



Samir Hussein/WireImage



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## What a Trooper

### Kate, kids, Wills first appearance since cancer scare

## Parent board member tossed for fighting Jew hate says...

Manhattan mom Maud Maron was booted Friday from a parent school board for speaking out to The Post about a vile, anti-Israel op-ed in Stuyvesant HS' student newspaper. She responds that she'll be in court Tuesday seeking to "stop the chancellor ... from removing elected members whose words, ideas and advocacy offends the powers that be."

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William C. Lopez / NY Post

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By ANGELA BARBUTI, ALEC GEARTY and NATALIE O'NEILL

On a rainy London morning, Kate Middleton was a ray of sunshine on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, all smiles and waving at the crowd during the annual Trooping the Colour on Saturday — her first public appearance since revealing her cancer battle.

The band fittingly played “Over the Rainbow” just before Middleton stepped out with her family.

She stood in between her husband, Prince William, and King Charles as they watched the traditional military flyover, with Princess Charlotte in front of her and sons Prince George, 10, and Prince Louis, 6, close by.

The Princess of Wales' presence at the splashy military ceremony, held each June in honor of the monarch's birthday, was her first public appearance of 2024.

She wore a white Jenny Packham dress with a black-striped belt and a black-and-white bow at the collar, topped with a white-brimmed Philip Treacy hat and pearl cluster earrings.

An Irish Guards Regimental Brooch pinned to the outfit served as a nod to her honorary role as a Colonel of the Irish Guards.

Middleton's choice of hat also spoke to her desire to downplay her highly anticipated appearance, body language expert Judi James told *The Sun*.

“There was a hint of discretion or maybe a desire to not upstage in the way Kate's hat brim was tilted to partially hide her face in the carriage,” she said.

### Bonding with the king

Middleton, 42, rode in a car alongside her three children and husband to Buckingham Palace before the parade.

As the Trooping the Colour kicked off, Middleton received a boisterous ovation from thousands of royal fans who lined the Mall route, as she and her children traveled in a carriage.

King Charles and Queen Camilla led the procession while William rode on horseback.

Charles, 75, has been undergoing his own outpatient cancer treatment since February.

Neither he nor Middleton have revealed what type of cancer they're facing — but the two shared a sweet moment of laughter as they spoke during the festivities.

Before her appearance on the balcony with the rest of the royals, Middleton and her children were seen peeking from a window to watch the ceremony at Horse Guards Parade, where she stood for roughly five minutes — at times bending down to speak to the kids — before she was brought a chair.

Royal supporters — equipped with cardboard cutouts of Middleton — camped overnight to

# First post-diagnosis appearance



**SALUTE:** Kate Middleton and King Charles, both battling cancer, attend the Trooping the Colour event Saturday alongside Princess Charlotte (below) and a goofy Prince Louis (left).



# PRINCESS KATE BACK ON PARADE

secure their prized spots to see the family appear on the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Prince Louis, who is known for his expressive looks during royal events, was spotted yawning and scrunching up his face.

At one point, Charlotte told Louis to stop dancing — prompt-

ing the boisterous prince to reply, “Nope,” according to the *Mirror*.

In an emotional letter on Friday announcing she would attend, Middleton admitted she has “good days and bad days” and is “not out of the woods” with her illness.

“On those bad days you feel

weak, tired and you have to give in to your body resting,” she wrote. “But on the good days, when you feel stronger, you want to make the most of feeling well.”

The last time Middleton appeared in public was on Christmas Day.

The princess first revealed she

was undergoing chemotherapy for an unspecified form of cancer in March, as speculation swirled about her lack of public appearances.

For the second straight year, Middleton's in-laws, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, were not invited to the festivities.

# State probing for cancer toxins Gowanus, got the vapors?

By RICH CALDER

The state is quietly investigating roughly 100 blocks in and around Brooklyn's toxic Gowanus Canal to determine how many are contaminated with cancer-causing vapors and other hazardous substances, The Post has learned.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation began its probe in September following public outcry over reports it waited nearly two years to alert the public that cancer-causing vapors nearly 22 times the amount considered safe escaped from polluted soil and into a popular shuffleboard club.

Records show recent air-quality tests inside the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club on Union Street have since come back as "safe" once steps were taken to reduce harmful fumes by venting underground contaminants — but many other properties in the testing area, where thousands of people live and work, continue to show high traces of toxicity.

One building, which DEC refused to publicly identify, had air levels of the chemical trichloroethylene, or "TCE" — an industrial solvent linked to cancer, Parkinson's disease and other ailments — 450 times above acceptable levels, according

to tests taken last year.

Similar tests conducted in 2023 at 543 Union St., a massive 19th-century building occupied by 22 businesses, also found TCE fumes on-site dozens of times, including one reading 255 times above "safe" levels.

Many other neighborhood buildings are former manufacturing sites that saturated the soil with toxic coal tar. Over the past century, much of the coal tar — dubbed "black mayonnaise" by longtime residents — also seeped into the canal, which is one of the nation's most polluted waterways and is undergoing a sweeping federal Superfund cleanup.

## Committed to 'mitigate'

DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Maher insisted his agency is committed to working with Gowanus-area property owners to get buildings tested and then "mitigate" any potential contaminants.

"We are all in on this community," Maher told The Post. "We're doing a lot of really important work and are really excited about the progress we are making."

Many revelations only came to light thanks to Toxics Targeting, an Ithaca-based environmental data-



**EWV:** Gowanus walkers know that smell well.

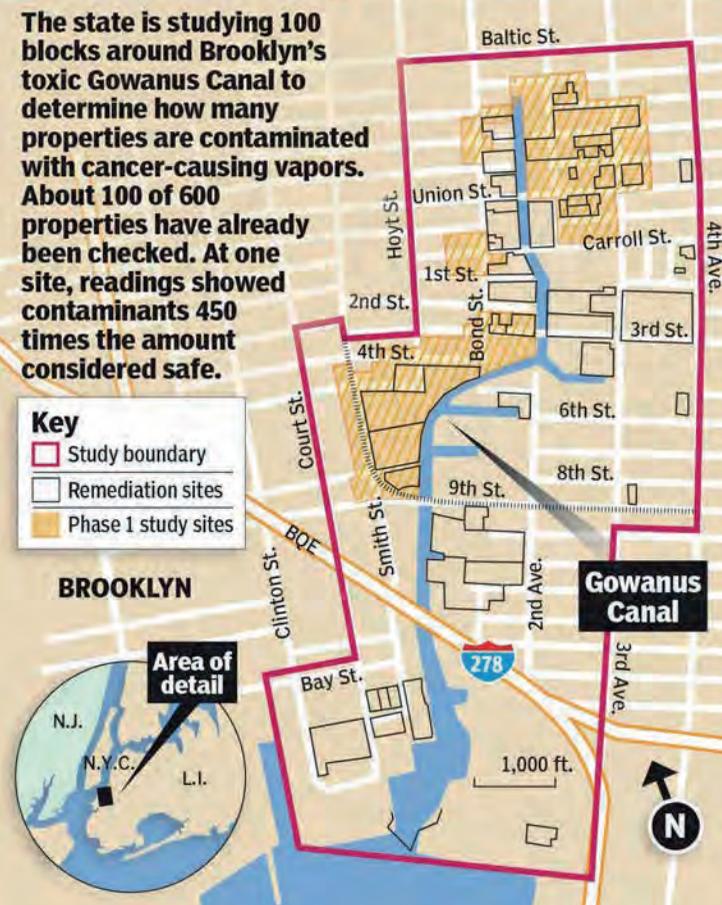
Michael Nagle

## Gowanus Canal study area

The state is studying 100 blocks around Brooklyn's toxic Gowanus Canal to determine how many properties are contaminated with cancer-causing vapors. About 100 of 600 properties have already been checked. At one site, readings showed contaminants 450 times the amount considered safe.

**Key**

- Study boundary
- Remediation sites
- Phase 1 study sites



base firm hired by Voice of Gowanus that discovered damning DEC documents on the agency's website.

"DEC knew" by early 2023 "about the astoundingly high TCE contamination, [but] never mentioned the actual contaminant levels in multiple meetings, never posted a single

warning sign," said Walter Hang, who heads Toxics Targeting.

However, DEC has targeted 626 properties to test during the ongoing first phase of its "soil vapor intrusion" study, yet so far only about 100 agreed to provide access, agency officials said.

**MONDAY**  
80°/69° Partly cloudy, humid

**TUESDAY**  
91°/77° Partly cloudy, warm

**WEDNESDAY**  
93°/69° Partly cloudy, hot

## A baked Apple in NY 'oven'

The first heat wave of the season will hit the city two days before the official start of summer, with temperatures expected to hit the 90s by Tuesday.

It will be humid, too, with "real feel" readings flirting with 100 degrees in the city, thanks to the urban heat effect, as concrete and reflective surfaces sizzle, according to Fox Weather meteorologist Cody Braud.

While New York might not officially reach 100 or break any records, nearby areas likely will, Braud told The Post: "We're going to be in the thick of it — but may escape the worst of it."

Newark, Philadelphia, Hartford and westward into Ohio and Michigan can expect to break record highs as early as Monday.

The heat will hit at least 135 million people across the eastern United States and Canada, according to AccuWeather.

At the peak Thursday, the first day of summer, the region is expected to hit a Level 4 heat risk, the highest on the National Weather Service's index.

Deirdre Bardolf

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■ Midday Nos. Sat.: 278  
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■ Midday Take-5 Sat.: 11, 14, 17, 25, 38  
■ Evening Nos. Sat.: 741  
■ Evening Win-4 Sat.: 5660  
■ Evening Take-5 Sat.: 17, 18, 20, 21, 34  
■ Pick-10 Sat.: 1, 3, 11, 16, 20, 23, 29, 36, 40, 42, 47, 48, 51, 54, 59, 63, 66, 72, 76, 77  
■ Cash-4-Life Sat.: 2, 31, 32, 36, 45; Cash Ball: 3

■ Lotto Sat.: 8, 12, 39, 51, 52, 56 Bonus: 40  
■ Powerball Sat.: 4, 36, 48, 54, 56 Powerball: 2; Power Play: x3

### NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Sat.: 130; Fireball: 2  
Pick-4 Sat.: 0067; Fireball: 2  
Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: 2, 22, 24, 29, 45; Xtra: 3

### CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Sat.: 917; Wild: 8  
Play-4 Sat.: 9676; Wild: 6  
Cash-5 Sat.: 9, 11, 21, 25, 26

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# HE HAS LOADS TO CELEBRATE



**'POP' STAR:** The Spermator, Ari Nagel (left, with pictures of his offspring), is prepared for a busy Father's Day as the dad-of-165 will meet with some of his kids the Bronx Zoo as he did last year (above).

By GEORGIA WORRELL

## 'Ready to retire' Spermator's 165th kid

The Spermator has 165 reasons — and counting — to celebrate this Father's Day.

Ari Nagel, a 48-year-old Brooklynite, welcomed his 165th child into the world on Wednesday — but will soon retire from spreading his seed, he told *The Post*.

"I'll stop when I'm 50," said Nagel, who will turn 49 in August.

"Physically I can keep going, but there may be increased risks for things like autism with older males," he explained via text from a cruise ship in the Bahamas, where he was vacationing with his first son, 20-year-old Tyler, and child No. 33, his 7-year-old daughter Topaz.

But for now, the prolific, 6-foot-2 Kingsborough Community College math professor is celebrating his latest baby, who

was birthed by a woman in Connecticut.

"It was that mom's fourth child with me," Nagel boasted.

"I have 10 women currently pregnant in the US, Canada, Asia, Africa and Europe . . . Zimbabwe and Long Island are due in July, Israel and Queens are due in August," he crowed, adding that one of his baby mamas, a woman in France, is expected to give birth at any moment.

Nagel, who shot to fame in *The Post* eight years ago, still hands over sperm samples to one or two aspiring mothers per week, he said, sometimes through clinics and other times in face-to-face, but nonsexual, meetings.

When he's not growing his progeny, he vowed to "try to be a better father to my 175 children" — 34 of whom he hasn't met yet.

"I'll never be able to be as good of a dad to my kids as my father was to me," lamented Nagel, who grew up in an Orthodox Jewish home in upstate Monsey with two sisters and four brothers.

However, the Spermator said he sees many of his sons and daughters often — mostly the 56 who live in New York, 20 in New Jersey and 13 in Connecticut.

"Some moms don't want me to play a role, but I leave them the option if they change their mind, and most do once the child gets a little older and starts asking

questions," he said.

Still, he keeps a spreadsheet with the names, birthdays, addresses and phone numbers of each offspring — and plasters any pictures he has of them around his Kingsborough office.

The photos — which cover nearly every inch of wall space in the room — depict little infants cooing in their car seats, small uniformed children posing for school pictures, and Nagel playing with and snuggling various kids.

After he return Sunday morning to Brooklyn from the Bahamas, Nagel expects that he and a handful of his kids, along with their mothers, will go to the

Bronx Zoo, like they did last year on Father's Day.

Additionally, "I will receive many cards and gifts," he said.

The one piece of advice Nagel tries to impart to his descendants is to "embrace saying 'yes,' to doing favors, new experiences, invites and opportunities."

"It's the key to a fulfilling life. I say yes to everything," he said.

But he wishes there was a woman out there who would say yes to him.

"I have the dating apps, but haven't had much success finding a woman who wants to date someone with 165 kids and 10 women pregnant. I'm also pretty broke — which doesn't help."

## Spending on '#1 Dad' still second to '#1 Mom'

That's a lot of mugs that say "#1 Dad."

Father's Day spending was expected to hit \$22.4 billion dollars this year, the second highest amount recorded following last year's record of \$22.9 billion, according to the National Retail Federation.

Half of consumers were shopping for fathers and stepfathers while the rest were dividing their gifts among husbands, sons, brothers, friends and grandfathers, the retail trade group's survey found.

The average spending on

presents and celebrations was expected to reach \$189.81, the survey of 8,580 consumers conducted in May found.

Greeting cards remain the most popular offering to dad — 58% of shoppers are planning to pick one up — followed by clothing, an

outing, gift cards and personal-care items, respectively.

More than a quarter of Father's Day shoppers plan to give "a gift of experience," such as tickets to a sporting event or concert, down slightly from last year.

"While spending on these gift categories is mostly in line with last year's record numbers, they are still significantly above prepandemic spending," noted Phil Rist, executive vice president of strategy at Prosper Insights & Analytics, which

partnered in the research.

But the Father's Day numbers don't compare to what consumers spend on moms.

This Mother's Day, shoppers doled out a whopping \$33.5 billion to spoil the women in their lives.

Deirdre Bardolf

## Mom ousted by Ed. Dept. for condemning

# SHEIKQUEL AT THE DOE Firebrand's Oct. 7 seminars

By MATTHEW SEDACCA,  
DEIRDRE BARDOLF  
and SUSAN EDELMAN

Christopher Sadowski

The city Department of Education has inexplicably tapped a group headed by the notorious former “Intifada High” principal to lead school staff workshops on handling the Israel-Hamas war in the classroom, infuriated teachers told The Post.

Debbie Almontaser now pulls in hundreds of thousands of dollars in city contracts with her consulting firm Bridging Cultures Group, which on June 6 led professional development training sessions for at least 10 city public schools, teachers said.

In a workshop titled “Facilitating Courageous Conversations,” two Jewish and Muslim facilitators discussed lesson plans for how to teach and guide students on discussing the ongoing war, but Jewish teachers claimed the training material was slanted against Israel.

Sharon Malkin, an art teacher at Horace Greeley IS 10Q in Astoria, Queens, said one slide in the presentation described the Oct. 7 attack on the Jewish state and 8-month bombardment of Gaza as “emotionally traumatizing” — but made no mention of 251 hostages kidnapped by Hamas nor missile strikes launched at Israel by Iran and terror groups.

In a second workshop, a lecturer who had posted photos on Facebook with a Palestinian flag sticker snickered before providing her group data on the 1,200 Jewish deaths on Oct. 7 compared to Palestinian deaths over the past eight months, video of the training showed.

The department’s decision to hire Bridging Cultures — which



**SHE'S BACK:** Debbie Almontaser, who made front-page news in 2007 for allowing controversial “Intifada NYC” T-shirts, now runs a group leading teacher trainings on the Israel-Gaza war.



offers workshops on how to teach about 9/11 in the classroom and religious diversity — flummoxed Jewish teachers, especially given Almontaser’s infamous history with the subject matter.

### ‘Intifada NYC’ tees

In a 2007 interview with The Post, Almontaser condoned T-shirts created and sold by an Arab women’s activist group that read “Intifada NYC.” The phrase has long been used to refer to violent protests against Israel, including terror attacks by Palestinians in the late 1980s and early 2000s, but Almontaser insisted the phrase wasn’t intended to signal a bloody uprising in the city.

Her comments sparked outrage and a slew of media coverage, landing the embattled educator on The Post’s front page days later when she resigned as the head of the city’s newly formed Khalil Gibran International Academy.

“Should that person be the one designing a curriculum to teach about antisemitism? I would argue hell no,” one Jewish teacher said.

Bridging Cultures has received \$260,000 in taxpayer-funded DOE contracts and purchases since 2021, according to city records. It lists several workshops priced at \$2,000 each on its website, including “Building Compassionate Learning Communities Through Culturally Responsive Education.”

DOE rep Nathaniel Styer said the agency has prioritized using workshops and other training opportunities to help staff learn how to handle difficult conversations in the classroom about current events as part of its “Meeting the Moment” plan.

“To do this work, we have engaged a variety of high-quality, respected partners to present a balanced representation of viewpoints across our NYCPS community, with the ultimate goal of building understanding and empathy,” he said.



### MAUD MARON



Jeenah Moon for The Post

Manhattan mom Maud Maron was booted from the parent council of the city’s largest school district because she spoke out against hate in a February article in The Post about an anti-Israel op-ed published anonymously in the Stuyvesant HS student newspaper. The city Department of Education determined her criticism was “derogatory and offensive.” Maron has also been publicly bashed for private remarks she’s made about transgender students. She was expelled from the Community Education Council for District 2 — which covers most of lower and Midtown Manhattan and the Upper East Side — as was the president of Brooklyn’s CEC 14, Tajh Sutton, who banned Jewish parents from meetings and organized pro-Palestine student walkouts. Maron, 53, is one of three plaintiffs in a lawsuit charging CEC 14 and Chancellor David Banks with violating First Amendment rights to free speech. On Saturday, she tells The Post she refuses to be silenced.

**SPEAKING OUT:** Maud Maron (right) was bounced from the District 2 parent council alongside its president, Tajh Sutton (inset, right) — and accuses schools Chancellor David Banks (left) of violating her First Amendment rights.

they rejected calls to condemn the terrorism against Israel on Oct. 7 and instead called it “resistance,” falsely asserted that Hamas militants did not hide under hospitals or use inhabitants as human shields; perpetuated the myth that Israelis sterilized Ethiopians; and claimed that Israel “kidnaps” children and is committing an ongoing “genocide” of Palestinians.

“The byline should read coward instead of anonymous,” I told The Post.

I did not know who wrote it — a student, faculty, parent or alum.

“If you are going to repeat revolting Hamas propaganda and transcribe your ignorance and Jew hatred, put your name to it,” I had added.

LATE Friday, the chancellor removed me from my elected position as a member of CEC 2 and informed me that it was because of my quote in The New York Post about antisemitism at my daughter’s high school.

He also removed the CEC 14 president for what appears to be a laundry list of violations, including violating the state’s Open Meetings Law.

My official infraction was my quote in February about the anonymous op-ed in Stuyvesant’s The Spectator, which dripped with inaccuracies and rank antisemitism. The author proudly noted that

## anti-Israel op-ed: See you in court



# I'll still fight for my rights vs. hate



## No arrest yet for UES 'soup Nazi'

Justice has yet to be served. The hater dubbed "Soup Nazi" — who allegedly went on an anti-semitic rampage at a kosher restaurant, splashing hot soup on a worker — is still roaming the streets, despite her identity and whereabouts being revealed.

A source familiar with the investigation told The Post that DA Alvin Bragg is "dragging his heels" drawing up the arrest warrant.



"The bulk of the investigation has been concluded, but the suspect lives in another jurisdiction. They need the DA to issue that arrest warrant," the source said.

The suspect was identified as Mayra Teke of Paterson, NJ, according to a neighbor and family member. Three days after the incident, The Post confronted Teke outside her home. The agitator ignored a reporter and advised a neighbor to say that she'd "moved out" of the family apartment.

The blonde bigot glammed it up for the cameras Dec. 13 (top) after her tirade at Hummus Kitchen on Second Avenue on the Upper East Side, where she tried to pull down an Israel flag, threw soup at an employee and called staffers "murderers." A video of the incident has some 13.5 million views on X.

"I want justice," eatery owner Sharon Hoota (inset), who is Israeli, demanded this week. "I care that someone attacked my employee and police know who it is and nobody did nothing about it."

The NYPD's Hate Crime Task Force is assigned to the case.

"There are no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing," an NYPD rep said. *Dean Balsamini*

The student editors later issued corrections but Jewish students had to wait weeks. Meanwhile, they have endured a rising tide of antisemitism at school, which the chancellor has struggled mightily to address.

### Bias is 'trans'parent

But the real reason the chancellor wants to remove me is because the Democratic establishment in New York City is furious because I know the difference between male and female and am willing to say so in polite company.

I wrote a resolution which passed my council (8-3) asking for a review of the 2019 NYC

Public School gender guidelines, which let males play female sports based on "gender identity."

The Trans Cult cannot withstand a committee that asks questions and examines evidence. Congressman Jerrold Nadler and 17 other Democratic politicians wrote a letter labeling our resolution "hateful, discriminatory and actively harmful." Merely for asking for a committee!

I will not be silenced in defending students' right to say the most vile things about any country, but there is a difference worth highlighting between the bravery of public comment and debate and the perfidy of anonymous accusations.

Gov. Hochul is supporting a law

that bans masks in public precisely because hiding one's identity brings out the worst in people and poses safety hazards — especially around heated topics.

And Chancellor Banks' boss, Mayor Adams, agrees. Speaking of the anti-Israel protesters, many of whom are students, Adams said, "Cowards hide their faces. Dr. King did not hide his face."

Well said.

### Constitutional case

I knew in late 2021 that the proposed Chancellor's Regulation D-210 — a flagrantly unconstitutional speech code — would be used to punish wrong speak, but I could not have guessed that I

would be a plaintiff in federal court suing the other CEC member being removed, along with Chancellor David Banks and the Orwellian-titled Equity Compliance Officer Nina Mickens.

But here we are.

Our lawsuit is a First Amendment case and we will be in court on Tuesday seeking a preliminary injunction to stop the chancellor and the equity apparatus from removing elected members whose words, ideas and advocacy offends the powers that be.

Make no mistake, that is what is happening.

Show your face, say your name and say whatever you want to say. And know that other Americans will, too.

# MENSCH AT ARMS

By DAVID SPECTOR

Israeli medics were the first responders to the Oct. 7 attacks, arriving at the scene of the carnage well before the military did. They recalled to The Post never-before-told stories of how they were forced to battle the terrorists in a desperate bid to “save Israeli lives.”

United Hatzalah, an Israeli all-volunteer medical force, received so many emergency calls starting at 6 a.m. that day — from people “screaming, not talking” — that the organization first thought it was being hacked.

“On a normal day, we have 2,000 calls,” said Eli Beer, 50, president of the volunteer service who was running dispatch that day at headquarters. “On Oct. 7, we had 12,500. . . . The command center looked like chaos.”

Here are their stories:

## Isaac

Isaac, an active-duty Israel Defense Forces soldier and volunteer for United Hatzalah who did not wish to use his real name, recalled a pickup truck full of 10 Hamas terrorists firing at his ambulance as he feverishly made the 50-mile trip south.

“I became white,” he said. “I thought I would be killed before I could save one life.”

Isaac floored it and navigated his ambulance through the hail of bullets unscathed. He high-tailed it to the Nova festival after a frantic father begged him to save his daughter.

On his way to the rave, Isaac was greeted by a Shin Bet agent (Israel’s FBI) who told him not to go in because terrorists outnumbered the IDF troops inside.

“He said, ‘You’re crazy, you don’t know what you’re getting into, don’t go,’” Isaac said. “I said, ‘I don’t care, we’re going to save some Jewish people.’”

When Isaac, 36, arrived at the scene it was a wasteland. Dead bodies were everywhere. He screamed that if anybody was still alive they needed to come out now or he’d drive his ambulance somewhere else.

At that point dozens of people emerged from trash cans and other hiding spots. They told Isaac they didn’t emerge at first because earlier a Hamas terrorist had pretended to be a soldier and

killed everyone who came out of their hiding place.

Isaac packed as many wounded people into his standing-room-only ambulance as he could and rushed them to safety. Hamas terrorists opened fire on Isaac’s packed ambulance as he drove along Road 232 toward Ashkelon. Isaac, who was armed, fired blindly out of his ambulance window as he weaved around flaming cars and corpses on the highway.

Isaac believes he saved 100 people that day, as he drove up and down Road 232 for 16 hours.

“If United Hatzalah wasn’t there you would have had another 1,000 people dead,” he said.

## Rabbi Haim Sassi

Sassi, 50, a volunteer medic, thought he was going to die after he was shot trying to save a police officer in Sderot.

Sassi was rushing to the officer when he was hit in the face and leg. The cop died on the ground beside him.

“He got hit by a bullet and I was on my way to save him. I got hit by a bullet. Everything is OK,” Sassi said as blood drained from his face and stained his motorcycle helmet in a heartbreaking video he made for his family.

Sassi took cover next to the body for hours as Hamas terrorists fired at him from all directions.

The rabbi was later rescued by Israeli police officers, who dragged him across the street under the cover of unrelenting sniper fire.

The rabbi managed to survive. Of the 1,700 United Hatzalah volunteers who responded that day, three were killed and 25 were injured.

## Eli Beer

As he watched livestream footage of Hamas atrocities, Eli quickly realized his country was “at war.”

He dispatched volunteers — including his own wife and kids — straight to the Gaza border towns even as they were teeming with terrorists.

“When the deaths reached 300, I said I don’t think we should count anymore. I told my volunteers go at your own risk because you might not come back alive.

“My wife called me to say goodbye,” Eli said. “She said ‘I may not come back.’”

# Volunteer medics saved 100s of Israeli lives — & fought Hamas terrorists



**ON DUTY:** Members of the all-volunteer United Hatzalah medic organization respond to Hamas’ Oct. 7 slaughter in Israel, exchanging fire with terrorists (left) and otherwise rescuing many innocent lives.

Eli had to make a series of difficult choices that fateful day.

The IDF had issued a no-fly order so strict that even the police and medical agencies were not exempt. But Eli had patients who desperately needed to be taken to the hospital.

Fifty severely wounded people were being treated in a field hospital United Hatzalah set up in the woods of Sderot. They were losing so much blood that time was running out to get them to a hospital, but the roads were too dangerous to drive on. Air travel was the only way, but Hamas missiles were still raining down all over Israel.

Eli didn’t know where to turn, so many police were killed in the

south that no one was answering the phones, and the IDF was scrambling to respond to Hamas’ surprise attack.

Eli made the pivotal decision to defy the no-fly order, and dispatched medical helicopters to the field despite the risk that they could be downed by Hamas missiles or Israeli friendly fire.

“All the pilots were like, ‘Why did you wait so long?’ We’re a chutzpah organization,” he said.

“We were afraid they were gonna shoot us down, but our pilots were ex-IDF who knew how to communicate with the army.

“I thought either I was going to get fired the next day and be prosecuted, or I would get my biggest reward — which was saving lives.”

After United Hatzalah launched their helicopters, police deployed choppers of their own.

## Gitty Beer

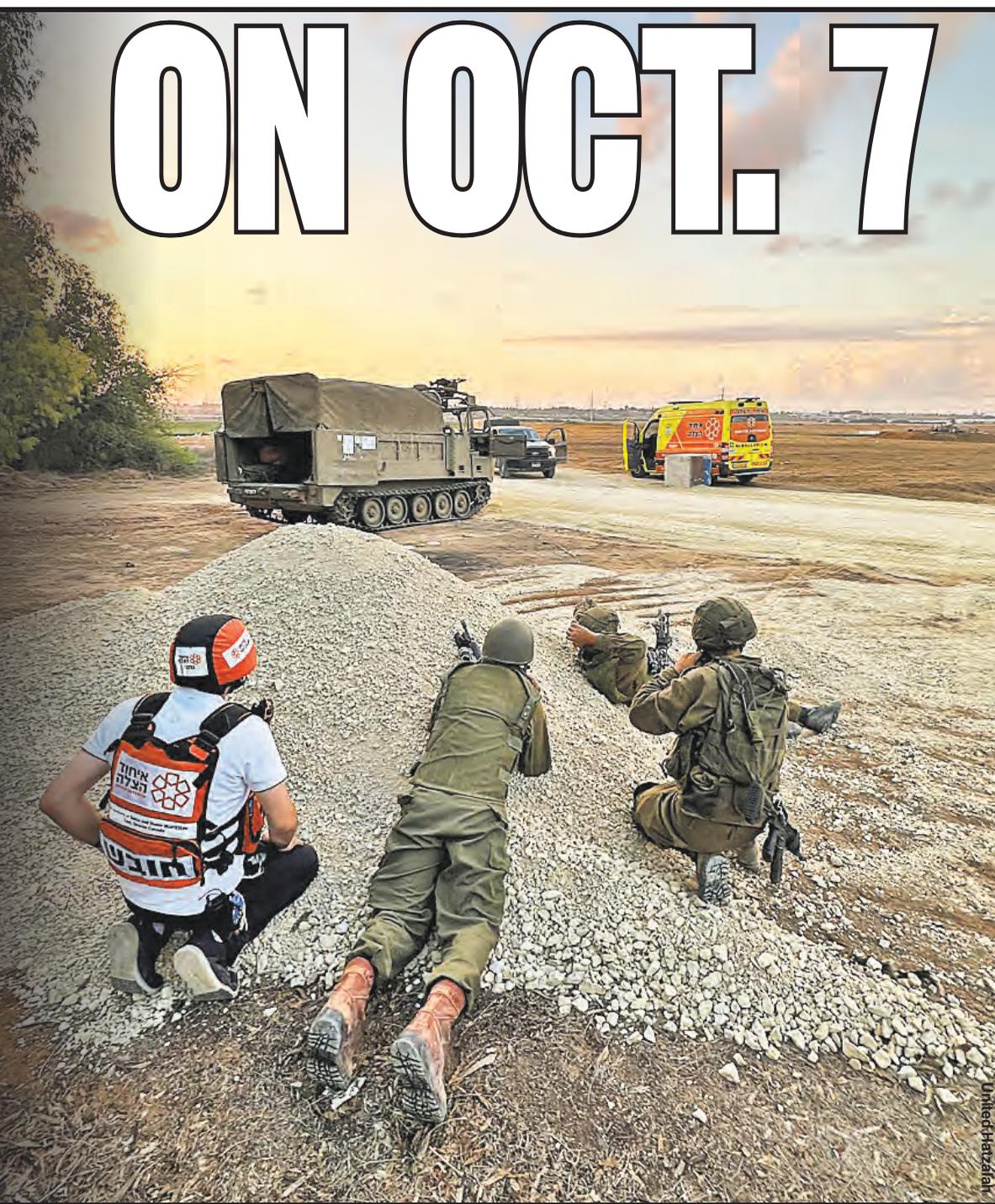
The 49-year-old volunteer EMT said her final goodbyes to her husband, Eli, turned on the sirens on her ambulance and floored it at over 100 mph to get to Kfar Aza.

“We said our goodbyes because this is Israel, and in Israel, these things happen,” she told The Post.

“No one did this for the Jews in 1942 when my grandparents were all murdered in the Holocaust, but I’m going in and I’m saying goodbye to you because I may not come back alive,” she said.

Eli insisted Gitty take a gun.

# ON OCT. 7



Uriel Hatzalah

# Blast kills 8 IDF soldiers

## 'Heroic warriors' in Rafah

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

An explosion in southern Gaza killed eight Israeli soldiers Saturday, the military said, marking one of the deadliest single attacks on Israeli forces since Oct. 7.

Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, an Israel Defense Forces spokesman, said the attack, which occurred in the early morning in Rafah's Tel al-Sultan area, was caused either by explosives planted by Hamas or by an anti-tank missile.

"We need to defeat the Rafah Brigade of Hamas, and we are doing this with determination," he said.

The soldiers, all members of a combat engineering unit, had been traveling in an armored carrier, conveying engineering tools that include explosive materials, in violation of standard practice, the military said.

The attack may have caused the material on board the vehicle to explode, the military said. The incident was being investigated.

Hamas' military wing claimed the vehicle had been ensnared in a prepared minefield, which set off the explosion.

"Today we paid another heart-breaking price in our just war for the defense of the homeland," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday. "With deep sorrow, in heavy mourning, I bow my head together with all the citizens of Israel and mourn the fall of our heroic warriors."

Israel identified one of the soldiers killed in Saturday's attack as

Capt. Wassem Mahmoud, a deputy company commander in the Engineering Battalion. The names of the other seven were not yet released.

News of the deaths came amid reports that officials almost called off the daring mission last week in Gaza that saved four hostages kidnapped by Hamas.

At 10 a.m. on June 8, Shin Bet security agency Director Ronen Bar and IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi learned that conditions were concerning at one of the two sites in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza where the hostages were being held, The Times of Israel reported.

### Made the tough call

The fear was that the conditions would make it difficult to simultaneously enter both locations, which were just 650 feet apart. The coordinated timing was a crucial part of the plan to prevent the terrorists from harming the hostages during the raid.

Security chiefs had a one-hour window to decide whether to proceed with the operation, which also involved the elite Yamam counterterrorism police unit.

It's not clear what the problem exactly was, but at 10:55 a.m., Bar and Halevi signed off on the raid, resulting in Israeli forces freeing Noa Argamani, 26, Almog Meir Jan, 21, Andrey Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41, and safely evacuating them to Israel. *With Wires*

"Part of being a paramedic is making sure a terrorist gets a bullet in between his eyes — you have to eliminate threats," she said.

On their way down there were cars idling in the roadway, dead bodies in the driver's seats. Fields were on fire and smoke was everywhere.

"It was like a scene out of 'The Walking Dead,'" she said.

As Gitty approached kibbutz Kfar Aza she could hear Hamas gunshots all around.

"Once we got down south it was just a loony house," she said. "Insane. We were driving straight into the fire zone, we had no idea what was going on."

There were so many wounded that Gitty was forced to do triage.

She knew she couldn't save everyone.

Gitty found a man — an IDF soldier who had tried to fight Hamas on his own — who had "half his skull missing" with part of his brain visible. Gitty noticed his wedding band and thought he might have children at home. She and Dr. Ariel Lifshitz decided to try to save him despite his low chance of survival.

A United Hatzalah helicopter arrived in the nick of time, and "his life was saved." The soldier is now recovering in a rehab facility in the US.

"We took him into the ambulance and intubated him, started treating him," she said. "He was in a really bad state but he improved."

A United Hatzalah helicopter arrived in the nick of time, and "his life was saved." The soldier is now recovering in a rehab facility in Chicago.

"It's really nice to see you actually helped someone," she said.

Later, when Gitty's ambulance reached an IDF checkpoint, soldiers ordered everyone out of the vehicle and told them to take cover on the side of the road as Hamas terrorists fired at them.

Though she was proud of the work she did that terrible day, the horrifying scenes she witnessed have taken a toll.

"When she came back she looked like she just got out of the Holocaust, was like a ghost," her husband recalled.

## Vandal mars Park Ave. temple

An anti-Israel vandal targeted yet another Jewish landmark in New York City, this time etching "Palestine" onto one of Manhattan's largest synagogues.

The defacing was discovered on the outside wall of the Park Avenue Synagogue around noon Friday, the NYPD said.

"Palestine" was scrawled under the biblical verse "How great are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places O Israel," photos show.

The vandal did not cross out

the word Israel, but wrote Palestine in green marker beneath it.

Police were called and took pictures of the graffiti for evidence before it was cleared, sources said.

The NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force is investigating.

The conservative synagogue has been outspoken amid the Israel-Hamas war, with its Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove traveling in December to "bear witness" to the ravages of Oct. 7. *Katherine Donlevy and Larry Celona*

# BURGUM SPOT ON 'FOR VP'

## Older, won't challenge Don... & good hair



By JON LEVINE

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum has emerged as a leading contender to serve as former President Donald Trump's veep — which insiders attribute to his perceived lack of interest in higher office and a disciplined ability to fade into the background.

Many grassroots activists are keen for Trump to name a youthful, hard-charging No. 2 who will be a successor for his movement — but the former president has little appetite for such a person, insiders told The Post.

Trump — who would be a lame duck on day one of a new term — is nervous about a vice president launching their own 2028 campaign the minute they come to Washington.

"Elise Stefanik is a young rising star, Marco Rubio same thing, long record with a record of seeking the presidency. J.D. Vance would be immediately a successor in 2028 considering his rising-star status," said one person familiar with the discussions.



**NOT-IT FACTOR:** Insiders say North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum (top) has the ability to fade into the background, unlike younger VP contenders Rep. Elise Stefanik (above, from left) and Sens. Marco Rubio and J.D. Vance.

But Trump has also bluntly stated his preference for a man with a "central casting" veep appearance and "good hair" per another insider, which is bad news for Stefanik.

Burgum has great hair.

### 'Understands Trump'

"Burgum is somebody who is very smart, who has a lot of money, not interested in public service to enrich himself, he understands Trump on a business level and he's a quiet, steady hand, but still a sharp surrogate when

needed for Trump," the insider added. "I don't think he is necessarily interested in running for president and isn't someone who is obviously seen as a successor."

Former Vice President Mike Pence — now persona non grata in Trump world — caused much irritation in 2017 when he launched his own political action committee ahead of races that year and in 2020. Team Trump is not looking for a repeat, a different insider noted.

GOP young guns like Vance and Stefanik are both just 39 years old — while Rubio is a youthful 53.

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, who is fading from contention, is 58. Burgum by contrast is 67 — and would be into his 70s by the time 2028 rolled around.

Burgum is older than President Biden was when he was selected by former President Obama to be veep in 2008. Biden was chosen primarily because he was viewed as an elder statesman, who would not harbor any future plans against the ambitious Obama.

The other leading contenders are marred in different ways as well, experts note. The 12th Amendment makes it forbidding for Trump to tap a fellow Floridian, which is bad news for Rubio. One top surrogate already said a plan is in place for Rubio to resign his seat and relocate to Maryland if Trump picks him — but the situation is viewed as less than ideal.

Vance, a favorite of the MAGA populists and Donald Trump Jr. was a Trump critic not that long ago. In texts to a former Yale roommate in 2016, Vance warned Trump was a "moral disaster" and could be "America's Hitler."

# Trump: Blacks migrant victims

Donald Trump received strong support Saturday during a campaign stop in immigrant-weary Detroit, where he also coined the nickname "King of super predators" for Joe Biden.

The presumptive GOP presidential nominee appealed to the mostly black crowd, by talking about the migrant crisis while speaking at a policy and awareness roundtable at 180 Church.

"They're coming for your jobs ... The black community is being hurt most by illegal aliens," Trump told the crowd, which earned him a hefty round of applause.

Although not officially a sanctuary city, Detroit has been overwhelmed by a stream of migrants similar to how New York City has been inundated.

At the event, Trump launched his "Black Americans for Trump" coalition to rival a similar group the Biden-Harris campaign has sunk millions into — which Trump framed as an attempt to win over a block of voters President Biden had historically wronged by authoring as a senator the 1994 crime bill that ramped up policing and imprisonment.

"He walks around now talking about the black vote. He's the king of the super predators," Trump said. "He wrote the 1994 crime bill."

"On day one of my new administration, we will begin the largest deportation operation in American history," Trump said.

"Black people aren't offered free houses, clothes or free medicine," Michael Montgomery an attendee from Atlanta told The Post. "These are things they get for getting away with a crime."

Joe Durbin and Katherine Donlevy



# Bowman stung by Post barb

Rep. Jamaal Bowman ripped The Post on X after the city's paper of record endorsed his primary opponent, Westchester County Executive George Latimer — but the socialist didn't get the reaction he expected.

"I am proud to be the

only candidate in the NY-16 primary not endorsed by the racist right wing New York Post," Bowman (left) snarled Friday.

But instead of plaudits from the pinko faithful, Bowman — who polls show is down by double

digits against Latimer — met a chorus of jeering.

"Are you endorsed by Hamas?" mocked Arsen Ostrovsky.

Bowman has long called for a cease-fire that would allow the terrorist group to remain in power in Gaza

and has freely appeared with supporters who celebrated the Oct 7 massacre.

Still more attacked Bowman for race-baiting.

"'Racist' Noun 1) Any person who disagrees with a Democrat," said one commenter. Jon Levine



# Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

**A** common refrain in politics is that two weeks is a lifetime, meaning big changes can happen quickly. Joe Biden better hope they do.

As he prepares for his debate with Donald Trump next week, the president is mired in a losing streak. He has experienced rough weeks throughout his troubled term, but last week was one of the worst.

Amid rock-bottom approval numbers, Biden suffered a major blow with son Hunter Biden's conviction on three federal gun felonies in a case brought by the president's Department of Justice. Still looming is a September trial on charges Hunter committed federal tax fraud and evasion.

Burdened by what must have been a mix of fury and grief, the president nonetheless had to board Air Force One for the G-7 meeting in Italy.

It was his second trip to Europe in 10 days and the wear and tear on the 81-year old president was obvious. Without First Lady Jill Biden by his side to direct him, he looked more confused than usual and at one point had to be herded back to the group by Italy's prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, whom Biden weirdly saluted when they met.

Coming just after the White House Juneteenth celebration, where Biden's hands and body stood frozen as people around him clapped and swayed to music, the behavior stoked concern among his peers.

G-7 insiders talked of him "losing focus" during discussions, with one saying Biden's condition is "the worst he has ever been," according to media reports.

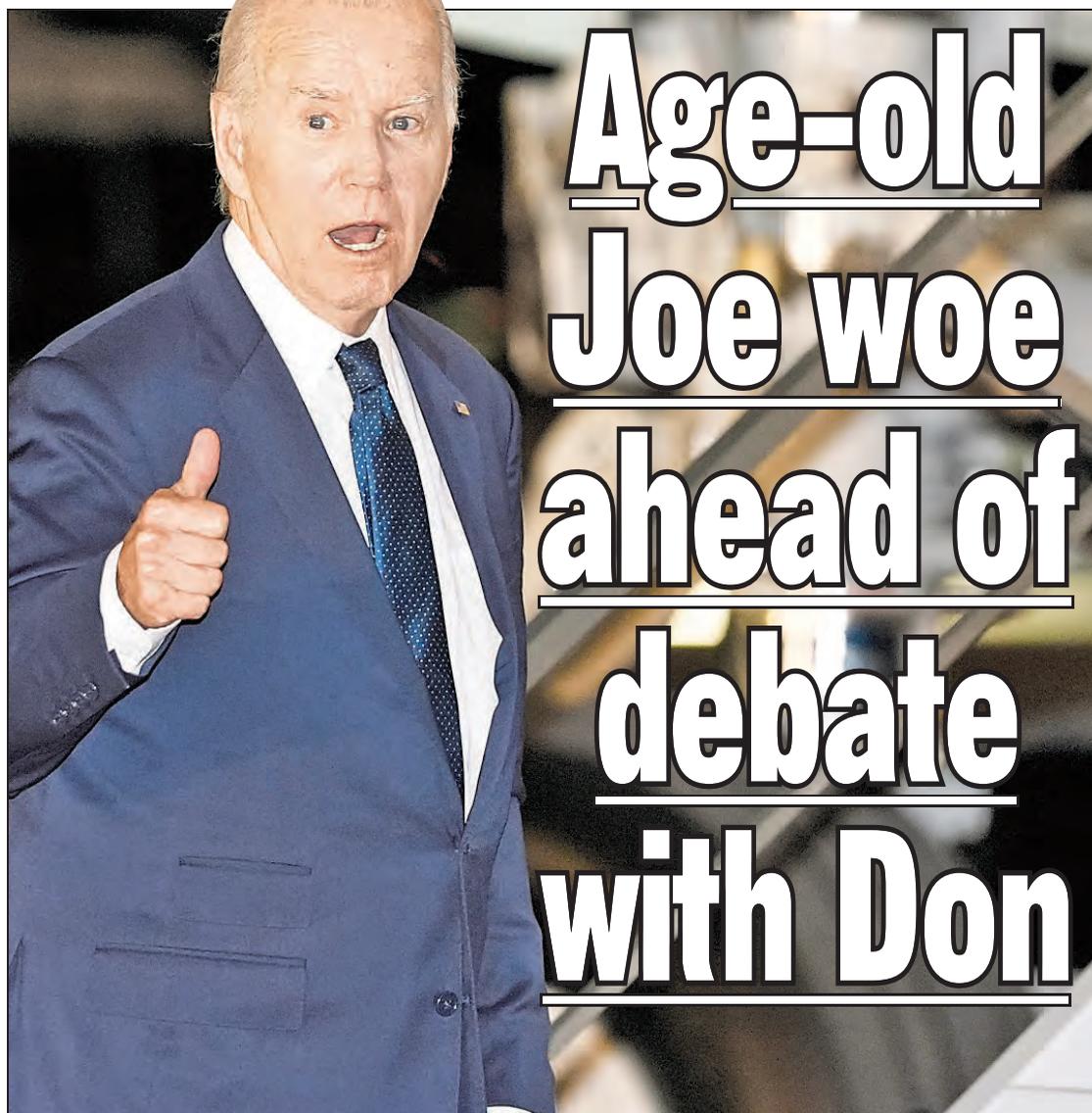
## 'Sleep well, big guy?'

Another unidentified attendee said Biden's missteps were "embarrassing."

Then there was the faux pas of French President Emmanuel Macron, who approached Biden on the morning of Day 2 and asked, "Sleep well, big guy?" Oops.

It must have been lost in translation to Macron that "big guy" was Biden's nickname in his family's influence-peddling scheme.

Finally, the president had a public dust-up with core supporters — the American media. When he scolded a reporter for asking a question that veered off topic, the White House Correspondents Association issued a sharp statement declaring that "there are no pre-conditions regarding question topics" and took a slap at the president for not holding more news conferences.



The chain of events is not the run-up Biden wanted for the June 27 debate with Trump, an early showdown that Biden demanded.

It was a bold bet to try to energize a demoralized party and head off Trump's momentum before the conventions, but the debate now looms as a crucial test of Biden's mental and physical fitness.

Television and digital audiences will be enormous, but Biden faces an uphill battle to persuade even half the nation he's ready for four more years.

An astounding 86% of voters think he's too old for a second term, according to an ABC/Ipsos survey. A New York Times poll found that 61% of those who voted for him in 2020 think Biden is "just too old" to be an effective president.

That would seem to be more than trouble enough, yet the president is also dogged by major policy failures. The open southern

border is widely seen as a calamity that will take years to resolve.

The economy, including inflation, also gets a thumbs-down from most Americans, and there is wide belief that Biden's weak leadership is provoking global turmoil.

The White House's obsession with imposing coercive cultural and environmental policies also work in Trump's favor.

## Swing state slivers

Although Trump has managed to put some formerly blue states in play, especially Nevada, the overall race remains razor-close, with his small leads in the swing states falling within the margin of error.

The upshot is that the debate could be pivotal.

In a recent interview, Trump made it clear he is not counting on Biden being a mumbling, stumbling wreck at their Atlanta face-off.

"They'll juice him up," he told me, speaking of the president's handlers. "He'll be fine. Whatever they gave him for the State of the Union, they'll do it again."

He might be right, and at any rate it's smart not to count on Biden being at his worst.

For one thing, the two CNN moderators, Jake Tapper and Dana Bash, have relentlessly trashed Trump for eight years and it's unlikely they even remember how to be fair.

Watch for their attempts to protect Biden by quickly moving to another topic when he stumbles. Citing the clock is a trick left-leaning moderators often use to rescue Dem candidates from a jam.

When he's on offense, the president will repeatedly turn to the buzz-words that resonate with the Dems' base: Jan. 6, convicted felon and democracy, democracy, democracy.

Trump will have to answer each

charge repeatedly, and his answers are likely to include accusations that Biden is orchestrating the string of prosecutions and civil cases against him.

At the same time, Trump can make debate history by honestly saying that indictments by Democrat prosecutors helped make him the nominee.

More important than any choice of words, however, will be Trump's demeanor. The best antidote to the left's caricatures of him as a fascist and a buffoon are calm, coherent and factual responses.

Bottom line: He needs to act and sound more like a president than a challenger.

## On-stage strategizing

In that sense, Hunter Biden's conviction poses a tricky terrain. Given that Joe Biden lied in their second debate four years ago about the son's laptop being "a Russian plant," Trump would be foolish not to cite the fact that the laptop has been authenticated by the Justice Department.

But if he goes too far and gloats over the president's son being convicted, Biden could win the sympathy vote.

In fact, Trump doesn't need to take many risks. Because he holds the momentum, he can win the debate simply by not losing it. That is his biggest advantage.

Biden, meanwhile, has to go for a knockout. Doubts about his fitness and policies give him little room to maneuver, which is why I believe his attacks will aim to reinforce doubts about Trump's character.

The risk for Biden is that he gets too hot and begins shouting like an old man telling children to get off his lawn.

Abortion is probably the only policy opening Biden can exploit. The overturning of Roe is still working its way through the political bloodstream at the state level, but Dems have scored by emphasizing that a constitutional right has been taken away. As a result, even red states have preserved some rights to abortion.

Trump has tried to chart an acceptable compromise by insisting that restrictions always include exceptions for the health and safety of the mother, but he and the GOP are playing defense with nuanced arguments.

That's not a good place to be in politics, especially in debates.

Look for Biden and his CNN helpers to repeatedly hammer home the point.

mgoodwin@nypost.com

## BORDER CRISIS

## MIGRANTS 'FALL'

By BRAD HAMILTON and  
GEORGIA WORRELL

It's the melting pot of all scams. Russian gangsters, MS-13 members and a cadre of corrupt surgeons, lawyers and lenders are pulling off the latest big con in the city: bogus personal-injury lawsuits where immigrants go under the knife to help their twisted ruse.

Migrants and other desperate New Yorkers are pressured into getting unneeded spinal fusion surgery and other operations to boost the value of their fake-accident claims, according to court records, insurance investigators and law-enforcement sources.

Doctors cash in on the sick swindle by performing back and neck fusions, allowing fraudsters to swipe billions through bogus insurance filings, according to court filings and sources.

The racket typically involves a healthy person taking a seemingly minor tumble on the street or at a construction site, then claiming a devastating injury that requires multiple surgeries. A crooked surgeon fuses healthy vertebrae with screws and plates, leading to a lawsuit against a business or landlord or both. Settlements start at \$1 million each but can go much higher.

"One-five is now on the cheap side," said an insurance industry lawyer who asked for anonymity.

### Partners in crime

These scams rely on law firms that take on hundreds of such cases, along with high-profile doctors, sketchy lending firms and an army of "runners" who recruit victims and orchestrate their falls, according to legal papers and sources familiar with the mix of schemes.

The set-up is fed by a seemingly endless supply of low-income dupes willing to risk their health for a quick score.

"They're regularly recruiting migrants and homeless people and in some cases are proactively arranging for them to come to New York," a private investigator told The Post.

"Shot callers" pocket most of the windfall settlements, while those who pose as injured receive as little as \$1,000 each, according to testimony in one case. Their share gets shriveled by sky-high

## MS-13, Russian crooks, att'ys & docs join up in surgery 'fraud'

interest on loans they're told they need for medical and legal expenses.

Russian hoodlums are suspected of running lending firms that fund trip-and-fall lawsuits and surgeries — often at hugely inflated rates to goose settlement figures, sources told The Post.

"They're well-versed in this kind of thing," said a recently retired NYPD supervisor.

MS-13 leaders provide a pipeline of Hispanic migrants, some of whom are brought to New York specifically to fake injuries, sources said. They said the gang ropes in unsuspecting border crossers with offers to drive them to the city, pay for meals and provide spending cash before pressuring them into phony accidents.

A private investigator said an MS-13 informant at a construction company revealed plans for a worker to fall off a ladder — and it happened just as the tipster said it would, said the sleuth.

Setting up fake falls is "so successful for MS-13," he said. "Rival gangs are now trying it."

But MS-13 leaders are not experienced in white collar crime, according to gang expert Lou Savelli, who founded the NYPD gang unit and now consults for police and other law enforcement agencies. "That's where the Russians come in. They have the lawyers."

NYPD investigators found one integrated Russian-led operation — with doctors, lawyers, lenders and physical therapists all in the same office building, said a former police supervisor.

"It was one-stop shopping. Ev-

eryone was in the same place," he said, adding that authorities were unable to build a case against the group.

The Russian-MS-13 partnership "is a perfect marriage for them," said a second ex-NYPD source.

Insurance insiders claim losses have tripled since the pandemic, with payouts so massive they're driving up the cost of living for all New Yorkers.

One insurer, Tradesman Program Managers, which covers construction companies in the city, says it forked over \$142 million in 2022, three times the \$36 million it paid out in 2018.

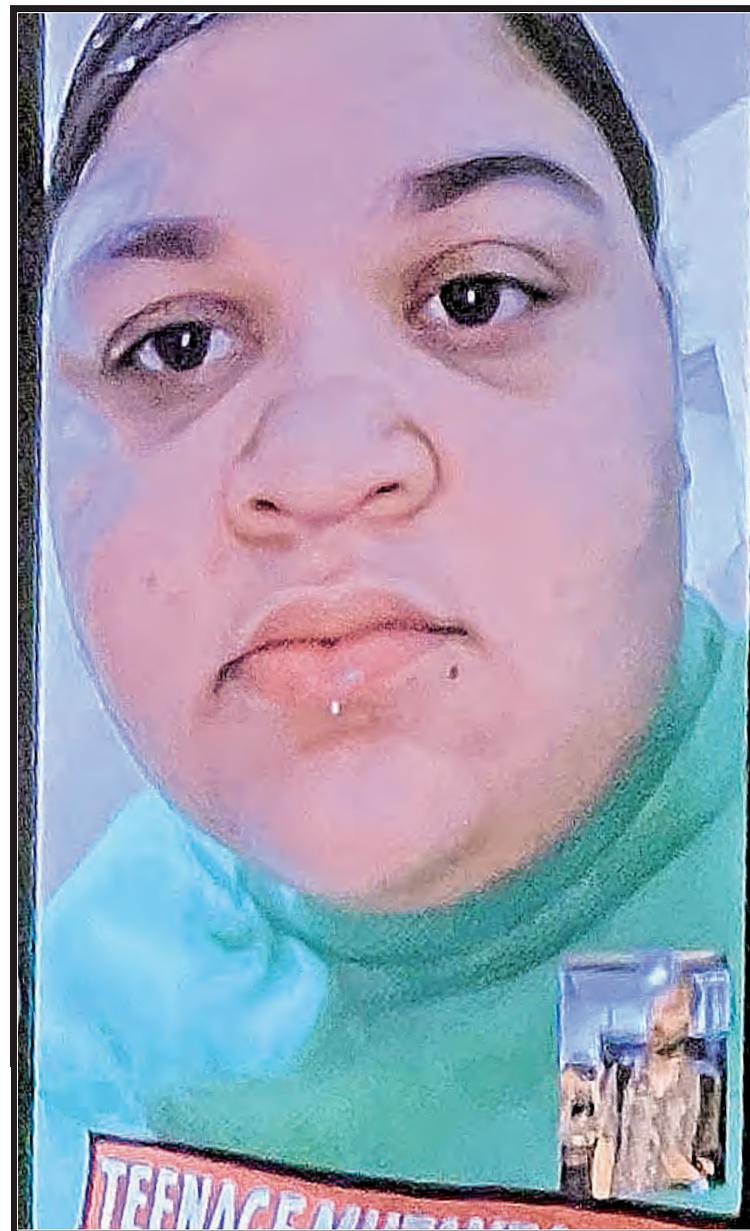
The Poughkeepsie-based firm claims it has been hit with 650 fraudulent suits in the last four years.

"We're talking billions collectively across the city," said an insurance executive who asked not to be identified.

### 'Undisclosed tax'

Tradesman and its underwriter sued eight doctors and two law firms — Gorayeb & Associates and Fogelgaren Forman & Bergman — along with 36 lawyers, healthcare providers and companies in Brooklyn federal court in March, citing RICO racketeering laws used to prosecute Mafia dons.

"They train the migrants how to act at some of these staged accidents," Tradesman lawyer Kirk Willis told ABC 7. "And then when the people are hurt — allegedly hurt — they go to the lawyer first, not the doctor, and the lawyer then starts a course that sets



up these fraudulent lawsuits."

The state's Scaffold Law says builders are considered fully at fault for any accident involving a fallen worker, and that empowers criminals, said Rygo Foss, general counsel for construction consultant Andromeda Advantage Inc. of Long Island City, Queens.

"We have 59 cases that we've identified as fraudulent," said Foss, who projects those claims will cost as much as \$100 million to settle or reach a verdict. "And that's if it all stops now. It's a huge issue. Everyone's getting hit."

"Every contractor is affected because their rates go up every

year and they pass along the costs," said defense lawyer Steven Katz. "It affects every single building. It's an undisclosed tax."

Rumors of a potential federal probe have circulated among litigants for weeks. One confidential source told The Post he has shared information with the FBI.

Law enforcement has done little to stop the scams, but one case brought by the feds revealed details on how they work.

A whistleblower in the prosecution of Dr. Sady Ribeiro — a Manhattan surgeon sentenced to three years in prison last March for doing unnecessary back oper-

# FOR INJURY CON

## ANATOMY OF A SCAM

Here's how 26-year-old Manhattan hotel housekeeper Lesly Ortiz (left) went from a simple sidewalk stumble with no discernible injury to having fusion surgeries on her neck and back (like the one pictured below), leaving her with "unbearable" pain.



■ An ex-boyfriend of her aunt allegedly involved in fraud suggests she contact Subin Associates law firm and its lead attorney, Herbert Subin (left).

■ Subin allegedly sends Ortiz to All Boro Medical Rehabilitation, co-founded by suspended spine and pain specialist Dr. Kevin Weiner (right).



■ All Boro allegedly sends her to Dr. Michael Gerling (left), an orthopedic surgeon who performs two fusion operations on her.

