



# SWING FOR THE FENCES

A new Emerson poll has Donald Trump up by one to four points in Arizona, Georgia, Wisconsin, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Michigan. But he's also tied, 45%-45% in Minnesota, which has backed Democrats for decades. And he's within eight points of Joe Biden in deep blue New York, a Siena poll finds.

**PAGES 4-5**



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

■ **New poll has Trump  
up in every swing state**

■ **And he's battling  
for blue MN, NY too**



 Douglas Elliman

#1

**Brokerage**  
**on Long Island**  
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# This critter's floated for bear



It's the "paws" that refreshes.

An adorable brown bear named Sonja was captured on camera luxuriating belly-up in a pond at the Orphaned Wildlife Center in upstate Otisville.

The blissed-out bruin stuck to the bear

necessities as she floated in full relaxation mode with her fuzzy head and paws popping out of the water, the footage posted by the sanctuary Thursday shows.

"Notice how she effortlessly floats with her toes adorably protruding," the center

wrote under the YouTube footage. "Truly delightful to behold."

The center posted the video of the critter cooling off as temperatures upstate climbed into the 90s.

Sonja is a 340-pound Syrian brown bear

whose favorite food is peaches, according to the sanctuary's website. The 17-year-old bruin lives at the center with her sister, Amy.

Founded in 2015, the Orphaned Wildlife Center rehabilitates animals to one day return them to the wild. *Natalie O'Neill*

## Blast-ard off to jail

His drug-smuggling scheme really blew up in his face.

A South Carolina drug dealer was sentenced to 18 years in prison this week after he was caught trying to move meth and fentanyl inside hollowed-out grenades last spring.

Cory Gerald Bell, 36, was stopped in May 2023 by a Greenwood County Sheriff's deputy who noticed Bell had a broken tail light, according to WYFF 4.

The deputy searched the car after catching a whiff of marijuana, which is still illegal in the Palmetto State, and found a bag containing 166 grams of meth — as well as fentanyl pills — packed inside hollowed-out hand grenades, 8th Circuit Solicitor David M. Stumbo said.

Bell pleaded guilty this week to trafficking methamphetamine and possession with intent to distribute fentanyl. On Monday, a circuit judge sentenced him to 18 years in prison.

"We will continue to make it clear to the local peddlers of these deadly substances that they will pay a high price for choosing to make a living off the misery of addicts," Stumbo said. *Steve Janoski*

# HEY, NO SWEAT!

By NATALIE O'NEILL  
and KHRISTINA NARIZHNAYA

The weather forecast is full of hot air.

Hard-boiled New Yorkers threw cold water on the hoopla surrounding the supposedly "extreme" heat dome that hit the city Thursday — as forecasters warned it really is going to get worse.

"It's hot, but I thought it was going to be hotter. It's not that humid," said Melanie Gedney, 28, who works in accounting and was eating lunch outside in Midtown. "Anytime we have the first weather event of any season it gets hyped up."

Brian, a 37-year-old construction worker doing a project nearby, said he had sweat through far hotter days.

"It's regular heat to me. Could be worse," he said, adding he doesn't believe the heat dome is really a thing. "They hype up too many things sometimes."

Everyone from Mayor Adams to National Weather Service meteorologists have warned that an op-

## NY keeps its cool in heat dome

pressive heat wave would roast the city this week, bringing real-feel temperatures into the high 90s.

But some Big Apple residents said officials may be overreacting.

"It's hotter than normal this time of year, but then again, I have seen it hotter in New York City," said Irene Borutta, 75, who works at a law firm and was smoking a cigarette outside.

"It's hot, it's not dangerous," added Greg Gullo, 59, who works in construction in Manhattan. "It's summertime. You drink a lot of water. I would be surprised if we had this weather in the winter."

Jennifer James, a 32-year-old student from Manhattan, said she's endured higher temperatures: "It has been worse."

Still, forecasters told The Post Thursday — the first day of summer — that the most sweltering weather is yet to come.

"It hasn't been too terrible the last couple days — but it is going to get worse as we get into the weekend," said FOX Weather meteorologist Samantha Thomas.

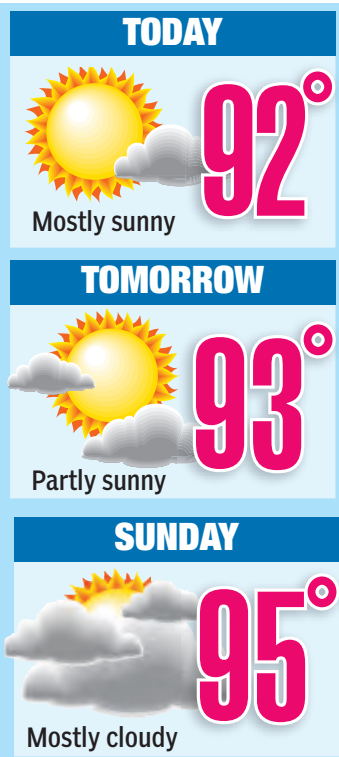
### 'Close to record'

The mercury is expected to climb to a high of 92 on Friday, followed by 93 on Saturday, she said. Sunday will hit a high of 95 with real-feel temps reaching 101.

"We're close to record heat on Sunday," Thomas said.

The record for hottest ever June 23 in New York City was set in 1888 at 96 degrees.

On Thursday, New Yorkers spent time tanning in parks, cooling off at the beach and doing outdoor yoga in Times Square to celebrate the summer solstice.







**SEN. GILLIBRAND**  
In office since 2009.

## Gilly's re-elex support just 42%

Democratic New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand appears vulnerable as she seeks a fourth term, a survey released Thursday claims.

Only 42% of voters support Gillibrand's re-election in the deep-blue Empire State, while 42% prefer someone else and 16% were undecided, the Siena College poll found.

While 62% of Democratic voters backed Gillibrand's re-election, only 32% of registered independents supported another term for the junior senator, while 46% preferred someone else.

Just 40% of voters view her favorably while a combined 60% either view her unfavorably or have no opinion.

Her Republican opponent, retired NYPD Detective Michael Sapraine, said the findings show he has a shot to topple Gillibrand, who's been a senator since 2009.

Sapraine claimed Gillibrand is in trouble because she's been "missing in action."

"As I travel the state, I hear valid concerns about crime, illegal migrants, and the economy — and every New Yorker, no matter their party, says Gillibrand is missing in action," Sapraine said in a statement.

But history shows toppling Gillibrand isn't easy. A better-financed Gillibrand handily won re-election with 67% of the vote in 2018 and 68% of the vote in 2012.

Carl Campanile

# TRUMP'S A

## Don phones Rachel's ma

## Tops Joe in 6 battleground states: polls

Donald Trump on Thursday phoned the mother of Rachel Morin, who was ruthlessly raped and murdered allegedly by an illegal migrant from El Salvador — with the grieving mom saying she was "deeply touched" by Trump's "honest compassion."

The condolences from the presumptive GOP nominee came after Patty Morin slammed President Biden's Department of Homeland Security chief for referring to her daughter as an "individual" killed by a suspected gang member.

Trump talked at length with Patty (lower inset) about Rachel (upper inset), a 37-year-old mother of five who was senselessly slaughtered last August while on a hiking trail in Harford County, Md.

"I am deeply touched by President Trump's kindness and concern," Patty said in a statement.

"He was genuine and truly wanted to know how our family was coping," she added. "He asked about Rachel and showed honest compassion for her untimely death."

"His words brought comfort to me during this very difficult time."

Officers with the Harford County Sheriff's Office, the FBI and other law-enforcement agencies arrested Victor Antonio Martinez-Hernandez, 23, last Friday for Rachel's murder.



Martinez-Hernandez is an undocumented immigrant who illegally crossed the border four times last year and had been wanted for assaulting a mom and young girl during an LA home break-in.

His arrest reignited debates over the besieged southern border.

On Tuesday, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro

Mayorkas appeared on CNN and was asked about Rachel's murder and his response to critics blaming the administration's policies for violent crimes committed by migrants.

During his response, Mayorkas referred to Rachel as "the individual," with Patty appearing on Fox News the following day to condemn the DHS chief's choice of words.

Ronny Reyes

## Final say in first debate

Former President Donald Trump will close next week's debate with President Biden after he lost a coin toss, CNN announced Thursday.

Biden's campaign correctly called "tails" and got the option of either choosing which podium the incumbent

would stand behind at the CNN-hosted debate on June 27, or the order of the candidates' closing statements.

The Democratic camp opted for the right podium spot, where Biden stood in both of his 2020 election debates vs. Trump.

The Trump cam-

paign then said he would give the second and final closing statement of the 90-minute showdown.

The June debate, moderated by CNN co-hosts Jake Tapper and Dana Bash, will be the earliest general election forum in modern US history. Ryan King

By RYAN KING

Ex-President Donald Trump is running the table against President Biden in six battleground states, fresh polling shows.

The surveys from Emerson College and The Hill show the 45th president edging out Biden in Arizona (47%-43%), Georgia (45%-41%), Michigan (46%-45%), Nevada (46%-43%), Pennsylvania (47%-45%) and Wisconsin (47%-44%).

In all six states, Trump's lead has either remained the same or grown from the outlet's polls taken last month, before he was convicted by a Manhattan jury on 34 business fraud charges.

"In our first polling in several key swing states since Trump's conviction last month, there has been little movement, with support for both Trump and Biden staying largely consistent since November," Emerson College Polling executive director Spencer Kimball explained.

"Notably, results fall within the poll's margin of error."

The poll also showed Trump and Biden dead even at 45% each in Minnesota, which has backed a Republican for president just three times since the onset of the Great Depression.

However, the Trump campaign has insisted that the Land of 10,000 Lakes is in play this time.

"Independent voters break for Trump in all seven states — however, there has been some movement among these voters since April," Kimball said.

"In Arizona, Trump's support among independents dropped 5 points, from 48% to 43%. In Michigan, Trump's support dropped three, from 44% to 41%, and in Pennsylvania, Trump dropped 8

points, from 49% to 41%. Biden lost support among independents in Georgia, by 6 points, 42% to 36% and Nevada, by 5, 37% to 32%."

The RealClearPolitics polling average also shows Trump leading Biden in the six battlegrounds, by margins ranging from 0.2 percentage points in Michigan to 5.7 percentage points in Nevada.

### Dems favored in Senate

Similar to other polls, Emerson College and The Hill's survey shows Democrats in most contested Senate races running ahead of Biden.

In Pennsylvania, incumbent Democratic Sen. Bob Casey is topping Republican David McCormick, 47% to 41%.

In Michigan, Democratic Rep. Elissa Slotkin is running ahead of former GOP Rep. Mike Rogers, 43% to 39%.

In Nevada, Democratic Sen. Jacky Rosen is well up on Republican Sam Brown, 50% to 38%.

And in Wisconsin, Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin is narrowly ahead of Republican Eric Hovde, 46% to 44%.

A clear majority of voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada and Pennsylvania said they disapproved of Biden's performance in office — with the incumbent scoring approval ratings ranging between 35% in Georgia and 39% in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The most important issue in all seven surveyed states was the economy, with 27% of Arizona-registered voters deeming it their top concern, along with 45% of registered voters in Georgia, 41% in Michigan, 34% in Minnesota, 42% of in Wisconsin, 35% in Nevada and 44% in Pennsylvania.



# REAL SWINGER

Donald Trump has a slight edge in most battleground states according to recent polls:

Minnesota  
45% to 45%

Michigan  
46% to 45%

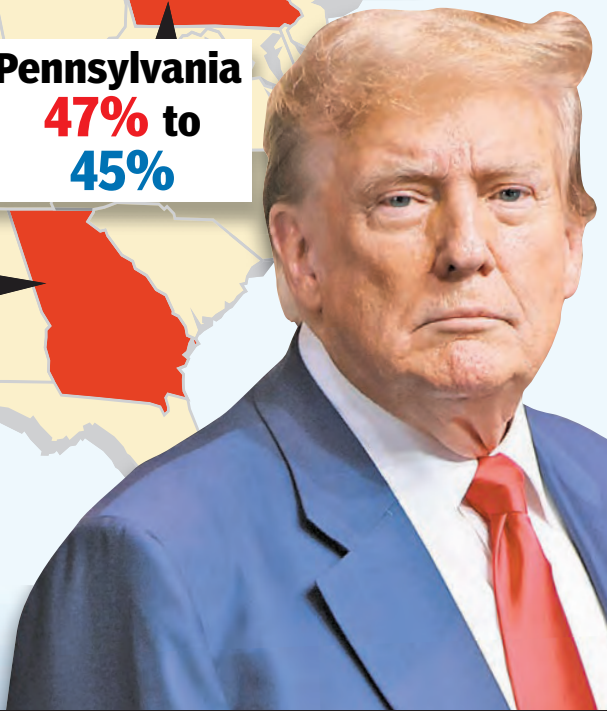
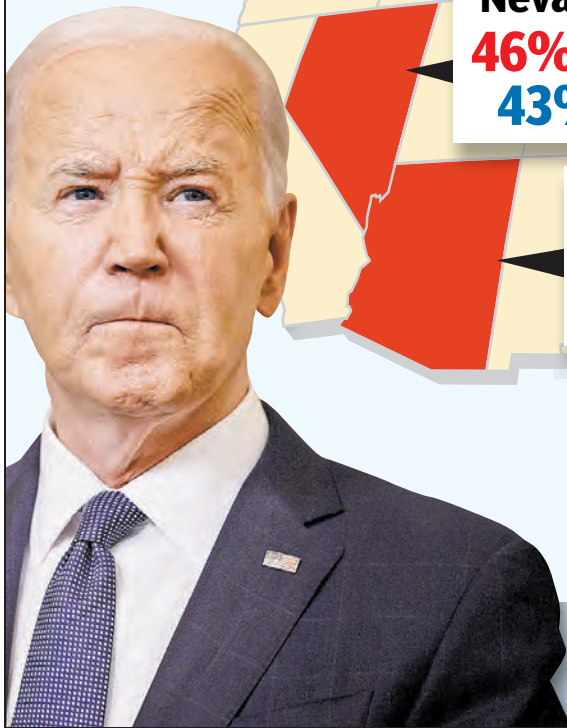
Nevada  
46% to 43%

Wisconsin  
47% to 44%

Pennsylvania  
47% to 45%

Arizona  
47% to 43%

Georgia  
45% to 41%



The second-most important issue varied by state. Michigan (13%), Minnesota (15%), Pennsylvania (12%) and Wisconsin (12%) voters said “threats to democracy” ranked high on their list of concerns.

In Arizona, immigration narrowly trailed the economy as the top issue, with 26% of registered voters saying it was their main concern. A majority of voters (55%) in the Grand Canyon State also said they would vote to approve a ballot measure that would allow state and local police to arrest illegal immigrants while giving state judges the power to order deportations.

The Emerson College Polling/The Hill survey sampled 1,000 registered voters in each state June 13-18, with a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

Biden and Trump are slated to square off in their first 2024 debate next Thursday in Atlanta.

## Ex-prez’s red tide rising in blue NY

Donald Trump is within striking distance of President Biden in a new poll of New York voters — with the former president boosted by big gains among black and Jewish Empire Staters.

If the election were held today, Biden would receive 47% of the vote to 39% for Trump, Siena College found in a survey of 805 registered voters.

The poll’s margin of error — 4.1% — means the race

could be even closer.

“We are going to win New York!” the presumptive Republican nominee, 78, claimed at a May 23 South Bronx rally, where he courted black and Hispanic voters by arguing they were being badly impacted by record illegal immigration under Biden, as well as by economic issues such as high inflation.

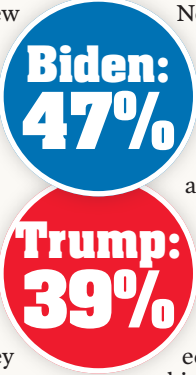
The Siena survey found that Trump is supported by

29% of black New Yorkers and 26% of Latino residents ahead of his Nov. 5 rematch against 81-year-old Biden.

In 2020, Trump — who at the time also claimed he was on the cusp of winning New York — was supported by just 6% of black New Yorkers and 22% of Hispanics, according to exit polling.

Biden narrowly leads Trump among Jewish voters with 52% support, while the former president has 46% backing in the demographic following months of vacillation by Biden over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Steven Nelson



A new Siena College poll finds that Donald Trump is within 8 points in Democratic stronghold New York state and has above 25% support among traditional Democratic voting groups, including Jewish and black voters.

AMONG BLACK VOTERS	
Biden 59%	29% Trump
AMONG LATINO VOTERS	
Biden 54%	26% Trump
AMONG JEWISH VOTERS	
Biden 52%	46% Trump



# Hochul's slappshot

## Congest brake OK in 'burbs

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

Gov. Hochul signed landmark legislation Thursday barring social-media companies from bombarding New York children with “addictive” feeds — something she said was the first step in a new push to restrict schoolkids’ smartphone usage.

The first-in-the nation “SAFE for Kids Act” cracks down on apps — such as TikTok and Instagram — that use algorithms to keep children glued to their phones and then profit off that data.

“We will save lives with this, my friends,” Hochul told a crowd gathered at United Federation of Teachers union headquarters in Manhattan for the bill signing.

“Our kids will not be commoditized,” she stressed. “We will not let them make money off our kids, our babies, anymore. That is not happening here, so here we are, the first in the nation.”

The governor also doubled down on previous statements that she’d be looking at banning smartphones in schools next.

“The next frontier is the phones,” Hochul told reporters after the announcement. “This is something that individual school districts right now can adopt. There is no prohibition on them, but to those who need the courage to be able to say that the governor made me do it, I’m happy to take that on, but we need some time to develop and get this done properly.”

### Stop scrolling

It’s the latest in a campaign against technology Hochul and local politicians and advocates feel is harming New York’s children. But the milestone law, passed by state lawmakers in Albany earlier this month, is almost certain to face a legal challenge from Big Tech companies.

That bill, and another signed by Hochul on Thursday, will:

- Prevent social-media platforms from feeding users under 18 content using algorithms that are tailored to keep them scrolling.

- Give parents the ability to

### ‘We will save lives’

The legislation signed Thursday by Gov. Hochul takes a stand against “addictive” feeds.



- Prevent social media platforms from feeding users under the age of 18 content using algorithms that are tailored to keep them scrolling.

- Give parents the ability to pause notifications on their kids’ social media accounts between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.

- Bar social media companies from selling data generated by users under the age of 18.



## Signs 1st-in-US ban on ‘kid algorithms’

pause notifications on their kids’ accounts between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.

- Bar social-media companies from selling data generated by users under the age of 18.

The legislation charges Attorney General Letitia James with crafting many of the details on how it will be enforced, including how apps will verify the ages of users.

James, who was heavily involved in crafting the language to withstand a legal challenge, will also be the one to defend it in court.

“As most of you know, Tish James loves litigation and Tish James is

not afraid to stand up to any bully,” James said to applause, referring to herself in the third-person.

Google and Meta had already spearheaded a \$1 million lobbying effort to tank the Empire State legislation, public disclosures showed.

The legislation will go into effect six months after James finalizes the specific rules and regulations for the social-media platforms.

Julie Samuels, president and CEO of Tech:NYC, a group that advocates for tech companies, claimed the “unresolved issues” of how the laws will work could throw a

wrench in the plan. Carl Szabo, vice president of NetChoice, blasted the legislation as “unconstitutional.”

A spokesperson for Meta — the parent company of Instagram and Facebook — only said the company supports federal legislation that would put the onus on app stores to give parents more control over the apps their kids download.

New York City Schools Chancellor David Banks backed the social-media laws Thursday, saying the impact of the apps on kids has been “incredibly harmful.” Asked about a potential phone ban, he said the DOE was still evaluating the idea.

Hochul said last month she was opposed to kids keeping phones in class, later clarifying she would be OK with students having “dumb” devices like a flip phone so parents can reach them if necessary.

*Additional reporting by Aneeta Bhole*

The majority of voters living in New York City’s suburbs approve of Gov. Hochul’s surprise last-minute decision to indefinitely pause the congestion pricing toll, according to a new poll.

Of the statewide respondents, 45% said they supported Hochul’s decision to pause the \$15 daily toll on drivers entering Manhattan below 60th Street.

Suburban voters continued to voice the most fierce opposition to the toll, with 56% supporting Hochul’s pause. Those voters encompass Long Island as well as Westchester, Putnam and Rockland Counties.

The poll was conducted last week, just days after lawmakers ended their yearly session in Albany after bucking Hochul’s last-minute attempt to raise taxes to make up for revenue the MTA had expected to generate from congestion pricing.

*Vaughn Golden*

## Poll: Few like Kathy

Gov. Hochul’s approval rating is at its lowest ever.

Only 38% of Empire State voters gave Hochul a thumbs-up, with 49% saying they disapprove of her job performance, in a Siena College poll released Thursday.

A whopping 81% of Republicans said they disapproved of the governor.

She also isn’t winning over a huge number of fellow Democrats, with only 56% saying they view her favorably. *Vaughn Golden*

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### LOTTERY

#### NEW YORK

■ Midday Nos. Thu.: 088

■ Midday Win-4 Thu.: 3628

■ Midday Take-5 Thu.: 12, 13, 25, 35, 36

■ Evening Nos. Thu.: 897

■ Evening Win-4 Thu.: 6185

■ Evening Take-5 Thu.: 10, 12, 17, 29, 39

■ Pick-10 Thu.: 1, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 22, 23, 31, 32, 35, 38, 47, 48, 52, 55, 59, 60, 64, 65

■ Cash-4-Life Thu.: 13, 15, 30, 54, 57; Cash Ball: 2

#### NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Thu.: 643; Fireball: 9

Pick-4 Thu.: 2128; Fireball: 9

Cash-5 Xtra Thu.: 24, 31, 32, 34, 42; Xtra: 5

Pick-6 Thu.: 21, 26, 28, 29, 37, 44; Double Play: 9, 19, 26, 29, 39, 40

#### CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Thu.: 369; Wild: 1

Play-4 Thu.: 1456; Wild: 2

Cash-5 Thu.: 7, 17, 22, 27, 35

Lucky-4-Life Thu.: 22, 24, 25, 28, 35; Lucky Ball: 4

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# Wide-ranging actor Sutherland dies at 88

By LAUREN SARNER

Hollywood legend Donald Sutherland has died at 88.

"With a heavy heart, I tell you that my father, Donald Sutherland, has passed away," Kiefer Sutherland announced on X on Thursday.

"I personally think one of the most important actors in the history of film. Never daunted by a role, good, bad or ugly. He loved what he did and did what he loved, and one can never ask for more than that. A life well lived."

The award-winning actor starred in a slew of hit movies such as "The Hunger Games," "The Dirty Dozen," "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," "Ordinary People," "M\*A\*S\*H," "Don't Look Now," "Klute" and "Animal House."

According to Deadline, he died on Thursday in Miami after a long illness.

Sutherland was never nominated for an Oscar, but he got an Honorary Oscar in 2017. During his acceptance speech, he said, "I wish I could say thank you to all the characters I've played. Thank them for using their lives to inform my



FilmMagic

lives." A father of five, he was married to Lois Hardwick from 1959-1966, Shirley Douglas from 1966-1970 — with whom he had Kiefer and Rachel — and actress Francine Racette from 1972 until his death, with whom he had sons Rossif, Angus Redford and Roeg.

## The early years

Born on July 17, 1935, in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, Donald Sutherland had a career spanning over 60 years, with more than 200 film and TV credits.

He rose to stardom with 1970's "M\*A\*S\*H," playing the martini-drinking Hawkeye.

In a 1970 interview for the Canadian program "Telescope," he said about that

movie, "When you are in a field station like we were, it is insane to watch human bodies come flying into a camp that are wrecked for no reason at all. That kind of insanity created an environment, a kind of mini-society, that was in chaos. To a lot of people, that represents a kind of society that we have today."

Sutherland was ill as a child. In a 2011 interview with Esquire, Sutherland said, "The first word I said was neck. My mother turned around and said, 'What did he say?' My sister said, 'He said, 'Neck.' My neck was killing me. That was a sign of polio. One leg's a little shorter, but I survived."

In a 2018 interview on "60 Minutes," Sutherland opened up about his childhood insecurities.

"I went to her and I said: 'Mother, am I good looking?' And my mother looked at me and went, 'Your face has character, Donald.' And I went and hid in my room for at least a day," he recalled.

When Anderson Cooper asked if his mother's words stayed with him, Sutherland quipped, "Not really. Just— just for— 65, 66 years."

## 'Animal House'

In the 1978 comedy classic "Animal House," Sutherland played professor Dave Jennings, who smoked pot and had an affair with a student.

He was reportedly given a choice between taking a fee of either 2% of the film's gross or \$35,000, and opted for the latter — costing him many millions when the film went on to become one of the most successful comedies ever, grossing over \$500 million to date.

About filming that movie, he told Esquire, "My ass was in

'Animal House.' John Landis said he filmed it only for the rushes. He promised my wife that he wouldn't put it in the film. But he did put it in the film — and my wife never spoke to him again."

Sutherland won a Golden Globe for the TV movie "Path to War," and he won an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his performance in the miniseries "Citizen X."

His extensive television credits also include "Trust," "Dirty Sexy Money" and "The Pillars of the Earth."

Later in life, he had a career resurgence playing the tyrannical President Snow in the "Hunger Games" movies between 2012-2015.

Sutherland told GQ in 2014 that he sought out the role.

"Nobody asked me to do it. I wasn't offered it. I like to read scripts, and it captured my passion. I wrote them a letter... I thought it was an incredibly important film, and I wanted to be a part of it," he said.

**LEGEND:** In a career more than 60 years long and peppered with unforgettable characters both dramatic and comedic, Donald Sutherland "loved what he did and did what he loved," said son Kiefer (top), who made his father proud with Emmy wins for "24" in 2006.



M\*A\*S\*H



Don't Look Now



Klute

# HE WAS A MAN OF CHARACTERS



# 'Kid slayers' from Venez. Dumped girl's body

By JENNIE TAER

Police in Houston have arrested two migrants from Venezuela in the murder of 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray, who was lured away from home, then strangled and dumped in a bayou.

One of the suspects crossed the border illegally less than a month before the shocking murder, and was released into the US after claiming he feared for his life if he was sent back to his home country, sources told The Post.

Johan Jose Rangel Martinez, 21, and Franklin Jose Pena Ramos, 26, were charged Thursday with capital murder.

Department of Homeland Security sources said Pena Ramos crossed into El Paso, Texas, on May 28. He was released soon after his interaction with border agents.

He told authorities he planned to live with his cousin in Houston until his court appearance in July, sources said.

Agents put a GPS tracker on Pena Ramos, which was set to monitor his location for only 21 days, sources said.

It's unclear whether he was wearing the tracker when Jocelyn was murdered.

Investigators identified the suspects from surveillance footage after they were seen following Jocelyn as she walked into a convenience store.

Her body was found in a swampy creek Monday by a Houston resident who happened to be driving by. The Houstonian told KTRK-TV she thought at first the body was a floating mannequin.

"I did a U-turn and I stopped on the bridge, put my flashers on, looked down, and realized it was someone. I parked right here and called 911 immediately," she said.

Homeland Security has opened an investigation into the suspects' immigration histories.

The victim's mother, Alexis



**STRANGLED:** 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray was allegedly killed by Johan Jose Rangel Martinez and Franklin Jose Pena Ramos.



Nungaray, said her daughter sneaked out of their apartment late Sunday.

She told KHOU-TV the girl was taken "advantage of" by the killers.

"I'm like angry that they took advantage of her. She was so young. She was 12, you took my baby away, you took her away. Now, I get to let her little brother know his older sister is never coming home," she said.

"She turned into a beautiful, beautiful young lady," Alexis said. "I was really looking forward to seeing how she was gonna be and they took every opportunity away from me and my family."

Houston Mayor John Whitmire said Thursday the murder affected him personally.

"As a grandfather and a father, it doesn't get any worse," the mayor said.

"If there is any circumstance where you deny bail, this is it."

# WE'RE IN



**COMING IN:** Migrants from Tajikistan cross the border into California in December. Tajiks, actively recruited by ISIS, are believed to have carried out the deadly Moscow concert-hall bombing (right).



## ISIS-linked Tajiks flood in on Joe's watch

By JENNIE TAER

The number of migrants flocking to the US-Mexico border from a country known as a hotbed of ISIS recruitment has skyrocketed under President Biden.

More than 1,500 migrants from Tajikistan are known to have crossed the border between October 2020 and May 2024, according to leaked border data obtained by The Post.

At least 500 Tajiks have been caught so far this year.

Over the previous 14 years, there were just 26 Tajik nationals crossing the border.

It's unknown how many of the Tajik migrants were released into the US, but the vast majority of migrants caught at the border claim asylum and are allowed to stay while awaiting a court hearing.

The small Central Asian country, which borders China and Afghanistan, has become a major

source of terrorists for ISIS and Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISIS-K), an extreme offshoot of the Islamic State militant group.

### Planting the seeds

Javed Ali, a former counterterrorism official who now teaches at the University of Michigan, said the surge of Tajik nationals could include ISIS "seeding people into the United States" to

prepare for a possible attack.

The Post recently reported on ICE arresting eight Tajik migrants with suspected ties to ISIS who crossed the southern border and then settled in New York, LA and Philadelphia.

ISIS-K in March was responsible for a massive attack on a concert hall in Moscow — carried out by citizens of Tajikistan — that killed 145 people and wounded hundreds.



# AN AWFUL STATE

## New York poll cites migrant influx, crime

By ISABEL KEANE

The overwhelming majority of New Yorkers believe the ongoing migrant crisis is a serious concern — and more than half fear the Empire State is heading in the “wrong direction,” according to a poll released Thursday.

The sobering statewide survey, conducted by Siena College, found that 83% of registered voters said they believe the influx of migrants was a “serious” issue for the state. Of those surveyed, 57% deemed the crisis — which has seen more than 203,900 migrants come through New York City since spring 2022 — “very serious,” while 26% said it was “somewhat serious.”

Split by political party, 77% of Democrats answered the problem was “serious,” while 95% of Republicans agreed.

And 37% said they believe the Empire State is on the “right track” while 52% said it was “headed in the wrong direction.” The remaining 11% didn’t know or had no opinion. A little over half, 51%, said they did not believe the state Legislature had succeeded in “passing laws that improve the quality of life in New York” during the 2024 legislative session.

The poll comes as the stream of new arrivals has overwhelmed Big Apple shelters, with over 119,700 people in city care, including over 65,300 migrants, as of June 16, according to City Hall.

The Adams administration says it has been forking up over \$387 a day to put up a single migrant household in taxpayer-funded shelters, and City Hall has claimed the costs to combat the migrant crisis could hit \$10 billion through the next fiscal year.

The poll, which included a pool

of 800 registered voters and was conducted June 12-13 and 16-17, was released just days after an Ecuadorian migrant was busted for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl in a Queens park in a horrific broad-daylight attack last week.

On the subject of crime, 49% of respondents said the problem has gotten worse across the state over the last year, while only 17% believed it had improved and 31% said it had stayed the same, with 2% who said they didn’t know or refused to answer.

### Mayor responds

Among respondents, 34% of Democrats and 76% of Republicans said they were concerned about heightened crime.

Mayor Adams has previously blamed the cumbersome bureaucratic process of getting into the US for pushing some asylum-seekers to crime in the wake of the shooting of two NYPD officers, allegedly by a migrant.

“He can’t work. He can’t go to school. So what happens? You have to really think about what I’m going to say, what’s being created in this amazing city,” Adams said of Bernardo Castro Mata’s immigration case being closed in Chicago months earlier.

Just 2,000 of the 27,000 migrants who are of working age have been connected with a job under the Adams administration’s ongoing push, officials said during a City Council meeting last week.

City officials have called on President Biden to expand a program that grants temporary protected status to asylum-seekers from countries facing political turmoil or violence, which would fast-track working authorizations.

The poll has a 4.1% margin of error.



Getty Images

Experts say ISIS and its affiliates have been preying upon Tajiks to carry out attacks abroad.

“Tajiks have been recruited to and played a key role in terrorist organizations like Islamic State to a greater degree than many neighboring countries in recent years. They have become key to [ISIS-K]’s externally-focused campaign as it seeks to gain attention and more recruits,” said Texas A&M University professor Edward Lemon.

“Heavy-handed counter-extremism policies” by the government of Muslim-majority Tajikistan may be radicalizing some of the country’s 10 million people and “causing the very terrorism they seek to address,” Lemon said.

Lemon, whose research has focused on Tajikistan and Central Asia, said large populations of Tajiks live outside their native land. When they choose to come to the US, they are utilizing “networks of traffickers” who “actively adver-

tise the opportunity to come to America in Tajikistan.”

“Tajikistan is one of the most migration-dependent countries in the world, with over a million of the country’s 10 million people living in Russia. As life in Russia has become more difficult since the invasion of Ukraine, they have sought other destinations such as Europe, the Gulf and US,” Lemon said.

“Most come here, like so many others, to seek a better life.”

### Heightened threats

FBI Director Chris Wray has recently warned that the US is in a heightened threat environment for terrorism, citing both the Oct. 7 terrorist attack on Israel carried out by Hamas and the attack in Moscow.

Last Friday, the Biden administration sanctioned four people based in Central Asia and Turkey who are allegedly involved in an

ISIS-tied smuggling operation helping migrants reach the US.

One of the sanctioned men is commander of the ISIS-Georgia Province, Adam Khamirzaev, who “provided guidance to this network on a range of activities supporting ISIS and was aware of its efforts to facilitate travelers to the United States.”

ISIS and its affiliates are keen on recruiting and inspiring attacks globally, with their sights set on Tajiks.

“One of the things that they’ve actively and deliberately done is try to expand their recruits geographically. So not only Afghans and Pakistanis, but they want to bring in a big central Asian component,” said Colin Clarke, Soufan Group director of research.

“Moreover, they want to reach out to the diaspora . . . central Asians living in Europe, living in North America, in the attempt to radicalize them, because for ISIS-K, it’s low-hanging fruit.”



# ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

# Ivy occupiers skate

By KYLE SCHNITZER, JOE MARINO  
and CARL CAMPANILE

Nearly all the protesters charged with storming and occupying Columbia University's campus during heated anti-Israel demonstrations won't face criminal charges, Manhattan prosecutors announced Thursday — drawing outrage from law enforcement and Jewish advocates.

District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office dismissed cases against 31 of 46 people charged with trespassing in the Ivy League school's Hamilton Hall after a dramatic April 30 NYPD raid rounded up protesters on the Morningside Heights campus.

Prosecutors largely cited lack of evidence that could tie the students or staff to the building takeover for leaving them without even a slap on the wrist.

The dismissals quickly drew fury from rank-and-file NYPD officers, higher-education officials and Jewish leaders who spoke with The Post.

## 'Green light for chaos'

"This is turnstile justice," said Michael Nussbaum, a 25-year member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. "This is a green light for chaos, a green light for destroying property."

Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Stephen Millan said prosecutors had trouble moving forward with charges due to "extremely limited" video surveillance that couldn't prove anything was damaged.

"It would be extremely difficult for the people to prove any charge of misconduct," Millan said in Manhattan Criminal Court, adding that each of the individuals getting their cases tossed had



**HAMMER AND SICKOS:** Demonstrators barricade themselves inside Hamilton Hall at Columbia on April 30. Prosecutors in Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg's (inset) office say no evidence could tie those arrested to criminal acts.

no criminal history.

Students and staffers at Columbia, Barnard or the Union Theological Seminary whose charges were dropped face disciplinary action by the school, which also factored into the decision, prosecutors said.

The lone remaining

Hamilton Hall defendant is James Carlson, the scion of millionaire ad executives who owns a \$2.3 million home in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

## 'Leader' still on hook

Carlson, who has been dubbed the "possible leader" of the Columbia protests, faces hate-crime, assault and petit-larceny raps for allegedly torching an Israel supporter's flag and then hitting the 22-year-old in the face with a rock.

His attorney, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, said Carlson disputes the "validity of many of these allegations."

The DA's Office told another 14 individuals — including 12 not affiliated with the school — that their cases would be thrown out on certain conditions.

Prosecutors also threw out nine cases — including six students — who were charged for occupying a building at the City College of New York on April 30.

## Few of Hamas' captives live: intel

US officials believe that as few as 50 of the 116 hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip are still alive, according to a new report.

The assessment, based in part on Israeli intelligence, indicated that 66 of the remaining hostages are now dead, mediators in the hostage talks and a US official told The Wall Street Journal.

Israel previously estimated that 41 remaining hostages were no longer alive, while Hamas has insisted that it does not know how many hostages are alive or dead.

"I think we should be extremely worried," said Hagai Levine, the head of the medical team for the Hostages and Missing Families Forum.

"It seems like every week more hostages are dying or getting in danger or very sick."

Israel uses an expert committee of medical experts that reviews classified intelligence in order to determine the hostages' status, the Journal reported.

The estimated number of dead hostages is growing due to the conditions of their captivity combined with the injuries they suffered on Oct. 7, and possible pre-existing health conditions.

Eight of the remaining hostages are US citizens — including three who were declared dead several months ago.

Olivia Land

## Bowman mea culpa on Oct. 7 horrors \$2M donor groaner in Pa.

A "sorry" excuse.

Embattled "Squad" Rep. Jamaal Bowman apologized at long last this week for initially claiming that reports of rape and child murder during Hamas' Oct. 7 terror attack against

Israel were a "lie."

"Immediately when the [UN] provided additional evidence, I voted to condemn the sexual violence. I apologize for my comments," Bowman said Monday during a WNYC

interview after a listener pressed him on the matter.

"As soon as I got the additional information from the UN, we condemned the sexual violence, we voted to condemn it, and we're continuing to do the work."

Speaking last Nov. 17, Bowman said: "There was propaganda used at the beginning of the siege ... There's still no evidence of beheaded babies or raped women, but they still keep using the lie."

Carl Campanile

MacKenzie Scott donated \$2 million to an activist group that reportedly has links to a Philadelphia-based organization that staged a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Pennsylvania.

Bread & Roses Commu-

nity Fund was a recipient of a \$2 million grant from Scott. Weeks later, Bread & Roses paid tribute to the Philly Palestine Coalition — which helped organize the Gaza Solidarity Encampment on UPenn campus.

Ariel Zilber





**ALKI DAVID**  
Owes employee \$900M.

## Coke heir pressed on assault \$\$

The heir to a Coca-Cola bottling fortune was ordered yet again Monday to shell out millions in damages to a former employee who accused him of sexual assault.

A Los Angeles jury unanimously ruled that Greek billionaire Alki David will have to pay the woman, identified as Jane Doe in her lawsuit, a whopping \$900 million for allegedly harassing and raping her over a three-year period, her lawyer said.

"It's so despicable, the facts of this case. He raped my client while on trial in another case," attorney Gary Dordick told the Los Angeles Times. David has lost multiple other sexual-misconduct cases.

The alleged abuse began in February 2016 while the victim worked as a model for David's companies — including Hologram USA, which creates holograms of dead celebrities. That office was "alarmingly hostile," her lawyers said, with one room referred to as "The Rape Room." *Katherine Donlevy*

## Mom & son, 6, killed by bus

A kindergartner and his mom were fatally struck by a school bus while walking to school in Westchester County Thursday morning, according to sources and reports.

The unidentified 6-year-old boy and his mother, 43, were about half a block from their Mamaroneck elementary school shortly after 8:30 a.m. when they were hit, according to lohud.com and sources.

The outlet did not identify the vehicle involved, but News12 said it was a mini school bus. *Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*



TheRealSPW/  
MEGA

# DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT 'TOX

## Face too frozen to act: Kim

By NICKI COX

There's only one thing standing in the way of Kim Kardashian winning an Oscar.

"I feel like you need less Botox for more emotion, and I don't have it," she joked in the latest episode of "The Kardashians." "How am I gonna be scared? How am I gonna cry?"

To prove her point, Kardashian jokingly tried to raise her eyebrows, which did little to her forehead.

Also standing in the way of serious acting parts: "I'm not gonna be gaining 500 pounds for a role or losing . . . that's not where I need to be," she noted.

### '10-year plan'

Nevertheless, Kardashian, 43, has taken on a thin, non-emotive role in a comedy film, "The Fifth Wheel," which she described as a mix of "The Hangover," "Bridesmaids" and "The First Wives Club."

In addition to producing, the Skims founder will star in the film, which she acknowledged will be quite the commitment.

With so much on her plate, Kardashian joked

she will "have to give up" something in her life — and immediately chose "sleep" as the thing to go.

"I can do a movie a year; I've got about 10 years where I still look good, so that's all I've got in me and then I'll take some time off . . . That's my 10-year plan," she told her friends.

Despite having only a few small movie roles in the past, Kardashian made headlines in 2023 when she landed a larger part in "American Horror Story: Delicate."

She said she hired an acting coach to prepare.

During a recent — and controversial — "Actors on Actors" interview with Chloë Sevigny, Kardashian revealed she has four projects currently in the works.

"It's been fascinating, learning the business in such a short period," the reality star said.

One of those projects is a Ryan Murphy-produced scripted series in which she will play "a high-powered divorce attorney."

"I will be channeling Laura Wanser, if that resonates with anybody," Kardashian teased.

Divorce attorney Wanser has represented Kardashian, Kevin Costner, Ariana Grande, Britney Spears and a slew of other stars in their splits.

While Kardashian admitted that "lawyer talk is a completely different language," she has already put in plenty of hours while studying for the California Bar Exam over the years.

"I'm really excited about it. And, again, that confidence that [Murphy] believes in me to take this project on means so much to me," she said. "And it feels so right as a character that I could be a lawyer in real life and play one on TV."



**STEADY 'WORK':** Kim K is starring in a comedy film, but joked in "The Kardashians" (right) that she's had too much Botox for serious acting.



# DWI rap trashes Timberlake image

# SECRET'S OUT ON

# BAD REPUTATION



By SARA NATHAN

The sheen has worn off America's onetime golden boy.

The latest kick to Justin Timberlake's ego? When, as Page Six reported, the young cop who arrested him for DWI in Sag Harbor early Tuesday didn't recognize his face or name.

"Justin said under his breath, 'This is going to ruin the tour,' " a source told Page Six. "The cop replied, 'What tour?' Justin said, 'The world tour.' "

Indeed, the 43-year-old singer is due to perform in Chicago on Friday and will be at Madison Square Garden next week, sources confirmed. But he may not have his old swagger — especially after his latest album, "Everything I Thought It Was," dropped off the Billboard 200 after just four weeks.

Sources told The Post that the singer and actor's career is not where he thought it would be at this point.

"The album didn't do too well,

and I don't see Justin getting big acting roles right now," said a well-placed Hollywood insider. "I just think Justin has a bad reputation in Hollywood as a bit of a jerk and a pain in the ass."

"He's got a bit of an ego," said an industry insider.

## Midlife-crisis issues

The past few days, complete with Timberlake's glass-eyed mug shot, are a clear indication that the former \*NSYNC heartthrob has some very real midlife-crisis issues.

Not least of them is the fact that his wife, actress Jessica Biel, is said to be "extremely upset" with her husband's antics, according to Us Weekly.

While Timberlake has traded on his dimpled good looks and sunny charm for decades, he's not been having a great year.

"Everything I Thought It Was" became his first solo release to miss the No. 1 spot since "Justified" in 2002.



The record was met with criticism and weaker than usual sales upon its release in March.

Ticket sales for The Forget Tomorrow World Tour have been similarly lackluster. "His golden-boy image is definitely depleted," the Hollywood source said.

"Reptile," last year's Netflix thriller, saw Timberlake deemed by critics as making "his best impression of Ben Affleck in 'Gone Girl.' "

His biggest success in recent years has come from voicing a character in the "Trolls" movies. The latest, "Band Together," saw him reunited with \*NSYNC and releasing "Better Place," the boy band's first single in more than 20 years.

