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Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 · **$3**

An uneasy NATO is set to mark 75 years

Summit will highlight strengths, but political turmoil clouds the future

BY EMILY RAUHALA

This week's NATO summit in Washington was supposed to be a celebration.

Seventy-five years after its founding, the alliance is bigger and more relevant than it's been in decades. Transatlantic ties are strong again. Spurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, allies are united — thanks, in no small part, to U.S. leadership.

But as the city prepares to play host to dozens of heads of state and government, few are in the mood for a party. The U.S. president who championed NATO's revival is in serious trouble. On both sides of the Atlantic, far-right, isolationist politics loom.

NATO, at 75, is still vigorous. Yet it's hard not to wonder how the alliance will look a year from now — whether it will make it to 76 alive and well.

Over three days of meetings starting Tuesday, President Biden and Western leaders will make the case that NATO and the post-World War II order have good years ahead.

Allies will recall the history that brought them together and rally around the need to counter a revanchist Russia. They will outline how they are working to help Ukraine. And they will signal that NATO has a close eye on the budding military partnership between Beijing and Moscow.

Outside the halls of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center — where the formal business of summitry will take place — the storyline will be less sanguine, with a focus on Biden's fitness for office, the possibility of a second

SEE **NATO** ON **A12**

Families see plea deal as soft landing for Boeing

BY LORI ARATANI AND IAN DUNCAN

Boeing's decision to plead guilty to a felony fraud charge for its role in two plane crashes that killed 346 people marks an effort to open a new chapter after a half-decade of tumult and investigations. But immediate reactions to the deal — unveiled shortly before midnight Sunday — suggests moving on won't be easy.

Survivors of the victims of the 737 Max airliner crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia derided the plea agreement as a soft landing for the aerospace behemoth. Echoing a range of other critics, they argued that the deal fails to hold individual executives accountable while allowing Boeing to avoid a legal admission that its engineering and safety blunders caused the deaths.

"They're not trying to do anything in terms of justice, in terms of change, in terms of accountability," said Nadia Milleron, whose 24-year-old daughter perished in the Ethiopian Airlines crash in 2019, said of the deal. "They're trying to move the case along."

Members of the general public,

SEE **BOEING** ON **A15**

Guilty plea: Plane maker avoids trial over onboard system. **A15**

Children's hospital in Kyiv struck in devastating missile attack



ALICE MARTINS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Rescue workers and volunteers search for survivors Monday at Kyiv's Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital, which was hit in a Russian attack. Ukrainian officials said a doctor was killed and a dialysis facility destroyed. **Story, A12**

Beryl batters Texas's waterlogged coast

Hurricane killed 4, flooded region, knocked out power for millions

BY BRADY DENNIS, MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE AND SCOTT DANCE

LAKE JACKSON, TEX. — An unusually early-season hurricane, the latest in a recent spate of soaking and turbulent storms to hit the sprawling Houston metroplex, killed at least four people, trapped others on flooded roadways and knocked out power to nearly 3 million people Monday.

Beryl poured more than a foot of rain on stretches of flat, saturated ground and blew 80 mph wind gusts, swelling meandering bayous, turning highways into waterways and toppling massive oaks onto power lines and homes. Officials said it may take several days to restore power.

It was the latest stage of destruction for a storm that set records for its intensity so early in the hurricane season, fueled by extraordinarily hot Atlantic waters. And some feared it was a hint of more storms to come.

"To have a storm of this magnitude this early is not something that we would predict or expect," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, chief executive of the nation's third-largest county by population, with 4.7 million residents. "There's still the vast majority of hurricane season left. Our hope for the sake of our mental health and safety is there's not going to be another storm, but we have to hope for the best and prepare for the worst."

For Gulf Coast residents like Mike Beggs, that was an overwhelming thought. He and his wife left the Austin area last year for a quiet retirement in an RV on land they own in the waterside town of Sargent, Tex. Just weeks before Beryl sent him fleeing inland, flooding from Tropical Storm Alberto inundated a small building on the property and destroyed his freezer.

Now, sitting in his black pickup truck, waiting for word of how Sargent might have fared, he was already debating whether it was worth it to go back.

"This is just the beginning of the season, and I've already had two floods," he said. "I'm thinking of selling it and going somewhere higher."

Along the coast, the landscape was one of trees snapped in half or pulled up by their roots, of mangled signs and roofs and fences, of flooded fields and drainage ditches full or overflowing. Storm surge, or the sudden rise in sea level above normal tide, reached 4 to 6 feet along portions of the middle Texas coast.

SEE **BERYL** ON **A2**

As Wood steps in, his 'team' cheers him on

Star prospect arrives for the Nationals, and his debut is also meaningful for some in the stands

BY SPENCER NUSBAUM AND ANDREW GOLDEN

On a Friday in late June, Matthew LeCroy, manager of the Class AAA Rochester Red Wings, called James Wood, the top prospect in the Washington Nationals' minor league system. LeCroy told the outfielder to report to his office that day. He did not explain why. Not long after, though, Wood got a text from Drew Millas, the affable 26-year-old catcher who was with the Nationals at the time. "I'll see you soon," the message read.

"And I was like, 'I don't really know what's going on here,'" Wood said with a laugh.

Wood played for the Red Wings that Friday and had his chat with LeCroy, who confirmed the player's growing suspicions. He drove back to his hometown in Maryland on Saturday and on Sunday spent time with his family.

The next day, July 1, Wood stood in left field at Nationals Park and made his major league

SEE **WOOD** ON **A16**



SCOTT TAETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

Coaches, teammates, friends, family members, new fans — all were on hand to support James Wood of the Nationals as he started a new chapter in his life with his big league debut last week.

ELECTION 2024

Biden slows tide of dissent

RENEWED BACKING FROM SOME IN PARTY

A pivotal week as doubts about his chances linger

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB, PAUL KANE, MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR AND LEIGH ANN CALDWELL

President Biden won new support for his reelection bid Monday and headed off further defections among Democratic lawmakers as Congress returned to Capitol Hill, at least temporarily stemming a tide of dissent at the outset of what could be a pivotal week in his fight for political survival.

From influential liberals such as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) to figures such as Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) to erstwhile critics such as Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) to the powerful Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), a parade of Democrats embraced Biden's reelection run, a sharp reversal after a stretch when every day seemed to bring another defection.

"He's been the best president of my lifetime, and we have his back," said Omar, who has blasted Biden's Middle East policy. Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), a centrist, said Biden should remain the nominee, calling him "a president who has delivered for the American people in a

SEE **DEMOCRATS** ON **A7**

Latino voters: Many are unsure about electing a Democrat. **A6**

A scramble: Party's strategy to beat Trump thrown into disorder. **A8**

Buoyed by crowds, Biden misses party's pessimism

BY MATT VISER

HARRISBURG, PA. — President Biden looked out and saw people wearing T-shirts emblazoned with his trademark aviator sunglasses. He viewed signs that read, "Women for Biden-Harris." He heard a crowd chanting, "Four more years! Four more years!" He saw children eating ice cream — and determined he would like some, too.

What he didn't see is what was happening at that very moment Sunday afternoon, on a call among senior congressional Democrats who were worried about the state of Biden's campaign: Several expressed dismay and said he should end his reelection bid, adding to a louder chorus of party officials wanting to change course.

Over a span of 72 hours, as Biden campaigned in two key swing states and returned to Washington, what became increasingly clear is just how differently things look to the Democratic standard-bearer than to many in his party.

Where they see polls predicting political calamity, he sees a dead heat. Where they see a rapidly aging man who should sit for cognitive tests, he sees no

SEE **BIDEN** ON **A4**

IN THE NEWS

Gaza City attacked Israel launched a new operation in the northern part of the enclave, with what some residents described as the worst bombardment of the war. **A13**

Momentous donation A gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies will make the Johns Hopkins medical school free for most students. **B1**

THE NATION

Columbia University put three deans on leave after texts it says evoked "antisemitic tropes." A2

House Speaker Mike Johnson detailed his conservative vision for foreign policy. A3

THE WORLD

After vanquishing the far right, France's new leftist coalition faces internal disputes. A10

In Beijing, Hungarian leader Viktor Orban and Xi Jinping called for a cease-fire in Ukraine. A11

THE ECONOMY

Threads, the one-year-old social media platform from Meta, is still trying to forge a distinct identity for itself. A14

Paramount Global, which has struggled to establish itself in the streaming market, will merge with Skydance Media. A14

THE REGION

A fatal shooting at a downtown restaurant and a hit-and-run crash in January have led to plenty of questions — but no arrests. B1

A recording project gave artists incarcerated in D.C. the opportunity to hear their songs in a new light. B1

STYLE

USA Today, whose quick hits and pithy tone made it a prototype of sorts for today's online news, is struggling in the digital world. C1

HEALTH & SCIENCE

ChatGPT-4 carried on breezy conversation in a study but failed simple reasoning tasks. E1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A14
COMICS.....C6
OBITUARIES.....B4
OPINION PAGES.....A17
TELEVISION.....C4
WORLD NEWS.....A10

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Beryl kills 4, brings floods to storm-weary Texas

BERYL FROM **A1**

By midday Monday, the clean-up was already underway in a hard-hit neighborhood near downtown Lake Jackson, where trees had fallen on some houses, hundreds of limbs littered the street and the power remained out even as the sweltering sun reemerged. Heather Broussard and her relatives quickly amassed a 10-foot high pile of debris by the curb on Azalea Street, and there was plenty left to do.

"It was pretty bad," the 48-year-old Lake Jackson native said. "Do I ever want to go through this again? No."

At least four people died in the storm, according to authorities, including a man who drowned in Houston. A person in Houston was killed in a fire that was probably caused by lightning related to the storm, Mayor John Whitmire said. Two of the deaths confirmed by early Monday occurred under similar circumstances — people seeking shelter in the safety of their homes, only to be caught beneath falling trees. The victims were a 74-year-old grandmother on the north side of Houston, who was in her bedroom when the tree came crashing down, and a 53-year-old father crushed by debris from a falling oak in Atascocita, about 20 miles northeast of Houston. A woman and children were also in the home and unharmed, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said on X.

Across the Houston region, authorities searched flooded roadways for people stranded in their vehicles in rising floodwaters.

"It's a huge city pretty much dependent on automobiles, and people need to get to work and school and just flat didn't stay at home," Whitmire said.

The city has seen numerous storms in recent years, and even just in recent months.

An exceptionally intense line of destructive storms known as a derecho brought wind gusts of more than 100 mph to the Houston area in mid-May, killing at least eight people, downing trees, blowing out skyscraper windows and cutting power to about a million people. Then, severe thunderstorms at the end of May brought blinding rain, impressive hail and winds over 70 mph to Houston. Around 300,000 people in Harris County lost power.

Now, local leaders said Beryl underscored the risks for the growing region, vulnerable for its place on flat and low-lying land on the Gulf.

Whitmire said the storm highlighted problems with the city's drainage and generators. Generators failed at police and fire stations as well as the city animal shelter, he said. The downtown convention center — which served as a mass shelter during past storms — was also without power, as were city multiservice centers, almost all of which don't have generators, he said.

"Even before the growth, we've always lived in a swamp. The folks that came before us knew we need to build this flood infrastructure and we don't, by any stretch, have the infrastructure we need," Hidalgo told The Washington Post on Monday afternoon. "This is another kick in the pants for everyone to really prioritize this."



DANIELLE VILLASANA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



ERIC GAY/AP

ABOVE: An abandoned car in high floodwater along Allen Parkway in Houston after Hurricane Beryl's landfall. LEFT: Jackie Jecmenek, right, talks with city worker Bobby Head as she stands in front of her neighbor's home after Beryl passed in Bay City, Tex. Beryl's landfall in Texas was an endpoint of a remarkable and record-setting 5,000 mile path that left parts of Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica in disarray.

Beryl's landfall in Texas was an endpoint of a remarkable and record-setting 5,000 mile path that left parts of Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica in disarray — and one that probably bears the fingerprints of climate change.

Along its way, Beryl became the Atlantic's strongest June storm on record. Its intensification from tropical depression to Category 4 storm within 48 hours was unprecedented for the time of year. When it gained Category 5 strength July 1, it did so earlier than any other Atlantic hurricane on record.

And when it struck Texas, it became just the 10th hurricane on record to make landfall there during July, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Philip Klotzbach. No other Atlantic hurricane in the past decade has made landfall on U.S. shores so early in tropical cyclone season, which began in June.

Scientists say there is a clear link to human-caused global warming, which has raised average global temperatures by about 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past 150 years.

"This type of incredible early-season activity is attributable to the record-warm water temperatures in the tropical Atlantic," Brian McNoldy, a senior research associate at the University of Miami, wrote in a blog post.

Texas is a part of the country that is used to hurricanes, to be sure. But planetary warming also probably strengthened the force and height of Beryl's waves. The storm made landfall along a stretch of Gulf Coast that has experienced some of the fastest rates of sea level rise in the world since 2010, according to a Post analysis. In Galveston, sea levels have risen about 8.4 inches in the past 14 years.

At the Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Church in Bay City, as Pastor Janie Jo Lopez picked up debris and mopped water from the sanctuary floor, she thought of the fortitude of her parents, who came from Houston and started the church decades ago.

She spoke of how the small congregation weathered the coronavirus pandemic, which claimed the lives of multiple members, including her husband. And she spoke of how the church had rebuilt once before after Hurricane Harvey and its relentless rains had destroyed the interior.

Now, Beryl ripped away metal roofing and plywood and flooded classrooms and the sanctuary.

"Our first words were, 'We will rebuild,'" Lopez said. "We've done it before, we'll do it again."

In Surfside Beach, the debris that littered flooded roads offered a testament to the violence of the previous night: mattresses and nightstands, shingles and insulation, wooden staircases and trash cans, mangled and broken power lines, lumber with nails sticking out, even the odd vacuum cleaner. A strip of well-known A-frame houses were destroyed amid the pounding surf.

"My heart broke," Alison Hester, 52, said of the sights she saw when she crossed the bridge to the town where she has spent most of her life.

Now, the risk of flooding rains from Beryl's remnants shift to the north and east. Heavy rain reached Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri late Monday into early Tuesday, and then was expected in portions of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan by Tuesday and Wednesday.

Meanwhile, forecasters were watching the possibility that Beryl increases the risk of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. On Tuesday, the severe risk could shift northeast into portions of western Tennessee and Kentucky and the southern portions of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Dennis reported from Lake Jackson, Bay City and Surfside Beach, Tex., Hennessy-Fiske from Houston and Dance from Washington. Dan Stillman, Ian Livingston, Kasha Patel, Kevin Crowe, Jason Samenow, Anumita Kaur and Maham Javaid contributed to this report.



Columbia puts deans on leave after texts evoking 'antisemitic tropes'

BY SUSAN SVRLUGA

Columbia University has permanently removed three administrators from their roles and placed them on indefinite leave for texts sent during an alumni weekend event about Jewish life on campus.

Minouche Shafik, the president of Columbia, wrote to the campus community Monday that the behavior and sentiments exhibited in the messages were troubling, unprofessional and "touched on ancient antisemitic tropes."

Columbia has faced scrutiny from lawmakers, the Education Department, alumni and others about antisemitism this year, as the campus experienced protests over the Israel-Gaza war that touched off similar demonstrations at colleges across the country this spring and disrupted normal operations at the Ivy League school. In April, a rabbi at Columbia told Jewish students they should return home for their own safety.

Last month, the Washington Free Beacon published photos of text messages exchanged during a panel discussion on Jewish life between university administrators Josef Sorett, the dean of Columbia College; Susan Chang-Kim, then a vice dean of Columbia College; Cristen Kromm, then dean of undergraduate student life; and Matthew Patashnick, then associate dean for student and family support, with messages dismissive of the speakers' remarks about campus antisemitism. In one instance, one of the deans sent a vomit emoji in reference to a campus rabbi's op-ed about antisemitism, according to the Free Beacon.

Sorett remains dean of Columbia College, but the three others were removed from their roles. The three former deans did not immediately respond to requests for comment Monday.

The House Committee on Education and the Workforce demanded copies of the texts and released them last week, saying they showed senior Columbia College administrators "mocking and disparaging" the university's Jewish community "and trafficking in antisemitic tropes regarding Jews and money."

According to the committee, in one text during the panel discussion titled "Jewish Life on Campus: Past, Present, and Future," one of the administrators wrote about a panelist, Brian Cohen, the Lavine Family Executive Director of Columbia/Barnard Hillel, "He knows exactly what he's doing and how to take full advantage of this moment. Huge fundraising potential."

"I'm going to throw up," another wrote in another exchange.

Sorett sent three texts, apparently in response to messages from Chang-Kim, transcripts of texts released by the committee indicate. The other three administrators sent many messages in a group chat with one another.

On Monday, Shafik wrote that the university would launch "vigorous" antisemitism and anti-discrimination training for faculty and staff in the fall, with related training for students.

Aaron Schaffer contributed to this report.

POLITICS & THE NATION

Johnson details conservative vision for foreign policy

BY ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER

House Speaker Mike Johnson on Monday laid out his vision for a conservative U.S. foreign policy, addressing the "interconnected web of threats" posed by China, Russia, Iran and others while seeking to contrast what he called a dangerous American "weakness" under Democratic leadership with a Republican Party that does not aspire to be "the world's policeman" but is willing to "fight with the gloves off."

The speech, hosted by the Hudson Institute, a conservative Washington think tank, marked the first time Johnson (R-La.) has publicly commented at length on his foreign policy views. Over roughly 45 minutes, he sought to project a sense of comity and like-mindedness among the fractious GOP as it aligns behind the party's presumptive presidential nominee, Donald Trump.

"The Republican Party," Johnson said, "is not one of nation builders or careless interventionists. We don't believe we should be the world's policemen. Nor are we idealists who think we can placate tyrants. We are realists. We don't seek out a fight. But we know we have to be prepared. We have to be prepared to fight, and if we must fight, we fight with the gloves off."

Johnson spoke Monday as European and other foreign leaders began to arrive in Washington for the annual summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), whose members this week are expected to discuss efforts to safeguard the alliance from an increasingly aggressive Russia and further help Ukraine repel Russia's invasion. Earlier in the day, a barrage of Russian missiles struck a children's hospital in Kyiv, killing dozens.

Johnson's speech appeared geared, in part, toward reassuring U.S. allies — many of whom he intends to meet with this week — as well as traditionalist national security hawks in his own party, that he supports Ukraine's fight against Russia and believes in NATO's importance.



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), who had little formal foreign policy experience before this role, aligned himself with the "peace through strength" doctrine espoused by President Ronald Reagan.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's expansionist ambitions "don't stop with Ukraine" and risk provoking a larger war with Europe, he said, echoing a popular talking point made by both the Biden administration and Republican centrists.

Johnson aligned himself with the "peace through strength" foreign policy doctrine espoused by President Ronald Reagan, a philosophy often characterized by Republican moderates as representative of traditional party policy.

It is also often depicted in contrast with the movement toward isolationism among the party's far right — sentiments animated by Trump, who has opposed Ukraine aid, suggested he could end the war in 24 hours if reelected, and contemplated U.S. withdrawal from NATO.

"We are realists. We don't seek out a fight. But we know we have to be prepared. We have to be prepared to fight, and if we must fight, we fight with the gloves off."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, in a speech at the Hudson Institute

"If we don't return the Reagan Doctrine, we're going to be in serious trouble," Johnson warned.

A relative unknown before assuming the House speakership in October, Johnson's foreign policy views have been the subject of speculation as he has navigated a deeply divided Congress and the GOP's bitter internal feuds.

Initially, the four-term Republican joined the party's hard-liners in opposing U.S. support to Ukraine, a stance he later reversed after delaying for months a House vote on billions of dollars in additional military support for the country, enraging many on the far right.

But Johnson's speech Monday was anything but a repudiation of the party's standard-bearer, with whom he has publicly allied himself. Rather, the "pundits" have been mistaken: Trump, is not, in fact, an isolationist, Johnson insisted.

"If you look at the objective facts in the history, you know, President Trump established a solid security posture" during his time in office, he asserted, arguing that Trump had toughened America's stance toward China and Iran.

Even as Johnson praised the Reagan doctrine, he sought to frame his — and Trump's — vision as an "America first" policy that falls solidly outside the old school "foreign policy establishment." And he embraced Trump's criticisms of NATO, moments after paying tribute to the importance of the historic alliance.

"Everyone cannot ride along on the coattails of America," Johnson said of NATO member states that spend less on defense proportionally than the United States does. "Donald Trump says this as bluntly as anyone: it's just right and fair to demand that others do their part," he said.

This week's NATO summit also comes at a fraught moment in U.S. politics, as President Biden struggles to contain mounting concerns within the Democratic Party — and among foreign allies — about his physical and cognitive fitness to win a second term in November and lead the country for another four years.

Johnson in his speech sought to capitalize on his political opponents' turmoil, presenting Biden and the Democrats as weak and catering to America's foes — a trend, he suggested, that Republican leadership would reverse.

"Joe Biden doesn't treat China like an enemy. He's stopped supporting Israel, and has cozied up to Iran to revive the failed nuclear deal … He's opened our borders wide to spies and terrorists, while reducing sanctions on Latin dictators," Johnson said, calling Democrats "naive" and "idealistic."

The Biden administration has sought to maintain open lines of communication with Beijing as a means of avoiding conflict amid the two powers' deepening economic competition, and has blamed Trump's abandonment of the Obama-era Iran nuclear deal for Tehran's progress toward obtaining a nuclear weapon. Democrats also have chastised Republicans for their unbridled support for Israel's far-right government amid the Gaza conflict, which has so far killed tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians. And they have also cited Johnson's rejection of a bipartisan border reform bill negotiated in the Senate last year as evidence of Republican hypocrisy.

Johnson drew bipartisan criticism earlier this year for his unwillingness to hold a vote on Ukraine aid, even though a majority of House members appeared ready to support the measure. Democrats have attributed recent front-line gains by Moscow, as well as Ukraine's dire weapons shortage — including its inability to repel attacks — to that delay.

Johnson, who had little formal foreign policy experience before entering a leadership position in Congress, illustrated his policy positions with vignettes from his experiences on congressional delegations abroad, including a trip to Israel funded by the pro-Israel lobbyist group AIPAC.

Johnson's worldview as a devout Baptist, particularly his understanding of Middle East politics, also came through in a speech that contained about a dozen religious references, including the notion that the fundamental tenets of Christianity are "what defines us as a nation."

"If we lose that," he said, "we lose an essential ingredient about what it means to be an American."

DIGEST

WEATHER

Heat feared as cause of 4 deaths in Oregon

Record daily high temperatures in Oregon were suspected in four deaths reported in the Portland area Monday as much of the country continued to swelter under a heat wave.

California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, Washington and Idaho on Monday were under an excessive-heat warning, the National Weather Service's highest alert, while parts of the East Coast as well as Alabama and Mississippi were under heat advisories. The death of a motorcyclist Saturday in California's Death Valley also was blamed on the severe heat.

In Oregon's Multnomah County, home to Portland, the medical examiner was investigating four suspected heat-related deaths recorded on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, officials said. Three of the deaths involved county residents who were 64, 75 and 84 years old, county officials said in an email. Heat also was suspected in the death of a 33-year-old man transported to a Portland hospital from outside the county.

Portland broke daily record temperatures Friday, Saturday and Sunday and was on track to do so again Monday with a forecast high of 102 degrees, National Weather Service meteorologist Hannah Chandler-Cooley said.

Hot temperatures were expected in Portland through Tuesday evening, the National Weather Service said.

— Associated Press

NORTH CAROLINA

3 killed as small plane crashes in mountains

Three people were killed when a small plane crashed in western North Carolina, officials said Monday.

McDowell County Emergency Management said emergency personnel responding to a report of a missing small plane found the downed aircraft near the Rutherford County line. The area is about 30 miles east of Asheville.

Three people were aboard the single-engine Cessna 182 when it crashed in the mountains near Rutherfordton, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The National Transportation Safety Board said preliminary information indicates that the plane, which departed Mountain City, Tenn., and was heading to Rutherford County Airport, crashed Sunday, and the wreckage was found Monday.

— Associated Press

MONTANA

2 men drown in Glacier National Park

Two men drowned in Glacier National Park over the July 4 holiday weekend, park officials said.

A 26-year-old man from India was hiking on Avalanche Lake Trail on Saturday morning when he walked near Avalanche Creek, slipped on rocks and was caught in the cold, fast-moving water. Witnesses saw him go underwater and resurface briefly before being swept through a narrow gorge at about 8:30 a.m.

The man was living and working in California and was in the park on vacation with friends.

On Saturday evening, a 28-year-old man from Nepal was swimming with friends in Lake McDonald near Sprague Creek Campground. He was about 30 yards from shore when he started to struggle and went underwater at about 6:25 p.m. The man was living and working in Portland, Ore., and was on vacation with friends.

— Associated Press

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ELECTION 2024

In a Florida retiree bastion, anger and hope for Biden

BY LORI ROZSA

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. — Eighty-five-year-old Lucille Grabinski steered clear of discussing politics as she worked on a set of bejeweled cat coasters at her community's arts and crafts workshop on a recent afternoon.

Neighbors in the gated RiverWalk neighborhood in West Palm Beach abide by an unwritten code not to talk about the upcoming election. But these days, in between aquatic exercise classes and pickleball matches, the presidential contest is almost all anyone can think about.

"He had a bad night," Grabinski said as she cleaned up her leftover beads. "I think he got better toward the end. We're all rooting him on."

Perhaps nowhere are President Biden's senior moments hitting closer to home than in places like RiverWalk, a community that skews older in snowbird-friendly Palm Beach County. The neighborhood is built around the idea that getting old doesn't mean staying still. Many of the residents keep a busy calendar well into their 80s. And they reject the idea that there should be an age limit for running the country.

As they watched Biden struggle recently on the debate stage, some saw a man wrestling with many of the same issues they battle with each day. Fatigue. Forgetfulness. A mind that switches gears a little less easily than before.

"As an older person, I can watch another older person and say, 'Okay, that's understandable, he lost his train of thought, but then he got back on track.' That happens to all of us," said Fran Shay, 72, a retired paralegal who is active in RiverWalk's online yoga class and book club. "But from younger people's point of view, we're all just too old, and we're all losing it."

But some also fear Biden's stumbles might be a sign of something more. They notice the occasional confused stare and his shuffling gait. They have seen friends and relatives suddenly decline — seemingly fine one day, not the next. They fear the politician who has been a constant throughout their adult lives might be taking a turn for the worse, and they are angry at how his minders are handling it.

"I don't blame Biden for this," said Arlene Senzer, who at 81 is the same age as Biden. "I blame the people around him for letting it get this far."

Democrats outnumber Republicans in the precinct that encompasses RiverWalk, though GOP voters and those with no party affiliation trail not far behind. Palm Beach County is traditionally blue, but like other parts of Florida, party loyalty is proving tenuous. Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis won the county in 2022.

As is the case nationwide, older adults in Florida are key to winning an election. They turn up more reliably at the polls, and in the Sunshine State, their numbers are sizable. There are nearly 4.4 million voters age 65 or older here, according to political data firm L2, or roughly 30 percent of registered voters.

At RiverWalk, older adults dominate, though younger families are also moving in. Spacious homes on tree-lined streets border canals and lakes. There is line dancing on Tuesday evenings, a film and book club, and mahjongg games twice a month. The median home price is about $635,000 and many residents are transplants from northern states like New York.

Overt displays of party loyalty like flags and campaign signs are discouraged. But the nation's political divisions are still palpable. At the gym, the TV sets are invariably tuned to either CNN or Fox, the first person to arrive planting a flag with the push of a button.

Senzer is in the pool each morning, taking advantage of Florida's warm weather and the community's aqua fitness class. But the retired high school chemistry teacher also recognizes her limitations.

"We can't fight old age," she said. "There are times when I'm sitting with four of my friends and we're trying to think of the name of an actor we saw in a movie the night before, and if we're lucky, maybe one out of four of us will even be able to remember the name of the movie, let alone the actor. That's just what happens when you're older."

But Senzer said what she saw on the debate stage felt different.

She's noticed the president's voice has grown softer. And as she gets into her 80s, she's all too aware older folks can sometimes decline quickly. She'd prefer Biden bow out so that someone "younger and more dynamic" can jump in.

"I'll vote for whatever Democrat is on the top of that ticket," she said.

On Friday afternoon, she gathered with a group of politically like-minded friends at her home, where they felt free to vent about Biden and rail against former president Donald Trump without offending any of the Republican acquaintances they see at the clubhouse and the community center.

From their point of view, Trump was no spring chicken either, and they have noticed his occasional incoherent ramblings as well. More concerning, they said, was Trump's strongman rhetoric and criminal record, all signs of a faulty moral compass that no amount of rest could remedy.

The octogenarians all had advice for how Biden might win weary voters back. For one thing, he needs to speak more assertively, they said. They also had some thoughts on what his staff might do differently.

"They need to give him a shot of B12," said Janice Rosenberg, 83, a retired high school home economics teacher. "And some chicken soup."

A week after the debate, she said she still couldn't shake the image of a flailing Biden from her mind: "It was heartbreaking, it really was."

The friends say they want to see the Biden they voted for four years ago. He was elderly even then, they acknowledge, but — much like themselves — he didn't act his age, at least not the way much of American society expects people in their late 70s to act. They recalled his confident stride, and the videos of him riding a bicycle and delivering off-the-cuff quips while speaking without a teleprompter.

They don't fault him for napping — the entire friend group said they enjoy an afternoon snooze. They also don't blame him for looking and acting tired after returning from a trip to Europe or after a week of negotiating with Congress.

"Is one of the jobs of the president to be a good debater, or is it to be aware of the needs of the country and to take care of those needs?" asked Berniece Allison, 88, who swims laps daily in her backyard pool. "He doesn't need to run up four flights of stairs or jump around to prove anything."

Thomas Jennings, 80, is a precinct captain for the Palm Beach County Democratic Party and said Biden needs to come out with ads that feature him speaking forcefully about his administration's accomplishments.

"They're not talking enough about what Joe Biden has done for this country," said Jennings as he and the others nibbled on Triscuits and sipped glasses of ice water. "The conversation is all about his age. Instead it should be about the Biden infrastructure program, it should be about protecting Social Security, and it should be about Trump."

Jennings, Senzer and their friends all agreed on one thing: They will vote for whoever the Democratic nominee is. But they said that if Biden stays in the race, he owes supporters a more detailed explanation of his health. Ultimately, they want to know which Biden they are supporting — the Biden of 2020, the frail shadow of a man they saw at the debate, or something in between?

After Biden's interview Friday with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, Senzer said the answer seemed somewhat clearer.

"It was much better than the debate, but I don't think he could have gone lower," she said. "It wasn't good enough to allay my concerns, but I'm willing to wait."

Her friend Shay agreed that Biden looked better in the one-on-one with Stephanopoulos — he was "energetic and lucid" and showed he could handle the job of president for the next four years.

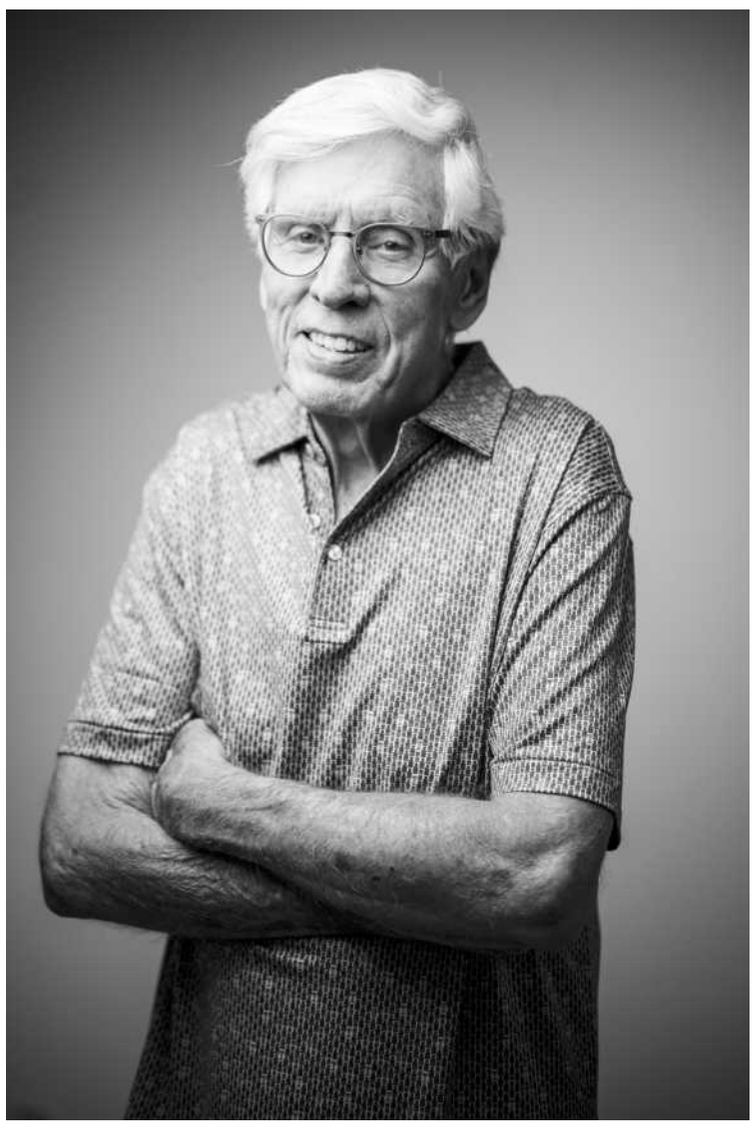
Now, however, she's worried about something else.