■ Finally, Herbert Subin sues the sidewalk property owner on her behalf, alleging the fall caused lasting pain.

Source: A 2023 fraud claim in Manhattan Supreme Court and interviews with Ortiz and sources

coincidence is arguably statistically impossible," the firm claimed in court papers.

Subin, whose lead attorney Herbert Subin represented Ortiz, relied on All Boro Medical Rehab for doctor referrals, according to the filing.

All Boro co-founder Dr. Kevin Weiner had his medical license suspended by the state last year and was banned from prescribing medicine and doing surgeries after it found he was guilty of "negligence" and "incompetence" and performed "unwarranted test/treatments" on patients between 2013 and 2017, according to agency records and court papers.

### Cases dropped

Ortiz said she was unaware of the allegation and that she's lost touch with her aunt. "I don't know anything because I haven't lived with her in years," she said.

Subin, which handled 11 of the 12 family lawsuits, asked to be relieved from those cases, and a judge agreed. Ortiz said she never got any money, and now owes thousands of dollars to a lending firm that fronted her the funds for her filing and her operations.

On May 16, a Subin litigator told a judge in Manhattan Supreme Court that the firm likely would need to step away from 200 to 300 cases brought in from an unidentified outside individual on advice of its ethics counsel.

"We have questions about the reliability of this referral source," said lawyer Mark Meleka.

Subin, which has already walked away from 170 lawsuits, allegedly engaged in a decadelong pattern of using "problematic sources" and in one case relied on a "runner or runners who either staged or otherwise induced the firm's clients to manufacture bodily injury" claims, according to a June 12 filing by Exo Industries, a Queens construction firm.

Subin did not return calls seeking comment.

Gerling, who last year was named in a suit brought by Geico in which the insurance company alleged he performed unnecessary surgeries, denied he was involved in any fraud.

Additional reporting by Matthew Sedacca and Susanna Granieri

This story was reported with The Hatch Institute, a journalism foundation in New York.

ations as part of a scam — said those procedures were the key to getting top-dollar payouts.

"It was always a back injury," testified Peter Kalkanis, a former chiropractor who pocketed \$2 million for orchestrating more than 200 accidents over four years. And if someone balked at having fusion, "the case would be dropped," he said.

Among the accused is "Dr. Bo," Gbolahan Okubadejo, a Johns Hopkins-trained spinal surgeon from Nigeria with offices in Manhattan and New Jersey who allegedly performed unnecessary fusion operations, according to papers filed in Manhattan Supreme Court in May.

Okubadejo allegedly performed neck and back fusions on Edvaldo Nunes Oliveira, a construction worker who emigrated from Brazil in 2013 and didn't require sur-

gery — as well as on other plaintiffs repped by the Midtown firm Wingate, Russotti, Shapiro, Moses & Halperin, stated lawyer Scott Brody, who represents the defendant landlord and construction company, in the filing.

An assistant to the doctor, who has not been criminally charged in any case, said his office was unaware of the filing. Wingate did not return calls seeking comment.

### Only pain for plaintiffs

Among the migrants who allegedly participated in such scams is Lesly Ortiz, a native of the Dominican Republic who came to New York in 2018 at the age of 20 and found work as a hotel housekeeper. She hoped to own a home and start a family in the city.

A year later, she tripped on the sidewalk on West 158th Street in

Manhattan, landing on her backside. Passersby asked if she wanted someone to call 911. She declined and went home, according to court documents.

But the next day Ortiz went to the ER at NewYork-Presbyterian's Columbia University-affiliated hospital, where medics X-rayed her left wrist and knee and found nothing wrong, records show. Doctors prescribed ibuprofen and sent her home.

What Ortiz didn't realize was that her aunt's ex-boyfriend was part of a ring of notorious runners, according to sources familiar with the case.

He suggested she contact the law firm Subin Associates, Ortiz told The Post, and she signed on as a client 24 hours after leaving the hospital.

She said Subin then directed her to Dr. Michael Gerling, an or-

thopedic surgeon and former NYU Langone director in Brooklyn who describes himself as New York's "top spine surgeon."

Gerling performed two surgeries — a lumbar and a cervical fusion — that only created more pain, according to Ortiz.

"The pain is unbearable since the operation on my lower back," she said. "I feel like a 60-year-old woman . . . I don't know how I will continue working."

Her case was going forward until defense lawyers filed a motion alleging that Ortiz and 11 other family members, including her aunt, had engaged in fraud. All 12 allegedly suffered injuries at 2011 Amsterdam Ave. or nearby that required fusions, according to the firm Weiner Millo Morgan and Bonanno, which reps a landlord sued by them.

"The idea that this was mere

# BORDER CRISIS

## Suspect 'gangster' from El Salv.: cops DNA nails 'killer' of ma-hiker

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

A migrant from El Salvador has been busted in the brutal 2023 rape and murder of mother-of-five Rachel Morin on a Maryland hiking trail, cops said on Saturday.

Victor Martinez-Hernandez, 23, was tracked down in Tulsa, Okla., on Friday, after police matched his DNA to the crime scene, Harford County, Md., Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler told reporters.

"Rachel's murderer is no longer a free man and, hopefully, he will never have the opportunity to walk free again," Gahler said.

According to police, Martinez-Hernandez has connections to Salvadoran street gangs and had a violent history that included at least one other homicide.

"Victor Hernandez did not come to this country to make a better

life for him or his family, he came here to escape the crimes he committed in El Salvador.

He came here to murder Rachel and God-willing, no one else," Gahler said.

"But that should have never been allowed to happen."

The accused killer illegally crossed into the US in February 2023 after he viciously murdered another young woman.

Martinez-Hernandez was in the US for six months before he targeted Morin while she was walking alone on the Ma & Pa Heritage Trail in Bel Air, officials allege.

Her naked body suffered such severe trauma that family said it looked as if "her head had been smashed in with a rock."

About a month after the killing, police matched Martinez-Hernandez's DNA to a sample recovered at the scene of a home invasion



**NABBED:** Victor Martinez-Hernandez was arrested in the murder of Rachel Morin (cameo) after DNA found at the crime scene was linked to him.

Harford County, Md., Sheriff Facebook

## Pols: End NY refuge

New York City voters in November could have the power to repeal "misguided and dangerous" "sanctuary city" laws that severely limit the NYPD's ability to cooperate with the feds on immigration matters and are a clear "threat to public safety."

Joe Borelli (R-SI), Robert Holden (D-Qns.) and six other members of the City Council's "Common Sense Caucus" fired off a letter this week to a newly appointed Charter Revision Commission, asking it to put a referendum question on the ballot to determine whether to roll back the "sanctuary" laws that help criminals avoid deportation.

"We are writing to urge the Charter Revision Commission to advance a ballot initiative asking voters if New York City should repeal recent so-called 'sanctuary city' laws that prohibit members of law enforcement and other agencies from cooperating with federal authorities to help detain or remove unauthorized, noncitizens who have committed crimes in our city," says the letter dated this past week.

Rich Calder

## \$50M to 'immig' lefties

The Biden administration quietly funneled \$50 million in taxpayer funds earmarked for clean energy to two groups that oppose immigration enforcement.

The US Environmental Protection Agency tapped the New York Immigration Coalition and New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

as partners to distribute \$50 million of \$3 billion set aside in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for environmental and climate block grants, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Both groups' missions have nothing to do with protecting the environment.

Instead, they adamantly support abolishing the US

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, believe guarding borders is "racist and classist," and want to block state and local government employees from cooperating with officials, said Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), whose office is probing IRA spending. Rich Calder

The Biden administration is planning to offer work permits and deportation protections to illegal immigrants who marry American citizens, provided they've lived in the US at 10 years.

The program, known as Parole in Place, would also clear the way to perma-

nent legal status and US citizenship for hundreds of thousands of migrants, CBS News reported.

It would gut existing laws to remove obstacles preventing anyone who entered the US illegally from obtaining green cards without leaving the country.

Another plan being

pushed by President Biden would allow migrants to request waivers that would make it easier for them to obtain temporary visas, such as H-1B visas for high-skilled workers, sources told CBS News.

The measures are expected to face major GOP pushback. Rich Calder

## Illegal? Just marry up!

# Adams revokes Diddy city key

Mayor Adams revoked Sean 'Diddy' Combs' key to NYC, less than three weeks after a shocking video leaked of the rap mogul beating his ex, The Post learned Saturday.

The key was returned after Adams fired off a June 4 letter to Combs, according to Fabien Levy, deputy mayor for communications.

"I strongly condemn these actions and stand in solidarity with all survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. Our city has worked tirelessly to make sure survivors are heard and seen by our administration," Adams wrote, adding that he was "deeply disturbed" by the footage.

On May 17, CNN released surveillance video of Combs shoving, dragging and kicking his then-girlfriend, R&B singer Cassie Ventura, in 2016.

Last week, Howard University revoked the "It's All About the Benjamins" singer's honorary degree he received in 2014 and returned his \$1 million donation.

The university said the video "is so fundamentally incompatible with Howard University's core values and beliefs that he is deemed no longer worthy to hold the institution's highest honor."

On May 19, Combs, 54, released a video statement via Instagram, saying, "My behavior on that video is inexcusable."

The Post reached out to Combs for comment.

Angela Barbuti

# HOW COULD U?!

## Suit: Roomie stole my dorm couture & thrifted it for cheap

By KATHIANNE BONIELLO

This NYU freshman was allegedly earning a degree in grand larceny.

A first-year political science major ripped off roughly \$50,000 worth of her roommate's pricey possessions, including luxe labels such as Gucci, Chanel and Bulgari — and then hawked them online for a quick buck, according to a lawsuit.

Aurora Agapov — whose Russian mining-magnate father, Andre, has a net worth of about \$75 million and counts a pal of Russian President Vladimir Putin on his company's board of directors — realized some of her belongings were missing last month as she completed her freshman year, according to a Manhattan Supreme Court lawsuit.

Agapov became suspicious of her roommate Kaitlyn Fung, 18, after finding a receipt in the Old Tappan, NJ, girl's pocketbook from consignment retailer The Real Real that listed Agapov's missing items, according to court papers. The company has an app and a Soho outlet on Wooster Street.

"My heart dropped," said Agapov, 19, an arts major originally from London.

The roomies had been "quite good friends" before she discovered her pal was

allegedly robbing her blind, Agapov told The Post.

"We spoke pretty much every day. I'd say we didn't really have any falling outs or anything," she said. "If anything our relationship got better towards the second semester."

### I'm movin' out

When she realized in May the extent of the theft, Agapov told Fung to spend the night elsewhere and moved her own stuff out of their room at NYU's Founders Hall dorm on East 12th Street.

"I didn't sleep that night," she said. "My mother gifted me those things. They mean a lot to me."

Fung's sales skills were as bad as her thievery, the lawsuit alleged, as she massively undervalued the stolen goods that were sold.

She is accused of selling Agapov's Bulgari necklace — worth \$13,000 — for a measly \$2,485, and a Chanel Strauss bracelet valued at \$2,000 for just \$175, Agapov said in court papers.

Other stolen items were listed for sale but had yet to be purchased by the time Agapov realized what was going on, including a Solange Azagury 18-karat ruby ring valued at \$23,765; a Celine Nanno tote worth \$3,300; and a Chanel purse worth \$4,000, she said in the legal filing.



**CRIME OF FASHION:** Aurora Agapov, the daughter of a Russian mining millionaire, claims Kaitlyn Fung (right) nicked her stuff.

Courtesy of Aurora Agapov

### Hell of a haul

An NYU student claims her roommate made off with her pricey accessories:



She also allegedly stole Agapov's Gucci and Celine handbags, but had the items returned to her, Agapov said in the litigation.

### Larceny arrest

Fung was arrested May 2 on a third-degree grand larceny charge and released. The criminal case is pending.

When Agapov went to the Real Real storefront to

get her stuff back, a worker told her Fung's mom had appeared days earlier to collect the items, she said in court papers.

Fung did not return messages seeking comment.

NYU said it was prohibited by law from revealing disciplinary actions against individual students, but spokesman John Beckman called stealing from a roommate "a lousy thing to do, and a rarity among the

12,000 students we have in student housing," adding that consequences typically include suspension.

The Real Real said it requires consignors to confirm they have the right to sell items and that they are not stolen.

"If we receive any information that items might be stolen, we act fast by removing them from the site and starting an investigation," a rep said.

## Feds' 'cash' & release in \$100K Qns. catch

The couple who caught a safe crammed with \$100,000 while magnet fishing in a Queens lake may have hit the mother lode — but they won't be able to tap into their newfound fortune until next year.

James Kane and Barbie Agostini last Friday lugged their muddy and water-

logged riches to the Treasury Department in DC, where an 11-person team will spend up to nine months rifling through the soggy cash and replacing it with new bills. When they finish, Kane and Agostini will be handed the fresh pile of cash, tax-free. "America the beautiful!"

Kane (pictured left) told The New York Times.

The Treasury Department has a team at its Bureau of Engraving & Printing dedicated to the odd — but not unusual — predicament Kane and Agostini found themselves in.

Typically, the crew deals with remnants of money —

sometimes reduced to literal dust — that family members find buried in their backyards.

In the lobby of the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, officials immediately estimated that Kane had somewhere between \$50,000 and \$70,000 on hand.

Katherine Donlevy



AP

# Broker bro 'carried coke'

## Page Six®

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## Hooked on fame

THE devil? Us?! Surely not. Oscar-winning songwriter **Paul Williams**, who co-wrote "Evergreen" and "Rainbow Connection," was — perhaps unusually for a songwriter — in the public eye and a mainstay on talk shows in the 1970s. "I became addicted to the attention as much as all the drugs and alcohol I was consuming," he told PageSix.com's **Nicki Gostin** at the Songwriters Hall of Fame induction and awards gala. "I am at this point in my life 34 years sober and open about my recovery," he continued, "and as a matter of fact sometimes I think I'm playing with the devil when I stop to talk to reporters on a red carpet!" (Yes, we ruffle the occasional feather, but "satanic" seems a little much!)



## Taylor made

THE director behind a new Elizabeth Taylor doc was shocked by how horribly the movie star was treated after news broke of her affair with Richard Burton in 1962. "How much she was slut-shamed and the just the level of being the first modern celebrity," **Nanette Burstein** (above) told Page Six. "I don't think I quite understood the paparazzi insanity of her life." Burstein's new HBO doc, "Elizabeth Taylor: The Lost Tapes," which screened Tuesday at the Tribeca Festival, includes 40 hours of newly unearthed audio interviews with the late actress.

MILLIONAIRE real estate broker **Oren Alexander** — who along with his twin brother, **Alon** is accused of rape — would carry drugs to ply women with at parties, though he didn't use the stuff himself, a source tells Page Six.

Two women filed lawsuits this past week alleging the brothers, 36, raped each of them in the early 2010s. **Kate Whiteman** claims in her suit that the Alexanders took turns raping her in 2012 at **Ivan Wilzig's** Hamptons "castle," dubbed "the Playboy Mansion of the East Coast" and known for holding sex parties.

Our source tells us they saw the brothers at Wilzig's bashes in 2011, 2012 and 2013, and at one party in 2016. "They'd be out most week-

ends," said the source. "Ivan would host them. They had a room upstairs and would live there."

Wilzig is known to host X-rated bacchanals that end with guests allegedly getting naked in the pool and heading to an S&M dungeon for the evening.

"Oren had cocaine with him and would tell people [that he and Alon] didn't do it but they 'carry it around for the girls,'" we're told.

A lawyer for the brothers did not return requests for comment.

In her lawsuit, Whiteman alleges that after leaving a club, Alon dragged her into an SUV where Oren was waiting. They then allegedly took her to the castle and attacked her.

Wilzig is named in the suit for reputed negligence — but has been in no way implicated in the assault and rape allegations.

The twins allegedly attacked another woman in 2010 after drugging her at a Manhattan club.

A lawyer for the brothers has denied all claims in the suits, previously stating, "This suit was brought public after [the Alexanders] chose not to give in to a demand in the tens of millions of dollars. We are confident this matter will be resolved in [their] favor given an extensive collection of powerful evidence including phone records, text messages, emails and other documents whose content clearly debunks these claims."



Greece is the word for **Lauren Sanchez** and **Jeff Bezos**, as the billion-dollar bedfellows take a stroll before dinner on the island of Hydra.

## This woman's all write

**DIANE Warren** — the musical maestro who has written songs for **Cher**, **Lady Gaga**, **Whitney Houston**, **Tina Turner** and **Céline Dion** — has never had a serious romantic relationship. She recognizes the irony that she's written so many memorable love songs. "[I know] nothing about love and I don't want to get close to anyone," she said. "I know it's weird, [but] it's weird in the right way." Warren is open about being neurodivergent. "I have Asperger's," she told Page Six at the Songwriters Hall of Fame induction and awards gala, where she was honored. "I don't have a serious case of it — just enough to help me concentrate really well and be socially awkward."

## Good as Goldman's history

SOME famous figures from Goldman Sachs' recent history turned out for a dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the investment bank's IPO, Page Six hears. Spies said current CEO **David Solomon** (right) was joined by current execs including **John Waldron**, **John Rogers** and **Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani**, as well as former leaders like **Hank Paulson**, **Lloyd Blankfein** and **John Thain**, in a private room at the legendary Financial District haunt Delmonico's. According to a source in the



room, Solomon addressed the crowd, saying, "We always act like we have something to prove — just like we did on the day we went public."

## Firebrand Jude dishes on history's sudsiest royal

**JUDE Law** says he learned "so much" about Henry VIII while playing him in "Firebrand." Including "that he drank beer for breakfast and gin for dinner, that he used to carry rose oil on a handkerchief because he smelled so bad," Law told PageSix.com's **Nicki Gostin** at the movie's Tribeca Festival premiere. Jude says the king's infamous six marriages, including two that ended in execution (of the wives — never of Henry), have been "glorified." He sees "Firebrand" — about Henry's relationship with his final wife, **Catherine Parr** — as celebrating Queen Catherine, "the survivor who won." The following night, Law, who is in town filming a series called "Black Rabbit," attended a Cinema Society screening of the buzzed-about flick. Co-star **Alicia Vikander** admitted she knew little about Parr before playing her. "I was very embarrassed when I read the script," she said, "to find out that she was the first woman to be published under her own name and she was extremely progressive."

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@Page Six



## Sam's Keys to success

**ALICIA Keys** made a surprise appearance at Julius' — the city's oldest gay bar — for a 10th anniversary celebration of singer **Sam Smith's** debut album, "The Lonely Hour," during Pride. New York's funniest drag queen **Lady Bunny** DJed the bash and ended up hazing singer-turned-Broadway composer Keys. Bunny pretended not to know who Keys was — and introduced the singer as Alice Keys instead. "I said she was an emerging new artist," Bunny shared on social media. "She was a great sport, and giggled at it. Sam was super nice and sounded fab!" Bunny added. The performer also complimented Keys in her post, apologizing for not playing her 2005 song "Unbreakable." "To me, that's a masterpiece!" Bunny wrote. Meanwhile, fashion designer **Christian Siriano** celebrated Pride with his "Rupaul's Drag Race" muse **Gottmik** at Park Lane's Darling rooftop bar on Wednesday. **Kelly Bensimon** was also on the scene, dishing about how excited she is about her upcoming nuptials to **Scott Litner**. Speaking of designers, **LaQuan Smith** honored celebrity stylist **Law Roach** at **Emil Wilbekin's** Native Son Awards at the IAC building.

## Hitting close to home

**SONGSMITH Desmond Child** got his mom "out of the ghetto" with his first big paycheck. "It was \$65,000 for [the 1979] Kiss song 'I Was Made for Lovin' You,'" he told Page-Six.com's **Nicki Gostin** at the Songwriters Hall of Fame induction gala. "The thing that made me most proud was that I immediately went and got my mother out of the ghetto and got her an apartment on Miami Beach and got her everything new — new car and new clothes." Child credits his work ethic to "growing up poor, growing up gay, growing up Latino. I always feel like I have to wake up in the morning and try even harder . . . I've had six decades of No. 1 hits, so I'm good till 2030!"



**Claire Danes** has the Big Apple in her pocket. The actress kept it casual in summery NYC Friday with a Farm Rio romper and Birkenstocks.

How's that for a tennis skirt? Ultra-glam **Serena Williams** arrives at the Tribeca Film Festival's "In The Arena: Serena Williams" premiere Thursday.

## Soiree with Stetsons

**POWER** publicist **Susan Magrino** hosted her Magrino Summer Soirée for guests who included longtime client **Martha Stewart** — who went home with a Stetson gardening hat as a party favor. Also there were author **Candace Bushnell**, fashion designer **Nicole Miller**, hair guru **Frédéric Fekkai**, hospitality guru **Richie Notar**, wedding planner **Marcy Blum**, Bergdorf Goodman's **Linda Fargo**, venture capitalist **Susan Lyne**, socialites including **Gillian Miniter** and media mavens **Caroline Hirsch** and **Christopher Mason**.

## Sightings

**CHRIS Rock**, **Eddie Murphy**, **Trevor Noah**, **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** and **Martha Stewart** at NeueHouse for an event with comedians **Amy Schumer** and **Keith Robinson** . . . **Julie Chen Moonves**, **Susan Stroman**, **Carson Kressley** and **Douglas Carter Beane** at "The Heart of Rock and Roll" at Broadway's **James Earl Jones Theatre** . . . **MARCUS Samuelsson** at his grand opening of Marcus Live! at American Dream . . . **GLAMOUR** editor **Samantha Barry** moderating a panel after a Cinema Society screening of "Blue Lights."

More celebrity photos at [nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

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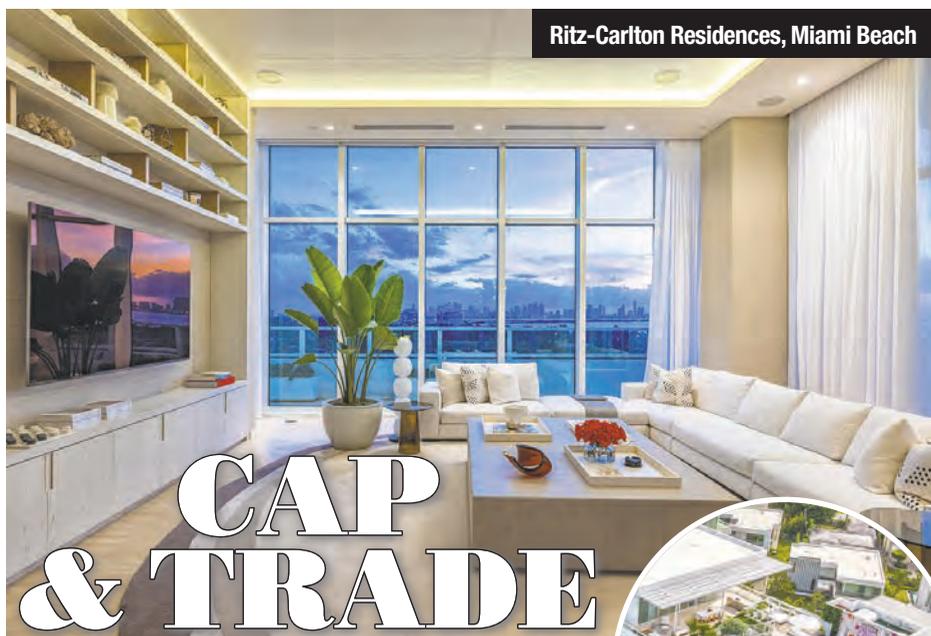


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# Gimme Shelter

## JENNIFER GOULD



Ritz-Carlton Residences, Miami Beach

## CAP & TRADE

**T**HIS couple sold their house for \$87 million and then downsized — to a \$17.25 million penthouse. Retired banker **Javier Holtz** and his spouse, **Andria** (both below), sold their Indian Creek, Fla., home to Amazon titan **Jeff Bezos** (inset), one of the world's richest people. Then they went on a search for something smaller. In this case, that meant buying a \$15.75 million penthouse with its own pool and throwing in an additional \$1.5 million for the furniture. The sale was

first reported by the Real Deal. Javier, the former chairman and CEO of Marquis Bank, and Andria sold their seven-bedroom residence at 28 Indian Creek Island to Bezos in April after buying it for \$2.5 million in 1998, sources told Gimme Shelter. It's Bezos's third home purchase in the gated community, bringing his total investment in properties on the ritzy island enclave to \$234 million. The Holtzes then bought a four-bedroom, 4½-bath penthouse at the Ritz-Carlton Residences, Miami Beach. It will be their primary residence, sources said. Neighbors include **Mike Piazza**, the All-Star former New York Mets catcher, and supermodel **Cindy Crawford** and her husband **Rande Gerber**. The Holtzes' new penthouse at 4701 Meridian Ave. first listed for \$19.9 million six months ago. At 5,936 square feet, it features floor-to-ceiling windows and a wrap terrace that is 4,000 square feet with panoramic city views. "It's more like a home on a rooftop," a source said. The sellers are **James** and **Amy Dieterich**, via an LLC. They paid \$15 million for the home in 2021. The listing broker was Coldwell Banker's **Grace Dieterich**, sister-in-law of James. The buyers' brokers were **Andrew Holtz**, the couple's son, and **Nancy Batchelor** of Compass.



Javier Holtz/Facebook; FilmMagic



98 La Gorce Circle

The Waterfront Team

## Gorce of action

**DEVELOPER Philippe Harari** just sold his Miami Beach spec house on exclusive La Gorce Island for \$62.5 million, a record for the enclave. While the buyer is currently unknown, the home, at 98 La Gorce Circle, had previously been in contract for more than \$70 million to a former NBA team owner, Gimme Shelter has learned. It's original ask was \$75 million. Harari, of Aqua-blue, bought the property for \$9.33

million in 2019. The sale was first reported by the Real Deal. The island's past and present residents include **Cher** and **Billy Joel**. At more than 12,800 square feet, the seven-bedroom "Villa Arte" is more like a ritzy resort than a home. Harari was represented by One Sotheby's International's **Mirce Curkoski** and **Albert Justo**. The buyer was reped by **Jill Eber** with the Jills Zeder Group.

lgestasiaphotography.com / @gjb1112



5 Beekman St.

Tina Gallo

## 'Girl' power

"GOSSIP GIRL" fans can film their own series from this \$10.99 million penthouse atop the Beekman Hotel in Manhattan's Financial District. This full-floor spread was Julien Calloway's luxury lair in the HBO Max reboot — and the views are spectacular. Calloway, played by **Jordan Alexander** (below), was an influencer and model on the show, and the penthouse could have been her muse. **Daniel Boulud** and **Tom Colicchio** reservations? The top chefs' restaurants, Le Gratin and Temple Court, are just an elevator ride away. Want to go further? Other perks at the Beekman Residences include a luxury Lincoln Navigator house car for use by residents. At 3,554 square feet, the top-floor pad at 5 Beekman St. comes with three bedrooms. The seller, "Scrappy 51, LLC," paid \$10.4 million for it in 2020. The listing brokers are Douglas Elliman's **Kirsten Jordan** and **Matthew Vinci**.



GC Images



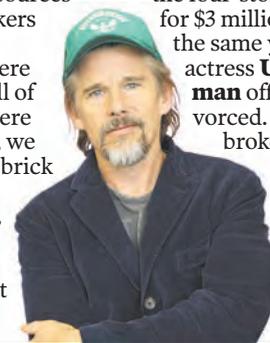
353 W. 21st St.

Richard Caolan; Getty Images

## Sale 'Before Sunset'

**ETHAN HAWKE's** (below) former Chelsea townhouse has sold for \$6.3 million — more than \$300,000 above its initial ask, Gimme Shelter has learned. The all-cash deal followed a bidding war with multiple offers over the \$5.98 million asking price, sources said. The brokers showed the house for a mere two weeks. All of the bidders were local families, we hear. The red brick residence, at 353 W. 21st St., is in a landmarked district. At 21 feet wide, the

3,600-square-foot home comes with six bedrooms and lots of built-ins. It still has vestiges from Hawke's time there — such as a retro red fridge and mustard yellow cabinetry in the charming eat-in kitchen. The "Before" trilogy star bought the four-story property for \$3 million in 2005, the same year he and actress **Uma Thurman** officially divorced. The listing brokers, **Daniel Nassi** and **Alana Normile** of Brown Harris Stevens, declined to comment.



3443 Padaro Lane

Blake Bronstad

## Make-up your bed

**BEAUTY** mogul **Jamie Kern Lima** (below) and her husband **Paolo Lima** are listing their oceanfront spread in Carpinteria, Calif., for \$41.95 million. They had bought the Santa Barbara County beach house from talk show queen **Ellen DeGeneres** and her wife, **Portia de Rossi**, for \$23 million in 2019. (DeGeneres and de Rossi had paid \$18.6 million for the mansion in 2017.) A former news anchor, Kern Lima co-founded

beauty line IT Cosmetics with Paolo in 2008. In 2016, they sold the company to L'Oreal for \$1.2 billion. As part of the deal, Lima stayed on as L'Oreal's first female CEO until 2019 when she and Paolo bought the beach pad at 3443 Padaro Lane. The four-bedroom main house is 5,979 square feet and comes with a one-bedroom, 883-square-foot guest house. The property sits on 1.1 acres with 77 feet on the ocean. The listing broker, Riskin Partners Estate Group, declined to comment.



Getty Images

Sunday



Today: Mostly sunny and pleasant. High 75 to 81.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 62 to 68.

Tuesday

Some sun; warm. High 85 to 91.

Evening Partly cloudy. Low 71 to 77.

Monday



Tomorrow: More humid with times of clouds and sun. High 80 to 86.

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 69 to 75.

Wednesday

Hot with some sun. High 87 to 93.

Evening A moonlit sky. Low 69 to 75.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

Temperature

High: 77, Low: 65, Mean: 71

Departure from Normal

Yesterday: -1 degrees

Precipitation

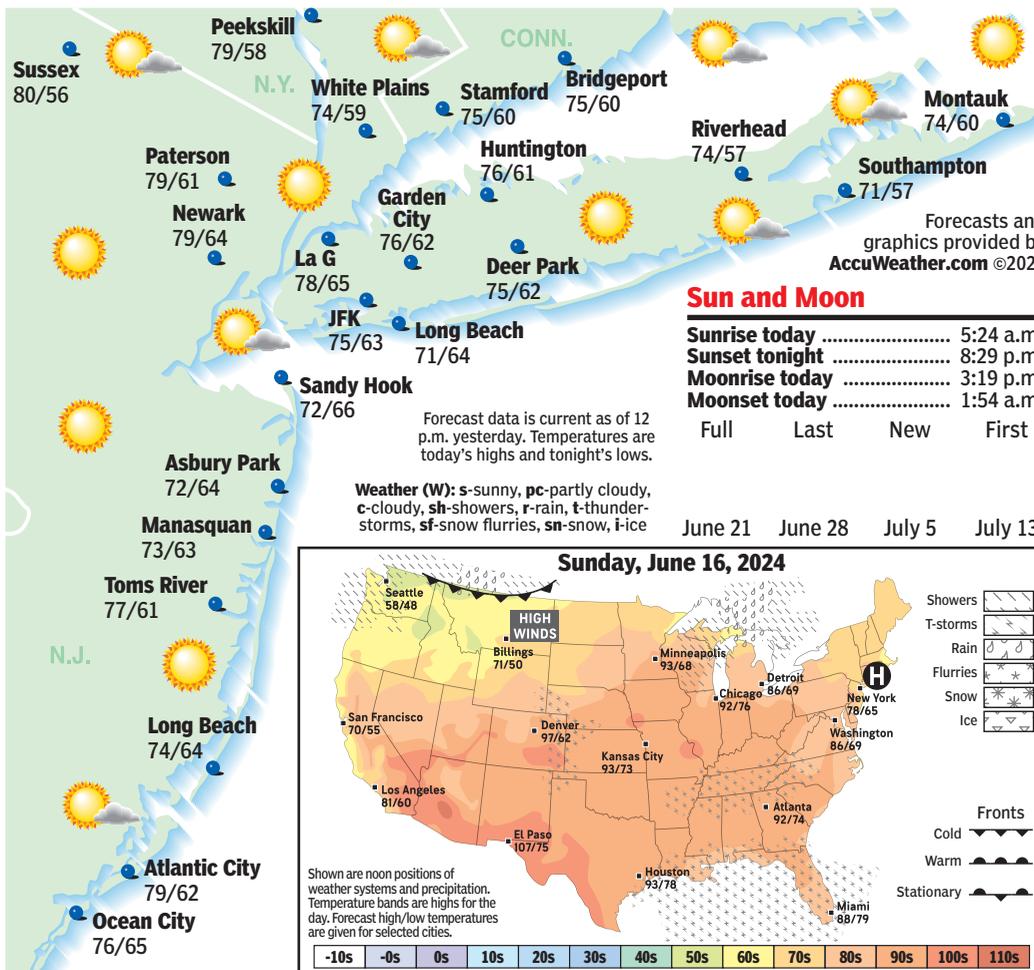
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 1.05", Year: 25.02", Normal year to date: 21.76"

Cooling Degree days yesterday .....6  
 Total for the month (normal) .....108 (85)  
 Total since Jan. 1 (normal) .....217 (166)  
 Last year to date .....147  
 Heat Index (at noon yest.) ..... 77  
 UV index (for Sun.) ..... 11 (Extreme)  
 Humidity (at noon) ..... 45%

AIR QUALITY

Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds

AQI rating: (for Sun.) ..... Good



New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
High Tide for	3:42a	4:27p	4:37a	5:15p
Coney Island	3:56a	4:45p	4:50a	5:30p
Fire Island	8:09a	8:23p	9:05a	9:08p
Hempstead	7:51a	8:09p	8:47a	8:58p
Huntington	3:26a	4:11p	4:21a	4:59p
Jones Inlet	5:30a	6:01p	6:21a	6:44p
Montauk Point	8:20a	8:30p	9:16a	9:15p
Port Washington	3:46a	4:31p	4:41a	5:19p
Sandy Hook				

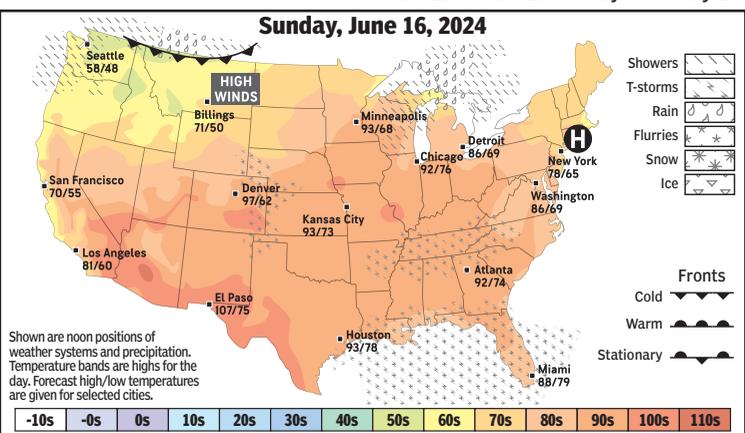
Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	75/59/s	92/69/c
Danbury	78/55/s	83/67/c
Glens Falls	74/54/s	87/64/c
Gr Barrington	77/52/s	87/65/c
Kingston	79/56/s	89/67/c
Liberty	76/55/s	87/62/c
Monticello	77/54/s	89/62/c
Newburgh	80/57/pc	88/68/c
Poughkeepsie	80/55/s	88/67/c
Saratoga Springs	76/57/pc	91/65/c
Stroudsburg	80/54/pc	89/65/pc
Torrington	78/53/s	84/65/pc
Syracuse	82/65/pc	94/69/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	88/72/pc	90/76/s
Baghdad	117/86/pc	117/85/pc
Beijing	97/71/pc	101/73/pc
Berlin	74/57/pc	76/59/pc
Cairo	102/76/s	98/75/s
Dublin	64/51/pc	63/46/r
Geneva	74/58/pc	79/59/t
Hong Kong	90/84/t	91/83/sh
Jerusalem	92/69/s	91/67/s
Kabul	91/63/s	92/64/s
London	69/51/pc	71/54/sh
Madrid	85/60/s	86/63/s
Mexico City	86/57/s	87/57/s
Montreal	73/61/pc	84/71/pc
Moscow	78/65/pc	76/64/r
Paris	67/57/r	73/58/r
Rio de Janeiro	83/71/s	85/71/s
Rome	80/61/c	81/60/s
Sydney	62/50/s	62/49/sh
Tokyo	86/74/pc	87/70/c

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today ..... 5:24 a.m.  
 Sunset tonight ..... 8:29 p.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 3:19 p.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 1:54 a.m.

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# The Tony Awards 2024

## And the winner (probably) is...

IT'S not just the humidity that has Midtown Manhattan sweating bullets — it's the Tony Awards!

While several races on Broadway's biggest night are all but wrapped up, the most coveted prize, Best Musical, is going right down to the wire. Nobody is totally sure if "Hell's Kitchen" or "The Outsiders" takes it.

I guarantee this year's telecast will be a lot more fun than the Oscars' bump-free road to "Oppenheimer."

Here's who I predict will win at the Tonys, which air tonight at 8 p.m. on CBS.

### Best Musical: 'The Outsiders'

Yes, there are five nominees — "Hell's Kitchen," "Illinois," "Suffs," "Water For Elephants" and "The Outsiders" — but the real competition, as it has been since the day the nominations were announced in April, is between Alicia Keys' "Hell's Kitchen" and the twangy adaptation of S.E. Hinton's novel "The Outsiders."

I've spoken to voters for all of these shows, and it's the Greasers and Socs that get the most impassioned responses.

"Everyone says 'Hell's Kitchen,' but I say 'The Outsiders,'" one voter told me. "It's a work of art."

A "Hell's Kitchen" advocate was more blasé about the reason they clicked the box next to that show. "Not sure why!" they said.

Also, "The Outsiders" has about twice as many producers as "Hell's Kitchen." The cynic in me believes that disparity could matter.

On the flip side, many say Keys' show has snared the 100-or-so "road voters" who would like it to come to their cities.

This category will be awfully close, but enough insiders say "Outsiders."

### Best Play: 'Stereophonic'

Stevie Nicks once sang something about landslides.

As much as I admired "Prayer for the French Republic" and "Mary Jane," David Adjmi's "Stereophonic," about a fictional 1970s band that's basically Fleetwood Mac, is the only contender. It's more than three hours

long and has original rock songs. Voters can't resist.

### Best Musical Revival: 'Merrily We Roll Along'

Remember a few months ago when everybody thought (wrongly!) that the excellent revival of "Merrily We Roll Along" would be in a tight fight with the dark and atmospheric "Cabaret"?

Willkommen, bienvenue, reality! "Cabaret" has zero chance. Stephen Sondheim's reformed flop "Merrily" wins easily, and "Cabaret" will deservedly settle for best scenic design (Tom Scutt).

### Best Play Revival: 'Appropriate'

Branden Jacobs Jenkins' play is just over 10 years old, and yet here it is duking it out with Ibsen.

While everybody is split on whether the relatively new play is really a revival, per se, it has more fans than "An Enemy of the People" (a hit, though it is) or the long-closed "Purlie Victorious."

### And the actors...

You can bet on Jonathan Groff winning his first Tony, Best Actor in a Musical for "Merrily We Roll Along"; and his co-star Daniel Radcliffe will take Featured Actor in a Musical.

I suspect Jeremy Strong, of "Succession," will finally get over the sting of losing all those TV awards to Kieran Culkin by accepting the Best Actor in a Play for "An Enemy of the People."

And Sarah Paulson, for her vicious turn in "Appropriate," most likely has Actress in a Play in the bag over her "American Horror Story" co-star Jessica Lange ("Mother Play").

Featured Actress in a Musical is neck and neck. It could go to Lindsay Mendez for "Merrily" or Kecia Lewis for her knockout vocals and emotional arc in "Hell's Kitchen." My pick is Lewis.

Actress in a Musical is even tougher. Will it be Kelli O'Hara, who did some of her best work ever as a spiraling drunk in "Days of Wine and Roses"? Or new star Maleah Joi Moon, whose voice is stunner in "Hell's Kitchen"?

I'm calling it for O'Hara, if only because the role is meatier. Or, well, boozier.

Johnny Oleksinski

# B'WAY PLAYS



**JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI**

**A** FEW years ago, a well-known Broadway producer stood outside the Carlyle Hotel — fuming. He had just won a coveted Tony Award, and yet the big shot was appalled to discover that he was not on the door list for the hottest after-party in town.

Meanwhile, the cast of his play was inside the iconic East 76th Street building having a blast. And, adding insult to injury, so was the irate man's assistant.

"Give me your wristband!" the producer allegedly demanded of the underling, who had been ordered to come outside, according to a source. He then attempted to cut off the paper admission bracelet.

But the knife slipped. "There was blood on the sidewalk!" the source told The Post.

### 'Unhinged glamor'

If you think Broadway is Hollywood's classier cousin, get a load of the annual Tony Awards Carlyle party.

Practically a college kegger for 500 theater folks and A-listers in frocks and tuxes that rages till well past dawn, it's the Great White Way's most outrageous event of the year.

Expected attendees on Sunday night — after the Tony Awards, which air at 8 p.m. on CBS — include Oscar winners Eddie Redmayne, Jessica Lange and Ariana DeBose, along with other boldfacers such as Daniel Radcliffe, Rachel McAdams and Nicole Scherzinger.

Hillary Clinton, a producer of Best Musical nominee "Suffs," is also invited.

Past revelers? Bruce Springsteen, Scarlett Johansson, Andrew Garfield, Olivia Wilde, Sally Field, Adam Driver, Jessica Chastain and Glenn Close, among many others.

Even Bono showed up in 2011 to



**MAKING THE GUEST LIST:** At the annual Tony Awards Carlyle party, guests such as Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber (clockwise from right), Anna Wintour, Bette Midler, Aaron Rodgers, Olivia Wilde, Scarlett Johansson and Andrew Garfield really let loose at the storied hotel.

# HARD AFTER TONYS

The theater world's most debauched party is worthy of its own award

support his notorious flop “Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark.”

After the stiff official fete at Lincoln Center fizzles and the nominated shows’ individual bashes — especially those of the losers — cool down around town, the Carlyle rages past sunrise.

Post gossip queen Cindy Adams reported last June that Tony-winning “Shucked” actor Alex Newell strolled in at 6 a.m.

“It was already ‘Last call.’ The hotel venue was officially shutting. And in flounces Alex,” Cindy wrote.

Unhinged glamor is the vibe of the gathering, hosted by PR man Rick Miramontez and his husband, Jamie DuMont, since 2009, when it was a more intimate (and secret) affair in the Royal Suite with the ragtag hippies of “Hair.”

Their 15-year-old soiree, which is also co-hosted by John Gore, was inspired by the wild dinners Joan Didion and her husband would throw in Malibu, Calif., during the 1960s and ’70s, when they’d make 2 a.m. omelettes for famous friends who’d overindulged.

That spirit — and poured spirits — live on. Booze-soaked stars run rampant (and sometimes pass out), brawls break out in upscale attire and Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber occasionally mans the DJ booth.

The ball spans the entire ground floor of the hotel, including the lobbies, hallways, Café Carlyle and Bemelmans Bar.

In the past, the crowd also spilled upstairs into the more exclusive Empire Suite and Royal Suite, where Princess Diana spent many nights.

I once watched as a disappointed Tony-winning composer, who had accepted the award on national TV hours earlier, was not allowed into

the elevator to the Royal Suite because the room was already at capacity.

However, the suite life went kaput after a buzzed Broadway star of plays and musicals, who’s been nominated for a Tony but never won, broke a Venetian glass pane worth thousands of dollars in 2018. Not their first smash hit.

## Passed-out legends

These days, well-heeled attendees book their own rooms at the Carlyle months in advance to throw private after-after-after parties for when the hotel kicks everybody out of the main spaces.

Whatever floor you’re on, the Veuve Clicquot flows like tap water. One year, an over-served legend of the West End stage fell asleep on a bed right in the middle of the bash, a source said.

“No, she was in the Champagne bathtub!” refuted another.

And a 2015 attendee watched as a spat over Best Musical winner “Fun Home” besting “An American in Paris” got heated. And the men weren’t even involved with the shows.

“It escalated into them pushing each other!” the onlooker recalled.

In 2011, “Mad Men” star Christina Hendricks’ trench coat caught fire on a Diptyque candle in the Empire Suite.

“You could see smoke coming out of the bathroom,” a witness said. “The coat was singed terribly. She left it there.”

And Page Six reported in 2017 that a belligerent, uninvited pro-

ducer tried to hurl himself past security through the revolving doors to get inside. He was quickly apprehended and forced to the ground.

But the evening is not all fire and fists.

The Carlyle is always full of unforgettable showbiz moments, like Bette Midler holding court after winning Best Actress in a Musical for “Hello, Dolly!” in 2017.

“That was her year,” Miramontez told The Post. “We called the disco ‘Disco Dolly.’ Everything had to be just so because it was her big night, and she had a fabulous time.”

## An amazing playlist

Twelve months later came “Disco Lloyd Webber,” when the “Phantom of the Opera” composer first tried his hand at DJing.

“His playlist was singular,” the host added of Lloyd Webber, who accepted a lifetime achievement Tony that night. “It started with ‘Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polkadot Bikini’ and ‘Disco Duck,’ which is a connoisseur’s track. He had been working on that for a month.”

Last June, there were some particularly unusual guests at the Carlyle — New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the team’s then-tight end C.J. Uzomah, who was a producer of the play “Ain’t No Mo.”

Sports and Broadway are strange bedfellows — save for “Damn Yankees” — but in a surprise move, the football duo attended the award show and hit up the famed after-after party.

Yet in Bemelmans Bar, where the most famous Rodgers is the one who wrote “Oklahoma!,” nobody recognized them.

“Rodgers looked liked a lost puppy at the Carlyle,” said one of my only sources who knows what a field goal is. “Barely anybody knew who he was.”

Amusingly, Rodgers walked right up to Tony-winning writer Robert Horn — about half his size — and gushed about how much he enjoyed his musical comedy “Shucked.”

Said a source: “It was clear Lombardi Trophies and Super Bowl MVPs didn’t matter as much as Tony Awards.”



**HOSTS WITH THE MOST:** Publicist Rick Miramontez (right) and his husband Jamie DuMont put on the famed annual rager.

Invision/AP, WireImage (2), Getty Images (3), FilmMagic

# NY 'Port' in a \$storm as o'time soars

## Cop earns \$410K total

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

More than 200 Port Authority cops racked up six figures in overtime payments in 2023, including one officer who pulled down over \$400,000 in total pay, according to the agency's latest available payroll records.

The surging compensation for the bi-state agency's employees could ultimately drive up tolls for motorists, experts who crunched the agency's payroll warned.

"If this trend continues, espe-

cially with overtime, it will translate into higher costs, including higher tunnel and bridge tolls," Ken Girardin, research director at the Empire Center for Public Policy, told The Post.

Last year's overtime king was Officer Russell Polanco, a 16-year veteran who also was the PA's top overall earner with \$410,376.

His OT haul, \$238,236, was nearly double his base salary of \$128,045. Rick Cotton, PA executive director, brought in just \$290,051 last year.

"I didn't want to make that list.

Rank-and-file cops on the Port Authority PD are making astronomical overtime:

NAME/TITLE	OVERTIME PAY	TOTAL PAY
<b>Russell Polanco</b> Police Officer	<b>\$238,652</b>	<b>\$410,376</b>
<b>Calogero Bonello</b> Police Officer	<b>\$229,246</b>	<b>\$378,833</b>
<b>Maroun Ibrahim</b> Police Officer	<b>\$212,647</b>	<b>\$372,329</b>
<b>Robin Tse</b> Police Officer	<b>\$210,886</b>	<b>\$357,005</b>
<b>Mumazzad Ahmed</b> Aviation Chief Maint. Supervisor	<b>\$209,131</b>	<b>\$396,362</b>
<b>George Laine</b> Police Officer	<b>\$206,801</b>	<b>\$373,743</b>
<b>Steven Krapf</b> Sergeant	<b>\$205,018</b>	<b>\$383,042</b>
<b>Kyle Wijesinghe</b> Aviation General Maint. Supervisor	<b>\$199,828</b>	<b>\$384,529</b>
<b>Miguel Correa-Rodriguez</b> Police Officer	<b>\$199,303</b>	<b>\$386,853</b>
<b>Pasquale Buzzelli</b> Operation Services Chief Maint. Supervisor	<b>\$197,144</b>	<b>\$386,479</b>

Source: Port Authority of NY & NJ

I'm just a hard worker," Polanco told The Post. Polanco also earned \$188,036 in OT in 2022.

Nipping at Polanco's overtime windfall was Officer Calogero Bonello, who joined the agency in October 2008 and racked up \$229,246 in OT last year, for total pay of \$378,833, records show.

Officer Maroun Ibrahim landed \$372,329 for all of 2023, including \$212,647 in OT.

"Even by downstate police stan-

dards, the [PA police appear] to have an issue with overtime that requires serious attention," said Girardin. "Usually if one person gets \$100,000 in overtime, management looks into it. Two hundred-plus cops getting \$100,000 in [OT] suggests management looking the other way."

In all, 232 PA police staff clocked over \$100,000 in overtime, while the department's OT pay averaged \$44,991, according to records. The rest of the PA's Top 10 2023 OT list includes three other officers and a sergeant, the aviation chief maintenance supervisor and a general supervisor, and operations services' chief maintenance supervisor.

The PA's total police OT last

year was nearly \$96 million, a 14% increase from \$84 million in 2022 and a 29% spike from \$74 million in 2019. All PA OT was \$193 million, up 9% from \$177 million in 2022.

PA Police Benevolent Association President Frank Conti said the union has no control over department manning and deemed the cops' excess overtime "a staffing problem."

PA spokesman Seth Stein said, "Keeping the people we serve safe is nonnegotiable, and . . . our dedicated police officers are often required to work overtime." He added that the agency has hired 389 police officers over the past year and a half, which should help to reduce OT.

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Chicago Tribune



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## Cop 'jacked by 'migrants'

Two armed men believed to be Venezuelan migrants — one of whom was carrying a fully automatic pistol — car-jacked an off-duty NYPD officer in Harlem, law enforcement sources said.

The men approached the officer sitting in his personal 2020 BMW around 11:30 p.m. Friday at West 146th Street and Bradhurst Avenue, sources said.

The suspects, who had tattoos believed to be associated with a Venezuelan gang, had their weapons drawn.

One knocked the officer's gun from his hand and demanded his keys. The pair then sped off in the officer's vehicle, police sources told The Post.

One of the guns in the brazen incident had a Glock

switch, making it fully automatic, something not typically seen in New York City, sources said.

Inside the vehicle was the cop's iPad, which was used to track the car. It was found empty less than a mile away at West 138th Street and Broadway, sources said.

The suspects were soon apprehended without incident. Neither man had their IDs on them, but provided their names to police as Jomar Crespo, 21, and Jose Rivera, 20, with a shared address in Waterbury, Conn.

Authorities believe the suspects gave fake names, sources said.

Rivera and Crespo were charged with robbery, grand theft auto, possession of a machine gun, posses-

sion of a loaded firearm, possession of stolen property, making rapid-fire modifications to a gun and unlawful possession of an ammo feed device.

It's the second time in a month an attack on the NYPD has been linked to migrants.

Earlier in June, a 19-year-old migrant connected to a Venezuelan gang opened fire on two police officers, leaving them wounded.

Bernardo Raul Castro Mata — who illegally entered the US in July in Texas — allegedly told police after his arrest he was recruited by a violent Venezuelan gang in New York City and encouraged to get distinctive tattoos to show his allegiance.

Tina Moore, Joe Marino, Patrick Reilly, Larry Celona

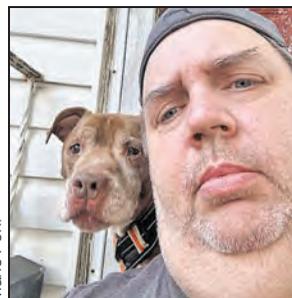
# Pie guys forgo dough with price cut

## THE 99¢ SLICE IS RIGHT

**SAY CHEESE:** 99¢ Pizza co-owner Sana Ullah says “I think one dollar is reasonable . . . yes, I sell more, but also, I help people.” Hungry Christopher Batista and Dwayne Sumpter (below) agree.



Helaine Seidman



Marie Pohl

**GONE:** Roger Assmann and Dylan were killed in a Queens blaze early Saturday.

## Qns. man and best friend die in blaze

A man and his dog were killed early Saturday by a smoky Queens fire in the home where he grew up, family and officials said.

The blaze, in which two firefighters suffered minor injuries, broke out at an apartment building at 133-12 133th St. in South Ozone Park at around 12:30 a.m., officials said.

Roger Assmann, 57, was rescued and rushed to Jamaica Hospital in critical condition, but pronounced dead a short time later, his longtime partner, Adrian Tayco, 49, told The Post.

His dog, Dylan, had to be put down because of smoke inhalation, said Tayco, who added that Assmann was a retired bus driver.

Assmann was raised in the home, which had been in the family for a century, said Tayco, who was not at the home when the blaze broke out.

Video shows heavy smoke pouring out of the back of the 2½-story building.

“He called me to say, ‘Hey, I love you, there’s a fire, I’m afraid,’” Tayco recalled.

“And I said, ‘OK, I’m on my way,’” Tayco said. “And then I hung up because I wanted him to focus on getting out.”

“Tell people who you love, you love them,” he said. “Because you don’t know when the last time will be that you can. And then you try to find old voicemails just to hear them.”

Twenty-five pieces of equipment and 106 firefighters battled the flames, which were under control by 1:56 a.m., the FDNY said.

Marie Pohl, Tina Moore

By CHRIS HARRIS

Once again, four quarters can buy you a little slice of heaven.

The beloved dollar pizza slice may be a much-missed relic of the recent past, but at least one pizza proprietor’s doing what he can to give his customers more bang for their buck.

Sana Ullah is back to selling slices for \$1 at his two East Village joints — BD Star Pizza and 99 Cent Pizza — after charging patrons \$1.50 starting last spring.

“I think one dollar is reasonable” for a slice, Ullah told The Post. “For so many, it’s the same thing. People [are] struggling. Yes, I sell more [slices], but also, I help people.

Customers are happy to save some dough.

“I had to rub my eyes there for a second,” said Chris Hinds, who spotted Ullah’s “99¢ Pizza” signs



from two blocks away. “No one sells dollar slices anymore,” so “at a time when we’re all paying more for everything, it’s nice to see that its making a comeback.”

Frank Santangelo said he, too, is glad to see the true revival of the

dollar slice.

“It’s about damn time,” said Santangelo. “New York City hasn’t felt the same” without the quintessential dollar slice.

Like other shops across the city, rising production costs caused by

rampant inflation forced Ullah to increase his cheese slice price to \$1.50 in 2022.

“Everything’s gotten more expensive,” Ullah said. “Cheese, flour, napkins, dough.”

Realizing many of his loyal customers seemed unwilling to fork over an extra 50¢, Ullah went back to selling dollar slices about four months ago.

“If you help someone,” he said “then someone will help you.”

Ullah said on Friday and Saturday nights, there are usually lines outside BD Star Pizza, located on Avenue A near Sixth Street, and 99 Cent Pizza, on East 14th Street between Second and Third avenues.

“Nothing like a dollar slice to soak up the alcohol,” said Hinds.

Pizza lover Gina Bennicasa gave her BD Star slice a fair “5 out of 10,” calling it a bit too cheesy for her taste. “But I never really expect much from a dollar slice.”

## Meanwhile, pricey hard \$hell in Hamps

Jonasing for lobster salad while out in the Hamptons? It’s a bisque-y proposition.

Of course, lobster salad is a summertime staple in the land of money-is-no-object. But at beloved East Hampton deli the Red Horse Market, they’re charging \$120 per pound

for the delicacy.

Store manager Christian Pineda told The Post he’s only gotten complaints “from some of our customers” about the lobster salad. Most patrons, though, are willing to shell out big bucks.

“It’s because of the quality we’ve got to charge

these prices,” Pineda explained. “For our customers, they’re primarily focused on quality. The local quality is what they want, especially with our meats and seafoods.”

The gourmet market was opened in the early 1990s by former ad exec Jerry Della Femina and the late

David Silver, the founder and CEO of Regency Home Fashions. The Montauk Highway store’s changed ownership several times over the years.

Pineda pointed out that the market also offers a lobster bargain — a \$28 lobster roll.

Generally, it takes a

2-pound lobster to generate one pound of lobster salad. Over at Gosman’s Fish Market in Montauk, the current market price for live lobsters is \$19.99 a pound.

Duryea’s Lobster Deck in Montauk boasted a \$97 lobster salad last summer.

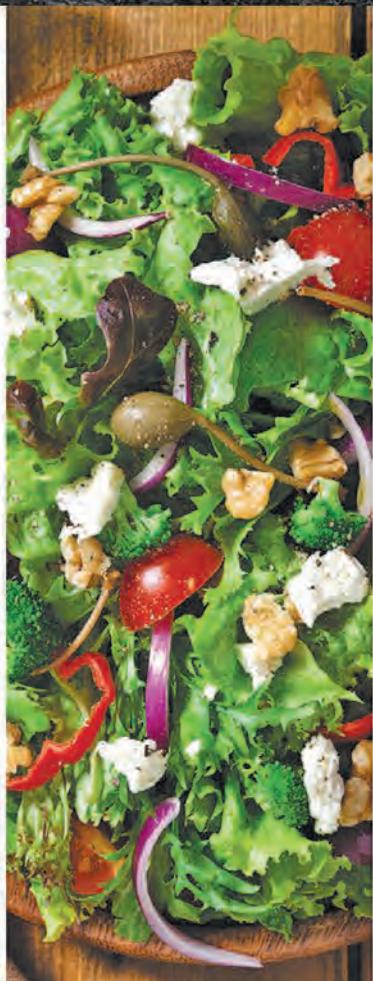
Chris Harris

# D'AG NYC

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**THAILAND**

A pachyderm gave birth to twins — shocking caretakers at the Ayutthaya Elephant Palace and Royal Kraal.

The 36-year-old big mama gave birth to a male and, 18 minutes later, a female. Experts are calling the birth a “miracle,” since twins are rare for elephants, and male-female twins even more so.

**MALI**

Climate change is threatening a centuries-old tradition in the southern town of San.

