



# TRUMP'S BUMP

## Post-debate polls have Don up by **6**

New polls from The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times have former President Donald Trump up 6 points over President Biden, an average jump of three points since 81-year-old Joe's disastrous debate.

**SEE PAGES 4-7**



Getty Images

## Yet Biden insists he **WON'T** drop out

# How Greenwood went 'Fourth'

## Behind writing of 'God Bless USA'

By DOREE LEWAK

While the rest of America stocks up on hot dogs and hamburgers in the days ahead of Independence Day, Lee Greenwood is prepping for his busy season.

The singer-songwriter will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his iconic anthem "God Bless the USA" and, at 81 years old, he has no plans to slow down.

"We always joked, if I'm not singing somewhere on the Fourth of July, you might as well take the flag down," Greenwood told The Post from a recording studio in Nashville ahead of his summer tour.

Greenwood, who's been honored with a Congressional Medal of Honor Society's National Patriot's Award, has come a long way from growing up in California indifferent to politics with a World War II veteran dad and jazz-singing mom.

He left school at 16 for the "green-felt jungle" of Las Vegas dealing cards, where he spent 20 years.

### The inspiring moment

In his late 30s and with five albums under his belt, Greenwood said he was sitting in the back of his tour bus "somewhere between Tennessee and Texas" when inspiration struck.

After a show, Greenwood took photos with a military color guard and discussed multigenerational military families.

"I was just inspired by it," said



**'PROUD TO BE ...'**  
Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" endures.

Greenwood, who would see his tune climb to the No. 7 spot on Billboard magazine's Hot Country Singles chart in 1984.

The song was never scheduled for a release as a single — until the entire album was played for Irving Azoff, then at the helm of MCA.

"If he hadn't made the call to release the single of the song, nobody would have heard of it — I guarantee you," said Greenwood. "It changed my life."

It also changed the life of a nation in need of healing — such as when Greenwood was invited to sing at Game 4 of the World Series after 9/11.

Even though he's performed his iconic hit "thousands of times, at least" over four decades, Greenwood

admitted he still gets choked up when he belts out lyrics including, "Cause the flag still stands for freedom, and they can't take that away."

### 'Still gets me'

"It still gets me," he said, especially when he meets Gold Star families and learns about a loved one killed fighting for our country. "That will tear me up. I absolutely still get emotional about it."

And he'll do it again this Independence Day, saluting his country through song in Albany, Ore., a rite of passage that he's enjoyed for decades.

"I have more red, white and blue clothing than probably anybody on the planet," Greenwood said.

### ★ Where to watch ★

#### Nathan's Famous hot-dog Eating Contest

Women's competition starts at 10:45 a.m. ET on ESPN3

Men's competition will start at 12 p.m. ET on ESPN2

#### Macy's 4th of July Fireworks:

Broadcast begins at 8 p.m. on NBC and Peacock, fireworks start at 9:25 p.m.

### Best spots to watch fireworks



### ★ TODAY ★

73° 85°

Cloudy with a 30-40% chance of scattered showers in the afternoon through evening

### ★ TOMORROW ★

74° 85°

Showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening

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■ Midday Take 5 Wed.: 3, 21, 24, 27, 30

■ Evening Nos. Wed.: 963

■ Evening Win-4 Wed.: 8274

■ Evening Take 5 Wed.: 10, 13, 22, 34, 38

■ Lotto Wed.: 12, 28, 31, 36, 47, 48; Bonus: 51

■ Pick 10 Wed.: 1, 3, 5, 13, 14, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55, 58, 65, 71, 74, 80

■ Cash-4-Life Wed.: 8, 10, 31, 34, 40; Cash Ball: 3

■ Powerball Wed.: 2, 26, 33, 55, 57; Powerball: 22; Power Play: x2

#### NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Wed.: 136; Fireball: 3

Pick-4 Wed.: 9936; Fireball: 3

Cash-5 Xtra Wed.: 28, 29, 33, 40, 45; Xtra: 2

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Play-3 Wed.: 192; Wild: 2

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# WEDDING DRESS HAS AN L TRAIN!

## Mass-transit matrimony

By ASIA GRACE

Daniel Jean couldn't afford to give his bride, Esmey Valdez, an over-the-top wedding.

So the Brooklynite took it underground — to the subway.

"We didn't have the money to do the dream reception that I'd always envisioned," Jean, 39, a marketing manager from Flatbush, told

The Post, noting the high cost of hosting nuptials in the Big Apple.

"I decided to surprise her by having a dope reception on the L train," he said.

Jean and Valdez, 38, a beautician, officially entered into holy matrimony with a private church ceremony on June 27.

But the two-some toasted their happy union alongside 20 friends — as well as a subway car full of complete strangers — on Tuesday, with a reported estimated cost of only \$3,000.

A standard vow-exchanging ceremony and reception in the Big Apple can cost couples upward of \$63,000, according to a May

report from wedding hub The Knot.

That's about 80% greater than the national average cost of hitching in 2023, which balanced out to around \$35,000.

### DJ spins 'tracks'

Jean, however, tapped pal Jodell "Joe the Show" Lewis to pull off their thrifty subway soiree.

"I emceed the reception, my friend Christopher Dupree helped manage the setup, and we hired a wedding planner, Anya, to assist with the overall production," Lewis, 40-year-old standup comic, told The Post.

"We had food catered by Chef O of O's Grill Spot [in Brooklyn], we had a cake, drinks and music from DJ Whoo Kid," said Lewis.

"It was an incredibly fun and memorable party for around \$3,000 that would have cost \$30,000 at a reception hall."

As wedding costs continue climbing amid the inflation crisis, budget-

minded brides and grooms like Valdez and Jean are becoming increasingly creative at saving a few bucks on the big day.

While some are turning to AI technologies such as ChatGPT to dial back their "I Do" expenses, other frugal flames are forgoing fancy wedding vendors and entrusting big-box shops like Costco to handle flowers, cakes and décor.

### Vows gone viral

Meanwhile, frugality worked wonders another way for Valdez: She told The Post that the wild-ride reception further deepened her love for Jean.

"When I walked onto the train and saw everything, I thought, 'Wow, I picked the right guy,'" gushed the newlywed.

Viral visuals of the festivities scored more than 363,000 views on TikTok.

"People in this city think it's important for men to have expensive things in order to wow the woman of their dreams," she said. "Our reception was all about love."

Jean agreed. "You only hear about people getting robbed, slashed or pushed on the tracks," he said, noting the recent string of subway attacks in Gotham.

"But there's nowhere else in the world you can have your wedding on a train and get so much love from happy people you don't even know."



**IT'S RAIL LOVE:** Priced out of venues thanks to inflation, Daniel Jean and Esmey Valdez (circled) say "I do" on the subway, with cake and musicians along for the ride.



# Biden's mixed message

By STEVEN NELSON and JOSH CHRISTENSON

President Biden told campaign staff Wednesday he would stay in the 2024 race to the bitter end, but reportedly also admitted to a close ally that he may have to drop out if his campaign can't get back on track in the coming days.

"I'm in this race to the end and we're going to win, because when Democrats unite, we will always win. Just as we beat Donald Trump in 2020, we're going to beat him again in 2024," Biden, 81, told aides to his re-election effort on a call, imploring them to "link arms, let's get this done — you, me, the vice president, together!"

VP Kamala Harris, who also was on the call, added: "We will not back down. We will follow our president's lead. We will fight, and we will win."

But in more private settings, Biden has apparently pinned his re-election's future on an ABC News interview and campaign stops in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin over the holiday weekend, The New York Times reported.

## Facing reality?

"He knows if he has two more events like [the debate], we're in a different place," the ally told the newspaper.

The report marked the first evidence that Biden is considering giving up on his bid for a second term after he and his team repeatedly rejected the possibility following the June 27 first of two scheduled debates with Trump.

White House deputy press secretary Andrew Bates in a posting on X attacked the Times, calling its story "absolutely false."

"If The New York Times had provided us with more than 7 minutes to comment, we would have told them so," Bates added shortly after.

However, one of Biden's top advisers — who wasn't named — was also quoted by the Times saying the incumbent was "well aware of the political challenge he faces."

## Leadership council

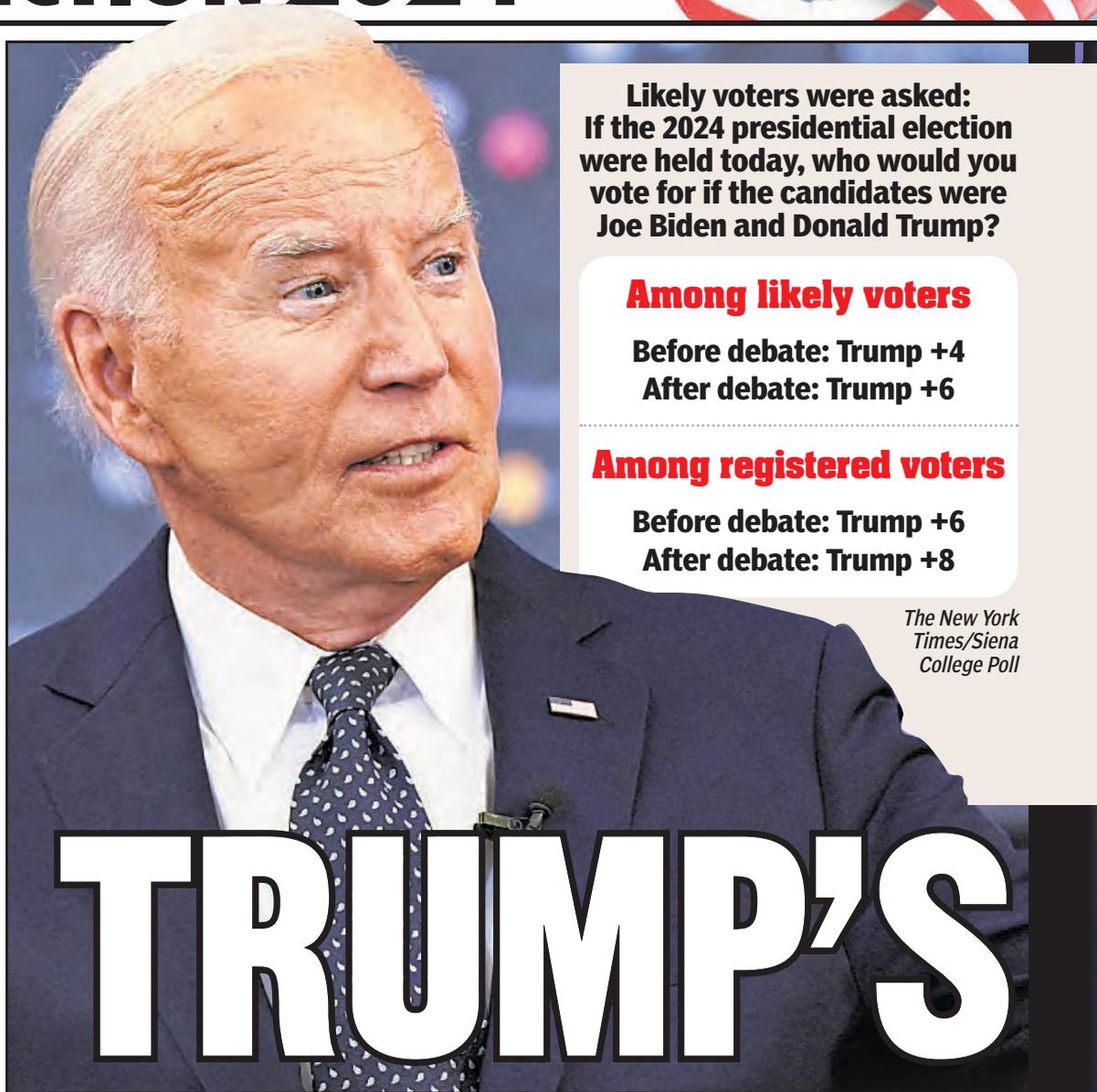
Wednesday afternoon, the White House said Biden had spoken with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) in the previous 24 hours after The Post and other outlets reported Tuesday that the president had yet to make direct contact with top Capitol Hill Democrats since the debate.

Biden later urged Democratic governors to stand by him at a more-than-hourlong meeting — but most of the 10 who attended in person didn't vouch for him afterward.

Those forgoing a moment before cameras and reporters after included California's Gavin Newsom, Michigan's Gretchen Whitmer, Illinois' JB Pritzker and Kentucky's Andrew Beshear — all leading contenders for the top slot if Biden decides he can no longer lead the Democratic ticket.

However, both Whitmer and Newsom in subsequent X postings backed Biden.

"President Joe Biden is in it to win it. And all of us said we pledged our support to him because the stakes could not be higher," New York Gov. Hochul told reporters.



**Likely voters were asked: If the 2024 presidential election were held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were Joe Biden and Donald Trump?**

### Among likely voters

**Before debate: Trump +4  
After debate: Trump +6**

### Among registered voters

**Before debate: Trump +6  
After debate: Trump +8**

The New York Times/Siena College Poll

# TRUMP'S

## That's his growing lead

By DIANA GLEBOVA and JOSH CHRISTENSON

Donald Trump has widened his lead over President Biden following last week's first presidential debate in two closely watched polls of the race.

The New York Times/Siena College survey published Wednesday showed Trump leading Biden, 81, by 6 percentage points (49% to 43%) among likely voters — the largest lead the 45th president has enjoyed in any poll published by the outlet since 2015 — and 8 points (49% to 41%) among registered voters.

Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal showed Trump leading Biden by 6 points, 48% to 42%, among registered voters.

Trump, 78, increased his lead over Biden by 2 percentage

points from the last Times/Siena survey, which was published two days before the June 27 debate and showed the presumptive Republican nominee in front of his successor, 48% to 44%, among likely voters.

## Democrats in panic

In the Journal poll, Trump's lead over Biden grew by 4 percentage points from the last survey taken in late February, which showed the former president ahead of the incumbent by 2 points, 47% to 45%.

The Biden campaign had been anticipating bad news from the Times/Siena poll, releasing an internal memo describing the survey as an "outlier" in a bid to quiet calls from some Democrats for the president to end his bid for a second term fol-

lowing his confused behavior onstage.

In the Times/Siena poll of registered voters, Trump led Biden in every age bracket except for those 65 and older. The former president also led among Hispanic voters by 9 percentage points (50% to 41%) and independent voters by double-digits (47% to 37%).

Most alarmingly for the White House, 74% of registered voters said they either strongly or somewhat agreed that Biden "is just too old to be an effective president," while only 42% said the same of Trump.

In the Journal poll, 80% of registered voters said Biden was too old to run for president, while 56% said the same of Trump.

Six in 10 registered voters also told the Times that Biden

Reuters

JOE BIDEN

43%

Democratic voters were asked: Should Joe Biden remain the nominee?

Before debate

52% yes

After debate

47% yes

DONALD TRUMP

49%

Voters who view Biden as too old for the job

74%

**BOUNCE:** In the first major polling after President Biden's disastrous debate, former President Donald Trump is enjoying a bump.

# JOY OF 'SIX'

## in polls after Biden debate flop

should not be the party's nominee for president, with self-identified Democrats almost evenly split on the question (48% saying he should remain, 47% saying he should not). Notably, the Times/Siena poll did not ask respondents who they thought would replace the president on the Democratic ticket.

### Calls to replace Joe

That finding is backed by a CBS News/YouGov survey, also released Wednesday, which found that 69% of registered voters think Biden should not be on the ticket, including majorities of male (68%), female (70%), white (74%), Hispanic (66%) and independent (78%) voters.

Self-identified Democrats (59%) and black voters (58%) were the only constituencies to

want the oldest-ever president to stay in the race, per CBS/YouGov.

The Times/Siena poll also highlighted long-standing issues facing the Biden campaign.

More than half of registered voters (58%) said Biden had "made the country worse" since taking office in January 2021, while Trump actually came out ahead on the same question about his term — with 47% saying he left America better off for his presidency and 46% said he had made matters worse.

In the Journal poll, Trump fared 9 points better than his successor on the job-approval question, with 39% saying they liked Biden's performance and 48% saying they appreciated what the Republican did in his four years in office.

The Times/Siena poll showed Biden's job-approval rating to be

just 34% among registered voters, matching his favorability rating in the Journal survey.

### Showdown mow-down

Trump also dominated reviews of the debate, with 60% of registered voters telling the Times/Siena poll that he outperformed Biden and just 22% saying that Biden had come out on top.

Just 16% of voters said Biden had performed "well" in the debate, with 51% giving Trump's performance a thumbs-up.

In the Journal poll, 58% said Trump "won" the debate, while only 8% said Biden had triumphed.

When third-party candidates were included in the survey, Trump still led Biden by 7 percentage points among registered voters, 40% to 33%.

Independent Robert F. Kennedy Jr. received 10% support, followed by Green Party candidate Jill Stein (2%) and Libertarian Chase Oliver (1%).

Trump also led Biden by 6 in the five-way Journal poll (42% to 36%), followed by Kennedy (7%), Stein (2%), independent Cornel West (2%), and Oliver (1%).

Despite the slippage in the polls, Biden has maintained that he will stay in the race.

The NYT/Siena College poll was conducted via phone June 28-July 2 and surveyed 1,532 registered voters. It has a margin of error of plus-or-minus 2.8% percentage points.

The Wall Street Journal poll surveyed 1,500 registered voters June 29-July 2. Its margin of error is plus-or-minus 2.5 percentage points.

## Harsh Don dumps on old Joe

Donald Trump referred to President Biden as a "broken-down pile of crap" in a leaked video where the Republican suggests his opponent will soon drop out of the race.

The video clip, obtained by the Daily Beast, shows the 78-year-old presumptive GOP presidential nominee sitting in a golf cart — with son Barron riding shotgun — as he critiques the 81-year-old president and offers his analysis on the race.

The footage starts with Trump asking a group of individuals off camera, "How did I do with the debate?"

The crowd is heard praising his performance, then Trump goes off on Biden and VP Kamala Harris.

"We kicked that old, broken-down pile of crap... He's a bad guy," Trump said.

"He just quit, you know — he's quitting the race," Trump continued. "I got him out — and that means we have Kamala..."

"She's so bad," he said. "She's so pathetic. She's so f—king bad." *Victor Nava*

## Govs back him — but privately

WASHINGTON — President Biden urged the nation's Democratic governors to stand by his candidacy Wednesday at a more-than-hourlong meeting — but most of the 10 who attended in person didn't vouch for him afterward on the White House driveway, including four Dems widely seen as possible replacements at the top of the ticket.

Those forgoing a moment before the cameras and reporters after the meeting included California Gavin Newsom of California, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, JB Pritzker of Illinois and Andrew Beshear of Kentucky — all leading contenders for the top slot if Biden, 81, bows out.

Gov. Hochul, one of Biden's only gubernatorial allies to speak outside the West Wing, said all attendees pledged to support Biden, at least in private, in the wake of his disastrous debate performance last week. *Steven Nelson*

Getty Images

## Dem ally won't show with Joe

WATERTOWN, Wis. — Sen. Tammy Baldwin, one of President Biden's staunchest allies in Congress, apparently wants no part of the commander in chief after his poor performance during last week's presidential debate.

Baldwin (D-Wis.), 62, will not join Biden, 81, when he travels to her hometown of Madison on Friday for a campaign event — opting instead for a previously planned swing through the northern part of the state.

"Tammy Baldwin is running her own race for the people of Wisconsin," her campaign spokesman Andrew Mamo told local reporters.

Polls have shown Biden running behind Baldwin in the Badger State, and the post-holiday visit to what should be the president's safest city and county in the crucial swing state — the Democrat beat Republican Donald Trump by more than 52 percentage points in Dane County four years ago — indicates a certain level of panic among Democrats about the impact of his debate debacle.

The RealClearPolitics polling average shows Baldwin leading her Republican opponent, Eric Hovde, by 78 percentage points — while Biden and Trump are in a flat-footed tie head-to-head.

Amy Sikma

## Chappelle's running 'mate'

Comic Dave Chappelle is set to headline a fundraiser next week for a long-shot Democratic hopeful in Michigan's closely watched Senate race.

Tickets for the July 11 show at Saint Andrew's Hall in Detroit benefitting Hill Harper are available on the Democratic fundraising platform ActBlue and start at \$500 a pop.

For \$3,300, the event listing promises access to a VIP reception with Harper following the show.

Harper, 58, is an actor and author best known for his appearances on "CSI: NY" and "The Good Doctor." But come Aug. 6, he hopes to pull off his greatest role in Michigan's Democratic primary by upsetting Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.). Joe Durbin

# 'MASSIVE COVERUP' FOR PREZ



**SHAMEFUL:** Onetime Times executive editor Jill Abramson (left) blames the DC press corps for hiding President Biden's feebleness to avoid accusations of helping Donald Trump.

## Ex-NYT big: 'Shame on

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

Former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson blasted journalists in Washington, DC, for failing to "hold power accountable" — and participating in a "massive coverup" with the White House to shield President Biden's "decline."

"It is our duty to poke through White House smoke screens and find out the truth," Abramson told Semafor.

"The Biden White House clearly succeeded in a massive coverup of the degree of the president's feebleness and his serious physical decline, which may be simply the result of old age.

"Shame on the White House press corps for not to have pierced the veil of secrecy surrounding the president," she continued, while conceding that it would be "a super hard story" to land with

solid Democratic sourcing.

Still, the ex-Times editor, who worked at the left-leaning publication from 2011-2014, said she believes "if enough reporters had pushed, the story was reportable."

Abramson added that she worries too many journalists "didn't try to get the story" out of fear of being "accused of helping elect Donald Trump."

### 'Laughable and immoral'

But the 81-year-old President Biden should still be "held accountable for his obvious lapses of mental acuity, even if there are periods of lucidity," she declared.

"It is simply astounding for the entire country, including its most seasoned reporters, to be as shocked as everyone was by the ugly and painful reality of Biden's debate performance," she said.

Abramson called it "laughable and immoral for Democrats to blame the press now for overreacting to that reality."

Biden, meanwhile, will host Democratic governors Wednesday at the White House for an all-hands-on-deck meeting to address his flailing candidacy — and will seek to shore up support with his party's leaders in Congress as well.

The Democratic incumbent delivered a scattered and halting performance during his first debate with opponent Donald Trump last week, causing widespread panic among party lawmakers and operatives.

A little more than a week before the CNN-hosted event in Atlanta, the White House lashed out at The Post and other outlets for reporting on Biden's doddering demeanor at the G7 summit in Italy with other world leaders — and being led off-

stage by former President Barack Obama after an apparent freeze-up.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said any reporting on Biden's dithering behavior was right-wing-driven "misinformation" based on what she called "cheap fake" videos, straining credibility by implying the footage was deceptively altered.

In February, New York Times publisher A.G. Sulzberger said that the White House had also been "extremely upset" with the paper of record's coverage of the president's record-low approval ratings and well-established concerns from voters about his age.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

jchristenson@nypost.com



**THE  
POST  
SAYS:**

By POST  
EDITORIAL BOARD

**J**OE Biden's political future died last Thursday night, but he, his family and the entire Democratic Party are still struggling through the early stages of grief — denial, anger, bargaining, depression. The sooner they get to acceptance, the better for them all — and for the nation.

**STEP 1: DENIAL**

Biden told a bunch of donors that he foolishly did a ton of foreign travel right before the debate, so he was practically falling asleep that night.

**Bull:** He got back from Europe 11 days before that Thursday, took the weekend off then started debate prep, sleeping till 11 each day and taking an afternoon nap.

And he wasn't sleepy in his face-off with Trump — he was totally checked out. Fifty million viewers saw it.

Meanwhile, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre on Tuesday was sticking to the "he had a bad cold" excuse. Can't they even get their lies coordinated?

In on-background shoring-up, his handlers tell tales supposedly showing he still has it: e.g., he was really tough with Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu on a call after Iran launched hundreds of missiles at Israel.

**Sorry:** Israel is America's friend and ally; it needs us. Democrats love to villainize Bibi, but he has to take Joe's bullying, just like poor Volodymyr Zelensky.

The real test is whether with our president can get tough with Iran (in 3½ years, he hasn't, appeasing it instead) or Putin (recall when Biden said Vlad would be OK if he only took a little piece of Ukraine?).

More to the point, what if he's just as out-of-it as he was Thursday night when the call comes in that China just started its invasion of Taiwan?

The commander in chief can't put six words together — or, worse, tells America's armed forces that it's time to "finally defeat Medicare." What do they do?

Maybe Hunter Biden will interpret for his dad.

**Yep:** Hunter's now sitting in on White House meetings because the core family is also taking refuge in . . .

**STEP 2: ANGER**

Jill, Hunter and maybe Joe himself are furious at the handful of longtime Biden aides that they're blaming for the debate

# Oh, good grief, get on with it

## Accept it's over, Bidens

disaster — the very people who've been shielding the president throughout his decline.

Of course it's not Anita Dunn or Ron Klain's fault that the prez went zombie. Once Biden decided he wanted an early debate to make America wake up to the fact that it's facing a Trump-Biden race, the die was cast.

They'd done great in dousing the mounting fires — even getting The New York Times and Washington Post to back up the ridiculous "cheapfakes" cover story for repeated on-video Biden freezes, fogs and meander-offs.

Misdirected fury is rife in the whole campaign: Witness the missive to Biden supporters denouncing as "bedwetters" everyone who's panicked just because the president of the United States completely fell apart on national TV.

Attack your friends, that's the answer! (And: With Biden in this state, should they really be mentioning bedwetting?)

**STEP 3: BARGAINING**

Biden's team is imagining they can get past this by having him deliver statements off teleprompters. They trotted him out for four minutes of such remarks Monday night and a longer speech Tuesday afternoon.

Yet it's well-established he can read a script. And at one point he read an instruction ("say that again") instead of following it.

Plus, he took no questions. That won't fly, nor will whatever taped (surely, during Joe's 10-to-4 "functional" window) and edited interview he does with ABC's George Stephanopoulos to air Friday.

That the president's not doing

live, unscripted, interactive discussions tells everyone that he can't.

**STEP 4: DEPRESSION**

Parts of the party are getting here fast, since they're seeing the latest polls — the ones that show Joe losing ground in every swing state, and new states coming into play: New Mexico, Minnesota, Virginia, New Hampshire.

If this goes on you, can add New Jersey and Colorado.

It's also depressing that the only replacement that can (maybe) legally inherit the \$200 million banked by the Biden-Harris campaign is . . . Kamala Harris.

**Yep,** Democrats may be stuck with the word-salad queen — heck the whole country may be, if she can manage to beat Donald Trump (stranger things have happened) or if someone remembers to read the 25th Amendment.

It's all pretty awful to contemplate, and not just for Democrats. But it's reality and they — we all — need to deal with it.

**STEP 5: ACCEPTANCE?**

Some Dems have reached that point, perhaps because their own fates depend on it: 25 House Democrats from swing districts are prepping a letter calling on Biden to exit the race.

They rightly fear that the brewing Trump landslide will bury them, too; at least with Harris (or Gavin Newsom or whoever) heading the ticket, they'll have a chance.

But Biden still can't to this point. He's "in it to win it," he said in a campaign call. It's delusional, and terrible for the nation.

Denial, anger, bargaining — none of it has, or will, work.

WH press corps'

AFP via Getty Images

## Muzzle on Manchin

Sen. Joe Manchin had planned to publicly call on President Biden to step aside after last week's train wreck debate, but top Democrats got wind and convinced him not to — as a growing number of White House officials say they are "freaking the f--k out," according to reports.

The West Virginia senator — who recently left the Democratic Party — had let slip to allies that he was going to use a TV news appearance Sunday to demand the 81-year-old president throw in his re-election campaign, The Washington Post reported, citing

multiple sources.

But senior Democrats quickly assembled a "full-court press" as they scrambled to prevent him from becoming the first prominent elected official allied to the party to break from Biden, the sources said.

Manchin, who still caucuses with the Democratic Party, relented and backed out of the scheduled appearance.

"Nobody wants to be the first one to knife Julius Caesar," one party official said.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas) was the first sitting House Democrat to call for Biden to step aside. *Emily Crane*



**ADAM B. COLEMAN**

LET'S take a moment on our nation's birthday to appreciate the unappreciated: the United States of America.

Political polarization has induced amnesia amongst some of us, wiping away what is positively unique about our country and replacing it with nihilistic narratives about our impending doom.

The far-left and far-right portray themselves as modern day Chicken Littles exclaiming that the sky is falling over America.

Their followers either take what we have for granted, believe it's inherently evil or dismiss it as not worth saving. It's soul-crushing.

I believe there is a deficit of gratitude that exists in our country and it's being exploited.

### Show some gratitude

We are among the richest, most comfortable people in human history, yet we overlook so many of our blessings.

Some of the most fortunate people in our nation, handed the best of opportunities to excel, instead gravitate to an illogical political ideology that would advocate burning a house down to kill a single mouse.

Others behave like petulant children who constantly blame others for their shortcomings and fawn over a bygone time that never existed.

But this is not most Americans.

Most of us don't walk around superficially measuring how much privilege complete strangers have over ourselves, and we aren't afraid to find common ground with people who are different than ourselves.

We, the majority, don't want to be emotionally governed by candidates and pundits because we intrinsically understand how obsessing over politics ultimately leads to driving a wedge between ourselves and our fellow man and will inevitably create enemies out of loved ones. Too often, we are told we must hate or fear the other. We are told we are the victim. It's cynicism masquerading as a campaign slogan.

America, though, was built on

# America still the beautiful



**DREAM ALIVE:** The United States remains a land of opportunity where thinking big and working hard pay off.

## We're a beacon of liberty

optimism. Consider all we as a nation we have done. Believe in what we can do now.

### Keep optimistic spirit

People from all over the world have risked their lives to attain a fraction of what we take for granted. They have uprooted entire families because being American is worth the risk.

While I support a sane border policy, I think we lose sight of just how incredible that is. The Ameri-

can dream still exists.

As a child who's been at times poor and experienced homelessness, my story of finding success despite the hurdles in my childhood is not that rare here.

In countless countries around the world, by contrast, where you're born on the economic ladder is where you'll die and upward mobility is stifled by corruption or governmental bureaucracy.

In these nations, persecution isn't an uncomfortable feeling you momentarily experience because

you weren't catered to, but actual death by the hands of the regime or militants.

America will never be perfect, and anyone who claims it is fooling themselves. But perfection must not be the enemy of American good. Problems are to be solved, not an excuse to burn the whole thing down.

*Adam B. Coleman is the author of "Black Victim to Black Victor" and founder of Wrong Speak Publishing. Follow him on Substack: adamcoleman.substack.com.*

## 'Squad' Dem in ethics storm

A conservative watchdog group hit "Squad" Rep. Ilhan Omar with an ethics complaint Wednesday over an event she took part in last weekend that featured former Somalia Prime Minister Hassan Ali

Khairé. Khairé stumped for Omar (D-Minn.) and pushed to



get out the vote for the congresswoman (inset), which the American Accountability Foundation (AAF) claims may have violated the Federal Elections Campaign Act.

"We are deeply concerned by Ilhan Omar's illegal campaign rally with the former Prime Minister of Somalia. Omar already has a long history of statements indicating her disdain for America and allegiance to Somalia, but this goes beyond statements," AAF said in a statement.

"Now her campaign has taken action to involve a foreign leader in an American election. She must resign immediately and return every dollar raised for her at this disgraceful rally."

Omar's campaign counsel David Mitrani quickly fired back, telling The Post, "This ethics complaint is another attempt by the far-right to smear the Congresswoman."

"Congresswoman Omar's campaign had absolutely no involvement in requesting, coordinating, or facilitating Mr. Khairé's appearance or his comments, and accordingly there was no violation of law," he said. *Ryan King*

## 'Spoiled' Delta food had mold Killer makes Citi Bike getaway

The "spoiled food" that sickened passengers on a Delta Air Lines flight and forced an emergency landing at Kennedy Airport was covered in black mold, sources told The Post on Wednesday.

At least 24 became ill after eating the food aboard Detroit-to-Amsterdam Flight

136, which touched down a little after 3 a.m. Wednesday at JFK, sources said. The jet had made it as far east as Newfoundland, Canada, flight data show.

Air traffic controllers initially told the airport that 70 people were sickened, but just two dozen were treated for symptoms by EMS. No

one was hospitalized.

It remains unclear what meal was contaminated.

All 277 of the passengers on the Airbus 330 were given hotel accommodations for the night and were to continue their trip Wednesday evening, sources said. *Larry Celona and Alex Oliveira*

A drive-by shooter killed a man in a broad-daylight Harlem attack, then stole a Citi Bike when he crashed his car, sources said.

The gunman was driving a white Honda at West 118th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard at around 1:40 p.m. Tuesday when he opened fire at a group on a

corner, according to cops. A 37-year-old man was shot in the back, authorities said.

In video footage of the incident, as the suspect drives off, the victim struggles to his feet twice before collapsing on the sidewalk.

He was rushed to Mount Sinai Morningside, where he was pronounced dead,

according to police.

