

# NATION & WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE

Cease-fire effort shows signs of revival as Israel strikes enclave. 6NN



## This little town has marked July 4 since 1785

Bristol's celebrations may be oldest in nation

**N'dea Yancey-Bragg**  
USA TODAY

Camille Teixeira has been attending Fourth of July celebrations in her hometown of Bristol, Rhode Island, since she was a child, but she still gets chills during the annual parade.

She said the "big, glorious celebration" begins with a flyover, followed by the pledge of allegiance and the national anthem. As general chairman of this year's festivities, Teixeira will have the best seat in the house to watch the massive crowd come together to celebrate military veterans, police and firefighters.

"You have such pride for honoring all these folks," she said. "I stand there and I cry through the national anthem and it's just a wonderful experience."

The annual celebration in the waterfront community of Bristol began long before the Fourth of July became a federal holiday, reportedly making it the nation's oldest continuous Independence Day celebration. Teixeira

See TOWN, Page 8NN

## Democratic governors express confidence as president scrambles

**Nandita Bose and Andrea Shalal and Jeff Mason**  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden vowed to stay in the 2024 presidential race during a call with campaign staff on Wednesday and insisted in meetings with Democratic lawmakers and governors that he is fit for reelection despite his shaky debate performance last week.

Biden dialed in to a call with worried members of his campaign team and told them he wasn't going anywhere, according to two sources familiar with the call.

"No one is pushing me out. I'm not leaving. I'm in this race to the end," Biden said in an email blast by his campaign, urging supporters to "pitch in a few bucks" to help defeat his rival Donald Trump in the Nov. 5 presidential election.

See BIDEN, Page 8NN

President Joe Biden speaks during a Medal of Honor ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Wednesday.

JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Vice President Kamala Harris is the likely successor if Joe Biden does step aside, multiple sources told Reuters.

ANGELA WEISS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"You have such pride for honoring all these folks. I stand there and I cry through the national anthem and it's just a wonderful experience."

**Camille Teixeira**  
General chairman of the Bristol Fourth of July celebrations



Camille Teixeira and Ana Motta are general chairman and vice chairman of the Bristol Fourth of July celebrations.

PROVIDED BY CAMILLE TEIXEIRA

If (Kamala) Harris were the nominee, this primary process "would give us an opportunity, not just to measure up who would be good to be at the top of the ticket, but also who would be best in second place."

**Jim Clyburn** Democratic representative who was instrumental in Biden's 2020 win

## Hurricane Beryl strikes Jamaica

Death toll creeps up, destruction widespread

**Zahra Burton and Harold Isaac**  
REUTERS

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Hurricane Beryl churned menacingly over Jamaica on Wednesday afternoon, after uprooting trees, ripping off roofs and destroying farms as it forged a destructive, water-soaked path across smaller Caribbean islands over the past couple days.

The death toll from the powerful Category 4 hurricane rose to at least nine,

but it is widely expected to rise as communications come back online across drenched islands damaged by flooding and deadly winds.

In Jamaica, the storm hit the island's southern coast on Wednesday afternoon, pummeling communities with intense wind and rain as emergency groups evacuated people living in flood-prone communities.

"It's terrible. Everything's gone. I'm in my house and scared," said Amoy Wellington, a 51-year-old cashier who lives in Top Hill, a rural farming community in Jamaica's southern St. Elizabeth parish.

"It's a disaster."

Almost 500 Jamaicans were in shelters by Wednesday afternoon, Prime Minister Andrew Holness told reporters, urging people in high-risk areas to move.

"We have not seen the worst of what could happen," Holness said. "We can do as much as we can do, as (is) humanly possible, and we leave the rest in the hands of God."

The airports in the Jamaican capital, Kingston, and tourist-popular Montego Bay were closed throughout the day.

See BERYL, Page 5NN



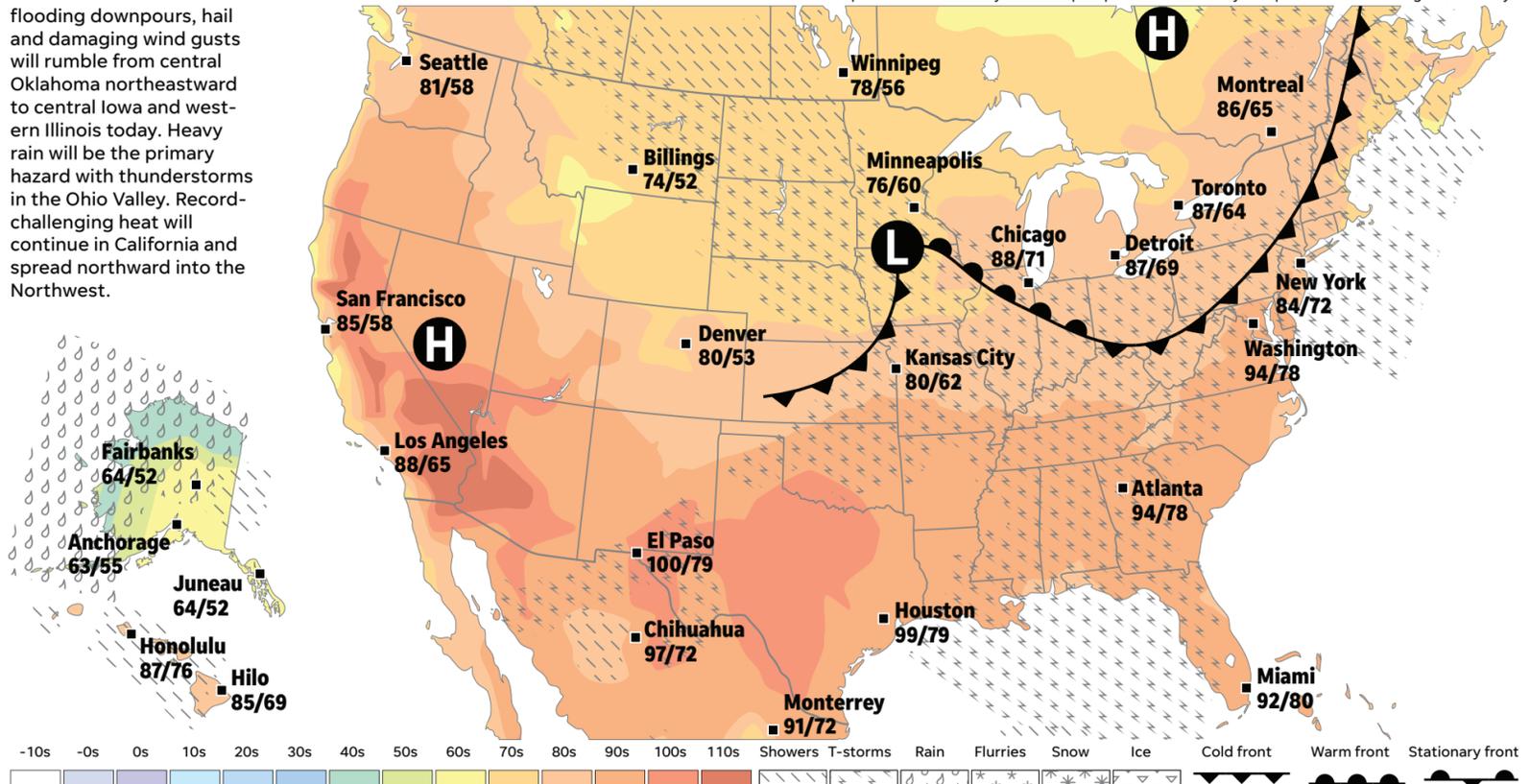
Hurricane Beryl was approaching Kingston, Jamaica, in the Caribbean Terrace neighborhood Wednesday after hitting the island's southern coast. MARCO BELLO/REUTERS

**NATIONAL SUMMARY**

Thunderstorms with flooding downpours, hail and damaging wind gusts will rumble from central Oklahoma northeastward to central Iowa and western Illinois today. Heavy rain will be the primary hazard with thunderstorms in the Ohio Valley. Record-challenging heat will continue in California and spread northward into the Northwest.

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 Thursday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



**WEDNESDAY EXTREMES**

**NATIONAL** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
**High:** 117 at Colorado City, AZ  
**Low:** 26 at Pahaska, WY  
**Precip:** 3.06" at Mexico, MO

**INTERNATIONAL** (excludes Antarctica)  
**High:** 119 at Kahnuj, Iran  
**Low:** 9 at Liavenee, Australia  
**Precip:** 5.87" at Sittwe, Myanmar

**TODAY IN HISTORY**

Thomas Jefferson bought his first thermometer July 4, 1776. He signed the Declaration of Independence that day in Philadelphia; he noted the 2:00 p.m. temperature was 76 degrees.

**WEATHER TRIVIA™**

**Q:** The lowest temperature on Earth was recorded in July; where?

A: Vostok, Antarctica. July 21, 1983; minus 128.6°F (-55°C)

**NATIONAL CITIES THURSDAY**

City	High/Low/W	Air Quality	City	High/Low/W	Air Quality	City	High/Low/W	Air Quality	City	High/Low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	70/58/t	26	Evansville, IN	87/75/t	44	Levittown, PA	92/73/t	48	Rochester, NY	87/65/pc	62
Abilene, TX	103/77/s	30	Fall River, MA	81/68/t	48	Lincoln, IL	86/70/t	41	Rockford, IL	87/68/c	35
Accomac, VA	86/75/t	52	Farmington, NM	93/52/s	69	Louisville, KY	87/76/t	44	Ruidoso, NM	84/57/pc	49
Adrian, MI	88/68/pc	40	Fayetteville, NC	97/75/s	69	Lubbock, TX	97/70/c	41	Salem, OR	94/62/s	37
Akron, OH	85/69/c	74	Fond du Lac, WI	86/65/pc	29	Manitowoc, WI	80/64/pc	30	Salina, KS	86/61/s	29
Alamogordo, NM	97/69/t	42	Fort Myers, FL	94/78/t	42	Mansfield, OH	84/70/t	67	Salinas, CA	81/59/s	66
Alexandria, VA	94/75/t	57	Fort Smith, AR	100/77/t	54	Marshall, NC	91/70/t	45	Salisbury, MD	92/74/t	51
Alliance, OH	86/68/t	72	Framingham, MA	86/67/t	47	Marshfield, WI	80/61/c	25	San Angelo, TX	105/75/pc	29
Amarillo, TX	92/64/t	46	Freeport, IL	86/66/t	26	Massillon, OH	87/70/t	71	Sarasota, FL	92/78/t	38
Ames, IA	79/62/t	31	Fremont, OH	88/71/pc	55	McLean, VA	94/73/t	54	Savannah, GA	93/75/pc	50
Anderson, SC	96/77/t	44	Fort Collins, CO	81/52/s	86	Melbourne, FL	91/78/s	44	Sheboygan, WI	79/66/pc	35
Appleton, WI	85/65/pc	21	Gadsden, AL	93/75/t	39	Memphis, TN	95/78/t	53	Shelby, NC	95/72/t	54
Asheville, NC	90/70/t	46	Gainesville, FL	92/74/t	32	Middletown, NY	82/68/t	48	Sherman, TX	104/77/s	44
Ashland, OH	85/69/c	68	Galesburg, IL	84/66/t	34	Milford, MA	84/66/t	48	Shreveport, LA	99/81/s	49
Athens, GA	96/75/t	41	Gastonia, NC	97/73/c	56	Milwaukee, WI	82/69/pc	42	Silver City, NM	95/66/c	51
Augusta, GA	98/73/s	52	Glen Rose, TX	102/78/pc	30	Monroe, MI	85/69/pc	51	Sioux Falls, SD	92/78/t	28
Austin, TX	99/75/pc	41	Gonzales, LA	91/78/t	26	Monroe, LA	97/79/s	48	Somerset, PA	81/67/t	60
Bartlesville, OK	95/66/t	54	Great Falls, MT	72/49/c	44	Montgomery, AL	92/77/t	33	Somerville, NJ	90/71/t	53
Battle Creek, MI	88/69/pc	44	Green Bay, WI	85/64/pc	23	Muncie, IN	83/70/t	47	South Bend, IN	87/70/c	46
Bedford, IN	78/72/t	49	Greenville, SC	95/74/t	54	Murfreesboro, TN	94/76/t	40	Spartanburg, SC	94/74/t	58
Binghamton, NY	84/65/t	50	Hackensack, NJ	87/72/t	57	Naples, FL	95/79/t	43	Springfield, IL	86/69/t	44
Bluffton, SC	89/76/s	46	Hagerstown, MD	88/72/t	52	Nashville, TN	94/77/t	37	Springfield, MO	91/68/t	67
Bremerton, WA	81/53/s	33	Hattiesburg, MS	92/78/t	30	Neptune, NJ	82/71/t	42	St. Augustine, FL	89/77/sh	39
Brockton, MA	86/69/t	45	Henderson, KY	86/73/t	42	New Bedford, MA	80/68/t	42	St. Cloud, MN	72/61/t	33
Brownwood, TX	105/76/pc	28	Hendersonville, NC	91/69/t	46	New Bern, NC	92/73/s	60	St. George, UT	108/71/s	68
Burlington, IA	82/64/t	34	Herkimer, NY	87/62/pc	46	New Philadelphia, OH	86/70/t	66	Staunton, VA	89/68/t	62
Burlington, NC	97/73/pc	64	Hillsdale, MI	87/67/pc	40	Newark, OH	86/70/t	52	Stevens Point, WI	83/63/c	25
Burlington, VT	86/67/pc	43	Holland, MI	74/68/pc	34	Newton, NJ	85/70/t	49	Stockton, CA	109/68/s	88
Cambridge, OH	85/71/t	60	Hornell, NY	88/61/t	52	New York, NY	84/72/t	53	Stroudsburg, PA	86/70/t	55
Camdenton, MO	86/67/t	49	Houma, LA	90/77/t	26	Norwich, CT	82/68/t	51	Stuart, FL	92/77/sh	57
Canandaigua, NY	87/65/pc	54	Howell, MI	89/67/pc	43	Ocala, FL	93/74/t	35	Sturgis, MI	86/69/c	40
Canton, OH	86/69/t	72	Hutchinson, KS	86/61/t	42	Oklahoma City, OK	97/71/t	61	Tallahassee, FL	94/77/t	28
Carlsbad, NM	100/74/t	55	Hyannis, MA	78/69/pc	34	Opelousas, LA	91/77/t	38	Thibodaux, LA	90/77/t	27
Chambersburg, PA	88/71/t	50	Indianapolis, IN	80/71/t	49	Oshkosh, WI	84/66/pc	21	Topeka, KS	84/63/t	32
Cherry Hill, NJ	92/74/t	48	Iowa City, IA	84/64/t	32	Palm Beach, FL	91/81/pc	44	Tuscaloosa, AL	91/76/t	39
Cincinnati, OH	81/71/t	46	Ithaca, NY	87/63/pc	52	Palm Springs, CA	119/87/s	84	Utica, NY	85/62/pc	51
Clarksville, TN	90/77/t	42	Jackson, MS	94/78/t	49	Panama City, FL	90/80/t	33	Ventura, CA	68/58/pc	52
Coldwater, MI	87/68/pc	40	Jackson, TN	94/77/t	49	Peoria, IL	88/70/t	38	Victorville, CA	107/66/s	87
Columbus, OH	85/72/t	57	Jacksonville, FL	90/75/t	37	Pensacola, FL	89/79/t	33	Vineland, NJ	91/71/t	42
Corning, NY	89/64/t	44	Jacksonville, NC	88/73/s	59	Peoria, IL	87/70/t	38	Visalia, CA	110/70/s	96
Corpus Christi, TX	97/80/pc	56	Kent, OH	86/67/pc	77	Petersburg, VA	97/73/pc	62	Washington, DC	94/78/t	62
Daytona Beach, FL	91/75/sh	41	Kewanee, IL	85/67/t	32	Phoenix, AZ	114/88/s	62	Watertown, SD	66/58/t	29
Deming, NM	99/70/pc	51	Keyser, WV	87/70/t	58	Port Huron, MI	86/63/pc	57	Wausau, WI	82/62/c	24
DeRidder, LA	94/77/t	38	Kinston, NC	94/73/s	64	Portsmouth, NH	83/68/t	53	Waynesboro, PA	89/72/t	51
Des Moines, IA	80/62/t	35	Knoxville, TN	95/77/t	42	Poughkeepsie, NY	85/70/t	60	White Plains, NY	85/70/t	53
Detroit, MI	87/69/pc	55	Lafayette, IN	83/70/t	46	Providence, RI	81/68/t	45	Wichita Falls, TX	104/75/s	42
Devils Lake, ND	76/58/sh	25	Lafayette, LA	91/80/t	34	Pueblo, CO	86/58/s	75	Wilmington, DE	91/74/t	47
Dover, NH	84/65/t	48	Lakeland, FL	94/76/t	45	Quincy, MA	87/69/t	45	Wilmington, NC	90/74/s	56
El Paso, TX	100/79/t	64	Lansing, MI	87/67/pc	45	Redding, CA	113/76/s	79	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	84/63/c	26
Elmira, NY	89/64/t	48	Las Cruces, NM	101/73/pc	52	Reno, NV	101/67/s	76	Wooster, OH	86/69/t	75
Erie, PA	83/66/c	72	Lebanon, PA	89/71/t	52	Ravenna, OH	86/67/pc	75	Worcester, MA	81/68/t	55
Eugene, OR	93/57/s	31	Leesburg, FL	93/76/t	40	Richmond, IN	81/70/t	45	York, PA	91/72/t	59

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**

City	Thursday High/Low/W	Friday High/Low/W	City	Thursday High/Low/W	Friday High/Low/W	City	Thursday High/Low/W	Friday High/Low/W	City	Thursday High/Low/W	Friday High/Low/W
Acapulco	89/77/pc	90/76/s	Cape Town	62/48/pc	63/41/pc	La Paz	62/32/s	60/31/s	San Jose	78/66/r	78/66/r
Addis Ababa	73/57/sh	71/56/sh	Caracas	93/79/t	93/76/t	Lagos	84/75/r	85/75/sh	San Salvador	86/69/t	83/70/t
Algiers	90/65/s	94/74/s	Casablanca	89/66/s	86/64/s	Lima	66/60/pc	68/61/s	Santiago	59/35/pc	62/37/s
Amman	97/75/s	96/70/s	Colombo	89/80/t	85/79/t	Lisbon	91/64/s	83/62/s	Sao Paulo	80/60/pc	81/59/s
Amsterdam	65/57/pc	63/60/sh	Copenhagen	66/53/sh	64/54/sh	London	68/55/pc	67/56/sh	Sarajevo	74/53/pc	84/54/pc
Ankara	93/67/s	83/63/sh	Damascus	103/68/s	101/67/s	Madrid	100/67/pc	101/68/pc	Shanghai	101/82/t	101/82/s
Asuncion	85/62/pc	68/55/c	Dublin	63/49/pc	61/48/sh	Manila	90/79/t	90/80/t	Singapore	88/78/t	89/78/t
Athens	85/69/c	88/72/pc	Geneva	75/53/pc	81/60/pc	Mexico City	77/56/c	78/55/sh	Stockholm	64/50/pc	62/50/sh
Auckland	56/38/s	55/46/s	Guatemala City	79/61/t	79/63/t	Milan	82/63/pc	84/68/s	Sydney	63/54/r	62/53/r
Baghdad	111/89/pc	118/90/pc	Hanoi	92/81/t	94/80/t	Mombasa	85/72/c	86/73/pc	Taipei	97/79/t	99/80/pc
Bangkok	89/79/t	90/80/t	Harare	78/45/pc	79/45/s	Montevideo	55/36/pc	53/38/s	Tegucigalpa	84/64/t	80/66/t
Beijing	89/73/t	94/75/r	Havana	92/77/t	92/75/t	Montreal	86/65/pc	85/68/pc	Tehran	102/81/s	103/79/s
Beirut	89/78/s	87/77/s	Helsinki	65/57/c	62/55/r	Moscow	92/66/s	90/59/pc	Tokyo	92/81/pc	93/80/c
Berlin	79/60/pc	84/63/s	Hong Kong	92/82/t	93/83/t	Nairobi	76/56/c	75/57/sh	Toronto	87/64/pc	81/67/t
Berlgrade	67/50/sh	72/55/c	Jakarta	91/77/c	88/76/s	New Delhi	89/81/t	90/79/t	Tunis	89/69/s	88/72/s
Bogota	68/51/c	66/50/r	Jerusalem	93/71/s	90/67/s	Panama City	85/76/t	83/77/t	Vancouver	73/58/s	74/60/s
Brussels	68/53/pc	70/60/c	Johannesburg	61/36/s	64/36/s	Paris	72/52/c	76/62/c	Vienna	76/62/pc	81/64/pc
Bucharest	81/61/c	88/65/pc	Kabul	98/69/s	95/65/s	Port-au-Prince	98/77/c	92/76/sh	Warsaw	74/56/c	73/57/pc
Budapest	79/57/s	84/59/pc	Khartoum	104/87/s	106/85/s	Rio de Janeiro	82/70/s	82/71/s	Yerevan	86/63/s	91/67/s
Buenos Aires	55/38/pc	52/36/s	Kyiv	87/63/pc	79/60/t	Riyadh	109/85/s	109/88/s	Zagreb	77/55/pc	85/58/s
Cairo	102/80/s	97/78/s	Kingston	92/80/pc	91/80/t	Rome	81/65/s	84/63/s			

● Denotes possible travel delays Thursday

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



**VENEZUELA**

# Resuming dialogue

Venezuela will resume negotiations with the United States this week as part of an effort to reverse sanctions against the South American country, less than a month before a closely watched presidential election in which President Nicolas Maduro and his party face their toughest challenge in decades, the Associated Press reported.