Sanké mon, a collective fishing rite, is celebrated on the second Thursday of the seventh lunar month to mark the founding of the town.

But this year the town fishing pond is evaporating due to unprecedented heat waves.

**CANADA**

A British Columbia park is expanding to create a “zone of protection” of more than 772 square miles for caribou and other species.

In the last decade, the caribou population has declined by sharply more than 55%, due to their habitat being decimated by humans.

The addition will make Klinse-za Park, 700 miles from Vancouver, the largest provincial park created in the province in the past decade.

**JAPAN**

A musician was arrested for stealing a flight attendant’s apron while on an airplane.

Pianist Kazuya Saito allegedly took the apron and put it in his pants in the kitchen area of an All Nippon Airways plane at Ishigaki airport in the Okinawa Prefecture.

Saito admitted to the crime, saying he not only collects women’s uniforms, but kinkily sniffs the pilfered clothing and wears it himself.

**ITALY**

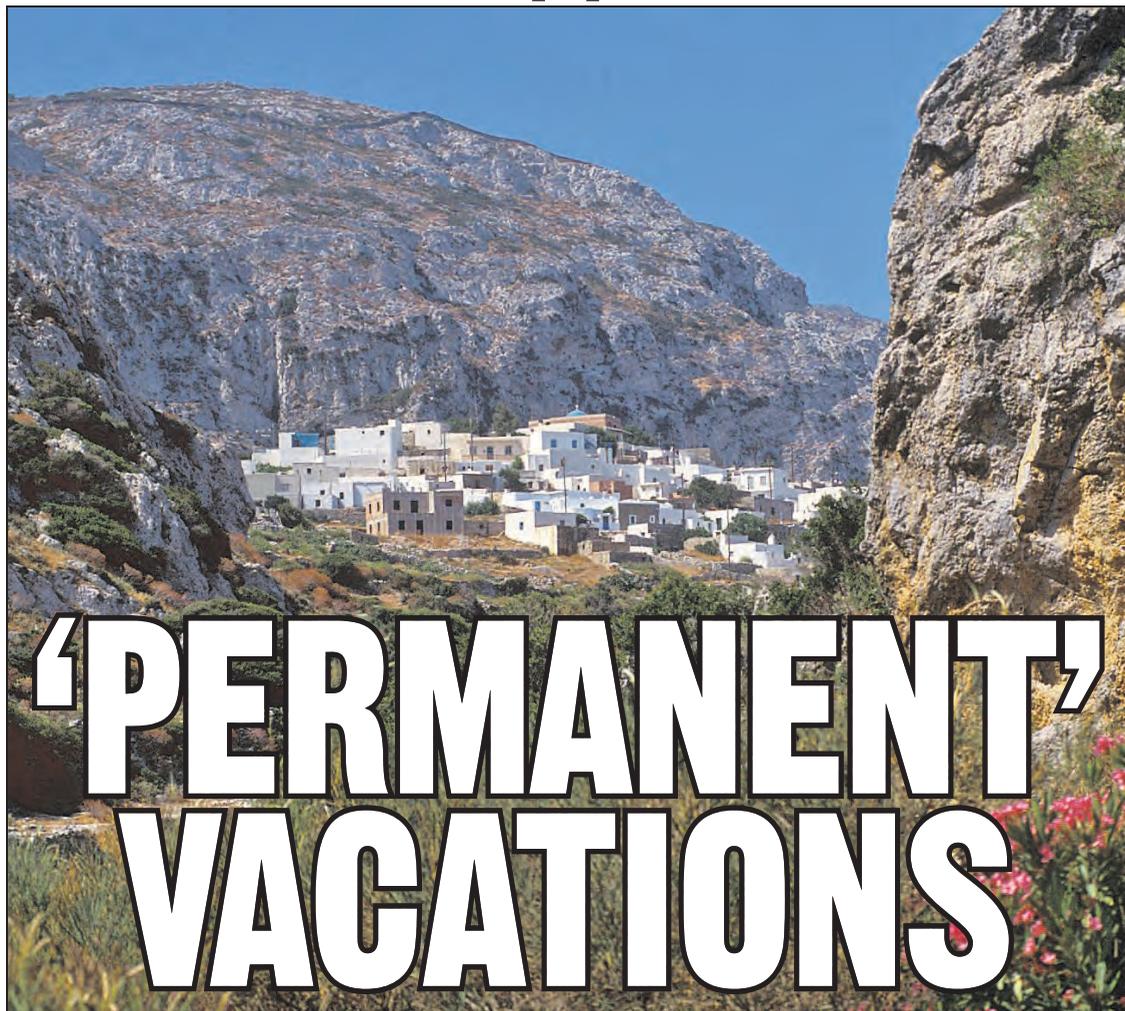
A brazen influencer was fined nearly \$2,000 for trespassing on a beach off the coast of Sardinia.

The Dubai-based woman posted photos of herself at Spiaggia Rosa, known for its pink sand, on an Instagram account with more than 35,000 followers.

Tourists have been banned from Spiaggia Rosa, on the island of Budelli, since the 1990s.

Angela Barbuti, Wires

# Deaths, disappearances in Greece



**2 CASES:** British TV star Dr. Michael Mosley (top) is dead. Retired LA sheriff's deputy Albert Calibet (above) is missing.

Gamma-Rapho via Getty Images; ITV/Shutterstock; FOX11

By DEIRDRE BARDOLF

A 70-year-old tourist was the second American — and seventh traveler — to go missing or be found dead in the Greek islands this month when he disappeared from the home he was staying at with a friend on Tuesday.

The man, who has not yet been publicly identified, was last seen in Mathraki, a remote island about 25 miles northwest of the island of Corfu, according to reports.

He was staying with a Greek-American friend, who came home Thursday to find the door of the house open, the lights and air conditioning on but the man missing, ABC News reported. His ID and travel documents were gone, too. The friend reported the American missing.

He was last seen Tuesday in a tavern with two female tourists who have since left the country, community leader Spyros Argiros told Greek news outlet eKathimerini.

The island of Mathraki is a popular destination for Greek Americans during the summer but has only about 50 permanent residents and no police station or coast guard. Officers from Corfu had to be called in to assist with the investigation.

Rescue teams searched the Ionian Sea on Thursday but paused their operations Friday due to rough weather and were expected to continue on Saturday, according to officials.

The suspicious case follows the disappearance of Albert Calibet, a retired Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, from the island of

Amorgos, the easternmost of the Cyclades islands to the south of Greece's mainland.

**A seasoned hiker**

Calibet, 59, remains missing after not returning from a planned four-hour hike across the island to meet a friend for lunch on Tuesday. A wide search for him in the rocky terrain where he was trekking involving drones, a helicopter and even local shepherds was so far unsuccessful, ABC News reported. None of Calibet's belongings had been recovered as of Friday.

The seasoned hiker, who hails from Hermosa Beach, Calif., had dual citizenship in Greece and visited Amorgos almost annually for a decade. He set out amid a “severe high temperature warning.”

“We’re sick to our stomachs, knowing he’s out there somewhere,” his girlfriend Debbie Leshane told ABC. She said he called her as he was setting out for the hike, and then sent her a photo from the trailhead sign. It was the last she heard from him.

Most of the deaths appear to be related to a crushing heat wave in the region.

Dr. Michael Mosley, a British physician and TV star, was found dead on June 9 after going missing from the island of Symi, about 150 miles south of Samos, four days earlier. He took a wrong route and collapsed.

A traveler from the Netherlands who went missing from the island of Samos on June 9 was found dead on Saturday, according to reports, bringing the total number of tourist deaths this month to five.

# Kamala cameo at Ukraine peace Summit

LUCERNE, Switzerland — Vice President Kamala Harris popped over to the Ukraine Peace Summit Saturday to announce a new \$1.5 billion humanitarian aid package and meet with

world leaders for only a few hours — and then planned to jet back to DC before the confab’s main working day.

Harris told Kyiv’s delegation, which included Ukrainian President Volo-

dymyr Zelensky and Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, that the largest chunk of the funding would help restore Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, which Russian forces have relentlessly targeted.

But the brevity of Harris’ appearance nearly overshadowed the aid announcement as other major countries’ top leaders planned to stay on site to hammer out peace propos-

als Sunday, critics said.

President Biden drew criticism for skipping the diplomatic event altogether, despite being in Italy at the G7 less than 24 hours before.

Caitlin Doornbos

# One shady 'racquet' Ire over tennis hogs

By DEIRDRE BARDOLF

coach's bicycle helmet into the river.

The Hudson River Park Trust, a partnership between the state and city, manages the four-mile green space.

Signs clearly state "no private lessons" and "no more than six balls on a court."

## Court jam

An instructor on Wednesday morning was seen teaching two clients at once and littering the court with balls.

"They come in and pretty much sequester all the courts," said Lower Manhattan resident Dino Denoso.

It has only gotten worse with the closing of the Midtown Tennis Club, he added.

Critics say the ball is in the city park's court, and that there is no enforcement.

"Unauthorized commercial activities are not permitted in the park, including at the tennis courts, which is enforced to the extent practicable," a Hudson River Park Trust spokesperson said. [dbardolf@nypost.com](mailto:dbardolf@nypost.com)

There's no love lost here. Tennis coaches for the rich and famous are facing off with players in a Manhattan park who are fed up with the pros hogging public courts with lessons.

Most days, instructors can be found saving spots on line at Hudson River Park, waiting for clients to show up just in time for a lesson.

Sometimes, they take up two of the three of the taxpayer-maintained courts as a long line of players waits on benches, some arriving as early as 4:30 a.m.

"It's a ridiculously well-off neighborhood with people who could afford to take tennis lessons ... anywhere," said Soho player Brian Kelly, who lives blocks from the park.

One of the high-end trainers is rumored to be Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour's former coach, regulars say.

"They're taking an amenity away from taxpayers," griped one longtime player from Soho who has witnessed fights break out and even saw a player throw a

# Fauci: I spurned \$\$

Dr. Anthony Fauci bragged in a recent interview that he spurned multimillion-dollar job offers from major corporations to keep his post as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Fauci, 83, retired from his NIAID post in 2022 as the highest-paid government employee, earning \$481,000 in his last year on the job, and with a reported net worth of more than \$11 million between him and his wife.

"So, at the time that I was getting offered it ... I was making \$125,000, \$200,000," President Biden's former chief medical adviser said in an interview with "CBS

News Sunday Morning," which will air in full on Sunday.

"Then I would get offered a job that would get me \$5 million, \$6 million, \$7 million a year," the infectious-disease expert claimed.

Fauci indicated that the private-sector overtures were made by pharmaceutical companies and "private equity," but that he turned them all down because he felt his work in public health was "priceless."

"[I] really felt what I was doing was having an impact on what I cared about, which was the health of the country and, indirectly, the health of the world," he said. *Victor Nava*

# 'She wants to entertain — she can't just sit at home'

## After getting canceled for being mean, Ellen DeGeneres is plotting a comeback

By SARA NATHAN

**E**LLEN DeGeneres dubbed herself "the most hated person in America" and has deliberately spent the past two years out of the spotlight.

But she's now making a comeback with what she claims will be one final Netflix special and a comedy tour called "Ellen's Last Stand ... Up."

After battling toxic workplace allegations related to "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," the star — who has a reported net worth of \$450 million — is ready to talk in detail about the downfall of her Emmy-winning daytime series.

"She needed some time to recover," a longtime DeGeneres friend told Page Six. "But she's an artist, she wants to entertain — she can't just sit at home."

## Changing priorities

Back in 2020, DeGeneres, 66 — whose catchphrase is "Be Kind" — became embroiled in a scandal that hit at the very heart of her longtime show.

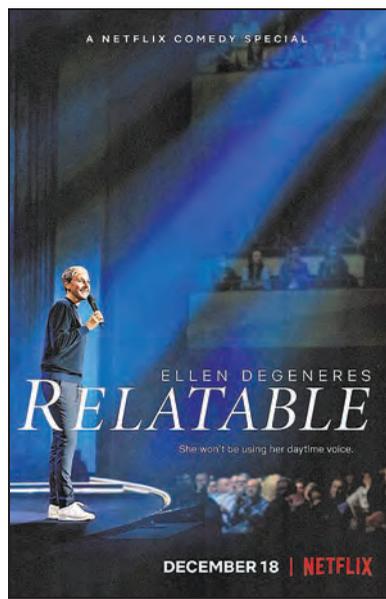
Staffers accused the comedian of fostering a culture of racism, fear and intimidation — and of demanding that no one on set make eye contact with her. Guests were allegedly told to compliment her on air.

DeGeneres replied to this by telling employees, "I don't know where it started. Please talk to me. Look me in the eye."

Since the show ended in May 2022, DeGeneres has spent her time flipping very expensive houses in Santa Barbara, looking after her rescue chickens, gardening and focusing on the gorilla conservation campus that was founded in her honor in Rwanda.

People who know the former talk-show host say she won't be rushing back to TV anytime soon.

"Why would she go back?" said one Hollywood insider who worked with her for decades. "She accomplished so much, she made great entertainment."



"She has refocused her life and her priorities."

However, when asked about the return the standup, another old friend told us, "Ellen is a comedian. They all have their peccadillos, but this is her life and she wants to talk about everything she went through and where she is now in her life, sharing who she is."

"Look at Jerry Seinfeld, he does stand-up all the time. Why shouldn't she get back on stage?"

In April, DeGeneres dipped her feet back in the water with a low-key show at the Largo theater in LA, and told the crowd how her TV persona had been detonated by the reports.

Indeed, she called herself "the most hated person in America."

"I've been kicked out of show business," she joked, noting that this was not the first time she was excommunicated from Hollywood.

"For those of you keeping score, this is the sec-





Will Roberts / SplashNews.com

**FUNNY TIMES:** After getting canceled over allegations that she was mean to staff, Ellen DeGeneres is set to film a Netflix special this August. It will be her first comedy special since 2018's "Relatable" (far left).



PSS via ZUMA Press

**FLIPPING OUT:** DeGeneres has spent the last couple years at her sprawling house in Montecito with wife Portia de Rossi. The couple have become known for their talent for flipping multi-million dollar homes in the area.

Dan Steinberg/AP

second time I've been kicked out of show business," she said, referencing the cancellation of her sitcom "Ellen" in the '90s after she came out as a lesbian. "Eventually they're going to kick me out for a third time because I'm mean, old and gay."

But she made it clear how hard times have been: "The hate went on for a long time and I would try to avoid looking at the news. The 'be kind' girl wasn't kind. That was the headline."

DeGeneres, who had apologized to staffers and her audience, added, "I became this one-dimensional character who gave stuff away and danced up steps. Do you know how hard it is to dance up steps? Would a mean person dance up steps? Had I ended my show by saying, 'Go f-k yourself,' people would've been pleasantly surprised."

"It's been such a toll on my ego and my self-esteem. There's such extremes in this business. People either love you and idolize you or they hate you, and those people somehow are louder," she added.

### **'Battered' and 'tired'**

"I couldn't do anything to make myself understand that it wasn't personal," she continued. "I just thought, 'Well this is not the way I wanted to end my career, but this is the way it's ending.'"

Another old friend told us, "Truthfully, Ellen was battered, she was so tired. She had been doing the show for 19 years and she wanted a rest.

"She had helped millions and millions of people, and look at all the money they gave away on the talk show. She loved her audience," the source said.

DeGeneres was also left "devastated" according to friends, by the death of her show's DJ, Stephen "tWitch" Boss, in December 2022. The 40-year-old father-of-three died by suicide. DeGeneres spoke at his memorial, and we're told she remains close to his widow, Alison Holker and their children.

DeGeneres, who said she didn't get out much after the show ended, admitted that her wife, Portia de Rossi, also suffered under the strain of her talk show scandal.

"She was watching it happen to me," DeGeneres told the audience at Largo. "She went through it with me."

Several senior staffers left DeGeneres' show following a damning BuzzFeed News expose in June 2020.

Employees had complained of being penalized for taking medical leave, instances of racial micro-aggressions and fear of retribution for raising complaints.

A year later, it was announced the show was ending.

DeGeneres was joined by Jennifer Aniston, Pink and Billie Eilish for the final show on May 26, 2022.

"If I've done anything in the past 19 years, I hope I've inspired you to be yourself — your true, authentic self. And if someone is brave enough to tell you who they are, be brave enough to support

them, even if you don't understand," she told her audience.

"I just hated the way the show ended," she shared at Largo. "I love that show so much and I just hated that the last time people would see me is that way

For the past two years, DeGeneres has been at home in Montecito with de Rossi.

She remains close friends with her neighbors Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, sources confirm to Page Six, after introducing them to her money manager Adam Lilling.

DeGeneres — who says she loves the "instant gratification and the adrenaline rush" — has bought and sold at least 20 properties around Santa Barbara since 2003 with her wife, according to Architectural Digest.

Her most recent flip was an eight-acre Mediterranean-style estate known as Pompeiian Court, that she sold for \$32 million to mining industry billionaire Robert Friedland in March after buying the property for \$22.5 million last June.

### **Celebrity supporters**

She will film her Netflix special in Minneapolis in August.

It will be produced by Ben Winston, the Emmy-winning business partner of James Corden, who also made the "Friends" reunion special. It will be DeGeneres' first comedy special since 2018's "Relatable." She also had celebrity pals including Katy Perry, Orlando Bloom, Khloe Kardashian and Kris Jenner support her at another show at Largo last week.

"Ellen has spent a lot of time writing and working on something very funny," said the old friend. "The bottom line is that for her own soul she needs to work and to entertain people."

"I used to say that I didn't care what other people thought of me and I realized . . . I said that at the height of my popularity," DeGeneres said, prompting laughter at a gig in April. "Right now I'm hoping you're thinking, 'This is marvelous, I'm so happy to be here.' But you could be thinking, 'Let's see how this goes.'"



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By MATTHEW SEDACCA

This kid can do anything. A Long Island 11-year-old with Tourette's Syndrome is graduating from high school seven years early.

Joe Petraro, of East Rockaway, tossed his graduation cap in June after ripping through his middle and high school studies online in just two years at the K12 Private Academy and Penn Foster private schools.

"My brain moves really fast. I could think easily, and things could sink in easily," he explained to The Post, having spent his afternoon hawking copies of three children's books he has written and published.

The wunderkind's fast-track education began in the third grade while he was attending the Holy Name of Mary Catholic school in Valley Stream. At the time, Joe had undiagnosed Tourette's, a neurological disorder, and was forced into a special education program due to his involuntary tics.

"They put me in special ed until this one teacher was like, 'This kid shouldn't be in special ed,' and that I was a genius," Joe said. He was diagnosed with Tourette's, but also had his IQ tested — and scored an astonishing 168.

"If it weren't for that one teacher, we wouldn't be here," he said.

The real-life Young Sheldon enrolled in online schooling and breezed through classes at his own rapid pace, mastering biology "in like three weeks," his mother, therapist Anne Petraro, marveled.

At the same time, Joe has busied himself over the years with activism. He recently started a nonprofit, Joe's Be Kind campaign, and raised at least \$17,000 last year to purchase adaptive video game systems that could be fitted for children's beds in the pediatric cancer ward at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

"He has an accountant and everything," his mom said.

The gifts were particularly personal for Joe, who had

# L.I. HS GRAD — AT 11!



**WHIZ:** Joe Petraro, 11, says his "brain moves really fast."

## Tourette's no bar

been diagnosed with leukemia at MSK in September 2021, and has had a clean bill of health for almost a year.

### 'I'm lucky'

"I see a lot of other kids with cancer at the doctors when I go. They aren't as lucky as me," he wrote in a GoFundMe last year.

Somehow, he also managed to find the time to visit Republican Rep. Anthony D'Esposito to lobby for funding for Tourette's research and awareness.

He's also raised money to build wells in villages in Nigeria so locals can have

access to clean drinking water, having learned about the issue while attending church at St. Raymond's.

"He's a normal kid — he's very giving," his mom said.

Joe also plays on youth baseball and basketball travel teams and earned a black belt in karate.

"There's nothing he doesn't do — I'm exhausted," his mother said.

Despite just graduating, Joe isn't taking a breather anytime soon. He's accepted an offer to attend remote classes at Louisiana State University, with the dream to work as a journalist and "spread good news."

# Swiss nix art over 'Nazi loot'

Five paintings, including works by Claude Monet, Paul Gauguin and Vincent van Gogh, are no longer on display at one of Switzerland's leading art museums, thanks to fears they may have been looted by Nazis.

The Kunsthau Zurich Museum has placed Monet's "Artist's Garden at Giverny" along with van Gogh's "The Old Tower," Gauguin's

"La Route montante" and two other paintings, "Portrait of the Sculptor Louis-Joseph" by Gustave Courbet and "Georges-Henri Manuel" by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec in storage as the probe proceeds. Suspicions have long endured about how the works came into the possession of Emil Bührle, a German-born arms dealer. *Chris Harris*

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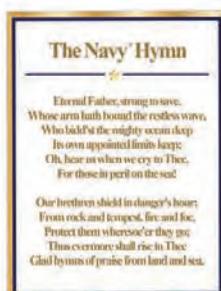
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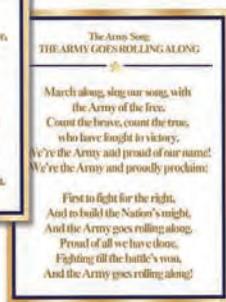
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# Wheelin' & healin'

## Rep's 'miracle' claim

By JON LEVINE

Far-left Squad member Rep. Cori Bush (right) performed multiple miracles as a religious faith healer, per her autobiography.

"As I learned how to apply God's Word to my life in new ways, I better understood the power that was already residing in me," Bush wrote of her abilities in "The Fore-runner: A Story of Pain and Perseverance in America."

"It was there, waiting for me to acknowledge it, to use it. I had the confidence to heal others with God's power."

Bush relayed a story of a toddler she met during a prayer service in St. Louis.

"The child had had a bleed in her brain, shortly after she was born, and so couldn't walk. She had never taken a step in her life," Bush recalled. "I carried the child from the prayer room in the back of the church out into the sanctuary . . . 'Walk,' I said gently to the three-year-old girl, 'you will walk.' And this girl took her first step. Then another, and another. She walked."

"Her grandmother walked into the sanctuary just in time to see the child take



about two dozen steps. She screamed, and then she kept screaming," Bush continued. "When she caught her breath, she looked at me in wonder and said 'Praise God.' She grabbed her granddaughter and walked with her out of the church."

In another instance, Bush claimed she cured a woman racked with tumors.

"One woman whom we met had several visible tumors on her torso. She was due to have surgery but lacked health insurance and was living in the park. One of the tumors was particularly painful to her. I laid hands on her and prayed, and I felt that my hand was no longer touching a tumor. It shrank along with the others on her body."

The book was released by Knopf in 2022.

## 'Shooter' standoff

As many as 10 people — including an 8-year-old — were shot at a splash pad in Michigan on Saturday evening in what police called a random attack.

Police were in a standoff with a suspect in a nearby home shortly after gunfire erupted at the Brooklands Plaza Splash Pad in Rochester Hills at around 5 p.m.

Cops were getting a warrant to go inside.

"It appears like the individual pulled up, exited a vehicle, approached the splash pad, opened fire, reloaded, opened fire, reloaded, left," Oakland County Sheriff Michael

Bouchard told reporters.

At least nine victims sustained gunshot wounds, officials said, although it's unclear if anyone was killed.

One of the victims was 8 years old, said Bouchard, refusing to comment on the age of the other victims.

Officials did not describe the suspect, who they said fired as many as 28 times on people who police said were strangers.

"It appears very random. No connectivity to the victims," Bouchard said.

A handgun and three empty magazines were recovered at the scene.

Patrick Reilly

By MICHAEL KAPLAN

**A**LLISON Huynh bought into Silicon Valley's woke idealism.

The co-creator of Willow Garage, a company that designed robotics and AI systems that were sold to Google, Huynh helped to raise millions of dollars for Barack Obama's 2012 presidential campaign. She and her husband at the time, early Google programmer Scott Hassan, helped organize elaborate fundraisers and dinners for tech bigwigs.

"My role was to bring in Silicon Valley people for the \$50,000- and \$100,000-per-plate dinners," Huynh said. "[We] brought in [Google co-founders] Sergey [Brin], Larry [Page] and Eric [Schmidt]. Obama was a hopeful candidate who was outside of the system."

She was so passionate about the left that, in 2005, she and Hassan bought a rocking chair that once belonged to Democratic icon John F. Kennedy for nearly \$100,000 at auction.

In 2008, she acquired the Shepard Fairey mixed-media artwork that the iconic Obama "Hope" posters were based on, paying more than \$1 million for the work on canvas.

Now, as President Biden's term draws to a close, Huynh feels that she had been sold a bill of goods. "I think Biden has been out of touch," she told The Post. "He's asleep at the wheel."

Exasperated by violent crime and illicit drug use in America, the 48-year-old Vietnamese immigrant, who helped build some of the world's first e-commerce websites and once lived down the street from Steve Jobs in Silicon Valley, has done a total 180 when it comes to her politics.

No longer identifying as a left-leaning Democrat, she calls herself an Independent — and she's vocally backing Donald Trump.

She recently traveled from her home in Palo Alto, Calif., to Florida to show support for the former president at a fundraiser at Mar-A-Lago and hopes to attend more.

### Surprised to like Trump

"I was surprised when I met Donald Trump," Huynh, who is working on a Silicon Valley memoir entitled "Beyond Good and Evil," recalled. "He was light and funny and intelligent. The people there were down-to-earth."

"I was happy with how knowledgeable Trump is about what is going on with the country and the economy. He had the information. He is all there with the things that matter: education — his kids are well-educated — fighting crime, immigration and

**THE PRICE IS RIGHT:** Allison Huynh was once such a passionate Democrat that she bought high-priced party totems, including the Shepard Fairey artwork that inspired the Obama "Hope" posters (right) and JFK's rocking chair (inset). Now she's selling the lefty valuable and supporting Trump.



business," continued Huynh, who has two daughters, age 21 and 18, and a 16-year-old son.

The lefty collectibles are poised to go the way of Obama. She is currently shopping the JFK chair and Shepard Fairey "Hope" piece around — with a seven-figure price all in, we're told.

"I am cleaning house," said Huynh. "I was a lifelong liberal and Democrat but when things don't serve us in this moment, it is best to move on and let other people enjoy the items. They don't have much meaning for me right now."

Where she does find meaning in are elected representatives who promote law and order, low taxes, control at the border.

"I support politicians like Trump and Abe Hamadeh," she said, name-checking the Republican who ran for Attorney General in Arizona in 2022, lost to a Democrat by 280 votes and is currently trying to get the results overturned as he mounts a Congressional run.

**I support politicians like Trump ... We need [elected officials] with policies that make our cities safer.**

— Allison Huynh, former Democrat who fundraised for Obama

# LEAVING THE LEFT BEHIND

**A former Obama fundraiser is fed up with liberals — and selling her Dem collectibles for millions**

“We need [elected officials] with policies that make our cities safer,” Huynh continued. “We need police to support those laws.”

## Fed up with San Fran

Huynh sees San Francisco, where she owns property and once lived full-time, as “a failed science experiment for super leftist ideas and ideals.”

Its descent into lawless chaos in recent years spurred her move to the right.

“We are allowing heroin addicts to shoot up in public, violent attacks on Asians in Chinatown, and looting of our grocery

stores and shopping malls,” she said, also mentioning people defecating in the streets. “City officials and police just look the other way.”

It is not just law and order that pushed Huynh to the right. She would like to see policies, such as lower taxes, that benefit businesses and encourage entrepreneurship.

“Many people are coming to Trump for his good policies,” Huynh continued. “Look at his 2016 Jobs Act. It encourages investment, which helps to sustain this country.”

Her change of heart and mind first began to percolate during



Pete Thompson for the NY Post (2)

early COVID. Fauci-inspired restrictions that kept kids out of school, shoppers out of stores and people masked rankled her.

“People living in big cities had awful daily lives; I had to homeschool my children,” said Huynh.

“The Republicans were smarter [than the Democrats]. They wanted to look at who was getting sick. Young people suffered the most, even though they were low risk. We had lazy policy in

California,” she said, noting how many of the state’s residents flocked to Florida and its more lax restrictions.

And, she added, “many of the super liberal tech billionaires left the country for private islands, super yachts and estates in New Zealand.”

Border policy is another issue that’s led her to abandon the left.

“I am all for hardworking immigrants, but not for open admis-

sion of immigrants. We have to differentiate between legal immigrants who come here and work hard and illegal immigrants who come here and commit crimes,” she said.

Huynh knows from where she speaks. She was born in Saigon in 1975, as the city fell to North Vietnam. Her father — a pilot who had been doing work on chemical weaponry with the US Air Force — came to America that year. She and her mother followed in 1982.

The family lived primarily in Texas. Huynh was an exceptional student. She graduated high school in three years, got a scholarship to Stanford, earned a degree in symbolic systems engineering and joined the tech boom.

## Hypocritical tech bros

“I worked as a consultant, developing websites for banks,” said Huynh. She met Hassan in 2000, introduced by mutual Silicon Valley friends. They married in 2001 and divorced acrimoniously in 2020.

Google’s Brin and Page were frequent guests at their homes in San Francisco and Palo Alto, but Huynh speaks negatively of who they became.

“[Initially], they were very idealistic, believing in equality and inclusiveness,” she said. “But once they attained their Master of the Universe positions, they trivialized everyone who was not a big tech founder. They became the very institutions they rejected and wanted to dominate other people.”

She continued, “I came up with the idea for one of the most profitable engines in US history — which was text based advertising on Google — but Larry [Page] tried to marginalize and trivialize what I did. He told me that ideas are cheap and that it’s all about the implementation.” (Google PR did not respond to a request for comment on the matter.)

She sees similarities between the Silicon Valley tech bros and the Democrats for whom she once hustled to raise millions.

“Obama started out with an aspirational messaging that resonated with me; it was about equality and women and minorities; Biden projected the image of being cool and hip,” she said.

“But where are we now? Immigrants come into our country and commit crimes . . . Big tech tracks you and knows everything about you. But if you are having a problem with whatever [tech] service, you can never get a hold of anyone,” she said.

By contrast, Trump is in touch with the people and an advocate for regular Americans, she said.

“His rhetoric is entertaining. But the policies and politics make sense. I think Trump is engaging. I would like to hang out with Trump. He’s a really cool guy,” she said.

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**PIER REVIEW:** Tracy Obolsky, left, Anja Ferring, center, and Stacy Snyder at Rockaway Beach early this month.

# BOARD MEETING

## Boss ladies refresh in the surf

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

A group of female entrepreneurs is making waves at Rockaway Beach.

Whether it is 5 a.m. or 5 p.m., snowing or insufferably hot, the women bosses set out to catch some waves at the Queens beach while juggling business responsibilities.

Surfer Tracy Obolsky, chef and owner of the local Rockaway Beach Bakery, said she tries to write her schedule “around the surf forecast.” But, she added, “You can’t really plan to go surfing whenever you want. The conditions have to be right and the stars need to align and you just have to go when the opportunity arises.”

Like running a business, surfing requires discipline, patience, persistence, good communication skills and the ability to take responsibility.

“Everyone wants to

catch that wave,” said Anya Ferring, owner of online clothing company ARTbutt who also runs Manhattan-based design-consulting business The Factory 8. “You have to have a spirit of community and communication.”

### Watery respite

And that applies to her work. “We need to communicate with our clients and vendors,” said Ferring, 43. “We need to be courteous. We need to follow codes of respect and honor in how we do business.”

Obolsky, like other female business owners who surf, said she finds respite in the water.

“For me, you have to be present when you’re there,” Obolsky, 41, said. “I’m not thinking about payroll or ordering anything. For some reason I can turn my brain off in

the water and have a moment to myself.”

Similarly, Obolsky’s friend Claire Canfield, co-owner of Bloom Beauty Lounge in Chelsea, said she loves surfing because it’s an opportunity to be “fully present.”

“When you’re surfing you can’t think about anything else because there are finite waves,” said Canfield, 39.

Floral designer Amy Febinger, 48, also a pal of Obolsky’s, said as a Type-A personality she couldn’t tolerate sticking with anything she couldn’t master right away until she surfed.

“If you want the best wave you sometimes have to be really patient for that,” she said. “That’s given me patience in other areas of my life.”

Event planner Stacy Snyder said surfing is a “spiritual exercise” that is about the journey and the destination.

## Tupperwhere? Out of USA

Tupperware Brands announced it will be closing its South Carolina factory — the company’s last remaining plant in the US — and laying off more than 100 workers.

The iconic plastic food container company will shift all of its manufacturing operations to Mexico, where

many of its products sold in the US and Canada are already made.

The shuttering of the facility in the small town of Hemingway will result in the layoffs of 148 employees, according to the company, which is headquartered in Orlando, Fla.

Layoffs are set to begin in

September with a closure date scheduled for Jan. 14, 2025, WCBP reported.

Eligible employees will be offered severance packages and early retirement, the outlet said. The company also pledged to help connect workers with other companies for employment.

Patrick Reilly, Wires

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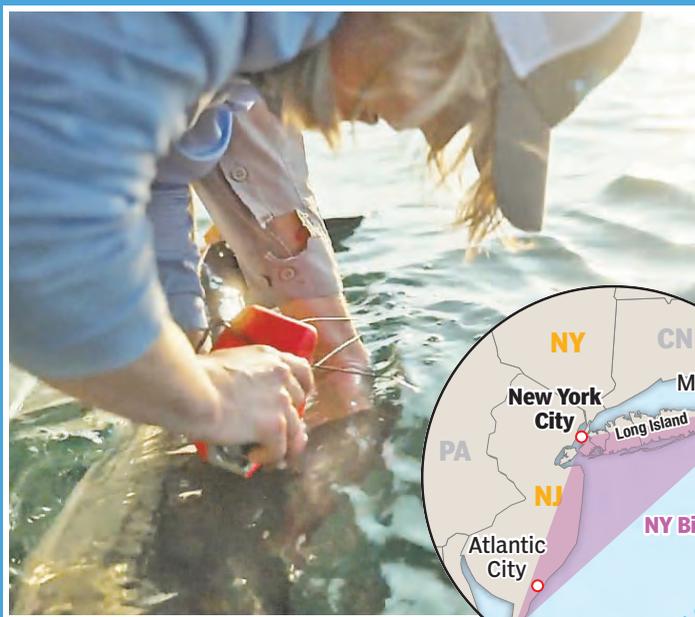
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# Baby great white shark 'nursery' off NY

# COULD JUST EAT YOU UP!



By DEAN BALSAMINI

You might not want to be around these babies when they're teething.

Biologists tagged the first baby great white shark — which they named Liberty — in a “nursery” of maneaters off New York City.

It's the focus of a July National Geographic episode called “Baby Sharks in the City,” streaming July 8 on Disney+ and Hulu, and July 9 on Nat Geo, part of Sharkfest programming that starts June 30.

The shark day-care center is in the New York Bight, a huge ocean triangle formed by Cape May, NJ; Montauk Point, LI, and the city.

Capt. Greg Metzger, who heads

the South Fork Natural Museum History Museum on Long Island, said scientists have been studying baby great white sharks in New York since the 1960s, but it was only in the past decade that the existence of the “nursery” was confirmed.

Dr. Tobey Curtis, a shark scientist with NOAA's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, said the 100-foot-deep “nursery” the team studied during the two-week expedition last year likely produces hundreds of great whites each year.

“The babies are on their own from day one. Sharks don't have parental care at all,” Curtis explained.

He said larger adult great white sharks do occasionally pass

through Long Island via the New York Bight but “they very rarely overlap during the summertime when the pups are there.”

Curtis said the pups are “left alone” while the adults travel further north — to Cape Cod, Maine and Canada.

## Hangin' out

“And the pups hang out off Long Island and so they are relatively protected there,” he said.

Curtis said when the weather gets colder in the fall and the water starts to cool off, they all migrate south.

The scientist said the water gets

warmer off New Jersey than it does on Eastern Long Island, “so as the summer progresses . . . most of the white sharks are further east. They're closer to Montauk and they're spending less time off Jersey.”

The bottom line? “New Yorkers will be surprised how exciting and how much life is going on out there. There's whales and dolphins and sea turtles and seals and all kinds of fish. New Yorkers may not appreciate how healthy the ocean is in their backyard,” Curtis said.

Travis Bogin appreciates the diversity of life in local waters.

Bogin, 39, was fishing solo 12 miles off Atlantic City, NJ, Wednesday when he hooked a 5½-foot great white.

“I was happy. Shocked. It was a major bucket list thing for me,” the Little Egg Harbor, NJ, resident told The Post.

As for last summer's baby-shark expedition, Metzger said, “The big splash was to put a very sophisticated camera tag on a baby white shark. So we were able with a lot of blood, sweat and tears to catch Liberty and put the tag on and follow her around.”

Metzger said that over the first four years of their life, the sharks are “basically traveling the entire East Coast.” The latest crop of younger-than-a-year sharks have “probably been here for a few weeks,” he said.

Noted Megan Winton, a research scientist who bestowed the name Liberty on the tagged baby great white, “There's this popular perception that sharks are kind of these mindless killing machines that are right off of our beaches. But the more we study them, the more we learn that is certainly not the case. We are just starting to scratch the surface of what we know about these animals with these new technologies.”

## Qns. HS mouse louse?

Ana De Jesus, principal of Queens HS for the Sciences at York College, one of the city's nine elite specialized high schools, asked the Special Commissioner of Investigation to look into whether “someone” put a dead mouse next to the school secretary's computer mouse, staffers told The Post.

In a May 22 email to QHSS staff, De Jesus said the secretary found the lifeless rodent on her mousepad that morning.

“I even saw it myself when I came into work,” the principal said, forwarding a photo of the ill-fated critter atop the desk.

Not mentioned in the principal's email, another bloody mouse was found lying on the keyboard, school insiders said.

It may not be an accident, according to De Jesus.

“There is a possibility that the mouse could have been placed by someone,” she wrote. “I have reported this incident to SCI for further investigation.”

The incident “may constitute harassment and the creation of a hostile environment,” De Jesus said.

It's unclear whether the office charged with probing DOE employee misconduct will dive into “Mousegate.”

Susan Edelman

## Execs are commies?

The parent company of China-based online marketplace Temu employs a bevy of former Chinese Communist Party officials among their top executives, raising serious national security risks, experts told The Post.

The Shanghai-based Pinduoduo is listed on the Nasdaq and has a current market capitalization of almost \$200 billion.

The names and backgrounds of PDD's leaders were first revealed on Kejixun.com, a Chinese language news site back in April. The link was taken down shortly after The Post reached out to Temu and PDD.

Jon Levine

**GREAT NEWS!** Researchers studying a great white shark nursery in the New York Bight off the coast of NYC were able to tag (right, above) a baby there for the first time. They named her Liberty.



Nat Geo

Four babies  
in two years  
— Happy  
Father's  
Day!  
P. 37



Meeting at this week's G7 summit, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has a strong supporter in Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, whose right-wing party just won big in EU elections.

The recent EU elections create new uncertainty for Ukraine — and an opening for Biden to display fresh leadership

# CONTINENTAL SHIFT

**N**EARLY 185 million voters in 27 European countries went to the polls last weekend to elect representatives not to their own, national governments but to the European Parliament — the legislative arm of the European Union (EU).

The outcome was dramatic: a decided turn to the right, especially in the bloc's two biggest members, France and Germany. The shift will have consequences for a range of European issues, most significantly the green transition, now likely to be much slower. But it also has important repercussions for the US, underscoring the need for American global leadership on Ukraine and Russia.

You need a scorecard to track exactly what happened last week as six "groups" — we'd call them parties — competed in 27 national races. Results are still provisional — it's a far-flung continent. But the center-right European People's Party, which held the biggest block of the parliament's 720 seats before the election, remained in pole position with 189 seats. The left-wing Socialists and Democrats held onto the number-two spot, albeit slipping by a few votes to 135 seats.

The biggest losers were the Greens and the liberal Renew coalition led by French President Emmanuel Macron, who is committed to reinvigorating Europe and making it less dependent on the US. The biggest winners were two conservative parties, one led by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the other by likely future French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen, one of



TAMAR JACOBY

Europe's strongest advocates of restricting immigration.

President Biden minimized the new turn in Europe. "We're going to continue to work with the EU," he said, "and we look forward to continuing our great relationship with [European Commission President Ursula] von der Leyen."

Just what the vote means for Ukraine remains unclear. The right-wing groups vary widely in their views of Russia and whether or not Europe should continue to stand with Kyiv. Meloni and her followers have strongly supported the Ukraine war effort; Le Pen's coalition is skeptical if not opposed. But unlike in the US, European public opinion about Ukraine generally has little to do with traditional left-right ideology. It's rooted mostly in national circumstances, including history and geography.

European attitudes toward the war have changed little in the past 18 months. Opinion varies widely from country to country — 57% of Swedes but only 28% of Italians think the West should back Kyiv until Russia is expelled from Ukrainian territory. As in the US, political elites tend to be more supportive of Kyiv and more worried about an expansionist Russia.

Very few national parties made the war a campaign issue. It hardly figured in France or Germany, where conservatives won biggest. And among those who tried to exploit voter fatigue with the conflict,

Hungary's pro-Russian prime minister Viktor Orban suffered one of the most humiliating setbacks of the weekend.

Where the election could make a difference for Ukraine: if it compromises the European leaders who have been staunchest in their support — the Greens, Macron and Ursula von der Leyen, who could be severely weakened or lose their jobs in the political jockeying to come. As in the US, where the November election could make all the difference for Kyiv, strong European political leadership is essential to sustaining the fight.

None of this would have mattered nearly as much two years ago. In the first months of the war, the US led the world to defend democracy and resist aggression on Europe's flank. We supplied the arms and intelligence that helped Kyiv survive the first Russian onslaughts. Biden called on Europe to stand with us defending Western values and the sanctity of international borders. Washington provided the lion's share of Western military aid through the end of 2022.

But then in 2023, the balance began to shift, with US support flagging and

Europe rallying to take our place. By April 2024, Europe had disbursed \$110 billion for military, humanitarian and financial aid and committed another \$83 billion, promised but still unspent. The US had disbursed \$80 billion and committed an additional \$27 billion.

Today, Europe is leaning forward, with Macron and others, most vocally in Poland and the Baltic states, arguing for tougher pro-Kyiv measures — sending the most advanced Western weaponry, using Western weapons to strike Russian territory and dispatching Western military to train Ukrainian fighters.

Biden continues to sound supportive and promise future help, including a new agreement to provide military aid for 10 years. But while he is committed to helping Ukraine stop the Russian advance, he often seems hesitant about actually winning the war — and many Americans, across the political spectrum, argue for walking away.

What will happen if the EU elections erode Europe's determination to defend itself and resist authoritarian aggression? Could the seesaw tilt again, with the US stepping up as Europe falls back?

What the US needs now is someone like Ronald Reagan or the great internationalist Democrats from Franklin Delano Roosevelt through John F. Kennedy. These presidents rallied the US to lead the world when our allies slipped — when it took a global crisis to rouse Americans to action.

Could that happen again now? We can only hope we won't be tested.



President Biden should step up if EU elections hamper his fellow pro-Ukraine leader, French President Emmanuel Macron.

Tamar Jacoby is the director of the New Ukraine Project at the Progressive Policy Institute.

**T**he ongoing anti-Israel riots on our university campuses and city squares have shaken American Jews — and all defenders of Western civilization — to their core. The mainstream media, always in the tank for vogue causes, sanitized this naked harassment under the label of “pro-Palestinian protests.”



**JOSH HAMMER**

In true extremist form, one “protestor” at George Washington University held up a sign advocating for Hitler’s “final solution” in late April. This week, anti-Israel

protestors were back at UCLA, with a new illegal encampment — the second in as many months. Jews have been terrified; one Jewish parent at Columbia, withdrawing his freshman daughter in April, analogized his experience to evacuating a refugee from a war zone.

Perhaps colleges and city centers will see a brief respite, as would-be revolutionaries jet off for summertime gigs at tony investment banks or do-goody nonprofits. Such a respite would be nice. But one would still be forgiven for asking the obvious question — which I’ve pondered often as a former law clerk on the US Court of Appeals and a frequent law school speaker: Why are none of these “protesters” in jail?

It is not as if legal remedies, both civil and criminal, do not exist. The Heritage Foundation’s Hans von Spakovsky has helpfully explained some leading options for meting out justice.

First, it’s constitutional law that aliens — legal or illegal — do not possess a First Amendment right to free speech that would prevent them from being deported for vocally supporting a US State Department-recognized Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). Each and every pro-Hamas protestor who’s not a US citi-

# TIME FOR JUSTICE



**NYPD officers detain dozens of pro-Palestinian students after they barricaded themselves inside a Columbia University building in April. Such protests have occurred nationwide.**

Anadolu via Getty Images

**After eight months of anti-Israel protests, prosecutors must use the law to end the chaos**

zen thus can, and should, be sent packing, as 8 U.S.C. § 1201 clearly permits.

Second, much of the protestors’ behavior likely violates Section 2 of the 1871 Ku Klux Klan Act (42 U.S.C. § 1985), which creates a civil cause of action to sue those who “conspire or go in disguise on the highway or on the premises of another, for the purpose of depriving . . . any person or class of persons of the equal protection of the laws.” Such a successful class-action civil suit — now gaining traction among Jewish leaders

— wouldn’t result in jail time, but it could punish the bank accounts of thugs who went “in disguise” to advocate for Jewish genocide.

Federal prosecutors have options

too. The criminal analogue to Section 2 of the Ku Klux Klan Act is 18 U.S.C. § 241, which criminalizes conspiring to “injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person . . . in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States.”

This has clearly been happening nationwide, but no one has lifted a finger to pursue such charges.

Nor has any federal prosecutor gone after a case of material support for a terrorist organization, proscribed by 18

U.S.C. § 2339A. Where are the federal prosecutors? For that matter, where is local law enforcement — especially in New York, in light of this week’s horrific bouts of antisemitic vandalism in Manhattan and Brooklyn?

First, there is a reflexive progressive disinclination to prosecute the activist misanthropes the media sanitizes as mere “protesters.” In Attorney General Merrick Garland’s Justice Department, such a high-profile prosecution would muddy the waters for Joe Biden and hamstring his re-election efforts. No one at Justice wants to be on the “wrong side” of an intersectional divide; far better to win over Michigan radicals than to pursue blind justice.

Second, the most high-profile protest anarchy has transpired in deep-blue jurisdictions overseen by George Soros-funded, or otherwise very left-wing, district attorneys. Does anyone really expect Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg, for example, to bring charges against students at Columbia — or to hunt down antisemitic vandals? Of course not. In the case of Bragg — who’s already trying to remove charges against many Columbia protestors — it’s far better to expend resources going after Trump. And in many Soros-funded DAS’ cases, it’s far better to simply not prosecute violent or property crime at all.

Tragically, antisemitic bad guys know they get a pass from today’s extremist left. Gone is the era of noble lawmen such as Eliot Ness, who pursued justice without fear or favor. Progressive prosecutors at the federal and local level now conform their actions to prevailing woke orthodoxies. This is doubly true when left-wing thugs are so violent, as we saw during the George Floyd riots and we have seen once again since Oct. 7.

Just as Hamas is still holding roughly 120 hostages in Gaza, so too have Hamas’s supporters held hostage America’s justice system.

Josh Hammer is Newsweek senior editor-at-large and host of “The Josh Hammer Show” and “America on Trial with Josh Hammer.” X: @josh\_hammer.

## Chatter



**“See what a gift I received for my birthday!”**

— Yakov Argamani being reunited with daughter Noa, who was rescued along with three other Israeli hostages after 245 days in Hamas captivity

**“We can’t underestimate how dangerous this problem is.”**

— an NYPD source on the rise of illegal mopeds

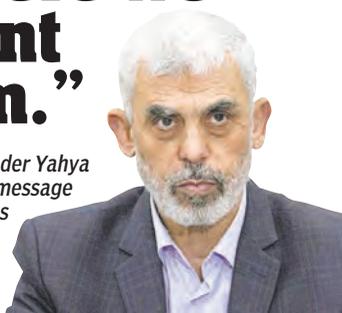


**“Remember the Boston Marathon? I’m afraid something like that might happen again or worse.”**

— an ICE source’s warning to The Post, on Russian nationals with suspected ISIS ties crossing the southern border

**“We have the Israelis right where we want them.”**

— Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in a message to fellow Hamas officials amid cease-fire negotiations





**KEVIN D. WILLIAMSON**

# Better late than...

**O**N Father's Day of 2022, I didn't have any children. On Father's Day 2024, I have four little boys.

We had been expecting the first boy in 2022 — the identical triplets, born earlier this year, were a surprise.

When you tell people you have triplets, the first thing they ask is whether you underwent IVF. For the record, you can engineer fraternal twins or triplets via IVF — you just insert two or three embryos at once. Identical triplets just happen. Identicals are what happen when you and your wife talk about how you wish you'd met earlier in life so you could have had a bigger family, and God, who listens and has a sense of humor, says: "All right, big shot — let's see how you do."

That first ultrasound appointment was memorable. We knew my wife was pregnant, and, thanks to a mail-order test, we had good reason to believe she was carrying a boy. The technician fired up the device and then — after reassuring us that she saw a baby and a heartbeat—she called the doctor on the telecom. "Is it twins?" the doc asked. "You only call me in when it's twins."

"I don't think it's twins."

Of course, I bought a Powerball ticket that evening. Statistically unlikely things were afoot.

I can feel you looking at the picture, there, the headshot that runs with this column. Yeah — 51 years old. That's not quite Saul Bellow-level late-life fatherhood — he was 84 when his last child was born — but it's older than Bill Burr was when he had a kid and got the idea for making "Old Dads."

My four little ones are a good deal younger than my brother's grand-



Proud papa Kevin D. Williamson welcomed his first son (left) in 2022, followed by identical triplet boys, and says the gratitude outweighs the stress.

With four baby boys in less than two years, Father's Day has never meant more to one dad over 50

children. That's a big social fault-line: When I was living in New York in my late 30s and early 40s, my Manhattan friends were mostly just starting families, whereas my South Bronx friends of the same age were often grandparents. My brother was a grandfather before he was 40 — if my oldest boy waits as long as I did to have children, I'll be . . . 98.

The other questions people ask: Are you getting any sleep? Yes, though the older boy went through a pretty tough adjustment period during which he was up several times every night. We brought the babies home from the hospital one at a time, and by the time the third

triplet was there, big brother must have been wondering how many were in the pipeline. How do you cope? Babysitters. Lots of them. I don't worry about the cost of putting four kids through college, because I'm more or less putting four through college now, and it's a bargain.

How many diapers do you go through? I honestly don't know, but between the diapers and other mostly baby-related Amazon deliveries, it's more boxes than our municipal recycling authority will haul away. Some parts are harder than you expect, but a lot of it is less difficult than you'd imagine.

Mostly, it's a pleasure. I'm adopted,

and so, until I had children, I'd never met anybody to whom I was actually related. There's something about looking down and seeing four little faces that look like yours staring back. Of course, you know that's going to be the case, at an intellectual level, but there's a big difference between knowing it and living it.

Having four children in less than two years heightens the sense of gratitude: for pedestrian but essential things (like the fact that I make a good living and can afford those babysitters), for friends and family and our church, for having a wonderfully competent and deeply good wife who makes up for many of my

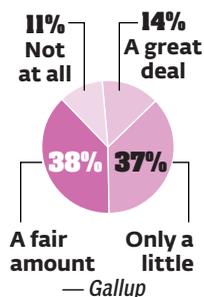
obvious deficits. But, mostly, for the fact that I get to take care of these four little men. They are delightful.

I didn't have a happy childhood myself, and I worry that I'm going to be a Clark Griswold, trying to force my family into some kind of conventional, Hallmark card version of domestic tranquility, making everybody miserable in the process. I do not have the strongest kind of religious faith, but I do hope that the same God who blessed us with these children will not object too strongly to my daily prayer, which I'll make twice on Father's Day:

"Please, Lord, don't let me f--k this up."

## TAKING CHARGE

US adults on how much financial risk they'd accept to be their own boss



**"Milwaukee, where we are having our convention, is a horrible city."**



— Donald Trump on the site of the upcoming Republican National Convention

## VERDICT'S IN

**"No one in this country is above the law."**

— Special counsel David Weiss after Hunter Biden's conviction on three felony gun charges



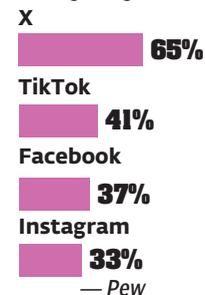
**"If I weren't running for re-election, he would have gotten the plea deal."**

— President Biden on his son Hunter's conviction



## FACT FINDING

Social-media users who view the platform as a tool for getting news



# POSTSCRIPT The Afterlife

## From funeral homes as community centers, to 'death doulas,' #gravetok videos

**S**EVERAL months ago, the fourth-floor visitation room at Frank E. Campbell - The Funeral Chapel, was filled with 40-plus seated people, many of whom were dressed in black. Colorful flowers in brass urns peppered the corners of the room.



**ALIX STRAUSS**

Floating candles in elongated glass cylinders lined the floor. I was standing at a podium and had been speaking for the past eight minutes. When I looked up, I saw the nodding of heads, the drying of a few tears and a thoughtful, interested expression on everyone's faces.

I ended, as I always do, with "thank you."

Then I heard clapping.

Frank E. Campbell is the signature, famous funeral home on Madison Avenue in New York. (Did you all see the last season of "Succession"?) I wasn't giving a eulogy for a departed family member, even though my father's and my grandmother's memorials were held here, not to mention



Brooklyn Public Library

**Gabrielle Gatto is the manager of Public Programs at Green-Wood Cemetery, which offers 30-plus programs on death.**



Frank E. Campbell - The Funeral Chapel

**The Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home on Madison Avenue — depicted in "Succession's" last season (inset) — features a rooftop perfect for an al fresco moment of reverence and celebration.**

bingo game, comedy show and winter concert — complete with Santa. And yes, they orchestrate memorials, over 400 a year.

Funeral homes, similar to cemeteries — I've read at those, too — are becoming the new community centers, and people are attending events not for sad occasions, but because they have become death curious, death fascinated, and death comfortable as we all move closer to that final chapter.

"The stigma around funeral homes is dissipating. The vibe of our funeral home is changing. People come to these events *wanting* to be here, as opposed to *having* to be here," said William Villanova, president of Frank E. Campbell - The Funeral Chapel. "There's a void we are filling in our community. We put on large-scale, high-quality, catered events with talented people at an extraordinary space."

Indeed. That space includes a newly completed 1,500 square-foot roof deck, the only funeral home that offers one in New York. "People come to these and on their way out ask, 'When's the next one?'" added Villanova.

It would seem death is no longer a taboo subject, and mortality has entered the realm of polite conversation and even popular culture.

"Oppenheimer" star David Dastmalchian announced his partnership in March with Titan Casket, a coffin company known for selling direct to

Judy Garland's and a slew of other luminaries. It was a book reading, and I was reading from my novel, "The Joy of Funerals," which was reissued in October in honor of its 20th anniversary.

The audience, rather than people paying their respects, were invited by the funeral home, which hosts several events: a

consumers at lower costs. Wielding a bent towards the macabre, the "Dune" actor is the company's first celebrity ambassador.

Speaking of coffins, there are now classes you can take to make your own permanent resting place. If you don't trust your workmanship skills, you can hire coffin artist David Cramton, an ex-Marks & Spencer textile designer in the UK, to make something unique for you. His creations range from Porsches to Pepsi bottles, even Louis Vuitton bags. (There's even a guy in El Salvador who specializes in selling Barbie themed ones.)

If you want something less physical, fear not, a plethora of ways to partake in the death space are now available. There are obituary writing courses; facilitated grieving group dinners; letter writing classes where participants share their thoughts and feeling with a deceased family member or friend; lively cemetery tours; and social-media GraveTokers, folks who collect recipes that appear on headstones, then make that dish at home, only to return to the deceased to eat that meal alongside them — all of which is shared on TikTok.

Two decades ago, when I wrote "The Joy of Funerals" and immersed myself in this world, most of these experiences — including the death positive movement, the permission to grieve, the death clubs and funeral conferences, the colorful characters who specialize in this industry — didn't exist.

They do now.

"COVID was the biggest eye opener of our own mortality. It showed how deeply we need support and community, and additional ways to live our lives differently," said Gabrielle Gatto, manager of public programming at Green-Wood Cemetery. The historical landmark in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, offers more than 30 programs that focus on death, dying, grief and loss, including workshops, lectures and practical death preparation — think bouquet making for the bereaved; Grieving & Weaving: Resolutions & Renewal, a knitting class that talks about grief



Titan Casket



Barbara Corcoran/Instagram

while crocheting; and A Day in the Life of a Death Doula.

"These classes exist because we need to get less afraid with the uncomfortable truth that we are all going to die, and because we need education for what to do at the end of life. People are curious enough to show up, plus they're fun and it's presented in a safe environment," Gatto says.

**T**HE truth is, death ain't cheap. It's big business.

According to Bloomberg, 2.4 million trackable funerals take place each year, accounting for over \$20-plus billion annually. Last year crowdfunding site GoFundMe claimed memorials were one their fastest growing categories of campaigns, garnering \$330 million-plus yearly to cover funeral expenses.

and DIY coffins, engaging with the end of life has taken on a life of its own

# BECOMES US



David Dastmalchian (top l.) reps coffins and Barbara Corcoran enjoyed her funeral at her 70th birthday (l.) while Green-Wood hosts programs about passing on. Be Ceremonial app founder Megan Sheldon (inset r.) with her husband Johan Hoglund and one of their retreats.



END OF LIFE RETREATS



#GRAVETOK CEMETERY DINING

Let me know if you've seen any

For Generation Xers like me — there are currently over 65 million of us in the United States — our aging parents, almost 70 million Boomers, are inching closer to their final days. Though we are living longer, we are being confronted by a reality we weren't prepared for. And let's not forget the Millennials, the 72-plus million who want *everything* personalized and customized — including their death preparation experiences.

For those attached to their apps, you'll be tickled to know an array exist that prepare and organize you for your last days.

WeCroak, founded by Hansa Bergwall and Ian Thomas, and inspired by the Bhutanese folk saying "to be a happy person, one must contemplate death five times daily," will send you quotes about mortal-

ity from poets, philosophers or notable thinkers, or a reminder to consider or meditate on your mortality.