"I'm concerned about more than his being an old man," she said, "but about his being a stubborn old man."



PHOTOS BY JOSH RITCHIE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

ABOVE: Arlene Senzer speaks with friends about President Biden in West Palm Beach, Fla. Senzer and her friends plan to vote for Biden. BELOW: Thomas Jennings, a precinct captain for the Palm Beach County Democratic Party, says Biden needs to release ads that feature him speaking forcefully about his accomplishments.



Biden sees a different world than other Democrats

BIDEN FROM A1

problem that can't be fixed with a display of energy and force. Where they see a 90-minute debate that showcased the state of his mental acuity, he sees it simply as a "bad night" as he fended off a jet-lag-induced cold.

Everyone in the party concedes that it is Biden's decision — and his alone — whether to continue his reelection bid. But the self-professed congenital optimist now finds himself trying to convince a party that has grown increasingly pessimistic, with a n increasing number of Democrats fearful that unless things change, Republicans are poised for a landslide victory and Donald Trump is headed for the White House.

But in the eyes of a president who often relishes the mentality of an underdog, he has taken a posture of Joe Biden Against the World (or at least some in his party).

Biden in recent days has held several rallies aimed at showing that he still has the enthusiastic support of the party's rank-and-file. But those events contrasted starkly with the somber mood outside, creating a challenge for skeptics who are pointing to less-tangible indicators like troubling polls, mounting defections and withheld donations.

While critics may worry that Biden is cocooned from the worst of the news, living in a bit of a Biden Bubble, he has chosen to focus on the positives. He insists that his conversations with top Democrats have been emphatically reassuring: "They're telling me to stay in the race."

When presented with countervailing information in an ABC news interview or during exchanges with reporters — that Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey (D) had expressed concern and Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.) was trying to gather worried senators to talk to him about withdrawing — he batted them away by saying neither Healey nor Warner had spoken to him personally.

By Monday, Biden had become even more emphatic in his view that he was his party's best option to defeat Trump for a second time. He sent a lengthy letter to congressional Democrats stating bluntly, "I am firmly committed to staying in this race, to running this race to the end." He joined a call with his top donors, telling them: "The Democratic Party has spoken. The Democratic nominee is me."

He also told the hosts of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that he had grown frustrated with the chattering class — "I'm getting so frustrated by the elites" — and that he had spent the previous days on the campaign trail on something of a fact-finding mission to determine whether his instinct to stay in the race was correct. The impassioned crowds he saw, he said, showed him that it was.

"I wanted to make sure I was right, that the average voter out there still wanted Joe Biden," he said. "And I'm confident they do. … I'm not going anywhere."

On Sunday, when the political talk shows were filled with speculation on whether — when? — Biden would exit the race, he entered Mount Airy Church of God in Christ in Philadelphia and saw a boisterous congregation cheering his name. He heard a pastor adamant about his support for his campaign, noting that the president was sitting next to a 91-year-old bishop ("Don't let anyone talk about your age. You're a young whippersnapper"), and comparing him to his biblical namesake who upended expectations ("Never count Joseph out!").

"If Joseph could get out of the pit! If Jesus could get out of the pit! President Biden is coming back!" the pastor, Louis Felton, shouted. "He's a comeback kid. He's a fighter. He's a champion. He's a winner. Hallelujah!"

The president swayed to the music, lifting his arms above his head, and listened as a member of the congregation offered up a prayer, saying, "Touch his mind, O God, his body; rejuvenate him and his spirit, O God — bless him and give him direction."

Two days earlier, Biden had said divine intervention would be needed to get him to change his mind on his candidacy — "If the Lord Almighty came down and said, 'Joe, get out of the race,' I'd get out of the race." But in the message that came from the church pulpit, the divine had a different agenda.

"God knew President Biden needs some love," Felton said. "And God sent him here today so that we can show him."

The congregation stood, clapping and cheering. The president sat, smiling and tapping his heart.

After greeting members of the congregation after the service, posing for selfies and talking about his loan forgiveness program, Biden visited a campaign office and greeted volunteers. He told them he'd been getting large crowds.

"We need Dark Brandon back," said one woman, referring to a meme that depicted Biden as a superhero and prompted an image the campaign has used for merchandise.

"Dark Brandon is coming back," the president said.

By Sunday afternoon, the president had arrived at a courtyard filled with several hundred supporters who had been listening to music, playing cornhole and eating barbecue. His remarks were brief and, at times, meandering before he handed the microphone to Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.), who has been one of his most vociferous supporters in recent days.

"I'm about to point to the only person that's ever kicked Trump's a-- in an election right now," Fetterman said, motioning at the president. "Humiliated Trump. Broke him. And he had to lie about it."

Biden spoke for six minutes, but then he lingered for almost an hour afterward.

He kissed foreheads, grabbed shoulders and talked one-on-one to several attendees. At one point he removed his jacket and took a long gulp of what appeared to be orange Gatorade. Though more Democrats are questioning whether he should stay in the race, the rope-line affirmations are sending the opposite message.

Even as the past few days have seemed to reassure Biden, buoyed by crowds cheering him on and the more intimate interactions that he was known for earlier in his career, there are also signs of problems that could portend a battle ahead.

His sometimes halting speaking patterns have continued. And while he was warmly cheered on Friday by a crowd at a middle school gymnasium in Madison, Wis., a number of voters said in interviews that they'd come to see him because they were worried about his health and wanted him to drop out.

And while the church crowd was enthusiastic — praying for him, locking arms with him, and chanting "four more years!" — a number of the pews were empty.

Yet at the time congressional Democrats on Sunday were expressing their concerns on a private call with House leaders, the president's mind was elsewhere, focused on much lighter subjects.

"Folks, with your permission, I'm going to find out whether you have any ice cream," he said. "You know, isn't it really dull when you have a president who is known for two things — Ray-Ban sunglasses and chocolate chip ice cream?"

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ELECTION 2024

Latino voters aren't all in for Biden

Interviews in Las Vegas signal an erosion in support, and many are unsure of Harris as a potential replacement

BY SABRINA RODRIGUEZ AND RONDA CHURCHILL

LAS VEGAS — As hundreds of families gathered to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday at a local park here, many sported patriotic outfits full of red, white and blue and expressed their excitement about seeing fireworks. But in interviews with over a dozen Latino attendees, hardly anyone shared that excitement about the presidential election that's four months away.

Under one tent, a family blasted music by Dominican singer Juan Luis Guerra and prepared plates of tortilla chips drenched in salsa verde. A few feet away, a group of women yelled at their children in Spanish to stay close, where they could see them. And several in the diverse crowd lined up to buy tacos at the popular Slanging Tacos food truck parked on the park grounds.

Latino voters make up nearly 20 percent of Nevada's electorate and were among those who attended the celebration at Buckskin Basin Park. In conversations with Latino voters here, there were plenty of groans and eye-rolling in response to any mention of the upcoming election, a reflection of their frustration with the options at the top of the ticket. These are some of the voters who were part of President Biden's winning coalition in 2020 but who have expressed reservations with his reelection bid — which is in a state of crisis after a faltering debate performance that has prompted widespread Democratic concern. And they're the same voters another Democrat would need in the event Biden steps aside.

Even as Biden has said he is staying in the race, the Democrat who has gotten the most attention as a potential replacement is Vice President Harris, who is scheduled to return to Las Vegas for a Biden campaign event on Tuesday, marking her sixth visit to Nevada, a battleground state, this year.

Polls have consistently shown Biden underperforming with Latino voters, a key demographic that has traditionally skewed Democratic but whose support has softened ahead of this year's election. A post-debate New York Times-Siena poll found Biden and former president Donald Trump roughly even among Hispanic likely voters, 47 percent to 46 percent. In late June, the Siena poll showed Biden leading among Hispanics, by 14 percentage points. In 2020, exit polls showed Biden winning Latinos by 33 points.

Before Biden's debate performance, Harris was already thrust to the forefront of the campaign's efforts to court young and minority voters, visiting Latino-heavy cities like Phoenix and Las Vegas. Now, as speculation mounts around whether Harris could become the party's nominee, there's a question of whether she could energize Latino voters if she does.

But interviews with Latino voters here exposed a deep frustration and feeling that Biden hasn't delivered on promises to tackle issues like immigration and the rising cost of living — making some more open to supporting Trump, or not voting at all. Biden potentially exiting the race doesn't change that, several said, tying Harris to the disappointment they feel with the Biden administration. Some said a younger candidate such as Harris could better connect with younger voters of color and prioritize the issues that are front of mind for them. Some say a second Trump term would be best for improving the economy for Latino families, even if they're not fans of his anti-immigrant rhetoric. And others worry that the options on both sides don't represent them — and won't make a difference as their families struggle to make ends meet.

Here's how they said they're feeling:







PHOTOS BY RONDA CHURCHILL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

"I'm an immigrant and I see that Democrats have been promising us immigration reform for years and at the end of the day we're being ignored. I don't believe in them. I don't believe in the promises they make. That's why I'm open. I want someone to earn my vote. Right now, I think Trump could offer us more than Biden."

David Mungia, 42. Works in a hospital. Leaning toward voting for Trump.

"I support us girls and I would love to see a woman run the country, but I don't think it's gonna happen. She's been on [Biden's] side all this time and nothing was done on her side either as vice president. I think people want change for our country and she isn't that."

Isabella Bello, 21. Works as a server while going to nursing school. Voting for Trump.

"I won't be voting for anybody at all. It hasn't done any good. Nothing has gotten better. ... We try to teach our kids that if they're going to say something, follow through on your word, but when you have these kind of leaders and they're not doing anything of what they promise, it's kind of hard to teach anything."

Jonathan Smith, 33. Owns a small business. Not planning to vote.



"I'm excited to vote for the first time, but it's lame that these are the candidates we have. I'm not happy about it. I think Harris would be a better option given the fact that she's younger. I'd have to do more research on her, but better than what we have? Yeah."

Jason Adams, 17. Incoming high school senior. Voting for Biden but would prefer Harris.



"Biden hasn't delivered on everything and I would take Kamala over him. She has been very limited and he has thrown her under the bus, especially with immigration, but he was not what we voted for. ... I'd take her over the options we have. ... Now, if we had the option to do a no-confidence vote, that's really what I'd do."

Biddy Adams, 42. Works in real estate. Voting for Biden but would prefer Harris.



"I would understand her better than him. She's more with the times ... and Biden stutters a lot and loses his train of thought, like me, but I'm not president."

Kimberly Beltran, 30. Works as a customer service representative. Voting for Biden but would prefer Harris.

ELECTION 2024

Key blocs reaffirm support

DEMOCRATS FROM **A1**

significant way."

Reps. Nanette Barragán (D-Calif.) and Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.), chair and vice chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which has 39 members, issued a statement that also appeared aimed at declaring support, saying, "We stand with President Biden and Vice President Harris."

The 60-member CBC is a particularly pivotal group, given the importance of Black voters to the Democratic Party, and Biden phoned in to a virtual meeting of the group Monday evening. Many CBC members planned to convey to Biden that they would stick by him as they always have, according to people familiar with their thinking.

The crisis facing Biden began after his June 27 debate, when his halting, stumbling performance sent shock waves through the Democratic Party, prompting many Democrats to suggest he should step aside from his reelection bid and let another candidate, perhaps Vice President Harris, make the run against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Biden's camp responded sluggishly for several days, but a recent frenzy of activity by the president — holding rallies, calling lawmakers, giving interviews — seems to at least have slowed the tide of defections.

Still, it was clear Monday that the president had not yet satisfied many in his party or quashed calls for him to rethink his candidacy.

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), a senior member of Democratic Senate leadership, said in a statement that Biden must do more to show he is the best candidate to take on Trump.

"We need to see a much more forceful and energetic candidate on the campaign trail in the very near future in order for him to convince voters he is up to the job," Murray said.

Similarly, Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) said he had heard from constituents across his state about Biden's debate performance, wondering whether it was simply a bad night or a reflection of a more serious condition. He said he still believed that Democratic congressional candidates were positioned to keep control of the Senate and win back the House.

"What we need out of our candidate who's running for the presidency is the same thing these guys are doing, which is to be out there day and night, every single day, relentlessly and passionately running against Donald Trump," Bennet said.

But unlike in recent days, Biden also managed to secure support from key quarters, including influential members of the "squad," the far-left group of progressives in the House. Ocasio-Cortez said she spoke with Biden over the weekend, and she emphasized she was not looking for a replacement.

"He made clear then, and he has made clear since, that he is in this race," she said. "The matter is closed."

The reactions came after Biden had been saying forcefully for several days, including Monday morning, that he had no intention of ending his candidacy. Hours before the meeting with the CBC, Biden sent a letter to congressional Democrats warning that any efforts to persuade him to step aside were a distraction from the critical mission of defeating Trump.

"The question of how to move forward has been well-aired for more than a week now. And it's time for it to end," he wrote. "We have one job. And that is to defeat Donald Trump. We have 42 days to the Democratic convention and 119 days to the general election. Any weakening of resolve or lack of clarity about the task ahead only helps Trump and hurts us."

Biden also called in to MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Monday morning, taking a populist tone as he hit back against the laundry list of prominent commentators who have urged him to exit the race. "I don't care what those big names think," he said. "They were wrong in 2020. They were wrong in 2022 about the red wave. They are wrong in 2024."

Biden made similar arguments in a call with some of his major donors, stressing that he won millions of votes in the Democratic primaries this year. "We're done talking about the debate," he said, according to a donor on the call, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a private conversation.

One donor on the call said Biden was more forceful than he had been in previous days. "Donors are saying, 'Better late than never,' " the person said, adding that they wished the president had made such calls to reassure supporters in the days immediately after the debate.

Biden also called 20 Democrats last week — including Schumer, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (N.Y.) and Reps. Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) and James E. Clyburn (S.C.) — to reassure Democrats that he is hearing their concerns, according to a campaign official. He is expected to contact more in coming days.

Crucially, both Schumer and Jeffries said Monday that they remain fully behind the president. But Sen. Dick Durbin (Ill.), the second-ranking Senate Democrat, predicted the issue would be "thoroughly discussed" in Democrats' meetings and said there were obvious divisions among Senate Democrats.

"I've talked to a dozen of my colleagues, and they have differing views," he added.

That echoed the tenor of a call that Biden held on Saturday with the congressional co-chairs of his campaign. Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.), a close Biden ally, said he read Biden two texts, including one from a major donor who asked Coons to persuade Biden to drop out. People on the call also suggested Biden hold more news conferences, rallies and town halls, according to people familiar with the event, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a private conversation.

As of Sunday, nine House Democrats — four privately and five publicly — had called for Biden to exit the race.

Biden could face more scrutiny this week than at any time since the debate. Beyond the pressure from Capitol Hill, the president is hosting the 75th annual NATO summit in Washington, which European leaders had expected to be a largely celebratory event.

Instead, they will be monitoring Biden's appearance and condition after the debate heightened anxieties about the prospect of a second Trump term, which many NATO leaders dread. Biden is scheduled to give a speech about the alliance on Tuesday, meet with several heads of state and, in his most anticipated event, hold a solo news conference Thursday — an event many Democrats are anxiously awaiting to see if Biden is able to allay concerns that he is unable to handle unscripted events.

Some Democrats are waiting to see how Biden fares on the campaign trail and at the NATO summit before deciding whether to call publicly for him to end his reelection bid. Others say privately that they already consider Biden's ramped-up schedule — and his effort to show his determination to fight — too little, too late.

One House Democrat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide a candid analysis, said some Democrats were beginning to accept that Biden was dug in and unlikely to drop out of the race. This lawmaker said the party's internal polling is mixed on whether Biden could hurt Democratic congressional candidates.

The public calls on Capitol Hill for Biden to step aside have so far come from the House rather than the Senate, and any change in that dynamic would be notable. Behind the scenes, many senators share similar fears that Biden no longer has a path forward, according to multiple senators and aides who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the dynamics freely.

Last week, Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.) sought to form a group that would go to the White House and seek the president's exit. That plan appeared to be scrapped after reporting about the effort scrambled the plan, one senator said. Instead, Democratic senators are likely to discuss Biden's prospects at their regularly scheduled Tuesday lunch.

On Friday, Biden told ABC News that only "the Lord Almighty" could persuade him to change his mind and drop out of the race. That prompted some pushback from congressional Democrats.

"I certainly respect the Lord, but this is a real-world decision for him and for everyday Democratic senators and members of Congress," Sen. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) said in an interview Sunday. "As much as we'd like divine intervention, it will elude us. So we have to act."

In the call to his donors, Biden said he would focus more on attacking Trump in the weeks ahead. Biden and Trump are scheduled to debate again Sept. 10, less than two months before Election Day.

Not everyone on the call who wanted to ask a question was given a chance, but those who did were largely supportive of the president, the donor said.

Hanging over the debate among Democrats is their agonizing fear that a second Trump term would be disastrous for the country, and some hope that anxiety will unify the party.

"The fear of having another Trump presidency, especially given how much more unhinged he has been, is palpable," said Rep. Deborah Ross (D-N.C.). "And so I think people are going to pull together."

Tyler Pager, Toluse Olorunnipa, Jacqueline Alemany, Liz Goodwin, Theodoric Meyer and Mariana Alfaro contributed to this report.



JULIA NIKHINSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), right, said he stands behind President Biden's candidacy. A frenzy of activity by Biden seems to have slowed defections from Democratic legislators.

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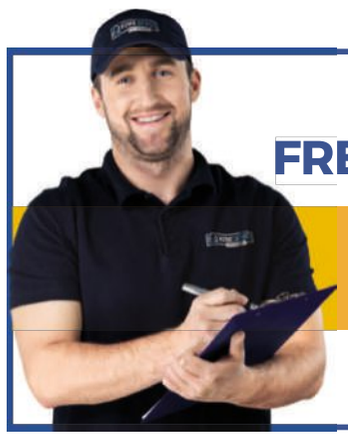
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ELECTION 2024

Democrats' mission to defeat Trump diverted, divided

Long reliance on Biden means sudden challenge: How, and with whom?

BY ASHLEY PARKER

The Monday after President Biden's dismal debate, Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.) — who helped deliver the Democratic nomination to Biden four years ago — declared on MSNBC that he was "sticking with" the president in the wake of his fumbling debate performance.

That Tuesday, Clyburn told the same network that he would "support" Vice President Harris if Biden "were to step aside."

And on Wednesday, Clyburn told CNN that he would endorse "a mini-primary heading into the convention" — remarks an aide quickly clarified, saying that Clyburn was simply explaining how the existing process would work if Biden decided to drop out.

Clyburn's spectrum of comments underscores the challenge facing Democrats less than two months from their convention and four months from Election Day: For almost a decade, the galvanizing force and unifying mission of the Democratic Party has been to beat Donald Trump, but now there is real disagreement over who is best equipped to do that.

"Totally candidly, that is what makes this very hard — we don't have crystal balls," said Navin Nayak, president of the Center for American Progress Action Fund, a liberal advocacy organization. "There is a very, very good case to make against Donald Trump — he is a historically weak candidate — and we've got to figure out who is the best person to prosecute the case."

For a party that in recent years has often defined itself by who it is against rather than what it is for, Biden's age and health-related vulnerabilities have suddenly thrust their carefully crafted strategy of turning the election into a referendum on the former president into doubt.

Now, the same Democrats who quickly coalesced around Biden after the South Carolina primary in 2020 because they thought he had the best shot of defeating Trump find themselves fractured — not over ideology or personality, but over how to deny Trump a return to the White House and whether the leader they bet on is still the right messenger.

"There is a very thoughtful discussion going on among the Democratic Party about the best way forward, but this isn't where we expected to be, so you should expect us to take some time to figure it out," said Rep. Seth Moulton (D-Mass.), who last week called on Biden to step aside. "We want to make sure we can unify quickly behind a new candidate and ensure that new candidate is our best shot at beating Donald Trump."

The party finds itself gaming out what many Democrats view as three subpar options: To prop up Biden at the top of the ticket, and hope that he doesn't have another faltering appearance in public; to publicly push Biden to step aside and all coalesce around Harris as the new nominee; or to attempt to bypass Harris — a historic Black and Indian American female vice president — in favor of a different Democrat still untested on the national stage.



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Former president Donald Trump returns from a break June 27 in Atlanta as he and President Biden participate in the presidential debate.

Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Calif.) said he still supports Biden — but only if he can pass Sherman's test of "an extended live interview, whether it's 60 minutes, 90 minutes, 75 minutes."

"Look, no one can guarantee they can beat Trump, and many, many people might well beat Trump," Sherman said. "And you don't take this nomination away from Biden because 17 pollsters do 17 focus groups and tell you that Candidate X has a 3.2 percent higher probability of beating Trump than Biden."

Though a growing number of elected officials privately think that Biden should stand down to give his party the clearest path to defeating Trump, no clear consensus has emerged on how to shunt Biden off the ticket. A small but growing number of Democratic House members have publicly called for Biden to step aside — a tally expected to mushroom when Congress returns to Washington this week — and Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.) is working to gather a group of Democratic senators to ask Biden to leave the race.

In an interview with ABC News's George Stephanopoulos Friday night, Biden dismissed Warner's concerns and pushed back on the suggestion that a group of Democratic leaders — people like Clyburn, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), former House speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) — might come to him and say that they were going to lose both the House and Senate if he remains on the ticket.

"I've spoken to all of them in detail, including Jim Clyburn, every one of them," Biden told Stephanopoulos. "They all said I should stay in the race … None of the people said I should leave."

In fact, the consensus among Democratic senators is that Biden needs to step down, according to two Democratic senators, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to candidly share a sensitive opinion. And more and more House Democrats, too, privately became convinced in the week after the debate that Biden would need to bow out for the sake of ensuring the party has a chance to defeat Trump.

But for a party whose animating cry for so long has been opposition to Trump rather than support or loyalty for a particular leader or set of policies, the uncertainty has forced Democrats to grapple with an identity crisis as they suddenly must decide anew on the most capable candidate to defeat Trump.

For many Democrats, Biden's biggest sin in his ABC News interview was saying he would feel fine in January if Trump were returned to office, as long as "I gave it my all and I did the goodest job as I know I can do" — a remark that raised hackles among Democrats who said beating Trump is the most important goal.

Abigail Disney, a filmmaker, activist and Disney heir who is withholding donations to Democrats until Biden drops out, wrote in response to emailed questions that "the more he gives answers like this the more convinced I am that this is a question of his ego more than the good of the country."

"That answer is only satisfactory if the struggle in question is for the Pee-wee soccer title in your neighborhood," she added.

Several Democratic lawmakers and aides last week argued that their lines of attacks against Trump and the MAGA movement will not change — that Trump has become more self-obsessed, dangerous and extreme since his 2020 loss — but that they need a strong messenger at the top of the ticket to lay out the party's agenda.

"It's the messenger, not the message," a House Democratic aide said. "A campaign is a referendum on your opponent, not yourself."

Many Democrats argue there is no choice but Harris to succeed Biden as the Democratic candidate, pointing to her unique ability to inherit the Biden-Harris campaign operation, including the money Biden has raised.

Some argue that Harris has grown into her role as Biden's No. 2 after a rocky start, and others who have serious doubts about Harris as a candidate nonetheless worry that passing over a woman of color in favor of someone else would alienate key swaths of the Democratic base, including Black women, who will be key to any victory in November.

In a call Wednesday evening, House Democratic leaders spoke about who could replace Biden, according to one participant. "There was no real consensus, but there was general awareness that it would be difficult for it to be anyone but Harris," the lawmaker said.

Another Democratic lawmaker said Harris would improve support among Black voters and would help with the party's issues on the Israel-Gaza war. But this lawmaker also said that Harris would likely hurt the ticket on union and blue-collar issues. She has room to grow, this lawmaker said, but noted that Harris — who dropped out of the 2020 Democratic primary before the first contest — is untested as a leading national candidate.

Moulton said he has not decided which post-Biden option he prefers, but the person will need to have a Biden-like ability to appeal to a broad range of voters.

"I want someone who can unite not just the party but the country, who can bring together Republicans alienated from their own party with the wide diverse coalition of Democrats," he said. "This is not just about the presidential race. This is about the whole Democratic Party up and down the ticket and what we can offer America, as opposed to a dysfunctional party that's going through a civil war led by a criminal."

Dmitri Mehlhorn — a donor adviser to LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman, who is working with outside groups to elect Biden — said he still thinks Biden is the best choice but argued that Harris is the only plausible option if Biden drops out.

"Kamala is a prosecutor and she can take the case to a criminal," said Mehlhorn, referring to Harris's past as an attorney general and prosecutor in California. "The anti-Trump coalition is a winning coalition. There is no coalition in America that can beat Trump that is not an anti-Trump coalition."

Last week, at least two separate memos making the case for Harris began circulating among Democratic donors and allies, including one arguing for "a surround-sound support campaign to boost VP Harris's role on the ticket."

"We must make voters realize this is an election between two different futures, and they must view MAGA rule for the real danger it poses to their lives," read one memo written by the co-founders of Way to Win, a women of color-led coalition of liberal donors.

Other Democrats, however, say some sort of mini-primary is the better option, allowing the strongest possible candidate to emerge. Several added that Harris could very well emerge the top choice out of such a process, but undergoing an actual contest would make her a more formidable nominee and avoid the appearance of a coronation.

Bill Harris, a former chief executive of PayPal and Intuit, is leading a group of Democratic donors who have pledged $2 million to fund debates between potential nominees if Biden drops out.

Harris dismissed the concerns about "the chaos" and "the rancor" that a primary process might cause, arguing that the bigger threat would be quickly replacing Biden without any debates.

"We desperately need some drama," he said, adding that watching Biden's Friday night ABC News interview only strengthened his resolve.

William Kristol, founder of the conservative Weekly Standard and a strong Trump critic working to prevent him from returning to the White House, similarly said that if Biden steps aside, Democrats could use the opportunity of a curtailed primary to generate excitement and buzz "once people get over the shock."

"Let's have speeches Monday night at the convention — five-minute speeches from all of these candidates — and you'd have 60 million people watching," Kristol said. "I'm very much of the view that you've got to turn lemons into lemonade. The Democrats can be the party of generational change and the new faces of excitement — not about gritting your teeth and trying to hold on."

Sarah Longwell, an anti-Trump Republican strategist who runs weekly focus groups with voters, hosted four such groups with swing voters after the debate and said every single voter was "really alarmed by what they saw" and "everybody wanted him to step down."

In one group — where the nine participants had voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Biden in 2020 — six said they would still vote for Biden, while the remaining three said they would write in a candidate or leave the presidential slot blank.

When asked who they would prefer to replace Biden, none of the voters in this group brought up Kamala D. Harris unprompted, instead mentioning options like California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Adding Harris to the top of the ticket, Longwell said, persuaded one more voter — seven in total — to support the Democratic nominee, while putting Newsom or Whitmer at the top of the ticket prompted all nine participants to say they would vote Democratic.

Still, for all the current uncertainty and recriminations, many Democrats remain convinced that once a clear option emerges, the party will coalesce around the nominee because their guiding principle — defeating Trump — remains unchanged.

"When we get past this moment, there will be unity around the Democratic nominee," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "Between the debate and the corrupt Supreme Court giving unchecked powers to the president, even more energy is focused on winning — so that's a sad but silver lining of the current mess."

Leigh Ann Caldwell, Josh Dawsey, Marianne LeVine, Theodoric Meyer and Marianna Sotomayor contributed to this report.



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ELECTION 2024

Democrats focus attacks on right-wing Project 2025

The agenda, pushed by Trump allies, spells out exhaustive policy reform

BY JOSH DAWSEY AND HANNAH KNOWLES

President Biden and other Democrats are increasingly focusing their attacks on an aggressive right-wing agenda called Project 2025 that is being pushed by allies of presumptive GOP nominee Donald Trump — prompting Trump and his team to lash out in recent days at supporters of the effort.

Many Democrats have assessed that the best message for their candidate — whether it is Biden, who is trailing in polls and facing calls to drop out after a damaging debate performance, or another candidate — is to focus on what Trump might do in a second term, particularly as it relates to abortion rights, retribution against his enemies, mass deportations and the environment.

They hope to make a household phrase of Project 2025, which is designed as a policy and personnel platform for a Republican administration, Democrats close to Biden say. The group's website, anchored by the Heritage Foundation, includes 30 chapters — written by more than a dozen former Trump appointees and others — that come from dozens of leading conservative groups.

The exhaustive plan calls for, among other things, dismantling the Education Department, passing sweeping tax cuts, imposing sharp limits on abortion, giving the White House greater influence over the Justice Department, reducing efforts to limit climate change and increasing efforts to promote fossil fuels, drastically cutting and changing the federal workforce, and giving the president more power over the civil service.

It also includes building an "army" of conservatives ready to take jobs should Trump take office in 2025. The project was partially fueled by a desire to be ready for "Day One" of a conservative presidency. Vacancies in key jobs, for example, contributed to chaos during Trump's first term.

"Our goal is to assemble an army of aligned, vetted, trained, and prepared conservatives to go to work on Day One to deconstruct the Administrative State," Paul Dans, the project's director, said on the project website.

Amid growing news coverage and Democratic attacks on the plan, Trump sought last week to distance himself from the proposals crafted by his former appointees — saying on his Truth Social platform that he knows "nothing about Project 2025."



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Kevin Roberts, president of the Heritage Foundation — anchor of Project 2025's website — speaks on Capitol Hill in September. Donald Trump said on Truth Social he knows "nothing about" the project.

"I have no idea who is behind it," he wrote Friday. "I disagree with some of the things they're saying and some of the things they're saying are absolutely ridiculous and abysmal. Anything they do, I wish them luck, but I have nothing to do with them."

But Trump shares many policy goals with Project 2025. For example, he wants to end subsidies for electric vehicles and ramp up domestic production of nonrenewable energy, to crack down on undocumented immigrants and to empower the president to fire people he calls "rogue bureaucrats" in the civil service. The project's 900-plus-page "Mandate for Leadership" goes into far more granular detail than the plans laid out on Trump's website, however, and he has stayed away from proposals such as sharply curbing access to abortion medication.

Regardless, Biden's campaign and allies are going to make what they characterize as the most extreme proposals from Trump allies a core element of their campaign. They have issued dozens of news releases mentioning the project — including five on Friday alone — and are asking surrogates, allies and others to talk about Project 2025 as often as they can.

Democrats also plan to couple Project 2025 attacks with the sweeping Supreme Court ruling that grants a president expansive powers in carrying out "official acts" without fear of prosecution for a crime — arguing that it would turbocharge Trump's ability to enact an extreme right-wing agenda.

"It is really important that voters understand that Donald Trump in a second term would be far worse, far more dangerous and far more extreme than he was even in his first term," said TJ Ducklo, a senior adviser on the Biden campaign. "That is a core argument that we are making and must continue to make to voters, and Project 2025 is one of the most effective ways we can make that point."

A tight focus on Trump's agenda is all the more necessary, some Democrats said, amid turmoil over their ticket. One Democratic strategist close to the Biden campaign, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak frankly, said Democrats need to do something that, in their view, Republicans have usually done more effectively: "Instill fear in the American people."

> *"Project 2025 is a political gift from the heavens."*
>
> **Dan Pfeiffer,** a former adviser to President Barack Obama

"We have to get them to think the threat to their fundamental way of life is worse than the president dying in office," the strategist said.

Biden said the words "Project 2025" for the first time in the campaign's most-viewed TikTok video of the president in June. After the debate, a post on the Biden HQ TikTok account explicitly pushed back on suggestions that the president would drop on Friday.

"Project 2025 is a political gift from the heavens," said Dan Pfeiffer, a former adviser to President Barack Obama. "Donald Trump's political strength is that he is a Rorschach test to a lot of voters, and the Heritage Foundation did [Democrats] the favor of filling in the details of his agenda in incredibly vivid and clarifying terms."