It's surely not the career he imagined when, as The Post reported in 2010, he had his eyes on an Academy Award nomination for his role in "The Social Net-

work." Back then, Page Six reported that he was "doing things his own way, including attending academy screenings on his own and privately reaching out to award winners and academy darlings Tom Hanks and Kevin Spacey for campaigning advice."

In the end, only co-star Jesse Eisenberg received a nod, although Timberlake did get to open the Oscars in 2017 with a rambunctious performance of his nominated, self-penned song, "Can't Stop The Feeling." (From, yes, a "Trolls" movie.)

## The early solo stuff

It was seen as a feat when Timberlake managed to leapfrog from boy-band success to solo fame with edgy, grown-up songs like "Senorita" and "SexyBack."

One of his biggest hits, "Cry Me a River," is widely believed to be

about cheating by his ex-girlfriend and former "Mickey Mouse Club" co-star Britney Spears.

Timberlake was seen as having come out of 2004's Super Bowl "Nipplegate" — when he exposed Janet Jackson's breast in a wardrobe malfunction during the halftime show — largely unscathed.

But defenders of Jackson and Spears took to social media this week to claim karma has finally caught up with Timberlake, posting memes of the female singers laughing and casting side-eye, and of Timberlake singing his 2006 hit "What Goes Around . . . Comes Around."

Last year, Spears revealed in her memoir, "The Woman in Me," that she had an abortion at age 19 after becoming pregnant with Timberlake's baby.

"Justin definitely wasn't happy about the pregnancy. He said we weren't ready to have a baby in



# and humbles the golden boy

our lives, that we were way too young,” she wrote. “If it had been left up to me alone, I never would have done it. And yet Justin was so sure that he didn’t want to be a father.

“To this day, it’s one of the most agonizing things I have ever experienced in my life.”

Sources at the time told Page Six that Timberlake was extremely hurt by Spears’ words, saying they were just teens.

During a concert in February, Timberlake told the crowd, “I’d like to take this opportunity to apologize to absolutely f--king nobody.”

On the same day as Timberlake’s arrest, Spears, who is currently on vacation in Las Vegas, posted a snapshot of what appears to be a cocktail. She also included an image of her legs floating in a pool and simply captioned her post, “It’s the little things you know!!!”

## ‘Bubble about to burst’

Another industry insider said, “There have been rumors around Justin’s behavior for a long time. Maybe the bubble was about to burst, and this was the pin that pricked the bubble.”

Timberlake had previously apologized to Biel for a “strong lapse in judgment” in 2019, when he was photographed holding hands with actress Alisha Wainwright while off-duty from filming the drama film “Palmer” in New Orleans.

Timberlake blamed being drunk in his public apology for his behavior.

“Nothing happened between me and my co-star. I drank way too much that night, and I regret my behavior. I should have known better,” Timberlake wrote in an open letter at the time.

Said the industry insider, “He’s got a few blemishes, for sure.”

The 10-time Grammy winner was released without bond Tuesday after being arraigned in Sag Harbor, LI.

He was charged with a DWI misdemeanor, and his next court date was scheduled for July 26, the Suffolk County district attorney’s office said.

Timberlake said he only had one martini — an extra-boozy Vesper martini, according to sources — while onlookers reported him drinking from another guest’s glass.

Page Six is told he and Biel have rented a house in Sag Harbor for the summer, as they did last year.

“In today’s world you have to be really dumb to drink and drive,” the industry insider said. “Justin is showing off a side that I don’t think a lot of people knew about.”



**TROUBLE:** Amid an underperforming album release and a drying-up of acting roles, Justin Timberlake, the onetime center of boy band \*NSYNC (far left), is hitting a rough patch with erratic driving (circled) leading to a DWI charge and reports of an angry wife Jessica Biel.



## Fawning over Sag Harbor PD mug shot

The Sag Harbor Police Department is bringing sexy back.

Justin Timberlake has been the talk of Tinseltown this week, not just because the 43-year-old pop sensation was arrested on a DWI charge on Long Island.

No, the real question is: How does his mug shot look so good?

The lighting in the bright, crisp image — a far cry from the dull, grainy celebrity mug shots of yore — left fans wondering if the Sag Harbor Police Department had Annie Leibovitz on retainer.

A department spokesman told The Post that the capture station is, alas, quite simple, involving only a government-issued Canon camera tethered to the agency’s booking computer.

In other words, they didn’t give Timberlake special treatment just because of his status.

Online, however, fans ogled over the flashy mug.

“Can I please get new headshots at the Sag Harbor Police Dept? Lighting goals,” commented one fan on Page Six’s Instagram post of Timberlake’s mug shot.

“Sag Harbor have a ring light on their mug shot camera?” agreed another.

“Why is this the most high quality mug shot ever,” wrote one X user. “They said get the Nikon out we’re getting this mf in 4K.”

“This looks like one of them Times photoshoot,” quipped another person on X. “What kind of lighting they got?”

On TikTok, Barstool’s Jack McGuire called the mug shot the “best” he’s ever seen. “His eyes are poppin’, the lighting’s amazing, it looks like he’s about to get a profile done in New York Magazine,” he gushed. *Brooke Kato*

Getty Images



# 'DEFIES ALL ODDS'



ABC NY7

## Baby born 24 wks. early goes home

By DAVID PROPPER

A premature baby who was delivered 24 weeks early and weighed less than two pounds was finally sent home Wednesday after spending nearly five months in a neonatal intensive care unit on Long Island.

Little Shyne Graham "defied all odds" when she was born via emergency C-section at NYU Langone Hospital on Jan. 24, weighing just one pound and 11 ounces, according to a nurse and her mother.

"I feel completely relieved having her home," proud mama Phaebe Turner told The Post on Thursday. "I didn't sleep last night — I was just looking at her, thinking, 'Is it really real that she's finally here?'"

Shyne's touching saga began when Turner suddenly began bleeding and having contractions

for unclear reasons in January.

"I remember waking up from surgery in a fog, and people were saying, 'Congratulations.' I said, 'For what?'" Turner recalled. "I was shell shocked."

She soon learned she'd given birth, but that she wouldn't be able to hold her teeny bundle of joy for months.

"She was so small. Her hand was the size of my thumb," Turner said.

But the pint-sized fighter eventually cleared the illnesses and has now grown to 10 pounds, the size of a "chubby 1-month-old," she said.

On Wednesday, NICU nurse manager LaShon Pitter helped set up a heartwarming graduation for the miracle baby and her family.

"I can't begin to express how I feel right now," Turner said. "I'm just happy. Today's a great day."



**HASTA LA VISTA:** Hospital staff send off little Shyne Graham, while playing "Pomp and Circumstance," as she heads home Wednesday with mom Phaebe Turner after being born 24 weeks early and spending 147 days in intensive care at the NYU Langone on Long Island.

## No high court tax ax

The Supreme Court ruled Thursday a foreign-investment tax nestled into Donald Trump's 2017 tax-cut law can remain in place, turning aside a challenge backed by business groups.

In a 7-2 decision, the high court ruled Congress was within its authority to enact a one-time levy on investors' share of profits that have not been passed along to them, which some critics had speculated could lay the groundwork for a future wealth tax.

Writing for the majority, Justice Brett Kavanaugh said the anti-tax argument, brought by a Washington state couple, "taken to its logical conclusion, could render vast swaths of the Internal Revenue Code unconstitutional."

"And those tax provisions, if suddenly eliminated, would deprive the US Government and the American people of trillions in lost tax revenue," he wrote.

The case brought by Charles and Kathleen Moore had challenged a nearly \$15,000 tax bill based on Charles' investment in an India-based company. Charles said he never received any money from the company, KisanKraft Machine Tools Private Ltd.

Public documents show that Moore's involvement with the company, including serving as a director for five years, is far more extensive than court filings indicated.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch dissented, with Thomas writing that the provision violated the 16th Amendment establishing an income tax.

Ryan King

## Soho Samaritan a hose hero UWS station 'grobe' vs. teen

A good Samaritan was seen on video trying to use his garden hose to help extinguish a massive three-alarm fire burning through the roof of a neighbor's five-story Soho building early Thursday.

Video from a helicopter taken by ABC 7 shows the man standing on a neighboring rooftop spraying the

fire at 463 Broome St.

The FDNY received a call about the blaze at 6:39 a.m., and by 8 a.m. the fire was under control, officials told The Post.

More than an hour after the blaze broke out, other neighbors could be seen in the chopper footage handing buckets of water to the man to try to help put

out the flames.

Thirty-three FDNY units consisting of 138 firefighters responded to the blaze, which could be seen in video poking out of the five-story building's roof.

There were no reported injuries and the cause of the blaze remains under investigation, fire marshals said.

Isabel Keane

A creep is on the loose after groping a teenage girl inside an Upper West Side subway station Wednesday night, the NYPD said.

The lowlife targeted the 16-year-old as she was standing on the 96th Street station's northbound 1-train island platform around 8:45 p.m., according to police.

He "grabbed her under the clothing" before fleeing the station — but not before flipping

off a straphanger who snapped his picture (inset).

The alleged molester's face was hidden by a mask. He was wearing a black sweatshirt and sweatpants with a white undershirt. His hair appeared half-shaven, with the longer strains braided down his neck.

The victim did not sustain any injuries and the investigation is ongoing.

Katherine Donlevy







# Douglas Murray

**C**ONSIDERING how much attention the American media get, it's amazing that one piece of actual, unbelievable subversion keeps going on.

That is the Al Jazeera network — founded, funded and directed by the terrorist-supporting state of Qatar.

Last month, The Washington Post reported darkly that the Israeli government had shut down the Al Jazeera network's operations in Israel because of its coverage from Gaza. WaPo portrayed this as a “dark day” for press freedom.

In fact, there were a lot of good reasons for the Israelis to stop the network from operating inside Israel. Just one being that a number of Al Jazeera journalists reporting on Israel's war against terrorists in Gaza were — er — terrorists.

Take Muhammad Washah, whom Al Jazeera presented as a stellar part of the press corps merely reporting the truth.

Unfortunately for them, their man is also a senior commander in Hamas. He used to be in Hamas' anti-tank missile unit, but since 2022 he has been in charge of research and development for aerial weapons. Known to you and me as “rockets.”

It's quite something to pull off. On the one hand, Washah can spend his days making rockets to fire at Israel. But in the evenings he can report on the terrible destruction in Gaza caused by the “Zionist entity.” As though it is inexplicable that the Israelis could have any reason to strike any targets in Gaza.

He might have kept getting away with it if IDF soldiers in Gaza had not managed to get a hold of his laptop. Something that proved the Al Jazeera man's true loyalties.

The same went for two Al Jazeera “journalists” killed in an airstrike in Rafah in January. Hamza Wael Dahdouh was the son of Al Jazeera's Gaza correspondent, Wael Al-Dahdouh.

And while the network complained about the Israelis hitting the vehicle they were in, what they did not mention was that the “journalists” were in a vehicle with a Hamas drone operator while it was targeting Israeli soldiers. Oh, and young Wael was not just a “journalist,” but a member of Palestinian Islamic Jihad who was “actively involved in attacks” against the Israelis.

Or take Al Jazeera “journalist” Ismail Abu Omar. In February, his employers reported that their “correspondent” had been badly injured in Khan Yunis. You might have thought this was a tragic case of a journalist — not for the first time — being caught up in a war.



**CONFLICT:** Al Jazeera presenter Abdelkader Aiad reports on Hamas — even as such terrorists have been shown to be embedded in the news network.

But Al Jazeera went further. The network claimed that their “correspondent” had been “deliberately targeted” and that this was a pattern with their journalists. Al Jazeera claimed that this “intimidation” was being done in order to prevent journalists from reporting “the heinous crimes” of the Israelis.

What it did not note was that Ismail Abu Omar is not a “correspondent.” Or at least he is not only that. He is also the deputy commander of Hamas' Eastern battalion in Khan Yunis.

## Journo hostage-holder

On Oct. 7, this Al Jazeera employee went into Israel with the terrorists of Hamas and was filmed praising the massacres. In one community (Nir Oz, which I reported from for The Post last November), Abu Omar could be seen screaming that “the friends [Hamas] have progressed. May Allah bless” and boasting that Palestinian children would “play with the heads” of the massacred Israeli civilians.

Yet still Al Jazeera has the ability to surprise you. Earlier this month, in a daring operation, the Israeli army rescued four hostages from homes in Gaza where they were being held. And one of those who was holding hostages in his home was one Abdallah Aljamal.

Abdallah spent his days writing articles about the humanitarian suffering inside Gaza. It was the sort of thing that much of the world's press simply picks up and runs with. But all the time he was filing such articles, he was holding three Israelis in his home and torturing them. And it turns out that he, too, had been a contributor to none other than Al Jazeera.

Although it takes a lot to shock me, even by Al Jazeera's standards this is a new low.

On Monday this week I was debating in Toronto against another Al Jazeera contributor: Mehdi Hasan.

Hasan began his career working for Al Jazeera. But a few years ago MSNBC gave him a show. It had some of the lowest ratings even on MSNBC. Which means that the

only homes in which it was playing were ones where the people had left the television on by accident.

But after Oct. 7, even MSNBC had enough of him. His views — which had always been extreme — became even more so. Which may be one reason why he has now had to return to Al Jazeera.

## Qatari apartheid

It was interesting sparring with him this week. Because of course he tried to throw every possible accusation against the IDF. And against me. Eventually it got a bit much.

Here was someone who was working for the Qataris. And Qatar is an actual apartheid state — a place where a few hundred thousand citizens are waited on by a slave class of foreign workers with zero human rights.

In its capital, Doha, live not only the heads of Al Jazeera but also their friends in Hamas. Most of the terror group's leaders who are not in Gaza live protected in the

slave state of Qatar.

So when Mehdi complained about the war that has followed Hamas' invasion of Israel, I pointed out that it would all be rather easier to take if one of his fellow Al Jazeera contributors hadn't just been found with Israeli hostages in their home. After all, if my colleagues kept being found with people in their basements, I reckon I'd keep my head down for a bit.

But no — that is Al Jazeera for you. A “network” whose “journalists” seem never to be more than one step away from terror, but who seem to get no criticism for it.

As for The Washington Post, which lamented the Israeli government's ban on Al Jazeera: Well, it seems that one reason it has been so anti-Israel in the past eight months is that its foreign desk alone includes six journalists who previously worked for Al Jazeera.

When people wonder how the media go awry, this is a textbook “how.”



**NEW YORK POST****DEVINE ONLINE***From the desk of Miranda Devine*

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# Space, the final front for nukes

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

WASHINGTON — The US is on the brink of a new Cuban missile crisis — this time in space — as Russia develops nuclear anti-satellite armaments while the Biden administration twiddles its thumbs, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Turner said Thursday.

Turner (R-Ohio) called on President Biden to crank up the pressure to prevent Moscow from launching the weapon — which could wipe out everything from GPS to cell service and the Internet, eliminating many of the conveniences of modern life — during an event at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in the nation's capital.

“The Space Age began when Russia launched Sputnik in 1957,” he said. “The Space Age will end when Russia launches its nuclear anti-satellite weapon into orbit.”

## ‘Day Zero’

Space Force Chief of Staff Gen. B. Chance Saltzman has referred to the feared launch date as “Day Zero” due to the massive impact it would have on military and civilian life, Turner added.

“From that day forward ... trillions and trillions of dollars and time

we don’t have will be required to build duplicative and redundant systems just to preserve what we accomplished in the Space Age,” Turner said.

The Biden administration reluctantly admitted in February that the Intelligence Committee had confirmed that Russia has been working for years to send nukes into space, which Turner said only happened after “overwhelming, bipartisan” pressure from Congress “to make public the emerging threat.”

“The fact that it took the House Intelligence Committee to do so, I think, shows you some of the waste of time that the administration has had — the fact that they don’t have a response to this,” he said.

But Turner argued the reveal did not go far enough, leaving Americans in the dark about the progress and viability of Russia’s capability.

“The administration says that [Russia’s] developing this,” he said. “Does that mean that this is a drawing on a drafting board? Does this mean this is a research project in a lab? ... Does it mean that there’s nuclear warheads that have been created? Is there a satellite?”

“All of these are the natural resulting questions for the administration and they’re avoiding this discussion ... because they

don’t want to admit that they’re not doing anything, and we are sleepwalking into what will be an irreversible ‘Day Zero’ effect,” Turner said.

## Deterrents

In addition to public warnings, Turner said the White House must pursue key deterrents to prevent Moscow from launching such a weapon, including tighter sanctions. And he said the US should invest more in modernizing its nuclear stockpile, bringing advancements to weapons that, in some cases, have been in storage for decades.

“The Biden administration is incredibly reluctant to take any action that would appear to be escalatory. However, Russia is the escalatory aggressor. Escalation has already occurred,” he said. “Now, the United States must stand with our allies to stop ‘Day Zero’ and preserve space.”

For its part, the White House has encouraged the improvement of its nuclear stockpile, with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin repeatedly calling for new investment. The Pentagon, in its 2022 Nuclear Posture Review, called on the US to update the aging supply as the nation prepares to contend with two major nuclear-armed adversaries — Russia and China — for the first time ever.

# Bumped onto tracks — & hit

A homeless straphanger was hit by a train Thursday after a frantic commuter accidentally knocked him onto the tracks — but he somehow survived the ordeal and now the shover is facing charges.

Emmanuel Paul, 20, jumped a staircase railing and bumped into the 34-year-old victim at the Jay Street-MetroTech station at around 11 a.m., sending the man onto the roadbed, sources said.

He was dragged by an R train before Paul came to his rescue, according the

homeless man, who recalled the terrifying experience in an interview with The Post.

“You’re about to die,” the hospitalized man, asking to only be identified by his initials L.H., recalled thinking before the train hit him.

“I looked all these people dead in the eyes, reaching out for them. They didn’t reach out for me,” L.H. said.

Paul lifted the injured man, who was struggling to breathe, back onto the platform and placed his backpack underneath L.H.’s head.

L.H. was rushed to the hospital with 12 broken ribs and Paul was taken into custody, where he was hit with two counts of reckless endangerment, sources said.

Although L.H. thinks some form of punishment is justified, he doesn’t want to see the young man behind bars.

“I don’t feel that’s really fair ... He didn’t mean it, but people need to be conscious about what they’re doing when they’re doing it,” he said. *Joe Marino and Katherine Donlevy*



By DANA KENNEDY,  
JEANETTE SETTEMBRE  
and MICHAEL KAPLAN

# Belichick gal's beauty foes turn ugly

The recent reveal of Bill Belichick's new 24-year-old girlfriend has left the Miss USA beauty-pagant world reeling.

Jordan Hudson was a contender for the Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants as far back as 2019 and even still competing until news of her 72-year-old new squeeze — whom she met on an airplane in 2021 — became public.

One fellow competitor in Miss Massachusetts Teen USA in 2020 told The Post: "I didn't even know she had a boyfriend — I heard from people she's kind of all over the place with dating."

"I'm so curious how this happened. He's old enough to be her grandfather!"

"She's not shy — wanting the limelight is one thing, but dating someone in his 70s is another. I didn't realize she'd go as far to do that for fame."

## Loves to compete

Hudson — first runner-up for Miss Maine 2024 and third runner-up in Miss Massachusetts Teen in 2020 — also made quite an entrance at Tom Brady's Hall of Fame induction on June 12, when she appeared in a white Porsche rumored to have been a gift from Belichick, according to sources.

Several of her friends in that world said Hudson was not typical of the kind of girls who usually compete.

"She is not a pageant girl," said another fellow competitor who did not want her name used.

"The rule for Miss USA is you can compete in two states per year. She competed for Maine and she was slated to compete for Alaska [but] she dropped out. I don't know if it has to do with this news coming out."

"I was shocked — not so much by the age [difference], but I don't know in what world Bill Belichick would be riding a commercial plane," the source said.

Belichick is said to have met Hudson on a flight from Boston to Florida. He was said to be so enthralled with the then-student-athlete's philosophy project he signed his autograph in her "Deductive Logic" textbook.

Pageantupdate website



**BLITZ:** News of 24-year-old beauty queen Jordan Hudson dating former New England Patriots coaching legend Bill Belichick, 72, has her former pageant rivals talking about her going this far "for fame."



# 'SHE JUST WANTS THE LIMELIGHT'

LinkedIn, but it's not clear what kind of business it is. According to documents viewed by The Post, she is interested in property and listed as owner of two homes near Bean Town.

## 'Curious about this'

One, a two-bedroom ranch in Harwich, Mass., sold for \$610,000 last year. Another, a handsome three family with 15 bedrooms in Roxbury Crossing, went for \$3 million — however, Hudson is not believed to live at either.

One of the Miss USA sources

said Hudson is "outgoing and easy to talk to" and would "definitely go up to a guy at a bar and say hey — she wouldn't be afraid to do it."

Her union with an NFL legend has certainly set tongues wagging among her peers — especially the 48-year age gap between them.

"Compared to her, my friends and I, we all have normal dating lives with guys our age," the source added. "Guys who we met in college. Someone told me her dating life has been not really average. I'm definitely curious about this. I went straight to my group chat. . . . She never mentioned one thing."

"Jordan, Thanks for giving me a course on logic! Safe travels!" Belichick wrote.

Raised in a modest home on Cape Cod, Hudson held a cosmetology license then studied philosophy at Bridgewater State College, where she made the dean's list in Spring 2021. She has not officially graduated yet, the school told The Post.

Photos on Hudson's Facebook also show her celebrating as a member of Bridgewater State University Cheerleading Club, after they won a National Championships in 2021 at the National Cheerleaders Association Championship.

Hudson is also CEO of a Boston-based company called Trouble Cub Enterprises, according to her

## Fauci memoir blasts lab leak

Dr. Anthony Fauci writes in his new "tell-all" that those who argue the COVID-19 pandemic stemmed from a lab leak in Wuhan, China, potentially due to experiments funded by US grants, are promoting a "conspiracy theory" — contradicting his own recent testimony before Congress.

Fauci, 83, writes in his

memoir "On Call" of an exchange with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) during a 2021 hearing about SARS-CoV-2 possibly escaping from a lab.

"The smear campaign soon boiled over into conspiracy theories," the former National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases chief and ex-White House chief medical adviser writes.

"At a May 11 Senate HELP Committee hearing, Senator Rand Paul fed the conspiracy theory," he goes on.

Fauci denied in congressional testimony that he had ever smeared lab-leak proponents as conspiratorial.

"I've not used that language," he said when asked if lab leak was a "destructive conspiracy." *Josh Christenson*

## 1K Mecca pilgrims die in heat

More than 1,000 Muslim pilgrims who traveled to Islam's holiest sites in Mecca during this year's hajj have died amid intolerable heat in Saudi Arabia, according to a report.

The grim death toll from the trek, tallied by Agence France-Presse on Thursday, showed 10 countries have reported 1,081 deaths during

the pilgrimage, which each Muslim is mandated to do once in their life.

The five-day hajj is determined by the lunar Islamic calendar and once again occurred in the summer when temperatures soar in Saudi Arabia. This week the mercury reached 125 degrees.

It's unclear how many of the deaths were caused by

the unbearable temperatures, but one Indian pilgrim, Khalid Bashir Bazaz, said on Wednesday he "saw a lot of people collapsing to the ground unconscious."

Hundreds of people were outside the Emergency Complex in Mecca as they desperately sought information about missing relatives.

*David Propper, Wires*



# Many head to adult sleepaway camps

# S'more summer

# fun for NYC gals

By ADRIANA DIAZ

Forget the Hamptons or St. Barts — all the cool girls are going to camp this summer.

Shira Blumenthal, 35, can't wait to arrive at Camp Social — a women-only adult summer camp in the Poconos costing \$600 for a two-day, three-night stay — later in August.

"I'm super excited about it. Everyone in my family knows," she told *The Post* with a laugh.

The self-proclaimed city girl hasn't been to a summer camp since she was a middle schooler and is a little nervous about being outdoors but can't wait to relive her childhood, disconnect and make new friends.

At adult summer camps, unlimited wine replaces juice boxes, French châteaux sub in for old wooden cabins in the middle of nowhere, and community swaps in for competition — although the hair-braiding and friendship bracelet-making remain.

And these excursions have wait lists longer than the pool at Dumbo House.

## Lengthy wait lists

Camp Social has a roster of about 40,000 wannabe campers, and Camp Château — a women-only adult adventure in the South of France costing \$2,300 for a six-day, five-night stay — has over 2,500.

Adult sleepaway events aren't a new concept, but demand even at Camp No Counselors — a co-ed adult gathering that started in 2013 and now has several locations — has never been higher, a representative told *The Post*.

It comes as both the loneliness epidemic and interest in travel continue to spike.

They're sold out for the next two years already.

Sue Jacobs, 59, of Huntington, can't wait to return to Château next month.

"It's magic, absolute magic, from the first second until the last, when you're just sobbing that you have to leave," she told *The Post*.

She attended the French outpost in Bédier, France, last summer with her daughter Shelby, 30, and relished every moment, whether it be horseback riding, picking plums off the fruit trees to eat by the pool or playing games with strangers.

"It's whatever you want it to be. It can be everything. It can be nothing. The whole point of camp is the exploration of not just things you've never done before, but you just have time with yourself. And how often do you get that?" she said.

Jacobs' daughter Shelby couldn't fit camp into her summer sched-

**A NEW WAVE:** Adult summer camps are a great way to escape and make friends, says Maddie Martino (above) with her pals from Camp Social in the Poconos.



ule this year but calls her time there "one of the best things that I've ever done."

Camp Château was created by Philippa Girling, 59, who hoped it would be a safe space for women to slow down and reconnect with themselves.

"Women and minorities spend most of their working life putting on masks and trying to behave in a way in which they can be heard and respected and they can advance," Girling told *The Post*. "[It] is frankly exhausting."

## Friendships made

Camp Social skews a bit younger and offers a bit more of a classic summer camp experience — like

wooden cabins and tug-of-war games — but with the intention of creating a fun, freeing space for women.

Founder Liv Schreiber, 27, said she started Camp Social last summer to let women "connect to their childhood selves again" and spend a weekend enjoying themselves however they please.

"No two girls' experience is the same. Some girls are going to have a high-intensity, high-energy, wild, do everything, play pickle ball, play tennis, climb the rock wall kind of weekend, and some girls are going to choose to do yoga, meditation or acupuncture," Schreiber said.

She explained that the weekend-long experience allows women to

make deep connections quickly.

"Of course, we have s'mores and all the good camp things," Schreiber said. "But what makes it special are those moments that are unplanned in between these activities. It's those moments of connection."

Maddie Martino, 27, and the women she met at Camp Social have traveled the country visiting each other and rented a lake house in Alabama together this summer.

"Everyone was there to make friends, so we had the same goal," she said.

The women bonded over what books they were reading, their favorite hobbies and "running around like absolute maniacs."



**CAITLIN SINCLAIR**  
Not welcome in Zero Bond.

## Club boot for LGBT

## Insta post

This place has zero tolerance.

A conservative journalist said she was "blindsided" when a posh members-only nightlife spot in Noho frequented by Mayor Adams booted her for a Father's Day post about gender on social media.

"They literally said, 'We're kicking you out because of your politics,'" Caitlin Sinclair said of the celeb-packed Zero Bond, where the likes of Taylor Swift, Kim Kardashian, Pete Davidson and Tom Brady have partied.

The "heartbroken" 28-year-old said the club unceremoniously dumped her days after she put up an Instagram message wishing her 28,000 followers a "Happy Father's Day" while holding a sign reading, "You are here because your dad's not queer." *Doree Lewak*

## Beauty guru dead at 36

A Tunisian beauty influencer died after suffering a suspected heart attack aboard a yacht in Malta, according to local reports.

Farah El Kadhi, 36, who amassed more than 1 million followers on Instagram, died Monday at the Mater Dei Hospital at around 6:30 a.m., the *Times of Malta* reports.

Fellow influencer and close friend Soulayma Hneynia confirmed Kadhi's death, stating in an Instagram story that her friend died "peacefully in her sleep."

Hneynia described the popular Tunisian influencer as a "truly wonderful person." *Ronny Reyes*



# Budget up in the air

Buckle up for turbulence! Budget negotiations remain fraught with tensions between Mayor Adams and City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams — despite Hiz-zoner confidently crowing they'll land the proverbial plane before a July 1 deadline.

Speaker Adams, no relation to the mayor, remained coy during a meeting Tuesday about where negotiations had reached but maintained the council is “committed to restoring cuts” to a laundry list of agencies.

She then committed to a dizzying array of aeronautical metaphors that hinted talks have stalled over the mayor's proposed \$11.6 billion budget for next year.

“We have banked left. We're in a holding pattern. We're circling the airport and if possible, there will be a diversion,” she quipped.

New York City won't face a full-blown catastrophe if budget talks crash and the city burns past the July 1 deadline. The city will revert to the mayor's most recent proposed budget until a new deal for fiscal year 2025 can be struck. *Aneeta Bhole and Matt Troutman*

# Rae's along for the ride



Addison Rae is the ultimate backseat driver in Interview Magazine. The TikTok sensation, 23, says of following in the footsteps of her idols — Madonna, Barbra Streisand, Britney Spears, Rihanna — and refusing to rule out any career move: “I love a girl that does it all with no filter, it's just ingrained in me. . . . I want to do everything at least twice.”

# FEMALE DRAFT JEER

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
and STEVE JANOSKI

## Senate conscript plan ripped

Senate Democrats are mulling a proposal that would force women to sign up for the military draft for the first time.

But the proposed policy — introduced by Democrats as part of the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act that last week cleared a key Senate committee — has raised hackles among members of the far-right, even though the action has a slim chance of becoming law.

Sen. Josh Hawley, a Missouri Republican, derided the measure to put women on equal footing as another “woke” decision being made on behalf of the nation's military.

“We need to get reality back in check here,” Hawley told Fox

News. “There shouldn't be women in the draft. They shouldn't be forced to serve if they don't want to.”

But Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, along with more moderate Republicans — such as Maine Sen. Susan Collins and Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska — have backed the bill, with Collins noting that the change “seems logical,” according to The New York Times.

Currently, the law says that nearly all men ages 18 to 25 must register with Selective Service, the agency that maintains the draft databases.

Most states automatically register those eligible when they get

their driver's license or apply to college — a move that has buoyed the program's compliance rate and put more than 15 million men on the rosters.

Of those, just under 85% are actually eligible to serve.

### ‘In the national interest’

Refusing to register for the draft comes with significant consequences — including a felony charge that could lead to a hefty fine and a five-year prison sentence, according to the Selective Service System website.

“Unless a man provides proof that he is exempt from the registration requirement, his failure to

register will result in referral to the Department of Justice for possible investigation and prosecution,” the site said.

Despite the number of registered men, the rate at which they actually volunteer for the military has fallen ever further, according to the Defense Department, as less than 1% of American adults serve in active duty combat roles.

Women have been allowed to serve in every part of the military, including combat roles, since 2016. That change essentially made moot a 1981 Supreme Court decision that found that banning women from forced service was OK, as the draft was

meant to help the military fill combat roles — something women would not be able to do for another 35 years.

Since the introduction of women in combat roles, there has been a steady debate in Congress on the issue. Military experts have repeatedly testified that registering women for the draft would be “in the national security interest of the United States.”

But lawmakers have abandoned such plans each and every time. Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) said he'll try to nix the proposal.

“I don't think this is the time to get into a debate on the floor of either house about that,” he said. “We're not anywhere near implementing a draft, and to me, it's a distraction when we need to be talking about real issues that are immediate.”



# Shocking! Santos lied to us

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## Plainly not Jayne

THE French are pioneering guerrilla copy editing it appears. The storied Riviera town of Cannes, France — home of the world's most famous film festival, and the annual Cannes Lions advertising confab — likes to celebrate its connection to Hollywood by plastering giant portraits of Tinseltown greats from Tony Curtis to **Sophia Loren** to **Leonardo DiCaprio** up and down its famous beachfront drag, La Croisette. One of the current huge posters right by the Palais — HQ of the Cannes Film Festival — is of Jayne Mansfield. Actually, it's not. Someone has scribbled out that name in Sharpie and (correctly) written under it "Diana Dors." Palme d'Oh!



## That's ring No. 2

**COURTNEY Stodden** (above) is engaged again — days after making headlines for flushing her previous ring down the toilet. **Jared Safer** proposed to the model and reality TV star June 11 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, sources told TMZ. The Emmy-winning producer, 41, reportedly popped the question to Stodden, 29, at the hotel bar. They began dating last summer, after she called off a two-year engagement to **Chris Sheng**. Last week she said she'd tossed Sheng's ring in the john.

WOULD you believe it? Lying ex pol **George Santos** even lied to Page Six about starting an OnlyFans page!

In May, the disgraced ex-lawmaker joked in a podcast interview that folks could find out about his private life by checking out his OnlyFans page when it launched. It wasn't clear if he was kidding — so we asked him if he really planned to start an account on the racy site.

But Santos shuddered at the mere suggestion he'd ever deign to join OnlyFans — and even threatened to sue us if we reported it!

Said Santos: "Have you no ability to sense humor and sarcasm? Please tell me if you re-

ally think I'm going to go do porn on OnlyFans — serious question."

He then slammed The Post, saying, "Geez the NY Post is a thirsty sad tabloid!" before adding, "Write that headline and I assure you I'll sue you guys for libel and defamation at this point."

Page Six replied, "George, as you are perhaps aware, humor and sarcasm aren't the only reasons to doubt that what you say is in earnest. It is wise to double check, don't you think? In point of fact, [we] didn't suggest you were going to do *porn* on OnlyFans."

We added for good measure: "Still, to answer your question: [We] have no reason to doubt

that you will do porn on OnlyFans, except perhaps a vague grasp of Smithian market forces."

Santos fired back: "Let's do this . . . you go write your fable and have fun. I'll watch from afar as you dig deep into your wildest dreams and imagination of what you think I'm doing with my life."

To which we replied: "Surely even you recognize the absurdity of you accusing [us] of making up fables. It'll be difficult for you to grasp, I imagine, but we actually don't find stories to be valuable if they're not true — which is why [we] asked you in the first place."

Yesterday, Santos said he's starting an OnlyFans page. There is no indication he's doing porn.



Alexandra Daddario (left) and Brie Larson are twinsies as they flank John David Washington at the Filming Italy festival in Cagliari, Italy.

Daniele Venturini/Getty Images

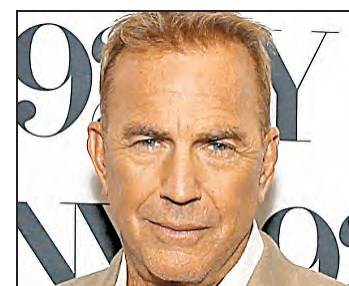
## Music mayhem in Hamps

SOUTHAMPTON is bracing for this weekend's techno blowout — the Palm Tree Music Festival — with cops and hotels sending out frantic alerts warning of noise and traffic. The EDM fest founded by top DJ and producer **Kygo** was set to go down at Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach for the fourth year. But Page Six exclusively reported that the FAA rejected the fest's permit, and it moved to Shinnecock Indian Nation land. Village police sent out an alert posted via Instagram that: "If you live in the vicinity of the Shinnecock Nation, you will hear the music." The message bolded "will" for emphasis. The alert also informed residents that if they call the cops for "loud music in the area and it is determined the music is coming" from the fest, "no action can be taken as it is not under our jurisdiction." The message also warned of "heavy traffic conditions . . . It will be gridlocked." Local hotels were also sending out warnings. An email titled: "An Important Message Regarding Your Weekend Stay With Us" was sent to those booked at the charming Southampton Inn. "Operations will not be affected by this, however please expect an increase in traffic." Past attendees at the fest have included Barstool Sports founder **Dave Portnoy**, Sports Illustrated model **Camille Kostek**, "We Wore What" designer **Danielle Bernstein**, influencer **Melissa Wood Tepperberg** and **Sophia Culpo**.

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## Walk the plank

SPEAKING of summer quotes, **Travis Scott** allegedly explained when he was questioned by cops on whether he'd been drinking early yesterday, "It's Miami." The rapper was arrested on charges including disorderly intoxication after an alleged incident at a boat bash. Local TV station WSVN reported that Scott had been on a charter in the Miami Beach Marina when its owner called police and requested the star leave the vessel. A police rep told the outlet, "He was drunk, causing a disturbance and asked to leave multiple times." But an insider told Page Six the charges were overblown. The owner of the boat was not pressing charges, WSVN said. Scott was released on \$650 bail. A source said, "There was no physical altercation with anyone. This was a rowdy party, and Travis was already bailed out for a few hundred dollars."



## Di's royal crush

**KEVIN Costner** (above) learned the late Princess Diana "kind of" had a crush on him through her son Prince **William**. The star met Diana to discuss possibly co-starring in a never-made sequel of his 1992 film "The Bodyguard." "About 15 years later . . . I ultimately had a very sweet conversation with Prince William," Costner told People. The royal told Costner, "You know, my mom kind of fancied you."



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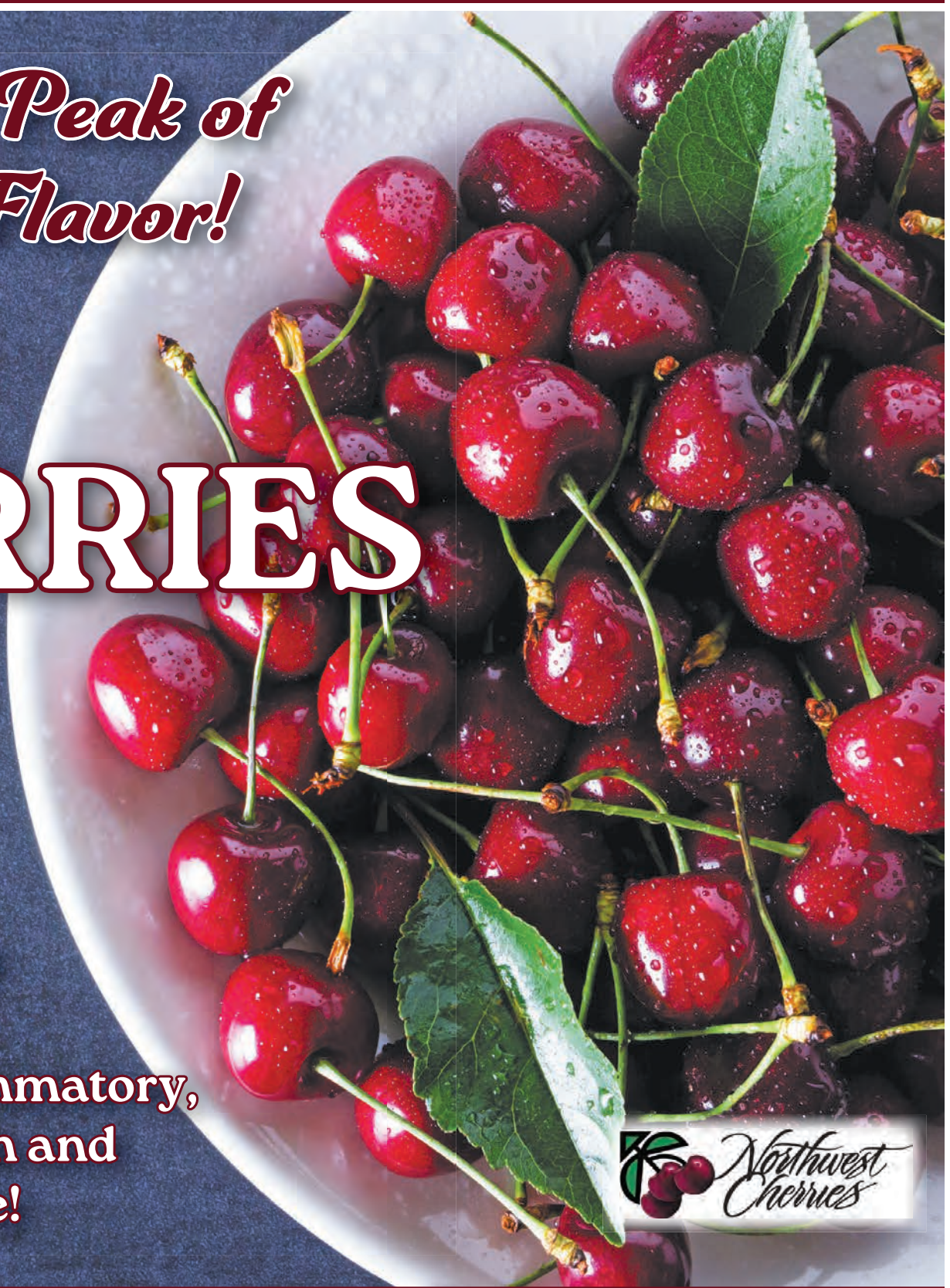
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# Bribery raps on jail staff

A crew of Westchester County jail employees, including current and former correction officers, were arraigned on bribery charges in long-running smuggling scams, prosecutors said Thursday.

Two jail guards, a former correction officer and two jailhouse commissary workers are charged with pocketing thousands of dollars in recent years to sneak marijuana and other contraband to inmates, Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah said in a press release.

"These defendants put their own interests above the safety of incarcerated individuals, employees, civilians and other corrections officers," Rocah said.

The Post first reported on the bribery scheme earlier this month.

According to new details released by prosecutors, the scam dated to late 2021, with inmates' pals greasing the jail workers' palms with hefty payoffs to sneak banned items to prisoners.

Investigators reviewed hours of visiting-room surveillance footage and examined dozens of texts and phone conversations between the workers and the prisoners' associates, the DA's Office said.

Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

# Southwest in OKC flyby

A Southwest Airlines commercial plane inexplicably dived while landing in Oklahoma City, flying less than 500 feet over a residential neighborhood.

The dangerously low flight of Southwest Airlines flight 4069 from Las Vegas was recorded by transponders and caught the notice of air traffic controllers.

"Southwest 4069, low altitude alert," an air traffic controller warned. "You good out there?"

The jet landed safely after it regained altitude.

"It woke me up and I thought it was gonna hit my house," one person wrote in a local Facebook group.

David Properger

# First airports, now retail, medical, concerts

## A 'CLEAR' BOOST FOR 'ID' TECH



**'EYE' ON FASTER CHECK-IN:** Clear technology uses biometrics, like iris or face scans and fingerprint checks, to speed airport travelers.



This story is part of NYNext, a new editorial series that highlights New York City innovation across industries, as well as the personalities leading the way.

**C**LEAR is designed to help customers breeze through airport security check-in by skipping to the front of the line.

But the technology company is now betting on far wider applications at retail stores, online and even in the health-care world.

"It never made sense to me that you are pulling cards out of your wallet to show who you are and what you have access to, when biometrics can do that more easily," Clear CEO Caryn Seidman Becker told The Post.

The Manhattan-based company operates kiosks at 57 airports globally — in Germany, Italy, England and Canada, as well as the US — where customers bypass the usual driver's license or passport check and opt in to having their iris or fingerprint scanned.

Membership costs \$189 annually and is offered as a perk with several credit cards.

It also has a presence at 15 stadiums and arenas across the country, including Yankee Stadium,

Barclays Center and Madison Square Garden.

At SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles County, for instance, members can quickly gain entry next month to see the Rolling Stones without having to show their physical tickets.

Clear began in 2003 as a digital identity start-up but filed for bankruptcy after its co-founders left six years later. Seidman Becker and Ken Connick, now president and CFO, bought and relaunched it as a biometrics company in 2012.

## Receptive customers

Seidman Becker (inset below) said it was easiest to introduce the technology in a setting like airports, where travelers already expect security screening.

"Travel was the obvious place to start, especially in a post 9/11 environment ... it's where customer



**LYDIA MOYNIHAN**

experience, security and identity collide," the CEO said.

The expedited security program has already brokered partnerships with companies like LinkedIn, so customers can snap a selfie to verify their identity instantly — a process that typically takes closer to a week with other social media platforms. Similar partnerships exist with the retail brokerage Public and on-line health portal Well Star.

