

## Major cruise lines to add fees to displayed prices

California law known as "Hidden Fees Statute" prompts changes to advertised cost. **In Money**

## Wimbledon draw: Sinner, Alcaraz in same bracket

On the women's side, Swiatek is player to beat. What else to know about the field. **In Sports**



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## 'Family Affair' supermarket scene 'funny and beautiful'

Spoiler alert! Netflix romantic comedy starring Nicole Kidman and Zac Efron almost ended differently. **In Life**

# USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024



**Susan Page**  
Washington Bureau Chief  
USA TODAY

## Can Biden overcome damaging debate?

Can Joe Biden survive? Three days after a disastrous performance by the president in the first 2024 campaign debate, many Democratic strategists, officeholders, donors, pundits, potential rivals and long-time friends still aren't sure.

A drumbeat of concern about Biden as the party's nominee expressed in public and private began minutes after the CNN debate in Atlanta came on the air, showing a hoarse and sometimes stumbling Biden facing a bombastic Donald Trump hurling insults and untruths. Since then, efforts by Team Biden to shore up his support and move on haven't quieted alarm about his prospects in November and the damaging impact it could have on Democratic candidates down the ballot.

"The fact is people are nervous; there's a lot of anxiety," former Democratic national chair Donna Brazile acknowledged on ABC's "This Week," saying she had fielded so many frantic calls from fellow Democrats that she considered "dropping my phone into the Potomac."

She also made the case for Biden: "He also is a good man, a strong president and Democrats still believe that this race is winnable."

That said, a CBS News/YouGov poll taken Friday and Saturday showed how the debate had exacerbated the 81-year-old Biden's biggest vulnerability, his age. Seventy-two percent of registered voters said he did not have the mental and cognitive health to serve as president. The same percentage said he shouldn't be running for president, including more than a third of Democrats, 36%.

What has become clear is how much that decision is up to Biden himself, given party rules that make it nearly inconceivable that he could be replaced on the ticket without his assent - and how little time is left to make that call. A virtual roll call for the nomination is planned by Aug. 7, even before the convention opens, to address a deadline in Ohio that had threatened to keep Biden off the ballot there.

And this: All of the options for Democrats carry risks of infighting that

See **PAGE, Page 4A**

### Biden backers sound off

After debate, influential donors consider putting money elsewhere. **6A**



Supporters wave signs at a post-debate campaign rally for President Joe Biden on Friday in Raleigh, N.C. ALLISON JOYCE/GETTY IMAGES

## Workplace safety rules may be next target of high court

### OSHA could face another challenge

**Maureen Gropp**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - It's long been a conservative dream: shrinking the federal government. And on Friday, part of the dream came true: the Supreme Court tossed a 40-year principle that boosted the power of government regulators on environmental, labor and other laws.

Could the federal agency that sets workplace safety rules be the next target?

The Supreme Court may decide this week whether it will hear a challenge to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The case, pushed by business and conservative groups, and by Republican attorneys general, argues Congress violated the Constitution more than 50 years ago when it gave a federal agency - OSHA - the power to regulate workplace safety and fine companies when they endanger their workers.

The federal agency survived chal-

lenges to its rulemaking authority in 1978 and 2011.

But the latest case could find a receptive audience in this Supreme Court's conservative supermajority, which has reined in what it views as regulatory overreach by executive branch agencies.

Most of the court's conservatives have shown an interest in revisiting how to apply the principle that Congress cannot delegate its legislative powers to other parts of government, according to a brief filed by the conservative Cato

See **SAFETY RULES, Page 2A**

## At 60, Civil Rights Act 'propelled a movement'



President Lyndon B. Johnson hands a pen to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. after signing the historic Civil Rights Act in the East Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., on July 2, 1964. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

### Leaders look back at progress, address shortcomings

**Deborah Barfield Berry** USA TODAY

It's been 60 years since the 1964 Civil Rights Act was signed into law. • Across the country, civil rights groups, scholars and others have commemorated the landmark law with panels, comprehensive reports and rallies. Many have cited its impact and other federal laws that came in its wake, including one protecting the right to vote for all citizens and another banning discrimination in housing.

See **CIVIL RIGHTS, Page 3A**

**"It has changed the arc for women and for other people of color in a profound way."**

**Marc Morial**  
President of the National Urban League

## Beryl an 'extremely dangerous' Cat 4 storm as it roars toward Caribbean

**Krystal Nurse, Dinah Voyles Pulver and Susan Miller**  
USA TODAY

Beryl - the first hurricane of the 2024 season - intensified Sunday into a high-octane Category 4 storm packing 130-mph winds as it barreled toward the Caribbean.

The National Hurricane Center said its reconnaissance aircraft found that

Beryl, which was 350 miles east-southeast of Barbados on Sunday, is "now an extremely dangerous ... hurricane." Life-threatening winds and powerful storm surge were expected, and Beryl could deliver a devastating strike on the Windward Islands early Monday, the center said.

Swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip currents, and the storm surge on Monday may reach 5 to 7

feet above normal tide levels, bringing "large, destructive waves" to the coast, the hurricane center said.

The Windward Islands are the group of Caribbean islands in the eastern part of the Caribbean Sea that include Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Tobago. Barbados and Trinidad and Grenada are sometimes

See **BERYL, Page 2A**



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# In major decision, Supreme Court allows cities to ban homeless camps

## Ruling comes as record numbers lack housing

Maureen Groppe and Bart Jansen  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Friday that people without homes can be arrested and fined for sleeping in public spaces, overturning a lower court's ruling that enforcing camping bans when shelter is lacking is cruel and unusual punishment.

The 6-3 decision was the most significant ruling on the issue from the high court in decades.

It comes as record numbers of Americans lack permanent housing and as both Democratic and Republican leaders have complained a 2018 decision by a lower court has hamstrung their ability to address homeless encampments that threaten health and public safety.

"The Court cannot say that the punishments Grants Pass imposes here qualify as cruel and unusual," Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the majority, referring to the small Oregon municipality at the center of the case.

"The city imposes only limited fines for first-time offenders, an order temporarily barring an individual from camping in a public park for repeat offenders, and a maximum sentence of 30 days in jail for those who later violate an order."

### Cruel and unusual punishment?

But Justice Sonia Sotomayor, writing for the court's liberal minority, said the laws essentially criminalized the act of sleeping.

"Sleep is a biological necessity, not a crime," Sotomayor wrote in dissent, joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson. "For some people, sleeping outside is their only option."

Sotomayor noted that Grants Pass jails and fines people who sleep in public, such as in a car, or for using as little as a blanket to keep warm or a rolled-up shirt as a pillow. "For people with no access to shelter, that punishes them for being homeless," she wrote. "That is un-



An unhoused woman named Kimberly Morris holds a notice given to her by a police officer that gives her 72 hours to move her tent from the park, in Grants Pass, Ore., on April 18. Justices on Friday ruled that cities can enforce camping bans. DEBORAH BLOOM/REUTERS

conscionable and unconstitutional."

Ann Oliva, CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, said the decision gives "free reign to local officials who prefer pointless and expensive arrests and imprisonment, rather than real solutions."

"This tactic has consistently failed to reduce homelessness in the past," Oliva said, "and it will assuredly fail to reduce homelessness in the future."

### 'Urgent relief' to communities

Theane Evangelis, who represented Grants Pass, said the decision brought "urgent relief to the many communities that have struggled to address the growing problem of dangerous encampments."

"For the past six years, the Ninth Circuit's decisions have tied the hands of local governments," Evangelis said. "The Court has now restored the ability of cities on the frontlines of this crisis to develop lasting solutions that meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of their communities, while also keeping our public spaces safe and clean."

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which oversees nine Western states, ruled in 2018 that banning camping in areas lacking sufficient shelter beds amounts to cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th

Amendment.

The Supreme Court declined to weigh in at the time on that case from Boise, Idaho, but took up the issue this term after that precedent was used to challenge anti-camping rules in Grants Pass.

Homeless residents of the southern Oregon city of 38,000 had faced fines starting at \$250 and leading to jail time for repeat offenses.

### Criminalizing homelessness in a city without a homeless shelter

Advocates for homeless people said the rules amounted to criminalizing someone for having nowhere to live. The city lacks sufficient affordable housing. The one shelter for adults requires attending daily Christian services and other rules. Hundreds of residents are unhoused.

"We don't want to be in the parks," said Helen Cruz, a Grants Pass resident who lacks permanent shelter. "We want a place to live."

City officials said without the Supreme Court's intervention, they would be forced to surrender their public spaces.

The Department of Justice had mostly backed the challengers while also arguing that the appeals court ruling was too broad and didn't take into account individual circumstances such as whether someone had access to a shelter and refused it.

On any given night in the United States, more than 600,000 people are likely to be homeless, according to the federal government. Last year, 40% of homeless individuals slept under bridges, on sidewalks, in parks, cars, abandoned buildings and other public locations.

The case, which is the City of Grants Pass v. Johnson, attracted an unusually large number of briefs filed by outside interests.

Advocates for the homeless hoped that even if the decision didn't go their way, the case would spur elected officials at all levels of government to do more to address homelessness.

## Safety rules

Continued from Page 1A

Institute in support of the challenge.

The challengers say OSHA may be the most egregious example of an open-ended delegation of authority from Congress to a federal agency.

But they're hoping for a ruling that will apply not just to workplace rules, but in all other areas as well.

The challenger in the OSHA case, Allstates Refractory Contractors, is represented by Don McGahn, who was former President Donald Trump's first White House counsel and played a top role in his Supreme Court nominations.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 has been used by the Labor Department to set safety standards to protect workers from falls, fires, electric shock, being hit by foreign objects, asphyxiation, chemical burns and more.

### A falling catwalk brace injures a worker: The penalty is \$5,967

In 2019, OSHA issued a penalty against Allstates after a catwalk brace fell and injured a construction worker. Allstates agreed to pay a penalty of \$5,967 but then took OSHA to court, arguing that Congress improperly told the agency it could set safety rules for virtually every business in America.

"If there is any case in which the Court should stand up for the principle that Congress, not agencies, must write major rules affecting the American people, this is it," McGahn told the Supreme Court.

The Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed.

### Safety law OK'd by Richard Nixon

A divided panel ruled 2-1 last year that the 1970 law, signed by then-President Richard Nixon, gave OSHA sufficient direction and also set limits on its authority.

"So while Congress has conferred significant power to OSHA to oversee large sections of our economy, the discretion conferred by the OSH Act nowhere near approaches the line where the scope of its power is too great for the standard imposed," Circuit Judge Richard Griffin wrote.

Circuit Judge John Nalbandian, who was appointed by Trump, disagreed.

### 'Nearly unfettered discretion'?

Nalbandian said Congress gave the Labor Department "nearly unfettered discretion."

The challengers contend that if they win, most of OSHA's regulations would not be affected because they are backed by other sources of rulemaking authority.

They also emphasize that they're challenging only permanent safety — not health — standards because Congress has placed more limits on health rules.

But the Labor Department says several safety standards — those intended to prevent immediate physical harm — would fall, returning the nation to the patchwork of federal and state rules that existed before the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Since the law was passed, workplace injuries have dropped significantly, according to the department.

The Biden administration's lawyers say the challengers want to upend the approach that's been used for nearly a century to decide how much authority Congress can delegate to agencies and adopt a new test "with no identifiable concrete content or parameters."

But the American Farm Bureau Federation, which filed a brief with several other business groups in support of the challenge, said Congress must stop delegating its job to the Labor Department and set whatever specific safety standards lawmakers think are necessary.

"The decadeslong judicial path towards a watered-down nondelegation test," the groups told the court, "is inconsistent with the exclusive reservation of the legislative power to Congress and with the role of the people as the ultimate source of that legislative power."

## Beryl

Continued from Page 1A

included in the group.

Hurricane warnings were in effect Sunday for Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadine Islands, Grenada and Tobago. A tropical storm warning was in effect for Martinique; a tropical storm watch was in effect for Dominica and Trinidad.

The hurricane center urged anyone living in the central and western Caribbean to monitor the storm's progression given the uncertainty of the forecast.

Wind speeds on the islands could be up to 30% stronger on the tops and windward sides of hills and mountains, possibly even higher, the center said, adding that "catastrophic" wind damage was possible. St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada were most at risk.

Rainfall could cause flooding, and is expected to dump 3 to 6 inches in Barbados and the Windward Islands into Monday.

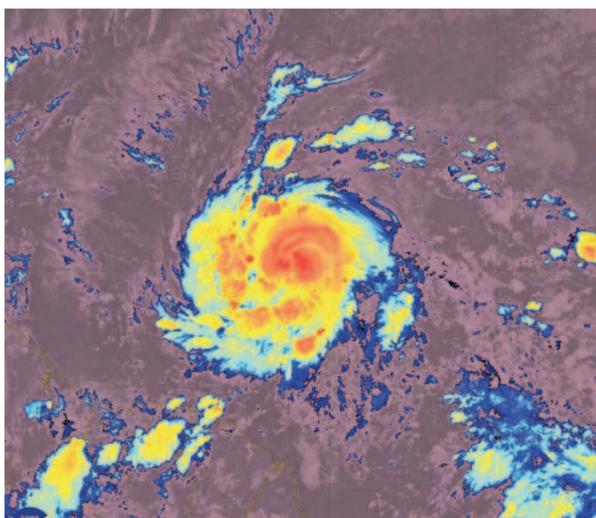
After Beryl's center moves across the Windward Islands early Monday, the storm will cross the southeastern and central Caribbean Sea through Wednesday.

Beryl could bring 1 to 4 inches of rain to southeastern Puerto Rico on Monday night and into Tuesday.

### Will Hurricane Beryl hit the US?

It's too soon to determine the path and strength of Beryl when the storm gets to the western half of the Caribbean later this week — and whether it could impact the U.S. Gulf Coast. The hurricane center expects Beryl to remain a hurricane as it reaches Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Friday.

Forecasters warned U.S. residents to



This composite satellite image shows Beryl strengthening in the tropical Atlantic Ocean about 600 miles east of Barbados just before 11 p.m. EDT on Saturday.

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stay vigilant. "At this point, the most likely scenario is for the storm to move westward into Mexico; however, it is very important to note that if the high pressure across the Southeast weakens, that can allow the storm to move farther north and potentially directly impact the Gulf Coast," AccuWeather Lead Hurricane Forecaster Alex DaSilva said.

Beryl is the first hurricane of what is expected to be an extraordinary 2024 season. Tropical Storm Alberto, the first named storm of the season, left at least four people dead in Mexico after it made landfall on June 20. Beryl underwent rapid intensification: It was declared a tropical depression and then a tropical storm on Friday, and by Sunday was a major hurricane.

As Beryl continues to strengthen, it's setting a number of records, according to Phil Klotzbach, a senior research scientist at Colorado State University. It's the third earliest Atlantic major hurricane on record, trailing Alma on June 8, 1966, and Audrey on June 27, 1957. Also, Beryl is now the earliest Category 4

hurricane on record. The record was held by Hurricane Dennis, which became a Category 4 on July 8, 2005.

### What is the outlook for the 2024 season?

Federal forecasters have predicted a hurricane season unlike any other, with as many as 25 named storms possible.

It is the most storms the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has ever predicted in a preseason outlook. "All the ingredients are in place for an active season," National Weather Service director Ken Graham said in May.

NOAA director Rick Spinrad said the Atlantic hurricane season is shaping up to be "extraordinary" — an 85% chance for an above-average year. "The forecast ... is the highest NOAA has ever issued for the May outlook," he said.

Contributing: Doyle Rice and Mike Snyder

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# Civil rights

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“It propelled a movement that was able to make major civil rights gains,” said Melanie Campbell, president of the nonpartisan National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

The law outlawed segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League, called the law “transformative.”

“It has not just only changed the arc for Black people. It has changed the arc for women and for other people of color in a profound way,” he said.

USA TODAY invited nearly a dozen leaders of national organizations to share their take on how far the country has come since the act was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964. They also shared how far they think the U.S. has to go to achieve the full promise of the law.

## Extended lives, improved educational success, helped people get better jobs



**Maya Wiley, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights**

Imagine a sweeping set of laws ushered in that extended lives, improved educational success for kids, and helped people get better jobs. We’d not only celebrate it – we’d protect it. We have that law today.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 added years, literally about three to four years, onto the life expectancy of Black people when health care had to open its once-segregated doors.

More Black students saw their education improve, while white students continued on the same educational footing. It helped to reduce “intense segregation” – schools with 10% or less white students – of Black students in Southern schools from 78% in 1978 to 24% in 1988.

Thanks to employment protections, Black job opportunities, while still far from sufficient, got significantly better, with less of a wage gap and less of an employment gap.

Instead of seeing the tremendous advancement that the law – with lots of legal and community activism – has produced, federal courts and right-wing advocacy groups are attacking the gains we’ve made by using division rather than multiplication.

We should multiply its use rather than divide people by claiming what is good for people of color is bad for people who are white.

## We are living proof of progress



**Kelley Robinson, president of the Human Rights Campaign**

At moments like these, I can’t help but think of my family – the first free Black family in a little town called Muscatine, Iowa. My great-aunt Bert, our matriarch, passed away recently at the young age of 102, and we went back to that little town to celebrate her homegoing.

There, we told the story of how Great-Aunt Bert sat at the feet of those who had been born into slavery. We told the story of how we made our way from bondage in Mississippi and Louisiana to freedom in Muscatine.

That was two generations ago. Now, I am the first queer, Black woman to serve as President of the Human Rights Campaign, the country’s largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization.

Progress is not simply possible – we are living proof of it. Our ancestors were jailed, beaten, and bled because they knew a better future was worth fighting for. They would be proud to see us standing tall today, but they would remind us that our work is far from over.

Today, bullies want to strip us of our hard-earned freedoms and roll back progress. As we mark 60 years since the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we must honor those who came before us, like Great-Aunt Bert, by recommitting to our fight for freedom and justice – without exception.

## Still need to protect the civil liberties of all citizens



**John Echohawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund**

It has been 60 years since passage of Civil Rights Act, but the struggle for fair treatment re-

mains.

Native Americans still face the type of discrimination that motivated the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and we still see a failure to uphold our treaty rights under U.S. law.

At the Native American Rights Fund, we have been challenging the unfair treatment that Native Americans have been subjected to for far too long. For example, throughout Indian Country, Native Americans have to overcome unreasonable barriers just to cast a ballot. Election services can be over 50 miles away and there is still no residential mail delivery on many Native American reservations.

States are also passing laws intended to disenfranchise Native Americans, especially after Native Americans exercise political power. We have also seen an uptick in discriminatory practices – last year a hotel instituted a no Native Americans allowed policy, which brought a legal challenge from the Department of Justice under Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This blatant discrimination occurs too often.

## A conservative perspective: We’ve gone too far



**Kevin Roberts, president of The Heritage Foundation and Heritage Action for America**

The Civil Rights Act was an extraordinary accomplishment. For the first time, a colorblind society was codified into law.

But today, the Civil Rights Act is in bad shape. College campuses discriminate against certain racial groups in the admissions process in clear violation of the law. Mandatory Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion courses force workers to treat their co-workers differently based on the color of their skin. Some federal programs have been restricted to minority applicants and religious employers have been hit with penalties.

The law is a teacher, and for decades, Americans learned the lesson of the Civil Rights Act: every American deserves equal treatment and respect. But in recent years, many have forgotten that lesson, replacing equality under the law with equity of outcomes. Moving forward, our leaders must reverse the trend and commemorate this anniversary by abandoning discriminatory policies.

## Our ‘abiding commitment to freedom’ is being undermined



**Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League**

When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he said it represented “a more abiding commitment to freedom, a more constant pursuit of justice, and a deeper respect for human dignity.”

A century after the Emancipation Proclamation, the Civil Rights Act ushered in a transformative era of open doors and unprecedented access.

But the backlash triggered by the racial justice uprising of 2020 presents the gravest threat to the Civil Rights Act in its 60-year history.

Our “abiding commitment to freedom” is undermined by discriminatory voting laws and gerrymandering.

Our “pursuit of justice” is derailed by persistent racism in policing and sentencing and the dismantling of diversity and inclusion policies.

Our “respect for human dignity” is betrayed by an unraveling social safety net and economic policies that uplift the wealthy at the expense of working families.

My predecessor, Whitney M. Young, was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act. He advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, developing a “Domestic Marshall Plan” that Johnson incorporated into his Great Society program.

The National Urban League remains committed to his legacy, working to uproot the racial divisions embedded in our institutions and realize the promise of 1964.

## Souls lost to exploitation, racism



**Domingo Garcia, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens**

In the early 1900s, Mexican and Native American villages were burned by rangers in the South in the name of “expansion.” We’ve seen the tears and heartbreak of those who have lost loved ones to senseless violence like the victims of the Uvalde school shooting or the physical abuse that was experienced by people of color at the hands of individuals with no respect for human life.

Souls lost to exploitation and racism.

The League of United Latin American Citizens, founded in 1929, is the oldest Latino civil rights grassroots organization in the U.S. Throughout our history, we have significantly influenced legislation on education, immigration, military issues and gun safety.

On the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, we are reminded the work is ongoing. As we see an unidentified sea of individuals crossing the border from all over the world, we continue to urge government leaders for immigration reform for those who left their countries of origin and who have no rights there – and now here. It is our mission to contribute to the American fabric and we remain committed to the American dream.

But the question remains where do we go from here? In 60 years, some things have changed and others remain the same. It is vital that Latinos and our allies come together. As the saying goes – “El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido” (The people united will never be defeated).

## Every generation makes progress



**John C. Yang, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice**

To commemorate the anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act is an honor we do not take lightly at Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

In the early 1960s, Asian Americans were only 0.5% of the population. Our community benefited from the Black Civil Rights Movement successes of the 1950s and 60s. The solidarity shown by Black civil rights leaders for Asian Americans demonstrated the success of intersectional/collective activism in civil rights movements. Even as Asian Americans have grown to represent 7% of the population, the 1964 Civil Rights Act serves as a reminder of progress made and the distance we have yet to travel to achieve true equity.

Every generation makes progress toward the goal of true equity in this country, but none of us will realize the full impact of laws like the Civil Rights Act until and unless we work collectively with the Black community to stop the rollback of our rights and realize the dream of a fair and equitable society for all.

## We still have a very long way to go



**Melanie L. Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation**

When the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law, it was described by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the “Second Emancipation.”

The Act banned segregation, barred discrimination by employers and labor unions, gave way to the formation of the EEOC; and paved the way for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Unfortunately, there are forces currently working tirelessly to reverse the rights and freedoms established by The Act.

Last year, there was a “reverse discrimination” ruling by the Supreme Court, *Students for Fair Admissions vs. Harvard*, restricting affirmative action efforts by public colleges/universities. This unjust ruling restricts the historic affirmative action efforts that have provided disadvantaged black and brown students the opportunity to attend the nation’s elite schools. Further, these same forces are using this case as an excuse to attack Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs in the public and private sector.

These and other constant attacks on our voting rights and the rights of women to control our own bodies on a state level, requires those who believe in freedom, justice, equity, and equality for all to fight back at the ballot box and vote in record numbers in 2024 and beyond.

## Channel discontent



**The Rev. William Barber, president of Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign**

In popular memory, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the legislative response to the demands of the March on Washington.

While it is true that the legislation would never have been won without that mass mobilization, the original demands of that march for “Jobs and Freedom” included an increase in the minimum wage for all Americans and the voting rights protections that would only be enshrined in the Voting Rights Act after the brutality of Bloody Sunday and the courageous Selma to Montgo-

mery March of 1965.

Sixty years later, we must be honest: the federal minimum wage, indexed for inflation, is lower than it was in 1964. What’s more, because the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in its 2013 Shelby decision and Congress has failed to remedy it, we have less voting rights protections today than we did on August 6, 1965.

The celebration of historic wins alongside this egregious decay is a source of discontent among everyday Americans. But we have no time for despair.

We are determined to channel discontent for a resurrection rather than an insurrection.

## All created in the image of God



**Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism**

In our Jewish tradition, equality is based on the concept that all of God’s children are “created in the image of God” (Genesis 1:27).

This precept has led the Jewish community to respond powerfully in the fight against racial segregation and discrimination: the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was drafted in large part in our building in Washington, D.C.

However, racism, like antisemitism, has never been fully eradicated from our society; those who seek power weaponize it for their own nefarious purposes. We see it today in the forces of division that aim to restrict the freedom to vote by targeting communities of Color and other marginalized groups.

This blatant discrimination fuels the Reform Jewish Movement’s nonpartisan Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign to strengthen our democracy by encouraging and protecting voter participation.

Our work ties together our Jewish values with our commitment to protecting all minorities, including the many in our Jewish communities who have been targeted due to their intersectional identities as Jews of Color, people with disabilities, or members of the LGBTQ+ community.

## It is all of our responsibility



**Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD**

I’m moved by how much progress we’ve made toward acceptance and equality as a society while still being reminded of how deeply racism and violence against communities of color persists, and how much work there is left to do.

Change is often born from the pain and outrage of individuals courageous enough to imagine and fight for a more just world. It’s impossible to talk about the quest for LGBTQ equality without first acknowledging the significant strides made within the civil rights movement and the historic interconnectedness between Black and LGBTQ communities.

The revolutionary Stonewall Uprising of 1969 was spearheaded by LGBTQ people of color. Progress for the acceptance and equality of LGBTQ people over the past 51 years would not be possible if not for the path paved by civil rights leaders before us.

It is all of our responsibility to speak out against racism and systemic injustice and to continue elevating voices and amplifying stories of people of color, especially those who are Black, queer, and transgender.

## We must take an active role in protecting its legacy



**Derrick Johnson, president of the NAACP**

It’s important that we understand the journey that lies ahead of us.

While the law was a first step, it was not until the amended legislation passed in 1965 that we truly began to make significant strides toward equality and justice. It’s also important to understand that the culture of racism is deeply embedded in the country’s foundation. That’s why, as systemic racism continues to manifest in many forms, the promises of the legislation have yet to be fulfilled for all Black Americans.

While Black Americans continue to fall victim to a system that has, at many times, posed insurmountable barriers to progress, we also face mounting threats to the right to effect change.

As of today, more than 40 states have enacted anti-protest laws. And almost half of the country will face new restrictions to the ballot box in November.

Will we push forward or revert to a time where the color of our skin is used as justification for the degradation of fundamental freedoms?

# Refugees in NY mourn teen shot and killed by police

Casey Pritchard  
Utica Observer Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

UTICA, N.Y. – The screams of a grieving mother could be heard through a city hall at a news conference in upstate New York Saturday morning, as officials detailed the shooting death of a 13-year-old member of the Karen community by an officer on Friday night.

What started as rumblings turned into screams from all sides as Utica Mayor Michael Galime, through the help of an interpreter, spoke to the mother and family of Nyah Mway, 13, who is from the Karen community which originates in Myanmar.

Utica, a Rust Belt city in New York's Mohawk Valley, has become home to a burgeoning refugee population from around the world, including thousands of Karen people, an ethnic minority displaced from Myanmar amid military juntas and civil war.

Saturday's news conference was meant for reporters but was opened to the general public due to the sheer number of people, according to the mayor.

"We called this press conference not to just explain and be completely transparent, but to offer our condolences to the family and the community for their loss," Galime said. "Yesterday evening, while a stop like the one that occurred is routine, it became tragic in near moments. We understand and we're here to be completely transparent and explain everything about the incident to the community and the process moving forward."

## Timeline of events

Police Chief Mark Williams then attempted to provide a timeline of events.

Williams said Utica police officers were conducting a pedestrian stop of two juveniles around 10:18 p.m. on Friday on a tree-lined residential street.

One of the juveniles, a young man, fled from police. Williams said that during the chase that ensued, the young man displayed "what appeared to be a handgun."

During the news conference, the moment these words were uttered by the police chief, some of the people – more than 100 packed into city hall – started screaming. Anger rose from the crowd with shouts of "No!" and attempts by some to calm the crowd down.

Continuing, Williams said the officer discharged his firearm once and struck the teen "during a ground struggle." The 13-year-old was taken to Wynn Hospital where he died from his wounds.

"Officers then recovered a replica Glock 17 handgun with a detachable magazine, but it was ultimately determined to be a pellet gun," Williams said.



Utica Police Chief Mark Williams and Mayor of Utica Michael Galime address the crowd inside City Hall in Utica, NY on Saturday.

DANIEL DELOACH/USA TODAY NETWORK

"We will be releasing the names of the officers involved in the very near future. We ask for patience as this investigation continues."

Yells of indignation came from the crowd after they learned the three officers involved in the incident had been placed on paid administrative during the investigation. One person commented aloud that the police were getting "... a paid vacation."

Galime told the crowd he was dedicated to being as transparent as possible and that directly after the press conference, he would invite the family and representatives of the community to speak with city officials.

## Family present

After this was translated, the mother of the 13-year-old began yelling and screaming. A member of the community translated: "She said she doesn't want to be in the same room as killers."

The mother's wails could be heard for a moment before the whole crowd drowned out the government officials.

Walking toward the crowd, Galime stood before the mother and spoke with her for a brief time as the whole crowd yelled for justice.

The public news conference was closed early and relocated to a private room upstairs, where officials answered questions about the next steps.

## State attorney investigation

In officer-involved shootings, New York State Executive Law 70b mandates that the New York State Attorney General Office of Special Investigations take the lead criminal investigatory role.

The Utica Police Department is conducting a parallel internal investigation with its Professional Standards Unit to determine if staff followed policies, procedures and training guidelines.

Over the next several days, police said they would publicly release more details about the incident and a comprehensive overview of the events. Po-

lice also plan to release the full body cam footage from the officers involved.

## Further questions

After the public news conference, the mayor, police chief and department spokesperson Lt. Michael Curley held a private press conference for the media.

"Our police department deals with investigations day in and day out and they don't end like this," Galime said. "They do not end like this. This situation unfolded due to the events very specific to this situation. And that is why we have to only speak to what we can release and when it's released... And we're not going to offer information we're not absolutely sure of."

As it stands, Williams said the two juveniles were stopped as part of an ongoing investigation but declined to answer questions about the subject of the investigation until it was concluded.

When asked about lethal force being used, Williams said at the time, there was no way to know that the gun in question was a pellet gun until the officers got their hands on it.

"You don't bring a Taser to a gunfight. When you, at the time, perceive deadly physical force, you have to match it," Williams said.

## Social media video

The police department said it is aware of a video of the incident that is circulating on social media.

Officials said the video does not portray the incident in its entirety.

Galime said updates will be released as they become available. Investigations like this can take a long time, according to Williams.

Until then, Galime made it clear where the city stands.

"This office and our police department will operate with utmost efficiency and transparency," Galime said. "Following the closure of the press conference, myself and the translator had a conversation with the mother and her surrounding friends and family. She is not just distraught, she is grieving in the way that was (shown) downstairs. And it's not only acceptable, it's expected. "What we need to do from this side is make sure that... moving forward, we'll continue to be as objective as possible and every single incident that involves an investigation is met with objectivity and the letter of the law."

Contributing: Eduardo Cuevas, USA TODAY.

# Gathering of 10,000 hippies shut down before it starts

Max Hauptman  
USA TODAY

A longtime counterculture festival now in its fifth decade and set to be held over the July Fourth holiday is being shut down, with U.S. Forest Service officials citing a lack of appropriate permitting and concerns over environmental impact.

The Rainbow Family of Living Light gathering was set to be held the first week of July in California's Plumas National Forest. On June 25, however, the U.S. Forest Service officials issued an order asking people to leave the area, with those who refuse to go facing fines of up to \$5,000 or a six-month jail sentence.

"The Forest is concerned about the 500-plus individuals already dispersed camping in a concentrated area. We are always willing to work with any organization or group interested in recreating on the national forest. There are existing and projected impacts on natural and cultural resources and other authorized uses. Our priority is maintaining public health and safety and the appropriate stewardship of public lands and natural resources," Plumas National Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton said in a statement on Wednesday.

While the current retro wave may be more focused on the 1990s and 2000s, the Rainbow Family gathering is a self-described hippie commune that gathers once a year in the first week of July.

## Rainbow Family roots go back more than 50 years

First started in Colorado in 1972, the Rainbow Family gathering was founded in part by military veterans struggling with alcoholism, drug dependence and post-traumatic stress disorder; camping out on public land in an environment like Burning Man or a Grateful Dead concert is a central part of the experience. Exactly how many people attend is unknown and varies from year to year, but the U.S. Forest Service this year estimated that the event could draw as many as 10,000 visitors.

This year, the U.S. Forest Service has described the gathering as having an "unauthorized noncommercial group use incident," that "can have significant impacts on traffic, communities, local resources, residents, and visitors."

That particular brand of lawlessness has often brought the gathering into conflict with local law enforcement over drug use, sanitation and damage to forests.

As USA TODAY has previously reported, many attendees will work to minimize their impact on the environment, but as with any gathering of this size previous iterations have involved incidents and arrests.

"Every year, the Plumas National Forest sees a large surge in visitors in late June and early July, enjoying not only summer recreation in the forest, but also numerous events in our communities around the July Fourth holiday," said Plumas National Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton in a press release earlier this week. "We understand the addition of the Rainbow Family Gathering on the Plumas National Forest raises concerns about additional impacts to our local communities, natural resources and environment and we will be working with the incident team to minimize adverse effects as much as possible."

On Wednesday, Lassen County Supervisor Jason Ingram praised the U.S. Forest Service's decision on social media, writing on Facebook that, "my concerns with this gathering were always the illegality aspect, the increased fire risk this would have created, the environmental impact, and the blatant disrespect shown to our local tribes. Events are fine, but not events that blatantly disregard the law and endanger our land and community fire safety."



Members of the Kid Village camp at the annual Rainbow Family gathering in 2022 say goodbye to a fellow attendee in the days prior to the main campout beginning.

TREVOR HUGHES/USA TODAY NETWORK

# Page

Continued from Page 1A

could undermine the odds of victory by any nominee.

## The lessons of 'Access Hollywood'

Biden may be applying a lesson learned from Trump if he stays in the race for the White House.

A month before the 2016 election, the Washington Post revealed a recording of Trump from 2005 bragging that he could grab women's genitals without consequences because "when you're a star, they let you do it."

There were consequences then, with some leading Republicans calling their nominee unfit for the presidency. But Trump bulldozed through their objections, dismissing or ignoring his critics. He won the White House and solidified his hold on the GOP.

About four years later, after the assault on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, by rioters trying to overturn Trump's defeat in the 2020 election, Congress impeached him, though the Senate didn't convict him. But the firestorm that would have sabotaged most political careers in time didn't notably erode his political base.

Little surprise then that Trump's conviction on 34 criminal counts in a New York courtroom in May didn't unnerve his supporters. He has made his status as the first felon to run for president on a major-party ticket a fundraising boon and a rallying cry.

Trump has demonstrated the power of plowing ahead, regardless of what the party elites and the newspaper editorial writers may say.

## Chaos at the convention: Not a political asset

Biden has insisted that he will continue his campaign.

"When you get knocked down, you get back up," he declared to cheers at a rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, the day after the debate.

But holding the nomination is easier than winning the election.

Previous presidents have faced primary challenges in their bids for second terms, including Democrat Jimmy Carter in 1980 and Republican George H.W. Bush in 1992. After messy conventions that underscored party divisions, both won the nominations but lost the elections.

This year, Biden had no serious primary challenger in a party united by its opposition to Trump. That means almost all of the 4,672 delegates expected at the convention in Chicago are pledged to him, although that commitment is not a binding one.

It also means there is no ready alternative, raising the possibility of a brutal floor fight.

Vice President Kamala Harris would be a leading alternative, although her position as Biden's running mate gives her no special standing to claim the nomination. There are also rising Democrats who might have run for the nomination this time if Biden hadn't, among them Govs. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Gavin Newsom of California, Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and J.D. Pritzker of Illinois.

None of those governors are well known nationally, though, nor have they gone through the rigors and the scrutiny of a presidential campaign.

In a sign of how seriously the Biden campaign is taking the threat, deputy

campaign manager Rob Flaherty blasted out a memo Saturday arguing that changing the top of the ticket would nominate "candidates who would, according to polls, be less likely to win than Joe Biden to defeat Donald Trump."

However, the findings he attached didn't prove that point. In a survey by a progressive think tank called Data For Progress, there was no meaningful difference between how Biden and eight potential alternatives fared against Trump.

Biden trailed Trump by 3 percentage points, 45% to 48%. Six of the other candidates tested also trailed Trump by 3 points, including Harris (45%-48%), Newsom (44%-47%), Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg (44%-47%), Pritzker (43%-46%), Shapiro (43%-46%) and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar (43%-46%).

Two of the candidates trailed Trump by only 2 points, 44%-46% – Whitmer and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker.

Flaherty also warned that Biden withdrawing would create problems.

It "would lead to weeks of chaos, internal food fighting, and a bunch of candidates who limp into a brutal floor fight at the convention, all while Donald Trump has time to speak to American voters uncontested," he said. He called it "a highway to losing."

It is true that chaos at conventions has never been a political asset. Witness a previous Democratic convention in Chicago in 1968 when protests over the Vietnam War created complications for Vice President Hubert Humphrey, the nominee.

He lost in November.

# Just Curious

You've got questions? We've got answers.



Learn more

Scan the QR code to find more Just Curious content.

## Fireworks often are not fun for your pets

Keep your dog or cat calm with attention

Clare Mulroy  
USA TODAY

Fireworks are a spectacle many people enjoy around summertime holidays, but they aren't so pleasant for some. Fourth of July fireworks can be traumatic for veterans or others who have post-traumatic stress disorder.

They can also be harrowing for dogs and cats – nearly 1 in 5 lost pets goes missing after being scared by a loud noise, according to a survey from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

With Independence Day coming up on Thursday, here's what to know about keeping your furry friends safe.

### Why are dogs scared of fireworks?

Dogs have heightened senses – they can hear at higher frequencies and up to four times as far as humans can, and their sense of smell can be 10,000 times more powerful. But unlike humans, dogs are unable to tell where a sound is coming from.

We also can't give our pets a heads-up that fireworks are happening. Heightened hearing combined with a misperception of noise source gives dogs a sense of "pure panic," says veterinarian Diana Watkins, who owns 143 Veterinary Services, a clinic in Massachusetts.

"It smells and sounds terrifying to them, almost like it would if we were in a battle and weren't expecting it," Watkins says.

When dogs hear, see or smell the explosion of a firework, their first instinct often is to run.

"It's oftentimes hard for them to get back home because by the time they



Fireworks often cause panic because dogs' ears are much more sensitive than humans'. KATARINA RADONIC/GETTY IMAGES

have come to their senses and (calmed) down a bit, they're too far," Watkins says.

### Is it OK to take a dog to a firework show?

Though man's best friend often is by our side, you shouldn't take your dog to watch the fireworks with you, Watkins says.

Dogs at firework shows won't just be stressed out because of the sensory experience – they'll also be away from home when they're experiencing anxiety.

"You're also taking them away from the environment that they're used to, so

if they do bolt, they're more likely to get lost," Watkins says.

Even if you're keeping your pup at home, Watkins recommends making sure they have an ID tag on at all times or investing in a GPS locator for their collar, if your pet isn't microchipped.

If possible, your dog should stay home with at least one human so they can reassure the dog if it gets anxious. Stay with your pet in a room that has minimal windows that look out at the fireworks and play soft music or a movie to distract from the other noises.

### How to calm down a dog

A little affection goes a long way.

Watkins says one of the best ways to calm your dog is to give them strong, firm pats to let them know you're there for them. You can try anxiety-reducing devices such as a Thundershirt, which acts as a weighted blanket to soothe your dog.

You also can equip your home with calming pheromone diffusers and collars, which have a canine-appealing chemical that "reminds them of when they were nursing," Watkins says. It lets them know they're safe and protected and can relax.

For extra nervous dogs, there are also situational anxiety medications your vet can prescribe. This can be helpful during loud sensory events like thunderstorms and fireworks or if you're leaving your dog alone for longer than normal.

Watkins advises to give your dog only veterinary-grade products because over-the-counter anti-anxiety and CBD supplements often are not FDA regulated and can be harmful to your pup.

### Are cats scared of fireworks?

Most people know dogs and fireworks don't mix, but did you know fireworks have an equally frightening effect on cats?

Cats are more sensitive to higher frequency sounds than dogs are, and they also have difficulty differentiating where sounds are coming from. They experience a similar panic when faced with unexpected loud noises.

"Account for (indoor and outdoor cats) a couple of days ahead of known fireworks, because they can bolt, too," Watkins says. "They'll do anything when they're really scared."

If you've got a freaked-out kitty on your hands, you can calm them down by sitting with them in a room that doesn't have many windows, soothing and petting them, Watkins says.

### PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## New Prostate Discovery Helps Men Avoid "Bathroom Planning"

Men across the U.S. are praising a revolutionary prostate pill that's 1000% more absorbable. Now the visionary MD who designed it is pulling out all the stops to keep up with surging demand...

Among the all-too-familiar, occasional sleepless nights have many men rushing to the toilet – and feeling like their bladder hasn't emptied the way it should.

These occasional inconveniences can be a sign that you're getting older. But men nationwide are now reporting they've found help these occasional problems thanks to a major breakthrough in nutrient technology.

**Prosta-Vive LS** is giving men new hope. Men say they feel they're having regular, consistent, strong, complete, effortless urine flow similar to what they enjoyed in their 30s and 40s.

The key to its success is a new nutrient technology that makes the key ingredient 1000% more absorbable, according to a study by endocrinologists at Washington University in St. Louis.

Nick Summers is the spokesman for Primal Force Inc., the firm in Royal Palm Beach, Fla. that makes **Prosta-Vive LS**. He reports demand is surging due to word-of-mouth and social media.

"We knew **Prosta-Vive** really worked to 'support healthy, stronger urine flow,'" Summers stated. "But no one could have predicted the tens of thousands of men looking for a truly supportive prostate pill."

### NEW PROSTATE FORMULA DRAWS RAVE REVIEWS

It's not the first time Dr. Al Sears, the Florida-based MD who designed the breakthrough formula, has shaken up the status quo in men's health.

A nationally recognized men's health pioneer and the founder of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Royal Palm Beach, Fla., Dr. Sears has been featured on ABC, CNN, and ESPN.

He's authored many books, reports, and scientific articles, many focusing on prostate health that may affect all men sooner or later.

"By age 60, I find about half of my male patients feel the need for prostate support," Dr. Sears explains. "By the time they reach age 80, it's over 90 percent."

**Prosta-Vive LS** has reportedly made a positive difference for these men. One appreciative thank you letter came from Jim R, a patient.

"I had immediate benefits," Jim R. wrote in his thank-you note. "I slept through the night without going to the bathroom.

"Last night was the most amazing of all," he added. "I slept for 10 hours without interruption."

Results like these explain the flood of phone calls the company's customer service department is handling from men who want to know how the new formula works...

### PROSTATE PILL BACKED BY CLINICAL RESULTS

**Prosta-Vive LS**'s extraordinary success is being attributed to advanced innovations in nutrient technology.

Most prostate pills rely on either saw palmetto or the prostate-soothing compound Beta-Sitosterol.

But Dr. Sears cites growing evidence that saw palmetto and Beta-Sitosterol work much better together than either does on its own.

In fact, a recent clinical trial involving 66 men taking a saw palmetto and Beta-Sitosterol combination reported support across the board.

Among the results were fewer of those occasional late-night wake ups, a stronger stream, less starting and stopping, and complete emptying of the bladder.

That's why **Prosta-Vive LS** includes both saw palmetto and Beta-Sitosterol, to ensure men get the extra prostate support they need. Frustrated men say it's giving them tremendous support.

But there's another key reason **Prosta-Vive LS** helps men support their health as they age.

### YOUR PROSTATE IS HUNGRY FOR HEALTHY FAT

The other key innovation in **Prosta-Vive LS** is its addition of healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

"It turns out what's good for your heart is also good for your prostate," says Dr. Sears. "That's why I put heart-healthy omega-3s in a prostate pill."

Researchers have long known Beta-Sitosterol has a great potential to support healthy prostate function.

But Beta-Sitosterols are "hydrophobic" -- they don't mix well with water. And that can make them much harder for the body to absorb.

That's where long-chain omega-3s come in. The latest research shows they boost Beta-Sitosterol absorption by 1000%.



**NO more extra "pit stops", NO more interrupted meetings**

Dr. Sears explains, "Most people only get trace amounts of Beta-Sitosterol because it can be hard to absorb."

In this respect, the long-chain fatty acids in Prosta-Vive LS are a real game-changer. They supercharge the absorption."

Now, grateful men are calling regularly to thank **Prosta-Vive LS** for supporting a renewed sense of empowerment over their own lives.

One patient, Ari L., wrote, "I used to get up on occasion at night to go to the bathroom. Now I only get up once... and I feel it has supported my prostate."

Patients report they have more energy, sleep better, and no longer feel embarrassed by that occasional sudden need to use the restroom.