Trump aides have long viewed Project 2025 as unhelpful and have sought distance from the plan, saying Trump doesn't embrace many of the proposals. They have privately lashed out at aligned groups, telling them to stop promoting such work, people familiar with the calls said.

Still, some of Project 2025's architects have been appointed by his campaign to work on the Republican Party's platform and have met with Trump.

Trump advisers are discussing whether the former president should denounce the work more forcefully on a regular basis, fearing that it will be an albatross this fall.

For months, Trump advisers Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles have privately and publicly attacked the effort. On at least five occasions, they have met and talked with the groups involved, asking them to tamp it down, according to people familiar with the calls, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private discussions. LaCivita, in particular, has gotten particularly animated about his opposition, the people said. Trump has gotten angry, four advisers said, when others have claimed to know what he would do in a second term.

"It makes no sense to put all the crazy things you'll be attacked for down on paper while you're running," a Trump adviser said. "Who thinks, let's put it all down on paper so we can get attacked in advance, even though we haven't run it by the president?"

Vince Haley and Ross Worthington, two Trump aides, have tried to ratchet up the campaign's own policy proposals. A spokeswoman for the Trump campaign referred to Trump's post on Truth Social and said only agenda items on the Trump campaign's website should be considered to represent his views.

His campaign has also tried to downplay some of the more incendiary things Trump has said, while focusing on policies it believes test well with voters. Campaign advisers have sought to avoid calling for a federal abortion ban in the Republican Party platform, encouraged Trump to stop saying he is out for "retribution," tried to limit his praise of defendants convicted in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and urged him not to make false claims that the 2020 election was stolen. The efforts have had a limited effect at best.

Trump aides are particularly annoyed at the Heritage Foundation's role in pushing Project 2025, two senior advisers said. "We say knock it off, but there is just more," a top Trump adviser said.

"Poke the Bear you are going to be bit: Trump torches Heritage Foundation's Project 2025," LaCivita posted Friday on X.

Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts said in a statement that Project 2025 does not speak for Trump or his campaign and that it is "no surprise that [the] political consultant class has joined their allies in the corporate media in promoting a false narrative" about the effort.

"The proposals in Project 2025 are designed to restore self-government to the American people, an overwhelmingly popular proposition. We welcome the attention," Roberts said.

In a recent interview with Real America's Voice, Roberts said liberals are "apoplectic" because the political right is winning.

"We are in the process of the second American revolution, which will remain bloodless, if the left allows it to be," Roberts said — a sound bite that was promptly clipped and shared by the Biden campaign.

In recent weeks, Biden advisers have been surprised at how much traction "Project 2025" has gotten.

Google searches for the term have spiked, along with mentions by left-leaning influencers, according to a Washington Post analysis of political influencers' discussions on social media, podcasts and newsletters. The campaign has done some outreach to influencers about Project 2025, but others have raised the topic on their own, a Biden adviser said. Mentions began to soar in June and have been increasing every week — overwhelmingly on the Democratic side.

Celebrities including Mark Hamill and Lizzo posted about the effort recently. The topic also got exposure at the recent BET Awards, where the actress Taraji P. Henson warned about Project 2025 from the stage and reached some of the Black voters whom the Biden campaign is desperate to win over and motivate. Other Black influencers, including radio host Charlamagne tha God, helped produce an earlier spike in mentions.

Voters in swing states sometimes brought up Project 2025 unprompted in recent interviews.

"Project 2025 is scary, Trump himself is scary, the whole Republican Party is," said Cynthia Carlson, a 54-year-old resident of Madison, Wis. She said she heard about Project 2025 on podcasts she likes and calls it an effort at "dismantling government as we know it."

The Biden campaign has found that Project 2025 content does especially well on social media. On Facebook — where mentions are tailored to an older audience with topics like Social Security — Project 2025 is in the campaign's top 10 percent of topics in terms of impressions and engagement. On TikTok, users are more and more likely to find the campaign's Project 2025 content organically rather than because they follow Biden's account.

Outside groups opposed to Trump are deep into discussions about how they would try to stymie potential second-term policies laid out in Project 2025 and elsewhere. Democracy Forward — a legal group that is working with more than 150 like-minded organizations to prepare pushback to a Trump administration — has been analyzing Project 2025's proposals and is already hunting for plaintiffs for lawsuits.

"It's well beyond politics. It's well beyond candidates. … We are really in a crisis for the heart of our country, for what it's stood for," Democracy Forward President Skye Perryman said.

Ben Wikler, chair of the Democratic Party in battleground Wisconsin, argued that Trump's first term provides only "clues" about what a second administration would look like because elements of the government refused to carry out so many of his ideas.

"In 2024, we can see that there's actually an army of right-wing extremists ready to implement the most extreme versions of his plans," Wikler said.

Isaac Arnsdorf and Clara Ence Morse contributed to this report.

GOP delegates adopt new platform that mirrors Trump on a host of issues

BY MICHAEL SCHERER AND JOSH DAWSEY

Republican delegates adopted presumptive nominee Donald Trump's proposed convention platform at a meeting in Milwaukee on Monday, abandoning long-held positions on abortion and same-sex marriage while embracing new plans for mass deportation and a new opposition to changing the retirement age for Social Security.

"This is something hopefully you will pass. You will pass it quickly, and we will show unity in our party as opposed to the disaster that is going on with the Democrats," Trump said when he called into the meeting, according to people present who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the private event. "We are going to win because we have right on our side. We have good on our side. I think, frankly, we have God on our side. These people are opposed to religion."

The final vote, according to a person present during the closed-door proceedings, was 84-18.

The document, with a long introduction in the voice of Trump, overruled the concerns of antiabortion activists who had announced before the meeting that they wanted the document to explicitly call for a constitutional amendment to give embryos or fetuses legal rights.

Instead the document said that the Constitution's due process clause grants states the power to "pass laws protecting those rights."

"After 51 years, because of us, that power has been given to the states and to a vote of the people," the document says, according a copy of the document obtained by The Washington Post. "We will oppose late term abortion while supporting mothers and policies that advance prenatal care, access to birth control, and IVF (fertility treatments)."

The document was presented Monday to members of the Republican convention platform committee, a group handpicked by leaders of the Trump campaign. The 2016 platform, which Trump used in his 2020 reelection campaign, called for a constitutional amendment to affirm the constitutional due process rights of embryos and fetuses, and a national law that would ban abortion, with some exceptions, after about 20 weeks of gestation.

Trump has changed his position on the issue since the Supreme Court overturned the fundamental right to the procedure in earlier stages of pregnancy. He now argues that each state should come up with its own regulations.

Tony Perkins, the president of the Family Research Council and a member of the platform committee, expressed disappointment about the outcome. "The 2024 platform is a decent statement of campaign priorities, but not necessarily the enduring principles of the party," he said in a statement that objected to the lack of opportunity for amendments. "Unfortunately, the process was unbecoming of constitutional conservatives."

Ralph Reed, the head of the Faith and Freedom Coalition, who had publicly warned Trump about changing the abortion language, thanked the former president in a statement for including language that said the due process clause of the Constitution gives states the power to restrict abortion.

"That language has been in the GOP platform for 40 years and reflects the view of Ronald Reagan," Reed said. "While aspirational, it applies to both the states and the federal government."

Eight antiabortion and social conservative leaders, including Reed and Perkins, wrote a June 10 letter to Trump demanding that the platform include support for federal legislative limits on abortion and contain the following sentence: "We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth."

The platform reflects a full Trump takeover of the party and reads almost like one of his rally speeches. It officially enshrines mass deportations of millions of undocumented immigrants as the platform of the Republican Party; proposes ending the Education Department; calls to "deport pro-Hamas radicals"; build a "great Iron Dome" over the country; "end the weaponization of the Department of Justice"; cancel the electric vehicle mandate and "FIGHT FOR AND PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE WITH NO CUTS, INCLUDING NO CHANGES TO THE RETIREMENT AGE."

"We will implement measures to secure our elections, including voter ID, highly sophisticated paper ballots, proof of citizenship, and same day voting," the platform reads.

The platform also shows how far the party has moved on trade issues under Trump. The party now supports tariffs, according to the platform. Language from the 2016 Republican platform supporting Puerto Rico's ability to seek statehood was also dropped from the new document.

The 2016 document was far more extensive, with 54 pages of tightly packed text. Trump advisers have signaled that they wanted the new document to directly reflect the views of Trump, a break from past tradition where Republican activists are empowered to shape the document in consultation with the presumptive nominee's campaign, often resulting in language that was different in emphasis and detail from the candidate's own public statements.

Vincent Haley, a former deputy assistant to the president during Trump's first term, largely wrote the document presented Monday, according to people familiar with the process, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private activities. Trump later reviewed and edited the document, the people said. He wrote the headers on the sections, changed language and expanded the list of bullet points in the introduction from 10 to 20, one of the people said.

The former president called in Monday to a meeting of the platform committee, a person familiar with the meeting said.

"For decades, our politicians sold our jobs and livelihoods to the highest bidders overseas with unfair trade deals and a blind faith in the siren song of globalism. They insulated themselves from criticism and the consequences of their own bad actions, allowing our borders to be overrun, our cities to be overtaken by crime, our system of justice to be weaponized, and our young people to develop a sense of hopelessness and despair. They rejected our history and our values. Quite simply, they did everything in their power to destroy our country," the Republican Party's official platform now reads.

The new platform draft also removes language from 2016 condemning the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 decision to grant same-sex couples the right to marry. The new language does not weigh in on same-sex marriage.

"Republicans will promote a culture that values the sanctity of marriage, the blessings of childhood, and the foundational role of families, and supports working parents," it says instead. "We will end policies that punish families."

The 2016 platform endorsed the idea that parents could seek "conversion therapy" for children because of their sexuality. "We support the right of parents to determine the proper medical treatment and therapy for their minor children," it read.

The new platform drops that language. It stops short of seeking to bar parents from seeking medical treatment for minor children, while condemning any taxpayer funding of such procedures. "We will keep men out of women's sports, ban taxpayer funding for sex change surgeries, and stop taxpayer-funded schools from promoting gender transition, reverse Biden's radical rewrite of Title IX education regulations, and restore protections for women and girls," the platform says.

The language around abortion in the new platform does acknowledge the 14th Amendment, while making no mention of further changes to the Constitution.

"We proudly stand for families and life. We believe that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that no person can be denied life or liberty without due process and that the states are, therefore, free to pass laws protecting those rights," it says.

THE WORLD

A divided France enters uncharted political territory

With far right's unexpected defeat at polls, the leftist coalition that triumphed must reckon with internal disagreements, including negotiating with centrists

BY RICK NOACK

PARIS — Even as left-wing supporters were still celebrating the unexpected defeat of France's far right at the polls, attention turned Monday to the sobering task of how to govern a deeply divided country as it moves into uncharted political territory.

While an alliance of leftist parties came in first, with more than 180 seats, it is far from the 289 seats needed for a majority in the National Assembly, the powerful lower house of Parliament. President Emmanuel Macron's centrist Together coalition got more than 160 seats, while the far-right National Rally and its allies were third, winning 143 seats. Polls had predicted that the far right would come in first and perhaps even win an outright majority.

Sunday's upset result could now prompt prolonged political gridlock and "a new era" in French politics, Macron's prime minister, Gabriel Attal, said Sunday night. Macron on Monday rejected Attal's resignation, asking him to stay on "for the time being" to "assure the stability of the country."

A week ago, when Macron's party suffered major losses in the first round of voting, the French president's grip on domestic politics appeared to be loosening rapidly. But the final round's unexpected result puts Macron back at the center of France's political game — if, perhaps, only for a limited time.

Macron, who is still expected to attend a NATO summit in Washington this week, now needs to decide whom to appoint as the next prime minister. It would be customary for him to give the biggest political bloc — the left — a chance, but the constitution does not require him to do so.

France's divided left formed a surprising alliance in the lead-up to this election to prevent a far-right victory. In part, the coalition was also forged by deep frustration with Macron. To form a governing majority, however, the left would now probably need the backing of at least some Macron allies.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the controversial leader of the far-left France Unbowed party who has asserted himself as the spokesman of the left-wing bloc, excluded that possibility on Sunday. "We refuse to enter negotiations with [Macron's] party," he said in a speech. He did not clarify how else he intends to reach a majority, which would require over 100 more seats than his bloc garnered.

Olivier Faure, first secretary of the center-left Socialist Party, said Monday that the alliance will propose its candidate for prime minister in the coming days. But their upset victory took even leftist leaders by surprise, some admitted Monday. The search for a joint candidate could deepen divisions or even break their fragile coalition.

The fragmentation of the National Assembly into multiple blocs with no clear path to a majority might give Macron some room to maneuver, said Pierre Mathiot, a political scientist at Sciences Po Lille, and he could try to nominate a moderate as prime minister.

But it would be wrong to assume that his gamble to call elections has paid off, cautioned Mathiot. "This is an unprecedented situation in the Fifth Republic," he said. As of now, the only alternative to a highly fragile leftist coalition appears to be the kind of broad political alliance that is common elsewhere in Europe but goes against France's political culture.



YOAN VALAT/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK



ANNE RENAUT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: Ushers and staff members stand inside the National Assembly compound to await the arrival of newly elected members of Parliament in Paris on Monday. ABOVE: French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, right, leaves the Hôtel de Matignon to offer his resignation to President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace. Macron rejected the resignation, asking him to stay on "for the time being."

As of now, the only alternative to a highly fragile leftist coalition appears to be the kind of broad political alliance that is common elsewhere in Europe but goes against France's political culture.

A broad coalition that spans the political spectrum may "in the short term be a way of governing France," Mathiot said. But in the medium term, it would risk "handing power to Marine Le Pen in 2027," he said, referring to the far-right leader.

That would be exactly what Macron said he wanted to prevent when he called elections last month, in the wake of the French far right's victory in European parliamentary elections. The country needed "a moment of clarification" at the ballot box, he argued then, because "I do not want to hand the keys to power to the extreme right in 2027."

While he appeared Sunday to have been correct about how the public would respond to the possibility of the country's first far-right government since World War II, he seemingly underestimated the appeal of the left.

The leftist alliance wants to lower the retirement age, which Macron raised last year, and vastly expand government spending on social welfare, environmental protection and health care. To form their election alliance, leftist parties had agreed on one candidate per constituency, which appeared to derail Macron's bet that his candidates would end up in runoff votes against the far right in most constituencies.

But the election also resurfaced deep underlying fractures within the left. Mélenchon's critics say he is too polarizing to put forward as a possible prime minister. His proposed policies, critics say, are unrealistic, too extreme to be accepted by moderates and would provoke clashes with the European Union.

France's outgoing finance minister, Bruno Le Maire, said Monday that the leftist alliance's spending plans would prompt a "financial crisis."

Critics have also accused Mélenchon of stoking antisemitic sentiments within the ranks of his party.

Some leftist leaders appeared to distance themselves from Mélenchon on Monday. Marine Tondelier, a key member in the Green party, said "a lot of people tick the criteria" needed to become the leftist alliance's candidate for prime minister. She said the alliance would seek someone who can "appease and repair" the country and "build consensus" — not qualities Mélenchon is known for.

Faure, the Socialist Party leader, also appeared to challenge Mélenchon's assertion that no negotiations with Macron's allies will take place.

"Realism is essential," he told France's public broadcaster, suggesting that the left could seek like-minded lawmakers for each of their proposed bills without having an overall majority in Parliament.

The new National Assembly will convene for the first time July 18. But on French television, some analysts had already begun speculating Sunday night about how soon it might be dissolved again.

Within the far right, Sunday's poorer-than-expected performance could pose questions about the readiness of the party's candidates, who in many cases lack political experience. But there is no argument about the movement's meteoric rise — two years ago, it had fewer than 10 seats in Parliament.

It's also ideologically united.

"Unlike the New Popular Front or [Macron's] Together, the National Rally is formed of a single bloc," the Ouest-France newspaper wrote in an editorial Monday. As a result of its electoral gains, the party "will benefit from considerable new financial means to prepare for the next elections," it added.

"A long period of political stagnation," the paper concluded, "will play into the hands of the National Rally."

DIGEST

FRANCE

Court rules American man can be extradited

A French court ruled Monday that an American man accused of sexually assaulting a Pennsylvania college student in 2013 and later sending her a Facebook message that said, "So I raped you," can be extradited to the United States.

Ian Cleary, 31, of Saratoga, Calif., was detained in April in Metz in northeastern France after a three-year search. He has been held in custody pending extradition proceedings since his arrest.

The Court of Appeal in Metz said that Cleary can be extradited. When asked if he wished to be extradited, in line with French law, Cleary refused, prosecutors said in a statement Monday. His refusal may delay the extradition process, but the ruling is final.

Cleary had been the subject of an international search since authorities in Pennsylvania issued a 2021 felony warrant in the case after an Associated Press story detailed the reluctance of local prosecutors to pursue campus sex crimes.

The arrest warrant accuses Cleary of stalking an 18-year-old Gettysburg College student at a party, sneaking into her dorm and sexually assaulting her while she texted friends for help. He was also a student at the time. The accuser, Shannon Keeler, spent years urging officials to file charges. She went to authorities again in 2021 after discovering Facebook messages that seemed to come from Cleary's account.

"So I raped you," the sender had written in a string of messages.

— Associated Press

ETHIOPIA

U.S. ambassador says 100 people kidnapped

At least 100 people, including students, were kidnapped last week in Ethiopian regions that have seen fighting since the end of the civil war in Tigray, the U.S. ambassador to Addis Ababa said Monday.

While a peace deal signed in November 2022 has brought a measure of stability for Tigray, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government has struggled to bring security to other areas.

"Recent and frequent kidnappings in Oromia and Amhara regions show how prolonged conflict emboldens criminals and weakens [the] rule of law," U.S. Ambassador Ervin Massinga wrote on X. "Last week, over 100 students and passengers were abducted for ransom."

On Wednesday, three buses were stopped by unknown gunmen about 75 miles north of the capital Addis Ababa, in the Oromia region, said a student at Debark University, who later escaped and hid in a forest.

The attackers spoke Oromo, he said, and had the same hairstyle as fighters from the Oromo Liberation Army rebel group, which the United Nations has accused of killings, rape and abductions.

— Reuters

SOUTH AFRICA

Heavy winds displace more than 4,000

Nearly 1,000 homes in informal settlements in Cape Town, South Africa, have been destroyed by gale-force winds, displacing about 4,000 people, authorities and an aid organization said, as the city braces for a week of damaging storms.

South African weather authorities said Monday that Cape Town and surrounding areas are expected to be hit by multiple cold fronts until at least Friday, bringing torrential rain, strong winds, flooding and possible mudslides. City authorities also warned of storm surges and high waves along the coastline and asked people to stay away from the beachfront.

The worst-hit areas are expected to be the poor, informal settlements on the edge of South Africa's second-biggest city.

Thousands have been displaced in the township of Khayelitsha on the outskirts of Cape Town after strong winds destroyed homes and other structures.

Other areas have been flooded and the weather has caused power outages in more than 30 suburbs, the city said.

— Associated Press

A Ugandan military officer serving in Somalia was killed and six other soldiers were wounded when their convoy triggered a roadside bomb, Uganda's military said Monday, blaming fighters from the Islamist group al-Shabab. Uganda has about 5,000 troops serving in Somalia under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia peacekeeping mission. Maj. Patrick Opio Awany was killed by the explosion in the village of Ceel-Werigow, about 43 miles southwest of the capital, Mogadishu, on Sunday, said Ibrahim Kasule Sekitto, a spokesman for the Ugandan troops.

— From news services

In Beijing, Orban and Xi urge Ukraine cease-fire

BY CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD AND GERRY SHIH

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban made a surprise visit Monday to Beijing, where Chinese leader Xi Jinping called for a global effort to push Russia and Ukraine toward a "cease-fire" and praised Orban's diplomatic initiatives — a powerful display of how Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin are seeking to create a multipolar world order not dominated by the United States.

Even as Xi embraced Orban in the Chinese capital, Russian missiles smashed down in Kyiv, Dnipro and other Ukrainian cities on Monday — killing at least 31 people, including two at a children's hospital in Kyiv, and highlighting the vicious brutality of Putin's war.

In response to the missile attack, but also apparently the new diplomatic maneuvers, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for global pressure to halt Russia's aggression. "The whole world must use all its determination to finally put an end to the Russian strikes," Zelensky posted on Telegram. "Murders are what Putin brings. Only together can we bring true peace and security."

The Russian Defense Ministry, posting on Telegram, confirmed that it had carried out a major missile attack on Ukraine on Monday but insisted that the targets were "Ukrainian military industry facilities" and "air bases."

Orban's visit to China followed trips to Kyiv and Moscow last week, just days after Hungary took over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union. His foray into peacemaking has drawn criticism in the West of his attempt to pressure Kyiv to surrender territory that Moscow has seized by force.

In Brussels, officials disavowed Orban's efforts, saying he was not authorized to conduct diplomacy for the E.U. "It should be clear he is only representing his own country," said an E.U. diplomat, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

Eric Mamer, a spokesman for the European Commission, emphasized that Orban was flying solo. "He has no mandate on these visits to represent the E.U.," Mamer said.

But Putin, welcoming Orban in Moscow last week, pointedly invoked Hungary's E.U. presidency, and in a sign of the new multipolar dimension of geopolitics, the Hungarian prime minister's visit to Beijing occurred just hours before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Moscow on a state visit, his first since Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

In a statement before he left New Delhi on Monday, Modi hailed "my friend Vladimir Putin" and "the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia." After he landed, Russian and Indian media showed Modi, dressed in a bright turquoise vest, arriving at his Moscow hotel and being greeted by Indian dancers and well-wishers waving Indian flags.

Indian purchases of Russian oil, which have surged 20-fold since 2021, have helped Moscow withstand tough Western economic sanctions imposed in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

With his visit to Moscow, Modi, who was reelected last month, was signaling his autonomy even though the Biden administration has worked assiduously to court the Indian leader.

"Mr. Putin will like to convey to the public: India is a friend, all this talk about isolating Russia is empty talk, not everyone is under the sway of the U.S.-led West, and the asymmetrical but multipolar world has arrived," said Nandan Unnikrishnan, director of the Eurasian program at the Observer Research Foundation, a think tank in New Delhi. "India would agree that it's a multipolar world, even if [India] is slightly skewed toward the West."

The appearance by Orban and Xi represented a diplomatic triumph for Putin, who has long called for such a multipolar, non-Western world order. Putin has insisted that the West, particularly the United States and Britain, is responsible for prolonging his war in Ukraine by not pressuring Kyiv to give in to his territorial demands.



PEDRO PARDO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

In Beijing, a screen shows Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who made a surprise visit.

Upon landing in China, Orban posted a photo of himself captioned: "Peace mission 3.0 #Beijing."

At the meeting with Orban in Beijing, Xi said he appreciated the Hungarian leader's efforts to bring about a political solution to the war in Ukraine, which he referred to as a "conflict."

"China and Hungary share the same basic positions and are working in the same direction," he said.

"Only when all major powers exert positive energy rather than negative energy can the dawn of a cease-fire in this conflict appear as soon as possible," Xi said, according to Chinese broadcaster CCTV. China, Xi added, has been "actively urging peace and advocating talks in its own way."

In an interview with the German newspaper Bild, Orban insisted that Ukraine could never defeat Russia. "There is no solution to this conflict on the front lines," he said, adding: "Putin cannot lose if you look at the soldiers, equipment and technology. Defeating Russia is a thought that is difficult to imagine. The probability that Russia could actually be defeated is completely incalculable."

Ukraine, meanwhile, has insisted that it cannot agree to any cease-fire while Russian forces are occupying about one-fifth of its territory and missiles and bombs are falling on its cities. Zelensky has called for a full withdrawal of Russian troops, including at a "peace" summit in Switzerland last month that China pointedly did not attend. Russia was not invited.

Beijing has rejected criticism from Ukraine, Europe and the United States over its decision to skip the Swiss-hosted peace summit, arguing that it cannot take part in talks where Russia is excluded.

China, alongside Brazil, instead provided its own six-point proposal, for which Chinese officials claimed to have secured support from dozens of countries across the developing world.

From Beijing's perspective, Western countries have served as an impediment to getting Russia and Ukraine to sit down and negotiate directly, said Cui Hongjian, an international relations scholar at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Beijing believes "it must make a voice and it must have a position," Cui said.

China's claimed neutrality has come under increasing strain as the war drags through a third year and China's trade with Russia booms — along with mounting evidence of Chinese companies providing economic and indirect support for Russia's military-industrial base.

In public statements and appearances, Putin and Xi increasingly have shown alignment in their shared ambition to remold the global order and weaken the influence of the United States.

Xi and Putin met last week in Kazakhstan, where Putin spoke of progress toward a "fair, multipolar world order" during the annual meeting of the Shanghai Organization Cooperation, one of many multilateral groupings the two powers have used to extend their influence.

At that meeting, Putin suggested resuming negotiations that took place in Istanbul in 2022, shortly after Russia's invasion, when Ukraine was in a weak position. In the years since, each side has suffered tens of thousands of casualties, and Russia has made only marginal progress toward illegally annexing four southeastern Ukrainian regions, in addition to Crimea, which it seized by force in 2014.

In Moscow on Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow was in favor of the diplomatic efforts.

"President Vladimir Putin is a convinced supporter of the preferability of political and diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the Ukrainian conflict," Peskov said.

Shepherd reported from Taipei, Taiwan, and Shih from New Delhi. Serhii Korolchuk in Kyiv, Kate Brady in Berlin, Emily Rauhala in Washington and Natalia Abbakumova in Riga, Latvia, contributed to this report.



Russian missile strikes kill 37 across Ukraine

BY MIKHAIL KLIMENTOV

A Russian missile attack hit cities across Ukraine on Monday, killing at least 37 people and injuring 170 people. Among those killed were three children, said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who decried "Russian terrorists" after the "brutal" attack.

"The whole world must use all its determination to finally put an end to the Russian strikes," Zelensky wrote on Telegram. "Murders are what Putin brings. Only together can we bring true peace and security."

The volley struck a number of cities, including Kyiv, Dnipro and Zelensky's native city of Kryvyi Rih, among others. Rescue operations across Ukraine were still underway late Monday.

On Telegram, the Russian Defense Ministry deflected blame, saying it had carried out a major attack on Ukraine but denying that it had struck civilian infrastructure.

In Kyiv, the strike on Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital killed a doctor and destroyed a dialysis facility, Ukrainian officials said. Patients and staff members were forced to evacuate into the street. In a statement, Zelensky said he instructed government officials to find a suitable hospital for the patients to resume treatment.

"Mere concern does not stop the terror. Compassion is not a weapon," Zelensky added in a call to action directed at Ukraine's partners. "It is necessary to shoot down Russian missiles. It is necessary to destroy Russian combat aircraft where they are based. It is necessary to take strong steps that will not leave any security deficit."

The newly elected British prime minister, Keir Starmer, called the attack "depraved" and pledged to "stand with Ukraine against Russian aggression" in a post on social media.

Monday's strikes came amid dueling diplomatic pushes surrounding Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Zelensky met with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk in Warsaw, where the two leaders signed a security cooperation agreement. In parallel, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban visited Beijing, where he and Chinese leader Xi Jinping discussed efforts to secure a cease-fire in Ukraine.

Orban's diplomatic blitz has elicited criticism from Ukraine's Western allies, who fear that a cessation in fighting would merely give Russian forces an opportunity to regroup and stage another offensive.



PHOTOS BY ALICE MARTINS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



ABOVE: Rescue workers and volunteers search for survivors after a Russian missile attack hit Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital in Kyiv on Monday. A number of Ukrainian cities were hit in a volley of strikes launched by Russia that killed at least 37 and injured 170.

LEFT: A child who was a patient at the children's hospital in Kyiv is taken into an ambulance Monday. A doctor was killed in the strike on the hospital and a dialysis facility was destroyed, Ukrainian officials said. The Russian Defense Ministry said on Telegram that it had carried out a major attack on Ukraine but denied that it had struck civilian infrastructure.

Director, playwright sentenced in Russia

BY MARY ILYUSHINA

Russia sentenced a playwright and a theater director to six years in prison Monday on charges of "justifying terrorism" over an award-winning play. The decision was the latest verdict that has targeted outspoken cultural figures.

Theater director Yevgenia Berkovich, 39, and playwright Svetlana Petriychuk, 44, were arrested in May 2023 and prosecuted behind closed doors in Moscow over a play they staged in 2020.

The play, called "Finist, the Brave Falcon," told the stories of the "ISIS brides" — Russian women who traveled to Syria to marry members of the Islamic State terrorist group they had met online. It was based on real case materials from interrogations and court verdicts and didn't catch negative attention from law enforcement at the time.

The authors have repeatedly stated that the play represents a cautionary tale exploring what pushes Russian women to covert to radical Islam. But during the trial, the state-appointed "expert witnesses" testified that the work contains "signs of radical feminist ideology" and glorifies terrorists, making them appear "interesting and attractive to girls and women" while discriminating against Russian men.

During a hearing last year, Berkovich said the play envisioned "a very simple and transparent idea that dozens of women in our time become random victims of evil."

The play received funding from the Russian Culture Ministry and was awarded Russia's top theater prize, called the Golden Mask.

Since Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Berkovich has also written antiwar poems, which her supporters said may be the reason behind the persecution. Shortly after the start of the war, she staged an antiwar demonstration and was jailed for 11 days.

The defense plans to appeal the verdict, lawyer Ksenia Karpinskaya told Russian media after the trial. "We will, of course, appeal this decision, although there is little hope. But I want you to know that these women are absolutely innocent," Karpinskaya said.

Berkovich is raising two adopted children and has elderly family members whom she fears she'll never see again, the lawyer added, according to Russian channel TV Rain.

"She said that she would never see her grandmother again because she would not live another six years at 90. She might not see her adopted children; we don't know what will happen to them tomorrow," Karpinskaya said. "And she probably won't be able to give birth to new children because of her age. And both the judge and the prosecutor knew about all of this."

The trial of Berkovich and Petriychuk marked the first high-profile criminal case relating to a play since the Soviet era. It is also part of a sweeping campaign of repression the Kremlin launched against any voices critical of the war or President Vladimir Putin's policies.

Many artists who spoke out against the invasion were fired from state-funded cultural institutions, including theaters and film studios, or blacklisted from performing in the country, with authorities pressuring venue owners to revoke show permits. Those who have publicly supported the war have enjoyed lucrative ad deals and features on state television and were favored by the Culture Ministry, which allocates funding for the country's biggest artistic projects.

Few are in the mood to party as NATO marks its 75th birthday

NATO FROM A1

Trump presidency and political chaos in France.

The messaging from the summit will be calibrated to make a case for the alliance, to try to ensure it weathers the political storm intact. Allies will stress significant increases in defense spending and offer Ukraine more military aid — though the package is less than some NATO officials hoped and will not make much progress on membership.

The turmoil is apparent to "every single European leader" ahead of the summit, said Camille Grand, a former NATO assistant secretary general who is now a distinguished policy fellow with the European Council on Foreign Relations.

"They don't want to make it part of the discussion, out of courtesy for Biden," he continued, "but it is on everyone's mind."

All eyes on U.S. politics

Hosting NATO's anniversary summit in Washington carries symbolic weight — but not, perhaps, in the way U.S. officials and diplomats had hoped.

Over the last few years, the Biden administration has worked to rebuild transatlantic ties damaged during the Trump era, renewing relationships with partners and signaling strong support for NATO.

"America is back; the transatlantic alliance is back. And we are not looking backward," Biden announced at the Munich Security Conference in 2021.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine a year later seemed to prove him right, imbuing the alliance with a fresh sense of purpose, two new members in Finland and Sweden, and more sophisticated plans for deterrence and defense.

But in the months leading up to the Washington summit, Donald Trump shook the alliance by suggesting he would encourage Russia to attack U.S. allies if they did not spend enough on their militaries. At the same time, a months-long delay in getting U.S. aid to Ukraine underscored the precarity of American support.

Allies have responded by trying to "Trump-proof" their plans. NATO will this week formalize an effort to bring some of the work of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, a U.S.-led coordinating body to supply Kyiv with a steady stream of weapons, partially under NATO control.

The idea is to try to stop Trump from pulling the plug on military aid and training for Ukraine. "If you internationalize it then you do Trump-proof it," said one senior NATO official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss alliance plans.

Other NATO officials and diplomats cast this and other efforts as well-meaning but wildly insufficient to stop a determined Trump from undermining the alliance or its support for Ukraine should he so choose. Congress approved a measure aimed at preventing any U.S. president from unilaterally withdrawing the United States from NATO. But Trump would not need to formally leave the alliance to seriously undermine it; repeatedly suggesting that you won't come to the defense of allies could do that on its own.