In the future, Clear's technology will be used at the doctor's office: A camera can scan your face and retrieve saved medical data. The

company has already created the technology, a source said, and is now focused on applying it in as many ways as it can.

"Think about the clipboard in health care ... you're filling out the same information every time to prove who you are in your electronic medical record," Seidman Becker said.

The company is also working on bringing the technology to retail stores as a way to prevent fraud and make the shopping experience faster.

"At drugstores you could use your face which generates a QR code to unlock a glass door where you could get Tylenol as opposed to calling for an associate," Seidman Becker said, adding that they plan to announce a retail partner later this year.

Even as the CEO envisions a future in which biometric technology will be ubiquitous, the company has faced challenges in its core business.

Seidman Becker acknowledged that Clear's customer satisfaction at airports dipped in 2023 as more than 17 million people signed up for the service, overwhelming the existing agents and processes.

At its best, Clear ambassadors greet you as you approach airport security, help scan your retina or fingerprint at one of the company's kiosks, and escort you directly to a TSA agent, skipping all other lines and the need to show ID.

But customers have complained about frequently hav-

ing to show identification.

Seidman Becker said those issues have been resolved to make the customer experience frictionless moving forward. Up next: technology that will scan clients' faces as they step onto the security line, removing the need to stop for a fingerprint or retina scan.

## Improving verification

"We are moving to face-first technology so you won't break stride when going through," Seidman Becker said. "IDs are staying in pockets and our systems our faster."

And the company believes that expansion beyond airports and entertainment venues will also make it relevant as airlines such as Delta introduce digital IDs that allow customers to zip through security.

Said Seidman Becker: "There will be a million more people coming through airports in 2030, so we've got to launch this innovation."



Emmy Park



Sally Brompton

Daily Horoscope

GEMINI  
(May 22-June 21)

Mercury's link to Mars today will energize your thoughts and encourage you to experiment with new ways to get on in the world. Be warned, however, that any changes you choose to make now will be extremely hard to reverse later on.

CANCER  
(June 22-July 23)

Your confidence should be sky-high now and today's Mars-Mercury link will bring news that takes it even higher. You are more than a match for your rivals on every level, so move ahead with your plans and don't stop before they are successfully completed.

LEO  
(July 24-Aug. 23)

You will have plenty to say for yourself today but there is a danger you could say too much when it comes to discussing your long-term plans. The less others know about your ambitions the better, especially if your gain

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could be their loss.

VIRGO  
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

This is a good time to take the initiative in group and social activities as you are in one of those moods when you project the kind of can-do attitude that others respond to. Act as if you can make a difference in your neighborhood - and you will.

LIBRA  
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

It may be tempting to hide away from the world so you can avoid the kind of people who rub you up the wrong way but you should in fact do the opposite. Seek out those you disagree with and use your intellectual powers to prove them wrong.

SCORPIO  
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Cosmic activity in your fellow

Water sign of Cancer means there is nothing you cannot do and nothing you cannot possess. With that fact in mind you are urged to get out and about and strike the kind of sparks that can ignite much-needed changes.

SAGITTARIUS  
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Take a look in the mirror and ask your reflection if you are living to your full potential. If the answer is "No" then now is the time to get serious and do something about it. If the answer is "Yes" then you need to stop kidding yourself!

CAPRICORN  
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

If you do things because you think it is expected of you over the next 24 hours you won't be happy and others won't be happy with you either. Be selfish for a change and only do those things

that will benefit you in some way.

AQUARIUS  
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

The harder you work the less progress you seem to make, so maybe you should take the hint and ease off the gas for a while. Then ask yourself, honestly, if what you have been devoting so many hours to is what you really want to be doing.

PISCES  
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Today's Mars-Mercury link means you must banish all thoughts of failure and press ahead with a dream that others say can never come true - because they are wrong. There is precious little you cannot accomplish now if you put your mind to it.

ARIES  
(March 21-April 20)

If someone you have to deal with socially or professionally gets on your nerves today just turn your back on them and walk away. You are under no obligation to hang around and listen to their constant whining about how they are so hard done by.

TAURUS  
(April 21-May 21)

Your main priority now must be to get rid of all the hangers-on you seem to have accumulated in recent weeks. You don't exist for their benefit and any minor advantages they may bring you are far outweighed by what you have to do for them.

BIRTHDAY FRIDAY

Someone you meet on your travels will open your eyes to new possibilities and you will be amazed to discover how much more is possible once you allow your horizons to be stretched. Leave the old world behind this year and create a new one more to your liking.

Post Weather Report

Friday

**Today:**  
Near-record heat; a p.m. t-storm. High 91 to 97.  
**Tonight:** Humid; a t-storm around early. Low 71 to 77.

Saturday

**Tomorrow:**  
Humid; a t-storm around in the afternoon. High 86 to 92.  
**Tomorrow night:** Humid; a t-storm around early. Low 72 to 78.

Sunday

**Evening**  
Increasing clouds. Low 72 to 78.

Monday

**Evening**  
Clear. Low 66 to 72.

**Almanac**

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

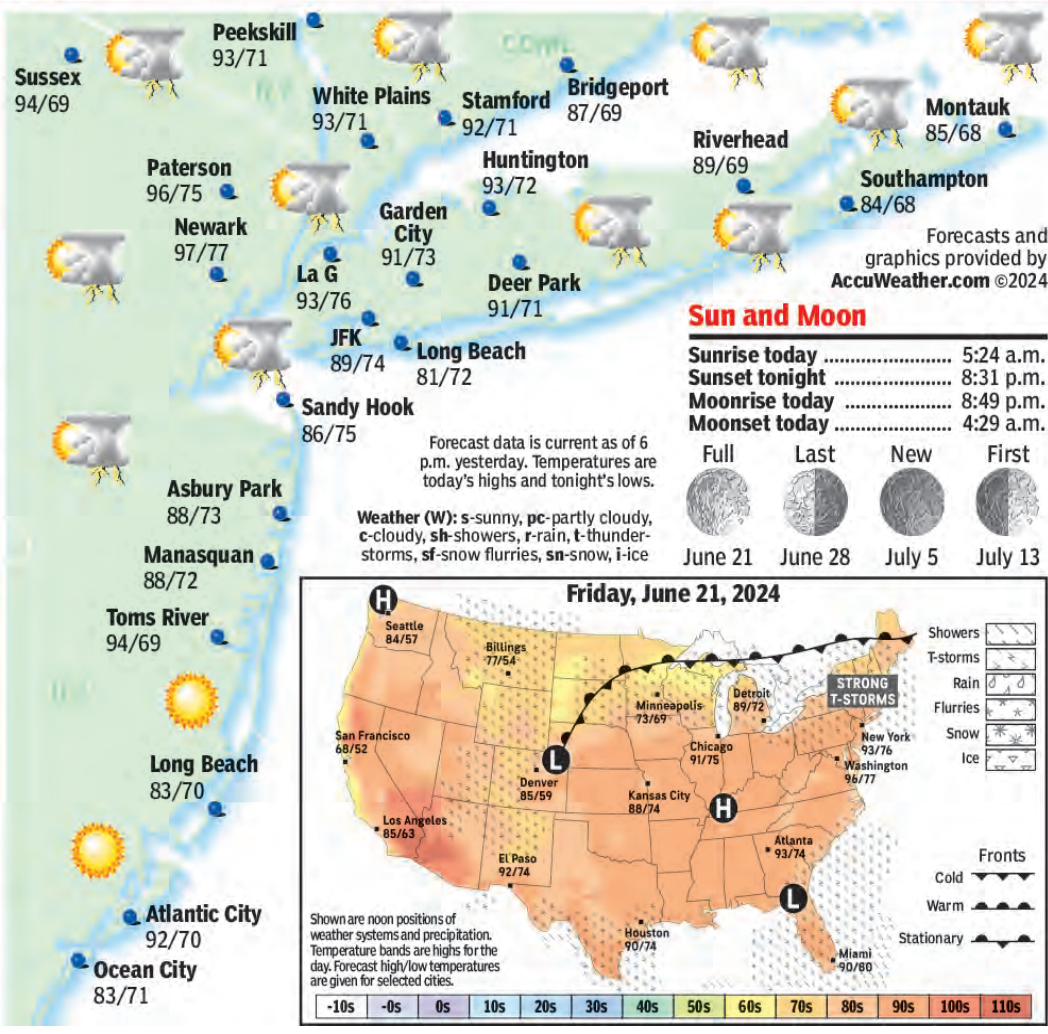
**Temperature**  
High: 91, Low: 72, Mean: 82

**Departure from Normal**  
Yesterday: +8 degrees

**Precipitation**  
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 1.05", Year: 25.02", Normal year to date: 22.51"

**Cooling Degree days yesterday**.....17  
**Total for the month (normal)**.....172 (126)  
**Total since Jan. 1 (normal)**.....281 (207)  
**Last year to date**.....178  
**Heat Index** (at noon yest.) ..... 91  
**UV index** (for Fri.) ..... 11 (Extreme)  
**Humidity** (at noon)..... 46%

**AIR QUALITY**  
**Pollen:** Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds, Grasses  
**AQI rating:** (for Fri.).....Moderate



New York Tides		TODAY		TOMORROW	
		1st	2nd	1st	2nd
High Tide for		7:56a	8:08p	8:40a	8:51p
Coney Island		7:50a	8:25p	8:37a	9:10p
Fire Island		11:43a	11:42p	12:22p	---
Hempstead		11:44a	11:49p	12:26p	---
Huntington		7:40a	7:52p	8:24a	8:35p
Jones Inlet		9:15a	9:29p	9:58a	10:13p
Montauk Point		11:43a	11:40p	12:21p	---
Port Washington		8:00a	8:12p	8:44a	8:55p
Sandy Hook					

Regional cities		TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany		90/71/t	84/70/t
Danbury		93/69/t	91/71/t
Glens Falls		82/66/t	78/64/t
Gr Barrington		89/68/t	86/67/t
Kingston		89/71/t	90/71/t
Liberty		86/65/t	87/65/t
Monticello		87/66/t	89/64/t
Newburgh		93/71/t	93/71/t
Poughkeepsie		92/71/t	93/69/t
Saratoga Springs		85/69/t	83/68/t
Stroudsburg		95/70/t	95/69/t
Torrington		91/67/t	89/67/t
Syracuse		87/72/t	87/77/t

World cities		TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens		96/79/s	96/74/s
Baghdad		118/86/pc	118/89/pc
Beijing		79/70/c	88/66/c
Berlin		83/63/t	74/56/pc
Cairo		99/80/s	100/81/s
Dublin		63/48/sh	69/54/c
Geneva		73/56/r	65/52/sh
Hong Kong		92/84/t	93/84/t
Jerusalem		90/69/s	87/67/s
Kabul		83/61/c	85/64/c
London		77/56/pc	74/55/sh
Madrid		82/59/s	87/63/pc
Mexico City		73/58/sh	71/58/r
Montreal		80/64/t	72/64/c
Moscow		70/56/pc	72/54/pc
Paris		73/57/r	70/52/sh
Rio de Janeiro		80/69/s	82/70/c
Rome		89/67/s	85/63/s
Sydney		62/49/s	58/53/sh
Tokyo		76/65/r	84/71/r



# Fani's bid to stay a 'Hail Mary'

xiaoxiangfusean/Instagram

Donald Trump's lawyers have called embattled Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis' attempt to dismiss Trump's appeal seeking to boot her from his Georgia election fraud case a "Hail Mary" and a "desperate bid to avoid disqualification."

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee and eight other co-defendants are asking Georgia's Court of Appeals to boot Willis for alleged misconduct after she admitted to having an affair with since-ousted special prosecutor Nathan Wade.

Last week, Willis' office asked for the appeal to be tossed out, arguing the issue of her and Wade's former romance is now moot since he was forced to resign on March 15.

But Trump's lawyer Steve Sadow fired back in court papers Thursday, calling Willis a "deeply conflicted District Attorney."

Fulton County Judge Scott McAfee — who allowed Willis to remain on the case on the condition that Wade step down — and the appeals court both granted Trump the right to appeal before the start of trial because they "have already determined these issues are critical," Sadow wrote.

Priscilla DeGregory

## Ousted beau: I did my job

Ousted former Trump prosecutor Nathan Wade opened up about his controversial sexual relationship with Fulton County, Ga., District Attorney Fani Willis — insisting in a cringeworthy interview that "I did my job."

"DA Willis is a respectable mother, a brilliant legal mind. We spent countless hours preparing this case, investigating this case," Wade told a fictional Borat-style host named Quon on "The Daily Show" Tuesday.

When Quon joked that all their time together led to "boom boom, we up on this desk," Wade disagreed.

"No. Not even close," he said.  
Emily Crane

# Crook nabs tips from famed busker



**PL'UNDER':** This man was caught on video grabbing cash from the tip bucket of Natalia "Saw Lady" Paruz as the MTA-sanctioned subway performer played at the Union Square station Tuesday.

# WORST SHE EVER 'SAW'

By MATT TROUTMAN

A famed subway performer who has been playing the musical saw underground for more than two decades says she's been feeling bad vibrations about her safety — even before a hooligan brazenly stole cash from her tip bucket in the Union Square station this week.

Bystander video shows Natalia "Saw Lady" Paruz wield her bow — normally used to coax otherworldly sounds from her instrument — against a shoeless man as he shamelessly grabbed a handful of her hard-earned tips Tuesday.

The tattooed brigand then ran off toward the station's turnstiles.

It's the latest threatening incident Paruz has experienced in recent

months, she exclusively told The Post — despite a surge of National Guard and cops in the subways.

"When that actually happened, that was fantastic," she said. "But that didn't last. It was a great initiative, but it doesn't replace the need for local police officers to actually man the police stations. 'I've never felt menaced before. This is a new thing.'"

For 25 years, the self-styled Saw Lady has been delighting strap-hangers as one of 350 sanctioned performers in the MTA's Music Under New York program. She has also performed in orchestras and for films and provided the chilling music to Robert Durst's murder confession in HBO's "The Jinx."

But Paruz said the subways have

felt increasingly unsafe since performers returned in 2021, after a COVID-driven 14-month hiatus.

Run-ins with menacing weirdos — including a bucket drummer who threatened to beat her up and destroy her equipment — recently forced her to stop playing at the Times Square station altogether.

## 'What is the point?'

"It's a concern because I don't want the Union Square subway station to deteriorate like Times Square," she said.

Paruz said she brushed it off when a man stole a CD from her this week in Union Square but that Tuesday's robbery shook her.

She fears that even if the thief is

caught, he'll be cut loose without bail like the woman who whacked subway cellist Iain Forrest, a friend of hers, over the head with a metal water bottle in February.

"What is the point in police catching criminals if there's no deterrent?" Paruz said.

The NYPD confirmed that Paruz made a complaint about the theft, which police sources said was for \$2. Paruz said that's the amount of cash she puts in her tip bucket before performing and she doesn't know how much the thief grabbed.

Transit crime citywide is down 5.5% so far this year compared with last year, NYPD data shows. This week, it's up nearly 18% from the same week last year.

Additional reporting by Joe Marino

# Outraged over Apple gun carnage

New Yorkers whose lives have been shattered by gun violence are speaking out about the recent jump in shootings — and wondering how many more moms will have to mourn.

"Mothers should not have to be burying their young ones, especially

when you are sending your children out to play in the park, you are sending them to places where they should be enjoying life," said Melissa Alexander, whose 9-year-old daughter was wounded by a stray bullet in a park across from her home.

"Unfortunately these kids are being injured and losing their lives at a young age," said Alexander, 36. "They didn't ask for that."

Althea Lawson, 34, who was sitting in her walker near her Brooklyn home when she was hit by a stray bullet earlier this month,

said she's now afraid to leave home.

"I'm scared to walk in the area," Lawson said Thursday. "You have to look over your shoulders to see what's happening."

The Post previously reported that shootings in the city spiked by a whop-

ping 50% last week compared to the same period last year — with the number of victims jumping by an even wider number. And that's just an uptick in what has already been a violent month. Zoe Hussain,

Georgett Roberts and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon



# Spy threat as Beijing gains ground



By MARY JACOB

China has been buying up strategically placed farmland next to military installations across the US, raising national security fears over potential espionage or even sabotage.

The Post has identified 19 bases across the US from Florida to Hawaii that are in close proximity to land bought up by Chinese entities and could be exploited by spies working for the communist nation.

They include some of the military's most strategically important bases: Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg) in Fayetteville, NC; Fort Cavazos (formerly Fort Hood) in Killeen, Texas; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in San Diego; and MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

"It is concerning due to the proximity to strategic locations," Robert S. Spalding III, a retired Air Force brigadier general whose work focuses on US-China relations, told The Post.

"These locations can be used to set up intelligence collection sites

and the owners can be influential in local politics as we have seen in the past," he added.

"It is alarming we do not have laws on the books that would prevent the Chinese from buying property in the US."

## 'Drone' on the range

Under the guise of farming, the Chinese landowners could set up reconnaissance sights, install tracking technology, use radar and infrared scanning to view bases or attempt to fly surveillance drones over the military sites, sources told The Post.

A report in The Wall Street Journal from September found Chinese intruders attempted to breach military facilities more than 100 times in recent years, including by sneaking onto a missile range in New Mexico and by using scuba divers spotted near a rocket-launch site in Florida.

The threat the Chinese government poses to America is huge, with the FBI labeling it a "grave threat" and Director Christopher Wray saying in April that hackers

have made their way into US critical infrastructure and are waiting "for just the right moment to deal a devastating blow" and "physically wreak havoc."

The Department of Homeland Security has also warned of the threat of Chinese spies slipping over the southern US border, among the more than 30,000 Chinese nationals who have already been admitted since October.

Those spies will likely "employ economic espionage" and "seek to illicitly acquire our technologies and intellectual property," according to DHS' Homeland Threat Assessment 2024.

Morgan Lerette, a former contractor for private military contractor Blackwater, is sounding the alarm.

"The Chinese are, or will, use this farmland to learn more about US military capabilities, movements, and technology," Lerette told The Post.

"This will allow them to better understand how to transition their military from a defensive strategy to an expeditionary one," he said, adding they'll figure out "how to



Getty Images

**TURF WAR:** Soldiers arrive at Fort Cavazos (formerly Fort Hood) in Killeen, Texas, one of 19 bases where Chinese entities own nearby land.

move forces quickly for conflicts such as taking Taiwan and how and when US forces would respond to their incursions based on troop movement at these bases."

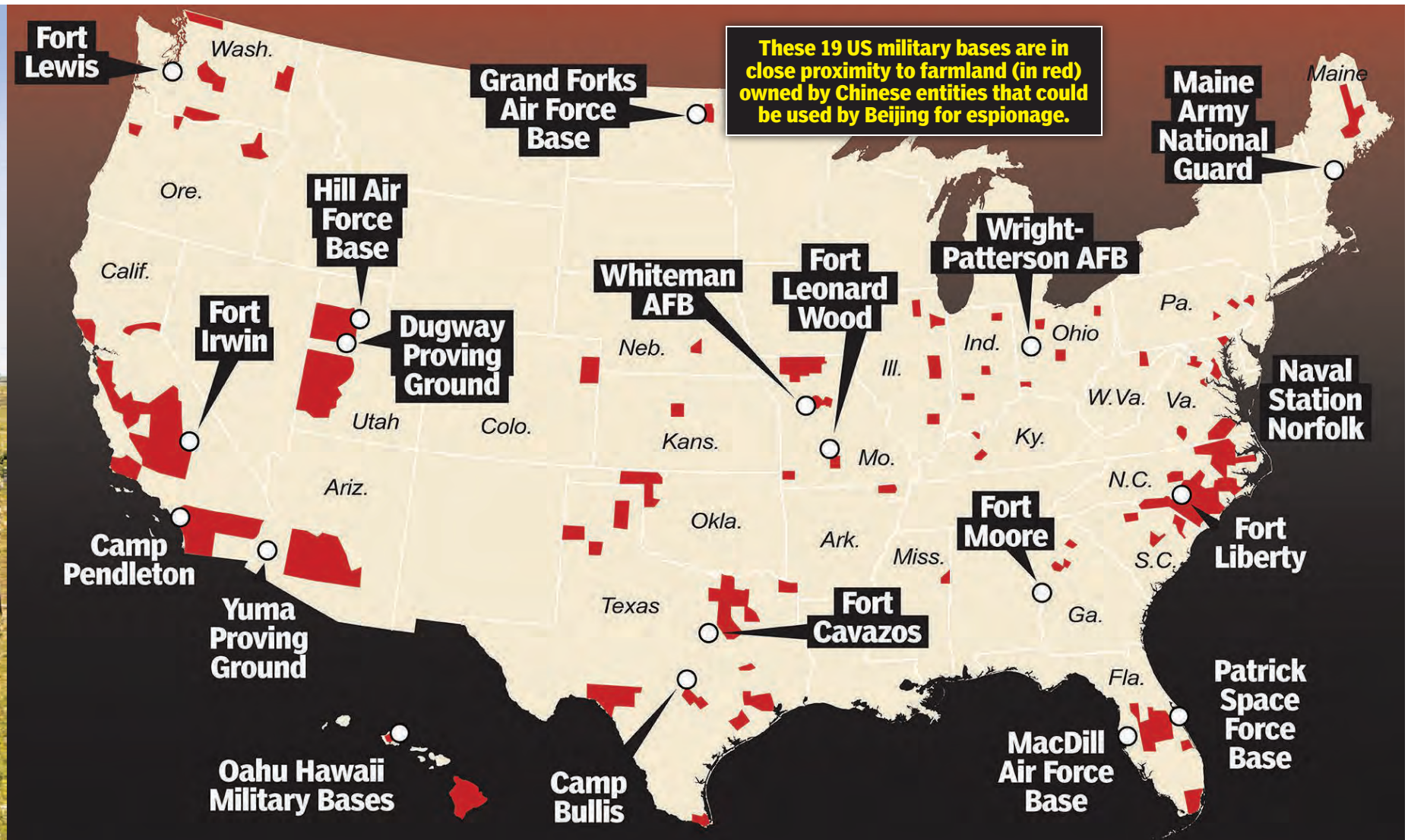
He believes China will be watching troop movements into and out of bases in an attempt to form an idea of the patterns of behavior and movements.

"It would allow the Chinese to research what is moving and how to combat it. It's easy to identify mobilization if you know what to look for," Lerette said.

He cited specific examples: "Listening to GIs at a bar talking... Local storage units being rented out near a base is an indicator troops are leaving."



# in farmland grab near military sites



“A train carrying tanks, Strykers [armored fighting vehicles], and [Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles], followed by an increased number of cargo planes landing and leaving a joint base like Lewis-McChord in Washington state, would indicate when US forces are moving,” all of which is invaluable military knowledge.

## Battle field

According to the latest analysis from the Farm Service Agency of the USDA, Chinese investors owned 349,442 acres of US farmland as of December 31, 2022.

One of the biggest investors in Texas is secretive billionaire Sun Guangxin, who has deep ties to the Chinese Communist Party and spent an estimated \$110 million buying up land next to Laughlin Air Force Base in Val Verde County, a training ground for military pilots.

Although no overt evidence of spying by Guangxin’s companies, which use the land as a wind farm, has emerged, the state’s Republicans have been raising the alarm.

Sen. Ted Cruz told Forbes in 2021: “The Chinese Communist Party has demonstrated time and again they’re willing to invest billions of dollars to expand their espionage capabilities and their global reach, including through land purchase schemes near military bases.”

Fufeng Group, a Shandong, China-based company that specializes in flavor enhancers and sugar substitutes, purchased 300 acres of farmland 40 miles from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., in 2022.

Billionaire and CCP member Chen Tianqiao is the second-largest foreign owner of farmland in the US. He bought nearly 200,000 acres of farmland in Oregon in 2015 at about \$430 an acre, according to The Land Report.

However, his purchase of the acreage did not appear in government records of land ownership by foreign investors when it was first revealed in January, according to The Daily Caller.

Chinese holdings total under 1% of foreign-owned agricultural land in the US, reports NBC, but it’s the proximity to critical military in-

stallations that raises concerns, critics have charged.

Fort Liberty in North Carolina, for example, is surrounded by Chinese-owned farmland within a 30-mile radius.

## ‘Gate-crashers’

In a move acknowledging these security risks, a Chinese-backed cryptocurrency mining firm was barred from owning land in Wyoming in May by the Biden administration.

MineOne Partners, a firm partly backed by Chinese nationals, was told to move equipment from less than one mile from F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, saying it was a “national security risk,” according to the Air Force Times.

Potential espionage attempts by Chinese operatives have prompted the Defense Department, FBI and other agencies to heighten their investigations on “gate-crashers” attempting to breach US military installations.

According to the September Wall Street Journal report, the in-

cidents largely appear designed to test security practices, officials explained.

US-China tensions also spiked early last year after a Chinese surveillance balloon flew over the mainland.

The FBI has previously warned: “The Chinese government is engaged in a broad, diverse campaign of theft and malign influence without regard to laws or international norms that the FBI will not tolerate.”

At Fort Wainwright, Alaska, home to the Army’s 11th Airborne Division, a group of Chinese nationals attempted to push past guards, claiming they had hotel reservations on base.

In New Mexico, officials reported repeated cases of Chinese nationals taking pictures at a US Army range after straying from nearby White Sands National Park, according to the Journal.

Chinese nationals have also used drones to enhance their surveillance efforts.

Key West, Fla., has seen repeated incidents at an intelligence center, where Chinese “tourists”

were found swimming near the military facility and snapping photos. In 2020, three Chinese citizens were sentenced to prison after illegally entering the naval air station there, either walking around the fence or driving in and ignoring orders to turn back, the Journal reported.

## Southern exposure

Meanwhile, the border has proven an even greater threat to America’s security.

By the end of the 2023 fiscal year on Sept. 30, Customs and Border Protection officials apprehended 24,048 Chinese citizens at the border with Mexico, the agency revealed. That number is more than 12 times the 1,970 arrests in the previous fiscal year.

“They are a communist dictatorship no different from the [Soviet Union], except they have been integrated into the global economic system,” said Spalding, the retired brigadier general.

“This makes them even more dangerous than the USSR because of their political influence.”



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# Milei's Miracle

## Argentina's new prez laps the Latin socialists

**S**OUTH America is doing the world a favor at the moment, but you have to tune in to reap the benefits. Just as South and North Korea and West and East Germany became perfect Cold War laboratory experiments contrasting the blessings of democracy and capitalism with the destructive drudgery of communism, the reformist government in Argentina and the Marxist-led ones in Colombia and Brazil are inviting us to compare and contrast.

Hint: You won't have to do much research to see which system is still the best.

Argentina's new free-market President Javier Milei is lapping Colombia's Gustavo Petro and Brazil's Inacio Lula da Silva in terms of economic achievement and the ability of people to live in freedom. Milei is also an ardent supporter of Israel's right to exist and defend itself — while the Marxists have sided with the Hamas terrorists who massacred 1,200 Jews on Oct. 7 and now hide behind Gaza's civilian population.

Of course, Argentines, Colombians and Brazilians are not

**MIKE GONZALEZ**

quite the same people, unlike the Germans and the Koreans. Yet the results so far among these close neighbors with Iberian roots show that free markets and freedom will beat central planning every day of the week.

So far Milei has achieved, well, the unachievable. Argentina — yes, the country that was until recently South America's economic basket case — now has a primary fiscal surplus, the first in more than a decade and a half.

March was the fourth straight month with more government revenues than non-interest spending: In other words Milei, who was inaugurated in December, has produced a government budget surplus every month since taking over.

This surplus is partly because Milei has also delivered on another of his promises: paring back Argentina's gargantuan state. He has halved the number of federal agencies, from 18 to nine, slashing public spending by up to 30%.

Best of all, Milei is also making



GIUSEPPE LAMIEL/PA-EFFE/Shutterstock

**Crazy like a fox: Javier Milei applied sound economic principles to boost Argentina's growth and flatten inflation in five months as president.**

inroads against Argentina's biggest bugbear for decades, inflation. Monthly inflation in May cooled for the fifth straight month — again, marking the entire Milei presidency so far — and now sits at 4.2%, compared to over 25% in December when Milei's term began.

Economists know that budget deficits lead to higher inflation. When the government pumps more and more money into an economy that is producing the same amount of goods and services, prices will rise.

Just don't tell Joe Biden that, as he doggedly denies that his spendthrift policies are the reason inflation re-ignited here during his term in office.

So Milei's results compare well even to North America, but how does Argentina today stack up against his South American neighbors? Colombia this year expects to have its largest fiscal deficit since the Marxist Gustavo Petro took office in August 2022. Petro is also pursuing former conservative president Alvaro Uribe in court — what self-respecting country does that? — and now seeks to scrap the national Constitution in order to write one that will make his radical agenda easier to implement.

In Brazil, meanwhile, the Lula government that took over in January 2023 produced the second-highest primary deficit in

the country's history last year, reversing the surplus produced in 2022 by conservative president Jair Bolsonaro. Just as in Colombia, Brazilian authorities are also criminally investigating Bolsonaro.

All of this explains, of course, why Petro and Lula have done all they can to undermine the Milei government. The Brazilian and Argentine leaders didn't even speak to each other while both were in Rome last week during the G-7 meeting, and Petro frequently shares anti-Milei posts on social media.

Polling shows that the new president remains popular with Argentines, especially among the young — in spite of a string of anti-Milei protests and riots, some organized with help from Brazilian sources.

Just as it was with the two Germanies and remains the case with the Koreas, the South American contrast between the two economic models couldn't be starker. As the Venezuelan-born Manhattan Institute fellow Daniel Di Martino posted on X recently, Milei is the greatest threat to left-wing tyrants in the region. "Milei's success will be the end [of] socialism in Latin America," wrote Di Martino.

We Americans should take heed.

*Mike Gonzalez is a senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation.*

## THE WEEK IN WHOPPERS

*A diary of disinformation and the delusional*

### THIS CHARGE

**An insidious trend in right-wing media . . . (is) to take highly misleading and selectively edited videos . . . to cast doubt on President Biden's fitness.**

— MSNBC's Nicole Wallace, Monday



**We say:** Biden apologists like Wallace sure know how to take their cues from the White House, which dismissed revealing videos of the president as "cheap fakes." Yet viewers could see with their own eyes Biden freezing up at a June-teenth concert and an LA fundraiser and wandering off at the G-7. And that dovetails with his rapid decline since taking office, clearly visible in his increasingly awkward gait and his slurred and confused speech. The only "cheap fakes" circulating are those put out by the White House and its army of media gaslighters.

### THIS ASSERTION

**We say: Biden can claim whatever support he wants for his latest illegal mass-amnesty actions. Yet polling from CBS News — hardly a right-wing, Biden-hating outlet — found that a whopping 62% of Americans are in favor of a national program to deport all illegal immigrants.**

**The steps I'm taking today are overwhelmingly supported by the American people.**

— President Biden, Tuesday

**I put my hand on her . . . And the lumps that were there were no longer there.**

— Rep. Cori Bush, in a recently surfaced 2022 interview

### THIS CLAIM

**We say:** Far-left Squad member Rep. Cori Bush has said some pretty wacky things, particularly when it comes to Israel and its war against Hamas terrorists. But her claims of having miraculously

healed people — which she wrote about in a little noticed 2022 autobiography and repeated in a PBS interview that year — truly take the cake. How can a woman like this serve in Congress?

### THIS BOAST

**We say:** Hmm. Until recently, President Biden claimed he lacked the power to take any action to end the border nightmare. Yet with the '24 election nearing and the border a key issue for voters, Biden announced new powers he suddenly discovered to let him limit the number of illegal migrants crossing. That, too, proved a charade, with thousands still hopping over daily. Now Mayorkas brags that Biden's latest mass amnesty is evidence of "leadership." Please: It clearly circumvents the constitutional requirement for Congress to pass such massive changes. It also shows the president's more worried about radical open-borders voters than the concerns of the rest of the country. *That's "leadership"?*

**We have taken action in the face of congressional inaction repeatedly. And that is what is called leadership.**

— DHS boss Alejandro Mayorkas, Tuesday, on Biden's mass-amnesty steps

— Compiled by the The Post Editorial Board



# The Famine That *Wasn't*

**G**aza's supposed famine *never happened*. It was never more than Hamas propaganda eagerly consumed by the left, the media and the clueless Biden team.

The chief UN food-insecurity agency announced this month that the analyses suggesting famine was on the way weren't "plausible" and lacked "supporting evidence."

It turns out that the numbers from the Famine Early Warning System (a USAID project) were garbage: They excluded all private-sector food deliveries and a big chunk of aid from the World Food Programme. That's how it "found" that less than half of Gaza's daily caloric needs being met, while the actual numbers indicate that as much as 157% were covered.

This doesn't mean that hunger is no issue at all, or that people don't have trouble getting enough to eat. But it does make blaming Israel's war on Hamas for causing famine just another of the many specious charges leveled against Israel — charges echoed in The New York Times and other pro-Hamas outlets.

Not that you'd know the famine threat is fake from the resounding silence in the media or among the self-appointed Twitter martyrs for the Palestinian cause. Where are the cheers and sighs of relief from the Times?

Of course, President Biden (and his min-

ions) also echoed the lie as he sought to show he "cares" in order to appease the "When Jews defend themselves it's genocide" crowd. Which raises the question of why the USAID-backed network cooked the books to suggest famine was coming.

Why did so many "news" organizations swallow it hook, line and sinker? Rank bias: An "honest mistake" by journalists eager to paint the Jewish state as monstrous, to buy propaganda slamming Israel's allegedly cruel restriction of food-aid entry into Gaza — when any blockage of food aid was thanks to theft by Hamas.

The Biden team's unseriousness and incompetence here is summed up by the emergency pier the prez demanded in his State of the Union speech, which took months to construct, almost instantly began to fall apart and is about to be decommissioned after managing to unload only a bare pittance of aid — all of it apparently seized by the terrorists.

So when the media's terror-lovers next begin to scream about some supposed Israeli atrocity (it won't be long), remember their utter silence about this tremendous piece of good news.

And understand that the shouters don't love Palestinians, they simply hate Jews.

# A Building City Housing Disaster

**N**ew York City's housing stock is set to grow more distressed after the Rent Guidelines Board just voted again to limit increases for a million rent-stabilized apartments to less than the inflation rate.

Lefties will still attack Mayor Adams because his RGB has OK'd *nominal* rent hikes for a third year in a row (this time, 2.75% for one-year leases and 5.25% for two-year ones).

But that's not remotely as much as landlords' costs have risen, and many (especially those whose buildings' units are mostly rent-controlled) have no fat left to cut.

Over the past decade, inflation has run 23% (by the board's own figures), while the RGB has only allowed rents to rise 14%.

In the short run, this *seems* great for tenants, but even in the medium term it means at least reduced maintenance and building services. Longer term, it forces honorable

landlords (which is still most of them) to sell to less-savory characters — or to let the whole building deteriorate, putting their non-regulated units at risk, too.

Presumably, City Hall is afraid of the short-term political heat as the mayor eyes his re-election bid next year.

The city's not as foolish about its own rising costs: It just OK'd a 9% hike in water rates — another hit on landlords, along with fast-rising property taxes, insurance costs and costly Local Law 97 climate mandates.

The rent laws have long squeezed Gotham's housing market, but this last decade amounts to an all-out war on private-sector affordable housing — when the city's public-housing agency is tens of billions in the hole.

As with every progressive crusade, the victims in the end are the very people the progs claim to be helping.

# David Soares for Albany DA

**I**n the race for Albany County District Attorney, The Post endorses incumbent DA **David Soares** as a voice of reason.

Twenty years ago, Soares, then a Soros-backed progressive, ran for district attorney as a reformer denouncing the tough Rockefeller drug laws that established mandatory minimum sentences for narcotics crimes.

In office, he's developed innovative alternatives to incarceration that have helped defendants while protecting public safety.

Today, Soares is under fire from progressives because he keeps telling the truth about how recent, ill-conceived "criminal justice reforms" (like no-bail and Raise the

Age) are disasters for the larger community, especially poor and minority communities, where they've "normalized" violence.

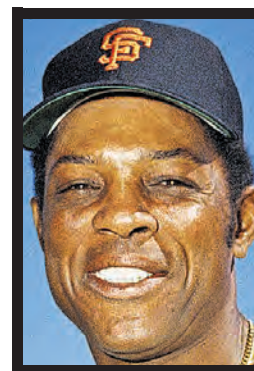
Defense attorney Lee Kindlon, the main challenger in the Democratic primary, wants more "reform" to ease up on those charged with rape and domestic violence.

Hyperprogressive DAs have wrought havoc in Philadelphia, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago. Albany County deserves a DA who cares about real justice for the accused — and for crime victims.

And the entire state needs Soares' voice in place, continuing to call out the truth. Don't let the progressive machine shut him up.

# One of the All-Time Greats: Farewell to Willie Mays

**THE ISSUE:** The passing of legendary San Francisco Giants center fielder Willie Mays.



**Willie Mays**

•Sadly, Willie Mays' family and the San Francisco Giants have confirmed Mays' death ("Say goodbye to the Kid," June 18).

He died right before Juneteenth, at the age of 93. Mays went home to heaven for the greatest Juneteenth celebration ever.

Rest in peace, our beloved baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays. This incredible center fielder made a major difference in sports and culture as one of the greatest baseball players of all time.

**Arthur L. Mackey Jr.**  
Roosevelt

•New York City during the 1950s had a three-way rivalry between the American League's New York Yankees and the National League's New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers. All three teams claimed to have the best center fielder in baseball.

On street corners all over town, folks would argue whether the Giants' Willie Mays, the Yankees' Mickey Mantle or the Dodgers' Duke Snider was champ. Most everyone could afford a ticket. Hot dogs, beer and other refreshments were reasonably priced.

People sat outside on the neighborhood stoops listening to games on the radio. Baseball fans would also look for their favorite sports writer in the morning, midday and late-afternoon newspaper editions, available at thousands of newsstands. Television was a relatively new technology.

Willie Mays was a living link to that golden age of baseball. I was sad to learn of his passing.

**Larry Penner**  
Great Neck

•Willie Mays quite possibly was the greatest to ever grace a ballfield.

Surely he was the best I

ever saw play the game and my memory bank includes Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams, Stan Musial, Hank Aaron and Roberto Clemente.

But none of them could do all the things that Willie did and with such infectious, child-like exuberance that made him fans everywhere.

If there's a field of dreams in the hereafter, you can be sure Willie Mays will be chasing after fly balls for the remainder of eternity — and catching every damn one of 'em, too.

**Bob Ory**  
Chicago

•All told, Willie was a two-time MVP, a 24-time All-Star, a 12-time Gold Glove, a selection as one of baseball's Greatest Living Players in 2015 and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom that same year. Plus, just as his career was ascending, Willie served his country in the Army in 1952 and 1953.

And yet his incredible achievements and statistics do not begin to describe the awe that came with watching Willie Mays dominate the game.

We will never forget this true Giant on and off the field. I extend my deepest condolences to Willie's family, his

friends across the game of baseball and his countless admirers across the world.

**Paul Bacon**  
Hallandale Beach, Fla.

•Willie Mays left an indelible mark with his extraordinary talent. His legacy will inspire generations to come. Rest in peace, Willie Mays.

**Martin Blumberg**  
Melville

•I had the privilege of seeing the "Say Hey Kid" at the tail end of his career when he was a New York Met.

He blasted a two-run homer off the Phillies' ace Steve Carlton in the eighth inning on May 21, 1972 before a Sunday Bat Day crowd of over 57,000 at Philly's Veterans Stadium.

Tom Seaver bested Carlton, 4-3. As an 11-year-old, I had a nosebleed seat but it didn't matter. Mays' leadership prevailed and he helped the Mets reach the World Series the following season.

Godspeed, Willie.

**Matt Engel**  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

•The Post Editorial Board's tribute evoked powerful childhood memories ("Willie Mays, 1931-2024," June 20).

I saw Willie Mays play at the Polo Grounds during the early 1950s when I was in junior high school. His skills, speed and savvy on the field blew me away. He played in an era when Major League Baseball was truly a field of dreams.

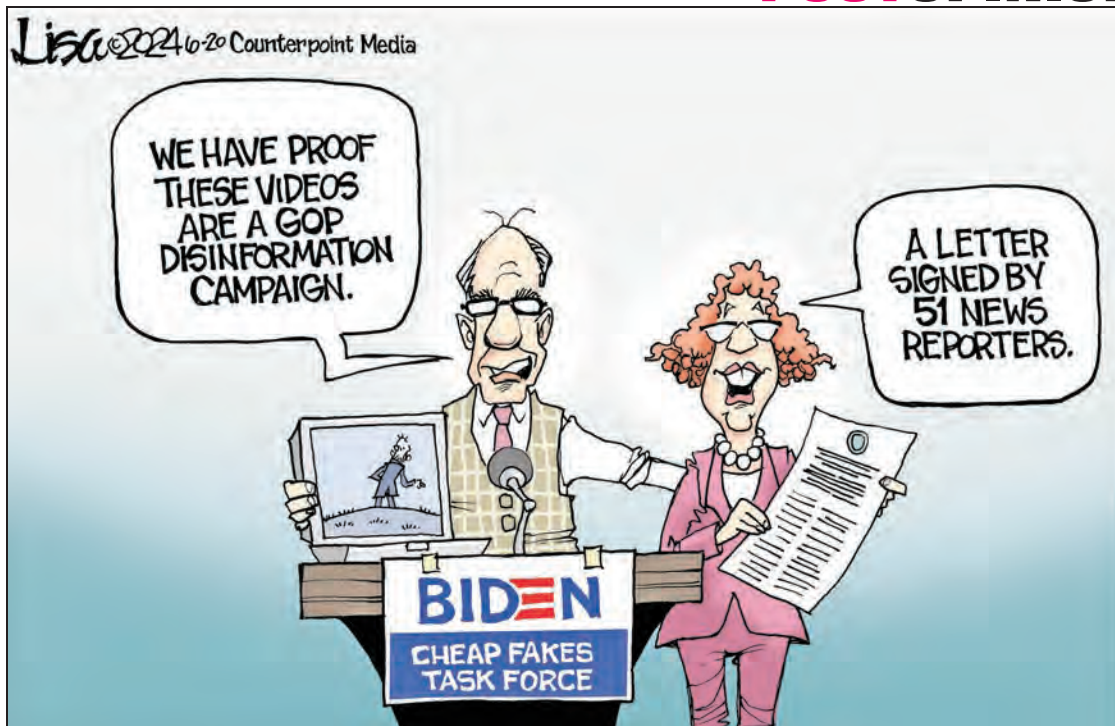
Among all the "Boys of Summer," Mays shined the brightest. I'm glad his number was retired. We will never see a player like him again.

**Richard Reif**  
Queens

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# You Owe \$100,000

## It's your share of Uncle Sam's \$35 trillion debt

**T**HE federal government is now almost \$35 trillion in debt. That means every American owes \$100,000.

Biden administration officials don't care. They want to spend *more*. Already they are spending so much that they're increasing our debt by a trillion dollars every 100 days. President Donald Trump was no better: His administration increased our debt by almost \$8 trillion. This will not end well.

Last year, we hit a new ugly milestone: Americans must pay \$1 trillion per year just for interest on our debt. That's more than we spend on defense — on infrastructure, education, poverty programs . . . everything, but Social Security and Medicare. If we didn't waste these trillion dollars on interest, we could give \$3,000 tax cuts to every man, woman and child to use as they please.

Worse, America's spending growth is unsustainable. You can stretch a rubber band farther and farther, but eventually, it will break.

This column has reported on the politicians' irresponsibility for a long time. In 2019, I complained that our debt increased by a trillion dollars every year. Now, it's three trillion!