Maduro, who is running for a third term, announced that after two months of consideration, he accepted a U.S. proposal to reestablish talks, which were set to begin Wednesday.

The president wants Washington to lift crippling economic sanctions imposed over the past decade to topple him, adding that the dialogue is "urgent."

The Biden administration did not comment on the announcement.

Previous negotiations with the U.S. and the U.S.-backed opposition coalition, the Unitary Platform, stalled after disputes over unfulfilled agreements and pre-election conditions.

Maduro's comments come as Venezuelans prepare to vote in the election on July 28.

Observers said polls pose a significant challenge to Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela, which has dominated the oil-rich nation in some form for nearly two decades. But the party's voter base has become disillusioned and divided after dealing with economic and political crises during Maduro's 11-year presidency.

Voters will have to pick between 10 candidates, including Maduro. Observers said Edmundo González Urrutia with the Unitary Platform is seen as the only contender with a real chance of defeating Maduro.

Last year, Maduro agreed with the opposition to work toward improving conditions for a free and fair election.

But Maduro reneged on some of his promises.



**UKRAINE**

# Another save

Ukraine's military intelligence said on Monday it had thwarted an alleged coup, the latest in a long series of plots to overthrow the government and foment unrest amid Moscow's war on its neighbor, CNN reported.

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) explained on messaging service Telegram that it spotted a "group" of plotters who planned to hold a rally in Kyiv on June 30 before storming the parliament and removing military and political leaders.

The plan was allegedly to cause a riot after the rally, and benefit from the ensuing chaos.

"In this way, they hoped to undermine the socio-political situation inside Ukraine, which would have played into Russia's hands," the SBU added.

Moscow and its proxies have tried to destabilize Ukraine's leadership with a series of plotted coups even before Russia's full-scale invasion of the country in February 2022. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy himself has been the target of over a dozen assassination attempts.

But invading the heavily guarded parliament building would be no

easy task, begging the question of how developed the latest plot was, the New York Times wrote.

Nonetheless, the SBU announced it seized weapons and electronic devices with "evidence of criminal action."

Ukraine's Prosecutor General's office said it identified four suspects, two of whom remained in custody. It added that the person leading the coup attempt was "a co-founder of an NGO known for its anti-Ukrainian actions." It was unclear whether the organizers had direct ties to Russia.

On the day of the alleged planned coup, Moscow launched missiles at the Ukrainian capital, the Kyiv Independent reported, after killing seven people in strikes targeting the country's south on Saturday.

Russia has been slowly gaining ground in Ukraine, while Kyiv has suffered from a lack of troops and delays in Western support.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, Hungarian Prime Minister and Kremlin ally Viktor Orbán paid a surprise visit to Kyiv, his first since the beginning of the war.

Orbán, who took over the rotating presidency of the European Union this week, said he proposed a ceasefire deal to Zelenskyy, RFE/RL reported. Zelenskyy declined to comment on the idea.

**DISCOVERIES**

# A leech leap

In 2017, Mai Fahmy was studying leeches in Madagascar's rainforests for her Ph.D. when she saw some extremely bizarre behavior.

While observing a single leech on a leaf, Fahmy noticed that the limbless creature contorted its body in a peculiar way – and proceeded to jump from the foliage.

She returned to the island again in 2023 and confirmed what she only suspected: At least one species of leeches is able to jump, she and her colleague Michael Tessler wrote in their study for the journal *Biotropica*.

The team explained that *Chtonobdella fallax* species in Madagascar has shown this ability. Video recordings show the annelids coiling their bodies similar to a spring and launching themselves forward – just like a striking cobra.

"(The movement) is intentional, energetic and consistent in the way it coils back and jumps forward," Tessler told Scientific American.

The researchers believe that this ability evolved in the terrestrial leeches to move quickly from elevated places to the ground or reach hosts more effectively. Unlike the passive ambush techniques typically associated with leeches, jumping suggests a more active approach to seeking out its victims.

While the videos only don't show leeches leaping on their victims, it adds to the further body of evidence – albeit anecdotal – that there could be other species pulling these jumps.

"There have been previous accounts of leeches jumping ... but those reports were often explained away as leeches just dropping from branches or attaching to passersby as they brushed against shrubs," Fahmy said in a news release for the Natural History Museum in London.

Jumping is not unique to leeches: Other annelids, such as earthworms in the *Megascolecidae* family, also exhibit similar behaviors to evade predators by curling and flicking their bodies to jump.

# UK's Conservatives: Rival likely to win

## But Labour says election result not foregone conclusion

**William James**  
REUTERS

LONDON – Britain's Conservative Party all but conceded election defeat to Keir Starmer's Labour on Wednesday, a day before polling stations even opened, and warned that the opposition party was on course for a record-breaking victory.

Opinion polls show the center-left Labour Party is set for a big win in Thursday's vote that would end 14 years of Conservative government and hand Starmer the keys to the prime minister's 10 Downing St. office on Friday morning. YouGov's final seat projection published on Wednesday put Labour on track to win a majority of 212 seats, the largest of any party in modern history.

Both Starmer and Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak kicked off the last day of campaigning before polls open warning voters of dire economic consequences if the other man wins.

But, facing predictions of the worst result in the party's history, the Conservatives turned their focus to damage limitation, saying they needed to hang on to enough seats to provide an effective opposition to a Labour government.

"I totally accept that where the polls are at the moment means that tomorrow is likely to see the largest Labour landslide majority, the largest majority that this country has ever seen," Conservative minister Mel Stride told the BBC.

"What therefore matters now is what kind of opposition do we have, what kind of ability to scrutinize government is there within parliament."

Asked about Stride's comments, Sunak told ITV: "I'm fighting hard for every vote."

Rupert Murdoch-owned British tabloid newspaper The Sun endorsed Labour and Starmer on Wednesday, saying in an editorial published online: "It's time for a change."

"The insurmountable problem faced



Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, center, walks to a campaign event in Redditch, England, on Wednesday. PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visits a school as part of a Conservative Party general election campaign event in Hampshire, England, on Wednesday. CLAUDIA GRECO/POOL/REUTERS

by the (Conservatives) is that – over the course of 14 often chaotic years – they have become a divided rabble, more interested in fighting themselves than running the country," the newspaper, which has backed the Conservatives at

every election since 2010, said.

**Get out the vote**

Labour's final campaign push focused on their fear that voters could see

the result as a foregone conclusion and stay at home during polling on Thursday, or register protest votes with smaller parties.

Starmer said Stride's comments were an attempt to lure wavering voters into not casting their ballots after polling opens.

"I say: if you want change, you have to vote for it. I want people to be part of a change. I know there are very close constituencies across the country," he told the BBC.

"I don't take anything for granted, I respect the voters, and I know that we have to earn every vote until 10 o'clock tomorrow night and we will do that."

Starmer's campaign has been built around a one-word promise of "change," tapping into discontent at the state of Britain's stretched public services and falling living standards – symptoms of a sluggish economy and political instability.

Sunak has sought to persuade voters that his 20 months in charge have set the economy on an upward path after the external shocks of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, and drawn a line under years of turmoil overseen by his Conservative predecessors.

He says Starmer will have to put up taxes to implement his agenda for change and the bigger Labour's win, the more emboldened Starmer would be to raise taxes beyond those he has already outlined.

Having failed to close Labour's roughly 20-point opinion poll lead, Sunak turned to former Prime Minister Boris Johnson – the man he helped push out of office in 2022 – inviting him to speak at a late night Conservative rally on Tuesday.

Johnson, one of British politics' most recognizable figures and the man who delivered the party a landslide win in 2019, made his first big public appearance of the campaign with a speech which listed many of his own achievements and gave little personal endorsement to Sunak.

"None of us can sit back as a Labour government prepares to use a sledgehammer majority to destroy so much of what we have achieved," the former leader said.

# US looks to set travel record for Independence weekend

## Fuel cost, bad weather don't deter travelers

Shariq Khan  
REUTERS

NEW YORK – High fuel costs and the threat of a hurricane are not expected to dampen Americans' desire to hit the road this summer, with vacationers preparing for record travel to kick off Fourth of July holiday festivities.

Motorist group AAA expects a record of almost 71 million people to travel around the U.S. Independence Day holiday, growth similar to a pre-pandemic trajectory.

Some 60 million people will drive with nearly 6 million flying to their destinations, while around 4.6 million people will take buses, trains or cruises during the holiday period, according to AAA's forecast.

"We've never seen numbers like this," AAA spokesperson Andrew Gross said. "2024's travel seems to be what 2020 would have been, had it not been for the pandemic," he added.

U.S. summer travel will be closely watched from multiple fronts this year, as it could offer central bank officials and policymakers an important measure of consumer sentiment in an election year.

Inflation was unchanged in May even as consumer spending rose, boosting hopes that the U.S. Federal Reserve might be able to control inflation while avoiding a recession.

Gasoline prices have eased over the past few months, with the national average price for a gallon of motor fuel at \$3.50 on Tuesday, a 3-cent decline from last year.

Domestic airfare is 2% cheaper than last year, with an average domestic round trip costing \$800, according to AAA booking data.

### 'Wanting to travel'

Despite recent declines, fuel prices remain well above historical levels. The average price for a gallon of gasoline was \$2.74 during the July Fourth week



People move through Moynihan Train Hall in New York City on Wednesday.  
SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES



Travelers wait in line at Los Angeles International Airport on Wednesday.  
FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

in 2019, and the weekly average price from 2015 through 2019 was under \$2.50 a gallon, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration data.

Still, vacationers' travel plans are largely unaffected by higher prices this year, according to a survey of over 1,000 people by auto retail group American Trucks.

Four-week average U.S. gasoline demand hit a one-year high of 9.2 million barrels per day (bpd) last week as retailers stockpiled ahead of the holiday, EIA data showed on Wednesday. Four-week average jet fuel demand was at 1.7 million bpd, identical to a seven-month

high hit earlier in June.

"What we have noticed is that it's more about the rate of change than the price itself that affects the psyche of consumers," said John LaForge, head of real asset strategy at Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Since the price of gasoline has not moved dramatically higher or lower in the past six months, consumer psyche is largely unaffected by it, LaForge said.

For now, U.S. vacation travel is unlikely to be affected by Hurricane Beryl, which has brought devastation to some Caribbean Islands since Monday, but is expected to weaken considerably as it reaches Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula by Thursday night.

U.S. fuel inventories are also better stocked than they have been in recent years, providing motorists a buffer from sudden price shocks in case the hurricane disrupts refining operations.

U.S. gasoline stockpiles stood at around 231.7 million barrels in the week ended June 28, 5.6% higher than the same time last year, EIA data showed. Jet fuel stocks were 4.7% higher than last year.

"Americans are optimistic and wanting to travel, there's no denying it," GasBuddy analyst Patrick De Haan said.

# FTC rule banning worker noncompete agreements partially blocked by judge

Daniel Wiessner  
REUTERS

A federal judge in Texas on Wednesday partially blocked a U.S. Federal Trade Commission rule from taking effect that would ban agreements commonly signed by workers not to join their employers' rivals or launch competing businesses.

U.S. District Judge Ada Brown in Dallas said in a written decision the FTC, which enforces federal antitrust laws, lacked the power to adopt broad rules prohibiting practices that it deems unfair methods of competition.

About 30 million people, or 20% of U.S. workers, have signed noncompetes, according to the FTC.

Brown, an appointee of Republican former President Donald Trump, blocked the FTC from enforcing the rule against a coalition of business groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the country's largest business lobby, and tax service firm Ryan, pending the outcome of their consolidated lawsuits.

The judge denied their request to block the rule nationwide, saying it was not clear whether such an order was appropriate. Brown said she would issue a final ruling by Aug. 30, a few days before the rule is set to take effect.

FTC spokesman Douglas Farrar said the agency stands by its "clear authority" to issue the rule.

"We will keep fighting to free hard-working Americans from unlawful noncompetes, which reduce innovation, inhibit economic growth, trap workers, and undermine Americans' economic liberty," Farrar said in a statement.

Daryl Joseffer, chief counsel of the Chamber's litigation arm, called the ruling "a big win in the Chamber's fight against government micromanagement of business decisions."

"The FTC's blanket ban on noncompetes is an unlawful power grab that defies the agency's constitutional and



About 30 million people, or 20% of U.S. workers, have signed noncompetes, according to the FTC. PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

statutory authority," he said.

The Democratic-controlled FTC approved the ban on noncompete agreements in a 3-2 vote in May. The commission and supporters of the rule say the agreements are an unfair restraint on competition that violate U.S. antitrust law and suppress workers' wages and mobility.

California, Minnesota, Oklahoma and North Dakota have already banned noncompete agreements, and at least a dozen other states have passed laws limiting their use. The FTC's rule would be the first nationwide prohibition of noncompetes.

Business groups and many Republicans say that noncompetes are a crucial tool for businesses to protect trade secrets, confidential information and their investments in recruiting and training workers.

Ryan and the Chamber claim in their lawsuits that the FTC did not have the authority to adopt the ban and that Con-

gress granted the agency only limited rulemaking powers.

The FTC has argued that noncompetes inherently violate antitrust laws by curbing competition between businesses to recruit workers, and banning them falls within the agency's broad powers to police anti-competitive conduct.

Brown on Wednesday said the rule was likely invalid because the FTC had not justified the sweeping, near-total ban.

"It imposes a one-size-fits-all approach with no end date, which fails to establish a rational connection between the facts found and the choice made," the judge wrote.

The FTC is also facing a challenge to its rule in Philadelphia federal court by a Pennsylvania-based tree trimming company.

A judge has scheduled a July 10 hearing on the company's motion to temporarily block the rule.

## FINANCIAL MARKETS

# Jobs data points to easing labor market

## S&P 500, Nasdaq post record closing highs

Angika Biswas, Lisa Pauline  
Mattackal and Saeed Azhar  
REUTERS

The S&P 500 index and technology-laden Nasdaq rose on Wednesday to post record high closes, as data pointing to a softening economy raised hopes the Federal Reserve could cut interest rates in September.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed slightly lower, pressured by selling in healthcare and consumer stocks during a shortened trading session ahead of the Fourth of July.

The market will stay closed on Thursday for U.S. Independence Day, keeping trading volumes thin throughout the week.

Both the ADP Employment report and weekly jobless claims data pointed to easing labor market conditions ahead of Friday's closely watched non-farm payrolls report. Markets hope signs of weakness in the labor market will encourage the Fed to cut interest rates.

"It's quite a strong unemployment claims number, and it's fitting in with an overall trend that's probably an indication of loosening up in the jobs market. It must be quite welcoming for the Fed," said David Morrison, Trade Nation senior market analyst.

Also, PMI data from the Institute for Supply Management was weaker than expected, and factory orders unexpectedly slumped. Investors boosted bets of a September rate cut to over 70%, as per LSEG's Fed-Watch.

The Fed's June meeting minutes are due after the market closes.

Tesla jumped 6.5%, trading near a six-month high after rising more than 10% on Tuesday following a smaller-than-expected drop in second-quarter vehicle deliveries.

The Philadelphia SE Semiconductor Index rose 1.92%, helped by gains in the U.S. listing of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing and Broadcom.

Nvidia closed 4.6% higher, after slipping on Tuesday, while some other mega-stocks were weaker such as Amazon, closing 1.2% lower.

"The tendency at the moment is toward rotation ... we have quite a few days where we see the Russell down, and tech up and vice versa," Morrison said, though noting that the market's optimism around megacap tech stocks was still strong.

The S&P 500 has jumped over 15% in the first half of 2024, largely supported by top-tier high momentum technology-related stocks. The benchmark index's equal-weighted counterpart only rose 5% and small and mid-cap stocks have significantly lagged.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 23.85 points, or 0.06%, to close at 39,308.00, the S&P 500 gained 28.01 points, or 0.51%, to 5,537.02 and the Nasdaq Composite gained 159.54 points, or 0.88%, to 18,188.30.

Paramount Global rose almost 7% after Shari Redstone's National Amusements reached a preliminary deal to sell its controlling interest in the media giant to David Ellison's Skydance Media.

First Foundation slumped nearly 24% after the lender, which holds a huge portfolio of multifamily real estate loans, disclosed a \$228 million unexpected capital raise.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 2.65-to-1 ratio on the NYSE. There were 287 new highs and 50 new lows on the NYSE.

The S&P 500 posted 20 new 52-week highs and 4 new lows while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 51 new highs and 114 new lows.

