honor."

Sinwar said in a recent message to Hamas officials seeking to broker an agreement with Qatari and Egyptian officials that "we have the Israelis right where we want them."

UN: Israeli hostage raid may have been a war crime

Reports of hundreds of Palestinians killed in Israel's operation during the raid that freed four hostages could amount to an Israeli war crime, the U.N. Human Rights office said Tuesday.

"Reports of hundreds Palestinians killed in Israel's operation in #Gaza call into question respect for international humanitarian law principles of distinction, proportionality & precaution," the agency said in a social media post on X, formerly Twitter.

The office also said that holding of hostages by Palestinian armed groups is "distressing" and that the captives must be released. The Israeli military says the raid targeted two apartments in a densely populated civilian refugee camp. The airstrikes and a special forces assault killed about 100 militants, the Israeli military says. The Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry says more than 270 Palestinians were killed, many of them women and children. The ministry does not separate civilian from militant deaths.

The conflict in Gaza was triggered when Hamas fighters charged into Israel on Oct. 7 and killed some 1,200 people, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's subsequent bombardment and invasion of Gaza has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to health authorities in the Hamas-run enclave.

Blinken on Tuesday announced more than $400 million in humanitarian assistance to Palestinians and called for other donors to also step up.

Houthi rebels urged to free 13 UN personnel

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights urged Yemen's Houthi rebels to release 13 U.N. personnel accused of spying for the U.S. and Israel. The Human Rights Office has been working in Yemen since 2012 promoting and protecting "the rights of all the people of Yemen," Volker Türk said in a statement released Tuesday.

"I categorically reject the outrageous allegations against our staff, and am deeply worried about the conditions in which they are being held," he said.

Six of the staffers were taken into custody Monday. The Iran-backed Houthis control only about a third of Yemen's territory, but much of the urban areas including the capital of Sana'a. Since the war in Gaza began eight months ago, the rebels have been seizing ships and disrupting shipping in the region.

Contributing: Reuters

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Body's Hidden "Soothing System"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

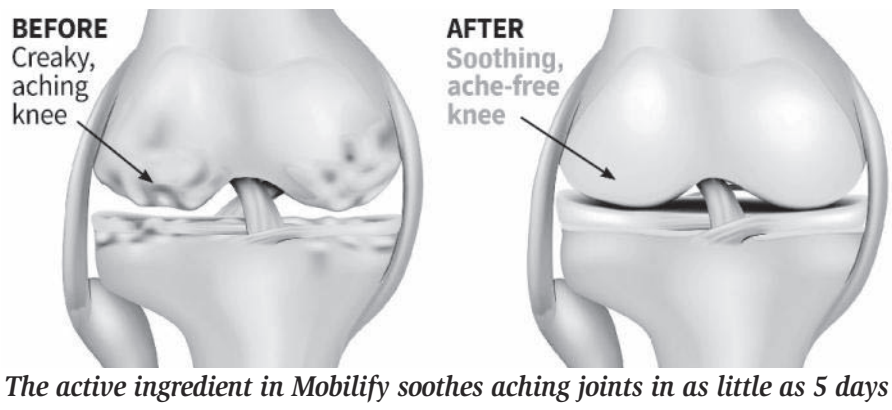
Modern scientists say this natural ingredient meets "cannabinoid tetrad" – the signs used to determine if something supports the ECS. While it doesn't produce a "high" like cannabis does, it binds to the same receptors to support a healthy response to discomfort.

All the Benefits of CBD – Without Cannabis

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

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

In a study published in the International Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian frankincense "significantly" supported healthy joint function and relieved discomfort in as little as five days.



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

Additional research linked regular use to lasting comfort.

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

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

Get Moving Again with Mobilify

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How to Get Mobilify

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

To secure your bottle of this breakthrough natural joint discomfort reliever, buyers should call with Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-341-7848**. "The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers."

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

The Hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number may be shut down to allow them to restock. Call **1-800-341-7848** to secure your limited supply of **Mobilify**. If you are not able to get through due to extremely high call volume, please try again! Call NOW to qualify for a significant discount on this limited time offer. To take advantage of this exclusive offer use Promo Code: **MBUSAT48** when you call.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON. NO INDIVIDUAL RESULT SHOULD BE SEEN AS TYPICAL. 8

Hunter Biden

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The three charges carried a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison, although first-time, nonviolent offenders typically get shorter sentences.

Biden said in a statement: "I am more grateful today for the love and support I experienced this last week from Melissa, my family, my friends, and my community than I am disappointed by the outcome. Recovery is possible by the grace of God, and I am blessed to experience that gift one day at a time."

His legal troubles come as his father campaigns for reelection. They also follow another historic conviction, on May 30, of former President Donald Trump on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records.

In a statement, Joe Biden said, "I will accept the outcome of this case and will continue to respect the judicial process as Hunter considers an appeal.

"As I said last week, I am the President, but I am also a Dad. Jill and I love our son, and we are so proud of the man he is today."

Hunter Biden, with first lady Jill Biden and his wife, Melissa Cohen Biden, leave the J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building in Wilmington, Del., on Tuesday after the president's son was found guilty of three felony charges related to his illegal purchase of a gun in October 2018. RYAN COLLERD/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Stark evidence of drug abuse

The prosecutors laid out texts, photographs and Hunter Biden's own words in a memoir describing his years of crack cocaine addiction.

His ex-wife and ex-girlfriend testified to searching for drugs and paraphernalia in his car to help him get clean and protect their children from driving with drugs in the car.

That's how Hallie Biden, the widow of Beau Biden who later dated her brother-in-law, found the gun 11 days after its purchase. She testified that Hunter Biden had introduced her to crack but said she had stopped using drugs in August.

Panicked, she put the gun in a leather bag and a gift bag and threw it into a trash can outside Janssen's Market in Greenville, Delaware.

"It's hard for me to believe anyone is that stupid," Hunter Biden said in a text when he found out. "Do you want me dead?" he asked in a later text.

She apologized, saying she just wanted him to be safe.

By that time, an 80-year-old retiree, Edward Banner, who scavenged trash containers for aluminum cans, had found the gun and took it home. A state police lieutenant tracked him down and asked whether he had found anything unusual.

"I definitely remember finding that," Banner said.

A forensic chemist testified that he found cocaine residue on the leather bag.

Hallie Biden also walked the jury through a series of text messages in the days between the gun purchase and discovery. One of Hunter Biden's texts said he was behind a baseball stadium in Wilmington "waiting on a dealer named Mookie."

She texted him frantically, stating that she tried calling him "500 times in the past 24 hours." He eventually responded: "I was sleeping on a car smoking crack on 4th Street and Rodney."

The defense's case

Defense lawyer Lowell's case centered on raising doubt about whether Biden was using drugs on the day he bought the gun, whether he considered himself an addict and whether he "knowingly" lied on the form. He said his client had recently completed a drug rehabilitation program and was drinking, but that was not illegal.

He pointed out that no one knew when the residue got on the leather bag or how it got there; that no memoir excerpts described drug use in October; and that Biden could have been lying in the texts about drug use, simply trying to avoid his girlfriend.

Lowell called only three defense witnesses: two gun shop employees and Biden's oldest child, Naomi Biden. The daughter said she saw her father in October, when she borrowed his truck to move to New York and he came up to retrieve it. He seemed in good spirits, as he had been when she visited him in rehab, she said.

The prosecution raised questions about his condition, however, pointing out he texted her in the middle of the night asking to get his car back and seemed to be avoiding her.

In one text exchange, she told her father: "I can't take this. I miss you so much. I just want to hang out with you."

Hunter Biden replied, "I am sorry I've been so unreachable. It is not fair to you."

Contributing: Esteban Parra, Delaware News Journal; Joey Garrison, USA TODAY

Wilson reports for the Delaware News Journal. Jansen reports for USA TODAY.

Space travel

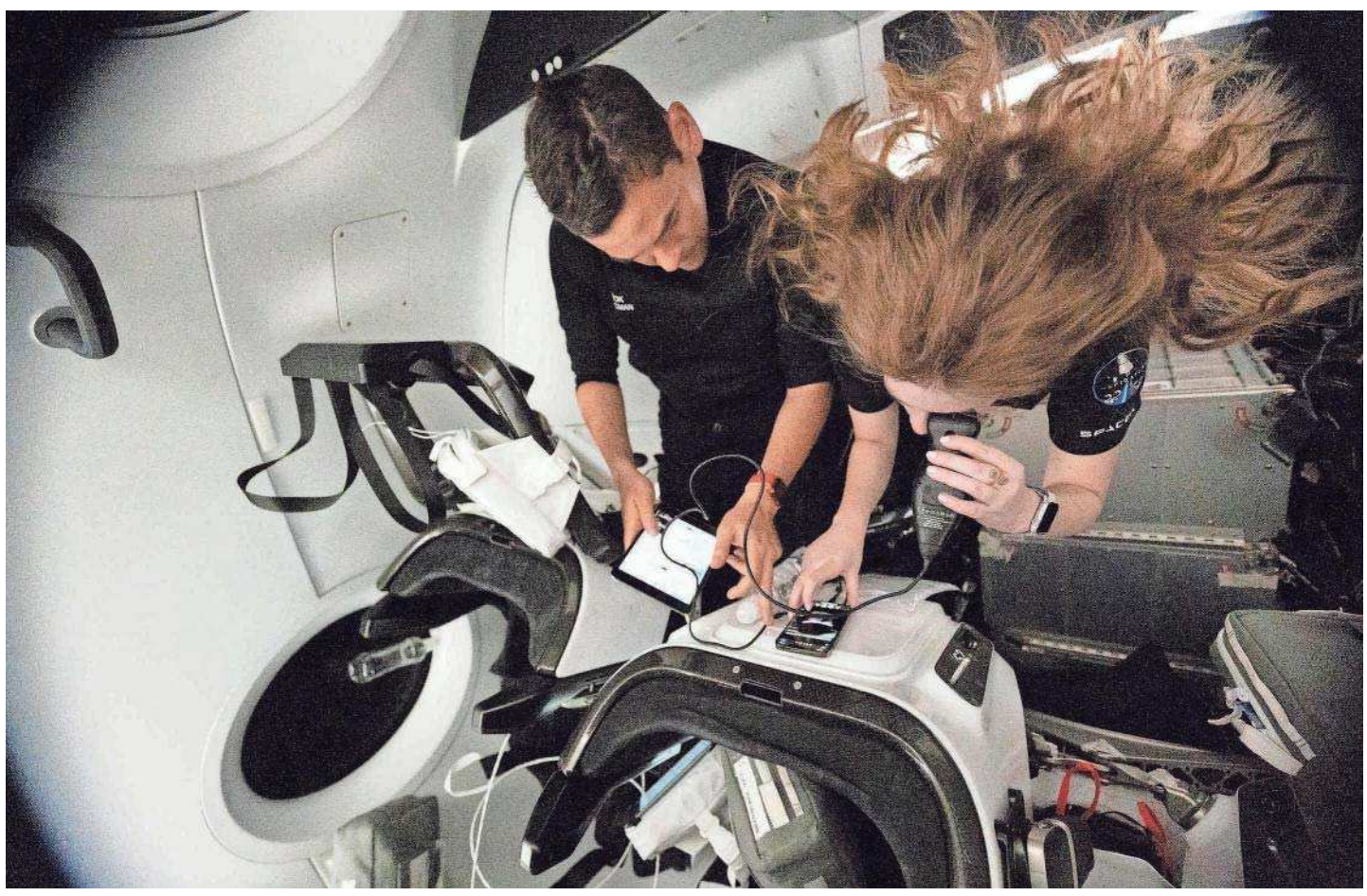
Continued from Page 1A

Radiation exposure apparently causes the acceleration of disease and damages cells "even in three to five days," Susan Bailey, a co-author on many of the studies and a radiation cancer biologist at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, said in a Monday video call with reporters.

Bailey and other scientists have studied astronauts before, most famously, identical twins Scott and Mark Kelly, during and after most of the 520 days Scott spent in space. (Mark is now a senator from Arizona, choosing to run for political office after his wife, Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, now a gun control advocate, was shot in the head by a constituent.)

But this collection of studies, published Tuesday in Nature and related journals, shows the impact of space travel both on more people and also on a more diverse group, not just the exclusive people who can pass NASA's rigorous selection process.

Hayley Arceneaux, a physician's assistant who served as the mission's medical director, was treated for cancer at age 10 and was one of the rare women in space. At 29, Arceneaux was also the youngest-ever space traveler.



Civilian space travelers Jared Isaacman and Hayley Arceneaux subject themselves to scientific research aboard the 2021 Inspiration4 mission. PROVIDED BY SPACEX/INSPIRATION4

Each of the four members of Inspiration4 represented a different decade of life, and began to provide the kind of diversity that will be crucial to understanding how space travel may impact people of different ages and health status and with different lived experiences, the researchers said.

"It really provides the foundation as we think ahead and more futuristically," Bailey said. The papers, she said, encouraged her and her peers to "think a little bit more about what it's really going to take for people to live in space for long periods of time, to thrive, to reproduce. How is all of that really going to happen?"

Bailey spent months studying the biology of the space travelers. But Monday's video conference was the first time she'd seen them face to face. "I'm familiar with your DNA," she told Arceneaux and fellow space traveler Chris Sembroski. "But it's nice to meet you."

Better understanding the damage that accumulates and how the body adapts to space travel will also lead researchers to treatments and fixes, said Bailey and the two other co-authors on the call, Christopher Mason, professor of genomics, physiology, and biophysics at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, and Afshin Beheshti, an expert in bioinformatics at Blue Marble Space Institute of Science in Seattle.

In addition to age-related diseases, the papers revealed other problems space travelers can develop, like kidney stones. "Here we can treat that, but a kidney stone halfway to Mars, how are you going to treat that?" Beheshti wondered aloud. "That wasn't on the radar before" these papers.

> **"As we start to unravel some of this, we'll improve not only our ability to deal with radiation exposure but also be addressing some of these age-related pathologies like cardiovascular disease that certainly could influence astronauts' performance en route to Mars."**
>
> **Susan Bailey**
> Radiation cancer biologist

"As we start to unravel some of this," Bailey added, "we'll improve not only our ability to deal with radiation exposure but also be addressing some of these age-related pathologies like cardiovascular disease that certainly could influence astronauts' performance en route to Mars."

Another insight: Women seem to recover faster from space damage, though Mason cautioned that more women need to be studied to better understand the effect and that faster recovery could come at the expense of higher long-term risk of breast and lung cancer from extended radiation exposure.

The lessons learned from space travelers could help folks on Earth, too, the researchers said.

Learning how to keep cells safe from radiation, for instance, might be transferable to help minimize damage to cancer patients undergoing radiation treatments, Mason said.

New protection measures could also be useful for people exposed to radiation at work or in case of a nuclear reactor disaster like the meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in Japan after the 2011 earthquake there.

Because space travel speeds up aging, learning how to reverse or slow that process could help "extend health-span for us mere earthlings as well," Bailey said. The new skin study, for example, suggests approaches that might be used to help people keep their skin looking younger longer.

"There's all kinds of things that could potentially benefit people on Earth," she said.

The Inspiration4 mission, which raised $250 million for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, also relied on some experimental technologies for recording medical information, including a handheld ultrasound imaging device, smartwatch wearables, a measurement device to check for eye alignment and new methods for profiling the immune system as well as other cells and molecules.

These devices and approaches could be useful for Earth-bound settings that are far from major urban medical centers, Mason said.

Relying on civilians rather than NASA astronauts also made it easier to study the space travelers, who signed waivers and aren't subject to government regulations, he said. Their data will be available to other researchers.

Both Arceneaux and Sembroski, a data engineer who works for the space technologies company Blue Origin, said they loved their spaceflight and would do it again in a second if given the chance. But they also hope many others are given the same opportunity.

"We're not going to see the civilization in space that we want without people being willing to share that experience," Sembroski said about sharing his data for research. "It was fun to be part of this."

"Our mission had, not only a lot of heart behind it," Arceneaux added, "but we really wanted to make a scientific impact."

Arceneaux said she doesn't mind the mark left by the biopsy used to study how her skin reacted to space travel. "I love my space scar!" she said.

"Better than a tattoo," Bailey said.

The best news from the research on both Kelly and the Inspiration4 travelers, Mason said, is that there's "no show-stopper. There's no reason we shouldn't be able to get to Mars and back."

Radiation exposure probably means people shouldn't be taking multiple trips to and from the red planet, he said. But "so far, from all we've observed, the body is successfully adapting to the space environment."

Socialite sentenced in hit-and-run deaths

Brothers killed in California crosswalk

Cheri Carlson
Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

VENTURA COUNTY, Calif. – A Southern California socialite was sentenced Monday to 15 years to life in state prison for striking and killing two children at a crosswalk nearly four years ago.

Rebecca Grossman, 60, was driving her white Mercedes SUV at 73 mph in a 45 mph zone when she hit Mark Iskander, 11, and his brother Jacob, 8, in Westlake Village, California, on Sept. 29, 2020. The boys had been crossing the road with their mom and younger brother.

After the crash, Grossman, of Hidden Hills, California, didn't stop the vehicle until the Mercedes' crash safety features cut off the fuel, prosecutors said.

A jury in February found Grossman guilty of two counts of second-degree murder, two counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, and one count of hit-and-run driving resulting in death. On Monday, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joseph Brandolino sentenced her to 15 years to life on both murder counts and three years on hit-and-run driving, all to run concurrently.

The judge thanked the boys' mother, Nancy Iskander, for speaking about the family's deep pain and unimaginable loss. No penalty will seem harsh enough given the magnitude of the loss, he said.

Grossman – who has no prior criminal history and engaged in philanthropy – initially faced a sentence of 34 years to life in prison, which Brandolino said was not warranted.

Grossman was reckless, unquestionably grossly negligent and engaged in dangerous behavior, he said. "But she's not a monster as the prosecution attempts to portray her," Brandolino added.

Family, friends speak about Iskander boys

More than a dozen of the Iskanders' family members, friends, the boys' teachers and classmates spoke inside the Van Nuys courtroom on Monday. They shared stories about Mark and Jacob, sometimes through tears, and talked about the pain of losing both of them.

Dr. Peter Grossman walks with his wife, Rebecca Grossman, to the Van Nuys Courthouse in January. JUAN CARLO/USA TODAY NETWORK

Mark, who dreamed of becoming a neurosurgeon or a stand-up comedian, was quick to raise his hand in class or help his brother with homework. He always had a new factoid to share or joke to tell.

Jacob looked up to his older brother. His favorite animal was a cougar and his laugh could fill rooms. He was the protector, Nancy Iskander said Monday.

When Jacob died, Bodie Wallace lost his best friend, the former classmate told the judge on Monday. Bodie repeated Jacob's favorite joke and told Brandolino the name of Jacob's favorite song. He cries when he hears that song, but what hurts him the most is that Zachary Iskanders, the boys' younger brother, had to see what happened, he said.

On the night of the crash, Nancy Iskander grabbed her youngest son, the closest one to her, and dove out of the path of a black SUV. She looked up and saw a white SUV pass the spot where her other sons had just been, she said.

Mark likely died within minutes if not seconds, an expert testified during the trial. Paramedics rushed Jacob to Los Robles Regional Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead.

Nancy Iskander talks about her sons

Zachary, 5 at the time of the crash, continues to struggle, his mom told the judge on Monday. On the night of the crash, Zachary heard the deputy tell his mom that Mark was dead and he saw paramedics trying to resuscitate Jacob.

That night at the hospital, Nancy Iskander saw Grossman. Nancy Iskander was in the emergency room with Jacob, and the doctors had just told her he wasn't breathing on his own. They asked about disconnecting life support, she said.

Iskander walked outside in disbelief when she saw Grossman, who was taken to the hospital by the police.

Grossman has said she hasn't had the opportunity to talk to the Iskanders, but she had the chance that night, Nancy Iskander said in the courtroom.

"She looked me in the eye," she said, raising her voice from behind a podium. "That was your opportunity."

Prosecution seeks maximum sentence

Attorneys' descriptions of Grossman differed starkly during her sentencing. Prosecutors described Grossman as without remorse and having a lack of respect for the rule of law.

She never apologized or admitted guilt, Deputy District Attorney Ryan Gould said Monday. She blamed others and repeatedly violated court orders.

"This wasn't a tragic accident," Gould said. "This was a preventable murder."

The prosecution had asked the judge to impose two consecutive sentences of 15 years to life and an additional four years for hit-and-run driving.

Meanwhile, Grossman's attorneys described their client, the cofounder of the Grossman Burn Foundation, as a mother and philanthropist who grew up with hardships and abuse. They asked that she receive probation.

Her actions just after the crash were consistent with someone in complete shock, her attorney Samuel Josephs told the judge. He cited court orders, saying she didn't have an opportunity to express remorse to the Iskanders.

Rebecca Grossman: 'I never saw anyone'

Grossman, who didn't testify during her trial, stood up and faced the Iskanders as she made her own statement on Monday. She said she would give her life if it could bring Mark and Jacob back.

When she couldn't talk parent to parent or mother to mother, she wanted "to leave this world," she said.

"God knows, I never saw anybody. I never saw anyone," Grossman said of the crash. After she finished, she sat down at the defense table, sobbing, her head down.

Earlier, her attorneys had played a video of her family and friends talking about her work with the Grossman Burn Foundation and her character. Her teenage son and daughter then stood together in the courtroom, taking turns speaking about their mom. Alexis Grossman, 19, told the judge that her mom never had malice in her heart.

"Please don't take my mom away from me for too long," she said, crying.

Prosecutors: Disappointed in the sentence

Outside of the courthouse Monday, deputy district attorneys Gould and Jamie Castro said they respect the process but were disappointed with the sentence. Grossman failed to take any responsibility for what she did even in her statement during Monday's hearing, Gould said.

"We don't think the judge gave a sentence that was appropriate in light of everything that Ms. Grossman has done," he said.

He continued, adding that they were happy that justice had been done, he said.

"Hopefully, this finally being done will give the Iskanders some closure and the opportunity to move forward with their lives," Gould said.

Justice Alito's wife talks retaliation in secret tapes

Dan Morrison and Sudiksha Kochi
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and his wife were captured in secret recordings that featured the justice discussing the country's left-right divide, while Martha-Ann Alito implied she would take revenge on media outlets that reported on controversial flags flown at Alito family homes.

"Look at me, look at me," Martha-Ann Alito said. "I'm German, from Germany. My heritage is German. You come after me, I'm going to give it back to you."

The recordings were made at a June 3 gala for the Supreme Court Historical Society by liberal activist Lauren Windsor and released Monday night.

"One side or the other is going to win," Justice Alito said in one recording after Windsor, posing as a Catholic conservative, asked him leading questions about political polarization in America. "There can be a way of working, a way of living together peacefully, but it's difficult, you know, because there are differences on fundamental things that really can't be compromised."

Windsor also recorded Chief Justice John Roberts, who declined to take her bait.

"Would you want me to be in charge of putting the nation on a more moral path?" Roberts asked her at the $500-a-head gala. "That's for people we elect. That's not for lawyers."

When Windsor replied that she believed "we live in a Christian nation and that our Supreme Court should be guiding us in that path," Roberts quickly shot her down, saying, "I don't know if that's true."

"I don't know that we live in a Christian nation," the chief justice said. "I know a lot of Jewish and Muslim friends who would say maybe not, and it's not our job to do that."

Windsor defended secretly taping the justices.

"You know, the Supreme Court has been shrouded in secrecy, and they've dodged any accountability for what are – any reasonable person would consider – serious ethics violations or serious ethics problems, and I think that the American people deserve to have more information about that," she told USA TODAY.

"Justice Alito is very ideological and that influences his opinions, right?" Windsor said. "But it takes on a different – you have a different understanding of things when you hear it from someone's own mouth that there's fundamental things that they can't compromise."

Windsor released the recordings at a fraught moment for the high court, after Alito and his wife were criticized for flying flags from their homes in Virginia and New Jersey that experts say are closely linked to the Stop the Steal election denial movement and the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

Critics including Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, called on Alito to recuse himself from Supreme Court cases involving former President Donald Trump's broad claims of immunity in his federal election interference indictment and separate case over a law used to charge Trump and scores of Jan. 6 defendants.

Alito refused and said in a letter to the committee that his wife had raised the flags without his knowledge.

Approaching Martha-Ann Alito at the June 3 benefit, Windsor expressed sympathy for the criticism she and her husband had been experiencing. Martha-Ann Alito broke in: "It's OK! It's OK!"

"It's OK because if they come back to me, I'll get them … The media."

Cornell College instructors stabbed in park in China

Ryan Magalhães and Emily DeLetter
USA TODAY

Four instructors from Cornell College in Iowa were injured in a stabbing in Jilin City, China, according to a college spokesperson.

The instructors were in China as part of a long-standing partnership between Cornell College in Iowa and Beihua University, a state-owned public university in Jilin City, said Jill Hawk, public relations and digital content director. They were visiting a park over the weekend when they were attacked Sunday, the Des Moines Register, part of the USA TODAY Network, reported.

Jilin City is the second-largest city and former capital of the Jilin providence in northeast China.

All four are U.S. citizens, Hawk said. The instructors have communicated with Cornell College, but the extent of their injuries was not publicly known, she said.

Cornell College is a private liberal arts college in Mount Vernon, Iowa, about 14 miles east of Cedar Rapids. It is separate from Cornell University, the Ivy League school in Ithaca, New York.

A 55-year-old man, identified by Chinese authorities only by his last name, Cui, was in custody in connection with the crime, CNN reported.

The man is from the city's Longtan district, and police said he was walking in the park when he bumped into a foreigner, then stabbed that person and the three other foreigners who were with him, The Associated Press reported. He also allegedly stabbed a Chinese person who tried to intervene.

Iowa State Rep. Adam Zabner posted on social media Monday that his brother, David Zabner, was one of the four instructors who were attacked. David Zabner is a doctoral student at Tufts University and was in China as part of a relationship between Cornell College and Beihua University, Zabner said.

The instructors from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, were part of a partnership with Beihua University. PROVIDED BY LYLE MULLER/IOWAWATCH

"I spoke to David a few minutes ago, he is recovering from his injuries and is doing well," Zabner posted. "He reiterated his gratitude to Beihua University for their warm welcome and care he received at the local hospital."

Cornell President Jonathan Brand said in a statement sent to Cornell students that the four "were injured in a serious incident during a daytime visit to a public park while accompanied by a faculty member of the partner institution."

"We have been in contact with all four instructors and are assisting them during this time. There were no students taking part in this program," Brand wrote.

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, said in a statement Monday that her office was in touch with an Iowa family that was affected as well as the U.S. Embassy to ensure the victims are treated and brought back to the U.S. once it is medically feasible.

Gov. Kim Reynolds asked on X for Iowans to "pray for their full recovery, safe return, and their families here at home."

OPINION

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Is Biden's lead among Latinos enough?

Maria Teresa Kumar
Opinion contributor

In a new Voto Latino poll of 2,000 likely Latino voters in the United States, President Joe Biden leads former President Donald Trump 59% to 39% among respondents in swing states, which is within striking distance of the 2020 election results. ANNIE RICE/USA TODAY NETWORK

As President Joe Biden gears up for a tough reelection fight, a narrative has taken hold that former President Donald Trump is ascendant among voters of color.

As co-founder and president of the largest organization promoting Latino civic participation, I've long argued that this storyline cherry-picks facts and ignores others.

Stories are often written based on polling crosstabs, the microgroups within a polling sample that are rarely a reliable sample size. A poll that surveys 1,000 American voters, for example, might include a crosstab of Latino voters that number 100 people or fewer.

To gain greater insight into the dynamics of the 2024 election, Voto Latino commissioned the respected national polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner to poll 2,000 likely Latino voters to dive deeply on their feelings and preferences heading into the presidential election. The results completely challenge the conventional wisdom.

Among Latinos in swing states, Biden's biggest threat isn't Trump

The good news for the president: In a head-to-head matchup, Biden is leading Trump among swing-state Latinos by a robust 59% to 39%.

This is within striking distance of his 2020 election results.

Considering how quickly the Latino population and vote share are growing, approximating his 2020 numbers would significantly boost Biden's raw vote totals in key states. But these numbers don't tell the whole story.

When our survey expands the field to include third-party candidates Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Cornel West and Jill Stein, Biden's support among Latino voters plummets to just 47%, with Trump falling slightly to 34% and Kennedy taking 12%.

These voters moving from Biden to Kennedy are precisely those who will decide the outcome of the 2024 election. They are no fans of Trump, but they view their personal financial circumstances as abysmal.

This leaves them extremely open-minded about supporting alternatives, especially Kennedy.

Most prognosticators suggest that this year will be a pure turnout election. Both campaigns are approaching the race as if there are few truly undecided voters between Biden and Trump, so the winner will be whoever best turns out his base.

However, our poll reveals a key reality for the Biden campaign: For all-important Latino swing-state voters, this will be a persuasion election after all – between Biden and Kennedy.

Historically, most third-party candidates lose support over time. When Election Day still is an abstraction, voters are more willing to register a protest vote. But when the outcome becomes more tangible, voters typically end up choosing between the two major party candidates – even if it means choosing the one they perceive as the lesser of two evils.

Our poll suggests that the Biden campaign cannot count on this historical pattern bringing Kennedy supporters back into the fold. These Latino voters skew young and progressive: We found that 59% of third-party voters are between 18 and 39, which is critical.

Latinos trend far younger than the overall U.S. population, so voting trends among this group play an outsized role.

The risk isn't that they start trending more conservative; it's that they opt out of the two-party system entirely.

This is not a potential protest vote akin to choosing "none of the above" out of frustration. It's an emphatic cry for a changing of the guard, born out of a belief that only a third party can break a political system they see as stacked against them.

If the Biden campaign assumes Latino voters will return to the traditional Democratic coalition, he will lose. The Latino swing voters who are expressing support for Kennedy are squarely outside the tent, and it's going to take real work to bring them back in. There are signs that this work is underway. It needs to accelerate.

Stop ignoring RFK Jr. and make sure voters see him for what he is

Even so, there is a clear path.

While we intend to dive deeper into how Latino voters perceive Kennedy, the topline is that he benefits from being vaguely seen as both a Democrat and an outsider.

The Kennedy brand is powerful in the Latino community: It stands for social activism and economic progress.

Knowing little about his actual policy positions, Latinos can squint and imagine him as the progressive working-class champion they want Biden to be.

Kennedy has the unique advantage of being a highly undefined product wrapped in a blue-chip brand. But that edge can be erased if the Biden campaign stops ignoring him and starts defining him.

That's what Voto Latino intends to do. Our polling makes it clear that Latinos continue to be repelled by Trump. Yes, we will continue to remind our community just how catastrophic his return to power would be.

At the same time, we'll be shifting our resources to ensure that Latinos see Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for who he really is: no champion of social justice and no friend to working people.

Maria Teresa Kumar is the co-founder and president of Voto Latino.

Hope doesn't end with Alzheimer's diagnosis

Pat Bishara
Opinion contributor

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel on Monday endorsed the experimental Alzheimer's drug donanemab, which studies have shown to slow early stages of dementia. MINERVA STUDIO VIA GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Many people miss the early signs of cognitive impairment that can lead to dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Someone may start to forget names or lose track of where they are going and chalk it up to age. I understand what it is like to be scared of an Alzheimer's diagnosis. No one wants to lose control.

But dementia researchers have made significant advancements over the last several years. If the disease is caught early, there's a much higher chance that people can continue to do the activities they enjoy, independently.

Reaching out for help can be hard. I thought I might have started to forget things or had memory lapses but didn't do anything about it until one day, I caught my daughter and my husband talking. They stopped their conversation when I entered the kitchen. They asked if I felt I might be forgetting things. When I agreed with them, they encouraged me to talk to my doctor.

I knew I had to get checked out. I was able to see a neurologist within a few weeks, and testing showed I had the early precursors for Alzheimer's disease. The good news was there were clinical trials I could enroll in to try a potential new medication.

I just completed the last of 44 infusions, and whatever the doctors determine about my progress, I'm proof that it is possible to live well with dementia. It's been more than six years since my diagnosis, and I am still able to do many of things I love to do.

On Monday, I testified during a Food and Drug Administration review of a new Alzheimer's medication called donanemab.

I've had to adjust to Alzheimer's, but I am still enjoying life

Don't get me wrong. Some things have gotten more difficult, and I've had to adjust to the disease. But I can still drive, play bridge with friends, listen to music, dance, go to church, speak at fundraisers for the Alzheimer's Association and enjoy spending time with my 11 grandchildren.

I was very lucky to have an attentive family that intervened early on and helped me through the process. My daughter Janine is a physician assistant, and her support has been invaluable. She helped me understand what was happening with my memory and how to move from task to task every step of the way.

I'm also fortunate in living close to a medical center in Indianapolis that offers several clinical trials. Many people don't have a strong support network and can't easily turn to specialized care. I hope as new and better options for diagnosis and treatment become available, more people will be able to get the care they need.

Some things have gotten more difficult, and I've had to adjust to the disease. But I can still drive, play bridge with friends, listen to music, dance, go to church, speak at fundraisers for the Alzheimer's Association and enjoy spending time with my 11 grandchildren.

Alzheimer's has become a disease of waiting – waiting until the symptoms become overwhelming. It is estimated that more than 7 million people are unaware that they have signs of cognitive impairment.

It shouldn't have to be this way.

Please don't wait. It's up to all of us to embrace the tough conversations when the signs arise. No one should feel ashamed or embarrassed because of their memory issues.

Know the early signs of dementia and talk to your doctor if needed

If you notice yourself forgetting things, or having trouble you didn't used to, don't dismiss it or blame it on old age. Talk to your doctor right away. It may or may not be serious.

Dementia and Alzheimer's are well defined illnesses that can be identified through testing and diagnosis. They are different from normal memory challenges that come from aging.

A neurologist can perform tests that will help you understand your specific situation, discuss lifestyle and nutrition changes as well as available medications, and possibly direct you to a clinical trial for newly developed medications for Alzheimer's.

If someone begins a clinical trial, they have the option to discontinue with the trial at any time for any reason (for example, if you don't feel comfortable or experience unwanted side effects).

I hope if someone has difficulty with memory or thinking, that they do not delay getting checked. If they find out they have Alzheimer's, the sooner they get diagnosed and treated, the better.

People can live full, wonderful lives for many years with proper treatment, love and support.

Pat Bishara lives in Carmel, Indiana.

USA TODAY

"USA TODAY hopes to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation." – Allen H. Neuharth, Founder, Sept. 15, 1982

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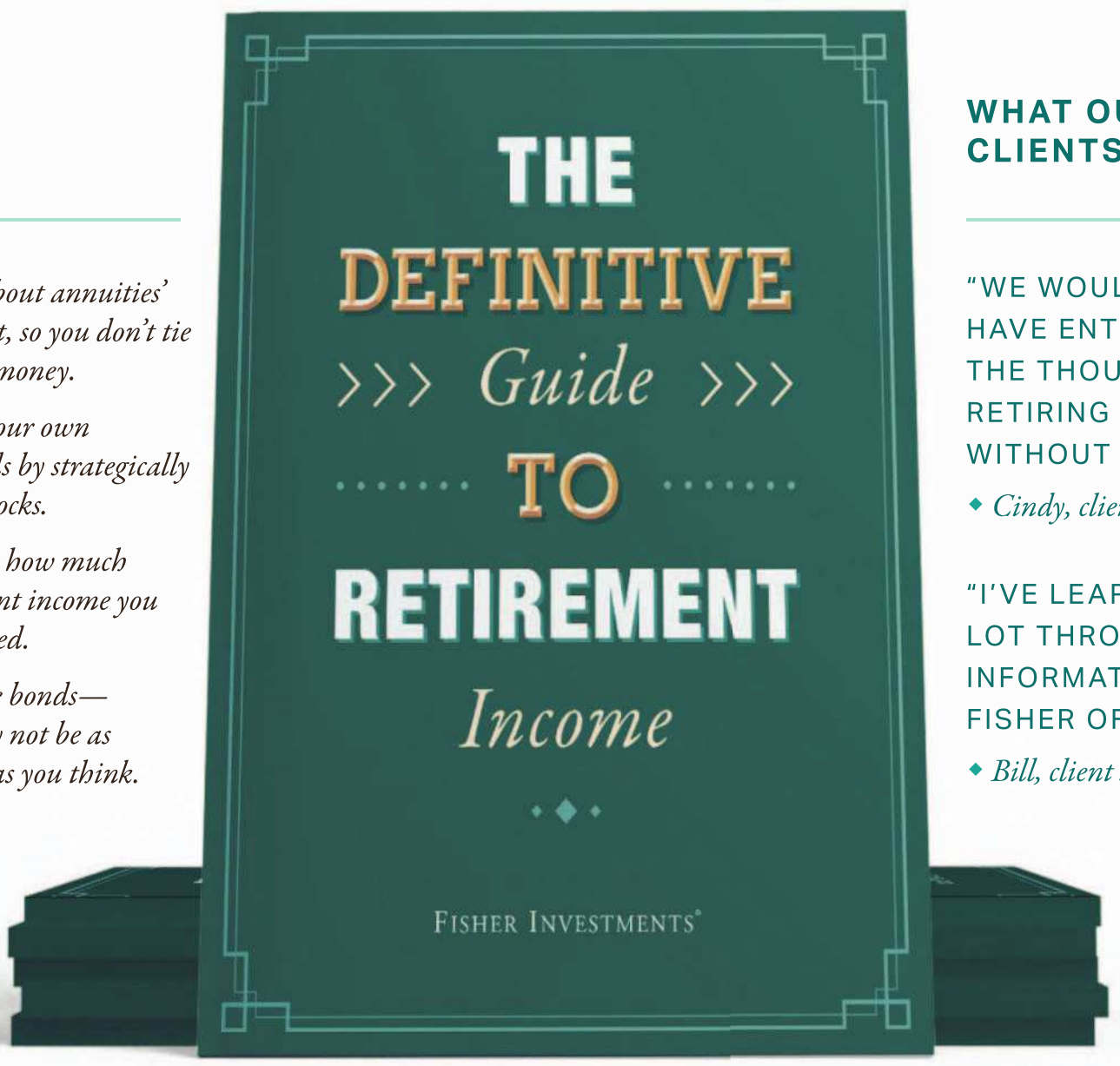

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67-year-old accuses RTX of discriminatory hiring habits

Suit comes as studies show signs of persistent age discrimination practices in the U.S. **Page 3B**

You can check the headlines from your home state or city

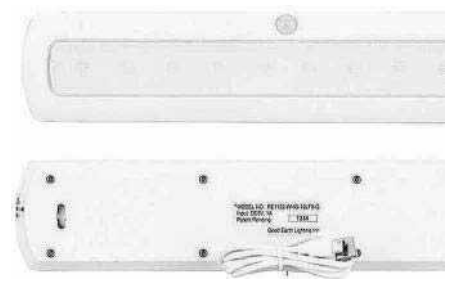
We survey and compile the top news stories from all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. **Page 4B**

MONEYLINE

AARON E. MARTINEZ/USA TODAY NETWORK

LULING, TEXAS, NOW HOME TO LARGEST BUC-EE'S STORE

Buc-ee's biggest location in the U.S. is now open in Luling, Texas, bringing the chain full circle. Spread over 75,000 square feet, the new Buc-ee's in Luling is "the largest Buc-ee's location in the country, bringing the largest Buc-ee's back (to) where the legend began," the company said in a news release in May. Located on I-10 in Luling, about two hours west of Houston, the new Buc-ee's outlet will offer 120 fueling positions, the company says along with "thousands of snack, meal and drink options for travelers on the go." Customer favorites including Texas barbecue, homemade fudge, kolaches, Beaver Nuggets, jerky and fresh pastries will be available at the new store, Buc-ee's said.



PROVIDED BY USCPSC

GOOD EARTH LIGHTING RECALLED FOR FIRE RISK

More than 1.2 million Good Earth rechargeable integrated lights have been recalled in the United States after reports that they've caused multiple fires, killing one homeowner, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Affected devices pose fire and burn hazards as the batteries can overheat and ignite the light's plastic housing, the recall says. An additional 37,800 lights sold in Canada also are affected. Product overheating led to the death of one consumer and another person being treated for smoke inhalation after a device caused a fire, the commission said. The Illinois-based company has gotten nine additional reports of lights overheating, including six that caused fires and property damage, according to the commission. "Please immediately unplug and stop using your unit," Good Earth said in a statement on its website. The lithium-ion batteries on the lights are designed to be alternatives to permanently wired fixtures in places that are difficult to install wired lights. The devices, which measure about 12 inches long, are sold in packages of one or two and in range of colors from white, silver and black to almond and rose gold. They come with a charging cable, and some have a remote control and power adapter. The recalled lights were sold at U.S. hardware and home improvement stores Lowe's and Ace Hardware, as well as online websites between October 2017 through January 2024.

Social media purchases are full of buyer's remorse

Study: Nearly 75% admit to an 'unnecessary' buy

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

That love-hate relationship with social media extends to purchases, too.

In a new study by Wallethub, nearly 3 in 4 people have made an "unnecessary purchase" via social media. Two out of 3 Americans believe social media is encouraging overspending. And nearly 1 in 5 of those surveyed about their social media purchases categorized them as scams.

"Social media is such a key component to most people's lives nowadays and it's become such a powerhouse as far as online shopping and advertising goes," Cassandra Happe, a Wallethub analyst told USA TODAY.

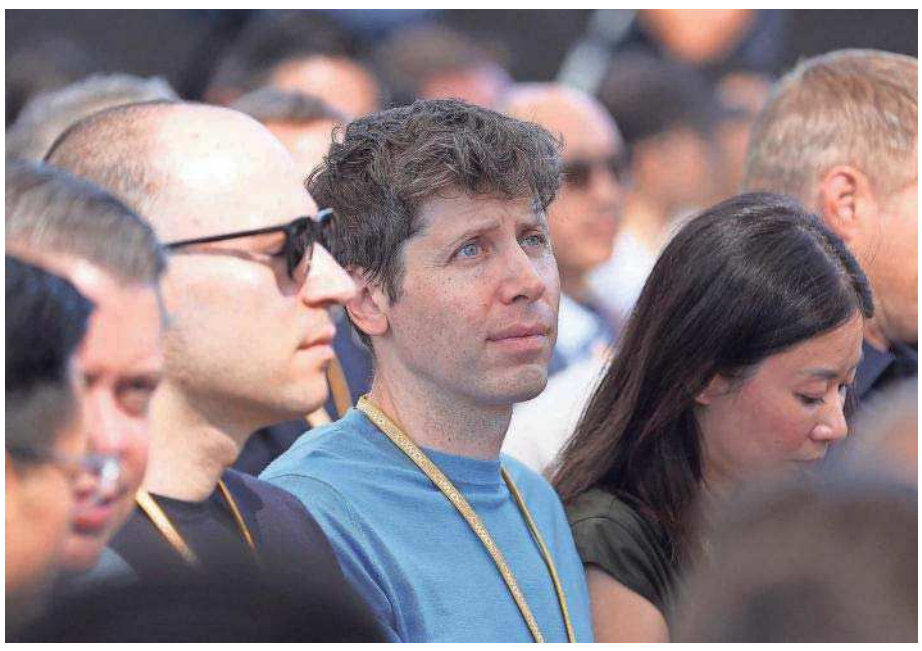
"We wanted to get a sense of how consumers are handling social media shopping and what their views are as far as whether it's a worthwhile platform to use for shopping and if it's really beneficial as far as how it impacts their finances," she said, in explaining the study.

Here are some other findings from the survey:

- 46% of people said social media is a bad influence on their debt.
- Social media made 36% of the respondents say it made them feel frustrated about their own finances.
- Nearly 2 in 5 Americans are trying to falsely present a good financial image online when that's not real.
- 63% of people said they regretted a purchase they've made via social media.
- 36% of respondents said they'd spend less if they deleted their social media apps.

The survey did not specifically ask consumers whether they were influenced in their purchases by their friends or posts they've seen from influencers, but Happe said 43% of respondents said they viewed a celebrity recommendation via social media as bad.

"People of any age and background are susceptible to getting caught up in social media consumerism, so it's important to ask yourself whether you really need a given item you see on social media," Happe said in a news release. "Sleeping on a purchase before completing it is a wise move as well."



Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, watches during the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference on Monday in Cupertino, Calif. Apple revealed plans for new generative AI offerings. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Apple prepares to roll out array of AI-aided features

Will boost photo cleanup, text creation

Bob O'Donnell
Special to USA TODAY

So, I guess we've been getting it all wrong. It's not Artificial Intelligence. AI really means Apple Intelligence. Or, at least, that's what a lot of people will be saying after Apple's announcement of its own generative AI features for upcoming versions of the iPhone's iOS operating system and MacOS at the company's annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) event.

Apple Intelligence consists of a whole range of new GenAI-powered "intelligent" features such as a more powerful and accurate version of Siri that integrates support for OpenAI's ChatGPT. It also offers text creation and summarization, "smart" photo editing, and other changes that make your devices feel more intuitive. More importantly, these features are going to make common tasks that we all do multiple times every day easier and more efficient.

Starting in the fall with the release of iOS and iPadOS 18 and MacOS 15, (also called MacOS Sequoia) you'll have the option to do all those cool new things. One important gotcha, however, is you'll need an iPhone 15 Pro or later model, or an M-series processor-equipped Mac or iPad to use these new capabilities.

If not, you're out of luck – until you upgrade to a new device.

Among the new Apple Intelligence features are text-based functions that quickly summarize websites, documents, emails and text threads into small, easy-to-read blocks of text. You can compose or revise text, too.

See APPLE, Page 2B

Susan Tompor
Columnist
USA TODAY

Beware of requests to borrow your phone

Maybe, we should all just quit trying to be so darn friendly.

Too many scams, after all, are built around the notion that many of us want to play nice and believe that most people are good souls. If they say they need help, well, they probably need help. The hard truth is that scammers simply want to help themselves with our money.

"We want to believe the best about people," said Lisa Plaggemier, executive director of the National Cybersecurity Alliance, a nonprofit that raises awareness about fraud.

Plaggemier

"When somebody comes to us with a little bit of a sob story, like 'Oh, can I borrow your phone? I lost my phone,' or whatever it is," Plaggemier said, "unless you're a security person like me, you're not immediately thinking of a potential scam."