In recent days, questions about whether Biden is fit to stay on as the Democratic presidential candidate have compounded European concern — though most leaders are too polite to say so publicly. Behind the scenes, U.S. officials are trying to calm nerves, stressing that the alliance has survived all manner of political upheaval over more than seven decades. "We can't stop national elections, that's just part of the alliance's DNA," said a senior State Department official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to brief the press.

The alliance "has seen it all," the official said. "This is not totally unfamiliar."

European leaders in trouble

Still, the challenges seem to be multiplying. The Washington summit comes amid major political turmoil in France, where a strong showing from Marine Le Pen's far-right party in the European elections last month prompted President Emmanuel Macron to dissolve Parliament and call snap legislative elections on June 30 and July 7.

Though early projections suggest that French voters mobilized Sunday to prevent the first far-right government since World War II, Macron and his centrist political movement will probably be constrained.

Macron is a longtime proponent of the idea that Europe should cultivate "strategic autonomy" from the United States, and in the past year he has tried to put himself at the front of the European response to Russia's war in Ukraine.

But uncertainty about what comes next — for Macron's foreign policy, and French politics in general — will complicate alliance politics. "A France flapping in the wind would be a problem in peacetime," wrote columnist Sylvie Kauffmann in Le Monde, a French daily, last week. "But it will be all the more so in the face of a Russian power at war that is redoubling its aggression and ostensibly welcoming the turmoil in Western democracies."

In Germany, another powerful NATO ally, Chancellor Olaf Scholz, is also in trouble, beset by economic challenges, a shaky coalition and a rising far right. Scholz said at a party event last week that he was nervous about the situation in France and was texting with Macron daily, according to Spiegel. "We are discussing the situation, which is truly depressing," he said.

Ukraine's future at stake

All this upheaval is particularly bad news for Ukraine, whose immediate survival and long-term prospects depend, to some extent, on the fate of the alliance.

At last year's summit, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky angered allies with fiery tweets about the lack of an invitation to join NATO. This year, he will leave the summit with promises of enduring support and some takeaways — the new NATO structure for coordinating aid to Ukraine, military aid for the year ahead and the promise of some sort of "bridge" to membership.

Given Russian advances in eastern Ukraine and the pummeling of Kharkiv, he is unlikely to be satisfied. It is less than he hoped, certainly, and less than many believe he needs to win the war.

Kate Brady in Berlin contributed to this report.

Cave painting in Indonesia may be earliest scene depicted through art

BY FRANCES VINALL

Among the hundreds of caves hidden in the limestone karsts of Indonesia's Sulawesi island, a work of art faded into a rock wall could be of global importance. A depiction of three humanoid figures and a pig, the painting is the oldest known scene created by humans, dated to at least 51,200 years ago, scientists say.

It was evidence that humans were capable of storytelling in the distant past, said Adam Brumm, a professor of archaeology at Griffith University's Australian Research Center for Human Evolution and an author of the study, which was published in Nature last week.

"Storytelling is a hugely important part of human evolution, and possibly even it helps to explain our success as a species," he said in a briefing about the research. "But finding evidence for it in art, especially in very early cave art, is exceptionally rare."

"We don't know exactly what's going on in this scene," he added of the cave painting. "But it's clearly communicating some sort of story that involves the interaction between these three human-like figures and the pig."

The Sulawesi residents of 50,000 B.C. or so were "besotted" with painting pigs, depicting them over and over again in cave art there, Brumm said. Archaeological evidence suggests they hunted the species, called the Celebes warty pig.

The cave's elevated position, which would not have been convenient for everyday life, could suggest they went there specifically to paint or to paint as part of some other special practice, he added.

"I think what we have now, from the early Sulawesi cave art findings, is the world's earliest known surviving evidence for imaginative storytelling in the use of scenes in art," he said.

The site is somewhat of a hot spot for significant cave painting discoveries. Previous finds on Sulawesi in recent years were dated to between 40,000 and 44,000 years old, which was then the oldest scene of cave art found.

There are at least 300 cave and shelter art sites preserved in the area, many of which have not been closely studied.

The research team, co-led by the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency and Australia's Griffith University and Southern Cross University, used a new method of dating by analyzing accumulated layers of calcium carbonate on top of the painting.

They also revised the date for the 44,000-year-old work to closer to 48,000.

The oldest known cave paintings in the world were made by Neanderthals, scientists believe. About 65,000 years ago, members of our doomed cousin species left handprints, lines and shapes in three caves in modern-day Spain — at least 20 millennia before modern humans are believed to have arrived on the continent.

The famous cave art at Lascaux, France, is dated to a maximum age of about 21,000 years.

Thousands flee as Israel begins new Gaza City incursion

BY LEO SANDS, HAZEM BALOUSHA, LOVEDAY MORRIS, JOBY WARRICK AND HEBA FAROUK MAHFOUZ



LEO CORREA/AP

Israeli soldiers ride on a tank near the Israeli-Gaza border Monday. Israeli forces advanced deeper into Gaza City, claiming that intelligence indicated the presence of Hamas "terrorist infrastructure, operatives, weapons, and investigation and detention rooms."

Israel launched a new military offensive in Gaza City on Monday, with evacuation orders sowing confusion as tens of thousands of Palestinians fled the war-ravaged northern city amid what residents described as some of the worst bombardment since the start of the war.

Israeli negotiators were set to travel to Egypt for a round of cease-fire talks aimed at bringing some respite in the nine-month-long war with Hamas, a conflict that has devastated the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military said intelligence indicated the presence of Hamas "terrorist infrastructure, operatives, weapons, and investigation and detention rooms" in areas of Gaza City, including at the headquarters of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which aids Palestinian refugees.

Residents and U.N. and civil defense workers described chaos as tanks moved into neighborhoods where some families had just arrived after following evacuation orders in other parts of the city a day earlier.

"The extent of fear and terror cannot be described," said Zahia Odeh, 59, who fled her house in the Tuffah neighborhood two days ago. But she said she was considering going back. "The noise of bombs is very loud," she said, describing conditions in the house she was sheltering in with 45 other people north of Gaza City.

"Food and water are scarce," she said. "I don't know how we can live in this situation. Every time we are told to evacuate, we don't know where to go."

The great majority of Gaza's population of more than 2 million people is now displaced, many residents multiple times. Around 200,000 to 300,000 people are estimated to have remained in Gaza City and in the north of the enclave, where the humanitarian situation has been most acute.

According to U.N. estimates, about 81,000 people who lived in areas of Gaza City were told to move to shelters in the west of the city Sunday. But many of those who did were caught in the battle zone as Israeli forces then began their operation at dawn Monday.

"The population that followed evacuation orders and moved to the west have inadvertently put themselves in active fighting areas," said Georgios Petropoulos, the head of the Gaza office for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Later on Monday, the Israel Defense Forces issued orders for residents in the area of the operation to move south of the Israeli line of control that splits Gaza in two.

"When the IDF is making its plans for its operations, there is clearly very little regard for their responsibility to enable and facilitate the commensurate aid for the volume of people who will be affected by the operation, and who are affected over, and over, and over," Petropoulos said.

Petropoulos said tens of thousands have been forced to flee in the past 24 hours, with some displaced three times in the past 10 days.

New evacuation orders over the past two weeks have covered 70 percent of the city, according to Mahmoud Bassal, a civil defense spokesman.

"Last night was extremely difficult," Bassal said. "Most people spent the night in the streets and on the roads, sleeping in unsuitable areas amid fear, terror and missiles."

Juliette Touma, an UNRWA spokeswoman, said she had no information on operations at the headquarters, which the agency's staff evacuated in October. It has since been used by displaced Palestinians seeking shelter, as well as by the IDF as a base of operations, she said.

"We are in the street now, as there is no place to go," said Reem, a 38-year-old resident of the Rimal neighborhood who spoke on the condition that she not be identified by her full name for security reasons. She said she fled with her family Monday afternoon after they received a call notifying them to move south. But as they left the area, it was under heavy bombardment, she said.

"We had no safe streets or area to walk through," Reem said, describing climbing walls to try to find cover from the shooting. "They were shooting anything moving," she said.

It is a crunch moment for cease-fire talks as the United States, Egypt and Qatar continue attempts to broker a hostage release deal. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu injected new uncertainty into the negotiations late Sunday, insisting that Israel should be able to resume fighting as part of any deal accepted by negotiators.

His statement appeared to raise the bar for what Israel would accept in a deal and further tempered any lingering expectations of an imminent peace.

Netanyahu stipulated that "any deal will allow Israel to resume fighting until all of the objectives of the war have been achieved." A statement issued by his office suggested that the prime minister would be unwilling to fully commit to a permanent cease-fire until the complete elimination of Hamas in Gaza — something he has repeatedly described as a key aim of the war, alongside the release of the hostages and the ensuring of Israel's security.

Netanyahu's office also said that any deal would need to prevent the smuggling of weapons from Egypt into Gaza and "maximize the number of living hostages" released by Hamas — rather than the return of all the hostages.

The statement was criticized by Netanyahu's domestic political opponents as well as Israeli demonstrators campaigning for a hostage release deal.

"With his irresponsible statement, Netanyahu once again proved himself to be the one who obstructed [the deal]," said Einav Zangauker, a mother of one of the hostages who suspended herself in a cage above the demonstration in Tel Aviv in protest.

In May, President Biden outlined a three-phase plan that includes a six-week initial stage with a cease-fire and a surge in humanitarian aid, forming the basis of the current round of talks.

CIA Director William J. Burns, a key U.S. participant in past cease-fire negotiations, is returning to the Middle East this week as the Biden administration seeks to nudge the process forward, according to a Middle East government official familiar with the arrangements.

Burns will arrive in Cairo on Tuesday and travel onward to Qatar for meetings with Israeli, Qatari and Egyptian officials and intelligence counterparts on Wednesday, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing negotiations. The CIA declined to comment on Burns's travel.

On Monday, Israeli media reported that an Israeli delegation led by intelligence chief Ronen Bar would continue negotiations in Egypt.

Preparatory meetings between U.S. and Egyptian officials took place Monday, one former Egyptian official familiar with the cease-fire negotiations said. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic.

The former official said he was not hopeful for a deal. "The ball is in Netanyahu's court," he said. "He is finding excuses in order not to implement a cease-fire."

Sanctuary stops koala cuddles amid ethics debate

BY RACHEL PANNETT



RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES

Prince William and his wife, Catherine, meet a koala at Sydney's Taronga Zoo in 2014. Some places banned koala hugs decades ago.

Koalas — Australia's iconic marsupials — have been petted by princes, pop stars, presidents and a pope. But one of the country's oldest koala sanctuaries has stopped offering cuddles with the furry animals in response to strong visitor feedback.

The move by Brisbane's Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary highlights a growing debate about whether the welfare risks to animals of "selfie-style" tourist encounters — those centered on photo opportunities — outweigh the benefits of encouraging conservation.

Lone Pine opened in 1927, aiming to draw attention to the plight of koalas at a time when they were being culled for their fur. Since the early days with its two original resident koalas, Jack and Jill, the sanctuary has offered koala cuddles to countless visitors, including a young Taylor Swift in 2009. Now, it is replacing hugs with more extended — and educational — experiences that teach visitors about koala behavior, ecology and daily care.

"We love that there is a shift among both local and international guests to experience Australian wildlife up close, but not necessarily personal, just doing what they do best — eating, sleeping and relaxing within their own space," said Lyndon Discombe, the sanctuary's general manager.

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is in Queensland, where it is still legal for wildlife and entertainment venues to offer koala cuddles after some other states banned the practice decades ago.

The decision to stop the close-up encounters was made following "increasingly strong visitor feedback," the sanctuary said in a statement. Asked if visitors had expressed concern about whether holding koalas was harmful, a spokesperson said only that guests wanted more educational and immersive experiences.

Wildlife advocates argue that cuddling koalas is cruel because it upsets their normal solitary routine. In the wild, koalas sleep for most of the day to conserve energy for the slow process of digesting the tough leaves of eucalyptus trees, their main food source.

"Close encounters where wild animals are used as photo props, riding, bathing, all of these are stressful and harmful activities. We're calling for those to stop. And not just here in Australia, but around the globe," said Suzanne Milthorpe, a spokesperson for the nonprofit World Animal Protection, which is petitioning the Queensland government to ban koala cuddles. The petition has garnered about 5,000 signatures, she said.

Although people have a tendency to anthropomorphize animals, Milthorpe said, koalas are adapted for life in the wild, not captivity. They have sharp, hook-shaped claws evolved to help them climb the tall, slippery trunks of eucalyptus trees. While they might seem cuddly, their fur is scratchy, and they prefer solitude, she said.

Elephants are another wild animal that, left to their own devices, wouldn't offer themselves up for close encounters with humans, according to Milthorpe. She recently toured a wildlife park in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where the group is helping the owners move away from keeping elephants captive for riding to an ethical tourism model in which the elephants are able to behave as if they were in the wild.

"What we'd really like to see is a future where people see wild animals in the wild," Milthorpe said in an interview.

Koala numbers in the wild have declined dramatically in recent years because of habitat loss, predators and disease. In 2022, they were officially listed as endangered along the country's east coast after catastrophic wildfires ripped through forests.

Steve Irwin — the late crocodile-wrangling conservationist and TV personality — once said that "when people touch an animal, the animal touches their heart. And instantly, we've won them over to the conservation of that species." His Australia Zoo still offers "cuddly koala encounters."

But there is increasing global awareness about the potential stress and suffering of animals in wildlife venues. Last year, a Florida zoo apologized for offering an "encounter" in which visitors could pet a kiwi, New Zealand's national bird, after an online petition collected more than 10,000 signatures in two days.

The push to limit koala encounters is not universally supported, however.

Tourism websites still promote places where koalas can be cuddled as a quintessential Australian experience. The Lone Pine move prompted backlash in a local newspaper article that polled readers on whether they thought koala cuddles were acceptable or not. "What's next, are we going to provide compensation to Koalas?" one reader wrote.

The Queensland state government said it has no plans to change the law on koala cuddles.

Steven Miles, the state premier, who has had his photo taken hugging a koala in the past, quipped to reporters that the marsupials have "the best union around" — with strict rules including on the amount of time they're allowed to be held and regular rest days.

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ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Meta's Threads is struggling to win over content creators

The text-centric social media platform. which launched a little more than a year ago, has not yet forged a distinct identity for itself

BY TAYLOR LORENZ

The power of online content creators has made them darlings of corporate marketing crucial to the launch of new products. Meta knows better than most how influential creators can be, but it has failed to persuade many to embrace its newest social network Threads, which launched a year ago Friday.

"It's an auxiliary thing; I don't think any of the creators I have even post on Threads," said Keith Dorsey, founder and CEO of Young Guns Entertainment, a social media talent management company in Atlanta that works with hundreds of content creators with large followings across multiple platforms. "We'd forget it's there if it wasn't for the automatic notifications."

Threads, a text-centric service launched by Meta last year in a bid to usurp Twitter after its acquisition by Elon Musk, needs people like Dorsey and his clients if it is to succeed. Adam Mosseri, the executive overseeing Threads, recently told The Washington Post that he wants it to be a place for real-time discussions of events happening in the world, from sports to TV. But content creators who spoke with The Post said they are struggling to understand the platform.

"Threads still seems like a platform in search of a mission," says Lia Haberman, an independent digital strategist and author of the ICYMI newsletter on marketing and the creator economy. "The focus isn't news. It's not about visual creativity or video, like Instagram or TikTok. So what is it?"

Threads's lack of a distinct identity could be seen in a report Meta issued last week outlining the most popular tags on the platform in its first year. More than 50 million Tags have been created since the platform's inception, but the five most popular were related to generic lifestyle topics: photography, books, gym workouts, art and TTPD, the tag for discussing Taylor Swift's album "The Tortured Poets Department." Swift joined Threads to promote the album in April, with support from Meta, but did not become a regular user of the platform.

Last Wednesday, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced on Threads that it has more than 175 million monthly users, up 25 million since April. That's a drop in the bucket compared with Instagram's 2 billion monthly users, or Facebook's more than 3 billion.



GABBY JONES/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said last week that Threads has more than 175 million monthly users. Instagram and Facebook have billions.

Meta's clout as the world's dominant social media company means many in the content creator industry said they felt compelled to get familiar with the new platform. But influencers who spoke with The Post said that they invest much less time and effort there than on the platforms that provide the bulk of their income. On Meta's text-centric and lightly trafficked service, there's no pressure to write a script, set up lighting or perfect their hair and makeup.

Christal Luster, a content creator with more than 870,000 followers on TikTok and over 65,000 on Threads, said that she enjoys the freedom that posting text updates offers. "Threads is focused on conversation, so I'm not going to get lost in the visual," she said. Luster uses the service to test reactions to certain topics, and to document her regular trips to Target, things she doesn't do on her primary social channels.

"I use Threads like a journal. I just put my thoughts there," said V Spehar, a news content creator with 3.1 million followers on TikTok and 110,000 on Threads. "Everything on TikTok has to have intention, and it's going to be taken seriously. Threads is low stakes. I can just say whatever I want and have fun."

Some creators do take Threads seriously — and Meta is trying to incentivize more into doing so.

Haley Kalil's viral comedic posts have won her 686,000 followers on Threads and also helped boost her Instagram following, in part thanks to Meta promoting Threads content in Instagram users' feeds. Meta is also offering certain creators cash payouts for Threads posts that perform well, and brands are experimenting with the app.

"Apparently creators are getting paid dumby money on threads so hi!!!!," content creator and trends forecaster Coco Mocoe, who has more than 1 million TikTok followers, posted on Threads. "Get ready to be sick of me hehe."

In April, Instagram content creators began receiving in-app notifications that they could earn cash bonuses for generating engagement on Threads. "Make a profile and post threads or replies that get 10,000 or more views to earn money," the notification read.

However, by July, some creators claimed that it was possible to maximize Meta's payouts simply by posting generic replies to low quality meme posts going viral on Threads, instead of formulating new, thoughtfully crafted content.

"We're still testing a new bonus program that rewards creators for their creativity on Threads," a Meta spokesperson said. "This small, invite-only program will run for a limited time, and creators invited to participate can find their individualized requirements for receiving their bonus when onboarding to the program."

Meta says that its research with users of Threads shows it has won over some people who never had aspirations of becoming social media stars until they joined the platform and established an audience there. "Threads has given creators a fresh space to start growing their platforms," the company said.

Jessica McBride, an administrative professional consultant outside of Toronto, used Threads to connect with cat lovers after adopting a feral cat three months ago. She had about 850 followers on Instagram, but most were friends and family and widening her network proved challenging. X, formerly Twitter, felt too toxic. She turned to Threads, an app she'd signed up for at launch and nearly forgotten about.

After McBride began sharing daily updates on her cat on Threads her following quickly grew from 250 followers to over 2,700. "My cat has adjusted very well because people were able to [say] like, 'Hey, try this, try that.'" she said. "I needed community, I didn't have it around me."

McBride's story may be heartwarming but for a social platform to succeed culturally and in business terms it needs many millions of people like her — and lots of creators with much larger followings to keep them logging on. Meta says it is committed to Threads, but despite stories like McBride's some still wonder how many more birthdays it will celebrate.

"If Threads was a start-up we wouldn't be questioning whether it had made its mark. They'd burn through their VC money and then quietly fold or be acquired by another player," said Haberman, the digital strategist. "I don't see how Mark Zuckerberg continues to pump money into a platform where the biggest draw so far is that it's a less toxic alternative to Twitter."

Paramount signs off on merger with Skydance

BY AARON GREGG

Paramount Global will merge with Skydance Media, capping months of twist-and-turn negotiations and catapulting the storied entertainment company behind CBS, MTV and the Top Gun franchise into a new era.

Skydance will acquire National Amusements in a deal that values the Shari Redstone-led company — which has a controlling stake in Paramount — at $1.75 billion. It also plans to invest billions in the "New Paramount," the companies announced Monday in a news release.

The deal comes as Paramount has been losing money in an attempt to establish itself in a competitive streaming market dominated by Netflix, Disney and a few others. It is grappling with $14.6 billion in long-term debt and has lost more than half its market value since 2019, even as it has continued to steer blockbuster hits such as 2022's "Top Gun: Maverick." In addition to CBS and MTV, it owns Showtime, Black Entertainment Television and Nickelodeon. Most recently, the company has ventured into animation and sports content.

"This is a defining and transformative time for our industry, and the storytellers, content creators and financial stakeholders who are invested in the Paramount legacy and the longevity of the entertainment economy," said Skydance founder David Ellison, who will become chairman and CEO of the combined company. He said the new owners "are committed to energizing the business and bolstering Paramount with contemporary technology, new leadership and a creative discipline that aims to enrich generations to come."

Ellison, the son of Oracle billionaire Larry Ellison, founded Skydance in 2010, and the company quickly established itself as a force in Hollywood, helping produce works such as the Tom Cruise action films "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol" (2011) and "Jack Reacher" (2012), along with "World War Z" (2013) starring Brad Pitt.

The board spent more than six months considering various offers and counteroffers, with a previous attempt at a deal with Skydance falling apart just a few weeks ago.

In April, in the midst of the takeover battle, Paramount ousted CEO Bob Bakish and replaced him with an "Office of the CEO" consisting of three executives who lead some of the company's key assets: CBS CEO George Cheeks; MTV, Showtime and Paramount Media Networks CEO Chris McCarthy; and Nickelodeon and Paramount Pictures CEO Brian Robbins. They have been tasked with slashing Paramount's costs as the company tries to cut its debt.

Under the new, all-stock deal, Skydance is valued at $4.75 billion. Existing Skydance investors will receive 317 million Class B shares at $15 apiece. Paramount stock closed Monday down by more than 5 percent, at $11.19 a share.

It's possible that a new buyer could still swoop in and acquire Paramount, as the deal approved Monday allows for a 45-day "go-shop" period during which alternative proposals can be considered. Other possible suitors include media mogul Barry Diller, whose digital media conglomerate signed nondisclosure agreements with National Amusements, seen as a prelude to dealmaking, according to a report in the New York Times.

The Wall Street Journal first reported news of a potential Skydance agreement last week.



DAVID SWANSON/REUTERS

Paramount Global, which has $14.6 billion in long-term debt, has been trying to establish itself in a competitive streaming market.

DIGEST

STOCK MARKET

S&P 500, Nasdaq hit records on mixed day

Stocks wavered in a mixed close on Wall Street on Monday that saw the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq composite index reach record highs yet again. The S&P 500 was up 0.1 percent, and the Nasdaq rose 0.3 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.1 percent.

Traders are looking ahead to earnings reports this week, including updates from Delta Air Lines on Thursday and JPMorgan, Citigroup and Wells Fargo on Friday. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell is set to address Congress on Tuesday and Wednesday.

— Associated Press

AUTOMOTIVE

Tesla, shareholder clash over legal fee

Legal teams for Tesla and a shareholder clashed in court Monday over the value of a lawsuit that successfully challenged CEO Elon Musk's enormous pay package and a request for the company to pay a record legal fee worth $7 billion.

For more than three hours, two experts offered opposing testimony about the benefit created for Tesla by a Delaware judge's ruling in January that rescinded Musk's $56 billion pay package.

The legal fee is being pursued by Richard Tornetta, who owned nine shares of Tesla when he sued over Musk's pay package in 2018. The fee equals around $7.3 billion at Tesla's Monday stock price and amounts to a rate of roughly $370,000 for every hour worked by the 37 lawyers, associates and paralegals, some of whom normally bill as little as $275 an hour, according to court documents submitted by Tornetta's lawyers.

Tornetta's lawyers argue that they deserve the fee as a cut of the benefit they say they conveyed to Tesla when Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick voided Musk's pay package, which returned to Tesla around 266 million shares reserved for the stock options.

— Reuters

AVIATION

Activist investor vows Southwest proxy fight

Activist investor Elliott Investment Management warned of a proxy fight Monday to push for leadership changes at low-cost carrier Southwest Airlines.

In a letter to Southwest's board, Elliott said while it is open to collaboration, it plans to "move expeditiously to give shareholders a direct say on the necessary leadership changes."

The investment management firm, known for pushing changes to boost shareholder returns, has called for a reconstitution of Southwest's board with "new, truly independent" directors possessing expertise in airlines, customer experience and technology.

It has also called for a leadership change, citing Southwest's disappointing financial results.

In a statement, Southwest said it remains open to constructive conversations with Elliott, including evaluating additional "strong and independent" director candidates. The airline, however, said the investment firm has focused on personal attacks on its leadership and board, conditioning any serious discussions on an immediate CEO change.

In its letter, Elliott said the airline's performance is "unacceptable" and a leadership change is required to return it to its once-leading position in the industry. Elliott owns an 11 percent stake in the company, making it one of the largest investors.

— Reuters

ALSO IN BUSINESS

Wall Street's top regulator no longer expects to move ahead with proposed "swing pricing" regulations on the management of liquidity at so-called open-end funds, choosing instead to issue a fresh proposal after facing industry opposition, according to a regulatory agenda Monday. The Securities and Exchange Commission in 2022 issued the proposal, which it said would help such funds — in which investors can redeem their shares on a daily basis — better prepare for conditions of stress like those seen at the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The euro slipped Monday but came off overnight lows against the dollar after elections in France pointed to a hung parliament. The U.S. dollar crept up from a more than three-week low after U.S. payroll data released Friday boosted bets that the Federal Reserve will soon start cutting interest rates. French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday asked his prime minister to stay in the role for now, pending what will be difficult negotiations to form a new government after a surprise left-wing surge in elections that delivered a hung parliament. Some concerns about a potential French exit from the euro zone were also eased after eurosceptic Marine Le Pen's National Rally failed to win a majority.

Because of a shock hazard, a California company is recalling nearly 1 million power adapters sold with sound machines marketed to help infants and young children sleep. The plastic surrounding the AC power adapter that was supplied with some of Hatch's Rest 1st generation sound machines can come off when removing the product from an outlet, leaving its prongs exposed, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said. That increases risks of electric shock. There have been 19 reports of the plastic housing surrounding the adapter coming off, including two instances of consumers getting a minor electric shock, the CPSC said in its Wednesday recall notice.

— From news services

Boeing will plead guilty to fraud related to Max crashes

Plane maker avoids trial over onboard system implicated in accidents

BY LORI ARATANI AND IAN DUNCAN

Boeing agreed on Sunday to plead guilty to conspiring to defraud the government in a case linked to crashes of its 737 Max jets in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed 346 people — a stunning turn for the aerospace giant after the Justice Department determined that Boeing failed to live up to terms of a 2021 deal to avoid prosecution.

Prosecutors alleged that two Boeing pilots concealed key information from the Federal Aviation Administration about a new automated control system on the Max. The system was implicated in both crashes, causing uncontrollable dives.

By agreeing to plead guilty to the single felony count just before a midnight deadline Sunday, the company will avoid going to trial in the high-profile case.

The Justice Department filed documents related to the deal in federal court in Texas late Sunday night, setting up a planned hearing where family members — who have criticized the pending agreement — will be permitted to speak out. The court subsequently must decide whether to accept the plea agreement.

Boeing had already agreed to $2.5 billion in penalties and payouts in 2021. As part of the new deal, the company will pay an additional $487.2 million in penalties, agree to oversight by an independent monitor, spend at least $455 million to strengthen compliance and safety programs, and be placed on supervised probation for roughly three years, according to a Justice Department official.

The agreement also included one thing crash victims' families long sought: a meeting with Boeing's board of directors.

"This criminal conviction demonstrates the department's commitment to holding Boeing accountable for its misconduct," the Justice Department official said.

It is rare for a company of Boeing's stature to plead guilty to a crime, and the moment marks another low point for the already-battered reputation of the century-old aircraft manufacturer. The plea underscores the long shadow of the deadly crashes and comes at time when Boeing is trying to restore the trust of regulators and the flying public amid a fresh safety crisis that began in January when a panel flew off the side of a newer model Max midflight.

In a statement, Boeing confirmed that it had reached an "agreement in principle in terms of a resolution with the Justice Department subject to the memorialization and approval of specific terms."

Sunday's court filing did not include information about waivers that Boeing, with its myriad defense and space contracts, may need to seek if its conviction triggers contracting bans by federal agencies.

Paul Cassell, attorney for the families in the case and a professor at S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah, immediately filed an objection to the agreement on their behalf.

"Through crafty lawyering between Boeing and DOJ, the deadly consequences of Boeing's crime are being hidden," Cassell said.

Added Erin Applebaum, a partner at Kreindler & Kreindler who has worked with Cassell in representing family members: "We are extremely disappointed that DOJ is moving forward with this wholly inadequate plea deal despite the families' strong opposition to its terms."



BONNIE JO MOUNT/THE WASHINGTON POST

The father of a victim speaks at a news conference marking the second anniversary of the March 2019 Ethiopian Airlines crash.

The criminal case delved into the design of the Max, an updated version of the hugely popular single-aisle 737. Boeing was racing to get the plane into service in the 2010s, locked in competition with its European rival Airbus, which was also offering a new model. The automated system implicated in the crashes — which was supposed to push the nose of the jet down in limited circumstances — was needed because of new, larger engines on the Max.

Prosecutors have said that the two technical pilots concealed information that the automated system could be triggered during a wider range of conditions from an FAA oversight office, leading mention of the system to be removed from a safety report. That meant airline pilots in the United States and around the world did not have to undergo expensive training on the new system. But it also meant that pilots were not familiar with its operation. The FAA office learned of the expanded scope of the system's operation only after the first crash, according to prosecutors.

In January 2021, the Justice Department and Boeing announced that they had entered into a deferred prosecution agreement that would allow the company to avoid criminal prosecution.

Under the three-year deal, Boeing acknowledged that its technical pilots misled federal regulators about the software system and was charged with one count of fraud. One of those pilots was acquitted by a federal jury in 2022 on charges of lying to the FAA about changes to the software system. His defense argued publicly before trial that the pilot, Mark Forkner, was being scapegoated.

Boeing agreed to pay $500 million to the families of those whose loved ones died, strengthen its internal programs to detect and prevent future incidents of fraud, and cooperate with future investigations or prosecutions. The agreement expired two days after the midair blowout of a fuselage door panel on an Alaska Airlines 737 in January, an incident that remains under criminal investigation by federal authorities.

By May, federal prosecutors found that Boeing had violated the terms of the 2021 agreement in part by failing to create agreed-upon compliance and ethics programs.

The families of the crash victims were not consulted about the initial agreement between Boeing and the Justice Department. But they successfully fought in court for their right to be heard, and they have received briefings from prosecutors on the case this year.

John C. Coffee, a professor of law and director of the Center on Corporate Governance at Columbia Law School, said that the inclusion of an effective federal monitor will be key to ensuring that Boeing meets its obligations under the agreement.

"I have long said that the greatest failure of the old [deferred prosecution agreement] is that it did not create an effective monitor," he said via email. "But the two sides are likely to fight fiercely on what power the monitor should have."

Relatives of crash victims have pushed prosecutors to take a harder line against the aerospace giant, particularly after the midair blowout this year. Though no one was seriously injured in that accident, multiple investigations into that calamity — including those done by Boeing itself — uncovered myriad shortcomings in the company's manufacturing and quality-control systems.

A preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating what caused the Jan. 5 accident, found that bolts designed to hold the door panel were not replaced after the part was removed to make repairs to another portion of the jet as it moved through final assembly at Boeing's Renton, Wash., factory. Boeing's internal investigation found that paperwork to document the removal of that portion of the aircraft was never created — a violation of company policy.

While the crashes of Lion Air jet in October 2018 and an Ethiopian Airlines flight five months later, in March 2019, were linked to problems with the design of the Max, the January blowout has been tied to problems at Boeing's manufacturing plant outside Seattle.

The FAA audited the company's production line and launched its own investigation, and has demanded fixes to ensure that every plane rolling out of the factory is built to specifications. The agency has taken the unusual step of forbidding Boeing from increasing the number of 737 Max planes it makes each month, until regulators are satisfied that improvements have been put into place.

Boeing faced government fraud allegations previously. In 2006, the company settled a space launch contracting corruption case for $615 million in civil and criminal penalties. In that deal, the government agreed not to pursue criminal charges against Boeing after it said the company cooperated with its investigation.

As it has sought to recover from its current crisis, Boeing announced a deal in recent days to acquire Spirit AeroSystems, a supplier that makes the fuselage for the Max, in a bid to gain more control over its supply chain.

But the work of rebuilding the company's reputation will largely fall to a new chief executive. The current CEO, Dave Calhoun, is planning to step down from the job at the end of the year.