The suspect then smashed up the front end of the Honda and ended up with a flat tire while trying to make his getaway, sources said. He abandoned the car, ripped off someone's Citi Bike and pedaled away toward The Bronx, the sources said. *Amanda Woods*

We're kind of  
a *big deal*  
in big deals.

This year, half of all real estate deals on the East End over \$10 million had one thing in common. Corcoran.

*corcoran*

A horizontal line with a color gradient from blue on the left to red on the right, positioned below the word 'corcoran'.

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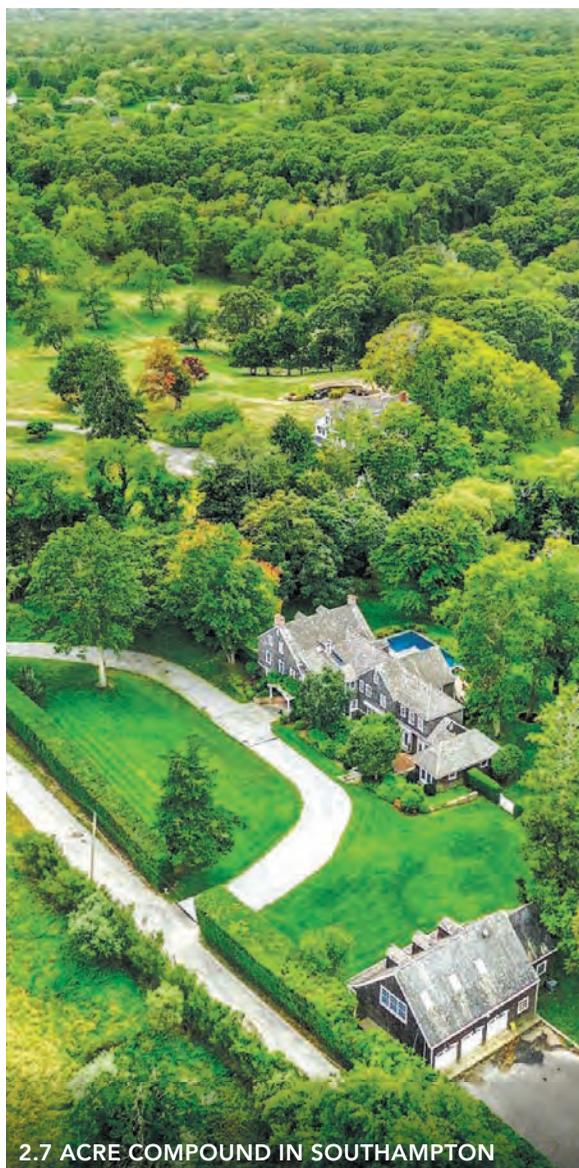
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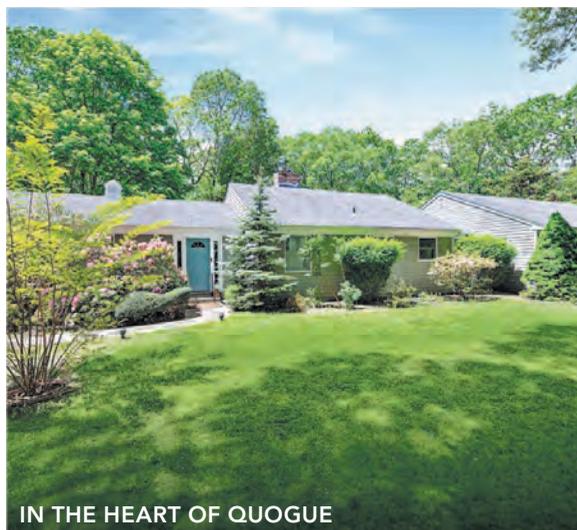
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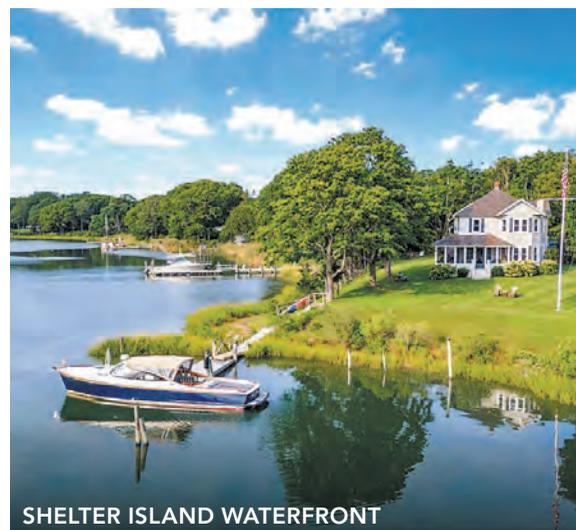
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# Emma at the chic end of the pool



Emma Roberts is chilling poolside in a Rick Owens bodysuit and wild leg warmers — and laughing off the “nepo baby” label thanks to Aunt Julia Roberts. “I’ve never gotten a job because of it,” the “Madame Web” slinger, 33, tells Flaunt. “I definitely have lost a couple jobs because of it.”

Damian Foxe for Flaunt

FLAUNT

## Mother of all sea lion attacks

It was “Sea you later!” for dozens of beachgoers in San Diego as they ran for their lives when a sea lion charged at them after they seemingly approached her pups.

The mammal was captured on video swimming around La Jolla Cove with the youngsters June 23 before it began barking at the swimmers.

“Oh, they are kind of close, get out of the water, fat ass,” one person can be heard saying before the sea lion rushes out of the water.

Several people jumped up from where they were seated on the beach as the sea lion leaped toward them.

Some leisurely carried their belongings away while others pulled out their phones to document their close encounter with the protective mother.

Nicholas McEntyre

# WEIRD BUT TWO!

## TikTok lookalike’s my lost twin

By ADRIANA DIAZ

Elene Deisadze was scrolling on TikTok in 2022 when she had to do a double-take. There was a girl who looked just like her.

The teen, a university student in the Eastern European nation of Georgia, immediately reached out to Anna Panchulidze, who she believed to be her doppelgänger. The two had an instant connection.

But it turned out the pair had more than a bond — they had shared DNA. After several months of getting to know each other online, the two discovered that they were adopted.

“I had a happy childhood, but now my entire past felt like a deception,” Anna, a university student in the UK, told AFP.

Once they realized that they didn’t actually know their biological family, the girls decided to take a DNA test and learned

that they weren’t doppelgängers — they’re identical twins.

And while the girls’ revelation might be shocking, it’s unfortunately more common and dark than either had expected.

### Sprawling illegal plot

The DNA test for Elene and Anna was arranged with the help of Georgian journalist Tamuna Museridze, who has been investigating a countrywide kidnapping scheme that appears to have taken place for decades between 1950 and 2006.

Through her investigation, she learned that the scheme was run by organized criminals who recruited a wide range of accomplices, including doctors and government officials.

Often times, hospital staff would lie to parents telling them their children died at birth and then pass them off to

be sold to unwitting families.

Anna’s mother, Patmani Parkosadze, confirmed she paid thousands of dollars to adopt her in 2005 after waiting years to adopt a child.

Elene’s adoptive mother, Lia Korkotadze, told AFP that “adopting from an orphanage seemed virtually impossible due to incredibly long waiting lists.” She was overjoyed when she heard about a 6-month-old baby available for adoption from a local hospital — for a fee.

“They brought Elene right to my house,” Korkotadze said, never suspecting there was “anything illegal.”

To help deceived families find each other, Museridze started a Facebook group dedicated to reuniting babies stolen from their parents — it currently has around 250,000 members and has reunited some 700 families. *With Wires*



Vano Shikrov/AFP

**FAMILY REUNION:** Elene Deisadze (left) and Anna Panchulidze were separated at birth in an adoption scam.

# TOUGH TO 'BEAR'



Gabriella Bass (2), FX

## Show star's fave eatery vandalized

By ZOE HUSSAIN  
and MATT TROUTMAN

Somebody has beef with “The Bear” star Jeremy Allen White’s favorite local restaurant.

Rolo’s, a trendy cocktail-and-eats spot in Ridgewood, Queens, was targeted by haters who spray-painted “Boycott Rolos” across the eatery’s outdoor dining shed and a nearby green traffic control box.

Employees at the bar and wood-fired grill told The Post that they first noticed the graffiti over the weekend and were unsure exactly when the hateful vandalism unfolded.

“We’ve never seen graffiti like that before,” Rafiq Salim, the chef and owner of Rolo’s, said in an email.

White, the native New York heartthrob who portrays chef Carmen “Carry” Berzatto in the acclaimed FX show, once sang the praises of Rolo’s during a 2022 interview with late-night host Seth Meyers.

“I have this restaurant I love to go to in my neighborhood here in New York called Rolo’s,” the Golden Globe-winning actor told the comedian.

He then told how staff in the restaurant, located on the corner of Cornelia Street and Onderdonk Avenue, jokingly peppered him with what has become a beloved catchphrase from “The Bear” after the show aired.

### Nabe growling

“Three days after the show came out, everybody: ‘Chef. Yes, Chef,’” White, 33, told Meyers.

However, it is a mystery why boycott banditos now want the neighborhood to say “no, chef” to Rolo’s.

Some locals who spoke to The Post — as well as anonymous Redditors — speculated that the puzzling boycott could be linked to longstanding concerns about gentrification in the increasingly hip area of Ridgewood, near

Bushwick.

Rolo’s landlord is real-estate developer Kermit Westergaard, according to Salim. Westergaard has bought up several properties in Ridgewood surrounding the restaurant location, earning the area the moniker of Kermitville.

Rent prices have increased by 4.79% overall in the area over the past year, according to an analysis by MNS Real Estate NYC.

Westergaard and representatives for the tenants union didn’t return requests for comment.

The graffiti remained visible Tuesday.

Salim said the restaurant had not filed a police report or pursued any legal action.

“I’m bummed to see that our outdoor dining area was vandalized in that way, not only as a partner in Rolo’s, but as someone who’s lived in the neighborhood for years,” he said.



**‘BOYCOTT’ SCRAWL:** Rolo’s, in Ridgewood, Queens (top), is the favorite local restaurant of Jeremy Allen White (above), star of “The Bear.” Some suspect the “Boycott Rolos” graffiti (below) outside the eatery may be protesting developer and landlord Kermit Westergaard (below right).



## ‘Blind’ to weight drugs

Researchers say they have uncovered a link between semaglutide — the active ingredient in Ozempic and Wegovy — and sudden vision loss.

The risk of developing non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION) is four times higher for diabetics on semaglutide and seven times higher for people taking the drug to lose weight, according to a new study from Mass Eye and Ear, a teaching hospital at Harvard Medical School.

A relatively rare condition, NAION is believed to be caused by insufficient blood flow to the optic nerve head. The result is painless but irreversible vision loss in one eye. There are no effective treatments for NAION.

NAION is not fully understood — and neither is the purported relationship between semaglutide and the optic nerve disorder.

“This study is the first, to our knowledge, to report an association between semaglutide and NAION, although the design of our study did not enable query into a causal relationship between the two,” the researchers wrote in their findings, published Wednesday in the journal JAMA Ophthalmology.

Tracy Swartz

## Soda ‘bro’ gotta go

The US Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday it is banning the use of brominated vegetable oil in food items effective Aug. 2.

BVO, a vegetable oil modified with bromine, has been a food ingredient since the 1920s. It is typically used as a stabilizer in fruit-flavored sodas to prevent the citrus flavoring from floating to the top.

Bromine “can irritate the skin, nose, mouth and stomach,” a Mayo Clinic expert warned on the Food Network last year, and it has also been linked to neurological symptoms among daily citrus-soda drinkers.

Reda Wigle



# Miranda Devine

mdevine@nypost.com

**C**ARL Bernstein just let the cat out of the bag about the media conspiracy to hide Joe Biden's long-running cognitive collapse from voters.

The former fabled Watergate reporter-turned-Trump-derangement merchant told CNN this week that he knew of 15 or 20 occasions in the Past 18 months when Joe Biden's brain has malfunctioned as it did during last week's debate.

Several people "who are very close to President Biden . . . are adamant that what we saw the other night, the Joe Biden we saw, is not a one-off . . . In the last six months particularly there has been a marked incidence of cognitive decline."

Bernstein cited "numerous instances where the president has lost his train of thought [and] can't pick it up again," including when he froze at the podium as if he had "rigor mortis" during a fundraiser in New York in June 2023.

"This was a year ago almost exactly at the old Four Seasons restaurant on Park Avenue. And he became very stiff and a chair had to be brought for him."

Bernstein said it was "significant" how many people around the president "are aware of such incidents, including some reporters, incidentally, who witnessed some of them."

## Why wait till now?

Why didn't Bernstein and his journalistic colleagues tell us all this before the debate?

Anyone with common sense could see Biden was aging badly. Democrats and their donors now feigning surprise only have themselves to blame. Their ignorance was willful and deliberate.

They would have elevated a corpse to the Oval Office in 2020 if it meant dislodging Trump, and they've maintained the deception ever since. All they are worried about now is that Biden might lose the election. Otherwise, they'd keep propping him up.

It was obvious to every reporter on the campaign trail during the 2020 campaign that Biden was suffering from some form of cognitive impairment. His aides had to haul in a teleprompter to even the tiniest event in Iowa and New Hampshire for a basic stump speech that other candidates could do in their sleep.

Having covered up Biden's cognitive deficits and corruption (Hello, laptop from hell!) for four years, now the Pulitzer Prize-winning newsrooms are gaslighting us again, pretending they didn't ig-



nore signs of dementia in the commander in chief or harangue the few reporters in DC who tried to ask questions about it. No siree, they would have us believe they covered the story relentlessly.

Biden imploded for 90 minutes on live television, and now they are like cockroaches scrambling to get out of the light that exposes their fakery.

Just two weeks ago, they were echoing White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre's claims that videos of a seemingly disoriented president meandering around at the G7 or having to be led off stage by Barack Obama were "cheap fakes," manipulated or deceptively cropped by right-wingers.

The Washington Post fact-checker awarded "Four Pinochios" to the videos that it said were "especially pernicious [and] intended to create a false narrative [that Biden] is too old for the job."

The New York Times defended

the president: "How misleading videos are trailing Biden as he battles age doubts."

White House spokesman Andrew Bates claimed: "President Biden's right-wing critics . . . resort to misinformation and cheap fakes because his performance in office . . . is so threatening to them."

## The 'best ever'?

MSNBC's Joe Scarborough summed up the attitude with words that will forever haunt him: "This version of Biden, intellectually, analytically, is the best Biden ever."

Biden himself mocked New York Post White House correspondent Steven Nelson, who called across the tarmac at Philadelphia International Airport in May with a crucial question: "President Biden, will you be serving your full four-year term or handing over power to Vice President Harris?"

Surrounded by giggling sycophants, the president sneered at

Nelson: "Are you all right? You're not hurt are you? . . . Did you fall on your head or something?"

Because Nelson was one of the few in the press corps to ask such questions, he was frequently punished by being ostracized, blackballed and banned from events.

Even on Wednesday, he was told there was no room for him at Biden's event in the enormous East Room. The White House relented after the Correspondents' Association intervened on his behalf but the message was clear. "Ask the wrong question and we'll cut off your access."

That explains in part why the Washington press corps' coverage of Biden's dementia has been limited, but it doesn't absolve their editors' failure to treat the story with the gravitas it deserved before they were forced to.

James Rosen of Newsmax was blackballed in White House briefings for eight months after he asked Biden in January 2022:

"With utmost respect for your life accomplishments and the high office you hold" — about a poll which found 49 percent of registered voters did not think the president was mentally fit — "why do you suppose such large segments of the American electorate have come to harbor such profound concerns about your cognitive fitness?"

Biden snarled, "I have no idea."

When ex-UN envoy and GOP primary candidate Nikki Haley last year questioned Biden's ability to complete a second term, ABC's George Stephanopoulos barked at her: "Excuse me! Excuse me one second, Ambassador! How do you know Joe Biden is not going to finish his term?"

In September 2020, the wrath of the Fourth Estate rained down upon veteran Fox News political analyst Brit Hume when he said, on the night of the first presidential debate: "I don't think there's any doubt Biden's senile, but that doesn't mean it's going to show up tonight."

Politifact declared Hume's statement false and quoted an outraged geriatrics expert accusing him of "a shameful display of ageism and ignorance."

Establishment media had an excuse to redeem themselves in February when DOJ special counsel Robert Hur concluded that Biden was not fit to stand trial for mishandling classified documents because a jury would have sympathy for him as an "elderly man with a poor memory."

Instead, the media doubled down, attacking Hur as a Trump supporter.

## Now donors whine

MSNBC's Scarborough said Hur's report was "garbage" full of "Trump-like ramblings."

Now that it's impossible to justify the cover-up, the phony soul-searching has begun. "Shame on the White House press corps for not [having] pierced the veil of secrecy surrounding the president," former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson told Semafor. Pity she didn't say anything four years ago.

Those wealthy Democrat donors now whining that they were hoodwinked by the Biden campaign should be aiming their ire at their preferred august media organs that lied right up until it was impossible to sustain the fiction that Biden was "sharp as a tack."

If they read The Post, they would not be caught by (pretend) surprise — about a lot of things.

Getty Images

# BORDER CRISIS

# Migrant mob mugging

## El Tren gang 'leader' busted



Chicago Transit Authority via Fox News

**CHOKING HAZARD:** Fernando Loyo-Rodriguez (top left, clockwise), Wilker Gutierrez Sierra, Yonnier Guasamucare Garcia and Carlos Carreno-Carreno are charged in a brutal February choke attack on a Chicago straphanger (right). Each suspect listed a migrant shelter as their address.

By STEVE JANOSKI

## Violent attack caught on vid

A disturbing video shows the moment a group of migrant men from Venezuela attacked and robbed a Chicago straphanger in February — with one of the men choking the victim unconscious as the rest rifled through his pockets.

The four suspects — Fernando Loyo-Rodriguez, Wilker Gutierrez Sierra, Carlos Carreno-Carreno and Yonnier Guasamucare Garcia — approached their 49-year-old target on a Windy City commuter train Feb. 17 and started chatting him up, according to surveillance video obtained by Fox News.

But the affable facade — which included passing around a cigarette or a joint inside the car —

concealed their true motive. Suddenly, one of the migrants lunged for the unidentified victim, seized him around the neck and sunk a chokehold that eventually knocked him out, video showed.

Police said one of the suspects pulled a knife and held it to the victim's throat — as his colleagues rifled through the man's pockets, the video showed.

The group, all of whom ranged in age from 18 to 22, grabbed \$400 and a cellphone from the man before taking off, Fox reported.

The migrants — who had only been in the country for a few months at most before the attack

— were arrested about 45 minutes later. Each man gave a state-funded migrant shelter as his address. Authorities charged each with robbery, aggravated battery/strangulation and attempted murder.

### 35,000 to Windy City

At a Tuesday court appearance in Cook County, a judge remanded Carreno-Carreno, Loyo-Rodriguez and Guasamucare Garcia and cut loose Gutierrez Sierra with electronic monitoring.

Immigration experts have said that three of the four defendants

could be deported if they're convicted of a felony.

Over the last two years, Chicago has seen about 35,000 migrants get sent to the city by bus or plane. The city is hosting about 13,000 of those in shelters.

The attack mirrors similar incidents in New York, which has seen its share of migrant crime over the past few years.

That includes a savage assault by a crew of Venezuelan migrants with rap sheets who allegedly pounced on New York's Finest in April after getting caught stealing from an Upper East Side Target.

Colombian authorities arrested a founder of El Tren de Aragua, the notorious Venezuelan gang that has infiltrated the US via the southern border and been linked to crimes across the country — including the murder of college student Laken Riley and the smuggling of guns into New York City migrant shelters.

Gang cofounder Larry Álvarez, 45, who also goes by Larry Changa, escaped prison in 2015 in Venezuela, fled to Chile and then to Colombia, where he entered using fake papers in 2022, Colombian authorities said.

Álvarez, wanted by 196 countries, was arrested in the central area of Circasia, Colombia's defense ministry said Monday.

Police in Venezuela and Chile also have warrants for his arrest for terrorism, arms trafficking, aggravated extortion and kidnapping.

US authorities have opened more than 100 investigations related to the gang, according to an NBC News report.

Gang suspects in the US include Venezuelan Jose Ibarra, who allegedly killed Georgia nursing student Laken Riley, and Bernardo Raul Castro Mata, who is accused of shooting two NYPD cops on June 3, authorities say. *Jennie Taer*

# More immig families to get city debit cards

City officials are dramatically expanding a program that gives debit cards preloaded with cash to migrant families staying in taxpayer-funded hotels.

The Adams administration says another round of cards is expected to be dis-

tributed to more than 7,300 migrants over the next six months, costing the city about \$2.6 million. The move is a major expansion of a pilot program that began earlier this year that doled out cards to about 3,000 migrants.

Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom said the program allows newly arriving families the ability to “make choices for themselves and their children. They can buy from local shops, support small busi-

nesses, and manage their own resources.”

Mayor Adams has defended the program as a “cost savings measure” that “temporarily” replaces the city's existing system of providing nonperishable food boxes to migrant

families staying in city-funded shelters.

The program is a partnership between the Adams administration and the company Mobility Capital Finance, which says the plan will help migrants until they are autho-

rized to work.

Critics, including City Council member Joseph Borelli, have argued that the debit cards are “fundamentally unfair” to the city's working poor, who don't receive similar benefits. *The Center Square*

# Ukraine: Help us now, Don

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is ready to meet with Donald Trump should the presumptive GOP nominee win the election, but said that if the presidential hopeful has a plan to end Ukraine's war, he should "tell us today."

The ex-president, who currently leads the 2024 race in the polls, claimed during last week's debate that if he wins in November, he could end the desperate war in Eastern Europe even before he is inaugurated about two months later.

But Zelensky said that if Trump knows how to end the conflict, which began when Russia invaded its neighbor without provocation in February 2022, he should tell Ukrainian officials now, according to Bloomberg.

"If Trump knows how to finish this war, he should tell us today," Zelensky said in a Bloomberg Television interview in Kyiv on Wednesday. "If there are risks to Ukrainian independence, if we lose statehood, we want to be ready for this, we want to know."

Wednesday, a Trump rep told The Post that Trump has "repeatedly stated that a top priority in his second term will be to quickly negotiate an end to the Russia-Ukraine war." *Steve Janoski and Caitlin Doornbos*

## Bro saves sis from pit bull

An 8-year-old Michigan boy saved his 6-year-old sister from a vicious dog attack that could have been fatal, according to her family.

Nicholas and Lillian were in their grandparents' backyard in Saginaw when a pit bull next door allegedly got through the neighbor's fence and attacked Lillian, biting the her on her face and neck and causing nerve damage.

Nicholas jumped on the dog and pulled it off her.

Lillian was rushed to the University of Michigan Hospital after the attack and has a long road to recovery ahead, her mother said. Animal control euthanized the dog, WNEM TV said.

*Fox News*

# SI schoolkids honor neighbor, 93



By GEORGETT ROBERTS  
and EMILY CRANE

A 93-year-old woman who has spent years waving and blowing kisses to kids at the Staten Island school across from her home was left speechless last week when graduating fifth-graders gave her an unforgettable farewell.

Claire Moccia was overcome with emotion when she emerged from her house last Wednesday to find the scores of children she has watched grow up lining the street outside PS42R — The Eltingville School — for their traditional "clap out" ceremony as they chanted "we love Claire."

"I love those children from kindergarten to graduation," Moccia told The Post on Wednesday, adding that she has sat by her front window "every day" for years just so they can wave to each other.

### 'Keeps me going'

"It keeps me going. I'm 93 years old. That's how I live — looking out the window."

Still, the elderly widow said she was blown away by last week's heartwarming graduation day gesture from the soon-to-be middle schoolers.

Tear-jerking footage posted on the school's Facebook page captured the exact moment an overwhelmed Moccia had stepped out of her front door and was greeted by the raucous cheers and applause.

"I never expected that," she told The Post. "I expected them to be waving."

"I could not believe it. It was so beautiful. I love them all," she continued.

Moccia's long-held bond with the youngsters started at some point after her husband suddenly

# GIVE 'EM AN 'A' IN 'LOVE'

died of a heart attack back in 1996.

Overcome by loneliness, Moccia — who has three grown sons and no grandkids — opted to start sitting by the window so she could watch the students go to and from class.

"Let's put it this way, after my husband passed, I was very lonely and that's what I did. I just sat by the window and looked out," she recalled.

### Cookies and kisses

One day, Moccia started waving and never stopped.

"That's the story of my life," she said.

In addition to the countless waves, Moccia has handed out cookies, blown kisses and even rendered first aid to the youngsters over the years.

**TOUCHED:** Elderly widow Claire Moccia (right), 93, says she loves the children at PS42R — The Eltingville School "from kindergarten to graduation," waving and blowing kisses to them every day. Graduating fifth-graders at the school (top) lined up outside for a "clap out" and a chance to shout, "we love Claire!" She said she was blown away by the effort.

As much as Moccia loves the children, the students, too, have grown fond of their friendly neighbor — including some who now refer to her as "great grandma."

### A prized card

The students even delivered Moccia a huge signed card for her 93rd birthday last September.

"I saved it," Moccia said. "I told my son when my time comes, you know when you're in the funeral parlor where you have the flowers, I said that sheet is going to enter my funeral home because the children gave it to me."



Gregory P. Mango

# Javanka plans Euro hotel

## Page Six®

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## Mama mia, J.Lo

**JENNIFER Lopez** once declared she “Ain’t Your Mama,” but it turns out she’s singing a different tune. The Grammy-nominated singer sent a message to the world this week when she opted to wear an extremely cropped top with the words “JLO BE MY MAMA” emblazoned across her chest while out in NYC. Lopez, 54, had her abs on display thanks to her barely there shirt, which she paired with a pink cardigan and low-rise dirty baggy jeans by Acne Studios (\$620). She accessorized with a pair of white sneakers and a Dioriviera Lady Dior bag (\$5,200). The sighting comes as the star appeared in a JLo Beauty campaign without her wedding ring.



## Taking a sick day

**PINK** is “sorry” for canceling her latest concert in Switzerland at the last minute due to a mystery illness. “I do everything I can to ensure I can perform for you every night, but after consultation with my doctor and exploring all options available, I’ve been advised that I’m unable to continue with the show tomorrow,” the star, 44, wrote on Instagram. Pink (above) then said she was “looking forward” to being with her fans and “making memories.” It is unclear what illness the singer is battling, and her reps did not get back.

**IVANKA Trump** is opening a luxury Aman hotel in Albania with her hubby, real estate developer **Jared Kushner**.

“Right now I’m working with my husband,” Trump said in an interview on **Lex Fridman’s** podcast. “We have this 1,400-acre island in the Mediterranean and we’re bringing in the best architects and the best brands.”

The mountainside resort will be run by **Vlad Doronin’s** ultra-luxe Aman brand and feature sceney hot spot Carbone.

“Aman’s going to operate the hotel for us, and they’re going to be villas, and we have Carbone who’s going to be doing the food and beverage,” she said. “But it’s amazing to bring

together all of this talent. And for me to be able to play around and flex the real estate muscles again and have some fun with it.”

Trump — who was an adviser for her father, **Donald Trump**, in the White House, along with Kushner, before stepping back to spend time with her kids in Miami — said she is trying to “honor the topography that exists.”

The conceptual drawings look “very modern, but making it feel right in terms of the context of the vegetation and the terrain that exists is [important], and not just have a beautiful glass box. Obviously you want glass. You want to look out and see that gorgeous blue ocean, but how do you do that in a way that

doesn’t feel generic and isn’t a squandered opportunity to create something new?” she said.

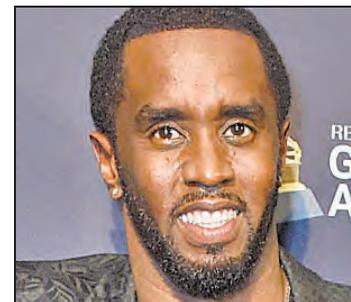
Microsoft mogul **Bill Gates**, Facebook founder **Mark Zuckerberg**, the **Kardashians**, **Angelina Jolie**, **David Beckham**, **George** and **Amal Clooney**, **Tom Hanks** and members of various royal families are fans of Aman — which has over 30 properties in 20 countries. Rooms at the resorts average around \$1,400 a night and villas go for \$50,000.

Ivanka will be there to support her dad when he officially accepts the GOP nomination for president, *The Post* reported, but she won’t serve in any political capacity, as a delegate, fund-raiser or otherwise.

## A pour decision

**CELEB** interior designer **Jeff Lewis** said reality star **Sonja Morgan** was wasted at the 15th anniversary taping of “Watch What Happens Live” with **Andy Cohen**. “I was very annoyed by Sonja and I believe... that they did a lot of work to edit her obnoxious, drunk behavior, but what you see, it was 20 times worse,” he recently alleged on his SiriusXM show. “She never stopped talking. She was belligerent. She was rude and disrespectful. She was confrontational. She came for me at the break. I was completely turned off by her behavior,” he revealed.

The star of Bravo’s “Flipping Out” claimed that during a commercial break, Morgan told him, “I only hate one other person more than you,” leaving him perplexed. His co-host pointed out that when the *Bravolebs* were back on air, you could “hear [Morgan] shout out things the entire rest of the episode.” A source exclusively told Page Six that Morgan “showed up already intoxicated” to the shoot. Reps for Morgan and Bravo did not comment.



## Suits keep coming

**YET** another woman has come forward claiming **Sean “Diddy” Combs** “groomed” and sex trafficked her. In a suit obtained by **TMZ**, **Adria English** alleged she met the rapper in 2004 and began working Combs’ parties where she was allegedly expected to flirt with guests and drink alcoholic beverages laced with narcotics. English — who worked in porn under the name Omu’Nique — claims Combs (above) also demanded she sleep with a guest against her will, and congratulated her and paid her an extra \$1,000 after. Reps for Combs did not comment. It’s the eighth lawsuit against Combs in the past nine months. He has denied the previous allegations.

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## Kelce drops pounds in London

**TRAVIS Kelce** reportedly spared no expense while spending time in London for girlfriend **Taylor Swift’s** Eras Tour. The peacocking Kansas City Chiefs tight end, 34, dropped nearly \$90,000 during a designer shopping spree, the Sun reported. The three-time Super Bowl champ dropped five figures at Burberry alone, per the outlet, picking up a leather bomber jacket (\$4,950), a “classic” leather biker jacket (\$5,900) and a quilted bomber jacket (\$2,350). “Travis loves the Burberry style,” an insider told the outlet. He then made his way to Rolex, where he forked over \$63,000 for two timepieces: the classic Cosmograph Daytona, which retails for \$44,300, plus an unnamed “legendary diver’s watch.” “Travis loves this stuff,” continued the source. “He wants to start a collection.” Kelce also hit Louis Vuitton and went with two denim patchwork shirts (\$3,350) and matching shorts (\$2,380). “Travis had this trip in mind for ages,” the source said. “He loves the London way of life — everything from the taxis, the tea and the styles.” He even spent \$1,700 on a Lock & Co. Panama hat.



Lauren Sánchez (right) and October Gonzalez hit the Dolce & Gabbana Alta Moda show in Sardinia. Sánchez has a son with October’s hubby, former NFL star Tony Gonzalez.

octobergonz/instagram



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# It's glow time with mama Suki

Suki Waterhouse welcomed a baby with hubby Robert Pattinson in March and was headlining Coachella by June. "You just have to go: This is what we're doing," the singer/actress, 32, tells *British Vogue*. "And f--k what anyone else thinks."



# 'HUSH' CASE REVISIT

## Is Don off hook?

By KYLE SCHNITZER, PRISCILLA DeGREGORY, HANNAH FIERICK and BEN KOCHMAN

Donald Trump faces an uphill battle as he attempts to nix his hush-money case using the Supreme Court's bombshell ruling granting presidents immunity for "official acts," legal experts say.

The high court's Monday decision dealt a crushing blow to the federal election-interference case against the 78-year-old Republican — but his bid to overturn his Manhattan conviction in light of the ruling is a long shot.

### What is Trump arguing?

Trump's lawyers are arguing that prosecutors in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office improperly allowed jurors to hear evidence from Trump's time in the White House, including key testimony from his former top aide Hope Hicks.

Hicks testified that Trump, in a 2018 conversation when he was president, felt "it was better to be dealing" with sex allegations from porn star Stormy Daniels at that time than before the 2016 election.

The testimony was "devastating" evidence that the hush money to Daniels was part of an illegal "conspiracy" to hide her story from voters in 2016, prosecutor Josh Steinglass said in his closing statement.

### Could his conviction be overturned?

Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan has left open the possibility that he could side with Trump and vacate the jury's May 30 verdict finding the ex-president

guilty on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records.

But legal eagles said it's likely Merchan will rule that Trump's covering up the Daniels hush money payment throughout 2017 — including by signing checks to Michael Cohen while sitting in the Oval Office — is not part of a president's official duties.

### When will he be sentenced?

Merchan, after prosecutors agreed to a delay, moved the July 11 sentencing date to Sept. 18.