And yet, here are two scenarios where our willingness to do the right thing could be exactly the wrong thing to do:

Why scammers want to borrow your phone

The "Can I borrow your phone?" scam: Maybe a 16-year-old approaches you at the mall, grocery store or even an outdoor festival and wants to call Mom to get a ride home. Or maybe someone's car broke down. Surely, nothing bad could happen, right? Wrong.

The phone in your purse or pocket

See TOMPOR, Page 2B

On some flights you still get a meal, even in economy

Zach Wichter
USA TODAY

Travelers often assume they won't be fed when they fly. While it's true that most domestic economy passengers don't get a full meal included in the price of their tickets, it's inaccurate to say meals never get served on planes.

Many flights, especially long-haul trips to international destinations, include meal service, even in economy. And even on flights where meals aren't included in the ticket price, many offer more filling options for purchase than the free bag of nuts or packet of Biscoff you may get otherwise. Frequent flyer status can also get many travelers perks like free premium drinks on most carriers.

Here's what the four major U.S. airlines offer for in-flight meals and refreshments:

American Airlines

Free in Main Cabin and Main Cabin Extra on all flights traveling more than 250 miles:

- Tea, coffee, water, Coca-Cola soft drink products.
- Biscoff cookies and pretzels.

For purchase in economy on domestic flights:

- Premium snacks.
- Beer, wine and spirits.

Free in economy on flights to and from Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the Middle East, select South American cities, between the mainland U.S. and Hawaii, and on the following routes: JFK-LAX, JFK-SFO, JFK-SNA, BOS-LAX and select departures on the MIA-LAX route:

- All free beverages and snacks available on shorter flights.

See FLIGHTS, Page 2B

Delta's domestic first class lunch and dinner options include short ribs, feta and pecan salad and cheese pie.
ZACH WICHTER/USA TODAY

Apple

Continued from Page 1B

Photo cleanup

In addition, with the new Clean Up feature in Photos, you'll find it significantly easier to do things like remove extraneous people or objects from crowded vacation photos. Some of these functions have been available with professional photo editing software for a while, but building them straight into the Photos app and making the process much more fluid is indicative of what Apple Intelligence is going to enable.

These capabilities and more are being powered by a series of sophisticated new algorithms – technically called large language models, or LLMS – that can learn from existing data, such as text or images. These LLMs then apply that learning to create new content – hence the name generative AI.

Even better, these algorithms can learn from you – such as the way you write – and then use that to personalize the content it generates. Some of these algorithms reside in and do their work within your iPhone or Mac – which is one of the benefits of what's called on-device AI – while others require the computing power of the cloud.

Beyond just creating new content, these new algorithms provide a level of intelligence that can make your device feel "smarter" and more personal. Practically speaking, this means that the dramatically updated Siri should finally understand what you mean when you make a request and then respond accurately, instead of just hearing the words you say and either responding incorrectly, incompletely or not at all.

In addition, these new Apple Intelligence features for Siri extend into many apps on the phone and basically give you voice control over your apps. Want to set a timer in your Camera app and put it in Portrait Mode without diving through menu settings? Just ask the new Siri to do it.

Siri meet ChatGPT

The most surprising addition to Siri was the integration of OpenAI's ChatGPT. While it does offer important new capabilities, it's very atypical for a company like Apple that has typically wanted to own and completely control the applications and experiences on its devices. Because of the computing power required to enable some of these experiences, Apple is also using cloud-based computing resources, which it's calling Private Cloud Compute, to bring some of them to life.

The concern of doing this – as Apple has noted in the past – is the need for personal data to be brought to the cloud, which some view as a potential privacy issue. Apple made it clear, however, that it is using its own data centers for these Private Cloud Compute efforts and will not look at any of this data or allow it to be associated with any individual.

A mobile phone shows an Apple website with an Apple Intelligence feature on Tuesday. THILINA KALUTHOTAGE/NURPHOTO VIA GETTY IMAGES

Apple lags behind Android

In truth, Apple is late to the GenAI game as many similar capabilities have been available on Android phones powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon Gen 3 chips for some time now. Samsung, for example, debuted text summarization and Live Translate features back in January at the launch of its Galaxy S24 smartphone. Those functions automatically translate either spoken or written text from one language to another. Similarly, Google has offered the kinds of smart image editing features Apple just announced on its Pixel phones for over a year now.

Still, in the U.S. market, iPhones are the No. 1 choice, so whenever Apple brings new capabilities to that device, it ends up being the first exposure many have to a particular feature or technology. That's why Apple's plans to bring GenAI features to iPhones and Macs are so important – finally, average consumers and a majority of the market will start to get a feel for how amazing generative AI can be.

Features beyond AI

But not everything new from Apple is GenAI-related. The company also took the wraps off new abilities to customize your home screen, rearrange settings, organize your passwords and more.

Most importantly, Apple announced support for something called RCS (Rich Communications Service), which will finally make texting photos and videos between iPhones and Android phones much better (though the green bubbles will stay ... sorry). Plus, unlike the new GenAI features, these new capabilities will work on virtually all existing iPhones – not just the latest models – when iOS18 becomes available.

Still, the main news at WWDC was Apple's recognition of the power of GenAI. There is little doubt that there's still much more of it to come.

Tompor

Continued from Page 1B

isn't just a phone. It's often a digital wallet stuffed with apps that the crooks can use to steal hundreds or thousands of dollars. The crooks aren't dialing Mom; they're dialing for dollars.

"Really, what they're doing is getting into your peer-to-peer app and transferring your money out of the app into theirs," said Amy Nofziger, director of victim support for the AARP Fraud Watch Network.

The consumer ends up being vulnerable to what some cleverly call "virtual pickpocketing."

Nofziger

The stranger is able to stealthily hit the payment app on your phone, Nofziger said, and if you don't have it logged out, they're able to hit the "pay" button and easily transfer $150 or $200 or more to the crook's account. Your money is gone.

It looks like the stranger is making a phone call, but they're putting in another number to transfer the cash.

Best bet: "Do not hand over your phone to strangers, as they could make financial transfers using your payment apps and accounts," according to an alert by the American Bankers Association Foundation.

You can offer to call a stranger's family member and keep that phone on speaker, instead of handing over a phone. Always make sure to log out of your cash transfer or payment apps and other financial apps after you're done.

Why a scammer 'accidentally' sends you cash

The "I accidentally sent you $300" scam: Maybe you get an email or message from someone who claims they made a typo and sent you money via Venmo or another payment app by accident. And the person asks: "Would you please send back my money quickly so I can pay my bills?"

Sort of seems reasonable. You don't want to keep money that isn't yours. Again, what could go wrong? Plenty.

Scammers are using "accidental deposits" or "misdirected payments" in a fairly elaborate scheme to steal cash. Some consumers have complained to the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline about such scams already, according to AARP's Nofziger. She recommends that consumers verify first by using a customer support contact that they have obtained on their own before automatically trusting anyone.

In late May, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel issued an alert to a "nationwide Venmo scam."

Criminals can try to scam you into sending them money via a payment app – or they can steal it directly.

As part of the accidental deposit scam, the crook will create a fake profile on a payment app like Zelle, Cash App or Venmo, and tie a stolen credit card to it.

The crook then sends some cash to a random victim. The credit card company sees this as a payment to PayPal, which owns Venmo, not as a payment to an individual consumer, experts say, and it goes through to show extra cash in your account.

Scammers are using "accidental deposits" or "misdirected payments" in a fairly elaborate scheme to steal cash. GETTY IMAGES

The problem is the random $200 or $300 that arrives in your account actually is stolen cash from a hacked credit card or bank account.

If you send any money back, ultimately the money you sent is just a transfer of cash from your account to the thief.

Not surprisingly, the thief is going to immediately withdraw whatever money you sent. And then, the crook will quickly close their Venmo or other peer-to-peer payment account.

Down the line, experts say, the credit card will discover the fraud and initiate a "charge back" against PayPal. The original transaction involving the stolen card is reversed but the victim has already paid the thief – and the victim isn't likely to get any money back.

Peer-to-peer transfers appear almost instantly. However, it takes more time for banks to catch scammers who are using stolen credit cards or bank accounts.

"People have to remember these things are like cash," Plaggemier said.

Nessel's advice: Never send back any money if someone says they've overpaid you for a purchase or made a typo when trying to move money via a cash app for another reason. Instead, contact the payment app first about the possible error.

Big money scams often grab the headlines

The accidental deposit scam isn't generating lots of buzz right now, but it's a scam that could build in the future. More often than not now, we're seeing reports where crooks steal tens of thousands of dollars at once, like with a tech scam or a romance scam.

Multimillion-dollar cryptocurrency investment scams are grabbing headlines, including one in May when two Chinese nationals were arrested by U.S. authorities on suspicion they laundered $73 million through shell companies tied to these elaborate investment schemes.

The schemes, which are dubbed "pig butchering," take several months to unfold. Scammers meet their victims on dating apps or even start a friendship after sending what seems to be an accidentally wrong number. (Ever get what seems like the wrong text, say to confirm a lunch or vet appointment? Don't answer it.)

The scammer gains your trust over time and might invest many months impersonating a friend or a love interest to ultimately encourage you to invest thousands of dollars in a cryptocurrency scam where you lose much or all of your life savings.

Verify first, before you trust someone

Increasingly, Plaggemier said, consumers must take more steps to protect themselves such as completing multifactor authentication to add an additional layer of security when signing into a payment app. Keep your computer software up to date with the latest security patches and updates. Use strong passwords that are at least 12 characters long and include letters, numbers and symbols.

The crooks know how to develop believable backstories, take advantage of human nature and, perhaps, our lack of knowledge on how things like payment apps work.

Venmo recommends that you contact its Customer Support service team directly if there's a questionable deposit. Don't engage with a scammer. You might even need to confirm first that a "friend" sent you cash, as Venmo notes "bad actors may attempt to replicate a profile picture to impersonate your friend on Venmo."

The American Bankers Association Foundation agrees and also advises that you contact the peer-to-peer service about the error. "If you send money back to the scammer, the peer-to-peer service could take funds out of your account or hold you responsible," the ABA Foundation's alert noted.

For the scam to work, the crook needs to create some story about a contrived emergency to convince you to move quickly while you might still believe the stranger's money has been transferred to your account.

It's best not to even engage with these alarming messages. Cybersecurity experts say the scammers in many cases can become increasingly aggressive with demands for you to return "their" money.

"They might call you names and tell you stories about how they are short on rent or have kids depending on them," according to the alert from the National Cybersecurity Alliance. "They might try to get you to call or text them so they can explain themselves."

Do not respond at all. Don't help a stranger get their hands on your money.

Flights

Continued from Page 1B

- In-flight meal.
- Beer, wine and spirits.

In domestic first class, premium economy, business class on short-haul international flights, and all travelers on Flagship Business and Flagship First tickets have access to all the previously listed free refreshments, plus premium dining menus that vary by region and route, along with specially selected beer, wine and spirits.

Delta Air Lines

Free in Main Cabin on all flights traveling more than 250 miles:

- Tea, coffee, water, Coca-Cola soft drink products.
- A selection of snacks.

For purchase in economy on domestic flights:

- Snack boxes.
- Beer, wine and spirits.

Comfort+, domestic first class, Premium Select and Delta One fares always include beer, wine and spirits. Free hot meals are also available on select domestic First Class and all domestic Delta One flights.

On long-haul international flights, meals and beverages, including beer, wine and spirits, are included for every cabin class.

Southwest Airlines

Southwest only has economy class, so all its flights include:

- Tea, coffee, water, Coca-Cola soft drink products.
- A selection of snacks.

Beer, wine and spirits are available for purchase, though elite Rapid Rewards members may receive drink coupons as a perk.

United Airlines

In economy, all flights over 300 miles include free snacks, water, tea, coffee and soft drinks, and beer, wine and spirits for purchase.

On flights over 500 miles, premium snack boxes are also available for purchase in economy, and on domestic flights over 1,190 miles, hot meals are also available for purchase in economy.

On flights to Asia, Europe, the Middle East, the South Pacific and select destinations in Latin America, the economy fare includes a meal, snack, beer, wine, water, soft drinks, coffee and tea. Spirits are also available for purchase.

In domestic business and first class:

- Free alcohol is available on request on flights over 300 miles.
- Free snacks are also available on flights between 300 and 900 miles.
- On flights over 900 miles, a hot meal will be offered.
- On flights over 1,190 miles, a pre-arrival snack will be offered in addition to the main meal.

On Polaris international business class flights, a premium hot meal and beer, wine and spirits are included in the price.

ASK HUMAN RESOURCES

How to improve employee retention

Johnny C. Taylor
Columnist
USA TODAY

Employers in a competitive labor market often seek every advantage to attract, retain and engage employees. GETTY IMAGES

Johnny C. Taylor Jr. tackles your human resources questions as part of a series for USA TODAY. Taylor is president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest HR professional society and author of "Reset: A Leader's Guide to Work in an Age of Upheaval."

Question: We offer competitive salaries for our industry and do fairly well hiring new employees. However, we still struggle to keep employees long term. What are some benefit options that could help improve employee retention? – Nelson

Answer: Employers in a competitive labor market often seek every advantage to attract, retain and engage employees. While competitive salaries are crucial, offering a robust and appealing benefits package is equally essential for long-term employee retention. There are several benefit options to help improve employee retention:

- **Generous paid time off.** Provide ample vacation days and sick leave to help employees maintain a healthy work-life integration. Offer additional personal days employees can use at their discretion.
- **Flexible and remote work options.** When feasible, allow employees to work from home, either full time or part time, to accommodate personal needs. Offer flexible working hours to help employees manage their schedules more effectively.
- **Paid family leave.** Provide paid parental leave for new parents, including adoption leave. Offer leave options for employees who need to care for sick family members.
- **Health and wellness programs.** Ensure quality health care coverage, including medical, dental and vision plans. Offer mental health support through counseling services and wellness programs. Provide access to fitness centers, wellness programs and health screenings.
- **Retirement savings and planning.** Offer competitive 401(k) plans with employer-matching contributions. Provide resources and workshops on financial planning and retirement savings.
- **Professional and career development.** Offer continuous learning opportunities, such as workshops, courses and certifications. Reimburse tuition costs to support employees in furthering their education.
- **Employee recognition and rewards**. Implement systems for employee recognition and peer-to-peer acknowledgment. Offer rewards and bonuses for exceptional performance.
- **Employee assistance programs.** Provide access to confidential counseling services for personal and work-related issues through an EAP. These can also offer support for financial planning and legal matters.
- **Family care benefits.** Provide child care support or subsidies to help employees manage family responsibilities. Offer resources and support for employees caring for elderly family members.
- **Additional perks.** Provide discounts on company products or services. Offer benefits for commuting, such as transportation subsidies or parking allowances.

Your benefits offerings should be feasible for your business model and valuable to your workforce. Assess your employees' needs and priorities through surveys or feedback sessions, and track usage of each benefit, to determine which offerings work best. A customizable benefits package lets employees choose the options that best match their needs, enhancing satisfaction and loyalty.

A comprehensive and appealing benefits package can also significantly boost employee satisfaction and loyalty, reducing turnover rates. Employees are more likely to stay with a company that invests in their well-being and offers appealing rewards, helping position your company as an employer of choice in a competitive industry.

Having embarked on my journey in industrial design just over a year ago, I'm seeking guidance from a seasoned professional who can help me navigate the unique challenges of this field. How can I identify such a mentor and approach them for guidance? – Roger

Congratulations on starting your journey in industrial design! Seeking guidance from a seasoned professional is a great initiative to advance your career. Here are some tips to identify and approach a mentor effectively:

- **Leverage your educational network.** Reach out to your trade school, college or university instructors. They often have extensive networks and can recommend experienced professionals in the field. Engage with your institution's alumni association. Alums can be a valuable resource for mentorship and professional connections.
- **Research and identify potential mentors.** Look for professionals who have significant expertise in industrial design. Read industry publications, follow leading designers on social media and review their work to find those who inspire you. Join online forums, social media groups and platforms such as LinkedIn, where industrial designers discuss trends and share advice. Engage in these communities to identify potential mentors.
- **Attend industry events.** Participate in industry conferences, workshops and seminars. These events provide excellent opportunities to meet experienced professionals and demonstrate your willingness to learn. Attend networking events geared explicitly toward industrial design. These gatherings can help you connect with professionals interested in mentoring.
- **Join professional organizations.** Become a member of professional organizations such as the Industrial Designers Society of America. Many of these organizations offer mentoring programs or resources to help you find experienced professionals who are interested in mentoring newcomers.
- **Approach potential mentors.** Once you've identified potential mentors, contact them with a clear and respectful message. Explain why you admire their work and how you believe they can assist you in your career development. Ask for an initial conversation to discuss the possibility of mentorship. Be specific about what you hope to gain and how you're willing to follow through on their guidance. Acknowledge their time is valuable and express your commitment to making the most of the mentorship relationship.
- **Demonstrate your commitment**. Come to your conversations prepared with specific questions and topics you want to discuss. Show you're serious about your professional development. Act on their advice and suggestions. Mentors are more likely to invest their time if they see you're proactive and dedicated. Let them know how their guidance has helped you grow.
- **Be flexible and open.** Understand that mentorship can take many forms. You might have several mentors who provide different types of guidance. Be open to receiving advice from multiple sources. Mentorship can evolve over time. Be flexible with your expectations and willing to adapt as the relationship develops.

By following these steps, you can effectively identify and approach a mentor who can help you navigate the unique challenges of industrial design. Best of luck with your search!

RTX faces age discrimination allegations

Attorney says problem is becoming 'normalized'

Bailey Schulz
USA TODAY

A lawsuit accuses RTX, formerly Raytheon Technologies, of ongoing age discrimination since at least October 2018. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

The world's largest aerospace and defense company has been accused of rejecting job candidates based on age, according to a federal collective and class action lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Sixty-seven-year-old Mark Goldstein has accused RTX Corp., formerly Raytheon Technologies, of discriminating against older applicants by reserving positions exclusively for recent college graduates or those with no more than two years of relevant work experience.

The lawsuit comes as studies show signs of persistent age discrimination practices in the U.S., despite older Americans making up a growing share of the workforce.

"Age discrimination has become normalized in the workplace in recent years in a way that other forms of discrimination has not," said Peter Romer-Friedman, co-counsel on the case. "Whether it's remarks in the workplace or people talking about looking to hire in ageist ways, older people seem to be in a disadvantaged place right now."

'A lot of wrongful assumptions' about older workers

Nearly 20% of Americans 65 and older are employed, nearly double the share from 35 years ago, according to Pew Research Center data released in December.

But just because older workers are more common doesn't mean they're being welcomed with open arms by employers.

A 2023 AARP survey of nearly 1,500 adults in the labor force ages 50 and older found nearly 1 in 6 say they were not hired for a job they applied for within the past two years due to their age, and two-thirds believe older workers face age discrimination in the workplace.

Much of that discrimination stems from negative stereotypes and misconceptions about older workers, according to Bill Rivera, senior vice president of litigation for AARP and co-counsel on the case.

"There are a lot of wrongful assumptions about older people with respect to their knowledge and experience with technology, their ability to learn and adapt to new things," Rivera told USA TODAY. "The old adage, 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks,' for example, reflects a lot of ideas about what older people are capable of."

A 2019 report from ZipRecruiter found that 45% of surveyed employers expressed concern that older workers might lack necessary tech skills, and 25% would choose a 30-year-old candidate over a 60-year-old candidate if both were equally qualified.

Those concerns are taking a hit on older workers who are job hunting. As of May, 27% of jobseekers 55 and older were long-term unemployed compared to 20% of those 16 to 54, according to AARP.

Allegation of hiring practices that harm older workers

The lawsuit accuses RTX of ongoing age discrimination since at least October 2018, with a hiring pattern that "disqualifies, rejects, deters, and harms older workers."

For example, various job postings are described as great opportunities for college seniors or recent graduates or require applicants to have no more than two years of relevant experience. The lawsuit alleges that older applicants are "screened out" based on their college graduation year.

Goldstein said he's applied for at least seven RTX positions designated for recent graduates between 2019 and 2023. None of the applications led to an interview, despite his roughly 40 years of experience, his willingness to relocate and RTX's ongoing labor shortage.

Goldstein filed a discrimination charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2019, which determined RTX's hiring practices violated the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act. The commission said Goldstein was denied the opportunity to be considered for the position "because of his age, and not because he did not meet the minimum qualifications required for the jobs."

RTX spokesperson Chris Johnson said the company believes the claims are without merit and will continue to defend its hiring practices.

"RTX complies with all relevant age discrimination laws and we're committed to maintaining a diverse workforce," Johnson said in an emailed statement.

In the EEOC's final determination letter, the commission notes that the company argued that if Goldstein had a "real and present" interest in working for the company, he would have applied for other jobs over the entry-level positions for recent graduates.

Goldstein "has not shown that he was qualified for any position to which he applied," the company said, according to the EEOC determination attached to the lawsuit. His "excess years of overall experience is a legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for refusing to hire him."

Goldstein's counsel argues that he applied to lower-level jobs to "reboot his career," and RTX had no reason to only consider recent college graduates for jobs advertised as paying up to six figures.

"These are good jobs," Romer-Friedman said. "These are not jobs where somebody's going to be paid $20,000, $30,000 a year. ... It can be a perfectly good job for (older candidates) that would pay a living wage, that would provide for career advancement."

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, claims nine counts of misconduct. It asks the company to provide equal employment opportunities for all employees, eradicate the effects of its alleged unlawful employment practices, and pay damages to the plaintiff and class action members.

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Tuscaloosa: It took 60 years, but marchers completed the two-minute, .4-mile walk from First African Baptist Church to the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse on Sunday as a commemoration of the horrific ordeal known as Bloody Tuesday.

ALASKA Anchorage: Authorities said the Seward Highway was closed for about six hours after two pickup trucks crashed, leaving one person dead and two others injured, Alaska Public Media reported.

ARIZONA Phoenix: Despite higher rents, Metro Phoenix is the best area to rent for 2024 college graduates, according to a new study from Zillow. The area topped the list of United States metro areas because of its strong job market and the concessions landlords are now offering, said Anushna Prakash, the listing firm's economic analyst.

ARKANSAS Marianna: Police arrested a couple in connection to the death of a woman in May, KARK reported.

COLORADO Colorado Springs: A man charged with killing three people at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs in 2015 can be forced to take anti-psychotic medication in the hope of making him competent to stand trial, a federal appeals court ruled.

CONNECTICUT Hartford: Despite huge surplus projections and unprecedented state budget reserves, the financial future is scary for public colleges and universities, social service providers, and municipalities. That's because legislators next year face one of the largest budget gaps since Gov. Ned Lamont first took office in 2019, when they raised taxes by more than $200 million per year, The CT Mirror reported.

DELAWARE Dover: Delaware has one of the highest rates of driver's test failure in the U.S., according to a new report. Delaware came in fourth, showing that just above 49% of participants fail their driver's test. The report also found that Delaware residents had the worst performance rate in the country on the skills portion of the test, with only 41% of people passing.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: Officials said World World II-era munitions were found by construction crews on American University campus last week, WUSA reported.

FLORIDA Melbourne Beach: The "Melbourne Beach crocodile" has become a multimedia star in parts of Florida. The crocodile earned its nickname after a series of sightings in the Melbourne Beach area. As of June 6, there have been about 14 reported sightings of possibly the same crocodile since 2019.

GEORGIA Tybee Island: The Tybee Island Historical Society just secured a $20,000 grant to assist in the restoration of the iconic lighthouse, which is currently in its third phase.

HAWAII Honolulu: Officials said a 5-year-old monk seal that underwent a life-saving operation two years ago now has a new home on Laysan Island, Hawaii News Now reported.

IDAHO Nampa: Canyon County held its first-ever Pride festival Sunday, and the festival organizer said about 2,000 people attended the event, the Idaho Press reported.

ILLINOIS Chicago: LawnStarter recently ranked 500 cities across the country for its annual Most Sustainable Cities study. The most sustainable city in Illinois is Chicago, according to the report. The city's number of policies support renewable energy efforts puts it at rank one, with 33.9% of workers using public transit or biking to work creating less pollution compared to other cities on the list.

INDIANA Indianapolis: A man charged with driving drunk and striking a state trooper who was helping change a tire on the side of I-65 will spend two years in prison and two years on probation, according to court records.

IOWA Iowa City: The University of Iowa is seeking approval for a $74 million maternity unit expansion project at the John Pappajohn Pavilion. If approved, the $74 million project will be funded through the Hospital Revenue Bonds and University Hospitals Building Usage Funds and is intended to start in the fall of this year and be completed by the end of 2026.

HIGHLIGHT: CALIFORNIA

A diver films corals off Santa Cruz Island during a spring expedition.
PROVIDED BY JASON HEATON/OCEANA

Ventura: Researchers worked for days recently, diving and recovering DNA from waters around the remote Channel Islands off Ventura. The traces of environmental DNA left behind by animals, plants and microorganisms can help them identify marine life that exists hundreds of feet below the surface. The analysis of the eDNA can lead to discoveries about the ocean conditions and also rare or hard-to-spot species. Over five days in May and April, divers and researchers with the conservation group Oceana surveyed areas off Anacapa, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara islands, all part of the Channel Islands National Park.

KANSAS Topeka: Owner Chris Payne announced he's begun auctioning off the Topeka properties that formerly served as the site of Heartland Motorsports Park.

KENTUCKY Louisville: Ozzy Gibson has been named the permanent executive director of the Transit Authority of River City.

LOUISIANA Pineville: A religious book allegedly handed out by a Pineville church at Lessie Moore Elementary School drew a complaint from a parent to a national group that advocates for the separation between church and state. What the parent was upset about was sexual content they believed inappropriate for their child that was contained in "The Life Book," according to an April 22 letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation to Rapides Parish Schools Superintendent Jeff Powell.

MAINE Limerick: A New Jersey family is mourning the loss of a girl who was accidentally killed in a freak accident during a vacation in Limerick just over a week ago while family members played badminton. According to a news release from Maine State Police and family, the girl's family members were playing badminton when the aluminum shaft of the badminton racket broke off its wooden handle and hit her in the head, piercing her skull.

MARYLAND Hancock: Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman and his wife Giselle were hospitalized following a two-car-crash in Maryland Sunday.

MASSACHUSETTS Boston: A Massachusetts public middle school did not violate a student's free speech rights under the U.S. Constitution by requiring the boy to stop wearing a T-shirt that said "There are only two genders," a federal appeals court has ruled.

MICHIGAN Grand Rapids: A Lansing-based electrical contractor agreed to pay nine former employees over $400,000 to resolve a federal lawsuit over "rampant racism."

MINNESOTA St. Cloud: St. Cloud State University is facing a lawsuit filed this May by 2024 graduate Tayah Lackie, who alleges the university violated her First Amendment freedom of speech right by requiring she and other students pay a fee toward Students United, an organization established to advocate on students' behalf.

MISSISSIPPI Jackson: Workers at a Jackson Starbucks filed a petition to unionize, joining 17 other locations throughout the nation in the latest wave of Starbucks seeking to join a growing list of unionized locations.

MISSOURI Columbia: As Columbia continues to contend with growing community violence, groups came together Friday to raise awareness. Members of local chapters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America, representatives of Boone County Community Against Violence, community members, city staff and a city council member gathered for a proclamation reading by Mayor Barbara Buffaloe to recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

MONTANA Helena: The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced that eight school districts across the state are getting a total of $5.49 million in federal funding to purchase clean school buses, Billings Gazette reported.

NEBRASKA Lincoln: A new report has confirmed that University of Nebraska–Lincoln softball will no longer consider playing a game at Memorial Stadium in 2025.

NEVADA Carson City: Northwestern Nevada experiences more than twice the number of days when conditions are ripe for wildfire compared to five decades ago, a report shows. The annual average of fire weather days, which are when conditions are favorable for wildfires, was 55 in 2023, compared to 27 days in 1973, according to an analysis by Climate Central, a nonprofit focused on climate and energy.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: New Hampshire's 26 hospitals stand to lose millions in state payments for uncompensated care with the collapse of negotiations between the governor, lawmakers, and the hospitals, New Hampshire Bulletin reported.

NEW JERSEY Trenton: With two years until the FIFA World Cup arrives in the Garden State, lawmakers are starting to take steps to prepare for issues that might arise as visitors from around the globe descend on the region. During a hearing held by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on Thursday, experts and advocates highlighted what can be done to prevent human trafficking, including during the 2026 tournament.

NEW MEXICO Carlsbad: The New Mexico Department of Justice ordered the city of Carlsbad to turn over police reports and video footage from the investigation of a shooting that claimed the life of a 15-year-old boy in December 2023 to the Carlsbad Current-Argus, overturning a previous denial to access the public records.

NEW YORK New York: New York state lawmakers passed legislation to bar social media platforms from exposing "addictive" algorithmic content to users under age 18 without parental consent, becoming the latest of several states moving to limit online risks to children.

NORTH CAROLINA Raleigh: A recent study showed that North Carolina was among the 10 states with the most student loan debt, an average of $37,497 in debt per borrower.

NORTH DAKOTA McKenzie County: Officials said equipment failure caused about 29,800 gallons of produced water to spill at a well in McKenzie County over the weekend, Bismarck Tribune reported.

OHIO Columbus: An Ohio lawmaker wants to keep children and teens from seeing library books depicting nudity or sex without the consent from their parents. Republican Rep. Al Cutrona introduced a bill to prohibit libraries from displaying materials "harmful to juveniles" or risk losing funding if they fail to follow the policies outlined in the bill.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: Construction is set to start later this year on two projects that will erase a decadeslong gap between Oklahoma City's Innovation District and downtown.

OREGON Newberg: A young person is accused of using a BB gun to shoot at a pride flag hanging in the window of an Oregon library, police said.

PENNSYLVANIA Harrisburg: Porcupines, despite being slow-moving creatures, are being spotted in several new parts of Pennsylvania. Some of the new counties seeing porcupines include Cumberland, Adams, Franklin, Dauphin counties and northwestern parts of Berks and Lebanon counties.

RHODE ISLAND Little Compton: Shark researchers are hoping a necropsy will help explain what killed an endangered young shark found washed up on Little Compton Beach. The sand tiger shark, a year or less old, was retrieved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which will conduct a necropsy at its Apex Predator Lab in Narragansett, according to Jon Dodd, executive director of the Atlantic Shark Institute in Wakefield.

SOUTH CAROLINA Greenville: Greenville County School Board of Trustees voted to accept the fiscal year 2025 $922 million budget.

SOUTH DAKOTA Pierre: A group of extremists unfurled a Nazi flag during an apparent rally Saturday on the steps of South Dakota's state capitol building in Pierre.

TENNESSEE Nashville: Mount Zion Baptist Church in Nashville has agreed to repay the federal government more than $70,000 to settle allegations of misused paycheck protection program, or PPP, loans.

TEXAS Dallas: Capital giants BlackRock and Citadel are among the headline investors in a group that is seeking to bring a new national stock exchange to the Lone Star State. James H Lee, chairman and CEO of Texas Stock Exchange, says the group leading the project has already raised $120 million. The Texas Stock Exchange would be headquartered in Dallas, and Lee said that the project already has more than two dozen investors.

UTAH Bryce Canyon National Park: A 78-year-old ranger at the Bryce Canyon National Park died due to injuries he sustained after he tripped and fell while on-duty.

VERMONT Cambridge: If you're thinking of going camping this summer, one Vermont campground was recently named one of the top 10 best places to camp in the Northeast. The Dyrt, a website for camping and camping enthusiasts, compiled a list of the best camping spots, based on the campground reviews and ratings of their community. Only three places in New England made the list, and one of those was in Vermont at the number six spot on the list: Smugglers' Notch State Park in Cambridge.

VIRGINIA Roanoke: U.S. natural gas pipeline venture Mountain Valley asked federal regulators to authorize facilities for its Virginia pipeline project, and confirmed that testing of the pipeline for leaks and strength was complete.

WASHINGTON Kitsap County: Central Kitsap School District administrators plan to review guidelines this fall in the wake of increasing student misbehavior.

WEST VIRGINIA Charleston: Sen. Joe Manchin announced that seven arts and music initiatives across the state will be receiving more than $1.1 million in funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, WV News reported.

WISCONSIN Milwaukee: A downtown Milwaukee office tower completed in 1989 could be designated as historic – allowing its owners to seek federal and state tax credits to help finance a conversion to apartments. But gaining that status could be challenging. A federal agency's guidelines says most properties on the National Register of Historic Places are at least 50 years old.

WYOMING Cheyenne: Officials confirmed that the state's first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in a dairy cattle herd, Casper Star-Tribune reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

Stanley Cup Final: Winners and losers from Game 2, 3C

Tiger Woods' secret weapon this week at the U.S. Open? It could be his 'player support,' **3C**

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

Check out developments at NFL minicamps, plus updates from NBA Finals and Stanley Cup Final

"Great teams require that everyone in the building is fully committed to each other and moving in one direction."

Brad Stevens Celtics president of basketball operations, said after being named the NBA's 2023-24 executive of the year

Brad Stevens was the Celtics coach for eight seasons before moving into a front office role with the team following the 2020-21 season. DAVID BUTLER II/USA TODAY SPORTS

Celtics' MVP may just lurk off court

Brad Stevens builds winner as basketball ops prez

Jeff Zillgitt
Columnist
USA TODAY

DALLAS – ESPN NBA analyst Bob Myers asked a question to the other on-air panelists.

Who is the MVP of the NBA Finals so far in the Dallas Mavericks-Boston Celtics series?

"Jaylen Brown," studio host Malika Andrews answered.

Knicks guard and guest analyst Josh Hart said Brown.

"Jrue Holiday," Michael Wilbon said.

It was a trick question, a setup by Myers, the former Golden State front office executive, to recognize one of the most important people involved in the Finals.

Myers' MVP? Celtics president of basketball operations Brad Stevens.

Now, the award will go to a player, but Myers' point should not be overlooked. Stevens deserves immense credit for building a Celtics team that can win a championship now and possibly more in the next few seasons.

Largely quiet and away from the hullabaloo that are the Finals, Stevens doesn't want attention on him. He said as much when he was named the NBA's 2023-24 executive of the year in late April.

"This recognition has everything to do with the team, and nothing to do with any one individual," he said in a statement. "Great teams require that everyone in the building is fully committed to each other and moving in one direction."

Since leaving the bench as Boston's head coach for the front office in 2021, Stevens has tinkered with the roster, making moves for this season that have given the Celtics their best team during the Jaylen Brown-Jayson Tatum era and their best chance to win their first title since 2008.

Stevens' acquisitions (Kristaps Porzingis and Jrue Holiday) before the 2023-24 season are two major reasons why the Celtics won a league-best 64 games during the regular season, had the No. 1 offense and No. 2 defense, and reached the NBA Finals, where they have a 2-0 lead against the Mavericks. Game 3 is at 8:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday (ABC).

Porzingis, who Boston acquired from Washington

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Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

Clark didn't have time to make Paris case

Leaving Caitlin Clark off the U.S. Olympic team was a basketball decision, plain and simple.

As it should be.

The selection committee was not blind to Clark's widespread popularity, which has helped fuel explosive growth in women's basketball. Members knew including her would have brought eyeballs and attention to the U.S. women's quest for an eighth consecutive gold medal, not to mention making the suits at NBC and Nike, which inked Clark to a deal reportedly worth $28 million over eight years, happy.

Clark

But commercial appeal wasn't among the criteria the committee had to consider when picking the 12 women who will play in Paris. Things like position versatility, adaptability to team concept and adaptability to international game were, and Clark simply didn't have the body of work to merit selection.

At 22, two months removed from her last game at Iowa, she couldn't.

"This has been a three-year process," Jennifer Rizzotti, chair of the women's selection committee for USA Basketball, told USA TODAY Sports after the roster was released Tuesday.

And for most of those three years, Clark was at Iowa, playing against college-level talent while the other players in the Olympic pool were going up against the best of the best in the WNBA.

What Clark did at Iowa, becoming the all-time leading scorer in college basketball and taking the Hawkeyes to back-to-back NCAA title games her last two years, was fantastic and impressive and deserving of every accolade she got. But dropping 35 on a team of players whose careers will end with their college eligibility is not the same as, say, getting 24 against the WNBA's second-best defensive team, as Sabrina Ionescu did in the New York Liberty's win over the Connecticut Sun last weekend.

It didn't help Clark's case that her start in the WNBA has been, as it is for most rookies, rocky. She leads the league in turnovers, by a wide margin. She's second in 3-pointers made, with 36, but is 29th in shooting percentage

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McCaffrey first 49er to land on cover of 'Madden'

Jordan Mendoza
USA TODAY

San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey will be the latest "Madden" video game star.

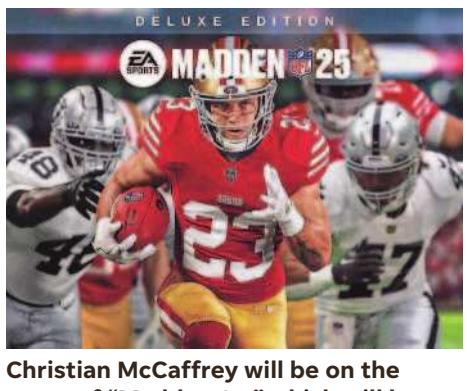
Electronic Arts announced Tuesday that the reigning NFL Offensive Player of the Year will be the cover athlete for "Madden 25."

The game will be released on Aug. 16.

"It's really a dream come true. I think this is something that I never really expected," McCaffrey told USA TODAY Sports. "When I got the call, it was such a great surprise. I was on cloud nine."

It's a "full-circle moment" for the 49ers star, who has longed played and continues to play the "Madden" franchise.

He reminisced about playing the game in the early 2000s with his brothers and being able to play as his father, former wide receiver Ed McCaffrey, when the elder McCaffrey was a member of the Denver Broncos.



Christian McCaffrey will be on the cover of "Madden 25," which will be released Aug. 16. PROVIDED BY EA SPORTS

Christian McCaffrey will be the first running back to be the cover athlete of the "Madden" video game franchise since Barry Sanders and Adrian Peterson in 2014, and he will be the first 49ers player to be the feature player in the worldwide cover of "Madden."

In 1999, former running back Garrison Hearst was on the international edition.

It may come as a surprise given all of the stars the 49ers have had in the 21st century, and McCaffrey believes there are some current San Francisco teammates who are worthy of being on the cover. But he sees this as a big moment for the 49ers faithful.

"It's just extremely humbling," McCaffrey said. "It's a good thing for Niners fans and me and my family, but really just I feel so grateful to be a part of a great organization that's helped me have have so much success and reach a milestone like this in my career."

McCaffrey has been one of the premier running backs since he entered the league in 2017, but 2023 was arguably his best in his first full season with San Francisco. He ran for a career-high 1,459 yards – most in the league – and 14 rushing touchdowns, while tallying 564 receiving yards and a career-high seven receiving touchdowns. His 21 total touchdowns was tied with Raheem Mostert in the NFL.

In the Super Bowl 58 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs, McCaffrey had 22 rushes for 80 yards and eight receptions for 80 yards and a touchdown.

There's plenty of hoopla about the "Madden curse," which is when cover athletes have bad seasons after being featured on the game. There are plenty examples of it, but there's also proof it doesn't get everyone; Patrick Mahomes was on the cover of "Madden 20" and he wound up winning his first Super Bowl title.

Whether it's a blessing or a curse, McCaffrey doesn't believe it's a bad omen.

"I definitely don't buy into it," he said.

The "Madden" franchise began in 1988, but the video game did not have NFL stars on the cover until 2001. The early editions of the game featured the namesake, John Madden, on the cover.

Armour

Continued from Page 1C

from deep. On Monday night, she and most of the rest of the Indiana Fever's starters were benched in the second half because, coach Christie Sides said, "you can't, at this level, coach effort."

It would have helped if Clark had been able to participate in senior team training camps, giving the committee a better sense of where she could fit on the Olympic team. But you're as likely to see a unicorn as you are a college player at a senior-level training camp. Clark didn't get her first invite until the one in April, which in recent years has been scheduled to coincide with the Final Four.

Clark, as you might recall, was a little busy then.

Clark did play on Team USA youth squads, helping lead the Americans to gold medals at the 2019 and 2021 U19 World Cups and winning MVP honors in 2021. But that was three years ago and the competition, and expectations, aren't close to what the U.S. will be facing in Paris.

"We tried to give (U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve) the best team that included experience, depth, skill and gave us the confidence we were going to win the gold medal," Rizzotti said.

A gold medal that isn't going to be the gimme some folks think. The U.S. women have won their seven consecutive gold medals without dropping a game. But Rizzotti said that overlooks the games they won by single digits. Or only broke open late.

It also ignores that game against Belgium in February at the Olympic qualifying tournament, when the Americans needed a buzzer beater by Breanna Stewart to win.

There are no spots to "spare," not when there are only 12 of them.

"Twelve players isn't a lot. We wanted to make sure, without knowing how Cheryl would use everybody completely, to make sure we gave her essentially two starting lineups and a lot of great options," Rizzotti said.

Again, committee members aren't dumb. They know it would have been far easier to put Clark on the team and hope it didn't matter. But part of the reason the U.S. women have been so dominant for so long is their best players have been willing to buy in over these extended evaluation periods.

Kahleah Copper barely had time to clean out her locker after the 2022 playoffs when she flew to Australia for what effectively was a tryout for the World Cup team. Kelsey Plum and Jackie Young were at the November training camp less than 10 days after the parade to celebrate the Las Vegas Aces' second title.

If the selection committee ignored its selection criteria this one time, even for someone with Clark's box office appeal, it would jeopardize its entire process going forward.

"It's hard to ask players to come back if you don't follow through on the process you explained to them from the beginning. I think the committee did that," Rizzotti said. "It doesn't make the calls any easier."

The committee had an easy choice with Clark. It made the fair one, instead.

Women's basketball roster veteran-heavy for Olympics

Lindsay Schnell and Nancy Armour
USA TODAY

Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (30), shown playing the Sky and forward Angel Reese last month, made another U.S. national team. WENDELL CRUZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

We already knew who wasn't on the U.S. women's basketball team roster for the Paris Olympics. Now we know who is.

Diana Taurasi was chosen for a record sixth consecutive Olympic team and will lead a veteran squad as the U.S. women try to win their eighth gold medal in a row. For only the second time in U.S. history, each of the 12 players on the roster has won gold at either the Olympics or FIBA World Cup.

"We tried to make this a basketball decision and we tried to give (U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve) the best team that included experience, depth, skill and confidence we were going to be able to win the gold medal," Jen Rizzotti, chair of the women's national team committee for USA Basketball, told USA TODAY Sports after the roster was announced Tuesday morning.

"Twelve players isn't a lot," Rizzotti added. "We wanted to make sure, without knowing how Cheryl would use everybody completely, we wanted to make sure we gave her essentially two starting lineups and a lot of great options."

Combined, the team of Taurasi, Napheesa Collier, Kahleah Copper, Chelsea Gray, Brittney Griner, Sabrina Ionescu, Jewell Loyd, Kelsey Plum, Breanna Stewart, Alyssa Thomas, A'Ja Wilson and Jackie Young have 15 Olympic gold medals and 18 FIBA World Cup titles. There are eight WNBA champions and three WNBA MVPs, including the reigning MVP, Stewart.

Copper, Ionescu and Thomas are the only Olympic rookies. Plum and Young won gold as part of the 3x3 team in Tokyo.

The committee evaluated players over the past three years, at both training camps and competitions like the 2022 World Cup and the Olympic qualifying tournament in February. There were 11 criteria used in making the roster selections: U.S. citizenship, availability, position, playing ability, versatility to play other positions, coachability, attitude, adaptability to team concept, leadership, adaptability to international game and likelihood of contributing to success of team.

While Reeve was asked for her input, Rizzotti said roster decisions were made by the committee, which also included South Carolina coach Dawn Staley, who led the U.S. women to gold in Tokyo; Bethany Donaphin, head of league operations for the WNBA; Dan Padover, general manager of the Atlanta Dream; and athlete representatives Seimone Augustus and DeLisha Milton-Jones.

Rizzotti said the committee leaned heavily on Staley's experiences in Tokyo, as well as those of Staley, Augustus and Milton-Jones, all of whom played on Olympic teams.

"There are times I can remember saying, 'Dawn, how did you feel in that moment in Tokyo? What would you have preferred in terms of roster composition? What do you think are going to be Cheryl's greatest challenges?' " Rizzotti recalled.

"They understand the stakes, understand the commitment that went into being on those teams (referring to Staley, Augustus and Milton-Jones). They understand the highs of winning gold medals and lows of being cuts."

The Olympic team will play the WNBA All-Stars on July 20 in Phoenix, a game that will be broadcast on ESPN, before heading to London to play Germany on July 23. The U.S. women open the Paris Olympics against Japan, the silver medalist in Tokyo, on July 29, followed by games against Belgium (Aug. 1) and Germany (Aug. 4). The knockout rounds begin Aug. 7.

Where's Caitlin Clark?

There is no tougher team in women's basketball to make than the U.S. women's team. It's so challenging and competitive that Caitlin Clark, the WNBA rookie who shattered numerous college records before being drafted No. 1 overall in mid April, did not make the cut.

"I know it's the most competitive team in the world," Clark said Sunday, after news leaked she had not made the team. "Honestly, no disappointment."

The 22-year-old Clark is wildly popular and has helped fuel explosive interest in the women's game. While some have suggested that alone should have earned her a rare spot as a rookie on the Olympic team, the priority is winning gold and Clark is simply not among the best U.S. players right now.

"There were definitely some unique circumstances surrounding Caitlin, but at the end of the day, I'm proud our committee stayed honed in on the selection criteria," Rizzotti said. "None of that criteria talked about TV viewership or marketability."

Clark leads the WNBA in both total turnovers (70) and turnovers per game (5.4). She's second in the league with 36 3-pointers, but ranks 29th in shooting percentage from deep. Clark and most of Indiana's other starters also were benched in the second half of the Indiana Fever's loss to the Connecticut Sun on Monday night, with coach Christie Sides saying you can't "coach effort."

Another factor in Clark not making the squad is she has never played with the senior national team so she does not know coach Cheryl Reeve's system or been able to develop timing and chemistry with the other players. No small thing when an Olympic title is on the line and a buzzer-beater win over Belgium is fresh in the minds of the team.