Volume for the abbreviated session on U.S. exchanges was 7.11 billion shares, compared with the 11.64 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.

# Fourth of July scorcher set for much of US

## 110M facing heat-related advisories, warnings

**Brendan O'Brien and Rich McKay**  
REUTERS

A huge swath of the United States experienced dangerously high temperatures on Wednesday – just ahead of the long Fourth of July weekend – meteorologists said, while a fast-moving California wildfire has forced thousands of residents to evacuate their homes.

Some 110 million people in 21 states across the West, the southern Plains and the Mid-Atlantic will spend their holiday under heat-related advisories and warnings. Temperatures were expected to soar well past 100 degrees Fahrenheit over the next several days, the National Weather Service said.

“It’s really hot; I don’t know how else to put it,” said Jacob Asherman, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. “We’re having excessively hot weather across a lot of the country.”

The scorching weather sets in just as the country begins the Independence Day weekend, a holiday when many Americans head to the outdoors for firework displays, parades, music festivals and the like.

Portland, Oregon, where conditions are typically mild, was expected to reach 100 degrees on Friday, breaking a record for the date, while in Jackson, Mississippi, known for its hot weather, the temperature was expected to reach 114 degrees, the service said.

When Portland native Jen Scott, a hardware store manager, was a kid, “It was a big deal if it hit 90,” she said. Early July days would typically top out in the low 80s.

“But for the last few years, it’s been getting extra hot. But 100 is crazy,” she said. “We’re not used to this.”

Scott, who manages Pearl Ace Hardware in Portland, said fans and air conditioners have been flying off the shelves.

“Remember to stay hydrated, avoid strenuous outdoor activities, and make



Firefighters knock down a structure fire that ignited from a burning generator and briefly spread to a small spot fire at a home in Oroville, Calif., during the Thompson Fire on Wednesday. JOSH EDELSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

sure neighbors, relatives, pets have a cool place to spend the day,” the weather service’s Jackson office said on X.

In the Southwest, Phoenix was expected to hit 113 degrees on Wednesday and 116 degrees by Friday with little relief in sight. Last summer, Arizona’s capital sizzled with a record-breaking 54 consecutive days when the temperature reached 110 degrees and higher, including 31 consecutive days through July.

The brutal heat, coupled with fierce gusts of wind and low humidity in Northern California, were particularly challenging for the 500 firefighters who

were battling the Thompson Fire, which broke out on Tuesday morning. The unchecked blaze, which has burned 2,000 acres in Butte County and the city of Oroville, forced some 13,000 residents to flee their homes, according to fire officials and media.

Photographs and video footage from the area located about 65 miles north of Sacramento, the state capital, showed flames ripping through structures and torching vehicles.

Smoke from the fire and other blazes burning in Northern California was drifting south into San Francisco, where 7.7 million Bay Area residents were

**“It’s really hot; I don’t know how else to put it. We’re having excessively hot weather across a lot of the country.”**

**Jacob Asherman**  
Meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Weather Prediction Center in Maryland

encouraged to limit driving and not set off Fourth of July fireworks due to the low air quality.

## Beryl

Continued from Page 1NN

The loss of life and damage wrought by Beryl underscores the consequences of a warmer Atlantic Ocean, which scientists cite as a telltale sign of human-caused climate change fueling extreme weather that differs from past experience.

Ralph Gonsalves, prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, one of the hardest-hit areas in the eastern Caribbean, said in a radio interview that the country’s Union Island was “flattened” by Beryl.

“Everybody is homeless ... It is going to be a Herculean effort to rebuild.”

Speaking to state media, Nerissa Gittens-McMillan, permanent secretary at St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ agriculture ministry, warned of possible food shortages after 50% of the country’s plantain and banana crops were lost, with significant losses also to root crops and vegetables.

In Kingston, streets were quiet as anxious residents hunkered down after spending the morning stocking up on essential supplies.

Jamaicans braced for electricity cuts later on Wednesday, according to a power company official, with roads near the coast already washed out as steady rain continued to fall and winds picked up in the capital.

In St. Elizabeth, local politician Joseph Patterson said the power was out and the situation was “getting gradually worse by the minute,” with aggressive winds bringing down trees.

Beryl is packing maximum sustained winds of 140 miles per hour.

The force of the winds was expected to weaken somewhat in the next day or two, according to the NHC, though it cautioned that Beryl will remain at or near major hurricane strength as it moves on to the Cayman Islands.

“Life-threatening flash flooding and mudslides from heavy rainfall are expected over much of Jamaica and southern Haiti through (Wednesday),” the NHC said in a post, adding that dangerous winds and storm surge are also expected in the Cayman Islands through early Thursday.

The center added that a hurricane warning was in effect for Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, as well as the eastern coast of Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula, including for the country’s top beach resort Cancun.



Floods swept through the town of Cumanacoa, Venezuela, after Hurricane Beryl passed through Tuesday. SAMIR APONTE /REUTERS



Advertising billboards are taken down in anticipation of the hurricane’s arrival in Cancun, Mexico, on Wednesday. Tourists in Cancun and nearby Tulum were encouraged to hunker down in hotel basements. ELIZABETH RUIZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A road is damaged after the hurricane’s passage in Enriquillo, Dominican Republic, on Wednesday. MELBIN DOMINGO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Waves break in Kingston, Jamaica, on Wednesday. Beryl is packing maximum sustained winds of 140 miles per hour. MARCO BELLO/REUTERS

### ‘We could not sleep’

Overnight in Haiti as Beryl’s impact grew progressively stronger, residents anxiously awaited its full impact.

“We were not comfortable. We could not sleep normally with the wind, the water. Many people slept in the yard,” said Pouchon Jean-Francois, who lives in an improvised camp in Port-au-Prince.

Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodriguez was injured as she surveyed an area south of Beryl on Tuesday night, where the Manzanares River in Sucre state burst its banks.

President Nicolas Maduro confirmed the injuries caused by a falling tree to his second-in-command, along with head injuries suffered by senior officials accompanying her, after intense rainfall struck inland from the country’s Caribbean coastline.

On Tuesday night, Maduro told state television that three people had died and four were missing in the area, along with more than 8,000 homes damaged by torrential rains, including at least 400 destroyed. The unusually early hurricane strengthened at a record pace, which scientists argue is almost certainly fueled by climate change.

Beryl is the 2024 Atlantic season’s first hurricane and the earliest storm on record to reach the highest category on the Saffir-Simpson five-stage scale. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has forecast a large number of major hurricanes in an “extraordinary” season this year.

Additional confirmed fatalities so far include at least three in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a senior official told Reuters, where Union Island has suffered severe destruction of over 90% of buildings.

In Grenada, Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell described “Armageddon-like” conditions with no power and widespread destruction, while also confirming three deaths.

Beyond near-term impact in Jamaica and Haiti, the NHC warned that Beryl will likely make landfall on Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula as early as Thursday night.

In Cancun, officials said supplies of wooden boards used to protect doors and windows were dwindling as locals and tourists prepared for Beryl’s arrival.

Laura Velazquez, head of Mexico’s civil protection agency, encouraged tourists in Cancun and nearby Tulum to hunker down in hotel basements once the hurricane approaches, in comments to local broadcaster Milenio.

## WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

# Gaza cease-fire effort picks up again

Israel says it will evaluate as it continues strikes

**Nidal al-Mughrabi, Mohammad Salem and Maayan Lubell**  
REUTERS

GAZA CITY – Signs of renewed activity emerged on Wednesday in the quest for a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas in the nine-month-old war in the Gaza Strip while Israel launched more strikes on the devastated enclave.

After weeks with little public diplomacy, mediators Egypt and Qatar delivered a response from Hamas to a proposal that would include a release of hostages held in Gaza and a cease-fire in the Palestinian enclave.

Israel is studying the document, said a statement released by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on behalf of the Mossad spy agency.

Egypt, Qatar and the United States have been trying for months to secure a truce and the release of 120 remaining hostages in Gaza, but their efforts have repeatedly failed.

Hamas says any deal must end the war and bring a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Israel says it will accept only temporary pauses in the fighting until Hamas is eradicated.

"Israel is examining the response and will respond to the mediators," the Mossad statement said without further details.

Hamas, the Islamist militant group that rules Gaza, said in a statement that its leader Ismail Haniyeh had calls with Qatari and Egyptian mediators around ideas to reach a deal to end the war in Gaza as well as communication with Turkish officials.

The New York Times reported that Israel's top generals want a Gaza cease-fire even if it keeps Hamas in power for the time being, widening a rift between the military and Netanyahu, who has opposed a truce that would let Hamas survive.

The commanders believe a cease-fire would be the best way to secure the release of the remaining Israeli hostages, and they think over-stretched Israeli forces, running low on munitions, need to regroup in case a wider war breaks out with Lebanon's Hezbollah, the report said, citing six current and former Israeli security officials.

An Israeli strike killed top Hezbollah commander Mohammed Nasser in south Lebanon on Wednesday, prompting retaliatory rocket fire by the Iran-backed group into Israel as their dangerously poised conflict rumbled on.

Sparked by the Gaza war, the hostilities with Lebanon have raised concerns about a wider and ruinous conflict be-



Palestinian children in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, collect tomatoes on the road after they fell from an aid truck Wednesday.

BY ADYAD BABA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



An Israeli airstrike left the site of a U.N.-run school sheltering displaced people in Khan Younis in ruins Wednesday.

MOHAMMED SALEM/REUTERS

tween the heavily armed adversaries, prompting U.S. diplomatic efforts aimed at deescalation.

At a mall in Karmiel, northern Israel, an Israeli soldier was killed on Wednesday and a second person was wounded in a stabbing, police said. Israel's Ynet news said the assailant, who was also killed, came from Nahaf, a town where members of Israel's Arab minority live.

**Families sleep on the road, residents say**

On the ground in Gaza, at least 12

people were killed in Israeli strikes in central and northern Gaza, health officials said. Israeli forces also carried out new strikes in the south amid fierce fighting with Palestinian militants overnight, residents said.

Israel's military said a 21-year-old captain was killed in combat in northern Gaza.

Fighting persisted overnight in two locations in central Rafah, where tanks have seized several districts and advanced further west and north of the city in recent days.

The Israeli military said its forces pursued targeted operations in Rafah, dismantled several military sites and killed Palestinian militants.

An Israeli airstrike also destroyed a U.N. school in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, where displaced Palestinians sheltered. There was no word on casualties from the Gaza authorities.

Smoke rose from the rubble as frantic people rushed in to search for their children and others fled, distraught and wailing. "What is happening to us is unjust. We cannot bear it, we can't," one woman said.

Many Palestinians were seeking shelter after Israel ordered them to evacuate areas of Khan Younis and Rafah on Tuesday, which the United Na-

tions said was the largest such edict since 1.1 million people were told to leave the north of the enclave in October.

Khan Younis residents said many families slept on the road because they could not find tents.

The Gaza health ministry said an Israeli airstrike on a house in Khan Younis killed Hassan Hamdan, head of the burns and plastic surgery department at Nasser Medical Complex, along with all his family members.

Israel's army did not comment on the ministry's statement and Reuters was unable immediately to verify it.

The last functioning hospital in the area, the Gaza European Hospital, which had housed displaced families as well as patients, was also evacuated. An Israeli defense official said on Tuesday that hospital staff and patients were told they could stay.

The cease-fire plan on the table, which was made public at the end of May by President Joe Biden, entails the gradual release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza and pullback of Israeli forces over two phases.

It also envisages the freeing of Palestinian prisoners, with the reconstruction of Gaza and the return of the remains of deceased hostages in a third phase.

## Police: Overcrowding led to India stampede

More than 120 killed at religious event

**Shivam Patel and Saurabh Sharma**  
REUTERS

PHULRAI MUGHAL GARHI, India – More than three times the permitted number of people attended a Hindu religious event in northern India that culminated in a stampede, which killed at least 121 people, authorities said on Wednesday, adding that most of the victims were women.

About 250,000 people gathered for Tuesday's event in the Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh state, about 125 miles from the Indian capital, New Delhi, despite permission being granted only for 80,000, according to an initial police report.

The preacher at the gathering, Suraj Pal Singh, also known as "Bhole Baba," said in a statement that the stampede was caused by "some anti-social elements" after the event concluded, without elaborating.

Police said they were trying to ascertain the whereabouts of the preacher. A group of devotees had organized the event, according to a poster at the site.

The preacher's lawyer, A.P. Singh, said Baba had never asked anyone to touch his feet nor did he give anyone the dust touched by his feet, referring to reports in local media which cited these as reasons for the devotees running toward him.

Singh also said Baba's aides were ready to help those who suffered in the incident.

Most of the deaths resulted from suffocation, said doctors at a district hospital treating several victims. Among the 121 dead were 112 women and seven chil-



Relatives mourn the deaths of stampede victims Kamlesh Jatav, 22, and her 7-month-old daughter in the village of Daunkeli, India, on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY ANUSHREE FADNAVIS/REUTERS

dren, while 31 were injured, state authorities said.

In their First Information Report, police described a scene of chaos when the preacher was leaving in his car.

Thousands of devotees shouted and ran toward the vehicle, crushing others still seated, the report said. Some people were trampled after falling in an adjacent field of slush and mud.

In a letter seen by Reuters, a junior official present at the event told the district administrator that the preacher's staff had stopped the devotees running toward the car and that many of them

had fallen to the ground.

Some had run toward open fields nearby to escape the stampede but slipped and fell in the path of the rest of the crowd, the official added.

**'Terrifying screams'**

Among the dead was Ruby, 30, who had traveled more than 185 miles to attend, along with her father, Chedilal.

Describing the stampede, Chedilal told Reuters: "I heard terrifying screams from women and there were bodies piled up on the ground near the exit."



Relatives and neighbors cremate the body of Kamlesh Jatav on Wednesday. Among the 121 killed in the stampede were 112 women and seven children, state authorities said.

"I was scared, I ran away and started calling my daughter on the phone," he added.

After an agonizing night of hospital visits to locate his daughter, Chedilal said he finally found her body at the Hathras district hospital in the morning.

The state's chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, met some of the injured on Wednesday and inspected the site, which stands amid paddy fields beside a busy highway. Waste littered the site, which was partly inundated by rainfall.

Adityanath said a judicial inquiry would be conducted into the incident, besides the police investigation, to determine who was responsible.

The judicial panel can also help create a protocol to manage such future events and "prevent repetition of such an incident," Adityanath told reporters. "We will ensure this."

Stampedes and other accidents are not uncommon at religious gatherings involving large crowds in India, with most being blamed on poor crowd management.

# Judge blocks gender identity protections in health care

Biden rule was set to take effect on Friday

**Brendan Pierson**  
REUTERS

A U.S. judge on Wednesday blocked the Biden administration from enforcing a new rule against discrimination on the basis of gender identity in health care while he hears a lawsuit challenging it by 15 Republican-led states.

The rule was finalized in May by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and was set to take effect on Friday. It states that a federal prohibition on sex discrimination, part of the Affordable Care Act health insurance law, extends to discrimination against transgender people.

States opposing the new rule had said in their lawsuit that it would require their Medicaid programs covering low-income residents to pay for treatments like hormones and surgeries for transgender people, including for minors. Many Republican states have passed laws banning such treatments, often called gender-affirming care, for minors.

The rule applies to recipients of federal funds, including Medicaid programs. It followed executive orders President Joe Biden issued in 2021 and 2022 instructing agencies like HHS to take measures protecting transgender people from discrimination.

Senior U.S. District Judge Louis Guirola in Gulfport, Mississippi, said in his preliminary order on Wednesday that the Republican states were likely to succeed in their challenge. He said that the administration had overstepped its authority by interpreting "sex" in the federal law to include gender identity.

"Today a federal court said no to the



The Biden administration's rule applies to recipients of federal funds, including Medicaid programs. JONATHAN BACHMAN/REUTERS FILE

Biden administration's attempt to illegally force every health care provider in America to adopt the most extreme version of gender ideology," Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti, who led the lawsuit alongside Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, said in a statement. The states opposing the rule also include Georgia, Ohio and Virginia.

HHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"This ruling is not only morally wrong, it's also bad policy," Kelley Robinson, president of Human Rights Campaign, an advocacy group supporting transgender rights, said in a statement. "Everyone deserves access to the medical care they need to be healthy and thrive."

In a court filing, HHS said states' fears were "speculative" and that the rule did not override doctors' medical judgment. It said that the states were not entitled to an order blocking the rule because they did not face any im-

minent enforcement.

Guirola, however, said in Wednesday's ruling that the cost of ensuring compliance with the rule would be an immediate harm to the states.

In a separate decision on Wednesday, another federal judge ruled in favor of Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's similar challenge to the rule. However, U.S. District Judge William Jung in Tampa limited his order to that state, saying that nationwide rulings by judges in a single federal district, like Guirola's, "ought to be the rare exception, not routine."

The decision came the week after the U.S. Supreme Court curbed federal agencies' power by ruling that courts must no longer defer to their interpretation of ambiguous laws. Guirola, who was appointed to the bench by Republican former President George W. Bush, noted that ruling, though he ultimately concluded that the law was not ambiguous.

# Study links Wegovy, Ozempic to sight-threatening eye condition

**Nancy Lapid**  
REUTERS

Patients using Novo Nordisk's wildly popular weight-loss drug Wegovy and its similar medicines for Type 2 diabetes may be at increased risk for a sight-threatening eye condition, according to data from a study published on Wednesday.

Wegovy and Novo's diabetes drugs Ozempic and Rybelsus all contain the same active ingredient, semaglutide, and belong to a class of medications known as GLP1 receptor agonists.

The rate of the eye problem known as nonarteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy, or NAION, was 8.9% for those taking semaglutide for Type 2 diabetes, compared with 1.8% for patients taking non-GLP-1 diabetes medications, researchers reported in JAMA Ophthalmology.

Among those prescribed semaglutide for overweight or obesity, the rate of the eye condition was 6.7%, versus 0.8% for those receiving other types of medications for weight reduction.

The 36-month observational study involved 710 adults with Type 2 diabetes and 979 taking medications for weight loss.

NAION develops from insufficient blood flow to the optic nerve and causes sudden painless vision loss in one eye. It is the second most common cause of



Wegovy and Novo's diabetes drugs Ozempic and Rybelsus all contain the same active ingredient, semaglutide. HOLLIE ADAMS/REUTERS FILE

blindness due to optic nerve damage, after glaucoma.

After taking patients' other risk factors for the condition into account, such as high blood pressure and obstructive sleep apnea, use of semaglutide was associated with a more than four times higher risk of NAION in those receiving it for diabetes and a more than seven times higher risk in patients taking it for obesity.

Novo Nordisk in an emailed statement noted several limitations of the study design, which was not a randomized controlled trial.

"Overall, the data published in the study is not sufficient to establish a

causal association between GLP-1 receptor agonist use and NAION," the Danish drugmaker said, adding that the condition "is not an adverse drug reaction for the marketed formulations of semaglutide."

NAION more often affects older individuals. In the overall U.S. population, the estimated annual incidence is 0.54 per 100,000 people, rising to 2.3 to 10.2 per 100,000 in adults above age 50, according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

The prognosis for visual recovery is better for younger patients, the AAO says.