"This is an example of the court and the prosecution trying to be fair and hear out the claims that he has in order or not to have an appellate issue," Duncan Levin, a criminal defense lawyer and former federal prosecutor, told *The Post*. "But none of the claims are likely to actually change the outcome."

### What sentence does he face?

Trump faces up to four years in prison on his felony convictions.

But given that the real-estate mogul was found guilty of nonviolent crimes and has never been convicted before, experts say he's unlikely to get hard time and is more likely to receive probation or community service — or delay a prison sentence pending appeal.

If Trump wins the election in November, he wouldn't serve any theoretical time behind bars until he leaves office, according to experts.

But since the hush-money case is a state case, he would have no power to pardon himself.

**Cindy Adams is off remembering the day she signed the Declaration of Independence.**



**THE CONTENT FACTORY:** Shreya Nallamothu (above), 16, said she kept seeing child exploitation in influencer families. Brooke Raybould (with family, right) says she understands the need for ethical guidelines. Chris Chin (top right with son Kaven) keeps streaming time to a half-hour.

By BROOKE KATO

No more taking out the trash or doing the dishes, now kids will get allowances for appearing on social media.

In Illinois, an amendment to the state's Child Labor Law went into effect Monday requiring that children who appear on their parent or guardian's YouTube or TikTok be paid for appearances.

The bill says that children under the age of 16 should receive 15% of an influencer's gross earnings if they appear in at least 30% of monetized content online.

Mothers, fathers or minders must be responsible for putting the earnings into a trust account.

The law also states that the child is allowed to request the deletion of content featuring themselves, and should the adult not comply, the minor has the legal right to sue for damages.

Mommy vloggers and "sharenters" — a term coined to describe parents posting their kids' milestones online — with more than 1 million followers can earn \$20,000 from sponsored content, while those with smaller followers can still earn a few thousand from a single post.

### 'Going after pocketbooks'

Shreya Nallamothu, 16, who has been credited with bringing this issue to local legislators in Illinois, said she "kept seeing cases of exploitation" the more she researched.

"Especially for very young children who maybe don't understand what talking to a camera means and they're not able to conceptualize what a million people looks like, they don't understand what they're putting out into the Internet for profit and that it's not going to be able to go away and that their parents are making money off of it," she told "Good Morning America."

Carolyn Jarrett, a mother and the co-founder of social media marketing agency Oak Street Social, said "going after people's pocketbooks" is a powerful tactic to get people to wake up, reflect on their behavior and spark conversation.



# Influencer parents gotta pay

"I understand where it could go south," Brooke Raybould, a mother to four boys and a content creator, told "GMA." "And we need certain bodies to make sure that people are making the ethical decision."

Raybould boasts more than 702,000 followers on Instagram, where she regularly posts content featuring her husband, sons and their day-to-day life as a family.

In just two years of growing her digital following, she was raking in more than six figures a year, which she says feels as if she had "struck gold": She can be home and spend time with her kids while also making "a decent living" from sharing her life.

### 'Fun for me and challenging'

"It kept me doing something in addition to motherhood that was fun for me and challenging and fueling that entrepreneurial spirit," she said, calling it "a dream."

While her home state of Virginia has not

enacted laws similar to Illinois, she can understand why such regulations are being put into place.

Raybould likens her social media presence to running a small business, and says its "very rare" that her sons help her with more than 15 minutes of content.

### 'I ask them if it's OK'

"I tell them, 'Mommy does this, we do this, I share it with other moms,'" she explained. "I periodically ask them if they feel comfortable, if it's OK, and they're very positive."

Chris Chin, a father of two who uploads YouTube videos of him and his son playing video games online, compares his content to that which parents capture at their child's various activities.

YouTube, he said, is "just like any other activity that a kid does," likening it to parents enrolling their kids in competitive sports in the hopes that someday they'll earn money from it.



# Kids: You use us, you owe us!

"It's no different than, say, a parent filming their kid playing hockey or soccer and posting it, right? It's just now we're playing video games instead," he told "GMA," adding that the pair only film themselves playing video games for half an hour. "And that's like our bonding moment, too."

Parent influencers, however, have to meticulously monitor what information about their child is put online, although neither Chin nor Raybould have faced an issue with privacy.

Raybould, for one, does not post in real-time and refuses to share her kids' harder moments.

"I feel like if my kids ever decided they didn't want to be part of it . . . and even if I decided to stop one day, I feel like I could pretty quickly just stop," she told "GMA."

"That gives me hope for my kids, too, that it's not like they're a celebrity's child. They're a content creator's child, and when they grow up, they'll have their own thing."

bkato@nypost.com

# Bx. road rage slaying

A Bronx dad was fatally knifed by a road-raging maniac who went berserk on innocent bystanders after a fender-bender.

Ronald Gomez-Mesa, 29, stood up to defend himself against an as-yet-unidentified man behind the chaotic scrum Tuesday outside a Morris Heights bodega, according to his family and a brutal video obtained by The Post.

The attacker stabbed Gomez-Mesa in the chest, killing him.

The senseless violence erupted about 4:30 p.m. after a woman and man got into a minor collision outside Jason Deli and Grocery along West Tremont Avenue and Phelan Place, according to law-enforcement sources.

The woman then called her male friend, who showed up at the scene and started fighting with bystanders gathered nearby, the sources said.

He attacked Gomez-Mesa, who was sitting nearby.

Gomez-Mesa can be seen on video standing up and throwing punches before he chased the maniac down the street.

The attacker then rushed back flashing a knife, and stabbed Gomez-Mesa in the chest. Gomez-Mesa was pronounced dead at St. Barnabas Hospital.

The suspect fled and remained at large Wednesday.

*Jack Morphet*

## Punched dad dead

A Nashville father of two was beaten to death outside a Top Golf golf range when he was attempting to break up a fight that broke out during a concert Saturday evening.

Dahal Umesh was attending the music event alongside other members of Nashville's Nepali community when the violent dispute erupted inside, the Metropolitan Nashville Police announced.

Umesh, 41, was punched, causing him to fall and hit his head on the concrete, the MNP said Tuesday. He was then kicked in the head and died from severe head injuries.

Bishal Rai, 26, was arrested for criminal homicide.

*Nicholas McIntyre*

# TEARS OF RELIEF

By KEVIN SHEEHAN and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

The estranged wife of accused “Duck Sauce Killer” Glenn Hirsch burst into tears inside a Queens courtroom Wednesday as she was found not guilty of controversial gun-possession charges.

Dorothy Hirsch, who faced the weapons charges for allegedly stashing her late husband’s arsenal after he was accused of gunning down a Chinese-food delivery worker in a dispute over duck sauce, sobbed as she blasted prosecutors following the verdict.

“This ethically challenged DA’s Office came after me for 25 months — just because they couldn’t get their monsters — they came after me,” she told reporters.

“Not only did they promote the myths, dangerous, ignorant, irresponsible myths about domestic violence, they lied and just made up stories that I planted evidence,” she said. “That I packaged these guns. That I handed or gave Glenn a gun so he could shoot himself. That I wrote the letter that he left, his dying declaration. And that I intended to shoot up the restaurant! It’s just all lies.”

## Widow’s anguish

“It was horrible listening to all that,” she added. “I became emotional a few times. I don’t think anybody can blame me for that.”

Queens prosecutors filed the charges after Glenn Hirsch committed suicide while out on bail four months after he allegedly gunned down food-delivery worker Zhiwen Yan April 30, 2022.

Prosecutors said there were eight illegal pistols and more than 400 rounds of ammunition found inside Dorothy Hirsch’s apartment after her husband killed himself.

But the woman’s defense lawyer argued the guns were found in a closet where Glenn kept his things and said the weapons were Glenn’s and not Dorothy’s.

“In all my years of doing this, I’ve never seen an actually innocent person treated this poorly, this im-



**COURT SCENE:** Dorothy Hirsch cries in Queens Supreme court Wednesday after being found not guilty of weapons charges. Her husband, Glenn (upper inset), gunned down delivery-man Zhiwen Yan (lower inset) in 2022 — over a condiment.

James Messerschmidt

## ‘Duck Sauce Killer’ wife not guilty

properly by a DA’s Office at every turn,” defense lawyer Mark Bederos said Wednesday.

“I would suggest that DA [Melinda] Katz take inventory of her, the way they handle domestic violence in that office because what you saw in the courtroom during the course of this trial was inappropriate, offensive and just clearly suggested that Dorothy Hirsch has

always been a victim.”

Glenn Hirsch was charged with shooting Yan to death in the midst of an ongoing dispute with Great Wall restaurant, where the deliveryman worked — with the beef stemming from Glenn’s claim that the eatery shorted him on duck sauce on a pickup order.

Restaurant workers maintain the unhinged Hirsch repeatedly threat-

ened the staff and vandalized the owner’s car at one point in an ongoing reign of terror.

Hirsch was busted in the shooting but released on \$500,000 bond and shot himself to death in August 2022, four months after Yan’s fatal shooting.

Dorothy Hirsch testified at her trial the accused killer abused her for years before the fatal shooting.

## GOP: Why is Hunter at WH meetings?

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Turner is demanding answers from the White House about whether Hunter Biden (right) is privy to classified briefings, as the first son reappeared this week at the Executive Mansion to revive his father’s flailing re-election campaign.

“White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre has confirmed that Hunter Biden is attending official White House meetings involving the president and his staff,” Turner (R-Ohio) wrote Wednesday to White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients.

“An immediate response is requested, please notify the Com-

mittee of the official meetings Hunter Biden is participating in, and if classified information is being disclosed,” he pressed.

Hunter, 54, has been joining White House meetings since his father’s return Monday from a family retreat at Camp David, with one source saying Tuesday the first son doesn’t

trust of West Wing aides.

Former White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain, senior adviser Anita Dunn and personal attorney Bob Bauer were blamed by first family members for fatiguing President Biden, 81, during debate preparations the week before. *Josh Christenson and Steven Nelson*



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# Long history of sex-abuse raps

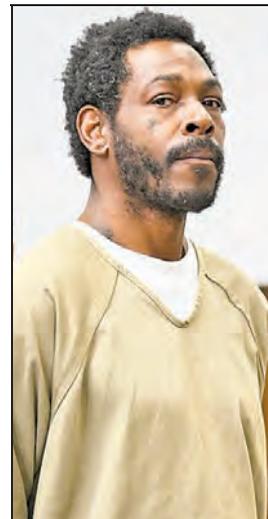
## Central Park 'attacker'

By JOE MARINO,  
STEVEN VAGO,  
KYLE SCHNITZER  
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

The creep accused of trying to rape a Central Park sunbather has a sick history of sex assaults in four states — including at least two New York cases that were tossed after psych exams, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Jermaine Longmire, 43, was ordered held without bail after he was arraigned on first-degree rape and sex-abuse charges in the June 24 alleged attack in Central Park as disturbing new details were revealed in court.

"The defendant approached this woman as he was masturbating, knocked her to the ground as she tried to run away and proceeded to try to penetrate her without her consent while holding her on the ground inside the park," Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Christina Awad said in court.



Curtis Means

**VILE RECORD:** Jermaine Longmire, being arraigned Wednesday in Manhattan, allegedly tried to rape a sunbather.

Awad said the sicko then took off his shirt and hat after fleeing the scene.

Longmire was tied to the assault after cops picked him up this week in connection to another attack — the June 15 groping of another woman inside the West 103rd Street and Central Park subway.

### 'Knocked to ground'

On June 24, he allegedly came out of nowhere and pounced on the unsuspecting 21-year-old victim

as she soaked in the sun around 1:15 p.m. near West 104th Street and West Drive, NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny said Wednesday.

"The perpetrator approaches our survivor and exposes himself," the chief said. "She gets up and tries to run from the location, but she is knocked to the ground by our attacker.

"Once on the ground the male was on top of her and attempted to forcibly rape her," he said.

He said facial-recognition technology from surveillance footage helped identify Longmire.

At his arraignment, prosecutors revealed his sordid history — including "multiple cases" in New Jersey, Florida and Maryland for sex assault, aggravated assault, theft, trespass and gun possession.

Awad said he also has two other forcible-touching cases in the Big Apple that were dismissed following court-ordered psychiatric examinations.

Judge Laurie Peterson ordered a new psychiatric evaluation after the Central Park incident before he returns to court on Aug. 8.

*Additional reporting by Amanda Woods*

## Highway survivor Gals brawl on cruise

A heartless pet owner abandoned a 4-year-old dog on the side of a "treacherous" Long Island highway Monday, authorities said.

Several drivers called police after spotting the poor pooch tied to a light pole on the Southern State Parkway near Exit 21 at 5:30 a.m., State Police Captain Timothy Gleason told The Post.

Responding troopers found the white mastiff, along with a note and a bowl of food, said Gleason.

"This is Roxi, a trained American bull mastiff," the handwritten note said.

"She is 4 years old. She has been fed and given a flea bath, she may still have issues with them. See that she gets good care."

Roxi — who was calm as cops approached — was taken to an animal shelter, where scores of dog lovers have signed up hoping to adopt.

"There is a big wait list," Hempstead Supervisor Don Clavin said. *Steven Vago*



Viral video captured the moment chairs and fists went flying during a wild brawl aboard a Carnival Cruise ship.

The scuffle erupted aboard the Carnival Paradise on the last night of a five-day cruise to Central America in June.

The 6½-minute video that Nick Richardson posted online shows a group of women brawling on a dining room floor.

"The guests involved were fined and will not sail on Carnival Cruise Line again," Carnival said. *Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*

# Stadium drug & gun bust

Eight Bronx men were indicted this week for allegedly peddling drugs and guns to an undercover detective and other buyers a block from Yankee Stadium, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The defendants, including seven suspects from three families, were charged in a 108-count indictment after operating for more than a year out of a storefront and van a short walk from the ballpark, the Bronx District Attorney's Office said.

The probe started in March 2023 at the former Lush Smoke Shop at 90 East 161st St. where an undercover investigator bought cocaine and methamphetamine pills from alleged dealer Jose Tejada Jr, the DA's Office said.

Tejada, 26, worked with relatives Ronny Fortuna, 32, and Marvin Fortuna, 29, who were allegedly slinging cocaine near the old smoke shop, prosecutors said.

Jeriel Fernandez, 30, and Jael Fernandez, 21, also allegedly provided powdered cocaine to Tejada Jr, the DA's Office said.

At the start of this year, Tejada then allegedly sold eight weapons to the undercover officer, including most recently on April 10, prosecutors said.

Police raided the alleged dealers' home on May 17.

David Propper

## Beryl blowin' toward Texas

Hurricane Beryl killed at least six people while it battered the Caribbean as a Category 4 storm and is now headed for Texas, meteorologists say.

Beryl is expected to slam the state's Gulf Coast as a tropical storm toward the end of the weekend or early Monday, according to meteorologists.

The storm's outer rain bands are estimated to blow through the Texas coast early Monday, the National Weather Service projected on Wednesday.

It was unclear exactly how powerful Beryl will remain after hitting the Yucatan Peninsula. Zoe Hussain

By HANNAH FIERICK  
and BEN KOCHMAN

The feds are looking to put people "in prison for funsies" by prosecuting the two glamorous leaders of embattled "sexual wellness" empire OneTaste, their lawyer claimed Wednesday.

"I would say the government is trying to criminalize sex. That is what this case is about," said Duncan Levin, who represents the company's head of sales Rachel Cherwitz, after a hearing in Brooklyn federal court.

Cherwitz and the company's founder Nicole Daedone are slated for trial in January on charges that they operated OneTaste like a cult by grooming members into having sex with investors and clients, while driving the members into debt. Both women have been charged with conspiracy to commit forced labor and face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

The pair were in court for a hearing in which their lawyers argued that the case should be thrown out for what they claimed is "misconduct" by the feds, including an FBI agent allegedly ordering a key witness to delete her email account.

But prosecutors, calling the defense's claims "baseless," responded in court papers that the agent in question was simply trying to protect the witness from harassment she'd received from other OneTaste members, rather than destroy evidence.

### 'Orgasmic meditation'

Daedone and Cherwitz were flanked in court by around a dozen followers of their California-based company, also known as the Institute of OM or Eros, which is currently offering its orgasm meditation classes out of a Harlem office, according to a spokesperson.

The "orgasmic meditation" treatment, in which a group of women have their genitals stroked methodically for 15 minutes, "is a transformative practice that heals maladies ranging from sexual dysfunction and trauma to depression and anxiety," its website boasts.

Lawyers for Daedone and Cherwitz sounded off against the case again to reporters after the hour-

# Att'ys rip gov't's 'anti-sex' case

**PRISONERS OF LOVE?** Nicole Daedone (left) and Rachel Cherwitz enter Brooklyn federal court for a hearing in a case in which prosecutors say they conspired to commit forced labor.



# SLINGS & EROS IN FED COURT

long hearing, claiming that the feds charged the women using a unique interpretation of the "conspiracy to commit forced labor" law.

### 'Targeting women'

"This is just [the Eastern District of New York] trying to be creative, and the courts have said it's not your job to be creative and see if you can put someone in prison for funsies and that's really

what they're doing here," said Jennifer Bonjean, who represents Daedone.

Bonjean, who is best known for defending Bill Cosby and R. Kelly on charges involving sexual misconduct, also claimed Wednesday that the feds are "targeting women, frankly, which is an interesting flip on the #MeToo," despite the fact that prosecutors built their case on the word of at least one woman who told the FBI she was coerced into sexual acts.

The company has had a fall from grace since 2018, when more than 35,000 people attended its in-person events, it was endorsed by Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop website and Daedone delivered a viral speech at a Tedx conference encouraging skeptical attendees to try out orgasmic meditation.

Judge Diane Gujarati set a July 17 deadline for the attorneys to formalize their arguments in a motion to dismiss the case.

# BFF school staffers busted for 'student sex'

A pair of "ride or die" best friends — who were in each other's wedding parties — are charged with having sex with male students while they worked for a Georgia school district.

Railey Greeson and Brooklyn Shuler, who worked at Calhoun City Schools, were slapped with charges Thursday for allegedly sleeping with the students between

October 2021 and January 2022, according to the indictment obtained by IIAlive.

Greeson allegedly had sex with two different male students between Oct. 29, 2021, and Jan. 3, 2022, while Shuler was indicted on charges that she had sex with a different male student, also between October 2021 and January 2022.

The women face charges

of sexual contact by an employee or agent in the first degree.

The two "reasonably should have known" the boys were enrolled in the school district, the indictment said, though it does not list the boys' ages or which schools they attended.

It's not clear if they were teachers or employed as other staff, but reports de-

scribed them as former employees.

The Post has reached out to Calhoun City Schools for comment, including whether they were fired or resigned.

Greeson was Shuler's maid of honor at her wedding on Nov. 12, 2022 — months after the alleged sexual fling with the student, according to Shuler's wedding registry website. Patrick Reilly



SHULER & GREESON

NEW YORK POST

## LOUGHERY

JULY 4, 1941

## THE IRON HORSE SAYS GOODBYE

**F**OR the past two weeks you have been reading about a bad break. Yet today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth. I have been in ballparks for seventeen years and have never received anything but kindness and encouragement from you fans.

“When you look around, wouldn’t you consider it a privilege to associate yourself with such fine

looking men as they’re standing in uniform in this ballpark today? Sure, I’m lucky. Who wouldn’t consider it an honor to have known Jacob Ruppert? Also, the builder of baseball’s greatest empire, Ed Barrow? To have spent six years with that wonderful little fellow, Miller Huggins? Then to have spent the next nine years with that outstanding leader, that smart student of psychology, the best manager in baseball today, Joe McCarthy? Sure, I’m lucky.

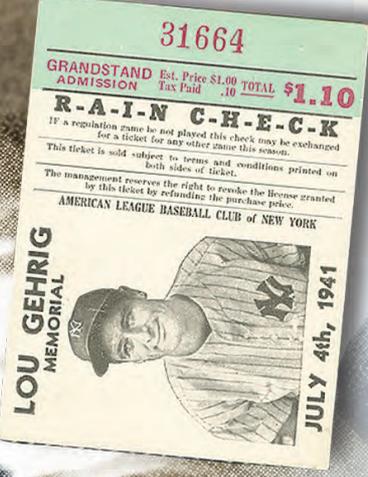
“When the New York Giants, a team you would give your right arm to beat, and vice versa, sends you a gift — that’s something. When everybody down to the groundskeepers and those boys in white coats remember you with trophies — that’s something.

When you have a wonderful mother-in-law who takes sides with you in squabbles with her own daughter — that’s something. When you have a father and a mother who work all their lives so you can have an education and build your body — it’s a blessing. When you have a wife who has been a tower of strength and



shown more courage than you dreamed existed — that's the finest I know.

"So I close in saying that I might have been given a bad break, but I've got an awful lot to live for. Thank you."



# Two legendary New York institutions. One team.

**Montefiore Einstein**  
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



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## The National Hymn

**K**atharine Lee Bates, a 33-year-old English literature teacher at Wellesley College, was on “a merry expedition up Pike’s Peak” in Colorado in 1893 when she looked out “over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies.”

In an instant, she said, “the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind.” Those lines became “America the Beautiful” — a song that will feature today in countless parades and band concerts.

Everyone knows the first verse, with its evocation of “amber waves of grain” and “purple mountain majesties.” But how many have read — let alone sung — the entire song?

The full hymn is more than just a poetic appreciation of the country’s wonders of nature. It evokes the vitality of an ever-widening America, celebrates its storied past and — most important — evokes its limitless future potential.

It hails the pioneering forebears who beat “a thoroughfare of freedom . . . across the wilderness,” and pays tribute to the nation’s defenders in war, the brave “heroes . . . who more than self their country loved.”

More: It looks forward to a day when America’s “alabaster cities” finally will “gleam undimmed by human tears.”

The song has always stirred deep emotion. “I can’t read the lines without swallowing hard,” one early reader wrote Bates. Voices quavered as crowds solemnly sang the song outside the White House in 1941 after Pearl Harbor and, six decades later, at Ground Zero after 9/11.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II recited its fervent prayer — “America, America, God shed his grace on thee” — as he descended from his plane on his first trip to this country.

The many memorable recordings and renditions — from Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Willie Nelson, Mariah Carey and others — all share a moving simplicity, without the vocal acrobatics that too often accompany “The Star-spangled Banner.”

The music plays a large part in the song’s mystique. Samuel Howe, a church organist, composed it during an 1882 ferry ride from Coney Island to his home in Newark — for an entirely different hymn. It was attached to Bates’ words in 1904 after his death.

Today’s certainly the day to fully appreciate this magnificent tribute to America and all that it represents. Have a glorious Fourth!

### America the Beautiful

By Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929)

Music by Samuel Augustus Howe (1847-1903)

**O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet  
Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare of freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife.  
Who more than self their country loved  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine!**

**O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!**

## Biden’s Cognitive Decline: Too Obvious To Ignore

**THE ISSUE:** Mainstream media outlets beginning to report on President Biden’s cognitive decline.



President Biden

•Nobody, including the left-leaning media, “suddenly realized” that President Biden has suffered a disastrous decline in mental acuity (“Media suddenly realizes Biden is added,” July 3).

They knew it all along and helped lead the charge to cover it up until it became too obvious.

Just imagine if Biden were a Republican: They would’ve hounded him out of office. But being a Democrat, Biden got a free pass and unwavering support, until it all collapsed like a house of cards. **Max Wisotsky**  
Highland Park, NJ

•The New York Times has brazenly bragged through the years with its catchy masthead that it runs “all the news that’s fit to print.”

However, in recent years, there has been at least one major exception to that journalistic slogan: That would, of course, be Biden’s greatly diminished mental capacities.

Finally, the Times decided that this was news fit to print after everyone became keenly aware of Biden’s increasingly de-

clining faculties. Hardly a brave or prescient move.

**Frank Brady**, Yonkers

•The media have been in bed with the Democratic Party, covering up for this babbling fool of a president for more than four years.

Now, after the American people have seen with their own eyes how the debate went, there is no way for them to cover for this disaster of a presidency. **Dan Gardner**  
Staten Island

•Many journalists made

the recent discovery that President Biden has signs of cognitive decline.

Beginning during the 2020 election, it was obvious to those with eyes that then-candidate Biden was being hidden and protected.

Yet the media refused to investigate this or any further sheltering of Biden for four more years. The media must be held accountable for this malpractice.

**Ralph LaMagna**  
Oceanside

•I think most people paying attention knew Biden was not well.

The Democrats and progressives in the media hid it from the American people. Winning an election is more important to them than the well-being of America.

Let’s get Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg on this. I’m sure he could come up with a few felony charges for true election interference.

**Bruce Collins**  
Middletown, NJ

## FDNY Commissioner’s Texts

**THE ISSUE:** FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh’s scathing criticism over the FDNY’s male workforce.

•As a former FDNY member, I know for a fact that most current members have little-to-no respect for FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh (“Commish’s ‘fire’ ire,” June 30).

It’s not because she’s a woman, but because she’s a leftist who doesn’t like the fact that the department is still mostly male.

Her bending over backward in an attempt to kiss up to a fellow leftist and Trump-hater, Attorney General Letitia James, is no surprise.

Liberals used to advo-

cate for free speech. However, now they only advocate for speech they agree with. Those who booed James had every right to, and this nothing-story should have been put to bed a while ago.

**Frank Perry**  
Morristown, NJ

•Laura Kavanagh has absolutely no right to be sitting in the seat of commissioner of the FDNY.

She has the appoint-

ment by way of our fool of a mayor. She has never been a firefighter; all she ever was a marathon runner, stair climber and political hack for former President Barack Obama.

It is a disgrace that this incompetent fool is commissioner over all the men who put their lives on the line every single day — of which she knows practically nothing about.

**Walter Faust**  
Yonkers

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# The Prez Is Setting Ukraine Up To Fail

**T**HE fighting in Ukraine, like all wars, will eventually come to an end. The question is, on whose terms — and whether the peace that emerges can be sustained.

In his fixation on helping Ukraine in small doses for “as long as it takes,” President Biden is setting Kyiv up for failure, and NATO for a major strategic setback.

Ahead of the alliance’s summit in Washington, which seems unlikely to bring major breakthroughs for Ukraine, the US administration is delivering a new package of military aid from the \$60 billion supplemental bill passed in April.

The tranche of aid, worth \$2.3 billion, includes “air defense interceptors, anti-tank weapons and other critical munitions from US inventories,” according to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

Air defenses to protect Ukraine’s cities and infrastructure from Russian bombing and a resupply of munitions constitute the bare minimum that allow Ukraine to hold current lines and protect its population from Russian depredations.

Already, the country has lost almost half of its energy-generating capacity, or some 9.2 gigawatts, because of Russian attacks — and electricity imports and generators can cover only a fraction of the losses, setting Ukraine up for a very harsh winter.

The attacks come with relentless pressure on the frontlines — especially in Donbas, where Russian advances are small and slow, but consistent.

In response, Ukrainians must be

**DALIBOR ROHAC**

tiated from a position of strength, beginning with Ukrainian successes on the battlefield. There have been more than a few — most notably in the Black Sea.

With ATACMS, JASAMS, or Taurus systems, and with F-16s or Mirage 2000s, Ukrainians could throw much more sand into Russia’s war machine, if we allow them.

Whether and how he decides to terminate his re-election bid, Biden would be well-advised to think about his legacy — and also about setting up his successor, whoever it might be, for success.

Making a big push for arming Ukraine now and allowing it to put points on the board in the coming months is key.

No less important is an understanding, both by Democrats and

**Whether and how he decides to terminate his re-election bid, Biden would be well-advised to think about his legacy.**

allowed to leverage their own strengths. Patriot and similar missile systems help secure Ukraine’s skies, but the Biden administration must also allow Ukraine to inflict asymmetrical pain on Russia.

The Ukrainians are capable of denying Russia’s military presence in Crimea, degrading its logistical and supply lines, and striking against its airports and other assets using long-range, high-precision systems — many of which Washington continues to keep away from Ukraine’s reach.

With the meltdown of Joe Biden’s campaign and with Donald Trump’s pledge to end the war before he even arrives in office, the window for decisive action by the administration is narrowing.

All people of good will want the war to end as soon as possible, but rewarding Putin by seeking to trade Ukrainian territory for peace is both wrong — as it incentivizes similar behavior by Iran, China, or North Korea — and short-sighted.

A deal that can stick, thereby securing Ukraine’s future as an independent nation and advancing US interests in Europe, must be nego-

Republicans, that any future deal will have to be underwritten by the United States and our allies.

Vladimir Putin cannot be trusted, but he can be deterred through mechanisms of collective security, such as NATO.

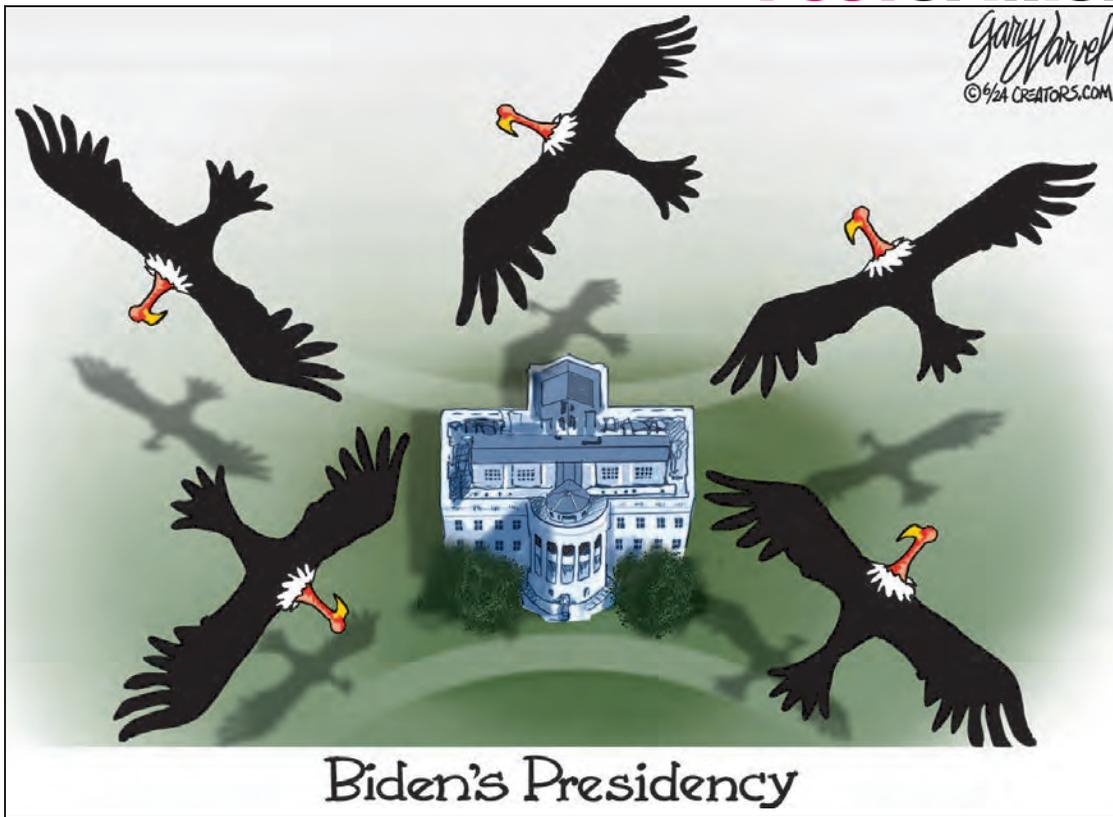
Next week’s summit, therefore, cannot be a quiet celebration of the alliance’s 75th anniversary, but must provide a decisive dose of assistance to the Ukrainians and lay the groundwork for Ukraine’s accession as soon as the fighting stops.

A failure to do so not only threatens Ukraine’s survival, but leaves some of our best and most reliable allies, such as Poland and the Baltic states, with no choice but to look for alternatives.

Think unchecked nuclear proliferation, formation of unstable regional alliances, or accommodation of adversaries like China.

For those who care about American power in the world and our ability to shape Europe’s future, the time to act is now.

Dalibor Rohac is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC.



# Founding Example

## On the 4th, rescue patriotism

**DOUGLAS MacKINNON**

**E**VEN on the 4th of July, appreciation for the genius of America’s Founding Fathers has dwindled in the face of leftist efforts to minimize them, as traditional patriotic values wane with each passing year.

Only 38% of Americans say patriotism is “very important” to them, per a 2023 Wall Street Journal/NORC survey — down from 70% in 1998.

By many metrics, traditional American values have become dramatically less important to our fellow citizens than before. We see it in the loss of national pride and the denigration of our history, in fading attendance at houses of worship, in a drop in military recruitment, and even in the decline of our national birth rate.

Even among those whose patriotic feelings remain high, their outward expression has been subdued or even silenced by self-censorship. In the age of cancel culture, many Americans simply don’t want to risk friendships, relationships or even careers by saying something others might deem “offensive” — not even something that would have been considered innocuously patriotic just a few years ago.

Surely if our Founding Fathers could advise us today, they would

encourage us to swallow our silence and speak out boldly in defense of traditional values.

One man, most especially.

I know the Founding Fathers well after delving into their lives to write a history of the signers of the Declaration of Independence — a book that warned of the left’s attempts to cancel Independence Day, the flag and the patriots who founded America.