Clark was invited to the most recent training camp, the last one before the roster was selected, but was unable to participate. As it has been the last few years, the training camp was held the same weekend as the Final Four and Clark was taking Iowa to its second consecutive NCAA title game.

Is Clark an alternate?

USA Basketball didn't name any alternates. However any player in the Olympic pool, as Clark is, would be eligible to be considered if someone gets hurt or cannot play for other reasons.

One of the bigger questions surrounds the status of Chelsea Gray, who was injured during the WNBA Finals last season and has yet to play for the Las Vegas Aces. But Rizzotti said the committee was in contact with both Gray and the Aces, and "felt very confident" she'll be ready to play.

If healthy, Gray is particularly critical to the U.S. roster. She is the successor to longtime point guard Sue Bird. As part of the U.S. team in Tokyo and at the 2022 World Cup, Gray is also very familiar with the international game.

Zillgitt

Continued from Page 1C

in a three-team trade a year ago, had 20 points, six rebounds and three blocks in Game 1, and Holiday, for whom Boston traded just before the start of the season, had a team-high 26 points, 11 rebounds, three assists, one block and one steal in Game 2. They have made the Celtics more versatile offensively and defensively, limiting what opponents can do.

To get Porzingis, Stevens made difficult decisions, sending longtime Celtics guard Marcus Smart to Memphis. As the summer turned to autumn, it looked like the Celtics were done making moves until possibly the February trade deadline.

However, when Milwaukee traded Jrue Holiday to Portland in the Damian Lillard deal, and the Blazers had no intention of keeping Holiday, Stevens went to work. If A doesn't happen, then B doesn't happen. But when A happened – the Bucks traded for Lillard – the Celtics were prepared for B – acquiring Holiday.

"When I first got traded here, he was obviously one of the first people that I talked to, and I just think (of) his positive nature," Holiday said. "He's kind of this kind soul, somebody who has great energy about him. So every time that I talk to him and every time I see him, he's always been encouraging. This has been from the beginning. It's always nice to have somebody like that have your back and, again, somebody like that in your corner in your organization."

Stevens also traded Kemba Walker to Oklahoma City to get Al Horford back in Boston, and the 17-year veteran remains a positive force on the court and in the locker room, and acquiring Derrick White from San Antonio at the 2022 trade deadline is another move that has given the Celtics offensive and defensive options that most teams don't have.

While the Brown and Tatum picks were Danny Ainge's front office moves, Stevens' influence on the roster is why Boston is just two wins from breaking a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for most titles in the league history.

It was a stunner when Stevens decided to leave the bench. But it's not like he hasn't pulled a surprise before. He had been a successful coach at Butler for six seasons, including Final Four trips in 2010 and 2011 before abruptly leaving college basketball for the Celtics in 2013. In eight seasons as Boston's coach, he compiled a 354-282 record and had a 38-40 playoff record, reaching the Eastern Conference finals three times.

But the grind of the regular season wore on Stevens, and Stevens suggested players needed a new voice. When Ainge decided to leave the Celtics, Stevens became the perfect replacement.

Two years ago, Celtics owner Wyc Grousbeck said of Stevens, "He's such an insightful person. It come out in his coaching, but it just comes out in his analysis of the game day in and day out. ... Brad's fingerprints and DNA are on this team right now in terms of putting it together and helping Danny. ... This is a role Brad has been preparing for his whole life."

Said Jaylen Brown: "Just happy for him. His schedule has been able to settle down, probably putting a little bit less stress on him than we did when he was coaching us.

"Brad has been great since he's been a part of the Boston organization. He's helped bring this organization back in terms of winning. He's now been able to move into that GM position and put the right pieces together to get us back to the Finals."

There have been setbacks. The Celtics lost to Golden State in the 2022 Finals after taking a 2-1 series lead, and then-Celtics coach Ime Udoka was suspended indefinitely just before the start of the 2022-23 season for "violations of team policy."

Stevens made Joe Mazzulla the interim head coach and then the permanent head coach. Boston lost to Miami in last season's Eastern Conference finals. Mazzulla grew as a coach, and Stevens gave him a better roster this season.

"I've always had a lot of respect for how he went about coaching, how he kept family balance No. 1, how he treated people No. 1," Mazzulla said. "That was always more important than whether there was a success or a failure. He spearheads the leadership, the temperature of the building, just as everybody else does."

The Celtics still need two victories to capture their 18th championship, but Stevens also has positioned the Celtics to compete for championships in the next several seasons.

Brown is under contract through 2028-29, Holiday signed an extension in April that keeps him a Celtic through at least 2026-27, Porzingis' contract is up after 2025-26 and Payton Pritchard's deal is good through 2027-28.

There are contract situations involving Tatum and White that need to be addressed but it's possible and even likely the Celtics reach extensions with both players, including a deal that will make Tatum one of the highest-paid players in the league.

If Boston wins the title this season, Brown, Holiday and Tatum are potential Finals MVP picks.

Stevens operates behind the scenes. You don't see him often at playoff games except from the suite in which he watches the game.

But Myers is right. Stevens is an MVP, too

Tiger Woods drops balls out onto the first green during a practice round Tuesday for the U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2.
KATIE GOODALE/USA TODAY SPORTS

‘Player support’ could be Tiger’s weapon at Open

Adam Schupak
Golfweek USA TODAY NETWORK

PINEHURST, N.C. – Fifteen-time major champion Tiger Woods has a 15-year-old as his eyes and ears this week at the 124th U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2 – son Charlie.

“I think having Charlie out here is very special. To have the father-son relationship that we have and to extend it into this part of both of our lives, he’s playing a lot of junior golf, and I’m still playing out here,” Tiger said.

Charlie has been inside the ropes and on the range with a player support badge, making him the closest thing Tiger has to an official coach.

“As far as his responsibilities, it’s the same. I trust him with my swing and my game. He’s seen it more than anybody else in the world. He’s seen me hit more golf balls than anyone,” Tiger explained of Charlie’s role. “I tell him what to look for, especially with putting.

“He gave me a couple little side bits today, which was great, because I get so entrenched in hitting certain putts to certain pins, I tend to forget some of the things I’m working on.”

Tiger, a three-time U.S. Open champion, played a practice round on Tuesday with Max Homa and 25-year-old Australian pro Min Woo Lee with Charlie by his side every step of the way.

“It’s neat for him to see the guys that he watches on TV and YouTube and TikTok, whatever the hell it is that they do,” Tiger said. “He was very excited today to watch Max and Min Woo and watch them hit golf balls. They’ve talked to him quite a bit, especially Min Woo and him. I think they’re closer in age than I am to anybody else. It’s great. It’s great for us to be able to share these moments together.”

Tiger, 48, hasn’t competed since missing the cut last month at the PGA Championship with a 36-hole total of 7-over 149. In his past 22 starts in majors, he has missed the cut 10 times and withdrawn twice. Still, he expressed confidence that his body is getting stronger from injuries suffered in a February 2021 car crash and that he’s capable of contending this week.

“I do,” he said. “I feel like I have the strength to be able to do it. It’s just a matter of doing it.

“This golf course is going to test every single aspect of your game, especially mentally, and just the mental discipline that it takes to play this particular golf course, it’s going to take a lot.”

Woods finished T-3 at Pinehurst in 1999 and second in 2005 but missed the 2014 U.S. Open here. He said this is the first time he’s been back since the famed Donald Ross layout underwent a restoration by Coore-Crenshaw ahead of the 2014 Open won by Martin Kaymer. In preparation for the course’s turtleback greens, Woods has been spending extra time at home with his putting but said that can only do so much.

“Nothing can simulate what we have here this particular week, the amount of little shots and the knobs and runoffs, and either using wedges or long irons or woods around the greens or even putter,” he said. “There’s so many different shots that you really can’t simulate unless you get on the property. That’s one of the reasons I came up here last Tuesday.”

How challenging will the greens be? “It depends how severe the USGA wants to make this and how close they want to get us up to those sides,” he said. “But I foresee just like in ’05 watching some of the guys play ping-pong back and forth. It could happen.”

Woods also was set to receive the U.S. Golf Association’s highest honor, the Bob Jones Award, during a ceremony on Tuesday evening. Tiger and Jones both won nine USGA titles, sharing the record for the most USGA championships. Tiger would like nothing more than to break that tie and become the first to reach double digits.

“I think anytime you’re in association with Mr. Jones, it’s always incredible,” Tiger said. “What he did in his amateur career, winning the Ams and the Opens and then obviously creating Augusta National, the fact that I get a chance to be honored with his award tonight, it’s very special.”

Sparks coach ‘carrying that banner’

Steve Gardner
USA TODAY

As the only openly gay male head coach in basketball, Curt Miller of the Los Angeles Sparks takes his responsibilities as a spokesperson and role model seriously.

Especially during Pride Month.

Before the WNBA game Monday night against the Las Vegas Aces, Miller elaborated on why he’s not afraid to speak out on behalf of those who might one day follow in his footsteps.

“It’s really important to me to continue to provide visibility and representation to the coaches behind me,” Miller said. “I didn’t have a role model. I didn’t have someone that I could call and reach out to to navigate as a gay male in sports.”

Miller, 55, vowed to “keep carrying that banner” until greater advancement is possible for young gay men in the sport of basketball.

Miller, whose coaching career spans 22 years over Division I and the WNBA, lamented the fact that he’s seen “so many gay young men in basketball … including the NBA and G League drop out of chasing their dream because there’s not a lot of visibility or representation besides myself.”

After spending seven seasons with the Connecticut Sun, Curt Miller took over as Los Angeles Sparks head coach in 2023. MICHAEL CHOW/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

He punctuated his pregame remarks with a social media post explaining the reasons for his outspoken advocacy.

“For the longest time, I didn’t want to be known as the gay head coach but just the successful coach,” Miller wrote on X, formerly Twitter. “However, too many young coaches are concerned about advancement & opportunities..so I will keep carrying the banner and challenge the decision makers to open doors to others!”

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Panthers go up 2-0 but lose captain Barkov

Mike Brehm
USA TODAY

The Florida Panthers rallied to beat the Edmonton Oilers 4-1, tying the game on a strange sequence and then getting two goals by their hottest scorer, Evan Rodrigues.

Monday’s win gives the Panthers a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven Stanley Cup Final, but they lost captain Aleksander Barkov, their best two-way player, in the third period on a hit by Oilers star Leon Draisaitl.

Defenseman Niko Mikkola tied the score 1-1 in the second period after first accidentally putting the puck on his own net.

Free agent signee Rodrigues put the Panthers ahead to stay with two goals in the third period. The second was on the power play, ending the Oilers’ 34 consecutive penalty kills. He also scored in Game 1.

Game 3 will be Thursday in Edmonton. The Oilers also fell behind 2-0 in the 2006 final and lost in seven games.

Panthers coach Paul Maurice said he had no update on captain Aleksander Barkov’s injury after the game, but he wasn’t holding him out.

“There was 9:28 on the clock, I believe, in a 2-1 game,” he said. “I’m not holding him.”

He said the league looks at every hit and offered no opinion on the play.

“This isn’t ‘The Oprah Winfrey Show.’ My feelings don’t matter,” he said.

Winners

Evan Rodrigues, Panthers: The free agent signee scored twice and has three goals in the Stanley Cup Final.

Sergei Bobrovsky, Panthers: The Oilers’ lone goal snuck through him, but he was alert enough when Niko Mikkola accidentally put the puck onto his own net. If he misses that, the Oilers go ahead, Mikkola doesn’t score and the final result might be different. Bobrovsky also made 12 saves in the third period as the Oilers pressed.

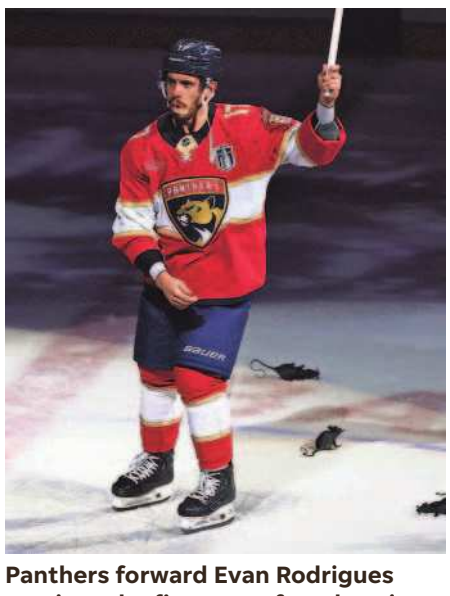
Panthers’ penalty killing: The Panthers took a few ill-timed penalties that negated their power plays. But the penalty killers did their job, killing all four short-handed situations. They’re 7-for-7 in the final and Aaron Ekblad scored a short-handed, empty-netter late in the game on a 6-on-4 Oilers advantage.

Losers

Evan Bouchard, Oilers: He gave the puck away to Rodrigues on the Florida player’s first goal. Rodrigues got past him on his second goal. Bouchard also took two penalties.

Warren Foegele, Oilers: He was ejected for a knee-on-knee hit on Eetu Luostarinen. Could NHL Player Safety look at him for supplemental discipline?

Darnell Nurse, Oilers: He had tough luck. Given a new defensive partner for the game, he didn’t play much because of a first-period injury. He had one shift in the second period and two in the third. Coach Kris Knoblauch said he was being looked at after the game.



Panthers forward Evan Rodrigues receives the first star after the win. He scored two third-period goals.
SAM NAVARRO/USA TODAY SPORTS

Lombardi remembered as LGBTQ+ ally

Legendary coach recalled as advocate for gay rights during Pride Month

Drake Bentley
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

June is a month to recognize the champions of the LGBTQ+ community, but also the allies who play a critical role in progressing the country toward equality.

It's Pride Month and with that comes rainbow flags, reminders from our corporate employers and social media posts from our sports teams.

The Green Bay Packers recognized Pride Month last Tuesday by posting a graphic to X that reads, "Football is for everyone." As of June 4, 23 NFL teams had posted a message recognizing Pride Month.

Sports tend to be at the forefront of American society and it's common that issues within the culture become all the more prevalent on the biggest stages. History shows that the fight for civil rights and often sports cross.

Recently, the country saw social justice take center stage during the summer of 2020 following the murder of George Floyd as young Black people, including professional athletes, and allies, took to the streets, sat out of games or national anthem renditions, supporting the belief that "Black Lives Matter."

More than 60 years ago, it was Bill Russell, Jim Brown, Muhammad Ali, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and many more notable athletes, not just known for their abilities but for their positions and their fight for civil rights.

In Wisconsin, away from where the large majority of the state's Black residents resided in Milwaukee, change was happening on the field in Green Bay, as Black players sought opportunity from the Packers new coach – Vince Lombardi.

The iconic coach for which the Super Bowl trophy is named has not just been remembered as an all-time winner on the field, but has been documented as creating a "prejudice-free culture" in Green Bay, as Packers team historian Cliff Christl wrote in 2021.

Green Bay coach Vince Lombardi (undated photo) won six NFL championships and had wins in Super Bowl I and II. MALCOLM EMMONS/USA TODAY SPORTS FILE

Lombardi wouldn't let his Packers frequent any restaurant, bar or hotel that denied the same services to Black players normally offered to white players. He famously blessed the interracial marriage of defensive lineman Lionel Aldridge and his wife, Vicky. And he was one of the earliest in the NFL to offer opportunities to Blacks, as the main avenue had been through the startup American Football League.

Lombardi recalled as a strong advocate for gay rights

Stories in the Green Bay Press-Gazette in 2018 and from ESPN in 2013 depict Lombardi as not just a supporter of the Black athletes facing discrimination on the basis of race, but he also was an advocate for people who are discriminated on the basis of sexual identity.

"Like the saying goes," Lombardi's daughter, Susan, said in an interview with ESPN. "My father treated them all the same. Like dogs."

Susan Lombardi said her father "was way ahead of his time" because of his own background as a dark-skinned Italian American, who often struggled to get coaching jobs. "He felt the pain of discrimination," she said.

According to the ESPN story, there are a handful of instances in which Lombardi's character was shown throughout his life.

Author David Maraniss wrote Lombardi's biography, "When Pride Still Mattered," which published in 1999. There is an excerpt during Lombardi's time in Washington that describes Lombardi as having an assistant work with one of the gay players, Ray McDonald. "And if I hear one of you people make reference to his manhood," Lombardi is quoted as saying, "you'll be out of here before your ass hits the ground."

Others support the idea that Lombardi was a staunch advocate for gay rights because he had a gay younger brother, Harold. "He saw everyone as equals, and I think having a gay brother was a big factor in his approach," said Vince Lombardi Jr. to ESPN.

Richard Nicholls, a resident of California, told ESPN that he was partners with Harold Lombardi for more than 40 years. Nicholls recalled that Harold Lombardi once said of his brother, "I appreciate that Vin treats gays so nicely. He probably does it because of me."

There is also Dave Kopay, the first major team sport athlete to come out as gay in a 1975 newspaper interview. Kopay was a running back for Lombardi during the one year he coached Washington.

He said he never discussed his sexuality with Lombardi but remains fairly certain the coach knew. Kopay was in a relationship with the star tight end Jerry Smith.

"Lombardi protected and loved Jerry," Kopay said to ESPN, adding he was "absolutely, 100% sure" his coach knew that two Washington executives were gay "because he was so close to both of them it would've been impossible for Lombardi not to know."

Kopay said he tried to convince Smith that the two of them should come out together. "But back then gay people were almost thought of as deviant," Kopay said. "It was really terrible at the time."

Lombardi was a believer in diversity, equity and inclusion long before it became a soundbite for government officials.

"Supreme Court justices would come out to Saturday morning practices," Kopay said, "just to be around Lombardi. He was something else."

Jets QB Aaron Rodgers a no-show at minicamp

Joe Rivera
USA TODAY

There's a big absence at the New York Jets minicamp.

Aaron Rodgers hasn't always been present at OTAs throughout his career, as is a right generally reserved for veterans and players of his stature. Missing minicamp is a little bit different.

The Jets quarterback wasn't – and won't be – present at Jets minicamp, which began on Tuesday. The passer's absence isn't a surprise, according to Jets head coach Robert Saleh.

"Aaron and I spoke before OTAs started, he's been very good in communication, he's been here the entire time," Saleh said. "It's unexcused, but he had an event that was very important to him, which he communicated. …

"He had something that was very important to him. And if it's important to him, it's important to us."

Ultimately, the Jets passer is missing just two days of practice on Tuesday, June 11, and Wednesday, June 12.

It's unclear what "event" Rodgers has to attend, but the Jets head coach said he would be subject to CBA fines for missing minicamp.

Saleh explained that Rodgers was at the Jets facility on June 10 for media day.

Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers speaks with the media on Monday. SARAH STIER/GETTY IMAGES

Rodgers isn't the only one who's away from the team for mandatory minicamp. New Jets pass rusher Haason Reddick has also been absent from the Jets offseason, as he reportedly seeks a new contract.

Rodgers is looking to regain form after tearing his Achilles just four snaps into the 2023 season. He looks to guide the Jets to their first playoff berth since 2010; New York currently holds the longest playoff drought in North American sports.

49ers' McCaffrey wishes he could be in a 'CF' game

Jordan Mendoza
USA TODAY

When EA Sports "College Football 25" comes out in July, users will be able to play with some of college football's biggest stars like Quinn Ewers and Travis Hunter. Still, players of the video game franchise could only wonder what it would've been like to play some of the sport's biggest stars in the past decade.

There are players like Lamar Jackson at Louisville, Justin Jefferson at LSU and Caleb Williams at Southern Cal. There's also Christian McCaffrey, who was a human highlight reel when he was at Stanford. Now with college football set to come back in video game form, the former Stanford star and cover athlete of "Madden 25" wishes he could've been in the game.

"That would have been so cool," McCaffrey told USA TODAY Sports. "I'm excited for the new game. I think that's so cool they're bringing it back."

McCaffrey was never able to be featured in the game since he started his college career in 2014, one year after EA Sports released the last rendition of the game "NCAA Football 14."

But he isn't giving up hope of being able to see what it would be like to see him don a Stanford uniform again.

"I don't know what the logistics of how they're going to do it is, but I'm praying that there's a 2015-2016 Stanford team that you can choose to play with," he said. "I think there's a lot of guys that will be excited about that."

McCaffrey added he hopes he would be a high-rated player if his Stanford team was included in the game, but it's safe to say he could be a cheat code.

He had a breakout sophomore season in 2015 when he broke the NCAA single-season all-purpose yards record with 3,864 yards and 15 touchdowns. He finished second in the Heisman Trophy voting behind Derrick Henry, and he had one of the best performances in Rose Bowl history when he picked up 368 all-purpose yards – a Rose Bowl record – in a win over Iowa. Stanford won the Pac-12 title and finished the season 12-2.

In 2016, McCaffrey still had a solid season with 2,327 all-purpose yards and 16 touchdowns.

There haven't been any reports from EA Sports about legendary teams in the game, but if they ever do come in a future version, Stanford with McCaffrey will likely be a popular team to use.

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North Carolina State celebrates after winning Game 3 of the Super NCAA Regional against Georgia at Foley Field on Monday. JOSHUA L. JONES/USA TODAY NETWORK

NC State outslugs Georgia to reach MCWS

Field Level Media | Reuters

Eli Serrano III and Alex Sosa each amassed three hits, including a homer, while leading No. 10 North Carolina State to an 8-5 win over No. 7 Georgia on Monday to earn a berth in the men's College World Series.

The game was the finale of the best-of-three Athens Super Regional. The CWS, which begins on Friday in Omaha, Nebraska, will feature a field of four Atlantic Coast Conference teams and four Southeastern Conference teams.

Garrett Pennington and Alec Makarewicz also went deep for the Wolfpack (38-21), who are headed to the CWS for the fourth time. N.C. State will appear in the MCWS for the first time since 2021.

Wolfpack starting pitcher Logan Whitaker struck out seven while throwing 4⅓ innings of two-run ball. He allowed four hits and one walk. Jacob Dudan (4-2) got the win in relief, and Derrick Smith fired three innings of one-run ball for his eighth save.

Tre Phelps hit a two-run homer among his three hits and Charlie Condon also hit a home run for the Bulldogs (43-17). Georgia starting pitcher Zach Harris (5-2) was tagged for three runs on eight hits and no walks in three-plus innings. He fanned three.

Phelps' blast opened the scoring in the second inning, but Pennington's two-run shot in the third tied the game. N.C. State went ahead for good when Matt Heavner scored on a passed ball in the fourth, and Makarewicz added an RBI single later in the inning for a 4-2 edge.

The Wolfpack maintained their edge thanks to the homers by Serrano (sixth inning), Sosa (seventh) and Makarewicz (eighth).

North Carolina State inspired by Jim Valvano on way to CWS

Ryne Dennis
USA TODAY NETWORK

Avent

Minutes after North Carolina State's super regional defeat of Georgia, Wolfpack baseball coach Elliott Avent gave a shout out to legendary basketball coach Jim Valvano, who won a men's basketball title at the school in 1983.

Avent referenced the iconic ESPY Award speech given by North Carolina State's most famous coach, noting that the Wolfpack never gave up this season. Even after a rough stretch in April had them sitting at 18-12 after a five-game losing streak, the Wolfpack channeled their inner Jimmy V all the way to their fourth College World Series appearance in program history.

"The Jimmy V legacy at N.C. State is not only real, it's a thing," Avent said. "Don't give up, don't ever give up. It's what every person from (former star) Trea Turner to every player who has played there lives by. This club has really lived by it because we had so much going on during the season.

"They brought Jimmy V's saying to life."

After blasting the Bulldogs 18-1 on Saturday, the Wolfpack lost 11-2 on Sunday before Monday's 8-5 victory.

No. 10 seed N.C. State plays No. 2 Kentucky on Saturday. In their last appearance in 2021, the Wolfpack were removed from the CWS in the semifinal round due to COVID positives in the team.

The College World Series will be played at Charles Schwab Field in Omaha, Nebraska. DYLAN WIDGER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Field, schedule set for College World Series

Jordan Mendoza
USA TODAY

It's time for "The Greatest Show on Dirt."

The field for the men's College World Series is set with eight teams ready to battle it out at Charles Schwab Field in Omaha, Nebraska. It will be a final round heavily influenced by the SEC and ACC with all the participating teams coming from the two conferences, meaning we should see several rematches from earlier in the regular season.

The action is set to begin Friday and it will carry into the final week of June in what should be an exciting 10-plus days of baseball. The best-of-three championship series will be played June 22-24.

On TV

ESPN is broadcasting nearly all of the games, with Game 2 of the title series on ABC.

Field

- No. 1 Tennessee
- No. 2 Kentucky
- No. 3 Texas A&M
- No. 4 North Carolina
- No. 8 Florida State
- No. 10 North Carolina State
- No. 12 Virginia
- Florida

Schedule

All times p.m. Eastern Daylight

Friday, June 14
- **Game 1:** Virginia vs. North Carolina, 2 (ESPN)
- **Game 2:** Florida State vs. Tennessee, 7 (ESPN)

Saturday, June 15
- **Game 3:** North Carolina State vs. Kentucky, 2 (ESPN)
- **Game 4:** Florida vs. Texas A&M, 7 (ESPN)

Sunday, June 16
- **Game 5:** TBD vs. TBD, 2 (ESPN)
- **Game 6:** TBD vs. TBD, 7 (ESPN)

Monday, June 17
- **Game 7:** TBD vs. TBD, 2 (ESPN)
- **Game 8:** TBD vs. TBD, 7 (ESPN)

Tuesday, June 18
- **Game 9:** TBD vs. TBD, 2 (ESPN)
- **Game 10:** TBD vs. TBD, 7 (ESPN)

June 19
- **Game 11:** TBD vs. TBD, 2 (ESPN)
- **Game 12:** TBD vs. TBD, 7 (ESPN)

June 20
- **Game 13 (if necessary):** TBD vs. TBD, 2 (ESPN)
- **Game 14 (if necessary):** TBD vs. TBD, 7 (ESPN)

June 22
- **Final Game 1:** TBD vs. TBD, 7:30 (ESPN)

June 23
- **Final Game 2:** TBD vs. TBD, 2 (ABC)

June 24
- **Final Game 3 (if necessary):** TBD vs. TBD, 7 (ESPN)

GOLF US OPEN TEE TIMES

All times Eastern Daylight

Players will use split tees for the opening two rounds of the U.S. Open, with half the field beginning on hole No. 1 and half the field beginning on hole No. 10.

Thursday (June 13), Hole #1 / Friday (June 14), Hole #10

6:45 a.m. / 12:30 p.m. - Michael McGowan, Southern Pines, N.C.; Carter Jenkins, Raleigh, N.C.; Logan McAllister, Oklahoma City, Okla.

6:56 a.m. / 12:41 p.m. - Frederik Kjettrup, Denmark; Christopher Petefish, Cumming, Ga.; (a) Parker Bell, Tallahassee, Fla.

7:07 a.m. / 12:52 p.m. - (a) Omar Morales, Mexico; Max Greyserman, Short Hills, N.J.; Casey Jarvis, South Africa

7:18 a.m. / 1:03 p.m. - Corey Conners, Canada; Stephan Jaeger, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Emiliano Grillo, Argentina

7:29 a.m. / 1:14 p.m. - Ryo Ishikawa, Japan; Francesco Molinari, Italy; Sergio Garcia, Spain

7:40 a.m. / 1:25 p.m. - Justin Thomas, Louisville, Ky.; Collin Morikawa, La Canada, Calif.; Brooks Koepka, West Palm Beach, Fla.

7:51 a.m. / 1:36 p.m. - Rickie Fowler, Murrieta, Calif.; Adam Hadwin, Canada; Phil Mickelson, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

8:02 a.m. / 1:47 p.m. - Min Woo Lee, Australia; Sahith Theegala, Spring, Texas; Nicolai Højgaard, Denmark

8:13 a.m. / 1:58 p.m. - Si Woo Kim, Republic of Korea; Matthieu Pavon, France; Sungjae Im, Republic of Korea

8:24 a.m. / 2:09 p.m. - Nico Echavarria, Colombia; Robert Rock, England; (a) Neal Shipley, Pittsburgh, Pa.

8:35 a.m. / 2:20 p.m. - Takumi Kanaya, Japan; (a) Stewart Hagestad, Newport Beach, Calif.; Mac Meissner, San Antonio, Texas

8:46 a.m. / 2:31 p.m. - Isaiah Salinda, South San Francisco, Calif.; (a) Bryan Kim, Brookeville, Md.; Jim Herman, Telford, Pa.

8:57 a.m. / 2:42 p.m. - Carson Schaake, Omaha, Neb.; Charles Reiter, Newport Beach, Calif.; (a) Colin Prater, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Thursday (June 13), Hole #1/ Friday (June 14), Hole #10

12:30 p.m. / 6:45 a.m. - Jason Scrivener, Australia; Brandon Robinson Thompson, England; (a) Brendan Valdes, Orlando, Fla.

12:41 p.m. / 6:56 a.m. - (a) Santiago de la Fuente, Mexico; Sam Bairstow, England; Eugenio Chacarra, Spain

12:52 p.m. / 7:07 a.m. - Kurt Kitayama, Chico, Calif.; Taylor Moore, Edmond, Okla.; Christiaan Bezuidenhout, South Africa

1:03 p.m. / 7:18 a.m. - Jason Day, Australia; Harris English, Sea Island, Ga.; Tom Kim, Republic of Korea

1:14 p.m. / 7:29 a.m. - Rory McIlroy, Northern Ireland; Xander Schauffele, San Diego, Calif.; Scottie Scheffler, Dallas, Texas

1:25 p.m. / 7:40 a.m. - Brian Harman, Sea Island, Ga.; Nick Dunlap, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Wyndham Clark, Denver, Colo.

1:36 p.m. / 7:51 a.m. - Hideki Matsuyama, Japan; Jon Rahm, Spain; Jordan Spieth, Dallas, Texas

1:47 p.m. / 8:02 a.m. - Shane Lowry, Republic of Ireland; Keegan Bradley, Woodstock, Vt.; Martin Kaymer, Germany

1:58 p.m. / 8:13 a.m. - Akshay Bhatia, Raleigh, N.C.; Eric Cole, Tequesta, Fla.; Erik van Rooyen, South Africa

2:09 p.m. / 8:24 a.m. - Brendon Todd, Athens, Ga.; Taylor Pendrith, Canada; Alex Noren, Sweden

2:20 p.m. / 8:35 a.m. - Thomas Detry, Belgium; Brian Campbell, Irvine, Calif.; (a) Jackson Buchanan, Dacula, Ga.

2:31 p.m. / 8:46 a.m. - Taisei Shimizu, Japan; (a) Gunnar Broin, Shorewood, Minn.; Maxwell Moldovan, Uniontown, Ohio

2:42 p.m. / 8:57 a.m. - Sung Kang, Republic of Korea; Riki Kawamoto, Japan; John Chin, Temecula, Calif.

Thursday (June 13), Hole #10/ Friday (June 14), Hole #1

6:45 a.m. / 12:30 p.m. - Rico Hoey, Philippines; Tom McKibbin, Northern Ireland; Matteo Manassero, Italy

6:56 a.m. / 12:41 p.m. - Dean Burmester, South Africa; Rikuya Hoshino, Japan; Seamus Power, Republic of Ireland

7:07 a.m. / 12:52 p.m. - S.H. Kim, Republic of Korea; Justin Lower, Akron, Ohio; Tim Widing, Sweden

7:18 a.m. / 1:03 p.m. - Lucas Glover, Jupiter, Fla.; Sam Burns, Shreveport, La.; Cameron Smith, Australia

7:29 a.m. / 1:14 p.m. - Will Zalatoris, Dallas, Texas; Matt Fitzpatrick, England; Tiger Woods, Jupiter, Fla.

7:40 a.m. / 1:25 p.m. - Patrick Cantlay, Jupiter, Fla.; Matt Kuchar, Jupiter, Fla.; Russell Henley, Columbus, Ga.

7:51 a.m. / 1:36 p.m. - Tony Finau, Lehi, Utah; Ludvig Åberg, Sweden; Dustin Johnson, Jupiter, Fla.

8:02 a.m. / 1:47 p.m. - Justin Rose, England; Gary Woodland, Topeka, Kan.; Webb Simpson, Charlotte, N.C.

8:13 a.m. / 1:58 p.m. - Daniel Berger, Tequesta, Fla.; Ryan Fox, New Zealand; David Puig, Spain

8:24 a.m. / 2:09 p.m. - Byeong Hun An, Republic of Korea; Sam Bennett, Madisonville, Texas; Edoardo Molinari, Italy

8:35 a.m. / 2:20 p.m. - Austin Eckroat, Edmond, Okla.; Adrian Meronk, Poland; Cam Davis, Australia

8:46 a.m. / 2:31 p.m. - Aaron Rai, England; Davis Thompson, St. Simons Island, Ga.; Zac Blair, Orem, Utah

8:57 a.m. / 2:42 p.m. - Willie Mack III, Orlando, Fla.; Richard Mansell, England; (a) Ashton McCulloch, Canada

Thursday (June 13), Hole #10/ Friday (June 14), Hole #1

12:30 p.m. / 6:45 a.m. - Greyson Sigg, Sea Island, Ga.; Grant Forrest, Scotland; (a) Wells Williams, West Point, Miss.

12:41 p.m. / 6:56 a.m. - Chesson Hadley, Raleigh, N.C.; Mark Hubbard, Denver, Colo.; Adam Svensson, Canada

12:52 p.m. / 7:07 a.m. - Beau Hossler, Mission Viejo, Calif.; Victor Perez, France; Adam Schenk, Vincennes, Ind.

1:03 p.m. / 7:18 a.m. - Robert MacIntyre, Scotland; Nick Taylor, Canada; Mackenzie Hughes, Canada

1:14 p.m. / 7:29 a.m. - Tyrrell Hatton, England; Tommy Fleetwood, England; Tom Hoge, Fargo, N.D.

1:25 p.m. / 7:40 a.m. - Bryson DeChambeau, Grapevine, Texas; Viktor Hovland, Norway; Max Homa, Scottsdale, Ariz.

1:36 p.m. / 7:51 a.m. - Sepp Straka, Austria; Peter Malnati, Knoxville, Tenn.; J.T. Poston, Hickory, N.C.

1:47 p.m. / 8:02 a.m. - (a) Gordon Sargent, Birmingham, Ala.; Jake Knapp, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Cameron Young, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

1:58 p.m. / 8:13 a.m. - Chris Kirk, Watkinsville, Ga.; Billy Horschel, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.; Adam Scott, Australia

2:09 p.m. / 8:24 a.m. - Ben Kohles, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.; Denny McCarthy, Jupiter, Fla.; (a) Ben James, Milford, Conn.

2:20 p.m. / 8:35 a.m. - Frankie Capan III, North Oaks, Minn.; Andy Svoboda, Oak Brook, Ill.; (a) Luke Clanton, Hialeah, Fla.

2:31 p.m. / 8:46 a.m. - Harry Higgs, Dallas, Texas; (a) Hiroshi Tai, Singapore; Brandon Wu, Scarsdale, N.Y.

2:42 p.m. / 8:57 a.m. - Joey Vrzich, La Jolla, Calif.; Chris Naegel, Wildwood, Mo.; Otto Black, Detroit, Mich.

(a): amateur

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In re: SAM ASH MUSIC CORPORATION, *et al.*, Debtors.[1]	Chapter 11 Case No. 24-14727 (SLM) (Jointly Administered)

NOTICE OF SALE BY AUCTION AND SALE HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 10, 2024, the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debtors") filed the *Debtors' Motion for Entry of Orders (I) (A) Approving Bidding Procedures and Breakup Fee, (B) Approving the Stalking Horse Purchase Agreement, (C) Scheduling an Auction and Sale Hearing, (D) Approving the Form and Manner of Notice Thereof, (E) Establishing Procedures for the Assumption and Assignment of Contracts and Leases and (II)(A) Approving the Asset Purchase Agreement, (B) Authorizing the Sale of Assets, and (C) Authorizing the Assumption and Assignment of Contracts and Leases* [Docket No. 47] (the "Motion")[2] with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the "Court") seeking, among other things, entry of an order (the "Sale Order") authorizing and approving: (a) a sale (the "Sale") of all or substantially all of the Debtors' Assets or any portion thereof free and clear of all Encumbrances, except as set forth in the Stalking Horse APA or an alternative asset purchase agreement with a Successful Bidder at auction; and (b) the assumption and assignment of executory contracts and unexpired leases (collectively, the "Contracts").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Debtors are soliciting offers for the purchase of the Assets consistent with the bidding procedures (the "Bidding Procedures") approved by the Court by entry of an order on June 5, 2024 [Docket No. 204] (the "Bidding Procedures Order"). **All interested bidders should carefully read the Bidding Procedures and Bidding Procedures Order.** To the extent that there are any inconsistencies between this notice and the Bidding Procedures or Bidding Procedures Order, the Bidding Procedures or Bidding Procedures Order, as applicable, shall govern in all respects.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, if the Debtors receive qualified competing bids within the requirements and time frame specified by the Bidding Procedures, the Debtors will conduct an auction (the "Auction") of the Assets on **June 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** at the offices of Cole Schotz P.C., 25 Main Street, Hackensack, New Jersey 07602 (or at any other location as the Debtor may hereafter designate on proper notice).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Debtors will seek approval of the Sale at a hearing scheduled to commence on or before (i) **June 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** if there are no Qualified Bids other than the Stalking Horse Bid or (ii) **June 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** if the Debtors receives a Qualified Bid other than the Stalking Horse Bid and hold an Auction (the "Sale Hearing") before the Honorable Stacey L. Meisel, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey, Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Building, Courtroom 3A, 50 Walnut Street, Newark, NJ 07102.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, except as otherwise set forth in the Bidding Procedures Order with respect to any objections to proposed cure payments or adequate assurance of future performance as to a Successful Bidder, objections to the relief requested in the Motion ***must***: (a) be in writing; (b) conform to the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Rules and the Local Rules; (c) state with particularity the legal and factual basis for the objection and the specific grounds therefor; and (d) be filed with the Court and served so as to be ***actually received*** **on or before June 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** by the following parties: (i) proposed counsel to the Debtor, 25 Main Street, P.O. Box 800, Hackensack, New Jersey 07602, Attn: Michael D. Sirota, Esq., Ryan T. Jareck, Esq., and Matteo Percontino, Esq., email: msirota@coleschotz.com, rjareck@coleschotz.com, and mpercontino@coleschotz.com; (ii) counsel for the DIP Lender, Riemer & Braunstein LLP, Anthony B. Stumbo, Esq. and Paul D. Bekker, Esq., email: astumbo@riemerlaw.com and pbekker@riemerlaw.com; (iii) the Office of the U.S. Trustee for the District of New Jersey, (iv) counsel for the Committee, Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C., Brett S. Moore, Esq., Rachel Parisi, Esq., and Kelly D. Curtin, Esq., email: bsmoore@pbnlaw.com, raparisi@pbnlaw.com, and kdcurtin@pbnlaw.com; *provided* that any objection to the Sale to the Successful Bidder other than the Stalking Horse Bidder shall be filed on or before **June 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)**.

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO TIMELY MAKE AN OBJECTION

ANY PARTY OR ENTITY WHO FAILS TO TIMELY MAKE AN OBJECTION TO THE SALE ON OR BEFORE THE SALE OBJECTION DEADLINE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BIDDING PROCEDURES ORDER SHALL BE FOREVER BARRED FROM ASSERTING ANY OBJECTION TO THE SALE, INCLUDING WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSFER OF THE DEBTORS' ASSETS FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS, CLAIMS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND OTHER INTERESTS, EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN THE APPLICABLE PURCHASE AGREEMENT.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of the Motion, Bidding Procedures, and Bidding Procedures Order, as well as all related exhibits, including the Stalking Horse APA, and the proposed Sale Order, are or will be available: (a) free of charge upon request to Epiq (the notice and claims agent retained in this chapter 11 case) by calling (888) 991-6919 (U.S./ Canada toll-free), +1 (971) 257-8267 (international); (b) by visiting the website maintained in this chapter 11 case at https://dm.epiq11.com/SamAsh or (c) for a fee via PACER by visiting http://www.njb.uscourts.gov.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you may obtain additional information concerning the above-captioned chapter 11 case at the website maintained in this chapter 11 case at https://dm.epiq11.com/SamAsh.

DATED: June 6, 2024, Respectfully submitted, **COLE SCHOTZ P.C.**, By: */s/ Ryan T. Jareck*, Michael D. Sirota, Esq., Ryan T. Jareck, Esq., Matteo Percontino, Esq., Court Plaza North, 25 Main Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601, (201) 489-3000, (201) 489-1536 Facsimile, Email: msirota@coleschotz.com, rjareck@coleschotz.com, mpercontino@coleschotz.com, *Proposed Counsel to Debtors and Debtors in Possession*

[1] The debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Sam Ash Music Corporation (3915); Samson Technologies Corp. (4062); Sam Ash Megastores, LLC (9955); Sam Ash California Megastores, LLC (3598); Sam Ash Florida Megastores, LLC (7276); Sam Ash Illinois Megastores, LLC (8966); Sam Ash Nevada Megastores, LLC (6399); Sam Ash New York Megastores, LLC (7753); Sam Ash New Jersey Megastores, LLC (8788); Sam Ash CT, LLC (5932); Sam Ash Music Marketing, LLC (2024); and Sam Ash Quikship Corp. (7410). The location of debtor Sam Ash Music Corporation's principal place of business is 278 Duffy Avenue, P.O. Box 9047, Hicksville, NY 11802.

[2] Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Bidding Procedures Order.

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FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees	47	21	.691	–
Baltimore	43	22	.662	2½
Boston	33	33	.500	13
Toronto	32	34	.485	14
Tampa Bay	31	35	.470	15

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	42	22	.656	–
Kansas City	39	28	.582	4½
Minnesota	35	31	.530	8
Detroit	32	33	.492	10½
Chicago	17	50	.254	26½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	38	30	.559	–
Texas	31	34	.477	5½
Houston	30	37	.448	7½
L.A. Angels	25	40	.385	11½
Oakland	26	42	.382	12

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	45	20	.692	–
Atlanta	35	28	.556	9
Washington	30	35	.462	15
N.Y. Mets	28	36	.438	16½
Miami	22	43	.338	23

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	39	27	.591	–
Cincinnati	32	34	.485	7
Chicago	32	34	.485	7
St. Louis	31	33	.484	7
Pittsburgh	31	34	.477	7½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	41	26	.612	–
San Diego	35	35	.500	7½
San Francisco	33	34	.493	8
Arizona	31	35	.470	9½
Colorado	23	43	.348	17½

Sunday's Scores

N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 5
Texas 7, San Francisco 2
Washington 8, Atlanta 5
Minnesota 11, Pittsburgh 5
Chicago 4, Cincinnati 2
Detroit 10, Milwaukee 2
Baltimore 9, Tampa Bay 2
Cleveland 6, Miami 3
Boston 6, Chicago 4
Seattle 6, Kansas City 5
St. Louis 5, Colorado 1
L.A. Angels 9, Houston 7
Toronto 6, Oakland 4
Arizona 9, San Diego 3
N.Y. Yankees 6, L.A. Dodgers 4

Monday's Scores

Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 2
Minnesota 5, Colorado 0
N.Y. Yankees 4, Kansas City 2
Milwaukee 3, Toronto 1
Seattle 8, Chicago 4
San Diego 6, Oakland 1
San Francisco 4, Houston 3

Tuesday's Games

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

Wednesday's Games

Colorado at Minnesota, 1:10 p.m.
Toronto at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.
Houston at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 4:10 p.m.
Atlanta at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.
Chicago at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.
Philadelphia at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
Chicago at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.
Texas at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Atlanta at Baltimore, 1:05 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 2:15 p.m.
Chicago at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.
Philadelphia at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Oakland at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
Chicago at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.
Texas at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Friday's Games

St. Louis at Chicago, 2:20 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
San Diego at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Oakland at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
Chicago at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
Kansas City at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.
Texas at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Oakland at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m.
St. Louis at Chicago, 2:20 p.m.
Cleveland at Toronto, 3:07 p.m.
Philadelphia at Baltimore, 4:05 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 4:10 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 4:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 4:10 p.m.
San Diego at N.Y. Mets, 4:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 7:15 p.m.
Texas at Seattle, 7:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 9:10 p.m.
Kansas City at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10 p.m.
Chicago at Arizona, 10:10 p.m.

WNBA

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	10	1	.909	–
N.Y. Liberty	11	2	.846	–
Atlanta	5	4	.556	4
Chicago	4	6	.400	5½
Indiana	3	10	.231	8
Washington	0	12	.000	10½

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	8	3	.727	–
Seattle	7	4	.636	1
Las Vegas	5	4	.556	2
Phoenix	6	6	.500	2½
L.A. Sparks	4	7	.364	4
Dallas	3	7	.300	4½

Sunday's Games

N.Y. Liberty 93, Washington 88
Phoenix 97, Dallas 90
Minnesota 83, Seattle 64
L.A. Sparks 96, Las Vegas 92

Monday's Game

Connecticut 89, Indiana 72

Tuesday's Games

Washington at Atlanta
Minnesota at Las Vegas
L.A. Sparks at Seattle

Wednesday's Game

Connecticut at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Atlanta at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Las Vegas at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Chicago at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Sparks at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Connecticut at Dallas, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Liberty at Las Vegas, 3 p.m.