In 2023, the ratings agency Fitch was criticized for downgrading US government debt. But a few months later, Moody's Investor Service lowered its outlook from "stable" to "negative," saying America's "fiscal deficits will remain very large, significantly weakening debt affordability."

No one knows which straw will break the camel's back.

In the past, politicians at least *talked* about our debt problem. President Bill Clinton said, "We've got to deal with this big long-term debt problem, or it will deal with us." President Barack Obama said not dealing with it is "irresponsible." Trump said, "We've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt."

But not one of them did anything about it.

Now they lie about it. President Joe Biden says, "We literally cut the federal debt in half." This is absurd. When he took office, our



**JOHN STOSSEL**

debt was \$26.9 trillion. Now it's \$34.8 trillion.

Part of the problem is that Biden staffers listen to advocates of "Modern Monetary Theory" — the ridiculous idea that the United States, because it prints its own currency, can spend even more. "There's nothing to prevent the federal government," says Stephanie Kelter, Sen. Bernie Sanders' economic adviser, "from creating as much money as it wants to and paying it to someone."

This is crazy. Look what's happened to countries that tried it. After World War I, the German government couldn't afford its reparation payments, so it printed more money. That led to 300% inflation and created anger that set

the stage for Hitler.

Similar hyperinflation wrecked lives in Argentina, Zimbabwe and, most recently, Venezuela. People work their whole lives to build savings; politicians steal it through inflation.

Today, silly people like Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren say we can "fix" our deficit by taxing the rich. Since the stock market's risen almost 30,000 points in 15 years, there are a lot of absurdly rich people around. "Pay your fair share," shouts Warren.

But rich people already pay a bigger share, and raising taxes on the rich wouldn't even get us out of the mess we're in. First, many wouldn't pay: They'd move abroad or invest abroad or spend even more on tax lawyers to slime around the rules.

Even if they didn't, there aren't enough rich people to tax to compensate for what our politicians spend. If Warren were able to grab *all* billionaires' wealth, that would only cover about one-seventh of our debt.

The only solution is to address what causes the debt in the first place: excessive government spending. It shouldn't be so hard. Politicians don't even need to stop spending more. They don't need to balance the budget.

They just need to limit spending increases to just below America's average yearly economic growth. Then we could grow our way out of our debt burden.

But our politicians won't do that. They don't even talk about debt.

They are irresponsible cowards.

# Use Mayoral Control — Or You'll Lose It

**T**HERE is no viable alternative to "mayoral control" of the city's school system, but that didn't save Mayor Adams from getting fleeced in Albany for a paltry two-year extension of that law.

The limited grant of power means state legislators will continue to hold the mayor's agenda to their whims and spending priorities; buck them, and Adams risks further obstruction of his education goals.

He's not faring any better in negotiations with the City Council, having agreed to extend its underutilized pre-kindergarten program for 3-year-olds. While some neighborhoods have a shortage of 3K seats, others have a wasteful surplus.

As parents increasingly seek options outside the Department of Education's schools, Adams has not forcefully argued for new charter schools, the best way to increase educational opportunity in lower-income communities. Parents in some districts are still dealing with the reduction of merit admissions to middle schools, while access to Gifted and Talented programs has not increased.

And parents across the city have been shocked by the antisemitic actions occurring in individual schools. At no point has the DOE appeared to take action ahead of these outrages — it has merely reacted after the incidents came to light.

Meanwhile, in the Legislature and Council, money talks — and the loudest voices include the school-system employees and contractors who want payouts from various programs. With one-party dominance in both the city and state, legislators no longer need even pretend that they stand for the children.

Any mayor in Adams' position would be holding a weak hand. So he might wonder where the cavalry

serve. That's the opposite of mayoral control's intent, in which the mayor and chancellor — not unaccountable superintendents — set policy.

To gain the trust of the city's families, the mayor and chancellor must demonstrate that they understand and are willing to use the power of mayoral control. They could start by taking a stand on some key issues.

- **Accountability:** Bloomberg's approach of assigning annual letter grades to schools, and closing those that didn't meet the mark, worked. De Blasio's approach of throwing \$400 million to fix low-performing schools failed. How will Adams correct low-performing schools?

- **Reorganization:** Due to enroll-

**Adams will need . . . the city's parents if he hopes to be re-elected in 2025.**

is: Where are the parents and grandparents of the city's schoolchildren, standing up for students?

He needs to look in the mirror and ask what he has done to gain their support, to prove that he's using the power of mayoral control to make tangible improvements.

In fairness, Adams inherited a mess. The previous administration retreated from reforms that were improving educational opportunity.

Adams' schools chancellor, David Banks, knows those reforms well, having used opportunities created by the Bloomberg administration to launch his own network of responsive and innovative schools. But where is that action now?

Adams and Banks would be wise to return to some of the strategies that worked under Bloomberg, modified to meet current needs. If that's not to their liking, they must articulate their own plan, and give parents a clear vision of school improvement to rally around.

In Adams' first two years, it was unclear where the educational buck stopped. Some issues of great importance to parents, such as merit admissions to middle schools, were delegated to local superintendents appointed by the chancellor, unanswerable to the communities they

ment declines, at least 150 schools in grades pre-K through eight enroll fewer than 200 students. Will the mayor consolidate lower-performing schools into successful ones? Where schools close, will he make space available to charter schools?

- **Gifted students:** Will Adams build on his first-year initiative to create more seats in gifted programs in communities where they are lacking?

- **Workforce preparation:** The state is changing high-school graduation requirements. Will the mayor expand programs which prepare students for direct entry into the workforce, rather than perpetuating the myth that college preparation is the only legitimate goal?

Adams will need the support of the city's parents if he hopes to be re-elected in 2025, and to win permanent extension of mayoral control thereafter. He and Chancellor Banks must act to win that support with measurable plans to make the system more effective and efficient.

If they remain on their current path, parents will answer with indifference in the voting booth — or they'll keep voting with their feet.

Ray Domanico is director of education policy at the Manhattan Institute.



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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Streak ends

The Nasdaq snapped a seven-session streak of record closes as stocks edged back Thursday following a mixed set of reports on the economy. The Dow bucked the trend, jumping nearly 300 points, or 0.8%.

### Getting softer

The US economy is showing signs of softening, Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari said, adding it would probably take “a year or two” to get inflation back to the Fed’s 2% target.

### Falling claims

Jobless claims fell by 5,000 to 238,000 from a 10-month high of 243,000 the week before. Claims remain at low levels by historical standards.

### Buying \$pre

Honeywell International struck a roughly \$2 billion deal to buy aerospace and defense technology company CAES Systems from private-equity firm Advent International. It’s Honeywell’s third deal this year.

### \$5 deal soon

McDonald’s said it will roll out its \$5 meal deal starting Tuesday for a limited time. The value deal will include a McDouble or McChicken sandwich, small fries, four-piece McNuggets and a small soft drink.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

# INSTA SEX-POSED

## Caught steering racy vids to kids as young as 13

By THOMAS BARRABI

Instagram’s algorithm routinely serves up sexually charged videos featuring scantily-clad sex content creators to teens as young as 13, according to the alarming results of a seven-month analysis published Thursday.

The Wall Street Journal and a Northeastern University researcher probed the Mark Zuckerberg-led app’s filters by creating accounts posing as fictional 13-year-olds and scrolling Instagram’s Reels video feed — which reportedly began showcasing suggestive content almost immediately.

At first, the racy videos included women dancing suggestively or showcasing their breasts, the report said. As the accounts watched those videos while skipping others, the content became more graphic — with videos featuring online sex workers promising nude images to viewers appearing in “less than 20 minutes,” according to the Journal.

### Anal sex videos

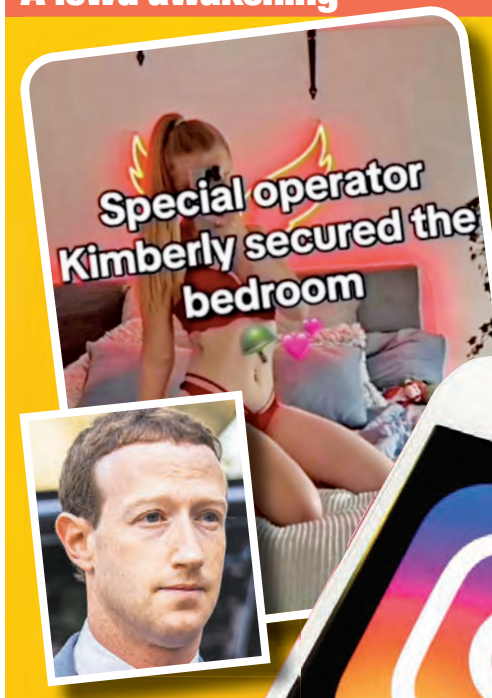
In one set of tests conducted in June, the Journal said, Instagram began showing “video after video about anal sex” to a fictional 13-year-old who previously watched videos of women on the Reels feed.

In other cases, the recommended algorithm served up videos of women caressing their bodies, mimicking sex acts or even flashing their genitalia to the camera, the Journal said.

The racy videos occasionally appeared along ads for major corporate brands, the report said.

Meta pushed back on the report’s findings, with spokesman Andy Stone asserting it “was an artificial

### A lewd awakening



**Mark Zuckerberg’s (inset) supposed Instagram protections for teens failed a seven-month Wall Street Journal test that found racy content (in Reels, like left) was steered to accounts of fictional 13-year-olds.**

experiment that doesn’t match the reality of how teens use Instagram.”

“As part of our long-running work on youth issues, we established an effort to further reduce the volume of sensitive content teens might see on Instagram, and have meaningfully reduced these numbers in the past few months,” Stone added.

The analysis was conducted by the Journal between January and June. Northeastern University computer science professor Laura Edelson also replicated the test results.

The test accounts did not follow any other accounts or like any posts. To test how quickly Instagram ramped up illicit recommen-

dations, the testers scrolled through Reels watching the sexually-charged videos, skipping others.

### Other apps different

The Journal said it conducted similar tests on Snapchat and TikTok and neither recommended sexually graphic content to the test accounts under similar conditions.

Meanwhile, current and former Meta employees told the outlet that internal tests uncovered problems with inappropriate content for underage users as far back as 2021.

In one internal report from 2022, Meta reportedly found that teen us-

ers viewed three times as many posts featuring nudity as adults.

Meta has repeatedly said it is taking steps to ensure teens get “age-appropriate experiences” on its apps.

The Journal uncovered the illicit content even as Meta rolled out stricter content controls in January.

As part of those new restrictions, users under 16 are supposed to be blocked from seeing sexually explicit content in their feeds.

The damning report comes as Meta faces criticism and a sweeping federal lawsuit from dozens of states alleging its apps have fueled a youth mental health crisis.

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# TikTok challenges law banning app

TikTok and Chinese parent ByteDance on Thursday urged a US court to strike down a law they say will ban the popular short app on Jan. 19, saying the US government refused to engage in any serious settlement talks after 2022.

Legislation signed in April by President Biden gives ByteDance until Jan. 19 of next year to divest TikTok’s US assets or face a ban on the app used by 170 million Americans.

ByteDance says a divestiture is “not possible techno-

logically, commercially, or legally.”

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia will hold oral arguments on lawsuits filed by TikTok and ByteDance along with TikTok users on Sept. 16.

“This law is a radical de-

parture from this country’s tradition of championing an open Internet, and sets a dangerous precedent allowing the political branches to target a disfavored speech platform and force it to sell or be shut down,” ByteDance and TikTok argued

in their petition.

The Justice Department said last month that the law “addresses critical national security concerns in a manner that is consistent with the First Amendment and other constitutional limitations.”

Reuters

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# Amazon drops plastic filler

Amazon is shifting from the plastic air pillows used for packaging in North America to recycled paper because it's more environmentally sound, and it says paper just works better.

The company said Thursday that it's already replaced 95% of the plastic air pillows with paper filler in North America and is working toward complete removal by year's end.

"We want to ensure that custom-

ers receive their items undamaged, while using as little packaging as possible to avoid waste, and prioritizing recyclable materials," Amazon said.

It is the company's largest plastic packaging reduction effort in North America to date and will remove almost 15 billion plastic air pillows from use annually.

Almost all customer deliveries for Prime Day this year, which happens next month, will contain no plastic

air pillows, according to Amazon.

The e-commerce giant has faced years of criticism about its use of plastic from environmental groups, including a nonprofit called Oceana, which has been releasing its own reports on Amazon's use of plastic packaging.

There has also been broad support among Amazon investors who have urged the company to outline how it will reduce waste.

AP



# US bars Russian software

The Biden administration announced plans Thursday to bar the sale of antivirus software made by Russia's Kaspersky Lab in the US, citing the firm's large US customers, including critical infrastructure providers and state and local governments.

Moscow's influence over the company was found to pose a significant risk, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said on a briefing call with reporters. The software's privileged access to a computer's systems could allow it to steal sensitive information from American computers or install malware and withhold critical updates, enhancing the threat, a source added.

"Russia has shown it has the capacity and . . . the intent to exploit Russian companies like Kaspersky to collect and weaponize the personal information of Americans and that is why we are compelled to take the action that we are taking today," Raimondo said on the call.

Kaspersky Lab and the Russian Embassy did not respond to requests for comment. Previously, Kaspersky has said that it is a privately managed company with no ties to the Russian government.

The sweeping new rule uses broad powers created by the Trump administration.

Reuters

# Home starts at 4-year low

Construction of new US homes fell 5.2% in May, the lowest level in four years, as builders pulled back on new projects.

The pace of construction hit a speed bump as builders grappled with higher-than-normal financing costs, as well as elevated mortgage rates.

Housing starts fell to a 1.28 million annual pace from 1.35 million in April, the government said Thursday.

Both single- and multi-family starts posted a decline across most of the nation.

Dow Jones

# Pits for Olive Garden

## Chain to raise prices despite slowing traffic

By LISA FICKENSCHER

Olive Garden said it plans to keep raising its menu prices — even as top executives admitted that sales dropped in the latest quarter as inflation-hammered customers pulled back on visits.

Olive Garden's same-store sales — or sales at stores open at least a year, a closely watched industry metric — fell 1.5% in the quarter ended May 26 — missing Wall Street's expectations for flat sales, the chain's parent company, Darden, revealed.

In a Thursday earnings call with analysts, Darden executives blamed the sales shortfall on financial stress among its less-wealthy clientele, who continue to grapple with rampant food inflation.

"Consumers are generally concerned about inflation and they are becoming more concerned about the



job market," CEO Rick Cardenas said on the call.

According to financial chief Raj Vennam, "The pullback is mostly at the below-median household income," adding, "our other [customer] groups are sta-

ble or growing."

But that isn't stopping Orlando, Fla.-based Darden from increasing prices this year. The company is reluctant to discount its food to attract customers, Cardenas said on the call.

Companywide, Darden — which also operates the LongHorn, Ruth's Chris and Capital Grille steakhouse chains, says it will raise prices companywide on average by 2% to 3% over the next 12 months.

Menu prices at Olive Garden rose by 1% late last year.

They will rise again this month, executives said, without giving specifics.

"We're not going to do things to buy sales even with the increasing discounting our competitors are doing," Cardenas said. "Our focus is on profitable sales growth."

Darden estimates that its same-store sales growth in fiscal 2025 will increase by 1% to 2% and that customer traffic will improve this year as inflation comes down, Vennam said.

"Last year we had a little too high profit margin," Vennam said. "It was industry leading and we had talked about not pricing as much" this year.

It's the second consecutive quarter in which same-store sales fell at Olive Garden — following a 1.8% decline in the previous quarter.

lfickenscher@nypost.com

# Toyota halt over airbags Nvidia slips behind M'soft

Toyota Motor said Thursday it suspended production and delivery of the Grand Highlander and Lexus TX sport utility vehicles until it can address an airbag issue.

The automaker said earlier that it was recalling 145,000 2024 model year Toyota Grand Highlander and Lexus TX vehicles in the US because the curtain shield airbag on the driver's side may not deploy as intended during certain crashes if

the driver's window is rolled down.

The automaker said production and deliveries of the three-row SUVs are being halted "until a remedy can be determined. An improvement for mass-produced vehicles is currently under study."

The automaker said customers will be notified about the issue by mid-August but it is not clear when the recall remedy will be announced.

Reuters

Shares of chipmaker Nvidia dropped 3.5% on Thursday, handing the title of the world's most valuable company back to Microsoft.

Nvidia, whose market capitalization surpassed that of Microsoft on Tuesday, lost around \$91 billion, resulting in a market value of \$3.22 trillion. Microsoft's market value also slipped, to \$3.31 trillion, as its shares were down 0.1%.

Nvidia, Microsoft and Apple are

in a three-horse race to become the world's most valuable company. The Tim Cook-led iPhone maker's market capitalization was at \$3.215 trillion, with its shares down 2.2%.

Nvidia shares hit a record high of \$140.76 Thursday before closing at \$130.78. The stock is up 164% this year.

Mizuho Securities' Jordan Klein said investors have aired concerns that valuations of AI semiconductor stocks have gotten frothy.

Wires





## FRENCH GATES

Her first-ever endorsement.

# Gates ex backing Biden

Philanthropist Melinda French Gates gave Democratic incumbent Joe Biden her first-ever presidential endorsement, citing his support for reproductive rights among other issues.

Gates this year left the charitable foundation she co-founded with her former husband, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, with \$12.5 billion for her own charity work.

She said the contrast between Biden and Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican rival in the Nov. 5 election, “couldn’t be greater, and the stakes couldn’t be higher.”

“Women deserve a leader who cares about the issues they face and is committed to protecting their safety, their health, their economic power, their reproductive rights, and their ability to freely and fully participate in a functioning democracy,” she wrote on X on Thursday.

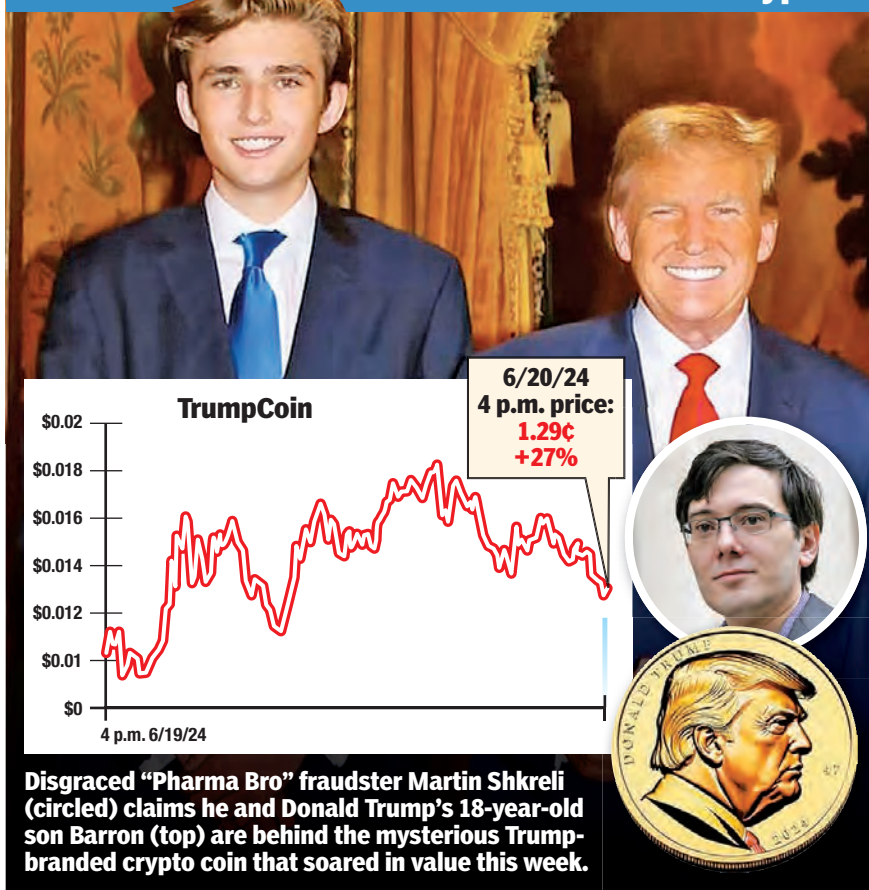
Meanwhile Winklevoos twins Cameron and Tyler, the founders of crypto currency exchange Gemini, said they donated \$2 million in bitcoin to Trump. *Reuters*

## Boeing fixes tech course

Boeing is temporarily shifting some engineers away from its experimental X-66A plane project to help support commercial development programs and speed up deliveries of existing jets, the planemaker said Thursday.

The X-66A project is an experimental plane being co-developed by NASA and Boeing focused on helping the US achieve its goal of net-zero aviation greenhouse gas emissions. *Reuters*

## ‘Tall’ tales from the crypto



# ‘Pharma Bro’ & ‘Don Son’ team?

By JAMES FRANEY

Disgraced “Pharma Bro” Martin Shkreli claims he and Barron Trump — the 18-year-old son of Donald Trump — are behind a mysterious Trump-branded cryptocurrency whose value has been surging this week.

Shkreli, who was convicted of securities fraud in 2017 after he hiked the price of a lifesaving drug, said he was initially approached by an acquaintance of Barron about making the coin, which has been branded DJT TrumpCoin.

Rumors of possible links with the 45th president sent DJT TrumpCoin’s value skyrocketing by 385% within 24 hours on Tuesday, and amassing a trading volume of \$363 million.

“About three months ago I started working with two

other guys, one of whom was a Trump family member, to create Trump Coin,” he claimed in an X livestream.

“I was surprised. It was the president’s son, [which] seems like a good idea,” he said during the X Spaces event. “He wants to make money.”

The existence of the token “Trump Coin” was first reported by Fox Business Monday after it was registered on the Solana blockchain platform.

Shkreli said repeatedly in the X exchange he had evidence of Barron Trump’s involvement in the project that had eventually as many as 50 people working on it.

Shkreli had first told online crypto investigator ZachXBT of how he worked with Donald Trump’s youngest son to launch the coin.

“I have over 1,000 pieces

of evidence I created it with Barron,” Shkreli wrote in that exchange.

Nevertheless, Shkreli has not yet made public any of the proof linking Barron Trump to the coin that he purportedly has in his possession.

Online sleuths had tried to unmask the creator of the DJT token after blockchain company Arkham Intelligence offered \$150,000 to anyone who could successfully identify them.

Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP nominee for the White House this year, has not confirmed whether he or his Truth Social platform is connected to the coin.

The DJT coin’s rally comes as investors continued to dump stock in parent company Trump Media, which fell by 15% on the Nasdaq on Thursday to close at \$26.75.

*jfraney@nypost.com*

# AN ILL WIND IN FLA.

## Insurer’s rate hike

By ARIEL ZILBER

Florida’s government-backed home insurance company is planning to hike rates by 14% — another blow for more than a million residents of the hurricane-battered state, which is saddled with some of the highest premiums in the country.

The board of governors of the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation voted unanimously on Wednesday to boost rates for next year — this despite the fact that nine private insurers in the state have filed to cut their rates while 10 others have made it known they intend to keep their rates flat for 2025.

The rate hike is pending approval from state regulators.

“Paying because you’re paying for the paradise . . . of course. I agree. We have to pay a little more . . . but how much more? Too much. It’s too much,” Sofia Bereza, a Tampa area resident, told WFTS-TV on Wednesday.

Bereza said she considered a Citizens policy but that regardless of which company offered home insurance, the prices were steep.

A combination of more intense storms and hurricanes as well as soaring inflation have sent insurance premi-

ums skyrocketing.

“You know it’s unfortunate, but I also understand that inflation has caused a whole mess of trouble, and then on top of that, the climate is not what it used to be as well, so we are hit with a lot of storms that were unexpected,” Frances Druding, another Tampa area resident, told WFTS-TV.

## ‘Sound rates’

In a statement to The Post, Citizens said: “The rates recommended by the board today seek to continue the move towards actuarially sound rates while reflecting the benefits gained from recent legislative reforms.”

The company said that premiums “remain well below the filed and approved rates of most private insurance companies writing in the state.”

“The 2025 proposed rates will help reduce the risk of assessments on non-Citizens policyholders, many of whom are already paying higher premiums,” the company rep told The Post.

Primary home owners will have to pay 14% more while those with secondary homes — defined as residences that are occupied nine months or less each year — will be required to pay 50% more.

*With Wires*

## Heavyweight hit on fakes

Eli Lilly is stepping up its campaign against fake and counterfeit weight-loss drugs with more lawsuits against sellers of unapproved products that market themselves as Mounjaro and Zepbound.

The pharmaceutical firm said Thursday it has filed legal actions against med spas, wellness centers and other entities that sell products purportedly containing tirzepatide. *Dow Jones*



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## NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### SHERIFF'S SALE

BY VIRTUE OF AN EXECUTION ISSUED OUT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NEW YORK, in favor of PLAINTIFF(S) CITIBANK, N.A. and against DEFENDANT(S) APNA REALTY, INC.; MADISON IMAGING RESOURCES INC.; MADISON AVENUE RADIOLOGY P.C.; AND SATISH C. CHANDRA, judgment debtor, to me directed and delivered, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION, by DENNIS ALESTRA DCA# 0840217, auctioneer, as the law directs, **FOR CASH ONLY, on the 7th day of AUGUST, 2024, at 12:00 o'clock** in the afternoon at the **New York County Sheriff's Office, 66 John Street 13th Floor New York, NY 10038**, in the county of New York, all the right, title and interest which APNA REALTY, INC.; MADISON IMAGING RESOURCES INC.; MADISON AVENUE RADIOLOGY P.C.; AND SATISH C. CHANDRA, the judgment debtor, had on the **17TH day of AUGUST, 2022**, or at anytime thereafter, of, in and to the following:

**Property Address:** 1820 Madison Avenue, Unit C1, New York, NY Block 1745 Lot 1201

Metes and Bounds:

The Unit (hereinafter referred to as the Commercial Unit") in the building (hereinafter referred to as the "Building") known as The Lancaster Madison Condominium and by the Street No. 1820 Madison Avenue, Borough of Manhattan, City, County and State of New York, said Unit being designated and described as Commercial Unit in that certain Declaration dated 2/28/2011 made by NYC Partnership housing Development Fund Company, Inc., pursuant to Article 9-B of the Real Property Law of the State of New York ( hereinafter referred to as the "Condominium Act") establishing a plan for condominium ownership of the Building and the land (hereinafter referred to as the "Land") upon which the Building is situate, which Declaration was recorded in the New York County Office of the Register of the City of New York on 9/13/2011 in CRFN2011000323364. The Commercial Unit is also designated as Tax Lot 1201 in Block 1745 of Section 6 of the Borough of Manhattan on the Tax Map of the Real Property Assessment Department of the City of New York and on the Floor Plans of the Building filed with the Real Property Assessment Department of the City of New York as Condominium Plan No. 2224 and also filed in the City Register's Office on 9/13/2011 as Condominium Plan No. 2224, Map No. CRFN2011000323365, and is known by the Street No. 1818 Madison Avenue. TOGETHER WITH an undivided 15.3% interest in the Common Elements (as such term is defined in the Declaration). The land upon which the Building containing the Commercial Unit is located, is bounded and described as follows: All that certain plot, piece, or parcel of land, situate, lying, and being in the Borough of Manhattan, City, County and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the westerly side of Madison Avenue, distant 25 feet 6-114 inches northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of East 118th Street with the westerly side of Madison Avenue; RUNNING THENCE westerly parallel with the northerly side of East 118th Street, 85 feet; THENCE northerly parallel with the westerly side of Madison Avenue, 75 feet; THENCE easterly parallel with the northerly side of East 118th Street, 10 feet; THENCE northerly parallel with the westerly side of Madison Avenue, 20 feet; THENCE easterly parallel with the northerly side of East 118th Street, 75 feet to the westerly side of Madison Avenue; THENCE southerly along the westerly side of Madison Avenue, 95 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING. FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Premises also known as 1820 Madison Avenue, Unit C1, New York, NY Block 1745 Lot 1201

ANTHONY MIRANDA  
Sheriff of the City of New York

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#### SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF QUEENS.

NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST, and THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, as Collateral Agent and Custodian for the NYCTL 1998-2 Trust, Plaintiff - against- SCHAPEN REALTY INC., et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated May 3, 2023 and May 5, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the courthouse steps of the Queens County Supreme Court, located at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY on July 19, 2024 at 10:15 a.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Queens, County of Queens, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 10321 and Lot 11 on the Queens County Tax Assessment Map. Said premises known as 93-12 179TH PLACE, JAMAICA, NY Approximate amount of lien \$73,164.30 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index Number 707132/2019. GREGORY LASPINA, ESQ., Referee Bronster, LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 156 West 56th Street, Suite 703, New York, NY 10019

Boldyn Networks Infrastructure US LLC is proposing to construct a 32.5ft metal pole telecommunications tower facility located near 650 Madison Avenue, New York, New York County, New York 10022 (40 45 49.4712 N; 73 58 17.1258 W). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 016330-PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, at (781)418-2314, or at citybridgelink5g@ebiconsulting.com

DISH Wireless L.L.C. is proposing to install new wireless antennas on an existing building located at 433 West Broadway, New York, New York County, New York 10012. The new facility will consist of the collocation of antennas at a top height of approx. 105 feet, 6 inches on a rooftop water tank on the 87 foot, 1 inch tall building (113 feet, 6 inches measured to highest appurtenance). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 017853-PR - E/G, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 774-258-0042.

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# The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE

G<sub>2</sub>R<sub>1</sub>A<sub>1</sub>M<sub>3</sub>S<sub>1</sub>

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E<sub>1</sub>I<sub>1</sub>T<sub>1</sub>V<sub>4</sub>R<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>I<sub>1</sub>O<sub>1</sub>L<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>I<sub>1</sub>T<sub>1</sub>B<sub>3</sub>D<sub>2</sub>R<sub>1</sub>C<sub>3</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>O<sub>1</sub>K<sub>5</sub>D<sub>2</sub>L<sub>1</sub>W<sub>4</sub>C<sub>3</sub>

Triple Word Score

1st Letter Double

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160

BEST SCORE 228

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SOLUTION

R5ACK 1 = 89

RACK 2 = 6

RACK 3 = 62

RACK 4 = 71

TOTAL 228

SCRABBLE G R A M S

T<sub>1</sub>C<sub>3</sub>I<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>K<sub>5</sub>

I<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>L<sub>1</sub>O<sub>1</sub>

D<sub>2</sub>I<sub>1</sub>B<sub>3</sub>L<sub>1</sub>

R<sub>1</sub>L<sub>1</sub>T<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>A<sub>1</sub>E<sub>1</sub>

V<sub>4</sub>O<sub>1</sub>C<sub>3</sub>W<sub>4</sub>

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE G R A M S

T<sub>1</sub>C<sub>3</sub>I<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>K<sub>5</sub>

I<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>L<sub>1</sub>O<sub>1</sub>

D<sub>2</sub>I<sub>1</sub>B<sub>3</sub>L<sub>1</sub>

R<sub>1</sub>L<sub>1</sub>T<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>A<sub>1</sub>E<sub>1</sub>

V<sub>4</sub>O<sub>1</sub>C<sub>3</sub>W<sub>4</sub>

PAR SCORE 150-160

**Directions:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

## Bridge

North dealer  
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A Q J 5

♥ 7 6 5 2

♦ None

♣ A 9 7 6 4

WEST

♠ K 10 7 4

♥ K 10 9 3

♦ 6 5

♣ J 8 2

EAST

♠ 9 8 3

♥ A 8

♦ K Q 10 2

♣ K Q 10 5

SOUTH

♠ 6 2

♥ Q J 4

♦ A J 9 8 7 4 3

♣ 3

North

East

South

West

1 ♣

1 NT(!)

3 ♦

Dbl

All Pass

Opening lead – ♠ 4

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Nick Nickell's teams have been a force in major championships for decades. At the Spring NABC, NICKELL (Katz, Greco-Hampson, Levin-Weinstein) added another title by winning the prestigious Vanderbilt Teams. In the final they used a late rally to beat a team led by Kevin BATHURST. NICKELL led early, helped by today's deal. At one table, North-South for BATHURST played at two diamonds, making two. In the replay, where East for BATHURST indulged in a featherweight 1NT overcall, South jumped to three diamonds. West thought he had to act with his seven points and doubled. East was willing to pass, and the contract would have failed with a heart lead. But West led a spade, and declarer won with dummy's queen, took the ace of clubs, ruffed a club, led to the jack of spades, threw a heart on the ace and ruffed a club. He exited with a heart, and the defenders took the A-K and led a third heart. South ruffed for his seventh trick and end-played East in trumps to win two more, plus 670. NICKELL gained 11 IMPs.

## Word Force

### FORGIVEN

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 14** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST  
Yesterday's word:

amend

armed

demur

dream

UNDERARM

named

ramen

ream

rerun

ruder

under

## Wonderword

**How to play:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TIMELESS PIECES

Solution: 7 letters

A N T I Q U E R U T P L U C S

T N E C K L A C E S R U P H T

T L O Y R A S R E V I N N A A

I Y R I R S E M U F R E P N T

C N N E H L S K S A M L D D U

H I A F Y S E E D A A E R E E

P V M L I A A W R T G L A L N

A I E V B R L F E D N D C I O

R N N E T U E P I J I N H E T

G T T I S R M P D E R A A R S

O A A L U E O R L R I C R M H

T G E T D O N P I A O T M Y T

O E C A W A R D H A C C W D R

H I L A T S Y R C Y H E E O I

P O R T R A I T E L E C A R B

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Yesterday's Answer: Outlander  
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To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

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Solutions on Page 58

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Very Easy #6,586

5								9
		6		4	9			
7			8		2		6	1
	3			1		4	5	
	2		9	8	4		7	
	7	1		2			8	
2	9		4		6			5
			5	7		2		
8								7

Difficult #6,376

	2				8			
7	6	9		2			5	8
				1				
6			7					
4			2		1			5
					5			6
				7				
1	8			9		4	7	2
			3				9	

## Quick Crossword

- Across
- 1 Insect-preserving resin  
6 Kick in or kick off  
11 Crunch targets  
14 Coupe de \_\_\_\_: classic Cadillac  
15 Airport structure  
16 Shot chaser?  
17 Excellent rendition of a Belafonte hit?  
19 Time for the history books  
20 Oyster bed?  
21 Shabby  
22 Novelist Louise who created the fictional police inspector Armand Gamache  
24 Removed from power  
26 Bearing  
27 Help a former first lady feel better?  
32 Red-hatted figure in Travelocity ads  
35 Group before millennials  
36 Catch  
37 More than fancy  
38 Push (for)  
40 In this case  
41 "Bravo, mi amigo!"  
42 Squabble  
43 Always ready to order?  
44 Gala for the cops?  
48 Crunch's rank  
49 Some UPS Store customers  
53 Japanese room divider  
55 As a soloist  
57 Cut (off)  
58 Pursue romantically  
59 Give a cool cat a thorough bath?  
62 Beseech  
63 Small crown  
64 Foot the bill  
65 "You got it!"  
66 Weapon in a scabbard  
67 Chucks
- Down
- 1 Dance around  
2 \_\_\_\_ words  
3 Censor  
4 Rivendell resident  
5 Second edition  
6 Knight mares  
7 Figure skating great Eldredge  
8 On the road  
9 Lightsaber-wielding heroine  
10 Torrid Zone region  
11 Italian mountain range  
12 Waste  
13 "Don't leave!"  
18 Poetic contraction  
23 Cry from one atop a chair  
25 "That's a new one \_\_\_\_"  
26 "The Pink Sash" painter Cassatt  
28 Split personality?  
29 Laura Bush's brother-in-law  
30 Glasses holders  
31 Follow  
32 Mushy bowlful  
33 French Quarter city, familiarly  
34 Stays on the range too long  
38 Sphinx, mostly  
39 Clockwork  
40 Piece of academic regalia  
42 Keyboard pros  
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**INSIDE** Enjoy a fun-filled, kid-friendly escape in the city, p. 53

# Summer Family Fun



## AS YOU LAKE IT

Skip the beach — refresh yourself at these local freshwater oases

By **PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG**

Crystal Springs Resort in New Jersey offers three pool complexes.

After you've drifted down the Delaware River with Kittatinny Canoes, dry in the breeze of a zip line (below).



The beach is great and all, but don't overlook the allure of lake life this summer. Ditto for fantastic pools, water parks or a river near you. These hot spots offer the chance to get wet in New York and New Jersey without involving the phrases "down the shore" or (worse) "out East."

### Sullivan County, NY

Drive only 100 miles northwest of New York City, and you'll be rewarded with the finest river adventures (and alpine scenery) in the state.

You can choose your own adventure on and beside the Delaware River with tubing, rafting, kayaking and canoeing.

At Kittatinny Canoes, we're partial to its Barryville to Pond Eddy rafting or kayaking excursion (from \$54 per person), with a

plethora of dreamy river valley views and picnicking spots along the way. Kittatinny's zip line also boasts gorgeous mountain vistas.

Or, book with Lander's River Trips, another beloved local outfitter (tubing from \$15 per person; overnight trips with camping from \$82 per person), where guests can bring their dogs in all river crafts.

Make your home base in Monticello at the Kartrite (from \$250 per night), which has New York's biggest indoor water park, plus an

outdoor area open during the summer. The all-suite hotel has eight food outposts, six miles of hiking trails, a daily activities schedule, a full arcade and a ropes course.

If you're traveling with teens, we'd point you toward Antrim Streamside, a sprinkling of six luxe cottages on the banks of Willowemoc Creek in Livingston Manor. New for this summer is the midweek "Go Streamside"



See **WATER FUN** on Page 42



# SUMMER FUN GUIDE

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# Summer Family Fun

## MAKING A SPLASH



Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association



Cedar Lake Estates

From **WATER FUN** on Page 39

package, which includes two nights' accommodations, a guided nature hike to Beaver Lake Farm, an on-site yoga class and more (from \$700 for two people).

### Lake Hopatcong, NJ

Welcome to New Jersey's largest freshwater lake, just shy of 50 miles northwest from Manhattan. There's quite a lot to do on the 2,700-acre body of water, which stretches 9.5 miles in length and boasts over 38 miles of shoreline.

The beach at Hopatcong State Park offers picnicking and swimming (fair warning — it often fills up soon after its 8 a.m. opening time on summer weekends). When kids are tired from swimming, sailing and waterskiing, set up shop at one of two playgrounds, or the field when they want to toss Frisbees, play soccer, fly kites or, heaven forbid, relax for a precious few.

LivetheLakeNJ.com has interactive maps of the area, but lakefront nosh standouts include Alice's, Stone Water and Lola's Tex-Mex — though a personal favorite is the Windlass, which hosts events like music under the stars and also runs the Miss Lotta boat, offering seafarers brunch, lunch, dinner, themed and historical cruises around "the Hop."

For landlubbers, the mini golf next door is based on the history of the lake, including the Wildcat



Lawrence Braun

Luxury cottages await at Antrim Streamside.



Dine overlooking Lake Hopatcong at the Windlass.

@thwindlass

roller coaster from the Bertrand Island amusement park that used to be on the lot.

Nearby, there's RV and tent camping — you can do it! — on Mahlon Dickerson Reservation. At these verdant campgrounds (\$25 daily for tent sites; \$37 for RV sites), families

ges, camp-y cabins or suites.

Whatever you book, if you can time your visit, grab tickets for the Sunday Supper Series (\$125 per adult; \$95 per child), an alfresco dining experience with heirloom produce from the chef's garden and ingredients sourced primarily from neighboring farms.

### Hamburg, NJ

Roughly 90 minutes northwest from Manhattan, Crystal Springs Resort comprises two properties six miles apart, and has a dizzying amount of H2O-infused fun.

You'll want to make sure everyone in your posse packs multiple bathing suits since there are eight indoor and outdoor resort pools within three pool complexes, including water slides, an infinity pool with Appalachian Mountain views and more.

The crème de la crème is the Biosphere, a 10,000-square-foot pool area with a retractable roof at the

resort's Grand Cascades Lodge (from \$569 per night). The space is the first in the US to feature advanced German Foiltec roofing, allowing for nearly 100% light transmission for year-round tanning, and is designed with lush tropical foliage, connected indoor and outdoor pools, an underground aquarium and a water slide.

Over at Minerals Hotel (from \$439 per night), kids go wild for the cliff jump at its outdoor pool.

Round out your trip with archery, glow golf, pony rides, pickleball, goat yoga, scaling a rock climbing wall and mom-and-dad decompress time at one of two spas, any of the six golf courses, or touring one of the world's top wine cellars with more than 45,000 bottles.

If you can swing it, tack on diner pour deux at Restaurant Latour, the finest of the resort's 10 seasonal dining venues, where the seven-course chef's tasting menu is otherworldly in both taste and presentation.



The Biosphere at Crystal Springs Resort.

Julian Huarte



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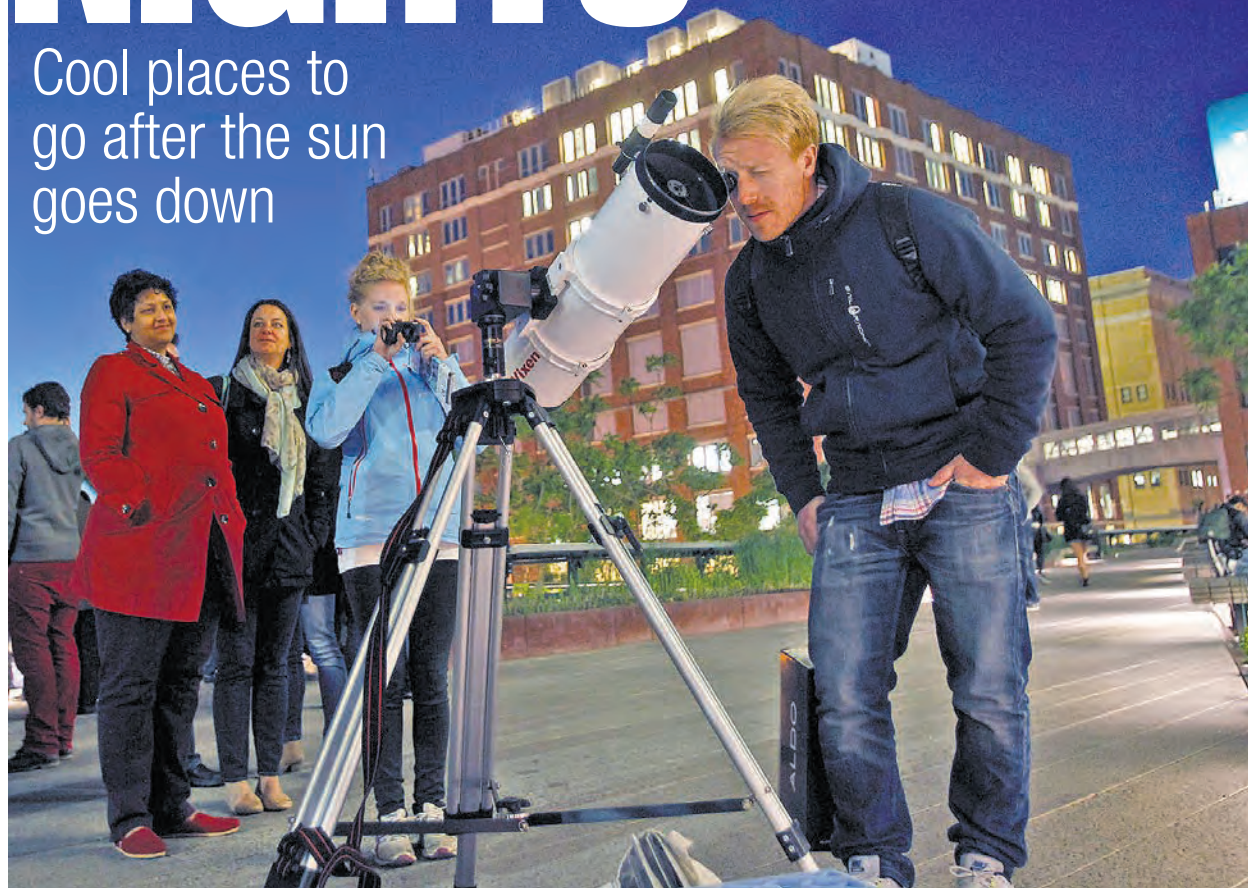
Past participants shown. © 2024 USTA. Photos © Getty Images.