Thanks to Prosta-Vive LS, thousands of men feel more confident about their urinary health.

But all men know that regaining control is just the first step to a peaceful night. That's why Dr. Sears is introducing a special offer that addresses your bathroom trips and overall sleep quality with a **FREE** bottle of **Native Rest – Your Key to a Restful Night!**

**When you order Prostavive LS today, you'll receive a FREE bottle of Native Rest, our natural sleep aid designed to help you fall asleep faster and stay asleep longer. No more tossing and turning, no more waking up feeling groggy.**

A Complete Night-time Solution: Why settle for half the support when you can have

it all? Prostavive LS for bladder and prostate support and Native Rest for the sleep you deserve. It's a combination that's already benefiting lives.

### HOW TO GET PROSTA-VIVE LS

Right now, the only way to experience the difference that complete night-time relief can make is with Dr. Sears' breakthrough Prosta-Vive formula plus a **FREE** Bottle of Native Rest.

To secure a supply of **Prosta-Vive** plus a **FREE Full-Size Bottle of Native Rest**, men need to contact the Sears Health Hotline directly at **1-800-420-4156**.

"It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer and we're racing to keep up with demand."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Prosta-Vive**'s effectiveness that all orders are backed by a 100% money back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you your money back," he says.

Given the intense recent demand, the phone number may be shut down to allow for restocking. If you are not able to get through due to extremely high call volume, try again!

Call **1-800-420-4156** NOW to secure your limited supply of **Prosta-Vive LS** at a significant discount. To take advantage of this exclusive offer use Promo Code: **PROST40** when you call.

# LGBTQ+ youth crisis line is helping

## A year later, the 'message matters'

Phaedra Trethan  
USA TODAY

The numbers are staggering: 39% of young people who identify as LGBTQ+ seriously considered attempting suicide within the last year.

The data, from a May 2024 study by the Trevor Project, a crisis intervention nonprofit for LGBTQ+ youth, also shows that more than 1 in 10 (12%) in fact attempted suicide. For transgender and nonbinary young people, it's even worse — 46% report having considered suicide within the last year.

And only half of those who wanted mental health care were able to access it, the Trevor Project report said.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which went national in 2022, launched a subnetwork in 2023 for LGBTQ+ young people, aimed at closing the gap in care for a vulnerable population and offering specialized care. And, after nearly a year, the subnetwork is making an impact, its data shows.

From July 3, 2023, to May 3, the 988 LGBTQI+ Subnetwork received about 480,000 calls, online chats and texts; the subnetwork saw a 12% month-over-month increase from its July 2023 launch to April. Young people can access crisis counselors trained in LGBTQ+ issues by dialing 988 and then pressing 3, or by texting PRIDE to 988.

Calls alone increased by 67% from July 2023 to April, according to Vibrant Emotional Health, which works with the national Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to administer the helpline.

### The need for specialized care for LGBTQ+ people

"There are unique challenges around stigma and persecution and lack of acceptance" for LGBTQ+ young people, said Adam Callahan, of Vibrant Emo-



Helpline Center employees take calls in 2022, in Sioux Falls., S.D. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline subnetwork has made an impact. ERIN WOODIEL/USA TODAY NETWORK

**From July 3, 2023, to May 3, the 988 LGBTQI+ Subnetwork received about 480,000 calls, online chats and texts; the subnetwork saw a 12% rise, month over month, from its July 2023 launch to April.**

tional Health.

"So one real reason to build this subnetwork is to give members of this community the safety of connecting with someone who understands what they're experiencing, someone who won't judge them. If they're still closeted, in particular, you want someone who gets it and who starts with a baseline knowledge," he said.

The need for specialized services for LGBTQ+ people "cannot be overstated," said Laura Hoge, a gender specialist and

owner of Spectrum Health and Wellness in Montclair, New Jersey.

LGBTQ+ people, especially those who are transgender or gender diverse, "experience mistreatment in health care and behavioral health settings at alarming rates," Hoge said. "Having a helpline that is intentionally affirming provides a layer of security for individuals in crisis — that they are less likely to experience an additional layer of ignorance or mistreatment during an already vulnerable or even life-threatening time."

As some states enact or propose legislation targeting transgender rights, Callahan said, "the pushback against transgender identity and the transgender experience have really impacted folks."

Book bans, censorship of materials relating to the LGBTQ+ experience and curbs on how educators can address LGBTQ+ issues with students all have "a huge impact on people, especially in rural communities," said Callahan, who grew up in rural Missouri.

"You find yourself in a culture where you're told you're not OK, there's some-

thing wrong with you, and that absolutely has an impact on folks' mental well-being," he said.

### The message and messenger matter

"It's so validating to see a program funded by the federal government and that (legislators) carved out money and resources for a community that needs and deserves support," Callahan said.

As someone who came of age during the fight for marriage equality and other rights, Callahan said it was "inspiring" to see a national effort to help LGBTQ+ young people deal with mental health challenges.

Cathy Renna, director of communications for the National LGBTQ Task Force, said her organization has helped spread awareness of the 988 LGBTQI+ Subnetwork.

"So many queer people experience culturally incompetent health care," she said. "There's not enough training and understanding, and it matters when the person on the other end of the phone (helping a person in crisis) understands the diversity within the LGBTQ community and the challenges we deal with."

Imagine, she said, a barrage of negative messaging and personal attacks on a person's gender, sexuality and identity, in politics and sports, in literature and education.

The implementation of a dedicated system of mental health care for LGBTQ+ people funded by the federal government is "a clear and direct sign there is care and concern around the needs of this community," she said — a community that historically had to fight not just for recognition and respect, but also for equity in health care.

"It's a very important statement, and it's not just the message, it's the messenger."

If you or someone you know needs mental health resources and support, please call, text, or chat with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline or visit 988lifeline.org for 24/7 access to free and confidential services.

# Donors: Biden should consider dropping out

## Debate performance worries his backers

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy  
and Phillip M. Bailey  
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — To many major donors of President Joe Biden's reelection campaign, one thing is obvious after Thursday's debate debacle: things need to change — and fast.

A hoarse-sounding Biden who struggled to finish sentences during his debate with former President Donald Trump Thursday night did little to quell fears among the American people already worried about his age. For his most ardent supporters and donors, the 81-year-old president's performance was "excruciating."

Betty Cotton of New York, who has donated thousands to Biden's reelection campaign and serves as a regional finance committee member, said it was hard to watch.

"It was a disaster last night," she said last week. "He should seriously think about stepping down so that we don't lose the election."

And donors are considering putting their money where their mouths are.

Less than 24 hours since the two men left the debate stage, Democratic donors were feverishly texting each other about facing a free fall ahead of the August convention in Chicago. With the clock ticking, bundlers — the people who give and rake in large sums — were openly wondering if they should be thinking about putting their money elsewhere. Other givers are having backroom discussions about whether they should step up to pressure Biden to step down directly.

"This is really serious and I'd like to explore what the options are," Cotton said.

Her plan for Friday consisted of getting on a lot of Zooms and airing out the concerns of fellow donors and organizers. She's been fielding panicked texts and emails since Thursday night, minutes into the debate starting.

One former Obama Administration official, who served on Obama's reelection committee and has raised funds for Biden, said they woke up to multiple text chains of current donors and former administration officials (both Obama-Biden and Biden-Harris) all "freak-



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden gesture as they leave the stage during a campaign rally in Raleigh, N.C., on Friday.

ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS

ing out." Other text threads expressed being "extremely disappointed."

One recurring theme of these exchanges was whether Biden would be graceful enough to step aside so that the party could nominate someone at the convention, they said.

### Donors sound off possible Democratic contenders

Among the names being floated by donors as alternatives were Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Shekar Narasimhan, founder of the AAPI Victory Fund, a political action committee, said his phone was "blowing up all morning."

A month ago, he'd co-hosted a campaign fundraiser for Biden, which raised more than \$1 million.

"I thought the debate performance by President Biden was terrible," he said. "It has the unfortunate result of reinforcing the opinion that Biden is too old and not capable."

For Narasimhan, this puts the spotlight on Vice President Kamala Harris.

Harris should no longer be seen just as Biden's surrogate, but as his principal and as someone that could step into his shoes if necessary, and carry on the job, he said.

"Change is necessary after last night's debate," he said.

### Capitol Hill backs Biden publicly ... for now

Biden emerged Friday in North Carolina making clear he has no plans to put an end to his reelection bid.

"Folks, I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to. I don't debate as well as I used to. But I know what I do know: I know how to tell the truth," Biden said as his campaign rally drew to a close.

On Saturday, the president faced donors at planned fundraisers in New York's Long Island and New Jersey before returning to Camp David.

Asked if Biden was considering not running for reelection after Thursday, a campaign spokesperson said: "absolutely not."

Biden's reelection campaign said that it raised \$14 million on the day of the debate and the morning after.

Top Democratic leaders outside of the Biden campaign on Friday were noticeably reticent. On Capitol Hill, congressional Democrats ducked discussing Biden's future.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, a former House speaker, ignored multiple questions by reporters about the president's performance.

The California Democrat did say, "compared to (Trump) who was lying the whole time, we saw integrity on one side and dishonesty on the other."

Asked for a reaction, Democratic House Leader Hakeem Jeffries told reporters: "We're going to win the House in November."

During a gaggle, longtime Biden ally Rep. James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., said the president should "stay the course."

Those outside the Beltway, however, are channeling Obama's calm when asked about Thursday's debate.

They emphasized how voters are clear-eyed about the realities of Biden and Trump.

"I believe everyone's mind has been made up for four years," Democrat Anton Gunn, a protégé of Clyburn, who worked on the 2008 presidential campaign.

He said voters have known these two candidates for years and will keep a steady head when it comes time to vote in November.

"You are either for the convicted felon and incessant liar, Donald Trump, or against him," said Gunn, who worked in the Obama White House.

"This debate will not change those facts."

### Donors wait to see how Biden will respond

However, the political spin did not help assuage the fears of organizers and donors.

Francesca Hagadus, a longtime Democratic political organizer, from Pleasantville, New York, said she would like to see Biden stepping aside but is worried about the potential chaos it could create.

She couldn't sit through the debate. "I had to turn it off."

Another former Obama administration official said the only person who would have any say in influencing Biden's decision would be the first lady, Not Obama.

"If anything, Biden held a grudge that Obama was one of the people that convinced him not to run in 2016 and he regretted that," they said.

"Jill Biden will be under tremendous pressure to talk to him but he is incredibly stubborn."

"I think it's going to come down to Jill," they said.

"If she chooses to."

## OPINION

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# President loses again on student loans



**Ingrid Jacques**  
USA TODAY

President Joe Biden loves to harp on how he's the only one who can save us from democracy-destroying Donald Trump.

Well, let's take a look at what Biden boasted recently on social media: "The Supreme Court tried to block me from relieving student debt. But they didn't stop me. I've relieved student debt for over 5 million Americans. I'm going to keep going."

Having a president flippantly disregard the highest court in the land seems quite *undemocratic* to me – and it fits with a broader pattern of executive overreach throughout Biden's presidency so far.

## Even Obama-appointed judges tell Biden he's out of line

Now, two new federal judges have dealt a blow to Biden's continued efforts to wipe out huge amounts of student loans. More details on that in a bit.

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the president's broad attempt to unilaterally cancel billions in student debt as unconstitutional. Rather than consider the severity of this rebuke, Biden immediately struck out to do the same thing, albeit in slightly different ways.

Just imagine the outrage if Trump tried to do something similar.

The same day the Supreme Court ruled against Biden's first loan cancellation plan, the White House weighed in.

"No President has fought harder for student debt relief than President Biden, and he's not done yet," the statement said. "President Biden and Vice President (Kamala) Harris will not let



President Biden announces a new student loan forgiveness program on April 8 in Madison, Wis. MARK HOFFMAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican elected officials succeed in denying hardworking Americans the relief they need."

Biden wasn't kidding about not being done. Since that ruling, he has rolled out several new loan forgiveness schemes that abuse his executive authority just as badly as he did before – and even worse.

While Biden and his administration have painted the efforts to quash his student loan cancellation as a conspiracy of "Republicans" and a conservative high court, he'll have a harder time explaining these latest rulings.

Last Monday, two federal judges in Kansas and Missouri blocked the Biden administration from granting further debt forgiveness under the president's wide-ranging "SAVE" income-based repayment plan.

SAVE either drastically or completely lowers monthly repayments and allows

for much quicker loan cancellation.

Estimates have put the cost of the new plan at \$475 billion over 10 years – even more than Biden's original plan that was struck down.

These aren't Trump judges.

Both U.S. District Judge Daniel Crabtree and U.S. District Judge John Ross are appointees of former President Barack Obama, whom Biden served under as vice president.

Judge Crabtree said the Higher Education Act of 1965 does not allow for this kind of "unprecedented and dramatic expansion" of income-driven repayment plans.

Similarly, Judge Ross held that Biden's Education Department "overstepped its authority by promulgating a loan forgiveness provision as part of the SAVE program."

Such large expenditures must go through Congress – a lesson Biden can't

seem to learn, even though he spent most of his career in the legislative branch.

As White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre stated last week, "Today's rulings won't stop our administration from using every tool available to give students and borrowers the relief they need."

## It's not just illegal. Biden's actions are making us go broke.

The president's big-spending plan to buy votes isn't just illegal. It's also fundamentally harming our bottom line as a country.

That "forgiven" debt doesn't just disappear, but is borne by every taxpayer.

The Congressional Budget Office's latest baseline report shows that "spending this year will be the largest it's ever been outside a crisis – far exceeding pre-pandemic levels," according to an analysis by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out why.

Interest payments on our quickly rising national debt – and higher interest rates due to inflation – account for about half of the spending hike.

The CBO also projects that the deficit will reach \$1.9 trillion this fiscal year, and that the national debt will top \$50 trillion 10 years from now – if taxes and spending remain unchanged.

These are serious numbers and demand serious action.

What we keep seeing from Biden, however, is just the opposite.

No wonder more key voters in swing states (the so-called deciders) say they trust Trump to handle threats to our democracy than Biden.

*Ingrid Jacques is a columnist at USA TODAY. You can contact her at [ijacques@usatoday.com](mailto:ijacques@usatoday.com) or on X, formerly Twitter: @Ingrid\_Jacques*

# Will Bannon finally serve prison sentence?



**Chris Brennan**  
USA TODAY

There was a time, not so long ago, when a criminal conviction meant serious trouble for anyone involved in politics. That time is over.

America's political norms and values have been perverted, perhaps permanently, by politicians, aides and lawyers who now see criminal charges and public trials as nothing more than branding opportunities to be exploited.

For that, we have former President Donald Trump – now a convicted felon and the front-runner to win the presidency in November – to thank.

Just ask Trump's most loyal propagandist, Steve Bannon, who is due to surrender at a federal prison in Connecticut on Monday.

## Bannon is part of what I call Trump's Confederacy of Convicts

Trump often compares himself to another former Republican president, Abraham Lincoln, who governed the country through the most tumultuous of times by empowering a "team of rivals," aides who often didn't agree with each other or the president but worked in the best interest of America.

Trump, of course, is nothing like Lincoln. But he has surrounded himself with a discredited crew – lawyers, strategists and propagandists – to help tear down the institutions, norms and standards that constrain politicians like him. Let's call them the Confederacy of Convicts.

## Supreme Court rejected last-ditch bid to stay out of prison

Bannon – a former top Trump campaign aide and White House strategist – must serve a four-month sentence after being convicted in October 2022 on two



President Trump congratulates Steve Bannon during the swearing-in of senior White House staff on Jan. 22, 2017. MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

criminal counts of contempt of Congress for refusing to comply with a subpoena from the U.S. House Select Committee that investigated the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday rejected Bannon's last-ditch effort to delay accountability.

To hear him tell it, his sentence is starting 619 days after his conviction because it was timed to fall in the thick of a presidential election when he would be needed to help Trump.

The part Bannon leaves out is that the long delay was caused by his frantic attempts to avoid being held responsible for his actions.

Speaking Thursday on his podcast and Internet television show War Room, Bannon blamed former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for a "reign of terror" for appointing the Jan. 6 committee.

## The Republican leaders who tried to save Bannon

On the show, he seemed resigned to time behind bars while also exhilarated that Republican leaders in the House of Representatives are rallying to his cause.

Remember law-and-order Republicans? Those days are over, too.

At least for now.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, along with House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., and House Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn., on Wednesday pledged to spend American tax dollars to file a brief after Bannon's expected request for yet another hearing at the D.C. Court of Appeals.

That court last week gave Bannon until July 15 to file his request, which will come after his Monday deadline to report to prison.

The U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday noted in court filings that another former Trump aide, Peter Navarro, had been convicted of contempt of Congress for dodging a Select Committee subpoena and has been serving a four-month sentence since March.

The Supreme Court turned away Navarro as well in April.

Bannon, broadcasting War Room on Friday, aired clips of fired Fox News anchor-turned-web broadcaster Tucker Carlson claiming that Bannon's case is an example of the Biden administration "using jail as a political instrument."

That's deflecting nonsense.

Maybe Bannon will finally get held accountable this time.

He's slipped away before.

## Remember that Trump pardoned Bannon on 'We Build The Wall'

President Trump, on his last day in office in January 2021, pardoned Bannon on federal charges in a case that had not even gone to trial. He had been accused of pocketing money raised for the nonprofit "We Build The Wall," allegedly to help construct a wall along America's southern border.

Prosecutors said Bannon and his co-defendants, who were not pardoned and were convicted in 2023, spent the money on themselves instead.

Trump's January 2021 announcement of Bannon's pardon called him "an important leader in the conservative movement and is known for his political acumen."

He certainly has an acumen for

avoiding accountability.

But can he keep it up?

## Bannon has more legal problems to keep him busy

Let's say Bannon does his full four months. Navarro reported to prison in mid-March and the Federal Bureau of Prisons lists his release date as mid-July, the full four months.

That would put Bannon back on the street just four days before November's general election. But he'll have other things to worry about.

Bannon was indicted in a joint state and local New York case in September 2022 on charges of money laundering, conspiracy and fraud for the We Build The Wall fundraising scam. That trial is set for Sept. 23, more than a month before Bannon would be due for release from prison.

And not even a reelected President Trump can pardon Bannon on state charges if he is convicted.

## Trump is who his friends are

Bannon is just one of the many Trump minions still struggling to avoid accountability. Some received last-minute pardons, like Bannon. Others face criminal charges for trying to overturn the 2020 election in Georgia, Arizona and Wisconsin.

A bunch of Trump's attorneys are in the process of being disbarred or having their law licenses suspended. Three of them have already pleaded guilty to charges in Georgia.

I tried to tally all the Trump folks facing criminal charges. I found a baker's dozen. I probably missed a few.

Politicians are who they surround themselves with. Trump still faces criminal trials in three other venues. No wonder he is so fond of people who try to tear down institutions and disable the rule of law when convenient.

*Follow USA TODAY elections columnist Chris Brennan on X, formerly known as Twitter: @ByChrisBrennan*

# Woolly mammoth mystery deepens

## Data hints at sudden event

Claire Thornton  
and Cybele Mayes-Osterman  
USA TODAY

Scientists now believe some of the last woolly mammoths on Earth may have died out due to a sudden event, a departure from previous hypotheses about their extinction.

About 10,000 years ago, the last woolly mammoths on the planet became isolated on a small island in the Arctic, and until now, scientists believed they eventually went extinct because of in-breeding among the contained population.

But data released Friday shows “some other form of sudden event, such as a disease outbreak or dramatic change in environment” may have killed off the mammoths, scientists said in a report published in the journal *Cell*.

The study focused on Wrangel Island, a small island off the northeastern coast of Siberia, where a small population of mammoths survived for more than six millennia until they finally died off about 4,000 years ago.

Researchers analyzed the genomes of 21 Siberian woolly mammoths – 14 from the Wrangel Island population that dated between 9,200 and 4,300 years ago, and seven from their ancestors native to the mainland, said Love Dalén, the senior author of the study and a professor in evolutionary genomics at the Centre for Palaeogenetics in Stockholm.

The genomes came from nearly 400 DNA samples taken from mammoth bones, teeth, and tusks, including some



A small population of woolly mammoths survived on Wrangel Island, a small island off the coast of Siberia. LOVE DALÉN/VIA REUTERS

that the team collected on a 2017 trip to Wrangel Island, Dalén said. A dentist drill was used to extract powder from inside the tooth, which was then purified to collect a sample of DNA.

### Woolly mammoths isolated on island as ice age ended

The mammoths were driven onto the island after the massive ice sheets that covered much of North America and northern Europe during the ice age more than 12,000 years ago started to melt, inundating their habitat with water, according to Dalén.

The water also covered a land bridge that previously connected Wrangel Is-

land to the mainland, Dalén said. It's likely that mammoths happened to pass through Wrangel Island “right at the time when the sea level actually cut Wrangel off from the mainland, so they became stranded there,” he added.

“Our analysis suggests that they were down to about eight reproducing individuals” when they first arrived on the island, Dalén said.

“The population actually grew very rapidly, almost exponentially, up to 300 individuals within something like 20 generations.”

Experts don't know exactly how the island's mammoths managed to grow and survive for so long. Dalén pointed to some theories about the island's plant

**The study focused on Wrangel Island, off the northeastern coast of Siberia, where a small population of mammoths survived for more than six millennia until they finally died off about 4,000 years ago.**

diversity, and that the mammoths were safe from larger predators and humans.

### Mammoths' final days on island

The reason behind the island mammoths' extinction is equally a mystery, Dalén said, leading researchers to dial in on the last 200 years before the island mammoths' disappearance. “Our youngest genome is 4,300 years old, and all the data we have suggested mammoths go extinct at 4,100,” he said.

Scientists have some theories, such as a “climatic crisis” or a brush fire that destroyed plant growth on the island.

“A small population like 200 individual mammoths would probably be very sensitive to just a small change in environment,” Dalén said. Another possibility is a pathogen like influenza that came to the island carried by migratory birds, Dalén added.

“I don't know if we'll ever figure it out, but at least we have some ideas.”

# Mom inspires fight against dementia

## Gene editing is a big step to shut down diseases

Karen Weintraub  
USA TODAY

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Sonia Vallabh watched helplessly as her 51-year-old mother rapidly descended into dementia and died. It didn't take long for Vallabh to realize she was destined for the same rare genetic fate.

Vallabh and her husband did what anyone would want to do in their situation: They decided to fight.

Armed with little more than incredible intellect and determination they set out to conquer her destiny.

A dozen years later, they've taken a major step in that direction, finding a way to shut off enough genetic signals to hold off the disease.

And in the process of trying to rescue Vallabh, they may save many, many others as well.

In a paper published Thursday in the journal *Science*, Vallabh and her husband, Eric Minikel, and their co-authors offer a way to disrupt brain diseases like the one that killed her mother.

The same approach also should work against diseases such as Huntington's, Parkinson's, Lou Gehrig's disease and even Alzheimer's, which result from the accumulation of toxic proteins. If it works as well as they think, it also could be useful against a vast array of other diseases that can be treated by shutting off genes.

“It doesn't have to be the brain. It could be the muscles. It could be the kidneys. It could be really anywhere in the body where we have not easily been able to do these things before,” said Dr. Kiran Musunuru, a cardiologist and geneticist at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, who wasn't involved in the research but wrote a perspective accompanying the paper.

So far, they've proven it only in mice. “The data are good as far as they go,” Vallabh said this week from her office at the Broad Institute of Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she has worked since getting a Ph.D. at Harvard. She already had gotten a law degree from the university, but she and Minikel, then a transportation planner, both pursued biology degrees after her mother's death. Now, they work together at the Broad.

“We're far from this being a drug,” Vallabh said. “There's always, always reason for caution. Sadly, everything is always more likely to fail than succeed.

“But there is justifiable reason for optimism.”



Husband and wife Eric Minikel and Sonia Vallabh are among the authors of a new scientific paper that gets them closer to a treatment for a genetic disorder Vallabh is destined to develop. It potentially could help many others, too.

PROVIDED BY MARIA NEMCHUK/BROAD INSTITUTE

### A terrible disease

The disease that killed Vallabh's mother was one of a group of conditions called prion diseases. These include mad cow disease, which affects mostly cattle, scrapie, which affects sheep, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which kills about 350 Americans a year – most within months of their first symptom.

These diseases are triggered when the prion protein found in all normal brains starts misfolding for some reason, as yet unknown.

“Prion disease can strike anybody,” Vallabh said, noting the 1 in 6,000 risk to the general population.

Though prion diseases are, in some cases, contagious, a federal study earlier this year concluded that chronic wasting disease, found in deer, elk and moose, is very unlikely to pass to people who eat the meat of sick animals.

In Vallabh's case, the cause is genetic. Vallabh discovered after her mother's death that she carries the same variant of the same gene that caused her mother's disease, meaning she will certainly develop it.

The only question is when. “The age of onset is extremely unpredictable,” Vallabh said. “Your parent's age of onset doesn't actually predict anything.”

### How the gene-editing tool works

Vallabh and Minikel approached colleagues at the Whitehead Institute a biomedical research institute next to the Broad. They asked to collaborate on

a new gene-editing approach to turn off Vallabh's disease gene. The technique developed by Whitehead scientists is called CHARM (for Coupled Histone tail Autoinhibition Release of Methyltransferase).

While previous gene-editing tools have been described as scissors or erasers, Musunuru described CHARM as volume control, allowing scientists to tune a gene up or down. It has three advantages over previous strategies, he said.

The device is tiny, so it fits easily inside the virus needed to deliver it. Other gene-editing tools, like CRISPR, are bigger, which means they need to be broken into pieces and much more of the virus is needed to deliver those pieces to the brain, risking a dangerous immune reaction.

CHARM, Musunuru said, is “easier to deliver to hard-to-deliver spaces like the brain.”

At least in the mouse, it also seems to have reached throughout the brain, making the desired genetic change without other, unwanted ones, Musunuru said.

And finally, the research team figured out a way to turn the gene editor off after its work was done. “If it's sticking around, there's the potential for genetic mischief,” Musunuru said.

### One shot on goal

While researchers, including Vallabh, continue to work to perfect an approach, the clock for Vallabh and others is ticking.

Right now there's no viable treatment and if it takes too long to develop one, Vallabh will miss her window. Once the disease process starts, like a runaway train, it'll be much harder to stop than it would be to just shut the gene off in the first place.

The more prion protein in the brain, the more likely it is to misfold. And the more likely it is for the disease to spread, a process that co-opts the natural form of the protein and converts it to the toxic form.

That's why getting rid of as much of it as possible makes sense, said Jonathan Weissman, the senior author of the study, who leads a Whitehead lab.

“The biology is really clear. The need (for a cure) is so compelling,” Weissman said.

Every cell in the brain has the gene for making the prion protein. By silencing even 50% of those genes, Weissman figures he can prevent the disease. In mice, CHARM silenced up to 80% to 90%.

“We've figured out what to deliver. Now we have to figure out how to deliver it,” he said.

Another of the paper's co-authors, the Broad's Ben Deverman, published a study late last year showing he could deliver a gene-therapy-carrying virus throughout the brain. Others are developing other viral delivery systems.

Vallabh and Minikel have hedged their bets, helping to develop a so-called antisense oligonucleotide, or ASO, which uses another path for stopping the gene from making the prion protein.

The ASO, which is in early trials in people by a company called Ionis Pharmaceuticals, requires regular treatment rather than the one-and-done of gene therapy. Recruitment for that trial had to be paused in April because the number of would-be volunteers outstripped the available slots.

Vallabh isn't ready yet to start any treatment yet herself.

“She has one shot on goal,” Musunuru said. “At some point, she'll have to decide what's the best strategy.”

In the meantime, the clock Vallabh can't see continues to tick toward the onset.

She and Minikel stay exceedingly busy with their research along with their daughter, almost 7, and 4-year-old son – both born via IVF and preimplantation genetic testing to ensure they wouldn't inherit her genetic curse. (They were super lucky, Vallabh notes, to be living in Massachusetts where IVF is at least “approachable” financially.)

“There is a mountain ahead of us,” Vallabh said of the path to a cure. “There's still a lot of hurdles, there's still a lot to figure out.”



**Money Tips**  
Erika Kullberg  
Special to USA TODAY

## Simple moves can help you be cash smart

What does it mean to be smart with money? To be smart with money is to have a lot of it, right?

Spoiler alert: You don't have to have a lot of money to be smart with it. Being smart with your money comes down to your mindset and some simple decisions you make.

Here are five of my favorite ways you can be smarter about your cash:

### Get a high-yield savings account

The first tip? Make your money work smarter, not harder. Ditch the low-to-no-interest savings account now. Open yourself a high-yield savings account that pays you interest at a higher rate.

Not only will a high-yield savings account keep your savings separate from your checking, but you will earn even more money on what you put away. Interest will compound, meaning you'll also earn interest on your interest!

### Build an emergency fund

Life truly is full of surprises – and sometimes those surprises may be rather costly. Building an emergency fund consisting of three to six months of your living expenses helps protect you from the unexpected.

That fund can prevent you from racking up debt in case of an emergency, natural disaster or an unexpected lapse in employment. Also, make sure you keep your emergency fund in a high-yield savings account!

### Consider changing careers

Let's be honest – it doesn't *really* pay to be loyal to a company ... not monetarily at least. If you've noticed your salary isn't keeping up with the job market, you may want to make a move.

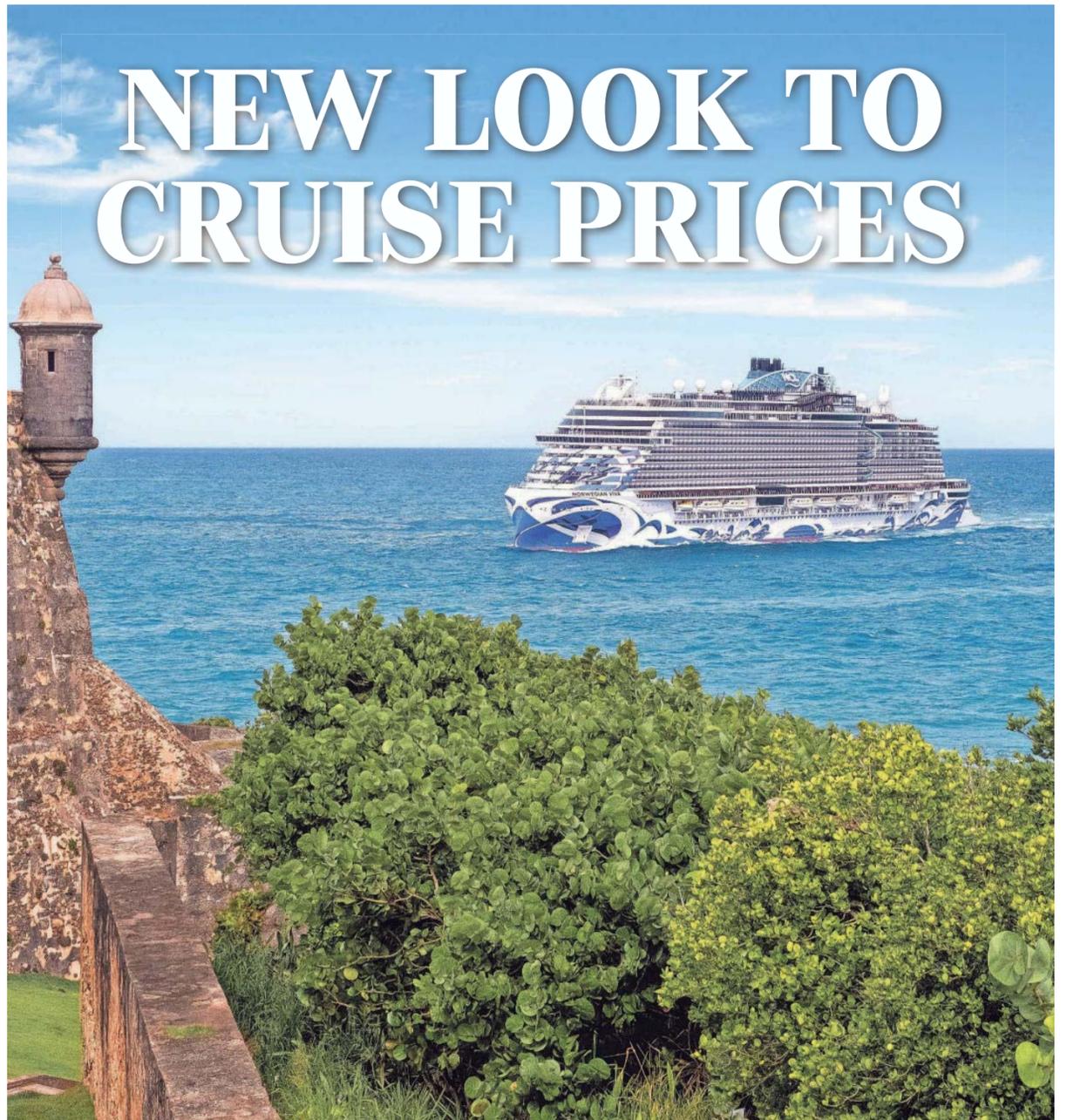
Switching jobs, around every three years or so, will make you more money than being a company loyalist. You can expect an average pay increase of 8% to 15% each time you move on to a new company. That's much better than the average 4% annual raise you can expect from keeping the same job year after year, according to recent surveys of what employers expected to pay.

### Start investing now

I often say that by putting off investing, you are losing money in a way. Compounding returns means you earn money not only on your initial investment but also on top of what your investment has already earned. So, when it comes to investing there is no time like the present.

Don't know where to start? This is

See **KULLBERG, Page 2B**



# NEW LOOK TO CRUISE PRICES

Norwegian Cruise Line will incorporate "applicable taxes, fees and port expenses" into advertised prices in the U.S. and Canada by Monday. PROVIDED BY NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

## Cruise lines will add fees to their displayed price

Nathan Diller USA TODAY

Cruise prices may look higher as of next week – but that doesn't mean they are. ● California Senate Bill 478 – also known as the "Honest Pricing Law" or "Hidden Fees Statute" – will take effect Monday. The law bans businesses from listing or advertising "a price for a good or service that does not include all required fees or charges other than certain government taxes and shipping costs," according to an FAQ page from the state's Office of the Attorney General. ● "The statute does not change what price a business can charge or what may be included in that cost," the attorney general's office said. "The law simply requires that the price listed include all mandatory charges." ● That is changing how many major cruise lines display their prices, and not just for travelers in the Golden State.

### Which cruise lines will change how their pricing is listed?

● Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises will update the way they display pricing in the U.S. Customers "will now see pricing that is inclusive of their selected cruise fare and all required taxes and fees," a spokesperson for the brands' parent company, Royal Caribbean Group, told USA TODAY in an emailed statement. "We are also supporting our travel partners across the country ahead of this upcoming change."

● Norwegian Cruise Line will do the same, incorporating "applicable taxes, fees and port expenses" into advertised prices in the U.S. and Canada by Monday.

"This change will only impact the way we display our prices and will not affect the prices that our guests pay to enjoy a cruise

See **PRICES, Page 2B**

**"This change will only impact the way we display our prices and will not affect the prices that our guests pay to enjoy a cruise with us or the portion of the cruise fare that is commissionable for our travel partners."**

Spokesperson for Norwegian Cruise Line

# Mutual funds mark milestone with growing appeal

## Investment vehicle turns 100, standing test of time



**Russ Wiles**  
Columnist  
Arizona Republic  
USA TODAY NETWORK

This year marks a significant milestone in financial circles: the 100th anniversary of the mutual fund.

These versatile investments have made it much easier and economical for Americans, especially those in the middle class, to invest in stocks, bonds, real estate, commodities, foreign markets and other areas.

They have stood the test of time, navigating recessions, wars and other

disruptions. They have become mainstays, especially in retirement accounts, since the unveiling of the first fund, the Massachusetts Investors Trust in 1924.

"Mutual funds have played a pivotal role in democratizing investing, making it possible for 116 million Americans to participate in financial markets," said Sean Collins, chief economist at the Investment Company Institute, the fund industry trade group, in a statement. "The growth and evolution of mutual funds over the past century is a testament to their enduring appeal and the trust investors place in them."

### How prevalent are mutual funds?

If you're a middle-class investor, you probably own one or several funds.

More than 71 million households, or 54% of the total, have at least one, according to the institute, which tracks considerable data on the industry in its 2024 Fact Book, at [icifactbook.org](http://icifactbook.org). Retirement accounts, especially 401(k) programs, are a common way for younger investors to gain familiarity. A typical 401(k) plan might offer a dozen or so choices. Of fund-owning households, the average stake is \$125,000 spread across three choices.

Alan Norris, a Phoenix certified financial planner and accredited investment fiduciary agreed that the markets have become more accessible. "They opened up a way for (middle America) to take advantage of a wide array of investments."

They also exert a significant impact on the financial markets. Funds own

about 33% of U.S. stocks, 22% of American and foreign corporate bonds and 27% of municipal bonds, according to the institute. Funds pool the relatively small-dollar investments from millions of people to make these purchases

### Are funds popular in other countries too?

The fund industry is global, but the popularity of these investments isn't as pronounced in most foreign nations as it is in the U.S.

Americans, for example, have nearly twice as much money invested in mutual funds compared to their holdings of bank deposit accounts and currencies, but in Japan, the proportion is 53 to 5 in

See **WILES, Page 2B**

# 'Ghostbusters' joins Horror Nights' lineup

Universal Studios to feature new attraction

Eve Chen  
USA TODAY

Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights are known for striking fear into guests, but their latest haunted house announcement might just evoke squeals of delight instead of fright for "Ghostbusters" fans.

This year, both Universal Studios Hollywood and Universal Orlando Resort will feature a new haunted house inspired by Sony Pictures' "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire."

While the house is themed around the franchise's latest film, which hit theaters this spring, it also will include "iconic ghosts, creatures and characters from the beloved classic series in authentic haunted houses that capture the horror and humor for which the films are known," Universal announced Thursday.

Here's what fans can expect from the Ghostbusters house and the rest of Halloween Horror Nights 2024:

## What happens in 'Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire'?

"Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire" will transport fans of the film franchise to New York City where the Spengler family teams up with the original Ghostbusters who are now at the helm of a top-secret research lab for their ghost-busting enterprise," Universal revealed in a press release. "With the daunting discovery of an old relic that has set free the vengeful spirit of Garraka, who threatens to freeze everyone to death, Ghostbusters new and old must join forces to protect their city and save the world from a second Ice Age."

Guests will be chilled to the bone dodging "ghastly creatures bent on cracking bones and turning their veins into rivers of ice" in settings like the Ghostbusters' lab, Ray's Occult Books shop and the New York City sewer system alongside the Ghostbusters. But it won't all be scary. Universal says humor will be part of the experience, too.

## What houses will be at Halloween Horror Nights 2024?

Universal Halloween Horror Nights typically features several intellectual property houses available at both Universal Orlando and Universal Studios Hollywood as well as multiple original concept houses and scare zones unique to each destination. So far only two bi-coastal IP houses have been announced "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire" and "A Quiet Place." Additional IP houses will be announced in the lead-up to the events in California and Florida.



Guests gather at Universal Studios Florida's front gate, waiting for Halloween Horror Nights 2022 to begin.



Mel's Drive-in turns into Mel's Die-in for Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Orlando Resort. PHOTOS BY EVE CHEN/USA TODAY

Universal Orlando will host 10 houses and five scares zones this year. Original houses include:

- Triplets of Terror
- Monstruos: The Monsters of Latin America
- The Museum: Deadly Exhibit
- Major Sweets Candy Factory
- Goblin's Feast
- Slaughter Sinema 2

Universal Studios Hollywood will have eight houses, four scare zones, and its popular Terror Tram. The original

houses announced so far are:

- Monstruous 2: The Nightmares of Latin America
- Dead Exposure: Death Valley

## What are the dates for Halloween Horror Nights 2024?

Universal Orlando's Halloween Horror Nights will run across 48 nights beginning Aug. 30.

- Aug. 30-31
- Sept. 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29

- Oct. 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27, 30-31
- Nov. 1-3

This year, the Florida resort is also hosting its first Premium Scream Night on Aug. 29. The limited-capacity event will offer early access, shorter wait times, select all you-care-to-enjoy foods and nonalcoholic drinks, a souvenir credential, and free self-parking.

Universal Studios Hollywood's longest Halloween Horror Nights season yet will be held on 40 select nights starting Sept. 5.

- Sept. 5-8, 12-15, 19-22, 26-29
- Oct. 3-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27, 30-31
- Nov. 1-3

## How much is Universal Halloween Horror Nights?

Universal Orlando's Halloween Horror Nights tickets start at \$82.99, up from last year's starting price of \$79.99. Tickets to Universal Orlando's Premium Scream Night cost \$350.

Universal Studios Hollywood's HHN tickets start at \$77, up from \$74 last year.

## Can you ride rides during Halloween Horror Nights?

Yes, a selection of rides are available at both parks during Halloween Horror Nights. However, not all daytime experiences are available.

## Prices

Continued from Page 1B

with us or the portion of the cruise fare that is commissionable for our travel partners," a spokesperson for the line said in an emailed statement. "We are committed to delivering exceptional vacation experiences at every step of the cruise journey and we hope this change will provide our guests with a more satisfying booking experience."

• MSC Cruises added government fees and taxes to advertised overall prices for U.S. bookings on Wednesday. "These costs are now seamlessly integrated into the total advertised price, providing a simple and transparent booking experience that will not impact the overall price paid by our guests," a spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

• Disney Cruise Line plans to comply with the law.

• Carnival Corp., which operates major lines such as Carnival Cruise Line, Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, and others, also made the change nationally to ensure consistency in advertised pricing, according to a spokesperson for the company.

"The great news is that the final price paid hasn't changed, simply the way it is displayed," they said in an emailed statement. "Our cruise lines still deliver the same great, affordable value and unforgettable cruise experiences vacationers love."

Several others already wrap those costs into their advertised prices, including the high-end Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Oceania Cruises — also part of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. — Viking and Explora Journeys, the luxury brand from the MSC Group.

## Kullberg

Continued from Page 1B

your time to open a Roth IRA. This type of retirement account can be self-directed meaning you can choose how to invest your money. You also put post-tax dollars in them, meaning you don't have to worry about paying taxes on the distributions during your golden years.

## Pay off your high-interest debt

Having high-interest debt only costs you money. Wouldn't you rather pay yourself instead of credit card companies and lenders? Credit card debt is the worst culprit, having some of the highest interest rates, usually around 24%.

By carrying balances on your credit card month to month, you are losing money by paying interest and possibly fees. Student loans are another drain, and carrying this debt can be crippling, too. This is why I made paying off my \$225,000-plus in student loans in just two years a priority.

## Conclusion

Being smarter with money isn't necessarily having a big bank account. It's all about how you approach your finances, from building your emergency fund (and stashing it in your new high-yield savings account) to investing right away. Bigger moves like paying off your high-interest debt and landing a new job that pays you more are also smart moves you can make to secure your financial future.

## Wiles

Continued from Page 1B

the other direction. Citizens of the European Union hold about three times as much in bank deposit accounts and currencies as in funds.

Americans owned \$33.6 trillion in fund assets at the end of 2023, compared to \$35.3 trillion owned by the citizens of all other countries combined. Households, meaning individual investors as opposed to companies or institutions, hold 88% of U.S. fund assets.

## Have mutual funds become better deals?

Generally, yes. The most telling evidence of that is the significant decline in investor-borne costs. The vast majority of funds today are sold without commissions or loads that go to brokers.

In decades past, it was common for funds to charge as much as 8.5% off the top, but no-load funds have become the norm. About 92% of long-term funds are sold today without a sales load or a related fee known as the 12b-1 charge. That's double the 46% share in 2000.

Also, the ongoing expenses levied by fund companies to pay their portfolio managers, oversee shareholder services and the like are also dropping.

In 2000, the typical expense on a stock fund was 0.99%, or about \$9.90 for each \$1,000 investment. Today, it's 0.42% or \$4.20 for each \$1,000. Bond funds have seen a similar decrease, from 0.76% in 2000 to 0.37% last year. As funds have become bigger and more competitive, that has resulted in lower costs for investors, Norris said.

The numbers above are for regular or "open-end" funds. Another type called

ETFs, or exchange-traded funds, pinch pennies even further. The typical stock ETF charged 0.15% in 2023, and the typical bond ETF was at 0.11%. ETF costs are lower, partly because they tend not to be actively managed to the extent regular mutual funds are.

Another category called index funds, which can be regular funds or ETFs, also tend to be inexpensive to own. They buy and hold the same stocks as found in market indexes such as the Standard & Poor's 500 or S&P 500, with reduced trading and management costs.

## Are mutual funds risky?

Yes, in terms of subjecting investors to possible losses.

When stocks and bonds are declining in price, the mutual funds that own them won't be far behind. However, a fund might own dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of stocks or bonds, and this diversification can greatly mitigate some risks. That is, one or even a few corporate failures won't bring down an entire fund.