Others, like Be Ceremonial, co-founded by Megan Sheldon, a ceremonialist and death doula from Vancouver, assist you in preparing or creating a ceremony for when a loved one passes, or if you want to mourn and honor someone, yourself included — while still among the living. "Hearing stories from loved ones about their impact in this world can be such a healing experience," Robinson says.

Death doula Catherine Durkin Robinson offers living funerals or celebration of life party services alongside more traditional wakes and memorials. Since 2020 she has been part of 20 funerals and two cel-

ebration events.

"Those clients wanted to enjoy a party that they were paying for, and to hear the eulogies before they passed," said Robinson, who lives in Chicago, Ill., and described herself as a wedding planner or master of ceremonies for funerals.

In 2019, famed real estate and businesswoman Barbara Corcoran celebrated her 70th birthday with a funeral. The "Shark Tank"

star, decked out in a red Carolina Herrera gown, had photo ops with her 90 guests who came, dressed in requested black-tie, to celebrate and pay their respects while she posed, motionless, in a coffin in her living room, which she had turned into a funeral parlor. Her caption on Instagram read, "What the heck, you only die once, you might as well be around for it!"

"Folks who are open to the idea want to hear the kind and loving things people will say, and to enjoy a celebration of their life. They want to be a part of the party," Robinson added. "There's far more impact when you get to rise to the occasion, or for someone to say, 'I'm sorry, I forgive you.' For some, they're saying goodbye for real even if

they are not dying. We want to plan our death because it's all about reducing fear and anxiety."

Curmudgeon comedian Larry David was assigned the task of being the master of death ceremony when comic colleague Albert Brooks, in the thick of COVID, wanted to plan his living funeral on the

Season II premiere of "Curb Your Enthusiasm," in 2021.

"In the last three years, I've been to five real funerals," he tells Lucy Liu in the episode. "The idea that friends get together and say wonderful things should be done to a person who can hear it."

People are gravitating towards that thinking, and not just those with terminal illnesses or octogenarians.

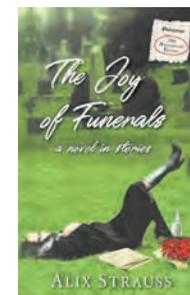
Tricia Mawson, now 71, experienced her "best living and death day" — which were the same.

"My daughter and sisters threw me a 60th birthday funeral surprise party," shared Mawson, who lives in Ambler, Pa. "I got to hear all the beautiful and loving things people were saying about me. It was one of the happiest times of my life."

The "funeral" was held in the basement where she sat in a lounge chair while eulogies, given by 25-plus people, lasted for several hours — the best one was said by her husband.

"It might be morbid for other people, but now I don't have to worry about my funeral. My funeral was checked off my list," said Mawson, who no longer fears dying. "I just have a fear of getting old."

Alix Strauss, a pop culture journalist, is currently on tour with her cult classic novel, *The Joy of Funerals*. She is penning a new book on death and our mortality.



# NEW YORK POST

AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

## Spies Who Betray

**Nearly four years after 51 former top intel officials smeared The Post and misled the nation about Hunter Biden's laptop, not one has any regrets — even though the FBI and Justice Department have confirmed the computer's authenticity and federal prosecutors even cited it as evidence in the first son's gun case.**

Indeed, the 51 “spies who lied” in a letter falsely suggesting the laptop report was “Russian disinfo” are proud of deceiving Americans, with a lawyer for some even calling their deception “patriotic.”

No: They sold out their own credibility for a mess of pottage by intentionally misleading the public, and giving pro-Biden media outlets an excuse to dismiss and censor The Post's 2020 election-eve scoop, as well as offering Joe Biden an escape hatch on the issue in his then-upcoming debate with Donald Trump.

Again: A host of top intelligence community leaders effectively lied to the American people “for their own good”; after that, how can anyone trust any “information” the IC offers?

And how does the IC justify all the billions the taxpayers spend on it, when its leaders *manipulate* the public instead of serving it honestly?

Yet when Fox News asked, not one of the 51 even pretended to regret their deception, instead hiding behind more weasel words: The letter “only” said emails from the laptop had “the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation,” they pleaded.

Except they all stayed silent when the letter got “misread” the way they'd *plainly intended*.

And never mind that The Post's reporting established the laptop's authenticity, with a receipt from the repair shop where Hunter dropped off the device and an FBI subpoena showing agents had picked it up.

Plus, the spies — ex-National Intelligence Director James Clapper, former CIA chief Michael Hayden and others — could have checked with one of their intel contacts before signing and learned that the FBI had already determined the emails were real.

Then again, given their lack of regret now, you have to think some of them might have checked, learned the truth — and lied anyway.

They knew they were abusing their authority, and the public's trust, to play politics: Former acting CIA chief Mike Morell testified under oath that then-senior Biden campaign official Antony Blinken reached out to him, prompting him to round up signatures for the false letter.

Morell, who hoped to become CIA director under Biden, openly admits he organized the letter to “help” Biden “win the election.”

The nation needs intelligence agencies it can trust to be honest brokers of information; these 51 “leaders” did the exact opposite.

That may not count as treason under the law, but it's certainly the very *opposite* of “patriotic.”

**T**HESE days many liberals embrace the “easy money” culture of generous government relief and low central bank interest rates as a way to pay for social programs and ease the wealth gap. But they should beware of what they wish for. Because contrary to popular belief, big government has been accelerating the rise of the billionaire class that liberals despise most.



**RUCHIR SHARMA**

In recent decades, the markets for stocks, bonds and other financial assets have tended to move only one way, up — levitating on a magic carpet of money flowing out of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve. Many observers object that Wall Street has been gaining at the expense of Main Street. Even titans of finance warn that growing wealth gaps could trigger a more or less violent “revolution.” Prominent politicians want to “abolish” billionaires — a call never heard before in the United States. But they are calling for more of the same strategy — heavy market intervention — that twisted capitalism into “socialism for the very rich” in the first place.

Government is not the enemy, it is the enabler of the power elite. By soaking capitalism in complex debt and regulation, it creates a system that only the richest tycoons and corporations are best equipped to navigate. In many capitalist countries, the share of wealth held by the richest citizens has been rising for decades.

In the United States, the share of national wealth controlled by the richest 1% has roughly doubled to 35% since 1980, mainly at the expense of the upper middle classes; the poorest 50% never had much to lose, the bottom 25% have had negative net wealth for nearly two decades. Today, their debts are often bigger than their assets, which ultimately leaves them with less than nothing.

These shifts represent the distribution in gains one would expect in a period when easy money is both flooding the economy with debt, and pumping up the value of financial assets. The richest 1% of Americans now own, for example, 54% of all stocks by market value; the next 9% control 39%, and the bottom 90% own just 7%.

As government comes to the rescue more assertively each time the markets falter, it turns the markets into a kind of perpetual motion machine, widening wealth inequality. And popular anger follows.

In the early 2000s, the share of American wealth controlled by the 1% eclipsed that of the 90% for the first time in decades — a harbinger of upheavals to come. By the 2010s, the revolt was on, and its prime target was not the 1%, it was billionaires, or the 0.00003 percent. In 2016 Bernie Sanders became the first presidential candidate to explicitly attack “the billionaire class.”

# EASY



**Billionaires like Bill Gates, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are members of an accelerating class, thanks to the same big government policies anti-billionaire liberals love.**

## An Insane Casino Rush

**Scare New York electeds off one bad idea and they'll immediately batten on another: Witness the cadre of state Assembly members demanding a fast track for the state's new casino licenses to make up for the revenue lost from the now-dead congestion tolls.**

Assemblyman Gary Pretlow (D-Mt. Vernon), who co-chairs the Racing and Wagering Committee, is vocal about the need to get the gambling dens up and running as soon as possible. “We have to bring the casino deals to fruition — the MTA needs the money,” he told The Post; co-chair state Sen. Joe Addabbo (D-Queens) is equally eager to start stacking chips. So they and others want Gov. Hochul's John Hancock on a just-passed Assembly bill to grease the license-awarding path.

The MTA may need cash, but ramming through casino deals to provide it has got to be among the worst ideas yet to come from our legislative overlords — and it has some very stiff competition.

First off, the licensing process stinks to high heaven: The heavy wallets of the bidders — for the licenses, in question the *minimum* expected bid is \$500 million, on up to heaven knows how much — draw greedy pols like trash draws flies. The fat-cat gaming operators and real-estate firms in play

for the licenses have a huge incentive to cough up big for the campaign coffers of politicians with influence over the process.

And indeed the list of would-be operators reads like a rolodex of the connected and powerful: Steves Cohen and Wynn, Related Cos., SL Green and Caesars. Cohen has handed Hochul megabucks; so has SL Green chief Marc Holliday.

Equally important, casinos in general are major economic busts in the Empire State.

Ex-Gov. Andrew Cuomo tried to sell them as big job-creators, but even a cursory look at the \$200 million shortfall that slammed upstate casinos in 2018 proves they're not all they're cracked up to be. And new casinos tend not to generate new revenues but simply cannibalize gamblers from other casinos (witness the dozen-plus casinos that have died off in Atlantic City).

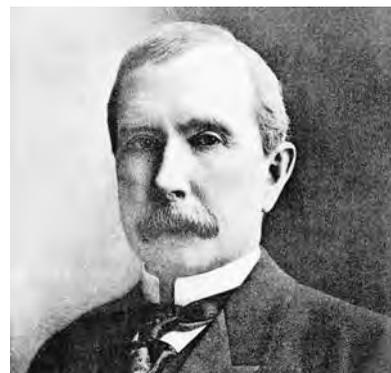
That's to say nothing of the fact that, given an increasingly lawless environment in Gotham, casinos would be huge problem zones for prostitution, drugs and general public disorder. Assuredly not glamorous, James Bond-style establishments.

Hochul deserves real credit for standing against prog madness on congestion pricing; let's hope she shows the same spine on this inanity.

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**John D. Rockefeller's wealth hit 1.6% of US GDP in the 1910s. By 2021, there were 17 moguls with similar reach, all in welfare-state nations.**



## CHATTER Bogus Bowman

Rep. Jamaal Bowman must be defeated in the June 25 Democratic primary (“Bowman’s 2-face politicking,” June 12).

The Post’s coverage has focused on Bowman’s anti-Israel votes and statements and the fire-alarm misdemeanor. But another reason to vote for his opponent George Latimer is that Latimer is so clearly qualified to serve in Congress.

During my tenure as Greenburgh town supervisor, I have seen Latimer in Greenburgh a few times a week when he’s running and when he is not running for office. I have only met Rep. Bowman five times during his tenure in Congress — and he represents Greenburgh.

**Paul Feiner, Greenburgh**

## Free at last

Kudos to The Post for its recent editorial (“Attacking a Rescue?” June 11).

Sometimes I wonder if our world has been turned upside down. Instead of applauding Israel for rescuing hostages, many in the West have condemned the rescue mission because Palestinians were killed.

Like The Post, I say the rescue attempt should be celebrated by everyone who believes life means more than death.

**Sal Giarratani, Boston**

## Long COVID blame

I still wonder why former Gov. Andrew Cuomo did not

use all of the resources available to him to reduce the deaths of hundreds of elderly people (“Andrew’s lies,” June 12).

He was given an entire medical ship, the Javits Center and several field hospitals where he could have isolated patients.

Instead, these facilities remained largely empty while he chose to write a book extolling his own extraordinary leadership skills.

Cuomo’s arrogance prevented any meaningful COVID policy.

**Michael D’Auria, Bronxville**

## Cease-fire misstep

I am dismayed that the Biden administration seems intent on pressuring Israel into a cease-fire with Hamas (“Never deal with Hamas devil,” Michael Goodwin, June 12).

Israel is being told to abandon the war with the task half-finished: Hamas’s terror infrastructure has not been fully dismantled. The blood of the next massacre will be on President Biden’s hands.

**Robert Frazer, Lancashire, UK**

## Join the club

Contrary to your editorial, “Vasan’s Dubious Mental-Health Vision” (June 11), clubhouses explicitly serve people with serious mental illness, especially schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder and major depression.

They are a critical way for these New Yorkers to achieve stability via a supportive community. I should know: I ran the original clubhouse and grew it

significantly — and as health commissioner have overseen a doubling in clubhouse investments.

For decades, clubhouses served only a few thousand of the more than 200,000 New Yorkers with serious mental illness. We’re fundamentally changing that — focused far less on size than on quality.

The Post criticized prior mental-health initiatives for large budgets without tracking outcomes. We’re bringing order and standards to the patchwork clubhouse system, with programs tracking clearly how well they’re doing for their members, including in preventing hospitalization, homelessness and much more.

We welcome questions about our vision, laid out in a comprehensive mental health plan. New Yorkers deserve an accurate representation of that work; The Post missed the mark.

**NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasan, Queens**

Post your comments on stories at [www.nypost.com](http://www.nypost.com)

E-mail [letters@nypost.com](mailto:letters@nypost.com),

or write to:  
The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, NY 10036.

Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letter will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

tained the billionaire class, quite the opposite. In the early 20th century, oil baron John D. Rockefeller saw his fortune peak at 1.6% of GDP — a record for the United States. By 2021, when massive government interventions were sending markets skyward despite the shock of the pandemic, the world had at least 17 modern-day moguls with Rockefeller-like control of their economies — but not one in the United States (not even Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk).

Instead, they were found in more generous welfare states, from Canada to France. Sweden, often hailed by American progressives as a socialist success story, had the most: five billionaires with wealth in excess of 1.6 percent of their nation’s GDP.

Defenders of big government argue, broadly speaking, that while easy

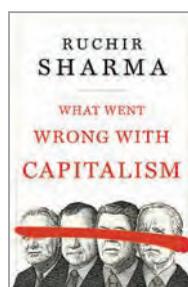
money may lift financial markets and therefore wealth at the top, it also creates jobs. So any increase in wealth inequality is compensated for — in large part — by rising incomes for everyone. The problem: income inequality has also widened as the culture of easy money spread.

Talk of “a new gilded

age” has been around a while, but it is no longer just talk. Since 1980, the income share of the 1% has doubled, recently surpassing 20% for the first time since the 1920s — and rising (as with wealth) mainly for the super rich, at the expense of the upper middle classes, as the share of the bottom 50% stagnates at a low level.

When capitalism is working, government is small enough to leave room for individual freedom and initiative, encouraging new and small enterprises to rise up and creatively reimagine old concentrations of wealth and power. To right the balance, the sensible answer is less government, reducing the flow of easy money and bailouts that help the big grow bigger, and the welter of regulations that make it hard for the small and nimble to compete. If liberals want to make capitalism fairer, without destroying it entirely, they need to embrace “creative destruction” and abandon the easy money culture. It’s the safety net for billionaires.

This excerpt was adapted from “What Went Wrong With Capitalism” by Ruchir Sharma published this week by Simon & Schuster



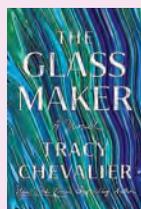


## REQUIRED READING

by Hailey Eber

### The Glassmaker: A Novel

Tracy Chevalier (Viking)  
The latest from the bestselling author of "The Girl with the Pearl Earring" is set in Venice in 1486. When the patriarch of a Murano glass-blowing clan dies, his eldest daughter takes up craft in secret to support the family, even though women of the time aren't meant to work with glass.



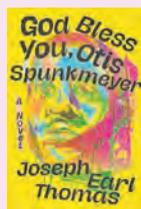
### The Midnight Feast

Lucy Foley (William Morrow)  
In this highly anticipated thriller, a swank new wellness retreat opens in the British countryside with a glittering infinity pool, CBD cocktails and guests clad in chic neutrals. But by the end of its first weekend, dark secrets have emerged, there's been a fire and a body has been discovered.



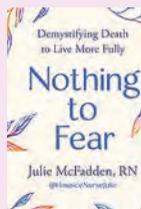
### God Bless You, Otis Spunkmeyer

Joseph Earl Thomas (Grand Central Publishing)  
This debut is drawing early raves. A black army veteran struggles after coming home from Iraq as he juggles a job in a hospital emergency department, grad school and complicated family relationships.



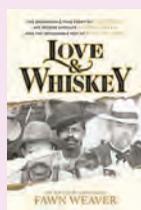
### Nothing to Fear: Demystifying Death to Live More Fully

Julie McFadden RN (Tarcher/Perigee)  
McFadden, aka @HospiceNurse-Julie, has attracted 1.5 million TikTok followers with her warm-but-frank lessons about death and dying. Her book covers a range of topics, from the ins and outs of hospice care to how to get a loved one's finances in order before their death.



### Love & Whiskey: The Remarkable True Story of Jack Daniel, His Master Distiller Nearest Green, and the Improbable Rise of Uncle Nearest

Fawn Weaver (Melcher Media Inc)  
Weaver takes readers on a journey to shed light on the life of Nearest Green, the enslaved man who taught Jack Daniel to make whiskey.



### Theatre Kids: A True Tale of Off-Off Broadway

John DeVore (Rowman & Littlefield)  
This moving memoir recounts DeVore's life-changing experience having a bit part in a tiny, four-hour production adaptation of William Faulkner's novel "As I Lay Dying" as he struggled with addiction and grief. The cast and crew were scrappy but passionate as they tried to bring their vision to life in a windowless theater in Brooklyn in post-9/11 New York.



# Scrambling



ERIC SPITZNAGEL

**I**n the mid-80s, a new way of doing things was sweeping the business world, but not everyone was convinced.

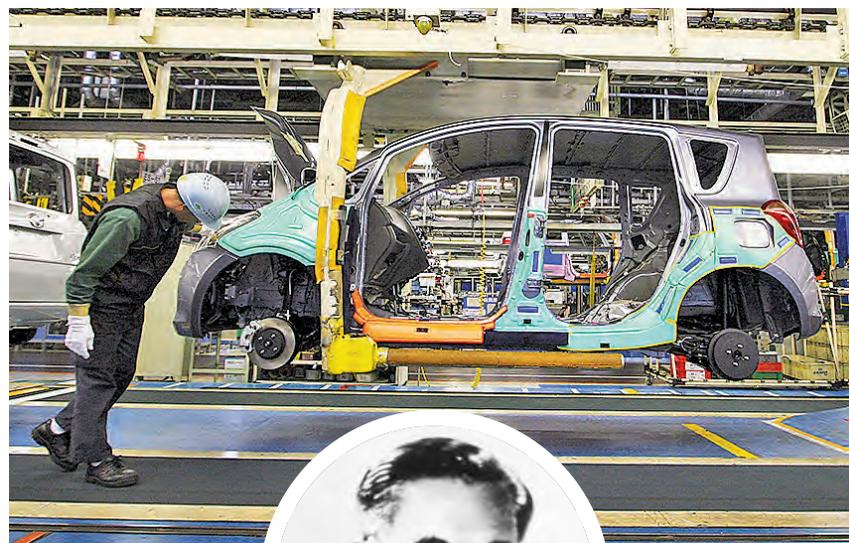
Jerome Bodmer worked in the purchasing department of Onan Corp., a Minnesota-based company that manufactured industrial generators. Profits were steady, but then a team from McKinsey & Company, the management consulting firm, showed up and insisted they could be making even more money by reducing the amount of inventory the company kept on hand.

"McKinsey's advice appeared to collide with common sense," writes Peter S. Goodman in his new book, "How the World Ran Out of Everything: Inside the Global Supply Chain" (Mariner Books), out June 11. "What would happen when, inevitably, some supplier ran into trouble and failed to deliver? Didn't it make more sense to keep extra parts on hand?"

The McKinsey people assured Bodmer that "he had no idea how the modern world worked," writes Goodman.

Onan adopted the strategy, and though it did please stockholders in the short term, it was a disaster for the workers and customers. They frequently ran out of essential parts, delaying orders by weeks and even months. "We'd be waiting to finish a generator that we could sell for a quarter-million dollars, because we didn't have a \$5 sheet metal bracket," Bodmer told the author.

It was just the beginning of a misguided corporate revolution. In the coming decades, companies across the globe would adopt this strategy — known as Just in Time, or lean manufacturing — "skimping on the costs of stashing backup parts and



products in warehouses," Goodman writes. "Instead, they depended on the Web and container ships to summon what they needed in real time."

**C**UTTING inventory increased their return on assets, which "made their shares more attractive to investors," Goodman writes. "This was straightforward math." But it led to a global supply chain that was dizzying in its complexity.

"Cargo ships were no longer just bearers of finished products," Goodman writes. "Increasingly, they were conduits for components that could be processed in one place — coated with a chemical treatment here, pounded into a desired shape there — and then combined with other parts somewhere else, to be assembled into finished goods."

This system has evolved to include everything from the obvious — a typical car requires "an average of 30,000 individual parts forged in plants around the globe," Goodman writes — to the surprising, like disposable diapers, with some brands requiring "more than 50 parts," writes Goodman. "If just one of these parts could

**Toyota founder Kiichiro Toyoda (inset) laid the groundwork for so-called Just In Time supply-chain management, organizing his assembly lines (above) so that vital parts only arrived as they were needed.**

not be purchased, the rest were effectively stuck in limbo, with final production impossible."

Just in Time was put to the ultimate test during the COVID pandemic, when everything from gaming consoles to smartphones to toilet paper began to vanish from store shelves. The supply chain disruption was no fluke, says Goodman. Nor was it a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. But "to meet the challenge of the next disturbance," he writes, "we need to grapple with how we got here."

The origins of Just in Time manufacturing began in the late 1930s, the brainchild of Toyota Motor Company founder Kiichiro Toyoda. Rather than filling up warehouse space with parts and supplies, Toyota created a system in which components only arrived on the assembly line precisely when they were needed.

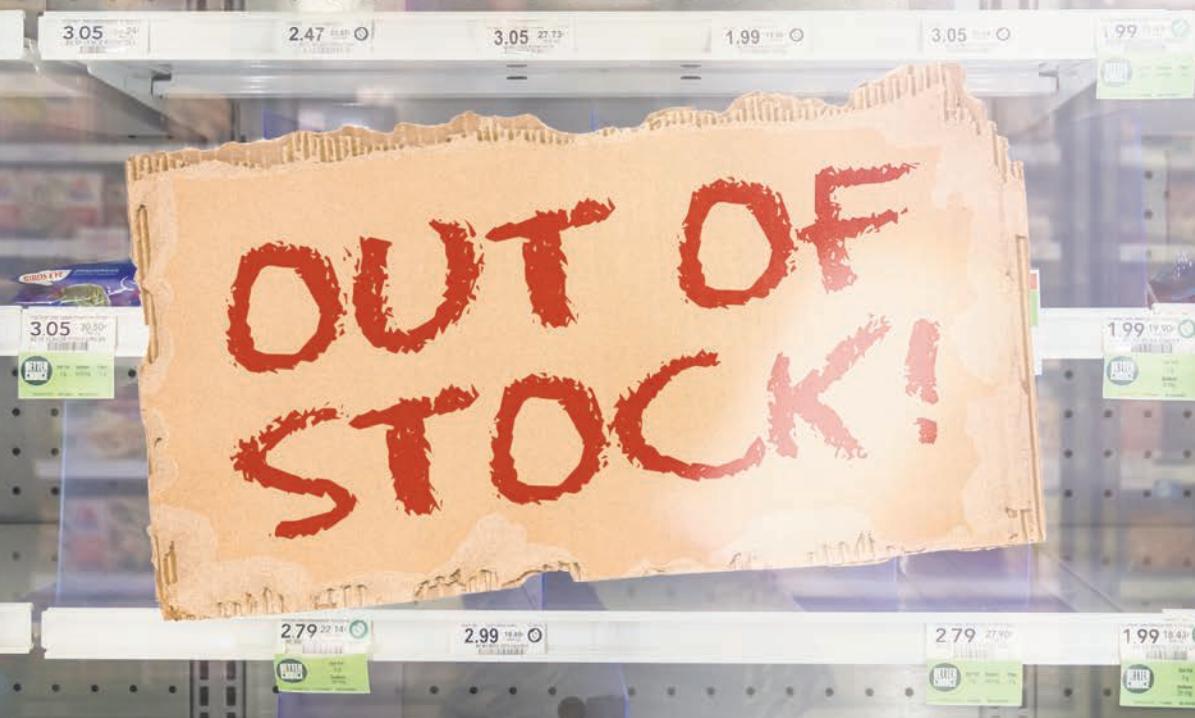
The Western world took notice decades later, when the 1973 oil crisis hurt the profits of automakers worldwide but Toyota was largely unscathed. It launched a wave of "lean production" true-believers, and by the 1980s companies everywhere were



**Apple's Tim Cook likened over-inventory to running a dairy farm back in 2008, observing that if the product "gets past its freshness date, you have a problem."**

# for parts

How an obsession with efficiency and demand for profits created a supply-chain crisis across the globe



cutting costs by keeping their production lean, and looking across oceans for new suppliers.

**O**N paper at least, it made sense. Factories in China had all the manufacturing know-how. And they were cheap, without any of the pesky unions or workplace safety regulations. American politicians justified the outsourcing on the grounds that it would “generate demand for the ultimate Western export: democracy,” writes Goodman.

By 2020, Chinese companies were producing around 80% of the world’s air conditioners, 70% of all mobile phones, and more than half of all shoes — with an estimated value of more than \$3.5 trillion each year. But the biggest beneficiaries of China’s export boom weren’t “in fading factory towns, but in boardrooms in New York and Seattle,” writes Goodman.

One of the biggest supporters of Just in Time was Apple CEO Tim

Cook, who in 2008 described inventory as “fundamentally evil.” A company should be run like the dairy business, he said. If your product “gets past its freshness date, you have a problem.” Until the pandemic, “Tim Cook had not been wrong,” writes Goodman.

“Cutting inventory really had tended to enrich corporations.” But all of that changed with COVID, which shut down the Chinese factories that supplied Apple with the parts they needed. And that’s when Americans — unable to buy new

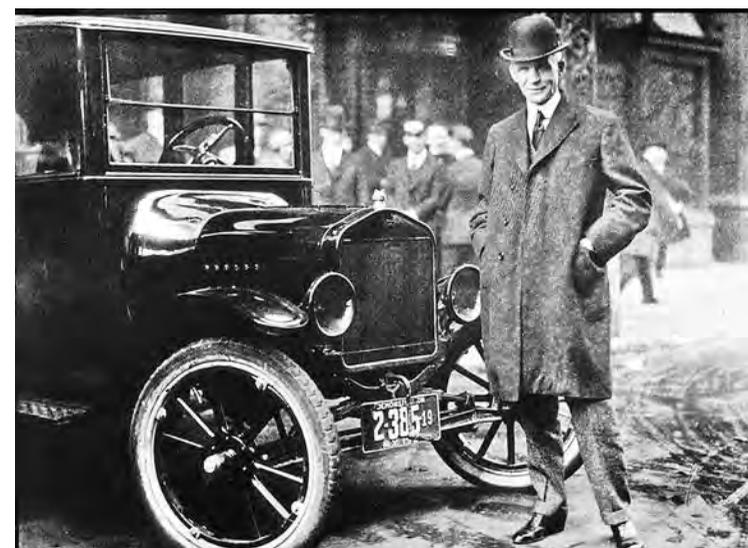
iPhones — began to panic.

We’ve known for decades that billionaires were getting richer by exploiting workers both on US soil and overseas. But it was something the public was willing to ignore for “the comfort of not having to worry about running out of whatever we needed,” Goodman writes.

The supply chain was not just the circulatory system for goods, Goodman writes, “but also the source of a deep-seated sense of authority over human circumstance.” When that disappeared — when the things we wanted on demand were no longer available on demand — the Just in Time house of cards began to collapse.

We can’t say we weren’t warned. Henry Ford, father of the auto industry, predicted what would happen more than 100 years ago.

“We aim to make some of every part so that we cannot be caught in any market emergency or be crippled by some outside



Pioneering mass-production overseer Henry Ford warned as far back as 1922 on building his autos: “We aim to make some of every part” to avoid “being crippled by some outside manufacturer.”

manufacturer being unable to fill his orders,” he wrote in his 1922 memoir.

**T**HERE were even more recent warning signs. In 1999, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck Taiwan, a leading supplier of computer chips. “The quake shut down a major industrial park where key components for chips were made, generating shortages around the globe,” writes Goodman.

“By the time the Christmas season unfolded three months later, parents were struggling to locate popular products like Nintendo’s latest gaming console.”

COVID drove the point home. Not only were customers unable to find hand sanitizer, toothpaste, and smartphones, but also life-saving medical devices. “The United States, the world’s most powerful country, had successfully mobilized to defeat the Nazis, put humans on the moon, and catalyze the computer age,” writes Goodman. “Yet, in the face of a lethal pandemic, it could not make or secure enough face masks to outfit medical workers.”

Have companies learned their lesson? When the next shock comes —

another pandemic, earthquake, or other unforeseen disaster — will the supply chain buckle yet again, all because companies wanted to fatten the pockets of their stockholders?

Knut Aliche, who works for McKinsey & Company — the business consultancy that proselytized Just in Time to companies like Onan in the ‘80s — admits that “we went way too far,” he told the author. “The way that inventory is evaluated will change after the crisis.”

Goodman disagrees, noting that the incentives at work in the global economy have “remained unchanged. There was still no reward for executives who devoted money on bolstering their supply chains against future risk.”

Aliche admits that his predictions may be overly optimistic. Companies, he told the author, “tend to forget very fast.”

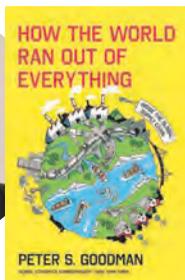
As for Onan and its industrial generators, the once independent family-run company is now part of a sprawling multinational conglomerate.



With inventories monopolized at massive shipping ports like here in Shanghai, McKinsey’s Knut Aliche (inset) is among the experts lamenting that consultancy strategists “went way too far.”



Peter S. Goodman



# POSTSCRIPT Books

by **HOLLY GEORGE-WARREN**

**‘W**HAT you are about to read is not a standard account of the life and work of Joni Mitchell,” writes longtime music critic Ann Powers in the introduction to her new book, *“Traveling: On the Path of Joni Mitchell (Dey Street Books),* out Tuesday. “Instead, it’s a tale of long journeying through a life that changed popular music: of a homesick wanderer forging ahead on a route of her own invention, and of me on her trail, heading toward the ringing of her voice.”

Mitchell’s renegade spirit animates Powers’ innovative biography, in which she intertwines her own story with that of the iconic 80-year-old singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, whose work includes such beloved songs as “Both Sides Now” and “The Circle Game” — along with landmark albums such as “Blue,” “Court and Spark” and “Hejira.”

The Canadian-born artist who began her career as a folksinger in Toronto helped launch the confessional singer-songwriter movement in the ’70s. Powers seemingly bleeds on the page as she describes her process trying to unravel the complexities of Mitchell and her ever-evolving vast body of work.

“She is a titan and a monument,” Powers says of her subject, on which she spent the last seven years researching. “She’s very prickly and complicated to write about. I wanted to get her unstuck from her own legend in a sense and contextualize Joni’s work and life within historical moments and phases of her development as an artist.”

Though some, like singer Judy Collins, think of Mitchell as the “Queen of Laurel Canyon,” Mitchell, in fact, found her footing in 1967 in New York, where she met Collins, whose covers of her songs brought early acclaim. “Joni was so inspired

Joni Mitchell mined popular culture for her deep reservoir of ’70s-era influences, nowhere more so than in New York City

## GOTHAM LEGEND



Joni Mitchell’s 1969 classic “Clouds” (below) and other albums were crafted amid formative times in the Big Apple.

by the buzz and excitement of New York,” Powers said to The Post from her Nashville home. “It’s where she learned to build characters and scenes and write songs that weren’t about emotions and predicaments.” In tracks like “Chelsea Morning” and “Tin Angel,” Mitchell was “catching the buzz of the city,” says Powers. “New York opened up rhythm for her. She heard it in the pulse of the city. You hear that in her music.”

And it was in a New York City hotel room in August 1969 that Mitchell wrote what would become the anthem of the legendary Woodstock festival taking place in upstate New York. Booked to appear on “The Dick Cavett Show,” she was talked

into sitting out the three-day gathering, so instead she watched TV news coverage. Her pals Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young recorded her visceral “Woodstock” for the closing credits of the Oscar-winning documentary on the fest. “I think her distance is key to what makes that song so great,” says Powers. “Because Joni had been left out of this experience, she had a need to mythologize it, to make it a fable. And of course, its placement in the movie cemented its central role.”

Mitchell’s love affair with New York resurfaced in the late 1970s when she immersed herself in the city’s jazz scene,

collaborating with Charles Mingus, Wayne Shorter, Don Alias, and Jaco Pastorius, as well as Latin musicians. “In her jazz years, she heard so many kinds of music, even while walking down the street. In a song like ‘Goodbye Pork Pie Hat’ the lyr-

ics she wrote for Mingus’ song, she sings about encountering street musicians and the serendipitous magic of New York.”

Throughout “Traveling,” Powers takes Mitchell to task for certain artistic decisions she considers missteps and, in some cases, cultural appropriation. “As a fan and critic and chronicler, I tried to understand how to respond to aspects of her history and herself that deserve to be challenged,” reports Powers, who highlights the cover of the 1977 album “Don Juan’s Reckless Daughter,” in which Mitchell appears as a black man, complete with makeup and an Afro wig.

“I reflected on how we tend to give a lot of space to our most-loved icons. You can find similar moments in the careers of Madonna or Bob Dylan — the choices they made that deserve to be called out.”

At the same time, Powers’ authorial goal was to “shine a light on Joni as a technical innovator in the studio, highlighting the fact from early on she was experimenting with tape loops and synthesizers: In the 1970s she was influenced by Stevie Wonder and R&B and interested in how she could bring new sounds into her music.”

As for her subject’s possible reaction to her assessment: “If Joni does read the book,” Powers says, “I hope she recognizes that I so respect her unquenchable creativity. I’m in awe of her will and her drive and curiosity. I hope that by offering this very wide-ranging and varied portrait of her, in which her many journeys come to light, the takeaway is of Joni’s determination to never rest in one version of herself — as she changed and grew, so did her music as part of her own personal evolution. I admire that so much.”



Reddenns

By 19, Sara — née Malka — Glass got everything an ultra-religious Jewish woman from the insular Borough Park neighborhood in Brooklyn could want. She’d married a God-fearing man and became a mother — her “true purpose” in life — while settling into the Hasidic enclave of Lakewood, NJ.

After growing up in a “Fiddler on the Roof”-style home among five sisters, she externally looked the part of the perfectly pious: modest wig, covered collarbone and kneecaps, prayer book permanently stashed in purse — but all was not well.

Between mining kosher cookbooks for gourmet recipes to please

her emotionally unavailable husband, Malka unsuccessfully ignored an inconvenient truth: that despite her commitment to Judaism, she was a closeted lesbian who’d broken off a torrid affair with an equally religious woman just before her wedding. “My devotion to God and my deep, well-tended fear of his wrath didn’t leave much room for choice,” Glass writes in her new memoir, “Kissing Girls on Shabbat.”

Her story is one of a woman



trapped — in a loveless, arranged marriage, by the rules of her own faith, and by the self-denial she struggled with for years.

Her anemic sex education consisted of a lesson involving a tube of toothpaste and “bendy toy” that raised more questions than answers as she lay with the stranger who happened to be her spouse.

She was soon drowning deeper in a dire situation — burying burning secrets, both from herself and her cloistered world — while juggling

two children in an increasingly untenable marriage.

Once her controlling husband finally granted her a religious divorce, Glass writes that she was 24 and already had “ruined my own life. Forgive me, I begged of God.”

Cognizant that one perceived slip-up would cost Glass her children, she forced herself to date men suitable for marriage.

But after 13 years of “living in fear” and leading a “double life,” it was over — Glass won custody of her children with help from a group that supports ultra-Orthodox who left the community.

She remains committed to this purpose today. — Doree Lewak

## BUZZ BOOK: Woman in Chains



# Sunday Break



“Get Cooking” By Katy Steinmetz & Rich Katz

**Across**

- 1 Secret repository
- 6 Speed-of-sound ratio
- 10 Overactors
- 14 More than a stone's throw
- 18 Buenos \_\_\_
- 19 Nueve menos uno
- 20 Tyler Perry character
- 21 Wolfe of “Three at Wolfe’s Door”
- 22 Instruction for the host of a comedic takedown?
- 25 “Gimme a break!”
- 26 1980s sitcom ET
- 27 \_\_\_ board
- 28 Whole-grain cereal brand
- 30 Andes lake
- 33 Ballet \_\_\_
- 35 Ford Field team
- 37 Meditate ahead of a big tennis match?
- 42 Washington’s “Lilac City”
- 45 Singers Green and Yankovic
- 46 “I’m off”
- 47 “Leaping lizards!”
- 48 Head, as a meeting
- 49 Prestreaming devices, for short
- 51 \_\_\_ House: “Jane Eyre” setting
- 53 Take effect
- 54 Gory, perhaps
- 56 An icy winter?

- 59 Applies
- 60 Reuters peer
- 62 Sweltering
- 63 Opposing vote
- 64 The “B” of BFF
- 65 Open a joint savings account?
- 69 Elemental unit
- 73 “Am \_\_\_ the right track?”
- 74 Perch output
- 75
- Antidiscrimination inits.
- 76 Used a snowboard
- 77 Toss and turn all night?
- 84 Pleases no end
- 86 Furniture designer Charles
- 87 Took legal action
- 88 NBA star
- 90 Australian mine finds
- 91 Singer Dua \_\_\_
- 92 Feathery accessory
- 93 Emer. message
- 94 One way to analyze music
- 96 Defect to the prosecution midtrial?
- 101 Petal support
- 102 Twain character
- 103 Not mandatory
- 107 Terrycloth wrap
- 109 Compliment on the green
- 112 “Sorry, it’s \_\_\_ from me”
- 113 Roman 19-Across
- 115 What the best mystery writers know how to do?
- 119 Grace period?

- 120 East Coast rd.
- 121 Not on land
- 122 Barn nestling
- 123 Confused
- 124 Sp. or Ital.
- 125 Condé \_\_\_
- 126 Cybertruck maker

**Down**

- 1 Measure for 90-Across
- 2 Garlicky emulsion
- 3 Make paper bag puppets, perhaps
- 4 Toms and drakes
- 5 Parts and labor fig.
- 6 Like Mr. Peanut
- 7 Honest-to-goodness
- 8 Facial feature unique to humans
- 9 Callback alternative
- 10 Building with wings?
- 11 Join together
- 12 Spineless
- 13 Big name in baked goods
- 14 Divisive pizza topping
- 15 Advocate para las mujeres
- 16 One not into amorous love, briefly
- 17 “Parks and Rec” character Swanson
- 20 \_\_\_ Park: Meta site
- 23 Olympian Bolt
- 24 Small disputes
- 29 Title of a medieval tale?
- 31 Most foul
- 32 Leafy green also known as silver

- beet
- 34 2007 Heisman winner Tim
- 36 Slug cousin
- 38 Uncover
- 39 Disney queen who says, “You can’t marry a man you just met”
- 40 Vaccine tool
- 41 Ibsen’s “Peer \_\_\_”
- 42 Go after grime
- 43 Developmental period
- 44 Musical Hall partner
- 50 Powerful engine
- 51 “I can relate,” online
- 52 Not bamboozled by
- 53 Prone to shrinking?
- 55 A bit of tea, in a way
- 57 Gloss
- 58 Sierra Nevada lake
- 61 Clorox brand
- 66 HBO’s “Detective: Night Country”
- 67 Got into the weeds?
- 68 Turnarounds
- 69 Great Plains people
- 70 Come to
- 71 NFL star \_\_\_ Beckham Jr.
- 72 Like a toddler with finger paints
- 73 Uncertainties
- 77 “Solitude is the richness of \_\_\_”: May Sarton
- 78 Formal affair wear

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18					19				20				21					
22					23				24				25					
26					27					28		29						
30			31	32					33		34	35			36			
			37					38	39			40				41		
42	43	44					45				46				47			
48						49	50			51	52			53				
54					55	56			57				58					
59					60	61			62			63						
64					65			66	67			68			69	70	71	72
					73				74			75			76			
77	78	79	80				81			82	83		84	85				
86						87				88		89		90				
91					92				93			94	95					
96					97			98	99			100						
	101						102					103				104	105	106
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113	114						115		116						117	118		
119							120					121			122			
123							124					125			126			

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- 79 Blasphemy and sacrilege
- 80 Tap again, in a way
- 81 Big drink
- 82 Dressage pace
- 83 Like much of Hawaii
- 85 Sound heard twice in a lifetime?
- 89 “Cut it out!”
- 92 Sinister
- 93 Harmonize
- 95 “I’m \_\_\_ here”
- 97 Follower of hee and yee
- 98 Schmoozing by boozing
- 99 Ouzo flavor
- 100 Ways to go
- 104 Aces
- 105 “Moon and Half Dome” photographer Adams
- 106 Whole host o’
- 108 “Lady Tan’s Circle of Women” novelist See
- 110 Actor McGregor
- 111 Tuscan setting for novelty photos
- 113 Actor Kilmer
- 114 “FWIW” kin
- 116 Part of enby
- 117 Tater \_\_\_
- 118 Org. that maintains kayfabe during shows

## Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. **Super Su Doku**, inside, multiplies the challenge — and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at [www.SudokuWiki.org](http://www.SudokuWiki.org). For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow’s New York Post.

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Very Easy #6,581 ▼						Difficult #6,371 ▼						Challenging #455 ▼							
	4	6	2		3	8					2								
					1		2								4				
		9		6		4				8						9			
6			5		1				1	9								4	
	9				3					7	2	1					5	3	
8			4		9				8	3					3		7		
9		3		5		1								9		6	2		4
			2		4										4				
		8	3		7	6	5											6	3
																		2	1

# Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.

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#455 ▲

# Chess

## Good or bad omen?

By Andy Soltis

World chess champions are spectacular at predicting moves but can be otherwise awful at forecasting the future.

Magnus Carlsen demonstrated this year when he handicapped the eight-player tournament in Toronto that chose the next world championship challenger.

Carlsen named four favorites and said it would be “a shock” if anyone else finished

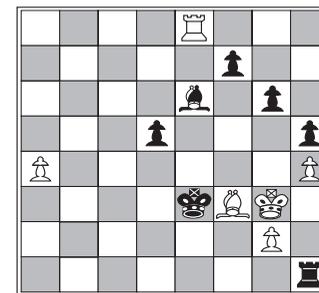
first. “I cannot imagine” 17-year-old Gukesh Dommaraju of India winning, he said.

But Gukesh did win and will face Ding Liren of China in a title match this fall. Ding became champ when Carlsen walked away from championship chess last year. However, Carlsen said Ding may be “permanently broken.”

In this week’s game, Black resigned in view of 30...Qxf7 31 Nh6+.

### QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED American Cup 2024

<b>Zoey Tang</b>	<b>Anna Zatonskih</b>
1 d4 .....d5	16 Ng3 .....h5
2 c4 .....e6	17 f3 .....exf3
3 Nc3 .....h6!?	18 Rxf3 .....h4
4 cxd5 .....exd5	19 Nf5 .....Bxf5
5 Bf4 .....Nf6	20 Qxf5 .....Rad8
6 e3 .....Bd6	21 Nc4 .....Ne4
7 Bxd6 .....Qxd6	22 Ne5 .....Ng5
8 Bd3 .....O-O	23 Rf4 .....f6?
9 Qc2 .....Qe7	24 Ng4 .....Qf7
10 Nf3 .....c6	25 Raf1 .....Rd5
11 h3 .....Nbd7	26 Qc2 .....Rd6?
12 O-O .....Re8	27 Rxf6! .....Rxf6
13 Ne2 .....Ne4	28 Rxf6 .....Qe7
14 Bxe4 .....dxe4	29 Qg6 .....Ne4
15 Nd2 .....Nf6	30 Rf7! .....Resigns



Black to play and win.

T. Lei-Z. Tan

Women's Candidates Tournament 2024

Last week: 1...Rxh4! 2 gxh4 Qg4+ 3 Kh2 Qxh4+ 4 Kg1 Bh3!

# KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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## Sunday Word Force

### METABOLIC

From the word or phrase above, form at least 20 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

## Bridge

Ed, my club’s expert, had won our quarterly pairs championship, playing with Cy the Cynic.

“We were tied with Rose and Unlucky Louie entering the last two-board round,” Ed told me, “and they were our opponents. The first board was a flat game, so the second would tell the tale.”

Ed showed me today’s deal.

“I played at six spades,” Ed said, “and Rose led a heart. I won with the ace and led a diamond. Rose knew I had a singleton; with two low diamonds, I wouldn’t have used Blackwood. But Louie had

played the four on the first heart, so Rose placed me with four heart tricks and five good spades. If she took the ace of diamonds, I would have 12 tricks. So she ducked.”

“Good defense,” I said.

“Rose is no slouch,” Ed nodded. “The king won in dummy, but I had only 11 tricks.”

Ed ruffed a diamond and cashed all his trumps and three more hearts. After 10 tricks, dummy had the queen of diamonds and A-9 of clubs,

and Ed had Q-5-4 of clubs. Rose had to keep the K-10 of clubs and ace of diamonds, and Ed exited with a diamond and end-played her.

“Well done,” I said. “If you lead toward your queen of clubs, you fail. What led you to the winning play?”

“It was a guess,” Ed said. “But it occurred to me that if Rose had nothing in clubs, her opening

lead might have been the ace of diamonds. This was matchpoints, after all, and she might have saved an overtrick.”

Whether Ed’s reasoning was sound, I don’t know. I know he won the event.

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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

**BOGGLE POINT SCALE**

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

**YOUR BOGGLE RATING**

- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



**Boggle BrainBusters Bonus**

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find **AT LEAST EIGHT U.S. STATES** in the grid of letters.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

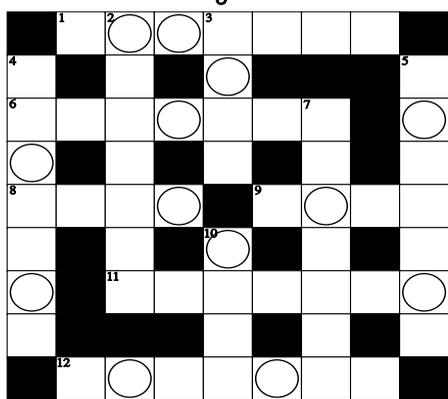
6-16-24

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by David L. Hoyt

**Sunday Puzzle**



**ACROSS**

**CLUE**

- 1. \_\_\_ Sea
- 6. Requested, called for
- 8. Raised, developed
- 9. Elitist
- 11. Frighten, surprise
- 12. Previously

**ANSWER**

- PSACNIA
- DDROER
- ERBD
- BNSO
- REALTS
- RLDAAEY

**DOWN**

**CLUE**

- 2. Home \_\_\_
- 3. Miami, but not Orlando
- 4. Merge
- 5. Empowered
- 7. Bequeathed
- 10. Behind schedule

**ANSWER**

- RSAEDDS
- ROPT
- MNIBOCE
- LABDENE
- DDTANOE
- LETA

6-16-24

**BONUS**

CLUE: He won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

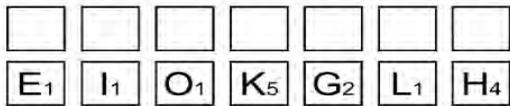


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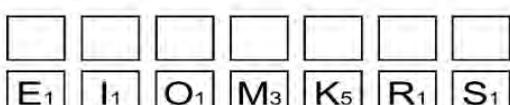
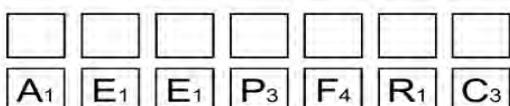
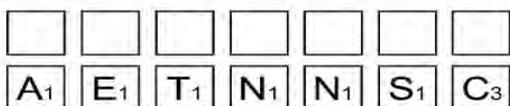
**How to play**  
Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.



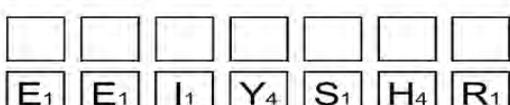
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Double Word Score



3rd Letter Triple



PAR SCORE 220-230  
BEST SCORE 288

FIVE RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

**Super Su Doku**

7		1	5	10	2		12	9	11		4
	2	9		4			3				
		4	3	5				1			
	7				8	1		6		2	
	11		4						5		
				12			7				
				3			5				
		11	1					10		8	
	4	7	10		9					11	
			12					9	11	8	
				6			4		10	9	
9		10			5	12	11		1		6

**Wonderword**

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Adored, Advice, Arms, Barbecue, Baseball, Blessed, Boat, Bond, Brave, Business, Camp, Card, Cars, Charm, Children, Coach, Coffee, Comfort, Compass, Construction, Cook, Cool, Courage, Family, Focus, Game, Goal, Grandfather, Guardian, Guidance, Handsome, Hardworking, Helpful, Highway, Homework, Hugs, Ice Cream, Inspire, Jokes, Laugh, Lesson, Life, Listener, Love, Loyal, Memory, Motivated, Movies, Outdoor, Park, Play, Practical, Pranks, Protect, Provide, Racetrack, Reliable, Role Model, Share, Shaving, Shelter, Silly, Smart, Soccer, Special, Sports, Strong, Suit, Support, Talk, Thanks, Tuxedo, Uncle, Visit, Wallet, Well, Wisdom

**HONORING ALL THE GREAT DADS TODAY SOL.: 9 LETTERS**

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

# Snaps

By Maude Campbell, Tori Schneebaum & Donna Grace

**Suri Cruise goes all in on summer with a bike ride in Central Park.**



## PLEASURE CRUISE

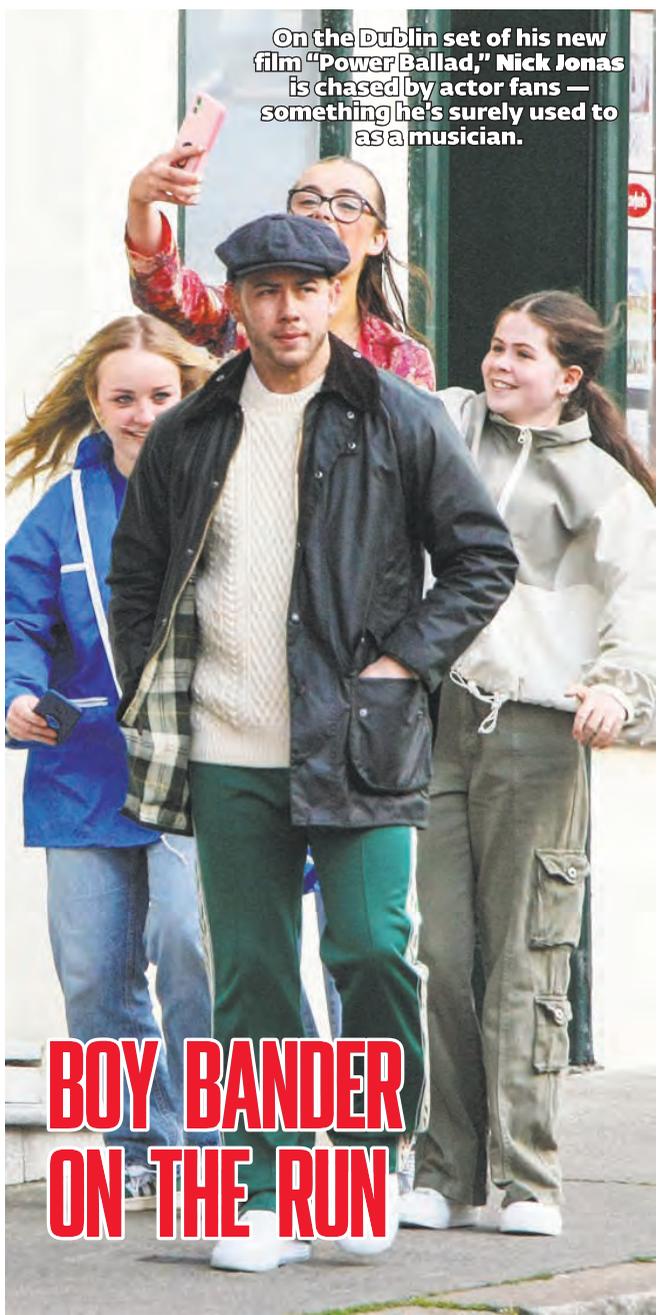


Mark Doyle / SplashNews.com

GC Images

## SKIRT FLIRTS

**Former "The Act" co-stars Joey King (left) and AnnaSophia Robb are happy to see each other at the Chanel and Tribeca Festival Women's Lunch in NYC.**



**On the Dublin set of his new film "Power Ballad," Nick Jonas is chased by actor fans — something he's surely used to as a musician.**

## BOY BANDER ON THE RUN

GC Images



**Penn Badgley (center) acts the opposite of his aloof and violent "You" character Joe on set in lower Manhattan.**

## ALL ABOUT YOU

Felipe Ramales / SplashNews.com



Abroad in Zurich, Olivia Rodrigo fetes her 50th "Guts" world tour show.

SWISS MISS

oliviatorodrigo/Instagram



katebosworth/Instagram

After a year of marriage, Justin Long and Kate Bosworth still make each other smile, this time in Tarrytown, NY.

CARROT & SHTICK

Larry Marano/Shutterstock



Keke Palmer revels in her role as grand marshal of Washington, DC's Pride parade.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

keke/Instagram



GC Images

In Hoboken, NJ, Elle Fanning cuddles up with Timothée Chalamet as Bob Dylan for the biopic "A Complete Unknown."

TELLING FOLK TALES



Ariana Grande lets the cat out of the bag at Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Finals in Florida.

BEST OF PUCK

# Snaps

## CHILLING EFFECT

Sofía Vergara maxes and relaxes as the summer gears up.



gwenstefani/Instagram

sofiavergara/Instagram

At the CMA Fest, Blake Shelton (from left), Gwen Stefani and Post Malone grab a drink and make merry.

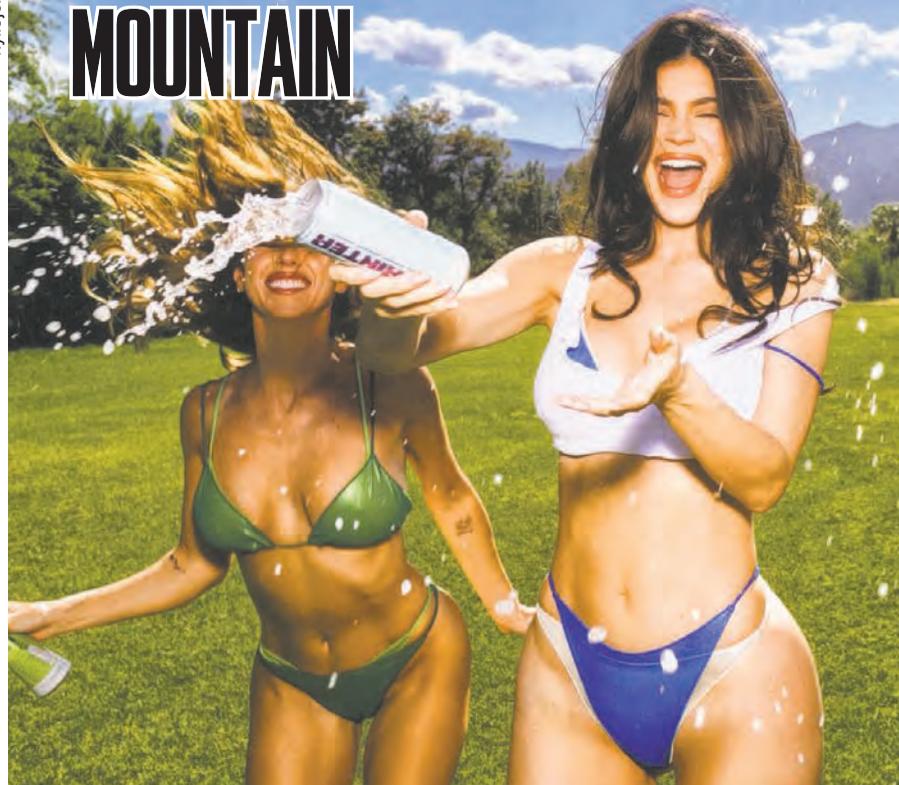
## COUNTRY CLUB



kyliejenner/Instagram

## SPLASH MOUNTAIN

Victoria Villarroel (left) and Kylie Jenner soak up the sun and vodka sodas.



To celebrate their 12th anniversary, Matthew McConaughey and Camila Alves get close.