"This work has been carried out to a high level of quality and ... does suggest an association between semaglutide treatment and one form of sight-threatening optic neuropathy, but this would ideally be tested in larger studies," Graham McGeown of Queen's University Belfast, who studies diabetic eye disease but was not involved in the new research, said in a statement.

"Given the rapid increase in semaglutide use and its possible licensing for a range of problems other than obesity and type-2 diabetes, this issue deserves further study, but possible drug side effects always need to be balanced against likely benefits," McGeown said.

The researchers involved in the study were not immediately available to comment on their findings.

# Colorado reports human case of bird flu

**Leah Douglas**  
REUTERS

Public health officials in Colorado on Wednesday announced an adult man had tested positive for avian flu after reporting mild symptoms, including conjunctivitis, or pink eye.

The man is an employee at a dairy farm who had exposure to infected cattle and recovered after antiviral treatment, officials said.

It was the fourth human case of bird flu reported in the U.S. since avian flu was confirmed in cows in March.

The prior three people to test positive were also dairy farm workers who recovered.

The first two workers to contract the virus had mild pink eye. In the third



Avian flu has infected cows at 139 farms in 12 states, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ALEX GALLARDO/REUTERS FILE

case, the worker had mild respiratory symptoms.

The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention confirmed the case in a statement and said the risk to the general public from bird flu remains low, although people with exposure to infected animals are at greater risk.

The virus has infected cows at 139 farms in 12 states, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Colorado has had 27 of those outbreaks. On Tuesday, Moderna was awarded a \$176 million government contract to advance development of its human bird flu vaccine.

The USDA is conducting its own research as well as soliciting information from about two dozen companies on a potential bird flu vaccine for cattle, although the agency has said it hopes to eliminate the virus from dairy herds without the use of a vaccine.

## IN BRIEF

### McKinsey wins dismissal of lawsuit over bankruptcy conflicts

A U.S. judge dismissed turnaround specialist Jay Alix's lawsuit accusing consulting giant McKinsey & Co. of misleading bankruptcy courts about conflicts of interest when seeking permission to perform lucrative work on corporate restructurings.

U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman in Manhattan said Alix lacked standing to sue under the federal Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act because AlixPartners, the consulting firm he founded and partially owns, never assigned him that right.

Furman's 34-page decision on Wednesday follows six years of often bitter litigation between Alix and one of his most powerful rivals, including a successful appeal by Alix in 2022 of an earlier dismissal.

Alix accused McKinsey of running a "criminal enterprise" by hiding its ties to lenders and competitors of its clients.

He said these conflicts should have disqualified McKinsey from 13 bankruptcies including American Airlines, food retailer Harry & David and coal producer Alpha Natural Resources, and potentially cost AlixPartners some assignments.

### For the first time ever, Canada appoints woman as top soldier

Canada named a woman as the country's top soldier for the first time ever on Wednesday, continuing a push by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to appoint women to the most senior jobs.

Lt.-Gen. Jennie Carignan, in charge of efforts to stamp out ingrained sexism and misconduct in the armed forces, will take over on July 18 as chief of the defense staff.

Carignan, originally a military engineer, has commanded troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and Syria during her 35 years in the army.

Carignan takes over at a time when Canada is under pressure from allies to ramp up its defense spending. The armed forces are struggling to meet recruitment goals and have been slow to replace outdated equipment.

Last November, the head of the navy said the service was in "a critical state" and might not be able to carry out its basic duties in 2024.

### PM: Kenyan police arrival in Haiti marks new era for security

Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille told the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday that the arrival of the first Kenyan police officers under a U.N.-backed mission marked a critical stage to restoring security in a country ravaged by gang violence.

"The arrival of the first contingent of the Multinational Security Support kicks off a new era in Haiti," Conille told diplomats in New York.

"Haiti is currently at a critical point with 12,000 armed individuals holding a population of 12 million hostage."

Some 200 Kenyan police arrived in Haiti last week as part of the long-delayed mission mandated to help national police fight armed gangs that have taken over most of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince - fueling a humanitarian crisis that has driven nearly 600,000 from their homes and 5 million into severe food insecurity.

The full force is set to number over 2,500, but it remains unclear when these could arrive. Haiti's outgunned and under-resourced police, meanwhile, counted just over 12,000 officers at the end of May, according to a report by the U.N. Integrated Mission in Haiti.

### Russia claims control over part of key Ukrainian town of Chasiv Yar

Russia's Defense Ministry said on Wednesday that its forces had taken control of the Novyi district in the key Ukrainian town of Chasiv Yar, while Ukraine said the area was engulfed by intense fighting.

Chasiv Yar stands on high ground 12 miles to the west of Bakhmut, a town Russian forces seized a year ago. It had been leveled by months of fierce battles. Both sides see Chasiv Yar as a strategic site which Russia could use as a potential staging point to move westward through the Donetsk region toward the cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

The Novyi district lies to the west of Siverskyi Donets-Donbas canal, which lies on the east side of the town.

On Wednesday, Ivan Petrechak, press officer for Ukraine's 24th brigade defending the town, told Suspilne public television the situation was "critically difficult," with fighting around the canal.

Reuters

# Trump builds big lead in polls

Every demographic sees Biden's age as roadblock

Jason Lange  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has established a sizable lead over President Joe Biden in the White House race since the two candidates debated last week, according to separate opinion polls published on Wednesday by the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.



Biden



Trump

Biden vowed to stay in the 2024 presidential race during a call with campaign staff on Wednesday and sought to reassure top Democrats on Capitol Hill that he is fit for reelection, despite his halting, shaky debate performance last week.

The New York Times and Siena College poll showed Trump, a Republican, building a 6-percentage-point lead — 49% to 43% — over Biden, a Democrat, among registered voters that the Times considered likely to cast ballots in the Nov. 5 election. It was Trump's largest lead in a Times/Siena poll since 2015, when he was campaigning ahead of his 2016 presidential election victory. Among all registered voters in the poll, Trump led by 9 points.

The Wall Street Journal poll showed Trump with a 6-point lead over Biden, compared to a 2-point lead in a survey that the Journal carried out in February.

In both polls, which were conducted nationwide, respondents noted that Biden's age, 81, was weighing on his appeal. Some 80% of respondents in the Journal poll, which surveyed 1,500 registered voters from June 29 through July 2, said Biden was too old to seek a second term. That poll had a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points.

The Times poll, which surveyed 1,532 registered voters from June 28-July 2, found that large slices of every demographic — including Black voters and those who said they would still vote for him — saw Biden as “just too old to be an effective president.” It had a margin of error of 2.8 points for registered voters.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted July 1-2 found Trump and Biden tied among registered voters with 40% support each. That poll found one in three Democrats believe Biden should drop out of the race.



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, left, and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz address reporters after meeting with President Joe Biden on Wednesday.

## Biden

Continued from Page 1NN

The president met virtually and in person with 24 Democratic governors and the mayor of Washington, D.C., on Wednesday to reassure them he is up to the job of standard-bearer for the party after the faltering debate performance.

Only three of the governors — leaders of New York, Minnesota and Maryland — met with reporters afterward, vowing to stand with Biden after what they called an honest discussion about his bad performance in last week's debate.

“The president has always had our backs. We're going to have his back as well,” Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the chair of the Democratic Governors Association, said Biden's debate performance against Trump last week was bad, but he felt Biden was fit for office.

In that encounter with Trump last Thursday, Biden mumbled under his breath, lost his train of thought at times and, at one point, talked of beating Medicare. The president has said that he was tired after two foreign trips and the White House has said he had a cold.

Asked Wednesday if Biden was considering stepping down, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said: “Absolutely not.”

In a call among House Democrats on Wednesday, Arizona's Raúl Grijalva called for Biden to drop out of the race while Rep. Seth Moulton from Massachusetts pointed to Biden's age as a liability.

“The unfortunate reality is that the status quo will likely deliver us President Trump,” Moulton said in a statement. “President Biden is not going to get younger.”

Vice President Kamala Harris has gained support as his potential replacement. Dmitri Melhorn, an adviser to LinkedIn co-founder and Democratic megadonor Reid Hoffman, told Reuters



Asked Wednesday if Biden was considering stepping down, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said: “Absolutely not.”

PHOTOS BY JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

his team would “enthusiastically support a ticket led by our tough and savvy vice president if Biden were to step aside for any reason.”

Melhorn said Harris was the only serious national contender who had already been subjected to major attacks by Trump's “Make America Great Again” supporters.

“We would lose Joe's superpower brand, but we would gain other benefits and would still be competitive,” he said.

Democrats and donors concerned about Biden's viability in the November election will be closely watching an interview with ABC News expected to be taped Friday during a campaign visit to Madison, Wisconsin, and aired throughout the weekend.

The White House said Biden has spoken with Democratic leaders in Congress as well as Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn, who was instrumental in Biden's 2020 win. Clyburn, who has said he would back Harris for president if Biden stepped aside, told CNN on Wednesday that the party should hold a “mini-primary” if that happens.

If Harris were the nominee, this primary process “would give us an opportunity, not just to measure up who

## Netflix co-founder calls for Biden to step aside, New York Times reports

Reed Hastings, a major Democratic Party donor and a co-founder of streaming platform Netflix, has called for President Joe Biden to step aside as a presidential candidate following his debate performance last week, the New York Times reported on Wednesday.

“Biden needs to step aside to allow a vigorous Democratic leader to beat Trump and keep us safe and prosperous,” he was quoted as saying by the newspaper in an email to them.

Earlier Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva became the second congressional Democrat to call for Biden to withdraw from the presidential race.

“If he's the candidate, I'm going to support him, but I think that this is an opportunity to look elsewhere,” Grijalva, a liberal who represents a district in southern Arizona along the border with Mexico, told the New York Times. “What he (Biden) needs to do is shoulder the responsibility for keeping that seat — and part of that responsibility is to get out of this race.”

Reuters

would be good to be at the top of the ticket, but also who would be best in second place,” he said.

A handful of governors are potential rivals to Biden if pressure for him to step aside were to increase, but many of them also speak on Biden's behalf on the campaign trail. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear have all been mentioned as possible replacements to Biden.

## Town

Continued from Page 1NN

said the small town is home to about 23,000 people, but more than 200,000 are expected to attend the town's full slate of Fourth of July events, which kicked off on Flag Day.

### How long has the celebration been happening?

The celebrations in Bristol started in 1785 when Revolutionary War veteran Rev. Henry Wight of the First Congregational Church conducted the first of what's known as the patriotic exercises, an event honoring military veterans, according to the town's website. Bristol's parade is believed to have begun in the early 1800s.

Some Americans began celebrating July 4 in 1777, the year after the Declaration of Independence was signed, but the holiday didn't become more widely observed until after the War of 1812. By the 1870s, Independence Day had become the most important nonreligious holiday for many Americans, and on June 28, 1870, Congress passed a law making Independence Day a federal holiday.

Teixeira said she has a long personal history with the celebrations. Both she and her mother have been runners-up for Miss Fourth of July, and participating in the pageant led her to meet her



The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps perform in Bristol, R.I., at the Fourth of July parade in 2022. KRIS CRAIG/PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FILE

former husband on the USS Newport. In 2012, Teixeira said her father was the chief marshal of the parade, and seeing the work the city does behind the scenes prompted her to get more involved in the planning of the events.

“We are celebrating 239 years, and I'm ecstatic to be part of history and to be part of such a wonderful tradition of bringing our community together,” she said.

### How does Bristol celebrate Fourth of July?

In Bristol, the annual celebrations get underway June 14. After the Flag Day ceremony comes a nightly concert series at Independence Park, a Fourth of July ball, the Orange Crate Derby and

numerous other events, Teixeira said. The town still holds traditional events such as the patriotic exercises, but the planning committee has also added new activities such as a pickleball tournament to keep the celebrations “fresh and different,” she said.

On Wednesday, Teixeira was set to welcome a U.S. Navy ship into Bristol's picturesque harbor with Sen. Jack Reed and gift the ship's chief officer with a Rhode Island flag before watching fireworks. Finally, the festivities will culminate with the 2.5-mile Military, Civic and Firemen's Parade on July 4.

In past years, residents have come as early as 4 a.m., rain or shine, to stake out a prime spot along the parade route and have decked out their houses with elaborate displays including a nearly life-

size replica of the Iwo Jima Memorial. Teixeira said she attends every event the town holds in the run-up to Independence Day, but “the parade has always been near and dear to my heart.”

### Prepping for one of the nation's oldest July 4 celebrations

Preparations for the events begin nearly a year in advance, according to Teixeira, who has been on the planning committee for 11 years.

The committee has more than 100 people and over 35 subcommittees that help pull the activities together. More than 55 additional volunteers, including several of Teixeira's family members, help do everything from setting up water coolers and arranging golf carts to cleaning up trash in Independence Park each night.

Teixeira said some of the events serve as fundraisers to replenish the celebration's \$500,000 budget.

“It's a full production, and we'll start this all over on July 6,” Teixeira said.

Teixeira said volunteering on the committee is a big responsibility on top of her full-time job as a senior risk manager in cybersecurity, but the end result is worth the long hours the team puts in.

“The excitement, it's like being a little kid again, but you're putting it on for thousands of people,” she said. “And it's just pure, pure joy after all the sacrifice.”

Contributing: Marina Pitofsky, USA TODAY; Linda Borg and Alex Kuffner, Providence Journal

# SPORTS **EXTRA**



Carlos Alcaraz prepares to hit a forehand against Aleksandar Vukic in their men's singles match on Wednesday at Wimbledon. GEOFF BURKE/USA TODAY SPORTS

TENNIS WIMBLEDON

## Alcaraz and Sinner advance; Ruud out

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz overcame an uneven first set to defeat Aleksandar Vukic of Australia 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2 and advance to the third round at Wimbledon on Wednesday.

The victory extended the Spaniard's winning streak on the grass courts of London to nine.

Failing to advance was No. 8 seed Casper Ruud of Norway, who was defeated by Italy's Fabio Fognini 6-4, 7-5, 6-7 (1), 6-3. He became the second top-10 seed to fall, following a four-set loss by No. 6 seed Andrey Rublev of Russia to Francisco Comesana of Argentina on Tuesday.

Alcaraz, the third seed, was cruising with a 5-2 lead in the first set Wednesday before Vukic rattled off four straight wins to take a 6-5 lead. Serving for the

set, Vukic managed to post only one point as Alcaraz broke his serve, then went on to win the first-set tiebreaker.

"I am really happy about my performance," Alcaraz said. "I think the first set was the key. He served for the set and I broke and after I played a really good tiebreak. I played a really high level in the second and third sets, so I am really happy about it."

Alcaraz, winner of three Grand Slams, needed 1 hour, 48 minutes to defeat the Australian. Alcaraz struck 11 aces among his 42 winners and had 15 unforced errors, compared to Vukic's 19 and 22, respectively.

Next up for Alcaraz will be Frances Tiafoe, the No. 29 seed, who defeated Borna Coric 7-6 (5), 6-1, 6-3 of Croatia. Alcaraz defeated the American in five

See WIMBLEDON, Page 3NS

NBA

## Reports: Lakers sign LeBron to 2-year deal

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

LeBron James agreed to a two-year, \$104 million contract with the Los Angeles Lakers, ESPN and The Athletic reported Wednesday.

The move represents only a slight salary increase over his scheduled 2024-25 season salary of \$51.4 million in the form of a player option.

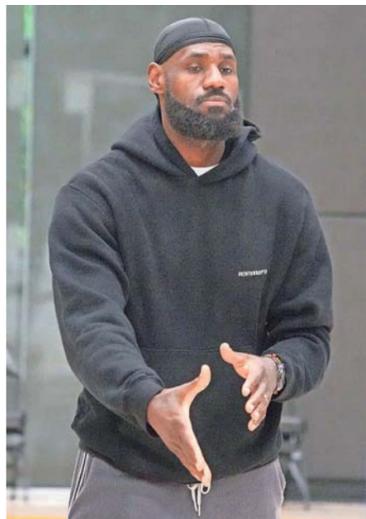
But James opted out of his contract last week, one day after the Lakers selected his oldest son, Bronny, with the 55th pick in the 2024 NBA Draft. Even before the potential of the father-son pairing, all signs pointed to James playing his 22nd NBA season — seventh with Los Angeles.

Bronny James also reportedly officially signed with Los Angeles, netting a four-year contract worth \$7.9 million, an unusual step in the NBA for a second-round draft pick. The Lakers hold an option for the final season (2027-28). Players selected in the second round are not required under the collective bargaining agreement to be guaranteed any portion of their salary at signing.

The LeBron James deal, culminated on the fourth day of free agency, includes a no-trade clause and a player option for the 2025-26 season.

The delay in hammering out the deal reportedly was a byproduct of James' attempted recruiting mission,

See LAKERS, Page 2NS



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James watches a news conference at the UCLA Health Training Center on Tuesday. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

MLB



The Arizona Diamondbacks' Christian Walker gestures after hitting a double in the sixth inning of Wednesday's game against the Dodgers at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

## WALKER, D-BACKS DOMINATE DODGERS

Christian Walker continued to torment his division rival with two more home runs, and Gabriel Moreno and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. also went deep as the visiting Arizona Diamondbacks rolled to a 12-4 road victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday. Walker now has seven home runs in eight games against the Dodgers this season. **ROUNDUP, 4NS**

## BASKETBALL

## WNBA

MERCURY 104, WINGS 96

## Copper scores 34 points as the Mercury outlast Wings

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Kahleah Copper rang up 34 points, including a huge 3-pointer with 21.8 seconds to play, as the visiting Phoenix Mercury held off the struggling Dallas Wings 104-96 on Wednesday in Arlington, Texas.

The Mercury (10-10) snapped a two-game losing streak by taking charge of the game early in the second quarter, building a huge lead and fighting off a Dallas rally.

Phoenix led by 13 points at halftime and by 61-43 after a three-point play by Brittney Griner in the opening minute after the break before Dallas closed to within seven heading into the fourth quarter.

The Wings cut their deficit to 97-94 on a putback layup by Natasha Howard with 2:19 left and to 99-96 after a pair of free throws by Arike Ogunbowale 25 seconds later.

But Phoenix never let the Wings get closer, with two free throws by Natasha Cloud with 6.7 seconds remaining clinching the win.

Griner added 24 points while Diana Taurasi had 16, Rebecca Allen scored 14 points and Cloud had 11 points and 10 assists for Phoenix.

Howard scored a season-high 36 points and took 11 rebounds to lead the Wings (4-16), which lost their third straight game and 14th in their last 15 outings. Ogunbowale scored 26 points, and Odyssey Sims hit for 13 for Dallas.

Griner's jumper at the 6:48 mark of the first quarter gave the Mercury their first lead at 8-6.

Phoenix expanded its lead to five points when Allen canned a 3-pointer midway through the period and then to 20-11 after Copper hit a three and then a jumper, the latter with 2:48 to play in the first. The Mercury led 27-18 at the end of the period.