Money market funds, another category, don't carry deposit insurance like bank accounts. But even here, the safety record is nearly perfect. Money funds typically hold short-term debt issued by corporations, banks, the U.S. Treasury, or various state and city governments.

The risks are lessened because the IOUs the funds own tend to be of high credit quality with very short-term maturities, with less time for issuers to get into trouble.

The fund industry has thrived for a century without any direct backstop from the federal government, including for money funds. In an era where everyone else seems to look to Uncle Sam for help, that might be the industry's greatest achievement.

# The best all-inclusive resorts for first-timers

Allison Tibaldi

FamilyVacationist.com

I've stayed at dozens of all-inclusive resorts over the past few decades, but I'll never forget the first one I visited with my kids. They couldn't believe they were allowed to order anything they wanted from the menu. I couldn't believe just how easy it was to plan a family vacation when our accommodations, meals, drinks and activities were all included in one price.

Though not necessarily inexpensive, all-inclusive family resorts often represent an excellent value when you factor in all you get for the price. And for busy parents, the ease factor is priceless. But how do you choose the right all-inclusive resort for your first time? It comes down to price, amenities, location, and convenience. Based on my extensive experience as a parent and a travel journalist, these are my recommendations for the best all-inclusive resorts to visit if you're trying it for the first time.

## 1. Migis Lodge

### South Casco, Maine

First of all, yes, there *are* all-inclusive resorts right here in the U.S., and many of the best ones are specifically geared toward families. If you're new to all-inclusive resorts and aren't ready to commit to an international vacation with the kids, there are plenty of great options to consider that don't require a passport.

At Migis Lodge, you can contemplate Maine's unique natural beauty right on the shores of Sebago Lake. Freshwater diversions such as fishing, swimming, kayaking and sailing have been offered here for generations, with contemporary additions like waterskiing and wakeboarding added for good measure.

If you want to keep your feet planted on the ground, tennis, pickleball, disc golf, basketball and walks in the pine-scented woods await. Open seasonally from June to October, Migis Lodge offers guest rooms in both its main lodge and private cottages that range in size from studios to multi-bedroom units. Rates include activities, supervised children's programming, lodging and three hearty meals a day. The weekly lobster bake is a New England tradition.

## 2. Great Camp Sagamore

### Raquette Lake, New York

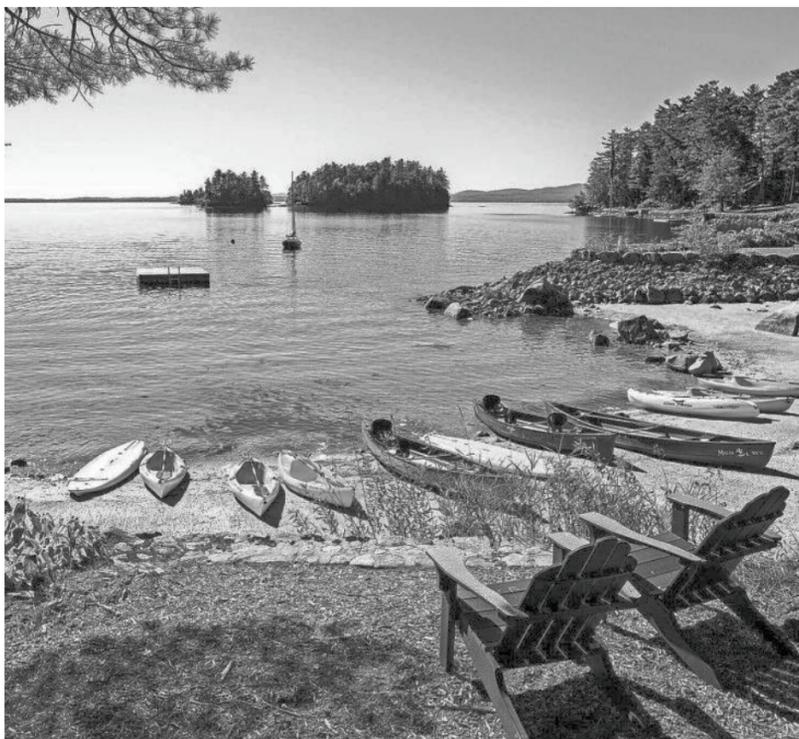
Another family-friendly all-inclusive resort in the United States, Great Camp Sagamore was once a lavish lakeside Gilded Age sanctuary in the Adirondack Mountains owned by the Vanderbilt family. Today it's a National Historic Landmark owned by a nonprofit. As a guest, you can stay in a rustic private room or cabin as part of the Simply Sagamore program.

Overnight stays include three meals a day at shared tables in the dining hall, guided tours of the grounds, bowling at the open-air alleys, campfires, canoeing in Sagamore Lake and hiking along unblemished trails.

## 3. C Lazy U Ranch

### Granby, Colorado

For families who enjoy horseback riding, a dude ranch vacation is a fine introduction to the all-inclusive concept. A sprawling guest ranch that supports a patchwork of wildflowers as well as



Migis Lodge is in South Casco, Maine. PROVIDED BY MIGIS LODGE

moose, black bears, elks and eagles, C Lazy U Ranch has welcomed families for generations.

Year-round equestrian opportunities include a heated indoor riding arena in case the weather isn't favorable. Experienced counselors supervise youngsters in the kids club throughout the day, and you can all join the wranglers on the feed wagon and watch the herd of horses eat their breakfast. You'll build up an appetite in the mountain air, and three full meals, featuring an upscale dinner, are included in the rate.

## 4. Casa Maat

### San Jose del Cabo, Mexico

Situated at the southern tip of Baja California, Los Cabos is home to dozens of all-inclusive resorts, but Casa Maat stands out as one of the region's very best. It's a 45-room hotel within the much larger JW Marriott Los Cabos Beach Resort & Spa. While Casa Maat guests have full use of the Marriott's facilities, including a kids club and spa, staying here is a more intimate experience with all the perks of a big resort at your fingertips. Think of it as an excellent way to dabble in the all-inclusive experience without feeling overwhelmed.

Casa Maat doesn't market itself an all-inclusive resort, but meals are included in the rate. Breakfast is a bountiful buffet, and a midday snack is served poolside. In the evening, cocktails and a light supper will satiate hunger pangs. For my family, it was enough food without the excess sometimes found at buffets. Casa Maat is beachfront, but swimming is prohibited in this part of Cabo because of strong currents. Never fear: A drop-dead gorgeous swimming pool is the centerpiece of the resort. You can also take a dip in one of the Marriott's assortment of pools.

## 5. Tyler Place Family Resort

### Highgate Springs, Vermont

Vermont may be best known for its

covered bridges, fall foliage and maple syrup, but don't overlook the summer vacation months in the Green Mountain State. Tyler Place Family Resort is a seasonal all-inclusive resort that embraces families with genuine Yankee hospitality. Most families stay for a week, boosting the summer camp vibe.

The resort is very popular with parents of infants and toddlers, thanks to its comprehensive program for tiny tots.

The supervised children's club, composed of 10 age-staggered groups for infants to teens, is the heart of the resort. The staff utilizes the acres of gardens, meadows, forests, and private shoreline as a playground.

Kids ride bikes, hike in the wilderness and swim.

Forget to pack the stroller? Never fear, the resort has a variety of loaner gear for anything you accidentally leave off your baby packing list.

## 6. Beaches Turks & Caicos

When it comes to Caribbean resorts, Beaches drives like a Rolls-Royce. The all-inclusive resort chain has perfected the concept with rates that include meals, drinks, activities, entertainment, airport transfers, and age-specific supervised children's programming. My personal favorite among the brand's three locations is Beaches Turks & Caicos, which is situated on a pristine stretch of Grace Bay. Water sports are plentiful, and the Pirates Island Waterpark is an aquatic fantasy with a lazy river, surf simulator and swim-up soda bar.

With more than 700 rooms, this is a large all-inclusive resort. However, the fact that it's scattered across five unique "residential villages" makes it very easy to get your bearings. Children's program is helmed by trained nannies, and a partnership with Sesame Street adds to the fun factor, with a weekly character parade and activities with Elmo, Ernie and Cookie Monster. As a bonus, an assortment of food trucks makes nonstop noshing a breeze.

## 7. Grand Velas Riviera Maya

### Playa del Carmen, Mexico

Less than an hour from Cancun's airport, Grand Velas Riviera Maya is nestled within a protected mangrove jungle on a gorgeous beach with three dreamy swimming pools. Kids are treated like royalty here, and the culinary offerings are a highlight for the whole family. Don't even consider leaving without trying the chilaquiles for breakfast.

The Baby Concierge can arrange for anything from tiny bathrobes to a baby massage. Supervised clubs for children offer cooking classes and hands-on dreamcatcher workshops. The teen club presents age-appropriate fun with bike tours, Fortnite tournaments and beach volleyball. While the kids are busy, you can pamper yourself at the spa.

## 8. Lopesan Costa Bávaro Resort

### Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

There are scores of all-inclusive resorts clustered along Bávaro Beach in Punta Cana, where the water is a Crayola shade of blue and the sand feels like sugar. Music blares, so no one will hear a thing if your toddler starts whining. Lopesan Costa Bávaro is a newer beachfront resort that's a fit for first timers who want to experience the platonic ideal of an all-inclusive holiday.

It's a quick ride from Punta Cana's airport, so you'll be slathering on the sunscreen soon after clearing customs. This big resort is divided into three distinct sections, with multiple swimming pools plus a dandy of a waterpark. A kid's club, teen lounge, bowling alley, arcade, ice cream parlor, candy shop and an escape room provide hours of entertainment.

## 9. Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort

### Savusavu, Fiji

This one's a bit of a bucket list item, but if you want to take a very big swing on your first-ever all-inclusive resort, you can't do better than Fiji's Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort. The resort's "Bula Club" is the best kids club I've ever seen. It's a paradise where younger guests are serenaded by musicians as they dine on fresh island cuisine after they've played in a treehouse, splashed in the pool, or snorkeled with a marine biologist. Children up to age 6 even have their very own nanny or nanny.

The resort immerses you in Fijian culture, from learning to weave baskets to watching a traditional kava ceremony to meeting children from the neighboring village. It's the epitome of eco-friendly luxury, where guests stay in private cottages called bures. And the superb staff even does your laundry, driving home the point that at Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort, all-inclusive truly means all-inclusive.

*The views and opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of USA TODAY. FamilyVacationist.com and TourScoop.com are owned and operated by Vacationist Media LLC. Using the FamilyVacationist travel recommendation methodology, we review and select family vacation ideas, family vacation spots, all-inclusive family resorts, and classic family vacations for all ages. TourScoop covers guided group tours and tour operators and travel gear recommendations.*

# How to score returned or unclaimed merchandise



Tech Talk  
Kim Komando

How often do you buy a bunch of stuff online, planning to only keep your favorites? I shop for clothes this way, for sure — and I'm not the only one. Returns cost retailers \$743 billion last year.

If you've ever wondered, "What happens to all those returns?" the answer is interesting. I did the research and found the best places where you can score deals on other people's "no, thank you" items.

## Wait, how does that work?

Let's take Amazon as an example. Any package that's undeliverable and unclaimed for 90 days is fair game. Amazon sells unclaimed goods on its website. **Pro tip:** Some items have crazy delivery charges tacked on, so check before you get excited about a deal.

The same goes for packages from other retailers sent through the U.S. Postal Service. After 90 days, they're

sold to the highest bidder.

## Like a garage sale but better

The postal service contracts with a website to auction off things postal workers can't deliver. Go to GovDeals.com to browse everything from TVs to vehicles to kitchen appliances.

Liquidation.com hawks packages and undelivered goods from Amazon, Target, Walmart and The Home Depot. You can filter by brand or retailer.

Many of these deals are for items sold in lots, like this one with 57 pairs of Sony headphones. Hello, side hustle!

## Feeling mysterious?

Some returned and undeliverable merch is packaged into "mystery boxes," which are like grab bags. You don't know precisely what you'll get, but the idea is you'll find a few valuable items you want to keep or sell.

Sound like fun? Try Poshmark. Search for "mystery box" and you'll find listings for returns from retailers like Walmart and Amazon, from a few bucks to hundreds of dollars. For \$50, this sell-

er will send you eight items and let you make requests from their 20,000 listings.

## eBay

Unsurprisingly, eBay is more of a buyer-beware situation. These are mystery packages, items that couldn't get to the customer and returned things. Just type "unclaimed packages" or a similar term in the search bar on the site and see what comes up.

## Facebook Marketplace

Facebook Marketplace makes it easy to buy things locally. Meet the seller to pick up your purchases at a public place or even the police station and skip all the shipping headaches. It never hurts to bring a friend, either. Just as you would on eBay, search for "unclaimed packages."

## Bonus: Unclaimed Baggage

Unclaimed Baggage dates to 1970 and has an agreement with airlines to purchase lost luggage. Rather than providing an unwelcome surprise (think of a

bag filled with dirty laundry or worse), this site opens the bags, checks the contents and cleans them.

The baggage is available online or at the company's store in Scottsboro, Alabama.

## Read this before you buy

While there's a fun factor that comes with the mystery, don't expect to open a package and find gold (literally or figuratively). There's usually a reason that an item was returned or never accepted.

Many of these products have been sitting in a warehouse for a while and the owners want to get rid of them. There's no guarantee of condition or functionality. What you get is what you get, and your chances of return or refund are close to zero if that.

It truly is a buyer-beware situation, as the products are typically not checked or inspected. Nobody will know if there's a dangerous item in the box until it's opened. As with any online purchase, check customer reviews and seller ratings before making any moves. Ask for photos if you don't see any.

*For her daily tips, free newsletters and more, visit her website.*

## 50★States

News from across the USA

**ALABAMA Elba:** Work will start in September on a collaborative \$3.6 million effort to remove a century-old dam in South Alabama to help endangered species.

**ALASKA Juneau:** Large areas of federal land in Alaska will be protected from development to conserve fish and wildlife habitats that are important to native communities' way of life, under two measures announced by the Biden administration.

**ARIZONA Phoenix:** For Latino voters, immigration and security in the southern border region are top issues ahead of the November general elections, according to the results of a national poll.

**ARKANSAS Little Rock:** Officials said two bodies were recovered from Bear Creek Lake, KATV reported.

**CALIFORNIA San Francisco:** Alphabet's Waymo said its autonomous ride-hailing service, Waymo One, is now available to everyone in San Francisco, nearly four years after a similar move in Phoenix, Arizona.

**COLORADO Morrison:** A dozen employees at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre claim they saw a strange object light up the Colorado sky last month, according to the National UFO Reporting Center. The observers, who said they work for the venue, described a dark metallic disk that appeared north of the amphitheater on June 5, the center reported. The object appeared to be several hundred feet long and hovered in place for 30 seconds before heading east at about 5-10 mph and vanishing, according to a report the center posted.

**CONNECTICUT Hartford:** The controversial program designed to bar legislators from spending "volatile" tax receipts continues to collect big dollars year after year, a contradiction that continues to frustrate those seeking to bolster core programs, The CT Mirror reported.

**DELAWARE Wilmington:** The University of Delaware and its campus police force now face a lawsuit in connection to the controversial arrest of a high school graduate last summer.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington:** A 3,000 pound wax statue of former President Abraham Lincoln, present outside an elementary school in the nation's capital, melted as temperatures hit triple digits recently. CulturalDC, a nonprofit organization that had commissioned the 6-foot statue, in an update on their website, said that the wax sculpture by artist Sandy Williams IV was "intended to be burnt like a candle and to change over time, but this wild heat has done a number on Lincoln."

**FLORIDA Tallahassee:** Gov. Ron DeSantis has signed into law a measure that would outlaw balloon releases.

**GEORGIA Columbia County:** A mother and her niece were recently charged in the death of a baby who had illegal narcotics in her system.

**HAWAII Honolulu:** Locals tout the tangerine sunsets from Oahu's quieter west coast, but homeless tents that dot the ocean's edge hint at a growing problem – poisons in paradise brought in by Mexican cartels. The dominant super cartels – Sinaloa and its rival, the Cártel Jalisco Nueva Generación – run drug pipelines through California and Nevada to flood Oahu with meth and other drugs, said Victor Vazquez, assistant special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's operations in Hawaii.

**IDAHO Twin Falls:** City officials said an investigation is underway to find the cause of "strong odors" plaguing the city, KTVB7 reported.

**ILLINOIS Springfield:** The city of Springfield is hoping to demolish eight buildings it deemed "imminently unsafe" at the now-vacant Olde Towne Apartments. Those cases are coursing their way through the legal system on two different fronts.

**INDIANA South Bend:** After more than two years of development, the Indiana Dinosaur Museum complex on the west side of the city will open its doors to the public on July 12.

**IOWA Des Moines:** Opponents to Summit's planned carbon-capture pipeline appear to have found unlikely allies after more than 30 Republican legislators condemned the Iowa Utilities Board's approval of the project, pledging to "oppose this proposal at every step."

## HIGHLIGHT: TEXAS



Luisa Mao and Zhiyun Deng work with Jackal the robot to drive autonomously and identify different terrains. MIKALA COMPTON/USA TODAY NETWORK

**Austin:** Like many college students, Jackal is still learning to make his own way in life. The little rover is part of a project at the University of Texas' Autonomous Mobile Robotics Laboratory, teaching robots to navigate outdoor terrain using artificial intelligence. According to its teacher, third-year computer science undergrad Luisa Mao, there have been some bumps along the way. Yes, Jackal's still figuring things out, but so is its teacher. Mao is one of about 200 students spread across a dozen University of Texas robotics labs. AMRL specializes in developing AI robots that can go it alone.

**KANSAS Topeka:** Most state universities are getting a raise in tuition rates this coming academic year. The Kansas Board of Regents approved the 2025-26 tuition rate requests of all the regent schools.

**KENTUCKY Louisville:** Students in Kentucky's largest district will be able to take prescribed medical marijuana while on school property next year under a new policy approved by Jefferson County Board of Education members. State law dictates that if a district allows the drug on school property, families can either choose to let a school nurse or staff member administer it to their child, or a guardian can come to the school to do it.

**LOUISIANA Shreveport:** The mayor of Shreveport has declared a state of emergency following the recent property conditions at Linwood Homes apartments. It will last until July 26, unless extended. According to a news release from Mayor Tom Arceneaux's Office, the declaration was necessary because the owners' actions have left the abandoned complex as a hazard to public safety and health.

**MAINE Portland:** If you love seafood, CNN Travel has dubbed Portland the place to go. The country's lobster capital was ranked fifth on America's Best Towns to Visit 2024, thanks to its "next-level food scene, coastal setting, and outdoor access."

**MARYLAND Baltimore:** No Kid Hungry Maryland recently announced more than \$262,000 in grants to help nine organizations across the state reach even more kids with summer meals.

**MASSACHUSETTS Boston:** The Massachusetts top court cleared the way for voters in the state to decide whether drivers for app-based companies like Uber Technologies and Lyft should be classified as independent contractors who would be entitled to some new benefits but would not be legally employees.

**MICHIGAN Detroit:** The Detroit Police Department revised its policies on how it uses facial recognition software to solve crimes as part of a federal settlement with a man who was wrongfully arrested for theft in 2020 based on the technology, authorities said.

**MINNESOTA Olmsted County:** A 32-year-old woman was arrested in Minnesota after police said a dead body was found in the back seat of a vehicle she was driving.

**MISSISSIPPI Laurel:** Wayne-Sanderson Farms has laid off 40 employees at its Laurel campus, according to company spokesperson Frank Singleton.

**MISSOURI St. Louis:** A former middle school principal was sentenced to two consecutive life terms for orchestrating a murder-for-hire plot that led to the deaths of a school teacher and their unborn child, federal prosecutors announced.

**MONTANA Great Falls:** City commissioners reappointed Noelle Johnson to the Great Falls Public Library Board of Trustees by a split vote during a lengthy public meeting, Montana Free Press reported.

**NEBRASKA Beatrice:** Officials said the city will receive a \$21 million federal grant to redevelop a downtown street as a pedestrian-focused corridor, Beatrice Daily Sun reported.

**NEVADA Carson City:** Sam Brown, the Republican nominee challenging Democratic Sen. Jacky Rosen this year, personally recruited and managed the campaign for a congressional candidate in Texas who believed abortion bans should have no exceptions, the Nevada Current has learned. Campaign managers don't automatically share the same political stances as the candidates they work for, but Brown's professional and personal connections to an extreme anti-abortion congressional candidate are relevant as he faces criticism about inconsistent statements about his position on abortion rights.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord:** New Hampshire's Department of Corrections is facing a temporary \$3.44 million deficit caused in large part by an increase in overtime payments, according to DOC Commissioner Helen Hanks. Now, Hanks' department is planning to ask lawmakers to plug the \$3.44 million hole by tapping into "lapsed" funds from other departments, New Hampshire Bulletin reported.

**NEW JERSEY Mahwah:** It took 19 years, but by July 4 three phone carriers will be activated on the long-awaited permanent cell tower at Fire Company 3.

**NEW MEXICO Santa Fe:** New Mexico is one of the four states that will launch voluntary pilot programs in the days ahead to test bulk milk tanks on dairy farms for bird flu – a move that's aimed at making it easier for farmers to ship herds across state lines and for public health officials to track spread of the virus, Source New Mexico reported.

**NEW YORK Ithaca:** After years of operating in a tiny space leased from Cornell University, United States Department of Agriculture's grape research scientists will soon have a state-of-the-art research lab on Cornell's AgriTech Campus in Geneva to support them. U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced last week that he secured \$68.9 million in federal funding for the facility, planned to span over 70,000 square feet in total, as he and a group of grape and wine researchers broke ground on the National Grape Improvement Center.

**NORTH CAROLINA Lake Toxaway:** The district attorney said he and investigators will do a "thorough review" now that a 12-year-old boy's death at an outdoor therapy camp has been ruled a homicide.

**NORTH DAKOTA Grand Forks:** Officials said the first case of West Nile virus has been detected in a pool of mosquitoes in the city, KVRR reported.

**OHIO Cincinnati:** UC Health will soon serve patients at its new blood cancer center, which officials say will set apart the hospital system from others in the region.

**OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City:** Oklahoma City is preparing to see more than 200,000 tickets sold when the city hosts the 2028 Olympic softball and canoeing competitions. Mayor David Holt cautioned the deal with Olympics organizers LA28 won't be complete until it is voted on by the Los Angeles City Council, adding that the vote may not take place for another two months.

**OREGON Lane County:** A 33-year-old man was sentenced by a U.S. District Court judge to more than 11 years in prison for leading an international drug trafficking organization operating in Lane County.

**PENNSYLVANIA Shanksville:** A bronze Braille American flag posted inside the Visitors Center at the Flight 93 National Memorial now shows the grandeur of Old Glory to the nearly 400,000 guests who visit the Somerset County site each year to learn about the heroism of the 40 passengers and crew aboard Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001.

**RHODE ISLAND Providence:** The median price for single-family and multi-family houses in Rhode Island hit record highs in May, driven by more units hitting the market. At the same time, the cost of buying is being pushed up by interest rates near a 20-year high.

**SOUTH CAROLINA Belton:** The Anderson County Council unanimously approved the third and final ordinance to authorize an intergovernmental agreement between the Anderson County Sheriff's Department and the city of Belton. By merging, the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and the Belton Police Department aim to combine their resources and increase their efficiency in policing small towns such as Belton.

**SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls:** Two of South Dakota's nine tribes have written letters to the South Dakota Board of Regents opposing its recent enforcement of a policy on communications and branding.

**TENNESSEE Spring Hill:** OPmobility officials announced the company will undergo a \$3 million expansion at its Spring Hill plant. The sustainable mobility company's expansion will create 186 new jobs, up from just 18 currently in Maury County and 568 across the state, according to the announcement.

**UTAH Salina:** Seven kids on a hike with their church were hospitalized after a lightning bolt struck the wet ground they were standing on, officials said.

**VERMONT Burlington:** A sculpture celebrating equity and inclusion was officially unveiled at Dewey Park. Amid controversy about the size of the work and location within the community, the sculpture was installed last week.

**VIRGINIA Petersburg:** First responders will get a 10% pay raise while other city employees and sheriff's deputies will get their pay hiked by 5% in Petersburg's revised operating budget passed by City Council.

**WASHINGTON Yakima:** A young kinkajou was rescued in Washington state after it was found abandoned at a rest stop in Yakima. Officers then transported the animal to the Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, where veterinary staff assessed its condition. The zoo said it would temporarily hold the animal and provide medical assistance as necessary until a more permanent home is found.

**WEST VIRGINIA Kanawha County:** A couple has been accused of adopting five Black children and using them for labor as if they were "slaves," according to a 17-count indictment.

**WISCONSIN Madison:** A team of scientists from the University of Wisconsin-led Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center mapped millions of acres of abandoned farmland across the U.S. over several decades in a study published in the journal Environmental Research Letters. Knowing where this abandoned land is could help people evaluate it for different uses, including climate solutions, the team theorized.

**WYOMING Teton County:** Teton Science Schools leaders announced that The Mountain Academy high school is closing due to dwindling enrollment, Jackson Hole News and Guide reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

# Noah Lyles, Gabby Thomas dash to Paris

Alicia DelGallo, Lindsay Schnell and Tyler Dragon  
USA TODAY

Saturday was a big day at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials in Eugene, Oregon.

Eight finals were contested on this penultimate day of competition, including the one everyone has been waiting for: the 200-meter final.

Sha'Carri Richardson did not claim one of the coveted top-3 spots in the 200 for an automatic bid to her first Olympic Games.

Richardson fell behind winner Gabby Thomas, Brittany Brown and NCAA champion McKenzie Long.

Noah Lyles had to come from behind to beat out Kenny Bednarek for first place in the men's 200 to close out the evening.

Lyles found himself in unfamiliar territory when he came around the turn in the men's 200. He was in second and chasing Kenny Bednarek.

But Lyles, who is known for his accel-

eration and closing speed, had another gear and sped by Bednarek and finished first with a meet record and world-leading time of 19.53.

Bednarek crossed the line at 19.59 to place second. Erriyon Knighton had a season best of 19.77 to round out the top three.

The 200 capped off a successful trials for Lyles. He won gold in the 100 and now is taking home a gold in the 200 as he prepares for the Paris Olympics.

Gabby Thomas ran the fastest 200-meter time in the world on Friday. On Saturday, Thomas stamped her ticket to Paris, clocking a first-place time of 21.81 seconds.

Running out of lane eight, Thomas led around the turn and finished in first about two strides ahead of the rest of the field.

Brittany Brown's 21.90 was good enough for second, and NCAA 100 and 200 champion McKenzie Long came in third, running a 21.91.

Sha'Carri Richardson, who won the 100 at the trials, came in fourth.



Gabby Thomas reacts after winning the semifinals of the women's 200 meters during the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials. BEN LONERGAN/THE REGISTER-GUARD

## WIMBLEDON DRAW FIVE THINGS TO KNOW



Iga Swiatek poses with the French Open trophy after winning the women's singles final match against Jasmine Paolini. SUSAN MULLANE/USA TODAY SPORTS

# Top players in same half

## A look at Djokovic and Swiatek in tennis' third Grand Slam



Dan Wolken  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

There's little doubt that the changing of the guard in men's tennis is underway, if not already near completion as the biggest tournament of the year begins Monday on the grass at Wimbledon.

Rafael Nadal isn't there, choosing instead to prepare for the Paris Olympics in what seems almost certain to be his last year on the tour. Andy Murray's body is seemingly being held together by glue and duct tape, and it's unclear whether he'll even be healthy enough to say goodbye to the tournament where he broke a 77-year drought for British men. Novak Djokovic has entered and is the No. 2 seed, but his 2024 thus far has been characterized by uninspired play and a meniscus injury that took him out of the French Open. How healthy he is or how well he is capable of playing currently is a total mystery.

But it's inaccurate to say that this is a wide open Wimbledon, at least for now.

Jannik Sinner, the newly-minted World No. 1, won the Australian Open to begin the year and has been the best player overall this season. Carlos Alcaraz, just 21, already has three Grand Slam titles in his bag and is the defending champion here.

Until proven otherwise, those two are a good distance ahead of the pack – especially on grass, where many of the other usual suspects on the men's side do not have strong track records.

But as Friday's draw shook out, Sinner and Alcaraz ended up in the same half of the bracket, meaning they'd face each other in the semifinals instead of the finals. That's the only negative this weekend as tennis fans get ready for one of the most exciting weeks of the year at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club.

Here are five things to know about the the Wimbledon field:

### Tommy Paul has a big chance to do damage

Now the top-ranked American man after winning the traditional warm-up event at Queen's Club, Paul should absolutely cruise to the quarterfinals after

landing in one of the softer sections of a Grand Slam draw you'll ever see.

Paul's first test should come in the third round against 23rd seed Alexander Bublik, who has a big serve that can cause trouble on grass but has never shown the mentality or discipline to advance far at Grand Slams. In theory, Paul's round of 16 opponent would be No. 8 seed Casper Ruud, but the three-time Slam finalist is a well-known grass hater who has never advanced beyond the second round at this event.

Paul, 27, has really come into his own as a player this year with a pair of titles and consistent play across all surfaces. His elite athleticism translates well to the low-bouncing grass, and he's carrying good form into this event. Interestingly, he's also been a tough matchup in the past for Alcaraz, as they've split four career meetings.

If they both advance, Paul would get another shot at Alcaraz in the quarterfinals. Playing the best tennis of his life right now – including his run to the 2023 Australian Open semis – this may be Paul's best shot to sneak into

See WOLKEN, Page 4C

# Pac-12 Networks go dark after 12 years

Brent Schrotenboer  
USA TODAY

The Pac-12 Networks launched in 2012 as a Pac-12 Conference media company that promised lots of programming – seven television channels that eventually produced about 850 live events per year with the help of about 150 full-time employees.

But now it's all over. The Pac-12 Networks finally went dark Sunday night at age 12 due to complications from a vexing national outbreak – college football realignment.

"Pac-12 Networks will end its signal for its seven linear television channels on June 30 at midnight," the league said in an email Thursday. "We will no longer broadcast or program these seven linear TV channels."

The networks' killing had been planned for months. Yet as they disappear from cable channels Monday, their death still serves as a stark reminder of realignment's wreckage and the uncertainty still looming about what remains of the "Conference of Champions." Here's a breakdown:

### What will happen to those Pac-12 channels?

They won't be there anymore – the main Pac-12 Network channel or the six regionalized channels, such as Pac-12 Los Angeles and Pac-12 Arizona.

"The networks will go down at 11:59PM PST (Sunday)," the Cox Communications cable and internet company said in an email Thursday. "The channel numbers will still be active for 2 weeks with a screen letting customers know the network is no longer in operation."

Likewise, Charter Communications recently sent a notice to customers that said the Pac-12 channels will cease programming. But the notice also reminded customers that select former Pac-12 teams soon will be featured on the Big Ten Network or the Atlantic Coast Conference Network.

### Why did the Pac-12 Networks die?

There were several causes. The networks never got the distribution they wanted, limiting their exposure with viewers, especially after failing to get a deal with DirecTV. The main Pac-12 Network only had an average of 12.4 million subscribers in 2023, compared to 46.4 million for the Southeastern Conference Network and 43.8 million for the Big Ten Network, according to estimates provided to

See PAC-12, Page 4C

## NBA DRAFT GRADES

# Four teams get A's for their drafts

Jeff Zillgitt and Lorenzo Reyes

USA TODAY

NEW YORK – Some NBA teams need help now, especially the teams at the bottom of the standings. That's why the NBA draft is so important. How can a team improve? The draft is one vehicle that can make that happen.

Some NBA teams don't need immediate help from young players, so the urgency to find a contributor now isn't as pressing. Still, teams like Boston, Dallas and New York seek players who can contribute at some point.

Now that the draft is over, let's take a look at who did well and who tripped with USA TODAY Sports' NBA draft grades.

## Eastern Conference

### Atlanta Hawks: B+

The Hawks used the No. 1 overall pick on Zaccariah Risacher, and it was Atlanta's first No. 1 pick since 1975. With no clear consensus top pick, the Hawks need Risacher to work out.

### Boston Celtics: B

The Celtics love to shoot 3s and found someone who loves to shoot 3s at No. 30: Creighton's Baylor Scheierman.

### Brooklyn Nets: C-

The Nets had zero draft picks. However, it should be noted they acquired several future first-round picks from the Knicks in the deal that sent Mikal Bridges from Brooklyn to New York.

### Charlotte Hornets: C+

The Hornets took a gamble at No. 6 with France's Tidjane Salaun who was projected by several mock drafts as a later lottery pick. But the Hornets see something, and we will find out if they're right. They found a solid all-around guard in Colorado's KJ Simpson in the second round.

### Chicago Bulls: B+

Matas Buzelis has top-five potential, and the Bulls got him at No. 11, so you can argue they got solid value at that spot.

### Cleveland Cavaliers: B

The Cavaliers' front office spends a lot of time evaluating players, and while Cal's Jaylon Tyson was projected as a late first-round pick, the Cavs saw value in taking him at No. 20.

### Detroit Pistons: B+

Ron Holland was a top prospect coming out of high school in 2023 and is an explosive wing who can help the Pistons. He needs work offensively but has a high ceiling as a scorer.

### Indiana Pacers: B+

The Pacers picked Kansas shooting guard Johnny Murphy in the second round, a player who was a projected first-round pick. They also drafted UConn All-American Tristen Newton and Akron's Enrique Freeman in the second round. Not bad for a team with no first-round picks.

### Miami Heat: B+

Miami drafted a rim-protecting big and promising scorer in Indiana's Kel'el Ware at No. 15 and selected shooting guard Pelle Larsson at No. 44 – and you can bet the Heat will turn Larsson into a contributor with their player development program.

### Milwaukee Bucks: B

The Bucks don't have salary cap flexibility so they need contributors at value prices and may have found two with AJ Johnson (23rd pick) and Tyler Smith (33rd pick). Smith is another player who could've been selected in the first round.

### New York Knicks: B+

The Knicks got Marquette's Tyler Kolek at No. 34, and he easily could've been a first-round pick. They drafted France's Pacome Dadiet in the first round at No. 25. New York selected Kansas' Kevin McCullar Jr. at No. 56, and he's another player with late first-round talent.

### Orlando Magic: B

The Magic drafted a long, versatile forward in Colorado's Tristan da Silva who can score and defend, and the Mag-



Guard Reed Sheppard, shown in a Kentucky game against Arkansas, was enamored by the Rockets throughout the predraft process.

JORDAN PRATHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

ic need scoring.

### Philadelphia 76ers: B

Duke's Jared McCain will help fill a scoring role from the perimeter and at the rim, and forward-center Adem Bona from UCLA provides depth in the middle as a rim protector and finisher at the rim.

### Toronto Raptors: B-

The Raptors had lots of bites at the draft apple, making four selections – one at No. 19 Ja'Kobe Walter and three in the second round, including intriguing NBA Academy Africa prospect Ulrich Chomche.

### Washington Wizards: A-

The Wizards started the draft with two first-round picks and ended with three, including two lottery picks (Alex Sarr at No. 2 and Carlton "Bub" Carrington at No. 14). That's exactly what a rebuilding franchise needs.

## Western Conference

### Dallas Mavericks: B-

While Dallas only had one pick, Melvin Ajinca at No. 51, he's a player who fits exactly what the Mavs need. With the offense running through Luka Dončić and Kyrie Irving, this was about finding another athletic wing who would expend energy on defense, while knocking down perimeter shots. Granted, his stroke from beyond the arc can be streaky, but he's physically built – at 6-foot-8 and 218 pounds.

### Denver Nuggets: B+

The Nuggets are fairly balanced and complete, as far as roster construction goes, so it makes sense for the team to devote its capital toward the player they liked most. They did that in the trade up with the Suns to secure DaRon Holmes II, a two-way wing who shined in the NCAA Tournament for Dayton. He'll need to shore up his defense some, but he's lethal in pick-and-roll situations, which just so happens to be the staple of Denver's offense.

### Golden State Warriors: C-

They only had one pick, and it was the seventh-to-last selection in the second round, so the overall return is obviously underwhelming, especially for a team that needs a continued infusion of young talent. Quinten Post is a 7-foot center with limited speed and athleticism, so it's difficult seeing him getting on the floor without ample time in the G League, even if he's 24.

### Houston Rockets: B

Your feeling on this grade will depend entirely on how you feel about Reed Sheppard. His natural feel for the game and offensive efficiency cannot be questioned. He always seems to make the right play. In college, he was a tenacious defender, but he should find that more difficult at the next level. The Rockets

were enamored with Sheppard throughout the pre-draft process, and there's something about getting the guy that you think fits your system. His deep-shooting ability should make him an instant contributor.

### Los Angeles Clippers: D+

There's a huge cloud hanging over the Clippers in the form of Paul George, who can opt out of his contract. Los Angeles, however, entered the draft with only one pick, No. 46 in the second round. The Clippers took Cam Christie, a shooting guard with good size who needs to bulk up some before he can be a regular in the rotation. He may turn out to be a fine rotation player, but it's difficult to see a legitimate impact coming from just this pick.

### Los Angeles Lakers: A+

This was an easy draft for the Lakers. Dalton Knecht, a player widely considered to be worthy of a lottery pick, fell to them at No. 17. A unanimous first-team All-American who had plenty of experience, Knecht should step in right away, especially because his game so closely resembles that of his rookie head coach, J.J. Reddick. And then, regardless of whether you think Bronny James can develop into a rotation player (and he has some traits to do so), drafting him keeps LeBron James happy, and, with a limited window to contend, that's the biggest win the Lakers could've asked for.

### Memphis Grizzlies: C+

Their need for a big means they likely reached with the Zach Edey selection at No. 9. This will be an interesting study, whether a deliberate, big-bodied center can adapt to the pace of a league that seems to get faster every season. What's interesting about Edey, and what's often lost, is that he has played hoops for only six years, so he does have massive growth potential, despite being a senior. In the second round, Jaylen Wells brings size, defense and shooting – including 42% on catch-and-shoot threes – and Cam Spencer might be the best shooter in the class.

### Minnesota Timberwolves: A-

Credit Minnesota for attacking its weaknesses. After falling short in the conference finals, this was all about infusing athleticism and scoring in its backcourt – especially during the non-Anthony Edwards minutes. When the Mavericks double-teamed Edwards, the offense stagnated. Trading into the top 10 is an aggressive move, but Rob Dillingham (44.4% from 3-point range) is a confident and elite shot creator with range to spare. Guard Terrance Shannon Jr. was third in the nation in scoring with 23 points per game so the Wolves suddenly have offensive focal points in the backcourt when Edwards gets a blow.

### New Orleans Pelicans: B+

The Pels looked to solve a pair of clear

problems. In the first round, they looked at bouncy big man Yves Missi, 6-foot-11 and 229 pounds, as a piece to mitigate the potential loss of Jonas Valanciunas in free agency. Missi's offensive game needs some refinement, but he's an explosive lob threat who can also slip onto other players when defending the pick-and-roll. In the second round, guard Antonio Reeves and his 44.7% stroke from 3-point range should help a team that got just 32.5% of its points from beyond the arc.

### Oklahoma City Thunder: B

The Thunder still have a stockpile of draft picks and, after earning the No. 1 seed, general manager Sam Presti is in a tremendous spot: this young team will continue to develop so it wasn't imperative to add immediate difference makers. Still, Nikola Topic, 18, is a more offensively-gifted version of what former point guard Josh Giddey (traded to the Bulls) brought, though he'll need time to develop. OKC clearly loved Dillon Jones, shipping five second-round choices to take him, and he figures to provide rebounding help after averaging 9.8 rebounds his senior season at Weber State.

### Phoenix Suns: B

Of all 16 teams in the playoffs, the Suns ranked last in postseason defensive efficiency. It's no surprise then, that Phoenix took Ryan Dunn, one of the top stoppers – if not the best defender – available. He's long and ultra-athletic and can guard multiple positions. His offensive game is limited, so he'll need to refine that side to get steady minutes. In the second round, Oso Ighodaro is a jack-of-all-trades who should help in particular on the glass, but it may be tough for him to crack the rotation.

### Portland Trail Blazers: C+

Picking the best available pure center in Donovan Clingan, a player some prognosticators had potentially going No. 1 overall, was always going to be a solid move. What's difficult here is the fit. Plenty of teams have found success with two 7-footers on the floor, but neither Clingan nor Deandre Ayton – whom the Blazers owe nearly \$70 million over the next two seasons – are perimeter players who can space the floor on offense. The rim may be well-protected, but the offense may be a slog.

### Sacramento Kings: B+

The Kings ended up with one selection after they traded their second rounder, but the player they took 13th overall, guard Devin Carter, provided excellent value toward the end of the lottery. Carter isn't terribly tall at 6-foot-2, but he has longer wingspan and tenacious effort should make him an instant contributor on defense. The main problem for Sacramento, even after it traded Davion Mitchell on Thursday, is that it has a logjam of guards, so finding playing time for Carter might be tricky, even if he led the Big East in scoring.

### San Antonio Spurs: B

This requires a bit of faith on the calculated gamble that Stephon Castle will blossom into a tall and long point guard (which he played in high school), and one who can develop a rapport with generational talent Victor Wembanyama. Castle is also a lockdown defender, so if he can further develop his playmaking ability, this could be a home run. If that fails, Juan Núñez in the second round is another swing at point guard, though he will certainly need some time to develop. Harrison Ingram should be a classic "three-and-D" project off the bench.

### Utah Jazz: A

The name of the game for Utah was reading the board and taking the best player available. Cody Williams is young and still a little raw but it's easy to see where his game might go by comparing him to his older brother Jalen, who has emerged as one of the young stars in Oklahoma City. He'll be a smooth, unhurried attacker on offense, though he needs to build muscle on a 178-pound frame. It was exceptional value getting Isaiah Collier to fall at No. 29, and it's worth wondering if the Jazz just found their eventual replacement for Collin Sexton. And then at No. 32, Kyle Filipowski will be an interesting pairing alongside Lauri Markkanen, but at the very least, he's a Kelly Olynyk clone – a player the Jazz have missed since they traded him in February.

# Bronny must earn his spot with Lakers



**Jeff Zillgitt**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

NEW YORK – Heart.

That's what Bronny James' selection in the second round of the NBA draft Thursday is about.

James' physical heart, the one that sustained a sudden cardiac arrest 11 months ago while he worked out on Southern Cal's campus.

And his metaphorical heart, the one that helped him get back on the basketball court and in position to be drafted after a life-threatening incident required a procedure to fix his congenital heart defect.

And our hearts, the hardened ones that can't find the joy in a young adult reaching his dreams, and the warm hearts that can.

The Los Angeles Lakers selected James with the No. 55 pick in the second round of the draft Thursday, and Bronny will join his dad on the same team in an NBA first. Bronny, 19, is the oldest son of NBA superstar LeBron James, and they will become the first father-son combo to play in the league at the same time.

"My dream has always just been to put my name out, make a name for myself, and of course, you know, get to the



**Bronny James participated in the NBA draft combine in May at Wintrust Arena.**  
DAVID BANKS/USA TODAY SPORTS

NBA," Bronny told reporters at the draft combine in Chicago in May.

Almost a year ago, Bronny's basketball future was unclear after he survived the sudden cardiac arrest. Luckily for him, the heart defect could be repaired, allowing him to continue his basketball career.

Before the health scare, Bronny was moving up draft boards during his senior season of high school and during the summer. Some mock drafts had him as a first-rounder a year ago.

But after the cardiac arrest, his development was halted. He couldn't play until cleared by doctors, and while his

freshman season wasn't derailed completely, it wasn't a perfect year. He struggled at times and his stats didn't stand out. At the combine, Bronny acknowledged the incident is "still lingering" and he thinks about "everything that could happen."

But he worked and made enough of an impression on scouts and executives that he left the draft combine as a potential second-round pick – a player with defensive skills, offensive upside, work ethic and coachability.

And now he gets to join his dad on the Lakers. It's a cool, unique story even in a league where sons of ex-NBA players becoming NBA players is not unusual. But in the league at the same time? It's a testament to LeBron's amazing longevity at an elite level and his son's ability to work for what he wanted.

It's not the way Bronny thought it would go. But we don't always get to choose how life unfolds. We do choose how to respond to what comes our way.

This is also another beginning to Bronny's basketball career. Being LeBron's son who plays basketball comes with advantages and disadvantages, and the family has undoubtedly had those discussions.

The NBA is meritocracy on the court. He's like any other rookie drafted in the second round. Bronny needs to earn his spot and his minutes. But you won't be able to question his heart.

## NBA POWER RANKINGS

# Sizing up all 30 teams following draft

**Jordan Mendoza and Jeff Zillgitt**  
USA TODAY

The Boston Celtics won the NBA Finals less than two weeks ago, but the chase to win the next NBA title already has begun.

Every team hoped it added the right piece to its roster during the 2024 NBA draft, where 58 players were introduced into the league.

The first four picks went to the Atlanta Hawks, Washington Wizards, Houston Rockets and San Antonio Spurs; could these lottery picks lead to instant success? Or will it take time before the new crop of players make an impact?