Boeing deal denounced by families of victims

BOEING FROM A1

she said, "don't realize it's a slap on the wrist. There's no meaningful changes in terms of safety."

The single count of fraud stems from an admission by the company that two of its employees misled the Federal Aviation Administration about the operation of an automated control system that was implicated in both crashes. The guilty plea follows a Justice Department finding in May that Boeing, by failing to strengthen internal systems to detect and report fraud, violated a 2021 deferred prosecution agreement that allowed it to previously avoid the charge.

Javier de Luis, a lecturer in the aeronautics and astronautics department at MIT who lost his sister, Graziella de Luis y Ponce, 63, in the Ethiopian Airlines crash, said he was pleased Boeing pleaded guilty but said the agreement did not go far enough.

"This is a deal appropriate to a white-collar paper crime where nobody died," he said. "Boeing's actions led to the death of 346 people. This deal makes everyone who died a footnote in this."

Boeing has taken steps in recent months that it says is setting things right: planning a leadership shake-up, imposing corrective actions at its factories and acquiring one of its largest suppliers to gain stronger control over production. During a recent media tour, one of its executives said the giant company was engaged in "introspection" over airliner manufacturing and safety procedures. The company declined to comment Monday.

But some analysts question what it will take to turn the company around, even as it loses ground to its only real competitor, Airbus. The guilty plea is a reminder of how deep-seated some of the company's problems are, tracing back to the 2010s and exacerbated by a midair blowout of a fuselage door panel aboard an Alaska Airlines flight in January.

Despite its role as key player in the global aviation system and its huge presence in national defense and space exploration, Boeing has found itself with few allies as it stumbled.

Regulators at the FAA have capped the number of jets Boeing can build each month. The company also has run afoul of investigators at the National Transportation Safety Board, who say it has withheld key information critical to its investigation into the door panel blowout.

Senate investigators have kept up a steady drumbeat of disclosures about whistleblower allegations of weak safety oversight and poor workmanship.

"This plea deal cannot be the end of Boeing's accountability," Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, said on X. "The need for ongoing aggressive investigative efforts & other action is obvious."

Given the run of bad news, analysts said Boeing had little choice but to plead guilty to fraud.

"Boeing's reputation has sunk so low that this makes little difference," said Nick Cunningham, an aerospace analyst at Agency Partners in London. A trial risked damaging new disclosures, he said, while admitting to a crime can do little to harm the company at this point. A trial also would have been distracting for the CEO the company will install at the end of the year to replace Dave Calhoun, he said.

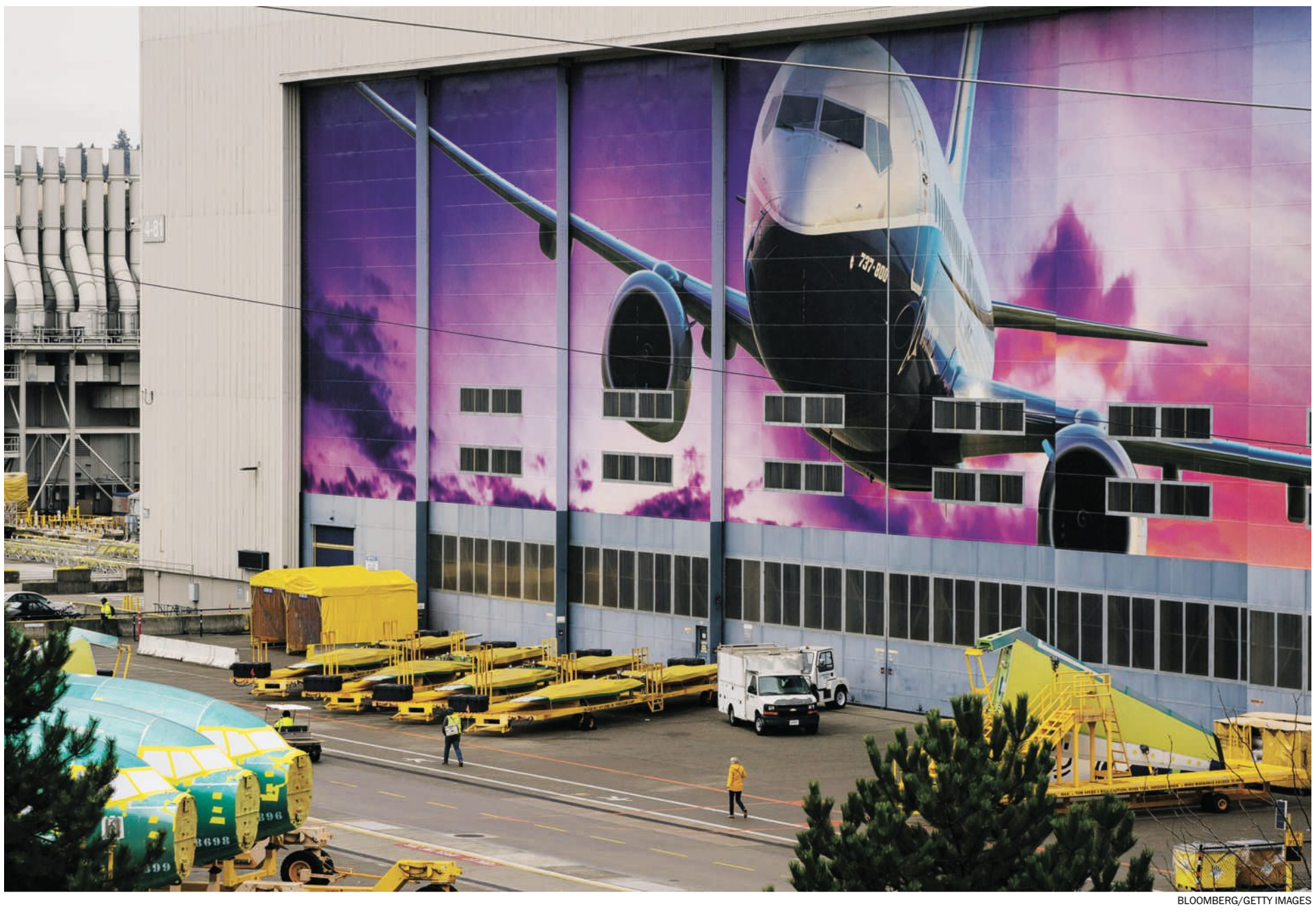
George Ferguson, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence, agreed that the most prudent choice was to settle and move on.

"If you're Boeing, you want to put this behind you," he said. "It's been a really rough six months and a year or more down the road, you don't want to be talking about this. Instead, you'd like to be talking about your turnaround, and Boeing certainly needs one."

A key element of the settlement is the appointment of an outside monitor, something demanded by family members who have waged a years-long battle to hold Boeing accountable.

Mihailis Diamantis, a professor at the University of Iowa College of Law, said the selection of a monitor and the powers they are ultimately given will be an important factor in how effective the plea agreement proves to be.

Pleading guilty to a fraud charge could pose obstacles to it continuing to work on federal contracts, but analysts say that it's unlikely to be barred from government work. The company's military business is key to the national defense, and it earned 37 percent of its $78 billion in revenue last year from U.S. government contracts.



BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Workers walk outside the Boeing manufacturing facility in Renton, Wash., on Feb. 5. Analysts say Boeing's decision to plead guilty allows it to focus on rebuilding a reputation sullied by two fatal crashes and a midair blowout involving 737 Max jets. However, critics say the deal does little to incentivize Boeing to improve safety.

The outside monitor is "the only available path, because you can't get rid of Boeing," Diamantis said. "You also can't keep Boeing like it is, so what do you do? Your only option is to try to fix Boeing and that's a really complicated process because it's a massive company."

Diamantis said given Boeing's long-running problems he was "not fully optimistic for the prospects of a monitorship here unless they're given some really sweeping powers."

Beyond the plea deal, Ferguson said continued loss of market share to Airbus may be another critical incentive.

"At some point you get to the point where if you don't get better, you don't survive," he said. "Frankly, Boeing is very fortunate to be in a duopoly where their risk of going away is very minimal. Had they been an auto company, things might have been very different right now."

For its part, Boeing says it is taking steps to prove it is committed to winning back the trust of regulators, its customers and the public, noting that the FAA-mandated safety plan it recently submitted to the agency will be its guide.

At a recent media event at the sprawling Renton, Wash., factory where Boeing assembles 737 Max jets, top company executives outlined steps the aerospace giant has taken to tighten gaps in its manufacturing and quality control systems. It is establishing clear criteria for what work must be completed on an aircraft before it is cleared to move to the next step in the manufacturing process. It is adding training and testing for new employees to make sure they have mastered the necessary skills for their jobs.

"This is our moment to step back and holistically look at [our systems] and be very introspective," said Elizabeth Lund, senior vice president overseeing quality control and quality assurance efforts at Boeing. "What else can we do? How can we be certain that our system is as absolutely robust as possible? So we started collecting input from many, many sources. First and foremost, our employees."

For families, the Justice Department's decision is another in a long line of disappointments and what they see as staged expressions of sympathy. At a Senate hearing last month, family members stood, holding posters with photos of those who had died as Calhoun, Boeing's chief executive, entered the hearing room. Calhoun took his seat but before beginning his testimony rose to address the families sitting behind him.

"I would like to apologize on behalf of all our Boeing associates spread throughout the past and present for your losses," Calhoun told them.

De Luis, who lost his sister, said he did not buy the apology.

"It was clear he had been told by his PR people that he had to do this," he said. "It just seems all so fake."

Still, de Luis said their fight is ensuring Boeing takes responsibility for the products it builds.

"Boeing has to succeed, but they have to change," he said. "The country — the world — can't afford to have Boeing take it for granted that things like safety just happen."

As Wood's career begins, those who helped cheer him on

WOOD FROM **A1**

debut, a significant moment for player and club, which has endured a gutting, years-long rebuild. Wood, who grew up in Olney, has impressed in the early days of his major league career. He has already climbed the Nationals' batting order and entered Monday batting .320 with a .932 OPS.

Amid this booming and chaotic week, Wood has popped up on social media with highlights of his at-bats and big moments. Through it all, faces old and new — coaches, teammates, friends, family members — who have supported and believed in Wood, counseled him or helped him get here have followed along.

His parents watched from the stands as this new chapter of their son's life began. So, too, did Nationals fans, who sat through sticky July days and nights to catch a glimpse of the future. Then there were Nationals players and coaches, who are just getting to know the soft-spoken guy who now shares their clubhouse. And there's the high school basketball coach who never forgot him.

"It was great. I wouldn't have made it here without all the support I had," Wood said Friday. "So just having all those people be able to make it here and just being super close, it was unbelievable."



PAULA WOOD

Rookie James Wood, top center, was surrounded by family and friends during his first week as a big leaguer at Nationals Park.
Among those coming to support Wood was his former basketball coach Pat Behan, shown at left with his wife, Nataly, and Wood's parents, Kenny and Paula Wood. Behan, who coached Wood briefly at St. John's College High in the District, is battling Lou Gehrig's disease but would not miss his former player's first appearance in the majors.
"He's a wonderful young man and has such a supportive family," Behan said while using the assistance of a communication device. "I wanted to do whatever it took to get here."

The former coach

Pat Behan can go months without leaving home. Doing so is a massive undertaking, requiring a team of caregivers and family members, bags stocked with medical supplies and a wheelchair that makes an uncomfortable life even harder.

In 2022, Behan was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a terminal neurological disease previously known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was 34 at the time, coach of the boys' basketball team at St. John's College High in the District. But now one of his former players was making his MLB debut. And Behan wanted to be there.

"He's a wonderful young man and has such a supportive family," Behan said while using the assistance of a communication device. "I wanted to do whatever it took to get here. Very proud of him."

Behan coached Wood for about half a season before Wood transferred, but the impression he made — quiet, kind and laid-back, with the best vertical Behan had ever coached — stuck. Their families remained tight. In 2022, Wood visited Washington to attend a fundraising event for Behan. Since then, said Behan's wife, Nataly Johanson-Behan, life has gotten harder for her husband, and Behan, who stopped coaching last year, has gotten weaker.

"So for him to go somewhere?" Johanson-Behan said. "It really has to be something that he's passionate about. This is one of them. … There was no hesitation."

Behan can no longer talk and now uses a screen that tracks his eye movement to type. As the Nationals played July 1, he would type messages every few minutes, asking for someone to adjust his head or limbs or bring him pain medication.

When Wood came up to bat, though, communication ceased. For six pitches, Behan soaked in the moment from a suite at Nationals Park. On pitch No. 7, as Wood ripped an opposite-field single for his first MLB hit and the suite and the crowd erupted, Behan was as expressive as his body allowed, vigorously tapping the side of his left sneaker on the side of the wheelchair's footrest. "Awesome," he wrote. "A professional at-bat."

That night, cameras also found the former coach, who was shown on the video screen for the crowd at Nationals Park. Down on the field, someone else noticed the scoreboard display, too. And in the suite, Behan turned his focus back to his communication device, this time sending a message to his wife.

"Did u c James pointing?" it read.

The baby shark

Gerardo Parra was part of the Nationals' 2019 championship team, though he became a fan favorite not so much for his play on the field but because of his "Baby Shark" walk-up music and joyful personality.

Parra, who is now the Nationals' first base coach, was throwing batting practice to Wood on Tuesday when the outfielder took two pitches inside that he didn't like, which drew some laughs from Parra and Ricky Gutierrez, Washington's third base coach. Wood promptly sent the next pitch to the second deck in right field. "Goodbye!" yelled Chris Johnson, the Nationals' assistant hitting coach.

The next round, Parra asked Wood to call his shot. Wood pointed his bat toward center field and smirked as he settled in. He did hit a few back up the middle, but none left the park. Parra, apparently still caretaker of the Nationals' vibes, later said he was trying to get Wood to relax.

"The last few days for him, it's been a lot of stuff — media, people, friends," Parra said. "The first time in the big leagues, it's a lot. I just really want to tell him to just enjoy it."

A few days after that, Parra, who had to navigate his way around the horde of cameras that descended on Nationals Park for the prospect's debut, wasn't talking about Wood's defense or his hitting. What stood out the most to him, he said, was that Wood's personality had not changed from what Parra saw in spring training, even amid all the fanfare.

"He's a smart guy. He plays hard. He listens a lot," Parra said. "He's the guy that, when you say something to help him, he gets it and he does it. But I think what's more important is that he's a really humble guy."

The family

Kenny Wood sat up in his seat and leaned forward Wednesday, just as he had for his son's other at-bats that night. His wife, Paula, and daughter, Kayla, looked on next to him. James Wood was at bat for the Nationals. It was the seventh inning of a tie ballgame, and their son had a chance to be the hero.

From their seats behind home plate, Kenny and Paula watched James swing through a 1-0 slider out of the strike zone. "Ugh," Paula said. She put her hands on her head and looked at Kenny, who laughed and replied, "He's got it."

The Woods rarely get jittery anymore when James is hitting, but his first week in the big leagues had been a test. Kayla measured her heart rate throughout the week. The third Wood sibling, Sydney, works for the San Antonio Spurs and delayed her arrival to NBA Summer League so she could see her brother play. Kenny thought he would be nervous, he said, but then saw his son, who looked so comfortable. That made it okay, he said. Paula said seeing him check off a few milestones in the first game helped.

"I'm glad that he got his first hit and his first strikeout out of the way," she said. "Now he can go play."

From a purely game-day experience perspective, Wednesday could have gone better for the Wood family. In the fourth inning, a fan stood in front of Paula and Kenny, blocking their view of James's at-bat. Paula stood on her toes and Kenny frantically leaned to the left so he could see James ground out to third. Wood singled in the sixth, but their view was obstructed again, this time by Teddy, the racing president. All Kenny and Paula could do was laugh.

"It was great. I wouldn't have made it here without all the support I had. So just having all those people be able to make it here and just being super close, it was unbelievable."

James Wood, Nationals rookie who made his major league debut July 1



THE WASHINGTON POST

No one was in their way in the seventh, when Paula and Kenny watched from the edge of their seats. Wood hit a single up the middle, driving in Lane Thomas and bringing the family to its feet. Paula high-fived Kenny, then gave Kayla a hug. She didn't let the significance of the moment fall to the wayside.

"First run and first RBI this game," she said. "His batting average went up against lefties, too."

The teammates

On Wood's first day in the majors, Ildemaro Vargas saw a crowd of reporters and cameras at the outfielder's empty locker, two seats down from his own, and quipped, "Hay un prospecto!" After Wood's third game, the third straight time reporters requested Wood, Vargas cracked another smile as his new teammate approached the locker. "Every day?"

"It's cool," said center fielder Jacob Young, who has played alongside Wood at three levels of the organization. "Obviously, I mean, the cameras are cameras. But it's cool to have just excitement around the org — that's what we all want. We think we're really close. So we want that excitement."

Wood has been calm and prepared in these early days of his MLB career, his teammates say. He spends a lot of time on the iPad. At 6-foot-7, he is taller than anyone they have played with. He doesn't dominate conversations, Vargas said through a team interpreter, but when Wood does speak, others quiet down and listen up. The only time they have sensed any anxiety is when he overthrew Young while warming up before his debut, though Young attributed that, in part, to a difference in height. ("He has to throw downhill," Young joked.)

It's a show for them, too. Young said some opposing pitchers have seemed intimidated by Wood, nibbling at the edge of the plate. Vargas — who calls Wood "El Big Man," while a handful of young players, including Wood, call Vargas "El OG" — asked Manager Dave Martinez for the lineup card after Wood's debut.

"Because, you know, I was playing next to him," the 32-year-old journeyman said, referencing Washington's batting order that night. "Big-time prospect who is going to be in this game a long time."

Vargas sat down for a chat with the 21-year-old when he first arrived in Washington's clubhouse. The game is the same, Vargas told him, a tick quicker than what he was used to in the minors but nothing a player with Wood's capabilities couldn't handle. Vargas, the team's gregarious and goofy veteran, wanted to help Wood stay loose and feel welcome. More than anything, he said, he wanted Wood to know he was there if he needed him.

The fan

The ball left Wood's bat on a bright and muggy Saturday and traveled 383 feet. It sailed into the left field seats at Nationals Park, where a teenager from Northern Virginia had just enough time to shift to his right, putting himself in position.

Cason Kelley lives in Leesburg, about an hour from Nationals Park. He often comes to games with his friend Jackson Merhaut, who is a Nationals fan. Kelley roots for the Milwaukee Brewers but on Saturday wore a Stephen Strasburg jersey to the park. Merhaut and Kelley, both 17, had seats in left field, with a clear view of the player they came to see.

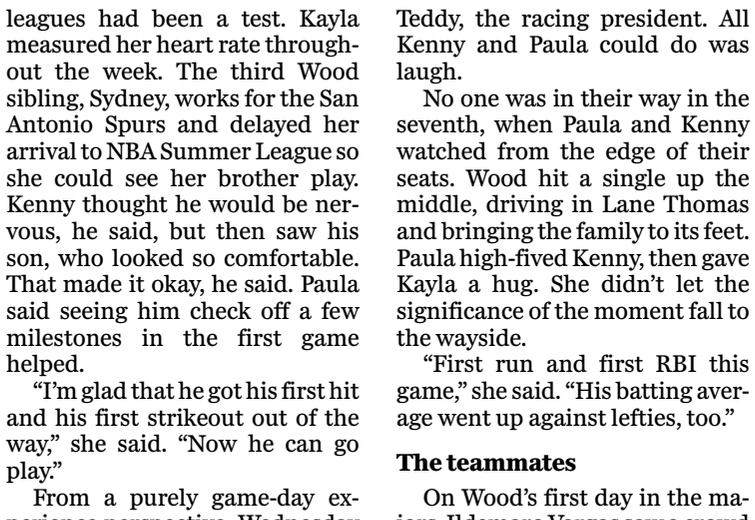
Wood's home run came in the second, off St. Louis Cardinals right-hander Lance Lynn. It was Washington's third homer of the day and the first of Wood's MLB career. As the ball fell to the crowd, it ricocheted off another fan's hands and then dropped to the concrete, up for grabs. Someone nearly beat Kelley to it, but he dived over a row of seats and snagged it first.

"I was just so happy," Kelley said. "I don't even know what I was feeling. I've never felt anything like that before."

A few moments later, Kelley sat on the back row of Section 104, red-faced and beaming. A team employee got his information as he held the ball and stared at it. Merhaut called his friends on FaceTime to show them — his hands on his head in shock.

Kelley understood the magnitude of what he was holding, as did those in the crowd around him. One fan jokingly said: "Make them give you everything!" "Don't give that up for anything!" another said.

"It's just fun getting to see him play," said Kelley, who returned the ball to the player who sent it sailing his way. "He's going to be great one day."



NICK WASS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wood's big first week continued on the Fourth of July with a win and a high-five with Jacob Young and Lane Thomas.

TUESDAY OPINION

MARC A. THIESSEN

How Trump can make NATO great again



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION/PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES AND ISTOCK

As NATO gathers for its 75th anniversary summit in Washington this week, President Biden is taking credit for the fact that European allies and Canada have increased defense spending by hundreds of billions of dollars and warning that, if elected, Donald Trump will "eviscerate NATO."

In fact, Trump, not Biden, is responsible for most of that spending increase. In 2006, allies pledged to spend at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense, but when Trump took office a decade later, only three were meeting their commitment, and spending by non-U.S. members had dropped to an all-time low of 1.4 percent in 2015. The situation was so bad that in Germany, NATO's wealthiest European member, 60 percent of the country's Eurofighter and Tornado fighter jets, 82 percent of its Sea Lynx helicopters, 61 percent of its main battle tanks, and all of its submarines or transport planes were unusable.

As president, Trump put Germany and the rest of NATO on notice: The United States would no longer tolerate their failure to contribute adequately to our common defense. And, by the time he left office, allies were spending $130 billion more on defense than they did in 2016 and had pledged to increase that figure to $400 billion by the end of 2024.

Well, 2024 has arrived, and NATO data shows that non-U.S. members are projected to spend $510 billion more than they did in 2016 (excluding Finland and Sweden, which were not members in 2016 and whose entire defense budgets now count toward European totals).

That means almost 80 percent of the new spending by those countries is due to commitments made during Trump's presidency. The rest can be credited as much to Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine as to diplomacy from Biden. In other words, the defense investment success that NATO celebrates this week is primarily a Trump achievement.

In the wake of Biden's disastrous debate performance last month and historically low public approval, it seems increasingly likely that Trump will reassume the presidency and thus leadership of the NATO alliance again come January. That would be good news for NATO — because any fair-minded assessment of the records of the two U.S. presidents shows clearly that it is Trump, not Biden, who is the better candidate to reshape the alliance to meet the threats of this century. Far from eviscerating the Atlantic alliance, Trump left it militarily stronger than it has been at any time since the Cold War. In a second term, he would have the opportunity not just to further strengthen NATO, but to fundamentally transform it.

How might Trump put his stamp on NATO if he wins in November? These six planks can form a Trump NATO agenda that builds on the accomplishments of his first term.

Raise the NATO spending floor from 2 to 3 percent of GDP

The world is on fire. Wars are raging on two continents. Russia, China, Iran and North Korea are forming interlocking strategic partnerships with which to threaten America and its democratic allies. As Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli, the supreme allied commander in Europe, recently told Congress, these developments represent a threat "more cohesive and dangerous than any threat the United States has faced in decades."

In the face of this threat, spending just 2 percent of GDP on defense is no longer sufficient. When he took office, Trump told allies they should double their defense spending to 4 percent of GDP. That might be a bridge too far for most allies. But Polish President Andrzej Duda recently proposed raising NATO's defense spending floor to 3 percent of GDP. That is achievable. At the height of the Cold War, non-U.S. NATO members spent an average of 3.5 percent of GDP on defense. There is no reason they couldn't do the same today.

Enshrine the new spending levels in the North Atlantic Treaty

It took almost two decades for most NATO allies to meet their 2 percent spending commitment. And even now — despite witnessing the first major land invasion in Europe since World War II — more than a quarter are still projected to fall short. That is unacceptable.

The only way to change this is to impose real consequences for shirking spending commitments. Trump should insist that all allies make a binding pledge to carry their weight. Just as he renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement, he should demand that the North Atlantic Treaty be amended to include a 3 percent minimum defense spending requirement so that it carries the same weight as the principle of collective defense enshrined in Article 5.

Doing so would strengthen NATO's deterrence, not weaken it. If all NATO nations meet the new higher defense investments, NATO will be the most powerful military alliance in the history of the world. And creating a new spending obligation would bolster public support for the alliance's security guarantees. A new Ronald Reagan Institute poll finds that 72 percent of Americans support the United States' responding with military force if a NATO ally in Europe were attacked (including roughly 8 in 10 Democrats and 7 in 10 Republicans). But that support plummets 20 points if the country under attack is not meeting its spending commitments. Americans don't like free riders. They agree with Trump when he says that he will not defend allies who fail to contribute adequately to our collective defense.

What if some countries balk? If allies value the Article 5 security guarantee — the core of the alliance — they will not put it at risk by refusing reasonable obligations. If they do, Trump might be tempted to walk away from the alliance altogether, just as he threatened to pull out of NAFTA if Canada and Mexico did not agree to restructure that agreement. Indeed, he is probably the only president who could credibly make such a threat — which means he is the only president who can get allies to agree to these necessary, binding changes.

Trump has said that he "100 percent" wants to remain in the alliance, so long as the allies carry their weight. He would be right to insist that they do. Indeed, he should insist that they carry even more.

Launch a second Trump defense buildup

While many of our European allies have increased their defense spending as a percentage of GDP, U.S. defense spending has been falling over the past four years. President Biden has put the United States on track to spend just 3 percent of GDP on defense — the lowest since 1999, when President Bill Clinton claimed a misguided post-Cold War "peace dividend." Indeed, Biden would have reduced defense spending even more but for the Republican takeover of the House. If this downward trend is not reversed, U.S. defense spending could soon plunge to the lowest levels in at least seven decades.

The time has come for a second Trump defense buildup. Trump should increase defense spending to 5 percent of GDP, as Senate Republicans have proposed, so the United States can grow the Navy, add hundreds of fighter jets, accelerate production of the B-21 stealth bomber and next-generation attack submarines, and modernize our U.S. nuclear forces, among other priorities. (Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee have laid out a detailed plan to do this.)

During the Reagan defense buildup from 1980 to 1988, the United States devoted an average of 6.2 percent of GDP to defense. Even under Jimmy Carter, U.S. defense spending never dropped below 4.5 percent of GDP. The myriad threats we face today are in many ways even more dangerous than those of the Cold War — with an increasingly confrontational Russia, non-state terrorist actors backed by Iran sowing chaos in the Middle East, a regime in North Korea expanding its weapons of mass destruction capabilities and an adversary in Beijing working feverishly to expand its military power. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has called China the United States' "pacing threat," but we can't continue to enact net defense cuts and keep pace with China, much less meet the growing challenge posed by the Beijing-Moscow-Tehran-Pyongyang axis.

Raising U.S. defense spending to 5 percent of GDP would also put to rest the argument that we must abandon Europe to focus on the threat from China. If the United States is investing 5 percent of GDP in defense, and NATO allies raise their spending to at least 3 percent, we should be able to do both.

Our military deterrent has dangerously atrophied under Biden. Trump can restore it.

Shift U.S. troops from Germany to Poland and the Baltic states

Germany has long been the biggest free rider in the NATO alliance. Despite having the largest economy in Europe, in 2023 Germany spent just 1.6 percent of GDP on defense. After Russia invaded Ukraine, Germany announced with great fanfare plans to create a 100 billion euro supplemental fund to modernize its military. But according to a recent Rand report, "Already spending pledges are being rolled back." Berlin is projected to just meet the 2 percent of GDP threshold this year. But even if that happens, as soon as the supplemental fund runs out, Germany's spending will crash again.

By contrast, Poland is spending more than 4 percent of GDP on defense in 2024 and has plans to reach 5 percent. Moreover, during the Trump administration, the Polish government offered up to $2 billion to cover most of the costs of building U.S. bases and supporting U.S. troops in Poland, declaring that it is committed "to share the burden of defense spending [and] make the decision more cost-effective for the U.S. government."

The Baltic states are also among the few allies exceeding their NATO commitments: Lithuania is spending 2.85 percent of its GDP on defense, Latvia is spending 3.15 percent, and Estonia is spending 3.43 percent. Trump should reward allies who meet their alliance obligations by moving U.S. forces into their territory. He should also consider moving forces to southeastern Europe, in particular Romania (2.25 percent of GDP), which is under increasing Russian threat.

This would not just reward good allies; it would also be the right strategic posture for America. The logic for stationing large numbers of U.S. forces in Germany no longer exists. The line of contact has moved east, and so should U.S. military bases.

In addition, Trump should deploy ballistic missile defenses on the territory of our Eastern European allies. In 2009, the Obama-Biden administration canceled U.S. missile defense agreements with Poland and the Czech Republic to appease Moscow. That appeasement clearly failed, as Putin invaded Ukraine on their watch five years later. In the wake of Putin's latest aggression, his nuclear saber-rattling and his decision to move nuclear weapons into Belarus, Trump can reverse the Obama-era decision and deploy ballistic missile defenses to protect NATO allies from Russian nuclear intimidation.



ED RAM FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Soldiers from Ukraine's 41st Brigade learn to fire rocket-propelled grenades in the Donetsk region on May 23.

This would enhance U.S. security and reward allies who not only meet but exceed their NATO commitments.

Force Putin to sue for peace by arming Ukraine

Trump has expressed confidence that he can end the war in Ukraine, but he can go further by offering a credible plan to prevent it from ever starting up again.

Trump has said that if Putin does not agree to end Russia's aggression, he will dramatically increase U.S. aid to Ukraine. "I would tell Putin: If you don't make a deal, we're going to give [Ukraine] a lot," he told Maria Bartiromo of Fox News last year. "We're going to give them more than they ever got, if we have to."

During the CNN presidential debate, Dana Bash asked Trump: "Russian President Vladimir Putin says he'll only end this war if Russia keeps the Ukrainian territory it has already claimed and Ukraine abandons its bid to join NATO. Are Putin's terms acceptable to you?" When pressed, Trump responded: "No, they're not acceptable." He's right. But getting Putin to accept different terms will require Trump to follow through on his pledge to boost military aid to Kyiv — at least in the short term.

The model can be Trump's successful campaign to destroy the Islamic State. Like the war in Ukraine, Trump believes this was a war he inherited, and that it should never have happened but for the weakness and incompetence of his predecessor. He won it by removing the handcuffs Barack Obama had placed on our military and achieved a decisive victory. He can do the same in Ukraine by giving Kyiv all the weapons Biden has withheld or slow-rolled, and lifting restrictions on their use on Russian territory so Ukraine can regain the offensive. This would create leverage to force Putin to the negotiating table.

But Trump would also need to make sure any peace deal he helps strike is irreversible.

The danger for Trump is that Putin would wait him out — agree to a temporary cease-fire while Trump is in office, then resume his conquest once Trump has left and is replaced by a weaker American president. We know because he has done this before: Putin invaded Ukraine in 2014 under Obama, paused his conquest under Trump, then resumed it again under Biden in 2022.

The only way to stop Putin from attacking again is to make a resumption of war impossible. And the only way to do *that* is to bring Ukraine into NATO with defensible borders. Putin knows he would lose a war with NATO, which is why he has invaded only non-NATO countries. Trump's legacy thus depends on cementing any peace deal by making its lines inviolable. That requires that the boundaries be backed by NATO security guarantees.

A Trump-brokered peace deal backed by NATO membership for Ukraine would benefit the U.S. economically. As The Post has reported: "Ukraine harbors some of the world's largest reserves of titanium and iron ore, fields of untapped lithium and massive deposits of coal. Collectively, they are worth tens of trillions of dollars." Putin wants those natural resources to go to Russia. But if Trump negotiates a lasting peace deal — and secures it by bringing Ukraine into NATO — he can get the United States preferential access to those resources.

And Ukraine would be a better NATO ally than many current member states. It now has the most capable, battle-hardened, NATO-interoperable military in Europe. Unlike some allies, Ukraine will have no hesitation over meeting a NATO obligation to spend 3 percent of its GDP on defense. (It was already spending about 3.2 percent before Russia's full-scale invasion.) Kyiv will be a net contributor to European security and thus strengthen the NATO alliance.

Globalize NATO to include our Pacific allies

Russia and North Korea just signed a mutual defense treaty in Pyongyang, while Russia and China have forged a "no-limits" partnership that stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Trump should do the same by inviting our major Pacific allies to join the NATO alliance.