SOCCER

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	10	3	5	35	42	27
Cincinnati	10	3	3	33	23	16
NY City FC	9	5	2	29	24	17
NY Red Bulls	8	4	5	29	29	23
Charlotte FC	7	6	4	25	18	18
Toronto FC	7	7	3	24	26	26
Columbus	6	2	6	24	21	13
Philadelphia	4	4	8	20	27	23
Nashville	4	5	7	19	20	22
D.C. United	4	6	7	19	25	31
Orlando City	4	7	5	17	16	24
CF Montreal	4	7	5	17	23	35
Atlanta	4	8	4	16	22	21
Chicago	3	8	6	15	17	29
New England	4	10	1	13	12	27

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	9	2	6	33	36	19
Los Angeles FC	9	4	3	30	28	19
Minnesota	8	3	5	29	28	21
LA Galaxy	7	3	7	28	31	25
Vancouver	7	5	4	25	24	19
Austin FC	6	6	5	23	21	25
Houston	6	6	4	22	18	18
Colorado	6	7	4	22	29	31
Portland	5	7	6	21	32	32
Seattle	4	7	6	18	20	21
Saint Louis	3	4	9	18	23	25
Sporting KC	3	9	5	14	26	32
FC Dallas	3	8	5	14	18	25
San Jose	3	11	2	11	24	39

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

Friday's Game

Columbus at NY City FC, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Real Salt Lake at CF Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto FC, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m.
Inter Miami CF at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at New England, 7:30 p.m.
D.C. United at Charlotte FC, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at NY Red Bulls, 7:30 p.m.
Saint Louis at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Austin FC at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Sporting KC at LA Galaxy, 10:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

NBA

Finals

(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)
Boston Celtics 2, Dallas Mavericks 0
All games on ABC
Game 1: Celtics 107, Mavericks 89
Game 2: Celtics 105, Mavericks 98
Game 3: Wed, June 12, at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Game 4: Friday, June 14, at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
x-Game 5: Mon, June 17, at Boston, 8:30 p.m.
x-Game 6: Thurs, June 20, at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
x-Game 7: Sunday, June 23, at Boston, 8 p.m.

NHL

Stanley Cup Final

(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)
Florida Panthers 2, Edmonton Oilers 0
All starts at 8 p.m. on ABC
Game 1: Panthers 3, Oilers 0
Game 2: Florida 4, Edmonton 1
Game 3: Thursday, June 13, at Edmonton
Game 4: Saturday, June 15, at Edmonton
x-Game 5: Tuesday, June 18, at Florida
x-Game 6: Friday, June 21, at Edmonton
x-Game 7: Monday, June 24, at Florida

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Super regionals

(Best-of-3 series; x- if necessary)
Knoxville: Tennessee 2, Evansville 1
Friday: Tennessee 11, Evansville 6
Saturday: Evansville 10, Tennessee 8
Sunday: Tennessee 12, Evansville 1
Tallahassee: Florida State 2, UConn 0
Friday: Florida State 24, UConn 4
Saturday: Florida State 10, UConn 8 (12)
Charlottesville: Virginia 2, Kansas State 0
Friday: Virginia 7, Kansas State 4
Saturday: Virginia 10, Kansas State 4
Chapel Hill: North Carolina 2, West Virginia 0
Friday: North Carolina 8, West Virginia 6
Saturday: North Carolina 3, West Virginia 1
Lexington: Kentucky 2, Oregon State 0
Saturday: Kentucky 10, Oregon State 0
Sunday: Kentucky 3, Oregon State 2
Athens: North Carolina State 2, Georgia 1
Saturday: N.C. State 18, Georgia 1
Sunday: Georgia 11, N.C. State 2
Monday: N.C. State 8, Georgia 5
Clemson: Florida 2, Clemson 0
Saturday: Florida 10, Clemson 7
Sunday: Florida 11, Clemson 10
Bryan-College Station:
Texas A&M 2, Oregon 0
Saturday: Texas A&M 10, Oregon 6
Sunday: Texas A&M 15, Oregon 9

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

USA TODAY/NFCA Coaches Poll

Rank (1st Place Votes)	Pts	W-L	LW
1 Oklahoma (32)	800	59-7	2
2 Texas	767	55-10	1
3 Florida	726	54-15	7
4 Stanford	692	50-17	8
5 UCLA	659	43-12	6
6 Oklahoma State	633	49-12	5
7 Duke	603	52-9	4
8 Alabama	580	39-20	19
9 Tennessee	537	44-12	3
10 Texas A&M	526	44-15	9
11 Missouri	465	48-18	10
12 LSU	455	44-17	11
13 Florida State	416	46-16	12
14 Georgia	385	43-19	14
15 Arizona	337	37-18-1	17
16 Washington	269	32-15	13
17 Virginia Tech	256	40-14-1	15
18 Arkansas	244	37-18	16
19 Louisiana	202	45-19	20
20 Baylor	182	36-23	NR
21 Mississippi State	159	34-20	18
22 Texas State	99	47-15	25
23 Boston University	67	53-6-1	22
24 Oregon	60	30-21	NR
25 California	53	37-19	21

Dropped out: No. 23 Clemson, No. 24 Miami
Others receiving votes: Northwestern (45), Clemson (43), Omaha (31), Grand Canyon (28), Miami (21), South Carolina (14), Michigan (12), Cal State Fullerton (10), Virginia (10), Southeastern Louisiana (6), Kentucky (4), Southern Illinois (3), Utah (1).
The 2024 USA TODAY/NFCA Division I Top 25 Coaches Poll is voted on by 32 NCAA Division I head coaches with one representing each of the NCAA's Division I Conferences. Records reflect games played through 2024 season. Poll is released on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. ET during the regular season.

PGA

Tour Statistics

Through June 11
Season Points
1, Scottie Scheffler, 5,051.
2, Xander Schauffele, 2,880.
3, Rory McIlroy, 2,045.
4, Collin Morikawa, 1,971.
5, Wyndham Clark, 1,906.
6, Sahith Theegala, 1,806.
7, Ludvig Aberg, 1,785.
8, Byeong Hun An, 1,620.
9, Hideki Matsuyama, 1,540.
10, Sepp Straka, 1,324.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series Point Leaders

Through June 11
1. Kyle Larson, 561.
2. Chase Elliott, 547.
3. Denny Hamlin, 535.
4. Tyler Reddick, 512.
5. Martin Truex Jr., 508.
6. William Byron, 495.
7. Brad Keselowski, 466.
8. Ty Gibbs, 466.
9. Christopher Bell, 465.
10. Ross Chastain, 453.
11. Alex Bowman, 445.
12. Ryan Blaney, 444.
13. Chris Buescher, 412.
14. Bubba Wallace, 388.
15. Kyle Busch, 380.
16. Joey Logano, 372.
17. Chase Briscoe, 361.
18. Austin Cindric, 320.
19. Daniel Suárez, 316.
20. Michael McDowell, 295.
21. Todd Gilliland, 289.
22. Carson Hocevar, 279.
23. Josh Berry, 269.
24. Noah Gragson, 266.
25. Erik Jones, 250.
26. Ryan Preece, 239.
27. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 236.
28. John H. Nemechek, 236.
29. Daniel Hemric, 226.
30. Corey LaJoie, 222.

IndyCar Series Points Leaders

Through June 10
1. Will Power, 236.
2. Alex Palou, 231.
3. Scott Dixon, 225.
4. Patricio O'Ward, 184.
5. Scott McLaughlin, 179.
6. Kyle Kirkwood, 179.
7. Colton Herta, 176.
8. Josef Newgarden, 169.
9. Alexander Rossi, 162.
10. Felix Rosenqvist, 157.
11. Christian Lundgaard, 141.
12. Santino Ferrucci, 132.
13. Marcus Ericsson, 130.
14. Marcus Armstrong, 121.
15. Graham Rahal, 121.
16. Romain Grosjean, 112.
17. Rinus Veekay, 109.
18. Linus Lundqvist, 100.
19. Kyffin Simpson, 81.
20. Pietro Fittipaldi, 81.
21. Théo Pourchaire, 75.
22. Agustín Hugo Canapino, 74.
23. Sting Ray Robb, 68.
24. Christian Rasmussen, 65.
25. Jack Harvey, 65.
26. Tom Blomqvist, 46.
27. Callum Ilott, 39.
28. Helio Castroneves, 26.
29. Luca Ghiotto, 22.
30. Conor Daly, 21.

DEALS

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
MINNESOTA TWINS – P Diego Castillo Sent to Minors. P Louie Varland Called Up from Minors.
NEW YORK METS – C Francisco Alvarez Removed From 10-Day IL Sprained left thumb. C Francisco Alvarez Recalled From Minors Rehab. C Tomas Nido Designated for Assignment.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES – C J.T. Realmuto Placed on 10-Day IL Right knee pain. Rafael Marchan Called Up from Minors.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS – Donny Sands Released.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
DETROIT LIONS – CB Craig James cut.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS – S Marcus Maye signed to Miami Dolphins.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ST. LOUIS BLUES – G Colten Ellis Contract extended One-year, two-way contract extension.

Sports Weekly

On newsstands: Atlanta is slogging after two devastating injuries. Can the Braves get back up? Also, we rank the major leagues' most beautiful ballparks and tell you why we love them. Our NBA mock draft looks at two top French-born players who could be picked No. 1. Where does everyone else stack up in the first round? We also relive how Oklahoma softball "did the impossible" in completing a four-peat to make a case for the best college run in any sport. In college baseball, Florida State surges to the College World Series and looks for more. The issue also includes MLB power rankings, statistics, team notes and box scores. You can order the edition at onlinestore.usatoday.com and subscribe to the magazine by calling 800-872-1415.

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WEATHER

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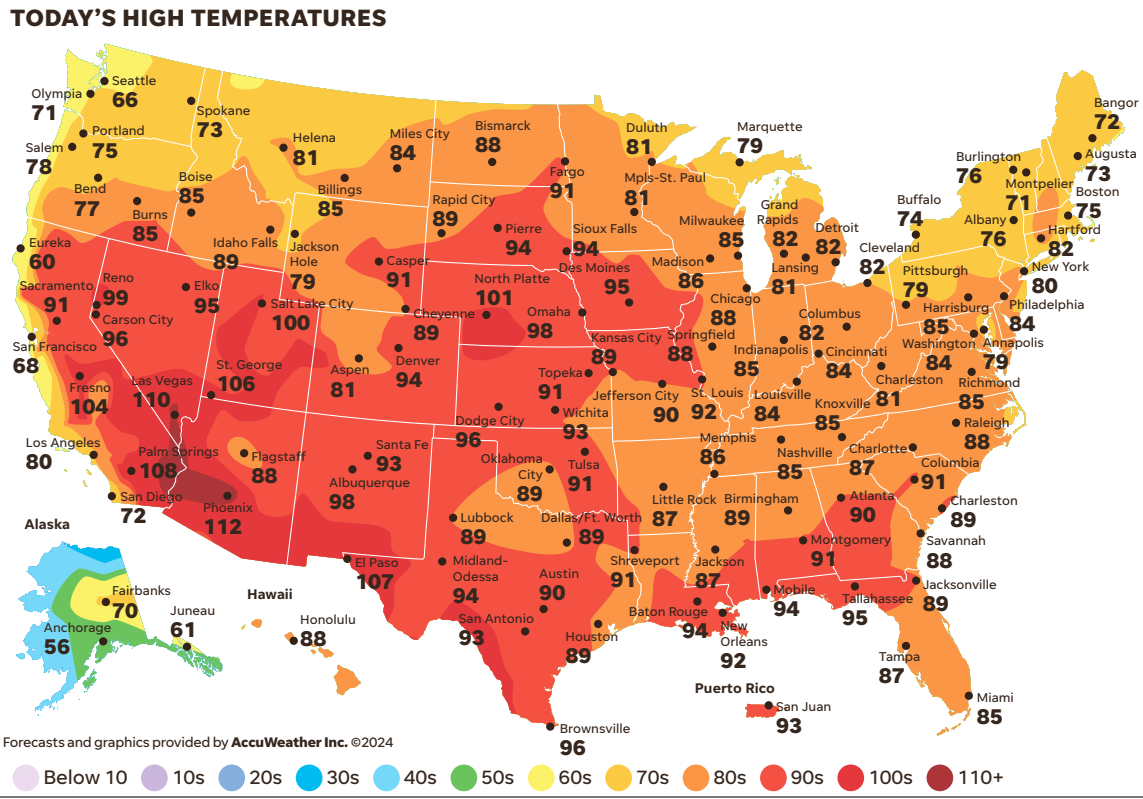
TODAY'S FORECAST

Showers and thunderstorms, some heavy, will continue across the **Florida** Peninsula as a tropical rainstorm approaches from the Gulf of Mexico today. There will be areas of flooding and difficult travel, mainly across central and southern portions of the peninsula.

Meanwhile, another storm will spread thunderstorms across the **Midwest** during the afternoon and overnight. Some thunderstorms may become severe and will be capable of producing hail and localized damaging wind gusts.

Besides a spotty shower in northern **New England**, much the **East** will remain dry with seasonable conditions. Additionally, a zone of high pressure over the **West** will bring mainly dry weather with temperatures well above historical averages across the interior.

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather Inc.** ©2024

Below 10 | 10s | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70s | 80s | 90s | 100s | 110+

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PRECIPITATION FORECAST

T-storms | Rain | Snow | Ice/mix

EXTREMES

Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday

HOTTEST: 98° Needles, Calif.
COLDEST: 28° Stonington, Mich.

TOP TRAVEL CITIES

Air quality index **(AQI)**

	ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	BOSTON	CHARLOTTE	CHICAGO	DALLAS/FT. WORTH	DENVER	DETROIT	HONOLULU	HOUSTON	LAS VEGAS	LOS ANGELES
WED	Partly sunny 90/71	Mostly sunny 84/62	Partly sunny 75/61	Partly sunny 87/67	Warmer 88/71	Humid 89/72	Warmer 94/66	Partly sunny 82/65	Showers 88/76	T-storms 89/74	Very hot 110/80	Turning sunny 80/57
THU	Mostly sunny 90/73	Very warm 88/68	Breezy 81/68	Partly sunny 90/68	T-storm 89/63	Humid 92/74	Hot 96/60	A P.M. t-storm 88/63	Showers 87/76	Humid 92/75	Windy 106/79	Partly sunny 76/59
FRI	More humid 95/75	T-storm 92/64	A P.M. t-storm 81/60	Sunny, warm 94/74	Mostly sunny 79/60	Sunny 94/73	T-storm 87/61	Mostly sunny 78/55	A few showers 85/76	Mostly sunny 94/73	Sunny, hot 107/82	Partly sunny 78/60
AQI	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

	MIAMI	MPLS-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON
WED	T-storms 85/76	T-storm 81/65	Mostly sunny 92/78	Partly sunny 80/66	T-storms 86/73	Partly sunny 84/65	Sunny, hot 112/82	Hot 100/72	Mostly cloudy 72/61	Breezy 68/54	Mostly sunny 66/49	Mostly sunny 84/66
THU	T-storms 83/75	Breezy 82/59	Sunny 94/76	Some sun 86/71	T-storms 89/73	Hot 90/71	Hot 110/83	Hot 101/74	Partly sunny 70/63	Turning sunny 68/53	Partly sunny 70/50	Very warm 88/71
FRI	T-storms 82/75	Mostly cloudy 79/63	Plenty of sun 94/78	A P.M. t-storm 89/64	T-storms 89/74	T-storm 93/66	Sunny, warm 107/81	Windy, hot 96/73	Mostly cloudy 69/61	Breezy 69/54	Showers around 62/47	T-storm 93/66
AQI	Moderate	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Unhealthy s/g	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Good	Good

c Cloudy **f** Fog **i** Ice **r** Rain **sf** Snowflurries **sn** Snow **w** Windy **dr** Drizzle **h** Haze **pc** Partly cloudy **s** Sunny **sh** Showers **t** Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES

	TODAY	THU
Akron, Ohio	79/61s	86/65pc
Albany, N.Y.	76/57pc	86/65pc
Albuquerque	98/68s	100/72s
Allentown, Pa.	79/54pc	87/65s
Amarillo, Texas	91/65s	97/69s
Anaheim, Calif.	81/58pc	79/57s
Anchorage, Alaska	56/47c	57/47c
Aspen, Colo.	81/47t	85/48pc
Atlantic City, N.J.	78/65s	80/70pc
Augusta, Ga.	90/63pc	93/61s
Austin, Texas	90/72t	94/71pc
Bakersfield, Calif.	103/71s	97/68s
Baton Rouge, La.	94/68s	93/70s
Billings, Mont.	85/51s	81/57s
Birmingham, Ala.	89/65s	93/69s
Bismarck, N.D.	88/52pc	81/50s
Boise, Idaho	85/55s	93/59s
Buffalo, N.Y.	74/61pc	82/62w
Burlington, Vt.	76/56sh	83/66pc
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	89/67s	85/59t
Charleston, S.C.	89/68s	88/68pc
Charleston, W.Va.	81/54pc	89/62s
Cheyenne, Wyo.	89/60w	82/57t
Cincinnati	84/60pc	90/67pc
Cleveland	82/65s	88/66pc
Colorado Springs	91/60pc	97/61pc
Columbia, S.C.	91/66pc	92/67pc
Columbus, Ohio	82/60s	89/67pc
Corpus Christi, Texas	95/77t	95/76pc
Dayton, Ohio	83/62s	90/69pc
Daytona Beach, Fla.	86/74t	86/73t
Des Moines, Iowa	95/71s	87/61t
Duluth, Minn.	81/59t	73/50sh
Durham, N.C.	87/65pc	91/66s
El Paso, Texas	107/77s	108/81s
Fairbanks, Alaska	70/52pc	73/52c
Flagstaff, Ariz.	88/48s	85/50s
Fargo, N.D.	91/56t	79/52s
Fort Myers, Fla.	84/76t	83/73t
Fort Smith, Ark.	91/66c	95/70s
Fort Wayne, Ind.	84/63pc	89/65pc
Fresno, Calif.	104/68s	99/65s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	82/66pc	82/58t
Green Bay, Wis.	85/66s	83/58t
Greensboro, N.C.	84/64pc	88/66pc
Greenville, S.C.	86/66pc	90/66s
Harrisburg, Pa.	85/60s	90/68pc
Hartford, Conn.	82/57pc	88/66pc
Indianapolis	85/63pc	90/69pc
Islip, N.Y.	77/62s	80/66pc
Jackson, Miss.	87/61s	91/64s
Jacksonville, Fla.	89/72t	89/68t
Jefferson City, Mo.	90/67s	93/70pc
Kansas City	89/72s	93/67t
Key West, Fla.	87/81t	83/78t
Knoxville, Tenn.	85/62pc	89/68s
Laredo, Texas	101/79s	103/78s
Lexington, Ky.	82/60pc	90/68s
Lincoln, Neb.	98/72w	89/61t
Little Rock, Ark.	87/63c	90/66s
Long Beach, Calif.	77/59pc	75/61pc
Louisville, Ky.	84/63pc	93/69pc
Lubbock, Texas	89/68pc	95/71s
Madison, Wis.	86/68s	81/60t
Manchester, N.H.	81/59pc	87/67pc
Memphis, Tenn.	86/64pc	92/70s
Milwaukee	85/70s	86/63t
Mobile, Ala.	94/69s	96/70s
Modesto, Calif.	95/62s	91/59s
Montgomery, Ala.	91/66s	94/70s
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	85/71s	85/71s
Nags Head, N.C.	78/68s	82/69s
Nashville, Tenn.	85/61pc	92/66s
Newark, N.J.	82/65pc	88/70pc
New Haven, Conn.	77/60s	82/68pc
Norfolk, Va.	81/67s	86/68s
Oakland, Calif.	68/54w	68/53w
Oklahoma City	89/68pc	91/71s
Omaha, Neb.	98/72w	86/63t
Palm Springs, Calif.	108/76s	106/75s
Pensacola, Fla.	93/74s	93/76t
Pierre, S.D.	94/58s	83/56s
Pittsburgh	79/57s	85/64pc
Portland, Maine	69/55pc	77/63pc
Portland, Ore.	75/51s	78/51s
Providence, R.I.	76/58pc	82/65pc
Raleigh, N.C.	88/65pc	91/67s
Rapid City, S.D.	89/52s	82/56s
Reno, Nev.	99/66s	96/61s
Richmond, Va.	85/64s	88/66s
Rochester, N.Y.	75/58pc	85/62pc
Sacramento, Calif.	91/55s	85/56s
San Antonio	93/78t	97/77pc
San Jose, Calif.	81/55s	79/55s
Santa Fe, N.M.	93/57s	96/61s
Sarasota, Fla.	85/76t	86/74t
Savannah, Ga.	88/70pc	92/68c
Scottsdale, Ariz.	109/80s	108/80s
Shreveport, La.	91/65c	93/66s
Sioux Falls, S.D.	94/63t	84/58t
South Bend, Ind.	86/68pc	87/63t
Spokane, Wash.	73/48s	79/55s
Springfield, Mo.	86/63c	91/69s
Springfield, Ill.	88/68s	91/65pc
St. Louis	92/69s	97/74pc
St. Petersburg, Fla.	87/75t	89/74t
Syracuse, N.Y.	75/54pc	86/64pc
Tallahassee, Fla.	95/75pc	94/73t
Tampa, Fla.	87/78t	89/78t
Toledo, Ohio	85/66pc	91/65c
Topeka, Kan.	91/73s	97/68t
Tucson, Ariz.	109/75s	108/76s
Tupelo, Miss.	86/62s	91/66s
Tulsa, Okla.	91/69c	94/72s
Virginia Beach, Va.	78/69s	82/69s
Wichita, Kan.	93/71pc	98/73s
Wilmington, Del.	83/63s	87/67s
Winston-Salem, N.C.	85/65pc	87/68pc
Worcester, Mass.	75/58pc	82/65pc

WORLD CITIES

	TODAY	THU
Beijing	100/74pc	97/74c
Buenos Aires	70/66c	76/63h
Cancun, Mexico	91/80t	90/78t
Dubai, UAE	104/87s	103/88s
Frankfurt	65/44pc	68/50pc
Hong Kong	92/83t	92/83t
Istanbul	92/75s	91/74pc
Jerusalem	91/69s	98/74s
Johannesburg	63/44s	66/42s
London	62/47pc	63/54r
Mexico City	86/56pc	87/57pc
Montreal	73/58pc	83/63t
Moscow	80/59r	72/57sh
Mumbai, India	92/82c	90/81sh
Paris	66/47sh	69/56pc
Rio de Janeiro	80/67s	82/69s
Rome	78/62s	77/57s
Seoul	86/63s	90/65s
Singapore	89/78t	89/79t
Sydney	65/48w	62/50pc
Toronto	75/61pc	82/59t
Tokyo	83/70pc	85/71s

WNBA POWER RANKINGS

Liberty and Sun lead early charge

Scooby Axson
USA TODAY

Now that most teams are at the quarter pole of the season, it's time to assess where the WNBA is as a whole.

The Connecticut Sun and New York Liberty are back at it and look like the class of the league, with the Minnesota Lynx and Seattle Storm proving that a productive offseason can lead to immediate turnarounds.

The daily Caitlin Clark discourse has led to record ratings but hasn't provided much in the win column. The Indiana Fever have played the league's toughest schedule and have a chance to rack up some home wins before embarking on a five-game road trip next week.

The defending two-time champion Las Vegas Aces are in a mini-slump, having lost two in a row, but once they are fully healthy they should be back among the title favorites.

Here are the WNBA power rankings with records through Monday:

Sky forward Michaela Onyenwere (12) and Liberty forward Jonquel Jones (35) fight for a rebound. WENDELL CRUZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

1. New York Liberty (11-2)

New York is the league's hottest team, having won seven consecutive games, including three in a row on the road, allowing them to defend the Commissioner's Cup title in a few weeks. Jonquel Jones has shown the same form that earned her the 2021 MVP award, combining for 51 points and hitting 7 of 12 from beyond the arc the past two games.

Way downtown: 41% of New York's field goal attempts are from 3-point range.

2. Connecticut Sun (10-1)

Despite suffering their first loss of the season to the New York Liberty, who shot 51% against them, the Sun hold down this spot because they have been the most consistent team. The 1-2 punch of Alyssa Thomas and DeWanna Bonner and the balanced scoring of others have allowed Connecticut to get off to a fast start.

Book it: The previous six teams to start 9-0 each made the WNBA Finals.

3. Minnesota Lynx (8-3)

The Lynx fell short of expectations last season because of their lack of defense and horrendous 3-point shooting. This season they are allowing only 75 points per game, which is second in the league, with their net and defensive ratings both topping the league.

Iron too kind: Minnesota is shooting 41% from 3-point range as a team. No other team is shooting better than 34%.

4. Seattle Storm (7-4)

Seattle's big three of Jewell Loyd with newcomers Nneka Ogwumike and Skylar Diggins-Smith have more than lived up to expectations. While those three are filling up buckets, improved rebounding and defense, with block machine Ezi Magbegor, have also sparked the resurgence after an 11-win campaign in 2023.

Iso Joe: Only 55% of Seattle's 2-point baskets have been assisted.

5. Phoenix Mercury (6-6)

If you are not familiar with Kahleah Copper, take the time to get acquainted with her. She is inserting herself in the MVP race, averaging 24 points per game with two of the three highest-scoring games by a player this season. Copper is also the league's premier clutch player, averaging five points per game in the last five minutes of games.

40 is the new 20: Diana Taurasi has 20 games of 20 or more points after age 40. Taurasi turns 42 on June 11.

6. Las Vegas Aces (5-4)

The Aces aren't going to use Chelsea Gray's absence as an excuse, especially in their last game against the Los Angeles Sparks (Jackie Young also didn't play) when they scored the game's first 14 points before faltering in the fourth quarter. But A'ja Wilson has been outstanding, becoming the third-fastest player in league history to score 4,000 career points.

Another MVP: Wilson is leading the league in points and rebounds. No WNBA player has ended the season accomplishing that since Tina Charles pulled off the feat in 2016.

7. Atlanta Dream (5-4)

Atlanta makes a living at the charity stripe, leading the WNBA in makes, with 21% of its points coming from the free-throw line. The Dream also lead the league in the highest percentage of points from mid-range. Despite five victories, the Dream are next to last in the league in scoring per game and field goal percentage.

Movin' on up: Tina Charles is 150 points from passing Tamika Catchings for third on the all-time career scoring list.

8. Chicago Sky (4-6)

It is only a matter of time before Chennedy Carter is back in the starting lineup. She is the team's second-leading scorer at 12.9 points, playing less than 20 minutes per game. Despite its offensive rebounding prowess, Chicago is last in defensive rebounding percentage and gives up the most second-chance points in the league.

Chairwoman of the boards: Angel Reese has 48 offensive rebounds this season, 18 more than the next closest player.

9. Los Angeles Sparks (4-7)

The Sparks are about to see what they are made of as they are about to hit the road for seven consecutive games. The offense is still a work in progress, as they have only two players averaging in double figures (Dearica Hamby, Kia Nurse). Hamby also is the only Sparks player averaging over 30 minutes per game.

First of many: Rookie Cameron Brink recorded her first double-double versus the Dallas Wings with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

10. Dallas Wings (3-7)

Dallas obviously misses the presence of All-WNBA forward Satou Sabally, as it has lost five games in a row. Arike Ogunbowale has been a steady presence as usual, and Natasha Howard and second-year guard Maddy Siegrist provide a much-needed scoring punch, but the team overall has had issues stopping people.

Layup line: Dallas is giving up 40.2 points in the paint per game, the most in the WNBA.

11. Indiana Fever (3-10)

With all the talk of Caitlin Clark and her Olympic snub – depending on who you talk to – she continues to be the league's main draw for her current employer. As good as Clark is, the Fever can't expect to give up 90 points a game and compete. If things don't change, Indiana will be picking near the top of the draft again.

Denied: 6-foot Clark is tied for second on the Indiana team with 11 blocked shots.

12. Washington Mystics (0-12)

The good thing, if you can call it that, about the Mystics is that they compete every night but are inching closer to some not-so-great history. The expansion Dream hold the record for most losses to start a season in 2008. A loss in the next game would tie the Mystics with the 2002 Detroit Shock at 0-13.

Close, but no cigar: The Mystics have lost nine of their 12 games by single digits; the last three losses have come by a combined 15 points.

Johnson could boost NBA Finals broadcasts

Mike Freeman
Columnist
USA TODAY

As you watch the NBA Finals there's a name you should think about. He's not on the court. He's not one of the coaches. He didn't build the teams. But if he ever got the chance, he'd make the league even more watchable than it already is. That's because he's better than almost anyone at his job.

His name is Gus Johnson.

First, let's back up one second.

These NBA playoffs have been staggeringly good. Overall, the league itself is at the beginning of a third epoch post-Magic and Bird: there was Jordan, followed by LeBron and Steph, and now Luka and Joker.

This is the deepest and most talented the NBA has been in decades. I'd argue ever. The networks certainly love what they're witnessing, which is why you're about to see the league sign some gargantuan broadcast deals. Everything is great for the league except one thing.

Sportscaster Gus Johnson, seen in 2019, has cemented himself as one of the top voices for college football, and he often shines when calling the occasional basketball games. NICHOLAS HUNT/GETTY IMAGES

One of the most vital components of the NBA is the national play-by-play announcer. In some ways, they are the pulse of the sport. They are the information conduits who shape how players are viewed. In many of the cases these voices are white.

On the major networks like ESPN and TNT there are few play-by-play voices of color. Names like Mike Breen, Dave Pasch, Ian Eagle and Kevin Harlan are talented, but when you think about it – really think about it – it's remarkable that such important voices are non-diverse talking about a league that's majority Black.

This is where Gus Johnson comes in.

It's not just that Johnson is needed to diversify the play-by-play universe, but he'd also instantly be one of the most entertaining voices covering the sport. The fact he isn't a regular voice on some of these big networks is shameful. It's also a waste.

Who knows if Amazon will actually get the NBA, but if it does Johnson should be at the top of its list for play-by-play voices.

There's also a question these networks should constantly ask themselves. How can you fully and accurately tell the stories of a mostly Black league with almost exclusively white play-by-play voices?

There are play-by-play voices of color doing the NBA but not enough, and not on this kind of stage.

Johnson has long been a cult figure in broadcasting. It's easy to understand why. Few bring his level of energy or his unique voice. He's cemented himself as one of the top voices for college football and he'll call basketball games on occasion. One moment in February was typical of Johnson in that his call went viral. He was working the UConn and Villanova game for Fox and what happened was viewed by 1.6 million people on X, formerly Twitter.

"There's truly only one Gus Johnson," the site Awful Announcing wrote. "And as this video shows – the energy, excitement, and love for college basketball certainly isn't a performance act. It's the real thing."

(Check it out for yourself on the web: search "Gus Johnson was HYPED for Tristen Newton's triple-double.")

Johnson has called NBA games before. He did Game 2 of the Bucks-Pacers series in April on NBA TV. Last year he did games on TNT.

No, Johnson isn't for everyone. Although if you don't like him, you must also hate puppies and ice cream.

The landscape in broadcasting continues to evolve in a number of ways, but one of the biggest is the financial impact. These leagues are making obscene amounts of money because their product is so good. We like to complain about how the leagues are run or the game officials or other things, but in the end the games we watch are good, and we will likely always watch in big numbers.

The networks know this and are willing to pay big money for one of the most stable products in our society.

Sometimes it seems the networks care about the racial diversity of its crews and sometimes it seems they don't. When it comes to the play-by-play broadcasters, they mostly don't.

Johnson could help change all of that. Not just because it's ethically right but also because few do it better than Johnson.

Hurley joining Lakers never made sense

Dan Wolken
Columnist
USA TODAY

In six seasons as the UConn men's basketball coach, Dan Hurley is 141-58 with two NCAA championships. BOB DONNAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Now that it's over, let's acknowledge the obvious thing about Dan Hurley's weekend-long flirtation with the Los Angeles Lakers before deciding to stay at UConn on Monday.

None of it made sense.

It didn't make sense for the Lakers, supposedly a win-now team in the twilight of LeBron James' career, to have a college coach with zero NBA history learning on the job.

It didn't make sense for Hurley, a raging maniac sideline control freak who would have never survived an 82-game season with NBA players coaching the way he does with the Huskies and at every stop prior to that in his career.

And the choreography of the story definitely didn't make any sense, with one of the most prolific NBA insiders reporting late last week that JJ Redick was on track to get the job only to have his biggest competitor – who just so happened to have written the definitive book on the Hurley family basketball dynasty 20 years ago – come back two days later to drop the bombshell and spark an entire weekend of content that even overwhelmed the NBA Finals.

Somebody got played here. Maybe it was all of us.

Was this proposed marriage actually real? We have to assume it was because people involved with the Lakers and around Hurley both made clear it was his job to take or pass up.

But was it ever really going to happen, especially given the obvious incentive for Hurley to take this conversation all the way to the finish line before turning back?

I don't believe it. Not for a second.

Here's what I do believe.

On the night UConn won its second consecutive national championship, Hurley was asked about potential interest in the Kentucky job after John Calipari bolted for Arkansas. Maybe Hurley had been so disconnected from the news while preparing his team for Purdue that he truly didn't realize Kentucky would be among the first things that would come up after cutting down the nets.

Or maybe he just isn't as savvy as someone like Calipari, who has been a master at milking schools for raises and contract extensions by feigning interest in other jobs. That night, Hurley brushed off the Kentucky talk with a series of glib comments that made it clear that he wasn't interested.

Leverage? Gone. If he wasn't taking Kentucky, where else was he going? As UConn and Hurley dug in on contract talks, there was no threat to poach him and thus no reason to fear he would leave even if the negotiations got sticky.

Here's what else I believe: When word got out via Shams Charania of The Athletic last Tuesday that the Lakers were "zeroing in" on Redick, it put some people in a difficult spot.

It put ESPN in a difficult spot because Redick is on the broadcast team for the NBA Finals. But it also put the Lakers in a difficult spot because of the appearance that they were just going to hand the job to James' friend and podcast partner without doing an actual search for the most qualified coach they could hire. Regardless of how you feel about Redick, it would be fairly unorthodox and potentially controversial for someone to go from a playing career to the broadcast booth to Lakers' head coach in just a few short years with no coaching experience in between.

But it was not possible for the Lakers to both be "zeroing in" on Redick as the coach while flying Hurley to LA and offering him, according to the Field of 68's Jeff Goodman, somewhere in the neighborhood of six years and $70 million. Only one of those things can be true.

But what if they were both right – in a way?

Think about who would benefit, theoretically, if the Lakers and Hurley both went through this big public courtship while both sides knew that he was most likely going to stay at UConn for a variety of reasons including his family and the chance to three-peat in the NCAA Tournament next year?

Hurley, of course, would definitely benefit because he suddenly had the leverage again to push UConn into action on getting his contract done and making him one of the highest-paid coaches in college basketball. Being able to say that he turned down both Kentucky and the Lakers in the same offseason is a pretty decent recruiting pitch, too.

The Lakers win because not only do they avoid paying a boatload of money to a coach who is a pretty big gamble at the NBA level, but Rob Pelinka and Jeanie Buss can look their fans in the eyes and say they did everything possible to get a big-name coach before giving the job to Redick or whoever.

And, of course, ESPN won because Adrian Wojnarowski had a genuine, massive scoop over his biggest competitor in the ongoing basketball insiders' turf war. Given the crossover in this story between arguably the biggest fan base in the NBA and college basketball's premier program, the NBA Finals was at best the third-biggest topic on ESPN's offering of talk shows for a couple of days behind Hurley and Caitlin Clark.

To be clear, Hurley's long-term interest in the NBA is almost certainly real and he may one day go down the same path as Calipari, Rick Pitino, Lon Kruger, Leonard Hamilton and others in trying his hand at the highest level of basketball.

The Lakers' offer to Hurley was clearly real, and they probably did everything they could to lay out the vision for how he could make a clean transition to the NBA and how the roster would eventually change once James calls it quits.

His decision was probably pretty difficult. There's no guarantee such a prime NBA opportunity will come around again.

But making it such a big, public show and dragging it out over four days – only to leave the Lakers in the lurch – is not the way these things typically go down unless there was a purpose behind it.

Keep in mind, the Lakers fired Darvin Ham more than a month ago. UConn's contract extension with Hurley probably should have been done a couple of weeks before that.

The notion that Hurley was suddenly the guy the Lakers had to get in the first week of June, or that Hurley suddenly had this NBA itch he needed to scratch, felt slightly less than organic – even if the possibility of him leaving was real.

In the end, Hurley belongs at UConn and in college basketball, where his roster building and player development system works. Dropping him in to coach LeBron and Anthony Davis was a disaster waiting to happen.

Staying in Storrs was the right outcome for Hurley, the Lakers and UConn – even if everyone got played a little bit along the way.

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Who's gonna 'match your freak'? It may not be easy

Tinashe's "Nasty" has TikTok users getting their freak on, but what does that mean? **Page 2D**

Seeking help to pay our debts is now a social media trend

TikTok users turn to viral videos to make a little cash. What does that say about us? **Page 4D**

LIFELINE

VALERY HACHE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

THEY SAID WHAT?
THE STARS' BEST QUOTES

"I have heard a lot of young girls saying that it is too expensive to have children and they may not want them, and I have said, 'You will change your mind. You will want to be a mum.' I understand economically it is tough. But my mum had nothing and she made it work. It's worth it." – Naomi Campbell to British newspaper The Times after confirming she welcomed her daughter and son via surrogacy in 2021 and 2023, respectively.

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Adriana Lima is 43. **Dave Franco** is 39. **Artem Chigvintsev** is 42.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY
More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). Assuming the worst? A doom and gloom outlook complicates communication as Mercury and Saturn clash.

Taurus (April 20-May 20).As Mercury and Saturn clash, you're unclear about your options. Reach out for advice.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Nervous energy? Interactions with superiors can go sideways as Mercury and Saturn clash.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Wrestling with negativity? Faulty intuition causes imposter syndrome to flare as Mercury and Saturn clash.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Can't find common ground? Mercury and Saturn's clash calls certain relationships into question.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Hostile interactions? Trusted relationships become cold as Mercury and Saturn clash. Is it a misunderstanding or a missed red flag?

Libra (Sept.23-Oct. 23). Slow way down as Mercury and Saturn clash. Negative thinking is clouding your judgment.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Feeling lonely? Mercury and Saturn's clash provokes pessimism.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Regretting what you said? Blame it on Mercury's clash with Saturn. You were just trying to be honest!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Communication breakdown? You're better off working solo as Mercury and Saturn clash, to avoid details getting lost in the shuffle.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Tempted to take a gamble? Think twice before saying "yes" as Mercury and Saturn clash.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). In your head? As Mercury and Saturn clash, you want to discuss the past, but others seem to remember events differently.

GETTY IMAGES

Pack a beach read in your tote bag

Hillary Copsey Special to USA TODAY

Just like any body can be a beach body, any book can be a beach read. • When you're packing a travel bag this summer and mulling over the Beach Reads! display at your local independent bookstore, stop and ask yourself: What do I really want to read? What do I enjoy reading? • The category "beach read," as best as anyone can tell, came into fashion in the 1990s, according to The Guardian. It's a marketing trick, not a mandate. • As a marketing term, it's successful because it's aspirational. We see ourselves on a beach, relaxed and lazily reading that fun book with the bright cover, one that looks nothing like spreadsheets or reports, a book that entertains but doesn't ask too much. • But not everyone relaxes the same way. • Maybe you really do want to spend time with the light contemporary fiction, steamy romance, or compulsive thriller that generally is labeled "beach read." Totally fine. We've got some suggestions for you. • On the other hand, lazy days and long flights mean vacation can be a perfect time to tackle the books you've always meant to read. Classics, essays, literary fiction – if you're a reader who considers heavy reading light work, we've got some less conventional recommendations, too. • Is it a body on the beach? Yes: Beach body. Is it a book on a beach? Yes: Beach read. **See BEACH READS, Page 4D**

MOVIES

'Hit Man' targets several true stories

Marco della Cava and Patrick Ryan
USA TODAY

Spoiler alert! We're discussing plot points in Netflix's new fake assassin movie "Hit Man." Stop reading now if you haven't seen it yet and don't want to know.

"Hit Man" is a romantic comedy that aims to kill your notion of who a hit man can be.

The Netflix movie stars Glen Powell ("Top Gun," "Anyone But You") as Gary Johnson, a real-life undercover police officer who made a name for himself by posing as a fake assassin for hire. He would meet with people who wanted to murder a spouse, colleague, boss and so on, and once they uttered their desire for the hit and gave Johnson money, the recorded transaction often landed those individuals in jail.

Powell co-wrote "Hit Man," which is based on a 2001 Texas Monthly article by Skip Hollandsworth, with director Richard Linklater ("Boyhood," "Everybody Wants Some!!"). Powell, 35, told USA TODAY that he dove into the script in order to grab a role he didn't think he'd otherwise get.

"The one thing that you realize about Hollywood is no one's ever going to give you the role that you've dreamed of," he said. "You have to bake it up yourself."

Linklater says he was drawn to the project as a way explore the often cliché notion of a killer for hire.

"This is the weirdest job ever, being a fake hit man for people who want someone dead," Linklater told the Austin American-Statesman, part of the USA TODAY Network. "It was more about the myth of the hit man. And these things don't exist; hit men are created by movies. It's a pop culture delusion. So I'm kind of interested in that too, about people's beliefs. I kind of enjoy deconstructing and debunking."

Glen Powell plays a college professor who goes undercover for police as a fake killer for hire in the comedy "Hit Man." PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

How much of "Hit Man" is bunk, and how much is based on the real Johnson's exploits? We explore:

Is Gary Johnson, the hero of Netflix's 'Hit Man,' a real person?

As depicted in the movie, Johnson was a mild-mannered professor who taught classes in human sexuality and general psychology at a community college. While the film is set in New Orleans, Johnson lived in Houston and worked undercover alongside local law enforcement. Wearing a wire, he would meet with people soliciting hit men and coax out confessions.

According to Texas Monthly, Johnson was considered "the Laurence Olivier of the field" by his peers. He assisted in the arrests of more than 70 people seeking contract killers: Using aliases such as Mike Caine and Jody Eagle, he posed as everything from country-club sophisticates to rough-and-tumble bikers.

"He's the perfect chameleon," Houston lawyer Michael Hinton told Hollandsworth. "He never gets flustered, and he never says the wrong thing. ... He fools them every time."

Did Johnson fall in love with a woman who hired him?

Early in the film, Johnson is contacted by a young woman named Madison Masters (Adria Arjona), or Maddy, who asks him to kill her abusive husband, Ray (Evan Holtzman). Instead, Johnson tells her to keep her money, leave her spouse and start a new life. The two fall into bed together and start a relationship, which quickly turns dangerous when Ray shows up seeking vengeance.

According to Hollandsworth's article, there is no evidence that Johnson dated one of his potential "clients." He does detail instances in which women found Johnson seductive and tried to have sex.

In the movie, Johnson is divorced; in reality, Johnson was divorced three times and, according to Texas Monthly, was mostly a soft-spoken loner who enjoyed his cats and reading books by

See HIT MAN, Page 4D

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

‘Match my freak’ requires being vulnerable

David Oliver
USA TODAY

We’re all a little weird. Freaky, even.

Tinashe apparently knows that better than anyone else. Her song “Nasty,” which made its debut in April, has taken over social media. In May, one viral tweet on X asked: “Who are 2 people that actually did match each others freak?” Many pop culture references followed. I chuckled most at this one featuring “Sex and the City” and “And Just Like That …” actress Sarah Jessica Parker as Carrie: “and i couldn’t help but wonder … is somebody gonna match my freak?”

On TikTok, countless videos on the platform show people stitching different clips and versions of the song. “Me trying to find someone to match my freak,” a TikTok user captions one video featuring him searching for love in a gaudy, garden landscape. Another shows a TikTok user and her sister with the caption: “is somebody gonna match my freak (my sister is the only human I know whose parents got divorced and then remarried years later).”

Then it hit me. Like many a meme on social media, this trend makes us look inward. Makes *me* look inward, at least. Aren’t we all just looking for someone in the world to “match our freak?” The weirdest things about us often define us.

I know, I know. I’m a “Carrie” from “Sex and the City,” this is cringey, blah, blah. But hear me out.

Tinashe, through her hit “Nasty,” apparently knows that we all are weird and maybe even freaky. EMMA MCINTYRE/GETTY IMAGES

Embrace your freak flag

Maybe you like to watch “Real Housewives” while you get ready for work in the morning. Maybe you take a cold shower after your hot shower. Maybe you listen to the same Taylor Swift album on every run you take.

Am I talking about myself? Possibly! Regardless, our little quirks and habits make us who we are, and as long as they are not doing anything that harms ourselves or others, they are worth celebrating. So what if you enjoy eating the same thing for breakfast every day, or check who views each of your Instagram stories, or like to – (OK, got it, I’ll stop talking about myself. I have a lot of quirks, OK, many of which I haven’t even listed).

Matching someone’s freak exactly isn’t necessary; what’s important is finding a partner who respects and loves you as you are.

Still, it’s scary to let someone in to see our freak in the first place, let alone “match” it. Whether it’s a friend, family member or romantic partner, vulnerability is something you must practice and others must earn with time and trust. I talk with relationship experts all the time, and if there’s one thing I’ve learned, it’s that no one can read your mind. You have to say what you want in order to get what you want. You have to let you freak flag fly, so to speak.

Seeking professional help might be beneficial if fear of romantic relationships is the reason why someone finds they are remaining single. “If someone is worried and finds social interactions awkward or uncomfortable there are coaches and therapists who can help employ exercises,” Courtney Watson, licensed marriage and family therapist, previously told me. “If the difficulty is related to unresolved traumas then again, therapy is a great tool.”

The truth about matching love languages

Let’s say you work through what you need to, and you meet someone. A friend, a lover, whomever. What does it mean for them to “match your freak?” Is it speaking the same love language? Do opposites actually attract?

It’s going to be different for everyone. “If your love languages don’t ‘match,’ it just means you need to be more intentional and aware, but it doesn’t mean the relationship can’t work,” writes Millennial Therapist columnist Sara Kuburic. She adds: “If you are starting to feel your love language isn’t being met, it can be helpful to talk to your partner about it. Maybe you’re craving more physical intimacy or need to have more alone time with them without your kids. Before the need turns into resentment, it can be helpful to tell your partner how you are feeling.”

Matching someone’s freak exactly isn’t necessary; what’s important is finding a partner who respects and loves you as you are – even if who you are is, well, a little weird. “It’s wonderful to be with someone who will approach our humanity and shortcomings with compassion and acceptance – and encourage us to do the same,” Kuburic writes.

I feel lucky these days to have a boyfriend who both matches my freak and complements it. Who points out if I leave pomade in my hair or have a stain on my clothes and doesn’t judge me for it. Who will laugh at “Real Housewives” with me, or at least tolerate me talking about it. Who will eat a bowl of Cheerios with me in the morning. My friends and family, too, match my freak in many ways, too.