One of the lesser-known Founders leaps out as an inspiration for our time, a patriot Thomas Jefferson named as “truly the Man of the Revolution”: Samuel Adams.

Adams, one of the first heroes of the American Revolution, chose not to be silenced by the “cancel culture” of his time — one that was dramatically more dangerous and tyrannical than the one we may battle today.

While the soldiers of the Continental Army and various militias led the American colonists to victory against the British Crown, the voice of Samuel Adams sparked the revolution in the first place.

Adams, who served in the Continental Congress, was one of the earliest champions of “individual liberties” — rights he believed were given by God and had to be defended at all costs.

In the years leading up to 1776, Adams was a one-man public relations machine against the tyranny of the Crown.

Not only was he relentless in writing and publishing letters in every newspaper in and around Boston, he cleverly created various pseudonyms to sign his nonstop barrage, giving the impression to the colonists — and the British military — that the opposition movement was growing and fervent.

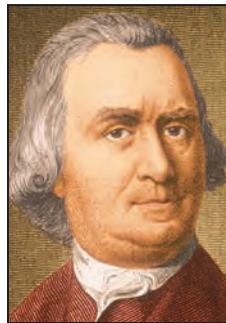
Later, he formed the Sons of Liberty, an underground group of colonists whose covert anti-British actions were a permanent thorn in the side of the Crown.

Therein lies the lesson: One man or one woman can make a difference. One man or one woman can reverse the tide of tyranny and oppression. One man or one woman can spread the word.

This Independence Day, choose to be silenced no more if your instinct is to speak out in defense of patriotism, our military, faith and community. Peacefully and lawfully defend your values and the future rights of your children.

Follow the example of Samuel Adams: Find your voice and inspire others to follow.

Douglas MacKinnon is the author of “The 56: Liberty lessons from those who risked all to sign the Declaration of Independence.”



**Sam Adams: His passion sparked the American Revolution.**

# Sally Brompton

# Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT [SALLYBROMPTON.COM](http://SALLYBROMPTON.COM)

## CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Whatever inspires you the most in this world is what you must focus on now. Friends and colleagues may say you should instead be doing this or doing that but they are wrong. You will only be happy if you follow your heart.

## LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

You must take responsibility not only for your own actions but for the actions of other people too. The approaching new moon will help everyone see what needs to be done but only you have the inner and outer strength to make it happen.

## VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

If you are clear in your own mind about the direction you want to be travelling then nothing and no one can stop you. The more friends and family members say they have doubts the more determined you must be to go the distance.

## LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You may be worried that by following a certain course of action you will leave yourself open to your rivals getting on your case if it turns out wrong but that is a risk you must take. The time for doubts is long since past.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

It would be nice if family members and friends could show some support for your latest endeavor but if they cannot then it's no big deal. You have the drive and the determination to get it done with them or without them cheering you on.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

If you keep your eyes and ears open there is every chance you will come across a major

money-making opportunity over the next few days. Tomorrow's new moon will provide the circumstances that could enable you to get seriously rich.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

The world is starting to look like a much brighter and friendlier place than it has been of late and the upcoming new moon will call forth events that remind you of all the good things in life you have to be thankful for.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

No matter how passionate you may be about an idea of some kind you have to accept that not everyone sees it the same way as you - and some of them never will. You don't need their support, just as they don't need yours.

## PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

The approaching new moon in your fellow Water sign of Cancer makes this one of the best times of the year for creative activities. Whatever you find yourself getting passionate about just go for it. The universe is on your side.

## ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Make sure that everyone you have dealings with knows what you expect of them over the next 48 hours. If you leave things vague they will take that as an invitation to do less than their fair share - and then blame it on you.

## TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Good news is coming your way and will arrive at your door either today, tomorrow

or over the weekend. Communications of all kinds will go well for you now, so take the opportunity to let others know what you think and how you feel.

## GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

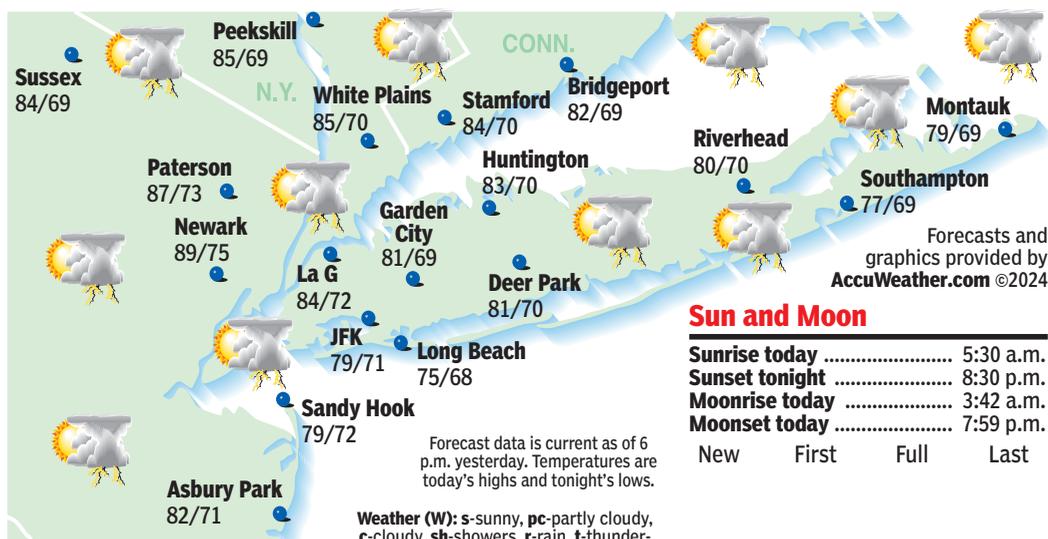
There is a clear path to move up in the world but you seem reluctant to take it. Why is that? If it's because you feel you don't have the experience to make a success of a higher position you are wrong - you will grow into the job.

**BIRTHDAY THURSDAY**  
Your sense of adventure will be such over the coming year that if even a single day goes by without you doing something new you will be disappointed. The world is very much your playground now, so by all means go wild.

## Post Weather Report

AccuWeather Visit [AccuWeather.com](http://AccuWeather.com)

Thursday	Friday
<b>Today:</b> Humid; a t-storm around this afternoon. High 82 to 88.	<b>Tomorrow:</b> Humid; a t-storm around in the afternoon. High 84 to 90.
<b>Tonight:</b> Humid; a t-storm around early. Low 70 to 76.	<b>Tomorrow night:</b> A shower and t-storm; humid. Low 70 to 76.
Saturday	Sunday
A heavy t-storm. High 82 to 88.	Partly sunny. High 86 to 92.
<b>Evening</b> A heavy t-storm. Low 70 to 76.	<b>Evening</b> Mainly clear. Low 71 to 77.



### Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	5:30 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:30 p.m.
Moonrise today	3:42 a.m.
Moonset today	7:59 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
July 5				
July 13				
July 21				
July 27				

### Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

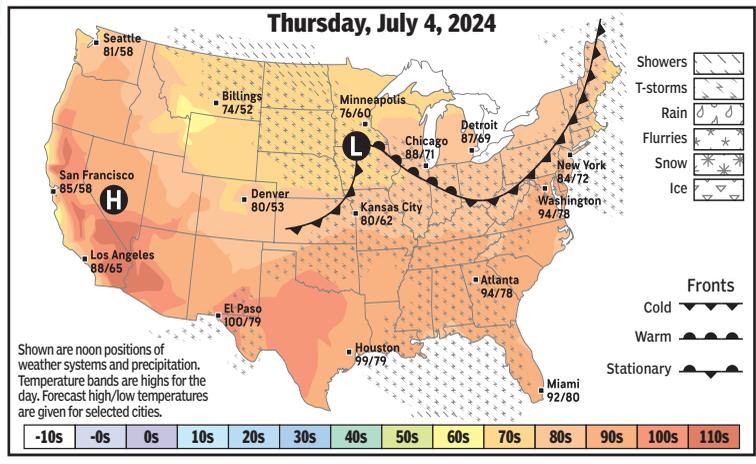
**Temperature**  
High: 83, Low: 69, Mean: 76

**Departure from Normal**  
Yesterday: -1 degrees

**Precipitation**  
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 0.00", Year: 25.68", Normal year to date: 24.21"

**Cooling Degree days yesterday** .....11  
**Total for the month (normal)** .....30 (35)  
**Total since Jan. 1 (normal)** .....450 (343)  
**Last year to date** .....294  
**Heat Index** (at noon yest.) ..... 80  
**UV index** (for Thu.) ..... 7 (High)  
**Humidity** (at noon) ..... 35%

**AIR QUALITY**  
**Pollen:** Moderate Predominant pollen: Grasses  
**AQI rating:** (for Thu.) .....Moderate



New York Tides	TODAY	TOMORROW
High Tide for	1st 7:09a	2nd 7:59a
Coney Island	7:28p	8:14p
Fire Island	7:42p	7:55a
Hempstead	11:19a	11:28p
Huntington	11:03a	11:52a
Jones Inlet	6:53a	7:12p
Montauk Point	8:12a	8:43p
Port Washington	11:28a	11:36p
Sandy Hook	7:13a	7:32p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	82/67/t	94/72/t
Danbury	85/70/t	85/71/t
Glens Falls	83/62/t	89/67/t
Gr Barrington	83/67/t	90/70/t
Kingston	84/68/t	90/72/t
Liberty	80/65/t	85/68/t
Monticello	81/65/t	87/67/t
Newburgh	85/70/t	90/72/t
Poughkeepsie	85/70/t	88/71/t
Saratoga Springs	85/64/t	92/71/t
Stroudsburg	86/70/t	87/70/t
Torrington	84/67/t	86/69/t
Syracuse	89/67/pc	92/73/t

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	85/69/c	88/72/pc
Baghdad	111/89/pc	118/90/pc
Beijing	89/73/t	94/75/r
Berlin	67/50/sh	72/55/c
Cairo	102/80/s	97/78/s
Dublin	63/49/pc	61/48/sh
Geneva	75/53/pc	81/60/pc
Hong Kong	92/82/t	93/83/t
Jerusalem	93/71/s	90/67/s
Kabul	98/69/s	95/65/s
London	68/55/pc	67/56/sh
Madrid	96/70/pc	98/70/pc
Mexico City	77/56/c	78/55/sh
Montreal	86/65/pc	85/68/pc
Moscow	92/66/s	90/59/pc
Paris	72/52/c	76/62/c
Rio de Janeiro	82/70/s	82/71/s
Rome	81/65/s	84/63/s
Sydney	63/54/r	62/53/r
Tokyo	97/79/t	97/80/c

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Stox ease up

US stock indexes edged higher Wednesday in a holiday-shortened trading session, as data pointing to a softening economy raised hopes for a September start to the Federal Reserve's policy easing.

### GE fined

General Motors will pay a \$145.8 million penalty after a government investigation found excess emissions from approximately 5.9 million GM vehicles, sources said.

### Sales slow

Ford on Wednesday joined Detroit peer General Motors GM.N in reporting slower sales growth for the second quarter as the US auto industry reels from a cyberattack that impaired a key software system used across dealerships.

### M'soft fined

Microsoft Corp. has agreed to pay \$14 million to settle a California agency's claims that the company illegally penalized workers who took medical or family-care leave, the agency said Wednesday.

### W'mart suit

Walmart must face a lawsuit claiming it often charges higher prices at the register than it posts on store shelves, costing consumers hundreds of millions of dollars a year, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.

Source: Reuters

# RICH RELATIONS

## Luxe rivals Saks, Neiman agree to hook up

By LISA FICKENSCHER

Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus have agreed to a blockbuster merger that combines the nation's two dominant luxury retailers, and Amazon is joining the deal, too, sources told The Post.

Saks owner HBC, whose talks to merge with its longtime archrival were first reported by The Post last summer, will acquire Neiman Marcus for \$2.65 billion, according to sources close to the situation, a once unthinkable tie-up that comes as both chains grapple with a multi-year slowdown in luxury spending.

In a surprise, Seattle-based Amazon, the e-tailing giant headed by billionaire Jeff Bezos, will become not only a minority investor in the new company — to be called Saks Global — but also will provide “technology and logistics services” to the merged operation, the sources said.

The deal will give Amazon unprecedented access to the luxury market, a tricky segment in which the company has tried and mostly failed to get a credible foothold for more than a decade.

Business software giant Salesforce, headed by Silicon Valley tycoon Marc Benioff, also will become an investor in Saks Global, the sources said.

Just two months prior to Saks' acquisition by HBC in 2013, private-equity firm Ares Management and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board bought Neiman Marcus for \$6 billion.

As for Amazon, the company already provides cloud services and call center technology to Saks, while Salesforce provides technology services.

The deal will be financed by a \$1.15

### High-end result

**Saks Fifth Avenue parent HBC, led by Richard Baker (right), is taking over its longtime luxury-goods competitor, Neiman Marcus for \$2.65 billion. And Jeff Bezos' (below) Amazon will be a minority owner in — and tech provider to — the new Saks Global.**



*Saks Fifth Avenue*

*Neiman Marcus*



billion term loan from Apollo Global Management and a \$2 billion revolving asset based loan from several banks, including Bank of America and Morgan Stanley, along with investments from Amazon and Salesforce, sources close to the deal said.

### Meet the new boss

HBC, headed by Richard Baker, also raised over \$2 billion of equity, setting up the combined businesses with less overall debt and significant liquidity for further investments in inventory and for growth. Saks Global will be helmed by Saks chief executive Marc Metrick. It's

not clear what, if any, role Neiman Marcus CEO Geoffroy van Raemdonck will have.

Sources have said that the Belgian-born executive stands to get a hefty payout should the merger go through, a sore point with some rank and file who have accused van Raemdonck of feathering his nest at their expense.

Van Raemdonck led Neiman through a 2020 bankruptcy during his six-year tenure, which was marked by nearly 100% turnover at the top levels of the company.

Dallas-based Neiman Marcus got new private-equity owners, including Pacific Investment Manage-

ment, Davidson Kempner Capital Management and Sixth Street Partners, after emerging from Chapter 11 in 2020.

The deal is pending regulatory approval, which could take up to nine months, experts say, and carries risks, given the Federal Trade Commission's lawsuit in April to block Tapestry's \$8.5 billion acquisition of Capri Holdings, which owns the Michael Kors brand.

Together, Neiman and Saks operate some 175 stores including Neiman Marcus' crown jewel, Bergdorf Goodman, in Manhattan. The companies own more than one-third of the stores' real estate, sources said.

# 'Close' call at Bob's: chainwide padlocks

Bob's Stores, the beloved chain that has clothed families across the Northeast for almost 70 years, will permanently shut its doors at all its locations — the nation's latest retail casualty.

The iconic retail giant

was “unable to secure the finances needed to maintain operations,” president Dave Barton announced Monday.

Bob's will liquidate its inventory at its 21 locations throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, New

Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island, offering discounts of 30% to 70% leading up to the closure July 14.

“We regret that our financial position necessitated the liquidation of Bob's Stores,” Barton said.

“Bob's has been a stalwart of our local communities for nearly 70 years, and we know our customers remember us as having been there for major moments in their lives.”

The store, which has 13 locations in the New York

tri-state area, specializes in “footwear, workwear, teamwear and everyday clothing” for families.

The location in Centereach, LI, celebrated its grand opening just this past December.

Alec Gearty

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# Igers kick in \$50M for gals team

Disney CEO Robert Iger and wife Willow Bay are reportedly nearing a deal to buy a controlling stake in the Los Angeles professional women's soccer team for \$50 million, a sum that would instantly make it the most valuable women's sports club in the world.

The power couple (right) would take control in Angel City FC from Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, according to Puck News. The team's pre-cash valuation was around \$250 million.

Two people close to the negotiations

told the Los Angeles Times on Monday that the deal is expected to be completed within a short period of time.

A source close to the matter reached by The Post confirmed a deal is imminent.

The Post has sought comment from Angel City FC, Iger and Bay.

Iger and Bay, the dean of the Annenberg School of Journalism at the University of Southern California, beat out competing bids from investor Marc Lasry and Manchester United owner Avie Glazer, according to Semafor.

Angel City FC board members and shareholders were reportedly eager to have a woman included in the ownership group.

The couple pledged that as owners they would "accelerate the growth of this uniquely positioned team and its league" and "ignite higher expectations" for the club while "advanc[ing] equity for women athletes and women-owned businesses," according to a pitch deck obtained by Semafor.

Ariel Zilber



Getty Images for The Met Museum/Vogue

# A punch in the Eye

## Axed CBS anchor: Fired 'cause I'm white!

By ALEXANDRA STEIGRAD

An Emmy Award-winning CBS anchor claimed the Tiffany Network's blind pursuit for diversity hires led to him being canned because he is an aging, white, heterosexual male, according to his blockbuster lawsuit.

Jeff Vaughn, 58, who spent eight years at KCAL, a CBS-owned Los Angeles station, alleged he was replaced by a younger, minority news anchor in 2022 in the \$5 million discrimination lawsuit against CBS and parent company Paramount Global, which was filed in a California federal court Monday.

The complaint pointed to a CBS goal to ensure that half of all writers be non-white by 2023 and an initiative requiring half of all cast members on their reality shows be minorities.

"CBS decided that there

### Color of 'bias'

Jeff Vaughn, formerly a news anchor for CBS-owned KCAL in Los Angeles, is suing the company for \$5 million, claiming CBS News CEO Wendy McMahon's (inset) drive to diversify staff led to his dismissal.



Getty Images

were too many white males at CBS, and it acted accordingly. It needed to solve its 'white problem' by firing successful white males," the complaint alleged.

The alleged discrimina-

tion came at a time when the company was pushing to amp up diversity hiring, the suit said.

CBS, under George Cheeks, who now holds the role of co-CEO of Para-

mount and CBS, had set a series of diversity goals, including staffing all writers' rooms on the network's prime-time series with 40% BIPOC [black, indigenous or people of color] in the

2021-22 season.

Vaughn claims that the effort was "kicked into high gear" when CBS News and Stations President Wendy McMahon was hired in 2021.

"McMahon was publicly recognized for her work 'to make the station group more diverse, on both sides of the camera and in leadership positions,'" the suit said.

To that end, McMahon, who now holds the title of CBS News CEO, replaced Vaughn with Chauncy Glover, 37, an African-American anchor out of ABC's Houston bureau, the suit alleged.

"The truth is, CBS News, at the direction of McMahon, implemented an illegal hiring, promotion, or retention policy based on age, race, sexual orientation and sex," according to the complaint.

asteigrad@nypost.com

## Jump in jobless claims

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits increased last week.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 238,000 for the week ended June 29, the Labor Department said Wednesday. The report was released a day early because of the Independence Day holiday Thursday.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 235,000 claims in the latest week.

Claims have moved to the upper end of their 194,000-243,000 range of this year, in part because of a rise in layoffs as higher interest rates dampen demand as well as difficulties adjusting the data for seasonal fluctuations during holidays.

Volatility could persist after the July 4 holiday. Auto manufacturers typically idle assembly plants for retooling in the summer, but the timing is uncertain.

The labor market is steadily cooling, with the government reporting Tuesday that there were 1.22 job openings for every unemployed person in May. The vacancy-to-unemployment ratio is close to its average of 1.19 in 2019.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Tuesday that the economy was back on a "disinflationary path," but policymakers needed more data before cutting rates.

Reuters

## Zuck: 175M on Threads Poison pill in airline war

Meta Platforms' newest social media offering, Threads, has more than 175 million monthly active users, CEO Mark Zuckerberg revealed Wednesday, two days ahead of its first anniversary.

"What a year," said Zuckerberg in a Threads post.

In February, he had put the Threads MAU figure at more than 150 million.

The monthly user count gives only a limited picture of the popu-

larity of Threads, which has not revealed key metrics like the daily active user count and average time spent per user.

A challenger to Elon Musk's X, Threads hit app stores on July 5 last year and garnered 100 million users in less than a week.

The initial surge was partly because of an easy way for users of the popular platform Instagram to set up Threads profiles.

Reuters

Southwest Airlines adopted a so-called "poison pill" to deter Elliott Investment Management from raising its stake in the carrier after the activist investor called for leadership changes following disappointing financial results.

The announcement comes days after Southwest CEO Bob Jordan said he would not resign in response to pressure from Elliott, which revealed a stake worth nearly \$2 billion in the

carrier last month.

"Southwest Airlines has made a good faith effort to engage constructively with Elliott Investment Management since its initial investment and remains open to any ideas for lasting value creation," Southwest Executive Chair Gary Kelly said Wednesday.

Kelly said Southwest's board adopted the poison pill as Elliott could "significantly increase" its current stake of 11%.

Reuters

# Bezos' \$5B A'zon stox sale

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is planning to sell almost \$5 billion worth of shares in the e-commerce giant, a regulatory filing showed, after its stock hit a record high.

The proposed sale of 25 million shares was disclosed in a notice filed after market hours Tuesday. The stock had hit an all-time high of \$200.43 during the session. It has jumped more than 30% so far this year, outpacing the 4% gain in the Dow Jones Industrial Average index.

Bezos previously unloaded \$8.5 billion worth of shares over a nine-day period in February, the first time he sold company stock since 2021.

After the latest sale plan, Bezos, Amazon's executive chair and the second-richest person in the world with a \$214 billion net worth, according to Forbes, would still hold 8.8% of Amazon, or 912 million shares.

Bezos is not the only one selling off a load of shares while his company's stock soars.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang sold \$169 million worth of shares in June, the most he has sold in a single month.

Huang made the 1.3-million share sale in the same month the company briefly surpassed Microsoft as the world's most valuable company.

Taylor Herzlich

## Paramount deal soon

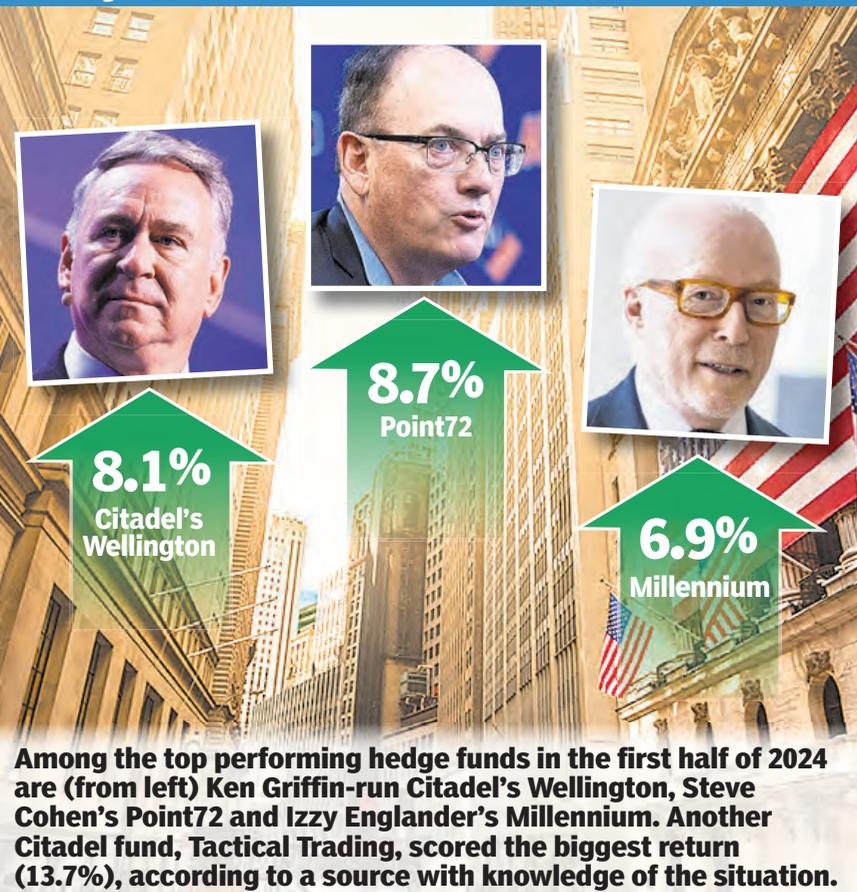
Skydance Media's deal to acquire theater operator National Amusements, with its controlling interest in Paramount Global, could be finalized by Monday, sources familiar with the deal process said.

Parties are expected to work throughout the weekend to finish the deal before Tuesday's start of Allen & Co.'s annual gathering of technology and media titans in Sun Valley, Idaho, which Paramount Global Chair Shari Redstone typically attends.

Shares of Paramount jumped nearly 7% on Wednesday, closing at \$11.46.

Reuters

### Heavy hitters



Among the top performing hedge funds in the first half of 2024 are (from left) Ken Griffin-run Citadel's Wellington, Steve Cohen's Point72 and Izzy Englander's Millennium. Another Citadel fund, Tactical Trading, scored the biggest return (13.7%), according to a source with knowledge of the situation.

istock

# Hedgies raise batting avg.

By ARIEL ZILBER

Mets owner Steve Cohen's Point72, Ken Griffin's Citadel and Izzy Englander's Millennium were among the top-performing hedge funds in the first six months of the year as big investment firms on Wall Street rebounded from a sluggish 2023.

Point72, the Connecticut-based hedge fund run by Cohen, was up 8.7% year-to-date, according to figures obtained by Business Insider.

The flagship funds run by Citadel and Millennium both posted robust gains in the first half of the year.

Citadel saw its flagship Wellington fund rise 8.1% by the end of June while Millennium's flagship fund rose 6.9%.

Citadel's Tactical Trading Fund scored the biggest returns of them all so far

this year, clocking in at 13.7%, a source close to the situation told The Post.

Nevertheless, the top-tier hedge funds' performance continued to lag that of the S&P 500 index, which rose more than 16% during the same time period.

Last year, Cohen, Griffin and Englander also failed to keep pace with the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq.

### Average 5.2% gain

Overall, hedge funds reported an average gain of 5.2% by the end of May, according to Hedge Fund Research.

Schonfeld, the Long Island-based former family office which was converted into a hedge fund run by math whiz Ryan Tolkin, 37, managed some of the biggest returns on investment in the first half of the year.

Schonfeld's Fundamental

Equity fund went up 11% in the first half of the year and 2.6% in June while its flagship fund, Strategic Partners, ended the first half of the year up 10.3%.

Schonfeld's results come after a more lukewarm performance in 2023, when its flagship fund finished up 3%.

After reducing its headcount last year, the fund has added 40 investment professionals in 2024, including eight portfolio managers, according to the source.

The MSCI's 47-country world stock index rose roughly 11% since January, while the S&P 500 soared 15% in the first half of the year, mainly booted by megacap stocks such as Nvidia.

Schonfeld, Point72, Citadel and Millennium all declined to comment.

With Wires

# 'OPEN' TO THE FUTURE

## News Corp.-AI hailed

By THOMAS BARRABI

News Corp.'s landmark partnership with OpenAI ensures The Post's parent company will be at the "cutting edge of the digital age" during a time of major upheaval across the news industry, CEO Robert Thomson said in a memo to staffers.

The publishing giant's deal with OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman, announced in May, allows the ChatGPT creator to use current and archived content produced by News Corp.-owned outlets — which also include The Wall Street Journal, The Sun and The Times of London — to answer user questions and train its AI models.

The deal marks an "important moment to recalibrate the world of search" long dominated by Google — and puts News Corp. in position to benefit from the rise of AI rather than "dancing with digital demise," according to Thomson.

"Provenance deserves prominence. Having a role in fashioning the future is definitely preferable to being a prisoner of the past," Thomson said. "[Generative] AI is a threat, a real threat to journalism. Its ability to mimic and manipulate is endless. We are at a particularly early stage of its evolution, and it is an exponentially expedited evolution."

Plunging traffic and ad revenue has led to mass layoffs and newsroom closures, with outlets like The Messenger, Vice and BuzzFeed among those affected.

While Big Tech's increased influence is partly to blame, Thomson noted that the media industry has been slow to recognize the impact of AI and the "irrepressible ascendancy of the mobile phone as a content canvas."

"You will no doubt recall the narrative that traditional media was somehow fundamentally, fatally flawed, and that the cyber savvy digital natives would somehow emerge triumphant and dance on our digital graves," Thomson said. "Well, Deadspin is now just Dead, BuzzFeed is, well, bustfeed. The Messenger launched with much fanfare and failed within months, Vice has imploded, and Pitchfork was skewered."

### Access to tech

The OpenAI deal will allow News Corp. to demonstrate the importance its original work while also granting access to technology that could benefit everything from news distribution to customer service, marketing and advertising, Thomson said.

The five-year deal could be worth more than \$250 million in cash and credits for the use of OpenAI technology, the Journal reported in May.

Google and other AI giants have faced intense criticism for using copyrighted content to train their AI chatbots without proper credit or permission, and then using those same chatbots to compete with publishers for traffic.

Big Tech's control over the flow of information has "undermined the viability of creation and actually led to the proliferation of tawdry, third-rate click bait," Thomson said.

In crafting the deal with OpenAI, News Corp.'s legal team sought assurances "around providing guardrails to protect our content, to provide clear source links and to prevent the pillage that is already commonplace," Thomson added.

# The Post Puzzle Page

## SCRABBLE

G<sub>2</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> S<sub>1</sub>

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1st Letter Double

RACK 1: O<sub>1</sub> O<sub>1</sub> U<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> D<sub>2</sub> L<sub>1</sub> H<sub>4</sub>

RACK 2: O<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>4</sub> S<sub>1</sub> N<sub>1</sub> T<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> L<sub>1</sub>

RACK 3: E<sub>1</sub> O<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>4</sub> N<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub> L<sub>1</sub> F<sub>4</sub>

RACK 4: O<sub>1</sub> O<sub>1</sub> U<sub>1</sub> W<sub>4</sub> T<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub>

Triple Word Score

PAR SCORE 150-160  
BEST SCORE 224  
FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE G R A M S

SOLUTION

RACK 1 = 67  
RACK 2 = 11  
RACK 3 = 63  
RACK 4 = 83  
TOTAL 224

PAR SCORE 150-160

**Directions:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

### Bridge

South dealer  
E-W vulnerable

**NORTH**  
♠ 8 6 3 2  
♥ A Q 6  
♦ A K J 2  
♣ A 9

**WEST**  
♠ K Q J 9 4  
♥ J 5 4 2  
♦ 8  
♣ Q 5 3

**EAST**  
♠ 5  
♥ 10 8 7  
♦ Q 10 9 7 3  
♣ J 8 7 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 10 7  
♥ K 9 3  
♦ 6 5 4  
♣ K 10 6 2

South Pass 1 NT  
West Pass  
North 3 NT  
East All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ K  
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"Refrigerators should have glass doors," Cy the Cynic told me. "Then I wouldn't have to stand there planning my next move with the door open, letting the cold air out."

Cy isn't great at planning as declarer: He tends to adopt the first line of play he sees. At 3NT, Cy ducked West's king of spades and won the next spade as East threw a heart. Cy next led a diamond to dummy's jack.

East took the queen and led a heart. The Cynic won in dummy and took the A-K of diamonds, hoping for a 3-3 break, but when West showed out, Cy won only eight tricks.

Cy's 3NT was as cold as an icebox. At Trick Three Cy gets an extra chance by leading a club to dummy's nine. East wins and leads a heart, and Cy wins in dummy, cashes the ace of clubs, returns a heart to his hand and takes the king of clubs. When West's queen falls, Cy has three clubs, three hearts, two diamonds and a spade.

If the clubs didn't lie well, Cy could finesse in diamonds and get home with good luck there, or he might well end-play East in diamonds.