But Dallas swung back, paring its deficit to 41-32 when Howard and Ogunbowale hit baskets as part of a 6-0 run. Phoenix answered and carried a 56-43 lead to the break.

Copper poured in 17 points before halftime to lead all scorers while Taurasi had 13 and Allen scored 11 for the Mercury.

Howard paced Dallas with 14 points at the half, with Ogunbowale adding 11.

The Wings clawed back from 18 points down early in the third to within 76-74 after an Ogunbowale jumper with 1:39 to play in the period.

## Lakers

Continued from Page 1

which appears to have been unsuccessful in landing another "impact" free agent.

ESPN reported James wanted to bring either Klay Thompson or DeMar DeRozan to Los Angeles. Thompson reportedly had a \$20 million-per-season contract waiting from the Lakers, but he opted to join Kyrie Irving and Luka Dončić with the Western Conference champion Dallas Mavericks.

DeRozan, a Los Angeles native who played at Southern California, remained unsigned as of Wednesday morning. Reports linked him to the Sacramento Kings, but after James signed for the maximum, the Lakers would need to shed salary in a sign-and-trade agreement with the Chicago Bulls to acquire DeRozan.

The elder James, who turns 40 in December, expressed multiple times that he wanted to play with his son before ending his career.

He watched from the back of the training facility as Bronny James and first-round pick Dalton Knecht were formally introduced at a news conference on Tuesday.

LeBron James averaged 25.7 points, 8.3 assists and 7.3 rebounds in 71 games in the 2023-24 season.

James, a four-time league MVP, became the first player in history to top 40,000 career points last season. He's a 20-time All-Star and has career averages of 27.1 points, 7.5 rebounds and 7.4 assists in 1,492 regular-season games.

## NBA NOTEBOOK

## Report: Lakers hiring Brooks, McMillan as assistant coaches

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

The Los Angeles Lakers are adding a ton of experience to first-time head coach JJ Redick's staff.

ESPN reported Wednesday that longtime head coaches Nate McMillan and Scott Brooks are coming aboard as Redick's top assistants for 2024-25.

McMillan and Brooks have a combined 1,281 victories in the NBA.

McMillan, 59, compiled a record of 760-668 over 19 seasons with the Seattle SuperSonics (2000-05), Portland Trail Blazers (2005-12), Indiana Pacers (2016-20) and Atlanta Hawks (2020-23). His teams reached the playoffs 11 times, including a run to the 2021 East finals with Atlanta.

Brooks, 58, posted a record of 521-414 across 12 seasons with the Oklahoma City Thunder (2008-15) and Washington Wizards (2016-21). His teams made the playoffs eight times, including Oklahoma City's trip to the 2012 NBA Finals. He was the NBA Coach of the Year in 2009-10.

McMillan was out of the league last season. Brooks spent the past three seasons as an assistant coach for the Trail Blazers.

## Walker named to Hornets coaching staff

Kemba Walker was named to the Charlotte Hornets coaching staff on Wednesday, one day after announcing his retirement from the NBA.

A four-time All-Star point guard, Walker was named player enhancement coach on new head coach Charles Lee's staff.

The Hornets announced Lamar Skeeter, Josh Longstaff, Chris Jent, Blaine Mueller, Ryan Frazier, Matt Hill and Jermaine Bucknor as Lee's assistant coaches, with Skeeter as his lead assistant. Skeeter spent the past 10 seasons with the Utah Jazz, rising to top assistant.

Walker was selected No. 9 overall by the Hornets in the 2011 draft.

He played eight seasons in Charlotte before signing a four-year, \$141 million contract in July 2019 as part of a sign-and-trade deal with the Boston Celtics.

After two seasons with the Celtics, he bounced around the NBA and was traded and released twice before finishing his career with short stints with the New York Knicks and Dallas Mavericks.

Walker, 34, played overseas in Monaco in the 2023-24 season and ended his NBA career with averages of 19.3 points, 3.8 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 33.1 minutes in 750 games (697 starts). He earned four straight All-Star nods



The Los Angeles Lakers reportedly are hiring former Portland Trail Blazers assistant coach Scott Brooks, above, as a top assistant on JJ Redick's staff.

ALONZO ADAMS/USA TODAY SPORTS

from 2017-20, and was All-NBA third team for the 2018-19 season.

## Report: G/F Burks agrees to 1-year deal with Heat

The Miami Heat are in agreement on a one-year deal with former first-round pick Alec Burks, ESPN reported Wednesday.

Financial terms were not reported. The Heat will be his eighth team.

The swingman averaged 10.4 points per game off the bench this past season with the Detroit Pistons and New York Knicks, who acquired him at the trade deadline in February. Burks went on to average 14.8 points and 20.2 minutes per game over six playoff games for the Knicks.

Burks averages 10.8 points in 742 career games (144 starts) in 13 seasons, most notably with the Utah Jazz, who selected him No. 12 overall in the 2011 draft. Burks played eight seasons in Utah.

He is a career 38.3 percent shooter from the 3-point line.

## Report: Ingles agrees to 1-year deal with Timberwolves

The Minnesota Timberwolves are in agreement on a one-year contract with veteran forward Joe Ingles, ESPN reported Wednesday.

Financial terms were not reported. Ingles' \$11 million option for 2024-25 was declined by the Orlando Magic last weekend.

The signing would reunite Ingles with former teammates Michael Conley and Rudy Gobert, whom he played multiple seasons with in Utah.

In his first season with the Magic in 2023-24, Ingles, 36, played in 68 games and averaged 4.4 points with 2.1 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game.

The Utah Jazz signed the 6-foot-9 Australia native as a free agent before the 2014-15 season, and he spent his first eight seasons in Salt Lake City, followed by one season with the Milwaukee Bucks.

He has career averages of 8.1 points, 3.1 rebounds and 3.6 assists in 704 games (313 starts).



Lakers forward LeBron James (23) shakes hands with his son Bronny during the second half of a Nov. 19 game against the Houston Rockets at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

KIYOSHI MIO/USA TODAY SPORTS

## MLB

# Judge, Ohtani repeat as All-Star starters

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Based off of fan voting, sluggers Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees and Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Dodgers will be the only repeat starters at this year's All-Star Game.

Judge, the leading vote-getter in the majors, topped the big leagues with 32 home runs and 83 RBIs entering Wednesday. He earned his sixth start and sixth overall selection and will be joined in the American League outfield by first-year teammate Juan Soto, a four-time All-Star and first-time starter.

Ohtani, a two-time AL MVP playing in his first season for the Dodgers of the National League, will be the first player to draw four consecutive starts at designated hitter in the Midsummer Classic. Ohtani also was the starting pitcher for the AL in the 2021 All-Star Game, playing as a member of the Los Angeles Angels.

Receiving the most votes in the NL was Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Bryce Harper, who will be joined by teammates Alec Bohm at third base and Trea Turner at shortstop. Harper, a two-time NL MVP, is going to his eighth All-Star Game and will be making his seventh fan-elected start.

The 18 fan-elected starters represent 10 teams – five in the AL, five in the NL, with the Phillies topping the list with three players.

Philadelphia was a major-league-best 56-29 entering Wednesday.

The All-Star Game will be played on July 16 at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. The pitchers and reserves for both teams – totaling 46 players in all – will be chosen via player ballots and selections made through the commissioner's office. The rosters will be announced on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. ET on ESPN.

## AL starters

**Catcher:** Adley Rutschman, Baltimore Orioles (first starter election; second overall)

**First base:** Vladimir Guerrero Jr., To-



The New York Yankees' Aaron Judge hits a single against the Blue Jays during the sixth inning of last Friday's game at Rogers Centre in Toronto. NICK TURCHIARO/USA TODAY SPORTS

ronto Blue Jays (third starter election; fourth overall)

**Second base:** Jose Altuve, Houston Astros (sixth starter election; ninth overall)

**Third base:** Jose Ramirez, Cleveland Guardians (third starter election; sixth overall)

**Shortstop:** Gunnar Henderson, Baltimore Orioles (first starter election; first overall)

**Outfield:** Aaron Judge, New York Yankees (sixth starter election; sixth overall); Juan Soto, New York Yankees (first starter election, fourth overall); Steven Kwan, Cleveland Guardians

(first starter election, first overall)

**Designated hitter:** Yordan Alvarez, Houston Astros (first starter election; third overall)

## NL starters

**Catcher:** William Contreras, Milwaukee Brewers (first starter election, second overall)

**First base:** Bryce Harper, Philadelphia Phillies (seventh starter election, eighth overall)

**Second base:** Ketel Marte, Arizona Diamondbacks (second starter election, second overall)

**Third base:** Alec Bohm, Philadelphia Phillies (first starter election, first overall)

**Shortstop:** Trea Turner, Philadelphia Phillies (second starter election, third overall)

**Outfield:** Christian Yelich, Milwaukee Brewers (second starter election, third overall); Jurickson Profar, San Diego Padres (first starter election, first overall); Fernando Tatis Jr., San Diego Padres (second starter election, second overall)

**Designated hitter:** Shohei Ohtani, Los Angeles Dodgers (fourth starter election, fourth overall)

## TENNIS



Jannik Sinner reacts to a point during his match against Matteo Berrettini on Wednesday at Wimbledon in London. SUSAN MULLANE/USA TODAY SPORTS

## Wimbledon

Continued from Page 1

sets in the semifinals at the U.S. Open in 2022.

"We played a brilliant match at the U.S. Open," Alcaraz said of Tiafoe. "I know he is a really talented player and it will be tough on here on grass. Good serve, good volley. It will be a difficult match for me but I am ready for that challenge."

Also moving into the third round was No. 5 seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia, who rallied to oust Alexandre Muller of France 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-4, 7-5.

No. 16 seed Ugo Humbert of France and No. 21 Karen Khachanov of Russia also advanced to the third round, as did unseeded American Brandon Nakashima.

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner was in ac-

tion later Wednesday, and he defeated fellow Italian Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 2-6, 7-6 (4) in a match lasting three hours and 42 minutes. Sinner prevailed despite having only 10 aces to Berrettini's 28. He also had fewer winners (65-32) and watched as Berrettini saved 8 of 10 break points.

Other seeded winners included No. 12 Tommy Paul of the United States and No. 23 Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan. The Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor, the 27th seed, was the victim of an upset, falling to Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic in five sets.

Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff also ousted a seeded foe, earning a 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (8) win over China's Zhizhen Zhang, the No. 32 seed.

Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain also won on Wednesday, while French qualifier Quentin Halys swept American Christopher Eubanks in a first-round match.

## Gauff steamrolls into 3rd round at Wimbledon

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Second-seeded Coco Gauff cruised past Romanian Anca Todoni 6-2, 6-1 in the second round of Wimbledon on Wednesday in London.

Gauff converted five of nine break point opportunities and won 85 percent of her first serves in rolling on to the third round in 66 minutes. Todoni was beset by 23 unforced errors.

"I'm happy with how I played. I do think I could have played cleaner at some moments, but overall, I'm happy to get through to the third round," Gauff said. "This is the court where I first started here at Wimbledon, so Court 1 is always a special place for me to play on."

Gauff advances to the third round, where she'll play Great Britain's Sonay Kartal, a three-set winner over Clara Burel of France.

Gauff will be joined in the third round by fellow American Emma Navarro, who ousted Naomi Osaka in second-round action, 6-4, 6-1. The No. 19 seed won 27 points on her first serve compared to 19 for Osaka. Navarro hit 16 winners against just five unforced errors.

"Definitely a special experience playing out on center court," Navarro said. "I really tried to enjoy it and take it all in and really appreciate the opportunity, also while playing good tennis. I think I was able to do that."

Unseeded Brit and former U.S. Open winner Emma Raducanu defeated Elise Mertens of Belgium 6-1, 6-2 in second-round action.

"I think I'm playing really good tennis," she said. "I knew all the hard yards I was putting in would lead to something. I'm so happy to be able to reap some of the rewards at Wimbledon."

Other seeded winners included No. 7 Jasmine Paolini of Italy, No. 9 Maria Sakkari of Greece, No. 20 Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil, No. 21 Elina Svitolina and No. 28 Dayana Yastremska of



Coco Gauff waves to the crowd after her match against Anca Todoni on Wednesday at Wimbledon in London. GEOFF BURKE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Ukraine. and No. 31 Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic.

Haddad Maia, Svitolina and Krejickova were all playing in first-round matches.

No. 26 Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic lost in straight sets to Canadian Bianca Andreescu.

Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, the 25th seed, was also on the wrong end of an upset, losing 6-4, 6-3 to Lin Zhu of China.

American Sloane Stephens lost in straight sets to Russian Diana Shnaider.

Lulu Sun of New Zealand and Croatian Donna Vekic also came out on top in second-round matches, ousting Yuliia Starodubtseva of Ukraine and Russia's Erika Andreeva, respectively. Jule Niemeier of Germany, the United States' Katie Volynets and Colombian Camila Osorio all completed first-round victories.

## MLB

## WEDNESDAY'S ROUNDUP

## Walker blasts 2 HRs; D-backs crush Dodgers

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Christian Walker continued to torment his division rival with two more home runs, and Gabriel Moreno and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. also went deep as the visiting Arizona Diamondbacks rolled to a 12-4 road victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday.

Walker now has seven home runs in eight games against the Dodgers this season as the Diamondbacks rallied from a three-run deficit in the first inning. Walker had four hits, including a double and three runs scored.

Arizona right-hander Cristian Mena gave up four runs after four batters of his major league debut, but Diamondbacks pitching did not allow another run.

Freddie Freeman and Teoscar Hernandez hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning as the Dodgers fell to 2-3 against Arizona at home this season. Dodgers starter Gavin Stone, who had a 1.62 ERA over his past six starts, gave up four runs on seven hits and three walks in three innings, striking out three.

The Diamondbacks took a 1-0 lead in the first inning, loading the bases with one out but getting only a sacrifice fly from Gurriel.

**Athletics 5, Angels 0**

Joey Estes pitched a five-hit shutout as Oakland made it two in a row over visiting Los Angeles.

Estes, at age 22 years and 269 days, became the youngest major-leaguer to throw a shutout since Zach Eflin accomplished the feat for the Philadelphia Phillies at age 22 years and 105 days against the Pittsburgh Pirates on July 22, 2016.

Making just his 12th big-league start, Estes (3-3) didn't yield an extra-base hit. He walked one and struck out four.

Brent Rooker homered for the second consecutive night and Max Schuemann also went deep for the A's, who will shoot for a series sweep Thursday afternoon. Brett Harris chipped in with an RBI single.

Having never pitched into the eighth inning in his two-year career, Estes needed just 92 pitches to record Oakland's first complete-game shutout since Sean Manaea blanked the Seattle Mariners on June 2, 2021.

**Red Sox 7, Marlins 2**

Brayan Bello delivered a quality outing over 6½ innings as visiting Boston beat Miami.

Bello (8-5) allowed one run on seven hits and one walk with seven strikeouts. Matsuka Yoshida and Rafael Devers each went 2-for-4 with two RBIs for the Red Sox.

Marlins starting pitcher Trevor Rogers (1-9) lasted three innings, giving up two runs on five hits, with three walks and six strikeouts.

Boston blew it open in the ninth. Tyler O'Neill scored his second run of the night on Devers' triple to make it 4-1. Two outs later, the Red Sox loaded the bases on back-to-back walks and Cedanne Rafaela doubled to drive in three runs.

Xavier Edwards cut it to 7-2 in the ninth, scoring on a sacrifice fly after hitting a leadoff double and moving to third on an error.

**Reds 3, Yankees 2**

Andrew Abbott allowed one run in 6½ solid innings, Alexis Diaz retired Juan Soto for the final out in the ninth and visiting Cincinnati hung on for a victory over slumping New York.

Noelvi Marte hit a two-run homer in the second and Stuart Fairchild also went deep in the fifth against New York starter Carlos Rodon (9-6) as the Reds won a series for the first time since June 6-9. Cincinnati will go for a three-game sweep on Thursday.

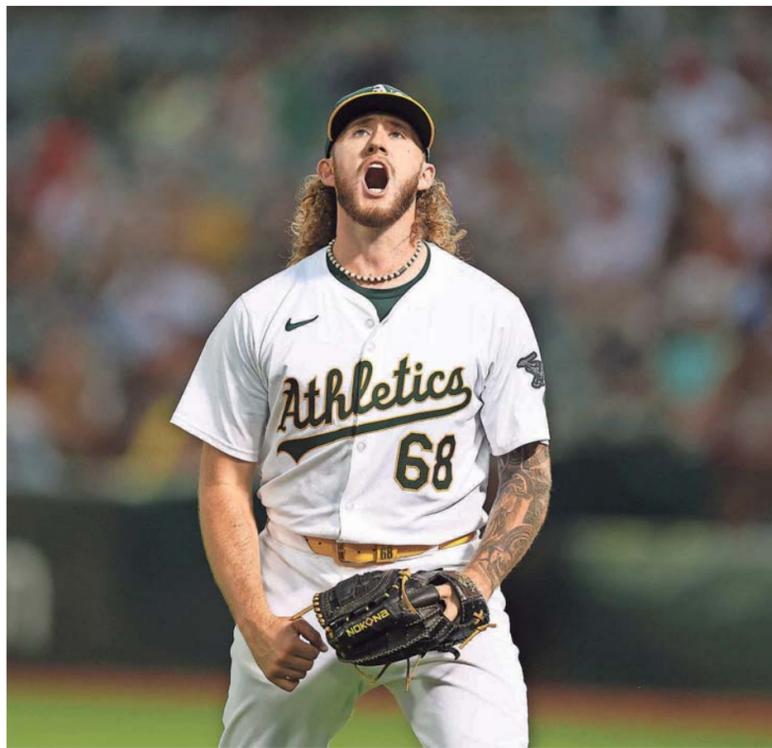
Abbott allowed one-out singles by Soto and Alex Verdugo in the first and second innings, respectively, but did not give up another hit until Jahmai Jones doubled in the seventh to knock the left-hander out of the game.

Abbott was lifted for Fernando Cruz, who walked Austin Wells, allowed Anthony Volpe's two-run double and walked Soto. Cruz kept the lead by getting Aaron Judge to bounce into a double play.

Aside from the three hits, Abbott (8-6) withstood issuing four free passes while striking out two.

**Pirates 5, Cardinals 4, 10 innings**

Oneil Cruz hit a walk-off single into



Athletics starter Joey Estes reacts after getting the final out in the top of the eighth inning against the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday in Oakland, Calif. LACHLAN CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

the right field corner in the bottom of the 10th inning to give Pittsburgh a win against visiting St. Louis.

Reliever Andrew Kittredge (1-4) started the 10th with a 4-3 lead for the Cardinals, but he walked Andrew McCutchen with one out before being replaced by JoJo Romero.

Bryan Reynolds tied the game with a run-scoring single against Romero ahead of Cruz's heroics.

Rowdy Tellez had three hits, including a solo home run, and scored twice for the Pirates, who had lost three of their past four.

Pirates rookie right-hander Jared Jones allowed one run and four hits over five innings. He struck out five and walked two on 78 pitches.