# Summer Family Fun

# SUMMER NIGHTS

Cool places to go after the sun goes down



courtesy of Rooftop Cinema Club; Aaron Thompson; Collective Retreats; Tamara Beckwith/NY Post



See the sights from the High Line — after dark, look to the stars (above). Enjoy s'mores and more with the New York skyline as a backdrop at Collective Governors Island (top right). A sunset Classic Harbor cruise around Manhattan is extra special on a vintage style boat (center) or see classic and kids' movies at the Rooftop Cinema Club in Midtown (bottom right).

By JORDI LIPPE-MCGRAW

**A**S the sun sets and the temp drops, NYC flips the script and becomes a nighttime wonderland for you and your kids. Here's the coolest (pun intended) after-dark adventures.

## Isle be seeing you

Pack your sense of adventure and hop on a ferry to Collective Governors Island for a quick escape from the city's chaos.

While Governors Island is open to the public and accessible to all, Collective Retreats, a global outdoor hospitality brand, has taken over a section with glamping tents where you can spend the night. Or, the family can come for dinner, served à la carte (dishes from \$18 to \$134).

After, gather around a campfire for complimentary s'mores under the stars with Lady Liberty as the backdrop — because nothing brings families together like gooey chocolate and sticky fingers under the night sky.

Overnight stays from \$200; [CollectiveRetreats.com](http://CollectiveRetreats.com)

## Raise the roof

Treat your tiny cinephiles to an evening under the stars surrounded by the glittering skyline of Midtown at Rooftop Cinema Club. Head to the third-floor Skylawn rooftop of the Embassy Suites hotel at 60 W. 37th St. to enjoy timeless classics and animated adventures. But it's not just about what's on the screen — imagine the laughter and shared snacks as you settle in for a night of entertainment.

Tickets start at \$19 (\$12 for kids); [RooftopCinemaClub.com](http://RooftopCinemaClub.com)

## Game on

Court 16 consists of three indoor racquet sports centers in Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn that are tailor-made for your pint-sized players, whether your little ones are mastering their serves or trying their hand at pickleball.

The centers all offer camps and classes, but best of all are the LED-illuminated courts that light up the lines come evening time — better than playing under the stars, and they come without the pesky mosquitoes. Plus, who knows? You might just discover the next Serena Williams in your midst.

Courts from \$125 per hour; [Court16.com](http://Court16.com)

## All at sea

Prepare to embark on a vintage styled seafaring adventure on a sunset cruise along the shimmering waters of the Hudson and East Rivers with Classic Harbor Line.

Head to Pier 62 to step aboard the majestic 1920s-inspired yacht Manhattan, where you can set sail into the golden hour and watch as the city skyline transforms into a mesmerizing tapestry of lights.

With assigned private tables and complimentary beverages, it's a VIP experience for the whole family.

But the real star of the show? The views. Every twist and turn offers a new perspective on the city that never sleeps.

From \$94 per person; [ClassicHarborLine.com](http://ClassicHarborLine.com)

## The sky's the limit

Seeing stars in New York City? Yes, it's possible.

Every Tuesday evening, the High Line at Little West 12th Street transforms into a celestial playground, courtesy of the Amateur Astronomers Association.

Armed with high-powered telescopes and a passion for the cosmos, they'll guide you and your little ones on a journey through the night sky. It's more than just stargazing — it's a chance to spark curiosity, ignite imagination, and deepen your appreciation for the universe. And with surprise treats and special celebrations throughout the summer, there's always something new to discover.

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Free; [TheHighLine.org](http://TheHighLine.org)



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# OLDIES BUT GOODIES

These vintage coasters are still thrilling after all these years

By ARTHUR LEVINE

**T**O stay relevant and attract visitors, amusement parks introduce new rides that promise the latest, greatest thrills and technology. On the flip side, many parks, especially those in the Northeast, offer rides that have been fixtures on their midways for decades.

Here's some of the oldest coasters in New York and Connecticut that still do what they've been doing for, in some cases, upward of 100 years: generating screams and smiles.

## Jack Rabbit

The oldest continuously operating roller coaster in the US (and the third oldest in the world), Jack Rabbit opened in 1920 at Seabreeze Amusement Park in Rochester. It enthralls guests as much today as it did when it debuted.

As with most of the rides on this list, it's wooden. (Tubular steel coasters didn't come on the scene until Disneyland debuted Matterhorn Bobsleds in 1959.)

Known as a terrain coaster, it hugs the park's topography and dives 75 feet into a ravine. For its finale, it sends passengers careening in the dark through an enclosed tunnel.

"It's the oldest attraction here, and it's our No. 1 most popular ride," said Rob Norris, Seabreeze president and



Playland

a fifth-generation member of the family that owns and operates the park, which dates back to 1879.

Jack Rabbit is a rite of passage for kids in the Rochester area who can't wait to reach the required 48-inch height to board the coaster. "It's such a great ride, and the way it was initially engineered, it's very manageable to keep in great shape," Norris notes. "The Jack Rabbit is running as well now as it ever has."

That's saying something for a 104-year-old coaster.

## Cyclone

This is one of the most famous coasters in the

world. It opened in 1927 in Coney Island and is registered as a National Historical Landmark.

Climbing 75 feet and dropping at a hairy 59-degree angle, the ride reaches a perky 60 mph, eliciting screams that reverberate down the boardwalk.

The Brooklyn amusement area was once the home of one of the world's first roller coasters, the Gravity Pleasure Switch Back Railway, which opened in 1884.

## Wildcat

Lake Compounce, in Bristol, Conn., welcomed its first visitors in 1846, and lays claim as the country's

oldest still-operating amusement park. Its Wildcat coaster opened in 1927 and greets guests near the main entrance, where it descends 78 feet and accelerates to 48 mph.

Wooden coasters can be difficult to maintain, and the aged Connecticut coaster had become excessively rough in recent years. The park closed Wildcat in 2023 to perform extensive retracking work and reopened it this season with a smoother, more pleasant ride experience.

"We need to preserve the history of the park, and it's important to us to maintain the integrity of this wooden



Caleb Parker



Stephen Yang

**Playland's Dragon Coaster (left) in Rye has been serving thrills for almost a century. Jack Rabbit (top) in Rochester is the oldest operating roller coaster in the US. Coney Island's Cyclone (above) is registered as a National Historical Landmark and still offers a fast, thrilling ride.**

coaster," said Doug Hemphill, Lake Compounce's general manager. "There is a sentimental value to it. Folks tell me that their grandparents rode Wildcat. It's great that we are able to be a part of their lives and keep the coaster relevant and alive."

About halfway through the ride, the train enters a darkened tunnel that is designed to look like the namesake, mythical beast.

Fun fact: A scene from the film "Fatal Attraction," was shot aboard the Dragon Coaster.

## Dragon Coaster

While many older coasters have been updated with computer controls and other modern niceties, at Playland in Rye, ride operators still use a large manual brake to control the Dragon Coaster's trains.

The ride, which opened in 1929, climbs 80 feet and offers a great first drop that is followed by a potent pop of airtime, the giddy negative-G sensation coaster passengers feel when they rise out of their seats.

## Comet

This has been one of the highlights at the Six Flags Great Escape in Queensbury, NY, since it opened there in 1949.

But the coaster first debuted a year earlier in 1948 at Crystal Beach, a now-defunct park in Ontario, Canada, and was transported, piece by piece, to the Lake George-area Six Flags.

It climbs 95 feet and hits 55 mph and, for its age, is surprisingly nimble, delivering plenty of airtime.



# Summer Family Fun

## UPSTATE FRAME OF MIND

The Catskills  
are calling  
— here's  
where to stay,  
eat and play

By **PERRI ORMONT  
BLUMBERG**

**F**UN for all ages awaits in this famed Alpine enclave upstate. Here, the latest and greatest hits in the mountains of yore.

### Ulster County

Roughly a 2 ½-hour drive from Manhattan lies Ulster County. After “are we there yet?,” the first thing kids clamor in the car is “we’re hungry.” And palates will be more than pleased at Mill & Main, a family affair helmed by a husband and wife team and their son.

Located in Kerhonkson, there’s a kids’ menu to keep little ones happy and shareable plates that will blow grown-ups’ minds, from loaded yucca fries with Colombian queso to grandma’s lemon-and-rosemary fried chicken. Grab a seat in the banquettes or, on a clear day, head out to the cozy patio. (Mill & Main Provisions is next door, a deli-grocer with heavenly pastries and iced coffee.)

Properly fueled, we’d steer families toward the Ulster County Nature Bus. Run by the county’s tourism office, the free shuttle service with mountain, ridge and river routes originates in Kingston and Ellenville with a handful of stops for hiking

and biking.

If you don’t do the “ridge route,” definitely still pay a visit to Minnewaska State Park Preserve in Kerhonkson. The two-mile Carriage Road Loop around the lake dazzles with kaleidoscopic panoramas of lake, cliffs, mountains and blue sky.

Speaking of such views, you can also visit the world’s largest kaleidoscope at Emerson Resort & Spa in Mount Tremper, or make your own multicolored candles at Candlestock’s Wax Imagination Studio in Saugerties. Post-action, adults and mini yogis alike will adore a unique yoga flow with Nixa De Bellis. Have her come to your group for a private yoga experience enhanced by essential oils, or try her weekly class at Whole Sky Yoga in Stone Ridge.

Stay at Rocking Horse Ranch Resort (all-inclusive from \$1,000 for four people), a kid-friendly resort in Highland with an indoor water park, mountain tubing, horseback riding and much more.

Other top votes: U-pick fun and the petting zoo at Kelder’s Farm in Kerhonkson (My dad and I recently picked strawberries here, and I assure you, we will never take the effort behind pre-packaged pints for granted again.); hop on the Delaware & Ulster Railroad tracks for a pedal-powered ride with Rail Explorers; and catch a Saugerties Stallions game, the summer collegiate baseball team regularly has events for kids where they bring them out to the field for races and games, offer face-painting activities, etc.



**1. Chatwal Lodge has 100 acres of pristine Catskills countryside where you can play and relax, as well as new treehouses to stay in.**

**2. Top eats at Kerhonkson’s Mill & Main include lemon-and-rosemary fried chicken.**

**3. Belleayre Beach offers swimming and boating.**

**4. Calling young farmers: Kelder’s Farm offers a taste of rural life, including a petting zoo and strawberry picking.**

Don’t close your Ulster County sojourn without a visit to Belleayre Beach for swimming and boating, followed by a huge sundae at Santa Fe Burger Bar in Rosendale.

For lodging, check into your very own treehouse. Three of them were unveiled earlier this year at the bucolic Chatwal Lodge (lodges from \$900 per night; treehouses from \$1,800 inclusive of food, nonalcoholic beverages and most activities).

The fun factor of dwelling in the canopy is there for the kiddos, and adults will be grateful for the chic factor complete with a living room

See **CATSKILLS** on Page 50

FROM TOP: The Chatwal Lodge (2); Lijah Friedman Photography; Courtesy of Ulster County Tourism (2)





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# Summer Family Fun

Plenty of water fun awaits at Villa Roma Resort's heated and feature pools.



Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association

## COUNTRY ESCAPES

From **CATSKILLS** on Page 48

with a wet bar, covered balcony and firepit.

The all-inclusive resort sits on 100 virgin acres along the Toronto Reservoir and has a dizzying array of activities for kids and kids-at-heart, and features a recreation center with duckpin bowling, billiards, reading nooks and books and a theater room.

Kids can also enjoy arts and crafts, nightly s'mores, biking, swimming and fishing in the reservoir. Current featured experiences also include a baking class with one of the property's dough wizards and a "Tour of the Sky" stargazing jaunt that makes use of the lodge's impressive telescope.

You might want to plan on a parents-only tryst at a later date: A pool and spa con-

cept is in the works for spring 2025, and lovebirds can chase fly-fishing, hiking and paddleboarding outings with yoga, afternoon tea and sunset cruises for two.

### Sullivan County

Enter your own slice of Borscht Belt paradise at the Villa Roma Resort (from \$207 per night per person, all-inclusive) in Callicoon. It's got something for everyone: zip lines, tennis, golf, basketball, volleyball, bumper boats, go-karts, outdoor pools, rock-climbing walls, hiking trails and fishing, to name a few faves.

For something a little out of the ordinary, post up at Catskill Conestoga Wagon Outpost (from \$260 per night), where guests stay in covered wagons along the banks of the Beaverkill river at Roscoe Campsite Park.

(Bonus points if you make your family embrace prairie living and disconnect from all tech and phones.)

There are also new campground and glamping options as well as RV and car camping (from \$172 per night) at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, a nonprofit performance venue and the original site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival.

Activities-wise, let kids' imaginations and limbs run wild and free at Buck Brook Alpacas, with alpaca yoga, farm tours or gem mining followed by a hike on one of the area's abundant trails.

You'll definitely want to venture to these parts for the 144th annual Grahamsville Little World's Fair from Aug. 16 to 18. Expect music, rides, livestock entertainment (racing pigs, sheep shows, horse exhibitions . . . what's not to love?) and plenty of tasty food, put on by the nonprofit Never-sink Agricultural Society. You may end up making it a family tradition.

## GAME ON

American Dream reinvents the arcade with a new attraction



By **ARTHUR LEVINE**

**W**ITH year-round skiing on real snow, roller coasters, surfing in the world's largest indoor wave pool and a host of other attractions, there's certainly no shortage of over-the-top things to do at American Dream, the super-duper shopping, dining and entertainment complex at the Meadowlands in New Jersey. Now there's one more: the Gameroom Powered by Hasbro.

While there are some standard arcade games, what sets the new attraction apart are the clever ways that it incorporates popular toys, games and characters to reimagine the genre. The first Hasbro-themed entertainment center of its kind, visitors can participate in interactive experiences based on the company's brands.

Ultimate Rollergames, for example, pits players against one another for a Skee-Ball-like competition — it's more than just rolling balls and scoring points, however. At the

Trivial Pursuit station, guests try to solve questions by aiming for the hole with the correct answer. Sink enemy vessels at the Battleship Rollergame, or make Optimus Prime morph from a vehicle into a robot at the Transformers station.

"These brands have incredible resonance. A lot of the games are classic, but have been reinvented," said Paul Ghermezian, COO of Triple Five, which owns and operates American Dream. "We've mashed them together to create something that's more exciting and fun." Visitors will "love playing games on these mega-sized scales," he added.

The Gameroom's take on laser tag divides participants into Team Cobra and Team GI Joe. Players not only have to be wary of their opponents but must also contend with embedded hazards in the tricked-out arena.

The squirt-gun carnival game gets reinterpreted as a race among Mr. Potato Head and his spud family, while players sinking baskets in a Connect 4 midway basketball game try to tactically line discs in a row. Monopoly

fans, meanwhile, can roll giant dice and try to stay out of jail. Prizes for the redemption games and claw machines are also Hasbro-branded, such as a pocket-sized Operation game and Nerf blasters.

Speaking of Mr. Potato Head, he has his own line of fries available in the Gameroom's restaurant. The menu also includes Sorry sliders and My Little Pony salads for "Hungry Hungry Kiddos" that are topped with Apple Jacks. For dessert there are Trivial Pursuit pies (get it?) and milkshakes inspired by Candy Land.

The games and toys have provided "anchoring moments" for generations of children, contends Matt Proulx, Hasbro's SVP of global experiences. At the Gameroom, he said that "we want to provide an opportunity for grandparents and parents and children to be able to come together and celebrate their memories, but also create new memories in a new way that they didn't expect."

After a vigorous game of GI Joe laser tag, enjoy a Candy Land-themed milkshake (top).

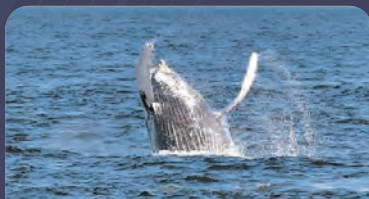




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LINEUP**







The Plaza; Smyth Tribeca; Courtesy of the Peninsula New York



ces at some of the city's finest eateries at a fraction of the usual cost. Prices from \$395; Smyth-Tribeca.com

## Christmas in July

Located at the iconic corner of Fifth Avenue and Central Park South, the Plaza Hotel offers a whimsical "Home Alone 2" package that's perfect for families who adore the classic holiday movie.

This package lets you live out your Kevin McCallister dreams in style, with a private limo tour of the film's iconic New York City locations, including the Empire State Building, Central Park, Carnegie Hall and Rockefeller Center. It comes complete with a cheese pizza, just like Kevin's unforgettable scene in the back of the stretch.

Back at the Plaza, indulge in a decadent ice cream sundae delivered right to your room, piled high with 16 scoops of assorted ice cream, whipped cream, maraschino cherries and every topping you can imagine.

Prices from \$1,860; ThePlazaNY.com

## Queens for a day

Situated in the hip and artsy neighborhood of Long Island City, the Boro Hotel offers a family adventure package that's perfect for a summer staycation. This package starts with a fantastic deal: 50% off a connecting room, making it ideal for families needing more space.

The early check-in and late checkout options ensure you make the most of your stay, while waived dog fees mean your furry family members can join the fun, too.

Whether you're exploring the local street art scene, taking a ferry ride to Manhattan or enjoying the various parks and playgrounds in the area, there's no shortage of activities. Prices from \$161; BoroHotel.com

Live your own "Home Alone 2" adventure complete with a limo, courtesy of the Plaza's special movie location package (above).

Do some indoor camping and outdoor scavenging (below) with the Peninsula's kids' package.

At the Smyth Tribeca, turndowns include milk & cookies (inset below).

# LOCALLY SOURCED

## Live large with a family-centric NYC staycation

By JORDI LIPPE-MCGRAW

**F**ORGET about packing for a long flight or dealing with travel delays. These staycation packages in and around NYC offer luxury, adventure and all the fun of a traditional getaway right in your own backyard.

### Camping without the bugs

Who says you need a forest for a camping adventure? At the Peninsula New York, Camp Peninsula takes glamping to new heights — literally. A room with a

tent offers kids a cozy little in-room hideaway stocked with amenities that even Scout leaders would envy. The fun extends beyond the hotel with a scavenger hunt that's sure to wear out even the most energetic explorers.

And if that's not enough, go geocaching in Central Park. With more than 60 caches hidden in the park, it's a treasure hunt that



### Suite dreams

Located in the vibrant Tribeca neighborhood, Smyth Tribeca offers the perfect blend of urban sophistication and family-friendly fun. Their family escape package offers 10% off suite rates and in-

cludes delightful touches like a milk and cookies turn-down service, which the kids will absolutely love, and an NYC-themed coloring book to keep them entertained.

Parents aren't left out of the fun, either — plush robes in all sizes ensure that everyone in the family feels pampered.

And when it comes to dining, take advantage of NYC Summer Restaurant Week from July 22 to Aug. 18, offering gourmet experien-





By **PERRI ORMONT  
BLUMBERG**

**S**O you want an epic farmers market haul, while disguising it as an afternoon activity that will leave kids delighted? There's a farmers market for that. Ahead, local produce meccas to enjoy with little ones.

## GrowNYC

Since 1976, environmental nonprofit GrowNYC has given New Yorkers the chance to sink their teeth into farm-fresh foods. All produce, animal products and baked goods are grown, raised, caught or baked by the on-site producers themselves, no more than 250 miles north, 120 miles south, and 170 miles east and west of New York City.

Along with just-picked fresh fruits and vegetables, you can also purchase heritage meats, award-winning farmstead cheeses, breads and baguettes, jams, pickles, cut flowers and plants, wine, ciders, maple syrup and more. On any given trip, you may unearth produce running the gamut from watermelon radishes and Chioggia beets to Pink-a-boo apples and Mexican specialty produce. Kids will also be amazed to see unfamiliar types of common fruits and veggies like, say, purple potatoes, red carrots, white cucumbers and yellow tomatoes.

Expect a convivial atmosphere where thousands of shoppers load up their reusable totes with fresh fare and chat with farmers, students tour the grounds to learn about seasonality, and kids entreat their caretakers to stop, watch and taste at one of the daily cooking demos.

GrowNYC's Greenmarket program comprises more than 45 Greenmarket locations across the five boroughs at the height of the season (June through November). While you can't go wrong with veggie ventures at any of GrowNYC's outposts, Union Square Greenmarket at Union Square Park in Manhattan, Jackson Heights

# SPROUT NEW ADVENTURES



Family-friendly  
farmers  
markets your  
kids will love

**Nonprofit GrowNYC (above) brings fresh produce from nearby farms into the city streets. TaSH in Tarrytown (below left) features sweet treats and live music. A new farmers market joins the weekly food truck festivities at Millbrook Vineyards & Winery (below right).**



The TaSH Farmers Market



Millbrook Vineyards and Winery

Greenmarket at 34th Avenue at 79th Street in Queens and Grand Army Plaza Greenmarket in Brooklyn reign supreme.

At the Union Square market (and Grand Army Plaza location, although the

lineup isn't finalized) you can also look forward to special guest visitors, arts and crafts for kids and cookbook signings. While not until fall, the annual Cider Village takeover at Union Square is an autumnal

feast for all the senses.

Over at Grand Army Plaza, we recommend making a day out of a trip to the market given its proximity to the Central Library, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Brooklyn Museum and

kid-friendly restaurants like Patti Ann's (the maple cruller and fudge brownies are divine) and Cheryl's Global Soul.

The Jackson Heights Greenmarket, which is located on 34th Ave Open

Streets, is ideal for biking and strolling, and filled with various diversions for kids like gardening, game-playing and crafting. Since this market occupies quite the multicultural crossroads, it also welcomes many parades during the summer.

## The TaSH (Tarrytown & Sleepy Hollow) Farmers Market

Whether you made the move to Westchester or are simply looking for an easy day trip to keep kids entertained, it's hard to outshine the TaSH for your next farmers market haul outside the five boroughs.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary season, this farmers market has all-day live music every weekend and a rotating series of activities. (Especially noteworthy: The TaSH will be partnering with the Sleepy Hollow Arts Collective to run arts workshops for the community.)

Families regularly camp out here for the whole day, picnicking on the Village Green, playing with on-leash pups and letting little ones burn off energy on the playground. There are plenty of kid-approved eats like pickles on a stick from Pickles by Tony, shaved ice from Bear Mountain Coffee Roasters and iced tea from Teagevity. For heartier fare, there's a farm grill and lots of prepared food options for breakfast and lunch.

Stellar activities for your restless offspring include bilingual storytime with Warner Library and a take-home craft, food education and sampling, and periodic visits from farmers' baby goats.

## Millbrook Vineyards & Winery's Friday Night Farmers Market

Craving an evening diversion? New as of May, visit Millbrook Winery's farmers market, the latest addition to its popular Food Truck Fridays.

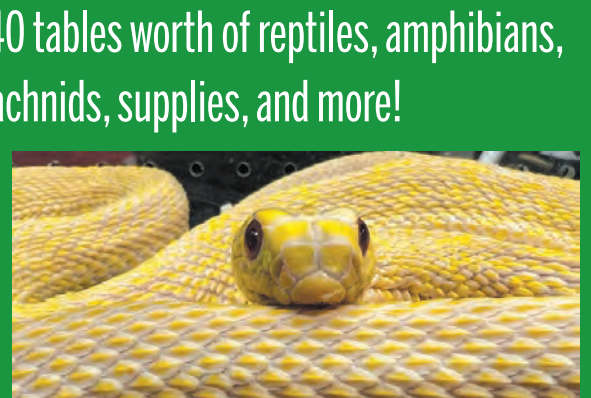
Located about 90 miles northeast of NYC, local vendors include farms, creameries, florists, artisans and two food trucks, accompanied by live music. Kids can have a ball playing lawn games like cornhole, while parents sip vino on the winery's bucolic lawn.

FYI: Dogs are welcome, as are mortgage applications when you realize there are some upsides to this whole "country" thing.



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Updated lines at BetMGM.com

MLB

Friday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Braves	\$102-120	YANKEES
CUBS	\$128-152	Mets
PHILLIES	\$120-142	Diamondbacks
TIGERS	\$152-180	White Sox
REDS	-108-108	Red Sox
Mariners	\$132-156	MARLINS
RANGERS	\$120-142	Royals
Orioles	\$140-166	ASTROS
Nationals	\$106-124	ROCKIES
PADRES	\$132-156	Brewers
Twins	\$140-166	ATHLETICS
DODGERS	\$164-198	Angels
PIRATES	OFF	Rays
GUARDIANS	OFF	Blue Jays

Stanley Cup Final

Friday- Game 6

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
OILERS	\$100-120	Panthers

Home Teams IN CAPS

WNBA

Friday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Fever	1.5 (163)	DREAM
ACES	5 (162.5)	Sun

CFL

Friday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
BLUE BOMBERS	2.5 (51.5)	Lions
ARGONAUTS	5.5 (49.5)	Elks

Sunday

ROUGHRIDERS	2.5 (50.5)	Tiger-Cats
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SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Cardinals win at Rickwood

Alabama native **Brendan Donovan** hit a two-run homer and a double and the Cardinals defeated the Giants 6-5 in the Negro Leagues tribute game at Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Ala. on Thursday night.

The 114-year-old Rickwood Field is the oldest professional ballpark in the U.S. and former home to baseball Hall of Famer **Willie Mays** and the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues.

Tributes to Mays, who died on Tuesday, continued throughout the week in Birmingham, including a ceremony before Thursday's game.

● In Cleveland, **Andrés Giménez** hit a two-run homer and **Will Brennan** had a pair of solo shots, lifting the American League Central-leading Guardians to a 6-3 victory over the Mariners.

● In Minneapolis, **Jonny DeLuca's** line-drive single to center field in the 10th inning and a strong throw from center fielder **Jose Siri** to complete a double play in the bottom half of the inning helped Tampa Bay overcome a squandered four-run lead in a 7-6 victory over the Twins.

● In Washington, **Ryne Nelson** pitched seven efficient innings and the Diamondbacks beat the Nationals 5-2.

NBA: Kings' Monk signs new deal

Kings guard **Malik Monk** agreed to a four-year deal worth \$78 million, including a player option, according to ESPN. Monk, 26, was the league's Sixth Man of the Year runner-up after his strong campaign and would have been a free agent on July 1.

● The Bulls dealt NBA All-Defensive guard **Alex Caruso** to the Thunder straight up for guard **Josh Giddey**, ESPN reported.

Caruso, 30, is entering the final year of his four-year, \$36.98 million contract.

NFL: Browns release Phelps

The Browns cut defensive end **Lonnie Phelps** on Thursday following his arrest on drunken driving charges after he crashed his SUV into a Key West, Florida restaurant on Wednesday. The team did not address Phelps' legal trouble in its news release but mentioned he spent all of 2023 on the practice squad.

● Patriots running back **Rhamondre Stevenson** has agreed to a four-year contract extension, a person with knowledge of the situation told the Associated Press. The new deal is worth a maximum of \$36 million, and includes \$17 million in guarantees.

BOXING: Garcia suspended

**Ryan Garcia** has been suspended for one year and fined \$10,000 by the New York State Athletic Commission, according to ESPN.

Garcia, 25, will also have to forfeit the \$1 million he won from his majority decision win over WBC super lightweight champion **Devin Haney** at Barclays Center in April. That bout is now a no-contest. The fighter tested positive for the performance-enhancing drug ostarine both on the day before and day of his fight with Haney, ESPN reported in May.

GOLF: Kim takes Travelers lead

**Tom Kim** shot an 8-under-par 62 on Thursday in the first round of the Travelers Championship at the TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Conn., good for a two-stroke lead in the final limited field, no-cut signature event on this year's PGA Tour schedule.

● In Sammamish, Wash., **Lexi Thompson** finished with a 4-under 68 and had the first-round lead in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

ACTION TOP PLAY

Sixth sense: No goals in 1st

By MICHAEL LEBOFF  
actionnetwork.com

The Oilers have gotten the Stanley Cup Final back on serve. Led by Connor McDavid, they have outscored the Panthers, 13-4, in the last two contests and now have the opportunity to force a Game 7 after trailing 3-0.

The betting market views Friday's Game 6 in Edmonton as essentially a coin flip — the Oilers are a nominal -120 favorite — but the hockey world seems to believe the momentum is with the Oilers.

Still, you do have to wonder if the blueprint we saw in Game 5 is sustainable. The Oilers got ahead on a short-

handed goal, added a couple of markers on the power play and were gifted an ugly one by Sergei Bobrovsky.

Florida's discipline has deserted it at perhaps the worst possible time and the Cats will need to get a grip on this game from the drop of the puck if they want to avoid the Game 7 pressure-cooker.

I'd expect the first 20 minutes to be quite cagey, with both teams trying to avoid making a big mistake and going behind early. That puts plenty of value on the first period to end scoreless at +340.

**THE PLAY:** First period Under 0.5 goals (+340, FanDuel).

*Michael Leboff handicaps hockey for Action Network.*

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2024			'24 vs OPP			CAREER			LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	vs OPP			W-L	IP	ERA
Mets	Quintana (L)		2-5	4.98	7-7	0-0	0.00	0-4				1-0	13.2	4.61
Cubs	Imanaga (L)	(2:20pm)	7-1	1.90	11-2	1-0	0.00	1-0				2-0	18.0	2.00
Braves	Sale (L)		9-2	2.98	9-4	—	—	6-9				1-1	18.0	6.00
Yankees	Rodon (L)	(7:05pm)	9-3	3.28	11-4	—	—	1-0				2-1	18.0	4.00
Rays	Pepiot (R)		4-4	4.57	6-6	0-0	0.00	0-0				1-2	16.2	6.48
Pirates	TBD	(6:40pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—				—	—	—
Red Sox	Crawford (R)		3-6	3.54	4-11	0-0	13.50	0-0				1-2	18.0	4.50
Reds	Abbott (L)	(7:10pm)	5-6	3.42	7-7	0-0	0.00	0-0				2-1	16.0	3.94
Mariners	Kirby (R)		6-5	3.54	8-7	1-0	0.00	1-0				2-0	18.0	1.50
Marlins	Rogers (L)	(7:10pm)	1-8	5.09	1-13	0-0	0.00	0-0				0-2	18.0	3.50
Angels	Sandoval (L)		2-8	5.24	—	—	—	0-3				0-0	16.2	4.86
Dodgers	TBD	(10:10pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—				—	—	—
White Sox	Fedde (R)		5-1	3.09	6-9	0-0	3.86	0-0				1-0	18.0	3.00
Tigers	Flaherty (R)	(6:40pm)	4-4	3.01	7-6	0-0	1.50	0-1				3-0	16.2	0.00
Blue Jays	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—				—	—	—
Guardians	Carrasco (R)	(7:10pm)	2-6	5.80	4-8	0-1	9.00	4-2				0-2	13.2	7.90
Royals	Singer (R)		4-4	3.39	9-5	0-0	1.50	0-3				0-2	15.1	6.46
Rangers	Evualdi (R)	(8:05pm)	3-3	3.15	6-5	0-0	0.00	4-2				1-1	15.2	4.02
Orioles	Rodriguez (R)		8-2	3.20	9-3	0-0	3.00	0-0				3-0	19.1	2.33
Astros	Bloss (R)	(8:10pm)	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.00	0.00				0-0	0.0	0.00
Twins	Paddack (R)		5-3	5.25	10-4	0-0	19.29	1-1				1-1	12.2	8.53
Athletics	Estes (R)	(9:40pm)	2-2	5.97	3-4	0-0	20.25	0-0				1-1	14.0	5.79
D'Backs	Montgomery (L)		5-4	6.00	7-4	0-0	0.00	0-1				2-1	12.2	6.39
Phillies	Walker (R)	(6:40pm)	3-2	5.33	4-5	0-0	0.00	0-0				0-1	16.1	4.96
Nationals	Herz (L)		1-1	3.77	2-1	0-0	0.00	0-0				1-1	14.1	3.77
Rockies	Hudson (R)	(8:40pm)	2-9	4.89	3-11	1-0	0.00	3-1				0-2	16.1	4.41
Brewers	Rea (R)		6-2	3.29	9-3	0-0	0.00	0-0				2-0	18.1	1.96
Padres	Cease (R)	(9:40pm)	6-6	3.95	8-7	1-0	1.50	1-1				1-2	15.2	6.32

\* REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

No Sale! Yanks, Rodon respond

The Yankees were embarrassed by the Orioles. Their lead atop the AL East cut to a half game after Baltimore blasted them, 17-5. The Braves invade The Bronx, and Hotlanta remains a force even without Ronald Acuña Jr. The Yanks' Carlos Rodon will have to regroup after his epic Fenway fail. Rodon allowed five runs in five frames, snapping a seven-game winning streak. Chris Sale seems to have found a home in Atlanta. His next K will be his 100th on the year, and he's allowed two runs over seven innings in each of his last two starts. Believing the Yanks

will respond to the Baltimore beatdown, we'll take Rodon and the Yanks for \$50.

- \$

Feeling hot, hot, hot on the first day of summer. The Royals took a 2-0 lead on not one but two Freddy Fermin homers. But when Zack Gelof's two-run homer tied it the heat got to us. Mrs. Stitches nearly called an ambulance when we turned a Trumpish shade of orange. The call was canceled when Bobby Witt Jr.'s solo shot won it. Royals 3, A's 2. Winner. Down -703 freddypateks.

stitches@nypost.com





Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY

	TODAY June 21	SAT June 22	SUN June 23	MON June 24	TUE June 25	WED June 26	THU June 27
	Atlanta 7:05 Apple TV+ WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	Atl. 7:15 Fox WFAN	Atl. 1:35 YES WFAN	NO GAME	Mets 7:10 YES WFAN	Mets 7:10 Prime Video WFAN	Tor. 7:07 YES WFAN
	Cubs 2:20 SNY WCBS 880 AM	Cubs 2:20 SNY, FS1 WCBS	Cubs 7:10 ESPN WCBS	NO GAME	Yanks 7:10 SNY WCBS	Yanks 7:10 SNY WCBS	NO GAME
	NO GAME	L.A. 3:00 ESPN	Atl. 3:00 MY9	NO GAME	Minn. 8:00 Prime Video	NO GAME	NO GAME

Saturday	Saturday	Sunday
Toronto FC 7:30 Apple TV+	Nashville SC 8:30 Apple TV+	Washington Spirit 1:30 ESPN

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB	2:20 p.m.	Mets at Cubs	SNY, WCBS (880 AM)
	6:30 p.m.	Diamondbacks at Phillies	Apple TV+
	7:05 p.m.	Braves at Yankees	Apple TV+, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
	10 p.m.	Angels at Dodgers	MLBN
	8 p.m.	Panthers at Oilers, Game 6	ABC
Stanley Cup Final			
WNBA	7:30 p.m.	Fever at Dream	ION
	10 p.m.	Sun at Aces	ION
Soccer	Noon	UEFA Euro 2024 Group Stage: Poland vs. Austria	FS1
	3 p.m.	UEFA Euro 2024 Group Stage: Netherlands vs. France	Fox
	8 p.m.	2024 Copa America Group Stage: Peru vs. Chile	FS1
	8 p.m.	NWSL: Utah Royals at Orlando Pride	Prime Video
	9 p.m.	CPL: Atletico Ottawa at Cavalry FC	FS2
Golf	7 a.m.	DP World Tour: The KLM Open, 2nd Round	Golf
	Noon	Champions Tour: The Dick's Open, 1st Round	Golf
	3 p.m.	PGA Tour: The Travelers Championship, 2nd Round	Golf
	6 p.m.	LPGA Tour: The KPMG Women's PGA Championship, 2nd Round	Golf
Auto Racing	7:25 a.m.	F1: Spanish Grand Prix, Practice	ESPNU
	10:55 a.m.	F1: Spanish Grand Prix, Practice	ESPNU
	4 p.m.	NASCAR Xfinity Series: The Sci Aps 200, Qualifying	USA
	6 p.m.	ARCA Menards Series: The Zinsser SmartCoat 150	FS2
MMA	8 p.m.	PFL Main Card: Light Heavyweights & Lightweights Main Card	ESPN
Tennis	6 a.m.	ATP London, ATP Halle, WTA Berlin, WTA Birmingham- Quarterfinals	Tennis
Olympic Trials	6:30 p.m.	2024 U.S. Summer Olympic Trials: Track and Field	USA
	8 p.m.	2024 U.S. Summer Olympic Trials: Swimming	NBC
	9 p.m.	2024 U.S. Summer Olympic Trials: Track and Field	NBC
Horse Racing	2 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
	2 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
AFL Football	11:30 p.m.	Brisbane at Port Adelaide	FS2
	2:30 a.m. (Sat.)	Sydney at Greater Western Sydney	FS1
	5:30 a.m. (Sat.)	North Melbourne at Melbourne	FS2

ODDS & ENDS

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS Panthers-Oilers series odds	
WINNER	ODDS
Panthers	-350
Oilers	+280
Friday Panthers at Oilers, Game 6	
PUCKLINE	ODDS
Panthers +1.5 goals	-250
Oilers -1.5 goals	+200
TOTAL GOALS	ODDS
Over 5.5	-115
Under 5.5	-105
FIRST GOAL	ODDS
Zach Hyman	+850
Connor McDavid	10/1
Leon Draisaitl	11/1
Sam Reinhart	11/1
Carter Verhaeghe	13/1
Matthew Tkachuk	13/1
Aleksander Barkov	18/1
ANYTIME GOAL	ODDS
Zach Hyman	+120
Connor McDavid	+135
Sam Reinhart	+165
Leon Draisaitl	+170
Carter Verhaeghe	+195
Matthew Tkachuk	+225
Aleksander Barkov	+275
COPA AMERICA Friday Peru vs. Chile	
3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Peru	+290
Draw	+210
Chile	+110
TOTAL GOALS	ODDS
Over 2.5	+140
Under 2.5	-200
Saturday Ecuador vs. Venezuela	
3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Ecuador	-120
Draw	+240
Venezuela	+360
Mexico vs. Jamaica	
3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Mexico	-160
Draw	+270
Jamaica	+475
Sunday USA vs. Bolivia	
3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
USA	-500
Draw	+575
Bolivia	14/1
Uruguay vs. Panama	
3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Uruguay	-300
Draw	+425
Panama	+850

ACTION BET SMART

Mets will do better vs. Cubs' new ace

**PUMP THE BRAKES:** The Cubs' Shota Imanaga has been impressive, but the Mets are a worthwhile underdog in the eyes of Action Network's Nicholas Martin.

By NICHOLAS MARTIN  
actionnetwork.com

The Grimace magic took a momentary pause on Wednesday but the Mets still enter their three-game series at Wrigley Field having won seven of eight and are just one game back of a wild-card berth.

Meanwhile, the Yankees face another tough test from the Braves this week-end. Let's take a look at Friday's matchups involving the Mets and Yankees.

Mets at Cubs

The Mets get their second look at Japanese sensation Shota Imanaga in Friday's matinee, and are hoping to fare better than they did the first time they faced him. Imanaga was dominant on May 1, allowing zero runs and just three hits over six innings at Citi Field.

His 1.90 ERA is the third-best mark among qualified pitchers in the NL this season. He holds an expected fielding independent (xFIP) of 3.47 and an expected ERA (xERA) of 3.07, which suggest some regression is on the horizon. Imanaga's underlying results have also tailed off to a greater extent recently; over his last five starts, he has been hard-hit 36 percent while striking out 25.8 percent of batters faced.

Hitters have chased 126 of Imanaga's 300 (42 percent) off-speed pitches out of the zone for the third-highest rate in the league. Getting hitters to chase pitches has been a key to his 81 percent strand rate.

Laying off Imanaga's secondary stuff out of the zone is a key for opposing lineups, and it should benefit the Mets to have seen him already.

The Mets have been dominant versus left-handed pitching of late. Over the last 30 days, they own a league-leading weighted Runs Created plus (wRC+) of 161 with an OPS of .912. In the same span, the Cubs have hit to a wRC+ of only 74 versus lefties and own a league-high 19.1 percent soft-contact rate.

So while Jose Quintana is obviously a lesser pitcher than Imanaga at this point in his career, he is facing a Cubs lineup on Friday that has been out of form.

Despite Imanaga's brilliance, the Mets still look to be worthy of an underdog shot in Game 1 considering their other edges in this matchup.

*Recommendation: Mets moneyline (+128, FanDuel)*

Braves at Yankees

At 35, Chris Sale is authoring another excellent season, with an ERA of 2.98. He owns a superb underlying profile, including an xERA of 2.72 and an xFIP of 2.48.

Over the last 121 plate appearances against Sale, the pitcher has struck out 30 percent of batters faced, walked only 4 percent and allowed an expected batting average (xBA) of .229. He owns a Stuff+ rating of 107, and a Location+ rating of 102. His slider remains elite and has helped him generate a 35.9 percent chase rate.

The Yankees own lesser splits versus lefties than righties but will still offer a tough test for Sale. They have hit to a wRC+ of 119 versus lefties over the last 30 days, with an OPS of .752.

The Braves' offense has been far less effective over the last month. They have hit to a wRC+ of 98 against lefties, with an OPS of .703. They have struck out 22.8 percent of the time.

Carlos Rodon has enjoyed a nice bounce-back campaign, with a 4.17 xERA and a 4.30 xFIP.

A matchup at Yankee Stadium is scary for any pitcher right now, but Sale has the stuff to stifle even the best offenses. Rodon should continue to be a strong starting option the rest of the way, and the Braves' offense isn't in top form right now.

This total looks high given the starting pitching matchup, and there is value backing the Under.