### Word Force

## IMAGINED

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 12** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

**ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST**  
Yesterday's word:  
**CORRECTION**

conic	croon	nicer	ricer	tonic
corer	inert	niter	rotor	trice
crier	inter	nitro	tenor	trier
crone	intro	retro	toner	

### Wonderword

**How to play:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**FIREWORKS BLAST OFF ON JULY 4!** Solution: 8 letters

Y T N G I E R E V O S T A R S  
A R C R I G H T S A M O H T G  
D S O E E E I P E L P P A Y O  
E R R T L U Q F O U R T H L D  
C E N B C E N U A C E K L U T  
N G O I Y I B I A S P C L J O  
E R N K L J V R O L R U I E H  
D U T Y I K O A A N I L R F N  
N B H A M P N H C T D T G F E  
E R E D A S I A N A E O Y E E  
P A C I F S B Z R A T P Y R T  
E V O L T A R I Z F T I D S R  
D E B O F E D E R A L I O O I  
N R R H R E V O L U T I O N H  
I Y R O L G O V E R N M E N T

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Apple Pie, Bravery, Burgers, Celebrate, Corn on the Cob, Equality, Family, Federal, Fourth, Franklin, Glory, Government, Grill, History, Holiday, Hot Dogs, Independence Day, Jefferson, John, July, Nation, Pizza, Potluck, Pride, Reunion, Revolution, Ribs, Rights, Sovereignty, Stars, States, Thirteen, Thomas, Vacation, Victory

Yesterday's Answer: **Smithfield**

The NEW Treasury 58 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

## POST SUDOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at [www.SudokuWiki.org](http://www.SudokuWiki.org)

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**PLAY MORE GAMES!**

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 38

### Very Easy #6,599

		9		3				6
			1	7	2	5		
7	8					4		2
9	6			1				
	2	4	7		9	6	5	
				5			1	9
3	1					9		6
		6	8	9	1			
	9			4			8	

### Difficult #6,389

		9		2				
			8	5	9			4
		7	6					3
2								8 1
	5							6
1	3							9
	9				2	8		
3			5	8	7			
				9		5		

### Quick Crossword

**Across**

- 1 Cronies
- 5 Bird in the National Audubon Society logo
- 10 Above, in Augsburg
- 14 With 43-Down, "M\*A\*S\*H" star
- 15 Writer Mary who specializes in popular science
- 16 Party with glow sticks
- 17 Hatha to Ashtanga?
- 19 Change the locks?
- 20 "I said ENOUGH!"
- 21 Insta, X, TikTok, etc., informally
- 23 Runs smoothly
- 25 Wilson of Heart
- 26 TMZ subject
- 29 Stuffed teddies that look like a green Jedi master?
- 34 Anxious feeling
- 36 Headlight part
- 37 Toe bean locale
- 38 Play things
- 39 In flight
- 41 Mother of Clytemnestra
- 42 Storefront sign abbr.
- 43 Java spot
- 44 "Yeah, there is a resemblance there"
- 46 Tex-Mex snack that improves the performance of an Alpine singer?
- 49 Anaheim team, to fans
- 50 Condition often treated with ERP
- 51 Flower at the center of a financial bubble in the 1630s
- 53 Marshy habitat
- 57 Artificial surface sports injury
- 61 "lol 2 funny"
- 62 Dice toss style named after a "Hamlet" jester?
- 64 Dollar alternative
- 65 Moved stealthily
- 66 \_\_\_ Spunkmeyer cookies
- 67 Chaotic situation
- 68 Mournful verse
- 69 Unit that might be edited or spliced

**Down**

- 1 Is worth it
- 2 Tons
- 3 Italian lake
- 4 Stir-fry ingredient
- 5 Overthrow, e.g.
- 6 Fall apart, as plans

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17				18						19			
20						21		22					
			23			24		25					
26	27	28			29		30	31			32	33	
34				35		36					37		
38					39	40				41			
42				43				44	45				
46			47					48		49			
				50				51		52			
53	54				55	56		57			58	59	60
61					62		63						
64						65				66			
67						68				69			

7 Operated

8 Heart charts, for short

9 James of "The White Lotus"

10 Like Boo Boo and Smokey

11 Slapstick prop

12 Not good at all

13 Gym count

18 Gives the cold shoulder to

22 Semi areas

24 One-person project

26 Like an easy job

28 Dict. entry

30 "Bring it on!"

32 Sirius business

33 Whacks

35 It's right there on the map!

40 NCAA champion swimmer Thomas

41 Jump ahead of

43 See 14-Across

45 Dodge

47 Mercedes luxury line

48 Trip

52 Like the number eight, in China

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**  
(C) 2024 Tribune Media Services  
53 "Kapow!"  
54 Icicle holder  
55 Big Board abbr.  
56 Woody of "Toy Story," for one  
58 Reusable shopping bag  
59 Lena of "The Reader"  
60 "Anyone \_\_\_?"  
63 Regret

## EMPLOYMENT

### TECH CAREERS

Enterprise Architect, Kyndryl Inc., New York, NY and various unanticipated Client Sites throughout the US (Up to 50% of telecommuting permitted): Develop and maintain relationship with key client stakeholders. Maintain new relationships with C-level clients. Lead evolutionary enterprise architecture initiatives and teams. Participate and lead new engagements & proposals. Lead product innovation and strategic IT transformation efforts for large business applications running on AIX and zOS servers. Execute business process analysis and re-engineering of Sales and Marketing processes, enterprise applications on Datastage ETLs, IBM MQ. Design and elaborate Streaming Analytics solutions and real time AI based reporting for Sales and Marketing. Identify development phases, assign complexity and development effort, guide architects & developers through deployment. Provide cloud strategy, architecture, roadmap guidance, mentoring and leadership for enterprise cloud migration programs including cloud-based application portfolio assessment and business cases. Provide system specification to DevOps teams and provide business, data, application performance analysis and code instrumentation support. Promote archetypes, architectural thinking, and work with business and IT to reduce business technology chasm. Utilize IT Architecture skills, Software Architecture skills, Streaming Analytics and AI, Requirements Management, Business Analysis. Required: Bachelor's degree or equivalent (employer will accept an Associate's degree plus (2) years of IT experience in lieu of a Bachelor's degree) and two (2) years of experience as an IT Architect or related. Two (2) years of experience must include utilizing IT Architecture skills, Software Architecture skills, Streaming Analytics and AI, Requirements Management, Business Analysis. \$166,000.00 - \$220,000.00 per year. Please send resumes to kyndrylrecruitad@kyndryl.com. Applicants must reference AV7a in the subject line.

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- **AUTOMOTIVE**
- **LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICE**

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## NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF SALE OF COOPERATIVE APARTMENT SECURITY BY VIRTUE OF A DEFAULT

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** By virtue of a default under a Security Agreement dated December 02, 2010, executed by Stanley B. Aronowitz ("Debtor"), as assigned to CitiMortgage, Inc. ("Secured Party"), said Secured Party, by Auctioneer(s): John William O'Keefe, Terence Gee or Stephan G. Marcelin, will conduct a public sale of the security consisting of 399 shares of stock of 244 Madison Realty Corp. ("Corporation"), and all right, title, and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease between said Corporation and Debtor for the apartment known as **244 Madison Avenue, Apt 10A, New York, NY 10016**, together with all fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said apartment on **July 17, 2024 at 1:00 PM**, at the Portico of the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre St, New York, NY 10007, in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the unpaid principal amount of \$314,100.94, plus interest, late fees, attorney fees, maintenance in arrears, and all other advanced charges.

The apartment is sold "AS IS" AND POSSESSION TO BE OBTAINED BY THE PURCHASER. Said sale is subject to residency requirements of the Corporation, payment of all sums due, if any, to 244 Madison Realty Corp., and the consent if necessary, of said Corporation; any existing tenancy; payment of all expenses and fees of the secured party with respect thereto; terms of sale and auctioneer's fees; flip-tax; State, City, and County transfer tax. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid. Terms: an official bank or certified check made payable to **Stern & Eisenberg, P.C.**, as attorneys for the Secured Party for ten (10%) percent of price bid. No cash accepted. Balance shall be due within thirty (30) days.

**ATTORNEYS FOR SECURED PARTY:**  
**Stern & Eisenberg, P.C.**  
20 Commerce Drive, Suite 230,  
Cranford, NJ 07016, and  
1131 Route 55, Suite 1,  
Lagrangeville, NY 12540  
P. 516-630-0288  
F. 732-726-8719  
Dated: June 17, 2024

Firm File No. NY20230000088-1

#### LLC Formation Notices: All NYS Counties

Place your notice in NYP classifieds.  
Email [Karen@kingscho.com](mailto:Karen@kingscho.com)

**NEW YORK POST**

## NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CO-OP APARTMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, STEPHAN G. MARCELIN, Auctioneer, JOHN WILLIAM O'KEEFE, Auctioneer, RICHARD J. CANTWELL, Auctioneer or TERENCE GEE, Auctioneer, will sell at public auction with reserve to the highest bidder, at the Portico of the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre St, New York, NY 10007, at 1:30 PM on July 17, 2024, security consisting of 75 shares of 854 WEST 181 CORP., in the name of MERVIN EUGENE HORST, and all right, title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease for Cooperative, located in a building known as and by the street address 854 WEST 181ST STREET, APT 5G, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10033, between ESTATE OF MERVIN EUGENE HORST as Lessee, and 854 WEST 181 CORP., as Lessor.

This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees and advances through July 17, 2024, and to enforce the rights of US Bank Trust National Association, Not in Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated May 30, 2007, executed by and between MERVIN EUGENE HORST and BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: June 17, 2024

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP  
Attorneys for SECURED PARTY  
120 White Plains Road  
Suite 215  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
(914) 345-3020

## NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Barefoot Bobcat Services LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/15/2024. Office location: Livingston County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Samantha Barefoot: 375 Park Pl Caledonia, NY 14423. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

#### NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Thesaurusaurus Records LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/02/2024. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Manowitz and Company, LLP: 300 Garden City Plaza Ste 326, Garden City, NY 11530. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice is hereby given that a license, serial number 6016891 for Beer, Wine & Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 139 Chrystie Street New York NY 10002 for on-premises consumption:  
**CK 139 Inc.**

## PET PLACE

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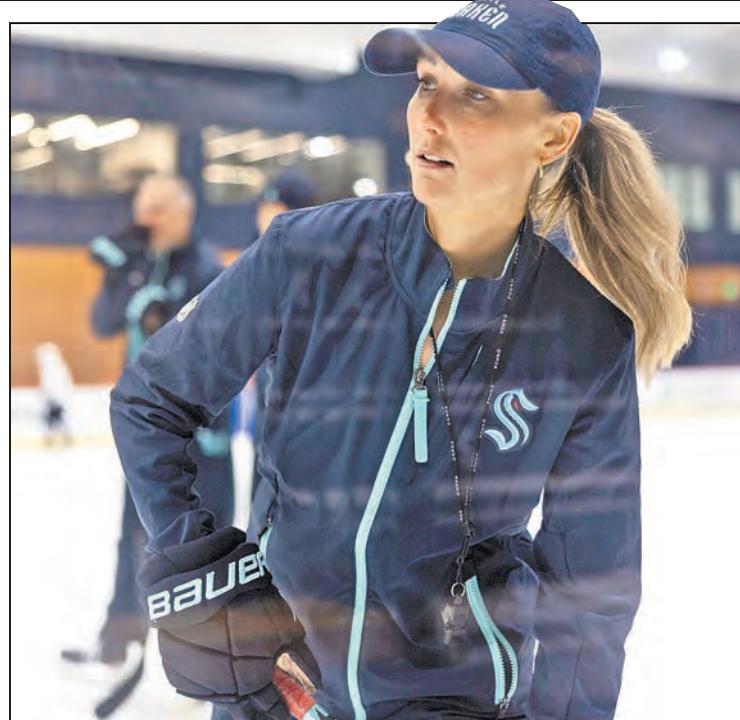
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**KRAKEN THE LINEUP:** Jessica Campbell runs a drill during the Seattle Kraken's rookie development camp Tuesday. AP

# Campbell breaks NHL's glass ceiling

By TIM BOOTH

SEATTLE — Jessica Campbell will become the first woman to work on the bench of an NHL franchise after the Kraken hired her as an assistant coach Wednesday.

Campbell has spent the past two seasons working as an assistant coach for Seattle's AHL affiliate in Coachella Valley alongside head coach Dan Bylsma, who was hired in late May to take over the head job with the Kraken. There were immediate questions about whether Campbell would be making the move with Bylsma to Seattle.

She will, breaking through another barrier for women in hockey. Emily Engel-Natzke was hired by the Capitals in 2022 as video coach, making her the first woman with a full-time assistant role in the league.

Now, there will be a woman on the bench.

Campbell was a decorated player in the NCAA, for the Canadian Women's Hockey League and Canada's women's national team, with whom she won silver at the 2015 world championship.

With the exception of a short stint with the Malmö Redhawks in Sweden in 2019-20, she hung up her skates in 2017 and had become highly regarded as a skating coach when she joined Coachella Valley in 2022. She had also worked as an assistant coach for Germany during the 2022 IIHF World Championships.

The 32-year-old native of Rocanville, Saskatchewan, was the first full-time female assistant coach in the AHL when she was hired by Coachella Valley before the start of its first season. She also had a one-game stint as an assistant on the Kraken bench for a preseason game against Calgary last September.

But having a woman on the bench as a coach has been an area where the NHL has lagged behind the NBA, MLB and NFL.

The NHL Coaches Association launched a female coaches development program in 2021 with the goal of growing the pool of available candidates.

Even before joining the league in 2021, the Kraken were at the forefront of giving women opportunities in hockey operations. Current assistant general manager Alexandra Mandrycky was one of the first front-office hires made by the franchise in 2018 as director of hockey administration and was part of the group that led the search for a general manager that ended with the hiring of Ron Francis.

Namita Nandakumar was hired in 2020 and is a senior analyst in hockey operations.

Seattle also hired Hall of Famer Cammi Granato as a pro scout in 2019, a role she held before joining the Canucks as an assistant GM in 2022.

Along with Campbell, the Kraken filled another spot on the coaching staff by hiring Bob Woods as one of Bylsma's assistants. —AP



BETMGM

# The *POST* Line



## MLB

Favorite	Thursday Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	\$145-175	Reds
Mets	-105-115	NATIONALS
Cardinals	\$104-122	PIRATES
Astros	-102-118	BLUE JAYS
TWINS	\$160-192	Tigers
GUARDIANS	\$188-225	White Sox
Red Sox	\$148-176	MARLINS
Phillies	\$108-126	CUBS
RANGERS	\$106-124	Padres
ATHLETICS	\$102-120	Angels
Orioles	\$130-154	MARINERS
BRAVES	-105-115	Giants
Brewers	\$126-148	ROCKIES
Rays	\$114-134	ROYALS
DODGERS	\$124-146	Diamondbacks

## WNBA

Favorite	Thursday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LYNX	2 (153.5)	Sun
ACES	16.5 (169.5)	Mystics

## Home Teams In CAPS

## Men's Olympic Basketball

Favorite	Sunday-July 28 PTS (O/U)	Underdog
+United States	12.5 (178.5)	Serbia

Favorite	Wednesday- July 31 PTS (O/U)	Underdog
+United States	33.5 (175.5)	South Sudan
+Lille, France		

## CFL

Favorite	Thursday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Argonauts	4.5 (48.5)	ROUGHRIDERS

Favorite	Friday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
BLUE BOMBERS	2.5 (46.5)	Redblacks

Favorite	Saturday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ALOUETTES	9.5 (50.5)	Stampeders

Favorite	Sunday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Lions	5.5 (53.5)	TIGER-CATS

## SPORTS SHORTS

### SOCCKER: NYCFC defeat Montreal

Rookie **Alonso Martínez** scored a goal in each half and **Matt Freese** had three saves to lead New York City FC to a 2-0 victory over CF Montreal on Wednesday night at Citi Field.

Martínez scored in the 9th minute and netted his eighth goal of the campaign — in the 56th minute — with assists from **Hannes Wolf** and **James Sands**. Wolf has six assists on the season, while Sands' helper was his second of the season and fourth of his career.

NYCFC (11-8-2) hit the road for its next four matches after improving to 8-3-1 at home this season. They travel to play Austin FC on Saturday.

● In Charlotte, teenager **Benjamin Cremaschi** scored late in the second half to rally Inter Miami to a 2-1 victory over Charlotte FC, extending a club-record unbeaten run on the road to eight.

### HOOPS: Burks signs with Heat

**Alec Burks** is taking his talents to South Beach.

The 32-year-old guard, who went from being out of the Knicks' rotation in the first round of the playoffs to becoming a huge weapon off the bench against the Pacers, is signing a one-year contract with the Heat in NBA free agency, ESPN reported Wednesday.

Burks averaged 17.8 points over the final five games against the Pacers in the series loss while shooting 51 percent from the field and 42.9 percent from 3-point range.

● The Lakers are adding longtime head coaches **Nate McMillan** and **Scott**

**Brooks** as top assistants for new head coach **JJ Redick** for the upcoming season.

● **Giannis Antetokounmpo** had 32 points in 19 minutes as Greece rolled to a 109-82 win over the Dominican Republic on Wednesday in Group B of the Piraeus, Greece, Olympic qualifying tournament.

### MLB: Surging Astros win again

**Jose Altuve** hit a tiebreaking single in a four-run seventh inning, **Yordan Alvarez** homered for the third straight game and the Astros beat the Blue Jays 9-2 in Toronto for their 11th win in 13 games. The Astros handed the struggling Blue Jays their 11th loss in 15.

● In Seattle, **Ryan O'Hearn** had a key two-out, two-run double and later added a solo home run, and the Orioles beat the Mariners 4-1.

● In Atlanta, **Chris Sale** allowed just three hits in six innings to earn his 11th win, leading the Braves to a 3-1 victory over the Giants. Sale (11-3) tied Kansas City's **Seth Lugo** for the most wins in the majors.

● In Pittsburgh, **Bryan Reynolds** and **Oneil Cruz** hit run-scoring singles on consecutive pitches in the 10th inning, and the Pirates rallied to beat the Cardinals 5-4.

● In Kansas City, Mo., **Michael Wacha** allowed one run on two hits over six innings and the Royals won 4-2 over the Rays.

### NHL: Red Wings ink Tarasenko

The raiding of the Stanley Cup champion Panthers continued with the Red Wings signing winger **Vladimir Tarasenko** to a two-year contract worth \$9.5 million. Tarasenko, 32, is the sixth player from Florida's Game 7 lineup to leave in free agency.

## ACTION TOP PLAY

# Montas won't K many Yanks

By SEAN TREPPEDI  
actionnetwork.com

Alas, a healthy Frankie Montas takes the mound at Yankee Stadium — just not in pinstripes. His brief tenure as a Yankee was squandered because shoulder issues caused him to miss all of 2023 with the exception of one appearance.

Nearly two years after being acquired by the Yankees in a trade-deadline deal, Montas is working back up to his potential with steadily rising velocity, but his numbers aren't quite there yet.

The Reds righty's fastball is down 1 mph in contrast to when he was last healthy in 2022. His primary pitch has

always been his four-seam fastball, which saw its greatest success that season, when its putaway rate was over 3 percent higher than it is currently.

Montas eclipsed 10 Ks per nine innings in both 2020 and the shortened 2021 before regressing to the 7.2 he owns in 15 starts this season.

As the most frugal swinging lineup in MLB, the Yankees should be primed to put balls in play more times than not on Thursday afternoon against his below-average whiff rate.

**THE PLAY:** Frankie Montas Under 4.5 strikeouts.

Sean Treppedi handicaps baseball for Action Network.

## Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2024			'24 vs OPP		CAREER		LAST 3 STARTS	
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Mets	Quintana (L)		3-5	4.57	9-7	1-0	1.29	2-1	2-0	16.1	16.5
Nationals	Irvin (R)	(11:05am)	6-6	3.03	7-10	0-1	11.57	0-1	1-1	17.0	3.18
Reds	Montas (R)		3-6	4.23	4-11	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-1	17.0	3.18
Yankees	Stroman (R)	(1:05pm)	—	—	—	—	—	4-2	1-1	16.0	5.62
Red Sox	Pivetta (R)		4-5	4.52	7-5	0-1	5.40	2-5	1-1	15.1	6.46
Marlins	Tyler (R)	(1:10pm)	0-1	3.38	1-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	8.2	3.12
Padres	King (R)		6-5	3.61	10-7	0-1	4.50	0-2	1-1	16.2	3.78
Rangers	Scherzer (R)	(2:35pm)	1-1	1.74	1-1	1-1	4.50	7-4	2-1	15.2	1.15
Astros	Valdez (L)		6-5	3.80	7-7	0-0	0.00	1-3	1-1	17.2	4.58
Blue Jays	Bassitt (R)	(1:07pm)	7-6	3.24	7-10	0-1	8.31	5-4	1-0	19.0	1.89
White Sox	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardians	Lively (R)	(1:10pm)	7-4	3.03	8-5	0-1	4.76	0-1	1-2	15.2	4.60
Tigers	Maeda (R)		2-4	5.76	5-9	0-0	1.50	1-0	0-2	15.0	5.40
Twins	Ober (R)	(1:10pm)	7-4	4.30	8-8	1-0	0.75	2-2	2-0	21.1	1.69
Angels	Contreras (R)		1-0	3.82	1-0	0-0	1.80	0-1	0-1	7.1	15.95
Athletics	Sears (L)	(4:07pm)	4-7	5.00	6-11	0-0	0.00	1-2	0-2	11.2	11.57
Orioles	Burnes (R)		9-3	2.28	12-5	1-0	0.00	2-0	2-1	20.0	3.15
Mariners	Miller (R)	(4:10pm)	6-7	3.88	9-8	0-1	6.75	0-1	1-2	14.2	6.14
Rays	Eflin (R)		4-5	3.92	9-6	1-1	8.00	2-1	1-1	18.2	3.38
Royals	Marsh (R)	(8:10pm)	6-5	4.19	10-5	0-1	3.00	0-1	1-2	14.2	6.75
Cardinals	Pallante (R)		4-3	4.50	4-2	0-0	4.50	0-1	2-1	14.0	3.86
Pirates	Pérez (L)	(12:35pm)	1-4	5.28	4-8	0-0	0.00	1-0	0-1	11.1	7.15
Phillies	Sánchez (L)		6-3	2.41	9-7	0-0	0.00	0-0	3-0	23.0	0.39
Cubs	Taillon (R)	(2:20pm)	4-4	3.03	6-7	0-2	13.50	1-4	1-2	19.0	2.84
Giants	Webb (R)		6-6	3.12	8-10	0-1	7.15	2-1	0-1	20.0	3.60
Braves	Morton (R)	(7:20pm)	5-4	3.89	7-8	0-0	0.00	4-6	2-1	18.0	3.00
Brewers	Myers (R)		5-2	3.26	6-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	17.1	2.08
Rockies	Quantrill (R)	(8:10pm)	6-6	3.78	8-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	16.1	6.06
D'Backs	Gallen (R)		6-4	2.83	6-6	0-0	0.00	1-4	1-1	13.0	2.08
Dodgers	Knack (R)	(9:10pm)	1-1	2.08	2-4	0-0	1.80	0-0	0-0	14.1	1.26

\* REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

## STITCHES

# Mets for Star-Spangled Stitches

Remember kiddies, parental supervision is required when handling fireworks.

No Joey Chestnut at this year's Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest and no Team USA at the 2024 Copa America soccer tournament. Chestnut was barred after signing with Impossible Foods and the Copa Bananas came up empty. On the bright side, our two great patriots are ironing out the details for their debate rematch. President Biden would prefer the debate begin at 10 a.m. while Donald Trump is hoping for a 2 a.m. start.

Good morning, Washington DC! The

Nats host the Mets at 11 a.m. so this game lands squarely in President Biden's wheelhouse. Jose Quintana is 2-0 in his last three starts, allowing three runs, fanning 21 over 16 1/3 innings. The Nats Jake Irvin throws off back-to-back gems, giving up two runs on just four hits, striking out 15 over 12 innings on the road. Nevertheless, Irvin is 1-5 at home. \$50 on the Mets.

-\$

Texas is toast and so are we. Manny Machado and David Peralta homered and the Padres cherry bombed the Strangers 6-4. Down -1,006 kobayashis.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups		HOME	AWAY				
	TODAY July 4	FRI July 5	SAT July 6	SUN July 7	MON July 8	TUE July 9	WED July 10
	<b>Cincinnati</b> 1:05 YES WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	<b>Bos.</b> 7:05 YES WFAN	<b>Bos.</b> 1:05 YES, FS1 WFAN	<b>Bos.</b> 7:10 ESPN WFAN	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>T.B.</b> 6:50 YES WFAN	<b>T.B.</b> 6:50 Prime Video WFAN
	<b>Washington</b> 11:05 a.m. SNY WCBS 880 AM	<b>Pitts.</b> 6:40 SNY WCBS	<b>Pitts.</b> 4:05 SNY WCBS	<b>Pitts.</b> 1:35 SNY WCBS	<b>Pitts.</b> 12:35 SNY WCBS	<b>Wash.</b> 7:10 SNY WCBS	<b>Wash.</b> 7:10 SNY WCBS
	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Ind.</b> 1:00 CBS	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>NO GAME</b>	<b>Conn.</b> 11 a.m. MY9
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Saturday</b>			
	<b>Philadelphia Union</b> 7:30 Apple TV+		<b>Austin FC</b> 8:30 Apple TV+		<b>Angel City FC</b> 10:00 ION		

## Today's Sports on the Air

<b>MLB</b>	11:05 a.m.	Mets at Nationals	SNY, WCBS (880 AM)
	1 p.m.	Astros at Blue Jays	MLBN
	1:05 p.m.	Reds at Yankees	YES, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
	4 p.m.	Phillies at Cubs (in progress)	MLBN
	5:30 p.m.	Orioles at Mariners (in progress)	MLBN
	7 p.m.	Giants at Braves	MLBN
	10:30 p.m.	Diamondbacks at Dodgers (in progress)	MLBN
<b>WNBA</b>	8 p.m.	Sun at Lynx	Prime Video
	10 p.m.	Mystics at Aces	Prime Video
<b>Soccer</b>	9 p.m.	Copa America Quarterfinal: Ecuador vs. Argentina	Fox
	9 p.m.	USL Championship: FC Tulsa at Colorado Springs	CBSN
<b>Tennis</b>	6 a.m.	Wimbledon, 2nd Round	ESPN
<b>Golf</b>	6:30 a.m.	DP World Tour: The BMW International Open, 1st Round	Golf
	4 p.m.	PGA Tour: The John Deere Classic, 1st Round	Golf
<b>Horse Racing</b>	12:30 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
	4 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
<b>Competitive Eating</b>	Noon	Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest	ESPN2
<b>AFL Football</b>	5:30 a.m. (Fri.)	Essendon at Collingwood	FS2

## SOCCKER

### Odds to win UEFA European Championship

COUNTRY	ODDS	COUNTRY	ODDS
England	+350	Netherlands	+650
Spain	+400	Portugal	+850
France	+450	Switzerland	14/1
Germany	+450	Turkey	33/1

### Odds to reach the final

COUNTRY	ODDS	COUNTRY	ODDS
England	+138	Germany	+250
Netherlands	+200	Portugal	+400
France	+225	Switzerland	+400
Spain	+225	Turkey	+800

### Favorites to finish as top goalscorer

PLAYER	ODDS	PLAYER	ODDS
Cody Gakpo	+300	Kylian Mbappe	10/1
Harry Kane	+500	Kai Havertz	10/1
Jamal Musiala	+500	Jude Bellingham	12/1

## ODDS & ENDS

### NATHAN'S HOT DOG EATING CONTEST

Thursday, Coney Island  
Favorites to win men's championship

EATER	ODDS
Geoffrey Esper	-120
James Webb	+200
Nick Wehry	+550
Patrick Bertoletti	+800
Bartley Weaver IV	20/1
Gideon Oji	25/1
Max Stanford	80/1
Darren Thomas	80/1
Derek Hendrickson	80/1
Darron Beeden	80/1

### Women's championship

EATER	ODDS
Miki Sudo	-1600
Mayoi Ebihara	+750
Michelle Lesco	25/1
Katie Prettyman	50/1
Larell Marie Mele	50/1

SUDO VS. FIELD	ODDS
Miki Sudo	-1600
Field	+700

### Over/Unders

RESULT	ODDS
Geoffrey Esper Over 49.5	-115
Geoffrey Esper Under 49.5	-115
James Webb Over 47.5	-115
James Webb Under 47.5	-115
Miki Sudo Over 40.5	-115
Miki Sudo Under 40.5	-115

### COPA AMERICA Odds to win championship

COUNTRY	ODDS
Argentina	+125
Brazil	+333
Colombia	+550
Uruguay	+550
Venezuela	25/1
Ecuador	33/1
Canada	40/1
Panama	100/1

### Top goalscorer

PLAYER	ODDS
Lautaro Martinez	-165
Darwin Nunez	+350
Vinicius Junior	+500
Lionel Messi	12/1
Julian Alvarez	12/1
Luis Diaz	20/1
Facundo Pellistri	25/1

### Thursday, quarterfinal Argentina vs. Ecuador

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Argentina	-225
Draw	+300
Ecuador	+725

TO ADVANCE	ODDS
Argentina	-450
Ecuador	+290

## ACTION BET SMART



# Hungry Aussie will top his total in Coney Island

**EAT 'EM UP!** Betting opportunities abound at Thursday's Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest thanks to the absence of perennial champ Joey Chestnut. Australian James Webb (above, right) is Matt Mitchell's best bet to go over his total of 47.5 'dogs.

By MATT MITCHELL  
actionnetwork.com

The Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest has quickly become an Independence Day gambling tradition. Split into men's and women's competitions, the world's top eaters assemble at the corner of Surf and Stillwell avenues in Coney Island to devour their way to \$40,000 in prize money.

As an American passionate about gambling and hot dogs, this event has always been mandatory viewing for me. I'm a proud former driver of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile, and I've long embraced the cultural impact of the hot dog and the brave men and women who eat them for fame and fortune.

Competitively and otherwise, I've likely consumed more hot dogs than most lay eyes upon in a lifetime. And thus, my Fourth of July is never complete until I've entered into the patriotic lather only this singularly American televised spectacle can provoke.

But since 2007, the men's competition has become the gastronomical equivalent of Secretariat's Belmont runaway in 1973.

Such is the dominance of Joey "Jaws" Chestnut. The legendary American eater has left Coney Island victorious (almost) every year for a period spanning four presidential administrations. Chestnut has won 16 of the last 17 competitions.

To remember the world before his Nathan's Famous domination is to remember the Knicks under head coach Isiah Thomas. Ancient history.

But remarkably, this year's contest will be without Chestnut. After a sponsorship dispute last month, the event's sanctioning body, Major League Eating, ruled him ineligible. But just as an American eating god closes a door, he opens a window of gambling opportunity.

The betting market now suggests a two-man race in the men's competition. The -120 favorite at BetMGM is Massachusetts vocational high school teacher Geoffrey Esper. Despite being a three-time runner-up to Chestnut in this event, the 49-year-old Esper's odds have shifted this week based on the popularity of his foremost opponent.

At age 35, Australian James Webb is 14 years younger than Esper and the undisputed hot dog-eating champion of the Southern Hemisphere. Webb is listed at +200 at BetMGM, suggesting he's a very live 'dog indeed.

I certainly believe the more experienced Esper has the advantage in this contest, but rather than handicap the winner, I'm turning my attention to total 'dogs eaten instead.

Esper's last three trips to Coney Island saw him consume 50, 47.5 and 49 hot dogs, respectively. His current total sits at 49.5.

Last year, Webb improved his 2022 performance by more than a half-dozen 'dogs, ascending to 47.5. Such a marked improvement isn't unusual for an eater who is less experienced but highly motivated, which explains his current total climbing from 46 to 47.5.

Despite hot and humid conditions on Thursday and juiced-up totals for both men, I know there's but one way I can bet this event. Deep in the mustard-stained reaches of my soul I'm reminded of the ancient proverb which tells us that "iron sharpens iron," and the same is true of competitive appetites.

To ring in our great nation's 248th birthday, we'll all bear witness to the first genuinely competitive men's contest in ages, with \$10,000 and national TV glory on the line. Under those heady conditions, I like the younger Webb to continue his upward trajectory at this event and eclipse his total.

Matt Mitchell analyzes competitive eating for Action Network.

# AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Baltimore	55	31	.640	—	—	6-4	W-2	29-17	26-14
<b>Yankees</b>	54	34	.614	2	+6	3-7	L-2	24-16	30-18
Boston	46	39	.541	8½	½	6-3	W-3	20-23	26-16
Tampa Bay	43	43	.500	12	4	6-4	L-1	23-25	20-18
Toronto	39	47	.453	16	8	4-5	L-1	21-23	18-24

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	53	31	.631	—	—	5-5	L-1	27-10	26-21
Minnesota	48	38	.558	6	+1	7-3	L-1	24-17	24-21
Kansas City	48	40	.545	7	—	6-4	W-1	31-17	17-23
Detroit	39	47	.453	15	8	4-6	W-1	19-22	20-25
Chicago	25	63	.284	30	23	4-6	W-1	16-29	9-34

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	47	41	.534	—	—	3-7	L-4	28-16	19-25
Houston	44	42	.512	2	3	8-2	W-1	24-19	20-23
Texas	39	47	.453	7	8	3-7	L-1	21-20	18-27
Los Angeles	36	49	.424	9½	10½	6-4	L-3	18-26	18-23
Oakland	32	56	.364	15	16	3-7	W-2	20-23	12-33

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Wednesday

Cincinnati 3, **Yankees** 2  
 White Sox 8, Cleveland 2  
 Boston 7, Miami 2  
 Houston 9, Toronto 2  
 Detroit 9, Minnesota 2  
 Kansas City 4, Tampa Bay 2  
 San Diego 6, Texas 4  
 Oakland 5, L.A. Angels 0  
 Baltimore 4, Seattle 1  
**Thursday**  
 Cincinnati at **Yankees**, 1:05  
 Houston at Toronto, 1:07  
 Boston at Miami, 1:10  
 White Sox at Cleveland, 1:10

Detroit at Minnesota, 1:10  
 San Diego at Texas, 2:35  
 L.A. Angels at Oakland, 4:07  
 Baltimore at Seattle, 4:10  
 Tampa Bay at Kansas City, 8:10

## Friday

Boston at **Yankees**, 7:05  
 L.A. Angels at Cubs, 2:20  
 White Sox at Miami, 7:10  
 Detroit at Cincinnati, 7:10  
 San Francisco at Cleveland, 7:10  
 Tampa Bay at Texas, 8:05  
 Houston at Minnesota, 8:10  
 Kansas City at Colorado, 8:10  
 Baltimore at Oakland, 9:40  
 Toronto at Seattle, 9:40

# NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	57	29	.663	—	—	7-3	W-3	33-14	24-15
Atlanta	47	37	.560	9	+3½	5-5	W-1	27-15	20-22
<b>Mets</b>	42	42	.500	14	1½	6-4	L-1	21-25	21-17
Washington	40	46	.465	17	4½	3-7	W-1	18-21	22-25
Miami	30	56	.349	27	14½	4-6	L-3	16-29	14-27

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	52	35	.598	—	—	8-2	W-2	27-13	25-22
St. Louis	44	41	.518	7	—	6-4	L-1	24-18	20-23
Pittsburgh	41	44	.482	10	3	5-5	W-1	20-21	21-23
Cincinnati	41	45	.477	10½	3½	5-5	W-2	20-23	21-22
Chicago	39	48	.448	13	6	2-8	L-3	22-20	17-28

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	53	33	.616	—	—	7-3	W-1	26-16	27-17
San Diego	47	43	.522	8	+½	7-3	W-1	25-22	23-21
San Francisco	42	45	.483	11½	3	6-4	L-1	24-19	17-26
Arizona	41	44	.482	11½	3	4-6	L-1	22-21	19-23
Colorado	29	57	.337	24	15½	3-7	L-2	17-26	12-31

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Wednesday

Washington 7, **Mets** 5  
 Cincinnati 3, **Yankees** 2  
 Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 4, 10 inn.  
 Boston 7, Miami 2  
 Atlanta 3, San Francisco 1  
 Philadelphia 5, Cubs 3  
 San Diego 6, Texas 4  
 Milwaukee 3, Colorado 0  
 Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, (n)  
**Thursday**  
**Mets** at Washington, 11:05 a.m.  
 Cincinnati at **Yankees**, 1:05  
 St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 12:35  
 Boston at Miami, 1:10

Philadelphia at Cubs, 2:20  
 San Diego at Texas, 2:35  
 San Francisco at Atlanta, 7:20  
 Milwaukee at Colorado, 8:10  
 Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10

## Friday

**Mets** at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
 L.A. Angels at Cubs, 2:20  
 St. Louis at Washington, 6:45  
 White Sox at Miami, 7:10  
 Detroit at Cincinnati, 7:10  
 San Francisco at Cleveland, 7:10  
 Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:20  
 Kansas City at Colorado, 8:10  
 Arizona at San Diego, 9:40  
 Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

## Reds 3, Yankees 2

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor 2b	3	0	0	0	1	3	.272
De La Cruz ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.251
Candelario 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.240
Steer lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.239
Stephenson c	3	1	1	0	1	1	.238
Marte 3b	4	1	2	0	2	1	.167
Fairchild cf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.233
Espinal dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.190
Dunn rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.077
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Volpe ss	5	0	1	2	0	0	.256
Soto rf	3	0	1	0	2	0	.300
Judge cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.318
Davis 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.083
Rice ph-1b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.270
Torres 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Verdugo lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.241
LeMahieu 3b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.185
Jones dh	3	1	1	0	0	1	.265
Grisham ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.157
Trevino c	1	0	0	1	0	0	.239
Wells ph-c	0	1	0	0	2	0	.213
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	

Cincinnati	020	010	020	—	3	3	0
<b>Yankees</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

**LOB:** Cincinnati 3, New York 9. **2B:** Jones (1), Volpe (15). **HR:** Marte (1), off Rodón; Fairchild (5), off Rodón. **RBIs:** Marte 2 (4), Fairchild (23), Volpe 2 (30). **SB:** De La Cruz (4). **RISP:** Cincinnati 0 for 2; New York 1 for 4. **GIDP:** Volpe, Judge. **DP:** Cincinnati 2 (Marte, India, Candelario; De La Cruz, India, Candelario).

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Abbott, W, 8-6	6.1	3	1	1	4	2	98	3.28
Cruz, H, 17	0.2	1	1	1	2	0	13	3.89
Sims, H, 11	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	17	3.86
Wilson, H, 8	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	3	5.49
Díaz, S, 19-21	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	14	4.45

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodón, L, 9-6	5.1	3	3	3	2	8	95	4.45
Tonkin	1.2	0	0	0	1	3	13	1.16
Kahle	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	15	2.51
Holmes	1.0	0	0	0	3	15	2.57	

T: 2:37. A: 47,646 (47,309).

## Pirates 5, Cardinals 4, 10 inn.

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Winn ss	5	0	3	1	0	0	.293
Burleson rf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.280
Contreras c	3	1	2	2	0	0	.263
Goldschmidt 1b	5	0	2	0	0	2	.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
Fermin ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.143
Gorman 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.189
Siiani cf	3	0	0	0	2	2	.224
Carlson ph-cf	1	1	0	0	0	0	.196
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCutchen dh	4	1	1	0	1	1	.232
Reynolds lf	5	0	2	1	0	0	.273
Cruz ss	5	0	2	1	0	1	.240
Olivares rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Tellez 1b	4	2	3	1	0	0	.243
Gonzales 2b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.281
Hayes 3b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.233
Bart c	3	0	0	1	0	2	.239
Triolo pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.202
Suwinski cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.178
Joe ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.247
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>	

St. Louis	000	010	020	1—	4	8	0
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>020</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2—</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>

One out when winning run scored. **LOB:** St. Louis 8, Pittsburgh 7. **2B:** Crawford (4), McCutchen (8), Cruz (16). **HR:** Contreras (7), off Holderman; Tellez (5), off Gallegos. **RBIs:** Winn (29), Contreras 2 (15), Burleson (41), Hayes (20), Bart (13), Tellez (23), Reynolds (47), Cruz (37). **SB:** Hayes (7), Goldschmidt (5). **SF:** Burleson, Bart. **RISP:** St. Louis 2 for 10; Pittsburgh 2 for 12. **DP:** St. Louis 2 (Winn, Gorman, Goldschmidt; Winn, Goldschmidt); Pittsburgh 1 (Gonzales, Cruz, Tellez).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mikolas	6.0	5	2	2	0	4	87	5.19
Gallegos	0.1	2	1	1	1	1	13	9.75
Liberatore	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	20	3.72
Kittredge, L, 1-4	1.1	2	1	1	2	1	17	3.35
Romero, BS, 0-4	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	5	6.21

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jones	5.0	4	1	1	2	5	78	3.56
Nicolas, H, 3	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	15	4.15
Mlodzinski, H, 2	1.0	0	0	0	2	9	3.55	
Holderman,	1.0	3	2	2	0	1	23	1.76
Chapman, W, 1-3	2.0	1	1	0	1	3	27	3.66

T: 2:48. A: 20,237 (38,753).

## Nationals 7, Mets 5

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
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	

## Wimbledon

**At All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club; London; Purse: €17,942,000; Surface: Grass; Wednesday (seedings in parentheses):**
**Men's Singles - First Round**
Quentin Halys, France, def. **Christopher Eubanks, U.S.**, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.
Karen Khachanov (21), Russia, def. Aslan Karatsev, Russia, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (11), 2-0, ret.
**Men's Singles - Second Round**
**Brandon Nakashima, U.S.**, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.
**Frances Tiafoe (29), U.S.**, def. Borna Coric, Croatia, 7-6 (5), 6-1, 6-3.
Ugo Humbert (16), France, def. Botić Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, 7-6 (9), 6-1, 6-3.
Carlos Alcaraz (3), Spain, def. Aleksandar Vukic, Australia, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2.
Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. Casper Ruud (8), Norway, 6-4, 7-5, 6-7 (1), 6-3.
Daniil Medvedev (5), Russia, def. Alexandre Muller, France, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-4, 7-5.
Alexander Bublik (23), Kazakhstan, def. Arthur Cazaux, France, 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-4.
Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, def. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, def. Tallon Griekspoor (27), Netherlands, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.
**Tommy Paul (12), U.S.**, def. Otto Virtanen, Finland, 4-6, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4.
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Zhang Zhizhen (32), China, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (8).
Jannik Sinner (1), Italy, def. Matteo Berrettini, Italy, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 2-6, 7-6 (4).

**Women's Singles - First Round**
Jule Niemeier, Germany, def. Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, 6-2, 6-1.
Camila Osorio, Colombia, def. **Lauren Davis, U.S.**, 6-3, 6-1.
**Katie Volynets, U.S.**, def. Maria Carle, Argentina, 6-2, 7-5.
Beatriz Haddad Maia (20), Brazil, def. Magdalena Frech, Poland, 7-5, 6-3.
Elina Svitolina (21), Ukraine, def. Magda Linette, Poland, 7-5, 6-7 (9), 6-3.
Barbora Krejčíková (31), Czechia, def. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (1), 7-5.
**Women's Singles - Second Round**
**Coco Gauff (2), U.S.**, def. Alexa Alexia Todoni, Romania, 6-2, 6-1.
Sonay Kartal, Britain, def. Clara Burel, France, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.
Bianca Andreescu, Canada, def. Linda Noskova (26), Czechia, 6-3, 7-6 (5).
Emma Raducanu, Britain, def. Elise Mertens, Belgium, 6-1, 6-2.
**Emma Navarro (19), U.S.**, def. Naomi Osaka, Japan, 6-4, 6-1.
Diana Shnaider, Russia, def. **Sloane Stephens, U.S.**, 6-1, 6-1.
Maria Sakkari (9), Greece, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 7-5, 6-3.
Zhu Lin, China, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (25), Russia, 6-4, 6-3.
Donna Vekić, Croatia, def. Erika Andreeva, Russia, 6-2, 6-3.
Jasmine Paolini (7), Italy, def. Greet Minnen, Belgium, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Lulu Sun, New Zealand, def. Yulia Starodubtseva, Ukraine, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.
Dayana Yastremska (28), Ukraine, def. Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

## MLB All-Star Starters

**American League**
C Adley Rutschman, Orioles
1B Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Blue Jays
2B Jose Altuve, Astros
3B Jose Ramirez, Guardians
SS Gunnar Henderson, Orioles
**OF Aaron Judge, Yankees**
**OF Juan Soto, Yankees**
OF Steven Kwan, Guardians
DH Yordan Alvarez, Astros

**National League**

C William Contreras, Brewers
1B Bryce Harper, Phillies
2B Ketel Marte, Diamondbacks
3B Trea Turner, Phillies
SS Alec Bohm, Phillies
OF Jurickson Profar, Padres
OF Christian Yelich, Brewers
OF Fernando Tatis Jr., Padres
DH Shohei Ohtani, Dodgers

## 2024 European Championship

**Quarterfinals**

**Friday**

Spain vs. Germany, Noon

Portugal vs. France, 3pm

**Saturday**

England vs. Switzerland, Noon

Netherlands vs. Turkey, 3pm

**Semifinals**

**Tuesday, July 9**

TBD, 3pm

**Wednesday, July 10**

TBD, 3pm

**Championship**

**Sunday, July 14**

TBD, 3pm

## 2024 Copa América

**Quarterfinals**

**Thursday**

Argentina vs. Ecuador, 9 p.m.

**Friday**

Venezuela vs. Canada, 9 p.m.

**Saturday**

Colombia vs. Panama, 6 p.m.

Uruguay vs. Brazil, 9 p.m.

**Semifinals**
**Tuesday, July 9**
TBD, 8pm
**Wednesday, July 10**
TBD, 8pm

**Third Place Match**

**Saturday, July 13**

TBD, 8pm

**Championship**
**Sunday, July 14**
TBD, 8pm

### Red Sox 7, Marlins 2

<b>Boston</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>Avg</b>
Duran cf	6	0	1	0	0	2	.285
Refsnyder lf	3	1	0	0	2	0	.315
O'Neill rf	4	2	2	0	1	0	.261
Devers 3b	4	2	2	2	1	1	.291
Wong c	5	0	2	0	0	3	.326
González 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.286
Hamilton ph-2b	1	0	0	0	1	0	.267
Yoshida dh	4	1	2	2	1	1	.266
Smith 1b	4	1	0	1	3	2	.208
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>7</b>	<b>11</b>	

<b>Miami</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>Avg</b>
Chisholm cf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.259
De La Cruz lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.240
Bell dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.236
J.Sánchez rf	4	0	3	1	0	0	.240
Burger 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.222
Edwards ss	4	1	0	0	2	2	.235
Bruján 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>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	

<b>Boston</b>	<b>002</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Miami</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>001</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

**E:** Refsnyder (3). **LOB:** Boston 12, Miami 7. **2B:** Rafaela (14), Edwards (2). **3B:** Rafaela (3), Devers (4). **RBI:** Devers 2 (49), Yoshida 2 (16), Rafaela 3 (47), J.Sánchez (31), Rivera (11). **SB:** Wong (4), González (5). **SF:** Rivera. **RISP:** Boston 5 for 20; Miami 1 for 9. **DP:** Boston 1 (Rafaela, Smith).

<b>Boston</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>ER</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>NP</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Bello, W, 8-5	6.2	7	1	1	1	7	91	5.19
Bernardino, H, 6	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.19
Martin, H, 10	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	20	3.42
Weissert	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	16	3.50

<b>Miami</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>ER</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>NP</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Rogers, L, 1-9	3.0	5	2	2	3	6	84	4.91
Brazoban	3.0	3	0	0	0	3	39	4.50
Faucher	0.1	1	1	1	2	0	18	3.60
Nardi	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	8	5.01
Bender	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4.36
Maldonado	1.0	3	4	4	2	1	28	6.23

**T:** 2:50. **A:** 20,285 (37,446).

## ATP Money Leaders

<b>Through Tuesday</b>		
1 Jannik Sinner	\$5,623,601	
2 Alexander Zverev	\$4,767,167	
3 Carlos Alcaraz	\$4,552,477	
4 Casper Ruud	\$3,164,785	
5 Daniil Medvedev	\$2,898,730	
6 Stefanos Tsitsipas	\$2,777,237	
7 Alex de Minaur	\$2,416,521	
8 Andrey Rublev	\$2,236,943	
9 Hubert Hurkacz	\$2,078,059	
10 Taylor Fritz	\$2,015,052	
11 Grigor Dimitrov	\$1,853,054	
12 Novak Djokovic	\$1,851,615	
13 Tommy Paul	\$1,776,530	
14 Ugo Humbert	\$1,456,325	
15 Felix Auger-Aliassime	\$1,348,325	
16 Nicolas Jarry	\$1,329,424	
17 Karen Khachanov	\$1,276,598	
18 Sebastian Baez	\$1,245,289	
19 Sebastian Korda	\$1,243,611	
20 Holger Rune	\$1,201,137	

## WTA Rankings

**Singles**

**Through Tuesdaysay**

- Iga Swiatek, Poland, 11585
- Coco Gauff, USA, 7943
- Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus, 7841
- Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan, 6026
- Jessica Pegula, USA, 5025
- Marketa Vondrousova, Czechia, 4463
- Jasmine Paolini, Italy, 4228
- Zheng Qinwen, China, 4055
- Maria Sakkari, Greece, 3805
- Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, 3801
- Danielle Collins, USA, 3532
- Daria Kasatkina, Russia, 3283
- Madison Keys, USA, 3068
- Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 3058
- Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, 2830
- Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, 2399
- Emma Navarro, USA, 2323
- Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 2310
- Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 2240
- Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, 2218

### Athletics 5, Angels 0

<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>Avg</b>
Schanuel 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.239
Rengifo 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.315
Guillorme ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.282
Ward lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.239
Calhoun dh	2	0	1	0	1	0	.277
Drury 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.171
Thaiss c	3	0	2	0	0	0	.235
Neto ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Moniak cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.193
Adell rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.189
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	

<b>Oakland</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>Avg</b>
Bleday cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Andujar lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.294
Rooker dh	4	1	3	1	0	0	.269
Langeliers c	4	1	1	0	0	2	.204
Soderstrom 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.220
Gelof 2b	3	1	1	0	1	2	.203
Butler rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.190
B.Harris 3b	4	0	1	2	0	0	.137
Schuemann ss	3	1	1	1	1	2	.228
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	

<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Oakland</b>	<b>020</b>	<b>012</b>	<b>00x</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

**E:** Daniel (1). **LOB:** Los Angeles 3, Oakland 7. **2B:** Andujar (7). **HR:** Schuemann (4), off Daniel; Rooker (17), off Daniel. **RBI:** B.Harris 2 (9), Schuemann (16), Rooker (49). **SB:** Langeliers (4). **CS:** B.Harris (1). **RISP:** Los Angeles 0 for 2; Oakland 1 for 8. **DP:** Oakland 3 (Gelof, Schuemann, Soderstrom; Soderstrom, Schuemann, Gelof; Schuemann, Gelof, Soderstrom).

<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>ER</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>NP</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Daniel, L, 1-1	5.1	7	5	4	1	3	88	2.70
Moore	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	19	4.73
Fulmer	2.0	2	0	0	0	3	28	3.76

<b>Oakland</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>ER</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>NP</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Estes, W, 3-3	9.0	5	0	0	1	4	92	4.39

**T:** 2:14. **A:** 14,837 (46,847).

### Astros 9, Blue Jays 2

<b>Houston</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>Avg</b>
Altuve 2b	6	1	1	1	0	3	.306
Bregman 3b	3	1	0	0	2	1	.245
Alvarez dh	4	3	3	3	1	0	.303
Diaz c	4	0	3	3	1	0	.281
Meyers cf	4	0	0	1	0	1	.247
Peña ss	4	0	1	1	0	0	.277
Dubón lf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.287
McCormick rf	5	2	1	0	0	0	.213
Kessinger 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Singleton ph-1b	2	2	1	0	1	1	.237
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	

<b>Toronto</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>Avg</b>
Springer dh	2	1	0	0	2	0	.213
Horwitz 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.288
Guerrero 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.297
Bichette ss	3	1	1	0	2	2	.229
Varsho cf	4	0	2	1	0	1	.199
Schneider lf	3	0	0	0			

# COUNTRY CLUBBED

By ANDREW BATTIFARANO

## Daughter of American billionaire crushes Osaka

Emma Navarro made it look easy Wednesday afternoon.

The 23-year-old crushed Naomi Osaka in less than an hour in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1, at Centre Court to move on to Wimbledon's third round.

Ranked No. 19 in the world, Navarro has now won her first two matches of the tournament in four total sets.

"That's an atmosphere that could easily overwhelm me, or overwhelm any player, and I spent just a good amount of time preparing myself mentally for the emotions and the nerves I was going to feel. Then once I got out there, I just felt really at home," Navarro told reporters after beating Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam winner.

Now, as Navarro moves into the third round, The Post takes a deeper dive into her background as a burgeoning tennis star.

### What's Emma Navarro's tennis background?

Born in New York City in 2001, Navarro, who has said she got serious about tennis in fourth grade, was a highly touted junior star while attending Ashley Hall in Charleston, S.C.

She burst onto the scene in 2019, winning the junior French Open doubles title with Chloe Beck while finishing as the singles tournament's runner-up.

With all of her success as a junior player, Navarro was the No. 1 recruit in the nation, according to TennisRecruiting.net's rankings, and enrolled at the University of Virginia in the fall of 2020. Navarro continued her wide-ranging success with the Cavaliers, becoming the 2021 NCAA singles champion, just the second ever to do so in program history.

2021 also saw her win her first main-draw WTA singles match when she beat Renata Zarazua at the Volvo Car Open in Charleston in straight sets before she made her way into the U.S. Open as a wild card. She concluded her collegiate career as a sophomore during the 2021-22 season as an ITA singles and doubles All-American.

Navarro has continued to blossom as a pro, winning her first WTA title in

### STRAIGHT AHEAD:

American Emma Navarro rolled over Naomi Osaka on Wednesday in the second round at Wimbledon, 6-4, 6-1.



January when she claimed the Hobart International crown, and she reached the third round of the Australian Open and fourth at the French Open.

### Who is Navarro's family?

She was born to Kelly and Ben Navarro, who is the billionaire founder and chief operating officer of the Sherman Financial Group that runs Credit One.

Ben Navarro, who attempted to buy the Carolina Panthers in 2018, bought the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati in 2022 under Beemok Capital.

He is the son of former college football coach Frank Navarro, who had

tenures at Williams College, Columbia, Wabash College and Princeton.

"As a fan, father and business owner, tennis has brought so much to our family," Ben Navarro told the Charleston Post and Courier in 2019. "Junior tennis has provided a place for our children to learn a work ethic, develop friendship through shared struggle, and learn to handle disappointment, defeat, and sometimes even unfairness."

### What's up next for Navarro?

Navarro will take on Russian-born Diana Shnaider, an N.C. State product, in the third round of Wimbledon on Friday.

abattifarano@nypost.com



**FAMILY AFFAIR:** LeBron James (right) shakes hands with his son Bronny during a Lakers press conference this week. AP

## Son, \$104M keep LeBron with Lakers

By JENNA LEMONCELLI

The King's decision is here.

LeBron James, 39, has agreed to a two-year, \$104 million maximum contract to return to the Lakers, according to ESPN. The new deal reportedly includes a no-trade clause and a player option.

James' agent, Rich Paul of Klutch Sports, and the Lakers are still discussing the possibility of James taking about \$1 million below max to keep the team under the second apron and allow room for roster flexibility, a source told ESPN. James' new deal puts the Lakers slightly above the \$188.9M second apron, per ESPN NBA front-office insider Bobby Marks.

Paul said James, who will turn 40 in December, was "prioritizing a roster improvement" while working out his new contract.

The four-time NBA champ opted out of the final year of his contract with the Lakers — worth \$51.4 million for the 2024-25 season — last week. His decision to re-sign came one week after the Lakers selected his oldest son, Bronny James, with the 55th overall pick in the draft. They will be the first father and son to play in the league at the same time, let alone on the same team.

"My last year will be played with my son," James told The Athletic in 2022. "Wherever Bronny is at, that's where I'll be.

"I would do whatever it

takes to play with my son for one year. It's not about the money at that point."

However, 19-year-old Bronny explained he "never really has a thought" of playing with his dad.

"I'm ... trying to get my name out for myself," Bronny said Tuesday during his introductory press conference with the Lakers. "I just want to come in and get my work in and get better every day. I never really had a thought of me going to play with my dad. That's always there to take part of, but it wasn't a main focus of mine."

Bronny's Lakers contract does not resemble what a 55th pick might expect. He signed a fully guaranteed contract Wednesday, according to ESPN. It is a four-year, \$7.9 million contract worth under \$1.2 million in the first year, escalating each year after. The final year of his contract is a \$2.48 million team option for the 2027-28 season.

For comparison, the 55th pick in 2023 was Isaiah Wong by the Pacers. He signed a two-way contract worth \$559,782, but under new collective bargaining agreement rules, it is only partially guaranteed if the player secures a regular-season roster spot.

LeBron and Bronny were seen talking and doing their handshake while at the Lakers facility. The rookie also suited up in his No. 9 Lakers jersey and posed for photos with his dad and mom, Savannah James.

## Porter facing charges in gambling scheme

By KYLE SCHNITZER

A disgraced NBA player who was banned for life for betting on games now faces criminal charges tied to the federal case against bettors who cashed in on his gambling scheme, according to a new court filing.

Former Raptors forward Jontay Porter appeared on a Brooklyn Federal Court docket Wednesday, in what

ties him for the first time to the alleged betting ring that Porter's tanked gameplay made happen.

The filing indicates that federal prosecutors are seeking felony charges against Porter, 24, in connection with four defendants charged in the betting scheme last month.

Federal prosecutors said that four gamblers — Long Phi Pham, Mahmud Mollah, Timothy McCormack and

Ammar Awawdeh — were tipped off by Porter that he was going to purposely bow out early during two NBA games. They face conspiracy to commit wire fraud and other charges from the two games — a Jan. 26 tilt against the Clippers and a March 20 game against the Kings.

The defendants placed "prop bets" — betting the Over or Under on certain statistical categories such as

points or rebounds, prosecutors said — with one defendant allegedly making \$1.13 million off Porter's performances.

Porter was banned for life on April 4. The league had said Porter had won at least \$21,965 via 13 bets through a friend's online betting account.

Porter's attorney, Jeff Jensen, did not immediately return a request for comment.

Post Time: 1:05 p.m.  
vcangialosi@nypost.com



## Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Emery (8th)  
Lock Record: 9 for 25 (36%)  
Meet Record: 58/252 \$348.70

**1 5 1/2 fur; \$90,000; mdn; 2YO(f)**  
Happy 4th of July! Two-year-old fillies making their career debuts in the holiday opener. Here's how we see them. **HONESTLY** (Brion/Castellano/Goldencents), Repole's **YELLOW** (Pletcher/Irad/Bernardini), **GATA BRAZIL** (Russell/Davis), and **HOME WRECKER** (Rodriguez/Gomez). Honestly the best value.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	As Catch Can,119	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Thomas	3-1
2	Home Wrecker,119	J Gomez	x-x-x	Rodriguez	8-1
3	Gata Brazil,119	D Davis	x-x-x	Russell	4-1
4	Honestly,119	J Castellano	x-x-x	Brion	8-1
5	Italian Soiree,119	F Prat	x-x-x	Terranova	7-2
6	Yellow,119	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Pletcher	2-1
7	Luckforyou,119	O Hrdmz Mreno	8-5-x	Jones	30-1

**2 1 1/8 miles; \$100,000; alw; 3up(f)**  
Two quality starts for **SEDONA**. Won at 1st asking, then a fast closing 2nd in the slop at Churchill. McGaughey gives the Curlin filly another 1/16th to get there. **MIZ SENSE** Distant 3rd racing off the layoff at the Spa last month. 1 for 2 last year. The loss when she lost the rider in the Grade 1 Spinaway. **ICHIBAN** makes 4YO debut for Rice. 3 wins last year, all at Saratoga, including the Fleet Indian, this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Toned Up(L),123	M Franco	4-4-5	Kantarmaci	10-1
2	Sweet Mystery(L),123	T McCarthy	4-2-2	Quick	5-1
3	Miz Sense(L),118	J Gomez	3-9-1	Pletcher	5-2
4	Ichiban(L),123	J Lezcano	10-8-6	Rice	6-1
5	Whistler's Style(L),123	D Davis	3-6-6	Noda	12-1
6	Sedona(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-x	McGaughey III	1-1

**3 1 mile(T); \$150,000; Perfect Stng; 4up(f)**  
We're on the turf for the Perfect Stng. **MOUFFY** receives a little class relief after a pair of 2nds and a neighborhood 8th with graded company, latest at Churchill. Won a stake last summer; not since. Maybe today. **MOVIE MOXY** has made the board 4 times here since February. May finally move forward if we're off turf. **MOONAGE DAYDREAM** is 3 for 4 at the Big A after winning in May. Midpack in a Grade 3 lone try at this longer distance. **MIDNIGHT MILE** exits a clear 2nd in a stake this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Mouffy,122	L Dettori	8-2-2	Thomas	7-5
2	Moonage Daydream,118	J Rosario	1-6-2	Abreu	10-1
3	Damaso,120	J Lezcano	1-1-3	O'Connell	6-1
4	Lady Beth,118	F Prat	2-5-5	C Brown	5-2
5	Midnight Mile(IRE),122	I Ortiz, Jr	2-4-x	C Brown	2-1
6	Movie Moxy,118	J Lezcano	2-2-3	Rice	8-5
7	Bustin Bay,118	K Carmouche	2-1-2	Rice	9-5
8	Royal Poppy,118	D Davis	4-3-1	Handal	4-1

**4 1 mile; \$90,000; mdn; 3up(f)**  
Promising debut for **SILVOLOGY**. Broke last of 9 then rallied to finish a close 3rd. McGaughey gives her another furlong. **PATTY BROWN EYES** raced evenly and debuted 2nd. Morley gives her 2 more furlongs. **THIRUPATI** Board hater all 3 starts; all sprints, latest at Delaware. Irad on; blinkers on. And Prat rides the debuting **HEADLINE NUMBERS**. Chad Brown trains the Gun Runner filly for Klaravich.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	No Tricks(L),118	D Davis	5-x-x	Duarte	12-1
2	Bewildered(L),118	L Rivera, Jr	4-10-x	Levine	20-1
3	Greatest Gift(M),118	J Lezcano	7-x-x	Rice	12-1

4	Silvology(L),118	J Rosario	3-x-x	McGaughey III	8-5
5	Patty Brown Eyes(L),118	T McCarthy	2-x-x	Morley	5-2
6	Headline Numbers(M),118	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	3-1
7	Thirupati(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-3	Thomas	6-1

**5 1 mile; \$65,000; alw; 3up(f)**  
Taking **ENIGMATIC** right back after a wire-to-wire 10 length maiden breaker. Well spotted, same distance for Rice. **GRACEFUL ROSE** Turf to dirt for Gorham. 2 for 17 but runnerup last 2 dirt starts. Irad to seal the deal. **JUST MUSIC** enters off a maiden breaker as well. This one at 1 1/4 miles on her 10th attempt. 0 for 5 going a mile. Cancel replaces Lzcano who stays on Enigmatic. **CALL HER BLUFF** won last pair narrowly this distance. Meets better but if the pace is fast she can make a run.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Just Music(L),120	E Cancel	1-4-2	Rice	7-2
2	Til There Was You(L),118	K Davis	1-x-x	Handal	15-1
3	Enigmatic(L),120	J Lezcano	1-4-6	Rice	2-1
4	Cover the Spread(L),124	M Franco	4-7-5	Russell	6-1
5	Thirteen Red Flags(L),118	J Castellano	10-5-4	Chichakly	20-1
6	Call Her Bluff(L),120	J Rosario	1-1-5	Rodriguez	6-1
7	Graceful Rose(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	9-2-2	Gorham	5-2
8	Amity Island(L),124	O Hrdmz Mreno	5-6-7	Persaud	30-1

**6 6 fur(T); \$105,000; alw; 4up**  
Clement takes **BIG INVASION** lower after a pair of 10th place finishes, latest in the Grade 1 Jaipur. Winner 8 of previous 16. Rider change to Irad. **GUNIT** scored, this level/distance in May. Tough on the lead if we're off turf. **SON OF A BIRCH** Up late to win by a head, then a nose. Castellano on the Monmouth invader. **BOATS A ROCKIN** is a solid 12 for 26 on turf after winning a photo finish. Boats will be Rockin on the lead. **OUTLAW KID** ran 2nd twice before shipping from Laurel. Neck shy in a 100K.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	a-Heaven Street(L),118	M Franco	4-6-7	Maker	2-1
3	Son of a Birch(L),123	J Castellano	1-1-2	Morley	6-1
2	b-Thin White Duke(L),118	J Lezcano	8-5-8	Donk	8-1
4	Outlaw Kid(L),118	F Prat	2-2-8	Weaver	5-1
5	Charging(L),120	J Gomez	7-3-5	Morley	8-1
1A	a-High Front(L),118	D Davis	4-8-1	Clement	2-1
6	Bourbon Music(L),118	T McCarthy	2-5-2	Moore	20-1
7	Boat's a Rockin(L),120	K Carmouche	1-7-2	Kulp	7-2
1X	a-Big Invasion(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	10-10-4	Clement	2-1
8	Cloudy(L),118	E Cancel	6-7-4	McGaughey III	6-1
2B	b-Yes and Yes(L),118	J Gomez	8-4-9	Donk	8-1
9	Spun and Won(L),118	Rider TBA	3-3-2	R Dutrow	2-1
10	Gun It(L),120	I Ortiz, Jr	6-1-2	Rice	6-5

**7 1 3/8 miles(T); \$100,000; alw; 3up**  
**GOING CONCERN** debuted with a W at Tampa then evenly, 6th of 12 after a troubled trip. Stretches longer for Chad Brown who puts blinkers on. **PADDINGTON** MTO. Has a win over the wet. **INDIANQUEST** never fired making his grass debut. Falcone gives him 3 more furlongs. Irad at a price. **HOLD THE SALSA** is 0 for 10 on turf but 2nd in front of top pick then 2nd again at this longer distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
2	Be Like Clint(L),123	J Castellano	3-3-1	Abreu	7-2
3	Indianquest(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	11-1-1	Falcone	10-1

4	Scat Tu Tap(L),123	D Davis	3-1-6	Abreu	12-1
5	Hold the Salsa(L),123	L Rivera, Jr	2-2-5	Lugovich	8-1
1	a-Going Concern(GB)(L),125	M Franco	6-1-x	C Brown	9-5
6	Catch a Wave(L),120	F Prat	4-3-1	C Brown	2-1
7	Brees(L),125	J Lezcano	9-1-3	McGaughey III	12-1
8	Paddington(L),123	J Lezcano	4-2-9	Rice	7-5
1A	a-Moore's Law(L),123	M Franco	6-6-1	C Brown	9-5

**8 6 1/2 fur; \$175,000; Victory Ride; 3YO(f)**  
Five fillies, all with a chance in the Victory Ride. **EMERY** has won 3 of 4, all by 3+ lengths. Loss was in the longer Grade 1 Frizette. Ships from Churchill as does **HALINAS FORTE**. 3 for 7 after winning her latest. Won the Ruthless here in February. **AUTUMN EVENING** and **GOLDEN DESTREE** move to a stake off back-to-back victories over the Big A oval. **MYSTIC LAKE** won the Ms Preakness by 4+. Speed on the rail.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Mystic Lake,124	F Prat	1-2-1	Joseph	5-2
2	Golden Degree,118	J Lezcano	1-1-4	Rice	8-1
3	Emery,122	T Gaffalione	1-1-4	Cox	6-5
4	Halina's Forte,122	J Ortiz	1-4-8	Bauer	5-2
5	Autumn Evening,120	M Franco	1-1-5	R Dutrow	6-1

**9 1 1/16 miles(T); \$45,000; mdn cfm(\$40,000); 3up(f)**  
**BOSSY JEANS** moves lower for Maker after getting beat by 2 lengths. Gets Irad back. **DANCING LIANA** MTO. **ALETTE DORO** About 4 lengths short both starts at this distance. Contender tackling mdn claimers.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Bossy Jeans,118	I Ortiz, Jr	3-5-8	Maker	5-2
2	Sendera(L),118	J Lezcano	3-3-4	Rice	10-1
3	The Splendid One(L),124	T McCarthy	4-5-6	Hennig	4-1
4	Troubled Luck(L),118	J Castellano	8-4-6	DeLauro	15-1
5	Tongue Twister(L),118	D Davis	7-2-x	Handal	9-2
6	Lucky and Gorgeous(L),118	F Prat	5-3-3	Giddings	10-1
7	Dubawi Wowie(L),118	K Carmouche	9-6-x	Giangiulio	12-1
8	Devils Arrow(L),118	M Franco	5-x-x	Thomas	5-1
9	Malibu's Dynamite(L),118	L Luzzi	8-4-x	Keithan	20-1
10	Saving Memories(L),118	J Gomez	10-7-4	Donk	15-1
11	Alette d'Oro(L),118	J Castellano	7-4-5	Hills	7-2
12	Practical Royalty(L),118	J Gomez	11-6-11	Bernardini	20-1
13	War Terminatrix(L),118	L Rivera, Jr	7-6-6	Contessa	15-1
14	Dancing Liana(L),118	Rider TBA	2-7-2	Ryerson	6-1
15	Maxing the Bank(L),117	F Martinez	3-4-9	Parker	15-1

## PLAY OF THE DAY

Heavily favored Irish Jackson (4/5) and long-shot Risk Free (15/1) ran late but never threatened. The losses left us down -\$204.90 for the meet.