Thanks, Tinashe, for putting that into words. I’m going to laugh at more TikToks now and embrace the freaky.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Stigma around anal sex heightened by homophobia

David Oliver
USA TODAY

Talking about sex is sometimes uncomfortable, unsettling, and, for some, unsexy. Talking about *anal* sex, though, is a whole other level. Many wouldn’t dare bring it up in the first place.

Dr. Evan Goldstein – founder and CEO of Bespoke Surgical, a health practice specializing in gay men’s sexual health and wellness – is trying to change the conversation around anal sex from something strange to something educational and empowering. His book, “Butt Seriously,” out now, aims to do just that.

“Why can’t we just meet people where they are sexually?’” he ponders. “No judgment, no stigma, create safe spaces and support so that people get to wherever they want to be.”

Yet anal sex is particularly taboo. Experts say that’s because many think of it as morally wrong due to the lingering effects of homophobia. The only way to combat concerns about the sexual practice is to learn about it.

“Everyone’s got a butt and it’s full of rich nerve endings,” which can make anal sex pleasurable, says Dr. Carlton Thomas, a gay gastroenterologist who posts sexual health tips on social media. “(Anal sex) is for all genders and sexualities. There is no masculinity, femininity, sexuality or gender role assigned to it.”

Experts say people can’t help but think anal sex is somehow morally wrong because of the lingering effects of homophobia. FG TRADE/GETTY IMAGES

Where does the stigma about anal sex come from?

Anal sex has long been demonized, dating to religious texts. But cultures including the Romans and Greeks frequently had anal sex anyway, and “it has been represented in art going back thousands of years, including from Asia, South America and Europe,” says Debra Lynne Herbenick, professor at the Indiana University School of Public Health and author of “Yes Your Kid: What Parents Need to Know About Today’s Teens and Sex.”

The moral stigma has persisted, as anal sex has long been associated with gay men. “Religious discourses that demonize homosexuality and nonreproductive forms of sexual intimacy, in particular, also shape how the public views anal sex,” says Cornel Grey, assistant professor of gender, sexuality and women’s studies at Western University in Canada. “When we talk about the stigmatization of anal sex, we also have to confront homophobic stigma as well.”

This has even played out in the doctor’s office. “Most people don’t feel comfortable going to the doctor to talk about these issues,” adds Goldstein. “And most doctors don’t feel comfortable as well talking about this.”

Plus: “There’s this underlying concern about sexual hygiene,” says Grey. “If we think about portrayals of anal sex in the media and even within public health literature, there’s very little focus on desire. The focus often is on the dangers of anal sex rather than the pleasure people derive from it.”

Such dangers include concerns about spreading sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV, not to mention something as routine as fecal matter.

Though gay men are most often the ones openly talking about anal sex, it doesn’t mean they’re the only ones having it.

How common is anal sex?

Statistics vary as to how many people have tried anal sex in their lifetime; it’s hard to pinpoint *how* common it is among both straight and even queer populations. One study from 2017 found that of heterosexual U.S. adults 25 to 44, 36% of women and 44% of men had tried it. Among queer men, it may not be as popular as society would have us think, though data is limited.

One study from 2011 found that of survey respondents who discussed their most recent sexual partner, fewer than 40% had anal sex with them.

It certainly increased in prevalence in the last few decades, says Herbenick, and studies over the last 20 years have found that among heterosexual couples, many have tried anal sex but not many have done so regularly.

When it comes to any kind of sex, trust and communication are key

Experts say when it comes to anal sex – as with anything else you’re unsure of or curious about – do your research. People can and should learn what works best for their bodies in terms of preparation.

Generally, though, anal sex “is made more comfortable when people use lots of lubricant, are gentle, feel like they can trust one another and are comfortable communicating with one another in case it hurts or they want to go more slowly or stop completely,” Herbenick says.

As with any other type of sexual act, it’s critical to practice safe sex and use protective measures to minimize the risk of STDs.

Because “no, you shouldn’t be bleeding with anal sex, and no, you shouldn’t have pain,” adds Goldstein. If you’re in pain, “then clearly something is not right.”

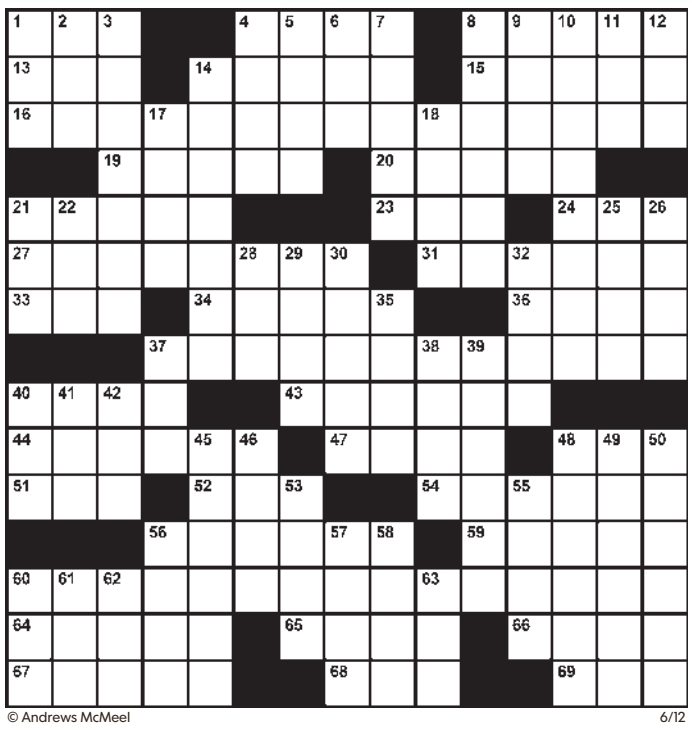
Of course, adds Herbenick: “No one should ever nag or pressure another person to engage in anal sex. As with any other kind of sex, anal sex is not for everyone.”

And Goldstein doesn’t care how someone has sex – “as long as they do it safely, as long as they get the pleasures they want. And if something goes wrong, that they have access to the care that they need.”

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Amanda Rafkin
BY Amie Walker

FLIP SIDE



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ACROSS
1 Ms. Frizzle's vehicle
4 ___ pastry
8 Rides the rapids
13 Put to work
14 More adorable
15 Sci-fi film in which Sigourney Weaver saves Jonesy
16 Sink fixture for handling food waste
19 Hiking trails
20 Swimming pool measurement
21 "Secret" person
23 "The Gilded ___" (Carrie Coon show)
24 Do better than
27 "Yay, you!"
31 Historic naval fleet
33 Little kid
34 Like Olympic athletes
36 Field for Dania Francis, for short
37 "Do you really require further details?"
40 Field of study
43 Course between an app and a dessert
44 Walk confidently down a runway
47 End of a kite
48 Ian McKellen's title
51 Short time
52 Portmanteau hairstyle
54 Each
56 European hotel amenities
59 "This meeting could have been an ___"
60 "High Hopes" band
64 Suspect's explanation
65 "For" votes
66 "The birthplace of jazz," for short
67 Chunky tomato-based dip
68 Place for a cuddly pup
69 Nancy Drew's boyfriend

DOWN
1 App glitch
2 Neighbor of Mex.
3 Biblical snake
4 "Little Women" actress Florence
5 Great Basin Natives
6 Made a meal for
7 Artist Kahlo
8 Cardi B, for one
9 Very often
10 Cantina seafood order
11 Steeped drink
12 Marcello Hernandez's show
14 Piece of furniture for a kitty to play on
17 Fireworks sound
18 Video game giant
21 Part of a play
22 Slime
25 Strong smell
26 Sheet of glass
28 The "A" of IPA
29 Ocean movement
30 Period of time
32 Spider-Man Pointing, e.g.
35 "Como ____ usted?"
37 "Immediately no"
38 Opera singer's solo
39 Used a restaurant review site
40 "We raise our glass / You bet your ___ . . ." ("La Vie Boheme" lyric)
41 "Barbie" actress Issa
42 Upper-left PC key
45 Black Lives Matter co-founder Garza
46 "___ Best Mom Ever" (punny "Star Wars" phrase on a Mother's Day card)
48 Add flavor to
49 Frozen spike
50 Add more funds to, like a gift card
53 Software testing stage
55 "Sign me up!"
56 Spill catchers
57 "c ya"
58 ___ butter
60 Faux ___
61 In the style of
62 Zero, in soccer
63 Psychic's gift

Tuesday's Answer

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

6/11

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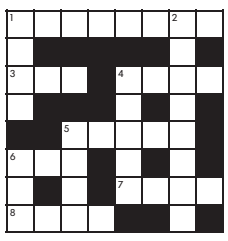
TXTPERT



6/12

Across
1. 87674225
3. 786
4. 7284
5. 37438
6. 229
7. 8433
8. 4536

Down
1. 8276
2. 25848833
4. 76468
5. 3953
6. 264

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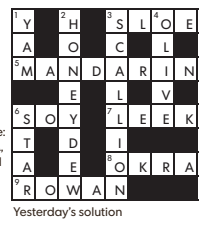
Today's theme
Geography

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C ... and 5678 could be LOST



6/11

Yesterday's solution

Numbers

More puzzles: **puzzles.usatoday.com**
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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

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

6/12

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

	4				3
5		1		6	4
3			1		
		2			5
4	2		6		1
6				4	

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★☆☆

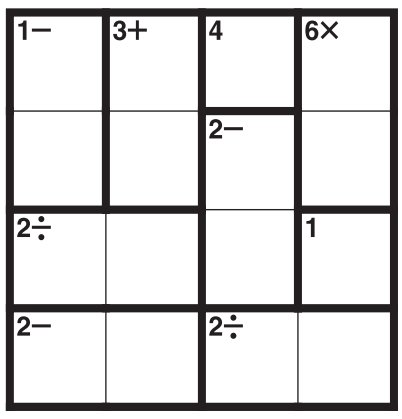
Tuesday's Answers

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

3	4	2	6	5	1
6	1	5	2	3	4
2	5	1	4	6	3
4	3	6	5	1	2
1	6	4	3	2	5
5	2	3	1	4	6

6/11

KENKEN



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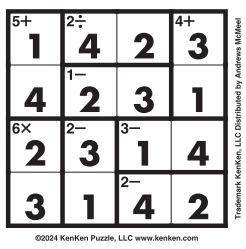
1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 though 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



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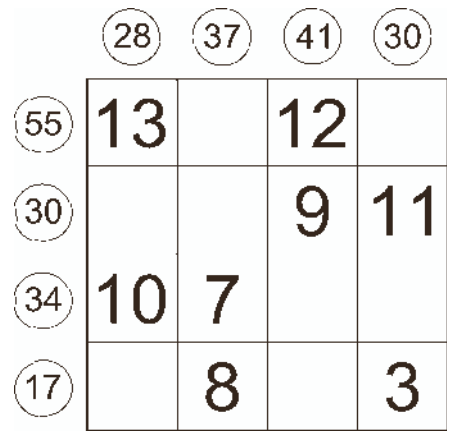
KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo

Difficulty: **MEDIUM**



Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

3	5	10	6
4	15	1	11
14	7	2	13
16	8	9	12

Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 6/12

Find and Circle:
Seven stringed instruments ☑☐☐☐☐☐☐
Four mammals starting with B ☐☐☐☐
Two Microsoft programs ☐☐
Two fish starting with T ☐☐
Capital of Texas ☐

Tuesday's answer: INCISOR WISDOM CANINE MOLAR BABY / SCORPION SPIDER MITE TICK / BELUGA GRAY BLUE / BILL MURRAY / VERB NOUN

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

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QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 6/12

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Tuesday's Answer

A	A	R	P
N	C	A	A
T	R	I	P
S	E	L	A

6/11

QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 6/12

1. **POP**
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____ **BUMPER**

Clues:
1. Type of hit in baseball
2. Soar
3. Towering over
4. 33 degrees F, e.g.
5. Frigid
6. It brings cooler weather
7. Certain fender

Tuesday's Answer

CHANDLER	BING
BING	CHERRY
CHERRY	TOMATO
TOMATO	SOUP
SOUP	CAN
CAN	DO
DO	WELL

PLAY ONLINE PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM

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Author Clifton Fadiman talks about wine.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
BEGS BOTTLE HAVE LOVER MET MISERLY SHARED

"A _____ OF WINE _____ TO BE _____; I _____ NEVER _____ A _____ WINE _____."

6/12

Tuesday's Answer: "Tell your stories. If people wanted you to write warmly about them, they should have behaved better." - Anne Lamott

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 wandering (7)	
2 red-and-white Target logo (8)	
3 groups of whales (4)	
4 skewered treats (6)	
5 unsavory roommates (5)	
6 "pre-popped" popcorn piece (6)	
7 as the numbers show (11)	

SL	PO	NG	ROA	LLS
MI	BA	ST	DS	OBS
EYE	KER	BS	BU	STA
NEL	AL	TI	IC	KE

Tuesday's Answers: 1. HOTHOUSES 2. PARMESAN 3. GRAPES 4. COOKIE 5. FAMISHED 6. DAISY 7. MEDELLIN 6/12

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NRILE

MUPEL

SOCOHY

RSUDOH

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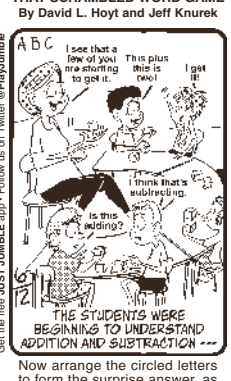

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GAVEL WHIRL TRENDY NORMAL
Answer: The car salesman's aggressive approach — DROVE HER AWAY

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BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Seven —
5 Baby animal
9 Elec. unit
12 "To — his own"
13 Hot chocolate
14 Western Indian
15 — Minor
16 Essential oil from roses
17 Genuine
18 Blush
20 Missing student
22 Reputation
24 Dressed
25 Weave together
28 Cancels a law
32 Flat cap
33 Conspire
35 Tell a tale
36 Born and —
37 Defy, as the rules
38 Fermented grape juice
39 "All About —"
40 Tobacco kiln
41 Held on to
42 Wreck
45 Keep down
47 Feedbag grain
48 Hardware item
49 City on Lake Superior
52 Packed
56 "Shake — —!"
57 Musical group
61 Political contest
62 Rush
63 Bonkers
64 Almost hopeless
65 Tiny colonist
66 "Easy — it!"
67 Earring type

DOWN
1 Burn superficially
2 Relaxation
3 Sour
4 Followed in secret
5 Destiny
6 Play part
7 Extinct bird
8 Pear variety
9 Length times width
10 Nasty
11 Hit again and again
13 Body of literary works
14 Unrefined
19 Redact
21 Hit
23 Broadcasts again
24 Toasted bread cube
25 Dwindled
26 Effrontery
27 Kilmer poem
29 — and kicking
30 Actor's words
31 Pips
34 — Angeles
37 Favorable start
38 Genghis Khan and the like
41 Skewer
43 Hard to chew
44 Betrayer
46 Pallid
49 Far-out art movement
50 — Bator
51 For fear that
53 "Hold on a sec!"
54 Beige
55 Title
58 Pigeon sound
59 Foot digit
60 Print measures

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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

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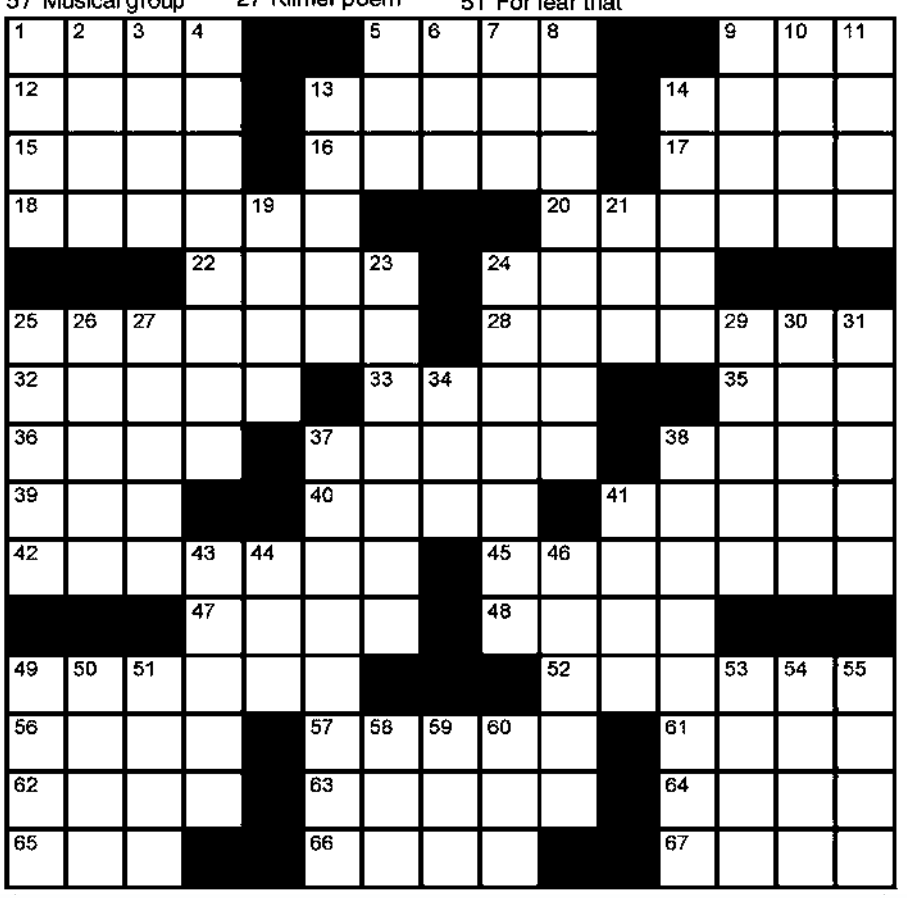


HEALTH AND WELLNESS

TikTok users going viral to pay off debts

Charles Trepany
USA TODAY

Is one viral video all it takes to pay off hundreds of thousands in debt? Plenty of TikTokers hope so – and thousands more are happy to help them find out.

A new trend is afoot on the app, and this one doesn't involve unconventional skin care advice or a new relationship buzzword. Instead, TikTokers are banding together to help each other go viral in the hopes of getting money from TikTok so they can pay off student loans and mortgages.

Whether or not the strategy translates to serious cash has yet to be seen. Still, that hasn't stopped people from trying.

"So, I've done the math and, apparently, in order for TikTok to pay off my student loans in one fell swoop, I would need 247 million people to watch this video for five seconds, which you've just done" a TikToker named Jake says in a video viewed 25.1 million times. He then proceeds to eat a bowl of cereal and stare out a window, saying he also needs to get his video to be at least a minute long in order to earn money for it from TikTok.

Experts say the "pay off my debt" trend reveals a lot about the financial stress Gen Z is under, as well as their willingness to both help others and unabashedly ask for help.

"The directness is refreshing," psychotherapist Stephanie Sarkis says, adding inflation, underemployment and other economic challenges remain huge stresses for people. "We tend to, as a society, be quiet about money. We tend to not talk about it as much, and I think that's changing."

What is the 'pay off my debt' trend?

The aim of the trend, TikTokers say, is to get money from the website's Creator Rewards Program. The program is meant to reward high-quality, original videos over a minute in length, and is based on four metrics: originality, play duration, search value and audience engagement.

According to TikTok's website, in order to be eligible for this program, creators must be at least 18 and have at least 10,000 followers with at least 100,000 views in the past 30 days.

TikTok doesn't note online how much one can earn from the Creator Rewards Program, but making enough to pay off a substantial loan seems unlikely. Despite his video getting more than 25 million views, Jake revealed in a follow-up TikTok he earned only $4,200 for it, barely a dent in his six-figure student debt.

Many TikTokers, however, seem optimistic. According to another user, the trend shows the power of people in coming together to solve problems.

"Understand how grand this is for us as a community," the TikToker says, also asking for 2 million views to pay off debt. "This is why they don't want TikTok happening, because we can help each other faster than they can harm us if we all pull in together."

GETTY IMAGES

Sarkis says the trend spotlights how many young Americans are feeling.

"A lot of people are feeling overwhelmed," she says. "I think this does draw attention to the fact that there's a crisis with the educational system and student loans, that there are people in this huge amount of debt and it's crippling."

What does the 'pay off my debt' trend say about us?

Experts say there are various reasons why the trend resonates.

For starters, many relate to the problem of financial stress. This empathy, combined with the illusion of finding a quick solution, likely are the biggest drivers of the trend's popularity, therapist Erik Anderson says.

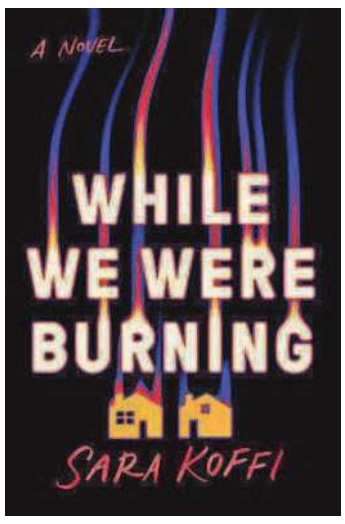
"A lot of people are saddled with debt. They don't feel like they're seeing the benefit of their college degrees, and they really empathize with other people who are also saddled down with debt," he says. "I think it speaks to the fantasy of not having debt. It speaks to the fantasy of people collectively working together on their problems."

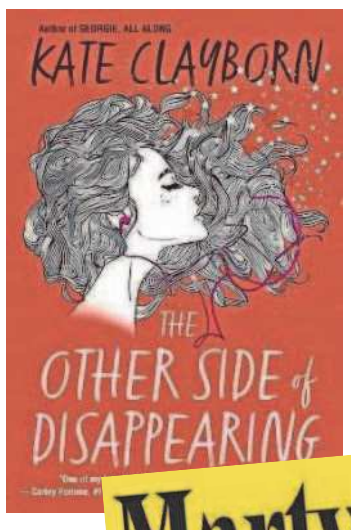
Additionally, Sarkis says, humans tend to feel good when they help others. The pay off my debt trend, she says, offers a low-effort, low-cost way for people to feel like they've helped someone out, even if they're unlikely to actually make a big difference.

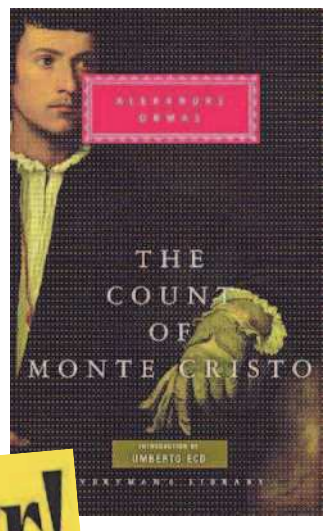
"Whenever we help somebody out, it has the potential of increasing our dopamine and serotonin, which are a part of our feel-good neurotransmitters," she says. "We also feel proactive. We feel less hopeless about things, especially if it's financial straights. We feel connection with other people. Altruism in general can even decrease the influences of depression and anxiety."

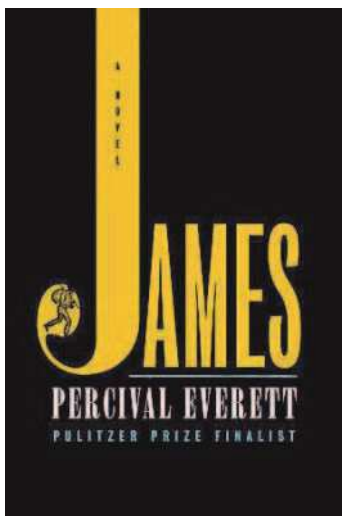
The trend also has empowered people to open up about their financial woes and feel less alone in doing so. Even if getting a hefty loan paid through video views is unlikely, the trend shows millions are willing to help give it a try.

"It's important to share what you're going through, because I think it also creates a feeling universality," Sarkis says. "You're not the only one experiencing it."









Beach reads

Continued from Page 1D

Smart romance

"The Other Side of Disappearing," Kate Clayborn (Kensington, pp 432, out now).

What does "smart romance" mean? This book gave me a definition: a romance in which a happy-ever-after ending happens but doesn't feel required because the characters all had emotional growth. Here, Clayborn sends a true crime podcast producer and a tough-as-nails older sister on a road trip that will change their lives.

• **More like this:** "Summer Romance," Annabel Monaghan; "When I Think of You," Myah Ariel; "Funny Story," Emily Henry.

Literary Larks

"Martyr!" Kaveh Akbar (Penguin Random House, pp 352, out now).

Akbar is a poet, and you can see that in the lyrical writing of his debut novel. The story dips in and out of time and memory and points of view, always twisting around the idea of love. Fun and touching and a little weird, this book is made for hot summer nights.

• **More like this:** "Help Wanted," Adelle Waldman; "Come and Get It," Kiley Reid; "Family Meal," Bryan Washington.

Literary Adventures

"James," Percival Everett (Doubleday, pp 320, out now).

Consider this retelling of "Huck Finn" your summer reading assignment. Told from the perspective of clever and compassionate Jim, the dangerous Mississippi River raft trip includes familiar stops and characters (no need to read the original), but is sharper and comes with higher stakes as our hero tries to reunite his family.

• **More like this:** "The Vaster Wilds," Lauren Groff; "Lies & Weddings," Kevin Kwan; "Lone Women," Victor Lavalle.

Thriller

"While We Were Burning," Sara Koffi (Penguin, pp 304, out now).

Unreliable narrators and blurry relationship boundaries make this story, examining race and class in Memphis, Tennessee, especially twisty.

• **More like this**: "First Lie Wins," Ashley Elston; "A Line in the Sand," Kevin Powers; "Bright Young Women," Jessica Knoll.

Classics

"The Count of Monte Cristo," Alexander Dumas (Penguin, pp 1,276, out now).

Don't be intimidated by size. Many classics, including this one, were written in installments, which means short chapters and built-in cliffhangers. And no matter the period, people are the same, loving, scheming and struggling. Think of this story as your latest binge watch.

• **More like this**: "Their Eyes Were Watching God," Zora Neale Hurston; "Anna Karenina," Leo Tolstoy; "Jane Eyre," Charlotte Bronte.

Essays

"Bite by Bite," Aimee Nezhukumatathil (HarperCollins, pp 224, out now).

Essay collections are excellent vacation reads, to be picked up and put down without interrupting a narrative. Each of these short essays is a perfect little bite, exploring the ways food sparks memory and meaning in our lives.

• **More like this:** "Divine Might," Natalie Haynes; "The Comfort of Crows," Margaret Renkl; "A Praise Song for Kitchen Ghosts," Crystal Wilkinson.

Nonfiction

"There's Always This Year," Hanif Abdurraqib (Random House, pp 352 out now).

If you want nonfiction that requires you to go a little deeper, Abdurraqib delivers. This is a book about basketball. It's also about belonging and grief, ambition and America. And it is delivered in a structure that brilliantly mimics a basketball game.

• **More like this:** "A Map of Future Ruins," Lauren Markham; "Grief Is for People," Sloane Crosley; "This Is What It Sounds Like," Susan Rogers & Ogi Ogas.

Hillary Copsey is the book adviser at The Mercantile Library in Cincinnati.

Hit Man

Continued from Page 1D

famous philosophers.

Did Johnson talk a client out of ordering a hit?

While defense attorneys would argue that Johnson steered his "clients" toward hiring him to commit murder, Johnson maintained that he was trying to help these individuals understand their true desires more clearly.

Never was that more true when he met a young woman at a Starbucks who wanted her boyfriend dead. The "Hit Man" movie uses the unnamed woman's story as a jumping-off point for the second half of the movie, but the romance was purely fictional.

Johnson "learned that she really was the victim of abuse, regularly battered by her boyfriend, too terrified to leave him because of her fear of what he might do if he found her," Hollandsworth writes. "Instead of setting up a sting to catch the woman and send her off to jail, he decided to help her. He referred her to social service agencies and a therapist to make sure she got proper help so she could leave her boyfriend and get into a women's shelter."

But in most cases, even when Johnson repeatedly would ask clients to confirm they wanted to hire a killer, most said yes, the article says.

Did the murders in the movie happen?

In "Hit Man," Powell's Johnson has fallen in love with Maddy (Arjona) and is determined to ensure that the two have a life together, despite the duo being in serious legal jeopardy. In the movie, Madison has killed her abusive ex-husband, Ray (Holtzman), who tried to take out a hit on her. A police colleague of Johnson's, Jasper (Austin Amelio), finds out and threatens to turn the couple in unless he is given the million-dollar payment from Ray's insurance policy.

As Jasper lays out his demands to Gary and Maddy, he suddenly slumps over, as the drugs Maddy has slipped into his drink take effect. While he isn't quite dead, Gary makes the decision to put a plastic bag over Jasper's head, killing him. The movie then cuts to a few years down the road, in which, murders be damned, Gary and Maddy have two children and appear to be living happily ever after.

The real Gary Johnson never killed anyone. A title card at the end of movie says Johnson was an animal-loving Buddhist, a Vietnam War veteran and the "chilliest dude imaginable." He was born in 1947 and died in 2022 before "Hit Man" started shooting, although his cause of death is unknown.

Contributing: Brian Truitt, USA TODAY, and Matthew Odam, Austin American-Statesman

NATION&WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE

U.S. judge strikes down Florida ban on gender-affirming health care. **5NN**

ANALYSIS

Legal assault weakens SEC's power

As Supreme Court decisions loom, Wall Street oversight at stake

Chris Prentice and Michelle Price REUTERS

A legal assault on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is chipping away at its powers to oversee Wall Street and is likely to intensify with two imminent Supreme Court rulings. ● A U.S. appeals court last week overturned a major SEC rule imposing stricter oversight of private funds, in a fresh blow for Democratic Chair Gary Gensler's ambitious agenda to boost transparency and stamp out conflicts of interest on Wall Street. ● The court took the unusual step of denying some of the SEC's authority to oversee investment advisers. That could make its other draft rules on cybersecurity, outsourcing, and predictive data analytics, vulnerable to litigation, lawyers said.

See POWER, Page 5NN

While the conservative "war on the administrative state" aims to weaken federal agencies across the board, Gary Gensler's ambitious agenda has made the SEC, which oversees around 40,000 entities, a top target. DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

President Joe Biden delivers remarks at a summit in Washington, D.C., Tuesday. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

Biden speaks on gun safety

Son's firearm conviction preceded address

Trevor Hunnicutt and Andrea Shalal
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden showcased his administration's efforts to cut down on illegal gun trafficking and reduce crime at a gun violence prevention summit on Tuesday, just hours after his son Hunter was convicted of lying about his drug use to illegally buy a gun.

Biden issued a written statement saying he accepted the outcome of the case, but did not address the issue during an address on Tuesday to survivors of gun violence, mayors, parents and educators. Biden was set to return to Wilmington, Delaware later in the day to be with his son.

Biden praised the survivors of gun violence for their determination not to focus on their anger, but on what they can do to prevent more tragedies. Through their words and actions, Biden said the survivors ensure that "all the victims of gun violence are not forgotten. They didn't die in vain."

The Democratic president, facing a tough battle against former President Donald Trump to win a second term in the November presidential election, highlighted his administration's efforts to reduce crime ahead of the two-year anniversary of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

That act was created in the wake of massacres at a Texas elementary school and a New York supermarket. It established new criminal offenses for the straw-purchasing of firearms by

See GUN SAFETY, Page 6NN

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

Hamas: Response 'positive' to US cease-fire plan

But neither group nor Israel commit to deal

Maayan Lubell and Nidal al-Mughrabi
REUTERS

JERUSALEM/CAIRO – Hamas on Wednesday said its "positive" response to a U.S. cease-fire plan for the eight-month-old war in the Gaza Strip opened a "wide pathway" to reach an agreement, but the outlook was uncertain as neither the Palestinian group nor Israel publicly committed to a deal.

Hamas submitted its formal response on Tuesday to a proposal outlined by President Joe Biden on May 31. Israel said the response was tantamount to a rejection while a Hamas official said the Palestinian group merely reiterated longstanding demands not met by the current plan.

Egypt and Qatar said they had received Hamas' response but did not disclose the contents.

Early on Wednesday, Izzat al-Rishq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said in a statement the group's answer was "responsible, serious and positive" and "opens up a wide pathway" for an accord. Another Hamas official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters on Tuesday the response reaffirmed the movement's stance that a cease-fire must lead to a permanent end to hostilities in Gaza, withdrawal of Israeli forces, reconstruction of the Palestinian enclave and release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

"We reiterated our previous stance. I believe there are no big gaps. The ball is now in the Israeli courtyard," the official said.

See RESPONSE, Page 8NN

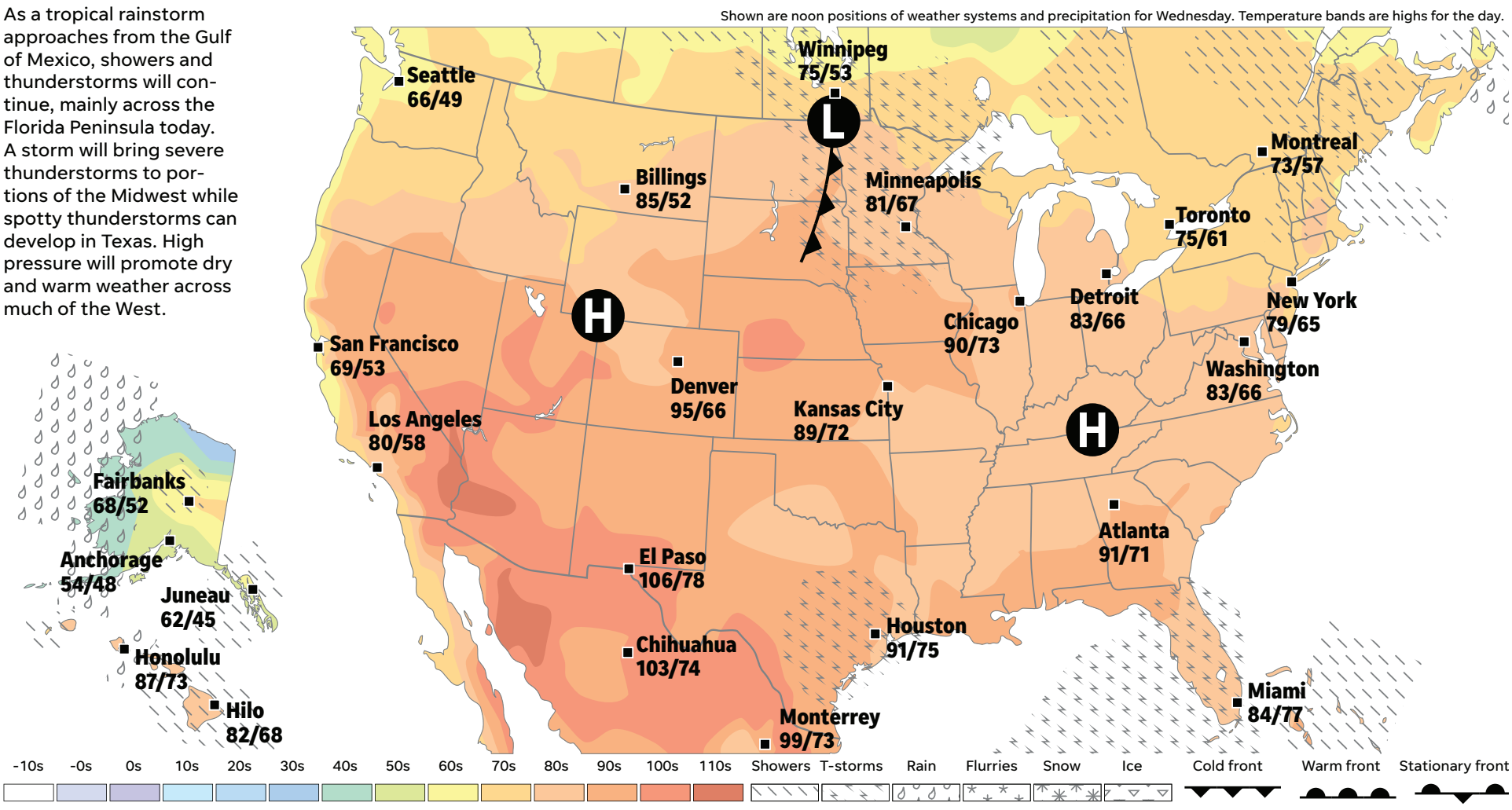
A Palestinian woman watches as smoke billows following an Israeli strike south of Gaza City, in al-Zawaida, on Tuesday. EYAD BABA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

NATIONAL SUMMARY

As a tropical rainstorm approaches from the Gulf of Mexico, showers and thunderstorms will continue, mainly across the Florida Peninsula today. A storm will bring severe thunderstorms to portions of the Midwest while spotty thunderstorms can develop in Texas. High pressure will promote dry and warm weather across much of the West.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Wednesday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: **112** at Phoenix, AZ
Low: **28** at Stonington, MI
Precip: **5.61"** at Titusville, FL

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High: **120** at Rhourd Nouss, Algeria
Low: **19** at Bethlehem, South Africa
Precip: **6.69"** at Naha, Japan

TODAY IN HISTORY

A strong storm brought flooding to the Pacific Northwest prior to June 12, 1948. A flood along the Columbia River yielded the highest water levels since 1894.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What famous golfer was struck by lightning?

A: Lee Trevino

NATIONAL CITIES WEDNESDAY

● Denotes possible travel delays

	High/low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	92/55/t	37
Abilene, TX	88/72/t	55
Accomac, VA	79/65/s	52
Adrian, MI	83/64/pc	56
Akron, OH	80/59/s	53
Alamogordo, NM	102/70/s	54
Alexandria, VA	83/62/s	49
Alliance, OH	79/58/s	55
Amarillo, TX	90/66/s	55
● Ames, IA	95/67/pc	65
Anderson, SC	87/65/pc	67
● Appleton, WI	85/67/s	45
Asheville, NC	82/61/pc	62
Ashland, OH	81/62/s	49
Athens, GA	88/66/pc	71
Augusta, GA	91/63/pc	74
● Austin, TX	91/73/t	55
Bartlesville, OK	90/66/c	69
Battle Creek, MI	85/66/s	58
Bedford, IN	82/59/s	63
Binghamton, NY	72/55/pc	32
Bluffton, SC	87/73/pc	66
Bremerton, WA	67/42/s	33
Brockton, MA	79/56/pc	33
● Brownwood, TX	88/70/t	51
Burlington, IA	91/70/s	57
Burlington, NC	85/62/pc	63
Burlington, VT	76/58/sh	22
Cambridge, OH	81/55/s	52
Camdenton, MO	87/62/pc	56
Canandaigua, NY	73/55/pc	29
Canton, OH	80/59/s	54
Carlsbad, NM	99/71/s	84
Chambersburg, PA	83/59/pc	49
Cherry Hill, NJ	84/63/s	51
Cincinnati, OH	83/60/pc	78
Clarksville, TN	85/55/pc	67
Coldwater, MI	84/67/s	56
Columbus, OH	83/61/s	68
Corning, NY	76/49/pc	33
● Corpus Christi, TX	94/78/t	49
● Daytona Beach, FL	86/72/t	33
Deming, NM	104/65/s	53
DeRidder, LA	90/63/pc	64
● Des Moines, IA	95/72/s	71
Detroit, MI	83/66/pc	56
● Devils Lake, ND	81/56/pc	37
Dover, NH	75/53/s	30
El Paso, TX	106/78/s	54
Elmira, NY	76/48/pc	35
Erie, PA	76/64/s	48
Eugene, OR	77/47/s	30

	High/low/W	Air Quality
Evansville, IN	85/60/pc	71
Fall River, MA	78/59/pc	32
Farmington, NM	98/55/s	56
Fayetteville, NC	90/64/pc	71
Fond du Lac, WI	87/68/s	44
● Fort Myers, FL	85/75/t	48
Fort Smith, AR	90/67/c	68
Framingham, MA	80/56/pc	30
Freeport, IL	89/69/s	48
Fremont, OH	84/65/pc	52
Fort Collins, CO	96/61/s	77
Gadsden, AL	88/61/s	61
● Gainesville, FL	91/72/t	34
Galesburg, IL	93/70/s	56
Gastonia, NC	86/63/pc	70
Glen Rose, TX	88/70/t	55
Gonzales, LA	92/67/pc	66
● Great Falls, MT	77/40/s	46
● Green Bay, WI	86/67/s	46
Greenville, SC	86/64/pc	70
Hackensack, NJ	80/61/pc	53
Hagerstown, MD	82/63/pc	48
Hattiesburg, MS	91/64/pc	66
Henderson, KY	83/58/pc	68
Hendersonville, NC	80/59/pc	62
Herkimer, NY	73/50/pc	24
Hillsdale, MI	82/65/s	55
Holland, MI	76/69/pc	54
Hornell, NY	75/52/pc	33
Houma, LA	91/72/t	61
Howell, MI	83/66/s	50
Hutchinson, KS	95/70/pc	61
Hyannis, MA	74/61/pc	28
Indianapolis, IN	85/64/pc	72
Iowa City, IA	92/70/s	55
Ithaca, NY	73/51/pc	31
Jackson, MS	86/61/s	62
Jackson, TN	83/56/pc	62
Jacksonville, FL	89/73/t	50
Jacksonville, NC	85/66/s	68
Kent, OH	80/59/pc	51
Kewanee, IL	91/71/s	53
Keyser, WV	83/55/s	59
Kinston, NC	88/63/pc	68
Knoxville, TN	85/63/pc	65
Lafayette, IN	87/64/s	67
Lafayette, LA	92/68/t	69
● Lakeland, FL	89/72/t	36
Lansing, MI	83/65/pc	62
Las Cruces, NM	105/70/s	48
Lebanon, PA	82/57/s	50
● Leesburg, FL	89/75/t	34

	High/low/W	Air Quality
Levittown, PA	83/62/s	50
Lincoln, IL	90/70/s	64
Louisville, KY	85/63/pc	85
Lubbock, TX	89/68/pc	68
Manitowoc, WI	76/65/s	46
Mansfield, OH	81/63/s	51
Marshall, NC	82/59/pc	62
● Marshfield, WI	80/64/pc	38
Massillon, OH	81/58/s	51
McLean, VA	83/62/s	48
● Melbourne, FL	86/73/t	28
Memphis, TN	86/63/pc	69
Middletown, NY	75/50/pc	35
Milford, MA	78/55/pc	34
Milwaukee, WI	86/71/s	54
Monroe, MI	81/67/pc	53
Monroe, LA	88/60/pc	65
Montgomery, AL	91/67/s	68
Muncie, IN	86/64/pc	69
Murfreesboro, TN	83/58/pc	61
● Naples, FL	86/78/t	45
Nashville, TN	85/61/pc	59
Neptune, NJ	76/64/pc	51
New Bedford, MA	76/58/pc	29
New Bern, NC	87/65/s	66
New Philadelphia, OH	81/57/s	51
Newark, OH	82/57/s	58
Newton, NJ	77/52/pc	38
New York, NY	79/65/pc	56
Norwich, CT	78/57/pc	33
● Ocala, FL	89/73/t	32
Oklahoma City, OK	90/68/pc	67
Opelousas, LA	90/65/pc	62
Oshkosh, WI	86/68/s	44
● Palm Beach, FL	85/78/t	49
Palm Springs, CA	109/75/s	67
Panama City, FL	91/77/pc	69
Pekin, IL	92/72/s	57
Pensacola, FL	93/74/s	76
Peoria, IL	92/71/s	63
Petersburg, VA	84/63/s	53
Phoenix, AZ	112/83/s	91
Port Huron, MI	81/63/pc	53
Portsmouth, NH	74/57/s	25
Poughkeepsie, NY	78/54/pc	37
Providence, RI	77/59/pc	34
Pueblo, CO	100/57/s	66
Quincy, MA	77/59/pc	45
Redding, CA	107/70/s	44
Reno, NV	100/65/s	66
Ravenna, OH	80/58/pc	51
Richmond, IN	84/59/s	75

	High/low/W	Air Quality
Rochester, NY	75/56/pc	27
Rockford, IL	90/71/pc	57
Ruidoso, NM	87/65/t	54
Salem, OR	79/49/s	33
● Salina, KS	94/73/s	64
Salinas, CA	66/57/pc	59
Salisbury, MD	82/61/s	46
San Angelo, TX	92/72/s	53
● Sarasota, FL	87/74/t	36
Savannah, GA	89/70/pc	67
Sheboygan, WI	75/64/s	48
Shelby, NC	85/62/pc	70
Sherman, TX	89/66/pc	58
Shreveport, LA	90/64/c	66
Silver City, NM	99/67/s	57
● Sioux Falls, SD	93/63/t	52
Somerset, PA	76/53/s	60
Somerville, NJ	81/56/pc	42
South Bend, IN	88/66/pc	65
Spartanburg, SC	85/63/pc	74
Springfield, IL	89/69/s	71
Springfield, MO	86/64/c	65
● St. Augustine, FL	85/77/t	42
● St. Cloud, MN	83/60/t	38
St. George, UT	107/72/s	61
Staunton, VA	82/53/s	56
● Stevens Point, WI	84/66/s	37
Stockton, CA	98/57/s	75
Stroudsburg, PA	77/56/pc	40
● Stuart, FL	84/76/t	41
Sturgis, MI	84/66/s	57
Tallahassee, FL	95/74/pc	63
Thibodaux, LA	91/71/t	60
Topeka, KS	92/72/s	69
Tuscaloosa, AL	87/63/s	58
Utica, NY	71/49/pc	26
Ventura, CA	67/56/pc	48
● Victorville, CA	95/57/s	74
Vineland, NJ	84/60/s	45
Visalia, CA	101/64/s	79
Washington, DC	83/66/s	53
Watertown, SD	88/57/t	40
● Wausau, WI	82/66/s	36
Waynesboro, PA	83/61/s	46
White Plains, NY	76/58/pc	43
Wichita Falls, TX	91/69/pc	60
Wilmington, DE	82/62/s	48
Wilmington, NC	87/68/pc	72
● Wisconsin Rapids, WI	85/66/s	38
Wooster, OH	81/58/s	52
Worcester, MA	76/58/pc	28
York, PA	83/59/s	50

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Wednesday High/low/W	Thursday High/low/W
● Acapulco	91/75/s	88/76/t
Addis Ababa	73/56/sh	75/55/r
Algiers	79/61/pc	81/57/pc
Amman	97/73/s	103/78/s
Amsterdam	58/49/sh	64/55/c
Ankara	96/60/s	96/65/c
Asuncion	91/70/s	90/76/c
Athens	94/77/c	100/76/c
Auckland	58/46/c	61/57/c
Baghdad	110/82/pc	113/83/pc
Bangkok	95/81/t	96/81/pc
Beijing	99/73/pc	95/71/c
Beirut	86/75/s	90/78/s
Belgrade	74/60/r	75/58/t
Berlin	65/46/pc	65/48/pc
Bogota	68/49/r	68/50/r
Brussels	60/44/pc	66/54/c
Bucharest	88/64/pc	88/64/pc
Budapest	70/56/pc	71/54/pc
Buenos Aires	69/65/c	75/62/pc
● Cairo	100/77/s	105/80/s
Cape Town	66/48/sh	65/48/pc
Caracas	90/76/t	92/77/t
Casablanca	76/62/pc	78/66/pc
● Colombo	87/81/t	88/80/t
Copenhagen	60/48/sh	60/51/sh
Damascus	103/68/s	107/74/s
Dublin	59/49/c	61/49/r
Geneva	66/47/pc	71/51/pc
● Guatemala City	78/65/t	76/65/t
Hanoi	99/83/r	100/86/pc
Harare	70/40/s	73/41/s
● Havana	88/77/t	86/76/t
Helsinki	59/52/sh	59/51/sh
● Hong Kong	90/83/t	91/83/t
Jakarta	90/77/t	91/76/t
Jerusalem	91/70/s	98/75/s
Johannesburg	63/44/s	66/42/s
Kabul	89/61/c	90/62/c
Khartoum	109/84/s	106/83/pc
Kyiv	68/56/sh	73/59/pc
Kingston	92/82/pc	91/81/c
La Paz	61/30/pc	63/29/s
Lagos	87/77/t	88/77/t
Lima	67/60/pc	68/63/pc
● Lisbon	73/57/s	75/59/s
London	63/47/pc	64/54/r
Madrid	76/50/pc	83/57/s
● Manila	94/81/t	93/81/t
● Mexico City	86/56/pc	87/57/pc
● Milan	71/58/sh	74/57/sh
Mombasa	88/72/pc	88/71/pc
Montevideo	75/65/c	79/63/c
Montreal	73/57/pc	83/66/t
● Moscow	79/62/r	67/55/sh
Nairobi	75/55/pc	77/54/pc
New Delhi	113/90/pc	113/91/pc
Panama City	87/76/t	87/76/t
Paris	66/48/sh	69/55/pc
Port-au-Prince	99/74/pc	98/75/pc
Rio de Janeiro	80/67/s	82/69/s
Riyadh	112/87/pc	112/86/s
Rome	78/62/s	77/57/s
● San Jose	81/68/r	82/67/t
● San Salvador	82/71/t	81/70/r
Santiago	58/48/c	55/45/r
Sao Paulo	81/58/s	82/60/s
Sarajevo	76/59/sh	75/56/sh
Shanghai	84/72/c	87/73/c
● Singapore	89/78/t	89/79/t
Stockholm	60/46/sh	58/44/c
● Sydney	65/48/pc	62/51/pc
Taipei	97/80/c	92/78/t
● Tegucigalpa	83/69/t	84/69/t
Tehran	99/77/s	96/75/c
Tokyo	83/70/pc	83/71/s
Toronto	75/61/pc	82/59/t
Tunis	84/69/c	83/66/pc
Vancouver	64/49/s	68/52/c
Vienna	63/53/c	65/49/c
Warsaw	66/47/c	65/49/r
Yerevan	82/59/s	85/59/s
● Zagreb	64/54/sh	65/48/c
Zurich	65/50/pc	67/48/pc

● Denotes possible travel delays Wednesday

Weather(W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice.