**Nationals 7, Mets 5**

James Wood laced the tie-breaking run-scoring seventh-inning single for his first career RBI for Washington, which overcame a five-run deficit to beat visiting New York in the third game of a four-game series.

Luis Garcia Jr. homered twice – a three-run shot in the sixth and an insurance solo blast in the eighth – for the Nationals, who won for just the second time in nine games. It was the second two-home game for Garcia, who went deep twice against the Philadelphia Phillies on Aug. 4, 2021.

Tyrone Taylor, Mark Vientos and Francisco Lindor all homered to put the Mets ahead 5-0 before they tied a season-high by squandering a five-run lead for the second time in five games and the third time this season. New York was ahead 6-1 in a 9-6 loss to the Houston Astros on Saturday and 7-2 in a 10-9, 10-inning loss to the Miami Marlins on May 18.

The loss was just the ninth in the last 27 games for the Mets, who fell to .500 at 42-42.

Mets rookie Christian Scott allowed just one hit in the first four innings before the Nationals began rallying in the fifth, when Ildemaro Vargas hit an RBI single.

Scott was one out away from getting out of a two-on jam in the sixth when Garcia homered to right.

**Braves 3, Giants 1**

Chris Sale threw six strong innings, helping lead Atlanta over visiting San Francisco.

Sale (11-3) allowed just three hits, to go along with nine strikeouts and two walks, helping Atlanta snap a two-game skid. Austin Riley finished 2-for-4 with a pair of RBIs, while Adam Duvall went 3-for-4 with an RBI.

Matt Chapman tallied two hits and an RBI for the Giants, who saw their two-game winning streak ended.

After a scoreless first inning, Atlanta led off the bottom of the second with consecutive singles from Riley and Travis d'Arnaud, putting runners at first and second with nobody out. Duvall then laced his seventh double of the season, driving in Riley for the game's first run.

Leading 1-0, Sale struck out Curt Casali, Tyler Fitzgerald and Jorge Soler on 13 pitches in the top of the third.

**White Sox 8, Guardians 2**

Erick Fedde allowed one run over six strong innings while Chicago had four batters with at least two hits en route to a over host Cleveland.

Lenyn Sosa posted three hits and an RBI and Martin Maldonado recorded an RBI single during a four-run fourth and a two-run homer in the eighth for the White Sox. Chicago owns the worst record in the majors but evened the three-game set by amassing 12 hits while improving to 5-4 this season against the American League Central-leading Guardians.

Fedde (6-3) yielded three hits, three walks and only a second-inning sacrifice fly from David Fry to drop his ERA to 3.13. He retired the final 12 batters he faced.

Making his 2024 debut after sustaining an elbow injury in spring training, Cleveland's Gavin Williams (0-1) allowed five runs, seven hits and two walks in four innings. He struck out two.

Brayan Rocchio homered in the seventh and had two of the five hits for the Guardians, whose six-game home winning streak ended.

**Astros 9, Blue Jays 2**

Yordan Alvarez had a solo home run and two RBI doubles as visiting Houston defeated Toronto.

Yainer Diaz added three RBIs while going 3-for-4 with a walk to help the Astros take a 2-1 lead in the four-game series.

Houston pulled away by scoring four in the seventh and three in the eighth to improve to 4-2 on a 10-game road trip. Toronto fell to 3-4 on an eight-game homestand.

Neither starter factored into the decision.

Toronto left-hander Yusei Kikuchi allowed two runs, five hits and two walks with five strikeouts in 5½ innings.

**Tigers 9, Twins 2**

Carson Kelly hit his first career grand slam, Riley Greene and Matt Vierling each socked a two-run homer and Detroit cruised to a win over Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Wenceel Perez added a solo homer for Detroit, which evened the series at one win apiece with the decisive game scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

Minnesota's Brooks Lee finished 2-for-4 with an RBI in his big-league debut. Christian Vazquez homered for the Twins.

Tigers right-hander Keider Montero (1-2) notched his first career victory in his second career start and third outing overall. The 23-year-old from Venezuela limited the Twins to two runs on six hits in 6½ innings. He walked one and fanned four.

Twins right-hander David Festa (1-1) surrendered seven runs on nine hits in five innings. He walked none and struck out six but gave up three homers.

**Phillies 5, Cubs 3**

Rafael Marchan hit a solo homer and Alec Bohm added a two-run blast as visiting Philadelphia beat Chicago.

Philadelphia broke an eighth-inning tie with two runs against Tyson Miller (2-1). Trea Turner scored on Edmundo Sosa's sacrifice fly and Whit Merrifield followed with an RBI single.

Matt Strahm (4-1) replaced Zack Wheeler to begin the seventh inning and earned the win for the Phillies, who have won three straight and are a season-best 28 games above .500.

Orion Kerker pitched a scoreless eighth inning before Jose Alvarado worked around a one-out single in the ninth for his 13th save.

Pete Crow-Armstrong doubled twice and drove in two runs for Chicago, which lost for the eighth time in 10 games.

**Royals 4, Rays 2**

Michael Wacha tossed six strong innings, leading Kansas City over visiting Tampa Bay.

After Isaac Paredes' two-out solo homer, his 14th, put the Rays ahead in the first, Wacha permitted just one other hit while finishing six innings, walking three with eight strikeouts to earn his first win since May 20.

It was the 43rd quality start by Kansas City pitchers, third-most in the majors.

Wacha (5-6) has allowed two runs or less in seven straight starts, posting a 2.21 ERA with 36 strikeouts in 40% innings.

The Royals took a 2-1 lead in the third, highlighted by Bobby Witt Jr.'s RBI double into the left-field corner. Witt scored on Vinnie Pasquantino's single to right.

**Padres 6, Rangers 4**

David Peralta hit his first home run in almost a year, helping San Diego even its three-game series against Texas with a win in Arlington, Texas.

Manny Machado also homered for the Padres, who got RBIs from Luis Arreaz and Jackson Merrill while snapping their two-game skid and winning for the 10th time in 13 games.

Adrian Morejon (2-1) allowed one hit over 1½ scoreless innings of relief, and Robert Suarez got the final four outs to secure his 21st save.

Texas' Corey Seager went 1-for-4 with an RBI double in his first game since Saturday, when he was hit on his left wrist by a pitch. Nathaniel Lowe tallied two singles for the Rangers, who have lost seven of nine.

Peralta, who hadn't homered since July 8, 2023, went hitless in his first three at-bats before searing a two-run shot into the center field bullpen with one out in the seventh off reliever Dane Dunning (4-7). The blast broke a 4-4 tie.

**Brewers 3, Rockies 0**

Christian Yelich homered and Colin Rea tossed seven shutout innings to help Milwaukee post a victory over Colorado in Denver.

William Contreras and Brice Turang had three hits apiece and Yelich had two for Milwaukee, which won for the eighth time in the past 10 games.

Rea (8-2) allowed six hits and struck out four without issuing a walk. He has won his past five decisions.

Jakob Junis gave up two hits in two scoreless innings to earn his first save of the season. He struck out two and walked one.

The Brewers have won two of three from Colorado heading into Thursday's finale of the four-game series.

**Orioles 4, Mariners 1**

Dean Kremer pitched five scoreless innings in his return from the injured list and Ryan O'Hearn homered and drove in three runs to lead Baltimore to a victory against host Seattle.

Baltimore has won the first two games of a three-game series involving division leaders.

Orioles closer Craig Kimbrel retired the side in order in the ninth to earn his 21st save of the season and the 438th of his career, moving past Francisco Rodriguez for sole possession of fourth place on the all-time list. Kimbrel trails only Mariano Rivera (652), Trevor Hoffman (601) and Lee Smith (478).

Kremer (4-4), sidelined since May 21 due to a right triceps strain, allowed just two hits – a two-out single in the fourth by Ty France on a grounder into left field and a leadoff infield single by Julio Rodriguez in the fifth. Kremer walked two and struck out eight.

Cal Raleigh homered in the sixth inning to prevent the Mariners from being blanked for a second consecutive game.

## MLB

## WEDNESDAY'S BOX SCORES

Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 2  
**CHW** .....100 400 120 - 8 12 0  
**CLE** .....001 000 100 - 2 5 0

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pham rf	5	1	2	0	0	1	267	
Benintendi lf	5	0	1	2	0	1	192	
Robert Jr. cf	4	2	1	0	1	1	224	
Sheets dh	2	0	0	0	1	0	233	
b-Jimenez ph-dh	0	0	0	0	2	0	239	
Vaughn 1b	5	0	1	1	0	1	244	
Sosa 3b	5	1	1	1	1	1	245	
Lopez ss	4	1	1	1	0	2	246	
Mendick 2b	4	1	0	0	1	2	189	
Maldonado c	5	2	2	0	0	1	096	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>		

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kwan lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	360	
Schneemann cf	3	1	1	0	0	1	266	
a-Anis ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	231	
Ramirez 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	274	
Naylor 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	240	
Fry dh	2	0	0	0	1	1	300	
c-Tena ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	000	
Jimenez 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	246	
Noel rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	235	
Naylor c	3	0	0	0	1	1	203	
Rocchio ss	3	1	1	0	0	1	218	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>		

a-popped out for Schneemann in 8th. b-walked for Sheets in 7th. c-flied out for Fry in 9th.  
**2B:** Benintendi (7), Robert Jr. (7), Sosa (8), Lopez (7), Schneemann (3). **HR:** Maldonado (2), Rocchio (3). **RBI:** Benintendi 2 (24), Vaughn (41), Sosa (13), Lopez (10), Maldonado 3 (8), Fry (33), Rocchio (16). **SB:** Ramirez (16). **SF:** Fry. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 4 (Robert Jr., Vaughn, Sosa, Lopez), Cleveland 2 (Kwan, Fry). **RISP:** Chicago 5 for 11.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fedde W, 6-3	6.0	3	1	1	3	3	91	3.13
Anderson	0.2	1	1	1	0	1	8	4.12
Banks	1.3	0	0	0	0	1	15	3.98
Wilson	1.3	1	1	0	0	0	11	3.60
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3.60</b>

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williams L, 0-1	4.0	7	5	5	2	14	11	2.5
Morgan	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	21	1.98
Hentges	0.2	2	1	1	2	18	3	3.10
Herrin	0.1	1	2	2	1	0	11	1.59
Avila	2.0	1	0	0	2	3	26	2.65
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3.10</b>

Herrin pitched to 2 batters in the 8th. **Inherited runners:** Herrin 2-2. **Umpires:** HP-Barksdale, 1B-Little, 2B-Lentz, 3B-Jimenez. T: 2:35. A: 37,151 (34,830).

Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 5  
**WAS** .....001 220 000 - 5 5 0  
**NYM** .....000 013 21x - 7 9 0

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Abrams ss	3	1	0	0	1	1	283	
Thomas rf	4	1	1	1	0	0	235	
Wood lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	200	
Winker dh	4	1	2	0	2	0	260	
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	0	209	
Garcia Jr. 2b	3	3	2	4	1	0	261	
Meneses 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	225	
Vargas 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	253	
Young cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	265	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>		

N.Y. Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lindor ss	4	1	1	2	0	2	249	
Nimmo lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	248	
Martinez dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	277	
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	244	
Vientos 3b	4	1	1	2	0	1	297	
Torres c	4	0	0	0	0	0	270	
Taylor cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	225	
Iglesias 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	346	
Gamel rf	2	1	1	0	0	1	333	
a-Alvarez ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	298	
McNeil lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	213	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>		

a-lined out for Gamel in 8th.  
**2B:** Martinez (14), Gamel (1), Thomas (9), Winker (13). **HR:** Lindor (15), Vientos (11), Taylor (5), Garcia Jr. 2 (9). **RBI:** Lindor 2 (43), Vientos 2 (29), Taylor (22), Thomas (35), Wood (1), Garcia Jr. 4 (40), Vargas (18). **SB:** Nimmo (7), Wood (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** N.Y. Mets 1 (Martinez), Washington 3 (Abrams, Winker, Ruiz). **RISP:** N.Y. Mets 2 for 4, Washington 3 for 8. **GIDP:** Vargas, Young. **DP:** N.Y. Mets 3.

N.Y. Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Scott	5.2	6	4	4	2	99	432	
Ottavino H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	1	13	454	
Diekman L, 2-3 BS, 3	0.1	2	2	2	1	27	473	
Adcock	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	338	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>432</b>	

**Inherited runners:** Harvey 1-1. **Umpires:** HP-Rackley, 1B-Tomlinson, 2B-Seegal, 3B-Vanover. T: 2:40. A: 32,391 (41,380).

Boston 7, Miami 2  
**BOS** .....002 000 104 - 7 12 1  
**MIA** .....100 000 001 - 2 9 0

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Duran cf	6	0	0	0	2	2	285	
Refnyder lf	3	1	0	2	0	2	315	
O'Neill rf	4	2	2	0	0	0	261	
Devers 3b	4	2	2	1	1	1	291	
Wong c	4	1	0	0	0	0	326	
Gonzalez 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	286	
a-Hamilton ph-2b	1	0	0	0	1	0	267	
Yoshida dh	4	1	2	1	1	2	266	
Smith 1b	4	1	0	1	3	2	268	
Rafaela ss	5	0	2	3	0	2	247	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>		

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Chisholm Jr. cf	4	1	1	0	1	2	259	
De La Cruz lf	3	1	0	0	2	0	315	
Bell dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	236	
Sanchez rf	4	0	3	1	0	0	240	
Burger 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	222	
Edwards ss	4	0	0	0	2	2	235	
Brjuan 2b	4	0	0	0	1	2	225	
Rivera 3b	3	0	1	1	0	0	218	
Fortes c	4	0	1	0	0	2	169	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>		

a-struck out for Gonzalez in 9th.  
**E:** Refnyder. **2B:** Rafaela (14), Edwards (2). **3B:** Devers (4), Rafaela (3). **RBI:** Devers 2 (49), Yoshida 2 (16), Rafaela 3 (47), Sanchez (31), Rivera (11). **SB:** Wong (4), Gonzalez (5). **SF:** Rivera. **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 9 (Duran, Refnyder, O'Neill, Yoshida, Smith 4, Rafaela), Miami 4 (Chisholm Jr., Edwards 2, Rivera). **RISP:** Boston 5 for 20, Miami 1 for 9. **GIDP:** Bell. **DP:** Boston 1.

Boston 7, St. Louis 4  
**BOS** .....000 010 020 1 - 4 8 0  
**STL** .....000 020 100 2 - 5 11 0

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bello W, 8-5	6.2	7	1	1	7	91	519	
Bernardino H, 6	0.1	0	0	0	0	4	139	
Martin H, 10	1.0	1	0	0	1	20	342	
Weissert	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	136	3.50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>3.50</b>	

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rogers L, 1-9	3.0	5	2	3	6	84	491	
Brazoban	3.0	3	0	0	3	38	50	
Fratcher	0.1	1	1	2	0	18	360	
Nardi	0.2	0	0	0	1	8	501	
Bender	1.0	0	0	0	0	4	336	
Maldonado	1.0	3	4	2	1	28	223	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>3.50</b>	

**Inherited runners:** Bernardino 2-2, Nardi 3-2. **Balk:** Bello (1). **Umpires:** HP-Mahrlay, 1B-Hudson, 2B-Wendelstedt, 3B-Tumpane. T: 2:50. A: 20,285 (37,446).

Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 4  
**PIT** .....000 010 020 1 - 4 8 0  
**STL** .....000 020 100 2 - 5 11 0

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Winns ss	5	0	3	1	0	0	293	
Burleson rf	3	1	1	1	0	0	280	
Contreras c	3	1	1	2	0	2	263	
Goldschmidt 1b	5	0	2	0	0	0	230	
Donovan lf	4	0	0	0	1	2	267	
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	256	
Crawford dh	3	1	1	0	0	2	179	
d-Fermin ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	343	
Gorman 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	189	
Siani cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	224	
c-Carson ph-cf	1	0	1	0	0	0	196	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>		

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McCutchin dh	4	1	1	0	1	1	232	
Reynolds lf	5	0	2	1	0	0	273	
Cruz ss	5	0	2	0	0	1	240	
Oliveras rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	228	
Tellez 1b	4	2	3	1	0	0	243	
Gonzales 2b	3	1	1	0	1	1	281	
Hayes 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	223	
Bart c	3	0	0	0	0	2	239	
b-Triolo pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	202	
Suwinski cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	178	
a-Joe ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	147	
Taylor cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	190	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>		

a-flied out for Suwinski in 7th. b-ran for Bart in 10th. c-grounded out for Siani in 9th. d-flied out for Crawford in 9th.

**2B:** Crawford (4), McCutchen (8), Cruz (16). **HR:** Contreras (7), Tellez (5). **RBI:** Winn (29), Burleson (41), Contreras 2 (15), Reynolds (47), Cruz (37), Tellez (23), Hayes (20), Bart (13). **SB:** Goldschmidt (5), Hayes (7). **SF:** Burleson, Bart. **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 3 (Donovan 2, Arenado), Pittsburgh 4 (McCutchen 2, Olivares, Tellez). **RISP:** St. Louis 2 for 10, Pittsburgh 2 for 12. **GIDP:** Donovan, Gonzales, Bart. **DP:** St. Louis 2, Pittsburgh 1.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mikolas	6.0	5	2	2	0	4	87	5.19
Gallages	0.1	2	1	1	1	13	975	
Liberatore	1.2	1	1	0	0	20	372	
Kittredge L, 1-4	1.1	1	1	1	2	17	335	
Romero BS, 4	0.0	2	0	0	0	5	261	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>5.19</b>	



The Pirates' Neil Cruz hits a walk-off single in the 10th inning of Wednesday's game against the St. Louis Cardinals at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. CHARLES LECLAIRE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jones	5.0							

## SOCCER

## MLS ROUNDUP

## Late rally leads Fire to victory over Union

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Hugo Cuypers' brace in the final eight-plus minutes Wednesday night enabled the Chicago Fire to erase a two-goal deficit and beat the visiting Philadelphia Union 4-3.

Cuypers' header off a Chris Mueller assist in the 82nd minute drew Chicago (5-10-6, 21 points) within a goal. Gaston Gimenez tied the score seven minutes later when he buried Rafael Czichos' feed.

A minute into stoppage time, Cuypers used Maren Haile-Selassie's service and delivered the match-winning tally. The assist capped a big game for Haile-Selassie, who scored the Fire's first goal and also picked up the secondary helper on Cuypers' first tally.

Chris Donovan, Daniel Gazdag and Jack McGlynn scored in an 11-minute span bridging the halves that provided a 3-1 cushion for Philadelphia (4-9-8, 20 points). But a second straight late collapse – the Union conceded two markers after the 88th minute in a 4-2 loss at CF Montreal on Saturday – sent Philadelphia to its fifth consecutive defeat.

The Union are 0-5-3 in their past eight fixtures.

In a matchup of sides desperately seeking wins to move up the Eastern playoff table, the Fire made the Union concede first via an authoritative run down the right side from Allan Arigoni.

**Cincinnati 3, D.C. United 2**

Pavel Bucha scored the second and third goals of his first MLS season and FC Cincinnati kept pace in the Eastern Conference and Supporters' Shield race with a victory at D.C. United.