*Recommendation: Under 8 runs (-115, FanDuel)*

*Nicholas Martin analyzes baseball for Action Network.*



## AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
<b>Yankees</b>	51	26	.662	—	—	5-5	L-2	23-12	28-14
Baltimore	49	25	.662	½	+8½	7-3	W-2	25-14	24-11
Boston	40	35	.533	10	1	8-2	W-5	18-20	22-15
Tampa Bay	36	39	.480	14	5	5-5	W-2	19-23	17-16
Toronto	35	39	.473	14½	5½	4-6	L-3	18-19	17-20

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	46	26	.639	—	—	6-4	W-2	23-9	23-17
Kansas City	42	34	.553	6	+½	3-7	W-1	25-14	17-20
Minnesota	41	34	.547	6½	—	7-3	L-2	23-16	18-18
Detroit	34	40	.459	13	6½	3-7	L-4	16-19	18-21
Chicago	20	56	.263	28	21½	3-7	L-2	13-25	7-31

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	44	33	.571	—	—	7-3	L-2	27-12	17-21
Houston	35	40	.467	8	6	5-5	W-2	19-19	16-21
Texas	34	40	.459	8½	6½	4-6	W-1	17-19	17-21
Los Angeles	29	45	.392	13½	11½	5-5	L-2	12-25	17-20
Oakland	28	49	.364	16	14	2-8	L-1	17-21	11-28

**\*WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

### Thursday

Baltimore 17, **Yankees** 5  
 Cleveland 6, Seattle 3  
 Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 6, 10 inn.  
 Houston 5, White Sox 3  
 Kansas City 3, Oakland 2  
**Friday**  
 Atlanta at **Yankees**, 7:05  
 White Sox at Detroit, 6:40  
 Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
 Boston at Cincinnati, 7:10  
 Seattle at Miami, 7:10  
 Toronto at Cleveland, 7:10  
 Kansas City at Texas, 8:05

## NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	49	25	.662	—	—	4-6	L-1	29-11	20-14
Atlanta	41	31	.569	7	+5½	6-4	W-3	24-13	17-18
Washington	36	38	.486	13	½	7-3	L-1	17-19	19-19
<b>Mets</b>	35	38	.479	13½	1	8-2	L-1	18-23	17-15
Miami	25	49	.338	24	11½	3-7	W-2	14-26	11-23

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	44	31	.587	—	—	6-4	L-1	22-12	22-19
St. Louis	37	37	.500	6½	+½	6-4	W-1	18-15	19-22
Pittsburgh	36	38	.486	7½	½	5-5	W-1	18-18	18-20
Chicago	36	39	.480	8	1	5-5	W-2	21-16	15-23
Cincinnati	35	39	.473	8½	1½	4-6	L-1	18-19	17-20

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	47	30	.610	—	—	6-4	W-1	24-15	23-15
San Diego	39	40	.494	9	—	5-5	W-2	19-21	20-19
Arizona	37	38	.493	9	—	7-3	W-1	19-18	18-20
San Francisco	36	40	.474	10½	1½	4-6	L-3	20-17	16-23
Colorado	26	49	.347	20	11	3-7	L-1	15-22	11-27

**\*WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

### Thursday

Arizona 5, Washington 2  
 L.A. Dodgers 5, Colorado 3  
 St. Louis 6, San Francisco 5  
 San Diego 7, Milwaukee 6  
**Friday**  
**Mets** at Cubs, 2:20  
 Atlanta at **Yankees**, 7:05  
 Arizona at Philadelphia, 6:40  
 Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
 Boston at Cincinnati, 7:10  
 Seattle at Miami, 7:10  
 Washington at Colorado, 8:40

Baltimore at Houston, 8:10  
 Minnesota at Oakland, 9:40  
 L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

### Saturday

Atlanta at **Yankees**, 7:15  
 White Sox at Detroit, 1:10  
 Kansas City at Texas, 4:05  
 Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 4:05  
 Minnesota at Oakland, 4:07  
 Baltimore at Houston, 4:10  
 Boston at Cincinnati, 4:10  
 Seattle at Miami, 4:10  
 Toronto at Cleveland, 4:10  
 L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

## Orioles 17, Yankees 5

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	5	3	3	1	1	0	.279
Mateo ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Rutschman c	5	3	3	0	2	0	.293
Mountcastle 1b	6	3	3	4	1	2	.278
O'Hearn dh	5	0	2	4	1	0	.289
Santander rf	5	1	2	3	1	1	.230
Cowser rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Westburg 2b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.279
Maton 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Mullins cf	6	3	2	2	0	0	.197
Hays lf	5	2	1	2	0	2	.239
Urias 3b	5	1	1	0	1	1	.250
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>		

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Volpe ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.271
Soto rf	3	1	0	1	1	0	.309
Grisham cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.100
Judge cf	3	1	2	3	0	1	.306
Jones rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.188
Stanton dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.243
Wells c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.210
Verdugo lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Torres 2b	2	1	1	1	0	0	.221
Rice 1b	1	0	0	0	1	0	.250
LeMahieu 1b-3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.200
Trevino c-p	4	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Cabrera 3b-2b	2	1	0	0	1	0	.235
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	

Baltimore	161	031	221	—	17	19	0
Yankees	012	020	000	—	5	6	3

**E:** Cabrera 2 (6), Torres (11). **LOB:** Baltimore 14, New York 3. **2B:** Henderson 2 (15), Mountcastle 2 (19), Rutschman (10), Westburg (15), Mullins (6), Volpe (12). **HR:** Mullins (7), off Gil; Santander (19), off Hill; Hays (3), off González; Torres (7), off Irvin; Judge (27), off Irvin. **RBIs:** O'Hearn 4 (30), Mullins 2 (25), Mountcastle 4 (37), Santander 3 (48), Henderson (50), Hays 2 (12), Torres (28), Judge 3 (67), Soto (56). **SB:** Henderson (12). **SF:** O'Hearn. **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 7 (Urias, Hays 2, O'Hearn 3, Santander), New York 1 (Verdugo). **RISP:** Baltimore 8 for 24; New York 1 for 3.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Irvin	4.2	5	5	5	2	2	84	3.45
Baker, W, 1-0	1.1	1	0	0	1	1	23	0.00
Akin	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	24	3.63
Vespi	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.00

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gil, L, 9-2	1.1	8	7	7	2	1	47	2.77
Tonkin	1.2	1	1	1	2	1	27	1.08
Kahnie	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	13	3.86
Hill	1.0	2	3	0	0	0	27	0.00
Marinaccio	1.0	0	1	0	1	1	18	2.84
González	1.0	1	2	2	1	17	17	3.86
Ferguson	1.0	3	2	2	0	1	20	5.47
Trevino	1.0	3	1	1	1	0	25	9.00

**T:** 3:00. **A:** 45,456 (47,309).

## Dodgers 5, Rockies 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	3	1	1	1	2	1	.318
Smith c	5	1	1	1	0	0	.276
Freeman 1b	5	1	2	1	0	0	.301
T.Hernández rf-lf	5	1	3	0	0	1	.261
Pages cf	5	1	1	1	0	0	.264
Rojas ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Vargas lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.308
Heyward rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.250
K.Hernández 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.203
Taylor 2b	3	0	2	0	1	0	.131
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Doyle c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.267
Bouchard lf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.198
McMahon 3b	4	1	2	1	0	2	.274
Toglia 1b	3	1	0	0	1	2	.186
Montero dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.210
Cave rf	3	0	2	2	0	0	.260
Stallings ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.303
Goodman c-rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.188
Trejo ss-2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.140
Jones ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.194
Amador 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.171
Tovar ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.280
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	

Los Angeles	102	200	000	—	5	12	0
Colorado	000	002	010	—	3	6	0

**LOB:** Los Angeles 9, Colorado 6. **2B:** Pages (11), T.Hernández (16). **HR:** Ohtani (21), off Black; Smith (11), off Black; Freeman (11), off Black; McMahon (13), off Vesia. **RBIs:** Ohtani (53), Pages (22), Vargas (6), Smith (45), Freeman (45), Cave 2 (14), McMahon (40). **SB:** Taylor 2 (3). **RISP:** Los Angeles 1 for 7; Colorado 2 for 6.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Stone, W, 8-2	5.1	4	2	2	2	7	77	3.04
Treinen, H, 5-0	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	12	2.35
Dan.Hudson,	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	1.82
H, 11								
Vesia, H, 6-1	1.0	1	1	1	0	3	23	1.34
Phillips, S, 12-12	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	1.80

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Blach, L, 3-5	4.0	10	5	5	1	2	76	5.13
Molina	3.0	0	0	0	1	1	45	5.97
Kinley	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	23	8.69
Lawrence	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	6.08

**T:** 2:34. **A:** 40,236 (50,144).

## Guardians 6, Mariners 3

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.206
Moore 3b	3	1	1	2	1	0	.208
Ju.Rodriguez cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Garver c	3	0	0	0	0	0	1.176
Raleigh ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.202
France dh	2	1	0	0	1	1	.244
Haniger rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.218
Locklear 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Rojas ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Robles lf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.357
Raley ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Bliss 2b	2	0	1	1	0	0	.179
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan lf	3	2	1	0	1	1	.396
Giménez 2b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.257
Ramírez dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.272
J.Naylor 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.237
Fry c	4	0	1	0	0	2	.307
Hedges c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.123
Brennan rf	4	2	3	2	0	0	.254
Schneemann 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.303
Freeman cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.216
Rochio ss	2	0	1	0	1	0	.213
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	

Seattle	200	100	000	—	3	5	0
Cleveland	110	030	01x	—	6	9	0

**LOB:** Seattle 5, Cleveland 4



# Redick to helm Lakers

By JUSTIN TASCH

The Lakers are taking a big swing with their new head coach.

After a dramatic coaching search, the Lakers struck a four-year deal with JJ Redick on Thursday, according to ESPN’s Adrian Wojna-rowski.

The 39-year-old will earn roughly \$8 million per season, according to The Athletic.

Redick, who has no coaching experience, co-hosts the “Mind the Game” podcast with Lakers star LeBron James, who can become a free agent this summer. He most recently was an analyst for ESPN and called the NBA Finals games with Mike Breen and Doris Burke.

Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka offered Redick the job Thursday morning after being sold on his “ability to connect with players and his basketball IQ,” according to ESPN.

The Lakers offered UConn coach Dan Hurley a six-year, \$70 million contract, but Hurley opted to remain in Storrs to chase an NCAA championship threepeat.

Redick retired from playing three years ago after 15 NBA seasons and was known as a sharpshooter, finishing with a career 41.5 shooting percentage from 3-point range.

The former Duke star, who the Magic selected 11th in the 2006 NBA Draft, played parts of seven seasons in Orlando and later played for the Bucks, Clippers, 76ers, Pelicans and Mavericks, averaging 12.8 points over his career.

Redick was linked to the Lakers job since the team fired Darvin Ham on May 3 after a first-round playoff loss to the Nuggets and first spoke to Pelinka at the NBA draft combine last month.

James, 39, holds a player option for the 2024-25 season and has yet to officially make a decision on his future, though pal Redick becoming the Lakers’ coach ostensibly increases the likelihood he’ll stay.

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## MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	12	3	5	41	46	29
Cincinnati	12	3	3	39	31	21
<b>Red Bulls</b>	8	4	7	31	31	25
<b>NYCFC</b>	9	7	2	29	26	22
Charlotte FC	8	6	5	29	21	20
Columbus	7	3	6	27	25	17
Toronto FC	7	9	3	24	28	32
Nashville	5	5	8	23	22	23
Atlanta	5	8	5	20	25	23
Philadelphia	4	6	8	20	31	29
D.C. United	4	8	7	19	25	33
CF Montréal	4	7	7	19	25	37
Chicago	4	8	6	18	21	30
Orlando City	4	8	6	18	19	29
New England	5	10	1	16	15	29

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	10	2	7	37	40	22
Los Angeles FC	10	4	4	34	32	21
LA Galaxy	9	3	7	34	37	27
Minn. United	8	5	5	29	31	28
Colorado	8	7	4	28	34	31
Vancouver	7	6	4	25	26	22
Portland	6	7	6	24	34	33
Houston	6	6	6	24	22	22
Austin FC	6	7	6	24	22	28
Seattle FC	5	7	7	22	24	23
FC Dallas	5	8	5	20	25	28
St Louis City	3	6	9	18	23	30
Sporting K.C.	3	11	5	14	31	40
San Jose	3	13	2	11	27	45

**Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie**  
**Saturday**  
Toronto FC at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm  
**NYCFC** at Nashville, 8:30pm  
New England at Cincinnati, 7:30pm  
Sporting K.C. at Columbus, 7:30pm  
Houston at D.C. United, 7:30pm  
Chicago at Orlando City, 7:30pm  
Charlotte FC at Philadelphia, 7:30pm  
Austin FC at Minnesota, 8:30pm  
Atlanta at St Louis City, 8:30pm  
CF Montréal at Colorado, 9:30pm  
LA Galaxy at Salt Lake, 9:30pm  
San Jose at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm  
Vancouver at Portland, 10:30pm  
FC Dallas at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

**Friday, June 28**  
Orlando City at **NYCFC**, 7:30pm  
**Saturday, June 29**  
D.C. United at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm  
St Louis City at Vancouver, 6pm  
Toronto FC at Atlanta, 7:30pm  
Philadelphia at CF Montréal, 7:30pm  
Columbus at New England, 7:30pm  
Cincinnati at FC Dallas, 8:30pm  
Charlotte FC at Houston, 8:30pm  
Austin FC at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm  
Miami at Nashville, 8:30pm  
Colorado at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm  
Minnesota at Portland, 10:30pm  
LA Galaxy at San Jose, 10:30pm  
Chicago at Seattle FC, 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
<b>Gotham FC</b>	8	2	3	27	16	9
Portland	7	4	2	23	25	16
Chicago	5	6	2	17	18	19
North Carolina	5	7	1	16	13	15
Louisville	3	4	6	15	19	17
Angel City	4	6	3	15	15	20
San Diego	3	5	14	12	13	
Houston	3	6	4	13	11	20
Bay FC	4	9	0	12	17	25
Seattle	2	9	2	8	13	25
Utah Royals FC	2	10	1	7	7	21

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

**Friday**  
Utah Royals FC at Orlando, 8pm  
**Saturday**  
San Diego at Houston, 7:30pm  
Angel City at Bay FC, 10pm  
**Sunday**  
Washington at **Gotham FC**, 1:30pm  
Kansas City at Portland, 4pm  
Louisville at Seattle, 6pm  
Chicago at North Carolina, 6pm

## 2024 Copa América

**First Round**  
**Top two in each group advance**  
**GROUP A**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Argentina	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peru	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

**Thursday**  
Argentina 2, Canada 0  
**Friday**  
Peru vs. Chile, 8pm  
**Tuesday**  
Peru vs. Canada, 6pm  
Chile vs. Argentina, 9pm  
**Saturday, June 29**  
Argentina vs. Peru, 8pm  
Canada vs. Chile, 8pm

**GROUP B**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Saturday**  
Ecuador vs. Venezuela, 6pm  
Mexico vs. Jamaica, 9pm  
**Wednesday**  
Ecuador vs. Jamaica, 6pm  
At Inglewood, Calif.  
Venezuela vs. Mexico, 9pm

## 2024 European Championship

**FIRST ROUND**  
**Top two in each group advance**  
**GROUP A**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Scotland	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Hungary	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

**Friday**  
Germany 5, Scotland 1  
**Saturday**  
Switzerland 3, Hungary 1  
**Wednesday**  
Germany 2, Hungary 0  
Scotland 1, Switzerland 1  
**Sunday**  
Switzerland vs. Germany, 3pm  
Scotland vs. Hungary, 3pm  
**GROUP B**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	4	0	3
6Italy	2	0	0	1	2	2	3
Albania	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Croatia	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

**Saturday**  
Spain 3, Croatia 0  
Italy 2, Albania 1  
**Wednesday**  
Croatia 2, Albania 2  
**Thursday**  
Spain 1, Italy 0  
**Monday**  
Albania vs. Spain, 3pm  
Croatia vs. Italy, 3pm  
**GROUP C**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Denmark	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Slovenia	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Serbia	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

**Sunday**  
Slovenia 1, Denmark 1  
England 1, Serbia 0  
**Thursday**  
Slovenia 1, Serbia 1  
Denmark 1, England 1  
**Tuesday**  
England. vs. Slovenia, 3pm  
Denmark vs. Serbia, 3pm

## Tennis

**ATP World Tour Cinch Championships**  
**At The Queen’s Club; London; Purse: Euro2,411,390; Surface: Grass; (seedings in parentheses):**  
**Men’s Singles - Round of 16**  
Tommy Paul (5), United States, def. Alejandro Tabilo, Chile, 6-3, 6-4.  
Jack Draper, Britain, def. Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, 7-6 (3), 6-3.  
Billy Harris, Britain, def. Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, France, 6-4, 7-5.  
Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, def. Brandon Nakashima, United States, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.  
4.

**Sunday, June 30**  
Mexico vs. Ecuador, 8pm  
Jamaica vs. Venezuela, 8pm  
**GROUP C**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Thursday**  
United States vs. Bolivia, 6pm  
Uruguay vs. Panama, 9pm  
**Friday, June 28**  
Colombia vs. United States, 6pm  
Uruguay vs. Bolivia, 9pm  
**Monday, July 1**  
United States vs. Uruguay, 9pm  
Bolivia vs. Panama, 9pm  
**GROUP D**

**GP W D L GF GA Pts**

Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Colombia vs. Paraguay, 6pm  
Brazil vs. Costa Rica, 9pm  
**Friday, June 28**  
Colombia vs. Costa Rica, 6pm  
Paraguay vs. Brazil, 9pm  
**Tuesday, July 2**  
Brazil vs. Colombia, 9pm  
Costa Rica vs. Paraguay, 9pm

**GROUP D**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Netherlands	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
France	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Poland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Austria	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

**Sunday**  
Netherlands 2, Poland 1  
**Monday**  
France 1, Austria 0  
**Friday**  
Poland vs. Austria, noon  
Netherlands vs. France, 3pm  
**Tuesday**  
Netherlands vs. Austria, noon  
France vs. Poland, noon  
**GROUP E**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Romania	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Slovakia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Belgium	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Ukraine	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

**Monday**  
Romania 3, Ukraine 0  
Slovakia 1, Belgium 0  
**Friday**  
Slovakia vs. Ukraine, 9 a.m.  
**Saturday**  
Belgium vs. Romania, 3pm  
**Wednesday, June 26**  
Slovakia vs. Romania, noon  
Ukraine vs. Belgium, noon  
**GROUP F**

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Turkey	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Portugal	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Czech	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Republic	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

**Tuesday**  
Turkey 3, Georgia 1  
Portugal 2, Czech Republic 1  
**Saturday**  
Georgia vs. Czech Republic, 9 a.m.  
Turkey vs. Portugal, noon  
**Wednesday, June 26**  
Georgia vs. Portugal, 3pm  
Czech Republic vs. Turkey, 3pm

**ATP World Tour Terra Wortmann Open**  
**At Gerry Weber Stadium; Halle, Germany; Purse: Euro2,255,655; Surface: Grass; Stadium (seedings in parentheses):**  
**Men’s Singles - Round of 16**  
Hubert Hurkacz (5), Poland, def. James Duckworth, Australia, 7-6 (3), 6-4.  
Jannik Sinner (1), Italy, def. Fabian Marozsan, Hungary, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-3.  
Marcos Giron, United States, def. Matteo Berrettini, Italy, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.  
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Stefanos Tsitsipas (6), Greece, 6-4, 6-4.

## SPORTSCROSS

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		

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**ACROSS**  
1 Way around town  
4 Boy king  
7 “Sweetwater”  
10 Wildcats  
12 Past word  
13 Reserve guard on the Knicks 1969-70 title team  
15 Ed Pinckney  
16 Word with fortune  
17 Roman god  
18 Reserve center on the Knicks 1972-73 title team  
21 Missing the mark  
22 Reserve forward on the Knicks 1969-70 title team  
26 Abbr. for the old Dodgers  
29 Phil Esposito  
30 Prince pitched in the ‘40s  
31 Reserve forward on the Knicks 1972-73 title team  
35 Take your choice  
36 Knick who scored 21.6 PPG in the 1999 NBA Finals  
37 Ukrainian auto  
38 Bob Uecker  
39 Superscout  
Guerrero  
1963-2003

**DOWN**  
1 Light brown  
2 First teenager to play for the Knicks  
3 Reserve center on the Knicks 1972-73 title team  
4 Rocky hill  
5 Player’s wear  
6 Path for Confucians  
7 Four-time US Open winner  
8 What good players bring to the playoffs

9 Knick selected by Charlotte in the 1988 expansion draft  
11 British Z  
14 JFK’s bro  
18 Preacher  
19 Titans’ trio  
20 League north of the border  
22 OF for the Yankees, KC A’s & Angels  
23 US hang gliding & paragliding org.  
24 He swam to seven golds in the 1972 Olympics  
25 Old Miami WNBA team  
26 Moisten while cooking  
27 2B Bobby 1964-72  
28 Child’s nurse  
30 Approves  
32 Blue Jays’ trio  
33 Excellent  
34 Shooter’s stick

### SOLUTION IN SATURDAY’S POST

### Diamondbacks 5, Nationals 2

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte dh	5	0	1	0	0	2	.280
Grichuk rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.304
Carroll cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Gurriel lf	5	0	2	0	0	1	.256
Walker 1b	5	1	2	1	0	2	.258
Suárez 3b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.198
McCarthy cf-rf	4	2	3	0	0	1	.298
Alexander 2b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.270
Newman ss	3	1	2	1	1	1	.290
Barnhart c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.169
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Thomas rf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.229
Winker lf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.270
Rosario dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.180
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.198
García 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Meneses 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Vargas ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.282
Senzel 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.215
Young cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.254
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	

**Arizona** 000 310 001 — 5 13 0  
**Washington** 001 001 000 — 2 4 0

**LOB:** Arizona 9, Washington 2. **2B:** Grichuk (10), Marte (16). **HR:** Walker (17), off Weems; Thomas (8), off Nelson; Winker (8), off Nelson. **RBIs:** Barnhart (4), Grichuk (2) (17), Newman (17), Walker (50), Thomas (24), Winker (34). **SB:** McCarthy 2 (12). **CS:** Marte (1). **S:** Alexander. **RISP:** Arizona 5 for 13; Washington 0 for 0.

**Arizona IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA**  
Nelson, W, 5-5 7.0 3 2 2 0 2 70 5.18  
Thompson, H, 9 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 9 0.90  
Sewald, S, 8-8 1.0 1 0 0 0 1 8 0.71

**Washington IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA**  
Gore, L, 6-6 5.0 10 4 4 2 7 103 3.49  
Barnes 1.0 2 0 0 0 0 1 17 3.96  
García 1.0 0 0 0 0 0 2 15 4.94  
Floro 1.0 0 0 0 0 0 2 14 1.53  
Weems 1.0 1 1 1 1 0 0 14 6.67

**T: 2:17. A: 21,158 (41,376).**

## WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Connecticut	13	1	.929	—
<b>Liberty</b>	13	3	.813	1
Atlanta	6	7	.462	6½
Indiana	6	10	.375	8
Chicago	5	9	.357	8
Washington	2	13	.133	11½
West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	12	3	.800	—
Seattle	9	6	.600	3
Las Vegas	7	6	.538	4
Phoenix	8	7	.533	4
Los Angeles	4	12	.250	8½
Dallas	3	11	.214	8½



# HE'S HOW TALL?!

## Florida lists incoming frosh at record 7-foot-9

By MATT EHALT

Olivier Rioux makes Zach Edey look like Muggsy Bogues.

An incoming Florida basketball freshman, Rioux has gone viral in recent days after internet sleuths discovered his bio page on the school's athletic website lists him at a staggering 7-foot-9.

That height would make the Montreal native the tallest college basketball player of all time, passing former 7-8 Florida Tech and Mountain State center Paul Sturgess, according to Fox Sports. Rioux previously entered the Guinness World Book of Records in 2022 as the tallest living male teenager.

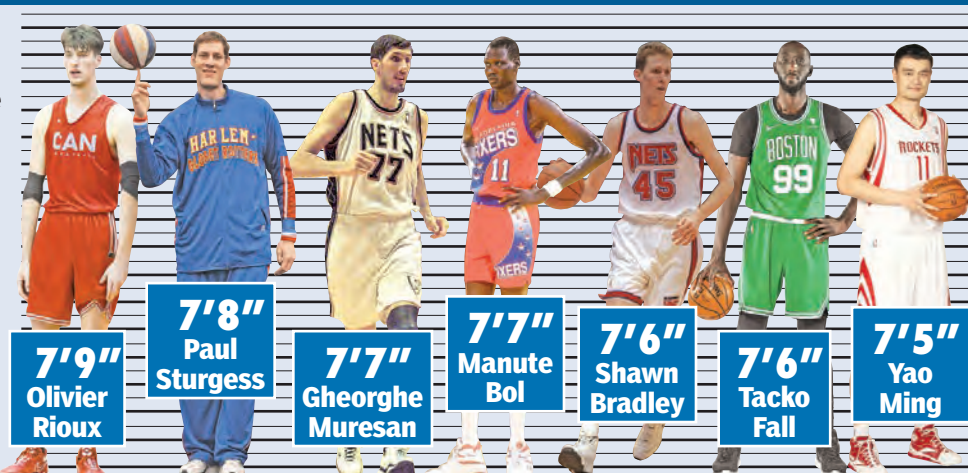
"As a child, Olivier spent hours looking through his Guinness World Records books, studying the tallest people, and comparing himself to every record holder," Guinness wrote in September 2021.

Time will tell if Rioux can leave his mark on college basketball the way his fellow Canadian, the 7-4, two-time National Player of the Year Edey did, but Rioux is going to turn some heads this year.

You can't teach height, as they say, and it's not every day you see a 7-9 player. Edey brought plenty of eyes for his height and prowess, just like other giants before him, but he still falls 5 inches short of Rioux.

### Height there

At 7-9, Olivier Rioux could be one of the tallest players ever. Here's a look at some notable really big men:



Perhaps the most-recognized skyscraper is the late Manute Bol, who was frequently listed at 7-7 and sometimes 7-6 — while playing for Division II Bridgeport in the 1980s before the Washington Bullets drafted him in 1985.

Sturgess played collegiately from 2007-11, although he did not reach the Power Five level as Rioux will this upcoming season. Sturgess eventually played for the Harlem Globetrotters.

The 7-6 Tacko Fall also became a viral sensation for UCF during the late 2010s before heading to the NBA in 2019 for a brief career with the Celtics and Cavaliers.

Rioux, who played for IMG

Academy in Florida, actually lists himself at 7-7 on his Instagram page, while noting that he's 7-9 with his size-20 shoes on.

The Ballislife.com X account reported that the 18-year-old stood at 7-5 two years ago before growing an inch last year and then adding another inch this year.

Rioux measured at 6-1 as an 8-year-old, 6-11 in sixth grade and joined the 7-foot club before entering seventh grade, according to Florida.

The 290-pound center went viral last year for posting a 2018 photo of him towering over Nuggets guard Jamaal Murray, who is

**IT'S GOT TO BE THE SHOES:** Olivier Rioux, a Montreal native who has played for Canada's national team, says on his Instagram page that he's 7-foot-7 but 7-9 in sneakers. Florida, where he is expected to play this season, has listed the taller height on its website.

Sipa USA

# Yanks add vet arm to bullpen

By GREG JOYCE

The Yankees added a veteran lefty to their beat-up bullpen on Thursday, though he did not receive the warmest of welcomes.

The club signed sidearm reliever Tim Hill to a major league contract and immediately threw him into the mix in an ugly 17-5 loss to the Orioles. Hill pitched an inning and gave up a three-run home run on which all of the runs were unearned because of an error behind him.

### YANKEES NOTES

Hill, 34, was designated for assignment by the White Sox last week and then released Tuesday. He had posted a 5.87 ERA with 13 strikeouts in 23 innings this season.

But Aaron Boone said before Thursday's game that the Yankees believed Hill was better than his surface numbers would suggest.

"Hopefully getting here, getting in our environment, he can become an important part of this," Boone said. "We think he gives us a different look down there that can be valuable."

Clayton Andrews was designated for assignment to make room on the 40-man roster.

Across parts of seven seasons in the majors — also spending time with the Royals and Padres — Hill has a career 4.30 ERA in 347 appearances, known as a pitcher that can generate a high rate of ground balls.

Boone said Hill had been on their board "for a few weeks" and that in a few of his rough outings with the White Sox he had just been "dinked and dunked to death."

The Yankees were in need of a fresh arm after the bullpen was forced to cover six innings in Wednesday's 10-inning, 7-6 loss to the Orioles, plus Ian Hamilton landing on the IL. And after using six relievers Thursday — plus Jose Trevino for the ninth — the Yankees optioned Ron Marinaccio to Triple-A, clearing the way for another arm (perhaps Cody Morris) to be recalled on Friday.

► A day after making his season debut, **Gerrit Cole** was feeling like he hoped to physically on Thursday.

"When I first saw him a couple hours ago, he feels good about things and where he's at," Boone said. "I think we're in a good spot there."

► **Nick Burdi** is set to throw a bullpen session on Friday, his first since landing on the IL on May 24 with right hip inflammation.

mehalt@nypost.com



Post Time: 1:05 p.m.  
vcangialosi@nypost.com



Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Save Time (1st)  
Lock Record: 7 for 19 (37%)  
Meek Record: 40/185 \$227.00

1 1 1/8 miles; \$90,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Two turns in the Friday opener. **SAVE TIME** closed well, ran out of real estate, missing by a head. Chad Brown gives her another furlong to work with. Irad on..blinkers on. Brown can run 1-2 with **RISING INFLATION**. Turf to dirt. 2nd off the layoff. Ran 3rd under Prat, lone dirt start. **MATURITY DATE** moved lower, lost a hard fought photo at Keeneland. Stretches a 1/16 for Rice.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Autumn's Turn(L),118	M Olver	2-7-4	Contessa	4-1
2 Save Time(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	2-3-4	C Brown	4-5
3 Classy Mischief(L),118	R Maragh	7-6-4	Contessa	15-1
4 Maturity Date(L),118	J Lezcano	2-8-4	Rice	5-1
5 Rising Inflation(L),118	F Prat	3-3-x	C Brown	5-2

2 6 fur(T); \$90,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

Two-year-old fillies on the turf, many making career debuts. We will take **LAUGHING LADY**. Prat rides the daughter of Practical Joke for Dutrow. **GOOD LONG CRY** debuted midpack in a 100k at Gulfstream. Raced wide. Irad on the M/L fave. **ABIENTOT** (Casse/Davis), **BURNER ACCOUNT** (Casse/Cancel) and **MOON GATE** (Clement/Johnny V) are 1st out threats.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Moon Gate,119	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Clement	5-1
2 The Sugars,119	R Maragh	4-x-x	Terranova	8-1
3 Carol Said No,119	J Gomez	x-x-x	Morley	12-1
4 Ladv River Lily,119	H Harkie	7-x-x	Seyler	50-1
5 Good Long Cry,119	I Ortiz, Jr	5-x-x	Weaver	5-2
6 Burner Account,119	E Cancel	x-x-x	Casse	8-1
7 Abientot,119	D Davis	x-x-x	Casse	5-1
8 Laughing Lady,119	F Prat	x-x-x	A Dutrow	4-1
9 Warming,119	M Franco	x-x-x	Motion	6-1

3 1 mile; \$42,000; c1m(\$16,000); 4up

This will be **DADDY KNOWS** 25th start at the Big A. He's won 6 and was 2nd best last pair. Runs off the Barrera claim. **LORD CAPTAIN** drops for Rice after finishing up the track. Winner racing for 50K this distance in April. **CENTAVO** shows his 30th start at Aqueduct. He's won 4 times, twice this past winter. Shoked little late out; rider change to Davis. **CHOCOLATE SHAKE** has won 2 in a row, both at 7/8. Meets better; never raced this far.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Daddy Knows(L),118	K Davis	2-2-1	Barrera	7-2
2 Chocolate Shake(L),113	A Bocachica	1-1-7	David	3-1
3 Co Conspirator(L),118	D Grises Rave	2-4-4	Jones	8-1
4 Lord Captain(L),120	J Lezcano	8-3-6	Rice	9-5
5 Higher Quality(L),118	R Vazquez	7-6-4	Potts	6-1
6 Centavo(L),123	D Davis	4-5-4	Chatterpaul	4-1

4 1 mile; \$55,000; c1m(\$25,000); 4up

Michael Dubb's **TETSU** (Dutrow/Irad) and **MYSTIC NIGHT** (Atras/Franco) both won by a neck, snapping lengthy losing skids. Tough tandem. **BLAKE B** was a tired 6th and **BOURBON CALLING** was 3rd here last month. Both were winners 2 back. Blake B will be on the lead at a price.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
2 Blake B.(L),118	R Maragh	6-1-3	Rodriguez	6-1
3 Classic Mark(L),118	D Grises Rave	5-6-5	Rodriguez	10-1
4 Bold Victory(L),118	F Prat	3-8-8	Rodriguez	6-1
5 Bourbon Calling(L),118	K Carmouche	3-1-2	Rice	2-1

Aqueduct results

**FIRST-2 3/4 miles(T); \$150,000; Steinman; 4up**  
1 L'imprtr (FR) (Gnfrd) 6.60 3.30 4.30  
5 Rampoldi Pops (Bargary) 5.70 4.60  
3 Ziggle Pops (GB) (Watters) 6.60

● \$1 Exacta (1-5) \$19.70 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-5-3-4) \$64.60 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-5-3) \$40.50

**SECOND-5 1/2 fur; \$75,000; mdn spl wlt; 2YO**  
7 Mo Plex (Ortiz,Jr.) 4.30 3.20 2.30  
5 Chsg Colton (Velazquez) 5.40 3.20  
3 Out On Ball (Franco) 2.30

● \$1 Double (1-7) \$12.30 ● \$1 Exacta (7-5) \$11.60 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (7-5-3) \$13.25

**THIRD-1 mile; \$85,000; alw; 3up (f&m)**  
6 Khal Mek (Ortiz,Jr.) 2.90 2.10 2.10  
3 Cnderell's Cuse (Lezcano) 2.30 2.10  
5 Racing Colors (Vazquez) 2.40

Scr: Saratoga Kisses  
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-7-6) \$17.10 ● \$1 Daily Double (7-6) \$3.95 ● \$1 Exacta (6-3) \$2.35 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (6-3-5-4) \$0.51 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (6-3-5) \$1.62

**Triple picked by Vic C**

**FOURTH-1 mile 3 fur; \$90,000; mdn; 3upf**  
1 Justdeny (Alvrd) 7.80 4.10 2.80  
5 Past Tense (Carmouche) 10.80 5.30  
3 Queens Fable (IRE) (Prat) 3.90

Scr: Maturity Date, Investment Process  
● \$1 Pick 3 (7-6-1) \$11.40 ● \$1 Daily Double (6-1) \$6.90 ● \$1 Exacta (1-5) \$24.70 ● \$1 Quinella (1-5) \$18.90 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-5-3-9) \$59.45 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-5-3) \$44.62

**FIFTH-1 mile; \$80,000; alc; 3up (f&m)**

1 Smkn' Ht Ktty (Crnch) 3.20 2.10  
6 Chasing Daylight (Gomez) 2.80  
Scr: Fast and Frisky, Walk With Me, Reigning Chick  
● \$1 Pick 3 (6-1-1) \$7.30 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-1) \$6.60 ● \$1 Exacta (1-6) \$4.10

**Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)**

**SIXTH-6 fur; \$65,000; alw; 3up (f&m)**  
3 Laconia (Franco) 15.40 6.30 4.90  
10 Linarite (Velazquez) 4.20 3.20  
5 Amy's Light (Bocachica) 17.60

Scr: Unsolved Mystery, Will Be Famous, Roman Goddess  
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-1-3) \$37.00 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (1/6-1/2-10-1/4/5-7/3) \$27.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-3) \$10.90 ● \$1 Exacta (3-10) \$24.60 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (3-10-5-1) \$735.20 ● \$0.5 Trifecta

(3-10-5) \$340.75

**SEVENTH-6 fur; \$38,000; md cl(\$30,0); 3upf**  
11 Prncss Bcc (Rvr,Jr.) 15.00 6.80 4.50  
9 Neigh Jude (Ortiz,Jr.) 3.90 2.80  
5 Going for Glory (Gomez) 3.00  
Scr: Mxing the Bank, Houdini's Bride, Bella Banker  
● \$1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-3-7) \$9.20 ● \$1 Pick 3 (1-3-11) \$77.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (3-11) \$90.25 ● \$1 Exacta (11-9) \$24.30 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (11-9-5-1) \$42.90 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (11-9-5) \$52.00 ● \$1 Consolation Double (3-7) \$5.80

**EIGHTH-1 mile; \$102,000; alw; 3up (f&m)**  
6 Allring Angl (GB) (Frnc) 10.20 5.30 3.30  
7 Breth Awy (GB) (Ortz,Jr.) 3.60 2.70  
1 Revalita Art (Prat) 2.60

9 Splashy(L),124 D Davis 9-5-10 Clement 8-1

8 1 mile; \$102,000; alw; 3up(f)

Quiet start for **SIGNAL FROM NOISE**. Flat 5th last summer before going on an extended break. Won 2 of previous 3 at this distance and gets a group she can handle. Does she need a race? Irad will know. **DAME CINCO** won by a game neck, snapping an 0 for 9 drought. Again, if you believe top pick needs that race. **TONED UP** is 0 for 14 over the last 2 years. Led, tired and was claimed by Kantarmaci. Not a lot of speed in here. Franco will have her forwardly placed. Blinkers on.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Malibu Moonshine(L),124	J Alvarado	7-1-4	Baker	15-1
2 Pretti Xtreme(L),122	J Lezcano	2-3-8	Rice	4-1
3 Amanda's Folly(L),122	T McCarthy	3-5-1	Rice	12-1
4 Dame Cinco(L),122	D Davis	1-4-2	R Dutrow	5-2
5 Into Happiness(L),122	J Velazquez	7-6-4	Hennig	8-1
6 Toned Up(L),122	M Franco	4-5-3	Kantarmaci	6-1
7 Signal From Noise(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	5-3-2	C Brown	8-5

9 1 1/16 miles(T); \$47,000; mdn c1m(\$40,000); 3up

Irad sweeps the late double with **NOSTALGIC ONE**. Makes 4YO debut for Pletcher. 3rd this level/distance at the Spa last summer. **BRITISH SEA** was 3rd then 5th with similar at Laurel. Prat on; blinkers off. **BETTA GO GO GO** makes turf debut for Barker. Board hitter 7 of 9 on dirt. Davis on the Monmouth invader.

PN Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1 Theregoesmymiracle(L),125	K Davis	2-4-8	Paragallo	10-1
2 Betta Go Go Go(L),125	D Davis	3-4-2	Barker	8-1
3 Zen Air(L),118	E Cancel	6-x-x	Lerman	15-1
4 Lcglucky(L),118	D Grises Rave	6-5-x	Ferraro	20-1
5 Mitole's Diamond(L),118	L Rivera, Jr	7-x-x	Shivmangal	30-1
6 Comanche Peak(GB)(L),125	J Gomez	7-8-10	Bernardini	20-1
7 El Alacran(L),118	J Velazquez	10-11-3	Morley	9-2
8 Fluorescent Bay(L),125	T McCarthy	6-8-6	Davis	20-1
9 Pappou's Laugh(L),118	R Maragh	6-6-x	C Martin	15-1
10 Smooth an Easy(L),118	H Harkie	2-7-7	Seyler	30-1
11 Nostalgic One(L),125	I Ortiz, Jr	9-3-3	Pletcher	7-5
12 Oxford Union(L),125	F Prat	8-6-x	McGaughey III	6-1
13 British Sea(L),118	F Prat	5-3-10	Brion	4-1
14 Isomارشall(M),118	T McCarthy	3-8-x	Keithan	20-1
15 Master of Malice(L),118	M Franco	5-2-x	Russell	12-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Couldn't cash last week. Needed a win and Smokin Hot Kitty (\$3.20) did just that. Profit on the day: +\$18.

Race 2: Two-year-old Laughing Lady makes her career debut on the turf. Flavien Prat rides the Practical Joke filly for Rick Dutrow. Play \$20 win and place. — Vic Cangialosi

Scr: Into Happiness, Amanda's Folly, Quarrel, Toned Up, Pretti Xtreme  
● \$1 Consolation Pick 3 (3-7-6) \$43.00 ● \$1 Pick 3 (3-11-6) \$507.00 ● \$1 Double (11-6) \$57.25 ● \$1 Exacta (6-7) \$14.10 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (6-7-1-4) \$9.92 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (6-7-1) \$19.25

**NINTH-1 1/16 mile; \$80,000; alc; 3up**  
2 Btttrcklythngd (Dvs) 25.20 10.80 7.20  
6 Laurel Viley (Crmouche) 8.50 5.90  
10 Ez Roll (McCarthy) 11.80  
● \$1 Pick 3 (11-6-2) \$436.50 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (3-11-6-2) \$2672.75 ● \$1 Daily Double (6-2) \$65.50 ● \$1 Exacta (2-6) \$62.50 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-6-10-1) \$334.20 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-6-10) \$387.25

**TWELFTH-1 mile pace; \$15,000; cond**  
1 Cowgirl Lilly (GBrennan) 4-1-1 5-2  
2 Cheryl's Shadow (Yingras) 3-1-6 10-1  
3 Updown Hanover (Tbuter) 2-5-2 8-1  
4 MandonforgetMe (Kakley) 1-1-1 7-2  
5 Silk Cloud A (Jstratton) 5-4-1 6-1  
6 Coachellabound N (Jbartlett) 1-2-3 3-1  
7 Lit De Rose (Dubbe) 3-5-7 20-1  
8 Karma Seelster (Siegelman) 2-6-2 5-1

**TENTH-1 mile pace; \$21,000; cond**  
1 Sugar Britches (Jbartlett) 3-2-1 3-1  
2 Lucky Artist A (ASiegelman) 1-4-8 7-2  
3 Talent To Spare A (Jstratton) 6-1-3 6-1  
4 True BlueHanover(BHolland) 4-2-1 5-2

5 Rockn Philly (TButer) 5-7-7 8-1  
6 Dixie Dream (GBrennan) 4-1-2 10-1  
7 Jive Dancing A (Dubbe) 6-7-4 12-1  
8 Stay Happy (MKakaley) 8-5-3 20-1

**ELEVENTH-1 mile pace; \$13,000; cond**  
1 Bettor B Sawyer (MKakaley) 3-5-6 10-1  
2 GameOnShadows (Segeimn) 8-5-8 7-2  
3 Tesla Power (Tbuter) 9-7-6 8-1  
4 Silky Stride (Jstratton) 2-5-1 3-1  
5 HalleujahHanover (BHolland) 6-4-7 5-2  
6 Sezana N (Jbartlett) 7-3-5 10-1  
7 CommanderCthyN (Brennn) 4-6-8 9-2

**SEVENTH-6 fur; \$38,000; md cl(\$30,0); 3upf**  
11 Prncss Bcc (Rvr,Jr.) 15.00 6.80 4.50  
9 Neigh Jude (Ortiz,Jr.) 3.90 2.80  
5 Going for Glory (Gomez) 3.00  
Scr: Mxing the Bank, Houdini's Bride, Bella Banker  
● \$1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-3-7) \$9.20 ● \$1 Pick 3 (1-3-11) \$77.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (3-11) \$90.25 ● \$1 Exacta (11-9) \$24.30 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (11-9-5-1) \$42.90 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (11-9-5) \$52.00 ● \$1 Consolation Double (3-7) \$5.80

**EIGHTH-1 mile; \$102,000; alw; 3up (f&m)**  
6 Allring Angl (GB) (Frnc) 10.20 5.30 3.30  
7 Breth Awy (GB) (Ortz,Jr.) 3.60 2.70  
1 Revalita Art (Prat) 2.60

**SEVENTH-6 fur; \$38,000; md cl(\$30,0); 3upf**  
11 Prncss Bcc (Rvr,Jr.) 15.00 6.80 4.50  
9 Neigh Jude (Ortiz,Jr.) 3.90 2.80  
5 Going for Glory (Gomez) 3.00  
Scr: Mxing the Bank, Houdini's Bride, Bella Banker  
● \$1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-3-7) \$9.20 ● \$1 Pick 3 (1-3-11) \$77.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (3-11) \$90.25 ● \$1 Exacta (11-9) \$24.30 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (11-9-5-1) \$42.90 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (11-9-5) \$52.00 ● \$1 Consolation Double (3-7) \$5.80

**EIGHTH-1 mile; \$102,000; alw; 3up (f&m)**  
6 Allring Angl (GB) (Frnc) 10.20 5.30 3.30  
7 Breth Awy (GB) (Ortz,Jr.) 3.60 2.70  
1 Revalita Art (Prat) 2.60

Stanley Cup Final

Best-of-7; x-if necessary

Florida vs. Edmonton  
Florida leads series, 3-2

Game 1: Florida 3, Edmonton 0  
Game 2: Florida 4, Edmonton 1  
Game 3: Florida 4, Edmonton 3  
Game 4: Edmonton 8, Florida 1  
Game 5: Edmonton 5, Florida 3  
Fri.: at Edmonton, 8 p.m.  
x-Mon.: at Florida, 8 p.m.

Rangers 2024-25  
Preseason Schedule

Sun., Sept. 22: at Bruins, 5 p.m.  
Tues., Sept. 24: vs. Islanders, 7 p.m.  
Thurs., Sept. 26: vs. Bruins, 7 p.m.  
Mon., Sept. 30: at Devils, 7 p.m.  
Tues., Oct. 1: vs. Devils, 7 p.m.  
Fri., Oct. 4: at Islanders, 7 p.m.