A baby race in the holiday opener. Two-year-olds making their career debuts. Honestly, it's anyone's race so we will take Honestly who offers the best value. Play \$10 across the board. — Vic Cangialosi

## MLS

EAST	W	L	D	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
NYCFC	11	8	2	35	32	25
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 Montréal	5	9	7	22	30	45
Chicago	5	10	6	21	28	39
Philadelphia	4	9	8	20	36	39
D.C. United	4	10	8	20	30	42

WEST	W	L	D	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
Minn. United	8	8	5	29	34	35
Seattle FC	7	7	7	28	29	26
Austin FC	7	8	6	27	23	30
St Louis City	4	7	10	22	29	35
FC Dallas	5	10	5	20	27	32
Sporting K.C.	4	12	5	17	33	44
San Jose	3	16	2	11	29	56

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

## Wednesday

NYCFC 2, CF Montréal 0  
Miami 2, Charlotte FC 1  
Cincinnati 3, D.C. United 2  
Orlando City 2, Toronto FC 1  
New England 2, Atlanta 1  
Chicago 4, Philadelphia 3  
Vancouver 3, Minnesota 1  
St Louis City 2, San Jose 0  
Columbus 2, Nashville 0  
Salt Lake 3, Houston 2

## Thursday

Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30pm  
Sporting K.C. at Colorado, 9:30pm  
Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm

## Saturday

Red Bulls at Philadelphia, 7:30pm  
NYCFC at Austin FC, 8:30pm  
Miami at Cincinnati, 7:30pm  
Toronto FC at Columbus, 7:30pm  
Vancouver at CF Montréal, 7:30pm  
D.C. United at Orlando City, 7:30pm  
Atlanta at Salt Lake, 9:30pm  
New England at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

## NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	10	0	5	35	39	20
Orlando	10	0	5	35	30	11
Washington	10	4	1	31	29	18
Gotham FC	8	3	4	28	17	12
Portland	7	5	3	24	26	20
North Carolina	7	7	1	22	17	16
Chicago	6	7	2	20	22	22
Bay FC	6	9	0	18	19	25
Louisville	3	5	7	16	19	19
San Diego	3	6	6	15	12	16
Angel City	4	8	3	15	15	24
Houston	3	7	5	14	11	22
Seattle	2	9	4	10	15	27
Utah Royals FC	2	11	2	8	7	27

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

## Friday

San Diego at Portland, 10pm

## Saturday

Houston at Chicago, 1pm  
Orlando at Kansas City, 7:30pm  
Washington at Bay FC, 10pm  
Gotham FC at Angel City, 10pm

## Yonkers entries for Thursday



**YOUNG GUN:** Rangers prospect Brett Berard (65) participates in a morning workout during the team's development camp in Tarrytown on Tuesday. N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

## Speedy Rangers prospect a man of confidence

By JARED SCHWARTZ

Brett Berard kept coming back to the same answer.

Through a breakout first full season as a pro, it's where Berard most noticed his growth as a player.

"I think confidence is a big thing I try to work on," Berard said Wednesday after the Rangers' third day of prospect development camp. "That's something that everybody should try to work on. ... Having my first full year as a pro, this is my third [player development] camp now, coming here you definitely feel more comfortable with the staff, the players. It's a lot of fun."

A fifth-round pick in 2020 (No. 134), the 21-year-old is knocking on the door to make the Rangers' roster next year after shining with AHL Hartford last season. He led the Wolf Pack in scoring with 25 goals and added 23 assists to finish with 48 points — tied for third-highest on the team. After playing three seasons at Providence College, it was his first real action with the organization, other than playing in three games with Hartford the year prior.

Coupled with the fact the Rangers have let forwards Barclay Goodrow, Jack Roslovic and Alex Wennberg leave in free agency and have just brought in Reilly Smith and Sam Carrick, Berard has a real shot.

"He put in a ton of work [last] summer," Jed Ortmeier, the Rangers' director of player development, said Tuesday. "He got a taste the

year before, coming into Hartford and understanding what it was gonna be like. It really motivated him in the summer, and he came prepared for camp. He had a great season, and we're looking forward to continuing to work with him and see how he can do."

A speedster listed at 5-foot-9 and 174 pounds, the physicality of the pro level was an adjustment for Berard. But again, he returned to his favorite answer.

"It was a lot different than college, obviously," Berard said. "We played 84, 85 games; in college, I think the most I played was 36, so that was a big change. ... There were some physical challenges, but I think that comes back to confidence, too. If you're able to work through that, you set yourself up."

A low draft pick, Berard's emergence and dominance last year at Hartford was somewhat unexpected.

Berard, once more, knew exactly what to credit.

"It's not really a goal of mine to go in and lead the team in scoring," Berard said. "It's to go in and just build upon my game, and then whatever happens, happens. I was lucky enough to see the puck go in the net. Going back to confidence again, it just helps build confidence."

Berard made it abundantly clear: He's confident.

"It's honestly a dream come true," Berard said. "For me, it's just staying level-headed and trying to do what I do best. If [outsiders] get surprised, they get surprised."

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**FITS THE MOLD:** According to Kansas assistant coach, and former St. John's head coach, Norm Roberts (not pictured) the Knicks' second-round draft pick, the Jayhawks' Kevin McCullar, will be a perfect fit for the team's culture and style under coach Tom Thibodeau (inset).



# PRIME THIB SPECIAL

By PETER BOTTE

Norm Roberts, a former high school teammate of Anthony Mason's and the former head coach at St. John's, believes the Knicks landed themselves another fit for Tom Thibodeau's system in the second round of the draft.

Roberts has served as an assistant coach under Bill Self with Kansas since 2012, so the New York native offers valuable insights on Kevin McCullar Jr. after the Knicks grabbed the former Jayhawks wing with the 56th-overall pick.

"He'll fit in perfectly with the Knicks," Roberts told The Post on Wednesday in a phone interview. "He's a versatile player who can play on the ball or off the ball offensively, and he's a multiple defensive player who can guard 1 through 4.

"He probably has as high of a defensive IQ as any player I've ever been around in my life. And he's tough as nails, so he'll go guard a 6-foot-9 guy or guard a 5-foot-11 guy. So that, to me, is a guy that will fit right in with who they are and what they do."

Roberts believes the 6-6 McCullar, who led the Jayhawks in scoring last season at 18.3 points per game, "definitely was a first-round player" but slipped on draft boards due to a late-season bone bruise in his knee that sidelined him in the Big 12 and the NCAA tournaments.

McCullar played his first three collegiate seasons at Texas Tech before transferring to Lawrence for his final two years of eligibility. According to Roberts,

## Roberts: 2nd-rounder McCullar perfect fit for Knicks coach

early comparisons between McCullar and do-it-all Knicks wing Josh Hart are valid, saying, "I coached against Josh Hart when he was at Villanova, and they are very similar players." He also compared McCullar with former Kansas wing Christian Braun, who won an NBA championship as a rookie with the Nuggets in 2023.

"I actually think he's a plug-and-play guy right now if they were to need him to be," Roberts said of McCullar. "I think you can play Kevin right away. We had Christian Braun, too, and they are very similar in that regard. Christian Braun may be more athletic, jumping-wise, but I would say Kevin McCullar has better ball skills than Christian had while he was here.

"But they are cut out of the same cloth. Christian goes to Denver and plays like 15 minutes per game his first year, they win the championship. Now he's playing 24 per game, and who knows, maybe he'll have a chance to start there next year. I believe Kevin can be that type of guy in the right situation."

Of course, the Knicks already have terrific depth on the wings with Hart, a re-signed OG Anunoby, newcomer Mikal Bridges and Donte DiVincenzo, so there probably isn't much playing time available for the rookie unless injuries arise. McCullar also clearly needs to

improve his outside shot after posting a 30.9 shooting percentage from 3-point range during his college career.

"Kevin McCullar is a winner, he's tough. ... And he's definitely tough enough to handle New York," Roberts said. "The other thing I can say about him that they will love is he knows how to be a role guy and play that role to the best of his ability, and he knows how to be a lead guy, which he had to be for us this year. So he's already played both roles, and he understands how to do both well."

The 58-year-old Roberts attended Springfield Gardens High School in Queens, where he teamed with Mason, the former Knicks forward who died in 2015. He also coached for six seasons at St. John's from 2004-10, so he knows what it means to the city to have the Knicks competitive again.

"The Knicks were terrific this year, and I'm so happy for [Thibodeau] and the fans with what they've accomplished," Roberts said. "Anthony Mason was a good friend of mine, we played high-school ball together, and his son [Anthony Jr.] played for me at St. John's. So we were very close.

"You can see that the fans feel about this team like they felt about those teams, and I think Kevin McCullar will fit in well with what they are doing."

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## Ex-U.S. star: Go from Copa flop to Klopp

By RYAN GLASSPIEGEL

Alexi Lalas wants U.S. Soccer to go big-game hunting.

Speaking with The Post on Wednesday following the USMNT's disappointing Copa America exit, the former USMNT defender addressed the "unique" situation the team is in ahead of the 2026 World Cup in

North America as questions swirl about whether coach Gregg Berhalter is the right person to lead. "We're in a situation now that's unique," Lalas, a Fox Sports analyst, said when asked what he would do about the coaching situation if he were in charge. "If the World Cup in 2026 wasn't in the United States, I think the conversation would be a little bit different, but because of this train that is barreling down the tracks and coming at us — in a good way, because it's going to be incredible — I think the conversation changes a little bit. Over the next two years, you need somebody who is going to ignite and inspire a nation that we are headed in the right direction. You need a bigger-than-life personality."

Berhalter, 50, has come under fire following Monday's 1-0 loss to Uruguay, with the USMNT failing to advance out of the Copa group stage.

Lalas referenced

comments from earlier in the week by longtime Fox soccer host Rob Stone, who said on-air the USMNT should "go big or go home" for 2026, and called attention to former Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp, whose name has been brought up in recent chatter.

"If you're not going to go big, it flies in the face of what America is. We want big, we want bold, and dare I say we want arrogant in the things that we do — in particular, in terms of maximizing the summer of 2026. If you're not going to do it now, then when are you?" Lalas asked.

"Someone like Jurgen Klopp is out there. I know people scoff at the idea of someone with his pedigree and background would ever consider doing this. But until you have the conversation, you don't know."

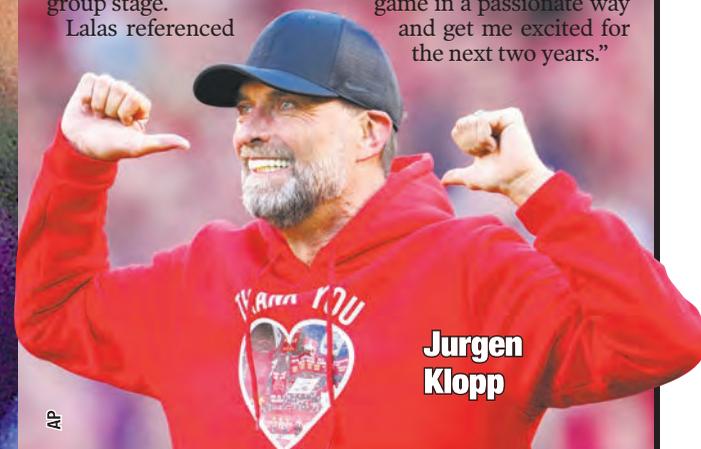
Klopp, 57, just stepped down as head coach of Liverpool, where he won one English Premier League championship and a Champions League title, and was generally the steward of elite performance since taking the job in 2015.

Lalas continued that the USMNT should do "something that is going to excite the masses — something that is going to transcend just the soccer culture out there, and can talk about the

game in a passionate way and get me excited for the next two years."



ALEXI LALAS



Jurgen  
Klopp

AP

By BRADLEY LOCKER

Kodai Senga pitched like his dominant self in his return to the mound.

In his first rehab appearance of 2024, the 31-year-old struck out six in 2⅔ scoreless, hitless innings for the Mets' High-A affiliate Brooklyn Cyclones.

Senga's 35-pitch outing Wednesday night marked his first time facing hitters in a game this year after being sidelined with a shoulder injury for all of spring training.

"Just very glad I was able to get through without any accidents," Senga said, adding that his shoulder felt "good."

The velocity from last year's NL Rookie of the Year runner-up mirrored his impressive 2023, Senga regularly touching 97 mph with his fastball and generating whiffs via his signature forkball, cutter and curve.

Wednesday was a particularly big step considering there have been a slew of setbacks during Senga's five-month healing process.

The Mets ace faced hitters in bullpen sessions April 29 and in early May, but his comeback was halted because of mechanical qualms.

When asked about his mechanics Wednesday, Senga said he made "adjustments here and there" in Brooklyn but suggested the process was ongoing.

"Throughout today, I was able to figure out what was good, and what wasn't as good," the 2023 All-Star said. "And I know I have at least a couple more outings before I get back to the big leagues. Within those couple outings, I need to make some more adjustments to get back there."

As for those upcoming changes, Senga mentioned honing in on off-speed pitch command and location.

"Fastball and the forkball felt really good," Senga said, "but the spin pitches I was missing here and there. I know that if those aren't perfected at the big-league level, they could turn into extra-base hits."

Even amid a spotless start, Senga

# KOD' COMPLIANT

## Finally on the mound, Senga cruises through first rehab outing

**LOOKS FAMILIAR:** Kodai Senga didn't give up a hit and struck out six in a rehab outing for the High-A Brooklyn Cyclones on Wednesday night, looking very much like the pitcher who was the NL Rookie of the Year runner-up in 2023.

Corey Sipkin



was noncommittal on a return date, citing a desire to build up his pitch count.

"Try not to think too far ahead," Senga said. "I know I have a couple more milestones to hit before that. I want to take it one day at a time, one game at a time."

The second-year pitcher added that, "if everything goes well," he believed his next game would be with a different minor league affiliate.

"Today went well, and we need to check some more boxes [Thursday]," Senga said. "I think things will clear up more [Thursday] and the day after and getting closer to the next outing."

The righty was initially diagnosed with a moderate posterior capsule strain Feb. 22, putting his status for Opening Day in jeopardy.

He was then shut down for three weeks after receiving a PRP injection March 13 and was moved to

the 60-day injured list April 10.

The Japan native was strong in his first year stateside, posting a 2.98 ERA and 10.93 strikeouts per nine innings in 29 starts.

In Senga's absence, the Mets' rotation has generally struggled, posting a 4.36 ERA — which ranks 21st in baseball.

Only three Mets — Luis Severino, Sean Manaea and Jose Quintana — have made 10-plus starts this season. Senga lauded his team-

mates' efforts without him.

"They're doing a great job keeping the rotation up," Senga said. "I obviously want to get back there as soon as possible, but also in a healthy state."

It may have been against High-A players, but Senga called the rehab outing a "big difference" facing live hitters in the box.

"I don't want to get hit," Senga said. "Competitiveness definitely comes out."

# New cleats help put Martinez back in lineup

By MIKE PUMA

## METS NOTES

WASHINGTON — J.D. Martinez's new cleats arrived Wednesday, bringing him a certain measure of relief.

The veteran DH missed Tuesday's game because of a sore left ankle that he suspects was caused by wearing a different pair of cleats the previous night because he hadn't received his new order. The cleats he used Monday had an extra spike in the middle, which he says placed additional pressure on

the ankle.

Martinez said he goes through a pair of cleats every three or four games. He expects the just-received shipment of three pairs to get him to the All-Star break.

Before missing Tuesday's action, Martinez had started 28 straight games. He was back in the lineup Wednesday, going 1-for-4 with a double as the Mets dropped a 7-5 decision to the Nationals.

➤ **Harrison Bader** was absent from the starting lineup a night after crashing into the outfield fence. Bader was removed from Tuesday's game with neck discomfort and underwent concussion testing that was negative, according to manager **Carlos Mendoza**. **Tyrone Taylor** started in center field in Bader's spot.

➤ **Francisco Alvarez** received a night off, with **Luis Torrens** behind the plate to catch rookie **Christian Scott**. Mendoza said

he alerted the duo of the plan on Tuesday so they could begin spending time together and formulating a plan. Scott's previous major league experience was pitching to **Omar Narvaez** and **Tomas Nido** in May while Alvarez was on the injured list.

➤ In a nod to the Fourth of July and the popularity of fireworks in the nation's capital, Thursday's series finale is slated to begin at 11:05 a.m. It left the Mets and Nationals to face a quick turnaround following

Wednesday's 6:45 p.m. first pitch at Nationals Park.

➤ **D.J. Stewart's** opportunities to play have been scarce, especially following **Ben Gamel's** arrival as a lefty bat in the outfield, but Mendoza still sees the lefty slugger as a fit. Stewart entering Wednesday had appeared in only one game in nine days.

"The one thing is he's such a professional," Mendoza said. "He comes in with a mindset that he's in the lineup and prepares the right way."

Aaron Boone said if Aaron Judge continues to hit at his current pace, he may get a bit of the “Barry Bonds treatment,” with opposing teams choosing to walk him intentionally rather than watch him do more damage.

“There will be stretches where that probably happens,” Boone said prior to Wednesday’s 3-2 loss to the Reds in The Bronx.

Perhaps the better question is why it hasn’t started already, especially with the Yankee lineup in disarray beyond Judge and Juan Soto.

On Wednesday, though, Judge was set up to tie the game — or more — with runners on the corners and one out in the seventh inning and hit into an inning-ending double play against right-hander Fernando Cruz.

The grounder to third traveled at 106 mph, but still ended the Yankees’ best chance to erase the deficit.

It was a rare off night at the plate for Judge, who may see teams pitch him more carefully, something Boone noted they did frequently during the latter part of his historic 2022 season, when parts of the offense was slumping.

In his first 121 games that season, Judge was walked intentionally eight times. In his final 36 games, he drew 11 intentional walks.

One such occasion seemingly came up Tuesday, when Judge was at the plate with the Yankees down by two runs with two outs in the bottom of the seventh.

Left-hander Sam Moll was tasked with facing Judge with the slumping lefty-swinging Alex Verdugo on deck.

Moll threw one pitch to Judge and it ended up in the left-field seats for his 32nd homer of the season.

Moll recalled his approach to the at-bat on Wednesday and even



**NOT TONIGHT:** Aaron Judge grounds into a double play in the seventh inning Wednesday night, capping a rare off game for the Yankees slugger. N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

though Moll had never pitched to Judge, the two were teammates in the Cape Cod League in 2013 with the Brewster Whitecaps, both heading into their junior seasons at college.

“I’ll usually let the bench decide if we want to intentionally walk someone,” Moll said. “And then there’s some level of pitching around him. I felt [Tuesday] the best thing to do was to get to 0-1 as fast as possible— which we did and it ended up going over the fence.”

The hope, Moll said, was to “steal

the first one and then expand [the zone] a lot from there.”

Instead, Judge made it a one-run game. But the Yankees didn’t get another base runner the rest of the game and lost.

The end result of the game made it easier for Moll to live with the homer and he said he understood the mentality that would lead a team to walk Judge in that kind of situation.

“I don’t really give up homers — although I did there — so my mentality is always to attack,” Moll said. “In the moment, I could have taken

a step back and pitched around him, but for me, that’s such a foreign thing to do. But Aaron is the best hitter in the world right now, so it’s not a bad thought process.”

Moll has been watching Judge hit homers for over a decade and still remembered Judge showing up at Brewster and making an immediate impression.

“He struck out his first time up and his second at-bat he just hit a moonshot,” Moll said. “You could see what kind of hitter he could become.”

## Laboring, Gil stays in rotation

By DAN MARTIN

In the span of three starts, Luis Gil went from being in the conversation to start the All-Star Game for the American League to wondering if he would stay in the Yankees’ rotation.

Though he obviously won’t be an All-Star starter this month in Texas, Aaron Boone confirmed Wednesday the 26-year-old will make his next start on regular rest when the Yankees finish their homestand against the Red Sox on Sunday.

Regardless of how much rest Gil gets, the Yankees have to figure out how things have gone so wrong so fast.

Pitching coach Matt Blake said Wednesday that Gil is healthy, and if he’s experiencing any fatigue, it’s the normal amount for a rookie who is approaching the 90-inning mark at the midway point of the season.

Though Boone has talked about getting “creative” with Gil’s schedule around the upcoming All-Star break, there are limits to what the Yankees are willing to do, according to Blake. “It’s about balancing with the other guys [in the rotation], too,” Blake said.

The same goes for the possibility of yanking Gil from the rotation.

“You always have to weigh, if you take him out, someone has to pitch that fifth start,” Blake said. “So do you option him [to the minors]? Put him in the bullpen? You can’t IL a guy who’s not hurt, so what’s the cost to the rest of the roster?”

There’s been no talk of sending Gil down to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, and there’s no clear choice on the SWB roster to come up and replace him.

That leaves the Yankees in the same spot they’ve been in for the past two weeks: How do they fix Gil?

He had a 2.03 ERA through his first 14 starts on the season, having allowed just five homers and walked 39 — hitting one batter — in 80 innings.

In his past three starts, covering just 9 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, he has a 14.90 ERA, given up three home runs, walked nine batters and hit five more.

“Are the delivery issues from fatigue?” Blake said. “He’s not ‘beginning of the season’ fresh, but he’s not at the point where he needs to be shut down. We’ll monitor his workload and how the ball comes out.”

## Soto joins outfield mate as ASG starter

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

In pairing Aaron Judge and Juan Soto, the Yankees envisioned a starry top of the lineup and outfield.

Those dreams have become reality, and the pair are officially stars.

Soto has joined Judge, who already had clinched his sixth All-Star trip, as a starter for the American League in the July 16 All-Star Game at Globe Life Field in Texas. The two are the only starters for the Yankees, with pitchers and reserves set to be announced Sunday.

Judge already had wrapped up his spot in the Midsummer Classic as the AL’s leading vote-getter in Phase 1 of the voting, riding 3,425,309 votes to the nod. The third American League outfield starter is Cleveland’s Steven Kwan, who beat out Houston’s Kyle Tucker.

### YANKEES NOTES

Soto’s fourth (and fourth straight) All-Star Game nod will be his first on the American League side, after cracking the roster with the Nationals and Padres the past three seasons.

For the first time, though, Soto will be a starter.

“It means a lot,” Soto said about the honor. “It’s a lot of hard work that I’ve been putting in ... been grinding a lot.”

What’s it going to be like to look over and see No. 99 to his right?

“It feels great,” Soto said. “He’s an All-Star, an amazing baseball player. More than happy to share the field with him. Now in an All-Star Game, it’s going to be even better.”

In his first 84 games with his new club, Soto has posted a .997 OPS

with 20 home runs and a major league-leading 74 walks. He has been everything the Yankees could have wanted after the blockbuster trade with San Diego.

“He’s a generational hitter — we’ve seen that kind of phrase thrown around him, and I think that rings true,” manager Aaron Boone said before the 3-2 loss to the Reds in The Bronx in which Soto reached base three times. “His level of at-bat day in and day out [stands out]. And then when you pair it with him and Aaron back-to-back, that’s something that I don’t think many of us have ever seen.”

“It’s just as quality of an at-bat as you’re going to face anywhere at any time, and just his understanding of who he is in the batter’s box is pretty impressive.”

This will be the second time in three years the Yankees have had

two outfielders start the All-Star Game after Judge and Giancarlo Stanton earned the honor in 2022.

► In the absence of Stanton, **Jah-mai Jones** got another start at DH against an opposing lefty and went 1-for-3 with a double and a run scored.

The righty swinger is 6-for-18 with a home run, a triple and now a double against southpaws.

► **Jon Berti** took ground balls at third base before the game.

The infielder, sidelined since suffering a left calf strain May 24, is closer to a rehab assignment.

► The Yankees recorded their 10th sellout of the season with a paid attendance of 47,646. Their average of 41,051 per home game this season is the most in the AL and second-highest in the majors.



# ONE PITCH TOO MANY

By MIKE PUMA

WASHINGTON — Christian Scott's return to the big leagues fell one out short of impressive Wednesday night.

Luis Garcia Jr. was the rookie right-hander's final batter of the game regardless of the outcome. Scott left a sweeper over the plate with two outs in the sixth and the Nationals' second baseman crushed it for a three-run homer, starting a downward slide that ended with a 7-5 loss for the Mets at Nationals Park.

The Mets (42-42) missed an opportunity to move two games over .500 for the first time since April 24. As has been the case lately when the Mets lose, the bullpen was a factor.

<b>NATIONALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Box score Page 38</b>
<b>METS</b>	<b>5</b>	

Jake Diekman surrendered two earned runs in only one-third of an inning, in the seventh, before Garcia Jr.'s second homer of the game, against Ty Adcock in the eighth, gave the Nationals their margin of victory. For the first time in four games the Mets didn't need extra innings to decide the outcome.

Scott, back in the rotation after starting five games for the Mets in May and then returning to Triple-A Syracuse, allowed four earned runs on six hits and two walks with two strikeouts over 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

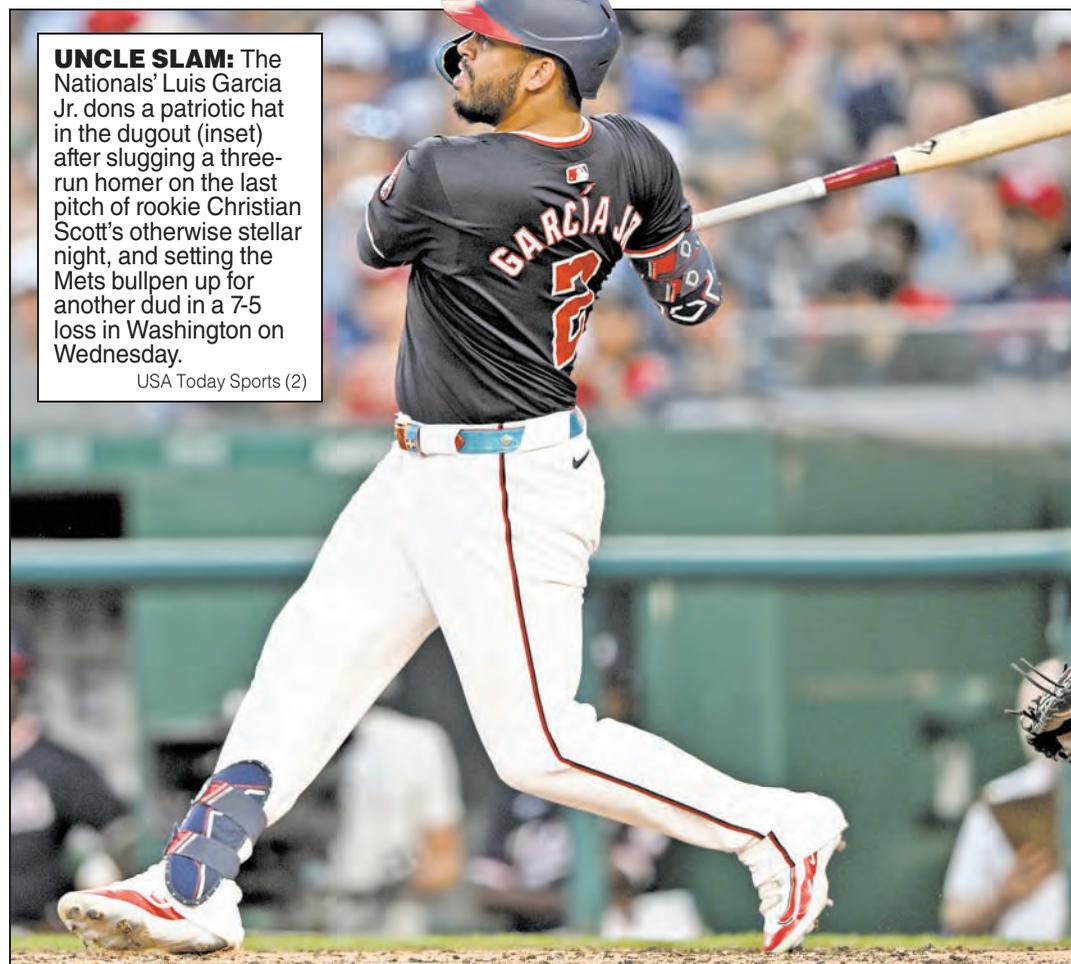
"I didn't get a lot of whiffs today, it was a lot of soft contact," Scott said. "I need to do a better job of making a better pitch in two-strike counts ... the defense played great and helped me out a lot today."

At 97 pitches with two runners on base, he remained in the game to face Garcia in the sixth and watched his sweeper rocket into the right-field seats to erase most of the Mets' 5-1 lead.

## Scott's great outing goes south on his last delivery, setting up pen meltdown

**UNCLE SLAM:** The Nationals' Luis Garcia Jr. dons a patriotic hat in the dugout (inset) after slugging a three-run homer on the last pitch of rookie Christian Scott's otherwise stellar night, and setting the Mets bullpen up for another dud in a 7-5 loss in Washington on Wednesday.

USA Today Sports (2)



"Where we are bullpen-wise after [Scott] got a pop out for the second out I tried to squeeze one more hitter and that didn't work," manager Carlos Mendoza said. "He was pretty good to that point. Obviously we pushed him a little bit there."

Scott was asked about the emotion of watching a 5-1 lead become 5-4.

"This one is on me tonight for sure, but at the same time you have got to take the positives and learn from the negatives," Scott said.

Tyrone Taylor homered leading off the third to give the Mets their first run. Taylor, who has been starting regularly since Starling Marte was placed on the injured list last week with a bone bruise in his right knee, has homered three times in his last

seven games. He played center field on this night with Harrison Bader on the bench after colliding with the outfield fence a day earlier.

Mark Vientos' two-run blast in the fourth extended the Mets' lead to 3-0. It continued a recent rampage for Vientos, who owned a 1.077 OPS in his last 12 games entering play. Vientos has five homers since June 23 as a central figure in the Mets' sizzling lineup. J.D. Martinez doubled in the inning before Vientos went deep.

Francisco Lindor's two-run homer in the fifth put the Mets ahead 5-0. The homer was Lindor's second in as many games and gave him 15 for the season. Ben Gamel's two-out double started the rally.

Scott didn't allow a hit until the fourth on Jesse Winker's two-out double. The Nationals pulled within 5-1 on Ildemaro Vargas' RBI single.