## COWBOY UP



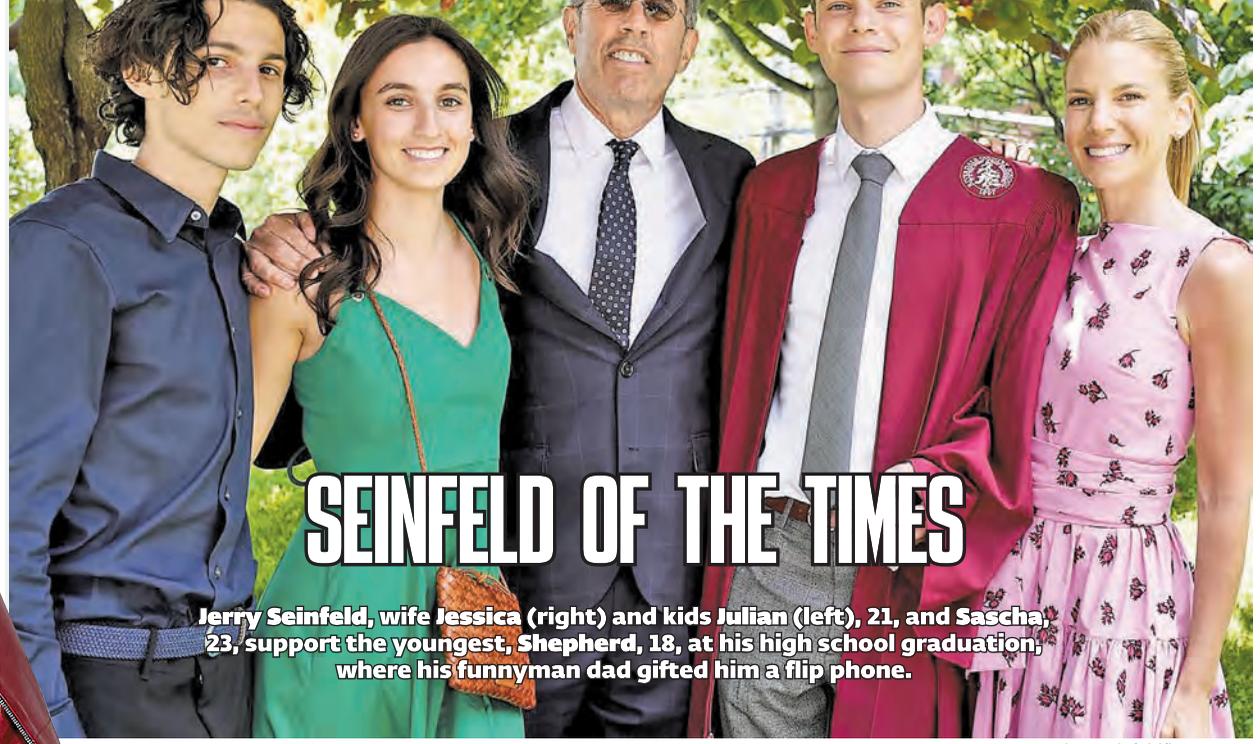
camilamconaughey/Instagram

# CROP TOP



Getty Images for Fenty Hair

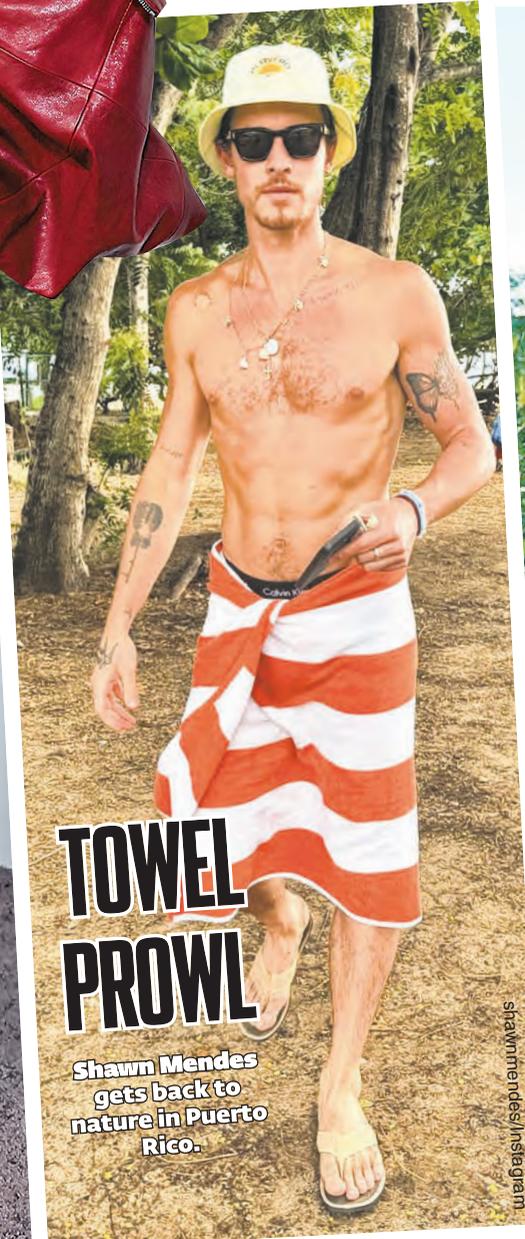
To launch her Fenty Hair brand, Rihanna treats Los Angeles to a new 'do.



# SEINFELD OF THE TIMES

Jerry Seinfeld, wife Jessica (right) and kids Julian (left), 21, and Sascha, 23, support the youngest, Shepherd, 18, at his high school graduation, where his funnyman dad gifted him a flip phone.

jesseinfeld/Instagram



# TOWEL PROWL

Shawn Mendes gets back to nature in Puerto Rico.

shawnmendes/Instagram



Following their daughter Liv's graduation from Northwestern University, Julianne Moore (left) and hubby Bart Freundlich share an intimate celebration.

# HOLD IT!

julianmoore/Instagram

# LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS



## TONIGHT SHOW JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m. / NBC  
**Monday:** Eddie Murphy, Matty Matheson  
**Tuesday:** Kevin Costner (above), Chace Crawford  
**Wednesday:** Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Luke Newton



## LATE NIGHT SETH MEYERS

12:35 a.m. / NBC  
**Monday:** Ayo Edebiri (above) Luke Wilson  
**Tuesday:** Eddie Murphy, Nicola Yoon  
**Wednesday:** Lupita Nyong'o, Ebon Moss-Bachrach



## WATCH WHAT HAPPENS LIVE

3:30 a.m. / Bravo  
**Monday:** Aesha Scott, Elena Dubaich  
**Tuesday:** Caroline Stanbury, Jeff Lewis  
**Wednesday:** Abby Elliott, Craig Melvin (above)

# Sunday June 16, 2024

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies Sports New

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	
2	WCBS	2	2	2	News	60 Minutes	The 77th Annual Tony Awards: Ariana DeBose hosts the 77th Tony Awards celebrating the best Broadway shows.					CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) CBS 2 News		
4	WNBC	4	4	4	2024 U.S. Open Live.	The Wall: Travis and Kelsey (R)	Swimming: U.S. Olympics Team Trials - Swimming Qualifying Heats Live.			Weakest Link: A Slap to the Face (R)		News 4 New York at 11	News4 NY		
5	WNYW	5	5	5	(5:00) UFL Football: UFL Championship: Birmingham Stallions vs San Antonio Brahmas. Live.	TMZ Investigates: TMZ Investigates: JLo &		Grimsburg (R)	The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth	Raw Travel: Fjordtastic			
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos (R)	America's Funniest Home Videos (R)		The Jungle Book (2016, Adventure) Neel Sethi. PG ★★★			Eyewitness News at 11			
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Chicago P.D.: Outrage	Chicago P.D.: Ties That Bind (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	
11	WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	Armageddon (1998, Science Fiction): An unruly crew of oil rig workers is trained to destroy a killer asteroid. Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★			PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		PIX11 Sports Nation	Yankees Nation			
13	WNET	13	13	13	Through Our Eyes	Becoming Frida Kahlo: The Making (R)	Professor T: Heir to the Throne		Grantchester		DI Ray: Wrong Place	Luna & Sophie: Fatal Attraction (R)			
21	WLIW	21	21	21	PBS News	Symphony (R)	Gospel Live! Presented by (R)		Memory Makeover with Daniel Amen			America (R)			
25	WNYE	25	22	25	(5:30) TBA	GZero	Profiles (R)	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Voyager	Feet	Confucius Was a Foodie	
31	WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Pay to Play		NCIS: The Tie That Binds		NCIS: Willoughby		NCIS: Off the Grid		NCIS: Keep Going	
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	Cero ruido VIP		Cash, el peso del dinero		De noche pero sin sueño		Aquí y ahora		Noticias	
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP: Ayudantes (7-58) Top Chef VIP: Ayudantes de Lujo, Part 2		Pica y se extiende		Noticiero		Noticiero		Noticias (R)	
55	WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	Juneteenth	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning			Europe By	Judge Judy	Paid	Women Of Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	181	WWE Rivals	WWE Rivals (R)		Biography: WWE: ECW		Biography: Bret Michaels			(11:04) WWE Rivals (R)		
AMC	54	43	231	231	(6:00) The Shawshank Redemption (1994, Drama)	Tim Robbins. R		Interview with Vampire		(10:11) Interview with the Vampire (R)			Unstoppable ★★★		
BET	37	54	270	270	Fatherhood	21 Jump Street (2012, Comedy) Jonah Hill. R ★★★		22 Jump Street (2014, Comedy) Jonah Hill. R ★★★			Fury (2014)				
BBCAM	71	101	189	189	(5:00) Fury (2014, Action) Brad Pitt. ★★★½	Zero Dark Thirty (2013, Drama) Jessica Chastain. R ★★★½			Fury (2014)						
BRAVO	18	44	185	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		The Real Housewives of New Jersey		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Watch What	
CNBC	15	24	102	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank			
CNN	78	25	100	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		The Whole Story with		Violent Earth: Tsunami		Secrets & Spies: Escape		Violent Earth: Tornado (R)	
COM	45	50	190	190	Dodgeball	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	South Park	
DIS	49	31	250	250	(6:25) Big City Greens the Movie (R)	Coco (2017) Anthony Gonzalez. PG ★★★½		Hamster		Hamster		Hamster		Hamster	
DSC	66	27	120	120	Naked and Afraid XL: Caiman Killers	Naked and Afraid XL: A Camp Divided			(10:07) Naked and Afraid: Love at First Fight (R)						
E!	24	51	196	196	Bourne ID	The Bourne Supremacy (2004, Action) Matt Damon. PG-13 ★★★½			The Bourne Legacy (2012, Action) Jeremy Renner. PG-13 ★★★						
ESPN	28	36	70	70	Baseball	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox from Fenway Park. Live.			SportsCenter Live.		SportsCenter				
ESPN2	29	35	74	74	30 for 30	2024 NCAA CWS: Game 6			E60		30 for 30				
FBN	43	106	117	117	K. Grammer	Kelsey Grammer (R)		Kelsey Grammer (R)		Kelsey Grammer (R)		Kelsey Grammer (R)			
FNC	44	26	118	118	Fox Report	The Big Weekend Show		Life, Liberty & Levin		Sunday Night		Weekend Show (R)		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	164	Grocery (R)	Guy's Grocery Games (R)		Ciao House: Bounty Hunting Right Meow		Alex vs America (R)		Beat Bobby		Beat Bobby	
FREFRM	38	49	199	199	The Incredibles (2004, Adventure) Craig T. Nelson.	(8:50) The Incredibles 2 (2018, Family) Holly Hunter, Craig T. Nelson. PG ★★★½		Cadet Kelly							
FS1	400	99	83	83	UEFA European: Serbia vs England	UEFA European Champion: Poland vs Netherlands		UFL Football: UFL Championship Taped.							
FX	10	40	53	53	Star Wars	Star Wars: The Last Jedi (2017, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill. PG-13 ★★★½			Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker ★★★						
HALL		191	240	240	Matching	A Greek Recipe for Romance (2024)		When Calls the Heart		The Presence of Love (2022)		Eloise Mumford. G			
HGTV	64	98	165	165	Home Town	Home Town (R)		Fixer Upper		Celebrity IOU: Laurence		Hunters (R)		Hunters (R)	
HIST	40	47	128	128	(6:00) The Food That Built America (R)	The Food That Built America: The Spoils of War (R)			(10:04) Food Built (R)		(11:04) Food Built (R)				
ID	23	171	123	123	Monster (R)	American Monster (R)		American Monster (R)		American Monster		Psychopath		Psychopath	
LIFE	62	45	140	140	Yoga Teacher Killer (2024) Caity Lotz.	Danger in the Dorm (2024, Thriller) Jason Fernandes.			The Good Father: The Martin MacNeill Story (2021)						
MeTV	33	33	3	3	Collector	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Family	Family	Family	Family	Ed Sullivan	Burnett	Van Dyke	Van Dyke
MSG	27	87	78	78	JB Smoove	The Juice	The Juice	The Juice	The Juice	Club 30: JJ Redick	Club 30: Lindsey Vonn		The Bettor		The Bettor
MSG Plus	48	88	80	80	(12:00) FanDuel	Racing Live.		United Fight		United Fight		World Poker		World Poker	
MSNBC	14	23	103	103	The Sunday	Ayman (R)		Ayman		Prime Weekend (R)		Inside With Jen Psaki (R)		Ayman (R)	
MTV	20	53	210	210	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	
NATGEO	65	162	121	121	Gordon (R)	Gordon Ramsay (R)		Gordon Ramsay (R)		Gordon Ramsay		World Eats Bread		Gordon Ramsay (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	252	Loud House	Trolls World Tour (2020, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG			Friends		Friends		Friends		Friends
OWN	173	180	145	145	(6:00) 20/20	20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN: Switched		20/20 on OWN: Switched		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)	
PARMT	36	56	54	54	(6:17) Yellowstone (R)	(7:33) Yellowstone: Dream is Not (R)		(8:53) Yellowstone (R)		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue (R)			
SNY	26	60	77	77	(6:00) Broadway Boxing Replay.	Jets Specials: Klecko 73		Broadway Boxing: Broadway Boxing 2403 Replay.			Sports Live.		Sports Live.		
SYFY	17	48	180	180	(5:00) 2012 (2009, Action) John Cusack. PG-13 ★★★	(8:33) The Dark Tower (2017, Adventure) Idris Elba.		Moonfall (2022, Action) Halle Berry. ★★		Moonfall (2022, Action) Halle Berry. ★★					
TBS	8	39	52	52	Despicable	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Despicable Me (2010) PG	
TCM	82	41	230	230	The Courtship of Eddie's Father (1963)	Life With Father (1947, Comedy) William Powell. ★★★½		Father of the Bride (1950, Comedy) Spencer Tracy.							
TLC	52	28	139	139	(6:00) 90 Day Fiancé: Happily: The Liar	90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?: Malice			MILF Manor: MILFless		(11:01) 90 Day Fiancé				
TNT	3	37	51	51	(5:57) Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (2019, Science Fiction)	The Lazarus Project (R)		(10:06) Lazarus Project		Star Wars: The Last Jedi					
TVLAND	85	34	241	241	Mike: Pilot	Mike	Men	Men	Men	Men	Men	Men	Men	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	50	NASCAR Cup	NASCAR Cup Series: Iowa: from Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa. Live.			Post Show		Race to Survive (R)				
VH1	19	52	217	217	(5:30) Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas	Grown Ups (2010, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★★½			Johnson Family Vacation (2004) ★½						
WE	59	42	149	149	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order: Jurisdiction	Law & Order: Virus	Law & Order: Virus	Law & Order: Securitatie	Law & Order: Manhood				
YES	53	89	76	76	Yankees	Forbes	Brooklyn	BattleFrog OCR Replay.	18 Holes	Jimmy	Postgame	Yankeeography	Yankees		
HBO	511	301	400	400	(6:07) Dune: Part Two (2024, Science Fiction)	Timothée Chalamet.		House of the Dragon		(10:03) Of the Dragon (R)		Last Week		Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	420	(6:21) Fargo (1996, Crime) R ★★★½	Get Shorty (1995) John Travolta. R ★★★		(9:45) Keanu (2016, Comedy) Jordan Peele. R ★★★		Reformed R					
MGM Plus	595	395	365	365	Scarface R	(7:10) The Beekeeper (2024, Action) Jason Statham. R		Billy the Kid		Hotel Cocaine		Billy the Kid (R)			
PARSHO	551	321	365	365	(5:45) 10 Cloverfield Lane	Mayor	(8:15) The Chi: Legacy	The Chi		Couples		Couples		The Chi	



# NEW YORK POST

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TV

8 THINGS TO WATCH THIS WEEK



4 THE 77TH ANNUAL TONY AWARDS

Sunday / Paramount+ Academy Award winner and Tony nominee **Ariana DeBose** (above) returns to host the 2024 Tony Awards, streaming live from New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

2 CULT MASSACRE: ONE DAY IN JONESTOWN

Monday / Hulu Featuring firsthand accounts from survivors and eyewitnesses, "Cult Massacre" tells the chilling story of how Jim Jones' religious movement spiraled into a mass casualty event leaving 918 people dead.

3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS: DALLAS COWBOYS CHEERLEADERS

Thursday, Netflix From the team behind "Cheer" comes this tell-all series that follows the 2023-24 Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders squad from start to finish — kicking off at auditions and training camp and continuing all the way through the NFL season.

5 TRIGGER WARNING

Friday / Netflix **Jessica Alba** (left) plays a Special Forces com-mando turned barkeeper who must confront a violent gang in her hometown.



6 SLAVE PLAY. NOT A MOVIE. A PLAY

Thursday 9 p.m. / HBO Playwright **Jeremy O. Harris** (right) takes viewers behind the scenes of his award-winning Broadway production "Slave Play," from run-throughs to performance, as he strips down his own work and directs new actors through workshop rehearsals.



7 HOUSE OF THE DRAGON

Sunday 9 p.m. / HBO Set 200 years before the events of "Game of Thrones," "House of the Dragon" returns with Season 2. King Aegon and Rhaenyra played by **Emma D'Arcy** (below) fight for the Iron Throne and fracture the realm in two.

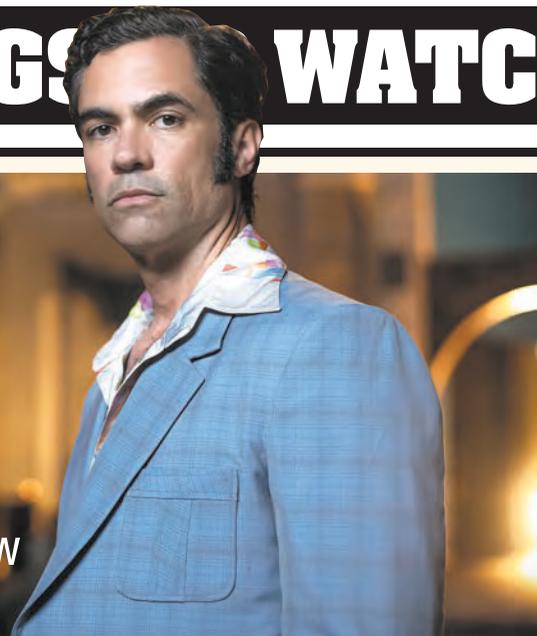


8 HERE TO CLIMB

Tuesday 9 p.m. / HBO After a catastrophic injury, world-class climber **Sasha DiGiulian** (above) questions her identity, dreams, and ability to return to the sport.

"Law & Order" actor **Danny Pino** (right) stars in the new MGM+ series with **Yul Vazquez** and **Michael Chiklis**. (below)

Danny Pino talks his new show 'Hotel Cocaine'



Carlos Rodriguez/MGM+ (2)

By LAUREN SARNER

COCAINE COWBOYS

HE'S a cocaine cowboy. Danny Pino stars in the '70s era crime drama "Hotel Cocaine," a fictional account of the golden era of Miami's Mutiny Hotel — a real location that was frequently compared to Studio 54 in its heyday.

Pino, 50, who's best known for "Cold Case" "The Shield," "Mayans MC," and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," was born and raised in Miami.

"In the 70s, I was very young. I never went to the Mutiny in its heyday," he told The Post.

"But certainly I've been to the Mutiny as an adult...it's more subdued. But you can still feel the aura of what it was in the '70s when you go there."

Pino added, "Miami is such a beautiful and complicated city. What we're depicting in our show is really the beginning of this transformation from a city that was largely a vacation and retirement spot...to this cosmopolitan, fast paced, very cutting edge and sophisticated center for art, music, cinema, dirty politics, a playground for the rich and famous."

Premiering June 16 on MGM+, the show is helmed by "Narcos" creator Chris Brancato. The plot follows hotel general manager Roman Compte (Pino), a Cuban expat who fought against Fidel Castro in the Bay of Pigs invasion and re-made his life in Miami.

His life becomes complicated when a DEA agent (Michael Chiklis) tasks him with rekindling his relationship with his estranged brother Nestor (Yul



Vazquez), a drug trafficker, in order to spy on him. Roman initially refuses, until the DEA agent threatens his daughter.

Pino said he got interested in the show because of Vazquez.

"We met on the set of 'Law and Order SVU.' And prior to meeting, it was almost a never ending chain of projects where I would be on set and somebody would inevitably say, 'You're Cuban-American. Do you know Yul Vazquez?' And I would respond, 'I know and respect his work, but I've never actually met him.'"

After the two met, he said, they bonded over having similar life experiences — including people asking them if they knew each other. When Vazquez called him about "Hotel Cocaine," Pino said he was so eager to play his brother on-screen that he said "yes" before reading the script.

The show is also a reunion

with Chiklis, who Pino worked with on "The Shield."

"That was one of those surprises under the Christmas tree, that you don't anticipate.... not only was I excited because I know what Michael Chiklis could do with this particular character, but also I know who Michael Chiklis is," said Pino. "I was excited just to be able to be with Michael again because he's such a great guy. He's all about the work, but he's such a pro that it makes it so much fun."

Pino, who has two sons with his wife, Lilly, said he relates to Roman because, "Sometimes you're in the middle of doing something that is important, and yet, being a father just doesn't stop. Running a hotel is important. Working clandestinely for the DEA and not getting killed by your brother is important. But the most important thing for a man's life is his family." He added, "The universal aspect of Roman that I think most people will share — whether they're parents or not — is the feeling of being trapped, like the universe conspires to put you in a situation that is untenable."

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## ♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You will get invitations from near and far over the next few days but you must be selective about who you choose to spend your time with. Be careful with your cash as well as there will be no shortage of people who want to help you spend it.

## ♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Venus, planet of emotional and material values, and Mercury, planet of communication and the mind, move into your sign together at the start of the week, heralding a complete change in your outlook on life. Keep telling yourself that it's all good - because it is.

## ♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

You may be tempted to withdraw from the world and watch events from afar over the next few days and that's not such a bad idea. Having discovered that you are not invincible you need to get your thoughts together before getting back into the fray.

## ♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

The cosmic picture is changing in your favor now and in a matter of days you will be in full party mode. You've had your fill of serious situations and oh-so-serious people and a bit of fun and frivolity will do you the world of good.

## ♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

If you want to move up in the world then the events of the next few days will reveal the new direction you should be moving. You may have to give up on an old ambition that is clearly no longer possible but the sacrifice will be worth it.

## ♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

The more you are on the move over the coming week the more you will encounter opportunities

to improve your lot both emotionally and materially. A sense of adventure is a must if you are to make the most of your many talents.

## ♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

The longer you put off dealing with a financial problem the worse it is going to get. The good news though is that as Mercury moves into the wealth area of your chart this week you will recognize the urgency of the situation and do something about it.

## ♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

As Venus is about to move into the partnership area of your chart you must reach out to the people you love, even if you are the sort of Capricorn who is not generally emotionally expressive. Those three little words "I love

you" will work wonders.

## ♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Not everyone you do business with this week is going to be at one with your way of looking at the world but it's no big deal. This could in fact be one of those occasions when multiple viewpoints lead to breakthroughs that increase profits for everyone.

## ♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You have been a bit too defensive of late and need to flex your mental and emotional muscles more, and with the cosmic emphasis shifting to the most dynamic area of your chart over the next few weeks that should come easily to you.

## ♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

The presence of both Venus and Mercury in the domestic area of your chart this week will help you to smooth out disputes and disagreements that have arisen on the home front. Let loved ones know you are still very much on their side.

## ♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

If you want to have fun over the next few days you must put some distance between yourself and those people whose negative outlook is a serious downer. That applies as much to the people you love as it does to friends and colleagues.

### BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

The world never stops turning and you must never stop changing. That is the message of your birthday chart and the changes you make over the next month or so will set the tone for the rest of the year - so be brave and make them big.

## Sunday Break puzzles answers

### Sunday Crossword

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

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

Very Easy #6,581

### Su Doku

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

Difficult #6,371

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

Challenging #455

### Super Su Doku

7	8	1	5	10	2	6	12	9	11	3	4
11	2	9	6	4	1	7	3	5	12	10	8
10	12	4	3	5	11	9	8	1	7	6	2
5	7	12	9	11	8	1	10	6	4	2	3
1	11	8	4	9	6	3	2	7	5	12	10
6	10	3	2	12	4	5	7	8	9	1	11
12	9	6	8	3	10	11	5	4	2	7	1
2	5	11	1	7	12	4	6	10	3	8	9
3	4	7	10	2	9	8	1	12	6	11	5
4	6	2	12	1	3	10	9	11	8	5	7
8	1	5	11	6	7	2	4	3	10	9	12
9	3	10	7	8	5	12	11	2	1	4	6

### Kakuro

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

Kakuro #455

### KEN KEN

1200x			3+	4-	
3	5	4	1	2	6
4	3	6	2	1	5
5	2	3	6	4	1
2	1	5	3	6	4
6	4	1	5	3	2
1	6	2	4	5	3

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### Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Caspian 6A-Ordered  
8A-Bred 9A-Snob 11A-Startle 12A-Already  
2D-Address 3D-Port 4D-Combine 5D-Enabled  
7D-Donated 10D-Late B-Nelson Mandela

### Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

IOWA, OHIO, ALASKA, KANSAS,  
ARIZONA, FLORIDA, COLORADO,  
ARKANSAS

### SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S. SOLUTION

H <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 1 =	80	
N <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	RACK 2 =	59	
P <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>4</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 3 =	64	
I <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 4 =	73	
H <sub>4</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>		RACK 5 =	12	
PAR SCORE 220-230								TOTAL	288

### Sunday Word Force

ambit	bleat	cameo	clime	metal
amble	bloat	claim	comet	motel
biome	cable	cleat	email	obelisk
blame	camel	climb	limbo	table

Wonderword answer: ATHLETICS

## THE WEEK'S WINNERS



**ELON MUSK**  
Tesla shareholders OK'd his controversial \$56 billion pay package, giving the board ammunition in its court fight to preserve the plan.

**STARBUCKS**  
Supreme Court backed the coffee chain in a battle with the NLRB, which had ordered fired workers to be reinstated.

**CRICKET**  
YES Network, home of the Yankees, will start televising matches as it jumps on the popularity of the ongoing T20 World Cup.

## LOSERS



**JOHN TYSON**  
Tyson Foods' 34-year-old finance chief is in hot water again. The Harvard-educated exec, who in 2022 was found passed out in a stranger's bed, was arrested on DWI charges.

**NATHAN'S FAMOUS**  
Coney Island's hot dog eating contest won't feature 16-time champ Joey Chestnut, who signed to be the pitchman for Impossible Foods' vegan franks.

**CNN STAFFERS**  
News network's content deal with AP sparks fears of layoffs by CNN's new boss.

# LET'S FAKE A DEAL!

## Shari's weak moves



**CHARLES GASPARINO**  
**M**AYBE the biggest tell that traditional media is heading for the ICU isn't that after months of intense negotiations, Shari Redstone did something weird and refused to sell her fading empire to a company known as Skydance.

No, it's that a lot of smart media people, including those involved in the negotiations, believe that when Shari is faced with the cold, hard facts about the business she inherited from Pops, the late media mogul Sumner Redstone, she will likely be back at the bargaining table.

She simply has nowhere else to go. I know what you're saying: Aren't there other bidders for her "controlling stake" in Paramount? Sorry, if you know the business, it's not exactly an awe-inspiring group.

Less awe-inspiring: Paramount is run by three executives all effectively reporting to Redstone, who during her time taking over the family business has squandered billions of dollars in stock market value. Then there's Paramount's main drivers of business — CBS, NFL TV rights, local stations, MTV, BET and Nickelodeon — all getting crushed by cord cutting. Its studios suffer from a lack of interest in going to the movies. The streaming service still loses money.

That's why Paramount's stock lost what's approaching \$1 billion in market value in the immediate aftermath of Shari pulling a 180, literally saying no last Tuesday to a deal with her family's fortune on the line.

Is Redstone simply incompetent? Maybe, but consider: All traditional media are suffering and in need of a savior. Analyst Rich Greenfield re-

cently posted on social media that Netflix's market value is bigger than the top four media content providers combined.

Yes, Paramount is just the weakest of a weak bunch but that doesn't mean Shari likes being treated like a piker. What pushed her over the edge to deep-six a deal that was literally about to be approved by the Paramount board is that she felt Skydance was nickel-and-diming her.

It was Shari's view — and it's not a stretch — that Skydance has the money to pay her what she wants. The company is run by movie producer David Ellison, who has the same name as Oracle Chairman Larry Ellison because they are father and son. Last I checked (and Shari as well), Larry is one of the world's richest men with a net worth of more than \$150 billion, which means he has more than enough dough to back up his son's ambitions to own a media company and handle Shari's side of the trade.

But they didn't in part because of the weird way the Redstone family controls Paramount. Shari "owns" the company through a bit of financial alchemy, devised by her dad, holding so-called voting or controlling shares.

That makes any potential sale of her stake a bit wonky because there are common shareholders of Paramount as well. They always threaten to sue, and they did in this case as well because they initially got next to nothing. So Skydance began to come up with ways to make the commons happy at Shari's expense, pushing her payout down to close to \$2 billion, and then refusing to indemnify her if there were lawsuits.

I've interviewed people on all sides of the drama, and they all offer variations of the same story; Paramount board members who don't like the Ellisons whispering in Shari's ear killed the deal; Shari being too emotional

## Their last dance?

Shari Redstone's surprise rejection of Skydance boss David Ellison's bid to buy her controlling interest in "melting ice cube" Paramount echoes the "not-so-smarts" of her late dad, Sumner (circled). And David (below with Oracle billionaire pop Larry, lower circle) can wait her out.



AP-Getty Images; Bloomberg

about letting her baby go ultimately scuttled it.

But one thing is certain: Nobody likes to get penny-pinched. Based on what I can suss out, David and his deal partners at RedBird Capital didn't give cutting Shari's payout a second thought; they believed she had no choice but to sell as her melting ice cube of a media company was slowly dissipating and other buyers either didn't have the money or faced regulatory hurdles.

That makes sense on paper. What doesn't is that David Ellison and Shari weren't on speaking terms for weeks before she pulled out, which is always a bad sign for any acquisition.

Recall: David began wooing Shari months ago presumably because he really wants Paramount's properties and media-mogul status. Then they just stopped talking as the terms began to change. In dealmaking, silence is never golden; you got to approach it like you're asking the homecoming queen to the prom. And you turn on the charm.

David Ellison didn't do that. His people say it's not his fault; lawyers recommended he stay away. Either way, that's why he got dumped. He failed dealmaking 101. I chalk it up to inexperience since this is David's first

big dance. But his deal partner, RedBird, is run by veteran media banker Gerry Cardinale, one of the best in the business who has more EQ (emotional intelligence) than anyone on Wall Street, so you would think he would have intervened. My reporting shows he didn't.

Again, Cardinale and the Skydance people think Shari doesn't have a lot of good options — and she will be back with a weaker hand, my sources say.

But they were wrong before and they are dealing with a Redstone; lots of family drama went into Shari running the place that we don't have the space to get into here.

Shari has an ego. Also, let's just posit that she learned a few things from her old man. She knows David really wants to build a media empire and he has daddy's money to do so.

That brings us to a different family drama at Skydance involving the Ellisons. The negotiations were long and protracted, and I hear Larry wasn't crazy about Shari's last-minute reversal. He might not want to back the deal for his kid even if she comes back to the table.

Or maybe Larry does his own 180 if Shari does come back and shows her the money to make his son the next Sumner Redstone.

## EMPLOYMENT

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### GENERAL HELP WANTED

**Sr Toxicologist, Beauty Avenues, LLC, NY, NY.** Deliver safety assessments for raw materials & finished product & conduct final review & sign-off of safety reports. Single point-of-contact for all product safety matters related to raw materials & finished product. Collaborate w/Product Devt, Fragrance Devt, Commercialization, Regulatory & Clinical to provide safety-related support. Manage safety-related activities to drive solutions. Participate on industry committees to ensure have most current info related to product safety & regulatory issues. Stay current on new trends in animal alternatives & risk assessment. Telecommuting option - employee must live in NYC area. Min. req include: Master's in Toxicology or Pharmacology plus 5 yrs exp incl 3 yrs of industry exp in personal care/cosmetics or related industry & knowledge re global regulations & safety requirements, ingredient safety positions, risk assessment methodology & animal alternative approaches. Salary \$90,730 - \$157,000/yr To be considered for this position, apply online at <http://careers.bathandbodyworks.com> go to "Job Search" link & type 047LZ in "Keyword Search" field. EOE.

**Carpenter Assistant** (Integral Contracting Services LLC, Port Washington, NY) to help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties incl using, supplying, or holding materials or tools, & cleaning work area & eqpmnt. Salary \$28,000.00. F/T. Mail resumes to 130 Shore Rd, Unit 109, Port Washington, NY 11050.

**Landscape Foreman, Southampton, NY:** Involve in overseeing maint of lawns & gardens, & ensuring proper use of pesticides, fertilizers, & other chem. Install & manage landscape projects from incep to comple. Involve in design w/ pre-install est & decision making, onsite layout, & eff & precise install & compl of each project. Involve in compl invent checks & equip inspect. Resp for crew mgmt & coord w/ the Landscape Facilitator. Ensures all safety rules & comp policies are followed by all crew mem. Provide workers w/ assist in perf duties as nec to meet deadlines. Mail resume to Raynor Landscaping, LTD, 49 Breese Lane, Southampton, NY 11968.

**Diamond Pave Setter** in NYC to be responsible for all types of stone settings, including diamonds, rubies, sapphire emeralds, and other precious stones in jewelry items in accordance with the company's aesthetic and quality requirements. Ability to precisely set/pave repair, and replace diamonds and other precious stones. Ability to cut and file gold and other precious metal settings to accommodate the stones. Responsible for sorting the stones by size, clarity, and quality. Req: 2 yrs Exp in diamond pave setting, including rubies, emeralds and other precious stones. Salary: \$61,069.00. Send resumes to JSA Jewelry Inc. at [jsany1028@hotmail.com](mailto:jsany1028@hotmail.com).

### GENERAL HELP WANTED

**Caregiver**(Suffern, NY) Maint records of patient care & condition to report to supervisor; prov patients w/ help moving in & out of beds, baths, wheelchairs. Visiting patients' homes in north part of NY & NJ area as needed. HS Diploma Req'd. Salary \$32,000/year Res to Good Day Home Care 400 Rella Blvd #165 Suffern, NY 10901

**Electrician.** Wk. w/ tools on installation, alteration & repair of wiring & appliances for light, heat & power in or on buildings & comparable facilities. Daily travel to 5 NYC boroughs. Wk. under supervision of Master Electrician. Min. reqmts: high school deg & 24 mos. exp. \$85,571/yr. Send resumes by email: [olegbro38@gmail.com](mailto:olegbro38@gmail.com), or mail: Oleg Brody, Integral Electrical Power & Control Corp., 307 7th Ave, Ste 507, New York, NY 10001.

**Food Scientist - F/T in Bronx, NY -** Master's Degree in Food Science or rel field plus 3 yrs post-MS deg progressive experience as Food Scientist and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification required. Salary range: \$118K-\$125K. Mail cover letter and resume to David Mosner Inc., Attn: Peter Cherubini, PV, 355 Food Center Drive, Ste. E8, Bronx, NY 10474.

**Assistant Lead Bartender** (2 positions) F/T @ Glen Oaks Club, Inc. (Old Westbury, NY) Coordinate operation of lounge & bar of a pvt club. \$52,520/yr. Req'd: High School + 6 mos exp + ServSafe Certi. CV to [Alexa at employment@glenoaksclub.com](mailto:Alexa at employment@glenoaksclub.com)

**Events Coordinator, F/T @ Glen Oaks Country Club, Inc (Old Westbury, NY)** Resp for operation/execution of the events. Sal: \$52,062. Req'd: 6 mos of exp + ServSafe Cert. CV to Alexa at [alexac@glenoaksclub.com](mailto:alexac@glenoaksclub.com)

**Nanny - BKLYN NY - F/T 6 mos exp** to prvd childcare in a prvt hshold. \$33,656/YR. Resume to 200 Schermerhorn St Apt 621 BKLYN NY 11202 Attn: Mrs Bacci

**Construction Foreman, Montauk, NY:** Insp work prog, equip, or const sites to verify safety or to ensure that specs are met. Ope Heavy equip such as bulldozers/payloaders. Install Masonry. Involve in equip repair. Read specs, such as B/P, to det const req or to plan proce. Ana worker or prod problems & recomb solutions, such as improving prod methods or imple motivational plans. Plan, imple & manage const tasks in acc w/ priorities & goals. Mail resume to Chris Behan Construction Co LTD, 68 Madison Drive Montauk, NY 11954.

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**Designer** wtd by Triviatown Inc. (New York, NY) to provide graphic design for a branding, marketing, digital development agency; create design for branding, visual identity, website, packaging, books, annual reports, maps, billboards, print collateral, promotional merchandise, digital, & social, etc.; Work is remote in the greater NYC Area. Sal \$51,626/yr. Resume: [info@darkroastmedia.com](mailto:info@darkroastmedia.com)

### PROFESSIONAL

**Architecture and Design General Manager:** Manage and coordinate North America market development, key accounts, architectural planning and design, and interior design projects; Develop lighting designs and schematics for architectural, commercial, industrial & urban design projects; Perform light-level and energy consumption calculations, simulations, and analysis of lighting, solar radiation and energy flows; Perform Building Information Modeling for 2-D and 3-D architectural plans and develop architectural plans; Conduct technical research and compare different lighting designs, for potential lighting design solutions; Create lighting specifications and fixture schedules, design the build-out package and perform complete project management. Employer: 245 W 29th Street, New York, NY 10001 at Viabizzuno America Inc. Requirements: Master's in Lighting Design + Bachelor of Architecture + 60 months of Lighting Design Architect + Proficiency in projecting software, AutoCAD, Revit, dialux, relux, 3d studio max +corona rendering, photoshop, illustrator, sketchup and MS Office Suite. Salary: \$125,000 - \$180,000 based on candidate experience. Mail resume to: 245 W 29th Street, New York, NY 10001 at Viabizzuno America Inc.

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**Construction Designer** (Medford, NY) Dsgn & produce 2D & 3D rendering, site planning & graphics, dsgn dvlpmnt & construction plans; conduct project research & data compilation in dsgn & construction process; prep tech'l spec for bid docs; revise dsgns; participate in construction admin & observation, etc. BS in architectural, landscape, industrial dsgn or rtd w/ 3y exp in same or rtd dsgn occupation. \$60,486/yr. Send cv to Formation Concrete, 37 Rice Ct, Medford, NY 11763.

**General Corporate Counsel** (NYC, N.Y.). Duties incl: Conduct legal research & analysis to stay current w/ legal developments & to determine legal solutions that meet the org's needs; Utilize legal research techniques & tools (e.g. Westlaw & Lexis-Nexis) to locate & analyze legal authorities & apply the art of statutory interpretation; Areas of research incl corporate law, immigration, trademark, contracts, & int'l trade. Advise mgmt, executives, & the Board of the org on various matters reltd to legal rights, legal risk liability, & relev new &/or existing laws; Draft, execute, & periodically review the org's legal docs & agreements to ensure legal compliance; Interview, retain, & assist outside counsel for particularly complex legal matters, such as litigation, if necessary. Draft & review a variety of transactional contracts for the org, incl but not limited to, sales & purchases, franchising, & licensing; Negot & procure terms that best protect the rights & interests of the org & its clients. Provide legal consultation to clients of the org on entity formation & merger & acquisitions; Draft & execute co. by-laws, shareholder agreements, & employee handbooks for the org's clients; Review legal docs incl, but not limited to, purchase & sale contracts, employment contracts, residential & commercial leases, investment term sheets & due diligence materials, merger & acquisition agreements, for the org's clients. Must have a Juris Doctor deg from an American Bar Assoc accredited law school. + 24 months exp doing legal work at a firm, dealing w/financial transactions. Req: Admission to the MA bar. Alternatively, admission to the NY or NJ bar & active registration w/ the MA Board of Bar Overseers as in-house counsel. Sal \$143,998.00/yr. Send resume to Plaisance Capital Management, LLC at [info@plaisancecap.com](mailto:info@plaisancecap.com)

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**NY, NY- Capital finance products and services provider** seeks Snr Associate to dvlp fnc'l mdl's for evaluat'n of ptent'l invstm'ts in dbt & eqty for rl estate assets, rvwing trmcs'n's for fsblty & risk. Asst in cmnt'l loan undrwrtng & intial due dlgnce. Asst w/ prep of loan cmmtm'ts. Rcvng brwrs fnc'l data, analyzing rvnue & expnse line items. Use data to bld, incorporate & rprt via prprty fnc'l mdl systs. Analyze cmplx fnc'l docs & clculat'n's eg. EBITDAR, loan/val, dsctnd csh flows, bid svnc/intrstr/fx chrg & rnt crvge, rvnue srce analysis & opratng mtrc. C'mnicate w/ brwrs re prprty, gnrl & exccs liability, auto & prfssnal insuranc. Rvw brwrs yrly prfmas & bdgts, prvde TP comprsn & rprt to snr mngmt, crdt c'ttee & TP stkhldr's. Analyze hstrcl & prjct fnc'l's for fsblty & esclate as necd. Mntr drct dly intrfce w/ brwrs, rcmplnct cntrlyts & stkhldr's. Asst w/ orgnat'n & undrwrtng via D analytics, ste vists & oprt'n'l risk due dlgnce. Ngtiate dl trmcs w/ ptent'l clnts & brkrs. FT. \$140K/yr. Min Req: Bachelor's in Economics, Finance or rtd fld. Send Resume to Jonathan Litt - Treasurer - Greystone Monticello LLC, via <https://www.greystone.com/careers/>

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## EMPLOYMENT

### PROFESSIONAL

Business Development Specialist (2 positions). Flushing, NY. Collect & analyze data on cust prefs, needs & factors affecting demand to seek & identify top new bus opp & negotiate & finalize bus opps in accord w/ co's contract guidelines & policies. Use SalesForce & othr lead gen tools to maint pipeline & reporting in dtbase to prospect & cultivate new partnerships w/ B2B co & referrals w/ goal of growing lending portfolio. Propose bus strat to executive mgmt team by reporting latest mkt rscrch data & findings, translating complex findings into written text, visualizing data, translating data into insights, & making PowerPoint presentation. Use mktg skills to anlyz mktg channels & asst mktg team deploy advtgs. Use cust relationship mgmt CRM s/ware to maint relationships w/ valuable clients, referring partners, & other prospects; & attend ind'l conferences, events, & expos. Create sales & mktg mat'ls. Req: Bachelor's in Finance, Mktg, Economics, or Business. Salary: \$56784/yr. Mail resumé to: Kuper Funding LLC, 3808 Union St, 9D, Flushing, NY 11354

Lighting Designer (NY, NY) Dsgn interior & exterior lighting systems for commercial, pharmaceutical, & office buildings using CAD s/ware together w/ other business s/ware applications such as Excel & Word. \$70,000/yr. Bach Deg. in Lighting Dsgn, Interior Dsgn, or rtd field of study. Send via mail cvr letter, resume, & list of refs to Attn: Brandston Partnership, Inc. 121 W 27th St., Ste 903, NY, NY 10001. Refer to Job No. LD-01 on all docs

Law Associate/Law Clerk (NY, NY): Must have immigration law experience (Asylum, Emp & Fam-Based). Investigate facts & law of the case; Research legal precedents; prepare legal documents, incl. briefs, pleadings & appeals. JD or LL.M.; Admission to NY Bar; 1-2 yrs exp; pref to fluent in Punjabi, Urdu, and Hindi; \$85,000 to \$95,000; Resume to Bretz & Cowen LLP, Attn: ECB, 305 Broadway, New York, NY 10007, or email ebretz@bretzlaw.com.

### RESTAURANT & HOSPITALITY

Sous Chef (New York, NY) (Multiple Openings): Prepare traditional Shanghai, Jiangxi, and Sichuan style dishes including cold dishes, soups, and pastries as well as Chinese delicacies; Ensuring quality of meals prepared before they are served; Assist in planning and updating menus; Create and pitch to the Executive Chef new, modern recipes based on the fundamentals of Chinese and Shanghai style classics; Ordering ingredients, maintaining inventory of food and supplies and reporting needs to the Executive Chef; Ensuring freshness of ingredients; Maintaining high standards of hygiene, cleanliness and safety in the kitchen at all times; Cooperating with the floor management about menu knowledge, including tasting. Must have 3 years of experience in the job offered. Salary Offered: \$90,605 - \$90,705 per year. Email resumes to Sean Tang, Managing Partner, TH NYC Restaurant 1, LLC d/b/a/ Pinch Chinese at jobs@pinchchinese.com.

### RESTAURANT & HOSPITALITY

Executive Chef (New York, NY) Planning and creating menus and recipes for upscale predominantly Shanghai style restaurant; Ensuring that all menus are constantly updated with both traditional Shanghai dishes as well as new takes on classics including, but not limited to Peking Duck, Dim Sum, Chinese hot pot dishes, etc.; Incorporating Jiangxi-style and Sichuan style dishes into the menu; Identifying and hiring the best Chinese cuisine sous chefs from throughout the world; Training and managing full kitchen staff; Overseeing management of food and labor costs; Overseeing all inhouse procedures involving food purchasing and inventory; Overseeing kitchen operations and ensuring that high standards of hygiene, cleanliness and safety are maintained at all times; Cooperating with the floor management about menu knowledge, including tasting. Must have 5 years of experience in the job offered. Salary Offered: \$90,605 - \$90,705 per year. Email resumes to Sean Tang, Managing Partner, TH NYC Restaurant 1, LLC d/b/a/ Pinch Chinese at jobs@pinchchinese.com.

Chef-Supv activities of food prep, seasoning & cooking of food. Ensure quality control & sanitation standards. Est food consumptn. Assist in rolling out menu items. Participate in cooking dishes. Trn kitchen employees. Make sure restaurant is up to date in safety procedures, hood cleanings, fire inspections, maint of kitchen equipment. Worksite: Bklyn, NY. FT, 2 yrs exp. \$75,587/yr. Resume: Pebble Corp. d.b.a. Sweet Chick, 1776 Ludlow St. NY, NY 10002

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# Jones' 34 an Ace up Libs' sleeve

Field Level Media

Jonquel Jones scored a career-high 34 points Saturday, and the visiting Liberty won a rematch of last year's WNBA championship series, thumping the Las Vegas Aces, 90-82.

Jones canned 12 of 16 shots from the field and four of five 3-pointers, inserting the dagger on a 3-ball with 2:39 remaining in the game that upped the Libs' lead to an insurmountable 86-68. Jones added eight rebounds.

Sabrina Ionescu chipped in 15 points and 12 assists for her first double-double of the year, while Breanna Stewart contributed 14 points and 12 rebounds. Betnijah Laney-Hamilton hit for 12 points as the Liberty improved to 12-2.

Kelsey Plum paced Las Vegas (6-6) with 22 points, while A'ja Wilson added 21, ending her league-record streak of eight straight games with at least 25 points. Alysha Clark scored 13 and Jackie Young was held to 10 points on 4-of-12 shooting.

The Liberty canned 48.5 percent of their shots from the field, including 12 of 28 from the 3-point line, and earned a 37-31 advantage on the glass. The Aces managed just two offensive rebounds, and shot 44.9 percent from the field and 11 of 34 from behind the arc.

Wilson got Las Vegas off to a fast start by hitting her first shot then assisting on a pair of buckets. But the Libs erased the 6-0 deficit then some, taking a



**PAYBACK:** Jonquel Jones celebrates with Sabrina Ionescu after scoring 34 in the Liberty's win over the Aces in a rematch of last season's WNBA Finals. Getty Images

28-20 lead to the second quarter as Ionescu splashed a 3-pointer with 10 seconds left.

Plum, playing under the weather, rattled off 14 second-quarter points in a 5 1/2-minute span. Her 3-pointer off a Wilson dish gave the Aces a 41-39 lead but the Liberty rallied to grab a 45-43 edge at the break.

Las Vegas started the third quarter with a 10-2 burst and forced a Liberty timeout after Plum's floater gave it a 53-47 lead. However, the Liberty answered back with 14 straight points and took a 67-60 advantage to the fourth period.

The Libs played their fourth straight game without starting point guard Courtney Vander-sloot (personal reasons).

## MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	11	3	5	38	44	28
Cincinnati	11	3	3	36	27	18
<b>Red Bulls</b>	8	4	6	30	29	23
<b>NYFC</b>	9	6	2	29	26	20
Charlotte FC	8	6	4	28	19	18
Columbus	7	2	6	27	24	15
Toronto FC	7	8	3	24	27	30
Philadelphia	4	5	8	20	28	25
Nashville	4	5	8	20	20	22
D.C. United	4	7	7	19	25	32
Chicago	4	8	6	18	21	30
CF Montréal	4	7	6	18	23	35
Atlanta	4	8	5	17	24	23
Orlando City	4	8	5	17	17	27
New England	5	10	1	16	15	29

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	9	2	7	34	36	19
Los Angeles FC	10	4	3	33	31	20
LA Galaxy	8	3	7	31	35	27
Minn. United	8	4	5	29	28	23
Vancouver	7	6	4	25	26	22
Colorado	7	7	4	25	31	31
Houston	6	6	5	23	20	20
Austin FC	6	7	5	23	21	27
Seattle FC	5	7	6	21	22	21
Portland	5	7	6	21	32	32
St Louis City	3	5	9	18	23	27
FC Dallas	4	8	5	17	20	25
Sporting K.C.	3	10	5	14	28	36
San Jose	3	12	2	11	26	43

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

**Saturday**  
Nashville 0, Red Bulls 0  
Houston 2, Atlanta 2  
Charlotte FC 1, D.C. United 0  
Salt Lake 0, CF Montréal 0  
New England 3, Vancouver 2  
Los Angeles FC 3, Orlando City 1  
Miami 2, Philadelphia 1  
Chicago 4, Toronto FC 1  
FC Dallas 2, St Louis City 0  
Colorado 2, Austin FC 0  
LA Galaxy 4, Sporting K.C. 2  
Cincinnati 4, San Jose 2  
Seattle FC 2, Minnesota 0

**Wednesday**  
Red Bulls at CF Montréal, 7:30pm  
NYFC at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm  
Orlando City at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm  
Atlanta at D.C. United, 7:30pm  
Columbus at Miami, 7:30pm  
Nashville at Toronto FC, 7:30pm  
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 7:45pm  
Los Angeles FC at Austin FC, 8:30pm  
Minnesota at FC Dallas, 8:30pm  
Seattle FC at Houston, 8:30pm  
Salt Lake at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm  
Colorado at St Louis City, 8:30pm  
Portland at San Jose, 10:30pm

## NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	8	0	5	29	33	19
Orlando	8	0	5	29	21	11
Washington	9	3	1	28	27	17
Gotham FC	7	2	3	24	14	8
Portland	7	4	1	22	25	16
Chicago	5	6	2	17	18	19
North Carolina	5	7	1	16	13	15
Louisville	3	3	6	15	17	14
San Diego	3	4	5	14	11	11
Houston	3	6	4	13	11	20
Angel City	3	6	3	12	12	18
Bay FC	4	8	0	12	17	24
Seattle	2	9	1	7	13	25
Utah Royals FC	1	10	1	4	6	21

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

**Saturday**  
Gotham FC 2, Louisville 0  
San Diego 1, Washington 1, tie  
Orlando 0, North Carolina 0, tie  
Angel City 0, Houston 0, tie

**Sunday**  
Portland at Seattle, 4pm  
Utah Royals FC at Bay FC, 10pm

**Wednesday**  
San Diego at Gotham FC, 7pm  
Louisville at Angel City, 10pm

**Friday**  
Utah Royals FC at Orlando, 8pm

# Gotham beats L'ville to extend winning streak

Field Level Media

Gotham FC made it four wins in a row at the expense of Racing Louisville FC, taking their NWSL contest 2-0 on Saturday in Louisville, Ky.

Gotham's hot streak has propelled them up to fourth in the current standings with 24 points (7-2-3), and Louisville (3-3-6, 15 points) saw its own two-game winning streak come to an end.

Midfielder Crystal Dunn found fellow midfielder Yazmeen Ryan, who fired a right-footed shot from outside the box into the bottom left corner for a 1-0 lead in

the 21st minute. It was Ryan's first goal of the season.

That score held until Gotham was able to add to it in the 53rd minute. Forward Ella Stevens connected from the left side of the box into the bottom right corner after defender Mandy Freeman assisted with the cross. The goal was Stevens' fifth of the season.

Gotham nearly pocketed another goal in the 45th minute on multiple attempts from close range but couldn't connect. Louisville's best chance at an equalizer came two minutes into the second half when Emma Sears' shot from the box was saved.

**GOTHAM 2**  
**L'VILLE FC 0**

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**NEW YORK POST**

# AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
<b>Yankees</b>	50	23	.685	—	—	6-4	L-1	22-10	28-13
Baltimore	46	24	.657	2½	+8	7-3	W-1	24-14	22-10
Boston	36	35	.507	13	2½	6-4	W-1	17-20	19-15
Toronto	34	36	.486	14½	4	6-4	W-1	17-16	17-20
Tampa Bay	33	38	.465	16	5½	3-7	L-2	19-23	14-15

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	44	24	.647	—	—	5-5	L-1	21-8	23-16
Kansas City	41	31	.569	5	+2	5-5	W-1	25-14	16-17
Minnesota	38	32	.543	7	—	5-5	W-3	20-14	18-18
Detroit	34	36	.486	11	4	4-6	W-1	16-19	18-17
Chicago	19	53	.264	27	20	4-6	W-1	12-23	7-30

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	42	31	.575	—	—	7-3	W-2	26-12	16-19
Texas	33	37	.471	7½	5	4-6	L-2	16-17	17-20
Houston	32	39	.451	9	6½	5-5	L-1	18-19	14-20
Los Angeles	28	42	.400	12½	10	6-4	W-2	11-23	17-19
Oakland	26	46	.361	15½	13	2-8	L-7	15-20	11-26

\***WGB**: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Saturday

Boston 8, **Yankees** 4  
 Toronto 5, Cleveland 0  
 Baltimore 6, Philadelphia 3  
 L.A. Angels 4, San Francisco 3  
 Atlanta 9, Tampa Bay 2  
 Detroit 13, Houston 5  
 Seattle 7, Texas 5  
 Kansas City 7, L.A. Dodgers 2  
 White Sox 9, Arizona 2  
 Oakland at Minnesota, ppd.  
**Sunday**  
**Yankees** at Boston, 7:10  
 Philadelphia at Baltimore, 1:35

Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1:35  
 Cleveland at Toronto, 1:37  
 Detroit at Houston, 2:10  
 Oakland at Minnesota, 2:10, 1st gm  
 Oakland at Minnesota, 7:40, 2nd gm  
 L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 4:05  
 White Sox at Arizona, 4:10  
 Kansas City at L.A. Dodgers, 4:10  
 Texas at Seattle, 4:10  
**Monday**  
**Mets** at Texas, 8:05  
 Boston at Toronto, 7:07  
 Detroit at Atlanta, 7:20  
 Milwaukee at L.A. Angels, 9:38

# NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	47	23	.671	—	—	6-4	L-1	27-10	20-13
Atlanta	38	30	.559	8	+4½	4-6	W-3	21-12	17-18
Washington	34	36	.486	13	½	7-3	W-2	15-17	19-19
<b>Mets</b>	32	37	.464	14½	2	8-2	W-4	17-23	15-14
Miami	23	47	.329	24	11½	2-8	L-4	12-25	11-22

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	41	29	.586	—	—	5-5	W-1	21-12	20-17
St. Louis	34	35	.493	6½	—	6-4	L-1	17-15	17-20
Cincinnati	34	36	.486	7	½	7-3	L-1	18-19	16-17
Chicago	34	37	.479	7½	1	4-6	W-1	19-14	15-23
Pittsburgh	33	37	.471	8	1½	5-5	L-1	16-17	17-20

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	43	29	.597	—	—	5-5	L-1	23-15	20-14
San Diego	37	37	.500	7	+½	5-5	L-2	18-21	19-16
Arizona	34	37	.479	8½	1	6-5	L-1	18-18	16-19
San Francisco	34	37	.479	8½	1	5-5	L-2	19-17	15-20
Colorado	25	45	.357	17	9½	4-6	W-1	14-18	11-27

\***WGB**: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Saturday

**Mets** 5, San Diego 1  
 Cubs 5, St. Louis 1  
 Washington 4, Miami 0  
 Milwaukee 3, Cincinnati 1  
 Baltimore 6, Philadelphia 2  
 L.A. Angels 4, San Francisco 3  
 Atlanta 9, Tampa Bay 2  
 Kansas City 7, L.A. Dodgers 2  
 Colorado 16, Pittsburgh 4  
 White Sox 9, Arizona 2  
**Sunday**  
 San Diego at **Mets**, 1:40  
 St. Louis at Cubs, 1:05  
 Miami at Washington, 1:35

Philadelphia at Baltimore, 1:35  
 Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1:35  
 Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 2:10  
 Pittsburgh at Colorado, 3:10  
 L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 4:05  
 White Sox at Arizona, 4:10  
 Kansas City at L.A. Dodgers, 4:10  
**Monday**  
**Mets** at Texas, 8:05  
 Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
 San Diego at Philadelphia, 6:40  
 St. Louis at Miami, 6:40  
 Detroit at Atlanta, 7:20  
 San Francisco at Cubs, 8:05  
 L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, 8:40  
 Milwaukee at L.A. Angels, 9:38

## Red Sox 8, Yankees 4

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Volpe ss	5	0	0	0	0	2	.267
Soto lf	3	1	1	2	1	3	.319
Judge cf	4	0	1	0	1	0	.300
Verdugo rf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.261
Stanton dh	4	1	2	0	0	2	.238
Rizzo 1b	2	2	0	2	1	2	.226
Torres 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.226
Wells c	4	0	1	0	0	3	.208
Jones pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Trevino c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.271
LeMahieu 3b	4	0	1	3	0	1	.196
Cabrera pr-3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.233
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Duran cf-lf	5	2	2	1	0	2	.275
Refsnyder rf	3	1	0	0	2	1	.317
O'Neill lf	5	2	2	1	0	1	.253
D.Hamilton ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.281
Devers 3b	4	1	2	1	2	2	.283
Wong c	3	0	1	1	1	1	.330
Yoshida dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.255
Westbrook 2b	3	0	1	1	0	2	.222
Valdez ph-2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.210
Dalbec 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.133
Rafaela ss-cf	4	1	3	0	0	0	.230
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	

Yankees	020	000	110	—	4	6	1
<b>Boston</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>12x</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>

**E**: Trevino (3), Rafaela (9). **LOB**: New York 9, Boston 8. **2B**: Soto (12), Duran (21), O'Neill (7), Westbrook (1), Devers (14), Yoshida (4), Rafaela (11). **HR**: Soto (18), off Slaten. **RBIs**: LeMahieu 3 (4), Soto (55), O'Neill (23), Wong (22), Westbrook (4), Devers 2 (34), Valdez (24), Duran (31). **SB**: Valdez (1). **RISP**: New York 2 for 8; Boston 6 for 15. O'Neill. **DP**: New York 1 (Torres, Rizzo).