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DAILY CHATTER NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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NEW CALEDONIA

Colonial democracy

Four people, including a security officer, died recently in riots in the French territory of New Caledonia, prompting French President Emmanuel Macron to declare a temporary state of emergency on the Pacific island.

To curb looting and the destruction of property, authorities instituted a curfew, banned public gatherings, closed the airport and blocked TikTok. Macron sent hundreds of troops to the island to support 1,800 police and gendarmes already there.

These contretemps stem from a mix of causes. In one sense, the problem is France's relationship with the global south, as World Politics Review explained. Citizens of New Caledonia can vote for the French president, lawmakers who represent them in the capital of Paris, as well as European parliamentarians. Many nevertheless still dislike the thought of their former colonial master retaining control.

The nickel-rich island's population is split between Indigenous Kanaks, who favor independence for their homeland, and so-called "Caldoches," or Europeans who have settled in the former colony.

Numerous referendums – when the population has been able to vote on whether or not to remain part of France – have always rebuffed the Kanaks' desires for independence, even after a 1998 agreement prevented new arrivals from voting, the Economist noted.

Many protesters are now angry that Macron has proposed allowing French citizens who have recently arrived on the island to vote in future elections and referendums, Reuters wrote. Many Kanaks view the move as an attempt to dilute their vote. They have refused to take down roadblocks until Macron changes his mind. The president has said he won't force the island to accept the change – but the roadblocks must come down.

INDIA

To be continued

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in for a rare third term this week, following a sobering election result that saw his once-dominant Bharatiya Janata Party lose its majority in the lower house and raised questions about his new coalition government's ability to govern as before, the Washington Post reported.

On Sunday, President Droupadi Murmu swore in the Hindu nationalist leader for another five-year term as prime minister – the second Indian politician to achieve this feat after Jawaharlal Nehru, one of India's founding fathers.

During the swearing-in ceremony, Modi unveiled the 71-member council of ministers composed of BJP politicians and members of his National Democratic Alliance coalition. Details of the ministerial appointments are expected in the coming days, prompting questions about who will secure crucial security and economic posts.

The BJP secured only 240 seats, far below the 272-seat threshold needed for a majority in the lower house. Analysts suggested that the new coalition government will have a "veneer of continuity," noting that Modi's third term will not be very different from his previous two.

Still, the election results marked the start of an uncertain period for Modi and the BJP, who have dominated Indian politics since they came to power in 2014.

Observers explained that the once-battered opposition made significant gains after campaigning on issues of high unemployment, inflation and complaints from India's rural voters, Sky News added.

Inequality also remains high in the country, with the Paris-based World Inequalities Lab reporting that the top 1% of India's population controls 40% of the nation's wealth.

At the same time, Modi has been accused of favoring the country's Hindu majority at the expense of the Muslim minority: He escalated anti-Muslim rhetoric during the campaign. But following the election results, he appealed to his coalition partners by saying that the new government would represent all Indians.

Political analysts told the Post they are watching to see if Modi's allies will retain control over key agencies, such as law enforcement, which opposition parties claim have been misused for the BJP's political aims.

DISCOVERIES

The great replacement

Bronze cuckoos annoy other birds.

Too lazy, perhaps, to build their own nests, they lay their eggs in the carefully constructed homes of small songbirds. When the cuckoo egg hatches, the chick then pushes the host bird's eggs out of the nest and tricks the new parents into caring for it.

They are nature's ultimate freeloaders.

More amazing still is what happens next, the so-called coevolution – and possibly the creation of a new species – in a process called speciation, which happens after the close interaction between species, according to a new study that resulted from two decades of observation and analysis by a team of scientists.

Scientists call it "an evolutionary arms race." The prize? More species.

"This finding is significant in evolutionary biology," said Clare Holleley, an evolutionary biologist at the Australian National Wildlife Collection, who worked on the study. "It shows that coevolution between interacting species increases biodiversity."

Until now, there hadn't been any evidence to support this theory.

To prove it, the researchers used scientific modeling, and "looked at the DNA and morphology of bronze cuckoos," wrote Corinne Simonti, editor of the journal Science where the study was published.

They found that speciation was more likely when a cuckoo species targets several different host species.

"Cuckoos are very costly to their hosts, so hosts have evolved the ability to recognize and eject cuckoo chicks from their nests," said Naomi Langmore of Australian National University, Canberra, lead author of the study.

To avoid this, cuckoo chicks mimic the hosts' chicks' appearance and birdsong, thus going into separate genetic lineages.

Haiti announces new government cabinet

Strong shift from previous administration

Harold Isaac
REUTERS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Haiti's administration picked new ministers on Tuesday, rounding out the new prime minister's cabinet, in a stark departure from the previous government as the country battles a deep humanitarian crisis fueled by armed gangs.

The cabinet, announced nearly two weeks after Prime Minister Garry Conille himself was named to his post, trims the number of ministers while replacing all who served in former Prime Minister Ariel Henry's cabinet. Many of the new picks were drawn from outside Haiti's political class altogether.

Haiti's prolonged social and political crisis has deepened since a presidential assassination in 2021 threw the Caribbean nation into upheaval. Gangs have expanded their control over the country while displacing thousands of civilians.

In the new cabinet, the prime minister will also serve as interior minister, controlling much of Haiti's security forces as well as intelligence gathering.

Conille returned as prime minister after a brief stint in the role more than a decade ago. He was most recently a top official with the U.N. children's agency, UNICEF.

The justice ministry will be headed by Carlos Hercule, a lawyer who formerly headed the Port-au-Prince bar association along with serving as a member of an electoral council set to pave the way for Haiti's next elections.

He will oversee a paralyzed judicial system and the country's embattled police, who have been fighting the powerful gangs.

Princeton-educated Ketleen Florestal, who has advised multilateral lenders, takes over the finance ministry from Michel Patrick Boisvert, who also served as interim prime minister this year.

Florestal will also lead the planning and international cooperation ministry, which oversees development.

Garry Conille has returned as Haiti's prime minister after a brief stint in the role more than a decade ago. RALPH TEDY EROL/REUTERS FILE

The defense ministry will be led by Jean Marc Berthier Antoine. He will oversee Haiti's small army that was disbanded in 1995 but reinstated seven years ago.

Foreign affairs will be taken over by Dominique Dupuy, Haiti's ambassador to the U.N.'s cultural agency, UNESCO. She will also lead the ministry in charge of Haiti's vast diaspora, largely living in the United States and the Dominican Republic.

Dupuy was briefly tapped by a group linked to former Prime Minister Claude Joseph to join the transition council that has taken over certain presidential powers to rule alongside Conille until the next elections – but she stepped down, citing threats.

The education and communications ministries, meanwhile, will be jointly taken over by Antoine Augustin, a university professor and supporter of the 2021 Montana Accord, a political movement which opposed the previous government of Henry.

Separately, Conille's office said he had met on Tuesday with U.S. Ambassador Dennis Hankins, with whom he had discussed U.S. support for a long-delayed security force set to bolster Haitian police in its fight against gangs.

Trees burn in the Pantanal, the world's largest wetland, in Corumba, Brazil, on Tuesday. UESLEI MARCELINO/REUTERS

Fires in Brazil wetlands off to record start in 2024

Leonardo Benassatto
REUTERS

CORUMBA, Brazil – As Jose Cleiton and Brandao Amilton ride their horses into the vastness of the Pantanal grassy wetlands of Brazil, a wall of smoke towers from the horizon far into the sky above.

The worst of the dry season is still far off, but already these Brazilian wetlands are so dry that wildfires are surging. The number of Pantanal fires so far this year has jumped tenfold from the same period last year according to Brazil's National Institute of Space Research.

"It's hard to breathe. It's hard for newborn children. The heat gets stronger and stronger," said Amilton, a local fishing guide. "The Pantanal is already hot and it gets hotter, drier, with smoke, the weather gets very bad."

The men guide cattle across the flood plain, hoping for a better chance of survival. "The way the fire is coming, it could surround them and burn them to death," said Cleiton, a farmer.

The Pantanal wetlands, roughly 10 times the size of the Florida Everglades, are home to jaguars, tapirs, caimans and giant anteaters. Weak rains since late last year have disrupted the usual seasonal flooding, leaving more of the region vulnerable to fires.

As the region approaches the riskiest season for wildfires, which usually peak in September, experts are warning that the blazes so far this year are worse than the start of a record 2020, when a third of the Pantanal burned.

More than 1,315 square miles of the Pantanal have burned from Jan. 1 to June 9, the highest level on record, according to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro's satellite monitoring program, with data going back to 2012.

The contrast with record flooding in Rio Grande do Sul, three states to the south, may be jarring, but scientists say they are part of the same phenomenon – an unusually strong El Nino pattern, worsened by climate change.

"Climate change has supercharged El Nino," said Michael Coe, a climate scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center. "Now we are in a different realm."

Musk moves to withdraw his lawsuit against OpenAI

Mike Scarcella
REUTERS

Elon Musk dismissed his case against OpenAI without prejudice, which means he could refile it at another time. GONZALO FUENTES/ REUTERS FILE

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk on Tuesday moved to dismiss his lawsuit accusing ChatGPT maker OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman of abandoning the startup's original mission of developing artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity and not for profit.

Attorneys for Musk asked the California state court to dismiss the lawsuit, originally filed in February, without giving a reason for the move, according to a filing in San Francisco Superior Court.

A Superior Court judge there was prepared to hear OpenAI's bid to dismiss the lawsuit at a hearing scheduled for Wednesday.

OpenAI and an attorney for Musk did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Musk dismissed his case without prejudice, which means he could refile it at another time.

The lawsuit marked a culmination of Musk's long-simmering opposition to OpenAI, a startup he co-founded and that has since become the face of generative AI through billions of dollars in funding from Microsoft.

Musk last July founded his own artificial intelligence startup, xAI, which raised $6 billion in series B funding in May to reach a post-money valuation of $24 billion.

The lawsuit said Altman and OpenAI co-founder Greg Brockman approached Musk to make an open source, nonprofit company, but the startup established in 2015 is now focused on making money. OpenAI "set the founding agreement aflame" last year when it released its most powerful language model GPT-4, the lawsuit said.

Musk in the lawsuit asked a judge to force OpenAI to make its research and technology available to the public and to prevent the startup from using its assets, including GPT-4, for the financial benefit of Microsoft and others.

OpenAI had argued in a court filing that the lawsuit was based on incoherent claims, describing it as a contrived attempt by Musk to advance his own AI interests.

"Seeing the remarkable technological advances OpenAI has achieved, Musk now wants that success for himself," OpenAI's attorneys said.

Musk in a filing in April said OpenAI was trying to "advance arguments that are based on disputed facts" that are beyond the scope of the lawsuit.

Report: US weighs more limits on China's access to AI chips

Devika Nair and Arsheeya Bajwa
REUTERS

An employee works at a semiconductor chips factory in Huai'an in eastern China's Jiangsu province. STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

The Biden administration is considering further restrictions on China's access to chip technology used for artificial intelligence, Bloomberg News reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The measures being discussed would limit China's ability to use a cutting-edge chip architecture known as gate all-around, or GAA, the report said.

GAA is a type of transistor architecture that helps improve chip performance and reduces power consumption.

The United States has been working to limit Beijing's access to advanced AI chips, such as those designed by leader Nvidia, through tightened trade restrictions amid fears that China may use the technology to bolster its military.

With the scope of the potential rule still being determined, it is not clear when officials will make a final decision, the report said.

"The new controls are part of an effort by allied countries to each impose separately controls they had agreed to several years ago during Wassenaar Arrangement multilateral regime meetings but that were not ultimately approved because Russia blocked the consensus-based regime from publishing the controls," said Washington lawyer Kevin Wolf, a former Commerce official.

Wolf noted that in March, the UK imposed controls over technology for integrated circuits with "Gate all-around Field-Effect Transistor" structures, which are generally for advanced node integrated circuits.

"The U.S. and other allies are thus expected to impose this GAAFET and many other earlier-agreed-upon controls this summer," Wolf said.

The rule is not yet finalized after industry officials criticized the first version as overly broad, the report said, adding that it is unclear whether the ban would restrict China's ability to develop its own GAA chips or seek to block U.S. chipmakers and other overseas companies from selling their products to Chinese firms.

Leading semiconductor firms including Nvidia, Intel and Advanced Micro Devices, along with chip manufacturers Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing and Samsung are aiming to start mass production of chips with the GAA design within the next year, according to the report.

Nvidia and Intel declined to comment. The other companies did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment. The U.S. Department of Commerce declined to comment.

Stricter restrictions on exports of advanced semiconductors to China have already hampered chipmakers' position, with companies such as Intel and Qualcomm saying their sales would take a hit after the U.S. revoked some of their export licenses for a customer in China.

The Bloomberg report also said there have been some early-stage discussions about limiting exports of high-bandwidth memory chips.

HBM chips, such as those made by South Korea's SK Hynix and Micron Technology, help speed up AI applications and are used by companies like Nvidia.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Apple shares soar in US

Nasdaq, S&P 500 post record closing highs

Caroline Valetkevitch
REUTERS

NEW YORK – The S&P 500 and Nasdaq registered record closing highs for a second straight day on Tuesday, helped by a gain of more than 7% in Apple shares, while investors also awaited consumer prices data and a policy announcement from the Federal Reserve.

Apple shares jumped 7.3% to a record-high close and gave the S&P 500 and Nasdaq their biggest boosts after the stock declined in the previous session.

At its annual developer event that kicked off on Monday, Apple unveiled new artificial-intelligence features meant to increase the appeal of its devices, including an improved Siri virtual assistant that can answer a wider range of queries and accomplish more complicated tasks than earlier.

The S&P 500 technology index climbed 1.7% and also posted a record closing high.

The Consumer Price Index report will be released before the bell on Wednesday, and the U.S. central bank's policy announcement is due later the same day.

The central bank is likely to leave interest rates unchanged but will release its updated economic projections and "dot plot," which shows where policymakers expect interest rates to stand this year and longer-term.

"Everybody is feeling uneasy, but the data and actions consumers are taking continue to point toward resiliency."

Oliver Pursche
Senior vice president and adviser for Wealthspire Advisors

"Everybody is feeling uneasy, but the data and actions consumers are taking continue to point toward resiliency, and that tends to be overall fairly bullish," said Oliver Pursche, senior vice president and adviser for Wealthspire Advisors in Westport, Connecticut.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 120.62 points, or 0.31%, to 38,747.42, the S&P 500 gained 14.53 points, or 0.27%, to 5,375.32 and the Nasdaq Composite added 151.02 points, or 0.88%, to 17,343.55.

Friday's U.S. monthly jobs report was stronger than expected. Markets have dialed back expectations for the Fed's first rate cut happening in September, now pricing in about a 50% chance, according to the CME's FedWatch tool.

General Motors gained 1.35% after the automaker announced a $6 billion share buyback plan. GM also cut its annual EV production forecast.

After the closing bell, Oracle shares rose 8% following the release of quarterly results.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by a 1.52-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.17-to-1 ratio favored decliners. The S&P 500 posted 19 new 52-week highs and 4 new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 45 new highs and 127 new lows.

Volume on U.S. exchanges was 10.65 billion shares, compared with the 12.83 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.

Proposal would ban medical debt from credit reports

Up to $49B could be removed under plan

Douglas Gillison
REUTERS

Millions of Americans would see medical debts vanish from their credit reports under pending regulations unveiled Tuesday, Vice President Kamala Harris announced.

The proposed regulations, unveiled by the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, come as the Biden administration works to tout its economic policies ahead of November's elections.

The move would remove up to $49 billion in medical debts from the credit reports of 15 million Americans, according to the bureau. Americans often face medical debt because services are not entirely covered by either private insurance or government health plans.

State and local governments are also using coronavirus stimulus funds to eliminate $7 billion in medical debts held by nearly 3 million Americans, according to the vice president's office

"Medical debt makes it more difficult for millions of Americans to be approved for a car loan, a home loan or small business loans, all of which in turn makes it more difficult to just get by," Harris told reporters.

"No one should be denied access to economic opportunity simply because they experienced a medical emergency."

The proposal would result in an additional 22,000 home loan approvals per year once effective, according to Harris.

As home ownership rates rise, racial minority groups are left behind, according to the National Association of Realtors. Black and Asian buyers are most likely to be rejected for a mortgage loan based on their debt-to-income ratio, NAR data showed.

The proposal faces likely pushback from industry and Republican-led states, who have challenged Biden administration economic and environmental policies. A year ago, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the administration's plans to cancel $430 billion in student loan debts, upending a key Biden campaign promise.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Rohit Chopra is due to present the agency's semiannual report to lawmakers later this week.

Rep. Patrick McHenry, the Republican chair of the House Financial Services Committee, which will hear Chopra's testimony on Thursday, decried Tuesday's announcement, saying the policy would raise costs and reduce the availability of credit.

"The CFPB's regulatory overreach will harm the very consumers the agency was created to protect," McHenry said in a statement.

Officials at the agency have said that medical debt is a poor predictor of whether borrowers are likely to repay debts owed through credit cards, mortgages and other loans. A senior agency official said the proposal would likely be finalized early in 2025.

Silos, smokestacks and brown pools of water line the banks of the Mississippi River in Louisiana, where scores of refineries and petrochemical plants have come into existence over a few decades. EMILY KASK/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Study: Toxic gas in La. air far exceeds safe levels

Nancy Lapid
REUTERS

The toxic gas ethylene oxide (EtO) is detectable in southeastern Louisiana at levels a thousand times higher than what is considered safe, according to a new study.

EtO emissions largely come from petrochemical manufacturing, and southeastern Louisiana has a high density of facilities that use or manufacture petrochemicals.

"We expected to see ethylene oxide in this area," said study leader Peter DeCarlo of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. "But we didn't expect the levels that we saw, and they certainly were much, much higher" than levels estimated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

EPA estimates were based on traditional EtO monitoring methods that involve collecting air samples and analyzing them in a lab, a method that is not precise, DeCarlo said.

Because EtO concentrations change over time, the air that comes out of the collection canister in the lab is different from the air that was originally collected, he explained.

In February 2023, researchers crisscrossed repeatedly through southeastern Louisiana's industrial corridor with a cutting-edge mobile air-testing lab that could directly measure EtO levels on site. EtO is so toxic that dangerous levels for long-term exposure start at 11 parts per trillion, the researchers noted in a report published on Tuesday in the journal Environmental Science & Technology.

Levels in southeastern Louisiana reached 40 parts per billion near industrial facilities, "more than a thousand times higher than the accepted risk for lifetime exposure," DeCarlo said.

"I don't think there's any census tract in the area that wasn't at higher risk for cancer than we would deem acceptable," DeCarlo said.

Long-term exposure has been linked to cancer, particularly for people living near facilities that manufacture EtO or work with it.

Concerning levels were found up to 6 miles downwind from factories, according to the report. One public school in Gonzales, Louisiana is only 5 miles from the center of one industrial "hotspot," the researchers said.

The EPA said it would review the study. It added that it had already taken steps to reduce pollution in the part of the state nicknamed "Cancer Alley" due to its higher cancer incidence rates, including by setting new standards for chemicals manufacturing and by conducting research into sources of EtO.

A spokesperson for the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, which represents the U.S. petrochemicals and oil refining industry, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Power

Continued from Page 1NN

The ruling from the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is another example of how business groups are using conservative-leaning courts to overturn SEC rules, limit its ability to write similar ones and bring enforcement actions.

While the conservative "war on the administrative state" aims to weaken federal agencies across the board, Gensler's ambitious agenda has made the SEC, which oversees around 40,000 entities, a top target.

"It's happening government-wide, and it's quite acute at the SEC," said Satyam Khanna, a former SEC attorney who advised two former Democratic Commissioners as recently as 2021. "The SEC oversees a vast number of entities – funds, public companies, brokers, and more – and the financial stakes can be high."

The agency is facing several other lawsuits from financial firms and their trade groups arguing the agency is overstepping its authority to impose ill-conceived and costly rules.

A Reuters review of Westlaw filings showed a sharp uptick in the number of open appeals against the SEC in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals from 2019 to last year, although it is facing litigation in other conservative-leaning courts too.

Among the cases: hedge funds are suing in the 5th Circuit to overturn SEC short-selling disclosures and in a Texas district court to kill new Treasuries trading rules, while in March business groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as well as Republican-led states, sued to block SEC climate change rules.

The Chamber is among the most aggressive groups in litigating regulations. In December, it won a 5th Circuit challenge to SEC rules around stock buybacks and is tracking other draft rules for potential challenges.

"The current SEC has engaged in remarkable amounts of regulatory overreach," said Daryl Joseffer, chief counsel at the Chamber's Litigation Center.

Reform advocates say the industry just wants to protect its profits and that weakening the SEC will hurt everyday Americans.

Speaking to Reuters last Wednesday, SEC chair Gary Gensler did not discuss the private funds ruling but noted that only a handful of dozens of rules adopted under his leadership have been litigated. And the agency has notched some notable wins, including in the 5th Circuit, on diversity rules and proxy voting, legal experts note.

But Gensler also said the agency would adapt to adverse rulings.

"We do everything according to law and how courts interpret law. If the courts interpret law differently than we thought, we adjust, we pivot."

Gary Gensler
Democratic chair of the SEC

"We do everything according to law and how courts interpret law. If the courts interpret law differently than we thought, we adjust, we pivot," he said. He cited as an example the SEC's decision to approve bitcoin products in January after a D.C. appeals court found the agency was wrong to reject them.

Former President Donald Trump appointed 54 judges to the U.S. appeals courts where many suits against federal agencies are filed and pushed the Supreme Court to a 6-3 conservative majority.

When asked if he felt the courts were stacked against him, Gensler said: "I'm a huge believer in the American democratic system and our constitutional system. We have three co-equal branches of government. And that's a really important thing."

Most of the litigation alleges violations of the 1946 Administrative Procedure Act which requires regulators to justify rules and allow time for, and fully consider, public feedback.

Jennifer Han, Executive Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs at MFA, which led the private funds suit, said the group does not approach litigation lightly.

"Unfortunately, after constructively engaging with the SEC throughout its rulemaking, the (SEC) finalized rules that exceeded its authority and did not follow the Administrative Procedures Act. We are grateful that the court agreed with MFA," said Han, adding the group will continue to work constructively with the SEC.

Some cases lean on a 2022 Supreme Court decision which raised doubts over whether federal agencies have the authority to tackle major policy questions. That ruling was among the reasons the SEC scaled back its climate change rule, Reuters previously reported, and was cited in some of the March suits.

Crypto firms have frequently cited that "major questions" doctrine when disputing the SEC's authority to regulate them.

The SEC has made significant changes to other major rules following industry pushback, including on money market funds and activist investor disclosures.

Gensler said the agency takes industry comments "very seriously."

This month, the Supreme Court is also expected to rule on two other cases with major implications for the SEC.

One relates to its authority to use in-house judges with securities law expertise to decide enforcement actions, which is often speedier than going through the courts. Conservative justices last year expressed concern that it denies defendants a jury trial.

The case follows a 2018 Supreme Court ruling that the SEC's process for selecting in-house judges violated the Constitution. Since then, the SEC has dramatically scaled back its use of the tribunal, SEC data shows.

The other SCOTUS case challenges a legal doctrine known as "Chevron deference" which calls for judges to defer to federal agencies' interpretations of U.S. laws deemed to be ambiguous.

Chevron is a bedrock of agency rulemaking. According to 2017 research published in the Michigan Law Review, between 2003 and 2013, Chevron was applied 66.7% of the time when litigating SEC rules in circuit courts and in those cases the agency won just over 81%.

Florida trans care ban nixed

Restrictions were signed by DeSantis in 2023

Jonathan Allen
REUTERS

A federal judge ruled on Tuesday that parts of Florida's ban of puberty blockers and hormone therapy for transgender children and restrictions on gender-affirming health care for adults are unconstitutional and ordered that it not be enforced.

Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the restrictions into law in 2023, banning people under the age of 18 from receiving puberty blockers or hormone therapy to treat gender dysphoria, though the law allowed children who had begun receiving gender-affirming care before May 17, 2023, to continue to do so with new restrictions.

The law, part of a slew of restrictive legislation in recent years advanced by Republicans to regulate the lives of transgender people, also imposed new restrictions on adults receiving gender-affirming health care.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle in Tallahassee ruled that all those elements violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law, noting that some Florida legislators "plainly acted from old-fashioned discriminatory animus."

"Gender identity is real," he wrote in his order, ruling that it was unconstitutional to discriminate against transgender people. "In time, discrimination against transgender individuals will diminish, just as racism and misogyny have diminished."

A spokesperson for DeSantis, who signed the ban into law shortly before announcing his failed bid to become the GOP nominee for the U.S. presidential election, said the state would appeal the ruling and referred to gender-affirming health care as an aspect of "radical, new age 'gender ideology.'"

"These procedures do permanent, life-altering damage to children, and history will look back on this fad in horror," the spokesperson, Julia Friedland, said in a statement.

The judge noted that doctors who treat transgender patients, multiple medical associations and the U.S. Department of Health widely accept that the therapies banned by Florida are "well-established standards of care for treatment of gender dysphoria."

Several parents of transgender children, who were plaintiffs in the lawsuit, gave testimony to the court that gender-affirming health care was allowing their children to flourish. A transgender man, another plaintiff, testified that Florida's new restrictions interrupted his taking of testosterone when his prescription lapsed, causing distress, anxiety and depression.

Because the law allowed health care providers to continue providing puberty blockers or hormone therapy to children and adults who are not transgender, Hinkle ruled that the law unconstitutionally discriminated on the basis of sex. Doctors who violated the law faced up to five years in prison.

The judge noted that Florida lawmakers and Gov. DeSantis, in passing the law, spoke openly about their moral disapproval of transgender people. This hindered the state's lawyers from successfully arguing that the law was a good-faith effort to regulate health care and not motivated by unconstitutional discriminatory animus.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed restrictions into law in 2023 banning people under the age of 18 from receiving puberty blockers or hormone therapy to treat gender dysphoria.
BRAD MCCLENNY/THE GAINESVILLE SUN

Manhattan DA to testify after Trump sentencing

Bragg will appear before Congress in mid-July

Jasper Ward and Luc Cohen
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg will testify before Congress on July 12, a day after former President Donald Trump is sentenced in his hush money case, a person familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

Republicans on the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee said on X they had also secured testimony from Matthew Colangelo, a prosecutor on Bragg's team and a former Justice Department official.

A Manhattan jury last month convicted Trump on charges, brought by Bragg's office, of falsifying business records to hide a $130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels for her silence before the 2016 election about a sexual encounter she says they had, which he denies.

Trump has vowed to appeal following his July 11 sentencing before Justice Juan Merchan in New York state criminal court in Manhattan.

The hearing before a Republican-led subcommittee will give Trump's congressional allies a chance to rail against the first-ever criminal trial of a U.S. president, which they call a politically-motivated effort by Bragg – an elected Democrat – to interfere in the Nov. 5 election. Bragg has said ensuring companies keep accurate books is a top priority in Manhattan, which he calls the business capital of the world.

Trump's allies have pointed to Colangelo's role as evidence that President Joe Biden's administration was involved in the prosecution – a claim that Justice Department officials have dismissed as baseless.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, center, has said ensuring companies keep accurate books is a top priority in Manhattan.
EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS FILE

"It undermines the rule of law to spread dangerous misinformation," a spokesperson for Bragg's office said. "Nonetheless, we respect our government institutions and plan to appear voluntarily before the subcommittee."

Local prosecutors such as Bragg operate independently of the Justice Department.

In a letter to U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, the committee's chair, Assistant Attorney General Carlos Uriarte said the Justice Department had searched its officials' email communications for correspondence with the Manhattan District Attorney's office about the Trump case and found none.

"The conspiracy theory that the recent jury verdict in New York state court was somehow controlled by the Department is not only false, it is irresponsible," Uriarte wrote in a letter seen by Reuters on Tuesday. In testimony before the committee last week, Attorney General Merrick Garland said suggestions he had dispatched Colangelo to Bragg's office were false.

Gun safety

Continued from Page 1NN

buyers who lie about the gun's intended owner, among other provisions.

The Department of Justice has charged more than 500 defendants with violating gun trafficking and straw purchasing provisions of a new gun safety law enacted two years ago, the White House announced on Tuesday.

Biden hailed preliminary data released by the FBI, which showed that murders decreased by 26% in the first quarter of 2024, while robberies fell by almost 18%, and violent crime overall dropped by 15%.

Biden's speech was interrupted by pro-Palestinian protesters. The crowd grew angry, but Biden urged patience, saying "innocent children have been lost."

Democrats are deeply divided over Biden's handling of the war in Gaza and the president routinely faces protests at public events.

The White House noted that the Trump administration saw the largest increase in murders ever recorded.

Democrats largely favor stricter gun laws as a way to reduce deaths from gun violence at schools and in cities across the country.

Republicans, with the support of the National Rifle Association, a gun rights group, largely oppose stricter laws, citing the right to bear arms established in the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment.

Trump, who last month won the endorsement of the nation's top gun rights group, has pledged to unravel gun regulations put in place by Biden.

Hunter Biden convicted by hometown jury

President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden was convicted by a jury on Tuesday of lying about his illegal drug use to buy a gun, making him the first child of a sitting U.S. president to be convicted of a crime.

A 12-member jury in Wilmington, Delaware – the Bidens' hometown – found the defendant guilty on all three counts against him.

Hunter Biden, 54, lightly nodded his head after the verdict was read but otherwise showed little reaction. He then patted his lawyer Abbe Lowell on the back and hugged another member of his legal team.

First lady Jill Biden and Hunter's wife Melissa held his hands as they left the courtroom.

Lowell said they would "vigorously pursue all the legal challenges available to Hunter." Biden still faces a separate tax case in California.

At trial, prosecutors offered an intimate view of Hunter Biden's years of struggle with alcohol and crack cocaine abuse, which they said legally precluded him from buying a gun.

After about three hours of deliberation, the jurors found Hunter Biden falsely claimed to be free of illegal drugs when he filled out a government screening document for a Colt Cobra revolver in 2018 and then illegally possessed the weapon.

U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika set no date for sentencing, but added it would usually be within 120 days. That would place it no later than about a month before the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential election.

Reuters

HUNTER BIDEN TIMELINE

Pivotal moments lead up to gun trial conviction

Tom Hals REUTERS

A jury in Delaware convicted Hunter Biden, President Joe Biden's son, on Tuesday of lying about his illegal drug use when he purchased a gun in 2018.

A look at key moments leading up to the verdict:

- **May 13, 2014:** Burisma Group, a private energy company in Ukraine, says Hunter Biden will be joining its board. Joe Biden, the vice president at the time, oversees Ukraine policy for the administration of President Barack Obama. Burisma's founder had been the subject of a series of criminal investigations by Ukrainian authorities that were closed in 2017 after the company and founder made payments to authorities.
- **May 30, 2015:** Beau Biden, Joe Biden's oldest of two sons, dies of cancer. Hunter Biden later writes in his autobiography, titled "Beautiful Things," that this set off his descent into addiction.
- **Oct. 12, 2018:** Hunter Biden purchases a Colt Cobra .38 Special revolver, and on the federal firearm purchase form responds "no" to a question asking if he is an unlawful user of controlled substances or an addict. Later that month, his sister-in-law throws the gun into a public trash bin, where it is discovered by a man collecting recyclables and turned over to police.
- **2019:** David Weiss, the U.S. attorney for the District of Delaware, begins investigating Hunter Biden for potential tax and other financial crimes, according to media reports. Weiss was appointed by then-President Donald Trump.
- **April 2019:** Joe Biden announces his bid for the 2020 Democratic Party presidential nomination. Hunter Biden's term on the Burisma board expires.
- **July 25, 2019:** Trump speaks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and pressures him to investigate an allegation that Joe Biden, while vice president, muscled Ukrainian authorities to shut down a probe that could implicate Hunter Biden's work for Burisma. The Bidens deny the allegations. The U.S. House of Representatives later votes to impeach Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, in part due to the call. The U.S. Senate subsequently votes to acquit Trump, keeping him in office. Joe Biden goes on to defeat Trump in the 2020 election.
- **June 20, 2023:** Hunter Biden reaches a deal to plead guilty to two misdemeanor charges of willfully failing to pay income taxes and to enter into an agreement to avert a conviction on gun-related charges. The agreement prompts accusations by Republicans that Hunter Biden is receiving favorable treatment as the president's son.
- **July 26, 2023:** U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika says she cannot accept the plea deal that Hunter Biden worked out with prosecutors because of concerns that it is overly broad and insulates him from other potential business-related charges.
- **Sept. 14, 2023:** Hunter Biden is charged in Delaware with gun-related crimes and faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted. He later enters a plea of not guilty.
- **Dec. 8, 2023:** Hunter Biden is charged with federal tax crimes in Los Angeles and later pleads not guilty. His lawyer Abbe Lowell accuses Weiss, who led the probe, of political bias.
- **June 3, 2024:** Jury selection begins in Wilmington, Delaware, for Hunter Biden's trial on the gun-related charges.
- **June 11, 2024:** The jury convicts Hunter Biden on all three counts against him in the gun case, finding he falsely claimed to be free of illegal drugs when he filled out a government screening document to purchase the revolver and then illegally possessed the weapon. He was due to be sentenced at a later date.

TOP: First lady Jill Biden, Hunter Biden and his wife, Melissa Cohen Biden, leave the J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building in Wilmington, Del., on Tuesday.
ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

President Joe Biden talks with his son Hunter Biden upon arrival at Delaware Air National Guard Base in New Castle, Del., on Tuesday.
ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

US House Republican Mace defeats rival in SC primary

U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace overcame a primary election challenge from fellow Republican Catherine Templeton on Tuesday, advancing to a November general election showdown that she is likely to win.

Mace, who represents South Carolina's most moderate Republican district, defeated Templeton 57.6% to 28.8% with 30% of the vote counted, according to the Associated Press, despite Templeton's support from party heavyweights including former House Speakers Kevin McCarthy and Newt Gingrich.

The two-term South Carolina congresswoman will now face a Democratic opponent for a House of Representatives seat that independent analysts describe as solidly Republican. Michael Moore led Mac Deford 54.9% to 45.1% for the Democratic nomination, with 73% of votes counted.

Voters also cast ballots on Tuesday in primary elections in Maine, Nevada and North Dakota, and in a U.S. House of Representatives special election in Ohio.

Mace, 46, raised eyebrows among her constituents last year by joining Republican hard-liners in a vote to oust McCarthy as the top Republican in Congress.

Rights group sues Virginia school district over Confederate names

Virginia's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed a federal lawsuit on Tuesday against a school district that restored the names of Confederate generals at two public schools.

The move by Shenandoah County Public School sends a message of "Black inferiority and subjugation," the complaint filed by the NAACP chapter in the U.S. District Court in Virginia said.

The civil rights organization accuses the school board of violating the First and 14th amendments of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act.

In 2020, the school board was the first in the U.S. to agree to strip the names of Confederate generals – those of Robert E. Lee, Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson and Turner Ashby from schools. The board overturned that decision on May 10, again naming a high school after Jackson and drawing on the names of Ashby and Lee for an elementary school.

NASA, Boeing push back Starliner's crewed return

NASA and Boeing said they expect to bring Starliner and its first astronaut crew back to Earth from the International Space Station as soon as June 18, later than previously scheduled as mission analysts examine issues that could affect its return.

Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft was originally expected to undock on Friday and return to Earth after launching its inaugural crew of two NASA astronauts from Florida on June 5. The mission is a crucial test before the U.S. space agency can certify Starliner for routine flights.

In scheduling Starliner's return, NASA officials in Houston are juggling various factors: fixes to faulty components on Starliner, weather conditions, and ISS scheduling matters such as spacewalks by other astronauts aboard the station. More changes to Starliner's return date could be announced during its mission.

US men jailed for conspiracy to sell Iranian oil to China

Two Texas men convicted by a U.S. jury in November of trying to sell Iranian petroleum in violation of sanctions imposed by Washington and of conspiracy to commit money laundering were sentenced Tuesday to 45 months in prison, the Justice Department said.

Zhenyu Wang, 43, a Chinese citizen, and Daniel Ray Lane, 42, of McKinney, Texas, schemed with co-conspirators to evade U.S. economic sanctions against Iran from July 2019 to February 2020 by facilitating the purchase of sanctioned oil from Iran, masking its origins and then selling it to a refinery in China, the department said.

Lane was president of privately held Stack Royalties, a Texas-based company that sells oil and gas mineral rights to investment funds and private equity groups.

The pair were charged, along with three others, in 2020 in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. At least two co-conspirators have since pleaded guilty, court records showed.

Reuters

House committee: Wall Street firms colluded to curb emissions

Isla Binnie
REUTERS

The report says Climate Action 100+ "bullies asset managers to join" and presses them to use their shareholder votes in support of climate proposals.
ROBERT KING/DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE VIA REUTERS FILE

A U.S. congressional committee accused the biggest Wall Street firms on Tuesday, in a report seen by Reuters ahead of its publication, of colluding with advocacy groups to force companies to shrink their greenhouse gas emissions.

The report is the first of its kind produced by the Republican-led Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives since it launched an investigation in late 2022 into whether corporate efforts to tackle climate change violate antitrust laws.

Several Republican-controlled states have been already targeting Wall Street firms for entering into climate coalitions and marketing environmental, social and corporate governance-focused investment products, fretting that these initiatives will harm jobs in the fossil fuel industry.

This is despite the world failing to live up to an intergovernmental agreement reached in Paris in 2015 to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) so it can avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

In the Judiciary Committee's report, the committee staff accuse President Joe Biden's administration of failing to "meaningfully investigate the climate cartel's collusion, let alone bring enforcement actions against its apparent violations of longstanding U.S. antitrust law."

A White House spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"The goal of any investigation is to inform legislative reforms," a spokesperson for Judiciary Committee chair Jim Jordan said.

While legislation is unlikely as long as Democrats control the White House and the Senate, any bill the committee comes up with could offer hints at what a new administration led by Republican Donald Trump could try to implement if he prevails in November's U.S. election.

No antitrust lawsuit has been brought against any climate coalition of companies. The spokesperson for Jordan declined to comment on any interactions with U.S. antitrust regulators regarding the report. The U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, which oversee antitrust reviews, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The report said it provided interim findings and that the investigation is continuing.

The committee issued subpoenas for documents and interviewed former regulators during the investigation. Its report on Tuesday focused on Climate Action 100+, a grouping of more than 700 investors focused on getting companies to curb emissions, and credited its investigation for several asset managers ending their membership this year for fear of an antitrust crackdown.

The report says Climate Action 100+ "bullies asset managers to join" and presses them to use their shareholder votes in support of climate proposals, seeking to reduce fossil fuel extraction and raising energy prices for U.S. consumers.

A spokesperson for Climate Action 100+ said its aims to undertake investor stewardship on climate change were misunderstood in the political discourse, and that its investors were "independent fiduciaries, responsible for their individual investment and voting decisions."

"As the world's largest investor-led engagement initiative, Climate Action 100+ will be scrutinized ... But any scrutiny must be fair, accurate, and based on facts," the spokesperson said.

The committee's report also takes aim at Climate Action 100+ co-founders, the California Public Employees Retirement System – or CalPERS – and climate-focused investor group Ceres for their key support of Climate Action 100+. It says activist investor Arjuna Capital, a member, "seeks to destroy fossil fuel companies."

The committee has called witnesses including Ceres president Mindy Lubber to appear at a public hearing on Wednesday.

Ceres said in a statement that the hearing is part of a "larger political campaign from opponents of climate action" who want "to ban investors from considering climate-related financial risk in decision-making."

A CalPERS spokesperson said it was "proud to participate" in initiatives like Climate Action 100+. "This is not collusion; it is collaboration," the spokesman said.

Arjuna did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The report cited work plans, meeting minutes and other documents it obtained, including an email between Ceres directors comparing their work and that of Climate Action 100+ to "the global Navy" and "the Army ground troops."

Another internal email referenced a Climate Action 100+ plan to replace board members at oil and gas firm Exxon Mobil , and said this effort would "show (Climate Action 100+) has teeth."

The report also criticized the world's three biggest asset managers, BlackRock, Vanguard and State Street, as members of the "climate cartel."

Representatives for BlackRock and State Street did not immediately provide comment. A Vanguard spokesperson said the firm's "mission is to help individual investors achieve their financial goals" and it remained committed to cooperating with the committee's requests.

U.S. envoy to Budapest David Pressman's criticism comes a month after Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Hungary.
BERNADETT SZABO/REUTERS FILE

Hungary warned on China relationship

US envoy: Ties 'come with strings attached'

REUTERS

BUDAPEST – The U.S. envoy to Budapest sharply criticized the Hungarian government on Tuesday for close political and business relations with China that often "come with strings attached, and the interest is often paid in sovereignty."

In a speech to U.S. companies that have invested in Hungary, at the American Chamber of Commerce, Ambassador David Pressman slammed Hungary for doing business with China based on non-transparent contracts "rife with corruption."

He also criticized nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government for allowing Chinese workers into Hungary and for a security cooperation between the two countries that allows for the presence of Chinese police officers in Hungary. Pressman said the U.S. also does business with China, but "transparently, based on clear rules, and with due concern for the security interests of our allies."

Relations between Budapest and Washington have soured because of Hungary's foot-dragging over the ratification of Sweden's NATO accession – finally passed by Budapest in February – and also over Orban's warm ties with Moscow despite the war in Ukraine.

"We all know that Hungary cannot, for long, have it both ways. To benefit from being in the community of democratic nations, but not constrained by it. To exercise the rights, but not always the responsibilities," Pressman said.

Pressman's criticism comes a month after Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Hungary, his third and final stop on hiss first European visit in five years, and called the China-Hungary relationship and "all-weather strategic partnership."

Hungary has become an important trade and investment partner for China, in contrast with some other EU nations that are considering becoming less dependent on the world's second-largest economy.

UN condemns violence against children in report

Michelle Nichols
REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS – United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday named and shamed Israel's security forces, Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and Sudan's warring parties for killing and maiming children in 2023, adding them to an annual global list of offenders for violations against children.

In a report to the U.N. Security Council – seen by Reuters – Guterres also called out the armed forces of Israel and Sudan for attacking schools and hospitals and Hamas and Islamic Jihad for abducting children.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, who have been fighting the Sudanese armed forces since April last year, was also named for recruiting and using children, committing rape and other sexual violence and attacking schools and hospitals.

The report, compiled by Guterres' envoy for children and armed conflict Virginia Gamba, covers six grave violations – killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, recruitment and use, denial of aid and attacks on schools and hospitals.