Golf

PGA Tour- Travelers Championship  
At TPC River Highlands; Cromwell, Conn.;  
Purse: \$20 million; Yardage: 6,835; Par: 70  
First Round

Tom Kim .....	32-30	62	-8
Akshay Bhatia .....	32-32	64	-6
Rickie Fowler .....	32-32	64	-6
Kurt Kitayama .....	33-31	64	-6
Will Zalatoris .....	33-31	64	-6
Cameron Davis .....	32-33	65	-5
Tony Finau .....	33-32	65	-5
Mackenzie Hughes .....	32-33	65	-5
Taylor Pendrith .....	32-33	65	-5
Patrick Rodgers .....	33-32	65	-5
Xander Schauffele .....	32-33	65	-5
Scottie Scheffler .....	33-32	65	-5
Christiaan Bezuidenhout .....	33-32	66	-4
Wyndham Clark .....	31-35	66	-4
Hideki Matsuyama .....	35-31	66	-4
Collin Morikawa .....	35-31	66	-4
J.T. Poston .....	33-33	66	-4
Ludvig Aberg .....	35-32	67	-3
Sam Burns .....	35-32	67	-3
Corey Conners .....	36-31	67	-3
Tommy Fleetwood .....	35-32	67	-3
Brian Harman .....	34-33	67	-3
Sungjae Im .....	33-34	67	-3
Denny McCarthy .....	34-33	67	-3
Seamus Power .....	33-33	67	-3
Patrick Cantlay .....	35-33	68	-2
Nick Dunlap .....	34-34	68	-2
Lee Hodges .....	35-33	68	-2
Viktor Hovland .....	36-32	68	-2
Victor Perez .....	36-32	68	-2
Nick Taylor .....	34-34	68	-2
Justin Thomas .....	36-32	68	-2
Keegan Bradley .....	34-35	69	-1
Eric Cole .....	36-33	69	-1
Thomas Detry .....	35-34	69	-1
Emiliano Grillo .....	35-34	69	-1
Adam Hadwin .....	36-33	69	-1
Tom Hoge .....	35-34	69	-1
Si Woo Kim .....	33-36	69	-1
Shane Lowry .....	35-34	69	-1
Sepp Straka .....	36-33	69	-1
Saithi Theegala .....	36-33	69	-1
Brendon Todd .....	36-33	69	-1
Austin Eckroat .....	36-34	70	E
Harris English .....	34-36	70	E
Lucas Glover .....	34-36	70	E
Russell Henley .....	35-35	70	E
Max Homa .....	34-36	70	E
Jake Knapp .....	36-34	70	E
Robert Macintyre .....	34-36	70	E
Jordan Moore .....	35-35	70	E
Taylor Smith .....	35-35	70	E

LPGA Tour- KPMG Women's PGA Championship  
At South & North Combined; Sammamish,  
Wash.; Purse: \$10 million; Yardage: 6,731;  
Par: 72  
First Round

Lexi Thompson .....	32-36	68	-4
Nelly Korda .....	36-33	69	-3
Patty Tavatanakit .....	34-35	69	-3
Celine Boutier .....	35-35	70	-2
Allisen Corpuz .....	35-35	70	-2
Charley Hull .....	36-34	70	-2
Caroline Inglis .....	35-35	70	-2
Akie Iwai .....	35-35	70	-2
Leona Maguire .....	35-35	70	-2
Madelene Sagstrom .....	34-36	70	-2
Mao Saigo .....	35-35	70	-2
Hinako Shibuno .....	36-34	70	-2
Amy Yang .....	35-35	70	-2
Archachaya Yubol .....	35-35	70	-2
Celine Bourge .....	34-37	71	-1
Ayaka Furue .....	36-35	71	-1
Hannah Green .....	37-34	71	-1
Hy Jo Kim .....	35-36	71	-1
Sarah Schmelzel .....	36-35	71	-1
Miyuu Yamashita .....	35-36	71	-1
Ruoning Yin .....	33-38	71	-1

DP World Tour- KLM Open  
At The International; Amsterdam; Purse:  
\$2.5 million; Yardage: 6,914; Par: 71  
First Round

<b>First Round</b>			
Mikko Korhonen .....	33-31	64	-7
Matteo Manassero .....	32-32	64	-7
Rikuya Hoshino .....	34-31	65	-6
Sean Crocker .....	32-34	66	-5
Edoardo Molinari .....	32-34	66	-5
James Morrison .....	35-31	66	-5
Henrik Norlander .....	34-32	66	-5



# Oilers need more McDavid magic

By STEPHEN WHYNO

EDMONTON, Alberta — Connor McDavid was surrounded by greatness.

His hair still wet from practice, he sat in Studio 99, the restaurant in the Oilers' home arena named for Wayne Gretzky and full of memorabilia commemorating the legendary career of the "Great One." To his right was a jersey Gretzky wore during his first NHL season and on the wall to his left quotes from No. 99, who captained Edmonton to the Stanley Cup four times.


If McDavid keeps this up, the Oilers are going to have to make room for a Studio 97.

The heir apparent to Gretzky, Mario Lemieux and Sidney Crosby as the best hockey player in the world, McDavid has carried his team from the brink of elimination in the Stanley Cup Final against the Panthers to a Game 6 on home ice Friday night. The only player in league history to record back-to-back four-point games in the Final, the Oilers captain gets his next chance to add to his legacy and push the series to a deciding Game 7 back across the continent.

"You spend your life working to get into a position like this," McDavid said Thursday. "You think that when you're here it's going to be some magic feeling, magic, I don't know. You don't know what to expect. To be honest, it's all been pretty normal. This has always been part of the plan for our group, to be in a position like this, playing big games at home in big moments. Just another one [Friday] night."

Just another one in front of another sellout crowd of 18,000-plus, with many more in the city of nearly a million people packing downtown in hopes of witnessing something that has not been done in nearly eight decades. Detroit in 1945 was the last team to trail 3-0 in the Final and get to a Game 7, and Toronto three years before that was the only one to come all the way back.

The only way Edmonton is able to dream of that possibility now is because of McDavid, who at 42 points this postseason is just five shy of



**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

**Game 5:** Oilers 5, Panthers 3  
*Panthers lead series, 3-2*

**Friday:** at Oilers, 8 p.m., ABC

**Mon. \*:** at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC

\* if necessary

Gretzky's record set in 1985. He has emerged as the front-runner to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP, even if the Oilers fall short and the Panthers win the Cup for the first time in franchise history.

"He's a reckless skilled player, which is a very unique quality," Hall of Famer Ken Hitchcock, who coached McDavid in 2018-19, told the Associated Press by phone. "He's not afraid to put his body in dangerous areas to score, and it's really hard to defend against. He's going to the net and taking a hit to make a play. There's no fear in his game — none."

Panthers coach Paul Maurice warned anyone who would listen to him coming into the series that the greatness of McDavid tends to get taken for granted because it's such a constant. McDavid hasn't had a ton of goals in these playoffs, or in this title series, but his impact has been off every chart.

"Here's what happens: You get really good players, like Connor McDavid, and they get a block of time where they don't score and there seems to be something wrong," Maurice said. "There isn't. Nobody, even Connor McDavid, scores at the rate in the last three games over 82 or over every playoff game or he'd have 700 points a year. That's the way this works."

McDavid might be reinventing how this works, putting up 11 points in Games 2-5 of the final on three goals and eight assists, despite getting the toughest defensive matchup possible opposite Aleksander Barkov, Florida's captain who won the Selke Trophy as the league's best defensive forward this season.

— AP



Getty Images

# READY FOR PRIME TIME?

**THE NEXT STEP:** Matt Rempe's chance to make an impact with the Rangers arrived earlier than expected because of the way Chris Drury constructed the roster and a series of injuries. He took advantage of the opportunity, which could really pay off next season.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

## Rangers' prospects received plenty of chances last season, which could pay off next season

By MOLLIE WALKER

All the one-year deals worth \$875,000 and below that Rangers president and general manager Chris Drury signed veteran free agents to last offseason were a necessity, considering the organization's position under the cap and desire to create opportunity for upward mobility in the lineup among its young core.

It may have served its purpose a little too well, however, with the Rangers having to call up and give ice time to nine skaters (not including goalie Louis Domingue's one-game cameo) who began the season in Hartford with the club's AHL affiliate, the Wolf Pack.

But after the Rangers shed Barclay Goodrow's contract by getting the Sharks to claim the veteran forward off the waiver wire on Wednesday, Drury looks to be freeing up cap space and taking a differ-

ent course of action this summer.

Still, last offseason's approach allowed for the Rangers to get a better understanding of what their prospect cupboard looks like. Prospects such as Matt Rempe and Adam Edstrom received lengthy opportunities, with Rempe appearing in 17 regular-season games and 11 playoff games in comparison to Edstrom's 11 regular-season contests.

The two Bash Brother-like forwards, who respectively stand at 6-foot-8½ and 6-7, will surely be in the mix come training camp, but Rempe, in particular, will look to prove he can be an NHL regular and that he wasn't just a product of the sideshow he helped create.

This all while the Rangers' 2021 first-round pick, Brennan Othmann, attempts to better showcase himself after a nondescript first three NHL games this past season and Brett Berard, the club's 134th-overall pick in 2020,

tries to join the conversation.

Part of the Rangers' need to utilize their depth this season was happenstance.

Blake Wheeler (one year at \$875,000) suffered a season-ending injury in mid-February which, when paired with Filip Chytil's suspected concussion 10 games into the season, left the Rangers without two top-nine skaters. There were also significant injury stints for Adam Fox and Jacob Trouba, which created temporary holes that needed to be filled on the back end.

The defense in Hartford always seemed to be ailing in some way, too, which limited the Rangers' options for blueliners to recall. Ben Harpur missed a majority of the season after undergoing pectoral surgery and Connor Mackey was week-to-week with an upper-body injury at one point, as well.

But the pickups of veteran forwards Tyler Pitlick (one year at





\$787,500) and Nick Bonino (one year at \$800,000) did not pan out the way the Rangers had hoped.

Amid the club's January slump, the Rangers waived Bonino, who ultimately decided not to report to AHL Hartford after the All-Star break and mentioned to mutually terminate his contract with the organization. Bonino is a solid penalty killer, but the 36-year-old wasn't giving the bottom-six what it needed.

The Rangers instead brought up Jake Lesyschyn, who appeared in only one game this season after playing in 12 in 2022-23. He still has one year remaining on the three-year deal he signed with Vegas at \$766,667.

Pitlick could muster only one goal and four points in 34 games before the Rangers waived him, too. He reported to Hartford and when the Wolf Pack were eliminated in the Calder Cup playoffs, the 32-year-old joined the Rangers

taxi squad for the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Now a pending unrestricted free agent, Pitlick — along with trade-deadline acquisition and fellow UFA Nic Petan — may be headed to play in Europe.

The two veterans aren't the only members of the Wolf Pack who have their sights set on playing overseas.

Karl Henriksson, the Rangers' 58th-overall pick in the 2019 draft, signed a three-year deal with the Swedish Hockey League's Växjö Lakers HC. The 23-year-old center, who posted 23 points in 64 games in his second season in Hartford, injured his shoulder in the second-to-last game of the regular season and missed the entire postseason. Word is Henriksson won't be ready to play again until around mid-November.

Additionally, the Rangers' second-round selection (39th overall) in 2018, goalie Olof Lindbom, opted to sign a one-year contract with a one-year option with the Lahti Pelicans of Finland's Liiga.

After spending a majority of the 2023-24 season with the ECHL's Cincinnati Cyclones, for whom he posted a 10-15-3 record with a .884 save percentage and a 3.56 goals-against average, Lindbom

got hurt in the Wolf Pack's first game of the Atlantic Division semifinals against the Hershey Bears.

The only reason why Lindom was in net was because Dylan Garand was temporarily recalled to the Rangers for precautionary reasons, after Domingue, the third-stringer, was briefly banged up during the NHL playoffs. The Swedish netminder has struggled to stay healthy for most of his professional career.

With the March addition of Hugo Ollas, the Rangers' 197th-overall pick in 2020, to an already deep goalie pool that includes Domingue, Garand and Talya Boyko, Lindbom likely recognized that he no longer had a path to much playing time.

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# Flat draw leaves England frustrated

Associated Press

## EURO 2024

Where England stands after two European Championship games is the envy of most teams. Just not good enough yet to have title ambitions.

A 1-1 draw in Frankfurt, Germany, on Thursday with Denmark — a semifinalist last time, don't forget — means England is unbeaten and all-but certain to advance to the round of 16.

It also was a slack, mistake-filled display that left coach Gareth Southgate angrily gesturing at his players for gifting a slew of scoring chances late in the game.

"The team didn't function today, that is my responsibility," said Southgate, who heard jeers from fans behind the England goal in a ragged second half.

Harry Kane gave England another fast start at Euro 2024, scoring it the 18th minute, but the captain was substituted off in the second half as the team faded.

Denmark leveled in the 34th when Morten Hjulmand fired in a powerful low shot from long distance, after Kane gave away the ball in defense.

Eight years with Southgate has earned England sustained tournament success. The Three Lions reached the final of Euro 2020 — after beating Denmark in the last four — and a semifinal and a quarterfinal at the past two World Cups.

"We're in the environment of winning on the biggest stage," the coach acknowledged, adding "you have to accept what [criticism] comes our way."

England has never won back-to-back games to begin a Euros and a pattern of second-game syndrome has repeated at three straight tournaments.

Opening wins in the past three

years have been following by tepid 0-0 draws with Scotland and the United States, now a 1-1 with the Danes who deserved more.

"I can't say we are disappointed but it's a shame," Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said. "There is a result we could have gotten."

Still, England started Euro 2024 by beating Serbia 1-0 and now sits top of Group C with four points. That tally always has been enough to advance in the 24-team Euros format where four third-place teams from the six groups go forward to the round of 16.

England can finish in any position from first to third in the Group C standings after playing unbeaten Slovenia next Tuesday.

## Spain 1, Italy 0

Spain advanced to the round of 16 with their win against defending champion Italy in Gelsenkirchen.

A 55th-minute own goal by Italy's Riccardo Calafiori handed victory to Spain in the first clash of international heavyweights at this European Championship.

Three-time winner Spain totally dominated the Group B game at the Veltins Arena in Gelsenkirchen, with 16-year-old winger Lamine Yamal further enhancing his reputation as one of soccer's most exciting young stars with an outstanding performance.

## Slovenia 1, Serbia 1

In Munich, a late strike denied Slovenia a first ever win in a European Championship as Serbia snatched a draw. Zan Karnicnik's 69th-minute goal put Slovenia on the brink of an historic win until substitute Luka Jovic leveled deep in stoppage time.

# Messi, Argentina win opener

Associated Press

## COPA 2024

ATLANTA — Lionel Messi's through ball led to Julian Alvarez's goal in the 49th minute, then he assisted on Lautaro Martinez's goal in the 88th as Argentina began the defense of its Copa America title with a 2-0 victory over Canada on Thursday.

Argentina is seeking its third straight major title after winning the 2021 Copa America and the 2022 World Cup.

With South America's championship moved to the United States for the second time, Messi set a Copa America record with his 35th match, one more than Chile's Sergio Livingstone from 1941-53. Messi extended his own record with his 18th assist.

Messi, who turns 37 on Monday, created the first goal when following a throw-in he headed a pass through the defense for Alexis MacAllister. The midfielder side-footed a pass to Alvarez while crashing into an on-rushing goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau about 8 yards out. Alvarez had a virtually empty net and kicked the ball in over a sliding defender for his eighth goal in 32 international appearances.

Messi extended his Copa America record when he ran through the center of the midfield and rolled a pass to Martinez, who got his 25th international goal.



# NEXT WOMAN UP

## Liberty contain Sparks without defensive anchor

By ANDREW CRANE

This didn't happen at all last year. Not when Sabrina Ionescu missed time with a hamstring injury. Not when Courtney Vandersloot sat out the second game of a back-to-back in late July, either. Through 15 games in 2024, even amid Vandersloot's six-game absence due to personal reasons, the Liberty — and their current nucleus — had also avoided another injury and the need to navigate without two starters.

That changed Thursday, when Betnijah Laney-Hamilton was a late addition to the availability report with a right knee injury and went from full to questionable to out in a matter of hours. Rookie Leonie Fiebich found out she was making her first start after the morning shootaround. Kayla Thornton filled in for Vandersloot. But the Liberty managed to cobble together enough offense — and compensate enough for the injury to their defensive anchor — to defeat the Sparks, 93-80, at Barclays Center on Thursday and avoided dropping consecutive games for the second time this season. Sabrina Ionescu led the Liberty with 31 points, while Jones added 22 before fouling out.

"I think just the next-person-up mentality is really it," Breanna Stewart said. "Knowing that we had eight players today, like nobody was using that as an excuse."

Laney-Hamilton, who'd started every game this season and usually faced the task of guarding an opponent's top player, dealt with knee swelling that dated back to their last road trip. Head coach Sandy Brondello was hopeful pregame that if Laney-Hamilton wasn't available Thursday, she'd be able to return Saturday when the Liberty and Sparks meet again. That didn't solve their short-term conundrum, though.

Brondello turned to Fiebich, a productive spark off the bench. Ionescu and Jones helped pace the offense in the first half with 15 and 11 points, respectively, while the Liberty prevented anyone on the Sparks from hitting double digits across the opening 20 minutes. Los Angeles was also navigating without rookie — and No. 2 overall pick — Cameron Brink after she tore her ACL earlier in the week.

For most of the opening 20 minutes, though, Los Angeles kept within striking distance — and really just two or three points away — after an early six-

point advantage was erased. Fiebich's crosscourt pass was picked off, and Rae Burrell drew a foul in transition. Then, after another Liberty possession with good ball movement fizzled out with a miss, Dearica Hamby tied the game with a basket.

Behind Jones and Ionescu, the Liberty still took a seven-point lead into halftime. Jones, while double-teamed on the left block, threaded a nifty pass to an open Ivana Dojkic for a 3 and one of her eight assists. She and Ionescu connected for a layup off a screen, too.

And eventually, they were the duo that sparked the run that made the Liberty's lead insurmountable. The

Sparks had pulled within five minutes by the 5:30 mark of the third quarter after Ionescu and Stewart couldn't connect on an inbounds pass and it bounced away. Los Angeles' basket following that turnover prompted the Liberty to take a timeout, and that was followed by a 16-5 run across the next three-plus minutes — capped by three combined 3s from Ionescu and Jones — to build a 15-point lead.

The Sparks trimmed that to five again and kept it around that point with three minutes left. Jones, by that point, was in foul trouble. It took until Fiebich scored her first points of the game with a corner 3 with two minutes left, until Ionescu followed with her final 3 with 70 seconds left, for the outcome to be decided.

"I mean, it helps that my teammates trust me and still pass me the ball after I miss four 3s," Fiebich said.

At the center of everything, though, was Jones and Ionescu. Jones assisted on three of Ionescu's 11 baskets. Ionescu assisted on five of Jones' nine makes, too. And when posed with the frequency of how often Ionescu has assisted on the star forward's baskets this season, she joked to Jones that she's "gotta buy me lunch."

For a shorthanded Liberty lineup, they provided enough to escape with a win.

acrane@nypost.com

**LIBERTY** 93  
**SPARKS** 80





## Mother of Vandersloot succumbs to cancer

By ANDREW CRANE

The Liberty held a moment of silence before their game Thursday in memory of Courtney Vandersloot's mother, Jan, who died over the weekend after a two-year battle with cancer.

Vandersloot, who didn't play in the Liberty's 93-80 win against the Sparks at Barclays Center, has missed the last six games due to personal reasons. She approved the pregame tribute and message on the video board, which included photos of the Liberty guard and her mother, Breanna Stewart said.

"As much as we love basketball and we understand that it's a business and it's our job and everything, it kind of makes you put things into perspective and understand that there's a lot of other things going on in life," Jonquel Jones said.

Vandersloot opened up to ESPN last year about navigating Jan's cancer diagnosis and, during a trip to the Hospital for Special Surgery's Lerner Children's Pavilion in March, said hospital visits are "close to home for me."

The Liberty have dedicated games to Vandersloot during her time away from the team.

"Any time we come together, I think it just shows why we play and what's really important in life," Sabrina Ionescu said. "Obviously, just wrapping our arms around her and her family in this time is important."

### HEAVY HEARTS:

Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu (20) drives toward the basket during the first half of Thursday night's game against the Sparks at Barclays Center. The Liberty defeated Los Angeles, 93-80, after holding a pregame moment of silence for the mother of teammate Courtney Vandersloot, who died over the weekend.

Corey Sipkin

By BRIAN LEWIS

Cam Thomas is convinced he should've been in the Most Improved Player Award conversation this past season. But his biggest improvements — passing and defense — weren't just unheralded; they were unseen.

"I should definitely be top three [for Most Improved], going from barely playing in the rotation and having little spurts in the season to going all the way up an 11-point jump to 22 points per game," the Nets guard said. "Any other year, that goes noticed, but this year it's gone unnoticed."

"Obviously, I feel like when you have a jump like that in all aspects, if you watch the games you see how I'm guarded and all the other stuff. I should definitely be in the top three of that conversation. ... [But] we probably didn't win enough games."

Therein lies the rub. The Nets' sad 32-50 season saw Thomas relegated to just seventh for the award. The 76ers' Tyrese Maxey won the award. Coby White of the Bulls was second and the Rockets' Alperen Sengun was third.

The young guard emerged with 22.5 points per game, his quantum leap from just 10.6 points the year prior the biggest in the NBA and largest in franchise history.

Thomas' 8.5 turnover percentage was surprisingly clean considering the offensive burden he carried. The only guards in league history with lower percentages and a similar 30 percent usage rate: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2023-24), Tracy McGrady (2002-03), George Gervin (1981-82) and Michael Jordan (four times).

Thomas' offense has never been in doubt. The steps he's needed to take — and will have to keep taking next season — were in his defense and playmaking. If

# 'Unnoticed' Thomas: Deserved top-3 for MIP



**WHAT GIVES?** Nets guard Cam Thomas improved his scoring average from 10.6 points in 2022-23 to 22.5 last season but was seventh in Most Improved Player voting.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, then a player is only as good as his flaws — and those have clearly been his.

"Look, Cam had a heck of a year. I'm not saying anything that anybody didn't see for themselves," Nets general manager

Sean Marks said. "I really was intrigued about the responsibility Cam took in his own development, in terms of we all knew he could go get a bucket, we all knew the confidence that he plays with, which some of that to be quite honest can't be taught."

So it's innately who he is and how he's built.

"But it's him being a facilitator out there, him playing with others, him making other people look good. And we saw that over the course of the year, taking a little bit more emphasis on the defensive side of the ball, too, scrapping for loose balls, getting in there for defensive rebounds. So I've got to give Cam a lot of credit, because his game has developed over the course of last year."

While Thomas is under contract next season for \$4 million, the Nets can give him an extension this summer that would kick in for 2025-26. But just like the 76ers did with Tyrese Maxey, there are salary-cap advantages to waiting and re-upping Thomas as a restricted free agent in a year when analyst Yossi Gozlan estimated he could get between \$20 million and \$25 million annually.

For perspective, Thomas allowed a troublesome 1.727 points per possession against the roll man in pick-and-rolls in 2022-23, labeled as "poor" by Synergy. His improvement to 1.158 last season bumped him up to "average."

Similarly, Thomas' playmaking has improved. After averaging fewer than 1.4 assists through his first two campaigns, Thomas averaged 2.6 assists this season — including 3.6 after the All-Star break when interim coach Kevin Ollie replaced Jacques Vaughn.

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# Randle 'good' for season's start

By STEFAN BONDY

While explaining his tortured decision to undergo shoulder surgery before the playoffs, Julius Randle said his recovery is "ahead of schedule" and he'll be available for the start of next season.

"I'm good, bro. ... I'm good, I'm healthy," Randle said on "7PM in Brooklyn" with hosts Carmelo Anthony and Kid Mero. "I'm getting there. It's a process. It's something that's going to take a long time. I knew that going into it. But I'm ahead of schedule, I'm feeling good. I'm healthy. I'll be ready when the season starts."

Randle's surgery was April 9 in Los Angeles, less than two weeks prior to the Knicks first-round playoff series against the 76ers and more than two months after the power forward suffered a dislocated shoulder. There's been no

official timeline for his recovery, but six months is common for that type of procedure — placing Randle back into action in October, a couple weeks into training camp.

The long recovery — and the potential for it to impact next season — was part of the reason he abandoned his attempt to return without surgery. The bigger reason was Randle's shoulder wasn't getting better.

The 29-year-old previously said he suffered a setback during a full contact practice.

"I'm rehabbing for 2 ½ months knowing my shoulder ain't good," Randle said. "So it's a situation where it's like, 'Do I play and know that I'm going to miss six or seven months after we're done



**JULIUS RANDLE**

playing?" So I'm probably not playing into the next year. And I'm not good. So can I help the team? I can't get a rebound. I can't fall. I feel like if I fall my shoulder is going to come out. So I'm dealing with that."

Randle said he felt like a failure as the Knicks were preparing for a playoff run.

"I'm also dealing with the part like I feel selfish, like I'm letting the guys down," Randle said. "Then it came to the point where I don't even want to be around because I'm trying to work to come back but I feel like I'm a distraction. I feel like an outcast. I'm like, let me just stay away, they're doing great, let me just be around and support when I can."

So I had to get out of my own way of my own ego and be like, all right, once I made that decision, deal with it, and keep moving and support the best way we can. But that s--t was tough."

The Knicks earned the second seed but fell in the second round to the Pacers, largely because of an avalanche of injuries. Randle was one of five Knicks to undergo surgery during or after the season, joining Jalen Brunson (hand), OG Anunoby (elbow), Mitchell Robinson (ankle, twice) and Bojan Bogdanovic (ankle, wrist).

Randle is eligible for a contract extension this summer and recently expressed his desire to remain long term in New York, where he joined Melo as the second Knick with three All-Star appearances since Patrick Ewing.

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SCAN ME





# Phil Mushnick

**EQUAL TIME**

**Way past  
bedtime  
for NBA**

**T**UESDAY from ESPN's on-site Stanley Cup Final, studio host Steve Levy delivered the news that Willie Mays had died:

"The Say Hey Kid, is gone. Too soon. Willie Mays has passed away tonight at the age of 93."

Too soon? Perhaps Levy had the over 94 in a BetESPN parlay.

Not that I've ever been accused of brevity, but today's broadcasters seem compelled to say far too much as opposed to just enough.

Same with rank dishonesty, as if the audience is too stupid to know better or undeserving of widely known truths.

The next night, the SNY telecast of Mets-Rangers opened to a show-and-tell hagiography of former Texas catcher Ivan Rodriguez. Gary Cohen swooned and swayed. Gee, that "Pudge" was special!

Yes, he was! Especially after he added Michelin Man muscle and quadrupled his power totals in the throes of the "Bottom Line" Bud Selig I-see-nothing Steroid Era. Jose Canseco, who came clean to name names — and got them right — claimed to have injected Rodriguez with steroids when they were teammates.

Rodriguez denies using PEDs. So why not sue Canseco for an outrageous libel?

Cohen didn't know any of this? Then had to pretend that neither did we? Why did SNY even air, let alone produce, such an open? To insult us?

In the first inning Cohen, who now identifies the kinds of pitches the instant they reach the plate — often heard and seen bad-guess expertise — noted that Mets starter Sean Manaea oddly enough throws "sinkers up in the zone."

Huh? So his sinker sinks to where batters can hit it rather than sink to where they swing and miss? Fascinating!

But I suppose locals should be grateful they had any game to watch Wednesday. Orioles-Yankees, with Gerrit Cole returning,

## MAY THE FARGE BE WITH YOU

### Media's never-ending saga of disappointment

was sold to be hidden behind a pay-wall, thus the Yanks, on Rob Manfred's watch, continue to minimize their TV audiences in the quest to maximize payment among those who they've not yet conditioned to live without Yankees' telecasts.

Does it not dawn on MLB and its teams that diminished-by-design interest breeds diminished returns? The rotten viewership totals for the now-homogenized, thus meaningless All-Star Game, Where's Waldo? playoffs and World Series — once can't-miss events — don't serve as wake-up slaps? They instead tell MLB to keep doing what you're doing because you're doing great?

But sports and TV have never been more reliant on us to be morons. This week, with the news media held in lower and lower regard among those who know when they're being conned, NBC News anchor Lester Holt resumed his role as Olympics-on-NBC (and now Peacock pay streaming) shill, introducing Olympic come-ons as legit news.

This, while other network news operations pretend the Olympics

don't exist — unless there's something ugly to report, in which case it's NBC's turn to play stupid.

By now we know the con. Why NBC selects its top news anchor to serve as a nightly magic elixir hustler when it should insist that he steer wide from again being seen and heard as a noxious home-shopping shill begs mistrust.

Last week's U.S. Open golf NBC/Peacock coverage was dreadful, as co-anchors Dan Hicks and Mike Tirico made us wince from sudden sharp pain to the ears and dyspeptic distress.

Hicks parrots any golf banality to balls that "find the rough" to last week's "Brooks Koepka has been betrayed by the short stick." Hicks and Tirico provided updates on hopefuls to make Canada's Olympic golf team, as if the Open is an Olympic qualifier.

And when fools — likely the drunken and/or betting kind — chanted "U-S-A!" in support of Bryson DeChambeau versus foreign-born leaders, the NBC crew bought in, as if DeChambeau was James Cagney hoofing it while singing "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

And as if we didn't know

that DeChambeau bolted the PGA Tour for Saudi government oil and blood money — in excess of \$125 million to just show up with his clubs.

Then there was his infamous quote that infuriated the families and friends of the 3,000 murdered by Saudi terrorists on 9/11: "Nobody's perfect."

But none of that, plus runner-up Rory McIlroy's pro-PGA stance in defiance to DeChambeau and others who took the mullah moola was even hinted at by the cowardly, play-pretend NBC voices.

There were so many obviously taped shots dishonestly shown as live — "plausibly live" to borrow NBC's deceitful Olympics term — that the tired attempt to fool everyone fooled few. Or were we to believe that NBC had the clairvoyance to cut live to Francisco Molinari, unseen all telecast, just as he made a hole-in-one on 17?

And it was clear that the USGA ordered NBC to refer to the scrub, dirt and weeds that constituted the rough as the "native grass," the kind that would force natives to flee.

Anyway, Braves-Yanks in another Friday night Yankees game sold to not be seen, this time to Apple TV+. As boxing refs instruct, "Protect yourselves at all times." But by now, as residents of Palookaville, you know that.

## Baseball stays up late too

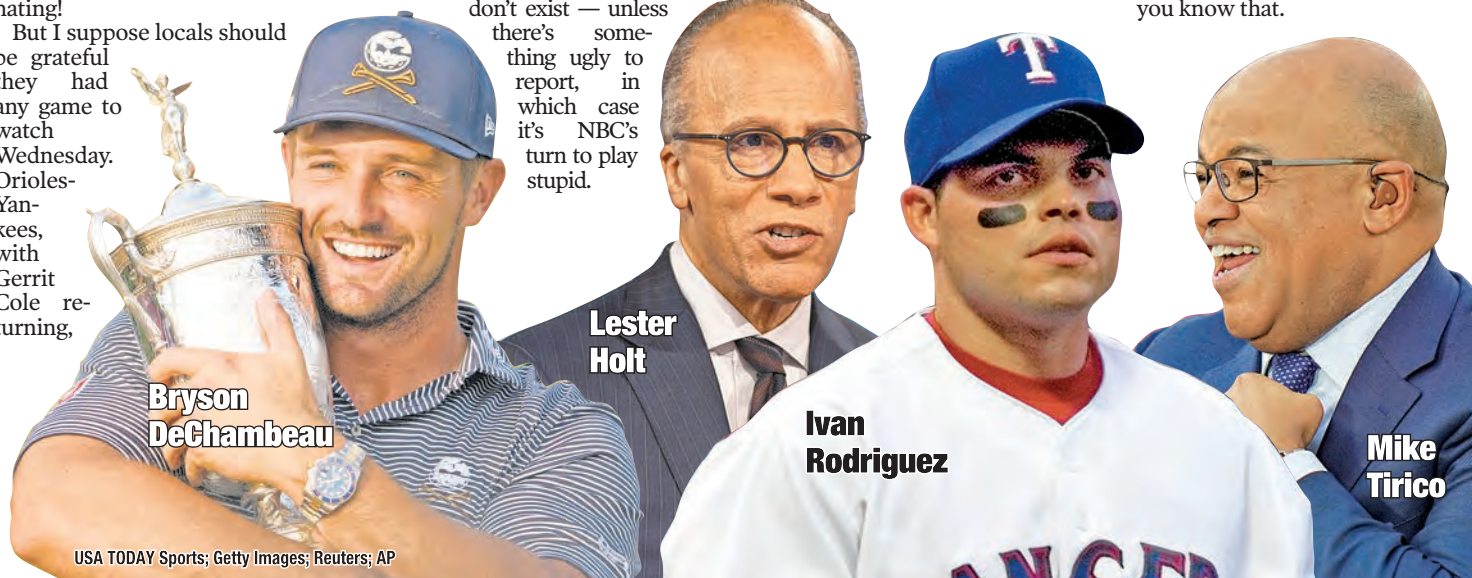
**ROB MANFRED's** "Kids are our top priority" declaration was on full display Sunday, as Yankees-Red Sox was played at night for ESPN money — on Father's Day. MLB couldn't have insisted on one of two West Coast games played, another in Arizona?

Small world: The vulgar, violent, N-worded artistry of **Young Thug**, now on trial for racketeering as leader of a Georgia street gang, was once a featured attraction on ESPN. The Atlanta D.A. who ordered Mr. Thug's arrest was **Fani Willis**, of **Donald Trump** trial fame/infamy.

Best move of the local NFL offseason was the Giants allowing DE **Jihad Ward** to sign with the Vikings. Not gonna lie: I was hoping he'd do nothing of positive achievement here, as I'm disinclined to praise anyone named for what has become shorthand for an Islamic holy war.

Credit to ESPN for not crediting "ESPN's **Buster Olney**" for "confirming" the passing of **Willie Mays**.

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# Off days help keep Alvarez in lineup

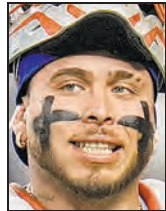
By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The Mets have been a better team with Francisco Alvarez in the lineup.

Alvarez has been building up to be in the lineup more often.

Wednesday marked the first time since Alvarez returned from the injured list that he started a third straight game. All three were night games, which helped, as did the fact the Mets had an off day on Thursday.

"And he's making it hard, too [to take him out]," manager Carlos



**FRANCISCO ALVAREZ**

Mendoza said before the Mets traveled to Chicago for a series with the Cubs that starts Friday.

The 22-year-old catcher caught all 27 innings against the Rangers, and went 7-for-13 with a double and four RBIs, continuing to impress offensively and defensively.

Luis Torrens has done well behind him, but Alvarez is arguably the most important player on the team — which makes his growing presence in the lineup all the more significant.

Since returning from thumb surgery on June 11, Alvarez had been absent from the starting lineup every third game. That changed Wednesday because of the schedule and because Mendoza was comfortable with Alvarez's left thumb. He continues to wear a splint on it while he catches.

"I keep checking with him after every game, before he comes to the ballpark," Mendoza said. "He's been fine."

The upcoming series at Wrigley Field is an oddly timed one, with matinees on Friday and Saturday before a late start for "Sunday Night Baseball."

Such an arrangement — along with an off day Monday — might ensure Alvarez catches a second entire series.

"He cares, and that's what we're seeing," Mendoza said of Alvarez, whose return has helped the Mets play better baseball. "They're feeding off of each other, and Alvy's right there in the thick of it."

# ONCE MORE

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

For about two months, Jeff McNeil did not produce as the everyday second baseman.

For about three weeks, McNeil has not produced as essentially the platoon second baseman.

The Mets second baseman has fallen deeper into this funk and will bring a .219 batting average — more than 100 points below his .326 mark that led the National League in 2022 — into a three-game set at Wrigley Field beginning Friday.

It is likely that the lefty swinger will be out of the lineup when the series begins and Cubs left-hander Shota Imanaga gets the ball. The question will become how long the Mets will continue to rely upon McNeil even against righties.

"Jeff McNeil is our second baseman, and he's going to continue to get playing time," manager Carlos Mendoza said last week, and McNeil indeed has continued to get playing time. He has not run with the continued opportunities, though.

After never quite getting going in a down and injury-filled 2023 season, McNeil again has not approached the type of hole-finding savant that made him such a valuable hitter. McNeil is still putting his bat on the ball — his 11.7 percent strikeout rate entered play Thursday as the fifth-best among qualified hitters — but the hits have disappeared.

McNeil, who does not bring much power, was hitting just .224 with a .618 OPS through May 30, which prompted the call-up of slick-glove and righty-hitter Jose Iglesias to play second base against opposing lefties.

Iglesias' defense has been as advertised — he partnered with Francisco Lindor to turn an impressive double play that helped clinch Tuesday's win in Texas — and his bat has been excellent (a .370/.433/.444 slash line), while his high-energy presence has coincided with a spike in the team's play.

Iglesias has just 10 plate appearances against righty pitchers, but his hot streak eventually could lead to the Mets wanting to see more.

"His defense, the energy and how much he's talking to players," Mendoza said about what has stood out about Iglesias. "But we need Jeff McNeil."

Upon Iglesias's call-up and emergence, McNeil was benched for an entire week as the Mets saw



**DESPERATE MEASURES:** Jeff McNeil's playing time recently has been limited to facing right-handed starters, but even that has done little to help the second baseman get out of his season-long funk. Getty Images

## McNeil's continued struggles leave 2B situation unresolved

a slew of opposing southpaw starters. He returned to the lineup on June 9 in London and has played in 10 games since the hiatus, which does not seem to have worked: McNeil has gone 5-for-30 (.167) with one extra-base hit (a double), his OPS all the way down to .591. Just four qualified hitters in the majors entered Wednesday with a worse mark.

The advanced metrics do not contain a ton of optimism. McNeil's expected batting average is .234. The 32-year-old statistically has lost a step, ranked as the 205th fastest runner as a rookie in 2018 and 376th this season.

The David Stearns-Mendoza re-

gime has proven it will move off players who are not performing. Brett Baty was not hitting, so he was exchanged for Mark Vientos. Omar Narvaez and Joey Wendle were owed money for the rest of the season, but their play on the field dictated that they would receive that money away from the team. Adrian Houser was not helping out the rotation, so the Mets found a new home for him in the bullpen.

Those decisions, though, were cleaner than it would be to find a new role for McNeil. He is due \$31.5 million over 2025 and 2026. He has been a significant contributor since debuting in 2018 and a



**at Cubs**  
Friday, 2:20 p.m.,  
SNY, WCBS (880 AM)

**LHP Jose Quintana**



**2024 stats:**  
2-5, 4.98 ERA

**Career vs. CHC:**  
0-4, 3.17 ERA

**Last start:**  
Sat., vs. SD;  
6.0 IP, 2 H, 1 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**33%** Sinker   **22%** Fastball   **20%** Changeup

**LHP Shota Imanaga**



**2024 stats:**  
7-1, 1.89 ERA

**Career vs. NYY:**  
1-0, 0.00 ERA

**Last start:**  
Sat., vs. STL;  
7.0 IP, 4 H, 1 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**55%** Fastball   **33%** Split   **7%** Sweeper

**UP NEXT**

**SATURDAY:** at Cubs,  
2:20 p.m., SNY, WCBS  
RHP Tylor Megill vs. TBD

**SUNDAY:** at Cubs,  
7:10 p.m., ESPN, WCBS  
LHP David Peterson vs. TBD

**INJURY REPORT**

■ **Kodai Senga** threw a bullpen session Wednesday and is expected to progress to facing hitters in live batting practice on Sunday or Monday. The right-hander has been rehabbing from a shoulder strain since spring training.

part of the organization since 2013.

If Iglesias' strong play continues — or another option pops up, such as Luisangel Acuna or even Baty, who started his second game at second base with Triple-A Syracuse on Thursday — would Stearns and Mendoza demote McNeil one more time, into a full-time utilityman?

McNeil's bat awakening, of course, would make the decision far easier for all parties.

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# WITH FEELING

## Mets suddenly find themselves playing games with high stakes

**CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL:** A frustrated Sean Manaea let out a yell after hitting the Rangers' Wyatt Langford with the bases loaded to drive in a run in the Mets' loss Wednesday in Texas that ended a seven-game winning streak.

AP

**A** FUNNY thing happened Wednesday night in Arlington, Texas. For the first time in 619 days the New York Mets played what could be termed an "important" game.

What's even funnier is that nobody really noticed that before it happened, or while it was happening. And even when they surrendered a 5-3 game to the Texas Rangers, snapping a seven-game winning streak, there wasn't much wringing of hands or pounding of fists.

It's the middle of June, after all, not the start of October.

Nothing of true import happens in June.

Except, just as the Mets seized a 3-1 lead in the top of the sixth inning, SNY showed a graphic of the wild-card standings in the National League. And two things struck right away: They didn't just show five or six teams, the way wild-card standings are supposed to look. They showed 10. Ten!

Also, even before Gary Cohen and Keith Hernandez did the obvious math, if you took a look at that graphic one thing became apparent: If the Mets could have gotten the final 12 outs of this game, they would have woken up Thursday morning — and this is almost impossible to believe, if you recall what the Mets looked like for much of April and May — tied for playoff position.

They never did get those outs. Sean Manaea lost his no-hitter, then lost the lead, and then Drew Smith

offered up a meatball to Leady Taveras, and that was that.

"After what we have been through, especially in the month of May, and for us to play good baseball shows that we have got a good team," Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said afterward. "We have got

guys that are going to continue to compete."

And look, the Mets playing better (seven straight before Wednesday, 11 out of 13, 11-4 in June) was the biggest

reason for there to be any reason at all to even glance at the standings. The Mets fell a season-worst 11 games under .500 when they blew a ninth-inning lead to Arizona on June 2, and they were a ghastly mess.

The season could have spun completely out of control at that point and it would have been understandable, because at that point the Mets did nothing well, and nothing right. They also fell a season-high 6 1/2 games behind the final wild-card spot that day, a significant number even for early June, since there were eight teams between them and the wild card.

We can have good fun at the expense of the three wild-card system (and will in a paragraph or two), but when you're a terrible team not even the promise of three consolation prizes mean very much. There hasn't been one second of false hope this year for White Sox or Rockies fans, for instance, and on June 2 Mets fans were easily shuffled into that crew.

Now? Look, not long ago we wrote about the 35-game stretch that was going to take the Mets a few days past the All-Star break that featured 33 games against teams at or below .500. Now the caveat, of course, is that all of those losing teams were hungrily eyeing their games with the Mets every bit as much.

But now, nine games in, the Mets are 7-2 as they head to Wrigley Field

and the Cubs, who are one percentage point higher than the 35-38 Mets at 36-39. There's a lot of work to do, and a lot of season left, and the delicate balance of a season always offers silent warning that a six-game losing streak might be awaiting you.

Now ... a few words about the wild card.

And look, there are still a lot of baseball fans who pine for the days when only first-place teams made the postseason. And that was, for the longest time, a calling card that baseball held all to itself. Then they added a wild card in each league. Then another. And another.

It's still rare when a whole season plays itself out with a team qualifying for the playoffs when it spent the first 158 or so games wondering if it would even finish above .500. All these years later, the '73 Mets — who finished 82-79, who as late as the final week were dealing with the possibility of a five-way playoff in the NL East — are still tied for the playoff team with the fewest regular-season wins ever (with the 82-80 '05 Padres).

It's interesting to note that those teams — along with the '06 Cardinals, at 83-79 — were all division winners, all first-place teams. The worst-ever wild-card teams were last year's 84-78 Diamondbacks and Marlins.