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodón, L, 9-3	5.0	7	5	5	3	7	109	3.28
Marinaccio	2.0	3	1	1	1	3	44	2.12
González	1.0	2	2	1	1	1	18	3.05

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Criswell	4.0	3	2	2	2	6	88	4.15
Slaten, W, 4-2	2.2	2	1	1	2	3	47	3.06
Bernardino, H, 4	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.98
Weissert, H, 3-0	2	1	1	1	2	1	26	3.07
Jansen, S, 11-12	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.74

**T**: 3:08. **A**: 36,673 (37,755).

## Angels 4, Giants 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schanuel 1b	3	1	0	0	2	0	.216
Rengifo 3b	4	0	2	1	0	1	.315
Ward dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.243
Pillar lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.340
O'Hoppe c	4	1	2	2	0	0	.284
Neto ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.247
Moniak cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.194
Adell rf	4	0	0	0	0	4	.191
Guillorme 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.288
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Slater lf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.203
Bailey ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Ramos cf	5	1	3	3	0	1	.325
Flores 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.213
Chapman 3b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.234
Soler dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.219
Estrada 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.236
Yastrzemski rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.215
Ahmed ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Wisely ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.311
Casali c	3	1	2	0	0	0	.206
Conforto ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.240
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	

Los Angeles	010	002	100	—	4	6	1
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>010</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>

**E**: Pillar (1), Casali (2). **LOB**: Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 8. **2B**: Rengifo (10), Casali (1), Ramos 2 (7). **HR**: Moniak (3), off Winn; O'Hoppe (9), off Winn; Ramos (8), off Sandoval. **RBIs**: Moniak (15), O'Hoppe 2 (31), Rengifo (20), Ramos 3 (30). **SB**: Ahmed (1), Rengifo (18), Neto (9). **RISP**: Los Angeles 1 for 5; San Francisco 1 for 13. **DP**: Los Angeles 1 (Schanuel, Neto, Schanuel); San Francisco 1 (Wisely, Flores).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sandoval	5.0	8	3	3	2	5	98	5.24
Moore, W, 3-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	20	5.06
Strickland, H, 4-1	0	0	0	0	1	1	14	3.94
García, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	2	13	4.97	
Estévez, S,	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	3.68
12-15								

**T**: 2:37. **A**: 36,235 (41,915).

## Mets 5, Padres 1

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.346
Tatis rf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.277
Profar lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.322
Machado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.244
Solano dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.287
Cronenworth 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.258
Merrill cf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.281
Kim ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Higashioka c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.174
D.Peralta ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Campusano c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.231
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	

**Tigers 13, Astros 5**

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pérez rf	6	2	4	2	0	2	.260
Vierling 3b	4	2	2	1	0	0	.266
Kreidler ss	1	0	0	0	1	1	.222
Greene cf	5	2	4	6	1	0	.256
Canha 1b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.243
Ibáñez 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.266
Keith 2b	6	1	4	1	0	1	.235
Malloy dh	6	0	0	0	0	3	.188
McKinstry ss-3b	4	1	0	0	2	2	.189
Baddoo lf	4	1	0	0	2	1	.148
Kelly c	4	3	3	1	0	0	.246
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.295
Cabbage rf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.281
Bregman 3b	4	1	1	0	1	1	.240
Alvarez lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.287
McCormick lf-cf	2	1	1	3	0	1	.209
Peña ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.284
Singleton 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.221
Diaz dh	3	1	2	0	1	0	.263
Dubón rf-2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.301
Meyers cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.254
Hummel ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Caratini c	2	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Salazar c	2	1	1	0	1	0	.500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	

Detroit	262	001	011	—13	19	0
Houston	000	000	500	—5	10	1

**E:** Singleton (3). **LOB:** Detroit 13, Houston 6. **2B:** Keith (7), Canha (12), Dubón (11), Diaz (11), Salazar (2). **Cabbage (2).** **3B:** Caratini (1). **HR:** Vierling (9), off Arrighetti; Greene (14), off Arrighetti; Kelly (3), off Hernandez; Keith (3), off Scott; McCormick (1), off Englert. **RBIs:** Vierling (30), Greene (6), Pérez (2), Canha (29), Kelly (15), Keith (20), Salazar (1), Cabbage (5), McCormick (3) (12). **SB:** McKinstry (4), Pérez (5). **RISP:** Detroit 5 for 15; Houston 3 for 14.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Flaherty, W, 4-4	5.0	3	0	0	1	6	73	3.01
Englert	2.0	5	5	1	2	52	6.75	
Vest	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	11	3.41
Wentz	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	5.52

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti, L, 3-6	1.1	5	7	7	2	2	48	6.37
Dubin	1.0	6	3	2	2	0	42	5.68
Hernandez	3.2	3	1	1	0	5	55	1.93
Martínez	1.0	2	0	0	0	2	18	2.17
Montero	1.0	2	1	1	2	0	31	3.86
Scott	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	18	1.82

**T:** 3:01. **A:** 37,675 (41,000).

**Mariners 7, Rangers 5**

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Semien 2b	4	0	3	3	1	0	.265
Seager ss	5	0	0	0	0	0	.262
García rf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.218
Lowe 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.257
Langford lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.244
Jankowski cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.235
Grossman dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.195
Duran 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.263
Knizner c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.127
Smith ph	0	0	0	1	1	0	.294
Huff pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford ss	4	0	0	0	1	3	.205
Rojas 3b	3	3	3	2	1	0	.263
Rodríguez cf	5	1	2	2	0	0	.267
Raleigh dh	3	1	1	1	1	1	.209
Garver c	3	0	0	0	1	2	.173
Raley lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.253
Canzone rf	4	1	2	1	0	1	.207
Locklear 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.217
Moore 2b	2	1	0	0	2	1	.207
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	

Texas	000	010	004	—5	9	1
Seattle	103	000	12x	—7	7	1

**E:** Knizner (2), Kirby (1). **LOB:** Texas 6, Seattle 8. **2B:** Semien (14). **HR:** Rodríguez (7), off Eovaldi; Rojas (4), off Hernández. **RBIs:** Semien 3 (40), Langford (21), Smith (25), Raleigh (43), Rodríguez (29), Canzone (11), Rojas (3) (15). **SB:** Semien (3), Raleigh (2), García (6), Langford (6), Locklear (1), Moore (11). **RISP:** Texas 4 for 12; Seattle 3 for 10. **DP:** Seattle 1 (Moore, Crawford, Locklear).

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi, L, 3-3	3.0	4	4	4	6	75	3.15	
Burke	2.2	0	0	0	1	4	38	7.94
Hernández	1.1	1	1	1	1	3	26	3.63
Tinoco	1.0	2	2	2	1	31	8.10	

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kirby, W, 6-5	6.0	3	1	0	2	6	90	3.54
Thornton, H, 9	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	18	3.16
Saucedo	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.60
Bazardo	0.2	4	4	4	1	0	16	8.68
Stanek, S, 7-9	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	10	4.00

**T:** 2:46. **A:** 43,448 (47,929).

**Braves 9, Rays 2**

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz 1b	4	0	1	0	1	2	.259
B.Lowe 2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.200
Paredes 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.286
J.Lowe rf	3	0	0	1	2	0	.197
Arozarena dh	4	1	1	1	0	1	.175
Palacios lf	2	0	0	0	1	2	.244
Rosario ss	3	0	1	0	1	0	.295
Rortvedt c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.250
Jackson ph-c	1	0	0	0	1	1	.074
Siri cf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.202
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kelenic cf	5	1	3	2	0	0	.269
Albies 2b	3	1	0	1	1	1	.266
Ozuna dh	5	2	3	2	0	1	.327
Olson 1b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.252
Riley 3b	2	1	1	3	2	0	.233
Duvall lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.169
Murphy c	3	1	1	0	1	1	.143
Arcia ss	4	0	0	0	1	2	.225
Laureano rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.250
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	

Tampa Bay	100	000	001	—2	6	0
Atlanta	000	050	31x	—9	11	0

**LOB:** Tampa Bay 9, Atlanta 6. **2B:** Paredes (15). **HR:** Arozarena (9), off Kerr; Kelenic (5), off Pejiot; Ozuna (20), off Pejiot; Olson (11), off Pejiot; Riley (5), off Cleavinger. **RBIs:** J.Lowe (6), Arozarena (21), Kelenic (2), Ozuna (2), Olson (38), Riley (3) (26), Albies (32). **SF:** J.Lowe, Albies. **RISP:** Tampa Bay 0 for 5; Atlanta 2 for 5. **DP:** Tampa Bay 1 (Díaz); Atlanta 2 (Albies, Arcia, Olson; Riley, Albies, Olson).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pepiôt, L, 4-4	4.2	6	5	5	3	4	90	4.57
Armstrong	1.1	0	0	0	1	23	3.31	
Cleavinger	1.0	3	3	1	1	28	3.49	
Fairbanks	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	10	3.27

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Morton, W, 4-3	6.0	3	1	1	2	8	105	3.91
Bummer	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	20	3.47
Johnson	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	3.86
Kerr	1.0	2	1	1	3	0	27	5.64

**T:** 2:38. **A:** 40,480 (41,149).

**Royals 7, Dodgers 2**

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
García 3b	4	1	0	0	1	2	.251
Witt ss	5	0	2	1	0	1	.326
Pasquantino 1b	3	2	1	0	2	1	.238
Velázquez dh	2	1	0	1	0	1	.205
Fermin c	2	1	0	0	2	0	.298
Loflin 2b	2	0	0	1	0	0	.250
Frazier ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.216
Melendez lf	4	1	2	4	0	1	.168
Blanco rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.246
Hampson cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.304
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Betts ss	3	0	1	0	1	0	.307
Ohtani dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.305
Freeman 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.297
T.Hernández lf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.261
Pages cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.271
Heyward rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.222
Rojas ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.278
Biggio 3b-rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.125
Lux 2b	4	0	1	2	0	1	.215
Barnes c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.207
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	

Kansas City	000	104	200	—7	7	0
Los Angeles	000	200	000	—2	6	0

**LOB:** Kansas City 5, Los Angeles 7. **2B:** Fermin (7), Freeman (20), Pages (9). **3B:** Hampson (1). **HR:** Melendez (8), off Treinen. **RBIs:** Loflin (9), Melendez 4 (23), Witt (51), Velázquez (27), Lux 2 (16). **SB:** Witt (20), García (17). **SF:** Velázquez. **RISP:** Kansas City 2 for 7; Los Angeles 2 for 10. **DP:** Kansas City 1 (Loflin, Witt, Pasquantino); Los Angeles 1 (Betts, Freeman).

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lugo, W, 10-2	6.0	6	2	2	1			

# The *POST* Line



**NBA Finals**  
**Monday- Game 5**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
CELTICS	6.5 (209.5)	Mavericks

**WNBA**  
**Sunday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
FEVER	2 (164.5)	Sky
Storm	2.5 (164.5)	MERCURY
DREAM	4.5 (159.5)	Sparks

**Home Teams In CAPS**

**UFL Championship**  
**Sunday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
+Stallions	3.5 (42)	Brahmas
+St. Louis		

**MLB**  
**Saturday**

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	\$124-148	RED SOX
Padres	-105-115	METS
CUBS	\$110-130	Cardinals
NATIONALS	\$100-120	Marlins
BRAVES	\$102-122	Rays
ORIOLES	\$110-130	Phillies
BLUE JAYS	\$110-130	Guardians
BREWERS	\$105-125	Reds
DODGERS	\$200-250	Royals
D'BACKS	\$145-175	White Sox
TWINS-Gm. 1	\$144-172	Athletics
TWINS-Gm. 2	\$180-215	Athletics
GIANTS	\$140-166	Angels
MARINERS	\$120-142	Rangers
ASTROS	OFF	Tigers
ROCKIES	OFF	Pirates

**CFL**  
**Sunday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
TIGER-CATS	1.5 (49)	Roughriders

## SPORTS SHORTS

### SOCCKER: Red Bulls record draw

The Red Bulls couldn't capitalize on a significant offensive advantage in a 0-0 draw with Nashville SC on Saturday night at Red Bull Arena.

The Red Bulls outshot Nashville (4-5-8, 20 points) 22-6, also leading 5-1 in shots on target. Nevertheless, after several near-misses and one overturned goal, New York (8-4-6, 30 points) had to settle for the tie.

The Red Bulls still have yet to lose at home, now sitting at 5-0-3 on the season.

● Italy recovered from conceding the quickest goal in European Championship history — after just 23 seconds to **Nedim Bajrami** — to open its title defense with a 2-1 win over Albania in Dortmund, Germany. Italy responded with a goal by **Alessandro Bastoni** in the 11th minute, and **Niccolo Barella** struck home a swerving first-time shot for a 2-1 Italy lead in the 16th.

● In Berlin, **Alvaro Morata**, **Fabian Ruiz** and **Dani Carvajal** each scored in the first half to lift Spain to a 3-0 victory over Croatia.

● In Cologne, Germany, **Breel Embolo**, helped clinched his team's opening round win with a 90th minute stoppage time goal in a 3-1 victory over Hungary.

### MLB: Orioles beat Phillies

**Anthony Santander** homered twice and drove in four runs, and **Grayson Rodriguez** worked seven solid innings to lift the Orioles to a 6-2 victory over the Phillies in Baltimore.

● In Los Angeles, **Seth Lugo** became the AL's first 10-game winner and **MJ Melen-**

**dez** hit a grand slam to conclude a 12-pitch at-bat to help the Royals defeat the Dodgers 7-2. Dodgers starting pitcher **Yoshinobu Yamamoto's** start was cut short after two innings because of triceps tightness.

● In Washington, **DJ Herz** struck out 13 and allowed one hit over six innings for his first major league victory as the Nationals won 4-0 over the Marlins. Washington has won seven of eight overall.

● In Atlanta, **Marcell Ozuna** had three hits, including one of four Braves home runs, and Atlanta's offensive resurgence continued in a 9-2 rout of the Rays.

● In Milwaukee, **Joey Ortiz** gave the Brewers all the runs they needed with a three-run homer as the Brewers beat the Reds, 3-1.

● In Seattle, **Julio Rodríguez** hit a two-run homer, his second in three games, and the Mariners held off the Rangers, 7-5. Seattle won for the sixth time in seven games.

### MMA: McGregor says he was hurt

In his first public comments since pulling out of UFC 303 on Thursday because of an undisclosed injury, **Conor McGregor** called it a postponement rather than a cancellation of his fight with **Michael Chandler** that had been scheduled for later this month. McGregor said on social media he was injured before the press conference and made the decision with doctors to postpone the fight.

### GOLF: Kim takes big lead

**Grace Kim** birdied four of the final six holes to take a five-stroke lead into the final round of the Meijer LPGA Classic in Grand Rapids, Mich. Kim shot a 6-under 66 to get to 17-under 199.

## ACTION TOP PLAY

# An offensive night at Fenway

By SEAN TREPPEDI  
actionnetwork.com

This Yankees' offense isn't slowing down anytime soon. The game's best power-hitting team has excelled to a runaway lead in the AL East through disciplined plate approaches that lead to bases in whatever way possible.

The Yankees tied with the Dodgers for the league's highest in weight runs created plus (wRC+) with 123 entering play Saturday.

Marcus Stroman continues to pitch reliably for the Bombers. His previous outing featured four hits in 5 2/3 innings of work in the 10-1 rout of Kansas City. That's just about on par for him in his 5-2 record. Stroman has gotten suffi-

cient run support with the offense having posted at least four runs in 10 of his 14 starts.

He'll face an undervalued Red Sox lineup that ranks No. 13 overall in wRC+ on Sunday. Boston was projected to be the doormat of the division, but it balances the .500 tightwire in mid-June because of timely hitting.

Kutter Crawford has historically pitched well against the Yankees, however, his exit velocity and expected ERA have taken some bumps. Crawford has allowed at least one home run in seven of his past eight starts, opening the door for Yankees slugging.

**THE PLAY:** Over 8.5 Runs  
Sean Treppedi handicaps MLB for Action Network.

## Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2024	'24 vs OPP	CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS						
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA	
Yankees	Stroman (R)		6-2	2.82	10-4	1-0	1.50	7-4	2-0	17.2	3.06	
Red Sox	Crawford (R)	(7:10pm)	2-6	3.47	3-11	1-0	1.69	2-1	0-3	18.0	5.50	
Padres	Cease (R)		6-5	3.36	8-6	0-0	0.00	0-1	1-1	17.1	3.63	
Mets	Megill (R)	(1:40pm)	1-3	3.51	1-4	1-0	3.60	1-0	1-1	16.2	3.78	
Phillies	Wheeler (R)		8-3	2.16	8-6	0-0	0.00	1-0	2-0	20.0	0.90	
Orioles	Burnes (R)	(1:35pm)	7-2	2.08	10-4	1-0	0.00	1-1	3-0	21.0	0.43	
Rays	Eflin (R)		3-4	4.06	7-5	1-0	3.60	7-3	0-0	15.2	4.60	
Braves	Waldrep (R)	(1:35pm)	0-1	17.18	0-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	3.2	17.18	
Angels	Joyce (R)		0-0	12.27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Giants	Harrison (L)	(4:05pm)	4-3	3.96	10-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	17.1	4.15	
White Sox	Thorpe (R)		0-0	1.80	0-1	—	—	0-0	0-0	5.0	1.80	
D'Backs	Montgomery (L)	(4:10pm)	4-4	6.58	6-4	0-0	2.08	2-0	1-2	11.2	13.11	
Royals	Singer (R)		4-3	3.30	9-4	—	—	2-0	0-1	14.1	5.65	
Dodgers	Glasnow (R)	(4:10pm)	6-5	3.24	8-6	—	—	1-0	0-2	19.0	3.79	
Guardians	Lively (R)		6-2	2.59	7-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	3-0	17.2	2.04	
Blue Jays	Berrios (R)	(1:37pm)	5-5	2.93	9-5	0-0	0.00	5-3	0-1	18.2	2.89	
Tigers	Maeda (R)		2-2	5.89	5-6	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-1	8.2	6.23	
Astros	Arrighetti (R)	(2:10pm)	3-5	5.33	5-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	14.2	1.23	
Athletics	Sears (L)	Game 1	4-5	4.02	5-9	0-0	4.26	0-0	0-2	18.0	4.50	
Twins	Paddack (R)	(2:10pm)	5-3	4.79	9-4	0-0	13.50	1-1	1-1	16.0	6.19	
Rangers	Dunning (R)		4-5	4.80	6-5	0-1	8.31	3-3	1-2	13.2	5.93	
Mariners	Gilbert (R)	(4:10pm)	3-4	3.19	7-7	1-0	0.00	3-2	0-2	19.2	3.66	
Athletics	Estes (R)	Game 2	2-2	4.78	3-3	—	—	—	1-1	16.1	2.20	
Twins	Paddack (R)	(7:40pm)	5-3	4.79	9-4	—	—	1-1	1-1	16.0	6.19	
Cardinals	Mikolas (R)		—	4-6	4.85	6-8	0-0	4.50	5-4	1-1	19.0	2.37
Cubs	Taillon (R)	(1:05pm)	3-2	3.09	5-5	0-0	4.76	5-1	0-0	17.0	4.24	
Marlins	Luzardo (L)		—	3-5	5.11	4-7	0-0	0.00	1-2	16.0	7.88	
Nationals	Parker (L)	(1:35pm)	4-3	3.21	6-5	0-0	2.25	0-0	0-1	17.1	2.60	
Reds	Montas (R)		—	3-5	4.55	4-8	0-1	5.40	0-1	14.1	4.40	
Brewers	Rea (R)	(2:10pm)	5-2	3.31	8-3	0-0	0.00	4-0	1-1	16.2	3.78	
Pirates	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Rockies	Hudson (R)	(3:10pm)	2-8	4.87	3-10	0-0	1.29	2-1	1-1	18.0	3.00	

\* REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

## STITCHES

# Jameson on Father's Day

Votes are in, and once again Joe Biden has been named "Father of the Year" in a landslide. Not sure what Hunter is getting Dad, (a travel app for the wanderer?) but if you're still searching for a gift, look no more. Rudy Giuliani has put out a line of coffees: morning, bold and decaf. The blends are available in perk, instant and considering what we witnessed after Rudy's hair sprung a leak, the highly recommended drip.

So put on a pot and watch the Cards and Cubs renew their rivalry. The Redbirds' Miles Mikolas one-hit the Pirates for seven

innings in his previous start. The Cubs scored three runs on Mikolas on May 25. Chicago's Jameson Taillon scattered four hits over six shutout innings at Tampa Bay. Taillon gave up the same three runs to the Cards on May 25. We will add a little Jameson in our coffee and take the Cubs for \$50.

-\$

Tim Anderson, Bryan De La Cruz and Josh Bell went 0-for-4. DJ Herz threw a one-hitter for six innings, and the Nats fried the Fish, 4-0. Down -611 papadoms.

stitches@nypost.com

## Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY

	TODAY June 16	MON June 17	TUE June 18	WED June 19	THU June 20	FRI June 21	SAT June 22
	<b>Boston</b> 7:10 ESPN WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	NO GAME	Balt. 7:05 YES WFAN	Balt. 7:05 Prime Video WFAN	Balt. 4:05 YES WFAN	Atl. 7:05 Apple TV+ WFAN	Atl. 7:15 Fox WFAN
	<b>San Diego</b> 1:40 PIX11 WCBS 880 AM	Texas 8:05 SNY WCBS	Texas 8:05 SNY WCBS	Texas 8:05 SNY WCBS	NO GAME	Cubs 2:20 SNY WCBS	Cubs 2:20 SNY, FS1 WCBS
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Phx. 10:00 CBSN	NO GAME	L.A. 7:00 MY9	NO GAME	L.A. 3:00 ESPN

	Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday
	<b>Montreal CF</b> 7:30 Apple TV+		<b>LA Galaxy</b> 10:30 Apple TV+
	<b>San Diego Wave FC</b> 7:00 MSG		

## Today's Sports on the Air

<b>MLB</b>	1 p.m.	Cardinals at Cubs	Roku
	1:30 p.m.	Rays at Braves	MLBN
	1:40 p.m.	Padres at Mets	PIX11, WCBS (880 AM)
	4:30 p.m.	Rangers at Mariners (in progress)	MLBN
	7:10 p.m.	Yankees at Red Sox	ESPN, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
<b>WNBA</b>	Noon	Sky at Fever	CBS
	3 p.m.	Storm at Mercury	ABC
<b>Football</b>	5 p.m.	UFL Championship: Stallions vs. Brahmas	Fox
	7 p.m.	CFL: Saskatchewan at Hamilton	CBSN
<b>Soccer</b>	9 a.m.	UEFA Euro 2024 Group Stage: Poland vs. Netherlands	FS1
	Noon	UEFA Euro 2024 Group Stage: Slovenia vs. Denmark	FS1
	3 p.m.	UEFA Euro 2024 Group Stage: Serbia vs. England	Fox
	4 p.m.	NWSL: Portland Thorns at Seattle Reign	CBS
	5 p.m.	CPL: Cavalry at Vancouver FC	FS2
<b>Golf</b>	9 a.m.	DP World/PGA Tour: The U.S. Open, Final Round	USA
	Noon	DP World/PGA Tour: The U.S. Open, Final Round	NBC
	1 p.m.	LPGA Tour: The Meijer LPGA Classic, Final Round	Golf
<b>Tennis</b>	6 a.m.	ATP/WTA s-Herogenbosch, ATP Stuttgart, WTA Nottingham- Finals	Tennis
	5 a.m. (Mon.)	ATP London, ATP Halle, WTA Berlin, WTA Birmingham- Early Rounds	Tennis
<b>Auto Racing</b>	10 a.m.	FIM Motocross: The MX2	CBSN
	11 a.m.	FIM Motocross: The MXGP	CBSN
	7 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: The Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol	USA
<b>College Baseball</b>	2 p.m.	World Series: Florida State vs. Virginia	ESPN
	7 p.m.	World Series: Tennessee vs. North Carolina	ESPN2
<b>Olympic Trails</b>	8 p.m.	U.S. Summer Olympic Trials: Swimming Finals	NBC
<b>Softball</b>	1 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Team Clark vs. Team Edwards	ESPN2
	3:30 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Team Alo vs. Team Edwards	ESPN2
<b>Lacrosse</b>	12:30 p.m.	PLL: California vs. New York	ABC
<b>Horse Racing</b>	Noon	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
	12:30 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
	2 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS1
	3 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
	5 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS1
	3 p.m.	MLR: Utah at New England	FS1
<b>Rugby</b>	3 p.m.	MLR: Utah at New England	FS1

## ODDS & ENDS

### NASCAR Odds to win Sunday's Iowa Corn 350

DRIVER	ODDS
Christopher Bell	+450
Kyle Larson	+500
Denny Hamlin	+650
Ryan Blaney	+900
Martin Truex Jr.	10/1
William Byron	12/1
Joey Lagano	12/1
Brad Keselowski	12/1
Ty Gibbs	14/1
Tyler Reddick	16/1
Chris Buescher	18/1
Chase Elliott	18/1
Ross Chastain	25/1
Kyle Busch	25/1
Bubba Wallace	40/1
Alex Bowman	40/1
Austin Cindric	50/1
Chase Briscoe	50/1
Josh Berry	50/1
Michael McDowell	80/1
Noah Gragson	125/1
Daniel Suarez	200/1
Todd Gilliland	200/1
Carson Hocevar	200/1
Ryan Preece	200/1
Erik Jones	250/1
Austin Dillon	250/1
AJ Allmendinger	300/1
Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	500/1
Zane Smith	500/1
Justin Haley	500/1
John H. Nemechek	750/1
Corey Lajoie	750/1
Harrison Burton	1,000/1
Daniel Hemric	1,000/1
David Starr	2,000/1
Kaz Grala	2,000/1

### Odds to win 2024 Cup Series

DRIVER	ODDS
Kyle Larson	+375
Denny Hamlin	+400
William Byron	+525
Christopher Bell	+675
Chase Elliott	10/1
Martin Truex Jr.	12/1
Brad Keselowski	13/1
Ryan Blaney	14/1
Tyler Reddick	14/1
Joey Logano	25/1
Ty Gibbs	25/1
Ross Chastain	30/1
Chris Buescher	30/1
Alex Bowman	40/1
Kyle Busch	50/1
Bubba Wallace	80/1
Daniel Suarez	100/1
Michael McDowell	150/1
Austin Cindric	150/1
Josh Berry	200/1
Chase Briscoe	200/1
Noah Gragson	200/1

## ACTION BET SMART



Denny Hamlin

# Aim\$ in Iowa

By NICK STERLING

NASCAR heads to Iowa Speedway for the first time in Cup Series history for the Iowa Corn 350. It's the first race for the NBC/USA TV slate in 2024. You can tune on Sunday at 7 p.m.

It's the first race at Iowa Speedway for the Cup Series, but many drivers have experience on the track in the Xfinity and Truck Series. Perhaps that'll give them an upper hand on Sunday.

FanDuel has Christopher Bell (+400), Kyle Larson (+550) and Denny Hamlin (+700) as the favorites. Bell is a two-time winner in the Xfinity Series at Iowa.

We don't have past Iowa data for the Cup Series, so we'll use similar track types and 2024 speed to determine the top picks for Sunday's race.

### Denny Hamlin top-five finish (+125, bet365)

There aren't many drivers in the field with no experience at Iowa, but Hamlin is one of them. Despite that, he's one of the pre-race favorites, and I'm backing him to record a strong finish.

Iowa is a short, flat track that aligns with Phoenix, Richmond and Gateway. Hamlin had the fourth-, sixth- and fourth-best speed rankings, respectively, across those three races. He won at Richmond and finished second at Gateway.

Overall, Hamlin has excelled on short tracks, winning in the exhibition race at the L.A. Coliseum before winning at Bristol.

Don't let the lack of experience scare you off. Hamlin will be in contention for the win on Sunday.

### Ryan Blaney finishing under 6.5 (+100, Caesars)

I'm expecting a big performance from the Toyota camp, but if there's one driver who can spoil the party, it's Blaney.

The defending Cup Series champion, who has Xfinity and Truck Series wins at Iowa, should've won at Gateway but ran out of gas on the final lap. Both Phoenix

and Gateway have long been one of Blaney's best tracks on the circuit.

We don't need him to win at Iowa or even score a top-five finish. He just needs to finish sixth or better to win this prop.

### Martin Truex Jr. over William Byron (-115, BetMGM)

Truex left last week's race at Sonoma with the most disappointment. He lost the lead in the final 10 laps and ran out of gas while running second on the final lap.

Luck hasn't been on his side lately, but that could change in Iowa. Truex had a flat tire at Gateway, leading to a 34th-place finish. Before that, he had top-two speed rankings at Phoenix (fastest) and Richmond (second-fastest).

William Byron has been just OK across the short, flat tracks in 2024, with just one finish better than 14th across three races. Overall, he has finished 15th or worse in four of his past six races.

Both drivers are trending down heading into Iowa. Ultimately, I trust Truex's success on short, flat tracks in 2024.

### Winning manufacture: Toyota (+125, DraftKings)

The Toyota camp comes into this race with high hopes. Bell is the pre-race favorite, and Hamlin is not far behind. Many more contenders exist — including Truex, Reddick, Ty Gibbs and Bubba Wallace.

Bell won at Phoenix, and Reddick, Truex, Hamlin and Gibbs were top-six in speed ranking. Then Hamlin captured the checkered flag at Richmond, with Truex, Wallace and Bell displaying top-five speed.

Bell was the class of the field at Gateway before a late engine issue relegated him to a seventh-place finish. Hamlin, Reddick and Gibbs also had top-five speed.

The odds are too short on Bell, but he's my favorite pick for Sunday's race. If not him, it could be any driver from the Toyota camp.

Nick Sterling analyzes NASCAR for Action Network.

# NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: 1:05 p.m.  
vcangialosi@nypost.com



## Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Candy Tycoon (2nd)  
Lock Record: 6 for 17 (35%)  
Meet Record: 37/167 \$216.20

### 1 6 1/2 fur; \$70,000; cfm(\$40,000); 4up(f)

Happy Father's Day!...**ICY REPLY** makes her 50th start in the opener. Start #49 went well. Stalked the pace and scored racing 6 panels. Better equipped to get the extra 1/2 furlong. **SHES AWESOME** has won 3 in a row and is 3 for 3 at the distance. Prat rides the M/L favorite for Rudy Rodriguez. **IM BUZZY** was 3rd best last 3. Again? Rider change to Davis. **SHESALITTLE EDGY** was 2nd behind Icy Reply after beating her in March.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Shesalittle Edgy(L),120	J Lezcano	2-4-1	Rice	7-2
2 I'm Buzzy(L),123	D Davis	3-3-3	Reynolds	9-2
3 Collect Datt(L),120	R Maragh	8-8-1	Belsoeur	20-1
4 It Takes Heart(L),118	M Franco	5-5-4	Falcone	8-1
5 Icy Reply(L),120	L Rivera, Jr	1-5-4	Ferraro	6-1
6 She's Awesome(L),120	F Prat	1-1-1	Rodriguez	2-1
7 Fancy Azteca(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	4-9-7	R Dutrow	6-1
8 Fontanafredda(L),118	O Hmdz Mreno	2-2-2	Persaud	10-1

### 2 1 mile; \$28,000; cfm(\$10,000); 4up

A dozen dollars from **CANDY TYCOON** over the last 2 years. 0 for 12 but 2nd racing this distance here in May. May move forward; Franco stays on; so do we. **GUN MAESTRO** loads off back-to-back wins; both at the Big A, this distance. The one to catch. **FF ROCKET** failed to make the board last 3. Winner racing at this level back in November. Capable, but not in best form.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Horn of Plenty(L),118	R Maragh	9-5-6	Rodriguez	20-1
2 Rustys Gfiveffty(L),120	E Cancel	6-6-9	Miceli	15-1
3 Lord Gattina(L),120	F Ruiz	5-4-1	Potts	8-1
4 Holdtheflight(L),120	D Davis	6-6-1	Miceli	4-1
5 Prince of Joy(L),118	O Hmdz Mreno	8-4-7	Legall	30-1
6 Gun Maestro(L),123	J Lezcano	1-1-3	Rice	3-1
7 Candy Tycoon(L),118	M Franco	2-5-5	Rodriguez	2-1
8 FF Rocket(L),118	D Grisles Rave	7-6-4	Shivmangal	12-1
9 Cheeky Tico(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	5-3-7	Noda	5-1

### 3 6 fur(T); \$150,000; New York Stallion Stake; 3YO

The Spectacular Bid division of the New York Stallion Series. **MAMAS DREAM** on Father's day? Dirt to turf for Rudy Rodriguez. Broke maiden by 9 lengths then beat a dozen in the slop. 0 for 1 on turf but there is only one grass winner in the field. **THE BIG TORPEDO** is the M/L fave and he's 0 for 2 on turf. Lost by a neck in the Woodhawn last try. **HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPS** makes turf debut for Rudy. Led, beat 2 lengths this distance last out. Prat on..blinkers off. **FIDELIGHTCAYUT** has not 1, but 2 turf wins. Both earned at a mile+. Close 3rd in the Jersey Derby in latest. **BUSTIN AWAY** Perfect. 3 for 3. All on dirt. Latest at Finger Lakes. Fast, but so is Heavyweight Champs.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 The Big Torpedo,118	E Cancel	2-2-5	Morley	2-1
2 Heavyweight Champs,118	F Prat	4-6-1	Rodriguez	8-1
3 Retail Man,118	D Davis	6-5-6	Ryerson	30-1
4 Freedsdale,118	J Lezcano	4-1-x	Rice	8-1
5 Bustin Away,118	K Coa	1-1-1	Ferraro	8-1
6 Fidelightcayut,118	J Castellano	3-1-2	Avila	9-2
7 Mama's Dream,118	J Rosario	5-1-4	Rodriguez	20-1
8 Courtly Banker,118	K Davis	3-3-x	Tagg	6-1
9 Grand Opening,118	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-3	Bailes	4-1

### 4 6 fur; \$75,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Overdue. **FOCUS POCUS** has landed in the money all 4 starts, the last 3 as favorite. Today? Prat on; blinkers off. **GRANADILLA** is 0 for 3 but runnerup last pair. **SANTAGATA** makes career debut for DePaz. Sired by Mastery who is by Candy Ride. Ridden by Carmouche.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Harmonyville(L),118	L Luzzi	10-x-x	Giddings	30-1
2 Cruise to Catalina(M),118	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	3-1
3 Focus Pocus(L),118	F Prat	3-2-2	De Paz	3-1

### 4 Granadilla(L),118 I Ortiz, Jr 2-2-6 R Dutrow 5-2

5 Welcome Back Babe(L),118 M Franco 11-6-6 Nevin 12-1
6 Gregorian Solo(L),118 R Maragh x-x-x Lugovich 12-1
7 Mary Union Ave(L),118 D Davis 6-7-4 Davis 12-1
8 Santagata(M),118 K Carmouche x-x-x De Paz 8-1
9 Paulas Star Sister(M),118 K Coa x-x-x Ferraro 8-1

### 5 1 mile(T); \$90,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Promising debut for **LA SALVADORENA**. Rallied from 10 horses back to finish 2nd at Keeneland. Eligible at 2nd asking as Handal stretches the Oscar Performance filly longer. Davis up. **SAVE TIME** Short end of the win photo. Moves forward if we're off turf. Trained by Chad Brown who also enters **COIF**. Switches surfaces after a debut dud. Irad a good sign. And **STAMP OF APPROVAL** is also saddled by Brown. Placed 2nd this distance on dirt. Will she take to the grass? Prat will be the 1st to know. And Johnny V rides the debuting **FADE TO GREY**, a Palace Malice gray, for Pletcher.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 La Salvadorena(L),118	D Davis	2-x-x	Handal	7-2
2 American Kestrel(L),118	K Davis	7-5-x	Tagg	20-1
3 Fade to Grey(M),118	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Pletcher	9-2
4 Armada Rising(IRE)(M),118	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Falcone	10-1
5 Sissinghurst(M),118	J Rosario	x-x-x	Clement	10-1
6 Stamp of Approval(L),118	F Prat	2-4-x	C Brown	6-1
7 Just So Pretty(L),118	K Carmouche	4-x-x	Gargan	5-1
8 Dancing Dean(L),118	J Alvarado	3-9-x	Mott	8-1
9 Coif(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	6-x-x	C Brown	6-1
10 Sunday Tiff(L),118	J Castellano	5-x-x	Morley	12-1
11 Maturity Date(L),118	K Carmouche	2-8-4	Rice	4-1
12 Save Time(L),118	F Prat	2-3-4	C Brown	8-5

### 6 13/16 miles(T); \$102,000; alw; 3up

Tight quarters for **DRIPPING GOLD** but when he got free he closed to within 2 lengths of the winner at Churchill. Choice getting more ground 2nd off the layoff for McGaughey. **MONDEGO** was 3rd, **DAUNT** was 4th and **BEUYS** was 2nd when they raced this distance in Kentucky. Mondego led and gave way. Beuys has run since, finishing a close 4th. **CRABS N BEER** Board hiter 9 of 11 on grass.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Crabs N Beer,124	J Velazquez	2-1-2	Brion	5-1
2 Mondego(GB)(L),122	J Rosario	3-12-4	Clement	3-1
3 Regal Kingdom(L),122	T McCarthy	6-6-5	Motion	20-1
4 Daunt(L),122	J Castellano	4-7-6	Ribaldo	9-2
5 Chulainn(L),122	M Franco	7-1-4	Motion	8-1
6 English Conqueror(L),122	J Lezcano	10-5-2	Banach	10-1
7 Beuys(IRE)(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	4-2-5	Maker	4-1
8 Dripping Gold(L),122	F Prat	5-3-3	McGaughey III	6-1
9 Bode's Maker(L),124	K Carmouche	4-1-8	De Paz	10-1
10 Curlin's Wisdom(L),122	J Lezcano	7-6-5	Rice	7-2

### 7 1 mile; \$39,000; cfm(\$25,000); 3up

The **PINEAPPLE MAN** raced wide and checked in a flat 3rd of 8. Another try, same distance. **RESERVE CURRENCY** won by a nose this distance. Stretched longer and reported home 5th of 6. Rebound in cards, moving lower and retreating to a mile for Handal. Blinkers on. **DEBATE** ran home 10 lengths short at the Spa last week. 0 for 5 this year; 0 for 5 at Aqueduct but a contender moving lower for Rice. Blinkers off.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Nineteen Oysters(L),124	I Ortiz, Jr	8-3-2	Maker	6-1
2 Unstable Prince(L),126	R Vazquez	8-1-3	Kantarmaci	20-1
3 Reserve Currency(L),126	D Davis	5-1-7	Handal	3-1
4 Flashy Alex(L),126	R Maragh	1-4-2	Persaud	30-1
5 Mr. Swagger(L),126	C Olivero	6-3-1	Avila	5-1
6 Debate(L),124	J Lezcano	6-5-3	Rice	4-1
7 Harvard(L),124	K Carmouche	5-4-3	Atras	6-1
8 Pineapple Man(L),124	T McCarthy	3-7-1	Giangiulio	5-1

### 9 Ski Country(L),124 M Franco 5-6-5 Noda 15-1

10 Thank You Jon(L),124 L Rivera, Jr 5-1-9 Romero 12-1
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### 8 1 mile(T); \$90,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Late double is on the lawn. **LATTE LIZZIE** Dirt to turf 2nd off the layoff for Chad Brown. Took 3rd money in a stake this distance on grass last year. **PATTY BROWN EYES** MTO. Ran well for 2nd in dirt debut. Clement puts **STRIFE** on the grass after debuting a 1/2 length short on dirt. Led late, runs a 1/16 shorter. Rosario on the Florida shipper. **BEETS** broke last of 10 but finished full of run to be 2nd. Sprint to route for Mott. **PAY THE BILLS** makes career debut. Brown trains the french filly for Klaravich. Prat rides.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Street View(L),118	K Davis	6-4-2	Weaver	15-1
2 Strife(L),118	J Rosario	2-x-x	Clement	7-2
3 Ascension(M),118	J Castellano	x-x-x	C Martin	10-1
4 Pay the Bills(FR)(M),118	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	9-2
5 Private Property(IRE)(L),118	R Maragh	2-x-x	Nevin	10-1
6 Goodnight My Angel(M),118	M Franco	5-x-x	Pletcher	8-1
7 Dazzling Cruiser(M),118	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	12-1
8 Beets(M),118	J Lezcano	2-x-x	Mott	5-1
9 Latte Lizzie(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	6-4-3	C Brown	3-1
10 Belliqueux(L),118	L Rivera, Jr	8-x-x	Baker	30-1
11 Malibu's Dynamite(M),118	L Luzzi	4-x-x	Keithan	50-1
12 She's Always Rosie(L),118	J Lezcano	2-3-6	Rice	7-2
13 Patty Brown Eyes(L),118	T McCarthy	2-x-x	Morley	8-5

### 9 1 1/8 miles(T); \$100,000; alw; 3up

**OPERATION TORCH** has hit the board last 3. Head shy in latest. Wins the weekend for Pletcher. **PADDINGTON** MTO. **BETTERDAYSROMING** Irish gelding made US debut off the layoff and closed late to be a close 3rd. No history at this longer distance but he may benefit.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
2 Scat Tu Tap(L),124	J Castellano	3-1-6	Abreu	20-1
3 Operation Torch(L),124	J Alvarado	2-3-2	Pletcher	4-1
1 a-Betterdayscoming(L),124	D Davis	3-x-x	Clement	7-2
1A a-Ramblin' Wreck(L),124	K Carmouche	8-7-1	Gargan	7-2
4 Royal Spirit(L),124	J Lezcano	6-5-2	Rice	12-1
5 Battle of Normandy(L),124	F Prat	9-3-4	McGaughey III	4-1
6 Barrage(L),124	J Rosario	1-2-4	Palmer	6-1
7 Al's Rocket(L),124	E Cancel	8-9-3	Baker	20-1
8 Scramble(L),124	K Davis	9-8-6	Tagg	15-1
9 Samburu(GB)(L),124	I Ortiz, Jr	5-4-3	Maker	8-1
10 Massif(L),118	M Franco	4-2-2	Russell	20-1
11 Harry Hood(L),124	J Velazquez	8-2-4	Hennig	8-1
12 Bold Victory(L),124	F Prat	3-8-8	Rodriguez	8-1
13 Paddington(L),124	J Lezcano	2-9-6	Rice	2-1
14 Seeking Unity(L),124	Rider TBA	3-1-2	Rodriguez	3-1

## PLAY OF THE DAY

Military Road (2-1) led throughout but was denied by a neck. Caras Time (\$10.20) won, but we already tossed our doubles in the trash. Loss of \$34.

Two bets on Father's Day. In Race 2 play \$30 to win on Candy Tycoon. \$4 across the board on long shot Mama's Dream in Race 3 and a \$2 double using both.— Vic Cangialosi

## Aqueduct Results

**FIRST-1 mile; \$75,000; mdn spl wt; 3up**  
 4 Hrdg's Firm (Rvrlr) 17.80 7.30 4.90  
 5 Accidental Bid (Lezcano) 9.90 7.70  
 2 Sorority Prank (Davis) 3.70

● \$1 Exacta (4-5) \$75.75 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-5-2-6) \$48.20 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (4-5-2) \$124.00

**SECOND-1 mile; \$50,000; mdn cl(\$50.0); 3up**  
 7 Mr. Pnrgg (Ortiz Jr.) 7.10 3.40 3.00  
 5 Dark Devil (Lezcano) 3.30 2.70  
 3 Guile (Ramsay) 6.10

● \$1 Daily Double (4-7) \$40.50 ● \$1 Exacta (7-5) \$11.20 ● \$1 Quinella (5-7) \$5.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (7-5-3-2) \$16.10 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (7-5-3) \$25.37

**Quinella picked by Vic C**

**THIRD-1 mile; \$45,000; cl(\$40.0); 3up (f&m)**  
 3 Nxt On Stg (Sntnrj) 4.10 2.40 2.20  
 11 Blenheim Baby (Lezcano) 2.50 2.30  
 2 Alley's Song (Martinez) 6.00  
 Scr: Socca, Dea Matrona (FR), Catskill Humor, Bertrille, Highway Harmony

● \$1 Pick 3 (4-7-3) \$67.25 ● \$1 Daily Double

(7-3) \$7.90 ● \$1 Exacta (3-11) \$3.85 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (3-11-2-8) \$16.07 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (3-11-2) \$17.12

**FOURTH-1 mile 1 fur; \$90,000; mdn; 3up**  
 4 Tmeout (Alvardo) 4.40 2.60 2.10  
 5 Military Road (Franco) 2.80 2.10  
 3 Reynolds Channel (Velazquez) 2.60

Scr: Glint

● \$1 Pick 3 (7-3-4) \$18.70 ● \$1 Daily Double (3-4) \$4.35 ● \$1 Exacta (4-5) \$5.50 ● \$1 Quinella (4-5) \$2.50 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-5-3-1) \$1.87 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (4-5-3) \$5.50

**Quinella picked by Vic C**

**FIFTH-6 1/2 fur; \$85,000; alw; 3up (f&m)**  
 6 Car's Time (Cncel) 10.20 4.80 4.00  
 7 Gon nd Forgottn (Ortiz Jr.) 3.60 2.90  
 5 Athena Beach (McCarthy) 3.40

● \$1 Pick 3 (3-4-6) \$28.75 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (7-1/3/4/6/7/9-4/7-6) \$61.12 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (4-7-3/4/6/7/9-4/7-6) \$66.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (4-6) \$12.30 ● \$1 Exacta (6-7) \$13.80 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (6-7-5-2) \$31.05 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (6-7-5) \$21.87

**Winner picked by Vic C**

**SIXTH-1 mile; \$90,000; mdn spl wt; 3up**  
 2 Unt Econms (Ortiz Jr.) 4.70 2.80 2.40  
 7 Storm Ready (McCarthy) 6.50 4.00  
 9 Final Edition (IRE) (Davis) 3.00

Scr: Coast Along, Deputy Mischieff

● \$1 Pick 3 (4-6-2) \$38.75 ● \$1 Daily Double (6-2) \$14.70 ● \$1 Exacta (2-7) \$15.50 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-7-9-1) \$19.27 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-7-9) \$32.25

**SEVENTH-5 fur; \$90,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO**  
 1A Mentee (Velzquez) 3.10 2.20 2.10  
 5 Colloquial (Franco) 3.60 3.00  
 6 Magical Bettes (Lezcano) 3.60 3.20

Scr: Faster Gator, Tapwrits Temper, Empress Julia

● \$1 Pick 3 (6-2-1) \$28.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (2-1) \$4.25 ● \$1 Exacta (1-5) \$5.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-5-6-9) \$6.02 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-5-6) \$16.00

**Winner picked by Vic C**

**EIGHTH-6 fur; \$80,000; alc; 3up (f&m)**  
 10 Marco T. (Franco) 4.70 3.30 2.30  
 8 Quck Power Np (Gomez) 15.20 6.50  
 5 Stolen Future (Ortiz Jr.) 3.30

Scr: My Cara Mia Mine, George's Vice, Pauloquin

● \$1 Pick 3 (2-1-10) \$10.00 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (6-2/5-13/4/7-6/7/10/13) \$37.37 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (4/7-6/2/5-1/3/4/7-6/7/10/13) \$83.00 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-10) \$4.65 ● \$1 Exacta (10-8) \$32.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (10-8-5-1) \$89.70 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (10-8-5) \$76.25

**NINTH-1 mile; \$102,000; alw; 3up**  
 1 Bloun (FR) (Frnc) 4.00 2.60 2.10  
 4 Ocen Attns (Velzquez) 3.60 3.10  
 3 Magical Ways (Ramsay) 7.30

Scr: Power Seeker, Fore Harp, Greek Order

● \$1 Pick 3 (1-10-1) \$9.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (10-1) \$6.70 ● \$1 Exacta (1-4) \$9.30 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-4-3-2) \$21.22 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-4-3) \$36.37

**Winner picked by Vic C**

**TENTH-7 fur; \$200,000; Bed O Roses; 4upf**  
 3 Accede (Ortiz Jr.) 10.20 6.20 5.30  
 5 Just Katherine (Franco) 11.40 8.10  
 7 Hot Fudge (Cancel) 6.50

● \$1 Grand Slam (1/5/6-5/8/10-1/3/4-3) \$12.30 ● \$1 Pick 3 (10-1-3) \$45.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-3) \$16.00 ● \$1 Exacta (3-5) \$67.25 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (3-5-7-8) \$387.10 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (3-5-7-8) \$386.00

**ELEVENTH-6 fur; \$80,000; alc; 3up (f&m)**  
 9 Ltst Edtn (Vlzquz) 12.60 6.70 4.60  
 2 Fancypants Julian (Cncel) 5.30 4.00  
 5 Poseidon's Mist (Ortiz Jr.) 7.50

Scr: Five to Two, Foxy Cara

● \$1 Pick 6 (2-1-10-1-3-9) \$16.30 ● \$1 Pick 6 (2-1-10-1-3-9) \$903.00 ● \$1 Pick 3 (1-3-9) \$133.50 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (10-1-3-9) \$158.50 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (10-1-3-9) \$331.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (3-9) \$51.00 ● \$1 Exacta (9-2) \$25.75 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (9-2-5-1) \$401.55 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (9-2-5) \$236.00

## Golf

**U.S. Open**  
At Pinehurst No. 2; Pinehurst, N.C.; Purse: \$21.5 million; Yardage: 7,548; Par: 70  
Third Round

Bryson	67-69-67	203	-7	
DeChambeau	.....	.....	.....	
Patrick Cantlay	.....	65-71-70	206	-4
Rory McIlroy	.....	65-72-69	206	-4
Matthieu Pavon	.....	67-70-69	206	-4
Ludvig Aberg	.....	66-69-73	208	-2
Hideki Matsuyama	.....	72-66-70	208	-2
Tony Finau	.....	68-69-72	209	-1
Tyrrrel Hatton	.....	68-71-70	209	-1
Corey Connors	.....	69-70-71	210	E
Tom Kim	.....	71-68-71	210	E
Collin Morikawa	.....	70-74-66	210	E
Sergio Garcia	.....	69-71-71	211	+1
Taylor Perdrieth	.....	71-70-70	211	+1
Aaron Rai	.....	69-74-68	211	+1
Xander Schauffele	.....	70-69-72	211	+1
Akshay Bhatia	.....	68-71-73	212	+2
Thomas Detry	.....	69-67-		

# Servin' Irvin

## Nats hurler can help fantasy squads

"I think, over the years, I've kind of evolved."

— Carrot Top

**W**ANTING to improve yourself is natural.

If you don't like the way you look, eat differently and work out. If you want to improve your self-esteem, say positive things to yourself and stop comparing yourself to others.

If you think you smell, shower.

There are always opportunities to improve yourself, just as there are always opportunities to improve your fantasy team — especially with players who have bettered themselves, like the Nationals' second-year starter Jake Irvin.

Over his first 14 starts, Irvin is 5-5 with a 3.00 ERA, 69-15 strikeout-walk rate and .225 opponents' average. In nine starts since allowing six runs against the Dodgers on April 24, Irvin is 4-3 with a 2.19 ERA, 46-8 strikeout-walk rate and .199 opponents' average. He allowed more than two earned runs once in that stretch, and is 3-0 with a 1.13 ERA, 25-6 strikeout-walk rate and .198 opponents' average over his past four starts.

Over his past five starts (all quality starts), he blanked the Braves twice and allowed two earned runs or fewer to the Twins, Guardians and Tigers — and

three of those games were on the road. (Fun fact: Irvin is 4-1 with a 2.55 ERA and .199 opponents' average in nine road starts this season. Assuming he stays healthy and the Nationals' rotation remains intact, he is in line to pitch four of his next six starts away from Washington. Just saying.)

Since that lousy start against Los Angeles, Irvin had the fifth-lowest walk rate (3.8 percent) in the majors to go along with the seventh-best WHIP (0.90), the 12th-lowest opponents' average and the 10th-best ERA. He also struck out 21.8 percent of the batters he faced and had a 10 percent swinging strike rate, both of which ranked in the top 50.

All of this is even more impressive when you consider the 6-foot-6 righty was 3-7 with a 4.61 ERA, 1.421 WHIP, 7.4 strikeouts per nine and 4.0 walks per nine last year.

Has he really shown *that* much improvement?

In 24 starts in 2023, Irvin allowed 1.49 homers per nine innings. This year, he has allowed about half that (0.78). His barrels per plate appearance are down, as is his opponents' average (.252 to .225), while his whiff, strikeout and swinging strike rates are all up.

Perhaps most impressive is the reduction in free passes. After walking 4.02 per nine innings last year, Irvin is walking just 1.67 per

nine this year.

So, yes, he has shown a lot of improvement. This doesn't mean there is a new ace in town, but it does mean fantasy managers have a trustworthy option who remains available in more than 70 percent of ESPN leagues.

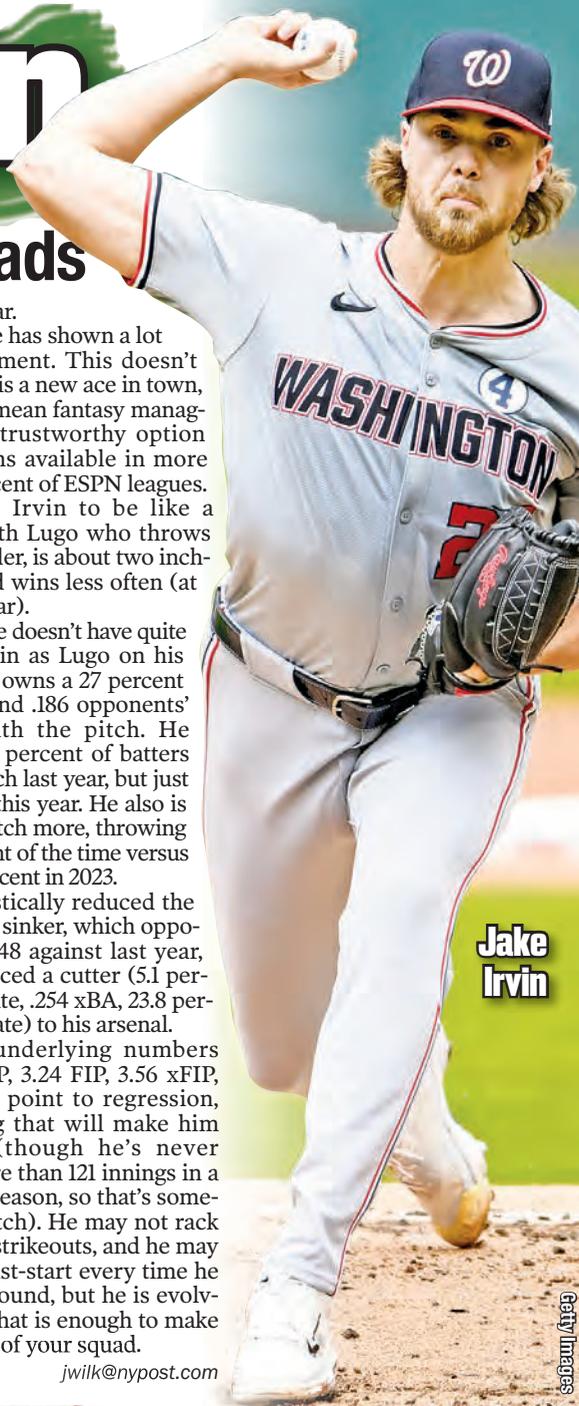
Consider Irvin to be like a younger Seth Lugo who throws slightly harder, is about two inches taller and wins less often (at least this year).

Though he doesn't have quite as much spin as Lugo on his curve, Irvin owns a 27 percent whiff rate and .186 opponents' average with the pitch. He walked 10.2 percent of batters with the pitch last year, but just 3.9 percent this year. He also is using the pitch more, throwing it 33.5 percent of the time versus about 30 percent in 2023.

Irvin drastically reduced the usage of his sinker, which opponents hit .348 against last year, and introduced a cutter (5.1 percent walk rate, .254 xBA, 23.8 percent whiff rate) to his arsenal.

Irvin's underlying numbers (.270 BABIP, 3.24 FIP, 3.56 xFIP, 3.79 xERA) point to regression, but nothing that will make him unusable (though he's never thrown more than 121 innings in a big-league season, so that's something to watch). He may not rack up wins or strikeouts, and he may not be a must-start every time he takes the mound, but he is evolving — and that is enough to make him worthy of your squad.

[jwilk@nypost.com](mailto:jwilk@nypost.com)



Jake Irvin

Getty Images

## Art of the fantasy deal

**A**S WE approach the midseason point, your fantasy baseball draft is a distant memory, the waiver wire has been picked clean, and you still find yourself in the middle of the pack, desperately seeking any kind of statistical boost. It's time to hit the trade phones.

Don't you roll your eyes. Trading is one of the most exciting aspects of the fantasy sports, and those who are good at it are usually the ones celebrating their championships at the end of the year.

By HOWARD BENDER

**FANTASY ALARM**



Stop with this "win the trade" nonsense. Don't be that person who makes a terrible offer and insists that it is just the first step in a negotiation. Duh. Of course it is, but do you want to start that negotiation six inches apart or six miles?

Making a bad offer is only going to turn off your potential trade partner. They look at the deal, hate it and instantly feel like you don't respect their game-play or intelligence. If you're that person, it is no wonder you can't pull off any deals, because a bad trade reputation spreads a lot faster than a good one.

You never want to overcomplicate things. Assess your roster, examine the holes and figure out what you need statistically to make your team better. You also should see where you may have a surplus — whether it is power, speed, starting pitching or saves. Now go look at the rest of the teams in your league and find the right fit.

If you're in the top-three in saves but near the bottom in home runs, find the person in your league who needs a closer and has a bat to trade. And remember, it doesn't always have to be a marquee player traded or acquired. Sometimes, the minor-tweak deals end up being the most effective.

The Grateful Dead said it best: "One man gathers what another man spills." Fantasy trading falls right in line with that. Find your overflow and trade it away. There is always someone in your league who has too much of what you need, so find them and see if they need what you're spilling. It is really that simple.

Howard Bender is the head of content at [FantasyAlarm.com](http://FantasyAlarm.com). Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to [FantasyAlarm.com](http://FantasyAlarm.com) for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.

### BIG HITS

#### Michael King P, Padres

Since allowing six earned runs on May 15, he is 2-0 with a 2.20 ERA, 34 strikeouts and a .186 opponents' average in his past five starts.

#### Ryan O'Hearn 1B/OF, Orioles

Had at least one hit in nine of his first 11 games this month, hitting .351 with two homers, six RBIs, two stolen bases and a .936 OPS.