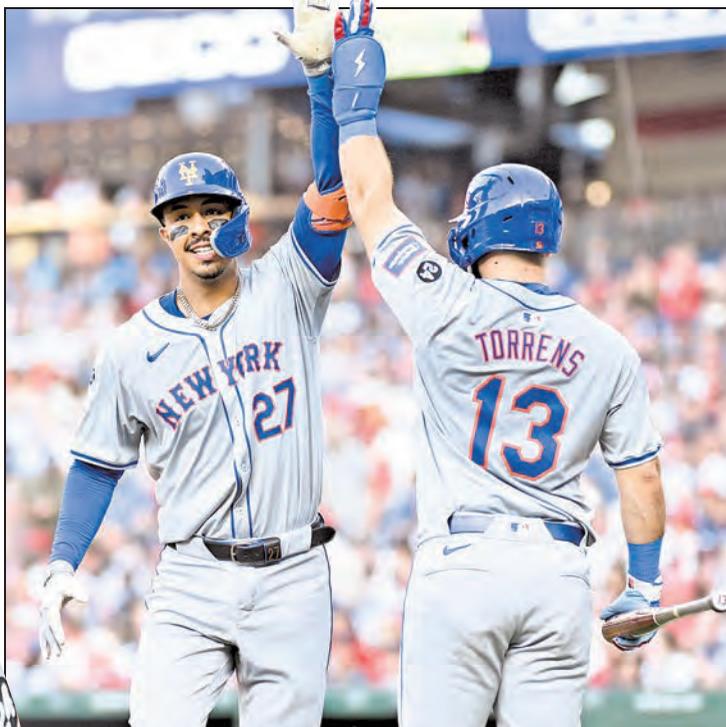
After Garcia's three-run blast in the sixth, the Nationals tied it in the seventh on Lane Thomas' RBI double against Diekman. Before the inning was complete James Wood delivered an RBI single against Diekman that put the Mets in a 6-5 hole. Garcia homered in the eighth against Adcock.

"They are pretty good at putting the ball in play and fouling stuff off and making you work," said Diekman, who was ahead in the count on all three batters that reached base against him. "The first one was 10 pitches and the balls were just noncompetitive. They grind out at-bats and then kind of make you hurt yourself and it snowballs."

mpuma@nypost.com



**SCOTT OR NOT:** Christian Scott delivers in a solid return to the majors on Wednesday that was soured by a home run that opened the door for the Nationals.  
USA Today Sports



**ON THE MARK:** Mark Vientos celebrates with Luis Torrens after hitting another homer in the Mets' 7-5 loss on Wednesday, his 11th homer and 29th RBI in 41 games this season. Getty Images

# Vientos stays red hot with HR

By MIKE PUMA

WASHINGTON — Mark Vientos was recalled to the Mets on May 15 and from his first game started contributing offensively to a team that was in need of such a boost.

The early returns were positive, but could he maintain it? It's still too early to call the 24-year-old third baseman the real deal, but with each passing day Vientos is reinforcing the idea he belongs.

"It seems like every time we win he contributes," Francisco Lindor said.

Or even when the Mets lose: Vientos on Wednesday blasted a two-run homer in the fourth inning against Michael Parker in the team's 7-5 loss to the Nationals.

Vientos owns a .297/.352/.579 slash line with 11 homers and 29 RBIs in 41 games. Whether it's been against right-handed or left-handed pitching he has produced and his defense has been acceptable enough to keep him on the field every day.

For Vientos, who has bounced between Triple-A Syracuse and the Mets for the past two seasons, it's been the perfect marriage of proving he can play in the major leagues and helping the team win.

"That is what it's all about," Vientos said. "My job here is to help the team as much as I can,

and that is to help win games. I am happy for the success we are having right now, and I want to keep going. I am happy but not satisfied, because we have still got a long season ahead of us."

Scouts still question if Vientos can handle velocity high in the strike zone and whether he's got the instincts to play third base, but he has already passed one big test in manager Carlos Mendoza's estimation in that pitchers have already seen enough of Vientos to start adjusting against him, and the player has responded.

"They are adjusting to him, and whether it's laying off some breaking balls, right-on-right or staying ready for the fastball, controlling the strike zone ... the confidence is there," Mendoza said.

Vientos has largely excelled at getting the barrel of the bat on the ball with a high swing velocity. An open mind has also helped.

"One of the best things he has got going for him, he asks a lot of questions," Lindor said. "When it comes to approach, hitting stance, defense, what we have done on certain plays and how he handles himself on and off the field and stuff like that. He asks a lot of good questions."

If Vientos' bat wasn't percolating it would be easier for the Mets to focus on his minus-2 outs above average that placed him only in

**ON DECK**

**at Nationals**  
Thursday, 11:05 a.m.,  
SNY, WCBS (880 AM)

**LHP Jose Quintana**



**2024 stats:**  
3-5, 4.57 ERA  
**Career vs. WAS:**  
2-1, 3.46 ERA  
**Last start:**  
Friday vs. HOU;  
4.0 IP, 6 H, 2 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**32%** Sinker    **22%** Fastball    **20%** Changeup

**RHP Jake Irvin**



**2024 stats:**  
6-6, 3.03 ERA  
**Career vs. NYM:**  
0-1, 11.57 ERA  
**Last start:**  
Saturday at TB;  
6.0 IP, 1 H, 1 ER

**PITCH BREAKDOWN**

**36%** Fastball    **35%** Curveball    **17%** Sinker

**UP NEXT**

**FRIDAY:** at Pirates  
6:40 p.m., SNY, WCBS  
TBD vs. TBD

**SATURDAY:** at Pirates  
4:05 p.m., SNY, WCBS  
TBD vs. TBD

**INJURY REPORT**

- **Sean Reid-Foley** (shoulder impingement) won't pitch again before the All-Star break.
- **Drew Smith** (elbow) is awaiting a second opinion, but is likely facing season-ending Tommy John surgery.

MLB's 27th percentile for third baseman, but to the naked eye his miscues haven't been pronounced.

"He's an offensive player, and defense is something that he is going to have to battle with probably his whole career because he is more offense than defense," Lindor said. "He is going to have to stay with it and work a lot."

But Vientos, who projects more as a first baseman and DH, envisions himself remaining at third base and steadily improving.

"I have always wanted it," Vientos said. "And when you want something and put the work toward it, I am a big believer that you will eventually get it. I have always wanted to play this position, and obviously that is where I am at right now. It could change whenever, but as of right now that is where my mindset is, and I am happy with it and I want to stay here."

## Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



### INJURY REPORT

■ **Jon Berti**, who has been sidelined since suffering a left calf strain on May 24, took ground balls at third base before Wednesday's game. The infielder, who is on the 60-day injured list, is getting closer to a rehab assignment.

■ **RHP JT Brubaker** (right elbow surgery) is being stretched out as starting pitcher depth, throwing three scoreless innings with Double-A Somerset on Sunday.



### vs. Reds

Thursday, 1:05 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

#### RHP Marcus Stroman



**2024 stats:**  
7-3, 3.29 ERA

**Career vs. CIN:**  
4-2, 3.76 ERA

**Last start:**  
Friday at TOR;  
4.1 IP, 5 H, 3 ER

#### PITCH BREAKDOWN

**37%** Sinker  
**19%** Cutter  
**17%** Slider

#### RHP Frankie Montas



**2024 stats:**  
3-6, 4.23 ERA

**Career vs. NYY:**  
1-1, 1.29 ERA

**Last start:**  
Friday at STL;  
6.0 IP, 2 H, 1 ER

#### PITCH BREAKDOWN

**35%** Fastball  
**22%** Splitter  
**17%** Cutter

#### UP NEXT

**FRIDAY:** vs. Red Sox, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN  
*TBD vs. RHP Tanner Houck*

**SATURDAY:** vs. Red Sox, 1:05 p.m., YES, WFAN  
*TBD vs. TBD*

# LOSING THEIR GRIP

## Yankees fail in clutch as they lose 12th out of their past 16

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Carlos Rodon's few mistakes were hammered.

His club's offensive mistakes were plentiful.

This version of the Yankees — with a star-studded top of the lineup but Muggsy Bogues length — does not have much room for error, so flawed games become losses. Wednesday's effort was flawed, so the Yankees lost, 3-2, to the Reds in The Bronx in front of 47,646 frustrated fans.

A righty-heavy Yankees lineup was five-hit by lefty Andrew Abbott and four Cincinnati relievers. They clawed back into the game with a two-run double by Anthony Volpe in the seventh inning, but that would conclude the club's scoring.

The Yankees put the tying run on base in the ninth against Alexis

**REDS** 3  
**YANKEES** 2 **Boxscore**  
**Page 36**

Diaz, the brother of Mets closer Edwin, as Austin Wells worked an entertaining, 10-pitch walk.

But Volpe grounded into a double play before Juan Soto flew out, ending the game with Aaron Judge in the on-deck circle.

Even before Thursday's finale with Cincinnati, the Yankees (54-34) have clinched another losing series and have failed to win six straight series while dropping 12 of 16 games overall.

No team will win many games when scoring two runs. They had several legitimate chances for more on a night they left nine on base.

"I think we struggled a little bit ... to get the clutch hit," said Soto, who watched Trent Grisham strike

out with runners on in the eighth; watched Judge crush a grounder that became an inning-ending double play in the seventh; and watched J.D. Davis strand a pair with a broken-bat ground out up the middle to end the third. "It happens. It's baseball. We hit the ball hard, couldn't find the gap."

With a flawed attack, the Yankees needed a flawless pitcher. As has been the case recently, they didn't get one.

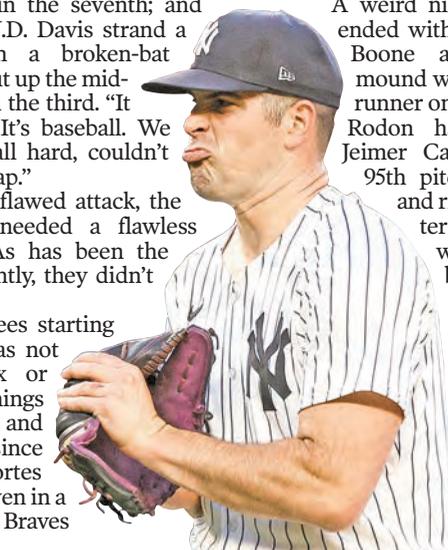
A Yankees starting pitcher has not lasted six or more innings in a week and a half, since Nestor Cortes tossed seven in a loss to the Braves

on June 23, though Rodon fought for the chance to survive the sixth inning.

A weird night for the lefty ended with manager Aaron Boone approaching the mound with one out and a runner on first in the sixth. Rodon had just walked Jeimer Candelario on his 95th pitch of the night,

and righty cleanup hitter Spencer Steer was coming up to bat. Rodon could be seen mouthing, "No way," as Boone walked to the mound, then gave the ball to his manager and appeared unhappy walking to the dugout.

Boone said



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**LOOK OUT:** Austin Wells tosses his bat on his way to earning a ninth-inning walk in the Yankees' 3-2 loss. Representing the tying run, Wells was quickly erased on a double play as the Bombers couldn't come back from the early 3-0 hole starter Carlos Rodon (below) dumped them into.

Getty Images; N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg



he was “convicted” in the decision in part because he trusted Michael Tonkin against a sea of righties and in part because he wanted Rodon — who had let up 21 runs in 13 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in three starts entering play — to finish on a positive note.

“I didn’t want to get him in a bad spot at the end of the night where a mistake could have hurt him,” said Boone, whose move worked as Tonkin escaped unscathed.

Rodon said he understood the decision and was not angry, just competitive. The lefty exited having allowed three runs on just three hits and two walks in those 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings. He pitched backwards often — laying off a four-seam fastball that he threw just 26 percent of the time — and was burned by a few misplaced offerings.

The Reds struck first in the second inning, when Tyler Stephen-

son singled before Noelvi Marte jumped on a 92.8 mph four-seamer that got too much of the plate for a two-run shot to left. Rodon settled in until the fifth inning, when Stuart Fairchild sent a full-count, middle-of-the-plate slider over the left-field wall for a home run.

“Some pitches I’d like to have back,” said Rodon, whose ERA rose to 4.45.

Tonkin, Kahnle and Clay Holmes combined for 3 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless, hitless innings that gave the Yankees’ offense a chance that it would not take advantage of.

On a night that the Yankees’ hardest-hit ball became Judge’s double play in the seventh, bad luck played a factor. But so did a struggling offense.

“We got to make our own [luck], too,” Boone said. “Abbott pitched a heck of a game and kept us at bay.”

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By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Anthony Volpe is in a slump that has turned his breakout season into a statistically middling one.

He also is in a lineup spot that has become customary, but his hold on batting leadoff appears to be slipping.

Manager Aaron Boone acknowledged before the Yankees lost to the Reds, 3-2, in The Bronx on Wednesday that the No. 1 spot in the lineup is a “fluid situation.” Volpe has owned that slot since a quick first few weeks of the season helped him claim the leadoff spot beginning on April 10.

The righty-hitting Volpe was atop a righty-heavy lineup (that featured J.D. Davis and Jahmai Jones) against opposing southpaw Andrew Abbott and perhaps took a step out of his funk — which had sunk to 0-for-18 — with a two-run double in the seventh inning.

But after a night he went 1-for-5, Volpe’s OPS has fallen to .694 and on-base percentage to .310.

“I can’t control that,” Volpe said about continuing to hit leadoff. “I’m going to do my best wherever Boonie and everyone decides to put me.”

The lineup for Thursday’s matinee against righty Frankie Montas will be different — and might not include a leadoff-hitting Volpe, whose hot start has given way to a prolonged cold streak that has been heightened by the brilliance of the two hitters batting behind him.

Boone wants his leadoff hitter — who sets the table for two superstars in Juan Soto (.437 OBP) and Aaron Judge (.438 OBP), who entered action as the best on-base machines in baseball — to reach often so he can be driven in.

In his first 76 games atop the order, Volpe has hit just .242.

“Hopefully he’s at the end of a little downturn of a week or 10 days,” Boone said of Volpe, who grounded into a double play in the ninth inning. “Hopefully we look up in two weeks and he’s hot, and those numbers change. That’s kind of the ebb and flow of the season.

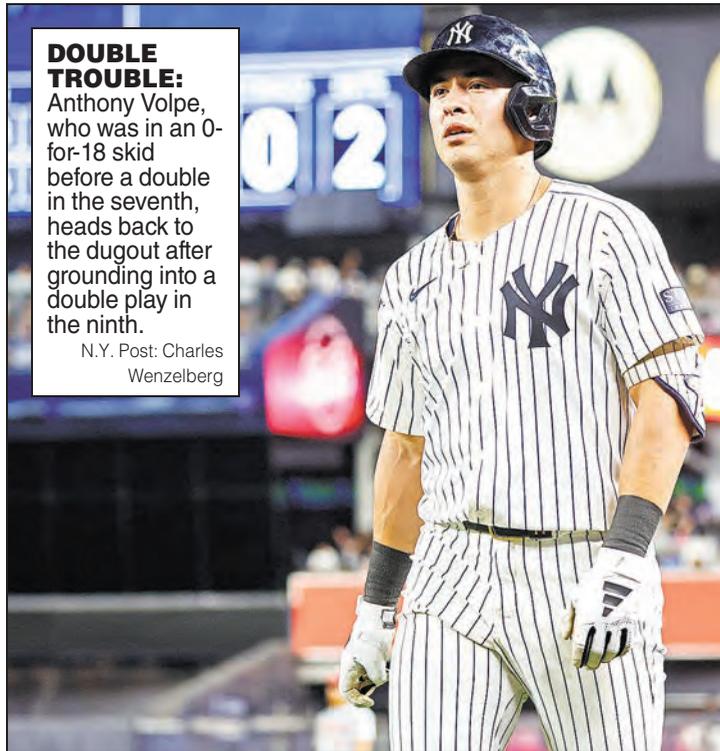
“Still a very young player, figuring out who he is as a hitter. ... But it’s something I’m paying attention to, and we’ll see.”

If not Volpe, who? In a struggling Yankees lineup, Boone does not like the idea of bumping up Soto to leadoff and hitting Judge second. It is possible that lefty-hitting Ben Rice, who has shown a good feel for the strike zone and an ability to work quality at-bats, becomes another youngster bumped up to No. 1. The 25-year-old, who pinch-hit and earned a walk Wednesday, owns a .378 OBP with three doubles in his

## DOUBLE TROUBLE:

Anthony Volpe, who was in an 0-for-18 skid before a double in the seventh, heads back to the dugout after grounding into a double play in the ninth.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg



# Slump may cost Volpe No. 1 spot

first 14 major league games.

Beyond Rice, the choices are thin. DJ LeMahieu has shown little in the month of play since being activated from the injured list. Alex Verdugo has become another hole in the order. Perhaps Gleyber Torres, who opened the year as table-setter to Soto and Judge, can rise again.

Torres’ bat was mostly silent through three months of the season. He entered play 7-for-17 in his previous four games before going 0-for-4.

“He’s such a talented hitter,” Boone said of Torres. “He’s making as good swing decisions as he has in his career, but he’s also missing on some pitches that he’s historically done well [with] in his career.”

Since rising in the order, Volpe’s production has tanked. In his first 11 games of the season, in which he hit fifth, sixth or seventh, the 23-year-old hit .375 with a .444 OBP, showing off a revamped swing that

helped him hit to all fields.

In the middle or at the end of the lineup, Volpe walked five times and struck out nine, consistently working long at-bats and taking advantage of his spot in the order: If No. 7-hitting Volpe reached, the opposing pitcher would have to deal with, say, Jose Trevino.

At No. 1, Volpe does not have the same luxury. He has seen more strikes hitting leadoff because opponents are fearful of the hitters on deck.

“He gets attacked in the strike zone, especially early in the count,” Boone said of Volpe, who leads the majors in plate appearances. “You don’t want to fall behind him, you don’t want to put him on base, obviously, with what’s coming up next. I think teams aggressively go after him in the strike zone.”



**INSIDE**  
Lou Gehrig  
poster  
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**More Yankees / P. 45**

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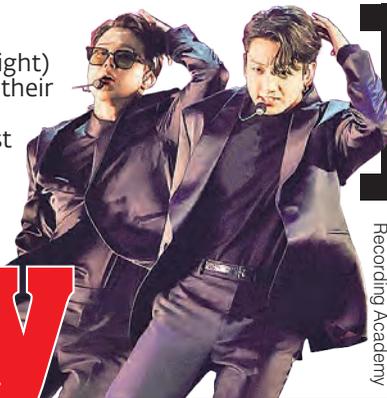
**IRONS MAN** Oscar winner **Jeremy Irons** (right) is set to join the cast of the fourth season of the Emmy winning drama **"The Morning Show."** The actor will play Martin Levy, the father of Alex Levy, Jennifer Aniston's character on the Apple TV+ series.



Getty Images

**DYNA-FLIGHT**

BTS members **Jimin** and **Jungkook** (right) are set to star in **"Are You Sure?!"**, their own travel reality series for Disney+. The series, which premieres on August 8th, will see the singers explore New York, South Korea, and Japan.



Getty Images for The Recording Academy

# TV Thursday



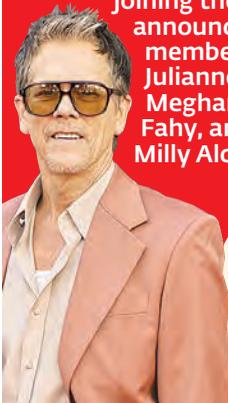
Liam Daniel/Netflix

## The 'Bridgerton' Boom

Season 3 of the historical drama **"Bridgerton"** is now the tenth most watched English language television series on Netflix ever, with 91.9 million viewers. This popular season had its focus on the romance between Colin Bridgerton, played by Luke Newton, and Penelope Featherington, portrayed by **Nicola Coughlan** (above).

## BRINGING HOME THE BACON

Emmy nominee **Kevin Bacon** (below) and Glenn Howerton are set to join Netflix's upcoming limited series **"Sirens."** They will be joining the previously announced cast members **Julianne Moore**, **Meghann Fahy**, and **Milly Alcock**.



Getty Images

By **LAUREN SARNER**

**B**ORN in the USA. The Fourth of July 2024 is here. Whether you were planning to go on vacation or take a chill day off at home, there's plenty of TV offerings to entertain you during Independence Day this week.

From old movies to new specials to classic TV episodes, here's everything to watch and stream on July 4, 2024.

### "Shark Beach with Anthony Mackie: Gulf Coast"

The Marvel superhero—who stars in this docuseries and exec produces it—explores his hometown of New Orleans where sharks are stealing fishermen's catches. And, he probes into the rumors that shark encounters are on the rise on the Gulf of Mexico.

### Where to watch: **Disney+ "Stranger Things"**

"Chapter Seven: The Bite," (the seventh episode of Season 3) is set on the Fourth of July. During the holiday, the town of Hawkins throws a "Fun Fair," but as the fireworks go off, the gang spot something sinister and the kids must tangle with one of the monsters from the Upside Down.

Meanwhile, Hopper (David Harbour) and Joyce (Winona Ryder) search for the kids and tangle with Russian goons at the fair.

### Where to watch: **Netflix "Independence Day"**

This modern classic stars Will Smith, Bill Pullman and Jeff Goldblum as they gather to handle a counterattack after extraterrestrials attack Earth.

### Where to watch: **Hulu "The Summer I Turned Pretty"**

In the Season 1 episode "Summer Heat," Susannah (Rachel Blanchard) has her annual party at the beach house for the Fourth of July. Belly (Lola Tung) and Fisher brothers Conrad (Christopher Briney) and Jeremiah (Gavin Casalegno) make margaritas, which leads to chaos.

Where to watch: **Prime Video "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"**  
In the Season 2 episode, "Charlie



Looking to avoid the crowds this 4th of July? Stay in and stream instead.

NV Post/Comix

think will be a fun outing at Lake Scranton, he constructs "Survivor" like competitions to select his successor.

### Where to watch: **Peacock "National Treasure"**

It wouldn't be a proper Fourth of July without this modern classic. Starring Nicolas Cage, the 2004 adventure movie follows a historian and code-breaker as he searches for a rumored treasure that dates back to America's inception.

### Where to watch: **Disney+ "Portlandia"**

In the Season 5 episode aptly titled "4th of July," Kath (Carrie Brownstein) and Dave (Fred Armisen) try to have the ultimate BBQ for the holiday, while the mayor (Kyle MacLachlan) searches the deep web for special fireworks.

### Where to watch: **AMC+ "Top Gun: Maverick"**

It doesn't get more patriotic than the "Top Gun" franchise. The 2022 hit sequel to the '80s movie follows United States Navy Captain Maverick (Tom Cruise) as he confronts his past while training a group of younger Top Gun graduates. Glen Powell, Miles Teller and Val Kilmer co-star.

### Where to watch: **Paramount, Prime Video "Space Cadet"**

Although it's not themed to the holiday specifically, this is a new movie premiering July 4. Starring Emma Roberts, Tom Hopper and Gabrielle Union, the story follows a Florida party girl who turns out to be the only hope for the NASA space program after a fluke puts her in training with more qualified candidates.

### Where to watch: **Prime Video "Wet Hot American Summer: First Day of Camp"**

While it doesn't have a special Independence Day episode, "Wet Hot American Summer" is the ultimate "summertime vibes" show: Goofy, sun drenched and filled with famous faces like Paul Rudd, Bradley Cooper, Elizabeth Banks, Amy Poehler, Jon Hamm and Chris Pine.

Where to watch: **Netflix**  
For more streaming recommendations today and every day, visit [www.decider.com](http://www.decider.com)

# OH SAY CAN YOU STREAM?

The best of what to watch on the 4th of July

Goes America All Over Everybody's Ass," Charlie (Charlie Day) and Dee (Kaitlin Olson) tries to prove their patriotism by upstaging the local anti-smoking group. Meanwhile, Dennis (Glenn Howerton) and Mac (Rob McElhenney) try to turn their pub Paddy's into the land of the free—which quickly devolves into a lawless place where Frank (Danny DeVito) presides over a game of

Russian Roulette.

### Where to watch: **Hulu "The Office"**

Although the wildly popular comedy doesn't have a specific Independence Day episode, Season 3's episode "Beach Games" is close enough. Michael (Steve Carrell) is being considered for a position in the company's corporate department, so while the group goes to what they

### What's on Tonight



### DRAMA

**Rocky:** 3 p.m. on AMC. Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire. A boxer gets a supremely rare chance to fight the world heavyweight champion.



### ACTION

**Captain America: The Winter Soldier:** 3 p.m. on FX. Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson. Time to battle a new threat from history: an assassin known as the Winter Soldier.



### ADVENTURE

**The Lost World: Jurassic Park:** 3 p.m. on TNT. Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Moore. A research team is sent to the Jurassic Park Site island to study the dinosaurs there.

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	
2	WCBS	2	2	2	CBS News Norah	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Young Sheldon (R)	(8:31) Ghosts (R)	(9:01) Elsbeth: Something Blue (R)	Fire Country: Alert the Sheriff (R)		CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) Late Show (R)	
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	Macy's 4th of July Spectacular		Macy's 4th of July Spectacular (R)		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show		
5	WNYW	5	5	5	Family Feud (R)	Extra (R)	TMZ (R)	Copa Tonight Live.		(8:45) Copa America 2024: Ecuador at Argentina from NRG Stadium in Houston. Live.		The 10 O'Clock News			
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	America's Funniest Home Videos (R)		America's Funniest Home Videos (R)		News (11:35) Kimmel Live (R)			
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Dish Nation (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Dateline: The Deep End		Chicago P.D.: New Guard		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	TMZ Live	
11	WPIX	11	11	11	PIX11 Evening News	Sports Nightly	The Big Bang Theory	The Conners	The Conners	Masters of Illusion	Animals: Episode 407	PIX11 News at Ten		Seinfeld: Pilot, Part 1	Seinfeld: The Betrayal
13	WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		A Capitol Fourth 2024		A Capitol Fourth 2024 (R)		Amanpour and Company			
21	WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Dynamic Planet: Water		The Green Planet				Show Me	BBC News		
25	WNYE	25	22	25	Report	Great Conversations		Food.	Potluck	Actors	Feet	Global Health Frontiers		Artbound	
31	WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) Fire	Chicago P.D.: Emotional		Chicago P.D.: Profiles		Chicago Fire: Hiding Not		Chicago Fire: What I Saw		Chicago P.D.: Good Men	
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	La rosa de Guadalupe		Fútbol		CONMEBOL Copa América 2024: from United States. Directo.		Noticias	Noticiero		
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP: Part 1		(7:58) Top Chef VIP: Part 2		El Conde: Amor y honor		Noticiero	Noticiero		
55	WLNY	55	10	10	Queens	Man	Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Live to Tell		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	Homicide	Homicide Squad (R)		Homicide Squad (R)		Homicide Squad (R)		(10:01) Homicide Squad		(11:04) Homicide Squad		
AMC	54	43	231	(5:30) Rocky II	(1979, Drama) PG ★★★		Rocky III (1982, Drama) Sylvester Stallone. PG ★★★		Rocky IV (1985) Sylvester Stallone. ★★★½		Bet Awards '24				
BET	37	54	270	Weapon 3	Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action) Mel Gibson. R ★★★										
BBCAM	71	101	189	(6:00) Tombstone	(1993, Western) Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer. R ★★★½		A Few Good Men (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise. R ★★★½								
BRAVO	18	44	185	Below Deck	Below Deck: I'm Ironing		Below Deck: My Dearest		Below Deck (R)		Below Deck (R)		Below Deck: Fire! (R)		
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		
CNN	78	25	100	Situation	The Fourth In America								The Fourth In America		
COM	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	(8:20) The Office		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
DIS	49	31	250	Big City (R)	BUNK'D (R)	BUNK'D (R)	BUNK'D (R)	BUNK'D (R)	ZOMBIES	ZOMBIES	Hailey's (R)	Hailey's (R)	Jessie	Jessie	
DSC	66	27	120	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	
E!	24	51	196	American Pie 2 (2001) ★★★½	American Wedding (2003, Comedy) Jason Biggs. ★★★½		American Reunion (2012, Comedy) Jason Biggs. R ★★★								
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports Live.	Cornhole: USA Cornhole Live.		Competitive Eating		SportsCenter Live.		SportsCenter Live.		SportsCenter Live.		
ESPN2	29	35	74	ESPN BET L	The 2024 ESPYS		Pickleball: PPA Tour: San Clemente		30 for 30		Ultimate				
FBN	43	106	117	Legends &	Legends & Lies: Patriots		Legends & Lies: Patriots		Legends & Lies: Patriots		Legends & Lies: Patriots		Legends & Lies: Patriots		
FNC	44	26	118	Sp. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night		
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	
FREFRM	38	49	199	(4:10) Avatar	(2009) ★★★½		(7:50) Independence Day		(1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith, Bill Pullman. PG-13 ★★★				The 700 Club (R)		
FS1	400	99	83	(6:00) Copa America 2024 Replay.	Major League Rugby Replay.		NHRA Drag Racing: Norwalk		Finals Replay.						
FX	10	40	53	(6:00) Marvel's The Avengers	(2012, Action) Robert Downey Jr. ★★★½		Avengers: Age of Ultron		(2015, Action) Robert Downey Jr. PG-13 ★★★½						
HALL		191	240	Veteran's	The Most Wonderful Time of the Year (2008) NR ★★★		The Nine Lives of Christmas		(2014) Brandon Routh.		A Christmas Melody		NR		
HGTV	64	98	165	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	Zillow (R)	Zillow (R)	Zillow (R)	Zillow (R)	Zillow (R)	Zillow (R)	Zillow (R)	Zillow (R)	
HIST	40	47	128	America The Story of Us: Cities/Boom	America The Story of Us: Bust/WWII (R)		(10:05) America The Story of Us: Superpower/Mill (R)								
ID	23	171	123	Joe Kenda	Lt. Joe Kenda: Death Roll		Lt. Joe Kenda (R)		Lt. Joe Kenda (R)		Lt. Joe Kenda (R)		Lt. Joe Kenda (R)		
LIFE	62	45	140	Castle	Castle: Death in Family		Castle: Deep in Death		Castle: The Double Down		Castle: Inventing Girl		Castle: Fool Me Once		
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Hillbillies	Acres	Hogan	Hogan	Burnett	P. Mason	
MSG	27	87	78	The Juice	The Juice		NHL Hockey Replay.				The Bettor		The Juice		
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(4:00) FanDuel Racing Live.			Super High Roller Bowl		NY Giants		The Juice				
MSNBC	14	23	103	(6:00) Joy Reid Rachel Maddow	Rachel Maddow (R)		Donald Trump		Love & the Constitution						
MTV	20	53	210	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	
NATGEO	65	162	121	(6:00) Jaws	Jaws vs. Boats (R)		United Sharks (R)		Lost Beasts Unearthed		Jaws vs. Boats (R)				
NICK	6	121	252	(6:00) Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) ★★★	The Secret Life of Pets (2016, Family) Louis C.K. ★★★		Friends		Friends		Friends		Friends		
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) 20/20	20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		
PARMT	36	56	54	Yellowsto.	Yellowstone: Only Devils		(8:13) Yellowstone (R)		(9:17) Yellowstone: Blood the Boy (R)		(10:24) Yellowstone (R)		Gump ★★★		
SNY	26	60	77	(5:30) Mets Classics	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Washington Nationals. Replay.		Sports Live.		Sports Live.						
SYFY	17	48	180	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang		Bang		Bang		Bang		Jokers (R)		
TCM	82	41	230	(5:30) Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942) NR	On the Waterfront (1954, Crime) Marlon Brando. ★★★½		Eva Marie Saint: Live (R)		North Northwest (1959)						
TLC	52	28	139	7 Little (R)	7 Little Johnstons (R)		7 Little Johnstons		7 Little Johnstons		Doubling Down with		Doubling Down with		
TNT	3	37	51	(6:00) Jurassic Park III (2001) Sam Neill.	Suicide Squad (2016, Action) Will Smith. PG-13 ★★★		Justice League (2017) Ben Affleck. ★★★								
TVLAND	85	34	241	Andy	Loves Ray.		Loves Ray.		(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.		Loves Ray.		
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		
VH1	19	52	217	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	
WE	59	42	149	Bones	Bones: Warrior in Wuss		Bones: Family in Feud		Bones: Suit on the Set		Bones: Past in Present		Bones: Future in the Past		
YES	53	89	76	Yankees	MLB Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at New York Yankees. Replay.		Yankeeography		MLB Baseball Replay.						
HBO	511	301	400	(5:54) Godzilla (2014, Science Fiction)	Godzilla: King of the Monsters (2019) Kyle Chandler.		(10:14) Dune: Part Two (2024, Science Fiction) ★★★								
MAX	531	371	420	Get Hard (2015, Comedy) Will Ferrell. R	The Foot Fist Way (2008) R ★★★½		Yes Man (2008, Comedy) Jim Carrey.		Life After Beth (2014) ★★★½						
MGM Plus	595	395		(5:15) Mission: Impossible Dead (2023)	The Patriot (2000, Drama) Mel Gibson. R ★★★½		Top Gun: Maverick (2022) Tom Cruise.								
PARSHO	551	321	365	(6:00) Tropic Thunder (2008, Comedy) R	Forrest Gump (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks. PG-13 ★★★		The Hateful Eight (2015) R ★★★½								

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Alex Verdugo reacts after striking out in the sixth inning of the Yankees' 3-2 loss to the Reds. The Bombers managed just five hits and left nine on base as their slump continued to grow.

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