Besides the draft, the New York Knicks made a big splash with the acquisition of Mikal Bridges, hoping to solidify their status as an Eastern Conference powerhouse. New York is just one of the 28 other teams hoping to prevent the Celtics from becoming the first repeat champions since the Golden State Warriors in 2017-18.

Here is where every team ranks after the draft and before the free agency window opened Sunday:

### 30. Washington Wizards

Alex Sarr has the potential to be the best player to come from this draft, but it won't get the Wizards out of the cellar.

### 29. Detroit Pistons

Detroit has its fair share of problems. Maybe Ron Holland can pair well with Cade Cunningham.

### 28. Brooklyn Nets

Time to start from scratch after Brooklyn had no picks in the draft and got rid of Mikal Bridges.

### 27. Portland Trail Blazers

With Donovan Clingan on the team, what does Portland do about Deandre Ayton?

### 26. Charlotte Hornets

Charlotte still has work to do after the

draft, but adding Reggie Jackson should give the Hornets a slight boost.

### 25. Toronto Raptors

Scottie Barnes is officially the centerpiece, but there isn't much beyond that.

### 24. Utah Jazz

Utah had one of the best drafts with Cody Williams, Isaiah Collier and Kyle Filipowski to get the Jazz moving in the right direction.

### 23. Chicago Bulls

Zach LaVine is pretty much all by himself in Chicago. Do the Bulls try to restart by trading him?

### 22. San Antonio Spurs

Stephon Castle is exactly the type of player San Antonio needed to pair with Victor Wembanyama and take another step toward success.

### 21. Atlanta Hawks

The decision on who to keep between Trae Young and Dejounte Murray was made (Murray was traded to the New Orleans Pelicans), and getting No. 1 overall pick Zaccharie Risacher should help.

### 20. Miami Heat

Bam Adebayo is signing a long-term deal, but with Jimmy Butler's future uncertain, this season might be the last chance to win a title.

### 19. Houston Rockets

Houston just missed out on the playoffs but it has all the reasons to be in next season, especially with No. 3 pick Reed Sheppard.

### 18. Golden State Warriors

Are Klay Thompson's days in Golden State over? An aging team could use some fresh faces.

### 17. Sacramento Kings

Devin Carter gives Sacramento another piece to what is already a deep backcourt.

### 16. Memphis Grizzlies

Last season's disaster shouldn't be repeated, and Zach Edey adds some intrigue to a team that was once a top seed in the West.

### 15. Philadelphia 76ers

When healthy, Philadelphia is a strong team in the East. The 76ers could use a big-time free agency signing.

### 14. Indiana Pacers

With Pascal Siakam staying in Indiana, the Pacers have the chance to be a contender for years to come.

### 13. Orlando Magic

Paolo Banchero emerged as the star of Orlando, and drafting Tristan da Silva will hopefully give more offensive power.

### 12. Cleveland Cavaliers

New coach Kenny Atkinson would love to see Donovan Mitchell sign an extension rather than look for the star player to build around.

### 11. Milwaukee Bucks

It was going to take time for Doc Rivers to mesh with Damian Lillard and Giannis Antetokounmpo. Now Milwaukee needs to continue to build around them.

### 10. Los Angeles Lakers

How will the J.J. Redick experiment work? Plus, all eyes will be on whether Bronny James gets playing time with his dad.

### 9. Phoenix Suns

Last season was a disaster in Phoe-

nix. New coach Mike Budenholzer has the tools to get this loaded team back on track.

### 8. Los Angeles Clippers

Los Angeles needs to ensure Paul George and James Harden are still on the roster when its new arena opens in August.

### 7. New Orleans Pelicans

Locking down Brandon Ingram would be a wise decision for a team trying to reach the upper echelon of the West.

### 6. New York Knicks

Getting Mikal Bridges will help New York challenge Boston in the Eastern Conference.

### 5. Oklahoma City Thunder

This young squad hasn't even reached its full potential yet after capturing a No. 1 seed, and the addition of Alex Caruso will be huge.

### 4. Denver Nuggets

Denver is nearing an extension with Jamal Murray, and Nikola Jokic is still the best player in the league.

### 3. Minnesota Timberwolves

Now that Anthony Edwards and Karl Anthony-Towns have tasted what a playoff run is like, they should come back stronger, especially with the addition of Rob Dillingham.

### 2. Dallas Mavericks

With Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving still leading, Dallas has a solid chance to return to the Finals and avenge its loss to Boston.

### 1. Boston Celtics

Still at the mountaintop of the NBA and will remain the favorite to repeat with the title team mostly intact.

# Pistons hiring head coach who worked in division

**Jeff Zillgitt**  
USA TODAY

J.B. Bickerstaff is going from coach of one Central Division NBA team to another team in the same division.

The Detroit Pistons have reached a deal to make Bickerstaff their head coach, a person with knowledge of the hire confirmed Sunday to USA TODAY Sports.

The person requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly until an official announcement was made.

New Pistons president of basketball

operations Trajan Langdon continues to make changes in his short time in the job.

Bickerstaff, 45, coached the Cleveland Cavaliers for the past four-plus seasons, leading the team to the playoffs the past two years – a 51-31 record in 2022-23 and a 48-34 record in 2023-24.

The Cavaliers beat the Orlando Magic in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs and lost to the Boston Celtics in the second round this season.

His coaching style fell out of favor with key players as the Cavaliers look to compete for a title focused on Donovan



**Former Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff is being hired by the Pistons.**  
WINSLOW TOWNSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

Mitchell signing a long-term extension.

It didn't take long for Bickerstaff, the son of former NBA coach Bernie Bickerstaff, to find a new top job. He was 170-159 with the Cavaliers, 37-34 in 2015-16 with Houston and 48-97 in nearly two seasons (2017-18, 2018-19) with Memphis.

The Pistons fired Monty Williams earlier in June after just one season with five years and \$65 million remaining on his contract, and they selected wing Ron Holland II with the No. 5 pick in the first round of the draft on Wednesday evening.

The Pistons were 14-68 in 2023-24.

# USMNT forward Weah suspended for 2 games

**Seth Vertelney**

Pro Soccer Wire | USA TODAY NETWORK

CONMEBOL has handed U.S. men's national soccer team forward Tim Weah a two-game suspension for his red card against Panama.

Weah was shown a straight red in the 18th minute of Thursday's Copa America game, as replays showed him striking defender Roderick Miller in the back of the head.

That moment would prove costly, as the USMNT would ultimately fall 2-1 in a shock result that seriously damaged the team's hopes of advancing past the group stage.



**Weah**

Weah will have to sit out Monday's group-stage finale against Uruguay and a quarter-final match, should the USMNT get that far.

After the loss to Panama, advancement is looking like a daunting proposition for Gregg Berhalter's side.

The USMNT will likely have to beat Uruguay on Monday evening in Kansas City, Missouri, as it can secure a spot in the quarterfinal by matching or bettering Panama's result against Bolivia while maintaining its goal differential edge.

## Wolken

Continued from Page 1C

the major-winning conversation.

### Can Novak Djokovic play his way into form?

Djokovic had to pull out of the French Open after gutting his way to the quarterfinals, and the conventional wisdom was that he wouldn't have enough time to be healthy for Wimbledon after undergoing surgery.

But Djokovic has been practicing this week, albeit seemingly a bit limited in his movement and noncommittal about whether he would actually play. However, his draw will almost certainly motivate him to give it a shot.

His first-round opponent, qualifier Vit Kopriwa, is ranked 123rd and making his Slam main draw debut. His potential second-round opponents are both outside the top-150. The other seed in Djokovic's section is clay specialist Tomas Martin Etcheverry, and his round of 16 opponent would project to be either 21-year old Holger Rune, who has had a pretty disappointing year, or Karen Khachanov, who is 1-9 against Djokovic.

If he is suitably healthy and can use the rounds to sharpen his game and build some on-court stamina, the draw is so favorable on paper that Djokovic should probably get to the final even with all the question marks. Maybe his decision to enter the tournament wasn't so crazy after all.

### Iga Swiatek's grass conundrum

The top player in women's tennis, and potentially on the path to becoming one of the best ever, Iga Swiatek still has a major hole in her résumé at Wimbledon. Much like her idol, Nadal, Swiatek has established dominance on clay with four French Open titles by age 23. She's also got a US Open title and enough other big tournament wins on hard court to make her the top threat on that surface as well.

But grass is a different story, where last year's quarterfinal was her first decent result.

Part of the issue is that Swiatek doesn't have enough reps dealing with the quirks of playing on an unfamiliar surface. It's understandable. Her year is built around peaking on clay, and she has chosen to take a couple weeks off after the French to recuperate rather go straight to the grass.

But being a complete player means winning on all surfaces, and Swiatek is such a terrific athlete and mover that she should eventually play well at Wimbledon. Maybe this is the year, but the draw didn't do her any favors. Swiatek will have to come out in Round 1 against Sofia Kenin, the 25-year old American who won the 2020 Australian Open and upset Coco Gauff at Wimbledon last year.

### American women in strong



**Jannik Sinner, the newly-minted World No. 1, won the Australian Open to begin the year.** BRANDON MAGPANTAY/USA TODAY NETWORK

### position

Jessica Pegula, the No. 5 seed, has had a bit of a down year. She changed coaches early on and dealt with injuries through clay season, forcing her to pull out of Roland Garros.

But Pegula got back on track in a big way last week by winning the title in Berlin, beating Gauff 7-5, 7-6 in a tight semifinal matchup. Now 30, Pegula has gotten way more out of her career than many expected but would like to change the narrative about her 0-6 record in Grand Slam quarterfinals.

Last year's Wimbledon loss was especially painful in that regard. Pegula had what seemed like a commanding 3-1 lead over Marketa Vondrousova in the third set before rain forced the roof to be closed. After the short delay, Pegula had a break point for a 5-1 lead but couldn't convert. Then, it quickly fell apart for Pegula as Vondrousova won five straight games — and ultimately, the Wimbledon title two matches later.

If Pegula is going to win a Grand Slam, it's likely to be at Wimbledon where her flat ball can be really hard to deal with off the skidding grass. And this year, it looks like she caught a pretty nice draw. Her biggest threat in the round of 16 would appear to be No. 10 seed Ons Jabeur, who has had a nightmare season, and then possibly No. 4 seed Elena Rybakina, who hasn't been healthy lately. It's a great opportunity for Pegula if she can take advantage.

On the other side of the draw, Gauff has a very nice-looking path as the No. 2 seed. Don't be surprised if she faces another American, No. 12 seed Madison Keys, in the quarterfinals.

### Huge stakes for Chris Eubanks

Remember last year when the big serving 28-year old from Atlanta made the quarterfinals out of nowhere and was suddenly one of the biggest sports stories in America?

Well, there's a reason you haven't heard much about Eubanks since then: His ATP-level record is just 10-22 over the last year, and his ranking has slipped all the way down to No. 62 after leaving Wimbledon in 2023 at No. 31.

But there's even worse news ahead. Tennis has a 52-week ranking system, so all the points Eubanks earned by reaching the Wimbledon quarterfinals will come off his total. If he were to lose his first-round matchup to Frenchman Quentin Halys, his ranking would fall to somewhere around No. 140.

That would mean a return to the Challenger Tour, where Eubanks had to grind for years before finally reaching the top-100 in early 2023 and then breaking through in a big way last summer.

Eubanks has a big future ahead as a television commentator, but he undoubtedly wants to squeeze a bit more out of his on-court career. He really needs to win some matches at Wimbledon for that to be viable beyond this year.

# Bellingham rescues England to book Euro quarterfinal spot

**Sam Tobin**

REUTERS

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany — Jude Bellingham rescued England from crashing out of Euro 2024 against Slovakia on Sunday with a stunning 95th-minute equalizer before Harry Kane's early extra-time winner sent the sub-par pre-tournament favorites into the quarterfinals.

Slovakia started far sharper than England and gave its opponents several warnings before Ivan Schranz placed a deft finish past goalkeeper Jordan Pickford in the 25th minute.

England, which will next face Switzerland, had come back to win its last three Euro games in which they conceded first, including the last edition's semifinal, and thought they were level shortly after the break but Phil Foden was clearly offside before tapping home.

Harry Kane uncharacteristically headed a Foden free kick wide and Declan Rice hit the post as Slovakia were pinned deep in their own half late on, though England seemed to lack belief as their fans grew ever more frustrated.

But Bellingham, a day after his 21st birthday, equalized with an incredible bicycle kick at the death to take the game to extra time with England's first shot on target.

And England took less than a min-



**Harry Kane, left, celebrates scoring England's second goal with Jude Bellingham.** CARL RECINE/GETTY IMAGES

ute after the restart to take the lead when Kane headed past the despairing Martin Dubravka from close range to complete a remarkable turnaround.

Slovakia had faded as the game drew on and went closest to an equalizer of their own just before halftime in extra time, when Peter Pekarik kned a dangerous cross over the bar.

England repelled a late wave of balls into the box to secure a fortunate victory and set up a quarter-final clash with Switzerland in Duesseldorf on Saturday.

They will, however, need to be a far better against the Swiss, who outplayed defending champions Italy in the last-16 and were unfortunate to concede a late equalizer against Germany in the group stage.



**A view of the Pac-12 logo on the field as Stanford Cardinal wide receiver David Kasemervisz (80) warms up.** DARREN YAMASHITA/USA TODAY SPORTS

## Pac-12

Continued from Page 1C

USA TODAY Sports from S&P Global Market Intelligence.

This stemmed from a lack of demand. Cable providers only paid an average of 14 cents per subscriber per month for the Pac-12 Network, far below the 97 cents per subscriber per month for the SEC Network and 77 cents for Big Ten Network, according to the estimates from S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The 12 Pac-12 universities that owned the Pac-12 Networks also opted to keep full ownership instead of bringing in an equity partner such as ESPN to give them leverage and investment. By contrast, the Big Ten Network is jointly owned by the league (39%) and media company Fox (61%).

Ultimately, these and other revenue shortcomings led Pac-12 schools to leave the league in pursuit of more media rights revenue, bigger viewership and more stability — a realignment that sealed the Pac-12 Networks' fate.

In 2022, the University of Southern Cal and UCLA announced they were leaving the Pac-12 for the Big Ten in 2024. Last summer, eight other Pac-12 teams announced they were leaving for the Big 12, Big Ten or ACC, leaving just two orphaned members in the Pac-12 that weren't invited to other leagues — Oregon State and Washington State. Those moves become official in August.

### What happens with the Pac-12 Network properties?

The two remaining schools in the Pac-12 will own the networks' production facilities in San Ramon, California. That is part of a business called Pac-12 Enterprises, which now offers its broadcast production services to external clients, with profits flowing back to the two remaining schools.

It also will produce the telecasts for the 11 home football games that will air on The CW Network for Oregon State and Washington State in 2024.

In basketball and other sports, Oregon State and Washington State will compete as affiliate members of the West Coast Conference. Their home

basketball games on the ESPN+ streaming service also will be produced by Pac-12 Enterprises, according to the Pac-12.

### How will this help the two Pac-12 schools?

It's an asset that could be used as a card to play in the shifting sands of any future realignment — a sports television and content business with a full suite of broadcast infrastructure and a track record of producing live sports events.

In the meantime, Oregon State and Washington State can operate as a two-team league for up to two years before deciding what to do next, such as possibly combining with the Mountain West Conference under the Pac-12 banner.

Under NCAA rules, leagues in the Football Bowl Subdivision are required to have at least eight members. But if they fall short of that, they are allowed a two-year grace period and will continue to use and own the Pac-12 name under Commissioner Teresa Gould, who has a two-year contract.

### How did the Pac-12 Networks spend their final hours?

The last live event on the Pac-12 Network came May 24 with a baseball tournament game in Arizona. It has aired many reruns of previous games since then and was scheduled to televise the 1992 "Snow Bowl" football game between Washington State and Washington late Sunday night before going off air, according to the Cox cable guide.

On Friday, Gould posted a thread on social media site X to note the passing of an era.

"Normally around this time we are celebrating the accomplishments of the academic year & preparing for the next. Instead, today we are saying goodbye to the final group of loyal @pac12 & @Pac12Network staff that are departing an organization they love," Gould wrote.

She ended the thread with a nod to an uncertain future. There are only about 30 employees left in the Pac-12, including Pac-12 Enterprises, according to the league.

"For the small number of us that are continuing, we will continue to fight for the @pac12, for the Beavs and the Cougs, and for all of you," she wrote. "We hope to make you proud."

# Bill Harmon's recovery comes full circle

Adam Schupak

Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

As soon as Bill Harmon arrived at Newport Country Club for the 44th U.S. Senior Open, he walked to the green below the famed clubhouse, which overlooks Bailey's Beach in Newport, Rhode Island, and looked up at the balcony and said to himself, "Wow, what a life. The same guy who showed up with \$20 in Orlando, wanted to jump off this building in 1992 will end his caddie relationship right below this balcony 32 years later."

All those years ago, Harmon, 76, was the head professional of the famed blue-blood club and lived above the 18th green with his wife and newborn son. Yet back then, life didn't seem so grand to the functioning alcoholic.

"I went out on that balcony and I contemplated doing a swan dive," he said. "I didn't have the guts to do it but I felt like I didn't want to be around anymore."

Harmon has been clean since not long after that fateful night thanks to three members of the club who staged an intervention, and he returned this past week to the grounds that were so pivotal in changing his life to caddie one last time for Jay Haas, his best friend.

This is a story of friendship, recovery and life coming full circle.

## Living up to the family name

Harmon is the son of Claude Harmon, the 1948 Masters champion, teacher to four U.S. presidents and one of the most distinguished club pros in the game. For 33 years, he taught at Winged Foot Golf Club outside of Manhattan and his coaching tree of pros who learned under his wing include the likes of major winners Jack Burke Jr. and Dave Marr. Billy is seven years younger than his brother, Butch, who went on to be arguably the most famous golf instructor in the game for teaching Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Greg Norman. His other brothers, Dick, who is deceased, and Craig were recognized as among the finest club pros in the game.

For many years, Bill felt like a failure who wasn't living up to the Harmon family name in the golf world.

"He was an unbelievable junior who won about everything you could win," Butch told Global Golf Post in 2019. "Then he went to San Jose State and lost it when he got wrapped up in alcohol and drugs."

In 1978, Haas, 24, had just won the Andy Williams San Diego Open, his first of nine career PGA Tour titles, and was looking for a caddie. A mutual friend recommended Harmon. They met in Palm Springs, California, and Haas told



Jay Haas, right, and his caddie Bill Harmon made the weekend cut Friday at the U.S. Senior Open at Newport Country Club. KATHRYN RILEY/USGA MUSEUM

him to be in Orlando, Florida, in two weeks at Rio Pinar Country Club, the site of the Citrus Open. Harmon got off the plane with \$40 to his name. Cab fare was \$20. He got to the course on Monday and bumped into Terry Diehl, a pro he knew from Rochester, New York, who said, "What are you doing here, Billy?"

When Harmon told him he was caddying for Haas, Diehl shot back, "Not this week."

It turned out Haas had forgotten to register for the tournament. Despite that inauspicious start and Haas' recollection that he didn't break par more than once in their first several tournaments together, a bond so strong they each named a son after the other began to form.

"He had a one-way ticket to my funny bone," said Haas, who is playfully referred to as Harmon brother 5-A. "He was always patting me on the back and always knew the right thing to say."

But Harmon also had a drinking and drug problem. It never interfered with his ability to do his job.

## Trying to get sober

Harmon, who continues to teach at the Bill Harmon Performance Center at Toscana Golf Club in Indian Wells, California, recalls the first time he ever considered sobriety. He was, as he put it, "high as a kite" snorting cocaine in a hotel in Los Angeles and there was Eric Clapton on "Larry King Live" on CNN talking about getting clean.

"Wow, people are doing that," he remembers thinking. "It planted a seed."

He quit caddying in 1988 initially to help his brother Craig, the head professional at Oak Hill, and when he got married that same year it was time to settle down. When he was hired for the head professional job at Newport CC, he seemed destined to add to the Harmon legacy in the game. Not long after, his first son, Zack, was born and he was overwhelmed with parental pride.

"I remember looking in the back seat, and feeling such a different type of love. I couldn't believe how strong it was. And I remember looking out the window and one second later feeling equally self-hatred and self-loathing that this kid's dad was an alcoholic and drug addict. Those two emotions aren't a good marriage. I'd love to say I quit that day but I didn't. I do think that's where my bottom started. I realized at that very moment I was never going to be able to stay on that emotional balance beam, but I didn't know which way I was going to fall."

His intervention would occur 10 weeks later. With Newport CC the host club of the 1995 U.S. Amateur, Harmon and several club officials took a scouting trip to Muirfield Village Golf Club in Ohio during the U.S. Amateur. During that trip, he offended a club official publicly. Harmon doesn't divulge what he said that day other than to make the point that it was a fireable offense.

"My dad always told me I had a 30 mph brain and a 90 mph mouth," Harmon said. "I proved him right that time."

Two club board members were recovering alcoholics and decided it was better to help Harmon than punish him. They confronted him along with the club official on Aug. 26, 1992, in the living room of his apartment, and one of the members offered to take him to his first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

"My life's greatest gift," said Harmon of the intervention, and if further proof is necessary he noted he had dinner with that member who took him to that first AA meeting last week and still attends a meeting most mornings at 4:50.

As part of the 12 steps in the program, Harmon wrote a letter to Haas making amends that Haas still has saved in his desk at home.

"A lot of times I'll say, 'Boy, Billy, if you met you, you'd kick your ass,'" Haas said of how Harmon has mellowed while living a sober life.

"I remember one time he told me, 'In my life I've never seen anyone change as much as you.' My inner reply to myself is, 'Well, you're the one who helped me do it.' He's one of the people who cared for me more than I cared for myself," Harmon said.

And so the best of friends made one more stroll down the fairways at the most fitting course of all. The U.S. Senior Open was scheduled for Newport Country Club in 2020 but was canceled due to COVID-19. Haas wasn't sure he'd still be exempt in 2024 but he's in the field, posting 2-under 68 on Thursday and 70 on Friday to shoot his age or better in consecutive days and make his 18th consecutive cut in the championship; they ended their player-caddie relationship right below that balcony on Sunday in what could be Haas' swan song too.

"I may have already passed the finish line and I don't know it," he cracked.

Harmon, a cancer survivor who with wife Robin started in 2010 the Harmon Recovery Foundation, a nonprofit that works with people fighting their own demons, has one final chapter in his life's journey he'd like to explore before he reaches his own finish line: giving back through a series of two-day clinics he's been conducting across the country. He calls the program "Footprints," after the words of wisdom bestowed by Burke to his daughter: "We only have two feet but it doesn't mean you can't leave more than two footprints."

On the scorecard of life, Harmon has made good use of his second chance at life, and for that he's grateful.

"I went many years where I didn't add to the Harmon whatever it is, I subtracted," he said. "It's not for me to say that I added to it but I can honestly say I haven't subtracted from it and that's enough for me."

# NHRA icon Force opens eyes for 1st time since crash

Steve Gardner

USA TODAY

Drag racing icon John Force opened his eyes on Friday for the first time since his high-speed crash during last weekend's NHRA Virginia Nationals, his race team said in a statement.

Force, a 16-time NHRA champion, was moved to the neuro intensive care unit at a Richmond-area hospital last



Force

Wednesday but had been unable to respond consistently to doctors' commands.

After five days of treatment for a traumatic brain injury, Force was finally able to speak his name and give a thumbs-up sign when prompted, according to the statement from John Force Racing issued Sunday.

Along with daily signs of improvement, family members say Force has also shown signs of agitation and confusion, having to be restrained on several occasions when he attempted to get out of bed.

"Despite the welcomed progress, the 157-time tour winner still faces a long and difficult recovery ahead and for the immediate future, will remain in neuro intensive care with visitation restricted

to immediate family members only," the team statement said.

Force, 75, won his heat with a 302 mph run on June 23 at Virginia Motorsports Park but the engine in his dragster exploded in a massive fireball shortly after he crossed the finish line.

The car crashed into both side walls, but Force was able to escape the flaming wreckage.

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FOR THE RECORD

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SOCCER

**Copa América GROUP STAGE GROUP A**

GP	W	D	L	GD	Pts	
Argentina	3	3	0	0	+5	9
Canada	3	1	1	1	-1	4
Chile	3	0	2	1	-1	2
Peru	3	0	1	2	-3	1

**Thursday, June 20**

Argentina 2, Canada 0

**Friday, June 21**

Peru 0, Chile 0

**Tuesday, June 25**

Canada 1, Peru 0

**Argentina 1, Chile 0**

**Philadelphia's Games**

Argentina 2, Peru 0  
Canada 0, Chile 0

**GROUP B**

GP	W	D	L	GD	Pts	
Venezuela	2	2	0	0	+2	6
Ecuador	2	2	1	0	+1	3
Mexico	2	1	0	1	0	3
Jamaica	2	0	0	2	-3	0

**Saturday, June 22**

Venezuela 2, Ecuador 1  
Mexico 1, Jamaica 0

**Wednesday, June 26**

Ecuador 3, Jamaica 1  
Venezuela 1, Mexico 0

**Sunday, June 30**

Jamaica vs. Venezuela  
Mexico vs. Ecuador

**GROUP C**

GP	W	D	L	GD	Pts	
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	+7	6
USA	2	1	0	1	+1	3
Panama	2	1	0	1	-1	3
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	-7	0

**Sunday, June 23**

United States 2, Bolivia 0  
Uruguay 2, Panama 0

**Thursday, June 27**

Panama 2, United States 1  
Uruguay 5, Bolivia 0

**Monday's Games**

Bolivia vs. Panama, 9 p.m. (FS2)  
United States vs. Uruguay, 9 p.m. (FS1)

**GROUP D**

GP	W	D	L	GD	Pts	
Colombia	2	2	0	0	+6	6
Brazil	2	2	1	0	+3	4
Costa Rica	2	0	1	1	-3	1
Paraguay	2	0	0	2	-4	0

**Monday, June 24**

Colombia 1, Paraguay 0  
Brazil 0, Costa Rica 0

**Friday's Games**

Colombia 3, Costa Rica 0  
Brazil 4, Paraguay 1

**Tuesday's Games**

Brazil vs. Colombia, 9 p.m. (FS1)  
Costa Rica vs. Paraguay, 9 p.m. (FS2)

**Euro 2024 ROUND OF 16**

Switzerland 2, Italy 0  
Germany 2, Denmark 0

**Sunday's Games**

England 2, Slovakia 1  
Spain vs. Georgia

**Monday's Games**

France vs. Belgium, noon  
Portugal vs. Slovenia, 3 p.m.

**Tuesday's Games**

Romania vs. Netherlands, noon  
Austria vs. Turkey, 3 p.m.

**NWSL**

GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
Kansas City	15	10	5	39	20	+19	35
Orlando	14	9	5	27	11	+16	32
Washington	15	10	4	29	18	+11	31
NJ/NY Gotham	14	9	3	16	11	+5	27
Portland	15	7	3	26	20	+6	24
North Carolina	15	7	1	17	16	+1	22
Chicago	15	6	2	7	22	0	20
Bay FC	15	6	0	9	19	-4	18
Louisville	15	3	7	20	19	+1	16
San Diego	15	3	6	12	16	-4	15
Angel City	14	4	3	15	21	-6	15
Houston	15	3	5	7	11	-22	-14
Seattle	14	2	3	14	26	-12	9
Utah	15	2	2	11	7	-27	-8

Note: Three points for a win, one for a draw.

**Friday's Games**

Kansas City 2, Houston 0  
Chicago 3, San Diego 0

**Saturday's Games**

Bay FC 1, Racing Louisville 0  
North Carolina 1, Washington 0  
Utah 0, Portland 0

**Sunday's Games**

NJ/NY Gotham FC vs. Seattle  
Angel City FC vs. Orlando

**MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Inter Miami CF	13	3	5	44	48	30
Cincinnati	13	4	3	42	33	23
NY Red Bulls	9	4	8	35	36	27
Columbus	9	3	6	33	34	18
NY City FC	10	8	2	32	30	25
Charlotte FC	9	7	5	32	23	21
Nashville	6	6	8	26	24	25
Toronto FC	7	11	3	24	29	37
Atlanta	6	8	6	24	28	25
CF Montreal	5	8	7	22	30	43
Orlando City	5	9	6	21	25	35
Philadelphia	4	8	8	20	33	35
D.C. United	4	9	8	20	28	39
New England	6	11	1	19	18	35
Chicago	4	10	6	18	24	36

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Los Angeles FC	12	4	4	40	41	23
LA Galaxy	7	7	4	40	41	27
Real Salt Lake	10	3	7	37	40	23
Colorado	9	8	4	31	38	35
Portland	8	7	6	30	39	35
Houston	8	6	6	30	27	23
Minnesota	8	7	5	29	33	32
Vancouver	7	7	4	28	30	27
Seattle	7	7	7	28	29	26
Austin FC	7	8	6	27	23	30
FC Dallas	5	10	5	20	27	32
Saint Louis	3	7	10	19	27	35
Sporting KC	4	12	5	17	33	44
San Jose	3	15	2	11	29	54

Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

**Friday's Game**

NY City FC 4, Orlando City 2

**Saturday's Games**

CF Montreal 4, Philadelphia 2  
New England 1, Columbus 5  
Atlanta 2, Toronto FC 1  
NY Red Bulls 2, D.C. United 2

FC Dallas 0, Cincinnati 0  
Houston 1, Charlotte FC 0  
Nashville 1, Inter Miami CF 2  
Sporting KC 2, Austin FC 0  
Los Angeles FC 3, Colorado 0  
Vancouver 4, Saint Louis 3  
Seattle 2, Chicago 1

**Wednesday's Games**

Nashville at Columbus, 6:30 p.m.  
Cincinnati at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.  
CF Montreal vs NYC FC at Flushing, 7:30 p.m.  
Orlando City at Toronto FC, 7:30 p.m.  
Inter Miami CF at Charlotte FC, 7:30 p.m.  
Atlanta at New England, 7:45 p.m.  
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.  
San Jose at Saint Louis, 8:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.  
Houston at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**

Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Sporting KC at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.  
LA FC vs LA Galaxy at Pasadena, 10:30 p.m.

**MLB**

**AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division**

W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	53	30	.639	-
N.Y. Yankees	53	32	.624	1
Boston	43	39	.524	9½
Tampa Bay	41	42	.494	12
Toronto	38	44	.463	14½

**Central Division**

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	52	29	.642	-
Minnesota	46	37	.554	7
Kansas City	46	39	.541	8
Detroit	37	46	.446	16
Chicago	24	61	.282	30

**West Division**

W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	47	38	.553	-
Houston	41	41	.500	4½
Texas	37	46	.446	9
L.A. Angels	36	46	.439	9½
Oakland	30	55	.353	17

**NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division**

W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	51	29	.651	-
Atlanta	46	36	.561	7½
N.Y. Mets	40	40	.500	12½
Washington	39	43	.476	14½
Miami	30	53	.361	24

**Central Division**

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	52	34	.590	-
St. Louis	42	40	.512	6½
Pittsburgh	40	43	.482	9
Cincinnati	39	44	.476	10
Chicago	39	45	.464	10½

**West Division**

W	L	Pct	GB	
L.A. Dodgers	52	32	.619	-
San Diego	46	41	.529	7½
Arizona	40	43	.482	11½
San Francisco	40	44	.476	12
Colorado	27	55	.329	24

**Saturday's Games**

Chicago 11, Colorado 3  
Cincinnati 9, St. Louis 4  
Toronto 9, N.Y. Yankees 3  
Miami 5, Philadelphia 3  
Arizona 3, Oakland 0  
San Diego 11, Boston 1  
Atlanta 2, Pittsburgh 1  
Cleveland 7, Kansas City 2  
Washington 8, Tampa Bay 1  
Chicago 5, Milwaukee 3  
Houston 9, N.Y. Mets 6  
Baltimore 6, Texas 5  
L.A. Dodgers 14, San Francisco 7  
L.A. Angels 6, Detroit 5  
Minnesota 5, Seattle 1

**Sunday's Games**

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

**Monday's Games**

Houston at Toronto, 3:07 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 6:45 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.  
**Tuesday's Games**  
Chicago at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.  
Boston at Miami, 6:40 p.m.  
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 6:45 p.m.  
Cincinnati at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.  
Houston at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.  
San Francisco at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.  
Detroit at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:05 p.m.  
San Diego at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.  
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.  
Baltimore at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.  
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

**Tuesday's Games**

Connecticut at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Washington at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.

**WNBA**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	Pct	GB	
N.Y. Liberty	16	3	.842	-
Connecticut	14	4	.778	1½
Atlanta	7	10	.412	8
Chicago	6	10	.375	8½
Indiana	7	12	.368	9
Washington	4	15	.211	12

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	13	4	.765	-
Seattle	12	6	.667	1½
Las Vegas	10	6	.625	2½
Phoenix	9	8	.529	4
L.A. Sparks	4	14	.222	9½
Dallas	4	14	.222	9½

**Friday's Games**

Atlanta 78, Connecticut 74  
Phoenix 92, L.A. Sparks 78

**Saturday's Games**

Las Vegas 88, Washington 77  
Seattle 97, Dallas 76

**Sunday's Games**

N.Y. Liberty 81, Atlanta 75  
Minnesota at Chicago  
Indiana at Phoenix

**Monday's Games**

Connecticut at Phoenix, 10 p.m.  
Dallas at Seattle, 10 p.m.

**Tuesday's Games**

Minnesota at N.Y. Liberty, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Atlanta, 7 p.m.  
Indiana vs Las Vegas at Las Vegas, 9:30 p.m.  
Washington at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.

**Wednesday's Game**

Phoenix at Dallas, 8 p.m.



## NHL FREE AGENTS RANKING TOP 25

## Lightning acquire rights to Guentzel

Mike Brehm  
USA TODAY

The NHL free agency signing period has the potential to be extremely busy.

First, the salary cap will significantly increase – the NHL announced it will rise from \$83.5 million to \$88 million.

But there also are a lot of players available. Because the salary cap had only modest increases in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many veteran players had opted for one-year deals last summer.

The unrestricted free agent signing period opens at noon EDT on Monday. Here's an early look at the top players who could be available:

**1. Forward Jake Guentzel, Carolina Hurricanes**

He was the prize of the trade deadline and the Hurricanes gave up Michael Bunting, three prospects and two draft picks to land him. He had 25 points in 17 games after arriving, plus nine points in 11 playoff games. The former Sidney Crosby linemate is a proven playoff scorer and fits in well alongside star players. The Lightning acquired his rights on Sunday for a third-round pick and they now have the cap space to sign him after Saturday's trades.

**2. Forward Sam Reinhart, Florida Panthers**

He had the perfect contract year performance, a career-best 57 goals and another 10 goals during a run to the Stanley Cup title. He had the Cup-clinching goal. In addition to the goals, he finished fourth in Selke Trophy voting.

**3. Forward Steven Stamkos, Tampa Bay Lightning**

The Lightning put off negotiations until the offseason but the two sides couldn't come to an agreement. The captain recorded his seventh 40-goal season and had five goals in the Lightning's first-round loss.

**4. Defenseman Brandon Montour, Florida Panthers**

Montour's numbers dropped because of offseason surgery but he scored 73 points in 2022-23 and has played in eight playoff series over the past two seasons.

**5. Forward Jonathan Marchessault, Vegas Golden Knights**

He was voted playoff MVP in 2023 and had his first 40-goal season in 2023-24.

**6. Forward Elias Lindholm, Vancouver Canucks**

The Canucks gave up a lot to land Lindholm and he had a so-so stretch run and a much better playoffs. He topped 40 goals two seasons ago and also was a finalist for the Selke Trophy.

**7. Forward Matt Duchene, Dallas Stars**

Bought out by the Nashville Predators, he scored 25 goals in his one-year deal with Dallas. He had seven game-winning goals and scored in double-overtime in the clinching game against the Colorado Avalanche.

**8. Patrick Kane, Detroit Red Wings**

He proved himself in his return from hip resurfacing surgery, averaging nearly a point a game. He won three Stanley Cups with the Chicago Blackhawks.

**9. Defenseman Brady Skjei, Carolina Hurricanes**

He had 18 goals a season ago and a career-best 47 points this season.

**10. Forward Tyler Toffoli, Winnipeg Jets**

A consistent 20-goal scorer who topped 30 the past two seasons. He won a Stanley Cup with the Los Angeles Kings in 2014 but has bounced around a lot in recent years.

**11. Forward Chandler Stephenson, Vegas Golden Knights**

He's versatile and has won two Stanley Cup titles. He had 20 points in 22 games during Vegas' Cup run.

**12. Forward Tyler Bertuzzi, Toronto Maple Leafs**

He provides goals (20 or more four times) and grit. He is an agitator.

**13. Defenseman Brett Pesce, Carolina Hurricanes**

The Hurricanes have a deep defense, but many UFAs. Pesce is a solid right-shot defenseman.

**14. Defenseman Chris Tanev, Dallas Stars**

He finished third in blocked shots during the regular season and was first in the playoffs. His arrival at the trade deadline helped the Stars reach the Western Conference final for the second year in a row. The Stars traded his rights to the Maple Leafs during the draft, so they'll get an early chance to negotiate.



Hurricanes forward Jake Guentzel's playoff reputation will be attractive – the Lightning acquired his rights Sunday in a trade. JAMES GUILLORY/USA TODAY SPORTS

**15. Defenseman Nikita Zadorov, Vancouver Canucks**

The 6-foot-6, 248-pound defenseman plays a rugged style. His four playoff goals will draw attention.

**16. Forward Jonathan Drouin, Colorado Avalanche**

He had his best season (56 points) playing on the same team with junior hockey linemate Nathan MacKinnon.

**17. Defenseman Matt Roy, Los Angeles Kings**

He killed penalties on the league's No. 2-ranked unit, led the Kings in blocked shots and was second in hits.

**18. Forward Sean Monahan, Winnipeg Jets**

Health is a concern, but he played every game last season, plus an additional one because of a trade. He finished with 26 goals and 59 points and looked good after he was dealt to Winnipeg.

**19. Defenseman Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Florida Panthers**

He was bought out by the Canucks and landed on a Panthers team that was dealing with injuries on defense and fit in nicely. He moved up to the top power play unit late in the playoffs.

**20. Forward Teuvo Teravainen, Carolina Hurricanes**

He has alternated good and bad seasons since 2019-20 but just had 25 goals.

**21. Forward Vladimir Tarasenko, Florida Panthers**

He has a house in Florida and waived

his no-trade clause to join the Panthers. They could be a good home for him.

**22. Forward Warren Foegele, Edmonton Oilers**

He had a career-best 20 goals and put together a four-game point streak in the Cup Final. The versatile forward can move up and down the lineup.

**23. Forward Jake DeBrusk, Boston Bruins**

He often has been mentioned in trade rumors and now gets to be a free agent at 27. He has averaged about 24 goals the past three seasons.

**24. Forward Adam Henrique, Edmonton Oilers**

The playoff run will help his cause. So will his penalty killing and secondary scoring.

**25. Defenseman Shayne Gostisbehere, Detroit Red Wings**

His play is his own end isn't the greatest, but he did have 56 points this past season, including 29 on the power play.

**Others to watch**

**Forwards:** Viktor Arvidsson, Kings; Jason Zucker, Predators; David Perron, Red Wings; Max Pacioretty, Capitals; Jeff Skinner, Sabres

**Defensemen:** Brenden Dillon, Jets; Alec Martinez, Golden Knights; Matt Walker, Avalanche; Dmitry Kulikov, Panthers; Alexandre Carrier, Predators

**Goaltenders:** Ilya Samsonov, Maple Leafs; Casey DeSmith, Canucks; Cam Talbot, Kings; Anthony Stolarz, Panthers; Laurent Brossoit, Jets

**Note:** Max Domi, originally No. 18 on this list, re-signed with the Maple Leafs.

## AWARDS

## Avs star MacKinnon has big night with top honors

Mike Brehm  
USA TODAY

Colorado Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon broke through Thursday night, sweeping hockey's top awards – the Hart Trophy and Ted Lindsay Award.

MacKinnon ranked second in the NHL and set a franchise record with 140 points. He led the league in even-strength points (92), multi-point games (44) and shots on goal (405) and recorded at least one point in his first 35 home games.

He had been a finalist for the Hart (writers vote) three previous times and the Lindsay (players vote) two times.

He picked up 137 out of 194 first-place votes and edged out two previous winners – Tampa Bay Lightning right wing Nikita Kucherov and Edmonton Oilers center Connor McDavid (three times) – for the Hart. Kucherov and Toronto Maple Leafs 69-goal scorer Auston Matthews were the other Lindsay finalists.

"It could easily be any of you guys," MacKinnon said on stage after accepting the Hart. "I think everyone knows it's such a toss-up this year. ... Some of my favorite players ever have won this trophy, so super happy, excited to share with my teammates."

Other award winners announced on Thursday night:

**Vezina Trophy (goaltender):**

Winnipeg Jets goalie Connor Helle-

**buyck:** He won the Jennings Trophy as the goaltender on the team allowing the fewest regular-season goals. Hellebuyck yielded three or fewer goals in 50 of his 60 appearances, including a pair of 10-game streaks with two or fewer goals against. He won the award in 2020 and was a finalist two other times, including last season.

**Norris Trophy (defenseman)**

**Vancouver Canucks defenseman Quinn Hughes:** He led all defensemen with 75 assists and 92 points – breaking his franchise records for a defenseman – as the Canucks secured their first playoff berth since 2019-20 and first division title since 2012-13. The first-time winner was named Canucks captain this season. His younger brother Luke finished third in rookie of the year voting.

**Calder Trophy (rookie)**

**Chicago Blackhawks center Connor Bedard:** The 2023 No. 1 overall pick led or tied for first among rookies in goals (22), assists (39) and points (61) despite missing 14 games with a broken jaw. He also led rookies in shots on goal (206) and takeaways (47). He was first on the Blackhawks in assists and points and tied for first in goals. He had a five-point game on March 12 against Anaheim and scored a lacrosse-style "Michigan" goal on Dec. 23 against St. Louis.

## Top pick Celebrini yet to decide on Sharks or Boston U return

Mike Brehm  
USA TODAY

The San Jose Sharks' big win at Friday's first round actually happened at the NHL draft lottery.

But they followed through and took future franchise player Macklin Celebrini with the No. 1 overall pick. Not only was the Boston University Hobey Baker Award winner the most talented player in the draft, he has ties to the Bay Area.

He and fellow college hockey player Will Smith give the last-place Sharks two players to build around. Celebrini, who just turned 18, said he doesn't have a timeline on deciding whether to go pro or return for another season of college.

The Sharks also selected defenseman Sam Dickinson with the 11th over-



Macklin Celebrini was selected with the first overall pick in the 2024 NHL draft by the Sharks on Friday. STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE/USA TODAY SPORTS

all pick. He has the potential to eventually develop into a top-pairing blue liner.

## 2024 DRAFT SELECTIONS

**Round 1**

- San Jose, Macklin Celebrini, C, Boston University (H-EAST).
- Chicago, Artem Levshunov, D, Michigan State U. (BIG10).
- Anaheim, Beckett Sennecke, RW, Oshawa (OHL).
- Columbus, Cayden Lindstrom, C, Medicine Hat (WHL).
- Montréal, Ivan Demidov, RW, SKA Saint Petersburg Jr. (RUSSIA-JR).
- Utah, Tij Iginla, C, Kelowna (WHL).
- Ottawa, Carter Yakemchuk, D, Calgary (WHL).
- Seattle, Berkly Catton, C, Spokane (WHL).
- Calgary, Zayne Parekh, D, Saginaw (OHL).
- New Jersey, Anton Silayev, D, Nizhny Novgorod (RUSSIA).
- San Jose, Sam Dickinson, D, London (OHL).
- Minnesota, Zeev Buium, D, Denver (NCHC).
- Philadelphia, Jett Luchanko, C, Guelph (OHL).
- Buffalo, Konsta Helenius, C, Jukurit (FINLAND).
- Detroit, Michael Brandsegg-Nygård, RW, Mora (SWEDEN-2).
- St. Louis, Adam Jiricek, D, Plzen (CZECHIA).

- Washington, Terik Parascak, RW, Prince George (WHL).
- Chicago, Sacha Boisvert, C, Muskegon (USHL).
- Vegas, Trevor Connelly, LW, Tri-City (USHL).
- N.Y. Islanders, Cole Eiserman, LW, USA U-18 (NTDP - USHL).
- Montréal, Michael Hage, C, Chicago (USHL).
- Nashville, Egor Surin, C, Yaroslavl Jr. (RUSSIA-JR).
- Anaheim, Stian Solberg, D, Valerenga (NORWAY).
- Utah, Cole Beaudoin, C, Barrie (OHL).
- Boston, Dean Letourneau, C, St. Andrews College (HIGH-ON).
- L.A. Kings, Liam Greentree, RW, Windsor (OHL).
- Chicago, Marek Vanacker, LW, Brantford (OHL).
- Calgary, Emil Grudin, RW, Muskegon (USHL).
- Dallas, Emil Hemming, RW, TPS (FINLAND).
- N.Y. Rangers, EJ Emery, D, USA U-18 (NTDP - USHL).
- Toronto, Ben Danford, D, Oshawa (OHL).
- Edmonton, Sam O'Reilly, RW, London (OHL).