He should start with Australia and Japan, which meet all the criteria for full NATO membership and could be admitted as easily as Sweden and Finland. Both are thriving democracies and would be net security contributors as NATO allies. Australia just announced a record $37 billion defense budget and is purchasing nuclear submarines from the United States and Britain. Japan has announced plans to raise its defense spending by $315 billion over the next five years, an increase of more than 50 percent that will give Japan one of the largest defense budgets in the world. Admitting Australia and Japan would create a path for South Korea and perhaps New Zealand to one day join the alliance as well.

NATO membership would address one of Trump's main complaints about our alliance with Japan: that the United States has a treaty obligation to defend Tokyo, but that obligation is not reciprocal. Bringing Japan under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty would solve that problem. Australia has long fought beside the United States in wartime. NATO membership would formalize that commitment and extend it to all NATO allies. And it would mean that every NATO ally — not just the United States — is obligated to the collective defense of Pacific as well as Atlantic democracies.

It would also foster greater Atlantic-Pacific military-industrial cooperation, increase the interoperability of our militaries and strengthen our deterrent with China — thus imposing a cost on Beijing for funding a proxy war against the West in Ukraine.

In addition, expanding NATO to the Pacific would finally bring Hawaii under the protection of Article 5 of the NATO treaty. Right now, Hawaii is not covered because Article 6 limits the treaty's geographic scope to the "North Atlantic area." So if an adversary attacked, say, the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, NATO members currently are not obligated to come to America's defense. That is ridiculous.

Each of these steps would be worthy of bipartisan support. But many of the elements of this plan — such as higher defense spending and a willingness to use aggressive leverage on allies — would only be plausible coming from Trump. With these six steps, Trump could do more than get allies to spend more. He could remake an alliance forged in the last century and position it to meet the threats of a new one. Today, in the wake of Russia's aggression, China's belligerence and the growing cooperation between the world's revanchist regimes, the time has come to strengthen NATO with new members, inviolable spending commitments and consequences for failing to meet them.

In short, it is time to make NATO great again.

OPINION

The Washington Post
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Mr. Biden's weakness, NATO's future

EDITORIAL

TOP OFFICIALS of 31 North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states are gathering in Washington this week for a special summit in honor of the alliance's 75th anniversary. They do so, alas, as the 32nd — and most important — NATO country, the United States, is embroiled in a political crisis. After a spectacularly bad performance at the June 27 presidential debate sowed doubts about his fitness for office, President Biden faces intense pressure to end his campaign for a second term.

As it happens, NATO figures prominently in Mr. Biden's increasingly adamant argument that he should stay the course — against an opponent, former president Donald Trump, who has voiced skepticism about the alliance's value. Mr. Biden boasts, justifiably, of the Western alliance's revitalization and expansion on his watch, and of how he has marshaled the West in support of Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. NATO members have taken more responsibility for their own defense, with a record number finally hitting their defense spending targets. All of this raises the price Russia must pay for its revanchism — and deters President Vladimir Putin from pushing deeper into Europe.

Something else might be true, too, however — even if Mr. Biden seems unable to grasp it: The 81-year-old president's determination to seek a second term, in spite of signs he might not be up to the job, could jeopardize these foreign policy successes by increasing the odds that Mr. Trump wins. Mr. Biden appears to be in denial about polls that show most voters doubt his ability to perform the world's most demanding job.

A timely reminder of the stakes in the U.S. election came Monday as Russia destroyed Ukraine's largest children's hospital. An aerial bombardment — the largest in four months — killed at least 30 people and wounded 150 more. The scenes are horrific. This should add to the determination of allied leaders to do everything reasonable to respond forcefully against this unacceptable Russian aggression.

Yet Mr. Trump expresses a weird admiration for Mr. Putin. Though it was overshadowed by Mr. Biden's incoherence, the former president offered little more than a shrug during the debate when asked whether the United States will remain in NATO if he wins. In February, Mr. Trump claimed he had told an unnamed official of an alliance member he might "encourage [Russia] to do whatever the hell they want" unless that country spent more on defense. Regarding Ukraine, Mr. Trump has repeatedly claimed he could end the war in a day. No one quite knows what he has in mind, but the implication is that he would impose an unfavorable settlement on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The Republican National Committee's 2024 platform, adopted on Monday in Milwaukee, makes no mention of Ukraine or NATO. Instead, it generically calls for preventing World War III and restoring peace in Europe. It's a far cry from 2016, when the GOP platform supported assistance for the Ukrainian armed forces and greater coordination with NATO defense planners.

The Western alliance could be at risk if Mr. Trump wins the election.

This 75th anniversary summit was supposed to be a victory lap for Mr. Biden on his home turf, but as robust as NATO might feel for now, challenges loom. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, leader of a NATO member, embraced Chinese leader Xi Jinping during a surprise visit to Beijing on Monday, following trips to Moscow and Kyiv last week. While the worst-case scenario — a right-wing victory — was avoided in the second round of French elections on Sunday, the rise of both the right and the far left in that country could hamper President Emmanuel Macron's foreign policy.

Mr. Biden speaks often about the world being at an inflection point. The formation of NATO in 1949 came at a previous inflection point as postwar geopolitical lines between democracy and autocracy sharpened: The United States recognized Taiwan as the legitimate government of China after the mainland fell to the communists. North and South Korea applied for separate membership to the United Nations. Israel reached an armistice agreement with Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon to end the first Arab-Israeli war and secure its existence. This postwar dispensation, in which generations of Americans have invested so heavily, now stands threatened in an increasingly coordinated manner by Moscow, Beijing, Tehran and Pyongyang.

When the history of Mr. Biden's administration is written, he will receive credit for defending the post-World War II global order after Mr. Trump did so much to abdicate U.S. leadership. A central theme of the 2024 election is whether the principles of 1949 can endure. This week's NATO summit, and this November's election, are about shoring up the West's ability to withstand the greatest dangers of the pre-1949 world: totalitarianism, isolationism, protectionism. For that, continuing American leadership is indispensable; Mr. Biden himself, less so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump v. U.S. leaves it to ordinary Americans to check the presidency

Regarding The Post's July 1 front-page article "Supreme Court's Trump immunity ruling poses risk for democracy, experts say" and the July 2 front page article "Justices give presidents wide immunity":

Since George Washington, every president has done his job without a broad promise of immunity, and this system has worked quite well. Past presidents were able to navigate the Civil War, Pearl Harbor, 9/11 and other threats to the nation without the need for sweeping protections from accountability.

Why does a president now need immunity to carry out the duties of president and commander in chief? What has changed to make this necessary?

We have never had a president who has been indicted on numerous felony charges, some of them stemming from his actions while he was president. Never before Donald Trump has the Supreme Court been asked by a former president to provide such a sweeping grant of immunity.

The decision by this court in *Trump v. United States* will go down in history as both dangerous and antidemocratic. How ironic that this court, just three days before our 248th birthday as a republic, effectively changed that republic into the quasi-monarchy our founders fought so hard to avoid.

Rich DiPentima, *Portsmouth, N.H.*

By ruling that presidents cannot be held criminally accountable for official acts, the Supreme Court risks creating a vicious cycle in which incumbents feel compelled to cling to power by any means necessary out of fear of being mercilessly targeted by their successors.

If Donald Trump — who already sees himself as persecuted — returns to office in January, he might fear the next Democratic administration would use expanded presidential immunity to take retribution against him. This fear might motivate Mr. Trump to retain power indefinitely and autocratically, since he, too, would now be much less constrained than previous presidents.

Such a dynamic would obviously undermine the system of elections and peaceful transfers of power that have underpinned our democracy for nearly 250 years.

Andrew Kaplan, *San Francisco*

I am not a lawyer, but I am an economist, which means that I have some professional understanding of how the rules of any game create incentives that affect human behavior. Our imperial Supreme Court has now fundamentally changed the rules of the presidential game. The president and the law can now become one and the same — the very situation that Americans revolted against 248 years ago.

Be warned that a reelected President Donald Trump would destroy the independence of the Justice Department beyond what he tried to do in his first term. At worst, the United States risks becoming a criminal regime such as Saddam Hussein's Iraq or Vladimir Putin's Russia, in which enemies of an untouchable leader become targets. Just last week, Mr. Trump renewed his call for former congresswoman Liz Cheney to be tried for treason.

No, everybody is not corrupt, but to quote James Madison, "If men were angels … neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary." As everyone can plainly see, Mr. Trump is no angel. If democracy and freedom are to continue not only in America but also as a beacon to a troubled world, Americans must reject Mr. Trump in November.

Chris Gerrard, *Rockville*

The Supreme Court's majority decision July 1 granting presidents immunity from prosecution for official acts reminded me of a famous scene from Robert Bolt's play "A Man for All Seasons."

When William Roper says he would cut down every law in England to get at the Devil, Sir Thomas More responds: "Oh? And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned 'round on you — where would you hide, Roper, the laws all being flat?"

What if, with his newfound immunity, President Biden ordered the FBI to seize without warrants the six justices in the majority and hold them incommunicado at some secret gulag in the wilds of northern Alaska?

Where would the justices turn, the laws that would have protected them being flat?

Rob Warden, *Chicago*

MICHAEL RAMIREZ

Sink, sank, sunk



A search for accountability

The Supreme Court said there is a "presumptive immunity from criminal prosecution for a President's acts within the outer perimeter of his official responsibility." However, the court also said, "As for a President's unofficial acts, there is no immunity."

Why didn't this standard decide the case? It is surely nowhere part of a president's "official responsibility" — not even at the "outer perimeter" — to conspire to overturn an election that he lost and to prevent the winner of that election from taking office. That is what the former president has been charged with in the case. Under the court's own standard, how can the former president be given immunity for such "unofficial acts"?

Walter Smith, *Washington*

In view of the Supreme Court's decision holding Donald Trump immune from prosecution for official acts as president, it is worth revisiting some remarks by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). After calling Mr. Trump "morally responsible" for the acts of Jan. 6, 2021, and saying that Mr. Trump's conduct was "a disgraceful dereliction of duty," Mr. McConnell concluded that Mr. Trump could not be tried in the Senate because he was a private citizen.

It appears that Mr. McConnell made a serious mistake, since we now know that there is no other forum to adjudicate such acts. Mr. McConnell famously concluded, "[Mr. Trump] hasn't gotten away with anything yet." How about now?

Zachary Levine, *Rockville*

Much ado about nothing?

I don't get all the liberal hand-wringing over the Supreme Court's decision on presidential immunity, and I'm a liberal. If a president commits an act not permitted by the Constitution, the president can be impeached. If he does something outrageous, such as give an order to assassinate a rival, the president can be brought up on charges.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court has given lower courts the task of actually hearing the evidence so that a judge — and the public, for that matter — can decide the issue. It's a shame that the court took so long to issue a decision, but I think it reached the right one.

Douglas Brenner, *Pine Plains, N.Y.*

I don't get the panic over the Supreme Court's decision on presidential immunity. Perhaps it is because things have gotten so ridiculous in the past eight years that my poor brain can't take any more catastrophic news. Or just maybe, it's because we've yet to see if this ruling truly means doomsday.

This was not a sweeping grant of total immunity. This decision has not wiped out all hope of a federal prosecution of Mr. Trump. Have the justices made it perhaps more difficult? Absolutely. But not every act is an "official act," as even Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. has agreed.

Taking classified documents home while you're president? Maybe an official act. Keeping and hiding them while you're no longer president? I doubt it.

What's truly most upsetting here is that it took so long for this decision to come, so that by the time a lower court judge has decided, Mr. Trump has appealed and it goes back to the Supreme Court, it will already be Election Day. But did any of us think the trial was going to happen before then anyway?

We already know what the highest court in the land seems to prioritize. We know that Mr. Trump should have been impeached and convicted by the legislative branch. There is hope, however, and it's that fourth and most important branch of government composed of the voters. If the vote goes the way of a second Trump term, well, our country was already too far gone for the courts to save us from ourselves.

Mara Mindell, *Austin*

A constitutional corrective

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in the presidential immunity case, those of us who believe that no person should be immune from the criminal law should start working toward a constitutional amendment that restores this foundational principle. It will be, at best, a long road toward passage of such an amendment — it may be that none of us now alive will live to see it. But until such an amendment is passed, there will be neither liberty nor justice as the Founders intended.

Richard Joffe, *New York*

David Becker, the executive director of the Center for Election Innovation and Research, recently told The Post the public, rather than the courts, now plays the primary role in presidential accountability. He's also correct that the "primary check" on abuse of presidential power is the vote. That is certainly true this November.

However, there is something more the people can do to protect our future. Together with our representatives, we can amend the Constitution to supersede *Trump v. United States* and restore it to the Founders' clear intention: In the United States, there is no sovereign other than the people. Here is my suggestion for the language for a potential constitutional amendment:

"All officers of the United States government, including the President, Vice President, members of Congress and Justices of the Supreme Court, shall be subject to criminal prosecution for official and unofficial acts committed while in office that violate the laws of the United States or of the several states. This amendment shall apply upon ratification."

Thomas S. De Luca Jr., *Northport, N.Y.*

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OPINION

LEE HOCKSTADER

In France, a 'victory' that might be Pyrrhic

PARIS

Take a cool-eyed look at the relief and euphoria sweeping France after elections Sunday that blocked the far right from taking power. If any so-called victory ever looked Pyrrhic, this is the one.

For starters, the elation among center and left French voters arises mainly from pre-election polls that turned out to be massively wrong. Those polls formed expectations that the populist National Rally, with roots in a nationalist party established by Nazi collaborators and antisemites, would win a resounding victory.

But beating flawed polls isn't the same as winning. On the numbers, National Rally, until recently seen as beyond the pale, remains on a meteoric trajectory. The party, which in 2017 won just eight seats in France's 577-seat National Assembly, captured 89 two years ago, representing 15 percent of the chamber's total seats. On Sunday, it won 143 seats, one-quarter of the total.

Granted, surveys predicted it would do even better, perhaps winning 200 or more seats and forcing President Emmanuel Macron to hand it the reins of a new government. And yes, National Rally finished third Sunday, behind a leftist coalition and, by a narrower margin, Macron's own bloc.

But setting aside that shortfall vs. expectations, National Rally's rise — a 60 percent increase in legislative seats in just two years — is staggering. Its momentum is clear.

Beyond the numbers, National Rally and its leader, Marine Le Pen, have three greater reasons for optimism. Call them the Meloni effect, the Bolloré effect and the Macron effect.

Meloni is Giorgia Meloni, the right-wing prime minister of Italy. Her Brothers of Italy party, like Le Pen's National Rally, traces its roots to fascist sympathizers in World War II. Like National Rally, it was long regarded as an affront to Europe's democratic values.

But Meloni, a shrewd strategist, had one big advantage that positioned her for victory. Alone among significant parties ahead of Italy's 2022 elections, her party had never joined a government coalition. That inoculated it from blame for the chronic economic malaise and disaffection associated with a string of governments from the left and right.

Now Le Pen occupies a similarly enviable position in France. Sunday's election produced no outright legislative majority, meaning the country is poised for deadlock, political instability and, possibly, outright dysfunction for the remaining three years of Macron's second and final term in office.

His centrist movement has little in common but mutual distrust and personal animosity with the hastily formed four-party leftist coalition that was instrumental in limiting National Rally's gains. Le Pen, like Meloni before she took power, will be beyond that fray and discord. And frustrated French voters, having cycled in recent decades through governments of the right and left and Macron's centrist alliance, might do what Italian voters did: Reward the only party untainted by rising prices and spotty public services.

Bolloré, the second of National Rally's long-term strategic assets, is Vincent Bolloré, a billionaire corporate raider and one of Europe's richest individuals. His family company owns a major chunk of French media and has put it in service not only to Le Pen's party but also to the even more extremist right, as well as to pro-Russian figures.

Bolloré is often likened to Rupert Murdoch — no other mogul controls such a dominant share of major French TV and radio news channels, popular newspapers, storied magazines including Paris Match and France's largest publishing house. And by promoting extremist voices, his outlets have given Le Pen cover on the far right, helping bolster her years-long effort to rebrand National Rally as a mainstream party.

Le Pen's most useful asset might be Macron himself, whose bloc lost one-third of its legislative seats in Sunday's election, a disastrous result even though it bested polling predictions. The president — high-handed, brimming with self-regard — is the object of every political faction's disdain.

The largest opposition faction, the far left, finished first in Sunday's vote, having coordinated with Macron's allies to thwart National Rally's candidates. Lacking the votes to form a government on its own, the left or some part of it might have no choice but to enter a coalition of convenience with Macron's bloc if France is to avoid paralysis.

That looks unlikely for now, given their ideological differences. But if such an alliance can be forged — and there might be no other way to form a government — it would leave National Rally as the only major anti-Macron force, a sweet place to be in France these days.

Le Pen remains what she was before Sunday's vote: a favorite in the 2027 presidential elections. Now, however, she's in control of a bigger chunk of France's Parliament. The elation of her opponents, who managed to limit her gains Sunday, is understandable. It also ignores the tectonic forces working in her favor across a country where discontent runs deep.



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

President Biden boards Air Force One in Madison, Wis., following a campaign visit on July 5.

DANIELLE ALLEN

Notes for the Almighty

O Lord above, you have sent down tribulations upon our president and upon his people. On bended knee, we pray for relief. We ask that you speak, Lord, to tell our president that the time has come to rest. Speak, Lord, through emissaries, through Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.).

President Biden has said that he is listening for your counsel. And so we pray that you'll provide it.

You have brought humanity prosperity, Lord, and growth in our populations around the globe. You have reduced poverty across the Earth. You have blessed us, Lord, with the power of innovation, and we have created technologies to ease human suffering. We can build magnificent cities. We can transport people across the planet. We can communicate and collaborate across all possible lines of difference. The Tower of Babel is no more.

Yet, Lord, the very powers you have given us, you have left us to wield as sinful creatures. And we wield our powers sinfully, Lord.

We are imperfect beings, and we direct our powers toward ends of personal aggrandizement and wealth, toward domination of others. Our new tools permit surveillance and control. They trap us in the opacity of institutions. They erase the markers pointing out the path to opportunity and allocate the chances for success to the few. This has generated resentment and alienation, Lord.

Lord, it has led your children to turn upon each other — to forsake the path of generosity and openness.

How can it surprise, Lord, that in a time of such turbulence we should be watching an erosion of faith in constitutional democracy at home and around the world? People hope for stability and predictability in these unstable times. They seek safety, Lord.

We see institutions of governance that are not responding rapidly to the economic, social and political pressures we face. And, Lord, we also see leaders who no longer wish to listen to the people.

The people, Lord, are saying that they are ready to be led by people of this day and time. By people who are in their prime of life — with all the power of heart, hand and head at the ready for service to this nation.

By people, Lord, who do not think that the stable elite structures of the 1980s and 1990s can be recreated.

By people, Lord, who recognize that the political age that Donald Trump has ushered in is here to stay.

Trump's surprisingly resilient candidacies are not an aberration. They reflect people's frustration with a sense of a loss of control over their lives. People want control back. People want the institutions of government to be responsive to the ordinary, common sense that we develop going about our daily lives. This means, Lord, that we need leaders who will acknowledge what the people think. Safety, Lord, we know will come through your equipping us to govern ourselves. Not through an autocrat. Not through a gerontocrat.

We can tell, Lord, when our leaders disdain us. We feel that disdain when they ignore our messages. For instance, our message that we are frustrated at being led by people who really ought to be enjoying retirement. We feel their selfishness, Lord, when they disregard our gentle expressions of regret that their insistence on holding on to power means that our society cannot tap into the knowledge and understanding of the equally impressive generations following behind them.

Lord, we pray to you insistently that our hearts not be hardened against those aging leaders. We pray always that you help us learn from them and hold them with respect in our hearts. For, Lord, their behavior can be maddening.

Yes, Lord, we can see as clear as day that it is time for a new generation of leaders. So speak, Lord, through Sen. Schumer and Rep. Jeffries, to President Biden to let him know the time has come for rest. Let them tell him that we've got this. His people are ready. We can take it from here.

And, Lord, please speak also directly to Mr. Trump. I cannot imagine what emissaries other than your burning bush might penetrate there. Nor, Lord, can I pretend to understand what sinfulness in us might have led you to inflict upon us the punishment of his malign prominence in our politics. Your ways, Lord, elude my understanding.

Yet pray I do that you will speak, Lord. It appears that our president will listen only to you.

EUGENE ROBINSON

Can the president pull off an outsider strategy?

Those who have been demanding change in the way President Biden and his team are running this campaign got their wish Monday. For better or worse, after half a century as an insider, he's positioning himself as an outsider. And he's running not just against Donald Trump but also against Democratic Party "elites" and nervous commentators who say he's too old.

Biden's new strategy might work — if he can manage not to prove the "elites" right.

On Monday, as members of Congress returned to Washington after a recess — with both chambers gathering in person for the first time since Biden's disastrous debate performance — the president launched an early-morning preemptive strike. He sent a tough, get-out-of-my-face letter to congressional Democrats, reminding them that more than 14 million primary voters across the country chose him as their nominee.

"It was their decision to make," Biden wrote. "Not the press, not the pundits, not the big donors, not any selected group of individuals, no matter how well intentioned."

Minutes later, Biden called in to MSNBC's "Morning Joe," a venue where Democrats regularly gather for water-cooler conversations. Once again, the president asserted that the debate was nothing more than "a bad night." In the aftermath, he said, he has spent the past 10 days holding campaign events and working rope lines to take the temperature of the party's rank and file.

"I wanted to make sure I was right that the average voter out there still wanted Joe Biden, and I'm confident that they do," he said. "I am not going anywhere."

Asked about the donors, editorial boards and elected officials who have called on him to withdraw, Biden was defiant. "I don't care what the millionaires think," he said. "They were wrong in 2020. They were wrong in 2022. ... I'm not going to explain anymore about what I should or shouldn't do. I am running."

He has a point about the political cognoscenti having been wrong about him in the past. Many doubted his ability to defeat Trump four years ago; and many more predicted a Republican "red wave" in the midterm elections, rather than the pinkish ripple that left GOP strategists sorely disappointed. Biden has indeed led Democrats to an impressive string of victories and better-than-expected showings.

Biden is now attempting to revive the 'Average Joe' persona that won him votes four years ago.

As we know from all those ads for investment advice, however, past performance does not guarantee future results.

Especially on "Morning Joe," Biden seemed energized by the idea of running as an insurgent against the Democratic Party establishment. Yes, he has been a card-carrying member of that establishment for decades, but up has been down in American politics for a while now.

On Sunday, at Mt Airy Church of God in Christ in Philadelphia, Biden was enthusiastically cheered by the African American congregation. Black voters are the most loyal of Democratic constituencies. They also tend to be, arguably, the most pragmatic — as they showed in the 2020 primaries, when African Americans in South Carolina, calculating that Biden was the candidate most likely to beat Trump, gave him a landslide triumph that propelled him to the nomination. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have been among the most vocal House members in their continued support of Biden, and not one, thus far, has called for him to withdraw.

The president is now attempting to revive the persona that won him those votes four years ago. In Monday's letter and call-in, we witnessed the return of "Average Joe" Biden, who will always fight for everyday Americans and couldn't care less what self-appointed pooh-bahs — "no matter how well intentioned" — might think.

"The voters of the Democratic Party have voted," he wrote. "They have chosen me to be the nominee of the party. Do we now just say this process didn't matter? That the voters don't have a say? I decline to do that. ... How can we stand for democracy in our nation if we ignore it in our own party? I cannot do that. I will not do that."

Is this enough to quell the revolt against Biden's candidacy? It might be. Counterintuitively, given Biden's age, time is on his side.

Whatever congressional Democrats might be thinking, there was not even a new trickle of lawmakers calling for Biden to step aside Monday, let alone a flood. And for the rest of the week, Biden will be hosting NATO's 75th-anniversary summit; his party is highly unlikely to say or do anything that might undermine him while he's so visibly engaged in foreign policy. If his scheduled no-holds-barred news conference goes well on Thursday, Team Biden will argue that the debate is ancient history.

He can play the insurgent card only once, though. If he falters again, he won't be able to point the finger at antidemocratic "elites." He'll have no one to blame but himself.

GEORGE F. WILL

If Biden were to exit, voters might erupt in gratitude

The leakage of trustworthiness from American institutions began with the lies that enveloped Watergate and Vietnam. It accelerated during the 2008 financial crisis, when cynicism ("You never want a serious crisis to go to waste") fueled the government's indiscriminate and lawless response: The law restricted bailouts to financial institutions? Declare automobile manufacturers to be such. The leakage became a cataract during the pandemic because of the public health establishment's plucked-from-the-ether edicts (about masks, social distancing, which political gatherings should be exempt from social distancing, etc.) and the sacrifice-the-children opportunism of the most powerful segment of organized labor (teachers unions).

Now the world's oldest political party and its media accomplices have effected a gigantic subtraction from trust: Leaders of the former lied about President Biden's condition until, on June 27, continuing to do so became untenable. The latter had allowed the lying because they believe Donald Trump's many mendacities are an excuse for theirs.

One example: The bleating sheep on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," reminiscent of a chorus of quadrupeds in George Orwell's "Animal Farm," were vehemently wrong in denouncing ("so tilted," "shocking," "a classic hit piece," etc.) the Wall Street Journal's meticulously reported June 4 catalogue of the abundant evidence of Biden's decline. That the sheep are still on the air, dispensing undiminished certitudes, is evidence of two things. That — outside of a few bastions of meritocracy and accountability, such as professional sports — there is no penalty for failure in contemporary America. And that many prominent people have the scary strength that comes from being incapable of embarrassment.

A dismaying fact: Six months — one-eighth of a presidential term — remain before Jan. 20, 2025. The collapse of Biden's reelection campaign, under the weight of accumulating evidence of his vanishing acuity, suggests a question: If he is unfit to continue as a candidate, is he not dangerous as commander in chief in an increasingly ominous world? Cold-eyed men in Moscow, Beijing, Tehran and Pyongyang might not believe that good sportsmanship requires international crises to unfold between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern time, Biden's reported (by some of his people) interval of adequate alertness.

Biden is the only plausible Democratic candidate whom Trump would today be favored to defeat. And Biden is Trump's opponent only because Democrats assured themselves that Trump is the only opponent whom Biden could plausibly hope to defeat. Which is why various Democratic prosecutors took steps that they should have known might facilitate Trump's nomination by making him a martyr. If the Democratic Party would now present dispirited Americans with even a merely plausible choice, the result might be akin to a gust of pure oxygen on smoldering embers: an eruption of gratitude.

The compassion owed to someone apparently in the cruel grip of an inexorably advancing disease that destroys selfhood should not obscure this fact: Biden's malady is not robbing the nation of either an impressive political talent or a singularly public-spirited official. Biden was a mediocrity in his 1980s prime, when his first lunge for the presidency quickly collapsed, as his second would in 2008, and as his third almost did after he finished fifth in New Hampshire's primary in 2020. In the office he eventually attained, he has chosen his defining legacy: the self-absorption of his refusal to leave the public stage gracefully.

Progressives think the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. *almost* got it right. He said the arc of the universe bends toward justice. They agree that the universe has an arc (whatever that might mean) but declare that it bends toward *them*. Hence their constant praise of themselves for being on "the right side of history": They are right, and the universe ratifies this.

Biden whisperers among his progressive keepers convinced him that history — not, Lord knows, the electorate — had anointed him the next Franklin D. Roosevelt. (Minus the 1932 landslide election, and minus the Depression and World War II, but oh, those electric vehicles!) There is a possible resemblance.

On Oct. 21, 1944, 17 days before Election Day, President Roosevelt, his pallor as gray as the skies, embarked bareheaded in a cold, hard autumn rain, in an open Packard, on a four-hour tour of four of New York City's five boroughs. This event was undertaken (as was Biden's "make my day" debate challenge to Trump) to prove his continuing fitness for office. When FDR's day ended with a rally at the Brooklyn Dodgers' Ebbets Field, he had 173 days to live.

There ends the comparison between Biden's and FDR's situations. FDR's vice president was Harry S. Truman.

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THE DISTRICT
The first official swim event in the Anacostia River in more than half a century is called off. **B3**



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OBITUARIES
Artist Audrey Flack, 93, spent her seven-decade career challenging the art world's conventions. **B4**

D.C. may pilot new approach to truancy

Council weighs measure that would send teens to social services, not court

BY LAUREN LUMPKIN

The D.C. Council on Tuesday is set to consider emergency legislation aimed at curbing truancy by sending teenagers who are frequently absent to a host of social service programs instead of referring them to the court system.

The measure, intended to provide help without the threat of prosecution, would test whether the city's Department of Human Services can engage with more teens and keep them in classrooms. It would begin as a pilot project at five schools with high rates of truancy.

Under current law, students who are between the ages of 14 and 17 and accumulate more than 15 unexcused absences from school are supposed to be sent to court social services for potential legal action. However, the attorney general's office has declined to prosecute these cases and recently acknowledged it is not equipped to deal with the root causes of truancy.

The council's proposal will transfer that responsibility, along with a funding boost of $3.38 million, to the Department of Human Services, which already operates some youth programs. It is part of a larger proposal that D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) unveiled in April to drive down truancy and mandate more aggressive prosecution for young people accused of committing certain crimes that remains under council consideration.

"I'm hopeful that this will actually move the needle forward in terms of whether there's a better approach for dealing with attendance in our schools," D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) said Monday.

SEE **TRUANCY** ON **B3**



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Harold Cunningham, who is serving a life sentence, hears a professionally recorded interpretation of a song he wrote during a listening session at the District's Correctional Treatment Facility last month.

Turning to music to beat the jailhouse blues

Songs by artists incarcerated in D.C. are professionally recorded by local musicians

BY DANIEL WU

Behind bars in D.C., many incarcerated people seeking solace turn to music. They write poems and songs. They share them in small gatherings. They rap and sing, accompanied by thumping feet and snapping fingers.

It's a rhythmic art form, usually heard only live, in brief moments, in the confines of D.C.'s Correctional Treatment Facility. But in June, several incarcerated artists gathered in the jail chapel to hear the songs they wrote like never before: played from speakers, accompanied by keyboards, guitar riffs and voices from the outside world. Their songs had been interpreted by D.C.-area musicians and turned into professionally recorded tracks.

Dasani Dawson perked up as her song, "Jail Calls," came on, and her words played back, tweaked slightly, with a head-bobbing reggae bass line and an ethereal background melody.

Judge threw me eight
But tried for life
You know that this ain't for me
My older sister said she's pregnant
Hope she has a boy
And I'll make sure he grows up straight
And lives a life of joy

Marquis Funderburk was surprised to hear his fast-paced flow on "Perfect Timing," a rap he wrote about forging a music career after he is released from jail, transformed into a slow, soulful pop song.

SEE **MUSIC** ON **B2**

Hopkins receives $1 billion donation

BLOOMBERG'S GIFT TO TRANSFORM AID

Medical school will be free for most students

BY SUSAN SVRLUGA

A $1 billion gift to Johns Hopkins University from billionaire Mike Bloomberg will make medical school free for most students and increase financial aid for those enrolled in nursing, public health and other graduate programs.

In a Monday letter in the Bloomberg Philanthropies annual report, Bloomberg addressed the dual challenges of declining health and education. The gift marks an emphatic endorsement of the value of higher learning at a time when academia increasingly has been under political attack.

"As the U.S. struggles to recover from a disturbing decline in life expectancy, our country faces a serious shortage of doctors, nurses, and public health professionals — and yet, the high cost of medical, nursing, and graduate school too often bars students from enrolling," wrote Bloomberg, a 1964 graduate of Johns Hopkins and the founder of the Bloomberg business and financial data news company. "By reducing the financial barriers to these essential fields, we can free more students to pursue careers they're passionate about — and enable them to serve more of the families and communities who need them the most."

Starting this fall, Johns Hopkins will offer medical students free tuition — normally about $65,000 a year for four years — if their families earn less than $300,000 a year.

Students from families earning up to $175,000 a year will have living expenses and fees covered as well.

SEE **HOPKINS** ON **B2**

A crash, a gun down the drain and a killing on K Street — but no arrests

BY PETER HERMANN

A vehicle found crashed into a downtown coffee shop in D.C. A gun tossed down a storm drain. A man hospitalized with a fatal gunshot wound. A drop of blood discovered on the door of a K Street restaurant.

Police initially were confounded by the scattered evidence of possible crimes. But they would soon connect the pieces to a shooting and related hit-and-run crash that occurred around the corner, on a downtown strip better known for lobbyists and lawyers than fistfights and gunfire.

Thwarted by what authorities described as misdirection at best and possible criminal interference at worst, police eventually concluded that 32-year-old Nnanyereugo Onuoha was shot by an unlicensed security guard during an altercation that started inside Moi Moi, a West African restaurant at 1627 K Street NW.