Kevin Kelsy added the fifth goal of his maiden campaign for Cincinnati (14-4-3, 45 points), which remained two points behind East and Shield leaders Inter Miami after the Herons won 2-1 at Charlotte on Wednesday.

After completing its seventh consecutive away win, Cincinnati will host Miami – whose stars Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez are away on international duty – on Saturday.

Martin Rodriguez scored one goal and assisted the other for D.C. (4-10-8, 20 points), which has now gone 10 matches without a victory.

Substitute Gabriel Pirani scored his second goal to pull D.C. within one late in the second half, but the Black-and-Red scored twice and still lost for the third time this season.

**Salt Lake 3, Houston 2**

Andres Gomez scored his 11th goal and assisted on two more, Braian Ojeda put his team in front for good in the second half and Real Salt Lake held on for a victory over the Dynamo in Sandy, Utah.

Diego Luna also scored a wonderful goal from long range just before halftime as Salt Lake (11-3-7, 40 points) preserved its seventh win in 10 home matches and moved into a tie on points atop the Western Conference with Los Angeles FC and the LA Galaxy, who meet on Thursday.

RSL overcame an early deficit one match after the Galaxy halted their 15-match unbeaten run on June 22.

The hosts finally secured a 90-minute victory over the Dynamo (8-7-6, 30 points) after failing to do so in six meetings in 2023 between the regular season, U.S. Open Cup and MLS Cup playoffs.

Ibrahim Aliyu scored his team-leading sixth goal for Houston, which saw its six-match unbeaten run end, and Hector Herrera was involved in a second-half leveler that was ultimately credited as an own goal.

**Vancouver 3, Minnesota 1**

Brian White, Mathias Laborda and Sebastian Berhalter scored goals, and Ryan Gauld amassed three assists as Vancouver Whitecaps FC dominated the first 20 minutes and posted a win over struggling Minnesota United in a Western Conference match in Saint Paul, Minn.

The Whitecaps (9-7-4, 31 points) won their second straight and fourth in their past six matches in improving to fourth in the West standings. Minnesota (8-8-5, 29 points) has dropped five straight and been outscored 14-6 along the way.

White found the net in the fourth minute. Gauld intercepted a pass that Minnesota defender Michael Boxall intended for goalkeeper Alec Smir, and got the ball to White for the easy tally.

It was White's fourth goal in the past



Chicago Fire FC forward Hugo Cuypers (9) celebrates with forward Thomas Barlow after scoring a goal in extra time on Philadelphia Union goalkeeper Oliver Semmler (1) on Wednesday in Chicago. JAMIE SABAU/USA TODAY SPORTS



FC Cincinnati midfielder Pavel Bucha (20) reacts after scoring a goal against D.C. United on Wednesday in Washington. HANNAH FOSLIEN/USA TODAY SPORTS

two games after he went 11 matches across all competitions without scoring.

The Whitecaps added to their lead 13 minutes later as Laborda waited at the back post for a crossing pass from Gauld, which followed a short corner from Berhalter. Both Gauld and Berhalter earned assists.

**Miami 2, Charlotte 1**

Benjamin Cremaschi scored a dramatic goal while sliding in the box late in the match as Inter Miami kept rolling despite a depleted roster, defeating host Charlotte.

Robert Taylor had the other goal for Miami (14-3-5, 47 points), which has won four consecutive matches – all by 2-1 counts. Inter Miami goalkeeper Drake Callender came up with one save.

Miami was without star Lionel Messi, who is with Argentina for Copa America, for the fourth consecutive match. Cremaschi scored in the 86th minute.

Patrick Agyemang scored the goal for Charlotte (9-8-5, 32 points), and goalkeeper Kristijan Kahlina collected two saves.

Kahlina made a kick save in the 73rd minute after the ball bounced around a cluster of players and Diego Gomez delivered a hard shot on goal.

**Orlando 2, Toronto 1**

Martin Ojeda scored an equalizing goal for Orlando City and then the Lions got an own goal by Toronto FC just before halftime to give the visitors a win.

Nickseon Gomis was the guilty party on the own goal that proved to be the decider for Orlando (6-9-6, 24 points), which protected its one-goal lead throughout the second half and has won

two of its past three matches.

Derrick Etienne Jr. got Toronto FC (7-12-3, 24 points) on the scoreboard in the fifth minute before they were overtaken and handed their fifth loss in a row.

Both starting goalies made their returns from Copa America.

Pedro Gallese (Peru) did not have to record a save for Orlando in the win, while Sean Johnson (USMNT) had one save for Toronto.

Early in the match, Toronto's Federico Bernardeschi hit a left-footed cross deep to the far post. Raoul Petretta was on the receiving end and redirected the ball to the center of the box for a streaking Etienne. It was Etienne's second goal of the season.

**New England 2, Atlanta 1**

Giacomo Vrioni scored twice in the first half to lead the Revolution over visiting Atlanta United in Foxborough, Mass.

The Revolution (7-11-1, 22 points) are 5-1-0 in their last six matches, but Wednesday's victory was a strong rebound after their 5-1 loss to the Columbus Crew on Saturday.

Atlanta United (6-9-6, 24 points) absorbed their first loss under interim coach Rob Valentino. The Five Stripes were 2-0-2 since Gonzalo Pineda was fired on June 3.

Daniel Rios connected on a header in the first minute of second-half extra time to give Atlanta United some late momentum.

Rios' goal was all Atlanta could muster despite a 20-12 shots advantage (7-5 in shots on target).

New England goalkeeper Aljaz Ivacic made six saves, including a pair of impressive stops to deny Bartosz Slisz and Ajani Fortune just before halftime.

**NYCFC 2, Montreal 0**

Alonso Martinez scored in both halves and host New York City FC won its second straight match, defeating CF Montreal.

Hannes Wolf assisted on both goals and James Sands also was credited with an assist as NYCFC (11-8-2, 35 points), playing at Citi Field instead of its normal venue of Yankee Stadium, improved its home record to 8-3-1. Only Los Angeles FC have more home wins (nine) in MLS this season.

Montreal (5-9-7, 22 points), after opening its season 2-0-1 away from home, is 0-7-2 in its past nine road matches.

Martinez staked NYCFC to a 1-0 lead in the ninth minute, a goal initially ruled offside in the buildup before being awarded following a video review.

A lazy pass from Montreal's George Campbell found the foot of Wolf, with the Austrian playing Martinez into a one-on-one opportunity with Montreal goalkeeper Jonathan Sirois that he powered into the top of the net.

**St. Louis 2, San Jose 0**

Eduard Lowen and Hosei Kijima scored first-half goals and St. Louis City halted a nine-match winless stretch with a win vs. the visiting Earthquakes.

Indiana Vassilev had two assists for St. Louis City (4-7-10, 22 points), who controlled the match in their first effort under interim coach John Hackworth. Bradley Carnell was fired on Monday due to the club's 0-6-3 rut.

MLS-worst San Jose (3-16-2, 11 points) played its second match under interim coach Ian Russell, dropped its sixth straight contest and slipped to 0-8-1 in its past nine matches. Russell was promoted after Luchi Gonzalez was fired on June 24.

The Earthquakes have been outscored 22-6 during the six-match skid.

St. Louis goalkeeper Roman Burki made just one save while recording his sixth shutout of the season.

**Columbus 2, Nashville 0**

Cucho Hernandez assisted on goals by Christian Ramirez and Diego Rossi to help the host Crew extend its win streak to three with a win vs. Nashville SC.

Ramirez scored in the 30th minute on a disputed goal and Rossi added another in the 65th.

In the past three matches, Hernandez has eight goal contributions (four goals, four assists) and Rossi has two goals and three assists.

Patrick Schulte, who has six shutouts, made three saves for the Crew (10-3-6, 36 points), who have won seven of eight.

Nashville (6-7-8, 26 points) lost for the first time in the past five away matches (2-1-2) under interim coach Rumba Munthali.

# GOLFTHISWEEK

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## PGA TOUR

### Straka, Spieth lead John Deere field

With the Scottish Open and The Open — the final men's major championship of the year — on the horizon, the PGA Tour first heads to Silvis, Illinois, for the 2024 John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run.

Defending champion Sepp Straka is joined in the field by two-time winner Jordan Spieth (2013, 2015), Jason Day, Sungjae Im, Nick Dunlap, Denny McCarthy and Keith Mitchell. World No. 29 Im — T-3 at the Travelers Championship in his last start — is the betting favorite at 16/1.

Spieth, arguably the biggest name in the field, has struggled of late. The Texan's last top-20 finish came at the Valero Texas Open (T-10), the week before the Masters.

### Who to watch

**Denny McCarthy:** He has loved himself some TPC Deere Run over the last two seasons, finishing T-6 in 2022 and 2023. Since missing the cut at the PGA Championship, McCarthy has posted four straight top-40 finishes. If he can get the putter hot, he should be in the mix come Sunday, especially in a weak field.

**Lucas Glover:** He loves this tournament. On top of his win in 2021, he finished T-10 in 2019 and T-6 in 2023. He's fourth on Tour this season in driving accuracy (74.81 percent) and 13th in Strokes Gained: Approach. If he can find his stroke on the greens, watch out for Glover.

**Adam Svensson:** He missed the cut at the Rocket Mortgage thanks to back-to-back even-par 72s, but the week before tied for 16th at the Travelers Championship. In three starts at the John Deere Classic, Svensson has played well finishing T-18 in 2019, T-24 in 2022 and T-21 in 2023.

**Jake Knapp:** In Detroit, he finished T-31. So, not a great week. However, his putter killed him. Knapp lost 3.067 strokes on the greens, ranking 68th of the 74 players that made the cut. This week should be a birdie-fest, and Knapp is 25th on Tour in birdie or better percentage.

**Joel Dahmen:** He has played some solid golf in his last two starts. After finishing T-10 at the RBC Canadian Open, he grabbed a share of 25th last week at the Rocket Mortgage Classic (he shot 4-over 76 in the final round, pushing him down the board).

— Riley Hamel

## LPGA TOUR

### Vu joins Korda on U.S. team

To say that Lilia Vu's last 18 months have made for a wild ride is an understatement.

From the highest of highs (her first LPGA victory in Thailand, two major wins at the Chevron and AIG Women's Open) to some trying times (back injuries forcing her to the sidelines for months, including her Chevron defense as well as the U.S. Women's Open), Vu has continued to battle. Her victory via a playoff at the Meijer LPGA Classic in June and subsequent second-place finish at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship have pushed Vu back into rarified air as she has mathematically clinched a spot on the 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup team. This marks the second time she will represent her country in the biennial competition. She posted a 1-3-0 record at Finca Cortesin, Spain, in 2022 as the Europeans kept the cup by virtue of a 14-14 draw. Vu joins Nelly Korda as the first two automatic qualifiers for the U.S. side.

Stacy Lewis, who will again captain the Americans, wasn't surprised that the UCLA product made the squad.

"Coming off last year, when Lilia had an unbelievable year, it was just a matter of time for her to make the team," Lewis said. "This year, not getting started the way she would have liked and having to deal with her injury definitely set her back for a bit. It's been very exciting to see how she's played the last two starts, coming out of the injury with her win and really just picking up where she left off.

"She's a tremendous player, from ball striking to putting with a true all-around game. We're excited to have her back for her second Solheim Cup, with an opportunity to step up and become a leader on this team."

During her time off due to injury, Vu didn't change anything technical about her swing, but she has grown more conscious about the way she sits, stands, lies down and breathes, calling it lower-belly breathing.

"I know my patterns," she said. "I don't want to get so technical with it because it's just going to bore everybody. I escape on my right hip, and so trying to breathe through that hip more. Little stuff like that."

The 19th edition of the Solheim Cup will be held at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Virginia, Sept. 13-15.

— Beth Ann Nichols and Tim Schmitt

## COLLEGE

### Golfweek's men's teams named

The 2023-24 college golf season has concluded, and now that the dust has settled on the season, it's time to hand out some individual awards. Here are Golfweek's First Team, Second Team, Third Team and Honorable Mention Men's All-Americans for 2024.

**First Team:** Luke Clanton, Florida State; Wenyi Ding, Arizona State; Mats Ege, East Tennessee State; Nick Gabrelcik, North Florida; Ben James, Virginia; Jackson Koivun, Auburn; Christo Lamprecht, Georgia Tech; Gordon Sargent, Vanderbilt; Michael Thorbjornsen, Stanford; Brendan Valdes, Auburn.

**Second Team:** Austin Greaser, North Carolina; Max Herendeen, Illinois; Michael La Sasso, Ole Miss; Pichaksn Maichon, Texas A&M; Matthew Riedel, Vanderbilt; Jacob Skov Oleson, Arkansas; Cole Sherwood, Vanderbilt; Preston Summerhays, Arizona State; Hiroshi Tai, Georgia Tech; Karl Vilips, Stanford.

**Third Team:** Bastien Amat, New Mexico; David Ford, North Carolina; Maxwell Ford, North Carolina; Santiago de la Fuente, Houston; Johnny Kiefer, Baylor; Frederik Kjettrup, Florida State; Jack Lundin, Missouri; Christiaan Maas, Texas; Jack Turner, Florida; Sampson Zheng, California.

### Giesecke named to Middle Tennessee post

Lauren Giesecke has been named head coach of the Middle Tennessee women's golf program. Giesecke becomes just the fourth Blue Raiders head coach in the program's history.

"We're thrilled to welcome Lauren and her family to MTSU," said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "Her proven ability to win, from leading Grand Canyon to five victories this past season to her rise from walk-on to team captain at Indiana, demonstrates the work ethic and leadership we value in our coaches. I always also impressed by the way she guided the program from Division II to Division I during her tenure. This was a tremendously strong pool of candidates, so I want to thank everyone involved in the search process."

The Kokomo, Indiana, native comes to Murfreesboro from Grand Canyon, where she had been the head coach of the Lopes since 2015. Prior to Grand Canyon, Giesecke was an assistant coach from 2013-15 at South Florida.

— Cameron Jourdan and Lance Ringler

## PGA TOUR JOHN DEERE CLASSIC

# Spieth hunting for form at his 'second home'

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Jordan Spieth remembers being the kid who won the John Deere Classic just before his 20th birthday. Sometimes he tries to tap back into that part of his life, a rookie year where he swung carefree and let his talent take him where he was going.

The two-time tournament champion is back at the John Deere Classic — beginning Thursday in Silvis, Ill. — where he'll be the star of the show while at the same time searching for his old form.

"It really does feel like a second home," Spieth said of TPC Deere Run and the surrounding area. "It's been really, really cool kind of the reception I received since coming back just one day at Zach Johnson's charity event and then a couple days here at the golf course.

"I don't have support like this anywhere outside of (his native Dallas-Fort Worth area), so hopefully that continues this week and I can pick up where I left off."

Spieth made history in 2013 by winning the John Deere as a 19-year-old. He placed seventh the next year and won it again in 2015. But this is his first time back at the tournament since then. Its place on the PGA Tour schedule right before the Scottish Open and Open Championship does it no favors in terms of attracting an elite field.

"I wasn't expecting the people to be like, 'Why haven't you've been back?'" Spieth said. "All I am hearing is, 'Man, we're so glad you're here.'"

The feeling is mutual. Spieth comes to the par-71, 7,289-yard TPC Deere Run a mere 59th place in the FedEx Cup standings, amid a stretch of poor results. Starting with the Masters in mid-April, he's missed three of nine cuts and finished no better than T29.

"This year has been a bit frustrating because I feel like I've been a better player than any of the previous few years," Spieth said. "I just haven't produced the results yet, had it all come together. It's been a patience test this year, but it's a better place than kind of having no idea what to do, where I've lived before."



Jordan Spieth hits from the eighth tee box during the final round of the U.S. Open on June 16 in Pinehurst, N.C. Spieth, a two-time John Deere Classic champion, will be the star of the show this week at TPC Deere Run. KATIE GOODALE/USA TODAY

The tournament is an opportunity for youngsters to make their mark early in their PGA Tour careers. Bryson DeChambeau was 23 in 2017 when he made the John Deere his first win on tour. The next year, Michael Kim set the tournament scoring record of 27-under 257 in his only PGA Tour win to date.

Australian Jason Day made his PGA Tour debut at the 2006 John Deere. Like Spieth, the former phenom is back for the first time in a long time, making his first start here since 2011.

"Me personally, I'm looking to try and

find the good play that I had at the start of the year and try and replicate that through my end part of my year," Day said.

Young prospects to watch out for this week include amateur Luke Clanton, who tied for 10th at last week's Rocket Mortgage Classic; Neal Shipley, the low amateur at the Masters and U.S. Open who has since turned pro and tied for 20th last week; and Michael Thorbjornsen, who turned pro after finishing first in the PGA Tour University standings.

The defending champion is Sepp

Straka of Austria, who used a strong summer of 2023 to propel himself onto the European Ryder Cup team. Straka rallied from a 2-over 73 in his opening round by shooting 63, 65 and 62 the rest of the way.

"Yeah, last year first round was terrible," Straka said. "Putted awful. Hit the ball OK, but just putted so bad. Then had a putting tweak and just got hot. Ironically, my putting hasn't been as good as I've wanted this year, so maybe this place can inspire some good putting again."

NHL NOTEBOOK

# Kraken's Campbell is NHL's 1st female coach

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

The Seattle Kraken hired Jessica Campbell as the NHL's first full-time female assistant coach on Wednesday.

Campbell, 31, was added to new head coach Dan Bylsma's staff along with fellow assistant Bob Woods.

Campbell was an assistant on Bylsma's staff with the AHL's Coachella Valley Firebirds for the past two seasons.

"Jessica and I spent the last two years coaching in Coachella Valley," Bylsma said. "I'm confident of what she can do for our staff and bring to the players. I watched her build strong relationships with prospects such as Tye Kartye, Shane Wright and Ryker Evans. "She has the ability to relate to players about their games and what they bring to a team. She's demonstrated that over the last two seasons, not just with Tye Kartye and the others, but (veteran leaders) John Hayden and Max McCormick, among others. That's why she is such an appealing candidate and why she's joining our staff."

The Firebirds reached the AHL's Calder Cup Final in each of the past two seasons, losing both times to the Hershey Bears in seven games in 2023 and six games in 2024.

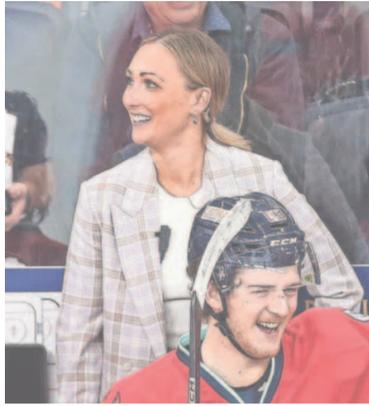
## Panthers F Lundell gets 6-year, reported \$30M extension

The Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers re-signed forward Anton Lundell to a six-year extension.

Terms were not disclosed but multiple reports put the total value of the deal, which runs through the 2029-30 campaign, at \$30 million (\$5 million average annual value).