## US OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS

## Math may not tell whole story for US men



**Nancy Armour**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

MINNEAPOLIS – Math is supposed to be black and white, leaving no room for debate or questions.

Sometimes, however, even the most straightforward of things will rip your heart out. Leave you wondering if the numbers did, in fact, lie.

The five men who made the U.S. gymnastics team for the Paris Olympics on Saturday night did so because a computer program said their three best scores across four nights of competition made for the highest scoring team. Same when their scores from all four nights of competition were considered.

It's a system the athletes and their coaches pushed for, wanting decisions to be made more on data and less on subjectivity.

And yet it still seems lacking. Even knowing the scoring format for team finals requires a team that's more jigsaw puzzle than cookie cutter, it's hard to look at the final standings and not wonder if, math aside, this is the right team.

"This is a great team," said Brett McClure, the men's high-performance director.

But is it the best team?

"Based on the results from two competitions, these are the guys that were the best. Absolutely. For this process," McClure said.

That is not exactly definitive, something this system was supposed to negate. Because all three scores on each event will count in team finals at the Paris Olympics – there's no dropping a lowest score, as there is in qualifying – it's not as simple as taking the top five all-around gymnasts in rank orders for teams with designs on a medal. Instead, the medal hopefuls build squads that can put up big scores on every event and do it consistently, and sometimes that means bypassing the rank order.

The Americans are taking Stephen Nedoroscik, a specialist on pommel horse, traditionally one of U.S. men's



**Shane Wiskus competes on the high bar during the U.S. Olympic Team Gymnastics Trials on Saturday in Minneapolis. Wiskus is an alternate on the men's team despite finishing third at the Olympic trials.** MATT KROHN/USA TODAY SPORTS

weakest events. But Nedoroscik did not put up crazy numbers on horse – he actually finished behind Patrick Hoopes at trials – and acknowledged watering down his routine Thursday night because of nerves. He also cannot do another event even if someone else gets injured.

Shane Wiskus is an alternate despite finishing third at the Olympic trials after the meet of his life. Ditto for Khoi Young, who is the team's best vaulter and was third at the U.S. championships last month but had a rough meet at trials. There are guys staying home who can, and did, put up 15s or better, but weren't as good across the board.

"I had the best two days of competition of my life. That's all I can do," Wiskus said.

Asked how he felt for that to not be good enough, Wiskus replied, "Numb."

"I feel like I deserved (to make) it," he said.

There is no good way to crush someone's Olympic dream. Whether it's a sport decided by the first across the finish line, a computer program or some combination of head and heart, the idea of making the Olympics is what has kept these athletes in the gym, in the pool and on the track since they were kids, and nothing will lessen the sting of coming up short. Someone is always going to be devastated.

Making it make sense is the least they are owed, however. Sometimes, that requires more than pure math.

"I like the data. I think there should still be a little more discretionary (crite-

ria)," said Sam Mikulak, a three-time Olympian who now coaches at EVO, where Wiskus, Nedoroscik and Brody Malone train.

"There's been a lot of talk and feedback between the coaches and staff. I think going strictly off data and the judges' panel, and that's who controls who picks the team, that's something we still want to work on," Mikulak said. "It would be nice to be able to be a little more malleable in the coming years."

The final proof will be on the medals podium in Paris, of course. If the U.S. men get their first team medal since 2008, no one will give a second thought to the makeup of the team.

If they don't, everything will be open to question.

Even the math.

## Inspired by mom, Long earns 200 spot

**Lindsay Schnell**  
USA TODAY

EUGENE, Ore. – In the past few months, McKenzie Long has experienced pure elation and complete heartbreak.

Saturday at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials, she felt both.

Long, the 100 and 200 meters NCAA champion earlier in June, finished third in the 200 final here, qualifying for the Paris Olympics in her best event. She crossed the line in 21.91, behind winner Gabby Thomas (21.81) and Brittany Brown (21.90). That was the elation.

The heartbreak came when she remembered her mom isn't here to witness it.

Jones, a star at Ole Miss, is running in memory of her mother, Tara Jones, 45, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack just before the season started.

"Crossing that line, knowing that I'm an Olympian now, it's so surreal," Long said afterward, on the verge of tears. "And I know my mom is smiling from cheek to cheek, I know she's proud of me. That's all I could ever want."

At the NCAA championships, where she won the 100 and 200, an emotional Long told reporters she talks to her mom every day, and when she got in the blocks for her final race, "I told her, 'Mom this is my last race, push me through' – and she did."

She did the same Saturday at the trials.

"I could hear her voice even before I was going out there on the line," Long said. "I was just talking to her, 'Let's do this mom,' and I'd come back with, 'you got this baby girl.'"

"I could feel her in that moment and it got me through this race."

Long told reporters Friday after her first heat that she and her mom had dreamed together of attending the Olympics – with Long on the track, and Jones in the stands cheering her on. And even after not making the 100 final at trials last week, she felt her mom's encouragement.

"Of course, not making the (100) final I was upset, but I didn't let that faze me at all," she said. "I knew the 200 is really where I conquer."



**After winning a 200 semifinal Friday, McKenzie Long took third Saturday in the final to earn a Team USA spot for Paris.** KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Asked what her mom would have said to hype her up before the race, Long laughed.

"She would probably be like, 'You're McKenzie Long, they should be afraid of you!' She'd probably be like, 'You got this baby girl!'"

Long said therapy has been key in navigating heartache while trying to dominate the track. Her therapist encouraged her to "not separate" her mom from anything. So Long didn't.

She talks to Jones out loud every day. She listens to a workout playlist Jones created. Her lock screen is a photo of Jones. Every time Long grabs her phone, she gives it a kiss.

Long's story has made the rounds at the trials and inspired other runners.

"She has something really special," Thomas said. "I'm so touched by her season and how hard she's working and what she's overcome. I'm so proud of her."

After they crossed the line, Thomas told Long she'd had a dream about her Friday night. In the dream, Long made the Olympic team with Thomas.

"I was like, you didn't want to tell me this before we got out here on this line?" Long said, laughing, adding that Thomas inspires her on the daily. "I tell her all the time, I want to be you. That's my goal, I wanna be like Gabby Thomas."

As of Saturday, she is like Thomas. Because now they're both part of Team USA.

## Noah Lyles eyes sprint 100-200 double in Paris

**Lindsay Schnell**  
USA TODAY

EUGENE, Ore. – Noah Lyles won the 200-meter final Saturday at Hayward Field, and his quest to earn at least one Olympic gold to replace the bronze he already owns is going exactly as planned.

Lyles won in 19.53 seconds – a new world lead and a meet record – followed closely by Kenny Bednarek (19.59, a personal best) and Erriyon Knighton (19.77).

Lyles had already qualified for Paris the previous weekend by winning the 100, and is sure to be on the 4x100 relay team.

"I felt like the first 10 meters were really good," said Lyles, who chased down Bednarek for the win. "I heard Christian (Coleman), saw Kenny and thought, 'I'm not worried, I've been in this position many times.'"

"By the time we got to the 80-meter mark I was like, 'Yeah, I got this race in the bag, let's finish this up.'"

The 200 is Lyles' best event, and he has dominated it in the past few years. He has a cache of medals, including gold in the 100 and 200 at last summer's world championships in Budapest (he also won the 200 world championship in 2022, held here in Eugene, and the 2019 world championship in Doha).

He earned a bronze in the 200 at the Tokyo Games but has said plainly that he wants, an expects, more of himself. Also on his to-do list: Break Usain Bolt's world records in the 100 (9.58) and 200 (19.19).

Could it come in Paris, with all eyes on track and field?

"I definitely thrive off pressure, I thrive off big moments," Lyles said. "The bigger the moment, the faster I run. There's no moment where I think I'm not made for it."

As good a meet it's been for Lyles, it's been equally miserable for Christian Coleman, who finished fourth – again.

In June 2020 Coleman was banned after missing numerous drug tests, forced to sit out the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.



**Noah Lyles dominated his opening 200 heat Thursday and won the final Saturday at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials.** CARL DAVAZ/USA TODAY NETWORK

The 28-year-old has been one of the country's top sprinters for years and has world championships medals in the 100 and 4x100 relay. He finished fourth in the 100 last week at trials, making the 200 his final opportunity to make the Paris Olympics in an individual event.

Bednarek is the reigning silver medalist, having edged out Lyles in Tokyo.

It will be the second Olympic team for Knighton, who qualified for the Tokyo Games as a 17-year-old. He finished fourth at those Olympics. Knighton was allowed to run in Eugene at this trials even after testing positive for a banned substance, because an arbitration panel ruled that he tested positive because of contaminated meat.

"In my heart (I knew) I never did nothing wrong, I've always been a good, clean athlete," Knighton said. "To be able to run ... I'm always grateful to step on the track and represent Team USA."

It was his first race this season, save for an indoor meet in France in February.

"I feel like I did good for this being my first race back," he said. "This goes to show what kind of athlete I am, I can always step on the track, at any given time, (no matter) the shape I'm in, and always compete at the highest level."

**LIFELINE**



TERRY WYATT/GETTY IMAGES

**CAUGHT IN THE ACT  
MICHAEL J. FOX**

The crowd at Glastonbury wasn't ready for that yet, but their kids are gonna love it. Michael J. Fox, who has Parkinson's disease, joined Coldplay on guitar during the band's festival set on Saturday and performed in a wheelchair. "The main reason why we're in a band is because of watching 'Back to the Future,' so thank you to our hero forever," said Chris Martin, who sang along, "Go, Johnny, go, go, go!" Fox's Marty McFly character plays a famously forward-looking solo on "Johnny B. Goode" at a school dance in 1955.



**IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY  
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY**

**Chloe Bailey** is 26. **Missy Elliott** is 53. **Pamela Anderson** is 57.

**HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY**

**More:** [www.sanctuaryworld.com](http://www.sanctuaryworld.com)

**Aries** (March 21-April 19). Impulse buys? As the moon and Mars align, mind your money. Resist being pressured into a purchase.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20). Savvy self-promotion? You know how to make a pitch as the moon and Mars align in Taurus!

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21). Frustrated ambitions? Find a creative outlet to release blocked energy as the moon and Mars align.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22). Are you taking the lead or playing dictator? As the moon aligns with Mars, mind your attitude in group projects.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22). The moon's alignment with Mars bodes well for business plans – if you can avoid antagonizing the boss!

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The moon's alignment with Mars encourages you to take action – but pick your battles wisely.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As the moon and Mars align, you're a master of persuasion. Use your powers responsibly!

**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Do you love them or loathe them? The moon's alignment with Mars provokes attraction and competition within relationships.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The moon's alignment with Mars encourages physical activity. Use movement and exercise to shake off anxiety.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The moon's alignment with Mars encourages moderation in all things – easier said than done!

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Emotions running high? As the moon and Mars link up, make sure someone wants your help before you give it.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20). The moon's alignment with Mars gives you passionate conviction, but harsh words can wound.

**STREAMING**



**Brooke (Nicole Kidman)** falls in love with the younger **Chris (Zac Efron)** in the Netflix rom-com "A Family Affair." PROVIDED BY AARON EPSTEIN/NETFLIX

## Kidman, Efron get fresh in produce aisle

Patrick Ryan USA TODAY

*Spoiler alert! We're discussing major details about the ending of the romantic comedy "A Family Affair" (streaming now on Netflix).*

Somewhere between the horned melons and avocados, Nicole Kidman found love in a grocery store. • That's the gist of her new romantic comedy "A Family Affair," in which she stars as a widowed memoirist named Brooke who falls for an unexpectedly soulful movie star, Chris Cole (Zac Efron), who is 20 years her junior. Trouble is, Brooke's daughter, Zara (Joey King), has worked as Chris' beleaguered assistant and revolts against her mother dating him. Eventually, Brooke acquiesces and breaks up with the hunky A-lister over Christmas.

Feeling guilty, and finally ready to accept her mom's happiness, Zara stages a surprise reunion for Brooke and Chris at a supermarket, where they vow to give their relationship another go. As they kiss, a gentle rain falls on the vegetables, surrounding the couple with mist – a clever practical illusion that was orchestrated by Zara, an aspiring Hollywood producer.

"We rigged up a little rainstorm over the produce," explains screenwriter Carrie Solomon. At the film's Los Angeles premiere, "it actually got applause. It was kind of a joke on movie

**"We rigged up a little rainstorm over the produce ... It was kind of a joke on movie magic."**

Carrie Solomon

magic, which wound up being funny and beautiful at the same time. That's exactly the balance we were trying to strike with the whole movie."

**Netflix movie 'A Family Affair' originally had an alternate ending**

"Family Affair" initially had a different finale. Early in the film, Chris takes Brooke on their first date to a Hollywood backlot, where they dress up in top hats and pose with retro feather fans (which director Richard Lagravenese describes as a nod to Kidman's 2001 film "Moulin Rouge!"). For a while, the movie ended with them reconnecting on that same soundstage.

"But after shooting the movie and seeing it, we realized that the ending didn't satisfy us emotionally," Lagravenese says. "It was both too trope-y and not trope-y enough. It also didn't incorporate Zara enough and didn't give us the right cap to her journey."

Solomon always knew she wanted to end the movie somewhere unlikely. "It was funny, when we put our heads together to think about what was exciting to Chris Cole, it was the ordinary," she says. Because he is so famous and cannot often venture out in public, "there was something about a grocery store that made it oddly desirable for the two of them to find normalcy at the same time and place."

**See AFFAIR, Page 2D**

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

## Lorde, Charli XCX remix a friendship

Alyssa Goldberg USA TODAY

Charli XCX's sixth studio album, "BRAT," has been nearly inescapable since its release on June 7. Murals have gone up in Brooklyn, viral audio clips have flooded TikTok and even iced matcha – or anything lime green – has come to represent "brat summer."

"BRAT" embraces a hot-mess pop star aesthetic, prioritizing club culture at its core but still offering introspective lyrics on aging, womanhood, grief and anxiety.

The track "Girl, so confusing" grabbed listener's attention for its hyper-specific and accusatory lyrics: "People say we're alike/They say we've got the same hair/We talk about making music but I don't know if it's honest/Can't tell if you wanna see me falling over and failing."

Fans began speculating about a friendship feud between the 31-year-old artist and "Royals" singer Lorde.



Charli XCX AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES



Lorde VICTOR BOYKO/GETTY IMAGES

The pair confronted the rumors head-on by dropping a remix just two weeks later with the iconic lyric: "Let's work it out on the remix."

"Girl, so confusing version with Lorde" has fans in tears over the harsh

reality of friendship breakups and miscommunications. Experts say these falling outs are more common than we think, but often can be mended with

**See FRIENDSHIP, Page 2D**

## THE ESSENTIALS

# Stylist talks about Rih's must-haves

Naledi Ushe USA TODAY

In a new weekly series, USA TODAY's The Essentials, celebrities share what fuels their lives. ● Yusef is here to collect his 10s. ● The New York-based creative, 45, is in the business of boosting confidence as the longtime hairstylist for Rihanna and Overall Father of ballroom's House of Miyake-Mugler. ● While he has had more Vogue covers than any African American hairstylist in the history of the magazine, his life rarely is at the forefront. Now, he's playing a starring role in "House on Fire" (streaming Tuesdays on WOW Presents Plus) as he demystifies ballroom and the Miyake-Mugler house.

"I felt that the world needed to see the other side of ballroom. We're more than

just 'Legendary,' we're more than just 'Pose,' we're more than just 'Paris Is Burning.' All of our stories are different."

The mononymous hairstylist (whose real name is Yusef Williams) "grew up in a big family of 24 plus brothers and sisters," so leadership over 200+ ballroom figures plus personal grooming, which he learned at an early age, led him to Miyake-Mugler and Rihanna.

Though Yusef will "never tell" whether he and Rihanna listen to the ever-so-coveted album "R9" while he does her hair, he spills about her natural curls (plus that viral Fenty Hair ad) and his secrets to confidence.

## Yusef's secret to confidence

Yusef is "still trying to figure" the secret to confidence, but women might be the answer. Transgender women in the ballroom scene, known as "femme queens," also breathe life into him.

"Honestly, I just like being around women and empowering them. It (gives me) the utmost, extreme confidence. I get my confidence from the women in my life.

"My mom is the first woman that gave me the femme queen energy. So it was really important for us to put the

girls up front (in 'House on Fire') and show that they are the actual pioneers of ballroom. ... They should be revered. They're the rulers. They're the Beyoncé's and Rihannas of ballroom. Without the girls in the room shaking it up, we would be bored to death."

"House on Fire" features femme queens Leyna Bloom, Tati, Chanel and Brooklyn. Other figures on the show include Exotic Mugler, Roz, Lolita and AJ.

"What we do in ballroom is so much bigger and the world needs to see that. The world needs to understand what it takes."

## Yusef's key to maintaining energy

"The ballroom environment is so explosive like you could be tired as hell, but as soon as you walk into that room and you feel that energy, that competitive, that camaraderie, people screaming out their houses and stuff (is powerful).

"I'm taking friends to balls that have never even thought of going to balls, and when they came in with me, they're literally screaming at the top of their lungs for houses that they don't even know. Ballroom just has this infectious, instant energy. You either love it or you don't but nine



Yusef gets confidence from women in his circle. PROVIDED BY MARGIE PLUS

times out of 10 people like fall in love with it."

## Yes, that's Rihanna's natural hair

"Rih, I would take her weave out and touch the grid of her hair and I'm like 'Girl, if we were to just rock your natural hair ...' She's like, 'Oh my God, you think? I'm not ready.' It's always this push and pull."

Yusef stopped chemically straightening Rihanna's hair with relaxer "seven years ago" and encouraged her to show her natural tresses in the multi-hyphenate's first ad for her newly launched Fenty Hair brand. "When we colored it blond, and we did the short cut that everybody thought was a wig. ... It's really her hair. We saw how full and vibrant her hair was," the longtime hairstylist says.

The beauty mogul again shocked people at the Fenty Hair launch with her natural 'fro, a split decision Yusef

encouraged her to do.

"We never expected to do that at the launch party. She had this cute little curl (when she sat in my chair) and I was like, 'You know what? Let's perfect these curls and get the hell out of here and launch this product.' I just thought she looked so fresh and just so unbothered and not cumbersome. Just being that girl. She's never (busted) out her natural curly hair, and I'm really proud of her."

## Yusef goes behind the scenes of some of Rihanna's hairstyles

Yusef stresses that whenever Rihanna sits in his chair, they plan her hairstyle based on how she's feeling rather than planning months in advance.

With that, he's received pushback for daring and Afrocentric styles the pair might pick at the last minute.

"That's the Black girl experience, right?" he says of the naysayers. "And that was coming from the community, too.

"But you know what? I don't care. It's always our goal to go against the norm. We don't like to think about it and talk about it (too long).

When we would do campaigns with Rihanna and it was like, 'We want her hair to be short.' And I'm like, 'No. We're going to shave the side and we're going to put wind on it and we're going to make it long.'"

Yusef has "always been the hairstylist that pushes the envelope with Black women. I've worked with a lot of magazines geared towards Black women. It was my responsibility to show them all the different ways that they can do their hair. Y'all can do any damn thing y'all want and still be cute.

And the hair texture will go from here to there and there ... and back. If not, you can throw on a wig. That is a blessing."

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

## Friendship

Continued from Page 1D

open communication.

### What happened between Lorde and Charli XCX, and why do we care?

Despite their differing styles of pop music, the pair often have been compared to one another, with Charli XCX even being mistaken for Lorde in a now-infamous interview.

In a recent interview with Rolling Stone, Charli conceded she was jealous of Lorde's success with "Royals" in 2013.

"She had big hair; I had big hair. She wore black lipstick; I once wore black lipstick. You create these parallels and think, 'Well, that could have been me,'" she said. "I think you just read what you want into it because you're feeling insecure about your own work."

On "Girl, so confusing," Charli is completely unfiltered. "I don't know if you like me/Sometimes I think you might hate me/Sometimes I think I might hate you," she sings.

Lorde, however, was "speechless" when Charli declared these insecurities. On the remix, she confesses that her struggles with body image and disordered eating caused her to isolate from her friends. "I was so lost in my head and scared to be in your pictures/I was trapped in the hatred/And your life seemed so awesome/I never thought for a second my voice was in your head," she sings.

Through honest confrontation, Lorde is able to end the track with an affirmation of their friendship: "I'm glad I know how you feel, 'cause I ride for you Charli."

Therapist Molly Zive says that seeing a celebrity you admire being open about their struggles can humanize the issue and inspire important conversations.

"The fact that they're able to come together and create art together in a way that's able to articulate the way probably a lot of us feel is really powerful."

### What causes friendship breakups?

Friendship breakups can be even more traumatic than the breakup of a romantic relationship, says therapist and author Stephanie Sarkis.

They can be sparked by miscommunications such as making assumptions about a friend's feelings or intentions without directly addressing each other, or can stem from past trauma and existing mental health struggles, according to Sarkis.

"We truly don't know what people are going through," she says. "Depression and anxiety (can) make you feel like you're a burden to other people, and

that's isolating. So when someone's isolating, they may not even reach out to their closest friends."

Therapist Erik Anderson says people also can create an "inaccurate story" when they avoid open communication with their friends and assume they are being "broken up with" by a friend.

"I think 'they broke up with me' may be more upsetting than an alternative version of events, like maybe they're going through their own thing and just don't want to hang out as much as I do right now," he says. "Even if we don't talk to someone for a while, that doesn't necessarily mean we're being broken up with."

### How to reconcile friendships

Zeve says listeners can learn from the singers' courage in bravely expressing their feelings.

"A lot of people are scared to have those difficult, messy conversations, especially in their friendships," she says. "I feel like that's not modeled for us in healthy ways, and so (Charli and Lorde) are modeling it for us, which is really cool."

She recommends sharing negative feelings with your friends directly and calmly, while also leaving room for them to share their viewpoint.

"Don't be afraid to say, 'Things are changing, what's your perspective of it?'" she says. "These relationships need maintenance."

Sarkis also says to embrace the awkwardness of these conversations, and that reconciliation doesn't have to be a "grand gesture."

"It's important just to check on each other and (ask) what is going on instead of assuming what the other person is thinking," she says. "That can be awkward, but it can be better to reach out and get clarification than just guess."

### How to grieve a friendship

Still, not all friendships are worth salvaging, Zeve cautions. If a friend doesn't make you feel good or if they overstep your boundaries, it might not be a friendship worth your time.

If you communicate your feelings and nothing changes, "it's totally OK to move on from something that feels harmful or hurtful," she says.

Signs to look for that a friend isn't worth reconnecting with is if you often feel confused or angry around them, or if your friend doesn't have your best interest in mind, according to Sarkis.

Anderson says it's important to keep in mind that a friend may not want to reconnect.

"It's possible you can lose a friend and get no explanation," he says. "You don't have the right to everyone else's thoughts and feelings."

Other friendships may grow apart naturally. "Some friendships are made to just be present for a short period of time. So if your relationship doesn't get back together, you can always find other people that you might connect better with," Sarkis says. "It doesn't mean that either of you failed. It means that sometimes people just go their different ways."



Brooke (Nicole Kidman) and Chris (Zac Efron) spend their first date wandering around a Hollywood movie set resembling New York.

PROVIDED BY AARON EPSTEIN/NETFLIX

## Affair

Continued from Page 1D

Viewers quickly catch on that it's hardly a regular supermarket: Zara sits behind the cash register running the lights and rain machine, and she fills the store with a bunch of paid extras who won't swarm Chris as soon as he walks in. "It's essentially a movie set," Solomon says. "That's just a wink-nudge (to the audience) that nothing about this is ordinary." At the same time, "we were trying to place it as much as possible in the real world. It's just two people who fell in love at the end of the day."

### Nicole Kidman, Zac Efron took shopping breaks in between takes

"Family Affair" reunites Kidman, 57, and Efron, 36, after their steamy 2012 thriller "The Paperboy." On the first day of shooting this film, "they just fell into each other's arms and caught up as friends," Lagravnese recalls. "There was this comfort and ease and respect with one another that just went right into (their characters)."

They got a particular kick out of shooting at the grocery store. The ending was filmed at Trancas Country Market in Malibu, California, where the cast and crew were given a tab to get anything they wanted.

"It's like having your own pantry the size of a grocery store," Solomon says with a laugh. "I remember by the end of the day, Nicole was like, 'I could really go for a kale chip.' I was like, 'Aisle 3!' We were all just kind of running around between shots! Shopping. It was a really goofy thing – talk about wish fulfillment."

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Anna Gundlach  
BY Adam Levav

MONKEY IN THE MIDDLE

- ACROSS  
1 Medicine quantity  
5 "Bald" apex predator  
10 Fiscal bigwigs (Abbr.)  
14 Black gemstone  
15 Piece of wall art  
16 Crown of light  
17 Assistance  
18 Water filter brand  
19 Signed off on  
20 Mary Tyler Moore's "The Dick Van Dyke Show" role  
23 "I don't care" attitude  
25 In a spooky way  
28 Dr. Frankenstein's workplace  
29 Souped-up cars  
33 Coloring substance  
34 "Au revoir!"  
36 "Holy cow!"  
37 Alleviates  
39 Budget-friendly grub  
42 Mani-\_\_\_  
45 "Bye Bye Bye" boy band  
46 Video genre with whispy, crinkly sounds  
50 "Cool, man"  
52 Put a limit on  
54 Up to, informally  
55 Grassy wetlands  
59 Mule's father  
60 Mild yellow chilis in some deli sandwiches  
63 Voice below soprano  
64 "Super!"  
65 Biathlon gear  
67 Antagonist in professional wrestling  
68 Exit  
69 Impassioned request  
70 "True Detective: Night Country" showrunner Lopez  
71 Made a whoopie  
72 Steve Urkel, for one

© Andrews McMeel

7/1

DOWN

- 1 "Dagnabbit!"  
2 United  
3 Class outlines  
4 Person living abroad  
5 Early stage of life  
6 Mystical glow  
7 Camera gear  
8 Like someone who was just stuck in traffic, probably  
9 Super-happy  
10 Singing group  
11 Cards used to illegally obtain alcohol  
12 Futbol cheer  
13 Lawn material  
21 "Yup"  
22 Bring back to zero  
23 Brownie \_\_\_ mode  
24 Exaggerate, like a resume  
26 Caustic chemical used to make lutefisk and bagels  
27 "Agreed"

- 30 "\_\_\_ the night before Christmas..."  
31 Stringy  
32 "Zoolander" actor Wilson  
35 Vaping device  
38 Pronto  
40 Twist together  
41 Conventionally believed to be true  
42 The "stone" in the middle of a stone fruit  
43 Food bought from a dispensary  
44 Gets bigger, like a pupil  
47 Glisten  
48 Not as tidy  
49 GPS lines  
51 "But \_\_\_ Cheerleader" (1999 Natasha Lyonne movie)  
53 Venomous Egyptian snake  
56 Less common

- 57 Long tool traditionally used by fishers  
58 Throw with effort  
61 Mardi Gras city, for short  
62 "College Football Scoreboard" channel  
63 Yellowfin tuna  
66 Feeling blue

Friday's Answer

6/28

CROSSWORDS ON YOUR PHONE get our crossword app

TXTPERT

- Across  
2. 645537  
4. 76937  
6. 87233  
7. 2433  
8. 3473
- Down  
1. 77228423  
2. 62762537  
3. 529937  
5. 726437

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Today's theme

Careers

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.  
For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5678 could be IOST

Friday's solution

Numbers

More puzzles: [puzzles.usatoday.com](https://puzzles.usatoday.com)  
Want solutions? [answers.usatoday.com](https://answers.usatoday.com)  
Feedback: [feedback@usatoday.com](mailto:feedback@usatoday.com)



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

7/1

DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE puzzles.usatoday.com

© Andrews McMeel

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

Friday's Answers

6/28

KENKEN

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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo Difficulty: MEDIUM

Solution to Friday's puzzle

Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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7/1/24

Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

- Find and Circle:  
Four arachnids  
Four words starting and ending with G  
Four forms of precipitation  
Two shapes  
\_\_\_\_\_ in "Citizen Kane"

Friday's answer: LIMA OSLO BERN / COLOR DRYER STYLE / CERAMIC CRYPTIC COSMIC / RECTANGLE OCTAGON CIRCLE / GENERAL CAPTAIN

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

7/1

UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

7/1

BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Wintry  
5 Meal at  
10 Passover  
14 Full house, e.g.  
14 So-so (var.)  
15 Shaped like an egg  
16 Domain  
17 Encourage  
18 The one to beat  
19 Den  
20 Only adequate  
22 Fit, as food  
24 Connects  
25 Container for liquids  
26 Tricky doing  
28 Irrigated  
32 Vertical passage  
33 Porcupine feature  
35 "— Ventura: Pet Detective"  
36 Baby bovine  
37 Strongbox  
38 Run of the —  
39 "Much — About Nothing"  
40 Tall, narrow glass  
41 Foot lever  
42 Speak of  
44 Elaborate spread  
45 "... wherefore — thou Romeo?"

DOWN

- 46 Plot  
47 Spotted songbird  
50 Raze (2 wds.)  
54 Sprinkle  
55 Girder (hyph.)  
57 Blade for fencing  
58 "Thanks — —!"  
59 Scandinavian  
60 Dance party  
61 Baked clay pieces  
62 "— People Play"  
63 Shake off

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

7-1-24 © 2024 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

- 27 Claw  
28 Like a sage  
29 SWAT team  
30 SWAT team actions  
31 Valley  
32 Con game  
33 Stay away from  
34 Furbaby  
37 Garb  
38 Rambles  
40 Evergreen trees spread  
41 Bartlett  
43 Put-downs  
44 Online attacks  
46 "— porridge hot ..."  
47 Capture  
48 Holy light  
49 Funny guy  
50 Word  
51 Colorful fish  
52 "— Only Just Begun"  
53 Require  
56 Big snake

DON'T QUOTE ME

Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain shares this thought.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.  
BARBECUE BE BUT NOT ROAD START WORLD

\_\_\_\_\_ MAY \_\_\_\_\_ THE \_\_\_\_\_ TO  
\_\_\_\_\_ PEACE, \_\_\_\_\_ IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_

7 LITTLE WORDS

OTM ALL POLI UIS MAN  
CEWO HED RK NIM RO  
BE BLE ENT DE NE  
ANS SHI ED TH LANG

Friday's Answers: 1. REPHRASE 2. SOLID 3. CATHERINE 4. HALIBUT 5. SOCIALIZE 6. LEVELING 7. MELBOURNE

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

FRIDAY'S Jumbles: NEEDY ERUPT DROOPY SQUISH  
Answer: Their new aluminum exterior was being installed on the home where — THEY RESIDED

## STREAMING

## ‘Bear’ serves up a well-seasoned finale

Erin Jensen  
USA TODAY

*Spoiler alert! The following dishes on plot points of “The Bear” Season 3, including its finale, now streaming on Hulu.*

While bingeing the 10-course third season of “The Bear,” I couldn’t help but think we’ve appeased the insatiable Carmy Berzatto with “Yes, Chef” enough. It’s time to hit him with an, “Oh, hell no!”

When Carmy (Jeremy Allen White) and Claire (Molly Gordon) broke up in the Season 2 finale, he lost the parachute that, in his quest for excellence, cushioned his full-speed sprint into a brick wall. As Carmy shared in that finale, he believes he can only succeed being a “psycho” about his craft. “I am the best,” he said, because “I could focus and I could concentrate, and I had a routine. ... I don’t need to receive any amusement or enjoyment,” he added, heartbreakingly.

The robotic Carmy, defaulted to his factory settings, introduces a set of “non-negotiables” in Episode 2 of the new season (streaming in full on Hulu). He hopes the list – which includes directives like “Change menu every day” and “No surprises” – will elevate the restaurant to Michelin Star status.

“We’ve got to be excellent every day,” he tells his concerned sister, Natalie “Sugar” Berzatto (Abby Elliott). It’s as if Carmy, the accomplished chef, has forgotten even meat needs to rest. But he takes the weight of this goal on his shoulders and withdraws from collaborating with Sydney (Ayo Edebiri), who hesitates to sign a partnership agreement at the restaurant and considers a better offer with a competitor.

Throughout the new season, Carmy’s blind ambition is juxtaposed with the things that really matter in life. When pastry chef Marcus (Lionel Boyce) eulogizes his mom in Episode 3, he focuses not on her accomplishments but the way she made him feel, and how she was able to be present.

“She was really smart, and she loved everyone,” he says. “I think you can tell because there’s so many people here. I always felt loved. It didn’t matter what was going on or if I was in trouble or whatever. I knew she was listening, and she knew I was listening, too.”

Olivia Colman’s Chef Terry also reflects on her career in the finale on the closing night of her restaurant. Her last service reunites Carmy with his tormentor, David Fields (Joel McHale), an abusive New York City chef seen belittling Carmy in flashbacks.

“People often talk about restaurants as in ‘What’s the history of it?’ ‘What’s the impact it’s making?’ ‘Who has worked here previously?’ ‘What awards have they won?’ ‘What about their ‘chef?’” Terry tells a dining room with Carmy, Sydney and real chefs appearing



Carmy (Jeremy Allen White) and Sydney (Ayo Edebiri) reach a crossroads in their personal and professional lives in Season 3 of “The Bear.” PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FX



Carmy’s obsession with perfection rages on in the latest installment of Hulu series.

as themselves, including Grant Achatz and Christina Tosi. “And I think what I’ve learned over the years in all the places I’ve worked is people don’t remember the food. Sorry. It’s the people that they remember.”

Later in the episode, Terry tells Carmy that she has swapped her career for more mornings sleeping in, parties, and trips to London.

In other words, to “live,” he assesses. “Precisely,” Terry says.

White told USA TODAY before the series’ debut in 2022 that he was drawn to Carmy’s drive, which made the stakes feel “so life and death all the time.” It’s a pressure he knew earlier in his career,

spent (also in Chicago) in the cast of Showtime’s “Shameless,” which aired from 2011-21.

“Certainly as a younger man and a younger actor, I think that my identity was incredibly wrapped up in acting, in my performance, and my success as an actor,” White, 33, said. “And that’s a really scary place to be when you’re so wrapped up in one thing as a person.”

The finale offers viewers a bit of hope that Carmy will be able to release some of his trauma after confronting David, whom Carmy acknowledges “made me very probably mentally ill” yet “accomplishes more by 10 a.m. than most people do in a lifetime.”

“I don’t think he sleeps,” Carmy adds. “I don’t think he eats. I don’t think he loves.”

Carmy gives David a verbal middle finger and opens up about how the constant berating affected him.

“You gave me ulcers,” Carmy says, “and panic attacks and nightmares.”

But David stands firm in his belief that his brutal training methods transformed Carmy from an “OK chef” to a superb one.

“You wanted to be great,” David says. “You wanted to be excellent. So you got rid of all the (excess) and you concentrated and you got focused and you got great. You got excellent. It worked. You’re here.”

After their interaction, Carmy lets out a smile, as if he’s proud of himself for confronting David, and that doing so will help him let go of some suffering.

Of course, any victory feels short-lived in the world of “The Bear,” as the same is true in kitchens and dramedy: “Every second counts.” In the final moments of the episode, Carmy reads his Chicago Tribune review, which includes words of praise, such as “excellent,” “innovative” and “brilliant,” but also “confusing,” “sloppy,” and “inconsistent.” As a result, he might lose his funding from Uncle Jimmy (Oliver Platt).

Who knows what creator Christopher Storer will cook up for Season 4. Let’s just hope – for our parasympathetic nervous systems’ sake – that Carmy refrains from making a walking recipe for disaster his signature dish.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## Beware the flu, even during summer

Hannah Yasharoff  
USA TODAY

The flu has its own dedicated season, so it can be confusing to feel a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose and other symptoms when you should be on summer vacation.

If you have reason to believe you’re coming down with the flu in the summer, you also should consider the possibility that it could instead be COVID-19 or another illness.

Distinguishing between them “can be tricky since they share similar symptoms like fever, cough and fatigue,” Dr. Jordan Wagner tells USA TODAY. “Diagnostic testing, including rapid flu tests and COVID-19 tests, is probably an individual’s best bet to confirm the specific virus causing the illness. Consulting a health care professional is essential for accurate diagnosis and appropriate management.”

If you do find yourself with flu-like symptoms in the summertime, here’s what experts want you to know:

**Can you get the flu in the summer?**

The short answer is yes. “Contracting the flu during spring and summer is less common than during the fall and winter,” Wagner says. But that doesn’t mean the chances are zero.



Can you get the flu in the summer? Here’s what medical experts say. DANIEL DE LA HOZ, GETTY IMAGES

Although flu season occurs during the colder months, seasonal influenza viruses are detected throughout the year in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The agency also notes that “timing and duration of flu activity has been less predictable” since the COVID-19 pandemic.

**How do you treat the summer flu?**

The summer flu is treated the same as a flu caught at any other time of year, Wagner says.

Treatment “typically involves rest, hydration and over-the-counter medications to alleviate symptoms such as

fever and body aches,” he says. But he also recommends consulting a health care provider, “especially considering potential co-infections with seasonal viruses, to determine the most appropriate course of treatment.”

Another reason to check in with a doctor: Influenza antiviral drugs may be a course of treatment, and those work best when taken early, “ideally no later than two days after your flu symptoms begin,” per the CDC.

In the meantime, the CDC recommends you limit contact with other people as much as possible to prevent the flu from spreading – stay home for at least 24 hours or until your symptoms are improving and you’re fever-free without having to take medication.

When it comes to preventing the flu – as well as COVID-19, colds and other illnesses – health experts note that habits such as regular hand-washing, covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and other good hygiene practices can “significantly reduce the risk of contracting and spreading illnesses,” Wagner says.

CDC guidelines recommend annual flu vaccines for everyone older than the age of 6.

“Staying informed about public health recommendations and promptly seeking medical attention if experiencing symptoms of flu or COVID-19 are essential steps in mitigating the spread of these viruses,” Wagner adds.

# NATION & WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE

Right-wing shift may slow, not reverse climate action, 3NN

## STRIKES HIT MAJOR CITIES

## Far right leads in France's election

Horsetrading begins ahead of July 7 run-off

Juliette Jabkhiro and Layli Foroudi  
REUTERS

PARIS – Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN) party scored historic gains to win the first round of France's parliamentary election on Sunday, exit polls showed, but the final result will depend on days of horsetrading before next week's run-off.

The RN was seen winning around 34% of the vote, exit polls showed, in a huge setback for President Emmanuel Macron who had called the snap election after his ticket was trounced by the RN in European Parliament elections earlier this month.

The RN's share of the vote was comfortably ahead of leftist and centrist rivals, including Macron's Together alliance, whose bloc was seen winning 20.5%-23%.

The New Popular Front (NFP), a hastily assembled left-wing coalition, was projected to win around 29% of the vote, the exit polls showed.

The exit polls were in line with opinion surveys ahead of the election, and were met with jubilation by Le Pen's supporters. However, they provided little clarity on whether the anti-immigrant, euroskeptic RN will be able to form a government to "cohabit" with the pro-EU Macron after next Sunday's run-off.

A longtime pariah for many in France, the RN is now closer to power than it has ever been. Le Pen has sought to clean up the image of a party known for racism and antisemitism, a tactic that has worked amid voter anger at Macron, the high cost of living and growing concerns over immigration.

At Le Pen's Henin-Beaumont constituency in northern France, supporters waved French flags and sang the Marseillaise.

"The French have shown their willingness to turn the page on a contemptuous and corrosive power," Le Pen told the cheering crowd.

The RN's chances of winning power next week will depend on the political dealmaking made by its rivals over the coming days. In the past, center-right and center-left parties have teamed up to keep the RN from power, but that dynamic, known as the "republican front," is less certain than ever.

If no candidate reaches 50% in the first round, the top two contenders automatically qualify for the second round, as well as all those with 12.5% of registered voters. In the run-off, whoever wins the most votes take the constituency.

High turnout on Sunday suggests France is heading for a record number of three-way run-offs.

The horsetrading began almost immediately on Sunday night.

See FRANCE, Page 6NN



Firefighters work at a site of a branch of a postal operator hit by a Russian air strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine Sunday. PHOTOS BY VITALII HNIDIY/REUTERS

## Russia attacks Ukraine's Kharkiv, Kyiv amid war

Ron Popski and Bogdan Kochubey  
REUTERS

Russian forces attacked Ukraine's two largest cities on Sunday, with missile fragments falling on a suburban Kyiv apartment building and a guided bomb killing one person in Kharkiv.

More than 28 months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russian forces maintain regular attacks on Ukrainian cities as well as on energy infrastructure.

Attacks on Kyiv are less frequent than other cities, although the capital endured a series of assaults in March. Kharkiv has come under regular attack, but military analysts say the frequency has dipped since the United States authorized Ukrainian use of

its weapons on certain Russian targets.

In Kyiv's Obolon suburb, the local military administration said falling fragments from a Russian missile started a fire and damaged balconies on a 14-story apartment building on Sunday.

Emergency services, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said five female residents were treated for stress, and Mayor Vitali Klitschko said 10 residents had been evacuated.

Emergency services posted a picture online showing at least four blackened balconies.

The head of the military administration of Kyiv

See UKRAINE, Page 6NN



Police officers and paramedics carry an injured man at a site of a Russian air strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine Sunday.

## Trump highlights cases of murdered women, girls

Anti-immigration drive centers certain crimes

Ted Hesson and Alexandra Ulmer  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Minutes before going on stage for the first presidential debate on Thursday, Donald Trump received a phone call from the mother of 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray, who was killed in Houston this month, allegedly by two Venezuelan men in the U.S. illegally.

The mother, Alexis Nungaray, was returning a voicemail Trump had left earlier in the day, a friend of the family, Vic-

toria Galvan, who witnessed the call, told Reuters.

Nungaray's body was found in a creek near her home on June 17, after her attackers allegedly took her under a bridge, tied her up, took her pants off and strangled her, according to police and prosecutors.

The suspects – Johan Jose Martinez Rangel, 22, and Franklin Jose Pena Ramos, 26 – had been detained by U.S. border authorities in Texas earlier this year but released pending a court appearance.

During the debate, Trump spoke of Nungaray's case and the phone call as he hammered President Joe Biden on his immigration policies, accusing the

Democrat of allowing murderers and rapists into the country.

"There have been many young women murdered by the same people he allows to come across our border," Trump said. "These killers are coming into our country and they are raping and killing women. And it's a terrible thing."

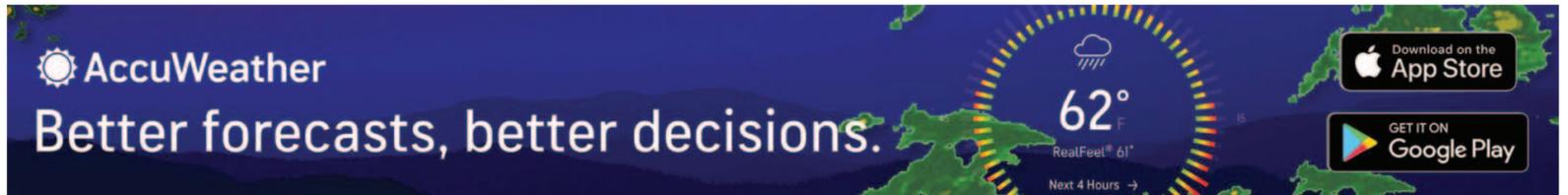
Citing Nungaray's case, he said: "This is horrible, what's taken place ... We're literally an uncivilized country now."