D.C. Police Chief Pamela A. Smith, in a letter to the city's liquor board, initially described the case as a "Murder in the Second Degree" and asserted that Moi Moi staff "potentially committed a crime by destroying evidence" while "cleaning up the shooting scene." Authorities alleged the owner scrubbed blood off the K Street sidewalk before police arrived.

But the police inquiry ended with prosecutors ruling the security guard had shot Onuoha in self-defense — to the frustration of Onuoha's family and investigators who sorted through conflicting stories emanating from Moi Moi. No criminal charges have been filed in connection with the case. Nearly six months later, the only sanction has been a revocation of Moi Moi's alcohol license. The restaurant's owner declined to comment on details of the incident.

At the hearing before the D.C. Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board, D.C. Assistant Attorney General Anthony P. Celo told the

SEE **SHOOTING** ON **B3**

I've now had a taste of our nation's caregiver crisis. We're in deep trouble.



Petula Dvorak

The purplish line of surgical ink slashed across his shin, just below the knee sticking out of his hospital gown.

"They want to take that much?" I asked, utterly failing to mask the horror on my face as I imagined his foot, his ankle and that much leg gone. And what life — our lives — would be like.

"Well, yeah, it makes the most sense, for recovery," my husband said. "The doc said prosthetics are really good now."

Prosthetics? Whoa, whoa, whoa. What's going on here?

The previous week, my husband was complaining about a foot injury that wouldn't heal — a blister that turned into an open wound that turned into streaking red up his leg, plus shaking chills.

That was just more than a month ago. And in that month, we've had the tiniest glimpse into a world that tens of millions of Americans inhabit daily as caregivers to another adult.

It's brutal, frustrating, inspiring, conflicting and heartbreaking.

I became a regular reader of the amputee subreddit, where folks talk about adapting sewing machine foot pedals and accordion keys for life with fewer digits and limbs.

I spent hours researching the medications, the wound care, the diabetes that exacerbated the whole thing.

And because I've interviewed so many of them, I returned to the stories of military spouses, mostly women, who somehow survive the role reversals, grief, love, despair and exhaustion that is part of their new lives, and still find time to inspire and share with others.

"The exhaustion cannot be put in words," said Candace Laguna, 43, a mother of four who also cares for her veteran

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Project helps artists incarcerated in D.C. hear their songs like never before

MUSIC FROM **B1**

Right now I'm just some coal, but just wait I'll be a diamond

My brothers gon' be happy when they see me out there shining

I never went to class I'm in the hallways making music

I only like the beats with the piano and acoustic

The listening session in the jail chapel was the culmination of a months-long project that gave Dawson, Funderburk and other incarcerated musicians the chance to hear their compositions set to music as intricately produced tracks, recorded by professional artists and bands.

The project, dubbed "Out of Our Cells," was the brainchild of husband-and-wife musicians Aram Sinnreich and Dunia Best, who set out to record and promote music written by people incarcerated in the District. Their verses, which included messages to families, love ballads and protest songs, were a vital form of self-expression and release behind bars. Sinnreich wanted the world to hear them.

"There's so much intelligence and humor and soul on display," Sinnreich said. "The talent of these composers is undeniable."

The idea for Out of Our Cells came years ago from another community music project, "Out of Our Shells," that Sinnreich and Best organized during the pandemic in 2021. The couple spent a year recording songs for artists in the D.C. region who had lost access to recording studios and gigs because of the pandemic.

In April 2023, they visited the jail as guest lecturers in a Georgetown University prison education program and spoke about the Out of Our Shells project from the pandemic. Excited by what they heard, those in attendance told Sinnreich and Best that there were talented writers and musicians in the jail, too. Could the couple produce music for them?

Sinnreich and Best were excited by the idea. They selected songs and poems written by five people incarcerated at the Correctional Treatment Facility, which neighbors the D.C. jail.

Funderburk is awaiting sentencing for an armed carjacking charge from 2022 and was previously convicted of two armed robberies in 2022. Dawson has pleaded not guilty to charges including murder and armed robbery from a 2022 homicide and previously pleaded guilty to aggravated assault in a 2022 shooting that left her victim paralyzed. Others in the project are charged with or are awaiting sentencing for offenses including murder and distribution of child pornography.





PHOTOS BY SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST



ABOVE LEFT: Dunia Best and her husband, Aram Sinnreich, set out to record and promote music written by people incarcerated in the District with the "Out of Our Cells" project. ABOVE RIGHT: Sinnreich listens to songs recorded as part of the project last month at the D.C. Correctional Treatment Facility's chapel. LEFT: Marcus Walker, 23, sings during the listening session.

Sinnreich and Best said they didn't ask about the charges the incarcerated artists faced before working with them and sought to focus solely on their musical compositions. All of the artists involved were accepted into an education program run by Georgetown University's Prisons and Justice Initiative, he added.

"This project … it's not about forgiving or forgetting or valorizing," Sinnreich said. "It's about creating opportunities so people can be more than just one terrible thing that they did."

Sinnreich and Best visited the jail in November to pick the songs they would produce. Ahead of their visit, they asked staff members to circulate fliers about the project. About 20 people joined them in the facility's classroom.

One by one, they shared their songs, rapping or singing a cappella. It started nervously, Sinnreich said, but an infectious energy took over. The whole room was snapping and clapping along.

"It became kind of like a party," Sinnreich said. "… Everybody all of sudden wanted to share."

For those incarcerated, writing allows them to vent about a lonely, alienating experience, Funderburk said.

"A lot of people use it as a way to cope," said Funderburk. "A lot of people use it as a way to express themselves."

Writing poetry has also brought respite for Harold Cunningham, another inmate involved in the project who is serving a life sentence for a string of armed robberies and murders in the District in 1993. He is currently incarcerated at the Correctional Treatment Facility as he awaits rulings on post-trial motions. For the project, Cunningham submitted a poem he had written to be interpreted into song: "Media Master," about biases in media coverage of crimes committed by Black people.

Cunningham, who has written about struggling with his mental health while in solitary confinement and alleged in a 2012 lawsuit that he was denied mental health services while in a federal prison, said programs like the Out of Our Cells project can have a deep impact on the lives of those who are incarcerated.

"Most people get involved with drugs and stuff because they don't have no other outlet," Cunningham said. "But when you can have something like your raps and your poetry … if you're doing something constructive like this, your day goes by and you look forward to the next day."

After picking songs in November, Sinnreich and Best took a cappella recordings or handwritten lyrics from the jail and presented them to D.C.-area bands and artists, challenging them to take those words and melodies and arrange them into fully realized songs.

"There's so much intelligence and humor and soul on display. The talent of these composers is undeniable."

Aram Sinnreich, a musician and half of the husband-and-wife team behind the "Out of Our Cells" project

Over the spring, Sinnreich, Best and the artists developed and recorded their interpretations. They also drew up contracts giving the incarcerated artists ownership of their songs. The couple's band, Dunia & Aram, working with fellow musician Todd Nocera, performed Dawson's "Jail Cells," with Best on vocals. By June, they were ready to share the eight finished tracks with the jail.

Dozens gathered in the jail's chapel one afternoon in early June to listen as Sinnreich and Best played the tracks from a laptop. One by one, the incarcerated artists heard their songs spring to life. They broke into smiles of recognition, and sometimes surprise, as the songs they had heard only a cappella veered into pop, R&B and reggae.

"[They] slowed it down, made the audience be able to feel it a little bit more," Funderburk said approvingly of Jay Hammond and Bash House, who adapted his song. "I liked it."

Applause rippled through the chapel as the listening session ended. A buzz of excitement lingered. Funderburk and other artists, urged on by their friends, stood up to perform new songs a cappella. Sinnreich assured the crowd that the project wasn't over and that he and Best were seeking funding to return to the jail and record more songs.

Sinnreich said he plans to release the album of songs from the Out of Our Cells project online next month. He also hopes to organize a concert at the jail.

From the side of the room, Angela Milhouse listened with rapt attention. Milhouse, who is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and possession of an unregistered firearm, had jotted down her thoughts about each song in a notebook on her lap. By the end of the afternoon, she'd started writing the first few lines of her own poem, "Broken," on the next page. Hearing the lyrics of her peers had helped Milhouse find the words, she said, for "thoughts that I have suppressed for so long."

Milhouse, who was incarcerated after the project began, said she would be eager to put her poem forward if Sinnreich and Best return to record more songs at the jail. But she also longed for an even brighter future.

"I hope I won't be here," Milhouse said. "I want to go home. … I'll still be writing."

$1 billion gift to make Johns Hopkins medical school free for most students

HOPKINS FROM **B1**

"It's a full-ride scholarship," Hopkins President Ronald J. Daniels said. "We see that as a very significant move to ensure that medical education is available to the best and brightest across the country."

Increases in medical school tuition have outpaced inflation at both public and private institutions, said Holly J. Humphrey, president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, a nonprofit focused on improving the education of health professionals. There has been a shift in who attends, with an increasing share of students from high-income families and dwindling numbers from lower-income homes.

The median debt from medical school for the class of 2023 was $200,000, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Too many students don't even consider medical school because of the cost, said Sanjay Desai, the chief academic officer at the American Medical Association.

Health outcomes are improved, he said, when physicians reflect the diversity of patients they treat. Studies also suggest that students from lower-income backgrounds are more likely to return to underserved communities as doctors.

There are other troubling gaps. The country needs more primary care doctors, Desai said, but student debt can drive people toward more lucrative specialty fields.

"I hope it inspires others to action," said Desai, who is also a Johns Hopkins faculty member.

The donation brings total giving from Bloomberg Philanthropies to Johns Hopkins University to a staggering $4.55 billion, an infusion of cash that has allowed the school to vault its aspirations and impact in many areas. Affordability has been one major through line: In 2018, Bloomberg, a former mayor of New York and presidential candidate, announced a historic $1.8 billion gift for increased undergraduate financial aid and the promise that admissions decisions would be need-blind going forward. That gift helped spur changes in the student body, which now has more low-income students and greater racial diversity.

Stefano Montalvo benefited from that 2018 donation. He didn't think he could afford college, but when he left track practice at his rural public high school in New Jersey to check whether he had been accepted into Hopkins, he saw the financial aid offer, with shock: It covered almost the entire cost of attendance.

For medical school, which he will begin at Hopkins in the fall, he expected to take on $400,000 in debt. Instead, he learned he will have tuition and cost of living covered. And on Monday, he learned that many of his classmates will, too. "It's incredible, really," he said.

The aid is important in giving hope to people from lower-income backgrounds, he said, "and getting those students to school is critical for progressing medicine and health care."

Most of the patients they will treat won't be wealthy, he said, so having students who have seen challenges growing up can help inform others about barriers to care and other issues. "In that type of learning environment, we can thrive and create physicians better prepared to deal with the diversity of society today," he said.

The gift announced Monday is not the first aimed at erasing medical-school tuition costs for students. Earlier this year, a billion-dollar donation to Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York enabled the school to announce to cheers that fourth-year students would be reimbursed for their spring tuition and that in the future, tuition would be free. New York University's Grossman School of Medicine announced in 2018 that it would give full-tuition scholarships to all students regardless of financial need, and a $200 million donation last summer ensured that NYU's second medical school, NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine, will be tuition-free in perpetuity.

At Hopkins, existing aid has diminished the debts its students carry. In the past academic year, graduates left with an average debt of $105,000, about half the national average, school officials said.

Monday's announcement will dramatically change that.

Part of the value of the model is its simplicity, Daniels said: Applicants, or students aspiring to one day apply, can clearly see what their total costs would be based on their family's income, rather than having to wait for acceptance and a financial-aid package from the school.



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Tuition at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore costs about $65,000 a year.

The donation also will increase graduate financial aid in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and School of Nursing. And it will bump up graduate financial aid at the schools of arts and sciences, advanced international studies, education, engineering, and business; the Peabody Institute; and the forthcoming school of government and policy, which was announced last fall and will be housed in the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center in Washington near the Capitol.

Many students at Johns Hopkins have benefited from financial aid donations. Albert Holler, who grew up near Chicago, wanted to be a doctor ever since high school, when a classmate with leukemia died. But with a mother working various jobs, and a father juggling two jobs to support the family of five, he assumed he would need to take on enormous debt.

After applying to medical schools, he woke up one weekend morning and opened an email from Hopkins. A dean was offering $90,000 a year in aid, a deal that included cost of living for four years.

More students having their costs of medical school covered, he said, would not only help Hopkins attract the best students regardless of their means, but also would be excellent for patient care.

An internal-medicine resident working in Baltimore and planning to become an oncologist, Holler frequently uses the Spanish he learned from his mother. Now, with a recent influx of people from Central America to Baltimore, he relies on it to understand his patients' needs. "It also seems to just let them take a deep breath," he said, "and then have a little more trust."

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Relatives say man fatally shot at restaurant was looking out for his friend

SHOOTING FROM **B1**

panel that "Mr. Onuoha is dead, and he should not be."

The U.S. attorney's office, which made the decision not to bring charges, declined to comment, citing a policy that forbids prosecutors from publicly discussing charging decisions.

'Believed to be blood'

The first 911 calls came shortly before 4:30 a.m. on Jan. 9, a Tuesday.

One person saw a fight and heard a bang he thought was a gunshot in the 1600 block of K Street NW. Another caller saw a vehicle crash into a coffee shop around the corner at 17th and L streets. That caller reported that people involved in the crash had fled, and that one had thrown a gun down a storm drain.

At first, police weren't sure what had happened. They began to search for a crime scene.

When a call from Howard University Hospital came in for a man with a gunshot wound, they still weren't sure how everything was related.

Onuoha died at 4:52 a.m., before anyone could interview him.

The man who brought him in called Onuoha's brother. His brother called police.

Now authorities had a link between the noise heard on K Street and the traffic crash. And a killing to investigate. But they still couldn't find a crime scene.

Police blocked off part of K Street outside Moi Moi with yellow crime scene tape. They shuttled between the restaurant and the crash site, and trained flashlights on sidewalks looking for evidence.

Police said they found the gun in the storm drain near the coffee shop, deepening the mystery. Back at Moi Moi, they knocked on the restaurant's locked door, shouting "police," according to testimony at a hearing before the D.C. Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board and investigative documents.

Brendan Jasper, a detective with the D.C. police homicide unit, arrived about 5 a.m. Police continued to knock on the door. Still no one answered. Authorities contacted the building's landlord for a key.

Then, Jasper testified at the liquor board hearing in February, "We observed what we believed to be blood, outside of the door of the establishment."

A search warrant application described it as a single droplet — raising suspicion that someone inside could be hurt.



FAMILY PHOTO



PETER HERMANN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Nnanyereugo Onuoha, 32, above, was fatally shot outside Moi Moi restaurant, at right, on K Street NW. Police eventually determined that Onuoha was shot by an unlicensed security guard, but prosecutors ruled that he shot Onuoha in self-defense.

Police breached the door at 7:08 a.m.

Inside, Jasper testified they found Moi Moi's owner, Howsoon Cham, two security guards, an employee and a patron.

According to a report from a liquor board investigator, Cham said he didn't answer the door because he thought someone was trying to rob the restaurant. Later, at the public hearing, he testified that he couldn't hear the police because he was in the kitchen bandaging a bloodied security guard.

Finally inside Moi Moi, police said they confiscated a concealed firearm from the guard who reportedly shot Onuoha, described by his family as a budding real estate investor, a peacemaker and a protector, and a devoted father to his young son.

Onuoha's 33-year-old brother, Uzoma Onuoha, said he believes the shooting "was criminal" and that the family "doesn't agree" with how the investigation has been handled.

Reached in the spring, Cham declined to comment about the case, saying only that Moi Moi remained open serving food. With the liquor license revoked, alcohol cannot be served. It has no bearing on food service. Attempts to reach Cham in late June were not successful. The restaurant was open when a reporter visited recently.

'He shot someone.'

The fight started over money.

According to the liquor board report, Cham told investigators with the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration that a male diner who was with Onuoha "became aggressive" toward a woman while arguing over how much money they had spent at another club earlier that night.

"He became hostile and cussing at everyone in the establishment," Cham told the investigator.

Uzoma Onuoha said a man he later learned was a security guard grabbed his brother's friend. A portion of the video from inside Moi Moi, played at the liquor board hearing, shows a man wearing a hoodie, identified as the security guard, forcefully pushing a patron toward the door.

Uzoma Onuoha said he believes his brother didn't know the man pushing his friend was a security guard. The guard wasn't wearing a uniform and his gun was concealed. A liquor board report said the guard, who was not identified, had a permit for the firearm but was not licensed as a security guard. Licensed security guards are required to wear uniforms and have their firearms visible.

"He thought a street guy was attacking his friend. My brother rushed to his friend's aid," Uzoma Onuoha said in an interview. Once they were outside, the liquor board report said, the two men kicked the security guard on the ground. During this scuffle, a gun fell to the ground. Onuoha's friend broke free, picked up the gun "and returns to the struggle," the liquor board report said. The report does not identify Onuoha's friend, and his relatives said they did not know his name.

Video shows the front door was left open, which blocks much of the fight from a security camera, though the group tumbled into view briefly, with legs flailing.

Cham — whose staff initially denied any knowledge of a fight, according to the liquor board report — told investigators that one of the men was "stomping on the [security guard's] head on the ground. I was standing next to him. I'm like, 'Bro, stop. You cannot do this. This guy's head is bleeding.' "

The liquor board report said that "a few moments later, the male security guard is seen brandishing a firearm and a flash goes off." The guard ran back into Moi Moi and another employee "locked the door behind him." The liquor board report said the security guard was heard saying "that he shot someone."

Jasper, the homicide detective who investigated the case, testified that Onuoha and his friend got into separate vehicles and drove north on 17th Street NW, one following the other. Onuoha crashed into the coffee shop, and Jasper said his friend put him in his vehicle and drove to the hospital. Police said they found a handgun in a storm drain outside a coffee shop, and Jasper testified that detectives believe that weapon "belonged to one of the subjects from the altercation in front of Moi Moi."

Collin Cenci, from the attorney general's office, told the liquor board that back at Moi Moi, Cham "walked right out of that same door" the security guard had just used to get back inside, "got down on his hands and knees, and scrubbed up the blood that had spilled from Mr. Onuoha's gunshot wound."

In his testimony, Cham admitted that he cleaned up the blood, saying he had customers who wanted to leave after the fight.

"I didn't want people to step on it going outside," he testified. "Maybe I was wrong, maybe so."

'This time, somebody was killed'

The shooting in January was not the first time Cham had been in trouble. Two years ago, the liquor board fined the restaurant after someone reportedly discharged a firearm outside Moi Moi. To keep his liquor license then, Cham agreed to several conditions, including immediately calling D.C. police when a suspected crime occurs and keeping firearms out of the restaurant.

At a hearing in that 2022 case, liquor board member James Short Jr. voted against allowing Moi Moi to retain its license, telling members: "the next time, we might not be so lucky. Somebody may be killed."

At the February hearing, Cenci reminded board members of Short's "prophetic words."

"You will learn that this time, we weren't so lucky," Cenci said. "This time, somebody was killed."

Cham didn't call police after the shooting, according to the liquor board report.

When a liquor board investigator asked Cham this year if he tried to intervene in the fight, Cham "chuckled" and said he watched from a window, according to a report from the investigator.

"Mr. Cham stated that he was not going to call the police for a street fight," the investigator wrote.

Cham defended himself during the hearing, acting as his own lawyer and cross-examining witnesses, including Jasper, the homicide detective. He said his restaurant "is not some carryout, hole in the wall, you know what I mean?" according to a transcript. "The fact that I'm labeled as that thuggish guy that opens places where it's all gunshots and people is getting killed and stuff, that's not me. I'm not that thug."

D.C. police said in a statement that "detectives conducted a thorough investigation into this incident and presented the facts and evidence" to the U.S. attorney's office, which prosecutes adult offenders in most of the District's criminal cases.

"The U.S. attorney's office has declined to prosecute based on the individual acting in self-defense," the police statement said. "That individual will not face any charges related to this incident."

Proposal aims to curb truancy without referring teenagers to court system

TRUANCY FROM **B1**

D.C.'s approach to improving attendance has faced attacks as officials struggle to get students, particularly teenagers, to come to school consistently. The city's truancy rate — the share of students who missed at least 10 days of school without an excuse — spiked to 42 percent when children returned from virtual school during the pandemic in the 2021-2022 school year, data show.

That number fell to 37 percent during the 2022-2023 school year. Among high-schoolers, however, almost half of students were truant.

These trends attracted intense scrutiny this year, as well as questions over whether the current system works. Schools are supposed to refer teens to court, but compliance rates are low. Data show D.C. Public Schools referred 44 percent of eligible students during the 2022-2023 school year.

"While prosecution of students or parents may seem appealing in the abstract, it makes little sense when applied to truancy," Lauren Haggerty, first assistant attorney general, told lawmakers during a hearing on the topic in June. She added that courts cannot address the reasons students may skip school, such as unstable housing or bullying.

"The court cannot provide any of the social services and support needed to remove barriers to attendance," Haggerty said.

The emergency and temporary bills will allow the city to pilot a new approach at five high schools starting this academic year. The mayor will select schools that had a truancy rate higher than 50 percent during the 2023-2024 school year, according to the legislation.

The measure will also require the Department of Human Services to publish a preliminary report on its progress in March and a final report in August. The success of the program will depend on whether the students improve their attendance and academic performance, as well as whether the teens avoid arrests.

"It is a concern that kids who get in trouble with the juvenile justice system almost always have an attendance problem," Mendelson said Monday. "That's not to say that kids who have an attendance problem always get involved" in the justice system.

Despite his plans to introduce the emergency and temporary legislation, Mendelson said he has some concerns over whether the Department of Human Services — tasked with administering social services — can take on the responsibility. He said the agency does not have a "great track record right now with some of the other programs that they administer, like homeless services and affordable housing."

Mendelson brought up those concerns at the June hearing. Laura Zeilinger, the agency's director, pointed to recent successes in its Youth Services Division, which works with young people and their families to improve attendance and decrease court involvement.

During the 2022-2023 school, 63 percent of young people who participated in youth services programs — which includes intensive case management known as Parent and Adolescent Support Services, a court diversion program or family therapy — improved their attendance at school, Zeilinger told lawmakers. Seventy-nine percent of students improved their overall behavioral functioning, as measured by a behavioral assessment.

"I don't understand why we wouldn't take the bright spots that we know are working and double down on those interventions at a crucial time in our families' lives, to partner with them and support them and their young people at the points that they begin to miss school," Zeilinger said at the hearing.

If the legislation passes and is signed by Bowser, the pilot program will go into effect in the upcoming school year. The council would have to pass the mayor's April truancy bill or similar permanent legislation for the shift to continue.

"I'm hopeful that this will actually move the needle forward in terms of whether there's a better approach for dealing with attendance in our schools."

D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D)

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THE DISTRICT

With storms expected, Anacostia swim is called off

BY KYLE SWENSON

For the second time in as many weeks, and the fourth time in two years, the long-anticipated first official swim event in the Anacostia River in more than half a century has been called off.

Organizers originally scheduled the event this summer for late June but scrapped the plans because of high levels of E. coli in the river. The swim was then rescheduled for this Saturday. The latest postponement comes after two attempts to hold the event last summer were also canceled.

Weather forecasts for the region — scrambled by the effects of Tropical Storm Beryl — forced organizers to again postpone the swim, according to Trey Sherard of the Anacostia Riverkeeper, the nonprofit group coordinating the decades-long effort to clean up the river.

"There's thunderstorms predicted for all the end of this week, so it just didn't look good for us," Sherard said.

The latest postponement is another setback for the environmentalists, city officials and D.C. residents who had been looking forward to the first official splash in the Anacostia's waters — a symbolic signal that the river is safe again after decades of pollution.

Since the 1970s, nonprofits and government agencies have been trying to coax the river's 8.4 miles back to ecological health. In 1971, the pollution was so bad from human waste alone that a ban was placed on swimming in the Anacostia.

The public swim was conceived as a one-day lifting of that ordinance — a way to celebrate the improved quality of the river. Sherard said organizers are undeterred, however, and a new date later this summer will be scheduled soon.

"This has been another little emotional roller coaster," he said.

Sherad explained that the weather for the Washington region is likely to be affected by Beryl's landfall outside Houston.

"Something the size of a tropical storm pulls water from the entire area around it," Sherard said, adding that a disturbance of that size affects weather patterns for hundreds of miles. "With our forecast we're seeing here now, it just wasn't worth it to risk the splash."

PETULA DVORAK

It's all-consuming to take care of a loved one. The millions who do need help.

DVORAK FROM B1

husband, who has had 20 surgeries and is getting ready for four more here at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the D.C. area. "Because regular life goes on too. You know, moms have kids and things besides their spouses."

I do not even dare to compare our one-month glimpse into the medical and caregiving world to anything these families went through. No way.

But I loved talking to Laguna about the complexities of caring for men who aren't really great at being cared for. Frank Laguna, 48, was known as "Frank the Tank" and pushed through injuries in Iraq that multiplied in later military service.

But just one small experience is huge for perspective and understanding the massive crisis America is facing when it comes to caregiving.

Laguna had to cut her career in biotech short and leave a lucrative job opportunity to stay home and care for The Tank. They're living in transitional housing and have an opportunity to get a custom home built through a veteran program, but they can't afford the land in Maryland for the build.

Women like her do an estimated $1 trillion in unpaid care work in America.

That's according to last month's analysis of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' American Time Use Survey by the National Partnership for Women & Families, which found the majority of family caregiving, whether it's child care, elder care or care for an adult with medical needs, is still done by women.

"Time spent providing care is time spent working, and America's caregivers make critical contributions to our communities and our economy. That is why we will continue our push to ensure every person receives the essential supports and protections — including paid family leave — that they need to thrive," said Jocelyn C. Frye, president of the National Partnership for Women & Families.

Laguna said caring for caregivers isn't only about financial compensation.

"We're not always looking for the next legislation that will give us more money or more things, but legislation that is more about humanity," she said. "In the workforce, you have the Family Medical Leave Act, yes, but it's not always a friendly legislation. It takes a lot of fight, sometimes to maintain it or to even get it processed through HR."

Caregiving isn't necessarily ingrained in America's work-obsessed culture.

And that's a looming disaster as the "silver tsunami," the tide of aging Americans, bears down on an infrastructure and culture that simply can't accommodate it.

Indeed, a lot of employers have no idea what's going on in the lives of their employees who are caregivers, according to a 2019 study at Harvard Business School by professor Joseph B. Fuller and program director Manjari Raman.

Only 24 percent of the employers in the study said that caregiving influenced workers' performance. Meanwhile, 80 percent of employees with caregiving responsibilities conceded that caregiving affected their productivity.

Hello? Bosses?

The same study found that 32 percent of employees had to leave a job because of caregiver duties.

"We're trapped within a caregiving crisis, within an economic crisis, within a health-care crisis," Joe Biden said in a speech in 2020, back when a presidential campaign addressed caregiving outside of the West Wing.

"We have a national care crisis and we're talking about golf," Jason Resendez, president and CEO of the National Alliance for Caregiving, wrote on X during that mess of a presidential debate almost two weeks ago, when the candidates sniped at each other over golf scores.

Resendez is out there telling our leaders that we are a nation of caregivers — at least 50 million of us are the backbone of the U.S. health-care system — and something needs to change.

I was lucky to have a huge bank of sick leave and a boss who didn't hesitate to tell me to take the time off when I wondered if I should try to balance my husband's temporary medical care with the column.

But we're only a month in. For many folks, this is a reality for decades.



CANDACE LAGUNA

Candace Laguna and her husband, Frank, who was wounded in the military, are advocates of better support for veterans' caregivers.

And so far, husband remains a biped.

"It's looking good, but you're not out of the woods yet," his surgeon told him during a follow-up visit last week.

An expert in diabetic wound care looked at his wound and studied the MRI that showed infection spread to his bones right after that purple amputation line was drawn. But he believed it was worth trying to save the foot.

So there were two surgeries, 11 days in the hospital and an ongoing home regimen that has so far involved a wound pump attached to his foot, four daily IV infusions of antibiotics, redressing the wound, rushes back to the hospital after he accidentally snagged his IV line, his pump stopped working and he had a terrifying, exorcist-like reaction to one medication.

This plus up to three or four drives every week for appointments back at the hospital, and one visit from an in-home nurse every week. And NO WALKING.

"Stay off your foot! I'll get it for you," I just yelled, while writing this, hearing him scrambling to get (more) coffee.

I never imagined I'd be able to run an IV and wash a raw foot bone before breakfast, but this is marriage. And it's our entry into a world that millions of others occupy.

We started this journey caring for my father-in-law in our home part of last year and thought of putting his wheelchair, three canes (he kept losing them) and walker up on Craigslist because he moved back to California. Never mind.

We've now added a knee scooter, crutches and an IV pole to this sexy collection.

More importantly, we've gained a deeper humility and appreciation for what millions of Americans are living through each day in silence.

They need to be heard.

OBITUARIES

AUDREY FLACK, 93

Painter, sculptor and photorealist pioneer swam against art world's tide

BY HARRISON SMITH

Audrey Flack, a New York artist who leaped from abstract expressionism to photorealism to large-scale sculpture, exploring the varied experiences of women while drawing inspiration from Greek mythology, a Spanish Madonna, and the tchotchkes and teacups that give shape to daily life, died June 28 at a hospital in Southampton, N.Y. She was 93.

The cause was complications from an aortic tear, said her daughter Hannah Marcus.

Ms. Flack, the daughter of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, spent most of her seven-decade career swimming against the art-world tide. She embraced realist painting when abstraction was in vogue, wielded an airbrush when fellow artists considered the commercial tool "immoral," and helped define the photorealist movement in the late 1960s and '70s, when she was the only prominent woman in a group of painters that included Chuck Close, Robert Bechtle and Richard Estes.

By the early '80s, she had set her brushes aside to make bronze and clay sculptures, often taking her subject matter from ancient myth. Out of her studio came a procession of heroic Athenas, Daphnes and Medusas, whom she sculpted while seeking to offer an alternative to the classical depictions of men she saw in public parks and plazas.

"Beautiful, powerful women have to be out there," she argued, "instead of generals on horses."

Ms. Flack started out as an abstract expressionist, slinging paint onto canvases from her studio on Eighth Street in Manhattan, where a condemned building offered broken banisters but cheap rent.

The mid-century art world was electrifying, she recalled, but sexism and harassment were pervasive: By her account, abstract painter Josef Albers made a pass at her when she was one of his students at Yale, and Jackson Pollock drunkenly propositioned her one night at the Cedar Tavern, the Greenwich Village hangout where she mingled with Willem de Kooning and Franz Kline.

Partly because of all the debauchery, she left abstract expressionism behind, finding material from photographs and news clippings while embracing more figurative work. She frequently painted her family, even as she struggled to reconcile her artistic career with her life as a mother, raising two young daughters (one autistic and nonverbal) and grappling with an early marriage she described as abusive.

At the time, it was "almost radical to say you could be a mother, to talk about your children," she told the New Yorker in 2021. She added that when a curator asked to see some of her paintings, she hustled to get her children out of her 104th Street apartment, where the dining room doubled as a studio. "I ran around the house putting clothes, diapers, everything away. Any sign that I had a child had to be erased."

The visit was a success: One of the pictures the curator spotted, a 1964 piece showing a smiling President John F. Kennedy, moments before he was assassinated in Dallas, was selected for a group show advertising "Six Women Artists." Ms. Flack said she was late to the opening because she had to fulfill one of her maternal duties: unclogging the toilet, which one of her daughters had stuffed with "diapers, a bunch of wooden blocks, and a wad of Play-Doh."

By the early 1970s, Ms. Flack had developed a meticulous approach to painting, in which she arranged objects in her studios, took a photograph and projected the resulting image onto a large canvas, sometimes eight feet square, where she would apply brightly colored paint with an airbrush.

While other photorealists painted sleek cars and city streets, Ms. Flack crafted allegorical tableau that incorporated depictions of Buddha, Marilyn Monroe, strawberry tarts and even Buchenwald survivors. Her "Vanitas" series, which invoked a Baroque genre suggesting the transience of life, was filled with carefully arranged objects offering a reminder that existence was fleeting: watches, skulls, burning candles.

Some critics found her work kitschy and oversentimental, lamenting paintings such as the "Macarena of Miracles" (1971), one in a series of unironic works that reinterpreted a statue of the weeping Madonna that Ms. Flack had encountered while traveling through Spain.



HOLLIS TAGGART

Audrey Flack, seen in January, aimed to provide an alternative to classical depictions of men.