The list attached to the report aims to shame parties to conflicts in the hope of pushing them to implement measures to protect children. It only reports on violations verified by the United Nations.

"In 2023, violence against children in armed conflict reached extreme levels, with a shocking 21% increase in grave violations," the report read. "The number of instances of killing and maiming increased by a staggering 35%."

"The highest numbers of grave violations were verified in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, Nigeria and Sudan," found the report, describing verification as "extremely challenging."

Russia's armed forces and affiliated groups stayed on the list, after being added last year, for killing and maiming children in Ukraine and attacking schools and hospitals.

The report, compiled by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' envoy for children and armed conflict, covers six grave violations – killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, recruitment and use, denial of aid and attacks on schools and hospitals.
TONY KARUMBA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Russia's U.N. mission did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but Moscow has denied targeting civilians since it invaded Ukraine in 2022.

Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine

Israel's U.N. envoy Gilad Erdan said on Friday he had been notified that Israel's military had been added to the list, describing the decision as "shameful." Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad could not immediately be reached for comment.

The report attributed 5,698 violations to Israel's armed and security forces, 116 to Hamas and 21 to Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The U.N. verified the killing of 2,267 Palestinian children – most in Gaza between Oct. 7 and Dec. 31 – but said the process of determining attribution was ongoing, adding: "Most incidents were caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas by Israeli armed and security forces."

> **"The highest numbers of grave violations were verified in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, Nigeria and Sudan."**
> **United Nations report**

So far, it said Israel's armed and security forces were responsible for killing 206 children. The U.N. verified 136 violations against Israeli children, attributing 116 to Hamas.

There were 371 verified attacked on schools and hospitals in 2023, of which Israel's forces were responsible for 340, according to the report. The U.N. also verified five instances of military use of ambulances by Israeli forces and one case where Hamas had used a health center for military purposes.

In Sudan, the U.N. verified 1,721 violations – including the killing of 480 and maiming of 764, most during crossfire between the Sudanese armed forces and the Rapid Support Forces. It also verified 85 attacks on schools and hospitals.

Sexual violence was verified against 114 girls in Sudan, of which the U.N. said the RSF was responsible for 57 cases.

Sudan's armed forces and the RSF did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In Ukraine, the U.N. verified the killing of 80 children and maiming of 339 – of those it said Russian forces were responsible for killing 59 and maiming 228.

It also attributed 249 attacks on schools and hospitals to Russian forces and 70 such attacks to the Ukrainian armed forces, who also used two schools and one hospital for military purposes.

Official calls for release of Russians

Some still held by Hamas in Gaza Strip

REUTERS

Russia's human rights commissioner said on Tuesday she had issued a fresh appeal to senior U.N. and other officials to take action to secure the release of Russian nationals still held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Tatyana Moskalkova, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said she had launched the appeal after meeting in Moscow with relatives of those still being held. "In one conversation, one of the mothers told me details of the situation of those being held," she wrote.

Moskalkova

News reports have put at eight the number of hostages holding Russian passports, including three who were released.

Moskalkova said she had appealed to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spoljaric, and other officials "for the rapid return home of our compatriots."

Gunmen took around 250 hostages back to Gaza after a mass attack on Israel last Oct. 7 and more than 100 were released in exchange for about 240 Palestinians held in Israeli jails in November. There are 116 hostages left in Gaza, according to Israeli tallies, including at least 40 whom Israeli authorities have declared dead in absentia.

Russia has sought to speak to both sides in the conflict in Gaza and a Hamas delegation visited Moscow last year. But President Vladimir Putin has said the violence in the region exposed the failure of U.S. policy, particularly in considering the needs of the Palestinians.

Response

Continued from Page 1NN

The United States has said Israel accepted its proposal, but Israel has not publicly stated this. As Israel has continued assaults in central and southern Gaza that are among the bloodiest of the war, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly said Israel would not commit to an end of its campaign in Gaza before Hamas is eliminated.

An Israeli official said on Tuesday the country had received Hamas' answer via the mediators and that Hamas "changed all of the main and most meaningful parameters."

The Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Hamas "has rejected the proposal for a hostage release that was presented by President Biden."

Earlier a non-Israeli official briefed on the matter, who declined to be identified, said Hamas proposed a new timeline for a permanent cease-fire with Israel and withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, including Rafah.

The U.N. Security Council on Monday voted in favor of a U.S. resolution supporting the proposal outlined by Biden. Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters on Tuesday that Hamas accepted the Security Council resolution and was ready to negotiate over the details of a cease-fire.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in Tel Aviv to meet Israeli officials on Tuesday, described the comments by Hamas as a "hopeful sign" but said they were not conclusive.

More important "is the word coming from Gaza and from the Hamas leadership in Gaza. That's what counts, and that's what we don't have yet," Blinken told reporters in Tel Aviv.

Cease-fire plan

Biden's proposal envisages a cease-fire and phased release of Israeli hostages in Gaza in exchange for Palestinians jailed in Israel, ultimately leading to a permanent end to the war.

This would be a three-phase plan starting with an initial six-week cease-fire with an Israeli military withdrawal from populated areas of Gaza and the release of some hostages while "a permanent end to hostilities" is negotiated through mediators.

Palestinians walk along a narrow street past destroyed buildings in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday.
EYAD BABA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Israeli official's remarks on Tuesday. Earlier U.S. officials said they were reviewing Hamas' response, as did Qatar and Egypt.

For months, negotiators from the U.S., Egypt and Qatar have been trying to mediate a cease-fire in the enclave of 2.3 million people.

Separately, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday said in a report to the Security Council that Israel's army and security forces as well as Palestinian militants Hamas and Islamic Jihad killed and maimed children in 2023.

Israel is retaliating against Hamas, which rules Gaza, over an Oct. 7 attack by its militants.

More than 1,200 people were killed and over 250 taken hostage by Hamas during the raids, according to Israeli tallies. More than 100 hostages are believed to remain captive in Gaza.

Israel launched an air, ground and sea assault on the Palestinian territory, killing more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities. Gaza is in the grip of a humanitarian crisis due to widespread hunger, scarcity of essentials, infrastructure destruction and continuing displacement of civilians.

The U.S. military resumed bringing humanitarian aid into the enclave via a floating pier on Tuesday after a two-day halt due to bad weather, three U.S. officials said. The pier was out of operation for 10 days for repairs, and briefly reopened on Saturday. The U.N. still is not moving aid from the pier to warehouses while it reviews security.

Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters early Tuesday that Hamas accepted the U.N. Security Council resolution and was ready to negotiate over the details of a cease-fire.
AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

SPORTS EXTRA

MLB

The Tampa Bay Rays celebrate a walk-off, three-run home run by Brandon Lowe in the ninth inning of Tuesday's game against the Chicago Cubs at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla. JULIO AGUILAR/GETTY IMAGES

RAYS RALLY FOR WALK-OFF WIN

Brandon Lowe crushed a walk-off three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning as the Tampa Bay Rays rallied and broke a four-game losing with a 5-2 win over the Chicago Cubs Tuesday night in St. Petersburg, Fla. Down 2-1 and with Cubs closer Hector Neris (6-1) on the mound, Jose Caballero slashed a one-out single to bring in Richie Palacios, who led off the ninth with a double. On a 3-2 splitter from Neris, Lowe rocked his third homer to right center for his fourth career walk-off hit and the Rays' fifth this season. **ROUNDUP, 4NS**

NBA FINALS

Mavs need more than Doncic to avoid 3-0

Drew Davison
FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

DALLAS – The NBA Finals enters a pivotal Game 3 with two distinct possibilities: the Boston Celtics take a commanding 3-0 lead and inch closer to the franchise's first title since 2008, or the Dallas Mavericks show some life and start to turn the tide of what has been a one-sided series so far.

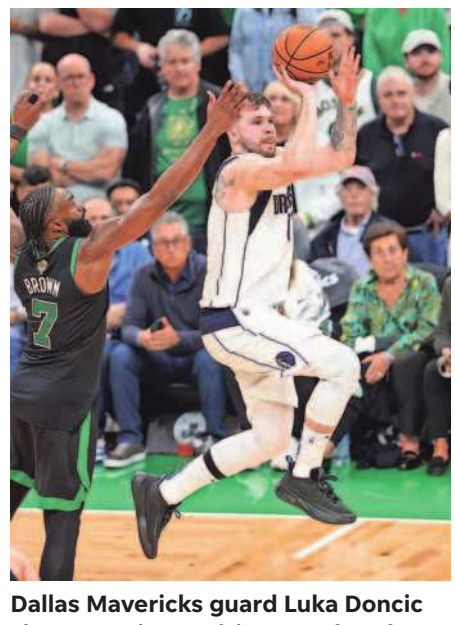
Boston is in the driver's seat based on league history, as 31 of 36 teams who had a 2-0 lead in the NBA Finals went on to win it. So, what's the Celtics approach going into Game 3 as they look to extend their perfect road record in the playoffs to 7-0?

"Trying to be the hungrier team," Boston guard Jrue Holiday said. "We're going to go out there and try and execute a game plan."

The Celtics have proven to be the deeper, more talented team early on. Boston has been winning despite struggling on the offensive end such as shooting just 10 of 39 (25.6 percent) from 3-point range in Game 2.

The Mavs, meanwhile, can't rely solely on Luka Doncic, who posted a triple-double with 32 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists in Game 2, a 105-98 loss at Boston. Doncic put together that performance after being listed as questionable for the game. It was revealed that he sustained a chest injury in Game 1 to go along with lingering issues with his right knee and left ankle.

See NBA FINALS, Page 2NS



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic shoots against Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) during Game 2 of the NBA Finals. PETER CASEY/USA TODAY SPORTS

GOLF

US Open field chasing Scheffler's greatness

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Viktor Hovland knows the hours are ticking on generous pin placement and soft greens with 100-degree weather expected by the second round of the U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2.

He also is one of the top players in the field who admits they're looking up at World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, a model of consistency with five tournament wins already this season.

Rory McIlroy describes Scheffler as relentless, playing 14 times with only one tournament finish outside the top-10.

"The fact that the only thing that kept him from winning a golf tournament was being thrown in a jail cell for an hour," McIlroy joked of what was most impressive about Scheffler's five-win season to date.

McIlroy is paired with Scheffler in the opening rounds at the U.S. Open in North Carolina this week, where nearly everyone in the field, including players who don't see Scheffler every week, are doing their best to keep up.

"He is the gold standard right now," Bryson DeChambeau said Tuesday. "And we're all looking up to him going, All right, how do we get to that level?"

Xander Schauffele, winner of the PGA Championship on May 19, is just one spot behind Scheffler in the Official World Golf Ranking, but on Tuesday made the gap sound like a mountain to conquer. Scheffler has 16.4083 average points in 46 events, and Schauffele has 375.32636 in 43 events.

"I think I need some more work to – I obviously believe I can, but Scottie is

See SCHEFFLER, Page 3NS

Scottie Scheffler chips up onto the 10th green during a practice round for the U.S. Open on Tuesday at Pinehurst No. 2. KATIE GOODALE/USA TODAY SPORTS

SUBSCRIBER-EXCLUSIVE SECTION

BASKETBALL

Connecticut head coach Dan Hurley cuts the net after winning the NCAA national championship on April 8 in Glendale, Ariz. MICHAEL CHOW/ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Hurley's return boosts odds of a UConn 3-peat

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

UConn flipped from the prospect of a mass exodus to being even stronger favorites to win a third consecutive national title with coach Dan Hurley spurning the Los Angeles Lakers to return to Storrs, Conn.

UConn was installed at +1500 by BetRivers to win the 2025 national title the day after securing their second consecutive title in April. That was tied for the third-shortest odds at the time, with the prospect of Hurley being courted by the NBA or another college basketball program looming.

After Hurley took himself out of contention for the Kentucky opening, it appeared likely that he would return to the Huskies. UConn's 2025 title odds had shortened to +1000 by last week, tied for the shortest at the book.

When news broke late last week that the Lakers were preparing a massive offer to Hurley, UConn was suddenly faced with an uncertain future. Had he left for the NBA, it would have triggered a 30-day window for current Huskies players to transfer out of the program.

BetRivers told Field Level Media that after news of Hurley's return broke on Monday, the Huskies' odds of winning the '25 title shortened to +700. By Tuesday, they were the clear favorite at the book, with the next shortest odds belonging to Kansas at +1100 followed by Duke at +1200 and Alabama at +1500.

"I am humbled by this entire experience," Hurley said in a statement on Monday. "At the end of the day, I am extremely proud of the championship culture we have built at Connecticut. We met as a team before today's workout and our focus right now is getting better this summer and connecting as a team as we continue to pursue championships."

Hurley, 51, has posted a 141-58 record while leading UConn to four NCAA Tournament appearances during his six seasons at the helm. He had a 38-23 record during two seasons as the head coach at Wagner (2010-12) and a 113-82 mark in six campaigns with Rhode Island (2012-18).

WNBA ROUNDUP

Mystics break through, beat Dream for 1st win

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Brittney Sykes and Ariel Atkins each scored 18 points as the Washington Mystics got their first win of the season with an 87-68 victory over the Atlanta Dream in College Park, Ga., on Tuesday.

Sykes shot 7-for-12 from the field and 4-for-6 on 3-pointers after missing the previous 10 games with an ankle injury. Atkins was a perfect 3-for-3 from long range and had a team-high five assists.

Julie Vanloo added 11 points off the bench for the Mystics (1-12), who won for the first time since the 2023 regular-season finale – more than nine months ago. Washington avoided matching the franchise-worst 13-game losing streak in 2012.

The Mystics shot 17 of 31 (54.8 percent) from 3-point range, their most triples since hitting 18 on Aug. 18, 2019, against Indiana.

Rhyne Howard led the Dream (5-5) with 16 points, while Aerial Powers scored 13 off the bench. Tina Charles tallied 12 points and nine rebounds for Atlanta, which has dropped three of its last four.

Holding a five-point halftime advantage, Washington saw its lead balloon to 49-38 at the 7:28 mark of the third quarter following consecutive 3-pointers from Stefanie Dolson and Sykes.

Storm 95, Sparks 79

A dominant fourth quarter capped by a 10-0 run in the closing minutes powered Seattle over visiting Los Angeles in a Commissioner Cup matchup.

Seattle never trailed, but Los Angeles – coming in on its first winning streak of the season after back-to-back victories over the weekend – remained in striking distance throughout.

That is, until the final stretch. With the Storm holding a 76-70 lead, Nneka Ogwumike hit a 3-pointer at the 2:41 mark to ignite the decisive flurry. The Storm poured in 10 points over 1:28, including a Skylar Diggins-Smith 3-pointer and baskets from Jewell Loyd and Ogwumike.

The trio of Ogwumike, Loyd and Diggins-Smith paced Seattle at 26, 21 and 19 points, respectively. Ogwumike complemented her game-high point total with eight rebounds and two blocked shots. Loyd grabbed six rebounds and blocked two shots, and Diggins-Smith finished with six assists and five rebounds.

Ezi Magbegor struggled on offense, shooting just 3 of 10 from the floor, but snared a game-high 13 rebounds, dished out four assists and blocked three shots to help the Storm (8-4) win for the seventh time in eight games.

Lynx 100, Aces 86

Alanna Smith scored 18 points to lead all five Minnesota starters in double figures, and the visiting Lynx posted a resounding victory over defending WNBA champion Las Vegas.

Kayla McBride (16 points and eight assists), Courtney Williams (15 points and nine assists), Bridget Carleton (15 points) and Napheesa Collier (14 points, six rebounds, six assists) also made key offensive contributions for the Lynx.

A'ja Wilson kept the Aces within striking distance as long as possible, putting up nine of her game-leading 28 points coming in the fourth quarter. However, after cutting Minnesota's lead from 20 points to 11 midway through the fourth, the Aces were unable to draw closer.

Las Vegas got 13 points from Kelsey Plum, 11 from Megan Gustafson and 10 from Tiffany Hayes. Kiah Stokes grabbed a game-high nine rebounds.

Minnesota (9-3) won for the fifth time in six games while Las Vegas (5-5) took its third defeat in a row.

The Lynx moved to 4-1 in the Commissioner's Cup competition, while the Aces slipped to 1-3 in Commissioner's Cup games.

NBA Finals

Continued from Page 1NS

Doncic, who is probable for Game 3, addressed his status on Tuesday, saying: "I feel good. I don't want to get in any more details, but I feel good."

The bigger question for the Mavs is finding a way to get Doncic's top running mate, Kyrie Irving, going after a slow start. In the two games in Boston, Irving averaged just 14 points on a combined 13-for-37 shooting, including 0-for-8 from long range. If Dallas wants to get back in the series, Irving needs to find a way to make a greater impact.

"They're not going to stop pressing us, stop their pace, stop testing us on both ends of the floor," Irving said. "We know what we're in for. But now we have to raise it to an even higher level, and it starts with me."

Of course, that's easier said than done against a Boston defense that is dynamic and versatile. The Celtics have used multiple defenders to slow down the Mavs' backcourt with Holiday, Jaylen Brown, Derrick White and Jayson Tatum all being options to provide different looks against Doncic and Irving.

Offensively, the Celtics have gotten it done despite a couple of off nights from Tatum, a five-time All-Star and first-team All-NBA selection for three straight seasons. Holiday stepped up in Game 2, scoring a team-best 26 points. In Game 1, Brown led the team with 22 points.

Tatum is taking it all in stride, acknowledging that he has to be a better shooter but taking pride by making an impact in other ways. He's also one good night away from changing the narrative.

"One game, I could explode. All the percentages and things like that could change," Tatum said. "So, it's just that mindset of I'm one game away or whatever that means."

On Boston's injury front, center Kristaps Porzingis is hopeful he'll be able to play after sustaining a left leg injury late in Game 2. The Celtics announced it is unrelated to Porzingis' previous right calf injury. If Porzingis is cleared to play in Game 3, it would be his first appearance in Dallas since being traded by the Mavs in February 2022.

Boston coach Joe Mazzulla said the decision on Porzingis' status - listed Tuesday as questionable – will come down to the medical staff.

Celtics guard Jrue Holiday dunks against the Dallas Mavericks during the second half of Game 2 of the NBA Finals on Sunday at the TD Garden in Boston. USA TODAY SPORTS IMAGES

"He's doing anything and everything he can to be ready for the game tomorrow. It's a serious injury," Mazzulla said. "At the end of the day, our team and the medical team is not going to put him in any bad situations."

NFL

NOTEBOOK

Jets' Rodgers, Reddick not at mandatory minicamp

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers and edge rusher Haason Reddick did not report to the start of the New York Jets' two-day mandatory minicamp on Tuesday, leaving both players subject to fines.

Reddick, 29, who came over in a March trade with the Philadelphia Eagles, skipped all voluntary offseason workouts due to a contract dispute. In the final season of a three-year, $45 million contract he signed in 2022 with the Eagles, he's slated to earn a non-guaranteed $14.25 million in base pay.

Meanwhile, Jets coach Robert Saleh told reporters that Rodgers' absence was "unexcused" despite the 40-year-old Rodgers telling him ahead of time that he had a prior commitment.

Reddick, who had previously forfeited a $250,000 workout bonus, faces a $16,953 fine for missing the first day of the minicamp and an additional $33,908 if he misses the second day.

The Jets were aware that Reddick wanted a new contract but made the trade for the two-time Pro Bowl player who has 50.5 sacks over the past four seasons They sent the Eagles a 2026 conditional third-round pick to complete the trade.

The only player 29 and older to get an extension under Jets general manager Joe Douglas was tight end Ryan Griffin, who was 29 when he signed a three-year, $10.8 million deal in November 2019.

Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers walks off of the field before a Jan. 7 game against the New England Patriots. BRIAN FLUHARTY/USA TODAY SPORTS

Packers QB Love at camp, expects contract resolution soon

Packers quarterback Jordan Love anticipates signing a new contract in the weeks before he arrives at the start of training camp next month.

"It's what I've heard," Love said Tuesday as Green Bay starts mandatory minicamp outside Lambeau Field.

The Packers owe Love $11 million for the 2024 season under terms of the $13.5 million extension he signed with the plan of starting for the first time upon Aaron Rodgers' exit via trade in April 2023.

Love said he likes to "be in the mix" in negotiations but was otherwise tight-lipped. He wouldn't confirm speculation the two sides are "close."

Love had a modest start last season but guided Green Bay to the playoffs with a wild-card spot and completed 64.2 percent of his passes for 4,159 yards, 32 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

The Packers are looking to reach a long-term deal with Love, a plan the front office has discussed since the season ended.

"We're in those conversations right now," Green Bay general manager Brian Gutekunst told 97.3 The Game last month. "The nice part about this is none of these things are always easy or fast, but both parties want the same thing. We'd like to get this done before training camp for sure.

"Both parties want to get a contract extension done. Stability at that position really allows you to have some security with the way we build our team. We're looking forward to getting that done, but it never goes fast."

While other quarterbacks are avoiding camp with contract matters in limbo, Love has still been participating in voluntary organized team activities (OTAs) this offseason.

Chiefs' DE Thompson out of hospital after cardiac arrest

Kansas City Chiefs defensive end BJ Thompson was released from the hospital on Monday night, four days after he had a seizure and went into cardiac arrest, his agent told NFL Network.

Thompson, 25, endured his medical ordeal on Thursday while at the Chiefs' practice facility in a team meeting. He received CPR from the Chiefs medical staff before being taken to The University of Kansas Health System.

"The family thanks everyone for their prayers and wants to especially thank the Chiefs medical and training staff for their rapid response and professionalism throughout this situation," agent Chris Turnage said in a statement.

Browns WR Cooper absent from minicamp

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Amari Cooper was a no-show for the first day of a mandatory minicamp on Tuesday.

Head coach Kevin Stefanski confirmed that Cooper's absence was not excused. He did not confirm if the five-time Pro Bowl selection's non-attendance was contract related.

Cooper, who turns 30 next week, is due a non-guaranteed base salary of $20 million in 2024, the final season of a five-year, $100 million deal he signed with the Dallas Cowboys in 2020.

Stefanski said "there's been a dialogue" between the team and the agent for Cooper, who also was not seen at any of Cleveland's earlier OTA practices that were open to the media.

Cooper caught 72 passes for 1,250 yards and five touchdowns in 15 games in 2023 after catching 78 for 1,160 yards and nine scores in 17 games in his first season with Cleveland in 2022.

He has 667 receptions for 9,486 yards and 60 TDs in 140 games (133 starts) with the then-Oakland Raiders (2015-18), Cowboys (2018-21) and Browns. The Raiders drafted him No. 4 in 2015.

Panthers WR Legette missing minicamp with hamstring injury

Carolina Panthers first-round pick Xavier Legette is being held out of a mandatory minicamp because of a lingering hamstring injury, head coach Dave Canales said Tuesday.

Canales also said edge rusher DJ Johnson, who was carted off during the first day of minicamp Tuesday, has a calf injury and will miss the rest of the session. The first-year coach said he expects both Legette, a wide receiver, and Johnson to be ready for training camp.

GOLF

Scheffler

Continued from Page 1NS

doing incredible things," Schauffele said. "Every week we play, he seems to build a bigger lead, and somehow make the mountain even taller for all of us to climb. That's all he's been doing, and hats off to him for being so consistent and playing at such a high level for such a long time. I believe I can do it, but it's going to take some time."

All of the compliments show Scheffler that the other players on tour can be both competitors and friends.

"Well, yeah, I think it's nice to hear a little bit of good things from my peers because I think we all try to bust each other up at times when we're out there playing and competing," Scheffler said Tuesday. "I think that's part of the friendship bond, is you want to mess with your buddies, so to hear some compliments every now and then is definitely nice."

Hovland said he left the PGA Championship encouraged that he had a chance to win a major championship without his best game. Rather than studying whether he missed an opportunity, Hovland was energized by contending and a contrasting positive feeling compared to not wanting to show up at the Masters in April because of the state of his game.

"Optimally, you don't want to think about technique when you're out here playing the game of golf," Hovland said. "You want to be on a trajectory that makes you want to improve all the time and also play the best you can right now."

Hovland said he will stick with an approach of staying aggressive off the tee and being more conservative with his approach because of the challenged domed greens and downright wicked pin placements expected this week.

"This is a really cool design. Off the tee there are some narrow fairways, generous enough," Hovland said. "I think visually it looks really cool off the tee. I'm just a really big fan of greens that are kind of raised up and rolls off the sides. In some spots, some of the pin locations look a little bit suspect, so we'll see how that works out. There's a value in hitting greens this week."

Scottie Scheffler speaks to the media during a news conference at the U.S. Open on Tuesday at Pinehurst No. 2. JOHN DAVID MERCER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Jon Rahm said Tuesday morning before withdrawing because of a left foot injury that what Scheffler has accomplished is "quite incredible."

"When you start getting compared to Tiger (Woods) and things that Tiger has done, that's when you know it's quite special," said Rahm, the 2021 U.S. Open winner at Torrey Pines and the 2023 Masters champion. "As a competitor, it's an added motivation to see somebody doing so well. That's what we all strive for. As a golf fan, it's absolutely incredible to watch."

Hovland said even the best from those chasing Scheffler isn't always enough because of his pattern of consistency.

"We can play well and compete against him when we're playing well," Hovland said. "But he's bringing that level of consistency every single week. His average week is just really, really good. Definitely makes me work harder and motivates me to get better.

"If he had holes in his game, he wouldn't perform as he would. He hits it very straight. Very reliable. It's not about how good the good shots are but he's playing a game where his bad shots are still good. He's still in play. There is no big miss. When you couple that with a really special short game, it's easier to play the game of golf."

Jon Rahm speaks to the media during a news conference at the U.S. Open on Tuesday at Pinehurst No. 2. JOHN DAVID MERCER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Rahm withdraws from US Open due to injury

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Former champion Jon Rahm withdrew from the U.S. Open on Tuesday in Pinehurst, N.C., because of a foot injury.

"After consulting with numerous doctors and my team, I have decided it is best for my long term health, to withdraw from this weeks US Open Championship," Rahm wrote on his X account. "To say I'm disappointed is a massive understatement! I wish all my peers the best of luck and want to thank all of the USGA staff, volunteers and community of Pinehurst for hosting and putting on what I'm sure will be an amazing championship! Hopefully I'll be back in action sooner than later!"

Rahm, 29, spoke earlier Tuesday at a press conference at Pinehurst No. 2 about preparing to play through pain following remnants of an infection between two toes.

"Oh, it's a concern. It's doing better," Rahm said. "It's doing better. But definitely still in pain."

Rahm, who won the 2021 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines as well as the 2023 Masters, was scheduled to begin play Thursday in his ninth U.S. Open.

The Spaniard said earlier Tuesday that he had received a numbing injection last Saturday when he withdrew during the second round of LIV Golf Houston because of the injury. Rahm said he hoped to be competitive this week.

"Anytime I tee it up, I feel like I have a good chance," said Rahm, revealing that he hadn't tested the foot on the course this week and would be cautious not to tax the injury before Thursday.

Instead, Jackson Suber, 24, of Tampa, Fla., will replace Rahm in the 156-player field. Suber was the first alternate from the final qualifier in Rockville, Md., after rounds of 70-65 at Woodmont Country Club's North Course on June 3.

Suber will make his U.S. Open debut. He has two top-10 finishes on the Korn Ferry Tour this season.

MLB

TUESDAY'S ROUNDUP

Lowe's walk-off blast lifts Rays over Cubs

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Brandon Lowe crushed a walk-off three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning as the Tampa Bay Rays rallied and broke a four-game losing with a 5-2 win over the Chicago Cubs Tuesday night in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Down 2-1 and with Cubs closer Hector Neris (6-1) on the mound, Jose Caballero slashed a one-out single to bring in Richie Palacios, who led off the ninth with a double.

On a 3-2 splitter from Neris, Lowe rocked his third homer to right center for his fourth career walk-off hit and the Rays' fifth this season.

Tampa Bay's Yandy Diaz and Ben Rortvedt each produced two hits and a walk, while Chris Devenski (2-1) tossed a perfect ninth.

In his second start since coming off the injured list, Zach Eflin yielded two runs by scattering seven hits over 5⅔ innings. He struck out three without issuing a walk.

Miami Marlins starting pitcher Jesus Luzardo delivers against the Mets during the first inning Tuesday in New York. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Orioles 4, Braves 0

Jorge Mateo smashed a three-run home run in his first action in nine days and five Baltimore pitchers combined on a five-hitter as the Orioles returned from an eight-game road stretch to defeat Atlanta.

Albert Suarez worked 5⅓ shutout innings to help the Orioles to their fifth consecutive victory and their 15th win in their last 19 outings.

The Braves have lost four straight games for the second time this season.

Atlanta starter Max Fried (6-3) also lasted 5⅓ innings, but he was charged with four runs on six hits. His personal three-game winning streak ended.

The Braves put two runners on base with two outs in the seventh before Austin Riley struck out. They stranded 11 total runners.

Phillies 4, Red Sox 1

Kyle Schwarber hit two home runs, including his 17th career multi-homer game out of the leadoff spot, and Zack Wheeler threw seven shutout innings as Philadelphia posted a win over Boston in the opener of a three-game series.

Schwarber, who returned to Boston for the first time since his departure after the 2021 season, ripped leadoff blasts in the first and fifth innings to lead the Philadelphia offense, which managed seven hits. Bryson Stott went 2-for-4 and scored a run.

Wheeler (8-3) allowed just one run on three hits – all over the first two innings - and struck out four in his outstanding start.

David Hamilton went 2-for-4 for Boston.

Schwarber wasted no time doing damage against his former team, ripping Boston starter Kutter Crawford's (2-6) first pitch of the game into the right-center field bullpen for a solo homer.

Marlins 4, Mets 2

Jesus Luzardo combined with three relievers on a four-hitter for visiting Miami, which edged New York in the opener of a three-game series.

Tim Anderson, Nick Gordon and Bryan De La Cruz drove in runs for the Marlins, who won for just the second time in eight games. Mark Vientos laced a two-run double for the Mets, who fell to 6-4 in their last 10.

Luzardo (3-5) gave up two runs on four hits and one walk while striking out four over 5⅔ innings. He retired 13 of the final 17 batters he faced following Vientos' double.

Anthony Bender and Andrew Nardi got two outs apiece before Tanner Scott recorded his eighth save by retiring all six batters he faced.

Anderson, who missed the previous three games while on the bereavement list, had two hits and a run scored.

Nationals 5, Tigers 4, 10 innings

Lane Thomas drove in the go-ahead run with a 10th-inning sacrifice fly and visiting Washington extended its winning streak to four games by defeating host Detroit.

Thomas had two RBIs. Kyle Finnegan (2-3) struck out three in 1⅓ perfect innings to pick up the win in the opener of a three-game series.

Riley Greene had a three-run triple for the Tigers, who fell for the fourth time in five games.

Detroit starter Kenta Maeda gave up one run and one hit in four innings but walked four while striking out five. Washington starter Mitchell Parker allowed four runs, all unearned, in 4⅔ innings. He yielded four hits and three walks while fanning one.

Washington took a 5-4 lead in the 10th as automatic runner Jacob Young moved to third on a wild pitch by Andrew Chafin (3-2). CJ Abrams, who swung through the errant pitch, reached first. Thomas then drove in Young with a fly ball to right.

Guardians 5, Reds 3

Steven Kwan doubled twice, had three hits and drove in two runs and Tyler Freeman made consecutive leaping catches at the outfield wall to lead visiting Cleveland over Cincinnati.

Josh Naylor belted a tape-measure homer in the eighth inning for insurance, helping secure a win for Triston McKenzie (3-3). Naylor finished with two hits and three RBIs, while Bo Naylor had two hits and two runs.

Emanuel Clase allowed an RBI single to Jonathan India in the ninth but still earned his 20th save in 23 chances as the Guardians won for the 16th time in 21 games.

Clase drilled Blake Dunn in the helmet with a 101 mph fastball with two outs in the ninth to put the tying run on base before TJ Friedl lined out to end the game.

Cincinnati dropped its second straight after a seven-game win streak.

Pirates 2, Cardinals 1

Jack Suwinski scored on a fielder's choice and Andrew McCutchen raced home on a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning, fueling visiting Pittsburgh to a victory over St. Louis.

Pittsburgh rookie Paul Skenes allowed five hits and struck out eight over 6⅓ scoreless innings. He exited to a standing ovation at Busch Stadium in St. Louis after tossing 103 pitches, the most over his first six starts of his career.

St. Louis' Miles Mikolas retired the first 16 batters he faced before issuing a walk to Yasmani Grandal in the sixth inning as the game was scoreless through eight innings.

Mikolas' bid for a no-hitter ended after Bryan Reynolds led off the seventh with a triple; however, the hurler struck out Oneil Cruz and third baseman Nolan Arenado made a diving snag of a liner and doubled up Reynolds to end the inning. Mikolas settled for a no-decision despite allowing just that one hit and striking out six with one walk over seven innings.

Ryan Helsley (2-3) sandwiched walks around McCutchen's single to load the bases with no outs in the ninth inning before Suwinski beat the throw home from rookie shortstop Masyn Wynn on Connor Joe's grounder. McCutchen gave Pittsburgh a 2-0 lead when Cruz flew out in the following at-bat.

Rockies 5, Twins 4

Ezequiel Tovar and Ryan McMahon each homered and Colorado held on for a win over Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Michael Toglia also drove in a run for the Rockies, who evened the three-game series at one win apiece heading into Wednesday afternoon's rubber match. The Rockies won for only the third time in their past 11 games.

Rockies starter Cal Quantrill (6-4) pitched six scoreless innings. He scattered three hits, walked one and struck out five.

Twins left-hander Caleb Thielbar (2-2) took the loss out of the bullpen. He gave up four runs on three hits and a walk without recording an out.

Rockies reliever Tyler Kinley collected his fifth save despite allowing two runs in the ninth.

Yankees 10, Royals 1

Aaron Judge, back from his first day off of the season, homered and knocked in three runs as New York demolished host Kansas City.

Following a rest day, Judge returned to deliver a first-inning RBI single, plating Anthony Volpe, who tripled on the second pitch of the game.

In the seventh, Judge hit a two-run, 436-foot blast to center, his 25th, for a 9-0 Yankees lead. He is hitting .401 with 21 homers and 49 RBIs over his past 41 games.

Giancarlo Stanton homered, his 16th, and drove in two for New York, which has won three straight and 11 of 13.

The Yankees' Gleyber Torres delivered an RBI hit ahead of Austin Wells' three-run homer to center during a four-run fourth inning as the Yankees increased the margin to 6-0. The long ball was Wells' second of the year.

Blue Jays 3, Brewers 0

George Springer, Spencer Horwitz and Danny Jansen had RBIs, starter Yusei Kikuchi pitched five scoreless innings and visiting Toronto defeated Milwaukee.

The teams have split the first two games of a three-game series that opens a six-game homestand for Milwaukee.

Kikuchi (4-5) allowed three hits and four walks while striking out five.

Yimi Garcia pitched 1⅓ perfect innings, recording three strikeouts to earn his fifth save of the season as the Blue Jays improved to 3-2 on their six-game road trip.

Brewers starter Carlos Rodriguez (0-1) made his major league debut and allowed two runs, seven hits and one walk in 3⅔ innings. He struck out four.

Astros 3, Giants 1

Ronel Blanco teamed with three relievers on a three-hitter and Houston took advantage of a Matt Chapman error to score the decisive runs in a victory over host San Francisco.

After each team scored a single run in the third inning, the Astros quickly put runners at second and third in the fifth against Giants starter Jordan Hicks (4-3) when Trey Cabbage singled and Mauricio Dubon doubled with no outs.

Hicks struck out the next two batters and appeared to escape the jam when he got Alex Bregman to hit a weak grounder toward shortstop Brett Wisely.

Chapman cut in front of his teammate to bare-hand the ball, but in his haste to get Bregman at first, he threw errantly, allowing both Cabbage and Dubon to score.

The play was ruled an RBI single for Bregman, with Chapman's error allowing the second run to score.

Padres 4, Athletics 3

Kyle Higashioka led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a walk-off home run as San Diego grabbed a win over visiting Oakland.

Higashioka jumped on a hanging changeup from Scott Alexander (0-1) and lined it into the left field corner. The ball stayed fair by about 5 feet, slamming into the seats for Higashioka's fifth homer of the season.

Padres closer Robert Suarez (3-0) retired all four batters he faced to pick up the win. He was warming up for a potential save situation when Tyler Soderstrom cracked a two-run homer off Enyel De Los Santos in the top of the eighth, drawing Oakland even at 3-3.

Alexander wiggled his way out of a bases-loaded jam in the home half of the eighth, getting Jackson Merrill to line out to left for the third out.

Neither starter factored into the decision after working the first five innings. Oakland's JP Sears gave up seven hits and three runs to go along with three walks and one strikeout, while San Diego's Randy Vasquez permitted seven hits and one run. Vasquez walked two and fanned five.

Mariners 4, White Sox 3

Cal Raleigh doubled home the tying and go-ahead runs with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning as Seattle rallied for a victory against Chicago, spoiling the major league debut of top pitching prospect Drew Thorpe.

Raleigh, who hit a walk-off grand slam in an 8-4 victory Monday, had two doubles and three RBIs for the Mariners, who won their third in a row.

Andrew Vaughn and Paul DeJong homered for the White Sox, who have lost 28 of 33 road games this season.

Trailing 3-2, Seattle's Josh Rojas drew a two-out walk in the seventh off Tanner Banks. Julio Rodriguez greeted reliever John Brebbia (0-4) with an infield single and Raleigh laced a 3-0 pitch into the right-field corner to score both runners.

Reliever Trent Thornton (2-1) got the victory and Ryne Stanek earned his fifth save.

Dodgers 15, Rangers 2

Shohei Ohtani, Freddie Freeman, Teoscar Hernandez and Jason Heyward homered in a seven-run sixth inning and Los Angeles rolled to a victory over visiting Texas.

Will Smith added a three-run home run, Mookie Betts hit a three-run double and James Paxton gave up one run over six innings as the Dodgers improved to 9-4 following a season-worst, five-game losing streak late last month.

Ezequiel Duran hit a home run as the Rangers lost for the fifth time in seven games. Texas starter Dane Dunning (4-5) gave up six runs over 3⅔ innings, while Grant Anderson yielded all seven runs in the sixth inning, while recording two outs.

Former Dodger Corey Seager missed his fourth consecutive game for the Rangers due to a left hamstring strain.

In the Dodgers' first inning, Ohtani walked, Freeman singled and Smith hit a towering fly ball that just cleared the wall in left for his 10th home run and a 3-0 lead.

Diamondbacks 9, Angels 4

Randal Grichuk and Corbin Carroll each fell one component short of the cycle as two of four Diamondbacks to record three hits during Arizona's victory over Los Angeles in Phoenix.

Grichuk finished a single shy and Carroll was missing the homer while Gabriel Moreno and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. joined them as part of the three-hit brigade. Grichuk, Gurriel and Moreno drove in two runs apiece as Arizona racked up 15 hits while winning for the seventh time in 10 games.

Jordan Montgomery (4-4) allowed three runs and six hits over 5 2/3 innings for the Diamondbacks. He allowed 14 runs and 17 hits in six-plus innings over his previous two starts.

Arizona's Geraldo Perdomo (knee) reached base three times on two hits and one walk in his first big league game since April 3.

Taylor Ward homered, drove in two runs and scored twice for the Angels.

MLB

TUESDAY'S BOX SCORES

Baltimore 4, Atlanta 0

ATL	000	000	000 –	0	5	1
BAL	030	001	00x –	4	6	1

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Harris II cf	4	0	1	0	1	0	.248
Albies 2b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.259
Riley 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.225
Olson 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.241
Ozuna dh	3	0	2	0	1	1	.316
Duvall rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.174
Kelenic lf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.261
a-d'Arnaud ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.245
Martinez lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Murphy c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.132
Arcia ss	3	0	1	0	1	1	.232
Totals	**33**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**5**	**9**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Westburg 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.274
Rutschman dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.301
Mountcastle 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.276
Santander rf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.224
Mullins cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.174
Hays lf	4	1	3	1	0	0	.234
Mateo ss	3	1	1	3	0	0	.248
Urias 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.230
McCann c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.204
Cowser cf-rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.230
Totals	**30**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**2**	**7**	

a-grounded out for Kelenic in 8th.
E: Kelenic, Westburg. **3B:** Harris II (2). **HR:** Mateo (4). **RBI:** Hays (10), Mateo 3 (16). **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 6 (Albies, Riley, Olson, Kelenic, Arcia 2), Baltimore 3 (McCann 3). **RISP:** Baltimore 2 for 7.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fried L, 6-3	5.0	6	4	4	2	3	87	3.20
Johnson	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.95
Lee	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	2.22
Kerr	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	5.48

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Suarez W, 3-0	5.1	4	0	0	3	4	97	1.61
Webb H, 7	1.1	0	0	0	1	2	29	1.76
Cano H, 17	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.37
Perez	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	12	3.57
Tate	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	21	2.53

Fried pitched to 3 batters in the 6th.
Inherited runners: Johnson 2-2, Webb 2-2, Cano 2-2. **Umpires:** HP-Whitson, 1B-Miller, 2B-Moore, 3B-Eddings. T: 2:27. A: 24,048 (45,971).

Philadelphia 4, Boston 1

PHI	100	210	000 –	4	7	1
BOS	100	000	000 –	1	4	2

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Schwarber dh	4	2	2	2	0	2	.240
Castellanos rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Harper 1b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.278
Bohm 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.290
Stott 2b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.247
Sosa ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.286
Dahl lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.400
Pache lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Stubbs c	4	0	1	0	0	2	.179
Rojas cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Totals	**34**	**4**	**7**	**2**	**2**	**10**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Duran lf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.263
Hamilton ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.289
Refsnyder rf	3	0	0	1	0	1	.328
Devers 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.278
Yoshida dh	2	0	0	0	1	0	.268
Wong c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.329
Smith 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.217
b-Westbrook ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.154
Valdez 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.181
a-Dalbec ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.147
Rafaela cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.210
Totals	**29**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**8**	

a-struck out for Valdez in 8th. b-struck out for Smith in 8th.
E: Stubbs, Refsnyder, Smith. **2B:** Stott (7), Hamilton (8). **HR:** Schwarber 2 (13). **RBI:** Schwarber 2 (38), Refsnyder (16). **CS:** Wong (3). **SB:** Stubbs (4). **SF:** Refsnyder. **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 3 (Stubbs, Rojas 2), Boston 2 (Devers, Yoshida). **GIDP:** Bohm. **DP:** Philadelphia 1, Boston 1.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wheeler W, 8-3	7.0	3	1	1	1	4	88	2.16
Strahm H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	12	0.67
Alvarado S, 12	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	20	3.41

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Crawford L, 2-6	6.0	6	4	2	1	8	88	3.47
Weissert	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	2.83
Booser	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	9	3.65
Anderson	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	20	4.29

WP: Alvarado. **Umpires:** HP-Miller, 1B-Thomas, 2B-MacKay, 3B-Conroy. T: 2:25. A: 35,004 (37,755).

Washington 5, Detroit 4 (10)

WAS	001	020	010	1 –	5	5	2
DET	000	040	000	0 –	4	6	2

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Abrams ss	4	1	1	1	1	2	.245
Thomas rf	2	1	1	2	1	0	.222
Winker lf	4	0	0	1	1	2	.256
Rosario dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.186
c-Vargas ph-dh	0	0	0	1	0	0	.277
Garcia Jr. 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.265
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.198
Senzel 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.239
Gallo 1b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.164
Meneses 1b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.232
Young cf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.262
Totals	**32**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**4**	**11**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Vierling cf	4	0	0	0	1	0	.270
Ibanez 2b	4	1	0	0	0	0	.250
a-Keith ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.214
Canha 1b	4	1	1	0	1	0	.233
Greene lf	5	1	1	3	0	2	.242
Urshela 3b	5	0	3	0	0	2	.280
Malloy dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.158
Perez rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Rogers c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.226
Kreidler ss	2	1	0	0	1	1	.000
b-McKinstry ph-ss	1	0	1	0	0	0	.206
Totals	**37**	**4**	**6**	**3**	**4**	**11**	

a-struck out for Ibanez in 9th. b-singled for Kreidler in 9th. c-hit a sacrifice fly for Rosario in 8th.
E: Garcia Jr., Parker, Kreidler, Greene. **2B:** Canha (11). **3B:** Abrams (5), Greene (2). **RBI:** Abrams (32), Thomas 2 (18), Winker (29), Vargas (11), Greene 3 (28). **SB:** Canha (3), McKinstry (3). **SF:** Thomas 2, Vargas. **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 3 (Rosario 2, Garcia Jr.), Detroit 4 (Keith, Greene, Urshela, Kreidler). **RISP:** Detroit 1 for 9. **GIDP:** Thomas, Winker. **DP:** Detroit 2.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Parker	4.2	4	4	0	3	1	81	3.21
Law	1.1	1	0	0	0	4	27	2.70
Floro	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.08
Harvey	1.2	1	0	0	1	3	32	2.91
Finnegan W, 2-3	1.1	0	0	0	0	3	22	1.65

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Maeda	4.0	1	1	1	4	5	77	5.89
Brieske	1.0	2	2	2	0	1	12	3.77
Holton H, 4	2.1	1	1	0	0	2	29	3.86
Miller BS, 4	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	3	3.60
Foley	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	13	2.92
Chafin L, 3-2	1.0	0	1	0	0	1	10	4.91

Inherited runners: Finnegan 2-2, Miller 2-1. **WP:** Chafin. **Umpires:** HP-Vanover, 1B-Segal, 2B-Jimenez, 3B-Rackley. T: 2:51. A: 18,368 (41,083).