Trump's attacks are from a well-thumbed playbook he has used repeatedly since first running for office in 2015 to cast immigrants illegally crossing the

See TRUMP, Page 5NN



Michelle Root, whose daughter Sarah Root was reportedly killed in a car crash with a driver who was an illegal immigrant, is greeted by Donald Trump. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS FILE

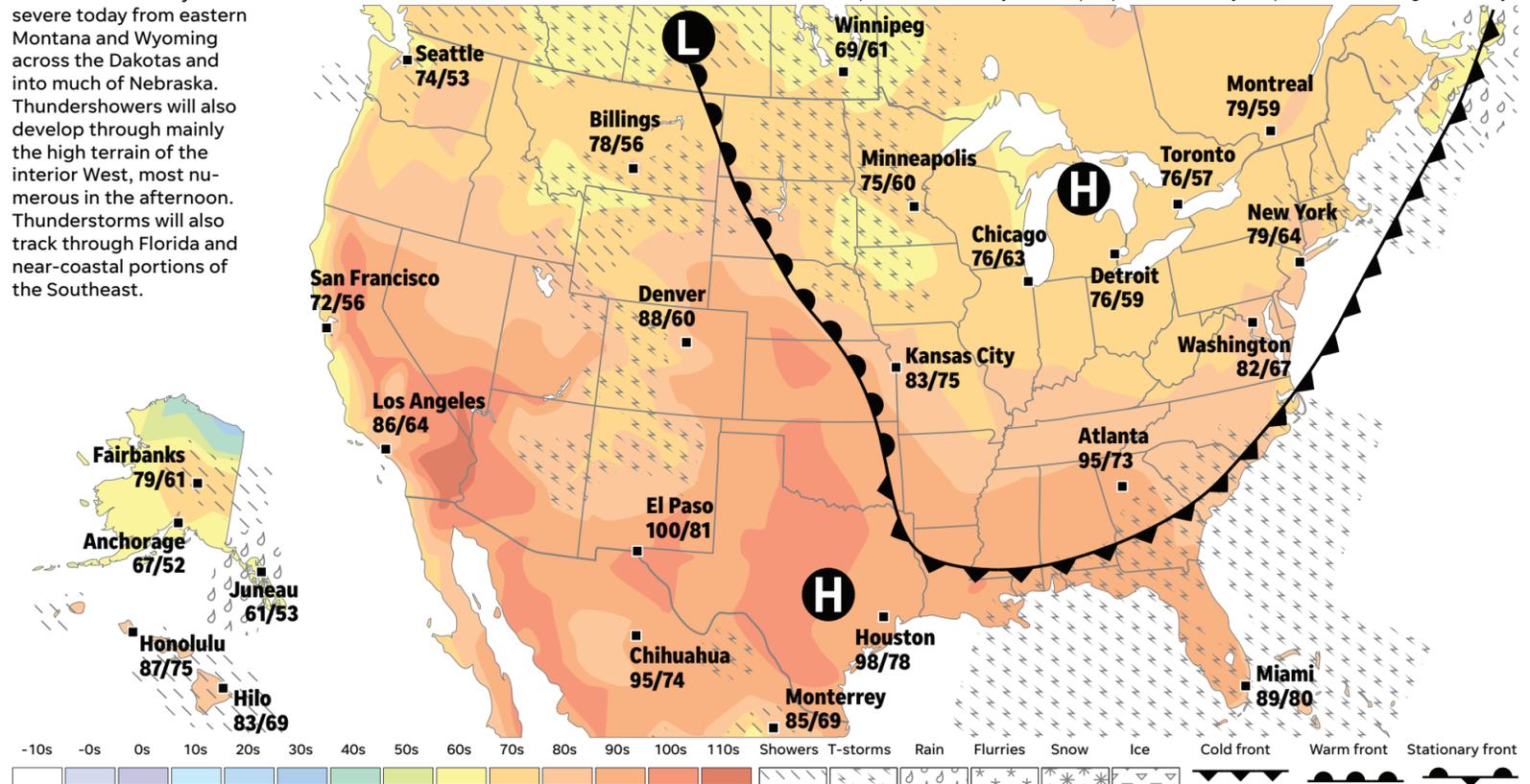


**NATIONAL SUMMARY**

Thunderstorms may turn severe today from eastern Montana and Wyoming across the Dakotas and into much of Nebraska. Thundershowers will also develop through mainly the high terrain of the interior West, most numerous in the afternoon. Thunderstorms will also track through Florida and near-coastal portions of the Southeast.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Monday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



**SUNDAY EXTREMES**

**NATIONAL** (for the 48 contiguous states)

**High:** 114 at Palm Springs, CA  
**Low:** 30 at Yellowstone NP, WY  
**Precip:** 4.39" at Dodge City, KS

**INTERNATIONAL** (excludes Antarctica)

**High:** 123 at Hassi-Messaoud, Algeria  
**Low:** 20 at Santa Rosa De Conlara, Argentina  
**Precip:** 6.69" at Hkamti, Myanmar

**TODAY IN HISTORY**

Heavy rain that started July 1, 1975, in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota caused disastrous flooding three days later on the Red River. Property damage exceeded \$1 billion.

**WEATHER TRIVIA™**

**Q:** What is the record-low temperature for the lower 48 states in July?

A: 10(F) at Painter, Wyo., on July 21, 1911

**NATIONAL CITIES MONDAY**

	High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality
● Aberdeen, SD	72/61/t	20	Evansville, IN	82/60/s	36	Levittown, PA	83/59/s	41	Rochester, NY	74/52/s	37
● Abilene, TX	101/78/s	35	Fall River, MA	77/57/t	30	Lincoln, IL	77/61/s	35	Rockford, IL	76/63/pc	28
Accomac, VA	80/62/pc	31	Farmington, NM	78/63/t	50	Louisville, KY	80/61/s	39	Ruidoso, NM	80/61/pc	34
Adrian, MI	75/53/s	36	Fayetteville, NC	83/64/t	40	● Lubbock, TX	98/75/s	42	● Salem, OR	81/53/pc	18
Akron, OH	74/54/s	34	● Fond du Lac, WI	73/60/pc	25	Manitowoc, WI	67/60/pc	23	● Salina, KS	100/78/c	31
Alamogordo, NM	96/72/c	36	Fort Myers, FL	90/76/t	27	Mansfield, OH	73/53/s	34	Salinas, CA	74/55/pc	41
Alexandria, VA	82/63/s	44	Fort Smith, AR	93/73/pc	34	Marshall, NC	82/59/s	39	Salisbury, MD	82/58/s	33
Alliance, OH	74/53/s	35	Framingham, MA	76/57/t	30	● Marshfield, WI	72/57/pc	20	San Angelo, TX	102/77/pc	39
● Amarillo, TX	97/75/s	35	Freeport, IL	74/62/pc	29	Massillon, OH	76/55/s	37	Sarasota, FL	90/78/t	27
● Ames, IA	70/62/t	28	Fremont, OH	72/56/s	36	McLean, VA	81/61/s	39	Savannah, GA	88/74/t	42
Anderson, SC	89/69/s	42	Fort Collins, CO	89/60/pc	70	Melbourne, FL	90/77/sh	25	Sheboygan, WI	68/62/s	26
Appleton, WI	75/62/pc	22	Gadsden, AL	92/68/s	42	Memphis, TN	87/66/s	54	Shelby, NC	86/60/s	39
Asheville, NC	86/60/s	36	Gainesville, FL	91/74/t	31	Middletown, NY	78/50/pc	33	Sherman, TX	104/79/s	37
Ashland, OH	73/53/s	38	Galesburg, IL	76/62/pc	33	Milford, MA	75/56/t	30	Shreveport, LA	95/78/pc	34
Athens, GA	91/69/pc	42	Gastonia, NC	86/62/s	38	Millwaukee, WI	69/64/pc	32	Silver City, NM	88/68/pc	48
● Augusta, GA	87/70/t	48	Glen Rose, TX	101/76/s	37	Monroe, MI	73/62/s	34	● Sioux Falls, SD	68/66/t	20
Austin, TX	99/75/s	49	Gonzales, LA	97/78/t	43	Monroe, LA	94/70/c	36	Somerset, PA	72/50/pc	42
Bartlesville, OK	95/77/pc	31	Great Falls, MT	76/52/pc	33	Montgomery, AL	96/75/pc	45	Somerset, NJ	82/56/s	37
Battle Creek, MI	75/55/s	33	Green Bay, WI	74/58/pc	21	Muncie, IN	76/54/s	33	South Bend, IN	76/56/s	35
Bedford, IN	76/56/s	33	Greenville, SC	87/64/pc	42	Murfreesboro, TN	83/61/s	41	Spartanburg, SC	86/64/s	40
Binghamton, NY	71/52/pc	34	Hackensack, NJ	82/61/s	46	Naples, FL	90/78/t	28	Springfield, IL	77/61/pc	36
Bluffton, SC	87/76/t	40	Hagerstown, MD	79/58/s	36	Nashville, TN	83/61/s	35	Springfield, MO	85/68/pc	39
Bremerton, WA	73/49/sh	16	Hattiesburg, MS	97/72/pc	39	Neptune, NJ	80/64/s	46	St. Augustine, FL	91/78/pc	35
Brockton, MA	76/58/t	35	Henderson, KY	80/58/s	34	New Bedford, MA	77/57/t	27	● St. Cloud, MN	75/60/t	25
● Brownwood, TX	103/76/s	39	Hendersonville, NC	85/60/s	37	New Bern, NC	79/64/t	27	St. George, UT	102/75/s	58
Burlington, IA	75/64/c	32	Herkimer, NY	76/52/pc	33	New Philadelphia, OH	76/51/s	34	Staunton, VA	79/49/s	40
Burlington, NC	83/57/pc	35	Hillsdale, MI	74/52/s	32	Newark, OH	77/53/s	39	● Stevens Point, WI	74/58/pc	21
Burlington, VT	77/55/s	29	Holland, MI	71/60/s	29	Newton, NJ	78/51/s	32	Stockton, CA	103/70/s	48
Cambridge, OH	77/55/pc	34	Hornell, NY	72/51/pc	35	New York, NY	79/64/s	50	Stroudsburg, PA	77/53/s	36
Camdenton, MO	81/66/c	35	Houma, LA	93/77/t	46	Norwich, CT	79/56/sh	34	Stuart, FL	90/77/t	35
Canandaigua, NY	72/53/s	36	Howell, MI	76/54/s	35	Ocala, FL	91/75/pc	28	Sturgis, MI	74/54/s	32
Canton, OH	75/55/s	37	● Hutchinson, KS	98/76/c	25	● Oklahoma City, OK	99/77/pc	42	Tallahassee, FL	92/77/t	37
● Carlsbad, NM	99/75/s	38	Hyannis, MA	73/61/c	21	Opelousas, LA	95/77/t	39	Thibodaux, LA	93/77/t	51
Chambersburg, PA	80/57/s	38	Indianapolis, IN	76/58/s	37	Oshkosh, WI	74/61/c	21	● Topeka, KS	88/78/t	34
Cherry Hill, NJ	82/61/s	42	Iowa City, IA	74/66/c	25	Palm Beach, FL	89/82/t	33	Tuscaloosa, AL	95/67/pc	44
Cincinnati, OH	77/58/s	39	Ithaca, NY	71/49/pc	33	Palm Springs, CA	113/79/s	58	Utica, NY	74/49/pc	30
Clarksville, TN	82/58/s	37	Jackson, MS	96/68/pc	40	● Panama City, FL	91/79/t	46	Ventura, CA	71/59/s	50
Coldwater, MI	74/54/s	32	Jackson, TN	85/61/s	43	Pekin, IL	78/63/c	36	Victorville, CA	99/60/s	68
Columbus, OH	78/58/s	36	Jacksonville, FL	93/76/t	33	Pensacola, FL	94/80/t	45	Vineland, NJ	82/57/s	41
Corning, NY	74/50/pc	37	Jacksonville, NC	78/65/t	29	Peoria, IL	77/63/c	37	Visalia, CA	101/68/s	72
Corpus Christi, TX	98/78/pc	64	Kent, OH	73/52/s	37	Petersburg, VA	81/58/s	34	Washington, DC	82/67/s	40
Daytona Beach, FL	92/77/sh	31	Kewanee, IL	76/63/pc	32	Phoenix, AZ	107/91/c	77	● Watertown, SD	67/64/t	22
Deming, NM	95/71/pc	45	Keyser, WV	80/54/pc	40	Port Huron, MI	73/51/s	31	Wausau, WI	73/56/pc	19
DeRidder, LA	96/76/t	36	Kinston, NC	81/60/t	35	Portsmouth, NH	76/59/t	29	Waynesboro, PA	89/78/c	35
● Des Moines, IA	72/66/t	34	Knoxville, TN	85/64/s	39	Poughkeepsie, NY	78/53/pc	31	White Plains, NY	78/59/s	40
Detroit, MI	76/59/s	35	Lafayette, IN	76/54/s	31	Providence, RI	75/60/t	32	● Wichita Falls, TX	103/78/s	36
● Devils Lake, ND	71/61/t	26	Lafayette, LA	96/79/t	38	Pueblo, CO	92/62/pc	53	Wilmington, DE	80/61/s	40
Dover, NH	77/56/t	32	Lakeland, FL	94/75/pc	30	Quincy, MA	75/60/t	37	Wilmington, NC	83/67/t	28
El Paso, TX	100/81/s	41	Lansing, MI	75/54/s	29	● Redding, CA	105/79/s	39	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	74/58/pc	22
Elmira, NY	74/50/pc	34	Las Cruces, NM	98/75/s	39	Reno, NV	94/61/s	52	Wooster, OH	74/52/s	34
Erie, PA	72/56/s	36	Lebanon, PA	79/56/s	39	Ravenna, OH	73/52/s	36	Worcester, MA	73/61/sh	32
Eugene, OR	82/50/s	19	Leesburg, FL	92/76/pc	29	Richmond, IN	75/55/s	38	York, PA	80/57/s	41

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

**INTERNATIONAL CITIES**

	Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W		Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W		Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W		Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W
● Acapulco	83/74/r	86/75/sh	Cape Town	62/51/c	63/54/c	La Paz	59/31/s	61/29/s	San Jose	82/67/t	80/66/t
Addis Ababa	70/56/sh	71/55/sh	Caracas	90/77/sh	92/76/t	Lagos	86/76/t	84/76/t	● San Salvador	85/69/t	86/69/t
Algiers	83/67/s	83/63/s	● Casablanca	80/62/s	84/64/s	Lima	64/57/pc	64/59/pc	Santiago	68/38/s	64/40/s
Amman	89/70/s	89/70/s	● Colombo	88/81/t	88/82/t	Lisbon	78/63/pc	87/63/s	● Sao Paulo	67/57/c	76/59/pc
Amsterdam	66/59/c	63/54/r	Copenhagen	68/54/pc	64/53/c	London	70/55/pc	68/54/pc	Sarajevo	95/62/c	70/54/r
● Ankara	88/60/s	90/62/s	● Damascus	98/64/s	97/66/s	Madrid	87/58/s	89/59/s	Shanghai	84/78/t	94/79/c
Asuncion	70/53/s	80/63/s	● Dublin	65/49/c	63/51/c	Manila	91/80/t	93/80/t	Singapore	89/78/c	89/80/pc
Athens	93/74/s	92/76/s	● Geneva	75/57/r	73/55/c	Mexico City	69/57/c	73/56/r	Stockholm	69/52/pc	70/55/pc
● Auckland	63/53/r	59/50/s	● Guatemala City	74/62/t	77/63/t	Milan	83/64/t	84/65/pc	● Sydney	59/51/sh	60/52/r
Baghdad	115/89/pc	109/87/pc	Hanoi	97/84/pc	96/81/pc	Mombasa	85/72/pc	85/73/c	Taipei	97/79/t	97/79/t
● Bangkok	93/81/t	96/81/pc	Harare	70/48/pc	72/44/pc	Montevideo	59/39/pc	64/44/s	Tegucigalpa	84/65/t	82/66/t
● Beijing	82/71/t	76/62/c	Havana	89/74/t	91/76/sh	Montreal	79/59/s	83/65/s	Tehran	95/76/s	97/77/s
Beirut	87/77/s	88/77/s	● Helsinki	66/57/r	66/57/pc	Moscow	88/68/c	91/70/pc	● Tokyo	82/75/t	85/74/s
Belgrade	92/66/s	70/59/r	● Hong Kong	92/85/t	92/85/t	Nairobi	76/53/pc	77/54/pc	Toronto	76/57/s	77/64/s
Berlin	69/55/r	66/54/c	● Jakarta	90/75/t	91/76/t	● New Delhi	95/82/t	94/82/t	● Tunis	95/74/pc	87/71/s
Bogota	70/50/pc	67/50/sh	Jerusalem	85/68/s	86/67/s	Panama City	86/75/t	85/77/r	Vancouver	69/55/pc	68/54/s
Brussels	67/57/c	66/52/c	Johannesburg	65/43/s	65/47/s	Paris	72/57/c	69/55/c	Vienna	74/61/sh	74/60/c
Bucharest	99/67/s	96/68/pc	Kabul	94/65/s	93/65/s	Port-au-Prince	100/76/s	96/77/t	Warsaw	75/60/sh	69/54/sh
Budapest	85/63/c	78/59/pc	Khartoum	105/87/s	103/84/pc	Rio de Janeiro	72/66/r	76/68/s	● Yerevan	77/59/t	79/57/t
Buenos Aires	60/47/s	63/47/s	Kyiv	92/70/s	88/66/t	Riyadh	113/87/s	111/87/pc	● Zagreb	83/64/t	76/56/c
● Cairo	98/77/s	95/77/s	Kingston	93/80/pc	95/82/s	Rome	83/68/pc	83/64/s	Zurich	72/55/pc	70/55/c

● Denotes possible travel delays Monday

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



Former President Donald Trump took the world's biggest economy out of a deal to fight global warming when he was in the White House. JOSHUA ROBERTS/REUTERS FILE

# Right-wing shift may slow, not reverse climate action

## Kerry: Companies to keep driving decarbonization

Simon Jessop, Susanna Twidale and Virginia Furness  
REUTERS

LONDON – A political tilt to the right in Europe and a potential Trump presidency in the U.S. will not derail climate efforts as businesses are increasingly locked into green strategies, delegates at London Climate Action Week heard.

A big election year, globally, has seen right-wing and populist parties return to power or gain ground in the European Union, India, Indonesia and Argentina, and potentially France, which heads to the polls at the weekend. The shift is offset to an extent by left-wing gains in Mexico and, as is expected, in the U.K. this week.

The greatest shake-up looms with the November election in the United States, where national polls have showed a tied race, but with President Joe Biden trailing Republican candidate Donald Trump in most of the swing states that traditionally decide presidential elections.

Trump took the world's biggest economy out of a deal to fight global warming when he was previously in office.

However, for the 45,000 delegates in London last week to attend the capital's biggest annual climate event, the message was clear: even in the absence of U.S. government support, the real economy would continue to move toward decarbonization.

"Could a shift in presidency stop the current progress that is being made? The answer is no. Could it harass it and make it move slower than it is at this point in time, the answer is yes," former U.S. climate special envoy John Kerry told Reuters.

"The bottom line remains that CEOs all around the planet understand that avoiding climate responsibility is not a good business plan... their products, the cost of their supply chains, everything will be impacted."

Nearly 6,000 of the world's biggest companies told nonprofit disclosure platform CDP that they had a plan aligned with capping global warming at 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit above the pre-industrial average, the level that scientists say can prevent the most devastating consequences.

### Backlash

A backlash against environmental, social and governance investing in the United States and elsewhere as inflation and a cost-of-living crisis has refocused attention on shorter-term profits has led some companies to shift their strategy away from renewable energy.

EU climate policy ambitions were also watered down even before this month's elections to the European Parliament, and companies who are pressing ahead with climate goals are increasingly reluctant to make them public for fear of drawing criticism.

Former Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said pol-

iticians needed to engage with electorates who have may become disillusioned.

"It's as important as making progress," he told delegates at the London conference.

Trump has won support from some for comments dismissing the risks of climate change, but billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates was cautiously optimistic Trump, if elected, would not unravel President Joe Biden's flagship climate policy the Inflation Reduction Act.

Gates told journalists he believed "a lot of the IRA stuff would stay intact" because of the need for consensus in Congress to repeal the tax credits and because Republican states had benefited.

Kerry's successor, John Podesta, told delegates the tax breaks that have spurred U.S. green businesses were structured to give companies ten years of certainty, helping to ensure lasting change.

Such a regulatory structure is of the kind businesses seeking to bring in greener technologies tend to say is vital to overcoming the issues that can initially thwart innovation.

More broadly, companies across the United States and other developed markets have increased green energy output, including from solar and wind, as the cost of both has fallen, helping to unseat climate-damaging fossil fuels.

While politics would affect the pace of change, "we're not going to see a reversal," said Selwin Hart, climate adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General. "Who would invest in coal in the advanced economies? It's no longer cost-competitive."

## BOX OFFICE



Anxiety (voiced by Maya Hawke, center) joins the emotional mind of Riley when she turns 13 in Pixar's animated sequel "Inside Out 2." PROVIDED BY PIXAR

## 'Inside Out 2' hits \$1B at global box office

### Record speed for an animated film

Maria Ponnezhath  
REUTERS

Pixar movie "Inside Out 2" has crossed the \$1 billion mark at the worldwide box office in less than three weeks of release, reaching that level in the fastest time of any animated film in history, Walt Disney Co said on Sunday.

The film is the highest-grossing movie of the year and the only one to cross \$1 billion, said Disney, which owns Pixar.

"Inside Out 2" is a sequel to the 2015 hit about the inner workings of a young girl's mind. In the second installment, lead character Riley has become a teenager and is grappling with new emotions including anxiety and envy.

The original "Inside Out" opened with about \$90 million in its first weekend in the summer of 2015, and topped out at \$858.8 million globally.

## Reports from Fed may boost bond market

David Randall  
REUTERS

NEW YORK – A series of upcoming economic reports and Congressional testimony from Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell could jolt U.S. government bonds out of a narrow trading range.

Yields on benchmark U.S. 10-year Treasuries, which move inversely to bond prices, have bounced between about 4.20% and 4.35% since mid-June, as the market digested data showing slowing inflation and signs of cooling economic growth in some indicators. The 10-year yield stood at 4.33% on Friday.

So far, the economic numbers have failed to dispel doubts over how deeply the Fed will be able to cut interest rates this year, keeping Treasury yields range-bound. But this week's U.S. employment data, followed by inflation numbers and Powell's appearance could change that outlook.

"The market has settled into a narrative that we may see incremental softness but not a growth scare," said Garrett Melson, a portfolio strategist at Natixis Investment Managers Solutions.

U.S. monthly inflation as measured by the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index was unchanged in May, a report released on Friday showed, advancing the narrative of slowing inflation and resilient growth that has tamped down bond market gyrations and buoyed stocks in recent weeks. Yet futures linked to the fed funds rate showed traders pricing in just under 50 basis points of rate cuts for the year.

Market reactions to employment data, due Friday, could be exacerbated by low liquidity during a week when many U.S. bond traders will be on vacation for the July 4 Independence Day holiday, said Hugh Nickola, head of fixed income at GenTrust.

"The market is waiting for the other shoe to drop." A recent survey by BofA Global Research showed fund managers the most underweight bonds since



Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell is scheduled to give his semiannual testimony on monetary policy on July 9 at the Senate Banking Committee. BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS FILE

November 2022. Some believe that means yields could fall further if weakening data bolsters the case for more rate cuts and spurs increased allocations to fixed income.

Other highlights for the month include consumer price data scheduled for July 11. Powell is scheduled to give his semiannual testimony on monetary policy on July 9 at the Senate Banking Committee, said the office of its chairman, Sen. Sherrod Brown, on Monday. If tradition holds, the Fed Chair will deliver the same testimony at the House Financial Services committee the following day.

Some investors are not convinced Treasury yields have much further to fall. Despite its recent cooling, inflation has proven more stubborn than expected this year, forcing the Fed to rein in expectations for how aggressively it can cut rates. A recent unexpected inflationary rebound in Australia underscored how difficult it has been for some central banks to keep consumer prices under control.

# Pezeshkian, Jalili enter run-off in Iran

## Moderate candidate winner of first vote

Parisa Hafezi  
REUTERS

DUBAI – In an election campaign dominated by hardliners, Iranian presidential hopeful Masoud Pezeshkian stood out as a moderate, backing women's rights, more social freedoms, cautious detente with the West and economic reform.

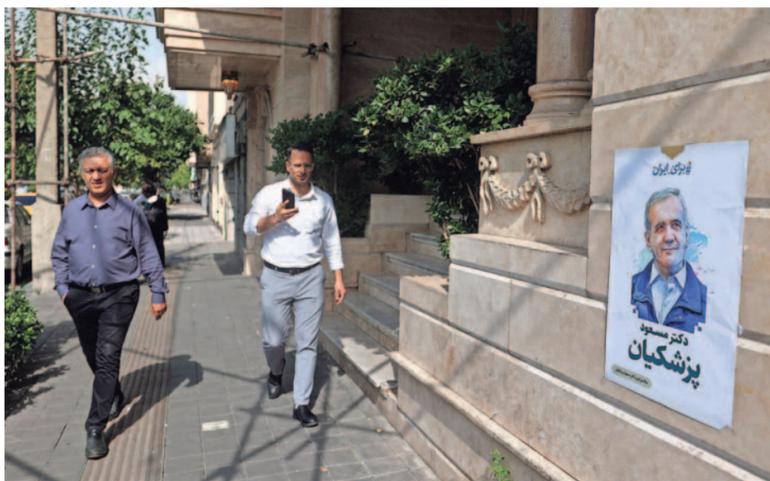
Pezeshkian narrowly beat hardline Saeed Jalili for first place in Friday's first round vote but the two men will now face a run-off election on July 5, since Pezeshkian did not secure the majority of 50% plus one vote of ballots cast needed to win outright.

Pezeshkian, a 69-year-old cardiac surgeon, lawmaker and former health minister was up against candidates who more closely reflect the fiercely anti-Western stance of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's ultimate decision-maker.

And yet the mild-mannered Pezeshkian narrowly won Friday's vote and made it to the run-off in the election to pick a successor to Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash in May.

His chances hinge on attracting votes from supporters of current hardline parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who finished third in the first round, and encouraging a young disillusioned population hungry for change but disenchanted with the country's political, social and economic crisis to vote for him again in the run-off.

Although he advocates reforms, Pezeshkian is faithful to Iran's theocratic rule with no intention of confronting the powerful security hawks and clerical rulers.



People walk by a poster of presidential candidate Masoud Pezeshkian displayed on a street in Tehran, Iran. MAJID ASGARIPUR/WANA VIA REUTERS FILE

His views offer a contrast to those of Raisi, a Khamenei protege who tightened enforcement of a law curbing women's dress and took a tough stance in now-moribund negotiations with major powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal.

Pezeshkian's election campaign gained momentum when he was endorsed by reformists, led by former President Mohammad Khatami, and when he appointed former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, a key figure in crafting the nuclear deal, as his foreign policy adviser.

Implicitly referring to the appointment of Zarif, who hardliners accuse of selling out Iran in order to reach the deal, Khamenei said on Tuesday: "Anyone who is attached to America will not be a good colleague for you."

In 2018, then-U.S. President Donald Trump ditched the pact and reimposed sanctions on Iran, calling it "a horrible

one-sided deal that should have never, ever been made." His move prompted Tehran to progressively violate the agreement's nuclear limits.

If Pezeshkian does go on to win, this would hinder Iranian hardliners who are opposed to the revival of the pact.

However, under Iran's dual system of clerical and republican rule the power to shape key state policies including foreign and nuclear affairs ultimately rests with Khamenei.

As a result, many voters are skeptical about Pezeshkian's ability to fulfill his campaign promises.

"Pezeshkian's power as the president to fulfill his campaign promises is zero," said Sholeh Mousavi, a 32-year-old teacher in Tehran, before Friday's first round of voting.

"I want reforms but Pezeshkian cannot improve the situation. I will not vote."

Pezeshkian, the sole moderate

among the six candidates who were approved by a hardline watchdog body to stand, has pledged to foster a pragmatic foreign policy and ease nuclear tensions with the West.

### A critic loyal to Khamenei

At the same time, Pezeshkian promised in TV debates and interviews not to contest Khamenei's policies, which analysts said risks further alienating the urban middle class and young voters. These groups no longer seek mere reform and instead now directly challenge the Islamic Republic as a whole.

As a lawmaker since 2008, Pezeshkian, who is an Azeri ethnic minority and supports the rights of ethnic minorities, has criticized the clerical establishment's suppression of political and social dissent.

In 2022, Pezeshkian demanded clarification from authorities about the death of Mahsa Amini, a woman who died in custody after she was arrested for allegedly violating a law restricting women's dress. Her death sparked months of unrest across the country.

But at a Tehran University meeting earlier this month, responding to a question about students imprisoned on charges linked to anti-government protests, Pezeshkian said "political prisoners are not within my scope, and if I want to do something, I have no authority".

During the Iran-Iraq war in 1980s, Pezeshkian, who held roles as both a combatant and a physician, was tasked with the deployment of medical teams to the front lines.

He was health minister from 2001-05 in Khatami's second term.

Pezeshkian lost his wife and one of his children in a car accident in 1994. He raised his surviving two sons and a daughter alone, opting to never remarry.



Britain's Reform UK Party Leader Nigel Farage reacts while sitting with Zia Yusuf, the Reform UK party's largest donor, and reporters during interviews following a rally at the NEC in Birmingham, Britain, Sunday. HOLLIE ADAMS/REUTERS

## Farage positive after a 'tough' few days

### UK Reform leader rallies supporters ahead of election

Sarah Young  
REUTERS

LONDON – Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's right-wing Reform UK party, said his party was doing better than expected after a "tough" few days, as he addressed supporters at a rally with days to go before the country votes on July 4.

Farage, one of the country's most recognizable and divisive politicians, has been a thorn in the side for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative party as the rise in Reform's popularity threatens to split the right-of-center vote.

A poll on June 27 showed the opposition Labour Party far ahead on 42%, trailed by the Conservatives on 20% and Reform on 16%.

Reform's standing had dropped from a record high of 19% in mid-June, following Farage's comments that the West had provoked Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Farage, 60, told a crowd of more than 4,500 people at the "Rally for Reform" event held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham that the last few days have been "tough" but he was not downhearted.

"We're doing much better out there than anybody in the media, in politics, even dares to imagine in their worst nightmares. We are doing well," Farage told his supporters.

The challenges of the last few days have included Reform being at the center of a racism row, when one of its supporters was recorded making a racial slur about Sunak.

Farage told Sky News on Sunday:

"Anybody who has a racist point of view I don't want to know."

### Pivotal role

A Reform candidate for a constituency in northern England, Liam Booth-Isherwood, said separately on Sunday he was disowning the party and urging voters to instead back the Conservatives, citing reports of widespread racism and sexism and the failure of the party's leadership to address such issues, according to a statement on the BBC.

Reform's chairman Richard Tice called the allegations "false" on X and asked whether Booth-Isherwood had been offered something to switch sides.

Farage played a pivotal role in Britain's 2016 vote to leave the European Union, and then in 2018 helped found the party which became known as Reform. Its election pledges are to bring migration into Britain under control as well as cutting taxes for smaller businesses.

Given the overlap with some Conservative policies, there has been speculation in the British media that Farage could seek to join forces with that party at some point in the future, but speaking to Sky News on Sunday, Farage ruled that out. "I want nothing to do with them. They're awful ... they are ghastly," he said.

Running to become a British lawmaker for the eighth time after his previous attempts all failed, Farage's Reform is unlikely to take more than a handful of seats even if it wins a substantial share of the total vote, due to Britain's electoral system.

## South Africa's Ramaphosa presents coalition cabinet

### Group includes ex-opposition leader

Tim Cocks and Tannur Anders  
REUTERS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa – South African President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed former opposition leader John Steenhuisen as minister of agriculture on Sunday, bringing the Democratic Alliance and other parties into his new coalition cabinet.

Ramaphosa's African National Congress was forced to join forces with rival parties to stay in power after losing its majority for the first time in three decades in a May 29 election.

The announcement of the new cabinet of the government of national unity followed weeks of protracted and at times acrimonious negotiations.

Ramaphosa retained the ANC's Enoch Godongwana as finance minister while Ronald Lamola was appointed minister of international relations and cooperation, replacing Naledi Pandor.

Gwede Mantashe stayed on as mineral and petroleum resources minister but the president removed energy from his portfolio. The combination of mineral resources had been seen by many as creating a prejudice in favor of coal as a source of power generation.

Energy will now fall within the portfolio of Electricity Minister Kgosi Ramokgopa.

"These men and women we have appointed to the executive ... reflect the diversity of our nation," Ramaphosa said. "In the spirit of partnership and collaboration, the incoming government will work together."

Wrangling over who gets what cabinet seat was the last hurdle to setting up a government, which now faces the task of reviving a moribund economy, fixing crumbling roads and power stations and creating jobs for the third of South Africans out of work.

"We look forward to being part of a new era in South Africa's democratic journey, and to bringing real and tangible change to the millions of citizens who voted for it," Steenhuisen said in a statement following the announcement.

Some minor parties also saw their leaders receive cabinet posts.

### ANC took hit at the polls

For decades the ANC had traded on its legacy of ending apartheid 30 years ago, when Nelson Mandela came to power and successfully reconciled a



President Cyril Ramaphosa's African National Congress was forced to join forces with rival parties to stay in power after losing its majority in South Africa's May 29 election. ALET PRETORIUS/REUTERS FILE

country deeply divided along racial, ethnic and class lines.

But voters became angered by the ANC's poor record on delivering on basic services including water, schools and electricity.

"It is a major shake-up with very few of the old faces still in there, which is a good thing," said Melanie Verwoerd, political analyst and former South African diplomat. "I think in general it's a very positive step and of course very positive that they could actually get this done."

Whether the current loose coalition of former enemies can improve on the ANC's record may depend on the extent to which they can put aside their ideological differences, analysts have said. There are several potential hurdles to policymaking.

The DA wants to scrap some of the ANC's Black empowerment programs, saying that they have mostly made a politically connected business elite fabulously wealthy while much of the Black majority stays poor.

It opposes the ANC's desire to expropriate land – most of which is in white hands as a legacy of conquest by colonists and subsequent entrenched white minority rule – without compensation and give it to Black farmers.

The DA also seeks to phrase out South Africa's minimum wage, currently sitting at 27.58 rand (\$1.52) an hour, arguing it makes the workforce uncompetitive.

# US seeks guilty plea for Boeing, sources say

DOJ expected to bring criminal fraud charges

Mike Spector and Chris Prentice  
REUTERS

The Justice Department will criminally charge Boeing with fraud over two fatal crashes and ask the planemaker to plead guilty or face a trial, two people familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

The Justice Department planned to formally offer a plea agreement to Boeing later in the day, which includes a financial penalty and imposition of an independent monitor to audit the company's safety and compliance practices for three years, the sources said.

Justice Department officials plan to give Boeing until the end of the week to respond to the offer, which they will present as nonnegotiable, the sources said. Should Boeing refuse to plead guilty, prosecutors plan to take the company to trial, they said.

Boeing and the Justice Department declined to comment.

The Justice Department decided to charge Boeing after finding it violated a 2021 agreement that had shielded it from prosecution over the fatal crashes involving 737 MAX jets. The deadly crashes took place in 2018 and 2019, killing 346 people.

The decision to move toward criminally charging Boeing deepens an ongoing crisis engulfing the planemaker, exposing the company to additional financial ramifications and tougher government oversight.

A guilty plea could also carry implications for Boeing's ability to enter into government contracts such as those with the U.S. military that make up a significant portion of its revenue. Companies with felony convictions can receive waivers, and it remained unclear to what extent the Justice Department's proposed plea deal addresses the issue.

Justice Department officials revealed their decision to victims' family members during a call earlier on Sunday. The proposal would require Boeing to plead guilty to conspiring to defraud the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration in connection with the fatal crashes, the sources said.

The Justice Department's push for



The Justice Department planned to offer a plea agreement to Boeing, which includes a financial penalty and imposition of an independent monitor to audit the company's safety and compliance practices for three years, sources told Reuters. PETER CZIBORRA/REUTERS FILE

Boeing to plead guilty follows a separate January in-flight blowout that exposed continuing safety and quality issues at Boeing.

A panel blew off a new Boeing 737 MAX 9 jet during a Jan. 5 Alaska Airlines flight, just two days before a 2021 deferred prosecution agreement with the Justice Department expired.

That agreement had shielded Boeing from prosecution over the 2018 and 2019 fatal crashes. Boeing has previously said it "honored the terms" of the settlement and formally told prosecutors it disagrees with the finding that it violated the agreement.

The proposed agreement also includes a \$487.2 million financial penalty, only half of which Boeing would be required to pay, they added. That is because prosecutors are giving the company credit for a payment it made as part of the previous settlement related to the fatal crashes of the Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines flights. The penalty is the maximum legally allowed for the charge.

Boeing could also likely be forced to pay restitution under the proposal's terms, the amount of which will be at a judge's discretion, the sources said. The offer also contemplates subjecting Boeing to three years of probation, they said.

The plea deal would also require Boeing's board to meet with victims' relatives, they said.

Victims' relatives expressed anger toward Justice Department officials during the call, viewing the proposed plea deal as failing to hold Boeing ac-

countable for the fatal crashes, said Erin Applebaum, one of the lawyers representing victims' relatives.

Family members wanted the company to face additional charges and stiffer financial consequences, she said.

"The 737 MAX families vigorously oppose the shameful new sweetheart deal between Boeing and the Department of Justice," Applebaum said. She called the proposed plea agreement's financial penalty "negligible" and said victims' families will oppose the deal in court.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the families' reaction.

It is unusual for the Justice Department to inform other interested parties of its plans before notifying the company, a third source said. But the Justice Department, led by Attorney General Merrick Garland, has sought to change its tack after facing backlash from the victims' families over the original 2021 agreement. Victims' relatives found out about the 2021 deal only after it had been negotiated.

U.S. lawmakers in June grilled Chief Executive Dave Calhoun over Boeing's tarnished safety record. Lawyers for victims' family members have cited criticism from Capitol Hill when pressing the Justice Department to prosecute the planemaker.

Boeing previously paid \$2.5 billion as part of the deal with prosecutors that granted the company immunity from criminal prosecution over a fraud conspiracy charge related to the 737 MAX's flawed design.

## Trump

Continued from Page 1NN

southern border as violent criminals.

He typically focuses on young, usually white, women allegedly killed by Hispanic assailants to drive home that message, eschewing cases that involve male victims.

His opponents accuse him of cynically exploiting grieving families to fuel his narrative that foreign-born arrivals are part of an invading army.

"Part of what is going on here is an effort to stimulate xenophobia or animus or ethnic hostility," said Christopher Federico, a professor of political science and psychology at the University of Minnesota, adding Trump seems to be playing to racist stereotypes that paint Latino men as threats to "the perceived purity of white womanhood."

Studies generally find there is no evidence immigrants commit crimes at a higher rate than native-born Americans.

Still, polling shows that the visceral message resonates among many voters. It is amplified by conservative media, pro-Trump influencers online and sometimes the grieving relatives and friends of women killed.

Galvan, 27, blamed Nungaray's death on Biden's easing of some restrictions on the U.S.-Mexico border.

"I think Jocelyn would definitely still be here if President Trump was our president," Galvan said, adding that she planned to vote for the first time in a presidential election and would support Trump.

Despite the lack of evidence, about three-quarters of Republicans in a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in May said migrants in the U.S. illegally "are a danger to public safety."

### Familiar playbook

Trump has attacked Biden for record levels of migrants caught illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Immigration is a major voter concern, particularly among conservatives.

In response, Biden blames Trump for urging Republicans to block a bipartisan

U.S. Senate bill earlier this year that aimed to toughen border security and has portrayed Trump's policies as unnecessarily cruel.

"Trump is using the pain and loss of American families for the benefit of one person and one person only: Donald Trump," Biden campaign spokesperson Kevin Munoz said in a statement. "His sick and dehumanizing comments do nothing to make our border more secure and are beneath the office of president of the United States."

A digital ad featuring violent crimes and criticizing Biden launched in seven swing states as part of a push by the conservative group Building America's Future.

The ad focuses on Rachel Morin — a mother of five raped and killed while jogging in August 2023 near her Maryland home — and her accused killer, an immigrant from El Salvador in the U.S. illegally.

"Biden's open border, a nightmare for American women," a woman's voice says as the face of Morin's accused killer is displayed next to Biden's.

Trump's approach echoes the oft-cited "Willie Horton" ad attacking Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis in the 1988 presidential campaign, according to Susan Del Percio, a Republican strategist critical of Trump's immigration rhetoric.

Horton was Black and critics said the ad — which effectively boosted Republican George H.W. Bush's candidacy — sought to provoke race-based fear.

"Trump is saying, 'We don't like immigrants and now here's another horrific reason not to like them. They will come after you and kill you,'" she said.

Trump campaign spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said Biden's border policies had allowed dangerous criminals to enter the U.S. and that Trump sought to support the families of victims.

"Trump says their names, calls their mothers, and stands with their families, while Joe Biden continues to ignore their suffering and welcome in millions of dangerous criminal illegal immigrants," Leavitt said in a statement.

Trump has used inflammatory language to describe immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

### Mixed reception

The parents of some victims have welcomed Trump's efforts to publicize the brutal killings while others say he is simply politicizing the deaths of their loved ones.

In 2018, Trump publicized the case of Mollie Tibbetts after the 20-year-old University of Iowa student was killed by a Mexican immigrant in the U.S. illegally, but Tibbetts' father chastised Trump at the time for exploiting the tragedy for political gain.

Laura Calderwood, Tibbetts' mother, told Reuters she believed her daughter's murderer was a troubled person but that the killing had nothing to do with his immigration status.

"It was an anomaly," said Calderwood, a Democrat who plans to vote for Biden. "There are lots of illegal immigrants here and they don't go out and murder people."

Michelle Root, whose daughter Sarah was killed in Nebraska in 2016 when her car was hit by a drunken driver in the U.S. illegally, told Reuters that then President Barack Obama and Vice President Biden never responded when she wrote them at the time to raise awareness about the case.

Obama's personal office and the White House did not respond to requests for comment.

Trump, then a presidential candidate, invited her to meet with him before a rally in Omaha, she said. The meeting convinced Root — a lifelong Democrat who twice voted for Obama — to back Trump.

He later called her and asked her permission to mention Sarah's case in his acceptance of the Republican presidential nomination that summer, she said.

"If it wasn't for him, Sarah wouldn't have had a voice," she said.

Patty Morin, the mother of Rachel Morin, was "incredibly touched" when Trump reached out to her earlier this month to offer condolences, her attorney, Randolph Rice, told Reuters.

"During the 20-minute phone call, the president asked about Rachel and her family and how they are doing," Rice said in an email. "She has still not heard from the Biden administration."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Beryl brings life-threatening winds to Caribbean

The "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm Hurricane Beryl barreled across the Atlantic Ocean on Sunday afternoon toward the Caribbean's Windward Islands, where it is expected to bring life-threatening winds and flash flooding on Monday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

The first hurricane of the 2024 season was located about 250 miles southeast of Barbados on Sunday afternoon, with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph, the NHC said in an advisory.

The center of the hurricane is expected to travel across the Windward Islands on Monday morning as a Category 4 storm, the second-strongest level on a five-step scale.

"Potentially catastrophic wind damage is expected where the eyewall of Beryl moves through portions of the Windward Islands, with the highest risk of the core in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada," NHC said.

Hurricane warnings have been issued in Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadine Islands, Grenada and Tobago. A tropical storm watch has been issued for Dominica, Trinidad, and parts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Tobago has opened shelters, closed schools for Monday, and canceled elective surgeries in the hospitals, authorities said.

The hurricane is expected to bring 3 to 6 inches of rain across Barbados and the Windward Islands throughout the day on Monday, which the NHC warned could cause flash flooding in vulnerable areas.

Large, dangerous swells are also expected to batter the southern coasts of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola.

### Myanmar central bank denies weapons transactions

Myanmar's central bank denied a U.N. report that the country's military government can still access money and weapons for its war against anti-coup forces, saying financial institutions under the bank's supervision followed prescribed procedures.

The Central Bank of Myanmar "expressed our strong objection to the U.N. Special Rapporteur's report," it said in a statement published in a junta newspaper on Saturday.

"The U.N. report severely harms the interests of Myanmar civilians and the relationship between Myanmar and other countries."

The rapporteur on Myanmar's human rights, Tom Andrews, reported on Wednesday that while international efforts to isolate the junta appear to have dented its ability to buy military equipment, it still imported \$253 million worth of weapons, dual-use technologies, manufacturing equipment and other materials in the 12 months to March.

The report said Myanmar had the help of international banks, including those from Southeast Asian neighbor Thailand, for its purchases.

Facing its biggest challenge since its 2021 coup against Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's government, Myanmar's military is caught up in multiple, low-intensity conflicts and grappling to stabilize a crumbling economy.

Western countries have imposed multiple financial sanctions on Myanmar's military, banks and associated businesses.

The central bank said local and international banks engaged in transactions with Myanmar have undergone comprehensive due diligence measures for all business relationships and transactions.

### Colombian armed group agrees unilateral ceasefire

BOGOTA, Colombia - Colombian armed group the Segunda Marquetalia on Sunday agreed to a unilateral ceasefire, after several days of peace talks in Caracas, which are part of President Gustavo Petro's efforts to end 60 years of unrest in his country.

The unilateral ceasefire marks a step toward achieving peace in the South American nation.

The Segunda Marquetalia is a dissident faction of the now-demobilized Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels whose leaders initially agreed to a 2016 peace deal, but returned to arms citing unfulfilled promises three years later.