#### Chris Bassitt SP, Blue Jays

After allowing seven runs on April 26, he was 4-2 with a 2.25 ERA, 45 strikeouts and a .219 opponents' average in his next eight starts.

#### Jarren Duran OF, Red Sox

Not only did he steal four bases in his first 11 games this month, but he hit .370 with two homers, seven RBIs, 13 runs and had a 1.118 OPS. He struck out seven times but also walked seven times.

### BIG WHIFFS

#### Reese Olson SP, Tigers

After owning a 1.92 ERA with .197 opponents' average and one homer allowed over his first 10 starts, he has gone 0-3 with a 10.43 ERA, .412 opponents' average and three homers in his past three.

#### Jo Adell OF, Angels

Average dropped from .252 on May 20 to .194 after going 6-for-65 (.092) with 30 strikeouts and a .391 OPS in his past 20 games.

#### Michael Kopech P, White Sox

Has three blown saves, a 11.37 ERA and .367 opponents' average over his past eight appearances. He has allowed four homers in that span.

#### Shea Langeliers C, Athletics

Entered Friday without a homer since May 30 and six hits (all singles) in his past 35 at-bats (.171) with 13 strikeouts and a .366 OPS.

### CHECK SWINGS

● After missing two months with a quad injury, Minnesota's **Royce Lewis** returned from the IL to go 11-for-32 (.344) with four homers, seven RBIs, eight runs and a 1.153 OPS in his first nine games. He had at least one hit in eight of those games.

● **Luis Robert Jr.** had six hits in his first nine games since coming off the IL, five of which were homers. He struck out 13 times and hit .188 in that span.

● **Nick Lodolo** won his past four decisions while maintaining a 2.31 ERA and .674 OPS. He struck out just 19 in those starts while walking six and allowing opponents to hit .253 against him. His FIP (4.05) indicates he's gotten lucky in those starts.

### TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

**Berti & Ernie**

Submit team names to: @NYPost\_Roto

Despite playoff heroics,  
time to move on from vet

# FROM GOOD, TO GREAT



**YEAH, BUT ...**  
Barclay Goodrow, celebrating his OT goal to beat the Panthers in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference final, stepped up for the Rangers in the playoffs but should be moved in the offseason, writes The Post's Larry Brooks.

Getty Images

**T**HE DECISION would be easy if Barclay Goodrow hadn't risen to the occasion both in the playoffs and in the conference final against Florida.

But of course No. 21 did, just as advertised when he came to New York as a quasi-free agent after freshly minted GM Chris Drury acquired his rights from Tampa Bay and signed the winger to a six-year deal with an annual \$3,641,667 cap hit.

So the calculus has become more difficult. The decision has become more challenging for Drury and the hierarchy. The Rangers need more players with playoff fiber, not fewer. They need as many known playoff quantities as they can get as they mount up one more time against the forces of no-tax Florida.

But the conclusion should be the same: The Rangers need more size and speed. They need to open salary-cap space. The Rangers benefitted from Goodrow's presence in going to the conference final in two of three seasons on Broadway, but now, in the cold light of 14 days away from elimination, it is time to move on from the forward, who will turn 32 at the end of February.

Goodrow scored two goals in the Rangers' final victory of the season, the Game 3 overtime triumph over the Panthers, after also scoring in Game 2. He had scored six goals in 13 playoff games after recording four in 80 games during the regular season. Goodrow clearly had been one of the club's best players against Florida.

Then, Goodrow got 5:12 of even-strength

ice time through the first two periods of Game 4; 4:32 of even-strength ice through the first two periods of Game 5 then 7:33 at even-strength through the first two periods of Game 6.

In other words, at his best, and when head coach Peter Laviolette was challenged to come up with 12 healthy forwards while facing a premature end to their championship quest, Goodrow still received limited ice time.

I'm not keeping the alternate captain at \$3.641M-plus on the fourth line, not at this point of the team's evolution. If his teammates haven't yet

absorbed his lessons in leadership, they never will. Goodrow was signed to anchor the third line. That never really turned out.

The NHL buyout period, under which the Rangers would actually gain a cap credit of \$247,222 for this season, runs from 48 hours after the Cup Final ends until June 30. Drury should not rush for a buyout that would ding the Blueshirts with a cap penalty of \$3.502M in 2026-27. Instead, the GM should seek to move Goodrow in a trade that could materialize at the June 28-29 entry draft.

Goodrow should have value on the market with his deal now having just three years to go. Surely he has more value as a mentor to Connor Bedard than Corey Perry ever did in Chicago. Utah — nee Arizona — may need help in getting to the cap floor and always needs help in veteran character. The Sharks and Ducks are in need of veteran leadership.

There is, however, no way I am adding a

sweetener to the deal or retaining salary-space. Sorry, not going to do it, and neither can Drury. The Rangers have already sacrificed their second-rounder in each of the next three drafts, their third-rounder the next two drafts and their fourth-rounder in 2025 and 2026. There are limits on the number of contract retentions a team can hold at any time, so retaining on Goodrow might have an impact on future hypothetical moves. Retention and sweeteners are off the table.

If the Blueshirts cannot make a hockey trade, a buyout would be in order — with the dead-cap charge ranging from \$1.111M to that one-time hit of \$3.502M over the next six seasons. I'd rather deal with that than adding a draft pick to move Goodrow's contract the way the team had to do with Patrick Nemeth.

A Goodrow buyout would leave the Rangers with approximately \$15.549M of cap space entering July 1 on a shadow roster that includes nine forwards, four defensemen and two goaltenders but does not include impending restricted free agents Ryan Lindgren and Braden Schneider, or bubble forwards Matt Rempe, Adam Edstrom and Jonny Brodzinski.

Moving Goodrow also creates an opportunity for one of the kids from Hartford or for an offseason acquisition. It's tricky business to move a known quantity to open up a spot for a youngster — part of the thinking behind the Pavel Buchnevich trade was that Vitali Kravtsov was going to need top-six time on the right — but this is the time for the Rangers.

This is the time to move on from Goodrow.

➤ There is no NHL equivalent to the basketball life led by **Jerry West**, who passed last week at age 86.

The closest is probably **Mario Lemieux** — right? — who saved the Penguins for Pittsburgh as the first-overall pick in 1984 then saved them again by buying the team and presiding from the owner's suite when there were orchestrated hints of a move to Kansas City.

➤ I say no, but would the Canes say no to a one-for-one if the Blueshirts were to offer **K'Andre Miller** straight up for impending restricted free agent right wing **Martin Necas**?

➤ The moment the NHL decided not to prosecute cheap-shot-artist-on-cheap-shot-artist crime when **Sam Bennett's** Game 3 rabbit punch to **Brad Marchand's** jaw KO'd the Boston center for the remainder of the second-round series is the moment the NHL endorsed the Panthers' candidacy for the Cup.

It's not even about officiating standards at this point. It is about player safety. But of course, it is so rarely about player safety.

Isn't it time for the league to create a Department of Player Safety?

➤ Sometimes the sacrifice is awe-inspiring, and so is the physical commitment over the course of the playoffs.

But I think it would be equally as satisfying and perhaps more entertaining if the playoffs presented the same showcase of skill that the league exhibits over six months.

➤ Me, I'm all in for the Utah Yoots.

*larry.brooks@nypost.com*



**Larry Brooks**  
**Slap Shots**

# Oilers erupt, pummel Panthers to avoid Stanley Cup sweep

By STEPHEN WHYNO

EDMONTON, Alberta — Connor McDavid scored, “La Bamba” played in the Oilers locker room and the Stanley Cup Final is heading back to Florida after a statement win.

McDavid scored his first goal of the series as part of a four-point performance, Stuart Skinner was spectacular in making 32 saves and the Oilers routed the Panthers 8-1 in Game 4 on Saturday night, chasing Sergei Bobrovsky and avoiding a sweep. Game 5 is Tuesday in Sunrise.

“It’s just one win,” McDavid said. “That’s all it is, whether you score eight or you score one. It’s just one win. We’ve got to go to Florida and do a job and drag them back to Alberta.”

The Panthers’ party will have to wait after a complete meltdown from a team with many players who have never been this close to hoisting the Cup. Bobrovsky was part of that, getting pulled five minutes into the second period after allowing five goals on 16 shots — more than he gave up in the first three games of the series combined.

“It had nothing to do with ‘Bob,’” Panthers winger Matthew Tkachuk said. “It was more of a wake-up call to everybody. We know he’s going to come back better than ever.”

Whether it was a last-gasp effort in front of a jacked up home crowd hoping to see the start of a historic comeback or the breakthrough coach Kris Knoblauch has been foreshadowing, the Oilers from Skinner in net out were dominant in every facet of a game they needed to win to keep the NHL season going.

It started with Mattias Janmark scoring 3:11 in on a 2-on-1 rush with Connor Brown. Janmark staked Edmonton to a two-goal lead less than five minutes later, setting up Adam Henrique for his second career goal in the Cup final 12 years after the game-winner for New Jersey that also prevented a sweep in the final.

The odds remain long for the Oilers, given that the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs are the only team to erase a 3-0 deficit at this stage of the playoffs and only four teams total have ever done it.

“Obviously that was a massive win, but we still know what the circumstances are,” said Dylan

## Oilers vs. Panthers

**STANLEY CUP FINAL**  
**Game 1:** Panthers 3, Oilers 0  
**Game 2:** Panthers 4, Oilers 1  
**Game 3:** Panthers 4, Oilers 3  
**Game 4:** Oilers 8, Panthers 1  
*Panthers lead series, 3-1*  
**Tue.:** at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC  
**Fri.\*:** at Oilers, 8 p.m., ABC  
**June 24\*:** at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC  
 \* if necessary

Holloway who had two goals after not scoring since the second round. “We’re still down 3-1. The biggest thing for us is kind of just to forget that and use it, bottle it kind of, keep notice that can do it but just move forward.”

But the belief certainly will be tangible after breaking out offensively and building a lead rather than holding on to protect it, a quality they had in spades through the first three rounds to win the Western Conference. Florida cutting its deficit to one on Vladimir Tarasenko’s goal midway through the first period did not cause Edmonton to fold, with Skinner making the most important save of the night on Carter Verhaeghe on a 2-on-1 chance and Holloway answering before intermission.

“He was great,” McDavid said of Skinner. “You talk about goaltending and needing timely saves. He made some really timely saves. That was as big a save as you’re going to get.”

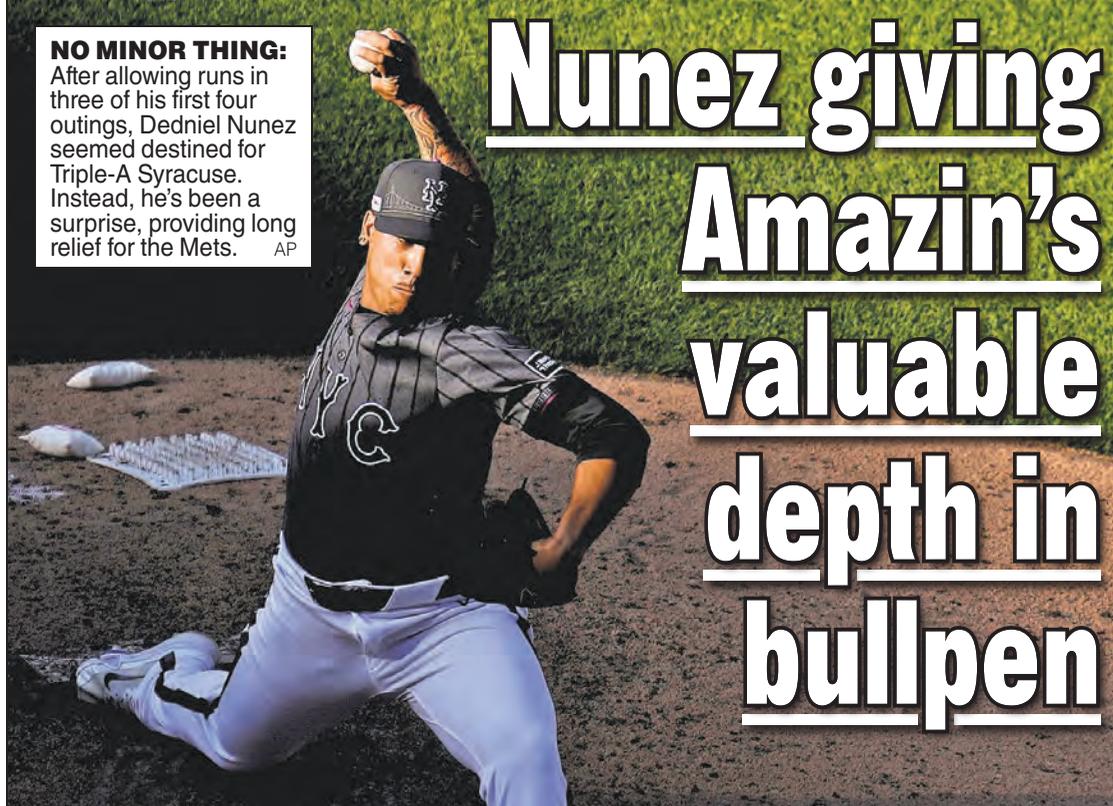
The offense just kept coming. McDavid, the reigning and three-time NHL MVP beat Bobrovsky early in the second and minutes later set up Darnell Nurse for the defenseman’s first goal of the playoffs. That sent the goalie known as “Bob” to the bench amid derisive chants of “Sergei! Sergei!” as Anthony Stolarz came in for his post-season debut.

McDavid with three assists now has 32 on this run, breaking Wayne Gretzky’s record from 1988 for the most in a single postseason. He had more points Saturday night than in the first three games of the series combined, and he was the Oilers’ leading scorer while other top players were quiet.

“He just continues to impress everyone,” Knoblauch said. “It was a great performance.” — AP



**CONNOR McDAVID**



**NO MINOR THING:** After allowing runs in three of his first four outings, Dedniel Nunez seemed destined for Triple-A Syracuse. Instead, he’s been a surprise, providing long relief for the Mets. AP

# Nunez giving Amazin’s valuable depth in bullpen

By ZACH BRAZILLER

On April 9, the Mets called up Dedniel Nunez, a 28-year-old rookie.

He allowed runs in three of his first four outings. At the time, he didn’t seem long for the team, particularly since he still had minor league options.

A funny thing happened on his way back to Syracuse, though. Nunez was never sent there. Instead, the hard-throwing right-hander has become a vital part of the Mets’ bullpen.

“Another huge piece there, a guy that can take the ball and give you multiple innings with the lead,” manager Carlos Mendoza said after Nunez delivered two shutout innings of work in a 5-1 victory over the Padres at Citi Field. “That’s back-to-back outings he’s

done that. Not easy.”

Nunez has been almost unhittable lately. He’s given up just one run and four hits over his past 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings while striking out 16 batters and walking only one. Most importantly, he’s become a multi-inning weapon. A former starting pitcher, Nunez is able to be effective for longer than one frame.

When closer Edwin Diaz came off the injured list Thursday, there was some thought the Mets would demote Nunez. But they opted for long reliever Danny Young instead. That decision paid dividends on Saturday. Nunez inherited a 3-1 lead in the seventh and retired six of the seven batters he faced. The only one to reach came on a Francisco Lindor error.

“I think some parts [of my success] you’re kind of surprised about, but mostly not,” said

Nunez, who signed with the Mets as an international free agent in 2016, was lost to the Giants four years later in the Rule 5 Draft and was returned in 2021. “Just with all the work I’ve put in since the off-season, it’s kind of showing now. ... I’m just fortunate and appreciative of the opportunity the team has given me, and every single time I go out on the field I just focus on doing my job to help the team.”

The Mets’ bullpen has really come on of late. It has a streak of nine consecutive shutout innings and entered the day leading the National League in ERA at 1.89 dating back to June 3. Diaz and Drew Smith have come off the IL, and Nunez has become someone Mendoza is gaining trust in.

“He makes our bullpen a lot deeper now,” the manager said.

# Marte out of lineup as precaution

By PETER BOTTE

Starling Marte was scratched from the Mets’ starting lineup Saturday as a precaution after the outfielder’s troublesome right knee flared up.

The team’s starting right fielder — who did not appear Saturday — also had sat out one game ahead of the Mets’ London road trip earlier this month with the same issue.

“Still the knee, it flared up a little [Friday] again,” Carlos Mendoza said before the Mets beat the Padres, 5-1, on Saturday at Citi Field. “I’m not too concerned, he should be available off the bench, but I just decided to give him a day.”

Asked if the injury is something to need to monitor regularly, Mendoza added, “We definitely have to monitor it. Want to make sure this doesn’t turn into a long-term

## METS NOTES

injury. He was feeling pretty good [Friday], I think it was more after the stolen base that he felt something there. Then after the game I checked with him, and he wanted to play, but it’s one of those [things] that let’s be smart here and don’t try to push it. The report today is he’s feeling a lot better, so that’s a good sign.”

► **Kodai Senga**, who has not pitched this season due to a right-shoulder strain, threw his third bullpen session since he suffered a triceps setback last month.

Senga threw 30-35 pitches, Mendoza said, with two “ups” or simulated innings.

“He threw 15 or so, sat down, like

a two-inning bullpen type deal. He felt good, so a good sign,” Mendoza said. “He’ll throw another one the middle of next week and then hopefully we can move to the next phase, which is facing hitters.”

► Mendoza praised second-year catcher **Francisco Alvarez**’s defense behind the plate since returning from the injured list.

“His leadership. His ability to communicate to relate to everyone on the pitching staff, the coaches,” Mendoza said. “Obviously, the framing is really good, his arm can shut down running games, but I think it’s just his ability to lead a pitching staff, and having the knowledge when to make adjustments and giving guys conviction. So for a guy that age [22], it’s pretty impressive.”

**S**UMMER has arrived, which means it's time to hit the ballparks in The Bronx and Queens. It's time to see the Liberty in Brooklyn, check in on the Cyclones in Coney Island, or catch up with the Jets and Giants once training camp begins in late July.

There are big stars to see over the next few months and plenty of options to choose from. The Post's Zach Braziller breaks down the sizzling sports scene ahead:

### Gerrit Cole

June, TBD

The Yankees are expected to welcome back their ace at some point this month. Cole, who made his third rehab start Friday night, has been out since spring training with right elbow nerve inflammation and edema. The rich will get richer with the reigning Cy Young award winner back in action in The Bronx.

### Subway Series

June 25-26, July 23-24

Yankees fans have realistic World Series dreams. Mets fans have daily nightmares. The team in The Bronx owns the best record in baseball, while their Queens counterparts are much closer to the NL East basement than its penthouse.

On paper, this is a mismatch, but strange things seem to happen when the two locals meet. At the least, the Mets have a chance to put a rare smile on the faces of their fans with a few unexpected wins over one of their rivals.

### NBA draft

June 26-27

For the first time, the NBA draft is a two-day event. Though it has been panned as one of the weaker crops of talent in recent years, it is highlighted by Bronny James — the son of LeBron James, the one-and-done USC guard whose selection could impact which team his father plays for next year.

The Knicks, who haven't made a first-round selection since taking Quentin Grimes 25th overall in 2021, own two first-rounders (Nos. 24-25) this year that they can use to improve their depth. The rebuilding Nets, however, don't have a single pick in the draft, which will be held at their home of Barclays Center.

### NBA free agency

June 30

After back-to-back trips to the second round, the Knicks want to take



Pete Alonso

Novak Djokovic

Aaron Judge

Sabrina Ionescu

the next step. That starts here. Team president Leon Rose has two key free agents he would be smart to retain in OG Anunoby and Isaiah Hartenstein. The Nets have a big free agent of their own in big man Nic Claxton. There are some potential huge names who can hit the market, from LeBron James to Paul George to Jrue Holiday. James Harden, Pascal Siakam and DeMar DeRozan will also be available. It figures to be a frenetic few days in the Association.

### Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest

July 4

The event drew major headlines this week after The Post broke the news that Joey Chestnut was barred from this year's event over a contract dispute related to him repping another hot dog brand. But Chestnut expressed hope that something could be worked out with Major League Eating, which sanctions the tradition, that

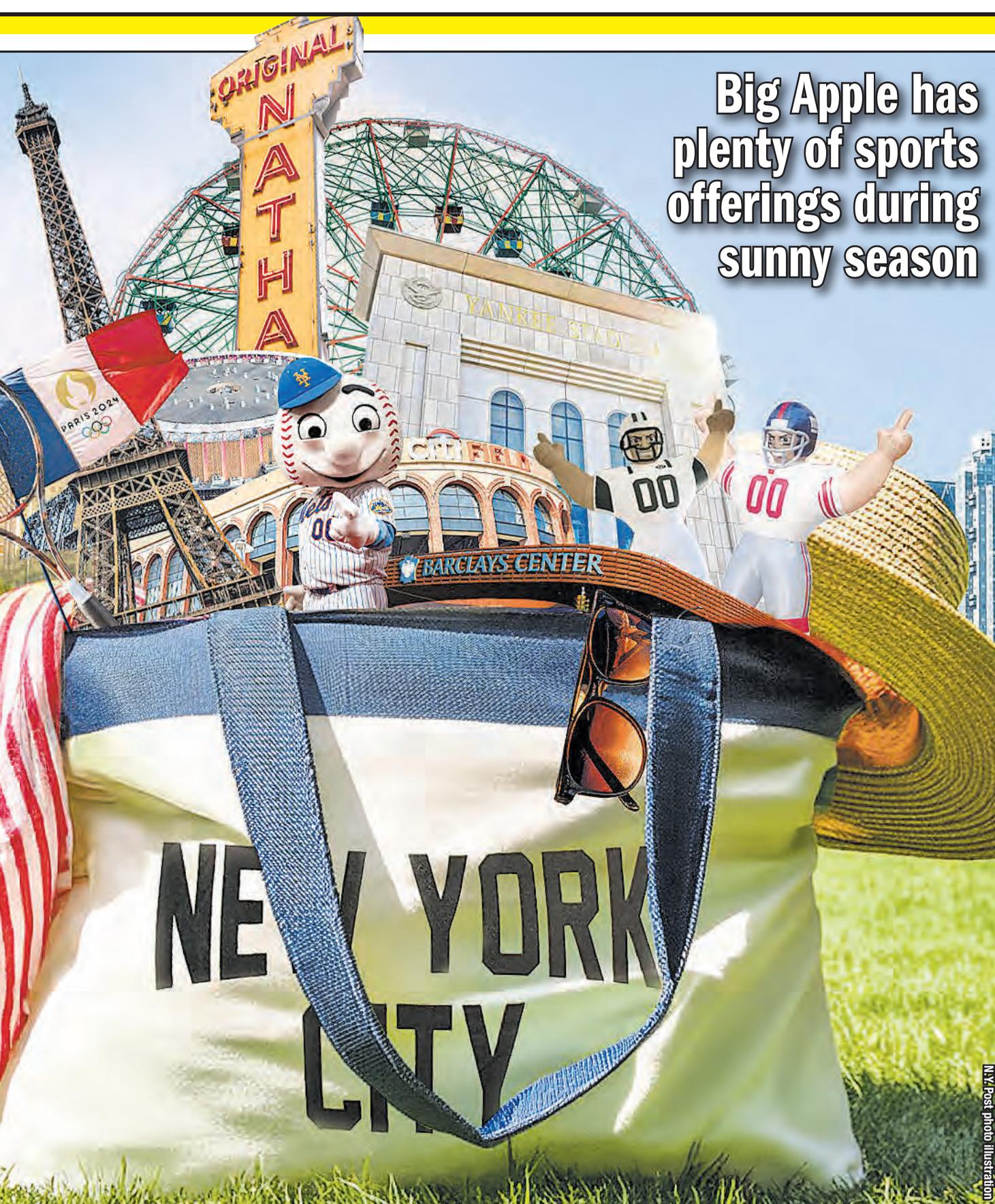
would allow him to compete. The 16-time Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest champ is one of the major draws for the popular contest. Here's hoping "Jaws" will be there to defend his title.

### MLB All-Star Game

July 16

The defending World Series champion Rangers will host the midsummer classic for the first time since 1995, and there figures to be a heavy Yankees contingent at





N.Y. Post photo illustration

## Big Apple has plenty of sports offerings during sunny season

thers), gives the Giants some hope after a dismal six-win season a year ago.

### Jets training camp

July

All eyes will be on the left Achilles tendon of Aaron Rodgers. The four-time MVP is working his way back. He missed all but four plays last season after tearing it in the regular season opener, and he is the unquestioned key to the Jets returning to the playoffs for the first time since 2010. Another key question: Will new defensive end Haason Reddick show up at the start of training camp? In search of a new deal, the former Eagle skipped OTAs and the mandatory two-day minicamp.

### Summer Olympics

July 26-Aug. 11

Barring being used as an injury replacement, Caitlin Clark won't be there as part of the USA Women's basketball team, but there will be several star Americans in Paris fighting for gold. From Simone Biles in gymnastics and Kate Douglass and Katie Ledecky in swimming to Coco Gauff in women's tennis and LeBron James and Steph Curry in men's basketball, there will be no shortage of reasons to tune in.

### Cyclones

ongoing-September

Tired of watching the Mets lose? Make the trip to Coney Island, take a dip in the ocean and see touted prospects like pitcher Jonah Tong play for the team's Single-A squad. If you're a "Seinfeld" fan, Aug. 10 would be a great day to go. The team is giving out a George Costanza bobblehead to the first 2,000 fans in attendance.

### Liberty

ongoing-September

Last year's runner-up is a title contender once again, off to an 12-2 start behind the explosive trio of Breanna Stewart, Sabrina Ionescu and Jonquel Jones. Barclays Center is the place to catch them in action. They have a legitimate chance to end our city's title drought.

### Yankees Old-Timers' Day

Aug. 24

The 76th Old-Timers' Day will have a special twist: The Yankees will honor their last championship team, the 2009 unit of Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and Mariano Rivera, on the 15th anniversary of their title run.

### Giants vs. Jets

Aug. 24

The teams will close out the preseason in what will be their final tuneup before the games count for real. You won't see the starters for very long, but that quarter or so will be a nice teaser for September.

### U.S. Open tennis

Aug. 26-Sept. 8

Defending men's champion Novak Djokovic is a question mark after suffering a torn meniscus in his right knee at the French Open. But bright young star Carlos Alcaraz, who won the 2022 Open and the French, will be one of the favorites and has become a fan favorite. Gauff may be the headliner, as the American looks to repeat as the women's champion.

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Globe Life field. Dominant rookie Luis Gil is in play to start the game for the American League, Aaron Judge and Juan Soto are locks for selection, and Clay Holmes, Carlos Rodon and Anthony Volpe are also strong candidates. It's much more difficult to pick a Met, though former Yankee Luis Severino (3.12 ERA) has made a case for himself.

### MLB trade deadline

July 27-30

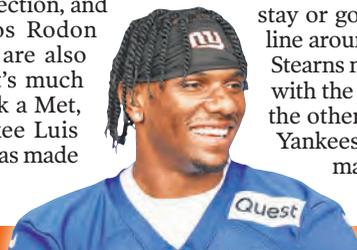
Will homegrown slugger Pete Alonso stay or go? That will be the No. 1 storyline around here, as top executive David Stearns navigates his first trade deadline with the Mets, who are a likely seller. At the other end of the spectrum, look for Yankees general manager Brian Cashman to be active as he tries to add to his contending club. Deep-

ening the lineup and fortifying the bullpen are two areas that should be addressed.

### Giants training camp

July

Electric rookie receiver Malik Nabers is reason enough to check in on Big Blue this summer. The first-round pick out of LSU already wowed his new teammates and coaches during spring workouts. Nabers, along with new pass-rushing demon Brian Burns (acquired in a trade with the Pan-





# Phil Mushnick

## EQUAL TIME

## TNT's Smith deserves more love

**E**VER see a house fire that emits no smoke?

Perhaps, however, you could see this smokeless fire from miles and weeks away.

From the moment \$700 million international super-duper star Shohei Ohtani's former pal, Ipe Mizuhara was busted for running up a Godzilla-sized sports gambling debt of at least \$17 million with Ohtani's money, executives in the banking, lending and brokerage businesses reached out to warn of a cover-up-on-the-come.

In April, MLB quietly announced Ohtani has been exonerated. He had nothing to do with it, thus we were expected to believe Mizuhara was unilaterally granted millions of dollars in credits from bookies without their knowledge or even passing interest that his collateral was independent of his close friendship with Ohtani.

Ohtani's "Play ball!" clearance by MLB triggered another round of "What the hey!" missives from those far more familiar with finance law than I, a mere home mortgage borrower.

One such contact is a senior executive and compliance officer/investigator — a button-down straight-shooter — in a large East Coast financial firm who asked for anonymity.

From the start — well before Mizuhara pleaded guilty to theft by wire in a California courtroom — this fellow predicted that MLB would issue Ohtani a pass — one of those Rob Manfred Era automatic intentional passes. Following MLB's exoneration of Ohtani, he continued:

A NOTE here Friday, about how Edmonton's **Darnell Nurse** leaned over the boards from his seat on the far end of the bench to hear what ice-side analyst **Ray Ferraro** was saying about him to ESPN's Stanley Cup Final audience, brought to mind a similar collision of circumstances when I covered the Cosmos soccer team 45 years ago.

The Cosmos had a Belgian winger, **Francois Van der Elst**. After the game — and I believe it was in, of all places, Edmonton (unless I just want to believe that) — the Cos-

mos' grunting, snarling, humorless German coach, **Hennes Weisweiler**, spoke of Van der Elst's play in unflattering terms.

As The Post then was an afternoon paper, I was able to return to my room in the team's hotel to type my story. I left my hotel door wide open so I didn't have to answer any knocks, just come on in.

As I'm transcribing Weisweiler's thumbs-down comments about Van der Elst, who enters? Van der Elst. "I was just writing about you,"



# WE GOT YA COVERED

**TOO EASY:** MLB and commissioner Rob Manfred (left) were quick to clear Shohei Ohtani of any wrongdoing in a gambling scandal.

## Many unanswered Q's in MLB Ohtani probe

"This is a completely obvious coverup for MLB's biggest star.

"Whenever you transfer a cash amount larger than \$10,000 in the U.S. banking system, it triggers a SARs — Suspicious Activity Report. This must be reviewed, reported and documented by multiple layers of bank management, from the branch system to the

compliance department and even the legal department when there are multiple instances.

"These are *must-comply* matters.

"These are then required to be filed with FinCEN [the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network run by the U.S. Treasury] whenever fraudulent activities

are even suspected.

"The pattern here screams 'Fraud!' Red flags everywhere.

"Or are we to believe that there were, say, 34 transfers of \$500,000 [totaling \$17 million] each to a known bookmaker or bookmakers and no one noticed? Impossible!"

Or are we to believe that the bookies waited until Mizuhara owed millions before trying to collect? What was his settle-up number, \$5 million paid in \$20 bills??

But MLB has already made its call: "After further review, the superstar is safe!"

## Picking up on some eavesdropping

I told him. He asked to know what I was writing, so I read Weisweiler's quotes to him.

Van der Elst proceeded to angrily refute, on the record, every word his coach had said about him, quote by quote. Very strange, like **King George III** sitting in on the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

➤ CBS' **Jim Nantz** never tires of allowing **Tiger Woods** to destroy his credibility.

Last Sunday, **Scottie Scheffler** had just won

The Memorial, further cementing his status as the best current golfer in the world.

But as Scheffler approached the tournament's annual host, **Jack Nicklaus**, to exchange a respectful handshake, Nantz saw fit to tell us that Woods, who had nothing to do with this moment, "Five times" shook Nicklaus' hand after winning the Memorial. And it's far too late to shout "Enough!"

➤ Two weeks after **Bill Walton's** death,

emails arrived attesting to his kindness. Two stand out for the same reason — one from a man who, as a kid, worked as an arena parking lot attendant; the other from a fellow who worked security at a team and media entrance.

Both wrote that Walton stopped to introduce himself when he entered — as if they didn't know who he was — then made sure to say thanks and goodbye on his way out.

SO PREDICTABLY silly how the media operate. With NBA rights expected to move to NBC from TNT, there has been gnashings of teeth as to what this might mean for TNT's regular studio show big-name panelists **Charles Barkley** (Retiring? Unlikely.) and **Shaquille O'Neal**, who mostly kill time speaking inattentive platitudes while swapping mostly unfunny put-downs of each other followed by forced belly laughs.

Yet the man who pays attention and adds applicable, appreciated insights and substance to the day's game, **Kenny Smith**, becomes an afterthought, an expendable discard. And that figures.

➤ Thursday in Kansas City, the Yankees lost, 4-3, on **Maikel Garcia's** two-out, two-run double down the left-field line to end it.

Though there were two outstanding fundamental reasons for **DJ LeMahieu** to guard the third-base line — the winning run was on first and Garcia bats right-handed — LeMahieu played far off the bag, toward short.

Garcia then put it where LeMahieu logically should have been. Did decades of sensible baseball strategy, as well as new-wave analytics, evade **Aaron Boone** and his staff?

➤ There is no silly, long-form expression that won't be copied and sustained by game broadcasters. Simply stated plain-English is trending dead.

Teams that score more than one run in a half-inning no longer "scored two" or "scored three." It must be spoken as "put up a two-spot" or "three-spot."

Last Sunday **Michael Kay** was likely bound by oath to tell us the "Mets put up a four-spot" — as if he and others would say that in casual baseball conversation.

Thursday, as Yanks-Royals ended on a two-out, two-run double, all pertinent parties ran as fast as possible, including Yanks' left fielder **Alex Verdugo**. Of course, that was soon described as a "walk-off double." One size fits all.

➤ Box Scores of the Week: Tuesday, in a 5-3 loss to Cleveland, the Reds used seven pitchers. Only one, **Buck Farmer**, was allowed to complete as many as two innings.

In a 9-3 win against the Padres, the Diamondbacks used seven pitchers. See how that must-face-three-batters rule is working out?

I'm sure it was said during the next Reds and D'backs game that their bullpens are bushed and need their starters to "go deep," which now means five or six innings.

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**BOSTON CELTICS**

*Finals*

**DALLAS MAVERICKS**



**JUST WEIRD:** It's not as painful as Boston fans having to watch Wade Boggs celebrate a World Series as a Yankee, but former Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy finally winning a title as a Celtics consultant won't seem right, writes The Post's Stefan Bondy. AP (2)

# NOT THIS WAY!

**D**ALLAS — Listen, it's not the equivalent of Wade Boggs taking a victory lap around Yankee Stadium on a horse. That's an image of betrayal Bostonians took about eight years to get over — until their Red Sox fell in a 3-0 series hole in the 2004 ALCS and ... never mind, too soon.

But it'll still be difficult for Knicks faithful to see (or at least imagine) Jeff Van Gundy, a main character of the Knicks' last golden era, getting his first NBA title with the friggin' Celtics.

Van Gundy was unceremoniously dumped by ESPN before last season — a poor decision by the network exacerbated by the drifting minds of his replacements (Doc Rivers, JJ Redick). Van Gundy joined the Celtics as a senior consultant, labeled by coach Joe Mazzulla as “a huge weapon.”

And within his first season in Boston — after spending more than 12 years with the Knicks until 2001 — Van Gundy is a win away from receiving a ring. I'm guessing it will have a shamrock on it.

Doesn't feel right. The Celtics still have to win, of course. They had a chance to sweep the series Friday night in Dallas and laid a leprechaun egg. A 38-point defeat in the Finals isn't supposed to happen, but the Celtics were flat, and Dallas was inspired at home.

Give credit to Mavericks coach Jason

## Ex-Knick Van Gundy near his first ring ... as a Celtic

Kidd, who squeezed out his team's best performance — especially defensively — while facing a 3-0 hole against a better team.

The Celtics hadn't scored 84 points or fewer since last year's Game 7 nightmare against the Heat. It was the worst Finals defeat in franchise history and the third-worst in league history.

“Our group was ready to go. They were ready to celebrate,” Kidd said. “We made a stand. We were desperate. We got to continue to keep playing that way, understand they're trying to find a way to close the door.”

“The hardest thing in this league is to close the door when you have a group that has nothing to lose. Tonight you saw that. They let go of the rope pretty early.”

But now the series and champagne shifts for Monday's Game 5 to TD Garden, a place the Celtics went 45-6 this season, counting the playoffs. Kristaps Porzingis, the X factor, is creeping closer to a return from his leg injury.

For the Celtics to blow this series, they'll have to lose twice at home. Jayson Tatum is known for choking, but losing

the 2024 championship is unfathomable.

“Don't harp on [Game 4] too much. It happened. We can't change what happened,” Tatum said. “We always say: You lose by two or you lose by 30, they all count the same. But we do need to be better. We're not making any excuses. We need to be better, and we will. We will be better.”

The Mavericks can still preach hope, however. No NBA team has ever recovered from the 3-0 series deficit Dallas faced before Friday, but a few climbed out of its current 3-1 predicament. Kyrie Irving, the Mavs point guard, certainly understands the possibility. He and LeBron James led the comeback in the 2016 Finals against the Warriors, one of the more improbable finishes in NBA history.

“Just by putting it into perspective what we're up against. History is going to be made either way. We'd like to be on the right side of it,” Irving said. “It just

comes from the same sentiment, same phrase I was using the other day: ‘Just putting our best foot forward.’ We felt like Game 3, we had a good chance to close out that game to at least put us in a competitive spot.”

“Then we waited until Game 4 to ultimately play our best game. Took long enough for all of us to get to the party together and to play for each other the way we did tonight. But it's definitely a possibility that we can replicate it. We understand we're going against the same great Boston team that is going to make it tough. We're going into their home den. We have another opportunity to extend the season. That's all we can ask for. We handled our business [in Game 4]. But the job is still an uphill battle, and we understand that.”

Well stated, but it's more like a Mount Everest with just socks, underwear and a box of Pop Tarts. If the Mavs fail that daunting task, Van Gundy, who is reportedly drawing “strong interest” from the Clippers to join their coaching staff next season, finally gets his ring.

As Tom Thibodeau jokingly put it when asked about his former Knicks colleague joining the Celtics: “Disgusting!” sbondy@nypost.com



*Finals*

**Stefan Bondy**

**Mavericks vs. Celtics**

**NBA FINALS**  
All games on ABC

**Thu.:** Celtics 107, Mavericks 89

**Sunday:** Celtics 105, Mavericks 98

**Wed.:** Celtics 106, Mavericks 99

**Friday:** Mavericks 122, Celtics 84  
*Celtics lead series 3-1*

**Monday:** at Boston, 8:30 p.m.

**Thursday\*:** at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

**June 23\*:** at Boston, 8 p.m.

\* if necessary

# Morikawa surges with big 3rd round

By MARK CANNIZZARO

PINEHURST, N.C. — Collin Morikawa began the day tied for 51st entering the third round of the U.S. Open on Saturday at Pinehurst No. 2.

He was 4-over par.

After Morikawa shot a 4-under-par 66, the low round of the day, he catapulted up the leaderboard and stands in a tie for ninth entering Sunday's final round, seven shots out of the lead held by Bryson DeChambeau.

Morikawa, after a disappointing first two rounds of 70 and 74, with a morning tee time showed the leaders a low score could be had.

The two-time major champion, who was in contention to the end at last month's PGA Championship, was asked what went well on Saturday and his response was: "Everything."

"Made up and downs, putted a lot from off the fringe [and] just made the putts that I needed to," he said. "Yesterday, I think I missed everything that I could have made. First day was kind of a little bit of both. So, it was nice to see putts go in [and] just kind of build that hopefully for tomorrow."

Morikawa said, trailing the leaders by nine shots entering the day, his goal was to get to even par, which he did.

Asked what his realistic goal is for Sunday's final round, he said, "If I play the way I did today, who knows what could happen?"

Morikawa predicted the conditions to become even more testing on Sunday.

"You can't fake in a round when it's this tough," he said. "Everything gets exposed. Yes, some good shots aren't rewarded as well as you would want. It's a true test of who can stay as patient as possible."

► Many players with later tee times like to watch the TV coverage to pick up tendencies on how holes are playing. **Rory McIlroy** is not one of those players.

"I don't like seeing where other guys are hitting it," McIlroy said. "I particularly don't like when I can watch people

## U.S. OPEN NOTES

hit putts on greens because then, whenever I have a similar putt on the golf course, I'm going off the memory of what I think I saw on TV instead of seeing it with my own eyes.

"I'd rather just not have that option at all. I've learned the hard way at times that I don't need to be watching on the TV."

Conversely, DeChambeau said he "loves" watching other players' rounds on TV to pick things up before he plays.

"It's good insight, great information, see how things are playing, where not to be, where to be," he said.

► England's **Tyrrell Hatton** was asked after Friday's second round when he's been at his "happiest this week." His answer was rather amusing.

"Probably after the dessert that the chef has been doing this week in the house," he said. "I'm sharing with Fitzy [**Matt Fitzpatrick**], and he always has a chef for the majors. Yeah, [chef] **Sean** is pretty handy with the desserts, so I'm in my happy place there.

"[Thursday] night we had peanut butter brownies. The night before that he did a chocolate mousse with morning shortbread. Off-the-charts good."

► Hatton, a noted hothead on the course, was hysterical when asked if he had any idea how much he's been fined over the years for his outbursts.

"I think you'd actually be shocked because you're thinking it's ridiculous amounts," he said. "Now, don't get me wrong, it's still a lot of money, but it is nowhere near ... give me your best guess."

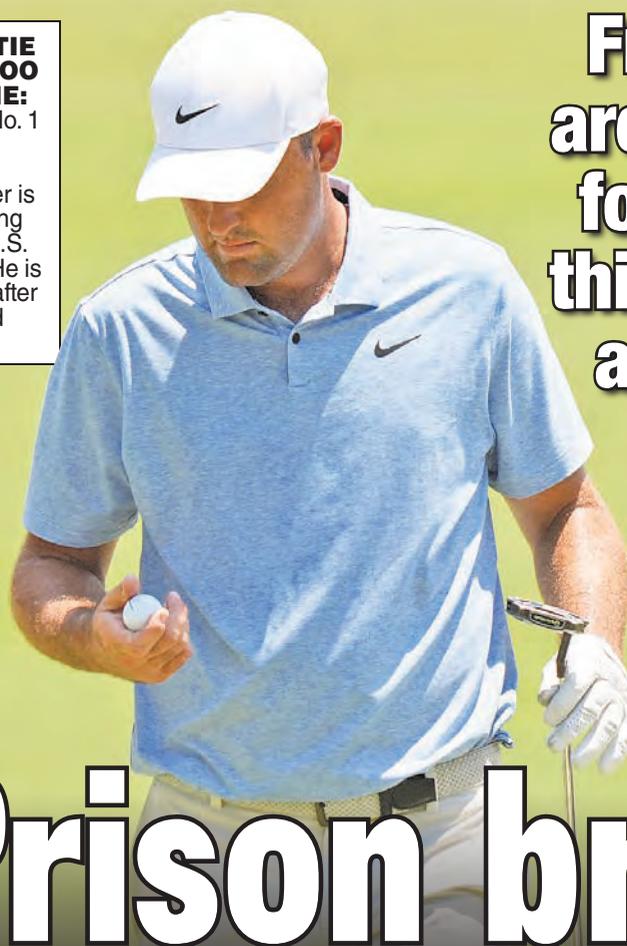
"One hundred thousand," was the guess.

"Mate, you are not even close," he said.

"Higher?" he was asked.

"I think even with the DP World Tour, I reckon I haven't reached double digits," he said. "It's still quite a bit of money, but it's nowhere near where you were saying."

**SCOTTIE NOT TOO HOTTIE:** World No. 1 golfer Scottie Scheffler is struggling at the U.S. Open. He is 6-over after the third round.



# Frustrations are mounting for Scheffler this weekend amid recent turbulence

## Prison break

By MARK CANNIZZARO

PINEHURST, N.C. — Maybe Scottie Scheffler was simply due to run into one of these weeks.

Maybe the strain of dominating the game for as long as he has, carrying the No. 1 world ranking, winning tournaments, being in contention every week, having his first child born, and even being wrongfully arrested and thrown in jail before his second round of the PGA finally took a toll on the 27-year-old Scheffler.

"How was today?" Scheffler said Saturday, repeating a reporter's question after he shot 1-over 71 in the U.S. Open third round at Pinehurst No. 2, leaving him at 6-over and miles from contention.

"Another frustrating day. Today was a day where I thought I played a lot better than my score. I'm having a lot of trouble reading these greens. I had a lot of putts today where I felt like I hit it really good, [and] I looked up and they were not going the way I thought they were going to go.

"My swing today felt a lot better than it did [Friday]. I felt like the last 27 holes I've played, I've hit it really nice, but I just haven't been able to hit it quite close enough, which is difficult around this course. I

haven't been able to hole the putts the last few days."

Because he's been so good for so long, it was a shock to the system to see Scheffler struggle to merely make the cut on the line at 5-over Friday.

"The game of golf is a mental torture chamber at times, especially the U.S. Open," Scheffler said. "Yeah, I thought it was challenging. The first 27 holes, I was in the native area way too much of the time. Everything felt really tough.

"Now that I was able to hit a lot more fairways today, it maybe felt a touch easier to me."

Then Scheffler said, "I wouldn't be using me as a bearing for what's good right now. Pretty mediocre at best right now."

Mediocre Scottie Scheffler is Bizarro World Scottie Scheffler. Because that's how high he's raised the bar for himself.

Prodded by a reporter, Scheffler refused to go down a road complaining about the course setup or whether it's been fair or unfair — a lament the USGA often hears from players.

"When it comes to the U.S. Open, 'borderline' is such like a trigger word," Scheffler said. "No matter what I think, you have a pretty good understanding of where you're trying to

hit the ball. It's when I start not hitting the ball into the places where you should hit the ball, that's where things get tricky.

"I think about No. 5. [Friday] I made double. Hit it in the waste area, bad break, can't get it up on the green. The next one, there's not enough sand underneath the ball. You can blame it on luck or whatever.

"I knew not to hit the ball down there. I knew where to hit it and not to hit it. If you're hitting the ball in the middle of the fairway, in the middle of the green, you can definitely make 18 pars.

"Now, granted, misses are going to hurt here more than next week at Travelers. That's just the nature of the golf course, the nature of the tournament. You're going to get injured more here for a bad shot than last week at Memorial. That's just how the U.S. Open is."

What's next for Scheffler, who is scheduled to play the Travelers Championship next week?

"I'll show up tomorrow morning ready to play," he said. "I'll wake up in the morning, get ready to come out to the course again, see if I can learn. Hopefully going into tomorrow, as far as goals, I don't really think about it. I'll try to have a good round tomorrow."

# POWER PLAY

## DeChambeau takes 3-shot advantage in pursuit of 2nd U.S. Open title



By MARK CANNIZZARO

PINEHURST, N.C. — Bryson DeChambeau is marching around the hallowed grounds of Pinehurst No. 2 like Paul Bunyan.

Everywhere the 30-year-old DeChambeau goes, jaws drop, eyes widen and throaty screams of approval are directed his way. It fuels him. Makes him better. Makes him crave the role of the performer even more.

DeChambeau is working the room that is the 124th U.S. Open. He takes a three-shot lead at 7-under par into Sunday's final round in a bid to win his second career U.S. Open.

DeChambeau, the 2020 U.S. Open winner at Winged Foot, leads Rory McIlroy, Patrick Cantlay and Mattieu Pavin by three shots.

Hideki Matsuyama and Ludvig Aberg, who entered the day with the tournament lead at 5-under par and played in the final round alongside DeChambeau, are both 2-under par. Tyrrell Hatton and Tony Finau, at 1-under par, have an outside chance to make Sunday run.

But this day — and this tournament — has been about DeChambeau and the complete transformation from misunderstood and quirky to unquestioned fan favorite.

His shot-making is as breathtaking as his swagger is breathtaking. No one in the field — or the sport — is having more fun than DeChambeau right now.

"It was amazing," DeChambeau said of the fan support. "I can't thank them enough. It was a blessing. Man, they riled me up.

It just gives me a spike in my adrenaline and allows me to focus more on delivering for the fans and for myself and for my family. It just inspires me."

Even after he pulled his tee shot on 18 well left of the fairway into the dusty native area, DeChambeau walked off the tee fist-pumping toward the packed grandstands who were cheering him on.

Two holes earlier, DeChambeau had a four-shot lead as he played the 16th, and he double bogeyed it with some sloppy short game errors to melt the lead in half.

True to the form he's in at the moment, though, he followed that hiccup with a bounce-back birdie on the par-3 17th hole and unleashed a wild fist-pump celebration as his lead pushed to

three shots.

Last month, DeChambeau was the player who drew the most rabid roars at Valhalla while electrifying the crowds with his remarkable shots. He finished 20-under par, one shot behind winner Xander Schauffele.

Now, as DeChambeau wakes up on Sunday morning, he'll have one hand on the U.S. Open trophy.

And he'll play the final round with his supporters doing whatever they can to carry him to the finish line. What a turnaround in DeChambeau's life. Remember when everyone was mocking him and rooting for Brooks Koepka?

No more. Now, there are few players in the sport who connect with the fans better than DeChambeau through this social channels.

"It's meant a lot to me," he said. "Just thinking back three years ago, the landscape was a lot different. I tried to show everybody who I was. I didn't do it the right way and could have done a lot of things better."

No one was better than DeChambeau inside the ropes on Saturday, which was a beautifully intense day that felt like a Sunday final round.

The temperatures hovered in the 90s. The sun was searing. The greens were baked out. And the pressure. The pressure around the back nine was palpable.

"Just a really difficult U.S. Open Saturday," McIlroy said. "Everything we expected it to be. I love the test that Pinehurst is presenting. It's what a U.S. Open should be like. It's obviously

## TWICE FOR BRYSE?'

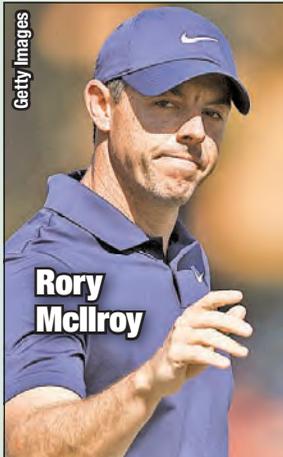
An exuberant Bryson DeChambeau celebrates after a birdie on the 11th hole (left) during Saturday's third round of the U.S. Open in Pinehurst, N.C. Powering down fairways off the tee, DeChambeau is one round away from another reign as U.S. Open champion after his first title in 2020 at Winged Foot. AP, Getty Images



## U.S. Open

Pinehurst No. 2,  
Pinehurst, N.C.

### LEADERBOARD



Rory  
McIlroy

Bryson DeChambeau	-7
Rory McIlroy	-4
Matthieu Pavon	-4
Patrick Cantlay	-4
Hideki Matsuyama	-2
Ludvig Aberg	-2
Tyrrell Hatton	-1
Tony Finau	-1
Collin Morikawa	E
Tom Kim	E
Corey Connors	E

### NOTABLES

Sergio Garcia	+1
Xander Schauffele	+1
Brooks Koepka	+6
Scottie Scheffler	+6
Jordan Spieth	+7

### ON THE AIR

USA: 9 a.m.-Noon;  
NBC: Noon-7 p.m.

### FORE-CAST

88 degrees  
Partly cloudy  
6% chance of rain  
Winds: ESE 8 mph

great to be in the mix. No matter what happens, I feel like two shots, three shots, four shots, I've got a great chance going into tomorrow."

As DeChambeau kept powering down the sandy highways at Pinehurst, some of his nearest competitors found themselves skidding into multi-car pileups.

Finau was right in the mix before he took a triple-bogey on the 13th hole, which ruined a few players' days and chances to win the tournament. Finau was 4-under par and two shots behind DeChambeau when he tripled 13.

"Obviously 13 is going to jump out at me as a hole that was the toughest pin on the whole championship, in my opinion," Finau said.

A few minutes after Finau's

mess, when DeChambeau and Aberg arrived to 13, it was DeChambeau delivering an exquisite approach shot to the fat of the treacherous green from the sandy native area to the right of the fairway and from a difficult angle.

And, while DeChambeau patiently waited to take his birdie putt, Aberg was playing ping-pong on the hole, taking a soul-crushing triple-bogey 7.

"Obviously, what happened to me on 13 is not ideal," Aberg said later. "It doesn't necessarily change the way that you try to approach this golf course. I think there's only a certain way you can play it. If you don't play that way, you're going to get punished. I guess the golf course kind of bites back."

mcannizzaro@nypost.com

PINEHURST, N.C. — There was a moment in Friday's U.S. Open second round when you expected Mount Hatton to erupt on Pinehurst No. 2.

Tyrrell Hatton had just sent his approach shot on a laser at the flag on the par-4 13th hole. The ball dented the grass on the edge of the cup and spun back off the hump-back green and into a bunker.

Hatton, one of the most colorful



Mark Cannizzaro

(dare we say volatile) players in golf, was inches from making an eagle 2 on the hole and instead walked away with a bogey 5.

And — hear this — he didn't throw or snap a club, unleash an expletive-laced verbal assault at himself or even yell at his caddie.

Instead, Hatton quietly carried on to the next hole and continued to play his round.

This was as much an upset as world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler nearly missing the cut on Friday.

Hatton finished his first 36 holes in 1-under par, entering Saturday's third round very much in contention. "I guess 1-over in a U.S. Open isn't the end of the world," he reasoned afterward.

He began Saturday's third round on a tear, with a birdie on No. 2 and an eagle on No. 5, and suddenly he was 4-under par and one shot out of the lead.

The day didn't end the way he wanted it to, though. Hatton gave a few back and finished with an even-par 70 to stay at 1-under. He will begin Sunday's final round six shots behind leader Bryson DeChambeau.

It was the way Hatton handled the roller coaster that is the U.S. Open that was eye-opening and makes you think he's closer to winning one of these things.

"It wasn't my day on the greens," Hatton said after his round Saturday. "I'm sort of sad about that because as it stands, [six] shots back going into tomorrow. ... I know anything can happen, especially around this golf course.

"Hopefully, I can wake up with the same golf swing I had today, because I'm really happy how I've ended up hitting the golf ball. It's a tall ask. Stranger things have happened."

Like Hatton's new-found composure in the heat of battle.

"I think how I handled the whole day mentally, when I did hit a few poor shots, at different times I might have sort of lost my head more, struggled coming in," he said. "I sort of feel like I held my own and was in a good head space, played good golf."

Hatton, a humorous type, has come to this U.S. Open with a fas-



**DEEP BREATHS:** Tyrrell Hatton, waving after making a putt on the fifth hole during the third round of the U.S. Open on Saturday, hasn't let his emotions get the best of him at Pinehurst No. 2. AP

# Keeping cool, Hatton hot on heels at Open

cinating psychological strategy, one he believes might work to his advantage.

"Maybe everyone else getting a bit more frustrated is better suited for someone like me that is just constantly frustrated," Hatton joked earlier in the week. "In some ways with [the U.S. open] being harder, a lot of guys sort of losing their head and it sort of brings them to my level, because I just lose my head every week.

"They can kind of experience what it's like in my head for a week."

That sounds like a Disney thrill ride.

Hatton reasoned that "some guys can bottle up" their frustrations, though, "I'm always pretty good at just showing you how I feel. I'm not afraid to just get it out of my system. Although this week, I'm trying not to sort of blow up too much because I'm trying to give myself a little bit of grace on occasions."

The way Hatton describes his famous temper, it sounds as if he almost blacks out during his on-course rants.

"Half the stuff I say on the golf

course, I don't even know where it comes from," he said. "There are some times where I sort of [think], 'Oh, I probably shouldn't have said that' or cringe a little bit. But it's just a reaction. It's not like I'm thinking, 'I've hit a bad shot, I'm going to let it rip.' It just comes out.

"I don't know where from. But sometimes people find it amusing. Other times it's maybe not amusing."

Hatton's sometimes volatile on-course demeanor sometimes takes attention away from how good he's been. He's ranked No. 20 in the world, has played in three Ryder Cups and contented in major championships, having finished in the top-10 in all four of them, and won the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

"I feel like I've proved to myself that I can compete with the best players in the world," he said. "I know if I play the kind of golf I'm capable of, then I'll give myself a chance. The biggest thing for me is trying to stay out of my own way, not getting too frustrated and trying to accept certain shots and not let it boil over to the next one."

Easier said than done.



# Mike Vaccaro

mvaccaro@nypost.com

OPEN MIKE

**T**HE Juan Soto-Aaron Judge duo promised to be something to behold from the moment the Yankees dealt for Soto this offseason. And it has been exactly that.

Soto started hitting line drives right from the opening series in Houston. Judge started slowly but over the past few weeks has been almost impossible to retire, and almost as impossible to keep in the ballpark.

Already, it has taken on a historical dimension because they have become one of the great 1-2 punches we've ever seen in New York. Entering Saturday's game with Boston, they sat north of the holy grail of offensive stats, with both their OPS numbers north of 1.000. OPS is on-base percentage and slugging percentage added together. No stat is perfect. But OPS generally offers as full and helpful a glance as any offensive stat can.

Entering Saturday Judge was at 1.115.

And Soto was at 1.023.

By comparison, it's worth noting that none of the Yankees teams that won four titles in five years from 1996-2000 had two players with a 1.000-plus OPS, and the only examples of even one player doing it were the smallish-sample sizes of Shane Spencer in 1998, Darryl Strawberry in 1999 and Glenallen Hill in 2000. None of the regulars for the 2009 champs made it to 1.000, nor did anyone on the 1977 or 1978 champs, either.

Remarkably, not even the famed M&M Boys in their prime seasons of 1960-64 ever had simultaneous 1.000 (partly because Roger Maris drew few walks hitting in front of Mickey Mantle). In '61 they came close: Mantle's OPS was 1.135 on the way to hitting 54 home runs, and Maris' was .993 on the way to hitting 61.

The Mets have had exactly one player in their history — one — who finished a full season higher than 1.000: Mike Piazza, 1.012 in 2000. The Dodgers had six players do it when they played in Brooklyn —



# WORTH 1.000 WORDS

**DYNAMIC DUO:** Juan Soto and Aaron Judge are threatening to finish the year with an OPS higher than 1.000, a milestone Babe Ruth (inset left) and Lou Gehrig both reached from 1927-33. USA TODAY Sports; AP (2)

## Judge & Soto on verge of historic stat achievement

topped by Babe Herman's 1.132 in 1930 — and the Giants did it nine times when they played in New York — six times by Mel Ott.