Right now, there's the Braves with a comfortable 5 1/2-game lead in the wild card. Then there are those nine teams — Cards, Nats, Padres, D'backs, Pirates, Cubs, Giants, Mets and Reds — separated by 1 1/2 games, vying for the last two slots.

Now, is this absurd? Probably. It's also likely that one of those teams will have a coming stretch where they go 20-5 and probably sneak securely into the second wild card. But those teams are all awfully similar to each other, too, and not just the records. This *could* be a crazy inching to the finish line, if not eight teams then surely five.

Is that absurd? Maybe. But if you happen to root for the team that does squeeze in at, say, 81-81, will you think it's so absurd?

Unlikely.

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Mike Vaccaro



# Groin problems

## Torres pulled with tightness in latest Yankees injury

By DAN MARTIN

Gleyber Torres was pulled from Thursday's 17-5 loss to the Orioles with tightness in his right groin.

It came on a steamy afternoon in The Bronx in which Torres homered in the bottom of the second. Afterward, Aaron Boone didn't sound overly worried about the injury, saying the team was being cautious in taking him out of the game.

"I don't expect it to be anything major," the manager said.

Even before his exit, Torres was having a rocky afternoon, having played some shaky defense in the top of the fifth.

First, Torres backhanded a grounder up the middle by Jordan Westburg and was unable to handle it, which resulted in an error. On the next play, Cedric Mullins hit a grounder to Torres and nearly beat his throw to first.

The Yankees rallied for a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning, and Ben Rice went to the on-deck circle to hit for Torres, but an Alex Verdugo groundout ended the threat.

To start the sixth, the Yan-

kees moved Oswaldo Cabrera from third to second to replace Torres in the field and shifted DJ LeMahieu from first to third, with Rice at first. Cabrera quickly made an error at second, unable to come up with a hard grounder by Ramon Urias.

The injury to Torres is the latest setback in what's been a mostly nightmarish season as he heads toward free agency for the first time. He entered the game 0-for-15 in his previous five games, with a miserable .629 OPS for the season.

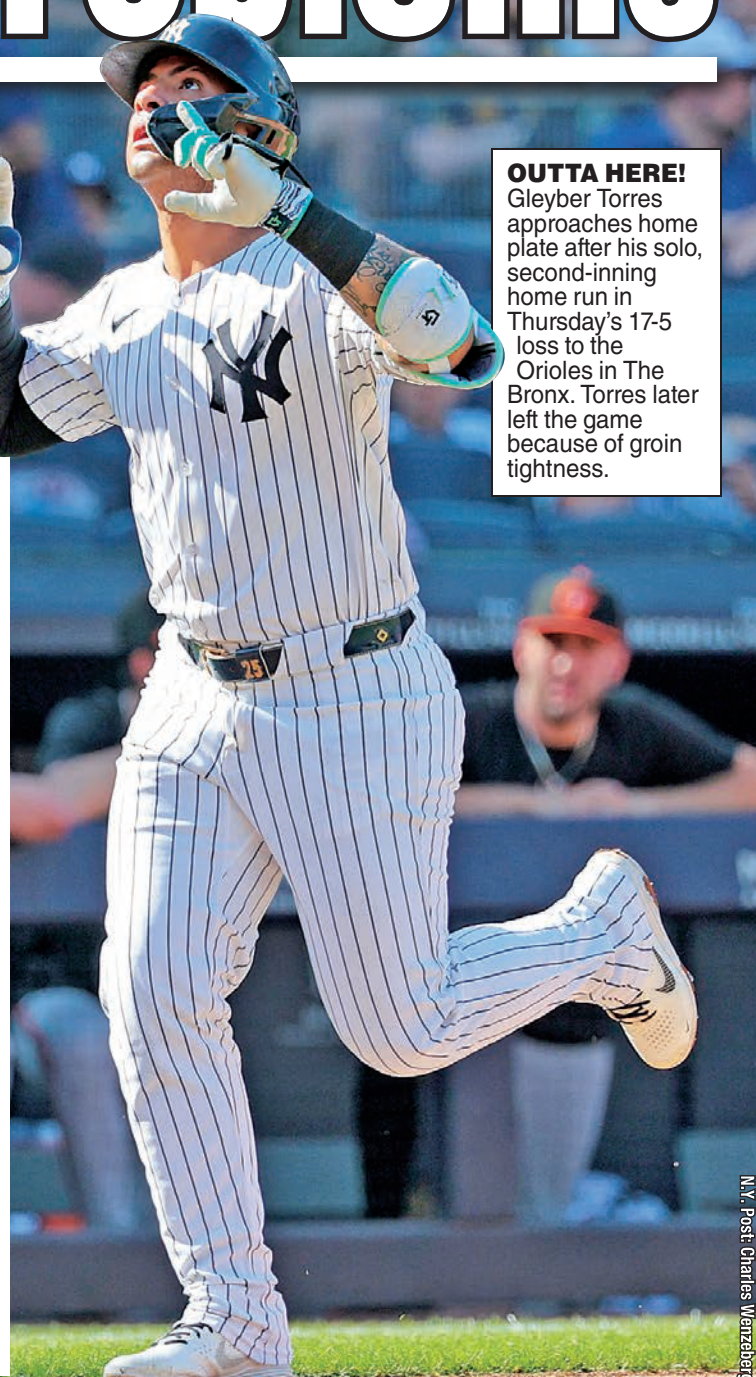
Just three regular second basemen have a lower OPS on the season than Torres, who last year posted an OPS of .800 in a bounce-back campaign that was his best since he was an All-Star in 2019. He's also had some issues in the field, with 11 errors in 76 games after making 15 in 145 games in 2023.

With LeMahieu not moving as well defensively as he did earlier in his career and Cabrera inexperienced at second, the Yankees don't have an ideal candidate to fill in for Torres if he ends up missing time.

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### OUTTA HERE!

Gleyber Torres approaches home plate after his solo, second-inning home run in Thursday's 17-5 loss to the Orioles in The Bronx. Torres later left the game because of groin tightness.



N.Y. Post/Charles Wenzelberg

## Judge returns, homers in loss to O's

By DAN MARTIN

Aaron Judge made it back into the Yankees' lineup Thursday, and his bruised left hand appears to be OK.

Two days after being drilled on the left hand by a 94 mph fastball from Baltimore's Albert Suarez, Judge was in center and batting third for the Yankees in an otherwise ugly 17-5 loss to the Orioles in The Bronx.

Judge said there was still some swelling and soreness "especially on foul balls. When I square it up, it feels good." He looked just fine and was one of the few bright spots on a sultry Thursday afternoon, with a two-run homer and an RBI single, both hit hard.

Those were pretty much the only highlights against Baltimore, who won another series from the Yankees. This one was so bad that Judge, along with Juan Soto, was replaced in the field in the top of the eighth.

With the Yankees trailing by seven runs thanks to the unexpected implosion by Luis Gil, knocked out in the second inning, Judge hit his 27th homer of the season in the bottom of the third, a two-run blast that made it 8-3. The 110 mph shot was a bullet to right-center.

He added a two-out laser RBI single to left that just got under the glove of a diving Austin Hays to drive in Anthony Volpe. That hit went 114 mph.

Prior to the game, Aaron Boone said Judge gave the manager a "thumbs-up" after he underwent treatment and hit in the cage.

Judge left Tuesday's game in the fourth inning, but the Yankees avoided a worst-case scenario when imaging came back negative. He was unavailable for Wednesday's loss in The Bronx, when the Yankees let Jahmai Jones strike out looking to end the game with the tying run on base.

Judge made sure he was on the field Thursday, calling it "a must-win game" against "a division rival."

The Yankees and Judge aren't necessarily out of the woods with this injury just yet, as Boone said he would "probably" keep a close eye on Judge, but also noted, "I watch him pretty closely, anyway. I think we should be in a good spot [with the injury]."

Boone was pleased to be able to put Judge and his MVP-worthy numbers back in the lineup Thursday.

"It's definitely a good feeling," Boone said. "Obviously, the caliber of player he is [and] he's the captain in that room, too. Guys rally around him. And not only him back in the lineup adding length to the lineup so guys are in different spots."

## Wait for Dominguez will be 8 more weeks

By GREG JOYCE

Jasson Dominguez will not be available to the Yankees for at least two months.

The top outfield prospect is expected to miss "up to eight weeks" with an oblique strain, manager Aaron Boone said Thursday.

"It's a pretty significant strain, so probably up to eight weeks until he's playing in games," Boone said before finishing a series against the Orioles in The Bronx with a 17-5 loss.

Dominguez suffered the injury on a check-swing Saturday at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

The 21-year-old switch hitter had been sidelined to start the year as he recovered from Tommy John surgery to repair the torn UCL that he suffered last September after an impressive eight-game cameo with the Yankees.

Dominguez had played 23 games in the minor leagues this season — 20 of them as part of a rehab assignment before the Yankees reinstated him from the 60-day IL and

optioned him to Triple-A last Wednesday. He was batting .356 with a 1.014 OPS, six home runs and three steals.

Though there was no spot for him in the big leagues to get everyday at-bats once he finished his rehab from elbow surgery, Dominguez was set to serve as insurance in case the Yankees had an injury in their outfield or to DH Giancarlo Stanton. Now, Dominguez will be out until August as he recovers from the oblique strain.

Dominguez made the most of

his late-season call-up last year before getting hurt, batting .258 with a .980 OPS and four home runs in eight games.

His latest injury further weakens the Yankees' outfield depth at Triple-A after Everson Pereira recently underwent season-ending internal brace surgery to repair a torn UCL. He and Dominguez are the only two outfielders on the 40-man roster not currently in the big leagues.

**Yanks notes / Page 60**





# Jon Heyman

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INSIDE MLB

## BURNES NOTICE

### O's hurler has perfect mentality for big market

**O**RIOLES star Corbin Burnes is from the smallest Central Valley California city of Bakersfield, and he's pitched in two of the smaller markets in baseball — Milwaukee and Baltimore. But he's about to be the biggest pitching free agent (just ahead of Max Fried, another major star), and a big market may just fit his big personality.

One rival says Burnes is known as a “bulldog” and a “great guy.”

“It doesn't scare me,” Burnes told The Post of a big market. “Fan bases in general want to see a guy come in and play hard, and do everything they can to help the team and the city. Whether it's a small market, mid-sized market or big market, you need to come in and compete every day.”

When he was traded to Baltimore, everyone assumed it was a one-and-done situation. However, new owner David Rubenstein was approved only weeks after Burnes was acquired, signaling the end of the Angelos-era penny-pinching.

Nothing's going to happen in summer, though. Burnes doesn't close the door entirely, but he told me “he'd prefer not to talk” in season.

“I think at this point I would be doing these guys a disservice by taking my focus away from this year and our ultimate goal of winning the World Series,” he said.

The Orioles get that, and sources

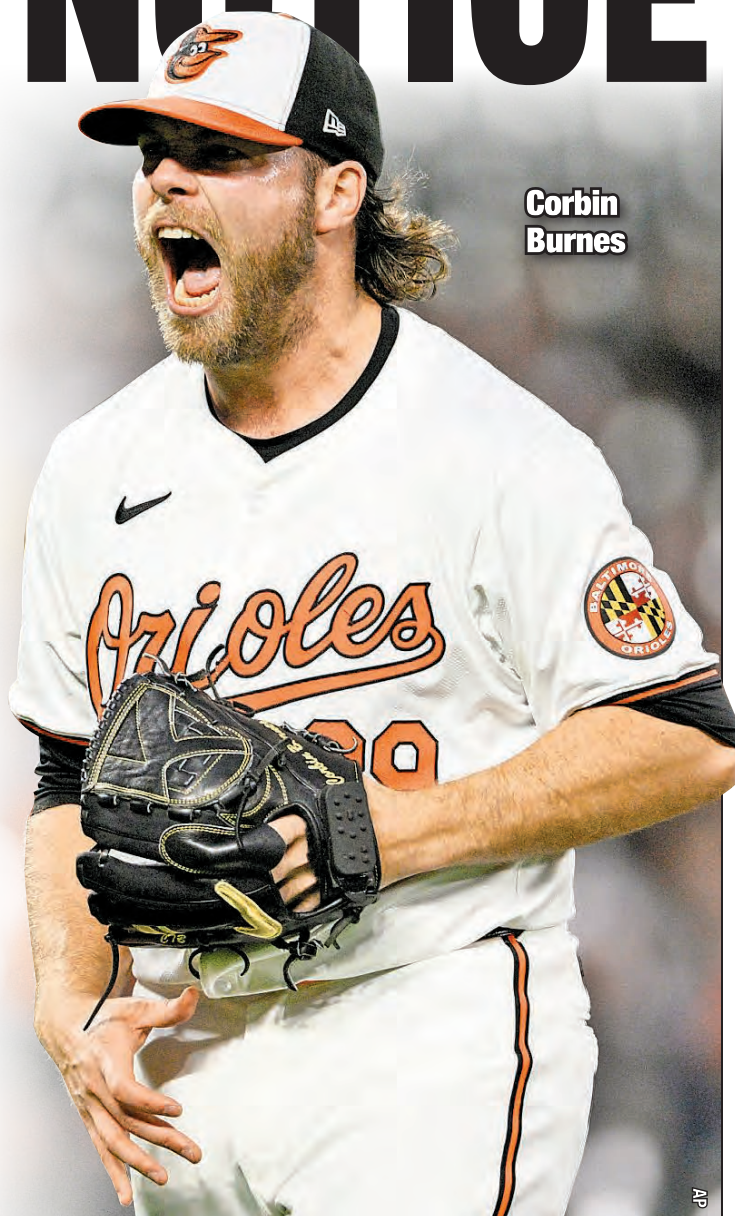
say they have little intention of trying to sign him while they're still playing. And though Rubenstein puts the sudden powerhouse in better long-term position, they'd surely also like to lock up homegrown superstars Gunnar Henderson, Adley Rutschman and others on their excellent young team.

“I think these guys knew coming in they were going to get one of the better arms in the game, and so I'm going to do everything I can for them this year,” Burnes said. “And if it's a one-year thing, then hopefully we win it all. And if it turns into something more, that's great. [But] my focus is coming in every day and doing what I can to help myself and the team.”

Burnes shot down rumors of a California preference (he lives in Arizona now) and professed only one preference: “I want to go to a team that's going to compete for the entirety of my contract.”

Ultimately, Burnes may actually belong in a big market. His confidence is warranted, and given a chance, it surfaces. He's been typically brilliant this year (8-2, 2.14 ERA), but by design, he's striking out fewer than previously, which was a record pace for a starter. But he says, “If I need to get a strikeout I know I can get it.”

Though the Orioles can't be discounted, if he isn't made for New York (or Los Angeles or Chicago), I'm not sure who is.



Corbin Burnes

Big sale to come on South Side

THE WORST team should have the best sale.

The White Sox are the latest awful team to challenge the 1962 Mets' modern record for futility and their infamously all-time bad 40-120 record. And with have a surprising number of coveted veterans, the Chisox have an excellent chance to get even worse at the deadline.

Here's a list of sale pieces.

**1. Garrett Crochet, LHP:** Every contending team has interest in the reliever-turned-starter, and though he's already flown past his previous innings high, teams love the arm and potential (the Yankees are among them). It's uncertain how many innings are left in his big arm, but teams are willing to find out.

**2. Luis Robert, CF:** The Dodgers, Mariners, Giants, Royals and others could use the former Gold Glove and Silver Slugger winner. He also has years to go (3 1/2 at \$62 million assuming his two \$20M team options are exercised). One rival GM guesses he has an even better chance of going than Crochet.

**3. Erick Fedde, RHP:** His return from Korea has been a success, and he's good enough to help most contenders, at least in the regular season. Another good contract situation: He's in the first year of a two-year, \$15M deal.

**4. Tommy Pham, OF:** Several teams are said interested in Pham, who played CF before Robert returned. As one rival exec said, “He can hit.” He's also a player who can spice up a clubhouse, and that \$3M contract is more than reasonable. The Royals have interest, but he'd fit many teams.

**5. Michael Kopech, RP:** Though he hasn't thrived as a closer, he has a big arm.

**6. Paul DeJong, SS:** The Dodgers seem content to go with Miguel Rojas for now at short and don't have to worry about the division even with Mookie Betts out two months. But there should be takers for DeJong, a good defender with power and another reasonable deal (\$1.5M for 2024).

## Rivals assuming Soto will stay with Yanks?

THOUGH there's sure to be outside interest in 25-year-old superstar **Juan Soto** — the Mets, Dodgers, Phillies and Red Sox are obvious potential outside suitors — some rival GMs are starting to wonder if there's a real chance he'd leave the Yankees.

“He's going to be staying, no?” one rival GM asked.

As for the Yankees, they believe they have a decent chance as long as bidding is very close. ...

It's understandable why the Yankees were upset to see the game's best position player, **Aaron Judge**, hit in his hand by Orioles pitcher **Albert Suarez**, but it's also fair to note the Yankees pitchers are first in the AL with 42 hit by pitches while the Orioles pitchers are tied for last with 24.

Judge distinguishes himself every day with not only

his play. Him selecting Soto as the AL MVP in my makeshift clubhouse poll was typical Judge. That's what makes him a great captain, too. ...

The NL wild-card race is nuts. But one team that should make it is the Diamondbacks — who've stayed in it despite the absence of top pitchers **Merriell Kelly**, **Zac Gallen** and

**Eduardo Rodriguez**. ...

Teams seem discouraged about their chances to land A's star closer **Mason Miller**, who has five more years of team control.

Every contender seeks bullpen help, including the Yankees and Orioles.

These are among teams that have at least looked into starting help: D'backs, Astros, Twins, Yankees,

Orioles, Rangers, Brewers, Braves, Padres.

The Padres continue to search aggressively, as is their style.

The Royals are focused on pen and OF (**Tommy Pham** is of interest).

The Mariners seek offense. So do the Pirates.

The Red Sox are playing well but are said to be looking “long term.”



Dream start  
to season  
turns into  
nightmare in  
O's rout

# WHAT THE GIL?

**MELTDOWN:** Aaron Boone removes Luis Gil in the second inning of Thursday's 17-5 loss to the Orioles after the right-hander allowed a season-high seven runs.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

By GREG JOYCE

Entering Thursday in the midst of a dream season, Luis Gil turned in a nightmare of a start.

A steamy late afternoon at Yankee Stadium didn't get much better from there.

<b>ORIOLES</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Boxscore</b> Page 58
<b>YANKEES</b>	<b>5</b>	

The Orioles ambushed Gil for seven runs on eight hits, knocking him out of the game before he could record a fifth out and setting the tone for a brutal 17-5 drubbing of the Yankees.

When the bloodbath was finally over, the Yankees (51-26) still led the Orioles (49-25) by a half-game atop the AL East, but Baltimore has now taken both series between the top two teams in the American League this season.

"It's gonna be back and forth all the way to September, that's for sure," said Aaron Judge, who returned to the lineup after getting hit by a pitch on Tuesday and clubbed his 27th home run of the year. "I think we're looking forward to having those battles back and forth. But what it really ultimately comes down to is us just taking care of ourselves. We go out there and play baseball the way

## Birds, not

**T**HE ORIOLES are in second place and yet the Yankees are chasing them.

The standings tell one story, with Baltimore trailing the Yankees by one-half game.

Their head-to-head matchups are more revealing. The Orioles have won five of the seven while clearly looking like the superior team.



They took three of four at Camden Yards seven weeks ago. And without using either of their two best remaining healthy starters — notably ace Corbin Burnes — the Orioles just took two of three in The Bronx. The defending AL East champs have now gone 22 straight series against division foes without losing one — the longest such streak since division play began in 1969. The Yankees are 10-12 within the AL East this year.

Like in Camden, the more athletic Orioles made the Yankees



we're supposed to, clean it up on defense a little bit ... we'll take care of it and be where we want to be."

The Orioles did what no other team has done this year by clobbering Gil, raising his ERA from 2.03 to 2.77 over the course of his 47-pitch outing. The runs and hits surrendered were both career-highs, while Gil also walked a pair and hit a batter on a day when he simply did not have it. The seven runs Gil allowed were the same amount he gave up across his previous nine starts combined.

"I felt like I let the team down today," Gil, who tossed 6 1/3 scoreless innings against the Orioles on May 1, said through an interpreter. "But we definitely have more games ahead of us and I'm sure we're going to be able to turn the page on this one and improve. I believe in myself and I definitely believe in my teammates."

By the time Aaron Boone finally put Gil out of his misery with one out in the second inning, the Orioles led 7-0 and still had the bases loaded. Michael Tonkin spared Gil's line from getting any worse, but the Orioles went on to rack up 19 hits overall.

The Yankees' day also included three errors, Gleyber Torres exiting early with groin tightness and the bullpen continuing to show some more cracks. Before catcher Jose Trevino had to pitch the



**OFF ON WRONG FOOT:** Yankees outfielder Juan Soto can't come up with a line drive hit by Gunnar Henderson in the first inning that turned into a double and led to a run in Thursday's rout by the Orioles. Robert Sabo

ninth, five of their six relievers gave up at least one run as the Orioles continued to pile on.

The only bit of good news for the Yankees was Judge returning to the lineup for the first time since Tuesday. His left hand looked just fine when he crushed a

two-run shot in the third inning that pulled the Yankees within 8-3. But that was as close as they would get.

In the Yankees' 77th game of the year, it was the first time their starter did not complete at least four innings, snapping the longest

single-season streak in franchise history.

Gil came into Thursday having made nine straight starts in which he threw at least five innings and allowed three or fewer runs, but he did not come anywhere close to that against the Orioles. His first pitch of the day was roped for a double by Gunnar Henderson over the head of Juan Soto, and it only got worse from there.

After limiting the damage to one run in the first inning, he could not stop the bleeding in the second, when the big blow was Ryan Mountcastle's three-run double down the left-field line.

"Not his day," Boone said. "They came out really aggressive to the fastball in that first inning and took it away, got him out of the zone a little bit and then he made some mistakes in the heart of the plate with everything."

In the process, the Orioles improved to 5-2 against the Yankees this season with two more head-to-head series to go.

"The first couple series, they've had their way with us," Boone said. "They've had the upper hand. But there is a long way to go in all this. You never like losing, especially in your division and up against a team you're battling neck and neck with. It's also an opportunity to hopefully grow for us."

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# Bombers have proved to be beasts of East

look plodding and unsettled in winning this rubber match 17-5 — the most runs the Yankees have permitted since surrendering 19 to Cleveland on Aug. 15, 2019.

The Yankees have not won any of their last five series against Baltimore dating to last year. And this was their worst defensive series of 2024 (Anthony Volpe excluded), with the continuing freeway when Jose Trevino catches only growing more troubling.

Trevino actually ended up pitching the ninth Thursday for a bullpen that is both a midseason try-out camp and worsening calamity. Tim Hill was signed Thursday morning and gave up a three-run homer to Anthony Santander a few hours later as part of what was a 16-run barrage against Yankee relievers in these three games.

But nothing was quite as disturbing during these three games as Luis Gil's start. Was this a bad outing or the slipper falling off of Cinderella? Gil could not have honored his responsibility better to the Yankees; filling in for the injured Gerrit Cole and for 14 starts pitching like Gerrit Cole — literally until the ace returned Wednesday night.

Start No. 15 was a disaster, making

the Summer Solstice longest day in the Northern Hemisphere all the longer for the Yankees. Aaron Boone called this merely a "bump in the road" for Gil after seven runs against four outs. But he conceded that the Yanks are constantly monitoring whether the righty, who basically didn't pitch the past two seasons following Tommy John surgery, is hitting reality or a steel wall. Gil said like he "felt like he let the team down," but also that he feels stronger than at any time this season.

Gil had thrown 6 1/3 shutout innings on May 1 to help the Yankees win their lone game at Camden. But Baltimore hunted fastballs early Thursday, with 11 of 15 hitters swinging at the first strike they saw on a day when Gil had his velocity, but nothing close to command.

Baltimore broke the game

open with a six-run second. Jordan Westburg went down 0-2 to lead off and lashed a single — previously batters had been 1-for-30 on 0-2 counts against Gil.

In all, Baltimore was 4-for-6 with runners in scoring position against Gil, who had held hitters to 5-for-48 in that situation all year. The Orioles scored seven runs against four outs, matching the number of earned runs Gil had allowed in his first seven home starts (and 40 innings) this season. And for the first time this season, after a franchise record 76 straight games, a Yankee starter failed to go at least four innings, exposing a bullpen that has been generally protected by a rotation covering lots of innings.

Aaron Judge, who missed Wednesday's game after being struck by a pitch on his left hand in Tuesday's series opener, hit the two hardest balls Thursday — a 110.6 mph two-run homer and a 114.2 mph RBI single. Thus, ended the good news for the Yankees. Gleyber Torres homered as well, but also committed

his 11th error (second most in the majors) and left the game with what the Yankees termed right groin tightness.

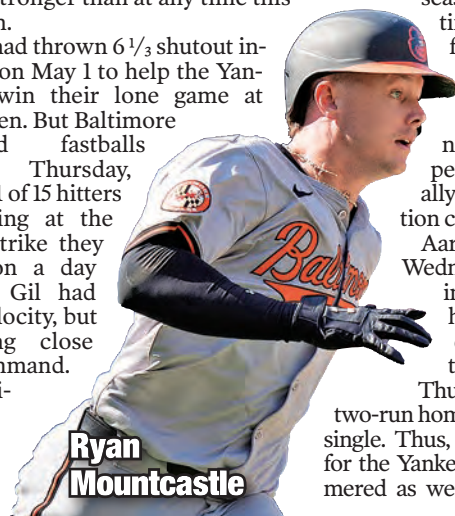
Suddenly — even with Cole back — the Yankees are more battered and bruised, having lost Anthony Rizzo, maybe Torres, two more pitchers to the IL and five of seven games. Don't expect the Orioles to light a candle. They announced during this series that Kyle Bradish was their third starter this year to need elbow surgery and be lost for the season — as is closer Felix Bautista.

The Yankees (51-26), Orioles (49-25) and Phillies (49-25) are tied for the majors' best winning percentage at .662. But Baltimore arrived in The Bronx having taken two of three from Philadelphia. And its mastery of the Yankees persisted. The Orioles have outplayed the Yankees in every way when sharing a field in 2024.

"They are as formidable as there is and the first couple of series they've had with us, they've had the upper hand," Boone said. "There's a long way to go."

The race is on, with it feeling like the Yankees are chasing a team that has been behind them all year in the standings.

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Ryan Mountcastle

Montefiore Einstein  
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



## INJURY REPORT

■ **Gleyber Torres** was removed from Thursday's game with groin tightness.

■ **Aaron Judge** returned to the lineup after getting drilled in the left hand with a pitch on Tuesday.

■ **Jasson Dominguez** will be out for up to eight weeks with what Aaron Boone described as a "pretty significant" oblique strain.



**vs. Braves**  
Friday, 7:05 p.m.,  
Apple TV+, WFAN

## LHP Carlos Rodon



**2024 stats:**  
9-3, 3.28 ERA

**Career vs. ATL:**  
1-0, 0.75 ERA

**Last start:**  
Sat., at BOS;  
5.0 IP, 7 H, 5 ER

## PITCH BREAKDOWN

**53%** Fastball **25%** Slider **9%** Change

## LHP Chris Sale



**2024 stats:**  
9-2, 2.98 ERA

**Career vs. NYY:**  
6-9, 3.12 ERA

**Last start:**  
Fri., vs TB;  
7.0 IP, 5 H, 2 ER

## PITCH BREAKDOWN

**41%** Slider **38%** Fastball **13%** Change

## UP NEXT

**SATURDAY:** vs. Braves, 7:15 p.m., Fox, WFAN  
RHP Marcus Stroman  
vs. RHP Charlie Morton

**SUNDAY:** vs. Braves, 1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN  
LHP Nestor Cortes  
vs. LHP Max Fried

Montefiore Einstein

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**VINTAGE VEHICLES** Emmy winner and former “SNL” castmember **Chris Redd** (left) is set to host a new Netflix series entitled “**Resurrected Rides**.” The car makeover show from the makers of “**Pimp My Ride**” will premiere on July 24th with eight 40-minute episodes.

Variety via Getty Images

# TV Friday

**ALL NIGHT LONG** Eight years after its original ending, “**The Night Manager**” will soon return on Amazon Prime, bringing back many members of its original cast. According to Variety, Season 2 will feature returning cast members including Oscar-winner **Olivia Colman** (right), who was nominated for an Emmy for her role as Angela Burr.



Des Willie /The Ink Factory/AMC

# TEMPERATURE'S RISING

‘RHODubai’ star **Lesa Milan** is tiring of how ‘fake relationships’ are playing out on the show

By **SAMANTHA NUNGESSER**

**L**ESA MILAN can do it all. Not only does she bring the shade as a reality star, but she’s also a mom-of-three and proud founder of the luxury maternity brand Mina Roe. Now heading into her sophomore season on “**The Real Housewives of Dubai**,” Milan must further juggle a cast of larger-than-life personalities, including her once-close friend **Chanel Ayan**, who has formed an unlikely bond with **Caroline Stanbury**.

While Milan and Ayan are still thick as thieves at this point in Season 2, the trailer indicates that their friendship will soon hit a rough patch. The former BFFs have since seemingly unfollowed each other on social media, with Ayan claiming that she had been blocked by Milan.

“I feel like I thought we had this really strong friendship and as things played out this season, it proved that I was actually wrong,” Milan told DECIDER ahead of tonight’s episode, noting that she has been “living her best life” amid Ayan and Stanbury’s “fake relationship.”

But after hearing that Ayan is hopeful that they can rekindle their



Above: (L to R) **Lesa Milan**, **Chanel Ayan**, **Caroline Stanbury**, **Caroline Brooks**, **Saba Yussouf**, **Sara Al Medani**, **Taleen Marie**. Right inset: **Lesa Milan**.

friendship in the future, Milan admitted that she would be open to having a conversation with her co-star. “It would be really sad to just throw away all those years of friendship over a TV show, because these are our real, real lives. So I’ll never say never, but I’ll say right now, I’m OK. I’m good where I’m at,” she said when asked if she sees a path forward for them.

Stanbury, on the other hand, might not get the same grace from Milan. Despite agreeing to move on from their past beef in the premiere, the two women seemingly spark another feud as the season goes on, per the trailer.

The video player is currently playing an ad.

“I’ll give you the benefit of the doubt one time and if you mess that up, then I’m gonna see you for who you are, or who I always thought you were,” Milan explained. “And I

feel like you’re gonna see that play out quite a bit with Stanbury and I.”

Milan recently stopped by DECIDER’s offices to talk about “The Real Housewives of Dubai”’s “hot” second season, her business, and her night in the V.V.I.P. section at the Beyoncé event.

**DECIDER: I am absolutely loving this new season. How are you feeling about watching everything back?**

**LESA MILAN:** Honestly, I feel like we’ve been off air for so long, and I’ve been dying for everyone to see Season 2 because it’s so good. I think Season 1 was like the warm up, and then Season 2 we came in hot.

**I love to see how close you are with your mom. What has been the hardest part of living so far away from her? And since she said she’d consider moving to Dubai, have there been**

**any updates on that front?**

She is very close to moving. She’s so much closer than when you guys saw that episode to moving now. So, fingers crossed. She’s coming, we’re gonna go apartment shopping. If I find something that she loves, then we’ll see ... Honestly, she’s so committed to her career, she works so hard. It’s amazing but my kids are getting older. Max is turning 10 this month and he’s not going to need Granny for candies in the next five years. He’s gonna be shutting the door probably on all of us. So I think now is the time for her to tap in before it’s too late.

**Not only are you on the show and a mom of three, but you also have your business Mina Roe. How do you balance everything?**

Well, I always say this,

but I don’t balance, because balancing is suggesting that I give more than one thing equal amount of energy and I don’t. My kids are my priority. But I do find a way to integrate, and being organized really helps, especially with the mom guilt. So I try.

**I would love to ask you about this Beyoncé event. You were up in the V.V.I.P. section partying with Jay-Z and Kendall Jenner. Do you have any favorite memories or juicy tidbits from that night you’d be willing to share?**

Listen, we had the best night. I know we keep talking about it, and people, especially everyone in America is like, ‘OK, guys, we went to the Renaissance [Tour].’

But it’s not the same. You couldn’t even buy tickets to go [to the event]. And so I think we felt really special that we were invited. When we ended up in the V.V.I.P., it was just so special and so fun. And what happens at the Beyoncé concert stays at the Beyoncé concert.

**Is there anything else you can tease about the rest of this season?**

It’s gonna be hot. I’m tuning in like the rest of you because there’s a lot of unsolved mysteries that we need to all come together and solve.

*This interview has been edited for space. To read the whole conversation, please visit [decider.com/rhodu-bai](https://www.decider.com/rhodu-bai).*

*The Real Housewives of Dubai* airs Tuesdays at 9/8c on Bravo.

## Back on the Beat

The groundbreaking police drama “**Homicide: Life on the Street**” may finally be emerging from streaming purgatory. David Simon, who wrote the book that the series was based on, posted on X that “Word is that NBC has managed to finally secure the music rights necessary to sell [the show] to a streaming platform.”



## Changing Residency

The sci-fi series “**Resident Alien**” has been renewed for a fourth season, which will see the show move from Syfy to USA Network. Starring Emmy nominee **Alan Tudyk** (left), the series follows Harry, an alien who has landed on Earth and intends to kill all humans.

James Dittiger/Syfy



NBCUniversal via Getty Images



What's on Tonight



MOVIE

**My Cousin Vinny:** 7:30 p.m. on TNT. Joe Pesci, Marisa Tomei. Two young men are mistakenly arrested, and call on a relative who recently passed the bar.



MOVIE

**Uncle Buck:** 8 p.m. on AMC. John Candy, Amy Madigan. When family emergency arises, the parents of three children leave them in the care of their loutish uncle.



SPORTS

**2024 Stanley Cup Final:** 8 p.m. on WABC 7. Florida Panthers at Edmonton Oilers from Rogers Place. Florida leads the best-of-seven series, 3-2.

Friday June 21, 2024

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	CBS News Norah	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Lingo	S.W.A.T.: Peace Talks (R)		Blue Bloods: Shadowland (R)		CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) Late Show	
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	(7:15) New York Live	Access Hollywood	Swimming Live.		Track & Field: U.S. Olympic Team Trials: from Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon. Live.		News 4 New York at 11		(11:35) Tonight Show	
5	WNYW	5	5	5	Family Feud (R)	Extra (R)	TMZ (R)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown: from Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill.. Live.		The 10 O'Clock News	Street Soldiers	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)		
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	2024 Stanley Cup Final: Game 6: Florida Panthers at Edmonton Oilers from Rogers Place. Live.				News	(11:35) Kimmel Live		
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Dish Nation (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Chicago P.D.: Still Water		Chicago P.D.: Blood Relation		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	TMZ Live	
11	WPIX	11	11	11	PIX11 Evening News	Sports Nightly	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bakeover: Mary Lane Cafe		Totally Funny Animals	Totally Funny Kids	PIX11 News at Ten		Seinfeld: The Opera	Seinfeld
13	WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Washington Week	Firing Line	American Masters: Keith Haring: Street Art Boy (R)		Roots of Comedy	Roots of Comedy	Amanpour and Company	
21	WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Death in Paradise		Mary Berry	Mary Berry	COBRA	Three -	Luisa Spagnoli:		Show Me	BBC News
25	WNYE	25	22	25	Report	Film Short	Film-Maker	TBA	Build Ser	To Be Announced		TBA	To Be Announced		
31	WPXN	31	3	531	Five-0	Pregame	WNBA Basketball: Indiana Fever at Atlanta Dream.		Game Break		WNBA Basketball Live.				
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	La rosa de Guadalupe		Golpe de suerte		John Candy. PG ★★★		The Great Outdoors (1988, Comedy) Dan Aykroyd.			
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP		(7:58) Top Chef VIP: Sexto sentido, Part 2		El amor no tiene receta		Noticias		Noticiero	
55	WLNY	55	10	10	Queens	Man	Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Gone		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181		First 48 (R)	The First 48: Walk in the		The First 48 (R)		The First 48: Late Night		The First 48: Last Hope		The First 48: Crossroads	
AMC	54	43	231		(5:30) My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy)	Neighbor.		Uncle Buck (1989, Comedy)		John Candy. PG ★★★		The Great Outdoors (1988, Comedy) Dan Aykroyd.			
BET	37	54	270		Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Comic View 2019: 1997		Boo 2!: A Madea Halloween (2017) Tyler Perry. ★			
BBCAM	71	101	189		True Lies (1994, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger. ★★★	Arnold Schwarzenegger. ★★★		The Terminator (1984, Science Fiction) Arnold Schwarzenegger. R		Arnold Schwarzenegger. R		(11:15) True Lies (1994) R			
BRAVO	18	44	185		(5:45) John Wick (2014) R	(7:45) John Wick: Chapter 2 (2017, Action)		Keanu Reeves, Common. R ★★★½		John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum R					
CNBC	15	24	102		Money	Last Call		American Greed: Scams		American Greed: Scams		American Greed: Scams		American Greed: Scams	
CNN	78	25	100		Situation	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COM	45	50	190		The Office	The Office	The Office	(8:20) The Office: Hot Girl		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	South Park	South Park
DIS	49	31	250		(6:25) Big City Greens the Movie (R)			The Lion King (2019, Adventure) Donald Glover. ★★★		Big City (R)		Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)
DSC	66	27	120		Parker (R)	Parker's Trail (R)		Parker's Trail: Gold Rush		Hoffman Family: Cleanup		(10:03) Deadliest Catch		(11:03) Alien: Fact (R)	
E!	24	51	196		Fast Five	Fast & Furious 6 (2013, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★★½				Fast & Furious 6 (2013, Action) Vin Diesel. ★★★½					
ESPN	28	36	70		Sports Live.	The Point Live.		Professional Fighters League: Light Heavyweights & Lightweights (Main Card)		SportsCenter Live.					
ESPN2	29	35	74		ESPN BET L	NFL Live		American Cornhole League Live.		The Ultimate				The Ultimate	
FBN	43	106	117		Bottom	Wall Street	Roundtable	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
FNC	44	26	118		Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164		Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Guy American Road Trip		Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)
FREFRM	38	49	199		(6:00) The Sorcerer's Apprentice (2010, Fantasy) ★★★½			Mulan (2020, Action) Yifei Liu. PG-13 ★★						The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83		The Herd	Copa Tonight Live.		Copa America 2024: Chile at Peru. Live.		UEFA Euro 2024: Group D: France at Netherlands.					
FX	10	40	53		Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy: Blue Harvest		Family Guy: Dark Side		Family Guy: It's a Trap!		Family Guy	Family Guy
HALL		191	240		Hidden G	The Santa Summit (2023, Romance) Hunter King.		My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Drama) Rhiannon Fish.				Golden		Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165		My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery
HIST	40	47	128		UnXplained	The UnXplained: Venus		The UnXplained (R)		Mysteries of the Universe		(10:03) The UnXplained		(11:05) The UnXplained	
ID	23	171	123		Evil Here	Evil Lives Here (R)		Very Scary People (R)		Very Scary People (R)		Very Scary People (R)		Very Scary People (R)	
LIFE	62	45	140		Castle	Castle: Once Upon a		Castle: Kill Switch		Castle: Last Action Hero		(10:03) Castle: Bad Santa		(11:03) Castle: Castle, P.I.	
MeTV	33	33	3		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Hillbillies	Acres	Hogan	Hogan	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78		The Bettor	The Juice	Dyckman:	NBA Basketball				NBA Basketball			
MSG Plus	48	88	80		(2:00) FanDuel Racing Live.									MSG Shorts	MSG Shorts
MSNBC	14	23	103		Ari Melber	The ReidOut		All in with Chris Hayes		Alex Wagner Tonight		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour	
MTV	20	53	210		(5:00) Baywatch (2017) R	The Heat (2013, Comedy) Sandra Bullock. R ★★★½		Baywatch (2017, Comedy) Dwayne Johnson. R ★★★½							
NATGEO	65	162	121		Cities (R)	Skeletons of the Inca (R)		Lost City Machu (R)		Cesar Millan: Better		Cesar Millan: Better (R)		Cesar Millan: Better (R)	
NICK	6	121	252		Sponge PG	No Time to Spy: A Loud House Movie		SpongeBob		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
OWN	173	180	145		Dr. Phil	The Never Ever Mets (R)		The Never Ever Mets		Marriage: Huntsville (R)		Marriage: Huntsville (R)		The Never Ever Mets (R)	
PARMT	36	56	54		Men	Men	Men	My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Joe Pesci. R ★★★						My Cousin Vinny (1992) R	
SNY	26	60	77		Mets Flip	Mets Specials: Straw 18		MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field. Replay.				Sports Live.		Sports Live.	
SYFY	17	48	180		The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent	(2022) Nicolas Cage. R		(8:56) Red (2010, Action) Bruce Willis, Mary-Louise Parker. ★★★½		Talent R					
TBS	8	39	52		Bang	Bang	Bang	Angel Has Fallen (2019, Action) Gerard Butler. R ★★★		Murder at 1600 (1997, Thriller) Wesley Snipes. R ★★★½					
TCM	82	41	230		(6:15) The Strangler (1964, Horror) ★★★	Sylvia Scarlett (1935) NR ★★		(9:45) Gay USA				Torch Song Trilogy (1988)			
TLC	52	28	139		MILF Manor	90 Day Fiancé (R)		90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?: More to Love		90 Day	MILF Manor:	MILFless (R)	90 Day (R)		
TNT	3	37	51		We're the Millers (2013) R	My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Joe Pesci. R ★★★		All Elite Wrestling		My Cousin Vinny (1992) R					
TVLAND	85	34	241		Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens	
USA	16	38	50		Track & Field: U.S. Olympic Team Trials Live.			Race to Survive (R)		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire			
VH1	19	52	217		(5:30) Madea's Big Happy Family (2011)			The Wood (1999, Comedy) Taye Diggs. R ★★★		The Big Wedding (2013) R ★★					
WE	59	42	149		(6:00) 9-1-1	9-1-1: A Whole New You		June: From Not to Hot (R)		June: From Not to Hot		Deb's House		(11:02) Not to Hot (R)	
YES	53	89	76		Talkin'	CenterStage: Larry David		18 Holes	Jimmy	BattleFrog OCR Replay.		Postgame	Talkin'	Yankees	Forbes
HBO	511	301	400		House of the Dragon: A Son for a Son			(7:52) Bridget Jones's Baby (2016, Comedy) R ★★★		Real Time with		Fantasmas		Real Time	
MAX	531	371	420		The Box (2009, Thriller) Cameron Diaz.			Semi-Pro (2008, Comedy) Will Ferrell. R		(9:32) Cedar Rapids (2011, Comedy) R		Source Code (2011) ★★★½			
MGM Plus	595		395		Selma (2015, Drama) David Oyelowo.			The Boys in the Boat (2023, Drama) Joel Edgerton.		(10:05) Till (2022, Drama) JalyN Hall. PG-13 ★★★½					
PARSHO	551	321	365		13 Going	Couples	Couples	The Hateful Eight (2015, Western) Samuel L. Jackson. R ★★★½				Talk to Me (2023) R			



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# The Best Sports in Town®

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg



Luis Gil, perhaps the best pitcher in baseball just a few weeks ago, looks lost on the way to giving up seven runs on eight hits in just 1 1/3 innings in the Yankees' 17-5 loss to Baltimore. Austin Hays delivered a two-run homer in the seventh and celebrated by making a slicing motion across his neck (inset). PAGES 73-72, 70, 60

## Gil rocked as Yanks' flaws bubble up in brutal beatdown

# U-H-OH!

Cathy Images



## MEANS TO AN END

METS GAMES SUDDENLY HAVE SOME IMPORTANCE

VACCARO P. 68-69



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