Lundell, 22, collected 35 points (13 goals, 22 assists) with a plus-19 rating in 78 games during the 2023-24 regular season. The Finland native added three goals and 14 assists in 24 games in the playoffs, including a team-high five assists in the Stanley Cup Final against Edmonton.

"Anton has matured into a dependable multirole center for our club, who seized his opportunity from his first day in North America," general man-



The Seattle Kraken hired Jessica Campbell as the NHL's first full-time female assistant coach. JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN - USA TODAY NETWORK

ager Bill Zito said. "His commitment to improvement and cerebral approach to the game earned him the profound respect of his teammates and coaches, and we are excited to see him continue to grow and succeed with the Panthers."

## Canes sign F Carrier to 6-year, \$12M contract

The Carolina Hurricanes signed free agent forward William Carrier to a six-year, \$12 million contract Wednesday.

The 2023 Stanley Cup champion is signed through the 2029-30 campaign.

Carrier, 29, had six goals and two assists in 39 games with the Vegas Golden Knights in 2023-24. He finished fifth among Vegas forwards in hits (90) despite missing most of the season with an upper body injury.

## Sens acquire F Jenik from Utah for F Sokolov

The Ottawa Senators acquired Jan Jenik from Utah HC on Wednesday in exchange for fellow forward prospect Egor Sokolov.

Jenik, 23, recorded four goals and two assists in 22 games with the Arizona Coyotes over the past four seasons.

TOUR DE FRANCE



Mark Cavendish celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win Stage 5 of the Tour de France on Wednesday in Saint-Vulbas, France. JASPER JACOBS/GETTY IMAGES

# Cavendish takes record 35th Tour stage victory

REUTERS

SAINT-VULBAS, France – Mark Cavendish blew away the opposition in a masterful bunch sprint to claim a record-breaking 35th stage win on the Tour de France on Wednesday, the fifth stage of this year's race.

The Briton, who postponed his retirement by a year after crashing out of the Tour last season, was in a class of his own in a nervy finale after 177km from Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne to Saint-Vulbas to beat Belgian Jasper Philipsen and Norway's Alexander Kristoff into second and third places respectively.

Astana-Qazaqstan rider Cavendish, 39, had previously shared the record with Belgian great Eddy Merckx, one of the four five-time Tour de France champions.

He was greeted and embraced by several of his rivals shortly after his triumphant sprint before his family also congratulated him.

"Honestly I'm tired. It's my 15th Tour de France and it takes a lot to get there every year," Cavendish, who had not won on the Tour since 2021, said.

"I'm getting old and I've got to get in

shape every year and it's hard. But everyone has been involved, I've got a lot of support. My family came yesterday. Perfect timing."

For a rider who repeatedly said one stage win on the Tour can change your life, Cavendish could not be happier.

"Winning one stage can make a career and I've always felt the need to win one more, and another one after that."

Slovenian Tadej Pogacar retained the overall leader's yellow jersey after he narrowly avoided crashing into a central reservation some 57km from the finish with several riders just behind him hitting the deck.

After thinking his Tour career was over when he climbed into an ambulance with a broken collarbone last year, Cavendish, whose chain came off as he crossed the line, made a spectacular comeback on cycling's biggest stage.

Cavendish looked in near agony in the first days, spending his time grinding along at the back of the peloton or way off the back in the hilly stages. But he briefly reminded the world of his "Manx Missile" reputation when he powered to the line with his characteristic "double kick" on Wednesday.

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MLB				
American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	55	31	.640	2
N.Y. Yankees	54	34	.614	2
Boston	46	39	.541	8½
Tampa Bay	43	43	.500	12
Toronto	39	47	.453	16
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	53	31	.631	—
Minnesota	48	38	.558	6
Kansas City	48	40	.545	7
Detroit	39	47	.453	15
Chicago	25	63	.284	30
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	47	41	.534	—
Houston	44	42	.512	2
Texas	39	47	.453	7
L.A. Angels	36	49	.424	9½
Oakland	32	56	.364	15
National League				
East Division				

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	57	29	.663	—
Atlanta	47	37	.560	9
N.Y. Mets	42	42	.500	14
Washington	40	46	.465	17
Miami	30	56	.349	27
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	52	35	.598	—
St. Louis	44	41	.518	7
Pittsburgh	41	44	.482	10
Cincinnati	41	45	.477	10½
Chicago	39	48	.448	13
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	53	34	.609	—
San Diego	47	43	.522	7½
Arizona	42	44	.488	10½
San Francisco	42	45	.483	11
Colorado	29	57	.337	23½

**Tuesday's Games**  
Cleveland 7, Chicago White Sox 6  
Boston 8, Miami 3  
St. Louis 7, Pittsburgh 4  
N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 2  
Cincinnati 5, N.Y. Yankees 4  
Toronto 7, Houston 6  
San Francisco 5, Atlanta 3  
Minnesota 5, Detroit 3  
Philadelphia 6, Chicago Cubs 4  
Texas 7, San Diego 0  
Tampa Bay 5, Kansas City 1  
Milwaukee 4, Colorado 3  
Oakland 7, L.A. Angels 5  
Baltimore 2, Seattle 0  
L.A. Dodgers 6, Arizona 5

**Wednesday's Games**  
Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 2  
Boston 7, Miami 2  
Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 4  
Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 5  
Cincinnati 3, N.Y. Yankees 2  
Houston 9, Toronto 2  
Atlanta 3, San Francisco 1  
Philadelphia 5, Chicago Cubs 3  
San Diego 6, Texas 4  
Kansas City 4, Tampa Bay 2  
Detroit 9, Minnesota 2  
Milwaukee 3, Colorado 0  
Oakland 5, L.A. Angels 0  
Arizona 12, L.A. Dodgers 4  
Baltimore 4, Seattle 1

**Thursday's Games**  
N.Y. Mets (Quintana 3-5) at Washington (Irvine 6-6), 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 7-6), 1:07 p.m.  
Chicago (Thorpe 2-1) at Cleveland (Lively 7-4), 1:10 p.m.  
Boston (Pivetta 4-5) 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 (Taillon 4-4), 2:20 p.m.  
San Diego (King 6-5) at Texas (Scherzer 1-1), 2:35 p.m.  
L.A. Angels (Contreras 1-0) at Oakland (Sears 4-7), 4:07 p.m.  
Baltimore (Suarez 4-2) at Seattle (Miller 6-7), 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 (Milwaukee 6-6), 8:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee (Myers 5-2) at Colorado (Quattrif 6-6), 8:10 p.m.  
Arizona (Gallen 6-4) at L.A. Dodgers (Knack 1-1), 9:10 p.m.

**League Leaders**  
**American League**  
**Batting Average** – Judge, New York .321; Rengifo, Los Angeles .319; Witt Jr., Kansas City .311; Correa, Minnesota .310; Altuve, Houston .308; Soto, New York .300; Guerrero Jr., Toronto .298; Alvarez, Houston .297; Kiner-Falefa, Toronto .292; Smith, Texas .291.  
**Home Runs** – Judge, New York 32; Henderson, Baltimore 26; Ramirez, Cleveland 23; Santander, Baltimore 22; Naylor, Cleveland 20; Soto, New York 20; Tucker, Houston 19; Stanton, New York 18; Devers, Boston 18; Alvarez, Houston 18.  
**RBI** – Judge, New York 83; Ramirez, Cleveland 76; Naylor, Cleveland 61; Soto, New York 61; Henderson, Baltimore 58; Santander, Baltimore 56; Rutschman, Baltimore 55; Pasquantino, Kansas City 55; Witt Jr., Kansas City 55; Perez, Kansas City 52.  
**Stolen Bases** – Caballero, Tampa Bay 24; Rengifo, Los Angeles 22; Witt Jr., Kansas City 22; Hamilton, Boston 21; Garcia, Kansas City 21; Duran, Boston 21; Blanco, Kansas City 17; Rodriguez, Seattle 17; Mullins, Baltimore 16; Ramirez, Cleveland 15.  
**Wins** – Lugo, Kansas City 11; Rodriguez, Baltimore 10; Burnes, Baltimore 9; Gil, New York 9; Skubal, Detroit 9; Rodon, New York 9; Berrios, Toronto 8; Lopez, Minnesota 8; Blanco, Houston 8; Allen, Cleveland 8.  
**ERA** – Lugo, Kansas City 2.17; Burnes, Baltimore 2.28; Skubal, Detroit 2.45; Blanco, Houston 2.49; Houck, Boston 2.67; Gilbert, Seattle 2.72; Crochet, Chicago 3.02; Anderson, Los Angeles 3.03; Singer, Kansas City 3.05; Ryan, Minnesota 3.21.  
**Strikeouts** – Crochet, Chicago 141; Ragans, Kansas City 126; Skubal, Detroit 119; Flaherty, Detroit 115; Lopez, Minnesota 110; Ryan, Minnesota 110; Bibee, Cleveland 109; Lugo, Kansas City 105; Houck, Boston 105; Castillo, Seattle 103.  
**Saves** – Clase, Cleveland 25; Kimbrel, Baltimore 20; Holmes, New York 19; Jansen, Boston 16; Estevez, Los Angeles 16; McArthur, Kansas City 14; Miller, Oakland 14; Hader, Houston 13; Fairbanks, Tampa Bay 13; Duran, Minnesota 13.  
**National League**  
**Batting Average** – Ohtani, Los Angeles .320; Arraez, San Diego .312; Profar, San Diego .311; Betts, Los Angeles .304; Harper, Philadelphia .303; Freeman, Los Angeles .297; Bohm, Philadelphia .297; Ozuna, Atlanta .296; Contreras, Milwaukee .292; Merrill, San Diego .291.  
**Home Runs** – Ohtani, Los Angeles 27; Ozuna, Atlanta 21; Harper, Philadelphia 20; Walker, Arizona 18; Hernandez, Los Angeles 18; Alonso, New York 18; Marte, Arizona 17; Schwarber, Philadelphia 17; Gorman, St. Louis 17; De La Cruz, Miami 15.  
**RBI** – Bohm, Philadelphia 68; Ozuna, Atlanta 67; Ohtani, Los Angeles 64; Harper, Philadelphia 58; Hernandez, Los Angeles 58; Adames, Milwaukee 56; Walker, Arizona 55; Profar, San Diego 55; Freeman, Los Angeles 53; Cronenworth, San Diego 53.  
**Stolen Bases** – De La Cruz, Cincinnati 40; Turang, Milwaukee 28; Doyle, Colorado 20; Stott, Philadelphia 20; Yelich, Milwaukee 19; Young, Washington 19; Thomas, Washington 17; Ohtani, Los Angeles 16; Acuna Jr., Atlanta 16; Kim, San Diego 16.  
**Wins** – Sale, Atlanta 10; Suarez, Philadelphia 10; Stone, Los Angeles 9; Gray, St. Louis 9; Wheeler, Philadelphia 9; Nola, Philadelphia 9; Keller, Pittsburgh 9; Glasnow, Los Angeles 8; Lodolo, Cincinnati 8; Paxton, Los Angeles 7.  
**ERA** – Lopez, Atlanta 1.83; Suarez, Philadelphia 2.27; Sanchez, Philadelphia 2.41; Wheeler, Philadelphia 2.73; Stone, Los Angeles 2.73; Sale, Atlanta 2.79; Fried, Atlanta 2.91; Gray, St. Louis 2.98; Irvin, Washington 3.03; Webb, San Francisco 3.12.  
**Strikeouts** – Glasnow, Los Angeles 136; Cease, San Diego 130; Peralta, Milwaukee 120; Sale, Atlanta 118; King, San Diego 115; Wheeler, Philadelphia 112; Gray, St. Louis 109; Greene, Cincinnati 109; Gore, Washington 107; Nola, Philadelphia 99.  
**Saves** – Helsley, St. Louis 31; Finnegan,

Washington 22; Iglesias, Atlanta 20; Suarez, San Diego 20; Megill, Milwaukee 18; Diaz, Cincinnati 18; Bednar, Pittsburgh 16; Doval, San Francisco 15; Phillips, Los Angeles 13; Alvarado, Philadelphia 12.  
**WNBA**  
**Eastern Conference**  

	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Liberty	17	3	.850	—
Connecticut	15	4	.789	1½
Atlanta	7	11	.389	9
Chicago	7	11	.389	9
Indiana	8	13	.381	9½
Washington	5	15	.250	12

  
**Western Conference**  

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	14	5	.737	—
Seattle	13	6	.684	1
Las Vegas	11	6	.647	2
Phoenix	10	10	.500	4½
L.A. Sparks	4	15	.211	10
Dallas	4	16	.200	10½

**Tuesday, July 2**  
N.Y. Liberty 76, Minnesota 67  
Chicago 85, Atlanta 77  
Las Vegas 88, Indiana 69  
Washington 82, L.A. Sparks 80  
**Wednesday, July 3**  
Phoenix 104, Dallas 96  
**Thursday, July 4**  
Connecticut at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Washington at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.  
**Friday, July 5**  
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.  
Las Vegas at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.  
Chicago at Seattle, 10 p.m.  
**Saturday, July 6**  
N.Y. Liberty at Indiana, 1 p.m.  
Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
**Sunday, July 7**  
Atlanta at Connecticut, 1 p.m.  
Dallas at Las Vegas, 3:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Seattle, 6 p.m.  
Phoenix at L.A. Sparks, 7 p.m.

**SOCCER**  
**MLS**  
**Eastern Conference**  

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	14	3	5	47	50	31
Cincinnati	14	4	3	45	36	25
Columbus	10	3	6	36	36	18
N.Y. City FC	11	8	2	35	32	25
NY Red Bulls	9	4	8	35	36	27
Charlotte FC	9	8	5	32	24	23
Nashville	6	7	8	26	24	27
Toronto FC	7	12	3	24	30	39
Atlanta	6	9	6	24	29	27
Orlando City	6	9	6	24	27	36
New England	7	11	1	22	20	36
CF Montreal	5	9	7	20	32	45
Chicago	5	10	6	21	28	39
Philadelphia	4	9	8	20	36	39
D.C. United	4	10	8	20	30	42

  
**Western Conference**  

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	12	4	4	40	41	23
Real Salt Lake	11	3	7	40	43	25
LA Galaxy	11	3	7	40	41	27
Vancouver	9	7	4	31	33	28
Colorado	9	8	4	31	38	35
Portland	8	7	6	30	39	35
Houston	8	7	6	30	29	26
Minnesota	8	8	5	29	34	35
Seattle	7	7	7	28	29	26
Austin FC	7	8	6	27	23	30
Saint Louis	4	7	10	22	29	35
FC Dallas	5	10	5	20	27	32
Sporting KC	4	12	5	17	33	44
San Jose	3	16	2	11	29	56

  
**Wednesday, July 3**  
Cincinnati 3, D.C. United 2  
N.Y. City FC 2, CF Montreal 0  
Orlando City 2, Toronto FC 1  
Inter Miami CF 2, Charlotte FC 1  
New England 2, Atlanta 1  
Vancouver 3, Minnesota 1  
Saint Louis 2, San Jose 0  
Chicago 4, Philadelphia 3  
Columbus 2, Nashville 0

Real Salt Lake 3, Houston 2  
**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.  
**Saturday, July 6**  
Toronto FC at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.  
Vancouver at CF Montreal, 7:30 p.m.  
NY Red Bulls at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.  
D.C. United at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m.  
Inter Miami CF at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.  
NY City FC at Austin FC, 8:30 p.m.  
Atlanta at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m.  
New England at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, July 7**  
Los Angeles FC at Houston, 8:30 p.m.  
Chicago at San Jose, 8:30 p.m.  
FC Dallas at Sporting KC, 8:30 p.m.  
Saint Louis at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.  
Minnesota at LA Galaxy, 10:30 p.m.  
Nashville at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

**Copa America Group Stage**  
**Sunday, June 30**  
Mexico 0, Ecuador 0  
Venezuela 3, Jamaica 0  
**Monday, July 1**  
Uruguay 1, United States 0  
Panama 3, Bolivia 1  
**Tuesday, July 2**  
Brazil 1, Colombia 1  
Costa Rica 2, Paraguay 1  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Thursday, July 4**  
Argentina vs. Ecuador, 9 p.m.  
**Friday, July 5**  
Venezuela vs. Panama, 9 p.m.  
**Saturday, July 6**  
Colombia vs. Panama, 6 p.m.  
Uruguay vs. Brazil, 9 p.m.

**GOLF**  
**PGA Tour Statistics**  
**Season Points**  
1, Scottie Scheffler, 5,768. 2, Xander Schauffele, 3,257. 3, Rory McIlroy, 2,445. 4, Collin Morikawa, 2,241. 5, Wyndham Clark, 2,088. 6, Ludvig Aberg, 1,992. 7, Hideki Matsuyama, 1,893. 8, Sahithi Theegala, 1,845. 9, Patrick Cantlay, 1,717. 10, Byeong Hun An, 1,620.  
**Scoring Average**  
1, Scottie Scheffler, 68.48. 2, Xander Schauffele, 69.25. 3, Rory McIlroy, 69.56. 4, Collin Morikawa, 69.91. 5, Ludvig Aberg, 69.99. 6, Billy Horschel, 70.00. 7, Davis Thompson, 70.08. 8, Aaron Rai, 70.10. 9, Christiaan Bezuidenout, 70.10. 10, Keith Mitchell, 70.16.  
**Driving Distance**  
1, Rory McIlroy, 318.90. 2, Min Woo Lee, 314.50. 3, Byeong Hun An, 314.10. 4, Kevin Dougherty, 313.80. 5, Wyndham Clark, 313.30. 6, Chris Gotterup, 312.90. 7, Gary Woodland, 312.30. 8, Alejandro Tosti, 311.60. 9, Vincent Norrman, 311.10. 10, Jhonattan Vegas, 310.70.  
**Driving Accuracy Percentage**  
1, Collin Morikawa, 78.27%. 2, Sepp Straka, 77.76%. 3, Tommy Fleetwood, 76.38%. 4, Lucas Glover, 74.81%. 5, Russell Henley, 74.13%. 6, Shane Lowry, 73.36%. 7, Aaron Rai, 73.19%. 8, Si Woo Kim, 73.07%. 9, Scottie Scheffler, 71.99%. 10, JT Poston, 71.71%.  
**Greens in Regulation Percentage**  
1, Scottie Scheffler, 74.14%. 2, Aaron Rai, 71.65%. 3, Jhonattan Vegas, 71.57%. 4, Patton Kizzire, 71.53%. 5, Kevin Yu, 71.36%. 6, Corey Conners, 70.90%. 7, Lanto Griffin, 70.61%. 8, Keith Mitchell, 69.93%. 9, Joel Dahmen, 69.66%. 10, David Skinner, 69.32%.  
**Total Driving**  
1, Rory McIlroy, 41.2, Ryan Palmer, 60.3, Carl Yuan, 64.4, Rafael Campos, 69.5 (tie), Patton Kizzire and , 71.6, Austin

Eckroat, 67.7, Hayden Springer, 72.8, Taiga Semikawa, 82.9, Harrison Endycott, 83.  
**TRANSACTIONS**  
**Wednesday's Transactions**