Tampa Bay 5, Chicago Cubs 2

CHC	000	101	000 –	2	10	0
TB	000	000	104 –	5	8	1

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Tauchman dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.255
Suzuki rf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.264
Bellinger 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.264
Morel 3b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.208
Hoerner 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Happ lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.218
Swanson ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.226
Busch 2b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.245
c-Bote ph-2b-3b	2	0	2	1	0	0	.333
Crow-Armstrong cf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.220
Amaya c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.194
Totals	**37**	**2**	**10**	**2**	**1**	**8**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Diaz 1b	4	0	2	0	1	1	.258
Lowe dh	5	1	1	3	0	1	.205
Paredes 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.287
Lowe rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.203
DeLuca lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.163
Palacios 2b	3	2	1	0	1	1	.245
Siri cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.184
Rortvedt c	3	0	2	0	1	0	.254
a-Rosario pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.296
Walls ss	2	0	0	0	0	2	.167
b-Arozarena ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.175
Caballero ss	1	1	1	1	0	0	.254
Totals	**33**	**5**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**9**	

a-ran for Rortvedt in 9th. b-grounded out for Walls in 7th. c-singled for Busch in 6th.
E: Diaz. **2B:** Bellinger (12), Palacios (5). **HR:** Morel (13), Lowe (3). **RBI:** Morel (40), Bote (2), Lowe 3 (18), Caballero (19). **SB:** Crow-Armstrong (8). **S:** DeLuca. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 6 (Suzuki, Morel 2, Crow-Armstrong, Amaya 2), Tampa Bay 4 (Lowe 2, Siri 2). **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 7, Tampa Bay 2 for 9.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Taillon	6.0	4	0	0	1	5	91	3.09
Leiter Jr. H, 10	0.1	1	1	1	1	1	14	3.51
Wesneski H, 2	1.2	0	0	0	1	1	28	2.68
Neris L, 6-1 BS, 3	0.2	3	4	4	1	2	23	4.01

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eflin	5.2	7	2	2	0	3	81	4.06
Cleavinger	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2.00
Armstrong	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	17	3.45
Adam	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	14	1.93
Devenski W, 2-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	5.73

Inherited runners: Wesneski 2-1, Cleavinger 2-1. **WP:** Wesneski. **Umpires:** HP-Bucknor, 1B-Beck, 2B-Iassogna,

The Orioles' Jorge Mateo hits a three-run home run in the second inning of Tuesday's game against the Atlanta Braves in Baltimore. TOMMY GILLIGAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

3B-May. T: 2:38. A: 15,192 (25,025).

Cleveland 5, Cincinnati 3

CLE	003	000	011 –	5	9	1
CIN	100	001	001 –	3	6	0

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Kwan lf	4	1	3	2	1	0	.380
Freeman cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.223
Ramirez 3b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.271
Naylor 1b	5	1	2	3	0	0	.224
Fry rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.326
e-Brennan ph-rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.231
Gimenez 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.263
Manzardo dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.224
a-Arias ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.213
c-Schneemann ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.357
Rocchio ss	3	1	0	0	1	1	.211
Naylor c	3	2	2	0	1	1	.181
Totals	**35**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**5**	**7**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Friedl cf	5	1	1	0	0	1	.219
De La Cruz ss	3	1	0	0	1	2	.232
Candelario 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.234
Steer 1b	4	0	1	1	0	2	.239
Fraley rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.291
b-Fairchild ph-rf	1	1	1	0	1	0	.239
Stephenson c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.256
Hurtubise dh	1	0	0	0	1	0	.227
f-Espinal ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	2	.198
India 2b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.243
Benson lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.209
d-Dunn ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.100
Totals	**33**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**11**	

a-struck out for Manzardo in 6th. b-walked for Fraley in 6th. c-struck out for Arias in 8th. d-struck out for Benson in 7th. e-walked for Fry in 8th. f-struck out for Hurtubise in 6th.
E: McKenzie. **2B:** Kwan 2 (9), Naylor (4), Candelario (15), Fraley (7). **HR:** Naylor (17). **RBI:** Kwan 2 (16), Naylor 3 (50), Candelario (27), Steer (41), India (27). **SB:** Ramirez (11), Gimenez (10), Steer (12), Hurtubise (2). **S:** Freeman. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 5 (Ramirez, Naylor, Brennan, Gimenez, Rocchio), Cincinnati 5 (Friedl, Fraley, Hurtubise, Espinal, Benson). **RISP:** Cleveland 3 for 12, Cincinnati 3 for 13.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McKenzie W, 3-3	5.1	4	2	2	2	4	75	4.10
Herrin H, 7	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	14	1.03
Hentges H, 5	1.1	0	0	0	0	3	19	2.70
Smith H, 7	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	10	1.78
Clase S, 20	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	22	0.84

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Suter	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	15	3.75
Martinez L, 2-4	1.2	4	3	3	1	2	39	4.50
Moll	1.1	0	0	0	1	1	22	1.98
Sims	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	14	4.15
Wilson	1.0	2	0	0	0	2	18	5.52
Cruz	0.2	1	1	1	1	1	17	3.82
Farmer	2.0	1	1	1	2	1	27	2.64

Cruz pitched to 2 batters in the 8th.
Inherited runners: Herrin 1-1, Moll 2-2, Cruz 1-1, Farmer 1-1. **HBP:** Dunn. **IBB:** Farmer (3). **Umpires:** HP-Wolf, 1B-Barber, 2B-Porter, 3B-Blakney. T: 2:58. A: 34,103 (45,814).

Colorado 5, Minnesota 4

COL	000	004	010 –	5	7	0
MIN	000	000	202 –	4	8	2

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Blackmon dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.259
Doyle cf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.261
Tovar ss	4	1	1	3	0	0	.292
McMahon 3b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.262
Stallings c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.289
Toglia rf-1b	2	0	0	1	1	0	.154
Cave lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Montero 1b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.206
Jones rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Amador 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.100
Totals	**32**	**5**	**7**	**5**	**2**	**6**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Larnach dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.260
a-Miranda ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.269
Correa ss	3	0	1	0	1	1	.271
Lewis 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.320
Kepler rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.252
Jeffers c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Castro 2b	2	2	1	0	1	1	.252
Buxton cf	4	1	2	2	0	0	.230
Kirilloff 1b-lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.201
Margot lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.228
b-Santana ph-1b	2	1	2	2	0	0	.221
Totals	**33**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**2**	**8**	

a-lined into a double play for Larnach in 7th. b-singled for Margot in 7th.
E: Margot, Lewis. **2B:** McMahon (12), Castro (13). **HR:** Tovar (11), McMahon (11), Buxton (4), Santana (10). **RBI:** Tovar 3 (31), McMahon (35), Toglia (13), Buxton 2 (18), Santana 2 (29). **CS:** Cave (1). **SB:** Castro (8). **SF:** Toglia. **S:** Stallings. **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 1 (Amador), Minnesota 3 (Larnach, Jeffers 2). **RISP:** Colorado 1 for 2, Minnesota 1 for 9. **GIDP:** McMahon, Kepler. **DP:** Colorado 2, Minnesota 1.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Quantrill W, 6-4	6.0	3	0	0	1	5	100	3.30
Vodnik	0.1	2	2	2	1	1	22	3.13
Beeks H, 5	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	18	3.86
Kinley S, 5	1.0	2	2	2	0	2	20	8.10

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Varland	5.0	1	0	0	1	3	63	7.06
Thielbar L, 2-2	0.0	3	4	4	1	0	18	7.47
Sands	2.2	2	1	1	0	1	33	4.50
Staumont	1.1	1	0	0	0	2	13	0.00

Thielbar pitched to 4 batters in the 6th.
Inherited runners: Beeks 1-1, Sands 1-0, Staumont 1-1. **HBP:** Castro, Margot. **WP:** Beeks. **Umpires:** HP-Barrett, 1B-Jimenez, 2B-Ortiz, 3B-Marquez. T: 2:35. A: 21,998 (38,544).

Miami 4, N.Y. Mets 2

MIA	010	020	001 –	4	5	0
NYM	020	000	000 –	2	4	2

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Chisholm Jr. cf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.246
De La Cruz dh	3	0	1	1	0	2	.249
Bell 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.249
Rivera 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Burger 3b-1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.218
Sanchez rf	4	1	1	0	0	3	.239
Lopez 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.293
Gordon lf	3	0	0	1	0	1	.230
Anderson ss	4	1	2	1	0	1	.195
Fortes c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.164
Totals	**32**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**2**	**13**	

N.Y. Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Lindor ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Nimmo lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.217
Martinez dh	2	1	0	0	1	0	.267
Marte rf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.284
Vientos 3b	4	0	1	2	0	1	.320
Bader cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.263
a-Stewart ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.183
c-Taylor pr-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Alvarez c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.224
Iglesias 2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.435
b-McNeil ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Totals	**30**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**8**	

a-walked for Bader in 7th. b-struck out for Iglesias in 7th. c-ran for Stewart in 7th.
E: Vientos, Alvarez. **2B:** De La Cruz (12), Sanchez (7), Vientos (5). **RBI:** De La Cruz (29), Gordon (23), Anderson (7), Vientos 2 (15). **SB:** Lopez (5). **SF:** Gordon. **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 1 (Sanchez), N.Y. Mets 1 (Lindor). **RISP:** Miami 2 for 7, N.Y. Mets 1 for 4. **GIDP:** Lindor. **DP:** Miami 1.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo W, 3-5	5.2	4	2	2	1	4	91	5.11
Bender H, 6	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	14	4.91
Nardi H, 6	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	13	5.04
Scott S, 8	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	31	1.30

N.Y. Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Megill L, 1-3	4.2	4	3	2	2	8	87	3.16
Young	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1.00
Reid-Foley	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	20	1.96
Smith	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	9	2.19
Ottavino	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	19	5.55

Inherited runners: Bender 1-1, Nardi 1-1, Young 2-2. **HBP:** De La Cruz, Martinez, Iglesias. **Umpires:** HP-Diaz, 1B-Estabrook, 2B-Gibson, 3B-Ramos. T: 2:50. A: 22,070 (41,922).

Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Zack Wheeler throws a pitch during the first inning of Tuesday's game vs. the Red Sox in Boston. PAUL RUTHERFORD/USA TODAY

Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 1

PIT	000	000	002 –	2	3	1
STL	000	000	001 –	1	8	0

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
McCutchen dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.238
Reynolds lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.263
Joe rf-1b	3	0	0	1	0	0	.259
Cruz ss	3	0	0	1	0	2	.243
Hayes 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Gonzales 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.308
Tellez 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.215
c-Taylor ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.198
Grandal c	2	0	0	0	1	1	.163
Suwinski cf-rf	2	1	0	0	1	2	.173
Totals	**28**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**3**	**7**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Winn ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.305
Burleson rf	4	0	3	0	0	1	.283
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Gorman 2b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.223
Arenado 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.256
Donovan lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Carpenter dh	2	0	0	0	0	2	.194
a-Fermin ph-dh	1	0	0	0	1	0	.115
Pages c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.080
b-Herrera ph	0	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Siani cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Totals	**34**	**1**	**8**	**1**	**1**	**10**	

a-lined out for Carpenter in 7th. b-reached on interference for Pages in 9th. c-grounded into a fielder's choice for Tellez in 8th.
E: Grandal. **2B:** Gonzales (6), Arenado (11). **3B:** Reynolds (2). **HR:** Gorman (15). **RBI:** Joe (28), Cruz (26), Gorman (33). **SF:** Cruz. **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 2 (Hayes, Gonzales), St. Louis 5 (Goldschmidt, Fermin, Siani 3). **GIDP:** Grandal, Goldschmidt. **DP:** Pittsburgh 1, St. Louis 2.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes	6.1	5	0	0	0	8	103	2.43
Chapman	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	10	4.13
Holderman W, 2-0	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	19	0.79
Bednar S, 14	1.0	1	1	1	1	2	22	5.40

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mikolas	7.0	1	0	0	1	6	84	4.85
Romero	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	7	1.91
Helsley L, 2-3	1.0	1	2	2	2	1	23	2.79

Inherited runners: Chapman 1-1. **HBP:** Joe. **WP:** Skenes. **Umpires:** HP-Tosi, 1B-Bellino, 2B-Cuzzi, 3B-Randazzo. T: 2:28. A: 34,278 (44,383).

N.Y. Yankees 10, Kansas City 1

NYY	200	401	300 –	10	10	0
KC	000	000	010 –	1	5	2

N.Y. Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Volpe ss	5	1	1	0	0	1	.274
Soto rf	2	2	0	0	2	0	.316
Grisham cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.093
Judge cf	4	1	2	3	0	0	.309
Jones rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Verdugo lf	5	1	1	0	0	1	.263
Stanton dh	4	2	2	2	0	1	.229
Rizzo 1b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.220
Torres 2b	3	2	1	1	1	0	.231
Wells c	4	1	2	3	0	1	.211
Cabrera 3b	4	0	1	1	0	2	.238
Totals	**38**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**3**	**8**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Garcia 3b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.251
Witt Jr. ss	4	0	2	0	0	0	.321
Hampson ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.305
Pasquantino 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.239
Perez c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.296
Fermin c	1	1	1	1	0	0	.300
Melendez lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.159
Velazquez dh	2	0	0	0	1	0	.212
Waters rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Loftin 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.292
Isbel cf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.221
Totals	**32**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**5**	**4**	

E: Isbel, Loftin. **2B:** Witt Jr. (18). **3B:** Volpe (7), Isbel (2). **HR:** Judge (25), Stanton (16), Wells (2), Fermin (2). **RBI:** Judge 3 (62), Stanton 2 (38), Torres (22), Wells 3 (10), Cabrera (23), Fermin (13). **SB:** Garcia (16). **Runners left in scoring position:** N.Y. Yankees 4 (Volpe 2, Rizzo 2), Kansas City 5 (Garcia, Pasquantino, Melendez, Waters 2). **RISP:** N.Y. Yankees 4 for 10. **GIDP:** Rizzo. **DP:** Kansas City 1.

N.Y. Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Stroman W, 6-2	5.2	4	0	0	3	1	102	2.82
Marinaccio	2.1	1	1	1	1	3	40	1.80
Gonzalez	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	15	2.84

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Singer L, 4-3	5.2	7	7	6	1	6	103	3.30
Anderson	1.1	2	3	3	2	0	33	4.56
Stratton	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	18	5.28
Pratto	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	0.00

Inherited runners: Marinaccio 3-3, Anderson 2-2. **HBP:** Stanton, Velazquez. **WP:** Pratto. **Umpires:** HP-Clemons, 1B-Torres, 2B-Wills, 3B-Barry. T: 2:38. A: 22,437 (37,903).

Toronto 3, Milwaukee 0

TOR	010	100	001 –	3	9	0
MIL	000	000	000 –	0	5	1

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Horwitz 2b-1b	4	0	2	1	1	1	.357
Jansen c	4	0	1	1	1	1	.264
Guerrero Jr. dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.282
Bichette ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.240
Varsho lf-cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.219
Turner 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Clement 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Springer rf	3	0	1	1	1	1	.202
Kiner-Falefa 3b-2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.270
Kiermaier cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Schneider lf	1	1	0	0	0	0	.223
Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**3**	**7**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Monasterio 3b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.139
b-Dunn ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Contreras c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.307
Yelich lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.314
Adames ss	2	0	0	0	2	0	.246
Hoskins 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.232
Sanchez dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.211
a-Frelick ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Perkins cf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.259
Chourio rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.216
Turang 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.296
Totals	**32**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**5**	**11**	

a-flied out for Sanchez in 8th. b-lined out for Monasterio in 7th.
E: Monasterio. **2B:** Jansen (12), Varsho (13), Yelich (7). **RBI:** Horwitz (1), Jansen (16), Springer (14). **SB:** Yelich (11), Adames (10), Perkins (7). **S:** Kiermaier. **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 6 (Guerrero Jr. 3, Turner 2, Kiermaier), Milwaukee 7 (Contreras, Sanchez 2, Perkins 3, Chourio). **RISP:** Toronto 5 for 12. **GIDP:** Turner. **DP:** Milwaukee 1.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kikuchi W, 4-5	5.0	3	0	0	4	5	97	3.26
Pearson H, 4	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	16	4.44
Green H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.88
Richards H, 5	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	15	3.41
Garcia S, 5	1.1	0	0	0	0	3	20	1.98

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez L, 0-1	3.2	7	2	2	1	4	71	4.91
Peguero	1.1	1	0	0	0	0	15	2.89
Koenig	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	1.72
Paredes	2.0	1	1	1	2	1	31	0.84

Inherited runners: Garcia 2-2, Peguero 1-1. **Umpires:** HP-Wolcott, 1B-Valentine, 2B-De Jesus, 3B-Johnson. T: 2:37. A: 25,253 (41,700).

Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 3

CHW	012	000	000 –	3	10	2
SEA	011	000	20x –	4	5	1

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Julks lf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Sosa 3b-1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Robert Jr. cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.182
Vaughn 1b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.226
d-Ellis pr-rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
DeJong ss	4	2	2	1	0	0	.240
Lee dh	4	0	3	0	0	1	.258
DeLoach rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.118
c-Mendick ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.216
Lopez 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Maldonado c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.078
b-Sheets ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Totals	**36**	**3**	**10**	**3**	**1**	**8**	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Crawford ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.216
Rojas 3b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.265
Rodriguez cf	4	2	1	0	0	1	.271
Raleigh c	4	0	2	3	0	1	.211
Haniger rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.219
Raley 1b-lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.264
Garver dh	2	0	1	1	2	0	.179
Canzone lf	1	0	0	0	1	1	.176
a-Locklear ph-1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Bliss 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.200
Totals	**31**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**4**	**8**	

a-grounded into a fielder's choice for Canzone in 6th. b-flied out for Maldonado in 9th. c-struck out for DeLoach in 8th. d-ran for Vaughn in 8th.
E: Lopez, Baumann. **2B:** Raleigh 2 (7), Raley (6), Garver (10). **HR:** Vaughn (7), DeJong (13). **RBI:** Vaughn (23), DeJong (28), Maldonado (5), Raleigh 3 (42), Garver (23). **SB:** Ellis (4), Lee (5), Rodriguez 2 (16). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 5 (Sosa 2, Mendick, Lopez, Maldonado), Seattle 4 (Raleigh, Haniger 2, Bliss). **RISP:** Chicago 2 for 11, Seattle 3 for 7. **GIDP:** Maldonado. **DP:** Seattle 1.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Thorpe	5.0	3	2	1	2	4	98	1.80
Anderson H, 2	0.2	0	0	0	1	2	15	6.00
Banks H, 3	1.0	0	1	1	1	1	12	4.88
Brebbia L, 0-4 BS, 1	0.1	2	1	1	0	1	11	6.38
Hill	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	13	5.87

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Diaz	5.1	9	3	3	1	4	82	5.06
Thornton W, 2-1	1.2	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.41
Baumann H, 4	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	15	3.16
Saucedo H, 3	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.76
Stanek S, 5	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	18	4.21

Inherited runners: Banks 1-1, Brebbia 1-0, Thornton 2-2, Saucedo 1-1. **Umpires:** HP-Morales, 1B-Additon, 2B-Knight, 3B-Guccione. T: 2:32. A: 20,005 (47,480).

Houston 3, San Francisco 1

HOU	001	020	000 –	3	7	0
SF	001	000	000 –	1	3	1

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	1	0	1	.295
Bregman 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.236
Alvarez dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.290
Pena ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.292
Singleton 1b	3	0	2	0	1	1	.219
Meyers cf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.263
Cabbage rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.259
Dubon lf	3	2	2	0	0	0	.303
Caratini c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**2**	**1**	**10**	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Wisely ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	.304
Ramos cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.307
Bailey c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.279
Chapman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Conforto lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.247
Flores 1b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.222
Soler dh	2	0	0	0	1	2	.209
Yastrzemski rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.213
Estrada 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.239
Totals	**30**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**12**	

E: Chapman. **2B:** Dubon 2 (10), Bailey (8). **HR:** Wisely (2). **RBI:** Altuve (26), Bregman (32), Wisely (9). **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 2 (Pena 2), San Francisco 1 (Chapman). **RISP:** Houston 1 for 6. **GIDP:** Cabbage. **DP:** San Francisco 1.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Blanco	6.0	3	1	1	1	8	96	2.67
Scott H, 2	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	17	1.60
Abreu H, 15	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	2.88
Pressly	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	5.19

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hicks	4.2	5	3	3	1	5	72	3.01
Rogers	1.1	1	0	0	0	3	26	2.39
Hjelle	2.0	0	0	0	1	1	23	2.51
Jackson	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	7	5.68

Inherited runners: Rogers 1-1. **Umpires:** HP-Libka, 1B-Hoye, 2B-Drake, 3B-Reyburn. A: 0.

San Diego 4, Oakland 3

OAK	100	000	020 –	3	9	0
SD	000	030	001 –	4	10	0

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Toro 3b	5	1	2	1	0	0	.268
Bleday cf	3	0	2	0	1	0	.238
Rooker dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.263
Andujar lf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.317
Soderstrom 1b	3	1	2	2	1	1	.222
Gelof 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.187
Brown rf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.193
Schuemann ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.254
McCann c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.279
a-Langeliers ph-c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.197
Totals	**33**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**3**	**8**	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Arraez 1b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.327
Tatis Jr. rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.283
Profar lf	2	0	1	2	1	0	.324
c-Peralta ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Machado dh	4	0	2	0	0	0	.256
b-Wade pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Solano 3b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.303
Cronenworth 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Kim ss	2	1	1	0	2	0	.226
Merrill cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Higashioka c	3	1	1	1	1	0	.188
Totals	**31**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**5**	**3**	

a-grounded out for K.McCann in 7th. b-ran for Machado in 8th. c-flied out for Profar in 8th.
2B: Brown (5), Tatis Jr. (13), Machado (12). **HR:** Toro (6), Soderstrom (3), Higashioka (5). **RBI:** Toro (24), Soderstrom 2 (8), Arraez (18), Profar 2 (45), Higashioka (7). **CS:** Andujar (1). **SB:** Tatis Jr. (8). **S:** Gelof. **Runners left in scoring position:** Oakland 4 (Soderstrom, Schuemann, McCann 2), San Diego 5 (Profar 2, Machado, Merrill 2). **RISP:** Oakland 1 for 8, San Diego 2 for 8. **GIDP:** McCann, Machado, Cronenworth. **DP:** Oakland 2, San Diego 1.

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sears	5.0	7	3	3	3	1	80	4.02
Jimenez	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	17	3.26
Nittoli	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.86
Adams	0.1	2	0	0	0	0	13	3.57
Alexander L, 0-1	0.2	1	1	1	1	0	12	4.00

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Vasquez	5.0	7	1	1	2	5	86	4.93
Matsui H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	15	4.45
Morejon H, 3	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.00
De Los Santos BS, 2	0.2	2	2	2	0	2	23	3.54
Suarez W, 3-0	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.64

Inherited runners: Alexander 2-2. **IBB:** Alexander (1). **WP:** Matsui. **Umpires:** HP-Ripperger, 1B-Hanahan, 2B-Lentz, 3B-Barksdale. T: 2:40. A: 41,945 (40,019).

Arizona 9, L.A. Angels 4

LAA	002	001	010 –	4	11	0
ARI	022	011	30x –	9	15	0

L.A. Angels	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Stefanic 2b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.273
Rengifo 3b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.313
Ward lf	2	2	2	2	1	0	.253
b-Moniak ph-cf	1	1	1	0	0	0	.172
Pillar cf-lf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.327
Calhoun dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.288
O'Hoppe c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.270
Thaiss c	1	0	1	1	0	0	.235
Schanuel 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.207
Adell rf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.197
Neto ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Totals	**36**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**2**	**5**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Marte 2b	2	2	0	0	3	0	.279
Moreno c	5	1	3	2	0	1	.240
Gurriel Jr. lf	5	0	3	2	0	0	.254
Walker 1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.251
Grichuk rf	4	3	3	2	1	0	.316
McCarthy rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.282
Suarez 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.197
Carroll cf	4	2	3	1	1	0	.213
Alexander dh	2	0	0	0	0	0	.279
a-Pederson ph-dh	2	0	1	0	0	1	.286
Perdomo ss	4	1	2	1	1	0	.286
Totals	**37**	**9**	**15**	**8**	**6**	**6**	

a-was announced for Alexander in 7th. b-was announced for Ward in 8th.
2B: Ward (12), Pillar (7), O'Hoppe (9), Thaiss (4), Moreno 2 (10), Grichuk (8), Carroll (8). **3B:** Grichuk (1), Carroll (5). **HR:** Ward (12), Grichuk (2). **RBI:** Ward 2 (36), Pillar (27), Thaiss (6), Moreno 2 (22), Gurriel Jr. 2 (41), Grichuk 2 (14), Carroll (21), Perdomo (3). **CS:** Adell (7). **SB:** Marte (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** L.A. Angels 6 (Calhoun 2, Schanuel 3, Adell), Arizona 8 (Marte, Moreno 2, Grichuk, Suarez 2, Alexander 2). **RISP:** L.A. Angels 3 for 10, Arizona 7 for 19. **GIDP:** Rengifo, Marte, Moreno. **DP:** L.A. Angels 2, Arizona 1.

L.A. Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Suarez	2.2	6	4	4	1	3	65	7.08
Fulmer	2.2	2	2	2	3	2	61	3.34
Cimber	0.1	2	0	0	1	0	20	5.63
Joyce	0.2	3	3	3	1	1	22	22.50
Strickland	1.2	2	0	0	0	0	27	3.14

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Montgomery	5.2	6	3	3	1	3	87	6.58
Ginkel H, 3	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	6	3.42
Martinez H, 2	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	14	0.38
Jarvis	2.0	3	1	1	1	1	40	3.79

Inherited runners: Cimber 1-0, Joyce 3-3, Strickland 3-1. **HBP:** Suarez, Alexander. **WP:** Fulmer, Montgomery. **Umpires:** HP-Hamari, 1B-Walsh, 2B-Moscoso, 3B-Carapazza. T: 3:17. A: 0.

L.A. Dodgers 15, Texas 2

TEX	010	000	100 –	2	5	0
LAD	300	317	10x –	15	14	0

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Semien 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.258
Smith 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Grossman dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.204
Garcia rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.214
Jankowski rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.239
Heim c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Langford lf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.229
Lowe 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.263
Duran ss	3	1	1	2	0	1	.279
Wendzel 3b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.097
Taveras cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.220
Totals	**31**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**5**	

L.A. Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Betts ss	3	1	1	3	1	0	.309
Taylor 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.100
Ohtani dh	2	3	1	2	2	1	.312
Freeman 1b	4	3	3	1	0	0	.297
Hernandez 1b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.207
Smith c	4	2	3	3	1	1	.296
Hernandez lf	3	1	1	2	1	0	.266
Vargas lf	0	0	0	1	0	0	.250
Lux 2b	4	1	2	1	1	0	.223
Pages cf	5	2	2	0	0	0	.264
Heyward rf	3	2	1	2	1	0	.234
Rojas 3b-ss	5	0	0	0	0	1	.269
Totals	**35**	**15**	**14**	**15**	**8**	**3**	

2B: Betts (16). **HR:** Duran (2), Ohtani (16), Freeman (9), Smith (10), Hernandez (17), Heyward (3). **RBI:** Duran 2 (13), Betts 3 (40), Ohtani 2 (43), Freeman (41), Smith 3 (42), Hernandez 2 (50), Vargas (4), Lux (14), Heyward 2 (8). **SB:** Ohtani (15). **SF:** Duran, Vargas. **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 1 (Semien), L.A. Dodgers 4 (Ohtani, Pages 2, Heyward). **RISP:** L.A. Dodgers 4 for 9. **GIDP:** Rojas. **DP:** Texas 1.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Dunning L, 4-5	3.2	4	6	6	3	2	84	4.80
Hernandez	1.1	4	1	1	1	1	24	3.43
Anderson	0.2	6	7	7	1	0	38	9.53
Tinoco	0.2	0	1	1	2	0	28	7.00
Knizner	1.2	0	0	0	1	0	19	0.00

L.A. Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Paxton W, 6-1	6.0	2	1	1	2	2	87	3.92
Grove	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	20	4.72
Banda	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	14	0.00
Phillips	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	2.16

Inherited runners: Hernandez 3-0, Knizner 3-2. **HBP:** Ohtani, Heyward. **WP:** Tinoco. **Umpires:** HP-Mahrley, 1B-Hudson, 2B-Wendelstedt, 3B-Tumpane. T: 2:40. A: 51,416 (56,000).

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Osaka gets 1st victory on grass since 2019

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Naomi Osaka upset No. 4 seed Elise Mertens 6-2, 6-4 in the first round at the Libema Open, notching her first win on grass since 2019 on Tuesday in 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands.

Osaka, the former World No. 1 and four-time Grand Slam champion from Japan, fired seven aces and saved the only break point she faced against Belgium's Mertens in the 69-minute victory.

In other action involving seeded players, No. 1 Jessica Pegula defeated Belarusian Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-2, 6-2 and No. 3 seed Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia was a 6-3, 6-4 winner against Australia's Arina Rodionova. Sixth-seeded Yuan Yue of China rallied for a 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Russia's Diana Shnaider. A match between eighth-seeded Magda Linette and Robin Montgomery was suspended at 5-5 in the third set. Linette took the first set 7-6 (4), and Robinson claimed the second set 6-3.

Emma Raducanu plays a backhand against Ena Shibahara during a Round of 32 match on Day 2 of the Rothesay Open on Tuesday in Nottingham, England. NATHAN STIRK/GETTY IMAGES FOR LTA

Rothesay Open

Britain's Emma Raducanu rolled to a 6-1, 6-4 victory against Japan's Ena Shibahara in the opening round in Nottingham, England.

After skipping the French Open to prepare for the grass-court season, Raducanu converted six of eight break chances. The 2021 U.S. Open champion faltered briefly after taking a 5-1 lead in the second set but finished in 70 minutes.

No. 1 seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia opened with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Colombia's Camila Osorio and No. 5 seed Magdalena Frech of Poland defeated Japan's Nao Hibino 6-1, 6-4. Two other seeded players made an early exit, with No. 2 Marta Kostyuk losing 6-3, 6-3 to fellow Ukrainian Daria Snigur and No. 8 Caroline Dolehide losing 7-6 (3), 6-3 to Britain's Francesca Jones.

Boss Open

Italy's Lorenzo Musetti was pushed to a pair of tiebreakers before the No. 5 seed earned his way to the second round of the Boss Open at Stuttgart, Germany, with a 7-6 (9), 7-6 (9) win over qualifier Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard of France.

Two-time Boss Open champion Matteo Berrettini of Italy also was pushed to the brink before earning a 7-6 (8), 5-7, 7-5 victory over No. 8 seed Roman Safiullin of Russia.

California native Marcos Giron eliminated former world No. 1 Andy Murray with a 6-3, 6-4 victory, while Denis Shapovalov of Canada earned a second-round matchup with Berrettini with a 7-6 (5), 7-5 victory over Matteo Martineau of France.

Other first-round winners included No. 7 seed Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany, James Duckworth of Australia, Arthur Rinderknech of France and San Diego native Brandon Nakashima.

Libema Open

No. 5 seed Adrian Mannarino of France advanced to the second round at 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, with a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2 victory over Stefano Napolitano of Italy.

No. 6 seed Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands also advanced with a 6-7 (3), 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3) victory over Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia, while Belgium's Zizou Bergs and Canada's Milos Raonic also moved into the second round.

Other first-round winners included: Mackenzie McDonald, Spain's Roberto Bau

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All times Eastern

MLB

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees	48	21	.696	–
Baltimore	44	22	.667	2½
Toronto	33	34	.493	14
Boston	33	34	.493	14
Tampa Bay	32	35	.478	15

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	43	22	.662	–
Kansas City	39	29	.574	5½
Minnesota	35	32	.522	9
Detroit	32	34	.485	11½
Chicago	17	51	.250	27½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	39	30	.565	–
Texas	31	35	.470	6½
Houston	31	37	.456	7½
L.A. Angels	25	41	.379	12½
Oakland	26	43	.377	13

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	46	20	.697	–
Atlanta	35	29	.547	10
Washington	31	35	.470	15
N.Y. Mets	28	37	.431	17½
Miami	23	43	.348	23

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	39	28	.582	–
Pittsburgh	32	34	.485	6½
Cincinnati	32	35	.478	7
Chicago	32	35	.478	7
St. Louis	31	34	.477	7

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	42	26	.618	–
San Diego	36	35	.507	7½
San Francisco	33	35	.485	9
Arizona	32	35	.478	9½
Colorado	24	43	.358	17½

Monday's Scores

Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 2
Minnesota 5, Colorado 0
N.Y. Yankees 4, Kansas City 2
Milwaukee 3, Toronto 1
Seattle 8, Chicago White Sox 4
San Diego 6, Oakland 1
San Francisco 4, Houston 3

Tuesday's Scores

Baltimore 4, Atlanta 0
Washington 5, Detroit 4
Tampa Bay 5, Chicago Cubs 2
Philadelphia 4, Boston 1
Cleveland 5, Cincinnati 3
Miami 4, N.Y. Mets 2
Colorado 5, Minnesota 4
Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 1
N.Y. Yankees 10, Kansas City 1
Toronto 3, Milwaukee 0
Arizona 9, L.A. Angels 4
Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 3
San Diego 4, Oakland 3
Houston 3, San Francisco 1
L.A. Dodgers 15, Texas 2

Wednesday's Games

Colorado (Gomber 1-3) at Minnesota (Ryan 4-5), 1:10 p.m.
Toronto (Bassitt 6-6) at Milwaukee (Myers 2-2), 2:10 p.m.
Houston (Valdez 5-3) at San Francisco (Webb 5-5), 3:45 p.m.
Oakland (Harris 0-0) at San Diego (King 5-4), 4:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Schwellenbach 0-2) at Baltimore (Irvin 6-2), 6:35 p.m.
Washington (Irvin 4-5) at Detroit (Olson 1-7), 6:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Assad 4-2) at Tampa Bay (Civale 2-5), 6:50 p.m.
Philadelphia (Sanchez 3-3) at Boston (Pivetta 3-4), 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Bibee 4-1) at Cincinnati (Lodolo 6-2), 7:10 p.m.
Miami (Garrett 2-1) at N.Y. Mets (Peterson 1-0), 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Falter 3-3) at St. Louis (Gray 7-4), 7:45 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Poteet 2-0) at Kansas City (Lynch IV 0-0), 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Soriano 3-5) at Arizona (Cecconi 1-4), 9:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Crochet 6-5) at Seattle (Miller 5-5), 9:40 p.m.
Texas (Gray 2-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 1-3), 10:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Atlanta (Lopez 3-2) at Baltimore (Irvin 6-2), 1:05 p.m.
Washington (Gore 5-5) at Detroit (Mize 1-4), 1:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 3-5) at Kansas City (Marsh 5-3), 2:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Keller 8-3) at St. Louis (Lynn 2-3), 2:15 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Steele 0-3) at Tampa Bay (Bradley 1-4), 6:50 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 8-2) at Boston (Houck 6-5), 7:10 p.m.
Miami (TBD) at N.Y. Mets (Severino 4-2), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Medina 0-1) at Minnesota (Ryan 4-5), 7:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Canning 2-6) at Arizona (Pfaadt 2-5), 9:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (TBD) at Seattle (Castillo 5-7), 9:40 p.m.
Texas (Lorenzen 3-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 6-2), 10:10 p.m.

NBA

FINALS

(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)

No. 1 Boston Celtics 2,
No. 5 Dallas Mavericks 0

Thursday: Celtics 107, Mavericks 89
Sunday: Celtics 105, Mavericks 98
Wednesday: Celtics at Mavericks, 8:30 p.m.
Friday: Celtics at Mavericks, 8:30 p.m.
x-Monday: Mavericks at Celtics, 8:30 p.m.
x-June 20: Celtics at Mavericks, 8:30 p.m.
x-June 23: Mavericks at Celtics, 8 p.m.

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL

(Best-of-7; x- if necessary)

Florida Panthers 2, Edmonton Oilers 0

Saturday: Panthers 3, Oilers 0
Monday: Panthers 4, Oilers 1
Thursday: Panthers at Oilers, 8 p.m.
Saturday: Panthers at Oilers, 8 p.m.
x-June 18: Oilers at Panthers, 8 p.m.
x-June 21: Panthers at Oilers, 8 p.m.
x-June 24: Oilers at Panthers, 8 p.m.

WNBA

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	10	1	.909	–
N.Y. Liberty	11	2	.846	–
Atlanta	5	5	.500	4½
Chicago	4	6	.400	5½
Indiana	3	10	.231	8
Washington	1	12	.077	10

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	9	3	.750	–
Seattle	8	4	.667	1
Phoenix	6	6	.500	3
Las Vegas	5	5	.500	3
L.A. Sparks	4	8	.333	5
Dallas	3	7	.300	5

Monday, June 10

Connecticut 89, Indiana 72

Tuesday, June 11

Washington 87, Atlanta 68
Minnesota 100, Las Vegas 86
Seattle 95, L.A. Sparks 79

Wednesday, June 12

Connecticut at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 13

Atlanta at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Las Vegas at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Friday, June 14

Chicago at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Sparks at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 15

Connecticut at Dallas, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Liberty at Las Vegas, 3 p.m.

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	10	3	5	35	42	27
Cincinnati	10	3	3	33	23	16
NY City FC	9	5	2	29	24	17
NY Red Bulls	8	4	5	29	29	23
Charlotte FC	7	6	4	25	18	18
Toronto FC	7	7	3	24	26	26
Columbus	6	2	6	24	21	13
Philadelphia	4	4	8	20	27	23
Nashville	4	5	7	19	20	22
D.C. United	4	6	7	19	25	31
Orlando City	4	7	5	17	16	24
CF Montreal	4	7	5	17	23	35
Atlanta	4	8	4	16	22	21
Chicago	3	8	6	15	17	29
New England	4	10	1	13	12	27

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	9	2	6	33	36	19
Los Angeles FC	9	4	3	30	28	19
Minnesota	8	3	5	29	28	21
LA Galaxy	7	3	7	28	31	25
Vancouver	7	5	4	25	24	19
Austin FC	6	6	5	23	21	25
Houston	6	6	4	22	18	18
Colorado	6	7	4	22	29	31
Portland	5	7	6	21	32	32
Seattle	4	7	6	18	20	21
Saint Louis	3	4	9	18	23	25
Sporting KC	3	9	5	14	26	32
FC Dallas	3	8	5	14	18	25
San Jose	3	11	2	11	24	39

Friday, June 14

Columbus at NY City FC, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 15

Real Salt Lake at CF Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto FC, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m.
Inter Miami CF at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at New England, 7:30 p.m.
D.C. United at Charlotte FC, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at NY Red Bulls, 7:30 p.m.
Saint Louis at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Austin FC at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Sporting KC at LA Galaxy, 10:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

GOLF

PGA Money Leaders

1, Scottie Scheffler, $20,024,553.
2, Xander Schauffele, $11,018,071.
3, Wyndham Clark, $9,164,429.
4, Rory McIlroy, $7,383,665.
5, Sahith Theegala, $6,972,172.
6, Ludvig Aberg, $6,511,053.
7, Hideki Matsuyama, $6,086,677.
8, Chris Kirk, $5,082,371.
9, Byeong Hun An, $4,975,236.
10, Collin Morikawa, $4,557,882.
11, Shane Lowry, $4,263,761.
12, Brian Harman, $3,901,266.
13, Matthieu Pavon, $3,879,043.
14, Will Zalatoris, $3,635,799.
15, Patrick Cantlay, $3,474,686.
16, Christiaan Bezuidenhout, $3,357,144.
17, Stephan Jaeger, $3,347,827.
18, Justin Thomas, $3,321,661.
19, Jason Day, $3,320,585.
20, Max Homa, $3,307,716.

PGA Tour Schedule

June 13-16 – U.S. Open, Pinehurst, NC
June 20-23 – Travelers Championship, Cromwell, Conn.
June 27-30 – Rocket Mortgage Classic, Detroit
July 4-7 – John Deere Classic, Silvis, Ill.
July 11-14 – Genesis Scottish Open, North Berwick, Scotland
July 11-14 – Kentucky Championship, Nicholasville, Ky.
July 18-21 – Barracuda Championship, Truckee, Calif.
July 18-21 – The Open Championship, Troon, Scotland
July 25-28 – 3M Open, Blaine, Minn.
Aug. 8-11 – Wyndham Championship, Greensboro, NC
Aug. 15-18 – FedEx St. Jude Championship, Memphis, Tenn.
Aug. 22-25 – BMW Championship, Castle Rock, Colo.
Aug. 28-Sept. 1 – TOUR Championship, Atlanta
Sept. 26-29 – The Presidents Cup, Montreal, Canada

LPGA Tour Schedule

June 13-16 – Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give, Belmont, Mich.
June 20-23 – KPMG Women's PGA Championship, Sammamish, Wash.
June 27-30 – Dow Championship, Midland, Mich.
July 11-14 – The Amundi Evian Championship, Évian-les-Bains, France
July 18-21 – Dana Open, Sylvania, Ohio
July 25-28 – CPKC Women's Open
Aug. 1-4 – Portland Classic, Portland, Ore.
Aug. 14-18 – Trust Golf Women's Scottish Open
Aug. 22-25 – AIG Women's Open, Fife, Scotland
Aug. 29-Sept. 1 – FM Global Championship, Norton, Mass.
Sept. 12-15 – Solheim Cup, Gainesville, Va.
Sept. 19-22 – Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G, Maineville, Ohio
Sept. 27-29 – Walmart NW Arkansas Championship Presented by P&G, Arkansas, Ark.
Oct. 10-13 – Buick LPGA Shanghai, Shanghai, China PR
Oct. 17-20 – BMW Ladies Championship, Gangnam-gu, Korea Republic
Oct. 23-27 – LPGA Maybank Championship, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Oct. 31-Nov. 3 – TOTO Japan Classic, Otsu City, Japan
Nov. 6-9 – LOTTE Championship, Ewa Beach, Hawaii
Nov. 14-17 – The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican, Belleair, Fla.
Nov. 21-24 – CME Group Tour Championship, Naples, Fla.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series Schedule

June 16 – Iowa Corn 350, Powered by Ethanol, Newton
June 23 – USA TODAY 301, New Hampshire
June 30 – Ally 400, Nashville
July 7 – Grant Park 165, Chicago
July 14 – a The Great American Getaway 400 Presented by VisitPA.comRace at Pocono, Pocono
July 21 – Brickyard 400, Speedway, Ind.
Aug. 11 – Cook Out 400, Richmond, Va.
Aug. 18 – FireKeepers Casino 400, Brooklyn
Aug. 24 – Coke Zero Sugar 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Sept. 1 – Cook Out Southern 500, Darlington, SC
Sept. 8 – Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart, Hampton, Ga.
Sept. 15 – Go Bowling at The Glen, Watkins Glen International, NY
Sept. 21 – Bass Pro Shops Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.
Sept. 29 – Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 6 – YellaWood 500, Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 13 – Bank of America ROVAL 400, Concord, NC
Oct. 20 – South Point 400, Las Vegas, Nev.
Oct. 27 – Race at Homestead-Miami, Homestead, Fla.
Nov. 3 – XFINITY 500, Martinsville, Va.
Nov. 10 – NASCAR Cup Series Championship, Avondale, Ariz.

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday's Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS – SS Geraldo Perdomo Removed From 10-Day IL Right meniscus tear. SS Geraldo Perdomo Recalled From Minors Rehab.
BALTIMORE ORIOLES – 2B Connor Norby Sent to Minors. Bryan Baker Called Up from Minors. P Danny Coulombe Placed on 15-Day IL Left elbow inflammation. 2B Jorge Mateo Removed from 7-Day IL Concussion.
BOSTON RED SOX – DH Masataka Yoshida Removed From 10-Day IL Left thumb strain. DH Masataka Yoshida Recalled From Minors Rehab. 1B Garrett Cooper Designated for Assignment.
CHICAGO CUBS – P Ben Brown Placed on 15-Day IL Left neck strain. P Colten Brewer Removed From 15-Day IL Lower back tightness. P Colten Brewer Recalled From Minors Rehab.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX – Drew Thorpe Purchased From Minors. P Dominic Leone Transferred to 60-Day IL Right elbow inflammation. P Sammy Peralta Sent to Minors.
DETROIT TIGERS – Ryan Kreidler Called Up from Minors. SS Javier Baez Placed on 10-Day IL Lumbar spine inflammation.
HOUSTON ASTROS – Cesar Salazar Called Up from Minors.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS – RF Hunter Renfroe Placed on 10-Day IL Fractured left big toe. Drew Waters Called Up from Minors. Nick Pratto Called Up from Minors. 2B Adam Frazier Placed on Bereavement/Family Medical Emergency List.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS – Carlos Rodriguez Purchased From Minors. P Kevin Herget Sent to Minors. P Joel Kuhnel Signed to a Minor League Contract. P James Meeker Designated for Assignment.
MINNESOTA TWINS – P Diego Castillo Sent to Minors. P Louie Varland Called Up from Minors.
NEW YORK METS – C Francisco Alvarez Removed From 10-Day IL Sprained left thumb. C Francisco Alvarez Recalled From Minors Rehab. C Tomas Nido Designated for Assignment.
NEW YORK YANKEES – P Dennis Santana Acquired Off Waivers to Pittsburgh Pirates.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES – C J.T. Realmuto Placed on 10-Day IL Right knee pain. Rafael Marchan Called Up from Minors.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES – P Ryder Ryan Called Up from Minors. P Jose Hernandez Designated for Assignment. P Dennis Santana Acquired Off Waivers.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS – Donny Sands Released.
SEATTLE MARINERS – Jhonathan Diaz Called Up from Minors. P Eduard Bazardo Called Up from Minors. P Kirby Snead Designated for Assignment. P Matt Bowman Designated for Assignment.
TEXAS RANGERS – RF Derek Hill Outrighted to Minors.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS – CB Anthony Sao cut. CB Harrison Hand signed.
CHICAGO BEARS – CB Harrison Hand signed to Atlanta Falcons.
DALLAS COWBOYS – DE Marshawn Kneeland signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027).
DETROIT LIONS – LB Steele Chambers acquired from waivers to New England Patriots. CB Craig James cut.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS – T Joe Alt signed/draft choice Four-year contract (fifth-year option).
MIAMI DOLPHINS – T Patrick Paul signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027). S Marcus Maye signed.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS – LB Steele Chambers acquired from waivers. LB Jay Person cut.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS – S Marcus Maye signed to Miami Dolphins.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS – NT Buddha Jones cut.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS – CB Mike Sainristil signed/draft choice Four-year contract (through 2027).

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

SAN JOSE SHARKS – C Nathan Todd Waived For purpose of contract termination.
ST. LOUIS BLUES – G Colten Ellis Contract extended One-year, two-way contract extension.