The Colombian government announced the agreement, saying the guerrilla group agreed to hand over hostages and respect the lives of Colombian civilians and officials in the areas of the country where it still has a presence. The ceasefire will take effect when a presidential decree is issued.

Reuters

# Macron decides prime minister

What could happen without clear majority?

Ingrid Melander  
REUTERS

PARIS – Exit polls after Sunday's first round of the snap parliamentary election in France showed the far-right National Rally winning Sunday's first round, but the final result will depend on days of horsetrading before the July 7 run-off. The RN might win in the end, but may end up without an absolute majority.

What happens then, and can political paralysis be avoided after the election?

**Short answer: No one knows for sure**

Article 8 of the constitution says the president appoints the prime minister, but does not say which criteria he should use.

In practice, President Emmanuel Macron would be expected to offer the job to the leading parliamentary group – which opinion polls and the first round of voting suggest will be the euroskeptic, anti-immigration RN.

**Who will be PM?**

The RN has said party leader Jordan Bardella is its candidate for prime minister but has also said it will turn down the job if it and its allies together do not win an absolute majority of at least 289 seats.

Since the constitution does not say how he should choose his prime minister, Macron could, in theory, try to pull together an anti-RN alliance and offer the job to another party, or someone who is not politically affiliated.

The constitution does not provide any specific answer on who must be prime minister.

Options would include:

- Trying to strike an alliance of mainstream parties. No such alliance exists now but Macron has urged parties to unite to keep out the far-right.

- Offering the job to the left, if an alliance including the far-left, Socialist Party and Greens emerges as the second-biggest group, as opinion polls suggest. The left could then try to form a minority government.

**Would any of those options work?**

If the RN wins the highest share of the vote and accepts the prime minister post, a period of "cohabitation" with Macron would begin. That has happened three times in France's modern political history, but with mainstream parties. The RN could struggle to get ideas for change adopted.

If the RN is the largest party in parliament, but is not in power, it could block or modify government proposals. The constitution gives the government some tools to circumvent that, but with limits.

If the RN secures a majority, it would be largely guaranteed to get the prime minister job as it could force any government it disagrees with to resign.

**What happens if there's no deal?**

It's possible that none of the three groups – the far-right, centrists and left – will be big enough to govern alone, reach a coalition deal or get assurances it can run a viable minority government.

In such a case, France would risk political paralysis, with little or no legislation being adopted and a caretaker government running basic daily affairs.

Could Macron resign?

Macron has ruled this out, but it could become an option if everything is blocked. Neither parliament nor the government could force him to do that.

**What won't happen**

The constitution says there can be no new parliamentary election for another year, so an immediate repeat vote is not an option.



Demonstrators take part in a rally after the announcement of the results of the first round of French parliamentary elections, at Place de la Republique in Paris on Sunday. France's far right won the first round of pivotal legislative elections after the highest turnout in over four decades, estimates said. DIMITAR DILKOFF/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## France

Continued from Page 1NN

Macron called on voters to rally behind candidates who are "clearly republican and democratic," which, based on his recent declarations, would exclude candidates from the RN and from the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) party.

Political leaders from the center-left and far-left all called on their third-placed candidates to drop out.

"Our guideline is simple and clear: not a single more vote for the National Rally," said France Unbowed leader Jean-Luc Melenchon.

However, the center-right Republicans party, which split ahead of the vote with a small number of its lawmakers joining the RN, gave no guidance.

**Possible PM**

Jordan Bardella, the 28-year-old RN party president, said he was ready to be prime minister – if his party wins an absolute majority.

He has ruled out trying to form a minority government and neither Macron nor the NFP leftist group will form an alliance with him.

"I will be a 'cohabitation' Prime Minister, respectful of the constitution and of the office of President of the Republic, but uncompromising about the policies we will implement," he said.

The mood was gloomy at the Republique square in Paris, where a few thousand anti-RN protesters gathered



Jordan Bardella, President of the French far-right Rassemblement National party, delivers a speech after partial results in the first round of the early French parliamentary elections in Paris, France, Sunday. SARAH MEYSSONNIER/REUTERS

at a rally of the leftist alliance on Sunday night.

Najiya Khaldi, a 33-year-old teacher, said she felt "disgust, sadness and fear" at the RN's strong results.

"I am not used to demonstrating," she said. "I think I came to reassure myself, to not feel alone."

Market reaction to Sunday's result was muted, with the euro gaining around

Fiona Cincotta, senior markets analyst at London's City Index, described relief that the result yielded "no surprises."

"Le Pen had a slightly smaller margin than some of the polls had pointed to, which may have helped the euro a little bit higher on the open," she said. "Attention now is on July 7 to see whether the second round supports an absolute majority or not. So it does feel like we're a little bit in limbo."

**Complex calculus**

The RN was seen winning the most seats in the National Assembly, but only one of the pollsters – Elabe – had the party winning an absolute majority of 289 seats in the run-off.

No nationwide official results were available on Sunday evening, but they were expected. Exit polls in France have tended to be highly accurate.

Voter participation was high compared with previous parliamentary elections, illustrating the political fervor Macron aroused with his stunning and politically risky decision to call a parliamentary vote.

At 11 a.m. EST, turnout was nearly 60%, compared with 39.42% two years ago – the highest comparable turnout figures since the 1986 legislative vote, Ipsos France's research director Mathieu Gallard said.

## Ukraine

Continued from Page 1NN

region said missile fragments had also fallen outside the capital, causing injuries and damage, though no details were provided.

Russian forces were prevented from advancing on Kyiv in the early weeks of the February 2022 invasion and were redeployed along the 600-mile front line in the east.

In Kharkiv, which never fell into Russian hands in the early stages of the war, a guided bomb started a fire and killed a delivery service driver outside a depot on Sunday.

Regional Governor Oleh Synehubov said nine people were injured, including an 8-month-old infant.

Pictures posted online showed the depot and trucks outside it badly damaged.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in a post on Telegram, said Russia had used more than 800 guided bombs on Ukrainian targets in the past week. He issued a fresh plea in his nightly video address for better weapons systems.

"The sooner the world helps us deal with the Russian combat aircraft launching these bombs, the sooner we can strike – justifiably strike – Russian military infrastructure...and the closer we will be to peace," he said.

**Ukrainian drone attack kills child in car, official says**

A Ukrainian drone attack on Sunday killed a 4-year-old in a car in southern Russia's Belgorod region, the regional governor said.

Vyacheslav Gladkov, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said the car



Local residents stand next to an apartment building damaged during a Russian missile strike in Kyiv, Ukraine Sunday. VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS

carrying the girl, her parents and grandparents came under attack in an area close to the Ukrainian border.

The car's other passengers were also injured, with the girl's grandfather in serious condition.

Gladkov also said three localities in the region, all near the border town of Shebekino, had been shelled by Ukrainian forces, but he reported no casualties.

**Russia says it takes over 2 villages in Donetsk region**

Russian forces have taken over the villages of Spirne and Novooleksandrivka in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, the Russian defense ministry said on Sunday.

The ministry, in a brief statement on

the Telegram messaging app, said its forces have also improved their positions along the frontline around the villages.

Spirne is located in the east of the Donetsk region, close to the border with Ukraine's Luhansk region. The village of Novooleksandrivka lies about 80 miles west of Spirne.

Ukraine's General Staff said in its daily statement on the situation on the battlefield that "heavy fighting" was taking place in the area around the villages, but it did not report any losses.

Donetsk is one of four regions in Ukraine's east and south that Russia claimed to have annexed in late 2022 in a move condemned as illegal by most countries at the U.N. General Assembly. Russia does not fully control any of the four regions.

# SPORTS **EXTRA**

## TRACK AND FIELD



Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone sets a new world record in the women's 400-meter hurdles with a time of 50.65 at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team Trials in Eugene, Ore., Sunday. CRAIG STROBECK/USA TODAY SPORTS

## STILL THE BEST

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone broke the women's 400-meter hurdles world record in 50.65 seconds at the U.S. Olympic trials in Eugene, Oregon, on Sunday. The 24-year-old Olympic champion bested her own mark of 50.68 seconds set two years ago at the same Hayward Field track. **STORY, PAGE 8NS**

## NASCAR

### Logano survives 5 overtimes in Nashville

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Joey Logano did not know how his No. 22 Team Penske Ford made it back to the finish line, but the effort was good enough to thrust him into the postseason.

Logano ran 110 laps on a tank of fuel to hold off Zane Smith and Tyler Reddick in a fifth overtime on Sunday to win the NASCAR Cup Series' Ally 400 at Nashville Superspeedway in Lebanon, Tenn.

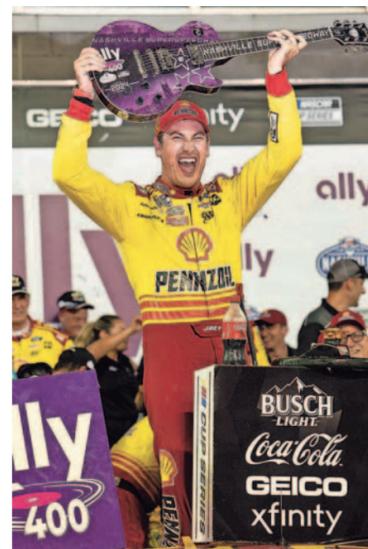
After nearly winning in the fourth OT, Logano restarted in first for the second time, ahead of Chase Briscoe, and beat Smith by 0.068 seconds in the fifth two-lap shootout for his first points victory this year.

"I know into (Turn) 3, my fuel light came on and it stumbled across the line. That was definitely all of it," Logano told NBC Sports. "It's been a stressful few weeks trying to get into the playoffs, and being able to win here is huge for our season. Felt great to get that. Boy, it feels good."

"I'm out of breath. We had it won off of (Turn) 4 and then the caution came out, and I was like, 'Oh, my God,' but you can't pit. You've kind of got to go for it. Boy, it was close."

Logano became the Cup Series' 11th different winner in 2024 despite leading just nine laps on Sunday.

See NASCAR, Page 6NS



Joey Logano celebrates winning the Ally 400 at Nashville Superspeedway in Lebanon, Tenn., Sunday.

ANDREW NELLES/NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

## GOLF

### Davis outlasts field for win in Detroit

Jared Ramsey

Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

DETROIT - Akshay Bhatia was at the top of the leaderboard, whether tied or solo, all throughout the 2024 Rocket Mortgage Classic.

But he three-putted Sunday evening from 32 feet on the 18th green, giving Cam Davis his second victory in four years at Detroit Golf Club, finishing at 18-under-par 270.

Davis is the first two-time winner of Detroit's flagship PGA Tour tournament that started in 2019, finishing one shot clear of Bhatia, Min Woo Lee, Aaron Rai and Davis Thompson. Davis, now a two-time Tour winner with both of them coming at Detroit Golf Club, watched the missed putt securing his win while warming up for a potential playoff on

the third tee box.

"It was a combination of shock and feeling bad for him," Davis said of Bhatia's missed putt. "At the same time, (I was) realizing that the huge burden of trying to win again is off the shoulders. It's still a bit of a shock."

Bhatia had just one bogey and no three-putts through 71 holes, as he was looking for his second win on the PGA Tour this season and third of his career.

Instead, Davis' steady play, including an up-and-down from just outside the bunker on the par-5 17th, and an up-and-down from the left rough on No. 18, was enough.

"I left those chips in the best place I could," Davis said.

"Sucks," Bhatia said minutes later in his news conference, arms crossed. "No

See GOLF, Page 2NS



Cam Davis lifts the trophy to celebrate winning the Rocket Mortgage Classic at Detroit Golf Club on Sunday. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

## GOLF

## LPGA TOUR

## Thitikul, Yin team up to win Dow Championship

**Beth Ann Nichols**  
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

Atthaya Thitikul and Ruoning Yin, a couple of 21-year-old hotshots who have risen to No. 1 in the past, teamed up for the first time at the 2024 Dow Championship and walked away winners.

The partnership came together during a Callaway sponsorship shoot last November. Thitikul, who had never played in the event before, asked Yin to team up with her.

"She doesn't have any option," said Thitikul, who buried the winning birdie putt on the par-3 18th. "I'm just forcing her to play with me."

Yin, who goes by "Ronni," and Thitikul, who goes by "Jeeno," chose the team name "Jin and Ronic" after one of their coaches' favorite drinks.

It was LPGA victory No. 3 for both players, who closed with a 62 in the best-ball format at Midland Country Club to finish at 22 under for the tournament, edging Ally Ewing and Jennifer Kupcho by a shot. Solheim Cup captain Stacy Lewis certainly kept a close eye on the American duo as a potential pairing for this year's Solheim.

"Alternate shot, I think we're by far a really, really, really good alternate shot team," said Ewing.

Danish players Nicole Broch Estrup and Nanna Koerstz Estrup took a share of third with South Koreans Haeji Kang and In Kyung Kim at 19 under.

Charley Hull, another first-time Dow participant, teamed up with lifelong friend Georgia Hall to take a share of third with Auston Kim and Grace Kim (no relation).

Brooke Henderson and Lexi Thompson highlighted a logjam of players in a share of eighth that included Nasa Hataoka and Jin Young Ko as well as the all-star mom pairing of Brittany Lincicome and Brittany Lang, two longtime Solheim Cup partners and major winners.

Lincicome and Lang, who are both 38, joked that they were going to



**Ruoning Yin, left, and Atthaya Thitikul hold the trophy after winning the Dow Championship at Midland Country Club on Sunday in Midland, Mich.**

DYLAN BUELL/GETTY IMAGES

change their team name from the "Killer Bees" to "AARP" or "Life Alert" because they now feel so old.

"Tour old," Lang clarified.

John Shippen Women's Invitational winner Georgia Oboh and her partner Lakareber Abe, who were both playing on a sponsor exemption, also tied for eighth. Neither player has LPGA status.

Yin, No. 4 in the world, and Thitikul, No. 12, have both battled injuries of late. Thitikul's thumb injury kept her away from her golf clubs for three months. She returned to the tour at the Chevron Championship in April and said she's now pain-free.

"The reason that I played five weeks in a row, I just want to get back to, like, feeling competition feelings, the imaginations," she said.

"It's been a long time that I missed like three months that I don't touch any clubs, not hitting balls at all. I just want to stick back to how can I see the ball, how the ball is going to react over my shots."



**Steve Stricker putts during the U.S. Senior Open at Newport Country Club on Sunday.** LOUIS WALKER III/SPECIAL TO THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

## Rain forces US Senior Open to finish Monday

**Bill Koch**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEWPORT, R.I. — We'll have another Monday finish in a major golf event at Newport Country Club.

A two-hour morning fog delay and an afternoon suspension due to thunderstorms stopped a winner from being crowned on schedule at the 44th U.S. Senior Open.

Hiroyuki Fujita and his fellow leaders wound up needing to wait through Sunday night for a resolution. They were about to play off the par-4 11th tee when a cold front rumbled through the region. Time of resumption has yet to be determined but it will be the first Monday finish at the event since Gene Sauers won in 2016.

Fujita enjoyed a three-shot lead over Richard Bland, who carded a 4-under 31 on the front side while playing in the group ahead of the Saturday leaders. Fujita made just his second bogey of the tournament but countered with three more birdies to sit at 16-under. Richard Green and Steve Stricker trailed by four and six shots, respec-

tively. Fujita has simply refused to open the door for his competition thus far. He carded an opening 63 on Thursday and remains in position for a wire-to-wire victory. Birdies at the par-4 second, par-4 sixth and par-4 ninth accompanied a terrific save out of the right bunker at the par-3 fifth.

Fujita's opening birdie of the day seemed to knock something out of Stricker. They both opted for less than driver on the 321-yard tantalizer, and Fujita's wedge approach stayed outside Stricker's ball behind the hole. Fujita curled home his putt while Stricker missed, and the 2019 champion at this event followed by making the first of his three bogeys on the front side at the par-4 third. Defending champion Bernhard Langer, Padraig Harrington, Jim Furyk — none of them remains in contention and that sets up Fujita to become the sixth different winner at this event in as many stagings. He's a 23-time champion in his native Japan — 18 times on the Japan Golf Tour, three times on the Japan PGA Senior Tour. His most recent victory occurred in a local 2023 major, the Japan Senior Open Golf Championship.

## Golf

Continued from Page 1NS

other way to put it. Just sucks."

Bhatia and Rai were tied for the lead at 17-under heading into the final day, with Davis and Cameron Young a shot back tied at 16-under. Rai briefly jumped into the lead, but Bhatia and Davis pulled ahead heading into the back nine. Bhatia jumped into the lead thanks to a Davis bogey on No. 14, then Lee reached 18 under before subsequently falling back to 17 under with a bogey on the final hole.

Davis won the tournament in 2021, outlasting Troy Merritt and Joaquin Niemann in a five-hole playoff.

## Bhatia can't close

Bhatia played clean golf through the first 54 holes, not tallying a bogey through the first three days of the tournament to enjoy a shared lead heading into Sunday. He faced adversity early, including an up-and-down on the first hole and his first bogey of the tournament on No. 3 after duffing a chip on his third stroke to fall behind Rai early.

From there, he returned back to his mistake-free play, until the final hole. He sank a 31-foot birdie putt on No. 4 to immediately regain the stroke, then moved into a share of the lead with a birdie on No. 7 after reaching the green-side rough in two shots before sticking the chip inside four feet for a simple birdie. He played holes 8-17 with 10 straight pars in the windy conditions. Lee and Davis both reached 18 under with birdies on No. 17.

"It's a very tough situation to be in for him and for someone to be the benefactor, that is a bit of a weird situation to be in but at the same time there's so much relief because it's been a long time since I've been on top," Davis said.

## Min Woo Lee rallies late, stumbles on 18

Two of the four players who finished tied for second shot up the leaderboard late Sunday. Lee and Thompson piled up the birdies in the final back nine to



**Akshay Bhatia reacts after missing a putt on the 18th green during final round of Rocket Mortgage Classic at Detroit Golf Club on Sunday.** JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

move into the crowded top of the leaderboard.

Lee sat at 1 over on the day after a double bogey on par-5 No. 7 thanks to a three-putt from 6 feet, but answered with a chip-in birdie on No. 8, then shot 33 on the back nine to finish 3-under 69 for the day. He birdied the 17th hole to move into a tie for first place at 18 under with Bhatia and Davis, but finished with a bogey after his approach shot went long on 18. His tough pitch from thick rough for birdie down the slope ran through the green into the opposite rough. His par save chip came up 14 inches short. Thompson had six birdies and two bogies to finish 4-under 68 Sunday and move into the cluster at second place. He finished with three birdies in five holes to climb the leaderboard,

including sticking his tee shot within three feet on No. 15 for a tap-in birdie in front of the grandstands.

## Bhatia, Davis surge to lead through front 9

Rai held a lead for most of the front nine after he started the round with a birdie on the first hole, which grew to two shots by No. 3 after Bhatia bogeyed it. But things flipped beginning at No. 6. Rai and Bhatia drove side-by-side in the middle of the fairway, but Rai's approach bounced off the green to the short side while Bhatia stuck it to 15 feet for a birdie attempt.

Rai bogeyed after leaving himself a 10-foot par putt, while Bhatia calmly two-putted for par to cut the lead to one.

While that was happening, Davis was a hole ahead and birdied the par-5 seventh hole to jump into the sole lead, briefly, before Bhatia joined him with his own birdie on No. 7. Rai bogeyed No. 9 to fall two shots behind before the turn, leaving Bhatia and Davis alone at 18 under.

Young, playing with Davis, recovered from an early bogey with two pars on Nos. 8 and 9 to pull within one shot of the lead for the final nine holes, but could not stay in the fairway with his driver and missed numerous putts short and wide. He snapped his driver shaft after missing the fairway left on No. 14, forcing him to hit 3-wood off the tee on his final three holes. He finished those holes 5-5-5 to shoot 73 and in a tie for sixth at 15 under.

## NBA

## NBA NOTEBOOK

## George leaving Clippers after talks fall through

WIRE REPORTS

The Los Angeles Clippers announced Sunday night that Paul George is leaving the team in free agency.

George's decision was not a surprise after reports emerged Saturday that he had opted out of his contract with Los Angeles, which would have paid him \$48.8 million next season. The Athletic reported Saturday night that George planned to speak with the Philadelphia 76ers, Orlando Magic and Clippers when free agency opened.

Calling George "a tremendous talent and an elite two-way player," the Clippers commented on his decision in a team statement Sunday, saying there was a "significant" gap in talks between the two sides.

"We traded a lot to pair Paul and Kawhi (Leonard), and in exchange, we had five seasons of contention. Even though we fell short of our ultimate objective, we appreciate the chances we had with Paul," the statement read.

"Heading into this offseason, our roster was constructed (with) three great players 33 and over, two of whom could become free agents. We wanted to retain them on contracts that would allow us, under the constraints of the new CBA, to continue building the team.

"We negotiated for months with Paul and his representative on a contract that would make sense for both sides, and we were left far apart. The gap was significant. We understand and respect Paul's decision to look elsewhere for his next contract. We explored an opt-in and trade scenario, but it would have left us in a similar position under the new CBA, with very little asset value to justify the restrictions."

George is the biggest NBA star to hit free agency this summer other than LeBron James, who is expected to return to the Los Angeles Lakers on a new deal after opting out this weekend.

The 34-year-old George is a nine-time All-Star, including three times (2021, 2023 and 2024) during his five-year stay with the Clippers. In 2023-24, he averaged 22.6 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists while shooting a career-high 41.3 percent from 3-point range in 74 games (all starts).

In 867 career games (819 starts) with the Indiana Pacers, Oklahoma City Thunder and Clippers, George has averaged 20.8 points, 6.3 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 1.7 steals per game.

He was injury-prone for much of his time with the Clippers. George played 48, 54, 31 and 56 games in his first four seasons with the team.



Paul George warms up prior to a game at Crypto.com Arena.

KIYOSHI MIO/USA TODAY SPORTS

As for Los Angeles, which reached one Western Conference Finals in five seasons with Leonard and George together, the team's statement said it "will miss Paul" while promising to "field a highly competitive team this season, and moving forward."

#### Reports: Paul to sign with Spurs after Warriors waived him

Free agent point guard Chris Paul, reportedly waived by the Golden State Warriors earlier Sunday, is going to the San Antonio Spurs on a one-year contract worth \$11 million-plus, according to ESPN.

Sunday was the deadline for the Warriors to guarantee Paul's \$30 million contract for next year. The team and Paul reportedly agreed to push back the deadline from Friday to Sunday as the Warriors sought a trade partner, multiple outlets reported.

According to Bleacher Report, Golden State turned down an offer of guard Zach LaVine in return for Paul and Andrew Wiggins.

Paul, 39, is a 12-time All-Star who was traded last summer from the Phoenix Suns to Washington Wizards, then dealt again two weeks later to the Warriors.

Playing in 58 games for Golden State last season (18 starts), Paul averaged 9.2 points with 6.8 assists in a career-low 26.4 minutes per game.

Paul has averaged 17.5 points and 9.4 assists in 1,272 games (1,232 starts) over 19 seasons. He was named Rookie of the Year in 2006 and has finished in the top five of MVP voting five times, but his scoring average has dipped in each of the past four seasons.

Paul ranks third in NBA history in both steals (2,614) and assists (11,894).

#### Reports: Harden returning to Clippers

James Harden intends to sign a two-year, \$70 million contract to remain with the Los Angeles Clippers, according to multiple reports on Sunday.

Harden reportedly will own a player option for the second season of the deal, according to The Athletic.

Harden averaged 16.6 points, 8.5 assists and 5.1 rebounds in 72 games last season in his first campaign with the Clippers.

The Clippers acquired Harden from the Philadelphia 76ers shortly after the start of last season in a three-team trade that also included the Oklahoma City Thunder. Harden had sought a trade after having a financial dispute and subsequent fallout with 76ers general manager Daryl Morey.

Harden was the 2017-18 NBA MVP and a three-time scoring champion during his eight-plus seasons with the Houston Rockets. He averaged a career-best 36.1 points in 2018-19.

Harden has career averages of 24.1 points, 7.1 assists and 5.6 rebounds in 1,072 games over 15 NBA seasons.

#### Report: 76ers reach deal with Drummond

The Philadelphia 76ers have agreed to a two-year, \$10 million contract with veteran center Andre Drummond, The Athletic reported on Sunday.

Drummond, a four-time NBA rebounding champ, seemed to confirm the deal on social media.

"I'm in the mood for a Philly cheesesteak," he tweeted.

Drummond's commitment comes at a time the 76ers are hotly pursuing forward Paul George to team with star center Joel Embiid and standout guard Tyrese Maxey.

This will be Drummond's second stint with Philadelphia. He played 49 games (12 starts) with the team in 2021-22 and averaged 6.1 points and 8.8 rebounds.

Drummond, who turns 31 in August, averaged 8.4 points and 9.0 rebounds in 79 games (10 starts) for the Chicago Bulls last season.

Drummond is averaging 12.7 points and 12.4 rebounds in 864 games (640 starts) over 12 seasons.

#### Reports: Magic agree to deal with Caldwell-Pope

Veteran guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope has agreed to a three-year, \$66

million deal with the Orlando Magic, multiple media outlets reported Sunday.

The third year of the contract is reportedly a player option.

Caldwell-Pope spent the past two seasons with the Nuggets and was a starter when Denver won the 2023 NBA Finals. He was also part of the Los Angeles Lakers' 2020 championship team.

Caldwell-Pope, 31, averaged 10.1 points, 2.4 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.3 steals in 76 games (all starts) for Denver last season. He shot 40.6 percent from 3-point range and is known for his defensive prowess.

#### Report: Toppin to stay with Pacers on \$60M deal

Coming off his best season, power forward Obi Toppin is set to sign a four-year, \$60 million deal to remain with the Indiana Pacers, per an ESPN report on Sunday.

Toppin, 26, averaged a career-high 10.3 points and 3.9 rebounds while shooting a career-best 57.3 percent from the field this season, his first with Indiana. Averaging 21.1 minutes off the bench, he also set a career high in 3-point shooting percentage at 40.3.

Toppin was the No. 8 overall pick in the 2020 draft by the New York Knicks, who dealt him to the Pacers last summer for a pair of second-round picks.

In four seasons with the Knicks (2020-23) and Pacers, Toppin has averaged 7.9 points, 3.2 rebounds and 1.1 assists in 283 games (43 starts).

#### Report: Len to remain with Kings on one-year deal

Veteran backup center Alex Len plans to return to the Sacramento Kings on a one-year, \$3.3 million contract, The Athletic reported Sunday.

Len provides depth behind Kings star center Domantas Sabonis, who had 77 double-doubles (including 26 triple-doubles) during the 2023-24 regular season. Len, 31, averaged 2.5 points and 2.7 rebounds in 48 games as a reserve last season. Next season would be Len's fourth in his second tour of duty for Sacramento. He also played for the Kings during part of the 2019-20 season.

Len has career averages of 7.0 points and 5.5 rebounds in 644 games (237 starts) since being a first-round pick (fifth overall) out of Maryland by the Phoenix Suns in the 2013 NBA Draft. He also has played for the Atlanta Hawks, Toronto Raptors and Washington Wizards.

## Pistons abruptly hire Bickerstaff as coach

Omari Sankofa II  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Detroit Pistons hires a new head coach hours before NBA free agency kicked off. The organization has hired J.B. Bickerstaff, league sources confirmed to the Free Press on Sunday morning. The deal is for five years, with a team option for the fifth season.

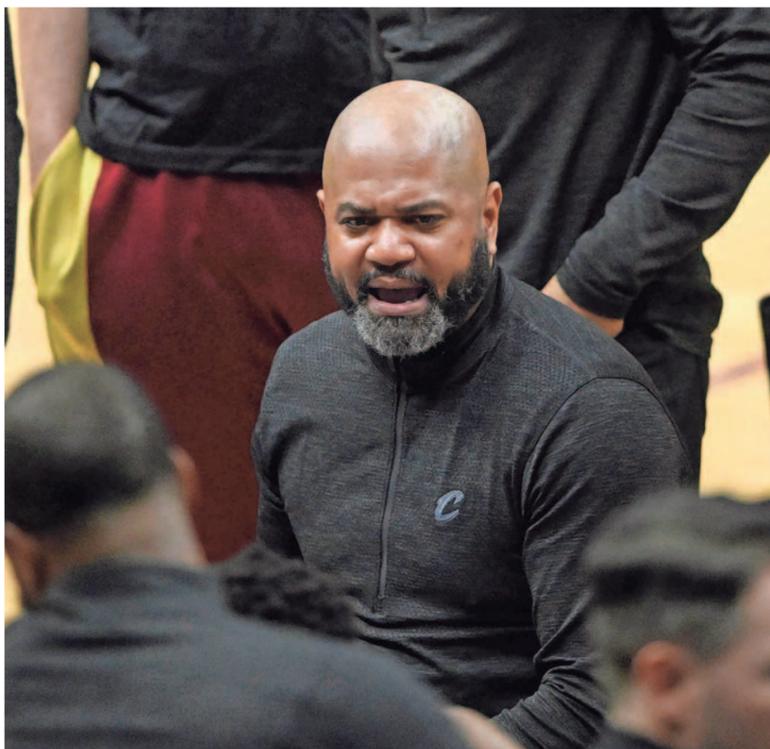
Bickerstaff, 45, previously was the head coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers from 2020-24, leading them to the first round of the playoffs in 2023 (51-31 record) and the second round last season (48-34). He was fired in May after the banged-up Cavs were eliminated from the postseason by Boston in five games, with leadership wanting a fresh voice and alternative ideas. The Cavs last week hired Kenny Atkinson to replace Bickerstaff.

Bickerstaff had a 170-159 record (.517 win percentage) after taking over as interim coach late in the 2019-20 season after former Michigan head coach John Beilein quit. Bickerstaff had his "interim" title removed in the summer of 2020.

Young Cavs players Evan Mobley (third pick in 2021) and 2019 lottery pick Darius Garland both made strides under Bickerstaff's tutelage, with Garland making his first All-Star appearance in 2022.

Bickerstaff checks multiple boxes the Pistons wanted in their next head coach, with a track record in player development and organizing and positioning young teams for success.

"I think you have to have a teacher who can teach the fundamentals of the game, and I don't mean dribbling and



Cavaliers head coach J. B. Bickerstaff talks during a fourth-quarter timeout against the Celtics in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

DAVID RICHARD/USA TODAY SPORTS

passing," team president Trajan Langdon said after his introductory news conference June 21. "I mean defensive X-outs, box outs and hold these things accountable to those things that impact winning every day. And being able to communicate the 'why' about it, I think that's essential for this generation of

player. You can't just tell them what to do and expect them just to do it. You have to communicate the 'why' behind it and they have to be aware of how that communication is being received. That's what we're all looking for in a head coach, which isn't always easy, but it's something we'll be looking for."

The Pistons have a plethora of former high draft picks in need of molding, including the No. 5 overall pick in Wednesday's draft, Ron Holland, along with franchise leader Cade Cunningham, second-year forward Ausar Thompson, third-year center Jalen Duren and third-year guard Jaden Ivey.

The Pistons enter free agency Sunday at 6 p.m. with around \$50 million in cap space.

The Pistons fired former coach Monty Williams on June 19, one year into his six-year contract following a failed 14-68 season. The organization has undergone a reset this offseason, with Langdon taking over control of the front office and hiring new staff.

Bickerstaff was one of four known candidates the Pistons were after, including New Orleans Pelicans assistant James Borrego, Dallas Mavericks assistant Sean Sweeney and Minnesota Timberwolves assistant Micah Nori — the latter two were both former Pistons assistants under Dwane Casey. Borrego, who worked with Langdon last season, reportedly pulled his name out of consideration Saturday.

Prior to Cleveland, Bickerstaff was the head coach of the Memphis Grizzlies from 2017-19, where he went 48-97. He is the son of former NBA head coach Bernie Bickerstaff, and has previously been an assistant with the Charlotte Bobcats, Minnesota Timberwolves and Houston Rockets, where he briefly served as interim head coach, going 37-34 in 2015-16.

J.B. Bickerstaff played college basketball at Oregon State and Minnesota.

Contact Omari Sankofa II at [osankofa@freepress.com](mailto:osankofa@freepress.com). Follow him @omarisankofa.

## MLB

## SUNDAY'S ROUNDUP

## 5-run 11th lifts Astros over Mets

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Trey Cabbage's two-run double capped a five-run 11th inning Sunday for the visiting Houston Astros, who moved over .500 for the first time this season with a 10-5 win over the New York Mets in the rubber game of a three-game series.

The Astros went 17-8 in June, the best record in the American League and second-best in the majors behind only the Mets, to improve to 42-41. With no mutual remaining off-days, the teams waited out a rain delay of two hours and 47 minutes following the top of the ninth.

The teams traded runs in the 10th, when Chas McCormick had an RBI single in the top half before Brandon Nimmo led off the bottom half with a run-scoring double.

**Pirates 4, Braves 2**

Oneil Cruz and Rowdy Tellez hit tape-measure home runs as the Pittsburgh Pirates defeated the host Atlanta Braves to salvage the finale of their three-game series.

Nick Gonzales doubled among his two hits for Pittsburgh, which snapped a two-game losing streak with its third win in the last seven games. Bryan Reynolds went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts to end his 25-game hitting streak, the longest in the majors this season.

Sean Murphy doubled and totaled two hits, and Marcell Ozuna doubled, walked and scored a run for Atlanta, which finished with just six hits. Braves starter Spencer Schwellenbach (1-4) suffered the loss in yielding four runs on five hits over five innings. He walked two and struck out seven.

**Red Sox 4, Padres 1**

Rafael Devers collected two hits, including a two-run home run, to help the Boston Red Sox avoid a three-game sweep by beating the visiting San Diego Padres.

Devers hit his 18th home run of the season in the bottom of the first against Matt Waldron. Wilyer Abreu, who reached on a walk, also scored on the home run. The two-run homer gave Devers 600 career RBIs.

San Diego scored in the seventh on back-to-back doubles by Jackson Merrill and Ha-Seong Kim. Merrill had three hits in the loss, which ended San Diego's five-game winning streak.

**Phillies 7, Marlins 6**

Trea Turner put Philadelphia ahead with a two-run single in the seventh inning, and the Phillies salvaged a split of a four-game series against the visiting Miami Marlins.

The Marlins led 6-2 following the top of the fifth inning before Philadelphia battled back and capped their largest comeback of the season on Turner's single against Anthony Bender. Alec Bohm hit a two-run homer and Nick Castellanos had four hits and three RBIs for Philadelphia, which won despite committing five errors and going 3-for-17 with runners in scoring position.

Bryan De La Cruz homered and Emmanuel Rivera drove in two runs for Miami, which went 4-for-13 with runners in scoring position.

**Yankees 8, Blue Jays 1**

Aaron Judge hit a two-run home run, Gerrit Cole struck out six in five innings and the visiting New York Yankees defeated the Toronto Blue Jays.

Trent Grisham and DJ LeMahieu added two RBIs each to help the Yankees gain a split in the four-game series.

Toronto right-hander Kevin Gausman (6-7) allowed seven runs, seven hits and five walks with seven strikeouts in 4⅓ innings.

**Rays 5, Nationals 0**

Taj Bradley kept rolling with his strong June pitching. Isaac Paredes finished a single shy of the cycle and the Tampa Bay Rays earned a fourth straight series win in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Bradley (3-4) struck out 11 and allowed just three hits over 5⅓ innings, while walking two over 99 pitches.

Paredes went 3-for-4 with a homer, triple and double to go with two runs. He flied out to center in the eighth in his attempt at the cycle.

Randy Arozarena was 2-for-4 with a solo shot and Jose Caballero had a two-run homer and a walk.



Astros catcher Yainer Diaz hits an RBI single in the fourth inning against the Mets at Citi Field. WENDELL CRUZ/USA TODAY SPORTS



Phillies shortstop Trea Turner watches his two-run double against the Marlins during the seventh inning at Citizens Bank Park. ERIC HARTLINE/USA TODAY SPORTS

**Rockies 5, White Sox 4, 14 innings**

Michael Toglia hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the top of the 14th inning, helping lead the visiting Colorado Rockies to a win over the Chicago White Sox.

After Colorado's Sam Hilliard moved Ryan McMahon to third on a sacrifice bunt, Toglia's sacrifice fly was just deep enough to score the game-winner, snapping the Rockies' five-game losing streak.

Garrett Crochet pitched seven innings of two-run ball for Chicago, striking out 11 batters. His 141 strikeouts on the season are the most in baseball. Andrew Vaughn went 2-for-4 with three RBIs for the White Sox.

**Royals 6, Guardians 2**

Seth Lugo tossed six shutout innings for his major league-best 11th win as the Kansas City Royals beat the visiting Cleveland Guardians, taking three of four games in the series.

Lugo (11-2) fanned 10 while allowing four hits and a walk to earn his 14th quality start, matching Logan Gilbert for most in the majors.

Jose Ramirez's two-out RBI double put Cleveland on the board in the eighth. Ramirez tied Jim Thome for third on the franchise's all-time list with 620 extra-base hits.

**Brewers 7, Cubs 1**

Brice Turang belted Milwaukee's fifth grand slam in eight games to back a dominant start by Freddy Peralta and power the Brewers to a victory over the visiting Chicago Cubs in the rubber

game of the three-game series.

Turang's grand slam off starter Kyle Hendricks capped a seven-run fourth that put Milwaukee in front 7-1.

Nico Hoerner opened the game with his fourth homer, sending the second pitch from Peralta 383 feet to left-center to put the Cubs up 1-0.

**Cardinals 2, Reds 0**

Lance Lynn and three relievers combined in a two-hitter as the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the visiting Cincinnati Reds.

Lynn (4-3) allowed two hits while walking one and striking out six in six innings.

Andrew Kittredge, JoJo Romero and Ryan Helsley closed out the last three innings, with Helsley converting his 30th consecutive save to extend his team record.

Reds starter Hunter Greene (5-4) allowed one run on four hits and two walks in 4⅓ innings. He struck out six.

**Giants 10, Dodgers 4**

Matt Chapman homered, Spencer Bivens worked a season-best five innings and the San Francisco Giants completed a series win over the visiting Los Angeles Dodgers.

Jorge Soler doubled twice and scored a pair of runs for the Giants, who had lost five of six to the Dodgers this season before taking two of three in the final home series of the year against their rivals.

Chris Taylor hit a home run and an RBI double to lead the Dodgers.

**Tigers 7, Angels 6**

Justyn-Henry Malloy's inside-the-park home run highlighted a rare offensive outburst by the Detroit Tigers in their victory over the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif.

Detroit catcher Carson Kelly hit a three-run homer in support of starting pitcher Casey Mize (2-6). The right-hander threw 5⅓ scoreless innings, allowing just three singles, but had to leave the game with one out in the sixth when he appeared to injure his left hamstring.

Los Angeles made the Tigers sweat this one out, trailing 7-1 going into the ninth inning. The Angels got a three-run homer from Zach Neto and a two-run shot from Jo Adell to pull within a run.

**Twins 5, Mariners 3**

Trevor Larnach hit a tiebreaking, two-run home run in the eighth inning as the Minnesota Twins defeated the host Seattle Mariners.

Larnach's blast to right-center off Mariners reliever Ryne Stanek (5-2), following a one-out single by Jose Miranda, gave the Twins home runs in a franchise-record 19 consecutive games.

Minnesota reliever Cole Sands (3-1) got the victory and Jhoan Duran worked the ninth for his 12th save as the Twins took two of three games in the series. The Mariners had won their previous nine home series, two shy of the team mark set in 2001-02.

**Diamondbacks 5, A's 1**

Christian Walker had three hits and two RBIs to help the Arizona Diamondbacks to a win over the Oakland Athletics in the rubber game of their three-game series in Phoenix.

Arizona starter Brandon Pfaadt allowed one run and five hits over six innings. He struck out eight and walked two.

A's starter Luis Medina matched Pfaadt for six innings, allowing one run and four hits while striking out five and walking three.

**Rangers 11, Orioles 2**

Derek Hill homered twice and the Texas Rangers finally got their offense going, pounding the host Baltimore Orioles to salvage the finale of a four-game series.

Andrew Heaney struck out 10 in seven solid innings and Wyatt Langford, who drilled a three-run home run, finished with four hits, drove in four runs and scored three runs as the Rangers snapped a six-game losing streak.

Hill, who also homered Saturday night, drove in three runs and Nathaniel Lowe added a pair of run-scoring singles. It was just the fifth victory in the past 16 games for Texas.

Baltimore's four-game winning streak ended as the Orioles closed a homestand with a 4-3 mark.

Heaney (3-9) had lost his past three decisions, but he held Baltimore to five hits and didn't walk a batter in his 93-pitch effort. Jose Urena pitched the final two innings.

## MLB

## SUNDAY'S BOX SCORES

Texas 11, Baltimore 2  
 Texas.....020 330 030 -- 11 13 0  
 Baltimore.....010 100 000 -- 2 7 1

	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	Avg.
Texas	4	0	0	0	2	0	4	.288
Semin 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Ornelas 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Smith ss	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	.290
Grossman dh	6	1	0	0	0	2	.211	
Garcia rf	3	2	0	0	0	1	.271	
Jankowski rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.207	
Langford lf	5	3	4	4	0	0	.260	
Lowe 1b	5	2	2	2	0	1	.265	
Hill cf	4	2	2	2	0	0	.204	
Knizner c	4	1	2	1	0	1	.347	
Wendzel 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.128	
Totals	40	11	13	11	4	8		
Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	Avg.
Henderson ss	4	0	0	0	0	4	.294	
Rutschman c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.294	
Santander lf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.230	
Urbán 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.217	
Westburg 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.281	
Hays lf	3	2	2	0	0	0	.252	
O'Hearn 1b-rf	4	0	3	1	0	0	.285	
Mateo 2b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.236	
Kjerstad dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.200	
Cowser cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.223	
Totals	35	2	7	2	0	12		

E: Westburg. 2B: Garcia (13), Langford (9), Knizner (1), Hays (9), Kjerstad (2). 3B: Langford (4). HR: Langford (4), Hill (2) (3). RBI: Smith (33), Langford 4 (35), Lowe 2 (29), Hill 3 (4), Knizner (6), O'Hearn (34), Kjerstad (8). Runners left in scoring position: Texas 4 (Smith 2, Grossman, Garcia), Baltimore 3 (Cowser 3). RISP: Texas 6 for 15, Baltimore 2 for 5.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Texas	7.0	5	2	2	0	10	93	4.04
Heaney W, 3-9	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	32	2.83
Urena	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	32	2.83
Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Irvin L, 6-5	3.2	5	5	5	2	2	80	4.13
Vespi	1.1	5	3	3	1	1	29	3.18
Tate	2.0	1	0	0	0	1	26	3.38
Krook	1.0	1	3	2	1	2	27	18.00
Akin	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	3.38

Inherited runners: Vespi 2-2. HBP: Smith, Garcia, Knizner, Wendzel, Hays. WP: Heaney, Irvin. Umpires: HP-Thomas, 1B-Ceja, 2B-Blaser, 3B-Gonzalez. T: 2:47. A: 23,439 (45,971).

Houston 10, N.Y. Mets 5 (11)  
 Hou.....010 210 000 15 -- 10 15 0  
 NYM.....000 002 200 10 -- 5 5 0

	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	Avg.
Houston	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	.304
Altuve 2b	2	0	1	1	0	1	.218	
McCormick lf	5	2	1	0	0	0	.248	
Bregman 3b	3	2	0	0	0	0	.294	
Alvarez dh	5	1	3	1	0	1	.282	
Diaz c	5	1	1	2	0	1	.260	
Meyers cf	4	1	3	1	0	0	.236	
a-Loferido pr-1b	1	1	1	1	2	0	.305	
Pena ss	5	0	0	0	0	0	.277	
Dubon lf-2b	5	2	1	0	0	2	.293	
Cabbage rf	5	0	0	0	2	0	.286	
Totals	44	10	15	10	2	5		
N.Y. Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	Avg.
Lindor ss	5	1	0	0	0	1	.248	
Nimmo cf-ff	4	2	3	1	1	1	.247	
Martinez dh	4	0	0	0	1	2	.277	
Alonso 1b	4	0	1	0	1	1	.245	
Stewart rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.183	
Bader cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.269	
Vientos 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.295	
Gamel lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.229	
b-Taylor ph-cf-ff	4	0	0	0	0	0	.310	
Torrens c	4	1	0	0	1	0	.217	
McNeil 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.310	
Totals	38	5	5	7	8			

a--ran for Singleton in 9th. b--fouled out for Gamel in 4th.