And that's it.

Now it's one thing to be over 1.000 in the middle of June and something

else entirely to be there at the end of September. So both Soto and Judge have some work left to do. But as they do it, one of the nice perks is that we ought to regularly remember the hands-down, most-dangerous 1-2 punch in baseball history —

in New York or anywhere else. And that's Babe Ruth-Lou Gehrig.

We know how great they were anyway, just with anecdotal evidence alone. And it's a fair guess that there wasn't one day from 1923 through 1934, the years when Gehrig and Ruth were on the same team, that there wasn't even one discussion or newspaper story about their OPS. But that's kind of what makes this study so fun: They are an historic pairing that measures up remarkably well to modern metrics.

Consider:

In the seven years from 1927-33, Ruth and Gehrig each topped 1.000 in all seven years. That is a preposterous thing, and yet it happened, every year, seven straight years.

In those seven years, Ruth's average season looked this way: .343/.472/.696, 47 HR, 146 RBI, an OPS of 1.169.

Gehrig's average season: .350/.452/.659, 37 HR, 156 RBI, an OPS of 1.111.

Connie Mack, whose Philadelphia Athletics interrupted the middle portion of that stretch by winning three straight pennants ahead of the Yankees from 1929-31, once said, "You spend half the games you play against the Yankees worrying about what Ruth and Gehrig are going to do when they come up in a game against you, and the other half lamenting what they actually do to you."

Measuring the best 1-2 punches in MLB history is a subjective thing, and the folks that do it usually use even more involved advanced stats. Even so, Ruth and Gehrig have the top four slots on almost every list, capped by the 1927 version which almost seems cartoonish. Ruth's OPS was a staggering 1.258, as you might expect with a 60-homer season. But Gehrig was right on his heels — 1.240.

So yes, great as Judge and Soto have been, they have some work to do to reach even the periphery of the same rarefied air of the GOAT of 1-2 punches. But it'll be a fun summer watching them try.

## VAC'S WHACKS

I MUST admit that shows co-starring furry monsters aren't usually my thing. But I made an exception with "Eric," the **Benedict Cumberbatch** vehicle on Netflix, and I'm really glad I did.



► In 1996, the Philadelphia 76ers under **John Lucas** won 18 games, fewer than four college teams in the city that year. Two of the assistant coaches on that team: **Tom Thibodeau** and **Mo Cheeks** (above). Cheeks joined Thibs' Knicks staff this week. They should be able to get a few more than 18 this time around.

► I was really looking forward to "Brats" on Hulu, the **Andrew McCarthy** project on the Brat Pack. And it was fine. But ... I mean, I just have a hard time thinking what happened to these folks could exactly be considered an atrocity. The stuff with **Rob Lowe** was fun, though.

► This should be a fun night: June 25 at Carmine's on West 44th, a live Q&A with **Jim Burt**, **Howard Cross**, **Leonard Marshall**, **Bart Oates** and **Joe Morris**, and **Gary Myers**, author of "Once a Giant." \$45 covers food, a drink ticket and the discussion, and the book can be bought and autographed that night.

**Robert Katz:** Pretty obvious Aaron Rodgers missed the first session of the Jets' minicamp because he went to get fitted for a new aluminum foil helmet, the Kyrie Irving model.

**Vac:** Though I suspect if Rodgers has a Next Chapter similar to the one Kyrie had this year, they will sign on the dotted line.

## WHACK BACK AT VAC

**Elliot Levine:** The Mets' "softer" 35-game stretch of games consists of 11 series against eight teams who currently have better records than the Mets. A more favorable schedule would

have to include the White Sox, the Brooklyn Cyclones and the Hartford Yard Goats.

**Vac:** Don't sleep on the Yard Goats!

@PaulDunbar: Remembering the

back and forth between Jerry West and Walt Frazier in the 1970 season. I will never forget Jerry West's 60-foot buzzer-beater.

@MikeVacc: Which, as many

have pointed out this week, would've won the game if there'd been a 3-pointer.

**Dennis Daly:** I was so busy taking bets on the Belmont that I just realized that Jayson Werth is one of the owners of the winner.

**Vac:** I must admit at first glance I found it interesting that Kid Rock was at Saratoga.

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important for me to work extremely hard, to focus on the work that I needed to do after surgery to help me get back to being as close as possible to where I was before, or even better, if I could.

**Q: Who are some pitchers you liked growing up?**

A: When I was a younger kid, I used to like watching Jordano Ventura, he was great on the mound, rest in peace. And today, I got to say Gerrit Cole. I'm lucky enough to have him around and to see him up close and learn from him.

**Q: How would you describe Luis Gil off the field?**

A: I'm just a homebody, watching TV, watching comedies, watching a little bit of YouTube and some podcasts here and there.

**Q: What does Father's Day mean to you?**

A: When you talk about your parents, he was one of the people responsible for bringing me into this world. Me being a father myself, it's a tremendous responsibility to bring up a child, make sure they have a good upbringing and making sure they're good people in the future.

**Q: What is easier, changing a diaper or pitching to Shohei Ohtani?**

A: (Laugh) I'm going to say pitch to Ohtani there.

**Q: Are you good at changing diapers?**

A: Yeah, I have some experience with it. But I got to be honest, I change them when there's light work. If it's heavy work and messy, I might need help.

**Q: Describe your 2-year-old daughter Samantha's personality.**

A: You got to be on your toes with her. She has a lot of energy. She's very alert and very smart, so you have your keep your eyes on her.

**Q: What drives you?**

A: Definitely my family. My family is my driving force behind me. My daughter is a big sense of motivation. I'm pushing through every day just to be able to take care of my family, hopefully give them a better life. That's what I use every day to keep on working very hard.

**Q: What was your dream growing up in the Dominican Republic as a boy?**

A: It was a little different for me because my parents used to take me to the field just to play the game and have some fun activity to do. As you get a little older, you start getting better, then you start seeing the possibility of maybe signing with a professional baseball team and starting a professional baseball career. The road and the expectation starts to grow and ... thank God I'm here today.

**Q: What advice would you give to young boys from the Dominican who dream of bringing a major league pitcher?**

A: My message would be that I was a young kid just like them with high hopes and dreams. You have to work hard, you have to maintain your dream and you can never give up. Have a strong faith in what you're doing, and keep going.

**Q: Favorite New York City things?**

A: I haven't been out around the city that much. I got to go out a little more to give you a better answer. Definitely the best experience in New York City is pitching at Yankee Stadium.

**Q: Two dinner guests?**

A: Ozuna, Jordano Ventura.

**Q: Favorite movie?**

A: Any Jackie Chan movie.

**Q: Favorite actor?**

A: Jackie Chan.

**Q: How did you become a fan of Jackie Chan?**

A: Ever since I was a kid, I used to watch his movies, and I really enjoyed the combination of an action movie mixed with comedy in there, and I think he does that very well.

**Q: Favorite actress?**

A: Ximena Duque.

**Q: Favorite comedian?**

A: There's two comedians from the Dominican Republic, Raymond and Miguel. They do sketch comedy.

**Q: Favorite meal?**

A: I got to go with the classic rice and beans and meat.

**Q: What are you most proud of about where you've come from and where you are now?**

A: I think it has to do with being able to go through different obstacles. Falling down and finding a way to keep getting up and keep pushing through and finding a way to improve. I think that's what I'm most proud of.

**Q: Have you thought about the Cy Young Award?**

A: Everybody would love to win one, but to be quite honest with you, I'm not thinking about it at all. I mentioned before concentrating and being locked in on what you're doing on your next start is super-important for me.

**Q: Have you dreamed about pitching in a World Series, and can this team win a World Series?**

A: Yeah, I've dreamed about it a lot. Who hasn't? It's the ultimate goal — right? — or us baseball players. And yeah, if God gives me the chance to pitch in a World Series, I'm going to be right there putting all my effort into it and looking to be victorious.



USA TODAY Sports

# Soto happy with how arm feels

By GREG JOYCE

BOSTON — Juan Soto may not be fully out of the woods just yet, but he and his forearm are in a better spot now than a week ago.

After sitting out last weekend's series against the Dodgers with left forearm inflammation, Soto played his sixth straight game Saturday night in the Yankees' 8-4 loss to the Red Sox. Five of those games have come in the field, and Soto is pleased with how his arm has responded.

"It's been pretty good," Soto said. "I've been making a couple throws, like today I made a couple throws and it was pretty good. It's been reacting really well. Like in the morning when I wake up, it's really loosened up. We don't have to do too much work on it. We're still working, but little by little, we're getting to 100 percent."

Soto, playing left field at Fenway Park with Alex Verdugo manning his old stomping grounds in the more spacious right field, had a rough-looking throw to second base in the first inning Saturday. But before the inning was over, he unleashed a throw home that had much more power behind it.

At the plate, meanwhile, Soto has continued to look like himself. He homered and drew two walks Saturday, reaching base multiple times for a career-high 11th straight game.

► **Tommy Kahnle** has returned to the Yankees bullpen, but his velocity has not.

After missing almost the first two months of the season because of a shoulder issue, Kahnle's fastball velocity has been slow to return in full, averaging 93.7 mph after it averaged 95.3 mph last season.

Kahnle's command was also missing on Friday night, when he walked a pair while only recording two outs in the sixth inning of an 8-1 win over the Red Sox.

"I think we've seen more velocity at times early on," Boone said. "The last couple haven't been as much and certainly the consistency of that velocity. It's something we're continuing to work through. Hopefully it improves a little bit.

"But he can still certainly pitch at this [velocity]. For him, it's about his last few, just being a little better at strike throwing, a little better at commanding. If he does that, regardless of whether he gets a big bump in velocity or not, he should still be able to go out there and be really successful."

► **Anthony Rizzo** went 0-for-2 Saturday but drew a pair of walks, continuing to take some small steps toward looking more like himself. He had collected a pair of hits and a walk in Friday's series opener, his first multi-hit game of the month.

## YANKEES NOTES



N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH COO

## Luis Gil

PRESENTED BY **Montefiore Einstein** Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

*Yankees breakout pitching sensation Luis Gil takes a swing at some Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby, through translator Marlon Abreu.*

**Q: What is it like being a star in New York?**

A: When you say a star, man, that's a heavy word. We have a ton of guys that are really, really, really talented. I don't consider myself a star. I just try to do my job here and try to help this team as much as I can. At the same time, you're playing for the Yankees, world known. So it's inevitable, you walk around and people will recognize you from time to time because of how many fans the team has.

**Q: What is it like being a fan favorite?**

A: I definitely got to say I felt the support from our fans. ... A big thank you to them for showing up every time, coming out to the Stadium see me pitch and being behind me and then to be there for me.

**Q: What would it mean to you to make the All-Star team?**

A: It would mean a lot, for sure, if I'm given the opportunity to participate in the All-Star Game. It's an opportunity to meet all those players and spend some time them, be in the same room with them, and at the same time, learn a little bit from them, learn a little bit how they see the game from their point of view. I would be excited and happy if I'm given that opportunity.

**Q: What are two or three reasons for your success this season?**

A: I think the experience that you gain every time you pitch. It's like you're acquiring knowledge every time you face a really good team or a really good lineup, so that experience from one start to the next has been very important helping me develop and mature as a pitcher in this league. The other point that's very important is the work that I've done with the pitching coach, and having Gerrit Cole around to be able to transfer some of his knowledge and give me some pointers that I can put in use I think has also been very beneficial to me.

**Q: Any one pitch you think you've made the most improvement in over the past year?**

A: More than just a single pitch, I

would say the command of all three I think has put me in a better position to execute the game plan and more effective on the mound.

**Q: How also you describe your mentality on the mound?**

A: Above anything, a high sense of focus. Do my homework and try your best to execute whatever mix I'm using that day to be highly focused on it and try to command and be as consistent as possible.

**Q: What if it like when you have confidence in all your pitches, does it make you feel like a "King of the Gil"?**

A: Those days when you're able to command your pitches exactly how you want, it's a sense of accomplishment because you work so hard to get to the mound and to be able to be as consistent as possible, execute pitches ... it's exciting. That's as close as I can get to my nickname, yeah.

**Q: If Aaron Boone needed you at some point to pitch out of the bullpen, how would you feel about that?**

A: My whole career I've been a starter. I've trained for many, many, many years as a starter, and I think right now the plan is to keep me as a starter. That's how I've been helping the team, starting games and giving my team the best chance possible to win a game.

**Q: What makes Juan Soto so special?**

A: To give you a simple answer, man, he was just given God-given talent. It's very unique talent.

**Q: How would you try to convince him to stay with the Yankees?**

A: (Laugh) That's a tough task for me! For sure we all want him to stay. It's no secret. We all wish that when the season is over that he's able to stay with us.

**Q: Describe pitching to Aaron Judge in spring training.**

A: I think it was back in '21 actually. But I remember being very uncomfortable pitching to him (laugh).

**Q: Describe pitching coach Matt Blake.**

A: Oh man. Really good guy, really good person, and he's an amazing coach.

**Q: What is the biggest adversity you had to overcome?**

A: Definitely I would say had to be when I was injured, it ended up being Tommy John surgery, and recuperating from that injury takes a long time. You got to have a lot of patience. You got to work extremely hard, you gotta have a strong mind. So definitely the toughest obstacle for me to get back to where I am today.

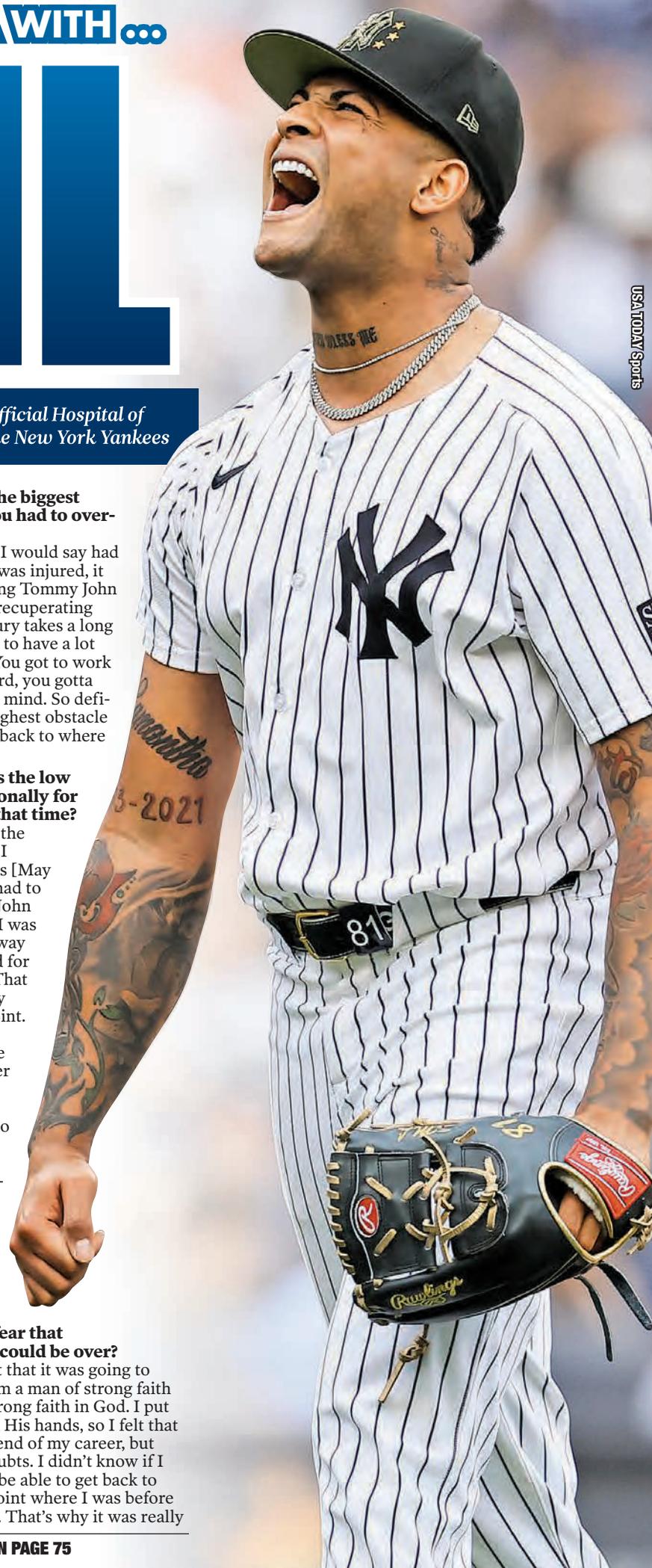
**Q: What was the low point emotionally for you during that time?**

A: Definitely the moment that I received news [May 2022] that it had to be a Tommy John surgery, that I was going to be away from the field for a long time. That was definitely the lowest point. At the same time, after the news and after surgery, my daughter was born, so it also helped me through that moment, having my little girl being born and being able to spend time with her.

**Q: Did you fear that your career could be over?**

A: I never felt that it was going to be the end. I'm a man of strong faith and have a strong faith in God. I put everything in His hands, so I felt that it wasn't the end of my career, but I did have doubts. I didn't know if I was going to be able to get back to exactly the point where I was before I was injured. That's why it was really

CONTINUED ON PAGE 75



USATODAY Sports

# Guy's heart stopped twice. Back coaching days later.

"I technically died, and here I am. I'm incredibly lucky. I could not have been in better hands."  
—Guy Monseair, City Island Rowing Coach

"We had an immediate critical decision to make in the race to save Guy's life. We decided to proceed with emergent quadruple coronary artery bypass surgery despite Guy's swollen and weak heart resulting from his acute heart attack and cardiac arrest. There are very few health systems in the country with the knowledge base and the skill that we have at Montefiore Einstein for managing these kinds of complex life-threatening conditions."

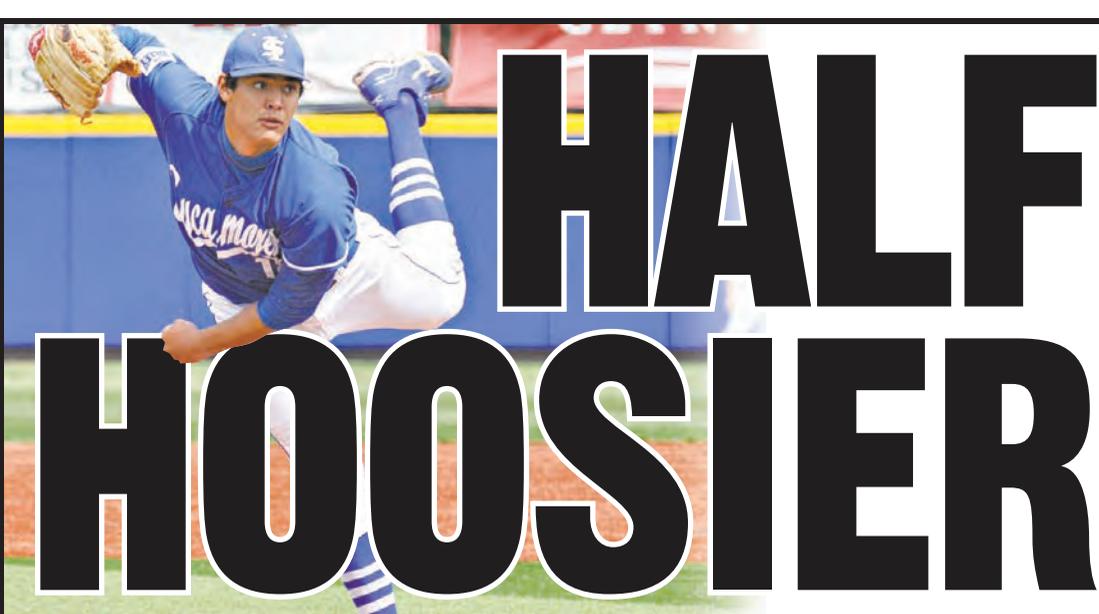
—Robert Michler, MD  
Surgeon-in-Chief and Chair, Surgery and  
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery  
Montefiore Einstein

See Guy's story at [montefiore.org/guy](https://montefiore.org/guy)



Montefiore Einstein





# HALF HOOSIER



# HALF SAMOAN



Indiana State Athletics; Noah K. Murray; Corey Sipkin

# ALL SEAN MANAEA

**H**IS MOTHER said he would make it.

When Sean Manaea was a child, he told her that he didn't think he could become a major leaguer, prompting his mother, Opal, to respond that new pitchers join the bigs every year, and there was no reason he couldn't be one of them.

If he dreamed, then she believed. The world is filled with enough people who roll their eyes.

"Sean would tell his mom, 'I want to throw 97 [mph] one day,'" said Jim Nohos, Manaea's travel team coach. "And Opal is like, 'Oh, Sean, don't worry about it. You'll throw the 97 one day. You don't have to throw it today.'"

You couldn't share the opinion if you didn't share the bloodline.

There was no evidence to suggest Manaea could be a future first-round draft pick or longtime pro, whose first season with the Mets has made him one of the more dependable options — he is 3-3 with a 4.30 ERA in 12 starts heading into his turn in the rotation Friday — in a question-filled rotation.

Manaea, 32, is in his ninth season in the bigs, having earned roughly \$50 million in his career. When he thinks of his success, he thinks of a 13-year-old whose teacher told him not to dream.

His class was issued an assignment to state their career aspirations. Manaea wrote that he wanted to be a baseball player. His history teacher instructed him to write something else.

"They're expecting you to write that you want to be a scientist or something when you grow up, and when my teacher saw that I put 'baseball player,' he was like, 'I've seen you play before and you'll never make it,'" Manaea recalled recently. "That was tough as a kid. All your classmates are there. I started crying right there."

The memory often resurfaced. When he couldn't find the zone. When he wasn't recruited. When he left high school with a fastball that topped out in the mid-80s. When he wondered if he should pursue another career.

Manaea would think back to that teacher — the pitcher is too kind to identify him — whose momentary callousness was more beneficial than any kind word.

"As much as that sucked, that lit an absolute bonfire of passion," Manaea said. "Honestly, I don't even know if I would've made it otherwise. I just wanted so badly to prove him wrong."

"A lot of people doubted me, but I was like, 'I want this. And I got this.'"

**M**ANAEA lives just below Central Park South, on a block whose residents out-

number his hometown of Wanatah, Ind. (pop. 1,009).

It takes four minutes to drive from end to end of the one-stop-light town that straddles Highway 30, where there are no strangers or grocery stores, where you are surrounded by cornfields and drawn to the Speedway gas station — featuring a Subway and Dairy Queen — where teenagers search for fun on Friday nights.

Manaea is half-Hoosier, half-Samoan, raised by parents who were raised 6,550 miles apart.

His mother was from nearby Knox. His father, Faaloloi, grew up in American Samoa, moved to Hawaii and served in the Vietnam War. After being stationed in northwest Indiana, he worked in a steel mill. She worked at an aluminum can factory.

Manaea's half-brother, Dave, 28 years his senior, worked at a Ford plant. His brother, Dane, spent nine years in the Navy.

"It was either [baseball] or I was going to the military," Manaea said. "I wasn't too good in school. School just wasn't my thing. ... I couldn't focus in school because I was daydreaming about pitching. I was always on YouTube watching baseball videos. I was obsessed with baseball."

"I put all my eggs in one basket."

He was 12 when he first ventured outside Wanatah to play travel ball and made sure the coaches remembered his name.

"I swear, he came to the first try-out in jeans," Nohos said. "We just looked at this kid and we're like, 'What is he doing?'"

He was 16 when he was reminded why he was used exclusively as a pitcher.

"We were short a couple people, so we had to stick him in left field," Nohos said. "And it was a disaster — absolute disaster. He didn't catch the fly ball, then he took it and threw it like he'd pulled the pin on a hand grenade to the middle of the field. You look back at him and he has both arms on top of his head, like, 'What did I just do?'"

Even on the mound, adventure awaited.

"I was giving him pitching lessons on his first day and he got the yips," Nohos said. "I'm thinking to myself, 'What kind of kid do I have on my team? He'll never be a pitcher. He can't even throw the ball to the catcher.'"

**T**HE MARKET for a soft-throwing lefty with spotty command and shaky secondary pitches was thin. Low bars were out of reach.

"I remember watching guys my age throwing 90, and I was like, 'Whoa, like, that's cool,'" Manaea said. "These guys were signing with big colleges, and I haven't talked to anybody."

By **HOWIE KUSSOY**

The Throwin' Samoan played at South Central High School, where his mother sold concessions and Manaea was as likely to strike out the side as he was to walk one through nine. Only one Division I school (Indiana State) showed interest. At a "random showcase" in Gary, Ind., Sycamores assistant coach Brian Smiley came across the southpaw on a day when his command was true.

"His grades were not good. He was not a good communicator on the phone," Smiley said. "He was borderline impossible to get a hold of. He would never answer, then call me back at like midnight and claim he was doing homework. And I was like, 'Sean, come on, you're not doing homework.'

"But I thought he was gonna be really good. He was all-in on baseball, which gave you a sense as a coach, knowing that a kid was passionate about getting better."

Indiana State didn't know what to expect. As a senior who transferred to powerhouse Andrean High School, Manaea faced eligibility issues, appeared in just three games and served as the team's "cheerleader."

The 6-foot-5 southpaw came to campus having never lifted a weight, wobbling on his first attempt.

"There's a reason his nickname was Baby Giraffe," former teammate Jason Van Skike said.

Manaea, who now weighs 245 pounds, barely touched 200 when he arrived at Indiana State. He left school less than three years later — after helping the Sycamores to their first NCAA Tournament in 17 years — with a physique that allowed him to hit 98 mph, perfecting his mechanics on the mirrored walls of a dance studio on campus.

"I still use Sean as an example today because he was as weak as you could be, he could barely squat the bar, and he left squatting 400-something pounds," Smiley said. "When he left, he was a man."

Manaea's father scoffed when he was told he had to pay for his son to participate in the 2012 Cape Cod League, unaware it could make him the most-coveted prospect in the country.

Manaea was a rising junior who was concerned he would get cut at tryouts, but he left the premier college league — which that year featured Aaron Judge, Aaron Nola and Kyle Schwarber — after setting a new strikeout record (85 in 57 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings), posting a 1.22 ERA and earning comparisons to Chris Sale.

"Sometimes, I feel with him, God came down and just said to him, 'Hey, you're gonna play professional baseball,'" former Indiana state pitching coach Tyler Herbst said. "He just needed time."

Manaea was projected as the potential No. 1-overall pick in the



#### THE LONG ROAD:

Sean Manaea was a soft-throwing lefty who dreamed of the big leagues in high school before growing into his body and talents at Indiana State. Now, he's the Mets' most reliable starter with his own unique style. Bill Kostroun

2013 MLB draft, before suffering a torn hip labrum during the season that dropped his velocity and his stock. Still, he posted a 1.47 ERA in his final season at Indiana State.

"He was battling a lot of pressure," Smiley said. "His velo would drop after 3-4 innings, and he's asking questions, like, 'Do I pitch? Do I not pitch? Is it gonna cost me millions of bucks if I pitch and my velo's only 91-92 instead of the upper-90s?' Do you sit him and protect him? But credit to Sean, he wanted to pitch. That's the competitor he is."

The Royals saw value with the 34th-overall pick, giving Manaea a \$3.55 million signing bonus.

"I shot up the draft boards, which was really cool, but no one really prepares you for anything like that," Manaea said. "It was very new and shocking. I don't think I really handled it too well. I got very overwhelmed."

After being shipped from Kansas City — as part of a 2015 trade for Ben Zobrist — Manaea spent his first six seasons in the majors with the A's, highlighted by a no-hitter against the eventual champion Red Sox in 2018, which his parents watched from the house he bought for them in Florida.

He remained in California until this season, spending one year in San Diego — he debuted with seven no-hit innings, then was pulled because he hadn't built up his arm yet — and one in San Francisco.

Bob Melvin spent all but one of those seasons with Manaea, observing a constant in ever-changing clubhouses.

"He's a terrific teammate," Melvin told reporters in 2022. "I've always called him 'World's best teammate.'"

**YOU DON'T** know what to expect. He throws a cutter, sweeper, slider, changeup, sinker and fastball. Off the mound, he favors a curveball.

Before Manaea was called up to the majors, he lost a bet that required him to shave his head. He then allowed his hair — briefly dyed blonde — to stretch past his shoulders, and chopped it off on a whim at this year's spring training

**"Sometimes, I feel with him, God came down and just said to him, 'Hey, you're gonna play professional baseball.' He just needed time."**

**— Former Indiana state pitching coach Tyler Herbst on Sean Manaea**

for his first haircut in four years.

Manaea makes appointments at 1:37 or 10:29 because 2:00 is too normal. He names his cars and his bikes and "anything that has meaning" in his life. His gloves have been christened "Sheila," "She-Hulk," "Crestineth," "Midnight" and "A-Bro-Ham Lincoln."

This season's blue-and-orange companion — featuring an inscription for his half-brother Dave, who recently died of cancer, at 59, which became Manaea's number with the Mets — remains nameless.

"Your glove is a part of your

livelihood," he said. "It's not just a glove. It's something that helps me out and it becomes a part of you. ... It's more than a thing. You treat it like it's family.

"I don't like to force [a name] on it."

He expects the same of you.

"He's named every car he's had," said Tyler Pazik, his college roommate. "That's actually the first question he asks a lot of people when he meets them or goes in their car. Like, with my girlfriend, he asked what her car's name is. She looked at him, like, 'What do you mean?' Now, her car's name is Shania."

When life on the mound turns sideways, Manaea turns to song before the next pitch.

"Singing is definitely one way I take my mind off of what's happening and I can refocus," Manaea said. "It's a way to soothe me, comfort me, when stuff starts going crazy and I can just forget about every-

thing else."

He is up for anything — "We used to go fishing at midnight," Pazik said — at any time.

He was a top prospect who treated himself to a Nerf gun for his 24th birthday, then built a submarine Lego set in front of his Double-A locker.

"Before the Cape Cod League summer, guys were like, 'Sean, what are you gonna do if you get some of this money, if you get like \$500,000? Buy comics?'" Van Skike said. "He's a freaking goofball. I would tell him this to his face, he's a real goofy guy that happens to

play baseball for a living."

Manaea now enjoys photography and travel. Before last season, he crossed Antarctica off his bucket list. In the offseason, he'll return to American Samoa, where his relatives still reside.

His only prior visit came in 2014, when he received his first tattoo sleeve, sacred to the culture. He plans to add more tattoos through the traditional and more painful method, via bone, wood and turtle shells.

He knows who he is.

"He's a very consistent individual," Pazik said. "Once you hang out with him a few times, you understand what you're gonna get. ... The quirkiness, we all sort of have that, but that's why people trust him is because he's willing to be vulnerable about his quirks. People look up to him in terms of that openness, because people are like, 'Damn, I wish I could do what he's doing.'"

**H**E DOESN'T know how long he'll be here.

Manaea, on his fourth team in four seasons, signed a two-year, \$28 million contract with the Mets that allows him to opt out after this season.

If he is here, then he is one with New York.

He's listened to Pete Alonso's dissertation on the pros and cons of Katz's Deli and Pastrami Queen. He's learned the correct pronunciation of Houston Street. He's discovered the quickest way to commute from his Midtown apartment to Citi Field.

"I drove twice before the season started, and the second day it took me two hours to get home, and I was like, 'This is what nightmares are made of,'" Manaea said. "I love taking the train. I put my headphones in. I play some chess and 25-30 minutes later I'm here. That's the stuff I love, the uniqueness of the city.

"When I came here, I said, 'What's New York in my eyes?' All the stuff I've seen on TV, I want to try and live that. It's crazy and I love that. I love experiencing new things. I think I can meld into any spot that I'm in. I'm very open to, 'What kind of energy does this place give off and let's match that. Let's do this thing. Let's embrace it.' It's about embracing new challenges."

Challenges are for competitors, the ones who find it more satisfying to throw a middle finger than a thumbs-up, who put all their eggs in a broken basket, who carry joy and status and security — and still feel the hurt inflicted by a middle-school history teacher.

"I still haven't talked to him," Manaea said. "But I would definitely love to meet up with him one day."

— Additional reporting by Mark W. Sanchez [hkussoy@nypost.com](mailto:hkussoy@nypost.com)

# LOOSE CHANGE

## Mets keep hot streak going with 'no pressure' approach vs. Padres



ON DECK

**vs. Padres**  
Sunday, 1:40 p.m.,  
WPIX, WCBS (880 AM)

RHP Tylor Megill



**2024 stats:**  
1-3, 3.51 ERA  
**Career vs. SDP:**  
1-0, 3.60 ERA  
**Last start:**  
Tue. vs. MIA;  
4.2 IP, 5 H, 3 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

**50%** Fastball  
**17%** Cutter  
**11%** Slider

RHP Dylan Cease



**2024 stats:**  
6-5, 3.36 ERA  
**Career vs. NYM:**  
0-1, 5.14 ERA  
**Last start:**  
Mon. vs. OAK;  
6.0 IP, 8 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

**43%** Fastball  
**42%** Slider  
**7%** Kn. Curve

UP NEXT

**MONDAY:** at Rangers  
8:05 p.m., SNY, WCBS  
TBD vs. TBD

**TUESDAY:** at Rangers  
8:05 p.m., SNY, WCBS  
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Kodai Senga** (shoulder, triceps) threw his third bullpen session in the past week on Wednesday, throwing 30-35 pitches over two simulated innings. He will throw at least one more bullpen before advancing to face batters.

■ **Starling Marte** didn't start Saturday's game due to his injured right knee, which also sidelined the outfielder for one game earlier this month.

By PETER BOTTE

J.D. Martinez had said multiple times in recent days that the Mets suddenly have started to play with “no pressure,” and as if the rest of baseball is “counting us out.” Martinez continued his recent offensive binge with two more home runs Saturday to support one of Jose Quintana's finest starts of the season in a 5-1 win over the Padres at Citi Field.



**MART' AND SOUL:** J.D. Martinez rounds the bases on one of his two home runs in the Mets' 5-1 win over the Padres at Citi Field on Saturday.

Robert Sabo

Carlos Mendoza's team suddenly has won four in a row — and 10 of its past 14 games since a players-only meeting in late May.

“I feel like the guys have been feeling more and more confident,” said Martinez, who went 3-for-3 with two walks and three RBIs. “I keep saying it, ‘Let’s just go out there and play hard and not worry about winning and losing. Let’s just play our game.’

“For me personally, I love to hit, I love to play ball. And I know that I prepare and do everything I can possibly do to get ready for every possible at-bat.”

The 36-year-old Martinez, a six-time All-Star who didn't join the Mets until late April, now has posted 11 RBIs in his past seven games.

The veteran DH also had belted a walk-off home run against the Marlins on Thursday before driving in both runs in a 2-1 victory one night later to open this three-game set with San Diego.

“How consistent he is and the way he prepares and how he approaches every pitch, he's a master at hitting,” Francisco Lindor said of Martinez. “It's fun to watch, and it's contagious. We all watch and learn. ... He's always done that

against my teams, so I'm happy he's on my side.”

Carlos Mendoza and the Mets (32-37) have been waiting for Quintana to contribute and needed him to at least last deeper than he had in allowing six earned runs over 7 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> combined innings in his previous two June outings against the Diamondbacks and the Phillies.

The \$26 million lefty worked six strong innings Saturday, allowing one run on two hits with two walks and six strikeouts before Dedniel Nunez (two innings) and Reed Garrett recorded the final nine outs.

Quintana posted zeroes in each of the first four frames, and he retired nine batters in a row following a one-out double by Fernando Tatis Jr. in the first.

Still, the Mets also couldn't score in the early going despite six walks through three by Padres rookie starter Adam Mazur.

Still, the Mets displayed some strong defense in the fourth to keep the game scoreless, beginning with Brandon Nimmo reaching into the stands to snare a foul ball. Lindor also ranged to his left and fed Jeff McNeil at second with a no-look backhanded flip for a force

play to end the inning.

Lindor and Nimmo teamed up offensively from the top two spots in the lineup for the Mets' first run in the fourth, chasing Mazur with consecutive two-out doubles for a 1-0 lead.

Martinez then greeted former Yankees righty Jhony Brito with a full-count homer to right-center for a three-run lead.

“He's such a professional hitter,” Mendoza said.

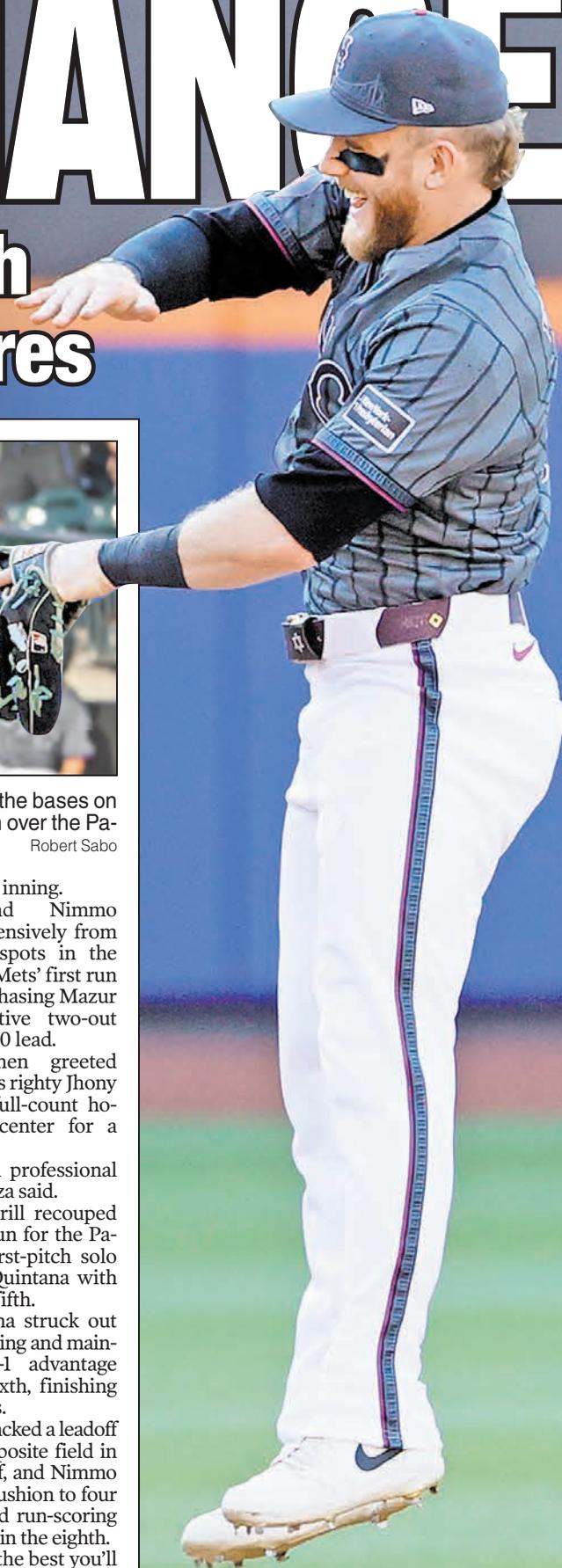
Jackson Merrill recouped one of those run for the Padres with a first-pitch solo blast against Quintana with one out in the fifth.

Still, Quintana struck out three in the inning and maintained the 3-1 advantage through the sixth, finishing with 88 pitches.

Martinez smacked a leadoff blast to the opposite field in the bottom half, and Nimmo extended the cushion to four with his second run-scoring hit of the game in the eighth.

“He's one of the best you'll ever see,” Quintana said, when asked about Martinez. “I played against him a long time. ... He's always smart and he's always prepared. He's always hungry and he always wants to make damage. He's amazing.”

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## LEAPS AND BOUNDS:

Francisco Lindor and Harrison Bader celebrate after the Mets' 5-1 win over the Padres on Saturday for the Amazin's 10th win in 14 games.

Jason Szenes

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The growing segment of Mets fans who wanted a change in the starting rotation are going to have to wait.

Jose Quintana isn't going anywhere after this outing.

The veteran left-hander, who had failed to record an out in the fifth inning in each of his previous two starts, picked a good time to deliver one of his best performances of the season, particularly with young pitchers Jose Butto and Christian Scott performing well in Triple-A.

Quintana allowed just a Jackson Merrill solo homer across six sterling innings, leading the Mets to their fourth straight win, 5-1, over the Padres at Citi Field on Saturday afternoon.

"I needed this kind of outing," he said.

A free agent to be, the 35-year-old Quintana allowed just two hits, walked two and struck out six in his best start in quite some time. The southpaw pitched to a 7.20 ERA in May and was shaky in his two June starts, giving up six earned runs to the Phillies and Diamondbacks over 7 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings. He entered with a 5.29 ERA and 1.43 WHIP.

He was significantly better against the Padres.

Quintana made a concerted effort to work inside to keep them off the plate to set

# Jose makes case to stay in rotation



**NO Q'S FOR QUINTANA:** Jose Quintana delivers in the Mets' 5-1 win over the Padres on Saturday as he held San Diego to just two hits in six innings.

USA TODAY Sports

up his off-speed stuff, and it worked. The six strikeouts were a season-high, and the two hits were a season-low.

He recorded eight swings and misses, up from two in his previous outing. The return of catcher Francisco Al-

varez, who returned on this homestand after missing six weeks with a torn ligament in his left thumb, made a difference for him.

"Amazing. I really missed him a lot," Quintana said. "Great energy, he always brings good ideas. He's really special, I really like [pitching to] him. ... He's always on top of the game."

San Diego didn't have more than one hitter reach base in any of Quintana's six innings. His one big mistake came in the fifth, an inner-half sinker that Merrill launched 411 feet for his seventh homer. The Mets had Dedniel Nunez warming up in the sixth when Fernando Tatis Jr. walked with one out. But Quintana got Jurickson Proffar to ground into a 5-4-3 double play to complete his day.

"When I finished with the double play, it made me feel great," Quintana said. "My pitches were really good. As soon as I saw the ground ball, I said, 'we got it' It's a good win. It's fun when you do things like that. Baseball feels fun."

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**More Mets / Page 35**

## Defense finally lends a helping hand

By ANDREW CRANE

The hardest part, Francisco Lindor said, was the flip. His feet were already on the outfield grass when he collected Donovan Solano's grounder in the fourth inning. His body's momentum was shifting away from the target — Jeff McNeil's glove at second base — for the ball, too.

But in one motion — one "special" motion, as manager Carlos Mendoza described it — Lindor lofted the ball toward McNeil and roared toward fans beyond the outfield fence after the fielder's choice sequence ended the frame. Lindor then doubled in his next at-bat, scored the first run and sparked the Mets in their 5-1 win over the Padres on Saturday at Citi Field.

"I'm trying to get myself going," Lindor, who went 1-for-3 with two walks, said of his reaction. "I'm trying to get my team going. I'm trying to get the fans going. Ultimately, my reaction was for that reason: I'm trying to get everybody going."

His defensive gem, flashing the instincts that landed him Gold Gloves in 2016 and 2019, was one of two by the Mets — with the other from Brandon Nimmo — in the fourth that helped Jose Quintana produce his best start since April.

At first, Nimmo had some competition with a fan for snagging Fernando Tatis Jr.'s foul ball down the left-field line. And after Nimmo leaned over the side wall to make the catch, he shook hands with that fan, checked to make sure they were OK and received a couple of pats on the back.

Nimmo then held out his glove to show that he had, in fact, caught the ball. It allowed Quintana to avoid having to toss another pitch to Tatis, who had ripped a double — 100.3 mph off the bat — in the first inning.

Later in the fourth, Lindor turned a single into a double with aggressive two-out baserunning. He watched his hit to left for two steps before trusting first base coach Antoan Richardson, who sent him to second. Nimmo gave

the Mets a 1-0 lead on the next pitch, giving him hits in eight of his past 10 games and helping the outfielder work toward snapping a lengthy slump that led to him undergoing concussion tests when it coincided with a pitch drilling him in the head.

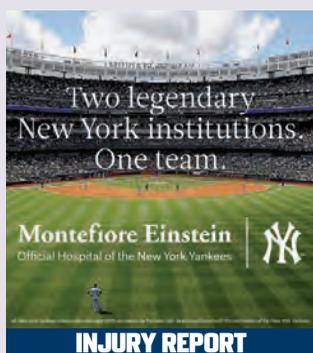
For most of the regular season, the Mets' defense has been defined by mistakes. By the 44 errors that were tied for the fourth-most in MLB entering Saturday — Lindor committed No. 45 on a throwing error in the eighth, too.

But for one inning, Lindor and Nimmo provided a glimpse of what the Mets' defense could add when those miscues weren't stringing together.

"That's one thing that you'll see out of Francisco: It doesn't matter how things are going at the plate or offensively or the way the team is playing, he's engaged," Mendoza said. "Defense for him is a priority every pitch, and pretty special play [Saturday]."

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**Montefiore Einstein**  
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



Two legendary New York institutions. One team.

**INJURY REPORT**

■ A day after throwing 70 pitches in his third rehab start, **Gerrit Cole** (elbow) was feeling good in his recovery. It's possible that his next start will come on Wednesday or Thursday at Yankee Stadium.

■ **Anthony Volpe** was shaken up Friday night after colliding with Rafael Devers on a steal of third base, but he was right back in the lineup on Saturday.



**at Red Sox**  
Sunday, 7:10 p.m., ESPN,  
WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

**RHP Marcus Stroman**



**2024 stats:**  
6-2, 2.82 ERA

**Career vs. BOS:**  
7-4, 3.51 ERA

**Last start:**  
Tue., at KC;  
5.2 IP, 4 H, 0 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**37%** Sinker    **20%** Cutter    **17%** Slider

**RHP Kutter Crawford**



**2024 stats:**  
2-6, 3.47 ERA

**Career vs. NYY:**  
2-1, 1.90 ERA

**Last start:**  
Tue., vs. PHI;  
6 IP, 2 ER, 8 K

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**34%** Fastball    **31%** Cutter    **21%** Sweeper

**UP NEXT**

**TUESDAY:** vs. Orioles,  
7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN  
*TBD vs. TBD*

**WED.:** vs. Orioles, 7:05 p.m.,  
Amazon Prime, WFAN  
*TBD vs. TBD*

# UNARMED

## Rodón roughed up early in rare off night for Yankees' rotation at Fenway



By GREG JOYCE

BOSTON — At least by the lofty standards the Yankees rotation has set for itself this season, this qualified as a clunker.

Carlos Rodón reeled it in before it became a full-on, five-alarm fire, but by that point, the damage was already done.

The Red Sox jumped on Rodón for five runs in the first two innings, which was enough to hand the Yankees an 8-4 loss on Saturday night at a sold-out Fenway Park.

Rodón has spent most of this season distancing himself from a brutal 2023, but the first two innings Saturday were reminiscent of his struggles last season. The Red Sox (36-35) made him work, forcing him to throw 62 pitches just to record six outs, at which point they had racked up five runs on seven hits (most of them bullets) and two

**RED SOX** 8  
**YANKEES** 4    **Boxscore**  
Page 58

walks.

"Just left some balls over the middle part of the plate," Rodón said. "They hit some balls really hard off me, and I just didn't get to the areas I wanted to. To put the team down five runs is tough, so it makes it hard for them to claw their way out of it. That's on me."

The left-hander went on to retire 10 of the final 11 batters he faced across five innings to keep the Yankees (50-23) within striking distance, though a comeback never fully came to fruition, setting up a rubber game on Sunday night.

"I wish I could have figured it out sooner and got to the spots I wanted to sooner," Rodón said.

Trailing 6-3 in the eighth inning, the Yankees threatened against

former teammate Greg Weissert, who was part of the return in the Alex Verdugo trade. They loaded the bases with one out and got one run on DJ LeMahieu's fielder's choice.

But closer Kenley Jansen entered to retire Anthony Volpe before the Red Sox tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the inning to ice it.

"Tough night," said Juan Soto, who crushed his 18th home run of the season in the seventh inning, a solo shot, and added a pair of walks. "We hit a couple balls, we had good at-bats, we just couldn't find the hole. ... The clutch hit didn't come up today, but it is what it is."

Entering the night, Rodón had pitched at least six innings and given up three runs or fewer in seven straight starts. But the Red Sox came out firing against him and peppering the Green Monster

to take a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first.

Rodón felt his night was summed up in the first at-bat, when he got ahead 0-2 on Jarren Duran but then left a slider over the middle that was ripped for a double.

"I was ahead and should have buried that slider," Rodón said. "Lot of instances like that tonight."

The Red Sox drilled two more RBI doubles off the Monster in the inning before Rodón got out of it at 30 pitches.

The Yankees answered back with two runs in the top of the second against Cooper Criswell on a rally started by Giancarlo Stanton's single and Anthony Rizzo's walk. Two outs later, LeMahieu blooped a single to right field to score both of them to get within 3-2.

But the Red Sox stayed on the attack against Rodón in the bottom of the inning to get their three-run

**Montefiore Einstein**

*Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

# Grinning Cole may return this week

By GREG JOYCE

BOSTON — Gerrit Cole confidently strolled into the cramped visiting clubhouse at Fenway Park on Saturday afternoon with a big smile on his face.

He insisted it was not because he knew whether his next start would come with the Yankees after successfully completing his third rehab start on Friday night in Rochester.

“I had a mechanical problem on my plane, so I wasn’t sure I was going to get here,” Cole said with a grin. “Then worked some magic and got here.”

Cole may not have to work as much magic to be pitching at Yankee Stadium against the Orioles on Wednesday or Thursday.

Cole and manager Aaron Boone both said a decision on that has not yet been made, but conversations will pick up in earnest over the next few days to make the final call.

In the meantime, Cole was pleased with how he felt physically Saturday, a day after striking out 10 across 4 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre while building his pitch count up to 70 — which would put him in line to throw around 80-85 pitches his next time out.

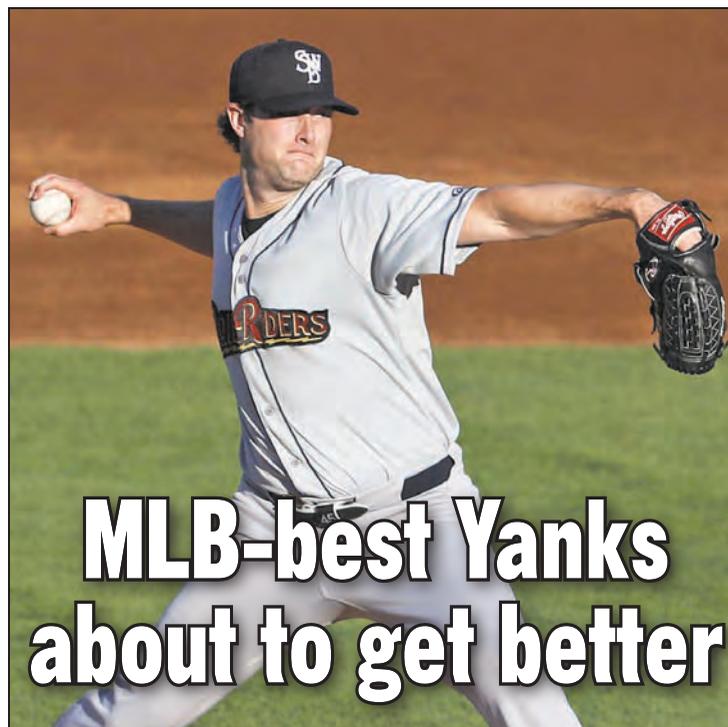
“It feels like it’s coming together,” Cole said. “Regardless, I don’t anticipate coming back with 100 pitches, so there’s still going to be a ways to go. But the closer and closer you get, the more excited you get.”

Cole indicated the decision over whether or not he needs one more rehab start will be centered around his continued recovery as well as what the “computer” revealed about his stuff, velocity and location on Friday.

“My eyes said it was pretty good,” Cole said.

Though Cole will have a major say in what comes next, both he and Boone said the decision would be a collaborative one.

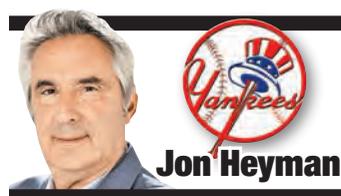
“There’s a lot of good and smart people involved,” Boone said. “I think we’ve all done a really nice job so far in his buildup and getting him ready. So we’ll have those conversations honestly and openly and Gerrit right involved in that.”



## MLB-best Yanks about to get better

**KNOCKING ON THE DOOR:** Yankees ace Gerrit Cole, pitching for Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on Friday, could return as soon as Wednesday or Thursday against Baltimore.

USA TODAY Network



Jon Heyman

sure I’ve heard an actual Red Sox fan call it that, however.) Anyway, a “Let’s go Yankees” chant could be heard almost every other inning. (The other chant, with the not nice word, was heard at times, too.)

Sometimes the hardcore Red Sox fans, who obviously occupied by far the majority of the sellout crowd of 36,673, didn’t seem to have the energy to drown out the foreign rallying call. It’s been that kind of year up here.

They know it’s no use. These Yankees are simply too good.

The “disaster” of their 82-80 season behind them, the Yankees are back to being the real Bronx Bombers again. Their tops-in-MLB 50th victory — happily won here Friday night — provided a nice punctuation mark to a brilliant beginning.

A huge winter meetings where they acquired energetic outfielder Alex Verdugo in addition to the great Juan Soto, a progression to the mean and a steadfast belief that they’d get healthier (how could they not?) marked them as slight American League favorites to start the year. But hardly anybody saw this coming. (Certainly not me, who envisioned them as a third-place team. Sorry about that call!)

The Yankees are posting big

numbers — their plus-130 run differential tells quite the story — and flat dominating their schedule. They lead the American League in runs scored with 367, on-base percentage at .333, OPS at .771 and a bunch of other stuff. The tandem of Soto and Aaron Judge are as unstoppable as the Yankees imagined when they sent half a rotation to San Diego for Soto (but avoided surrendering top prospects Spencer Jones, George Lombard Jr. or Roderick Arias).

If Judge isn’t MVP, then it’s Soto, who’s now up to a career-best 11 straight games reaching base at least twice. No one wanted to pick a favorite for the award in their clubhouse. (I know, I tried asking, but was shut down.)

Soto, though, gave thanks for Judge, the fire to Soto’s ice.

“It’s really nice to hit in front of him,” Soto told The Post. “When you have a guy like Judge behind you, it’s one of the best things you can have. ... You don’t have to be the hero every time.”

Boone, meantime, is happy to have the league’s MVP co-favorites together. (Predictably, he also wouldn’t say who leads that race.)

“When [Soto] and Judgie are doing what they’re doing,” Boone said, “It’s just another level from everyone [else].”

Speaking of another level, the defending Cy Young winner will only make this superb Yankees team even better.

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**Yanks notes / Page 75**

### TOUGH START:

Yankees starter Carlos Rodon delivers during the first inning against the Red Sox on Saturday night in Boston. Rodon, who struggled in his first season with the Yanks a year ago but has been as sharp as any member of the rotation in 2024, needed 62 pitches to get through the first two innings at Fenway Park.

USA TODAY Sports

BOSTON — A jubilant Gerrit Cole jettied back from his 10-strikeout, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inning Rochester tune-up and excitedly told us he’ll “definitely” be back pitching in the big leagues soon. Which has to be a very scary proposition for the rest of the American League.

The Yankees are establishing themselves as World Series favorites through 73 games, and that they are doing it without the best pitcher in MLB is a marvel. That won’t be the case much longer. Cole looked ready and his stat line for Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre screamed ready.

Yankees manager Aaron Boone didn’t quite commit to inserting Cole right into the rotation, although doing anything else seems overly cautious now. In any case, no one had to say a word. Cole’s peppy demeanor and dominant performance told you he’s at least on the cusp.

This is rough for the remainder of the league. For Boone, the only negative presumably is having the unenviable task of telling unknown but uber-effective Cody Poteet — whose only commonality with Cole is that they are both UCLA Bruin alums — that he’ll have to leave the rotation.

Yes, the team that entered spring training with a rotation that seemed perilously thin, now has extras, not even counting the estimable and always confident Clarke Schmidt, who’ll in a matter of weeks be waiting in the wings. The only staff that’s posted an ERA below 3.00 (2.88 entering Saturday) is soon making a pre-deadline acquisition to top them all.

The Yankees took a day off from their domination of their schedule in game two of the first series of the season with their rival Red Sox. They dropped an 8-4 game Saturday night, thanks to the mostly resurrected star Carlos Rodon surrendering five quick runs before finding his rhythm. But there’s little doubt who’s the class of the junior circuit through 45 percent of the schedule.

The Yankees aren’t celebrating quite yet, of course. They are too smart for that. But they actually are improving by the week. They’re 13-4 in their past 17, 17-6 in their past 23, 24-8 in their past 32 and 30-10 in their past 40.

They talk like they don’t want to jinx it. But they know. They have to know.

“These guys have played outstanding baseball to start the season. But we know that’s all it is — it’s the start to the season,” Boone said. “We’ve got a long way to go.”

Fair enough, but their popularity is at such a height their fans were easily heard here at Fenway, or what the operators of this ancient facility modestly call “America’s Most Beloved Ballpark.” (I’m not

lead back. With runners on the corners and two outs, Rafael Devers smoked a fastball down the middle for a double to the gap in left-center field to drive in both runs and make it a 5-2 game.

“In the heart of the plate a lot,” manager Aaron Boone said. “[After the first two innings, he] was simply getting to better locations.”

After getting to the Red Sox bullpen by the fifth inning, the Yankees loaded the bases with one out against reliever Justin Slaten. But the inning quickly fizzled from there as Verdugo grounded into a fielder’s choice, with the Red Sox getting the out at the plate, and Stanton struck out to leave the bases loaded.

“We put together some pretty good at-bats today,” said LeMahieu, who drove in three runs, “and just came up short.”

gjoyce@nypost.com



# CARLOS RO-DONE

YANKS CAN'T RECOVER  
AFTER BOSOX ROUGH UP  
STARTER / P. 82-83, 75

SUNDAY

NEW YORK POST

# Sports

JUNE 16, 2024

Mets stay hot with  
another KO of S.D.

# WHO'S YOUR PADRE?!

J.D. Martinez thanks the heavens after the first of his two home runs in the Mets' 5-1 win Saturday over the Padres at Citi Field. It was the Amazin's fourth straight victory and 10th in their past 14 games.

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Jason Szarnes



## THE BRYSON SHOW

DeCHAMBEAU PLAYS TO THE CROWD, OPENS  
UP 3-SHOT LEAD AT PINEHURST / P. 72-73



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