2B: Bregman (16), Diaz (13), Cabbage 2 (5), Nimmo (15), Alonso (20), Vientos (7). HR: Singleton (6), Nimmo (13). RBI: Altuve (37), McCormick (18), Diaz (41), Meyers 2 (32), Singleton (18), Loperfido 2 (9), Cabbage 2 (7), Nimmo 3 (50), Vientos 2 (25). CS: McCormick (2), Loperfido (1). Runners left in scoring position: Houston 5 (Altuve 2, McCormick, Meyers, Pena), N.Y. Mets 5 (Vientos 2, Taylor 2, McNeil). RISP: Houston 7 for 16, N.Y. Mets 2 for 11. GDP: Bregman. DP: N.Y. Mets 2.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Houston	IP	H	R	ER <td>BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td></td>	BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td>	SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td>	NP <td>ERA</td>	ERA
Dubin	3.1	0	0	0	3	2	5	4.91
King	1.2	0	0	0	1	2	0	2.08
Martinez	1.0	3	2	2	0	1	2	2.72
Alvarez BS, 3	4.0	2	2	2	2	2	26	2.97
Presly	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1.33
Scott W, 4-2	2.0	1	1	0	1	2	9	1.29
Contreras	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.00

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
N.Y. Mets	IP	H	R <td>ER <td>BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td></td></td>	ER <td>BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td></td>	BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td>	SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td>	NP <td>ERA</td>	ERA
Seaverio	7.0	8	4	4	3	7	39	3.42
Houser	2.0	2	2	2	0	1	31	5.37
Ottavino	1.0	1	0	0	0	6	4	6.68
Festa L, 0-1	1.0	4	5	4	1	2	8	36.00

Inherited runners: King 1-1. BB: Scott (1), Festa (1). Umpires: HP-Jean, 1B-Blakney, 2B-Wolf, 3B-Porter. T: 3:01. A: 26,853 (41,922).

Minnesota 5, Seattle 3  
 Minn.....100 020 020 -- 5 8 1  
 Sea.....000 020 100 -- 3 9 0

	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	Avg.
Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB <td>SO <td>NP</td> <td>Avg.</td> </td>	SO <td>NP</td> <td>Avg.</td>	NP	Avg.
Castro ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	.276	
Miranda dh	4	1	2	1	0	0	.297	
Larnach lf	4	1	2	3	0	0	.256	
Margot lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.238	
Lewis 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.276	
Santana 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.254	
Buxton cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.260	
Kepler rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.245	
Martin 2b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.269	
Farmer 2b	3	1	0	0	0	1	.187	
Vazquez c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.181	
Totals	34	5	8	5	0	6		
Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB <td>SO <td>NP</td> <td>Avg.</td> </td>	SO <td>NP</td> <td>Avg.</td>	NP	Avg.
Crawford ss	4	1	0	0	0	0	.215	
Rojas 3b	4	1	0	0	1	1	.253	
Rodriguez cf	5	0	1	0	0	0	.247	
Raley dh-c	5	0	1	0	0	3	.202	
Nevin 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.203	
Garver c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.172	
a-Bliss ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.241	
c-Robbles ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.316	
b-Haniger ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.213	
Polanco 2b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.197	
France 1b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.232	
Moore lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.210	
Totals	38	3	7	2	1	11		

a--struck out for Castillo in 5th. b--grounded out for Thornton in 9th. c--grounded out for Baumann in 7th. E: Ryan. 2B: Martin (9), Raley (8). 3B: Moore (3). HR: Larnach (3). RBI: Miranda (37), Larnach 3 (28), Martin (9), Raley (23), Polanco (15). SB: Castro 2 (10), Crawford (4), Rodriguez (17), Polanco (2). S: Vazquez. Runners left in scoring position: Minnesota 2 (Larnach, Santana), Seattle 8 (Crawford, Rodriguez, Raley 2, Polanco 2, France, Moore). RISP: Minnesota 2 for 6, Seattle 4 for 18.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Minnesota	IP	H	R <td>ER <td>BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td></td></td>	ER <td>BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td></td>	BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td>	SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td>	NP <td>ERA</td>	ERA
Ryan	5.2	6	2	1	0	10	99	3.21
Thielbar H, 6	0	1	0	0	0	2	16	7.00
Okert H, 5	0.2	1	1	1	0	0	16	3.46
Sands W, 3-1, 3-5	0.1	2	0	0	0	15	4.21	
Funderburk H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	0	10	5.02	
Duran S, 12	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	19	3.51

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Seattle	IP	H	R <td>ER <td>BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td></td></td>	ER <td>BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td></td>	BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td></td>	SO <td>NP <td>ERA</td> </td>	NP <td>ERA</td>	ERA
Castillo	5.0	6	3	3	0	3	77	3.87
Voth	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	3.41
Baumann	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.26
Stanku H, 5-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	18	3.78
Thornton	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3.76

Inherited runners: Sands 1-0. HBP: Garver, France. Umpires: HP-Wolcott, 1B-Valentine, 2B-De Jesus, 3B-Johnson. T: 2:48. A: 33,367 (47,480).

San Francisco 10, L.A. Dodgers 4  
 LAD.....000 010 102 -- 4 8 2  
 SF.....121 500 01x -- 10 16 0

	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	Avg.
L.A. Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	BB <td>SO <td>NP <td>Avg.</td> </td></td>	SO <td>NP <td>Avg.</td> </td>	NP <td>Avg.</td>	Avg.
Ohtani dh	5	0	0	0	0	3	.316	
Hernandez lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.248	
b-Vargas ph-1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.324	
Freeman 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.296	
a-Biggio ph-1b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.188	
Pages cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.255	
Heyward dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.214	
Lux 2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.221	
Taylor 3b	3	2	2	2	0	1	.164	
Hernandez ss	4	1	0	0	0	0	.213	
Barnes c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.208	
Totals	35	4	8	4	2	7		
San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB <td>SO <td>NP</td> <td>Avg.</td> </td>	SO <td>NP</td> <td>Avg.</td>	NP	Avg.
Soler dh	4	2	3	1	1	1	.230	
Ramos cf	5	2	3	1	0	0	.294	
Bailey c	5	1	2	3	0	2	.284	
Chapman 3b	3	1	1	1	0	1	.242	
Matos lf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.241	
Villar 1b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.357	
Almed ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.248	
Fitzgerald 2b	4	2	0	0	0	0	.286	
Totals	37	10	16	10	3	5		

a--grounded out for Freeman in 6th. b--fled out for Hernandez in 6th. E: Biggio, Pages. 2B: Taylor (2), Hernandez (6), Barnes (2), Soler (2). RBI: Slater (1), Ramos 2 (10), Bailey 2 (11), Matos (4), Villar (2), Almed (5). HR: Taylor (2), Chapman (1). RBI: Taylor 2 (12), Barnes 2 (4), Soler (3), Slater (9), Ramos (37), Bailey 3 (28), Chapman 3 (39), Villar (4). SF: Slater, Chapman. Runners left in scoring position: L.A. Dodgers 4 (Ohtani 3, Barnes), San Francisco 7 (Soler, Ramos, Chapman, Matos 3, Ahmed). RISP: L.A. Dodgers 1 for 7, San Francisco 8 for 19.

## AUTO RACING FORMULA ONE

# Russell gets victory in Austria after collision

REUTERS

Surprise Austrian Grand Prix winner George Russell said his Mercedes team boss almost made him crash after he took the lead in Sunday's race.

Principal Toto Wolff, whose team had not won a race since 2022, shouted "George, you can win this" over the radio without checking where the driver was on track.

Russell, whose win was only the second of his Formula One career, told the boss to just let him drive as he fended off the threat of McLaren's Oscar Piastri after taking the lead when Red Bull's Max Verstappen and McLaren's Lando Norris collided.

"It was pretty difficult. And then suddenly I had Toto screaming in my ear, 'you can win this'. And I almost crashed when he screamed into my ears. It was that loud," Russell told reporters.

"I think it just goes to show the passion that we all share. And it's obviously been a tough couple of years for us. It feels great to be back on the top step."

The last Mercedes win was also down to Russell, who triumphed in Brazil in November 2022 for the team's sole win of that season.

They had won eight constructors' championships in a row between 2014-21.

Wolff told reporters he knew all about driver psychology and his spontaneous reaction had been "the single dumbest thing I've done in 12 years at Mercedes.

"I will be forever ashamed because you look at where you message the driver and you don't do it during braking or in high-speed corners," added the Austrian.

"I didn't look at the GPS...I just emotionally pressed the button and said 'we can win this'. I could have taken him out with that message. Imagine how that could have felt.

"I'm emotional. I enjoy us doing well and I enjoy seeing Lewis (Hamilton) and George doing well. I was just car-



Mercedes driver George Russell celebrates Sunday after winning the Austrian Grand Prix.

LEONHARD FÖGGER/REUTERS

ried away with that situation, but seriously, embarrassing."

Mercedes have made big improvements since the start of the season, with Russell on pole position in Canada and finishing third while seven times world champion Hamilton was third in Spain a week ago.

Despite that, there were no illusions about where the team stood compared to rivals.

"The team have worked so hard. We've made so many strides since the start of the season. The last three races have been incredible so, more to come," said Russell.

"I think it's no secret Red Bull with Max and McLaren with Lando are still a little bit out in front, but we're always putting ourselves in that third place position the last couple of races.

"And obviously, if anything happens up front, we're there to pick it up."

## NHL NOTEBOOK

# Lightning acquire Guentzel from Carolina

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

The Tampa Bay Lightning acquired forward Jake Guentzel from the Carolina Hurricanes on Sunday for a third-round pick in the 2025 NHL Draft.

Guentzel, 29, can become an unrestricted free agent at noon ET on Monday. He completed the final season of a five-year, \$30 million contract signed before the 2019-20 season when he played for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Tampa Bay has exclusive rights to sign him, possibly to a maximum seven-year contract, before the window closes Monday.

Lightning general manager Julien BriseBois said Saturday that they expect team captain Steven Stamkos, a star center who is 34, to test free agency.

Carolina had traded in March with Pittsburgh for Guentzel, a 2021 All-Star. He had 22 goals and 30 assists in 50 games for the Penguins, and eight goals and 17 assists with the Hurricanes in 17 regular-season contests for a combined plus-25 rating. He contributed nine points (four goals, five assists) in 11 playoff games.

In eight NHL seasons starting in 2016-17, Guentzel has 227 goals, 264 assists, 31 game-winning scores and has a plus-53 rating in 520 regular-season games. He has an additional 67 points (38 goals, 29 assists) in 69 playoff contests.

• The Buffalo Sabres will buy out the final three seasons of the contract of forward Jeff Skinner, making him a free agent on Monday.

Skinner signed an eight-year, \$72 million extension with Buffalo on June 7, 2019. He is still owed \$22 million. In the recently completed season, Skinner had 46 points (24 goals, 22 assists) in 74 games. With the Sabres, Skinner, 32, appeared in 427 games with 291 points (153 goals, 138 assists).

• Defenseman Adam Boqvist will be placed on waivers by the Columbus Blue Jackets, The Athletic reported. If he clears waivers, the team will buy him



Hurricanes center Jake Guentzel skates with the puck against the Rangers during the playoffs.

JAMES GUILLORY/USA TODAY SPORTS

out at a cost of about \$533,000 in each of the next two seasons. He was scheduled to earn \$3.2 million in 2024-25. He was selected by the Chicago Blackhawks with the No. 8 overall pick of the 2018 NHL Draft. Boqvist, 23, appeared in 35 games last season for the Jackets, tallying 10 points (one goal, nine assists).

• The Winnipeg Jets are buying out defenseman Nate Schmidt, the Daily Faceoff reported. The Jets acquired Schmidt in a trade with the Vancouver Canucks on July 27, 2021, and inherited the balance of a six-year, \$35.7 million contract he signed with the Vegas Golden Knights on Oct. 25, 2018. He was due to earn \$4.85 million in 2024-25.

• The Edmonton Oilers placed goaltender Jack Campbell on unconditional waivers for purposes of a buyout, the team said. The Oilers signed Campbell to a five-year, \$25 million contract on July 13, 2022. That followed his 2021-22 season with the Toronto Maple Leafs in which he played in a career-high 49 games and posted a .914 save percentage, 2.64 goals-against average and 31-9-6 record.



Austin Dillon (3) hits John Hunter Nemechek (42) late in the Ally 400 at Nashville Superspeedway in Lebanon, Tenn., Sunday. DENNY SIMMONS/NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

## NASCAR

Continued from Page 1NS

Trackhouse Racing's Smith recorded a career-best runner-up finish but was expecting to pass Logano's Ford.

"Obviously happy with the result, but when you hear from 10 laps he's supposed to run out and you see him shaking it across the line and you're second, that hurts," said Smith, the driver of the No. 71 Chevrolet.

Polesitter Denny Hamlin and Ross

Chastain battled over the final laps of regulation and into overtime until Chastain's No. 1 Chevrolet hit the Turn 1 wall after making contact with Kyle Larson.

Hamlin and many other cars ran out of fuel in overtime, putting Logano up front and in position to win the 15-caution event for his 33rd career win and first since March 2023. Reddick, Ryan Preece and Chris Buescher completed the top five, coming in third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

Joe Gibbs Racing's Christopher Bell led a race-high 131 laps before wrecking on Lap 228 and finishing 36th.

After scoring the 42nd pole of his career, Hamlin led in his No. 11 Toyota over the first 16 laps until he encountered the potentially lapped No. 51 Ford of Justin Haley, who slowed Hamlin's progress and allowed Bell to scoot by for the lead.

Bell maintained the point through alternating pit strategies and earned his eighth segment win of the season by claiming Stage 1. The Toyotas of Hamlin and Reddick followed.

With rain and the 300-lap race's halfway point approaching, most teams elected to take two tires, but Ty Gibbs struck Alex Bowman's No. 48 Chevrolet

near the start/finish line for the third caution of the event's first half.

The weather front finally came for good on Lap 136 as cameramen and track workers were vacated from high areas above the grandstands. Bell led them onto pit road with Reddick and Larson behind him as a red-flag condition began before reaching the halfway mark of the race. After a delay of about 90 minutes so that the 1.33-mile track could dry, the race ran caution-free to the Stage 2 conclusion at Lap 185, when Bell, Reddick and Larson finished first, second and third, respectively.

## WNBA ROUNDUP

# Big run lifts Fever over Mercury

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Kelsey Mitchell scored all 16 of her points in the second half and made multiple clutch shots for the Indiana Fever, who went on a 27-2 run in the third quarter before holding off the host Phoenix Mercury 88-82 on Sunday.

Caitlin Clark finished with 15 points, 12 assists, nine rebounds and six turnovers. She was one rebound shy of recording the first triple-double by a rookie in WNBA history.

Aliyah Boston led the Fever (8-12) with 17 points and NaLyssa Smith paired 12 points with 15 rebounds.

Temie Fagbenle scored 10 points off the bench.

Brittney Griner had a game-high 24 points for the Mercury (9-9). Diana Taurasi added 19 and Natasha Cloud had 15 points, seven assists and four steals.

## Lynx 70, Sky 62

Kayla McBride scored half of her 16 points in the fourth quarter as the visiting Minnesota Lynx rallied past Chicago despite Sky rookie Angel Reese's WNBA single-season record 10th straight double-double.

Reese's free throw with 23 seconds remaining in regulation clinched that league mark, giving her 10 points to go along with 16 rebounds.

Reese had three of only five points managed by the Sky (6-11) in the fourth, where Minnesota (14-4) flexed its defensive muscle and scored 18 points to overcome a five-point deficit after three quarters.

Napheesa Collier scored nine of her 13 points in the second half, including five in the fourth, for Minnesota, which shot just 38.5 percent and committed 18 turnovers. All eight of McBride's fourth-quarter points came at the free-throw line for the Lynx, who held Chicago to 30.5 percent shooting and forced 14 turnovers.

Former Sky guard Courtney Williams hit a runner in the lane and was fouled with 3:14 left in the fourth.

She converted the three-point play for a 61-59 lead that highlighted Minnesota's 11-0 run.



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) handles the ball against Phoenix Mercury guard Natasha Cloud (0) at Footprint Center. MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

Collier also had 11 rebounds, six assists, four steals and three blocks. Chennedy Carter had 15 points for Chicago, while teammate Lindsay Allen set season highs with 13 points and three made 3-pointers.

## Liberty 81, Dream 75

Breanna Stewart scored 22 points, including 10 in the third quarter, as the host New York Liberty climbed out of an

early 16-point hole to defeat the Atlanta Dream.

Betnijah Laney-Hamilton scored 18 points, including a pair of big 3-pointers during the Liberty's 16-4 burst to open the third quarter. Laney-Hamilton also chipped in six assists and five rebounds.

Stewart notched her 5,000th career point in her 242nd game, a WNBA record for the fewest games needed to eclipse that milestone.

She bested the league's all-time scor-

ing leader, Diana Taurasi, who reached 5,000 points in 243 games.

The reigning league MVP, Stewart added 12 rebounds as New York (16-3) ran its regular-season winning streak to four games.

Allisha Gray netted 24 points and Tina Charles finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Dream (7-10), who were looking to make it back-to-back wins over league powers after defeating the Connecticut Sun on Friday night.

## TENNIS WIMBLEDON

# Alcaraz, Sinner, Gauff headline opening day

Martyn Herman

Reuters

LONDON – Carlos Alcaraz will be the main attraction on the opening day of Wimbledon as the Spaniard begins his quest to retain the title while later in the day world number one Jannik Sinner will look to put down an early marker in his opening match.

Alcaraz, 21, beat Novak Djokovic to the title a year ago and has since taken his Grand Slam haul to three after winning the French Open earlier this month and despite being seeded three will be favourite to rack up number four.

He will open Centre Court action against Estonian qualifier Mark Lajal in the first of what he hopes will be seven matches to become only the fourth player in the professional era to win four Slams at age 21 or under.

World number 269 Lajal, who is one week younger than Alcaraz, is bidding to become the third man in history to defeat the defending champion in the first round at Wimbledon.

"Obviously I want to put my name on that short list to win Roland Garros and Wimbledon in the same year," Alcaraz, who could join Rafa Nadal, Roger Federer and Djokovic by achieving that feat, told reporters.

"I know that it's going to be a really difficult and big challenge for me, but I think I'm ready to do it."

Italy's Sinner, who won this year's Australian Open and knocked Novak Djokovic off the top of the rankings, faces a vastly more experienced opponent in Germany's Yannick Hanfmann.

There will be home interest on Centre Court's opening day schedule with Emma Raducanu returning after missing out last year because of injury.

The 2021 U.S. Open champion, who required a wildcard as she works her way back up the rankings, faces a tough test against Russian 22nd seed Ekaterina Alexandrova.

"For me, I feel like it's just a great opportunity to try to get a good scalp, try to enjoy playing how I have been in the last few weeks, and just get back into



Coco Gauff goes through a practice session ahead of Wimbledon on Thursday in London. PAUL CHILDS/REUTERS

it," Raducanu said.

Coco Gauff, enjoying a strong season, concludes Centre Court action on the opening day as the women's second seed takes on fellow American Caroline Dolehide while on Court One, Aryna Sabalenka, the third seed and many people's favourite for the title, opens against American Emina Bektas.

"I think everybody has an equal shot and it's just about who can perform better that week," Gauff said.

Russian Daniil Medvedev is first on Court One with Sinner book-ending the day on the second-biggest court.

Fans flooding in to the All England Club, many having camped out overnight, will be spoilt for choice with big names in action across the outside courts with Norway's eighth seed Casper Ruud, who has more wins than any player on the ATP Tour this year, up against Australian Alex Bolt.

## CYCLING TOUR DE FRANCE

# Pogacar leads Tour as Vingegaard keeps up

Reuters

BOLOGNA – Tadej Pogacar claimed the Tour de France overall lead with a late attack in Sunday's second stage, though the Slovenian may have been surprised by how easily defending champion Jonas Vingegaard followed him despite his recent lack of racing.

While the 2020 and 2021 Tour winner's lightning attack on the ascent of San Luca left fellow favourites Primož Roglic and Remco Evenepoel seemingly glued to the road, Vingegaard had no trouble keeping up despite entering the race having not competed since he sustained a collapsed lung in a crash almost three months ago.

"Jonas was on my wheel, we can see he's already in great shape. It's going to be very interesting," said Pogacar, who is looking to become the first rider to win the Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France in the same year since the late Marco Pantani in 1998.

While Pogacar will be hoping not to fade over the three weeks of the race after riding the Giro in May, Vingegaard is looking to improve and keep some freshness for the final week.

Tour debutant Kevin Vauquelin was the second French winner in the first two days after being the best of the breakaway in the ascent to San Luca (1.9km at 10.6%) as he gave his Arkea-B&B Hotels team their first win in the race.

Romain Bardet, who started the day in the leader's yellow jersey, finished 21 seconds behind Pogacar to lose the overall lead by six seconds while Evenepoel eventually managed to bridge the gap with Vingegaard and his rival.

"There was a little gap in the middle of the climb and I was not well positioned, my bad," said Evenepoel, who had Ecuador's Richard Carapaz in his slipstream as he battled back to avoid any losses.

**Deafening atmosphere:** Overall, Pogacar leads Belgian Evenepoel and Vingegaard of Denmark, who are second and third, respectively, on added places with no time difference. Roglic is



Tadej Pogacar celebrates Sunday while wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey after the second stage of the Tour de France. STEPHANE MAHE/REUTERS

now 21 seconds down on Pogacar.

Eleven riders broke away early but none of them posed a threat to Bardet's yellow jersey.

They opened a 10-minute gap and it became quickly obvious that they would battle it out for the stage win despite a late acceleration from the peloton.

In the leading group, Frenchmen Jordan Jegat and Axel Laurance attacked on the San Luca climb in a stadium-like, deafening atmosphere.

It was the first of two ascents to San Luca up alongside the Portico which features 666 arches.

Vauquelin, Norwegian Jonas Abrahamson and Nelson Oliveira of Portugal broke free in the flat part leading to the bottom of San Luca.

The Frenchman then upped the pace right away and did not look back. Abrahamson took second place with another Frenchman, Quentin Pacher, finishing third.

"I've had so many tough times, in training, at the Tour de Suisse, at the French championships, and yesterday I got dropped, I was a bit at the end of my tether," Vauquelin said.

## OLYMPICS

## U.S. GYMNASTICS TRIALS

## Biles leads team headed for Paris

Tom Schad and Nancy Armour  
USA TODAY

The decision is in, and the U.S. women's gymnastics team for the 2024 Paris Olympics has been finalized.

Simone Biles is on it, of course. She is heavily favored to win her second all-around Olympic gold medal, and tasked with leading the Americans to another team victory at the Games. The U.S. women have won two of the past three team golds, and their chief rival – Russia – has been barred from competing in team competitions. Biles will be joined on the team by a few of her Olympic teammates from 2021 – and ONE notable newcomer. Here's a complete breakdown of the team.

## Simone Biles

- **Age:** 27
- **Height:** 4' 8"
- **Hometown:** Spring, Texas
- **Best event(s):** Floor exercise, vault, balance beam

What more is there to say about Biles? The greatest gymnast of her generation is back for a third trip to the Summer Games, where she will look to add to the seven Olympic medals – including four golds – she has already won. After coming back from a bout of the “twisties” in Tokyo, she has not just looked like her old self over this past year – in many ways, it appears she's gotten even better. It would not be a surprise if she matches her performance from last year's world championships, where she won four golds and a silver, at the Paris Games.

## Suni Lee

- **Age:** 20
- **Height:** 5' 0"
- **Hometown:** Saint Paul, Minnesota
- **Best event(s):** Balance beam, uneven bars
- **What to know:** Lee is the reigning



Sunisa Lee, Hezly Rivera, Jade Carey, Simone Biles and Jordan Chiles pose for a photo after being selected for the 2024 U.S. Olympic Women's gymnastics team. MATT KROHN/USA TODAY SPORTS

all-around Olympic champion and, like Biles, she is in the midst of a comeback. After competing collegiately at Auburn, she was diagnosed with a pair of kidney ailments that caused her body to retain fluids and hindered her ability to train. It took her several months of adjusting medication before she was able to return to the gym, and she has only recently been back at full strength in all-around competition. Despite her time away from the sport, Lee remains one of the world's best – particularly on un-

even bars, where her scores sometimes eclipse Biles'.

## Jordan Chiles

- **Age:** 23
- **Height:** 4' 11"
- **Hometown:** Vancouver, Washington
- **Best event(s):** Uneven bars, floor exercise
- **What to know:** At one point, it looked like Chiles might be left on the

outside of the Olympic picture. But the 2021 Olympic team veteran has come on strong over the past few weeks, with decent scores at nationals and a particularly brilliant showing on the first day of the Olympic trials. Chiles, who competed collegiately at UCLA, is a longtime training partner and friend of Biles' who always brings energy and positive vibes to the gym. She's capable of not just filling in but contributing on any apparatus and is expected to play a key role for the team in Paris.

## Jade Carey

- **Age:** 24
- **Height:** 5' 2"
- **Hometown:** Phoenix, Arizona
- **Best event(s):** Vault, floor exercise
- **What to know:** Yet another veteran of the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, where she won gold on floor exercise, Carey went on to compete collegiately at Oregon State before returning to the elite circuit ahead of Paris. She's struggled at times – including a 15th-place finish at the 2023 national championships – but shown steady improvement in recent months, including at trials. Carey will likely be counted on to deliver big scores on floor exercise and vault.

## Hezly Rivera

- **Age:** 16
- **Hometown:** Oradell, New Jersey
- **Best event(s):** Balance beam, uneven bars
- **What to know:** Of the five members on this team, Rivera probably comes as the biggest surprise. The 2023 U.S. junior champion has adapted quickly to the senior level, finishing sixth in the all-around at the national championships earlier this month. This is her first year at the senior level, so she doesn't have a ton of international experience. But there's plenty of experience on the team, so she can learn without a lot of pressure being on her directly.

## U.S. TRACK AND FIELD TRIALS

## McLaughlin-Levrone sets 400 hurdles world record

Lindsay Schnell  
USA TODAY

EUGENE, Ore. — Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone continued her dominance in the women's 400 hurdles, setting (another) world record Sunday at Hayward Field in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials finale. McLaughlin-Levrone crossed the finish line in 50.65 seconds, then covered her mouth in shock upon seeing her time.

McLaughlin-Levrone's previous world record, also set at Hayward Field, was 50.68, which she ran at the 2022 World Championships.

"Honestly, praise God, I was not expecting that," McLaughlin-Levrone said on the broadcast after her race. "Anything is possible in Christ. I'm just amazed, baffled and in shock."

Anna Cockrell (52.64) was second and Jasmine Jones (52.77) was third and will join McLaughlin-Levrone in Paris.

Dalilah Muhammad, who won gold in Rio and silver in Tokyo, finished sixth.

McLaughlin-Levrone is the defending gold medalist in the 400 hurdles, and nearly every time she lines up on the track she sets a new world record. She isn't just the favorite in Paris but expected to win by a wide margin.

But she swears that each race she lowers her time, she's genuinely surprised, and grateful.

"I knew I was in 50-point high range, and it was just a matter of getting a stride pattern down," she said. "I knew the fitness was there. I was a little shocked that it came together with not the best stride pattern ... there's still more we can work on."

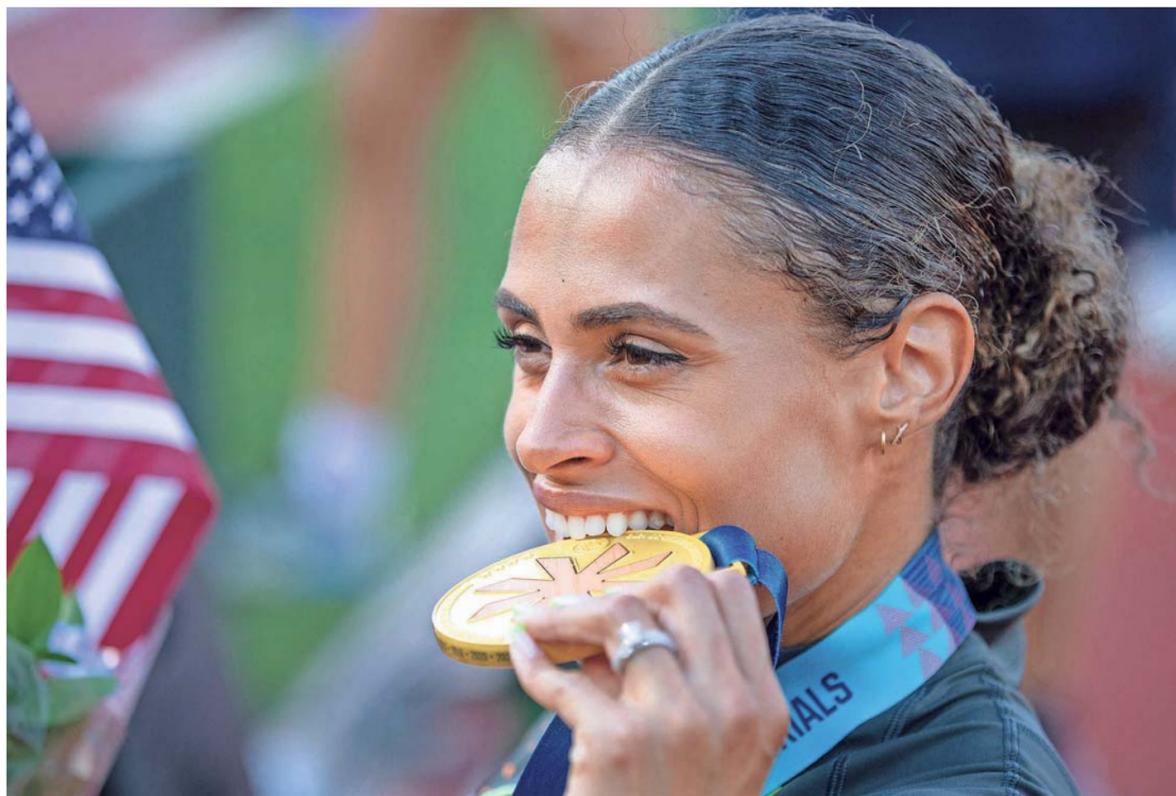
That work, and the prospective results, motivate her.

McLaughlin-Levrone dreams of going sub-50 seconds and given her history, it doesn't seem like a stretch.

"It's really exciting, thinking about how to improve upon history," she said. "That's always something I'm looking at."

She called the world record a "confidence booster" going into Paris.

Before the final, McLaughlin-Levrone's coach, the legendary Bobby Ker-



Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone takes a bite of her gold medal after breaking the world record in the women's 400 hurdles on the final day of the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials on Sunday. CHRIS PIETSCH/EUGENE REGISTER-GUARD

see, encouraged her to "not be afraid to take it out, to trust my fitness coming home and just execute my 10 hurdles."

"He's always using boxing phrases," McLaughlin-Levrone said. "So those were my Joe Frazier's today, the 10 hurdles, just making sure I was focused on those. There was no time goal."

And yes, in this analogy, McLaughlin-Levrone is Muhammad Ali, himself a former Olympian.

McLaughlin-Levrone will likely be on the 4x400 team as well; she ran the first leg of the relay at the Tokyo Games, leading the Americans to gold.

Relay team pools are expected to be announced by USATF by July 8.

McLaughlin-Levrone has flirted with the idea of running the 400 hurdles and

400, but the current Olympic track schedule is not conducive to that. Sometimes it seems that McLaughlin-Levrone could win, or at least contend for a medal, in any of the sprinting events. As of Sunday morning she had the sixth fastest 200 time this season, set Los Angeles in May.

Emotions spilled over on the track following the women's 100-meter hurdle final. Masai Russell shocked the Hayward Field stadium and the track and field world by winning in an impressive time of 12.25.

Alaysha Johnson ran a personal-best 12.31 (12.302) to place second and Grace Stark, who was also the 2024 NCAA champion in the event at the University of Florida, came in third with a time of

12.31 (12.309).

Russell's jaw-dropping time broke Gail Devers' 24-year-old meet record and it's the fastest time in the world this year.

Russell spoke to NBC's Lewis Johnson after her record-breaking race and she was overjoyed with emotion that she sealed her ticket to the Paris Olympics in emphatic style.

"I have so many emotions because this has been the hardest season of my life. People were doubting me. Talking about ever since I signed with Nike I've been trash," Russell said. "Just saying all these things about me. But I just stayed true to myself, my work and my craft and this is all God."

Contributing: Tyler Dragon

## SCOREBOARD



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## MLB

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	53	30	.639	-
N.Y. Yankees	54	32	.628	½
Boston	44	39	.530	9
Tampa Bay	42	42	.500	11½
Toronto	38	45	.458	15
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	52	30	.634	-
Minnesota	47	37	.560	6
Kansas City	47	39	.547	7
Detroit	38	46	.452	15
Chicago	24	62	.279	30
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	47	39	.547	-
Houston	42	41	.506	3½
Texas	37	46	.446	9½
L.A. Angels	36	47	.434	8½
Oakland	30	56	.349	17
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	55	29	.655	-
Atlanta	46	36	.561	8

N.Y. Mets	40	41	.494	13½
Washington	39	44	.470	15½
Miami	30	54	.357	25
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	50	34	.595	-
St. Louis	43	40	.518	6½
Pittsburgh	40	43	.482	9½
Cincinnati	39	45	.464	11
Chicago	39	46	.459	11½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	46	42	.523	7½
San Diego	41	43	.488	10½
Arizona	41	44	.482	11
San Francisco	41	44	.482	11
Colorado	28	55	.337	23

## Saturday's Scores

Chicago 11, Colorado 3
Cincinnati 9, St. Louis 4
Toronto 9, N.Y. Yankees 3
Miami 3, Philadelphia 2
Arizona 3, Oakland 0
San Diego 11, Boston 1
Atlanta 2, Pittsburgh 1
Cleveland 7, Kansas City 2
Washington 8, Tampa Bay 1
Chicago 5, Milwaukee 3
Houston 9, N.Y. Mets 6
Baltimore 6, Texas 5
L.A. Dodgers 14, San Francisco 7
L.A. Angels 6, Detroit 5
Minnesota 5, Seattle 1

## Sunday's Scores

Pittsburgh 4, Atlanta 2
Boston 4, San Diego 1
Philadelphia 7, Miami 6
N.Y. Yankees 8, Toronto 1
Tampa Bay 5, Washington 0
Houston 10, N.Y. Mets 5
Colorado 5, Chicago 4
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 2
Milwaukee 7, Chicago 1
St. Louis 2, Cincinnati 0
San Francisco 10, L.A. Dodgers 4
Detroit 7, L.A. Angels 6
Arizona 5, Oakland 1
Minnesota 5, Seattle 3
Texas 11, Baltimore 2

## Monday's Games

Houston (Brown 5-5) at Toronto (Rodriguez 0-2), 3:07 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Peterson 3-0) at Washington (Gore 6-7), 6:45 p.m.
Milwaukee (Wilson 5-3) at Colorado (Freeland 0-3), 8:40 p.m.

## Tuesday's Games

Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-7) at Cleveland (Carrasco 3-6), 6:40 p.m.
Boston (Bello 7-5) at Miami (TBD), 6:40 p.m.
St. Louis (Gibson 5-3) at Pittsburgh (Keller 9-4), 6:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Manaea 5-3) at Washington (Herz 1-2), 6:45 p.m.
Cincinnati (Ashcraft 4-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 9-3), 7:05 p.m.
Houston (Arrighetti 4-6) at Toronto (Berrios 6-6), 7:07 p.m.
San Francisco (TBD) at Atlanta (Lopez 6-2), 7:20 p.m.
Detroit (Skubal 9-3) at Minnesota (Woods Richardson 3-1), 7:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 1-5), 8:05 p.m.
San Diego (TBD) at Texas (Eovaldi 4-3), 8:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Littell 2-5) at Kansas City (Singer 4-4), 8:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Keuchel 0-0) at Colorado (Feltner 1-7), 8:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (TBD) at Oakland (Spence 4-4), 9:40 p.m.
Baltimore (Rodriguez 9-3) at Seattle (Castillo 6-9), 9:40 p.m.
Arizona (Nelson 5-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Miller 1-1), 10:10 p.m.

## Wednesday's Games

Chicago White Sox (Fedde 5-3) at Cleveland (Lively 7-4), 6:40 p.m.
Boston (Bello 7-5) at Miami (Rogers 1-8), 6:40 p.m.
St. Louis (Mikolas 6-7) at Pittsburgh (Jones 5-6), 6:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Quintana 3-5) at Washington (Parker 5-4), 6:45 p.m.

Cincinnati (Abbott 7-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 9-5), 7:05 p.m.
Houston (Blanco 8-3) at Toronto (Kikuchi 4-8), 7:07 p.m.
San Francisco (Hicks 4-4) at Atlanta (Sale 10-3), 7:20 p.m.
Philadelphia (Wheeler 9-4) at Chicago Cubs (Taillon 4-4), 8:05 p.m.
San Diego (Cease 7-6) at Texas (Gray 3-4), 8:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Peipot 4-4) at Kansas City (Wacha 4-6), 8:10 p.m.
Detroit (Faherty 5-5) at Minnesota (Festa 1-0), 8:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rea 7-2) at Colorado (Hudson 2-1), 8:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Daniel 1-0) at Oakland (Estes 2-3), 9:40 p.m.
Arizona (Montgomery 6-5) at L.A. Dodgers (Stone 9-2), 10:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Burnes 9-3) at Seattle (Kirby 7-5), 10:10 p.m.

## Thursday's Games

N.Y. Mets (Megill 2-4) at Washington (Irvin 5-6), 11:05 a.m.
St. Louis (Pallante 4-3) at Pittsburgh (Perez 1-4), 12:35 p.m.
Cincinnati (Montas 3-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 7-3), 1:05 p.m.
Houston (Valdez 6-5) at Toronto (Bassitt 6-6), 1:07 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Thorpe 2-1) at Cleveland (McKenzie 3-5), 1:10 p.m.
Boston (Crawford 3-7) at Miami (Tyler 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Detroit (Maeda 2-4) at Minnesota (Ober 7-4), 2:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Sanchez 6-3) at Chicago Cubs (TBD), 2:20 p.m.
San Diego (Vasquez 2-4) at Texas (Scherer 1-1), 2:35 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Plesac 1-1) at Oakland (Sears 4-7), 4:07 p.m.
Baltimore (Suarez 4-2) at Seattle (Gilbert 5-4), 4:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Webb 6-6) at Atlanta (Morton 5-4), 7:20 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Eflin 4-5) at Kansas City (Marsh 6-5), 8:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Myers 5-2) at Colorado (Quattrill 6-5), 8:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Ceconi 2-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Knack 1-1), 9:10 p.m.

## WNBA

Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Liberty	15	3	.833	-
Connecticut	14	4	.778	1
Atlanta	7	9	.438	7
Chicago	6	10	.375	8
Indiana	7	12	.368	8½
Washington	4	15	.211	11½
Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	13	4	.765	-
Seattle	12	6	.667	1½
Las Vegas	10	6	.625	2½
Phoenix	9	8	.529	4
L.A. Sparks	4	14	.222	9½
Dallas	4	14	.222	9½

## Saturday, June 29

Las Vegas 88, Washington 77
Seattle 97, Dallas 76

## Sunday, June 30

N.Y. Liberty 81, Atlanta 75
Minnesota 70, Chicago 62
Indiana 88, Phoenix 82

## Monday, July 1

Connecticut at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Seattle, 10 p.m.

## Tuesday, July 2

Minnesota at N.Y. Liberty, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Indiana vs Las Vegas at Las Vegas, 9:30 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.

## SOCCER

MLS				
Eastern Conference				
	W	L	T	Pts
Inter Miami CF	13	3	5	44

Cincinnati	13	4	3	42
N.Y. Red Bulls	9	4	8	35
Columbus	9	6	3	34
NY City FC	10	8	2	32
Charlotte FC	9	7	5	32
Nashville	6	6	8	26
Toronto FC	7	11	3	24
Atlanta	6	8	2	24
CF Montreal	5	8	7	22
Orlando City	5	9	6	21
Philadelphia	4	8	8	20
D.C. United	4	9	8	20
New England	6	11	1	19
Chicago	4	10	6	18

## Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts
Los Angeles FC	12	4	4	40
LA Galaxy	11	3	7	40
Real Salt Lake	10	3	7	40
Colorado	9	8	4	31
Portland	8	7	6	30
Houston	8	6	6	30
Minnesota	8	7	5	29
Vancouver	8	7	4	28
Seattle	7	7	8	28
Austin FC	7	6	7	23
FC Dallas	5	10	5	20
Saint Louis	3	7	10	17
Sporting KC	4	12	5	17
San Jose	3	15	2	11

## Saturday, June 29

CF Montreal 4, Philadelphia 2
Columbus 5, New England 1
Atlanta 2, Toronto FC 1
NY Red Bulls 2, D.C. United 2
Cincinnati 1, FC Dallas 0
Houston 1, Charlotte FC 0
Inter Miami CF 2, Nashville 1
Sporting KC 2, Austin FC 0
Los Angeles FC 3, Colorado 0
Vancouver 4, Saint Louis 3
Seattle 2, Chicago 1
Portland 3, Minnesota 2
LA Galaxy 3, San Jose 0

## Wednesday, July 3

Nashville at Columbus, 6:30 p.m.
Cincinnati at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.
CF Montreal vs NY City FC at Flushing, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando City at Toronto FC, 7:30 p.m.
Inter Miami CF at Charlotte FC, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at New England, 7:45 p.m.
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Saint Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m.

## Thursday, July 4

Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Sporting KC at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Los Angeles FC vs LA Galaxy at Pasadena, 10:30 p.m.

## Copa America

Argentina 2, Peru 0
Canada 0, Chile 0

## Saturday, June 29

United States vs. Uruguay, 9 p.m., Arrowhead Stadium
Bolivia vs. Panama, 9 p.m., Inter and Co Stadium

## Sunday, June 30

Mexico 0, Ecuador 0
Venezuela 3, Jamaica 0

## Monday, July 1

United States vs. Colombia, 9 p.m., Levi's Stadium
Brazil vs. Paraguay, 9 p.m., Q2 Stadium

## Tuesday, July 2

Costa vs. Colombia, 9 p.m., Levi's Stadium
Cuba vs. Paraguay, 9 p.m., Q2 Stadium

## GOLF

Rocket Mortgage Classic
Sunday
Detroit
Detroit Golf Club
Purse: \$9.2 million
Yardage: 7,370; Par: 72
Final Round

Cam Davis.....68-66-66-70-270 (-18)
Akshay Bhatia.....64-67-68-72-271 (-17)
Min Woo Lee.....68-68-66-69-271 (-17)
Aaron Rai.....66-65-68-72-271 (-17)
Davis Thompson.....68-69-66-68-271 (-17)
Eric Cole.....66-68-70-69-273 (-15)
Rico Hoey.....69-69-68-67-273 (-15)

Erik van Rooyen.....69-64-68-72-273 (-15)
Cameron Young.....67-66-67-73-273 (-15)
Luke Clanton.....69-68-65-72-274 (-14)
Nick Dunlap.....67-69-67-71-274 (-14)
Taylor Moore.....68-71-66-69-274 (-14)
J.J. Spaun.....67-69-69-274 (-14)
Hayden Springer.....71-65-68-70-274 (-14)
Sam Stevens.....69-66-66-73-274 (-14)
Dylan Wu.....69-68-68-69-274 (-14)
Troy Merritt.....69-64-70-73-276 (-12)
Ben Silverman.....67-70-67-72-276 (-12)
David Skinnis.....71-66-67-72-276 (-12)
Patton Kizzire.....69-69-69-70-277 (-11)
Ben Kohles.....67-70-70-70-277 (-11)
Andrew Novak.....71-66-70-70-277 (-11)
Neal Shipley.....67-68-70-72-277 (-11)
Carl Yuan.....68-71-69-69-277 (-11)
Joel Dahmen.....70-64-68-76-278 (-10)
Patrick Fishburn.....72-67-69-70-278 (-10)
Matt Kuchar.....70-68-71-69-278 (-10)
Nate Lashley.....70-68-71-69-278 (-10)
Justin Lower.....68-70-68-72-278 (-10)
Jhonattan Vegas.....67-69-69-73-278 (-10)
Jacob Bridgeman.....68-69-71-71-279 (-9)
Rickie Fowler.....66-72-67-74-279 (-9)
Max Greyserman.....69-70-68-72-279 (-9)
Ben Griffin.....67-71-71-70-279 (-9)
Harry Hall.....69-69-67-72-279 (-9)
Ryo Hisatsune.....75-65-67-72-279 (-9)
Beau Hossler.....70-69-66-73-279 (-9)
Jake Knapp.....70-65-70-74-279 (-9)
Nicholas Lindheim.....70-70-68-72-279 (-9)
Ryan McCormick.....70-68-70-71-279 (-9)
Patrick Rodgers.....69-67-67-76-279 (-9)
Roger Sloan.....68-68-71-72-279 (-9)
Kevin Yu.....70-70-68-71-279 (-9)
Hayden Buckley.....71-67-66-76-280 (-8)
Blaine Hale, Jr.....68-71-71-70-280 (-8)
Benjamin James.....70-70-68-72-280 (-8)
Chris Kirk.....68-69-69-74-280 (-8)
Maverick McNealy.....73-66-71-70-280 (-8)
Taylor Montgomery.....