Assessing the state of realist painting in 1976, New York Times art critic Hilton Kramer called Ms. Flack "one of the brassiest of the new breed … the Barbra Streisand of photorealism," adding that her work was "distinguishable from advertising art only to the extent that the product being advertised is the artist herself."

Ms. Flack called Kramer's criticism a "dagger to the heart." But she continued working unabated, and found a home for her pieces in the permanent collections of institutions including the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington and the Museum of Modern Art and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

"Audrey has always been 20 years ahead of the pack," gallerist Louis K. Meisel, who represented her at the time, told the Times in 1992. "Her work has nothing to do with the avant-garde. It's better."

Ms. Flack described art-making as a compulsion, a way to clarify and explore the world around her or to get out of a personal rut. She said she emerged from a two-year depression in the early 1980s, when she would sit for hours on a park bench in Manhattan, by turning from painting to sculpture. She was still experimenting at the end of her life, painting a new series that she called "Post-Pop Baroque," and which was unveiled at New York's Hollis Taggart gallery in March. The show coincided with the release of her memoir, "With Darkness Came Stars," which brought her further late-in-life attention.

"Beautiful, powerful women have to be out there, instead of generals on horses."

Audrey Flack

"Titian made art into his late 80s, and I'm now past that," she told Smithsonian Magazine a few years ago, just after she turned 90. "I always wanted to paint like an old master, or rather an old mistress — a radical contemporary old mistress."

The younger of two children, Audrey Lenora Flack was born in Brooklyn on May 30, 1931, and grew up in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. Her father ran a garment factory. In her memoir, Ms. Flack described her mother as "a larger-than-life gambling addict."

"Ironically, my mother had strong artistic abilities, yet failed to value them in herself or in me," Ms. Flack wrote. "She embroidered tablecloths, crocheted blankets, designed her own needlepoint pillows, and set up carefully arranged flowers. She cut reproductions of Old Master paintings from magazines and placed them all over the apartment."

The pictures ignited her interest in art. Ms. Flack went on to study at the High School of Music & Art and graduated in 1951 from Cooper Union in Manhattan. The next year, she received a BFA from Yale University.

Early in her career, Ms. Flack taught anatomy at New York University and led drawing and painting classes at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and the School of Visual Arts in New York. Teaching helped pay the bills: For a time, she said, she was so poor that she paid her obstetrician in paintings, trading one of her still lifes for her daughter's delivery.

Her first marriage, to Frank Levy, ended in divorce. In 1970, she married H. Robert Marcus, a copper-trading executive who advocated on behalf of people with autism and developmental disabilities. He "saved my life; he saved my kid's," Ms. Flack told the publication Curbed.

Her husband died May 10 at 95. Survivors include two children from her first marriage, Melissa and Hannah Marcus; two stepchildren, Mitchell and Leslie Marcus; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Another stepdaughter, Aileen Marcus, died in 2022.

One of Ms. Flack's most ambitious projects was never completed. For more than six years, she worked on a bronze sculpture of Catherine of Braganza, the 17th-century Portuguese princess who married King Charles II of England and, by many accounts, was honored in the naming of the New York borough of Queens.

The final version of the sculpture was to stand five stories high, clad in jewels and gold leaf, in the Hunters Point section of Queens, where it would gaze across the East River at the U.N. headquarters.

Donors secured almost $2 million in financing for the project, which stalled out in 1998 after critics questioned the appropriateness of a memorial for a monarch linked to the transatlantic slave trade, on a site overlooking a Revolutionary War battleground.

Ms. Flack, who won a design competition to make the sculpture, had a different view of the queen. She saw Catherine as "a powerful and positive image of a surviving female," she told the Times, noting that the monarch had little choice in the marriage, a political alliance that left her with a philandering husband. Ms. Flack added that she had sought to offer an alternative to classical depictions of femininity, giving Catherine multiracial features that she refined through repeated trial and error, making as many as 100 versions of her subject's face.

"I wanted," she said, "to create the face of the new millennium."

snow day or school day?

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DEATH NOTICE

CAMP



ZORA KUKIC CAMP (Age 92)

Zora (Kukic) Camp, age 92, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2024, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Zora is survived by her son, Walter Toma Camp (Teresa Kraus) of Virginia Beach, Virginia, nine nieces and nephews, extended family and lifelong friends. She was predeceased by her daughter Anna Lisa Camp; husband Walter Camp, Jr.; sister Mildred Lukic; brothers Duke, Mike, and Tom Kukic; parents Toma and Milica (Ivosevic) Kukic, and niece Sandra (Kukic) Slifko.

Zora (meaning "dawn" in Serbian) was born as the morning sun rose on Flag Day, June 14, 1932, at her parents' home in East McKeesport, Pennsylvania. A voracious reader from an early age, she developed a lifelong love of words and wit. Zora said she learned to begin talking early on, but she never learned how to stop. Humor became her constant companion, and her gentle gift of gab served her well the rest of her years, socially and professionally. Even when her voice failed near life's end, she conveyed paragraphs with her eyebrows and facial expressions.

She loved school, and Zora was an outstanding and outgoing scholar. She graduated in 1950 from Westinghouse Memorial High School in Wilmerding, PA, with honors in science, history, and other subjects, and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed." Attending the University of Pittsburgh on academic scholarships, Zora graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1954 with dual majors. She earned a Masters of Retailing at Pitt in 1955, again with local and national academic honors.

Zora's desire to travel (her "itchy feet") led to jobs in Philadelphia; Washington, DC; San Francisco; and the Territory of Hawaii. She trained others on best retailing practices, ran market simulation software using early commercial computers, and applied decision science to sales and inventory management. At Washington's Woodward & Lothrop department store she bonded with the dear friends who would stand by her for the next 70 years, affectionately known together as "The Woodies Ladies."

She returned to DC in 1961 to work for Congressional Minority Leaders Sen. Dirksen and Rep. Halleck's Joint Leadership Conference. Her first day in the office coincided with the Bay of Pigs Invasion, and her support work for them was fast paced through the era of the Cuban Missile Crisis and Civil Rights legislation. She never forgot answering the White House's call on November 22, 1963, and scrambling to find and inform leaders of the President's assassination.

Leaving the US Capitol building, vodka gimlets and her beloved very high heels behind, Zora married, moved to Silver Spring, MD, and became a mother. Focusing on family and community organizations, she instilled a priority on education, sound principles, a strong work ethic, and her love of fun in their children and all her endeavors. She loved to cook, and each square on 20 years of family calendars was full, punctuated in autumn by rushes back from church for every Steelers and Redskins kickoff!

Zora returned to the workforce as the principal's secretary at schools in Montgomery County, MD, thriving on the camaraderie of like-minded staff and faculty. Finding a way forward after the tragic loss of her 20-year-old daughter in 1987 was Zora's most difficult accomplishment in life. After retiring from MCPS in 1994 she traveled, cherishing time with her son and extended family, seeing nearby sights with SOAR, and enrolling in 16 Elderhostel (now Road Scholar) programs that took her throughout America.

Widowed tragically in 2008 she began anew, moving to Riderwood Village in Maryland, enrolling in three college courses per semester, welcoming her daughter-in-law into the family and becoming the poster child for all that a vibrant, senior community can provide. At age 77 Zora was given her own key to the fitness center so she could start her busy days there without delay at 5 a.m., an hour before the staff arrived.

Zora's Alzheimer's diagnosis brought her to Virginia Beach near her son and daughter-in-law, and together they embarked on a 10-year mission of doing as much as they could for as long as she could. Luckily past sorrows were among the first memories to go, a silver lining that freed her to enjoy every day's fresh potential. Z's cultural calendar was full for a decade, and they attended every theatre in the region, went fishing, regularly enjoyed live music from bluegrass to the Symphony, visited parks and museums, and of course kept watching the Steelers. Zora's curiosity, desire for adventure, and willingness to try anything never waned. Indoor skydiving for her 83rd birthday fulfilled a lifetime wish to fly.

Zora was active until her final year, always trying to raise the spirits of those around her. When asked how she felt, she said, "With my hands, of course!" Tremendous gratitude is due to all Zora's caregivers who provided her with love, dignity, and an exceptional quality of life over her final ten years. Zora departed this mortal coil naturally, on her own terms, while holding her loving son's hand.

Friends may call at Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home, 11800 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday, July 10 from 2 to 4 p.m., and from 6 to 8 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held there on Thursday, July 11 at 10:30 a.m., followed by 12 noon interment at George Washington Cemetery, 9500 Riggs Rd., Adelphi, MD.

In lieu of flowers, Zora's vision can be extended by donating in her memory to a local Girl Scout troop, Council or the national organization www.girlscouts.org. Such gifts will help put more young girls on the road to personal and professional success early, in a fun, supportive way ... just as Girl Scouting did for Zora over 75 years ago.

LYVER

DR. JOHN WILLIAM LYVER IV

Dr. John William Lyver, IV of Gainesville, VA departed this earthly life on Sunday, June 16, 2024, while vacationing in Alberta, Canada, with his wife, Sally Lyver. John was born on June 25, 1956, in Drexel Hill, PA, the son of John William Lyver, III and Geraldine Loretta Westley.

John graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering - Physics (Nuclear). He was a member of the choir and played trombone in the Drum & Bugle Corps. He served on both the USS DuPont and the USS Carl Vinson and retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve as a Lt. Commander in 1994.

An Eagle Scout, he was a volunteer leader in Boy Scouts of America Troop 1577, Herndon, VA for many years.

John worked at NASA Headquarters for almost 25 years in the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance as the Nuclear Flight Safety Assurance Manager. He led the nuclear safety reviews of NASA's Cassini Mission to Saturn, New Horizon's Mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt, and NASA's missions to Mars, including Pathfinder, Mars Exploration Rovers, and Curiosity. He retired from NASA in 2012.

In his spare time, he earned a Master of Science in Computer and Electrical Engineering, and an M.S. and PhD. in Computational Science and Informatics at George Mason University.

After John's retirement, he was an Associate Professor (Adjunct) at Northern Virginia Community College teaching physics and astronomy, and at GMU teaching Computational Data Sciences. In 2020, he was recognized as "Teacher of Distinction" at GMU for excellence in on-line teaching.

John was 1st Vice Commander of the American Legion Post 1799 at the time of his death and was a proud member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Recently, he had worked tirelessly advocating for the public interest as a volunteer for the Prince William Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group and was appointed to the Prince William Planning Commission this year. He was quoted in many publications for his analyses on data center noise, financial analyses, and industrial power consumption and their impacts to the community.

A strong Christian, John's heart lay with his God, family, and country. He was involved in many clubs and activities and loved to travel with his wife.

John is survived by his wife of almost 16 years, Sally Redfern Lyver; two sons, John V and Thomas; two stepchildren, Stephanie and Andrew Redfern; a sister, Susan Jennings (Brian), and two nieces, Ashley Toth (Trevor) and Kayleigh Jennings.

A private burial will be held at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon, VA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations can be made in John's memory to:

Cornerstone Chapel
650 Battlefield Parkway SE
Leesburg, VA 20175

Tunnel to Towers Foundation
2361 Hylan Boulevard
Staten Island, NY 10306

American Legion Post 1799
P.O. Box 1799
Haymarket, VA 20168

PAPPAS



STEPHEN S. PAPPAS M.D.

Stephen S. Pappas, M.D. passed away peacefully on July 4, 2024, surrounded by his family and having recently celebrated his 94th birthday. A lifelong Washingtonian, he was born in 1930 to the late Steve and Georgia Pappas and was a proud graduate of Western High School and George Washington University (GWU). He graduated in 1956 from GWU School of Medicine, followed by his ophthalmology residency at Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital (later to become Washington Hospital Center).

In 1961, Dr. Pappas completed his clinical fellowship in the retina service at Harvard's teaching hospital, Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, in Boston. He returned to Washington as the first formally fellowship-trained retina specialist in the region. Deeply patriotic, he was honored to serve the U.S. Navy as Chief of Ophthalmology at the Naval Dispensary in Washington, DC from 1961-1963, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He later served as a civilian consultant at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda from 1968-1976.

In 1963, he founded his solo ophthalmology practice, providing compassionate, state-of-the-art care. Dr. Pappas was an early adopter of in-office retinal laser treatment, becoming the first retinal surgeon in the D.C. area to offer it. In 1978, he moved his growing practice, Retina Consultants, from the District to Bethesda.

Throughout his 35-year career in private practice, he operated at multiple hospitals, including the Washington Hospital Center, GWU Medical Center, Georgetown University Medical Center, and Children's National Medical Center. One of the founding members of the Washington Hospital Center Retina Clinic, he supervised and trained generations of ophthalmology residents as a volunteer from 1963-1994. He was also assistant clinical professor in Ophthalmology at both GWU and Georgetown. He continued to value his professional relationships with mentors, peers, and mentees for his entire career and beyond.

He became a charter member of the Retina Society in 1969, remaining active well into his later years. In addition, he served multiple terms as Vice Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Washington Hospital Center. He also served as President of the Washington Ophthalmological Society and President of the GWU Medical Alumni Association. He was recognized locally on multiple occasions in Washingtonian magazine as a Top Doctor and nationally in Town & Country. He received the Distinguished Service Award by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington in 1998.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Virginia (Ginny) Nicoludis Pappas, and devoted children, Dr. Stephen Pappas, Jr. (Michelle) and Adrienne Kalavritinos (Jack), and four grandchildren: John, Analiese, Mark, and Alexander. He is predeceased by his sister, the late Antonia Pournaras, and infant daughter, Elaine.

He and his wife, Ginny, shared a passion for travel, cherishing regular visits to St. John, USVI and Longboat Key, FL. He was an active early member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD. Dr. Pappas also valued the special friendships and camaraderie of golf at Congressional Country Club. Family was paramount in his life, and he remained an enthusiastic and devoted grandfather until the very end. His remarkable ability to connect through his warmth, sense of humor, and genuine caring will be remembered by all who knew him.

The family will receive friends and relatives on Saturday, July 13, 2024, at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD at 10 a.m. followed by the memorial service at 11 a.m. Burial will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington or St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

When the need arises,
let families find you in the
Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory,
please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

IN MEMORIAM

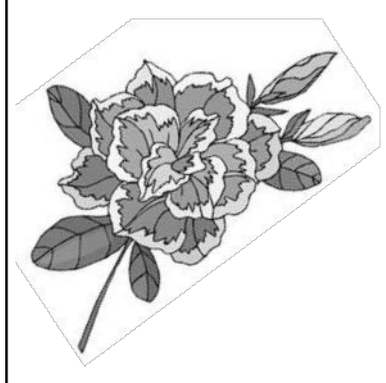
WATSON

JACK WATSON
July 6, 1943 ~ July 9, 1996
.....because you loved me.
Carolyn

DEATH NOTICE

ANDERSON

CALHOUN B. ANDERSON
9/28/1960 - 7/1/2024
Officers and members of Local 26 IBEW are hereby notified of the death of Retired Brother Calhoun B. Anderson. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends.

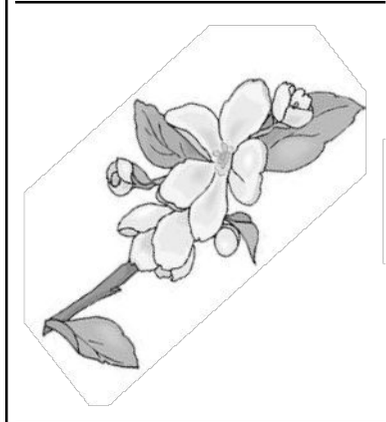


KENAN

RONALD CARY KENAN

Ronald Cary Kenan, 67, of NE Washington, DC, passed away unexpectedly June 22, 2024. Ron was born in Washington, DC and later moving to Maryland where he attended Winston Churchill High School and Towson University.

He had an easy-going manner and he will be greatly missed by family and friends. Ron is survived by brother Bernard Gardner; nieces Stacy and Frances Gardner. Cremation by Howell Funeral Homes, no service.



DEATH NOTICE

KLEIN

JACQUELINE KLEIN (Age 81)

On July 6, 2024, Jacqueline (Higgs) Klein passed peacefully. She is survived by her beloved husband, Charles A. Klein, Jr., and their loving daughters, Julie Keough and her husband Michael, Shelia Walsh and her husband Vernon and Charlotte "Charlie" Corwin and her husband Kevin. She will be missed by her cherished grandchildren, Michael Jr., Sydney, Christopher, Connor, Rachel and her husband Dylan, Maddy and her husband Jay, Sara, Erik and Camilla, as well as her great grandson, Rocco. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Barbara and Walter.

Family and friends may call FROM 4 to 7 p.m., Tuesday July 9, at the Slack Funeral Home, P.A., 3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Funeral services from the above funeral home, Wednesday July 10 at 10:30 a.m. Interment Loudon Park Cemetery. Please see www.slackfuneralhome.com for directions or to leave messages of condolence. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be to the Alzheimer's Association at the following link, https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Events/Tributes-AlzheimersChampions?px-fid=892758&fr_id=1060&pg=fund

www.slackfuneralhome.com

OBIS

MARIAN E. NAGLE OBIS

Marian E. (Nagle) Obis, age 82, passed away on June 17, 2024, at her home in Falls Church, VA. She was born in Patton, PA. on June 18, 1942, the daughter of Oscar and Edna (Myers) Nagle. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her infant brother John Raymond, her sister Geraldine Batdorf, and her brother Charles A. Nagle. She is survived by her brothers Robert K. and wife Mary Nagle of Falls Church, VA, Gary D. and wife Joanie Nagle of Springfield, VA; her loving sister-in-law Katherine Nagle of Patton, PA, and numerous (grand) nieces and nephews.

Marian graduated from Patton Joint High School in 1960. She then moved to Washington, DC and, after acing the Civil Service Exam, began working for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the information technology field. About a decade later, she left the government to work in the energy sector in Indiana, PA. After a number of years there she returned to Washington to work for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, from which she retired.

Marian had a loving personality, laughed easily, and made enduring friendships wherever she went. She traveled widely and had a voracious appetite for knowledge, and she loved playing cards with friends and family, dancing, and animals of all kinds. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

At the request of the deceased, there will be no viewing. She will be laid to rest beside her loving parents in her birthplace of Patton, PA.

WATSON

CRESTLE WATSON SR.

Crestle Watson, Sr., of Oxon Hill, MD, passed on June 20, 2024 at age 92, following a long career of honorable service in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Secret Service.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Annie Lee Watson; sons Crestle Watson Jr. (Debra) and Michael Watson (Ingrid); daughters Denise W. Johnson (Allen), Carol Watson, and LaTricia C. W. Johnson (Craig); as well as eight grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, family friend Ethel Hayden; sister Bertha; brothers Morris Wilbert (Samella) and Joseph (Wafaa); and nieces, nephews, cousins and friends from the Air Force, Secret Service and the community. Viewings will occur on July 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at Kalas Funeral Home & Crematory, Oxon Hill, MD. Funeral service will be July 12 at South Potomac Church, White Plains, MD, with viewing from 10 a.m. until the start of service at 11 a.m. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

WEESE

ALLEN J. WEESE
9/5/1952 - 6/27/2024
Officers and members of Local 26 IBEW are hereby notified of the death of Retired Brother Allen J. Weese. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends.

DEATH NOTICE

FLETCHER



MARY E. FLETCHER (Age 102)

On Saturday June 22, 2024, Mary E. (Elve) Fletcher peacefully entered into eternal rest. She is survived by her loving children, Ronald Gill, Sr., Eugene Fletcher, Gloria Thomas (Robert), Deborah Fletcher, Brenda Carson, Carol Fletcher, Wanda Randall (Bernard), and Denise Golden(Lewis); and one sister, Grace Jones of Philadelphia, PA, and host of grandchildren, great-grandchidlren, great-great grandchidlren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Viewing will be held on Wednesday July 10, 2024 at 10 a.m., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 2020 St. Joseph Dr., Largo, MD 20774. Interment, Resurrection Cemetery.

www.mcguire-services.com

JEFFERSON



JENNIE DAVIS LOTT JEFFERSON

Transitioned peacefully at home on June 26, 2024, at the age of 80. Jennie was the treasured wife of the late Herbert Jefferson for almost 50 years; beloved mother of Fred Lott, Jr, Tenika Jefferson, and Patrice Jefferson; proud grandmother of Gabriella Lott, Dominique Lott, Jonathan Jefferson, Sr., and Josiah Lott; and delighted great-grandmother of Jonathan Jefferson, Jr. She also leaves to cherish her memory: a devoted sister Marguerite Peebles (Dwight); brothers Louis Davis and Dennis Davis, Sr. (Carol); and a host of relatives, church family, and friends. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 10 at Sharon Bible Fellowship Church 6117 Seabrook Rd., Lanham, MD from 10 a.m. until hour of service 11 a.m. Interment in Garner North Carolina.

MYER



MYRIAN MORENO MYER

On July 5, 2024, Myrian Moreno Myer, age 68, of Berlin, MD and formerly of Potomac, MD; beloved wife of Daniel E. Myer; loving mother of Kevyn A. Myer, Deanna M. Curbeam (Emerson) and David B Myer; sister of Juan C. Moreno (Susan), Maria T. Suls (Robert) and Daniel A. Moreno (Charity). A viewing will be held on Thursday at Bishop-Hastings Funeral Home, 19 S. Main St., Selbyville, DE from 4 to 6 p.m. where a service will be held at 6 p.m. Burial will be held on Friday at 2 p.m. at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood MD. Donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital (www.stjude.org). Condolences to

www.bishophastingsfh.com

DEATH NOTICES
MONDAY- FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
SATURDAY-SUNDAY 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To place a notice, call:
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800-627-1150 ext 4-4122
EMAIL:
deathnotices@washpost.com

Email and faxes MUST include name, home address & home phone # of the responsible billing party.
Email deadline - 3 p.m. daily
Phone-In deadline
4 p.m. M-F
3 p.m. Sa-Su

CURRENT 2023 RATES:
(PER DAY)

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Black & White
1" - $160 (text only)
2" - $370 (text only)
3" - $525
4" - $575
5" - $725

SUNDAY
Black & White
1"- $191 (text only)
2" - $405 (text only)
3" - $580
4" - $610
5" - $790

6"+ for ALL Black & White notices
$160 each additional inch Mon - Sat
$191 each additional inch Sunday

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Color
3" - $670
4" - $725
5" - $885

SUNDAY
Color
3" - $710
4" - $810
5" - $985

6"+ for ALL color notices
$268 each additional inch Mon - Sat
$299 each additional inch Sunday

Notices with photos begin at 3"
(All photos add 2" to your notice.)

ALL NOTICES MUST BE PREPAID

MEMORIAL PLAQUES:
All notices over 2" include complimentary memorial plaque

Additional plaques start at $26 each and may be ordered.

All Paid Death Notices appear on our website through www.legacy.com

LEGACY.COM
Included in all death notices
Optional for In Memoriams

PLEASE NOTE:

Notices must be placed via phone or email. Photos must be emailed. You can no longer place notices, drop off photos and make payment in person. Payment must be made via phone with debit/credit card.

The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

HARVEY

COLLEEN HARVEY

Colleen Harvey lived every day to the fullest, with a smile on her face. She left this world on June 16, 2024, surrounded by family. Her last days were full of stories, songs and love and she was ready to move into life beyond this world.

Born on August 19, 1963, in Pittsfield, Illinois, to Paul and Grace Link, Colleen spent her school years in Middleton, Wisconsin. The Link family enjoyed annual road trips sparking an interest in travel. She later settled in Virginia where she earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish from George Mason University.

Colleen and her beloved husband, Jim, married in March 2000. They shared a love of the sun and sea. Cape Hatteras was their favorite spot to spend time together with son, Cameron and their canine companion, Riley.

Colleen is survived by her husband, James Harvey; stepson Cameron Harvey; her parents, Paul and Grace Link; her sisters, Tamela (Blake) Johnson; Angela (David) Yang; and many nieces and nephews.

Colleen was an amazing woman. Her steadfast faith and positive attitude were forces with which could not be reckoned. Plymouth Haven Baptist Church was a source of strength and support for Collen for many years. She is forever grateful for their love and guidance.

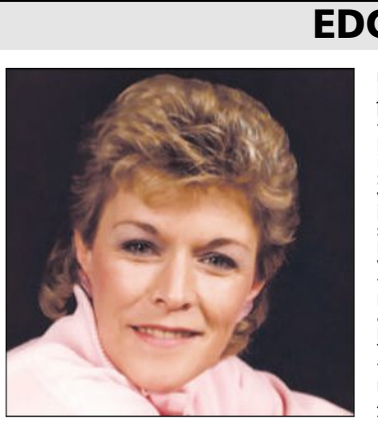
After many years of battling diabetes and cancer, we know she is in a better place. We are so thankful for the time we had with our beloved Colleen.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on August 10, 2024 at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

If you would like to remember Colleen in a special way, contributions to the following organizations would be appreciated:

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Alcoholics Anonymous
The Salvation Army
National LeioMyoSarcoma Foundation

EDGE



SANDRA MADELINE (STEVENS) EDGE "Sandy"

Sandra Madeline "Sandy" (Stevens) Edge, 78, wife of William John "Bill" Edge, Sr. of Staunton, passed away Friday, July 5, 2024 at her residence.

Mrs. Edge was born on May 10, 1946 in London, England, a daughter of the late Harold and Hazel (Cooper) Stevens.

Sandra was an outstanding Police Officer for the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department where she retired after being injured in the line of duty. Mrs. Edge was a loving, strong, kindhearted, dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She enjoyed traveling to London and taking family beach vacations. Sandy will be missed by all those who knew and loved her.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by a sister, Joanne Stevens.

Surviving in addition to her husband of 44 years are her daughters, Deborah MacDonald (Todd) and Darlene Morgan (Mike); step-children, William John Edge, Jr., Richard Edge and Angela Edge; a brother, Brian Stevens (Denise); seven grandchildren, Samantha Schlag, Lauren Morgan, Caitlyn Morgan, Billy and Camden Edge, Gavin and Braxton; and one great-grandchild, Lucille Madeline Dawson.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at Coffman Funeral Home and Crematory.

A Celebration of Life will follow at 1 p.m. in the Coffman Funeral Home Chapel by Rev. William "Bill" Trice.

Burial will take place at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood, Maryland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made, in Sandy's memory, to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

Coffman Funeral Home and Crematory, 230 Frontier Drive, Staunton, is in charge of her arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at:

www.coffmanfuneralhome.net

GORDON



BRUCE ARMSTRONG GORDON
March 27, 1950 – June 16, 2024

Dr. Bruce Armstrong Gordon, 74, died on Sunday, June 16, 2024, at an assisted-living residence in Bristol, TN, near his beloved home in Abingdon, VA.

Born on March 27, 1950, in Boston to Robert F. and Mary Elizabeth Armstrong Gordon, Bruce grew up in Fairfax, VA; graduated from W. T. Woodson High School, and was a longtime resident of Annandale, VA. A particle physicist by training, he held an undergraduate degree from MIT and a PhD from Harvard.

He worked as a research physicist at Science Applications International Corporation in McLean, VA, and simultaneously co-founded Media Systems, Inc., consultants to radio, television and cable outlets. In 1995 he became a full-time systems architect and software developer for Media Systems, where he remained until retirement.

His wide-ranging enthusiasms included fantasy and science fiction writing, pottery making, Egyptology, music from the classical composers to Gilbert & Sullivan and Stephen Sondheim, food and wine. He treasured good conversation among friends and was always ready to share a laugh.

Bruce and his much loved first wife, Dr. Anne Elaine Caesar, were together for 35 years until her death in 2009. He later traded northern for southwestern Virginia and was married again in 2014 to his cherished second wife, Dr. Deborah Michelle Garfield; she passed away in 2023. He was also preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include a brother, Donald R. Gordon; a sister-in-law, Carol A. Johnston; and nephews Christopher, Alexander and Andrew Gordon, all of Los Angeles. In addition, Bruce leaves behind loving brothers-in-law David and Michael Garfield, of Tennessee, and many devoted family members, friends, colleagues and caregivers. All who knew him will miss Bruce's intelligence and creativity, his wit and his gentle spirit.

A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date. Arrangements by Weaver Funeral Home, Bristol, TN.

WING



GLADYS NORTHCOTT WING "Sis"

McLean, VA has lost one of its most charismatic citizens with the passing of Sis Wing at the age of 97 on June 28, 2024. She died at her home from heart disease.

Sis was born on May 26, 1927 in Huntington, West Virginia and was a member of a prominent West Virginia family. Her grandfather, Elliott Northcott, was a diplomat and a federal judge. She studied journalism at the University of Missouri and was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She worked for five years as a newspaper woman.

In 1952 she married Albert G. Wing Jr., a highly decorated career Army officer and World War II veteran who reached the rank of colonel. His commendations included the Purple Heart.

The couple's Army postings included France and Germany, where Sis was able to continue to pursue her passion for horseback riding and fox hunting. They settled in McLean in 1960 and raised four boys. In addition to being a devoted mother, Sis worked as a real estate agent and volunteered with the Junior League, the St. John's Episcopal Church Altar Guild, and was secretary of the Greater McLean Republican Women's Club.

She was very popular across all age groups, and despite family tragedies – two of her sons predeceased her – she radiated a positive outlook and kept people entertained with her amusing stories.

The family's base in McLean was a c. 1897 farmhouse on Swinks Mill Road, where visitors could get a taste of old Virginia among the family portraits and antiques.

The four acres around the house were, and continue to be, a wildlife haven.

Sis Wing is survived by her son Andrew N. Wing, and her son John M. Wing and his wife Jennifer Lynn Wing. Her sons Albert G. Wing III and Robert E. Wing predeceased her. Albert Wing's wife Lydia Wing also survives her.

Sis will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery next to her late husband.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Murphy Funeral Homes Falls Church, VA. The date of the funeral has yet to be announced.

When the need arises,
let families find you in the
Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory,
please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

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THE WEATHER

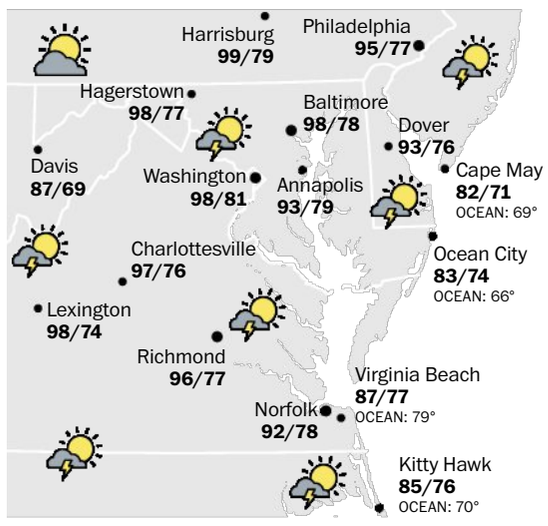
WASHINGTONPOST.COM/WEATHER · X: @CAPITALWEATHER · FACEBOOK.COM/CAPITALWEATHER

More heat and some haze

Another day of partial sun, lots of heat and some haze. Highs should reach the mid-90s to about 100 across the area, and the immediate area flirts with 100 in many spots. Given the high humidity, it feels more like 105 to 110 in the afternoon. An isolated storm isn't impossible but is rather unlikely in any one spot.

Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
T-storm	T-storm	T-storms	T-storms	T-storm	Partly sunny, hot
98° 81°	**95°** 75°	**95°** 75°	**82°** 72°	**89°** 75°	**95°** 76°
FEELS*: **105°**	FEELS: **102°**	FEELS: **96°**	FEELS: **89°**	FEELS: **95°**	FEELS: **98°**
CHNCE PRECIP: **40%**	P: **40%**	P: **70%**	P: **90%**	P: **80%**	P: **15%**
WIND: **S 6–12 mph**	W: **S 8–16 mph**	W: **NNW 7–14 mph**	W: **SSW 4–8 mph**	W: **NNW 4–8 mph**	W: **W 6–12 mph**
HUMIDITY: **Very High**	H: **Very High**	H: **High**	H: **High**	H: **High**	H: **High**

REGION



Pollen: Moderate

Grass	Low
Trees	Low
Weeds	Low
Mold	Moderate

Air Quality: Moderate
Dominant cause: Ozone

UV: Extreme
11 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, partly sunny, then clouds. Hot in northern parts; humid in southern parts. High 79 to 85. Winds south 4–8 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, warm. A thunderstorm in spots; however, dry in southern parts; humid in northern parts.

Atlantic beaches: Today, a stray afternoon thunderstorm, humid. High 83 to 92. Winds south 7–14 mph. Tonight, uncomfortably humid. Low 72 to 78. Winds south 7–14 mph. Wednesday, a thunderstorm in spots. High 83 to 90. Winds south 8–16 mph.

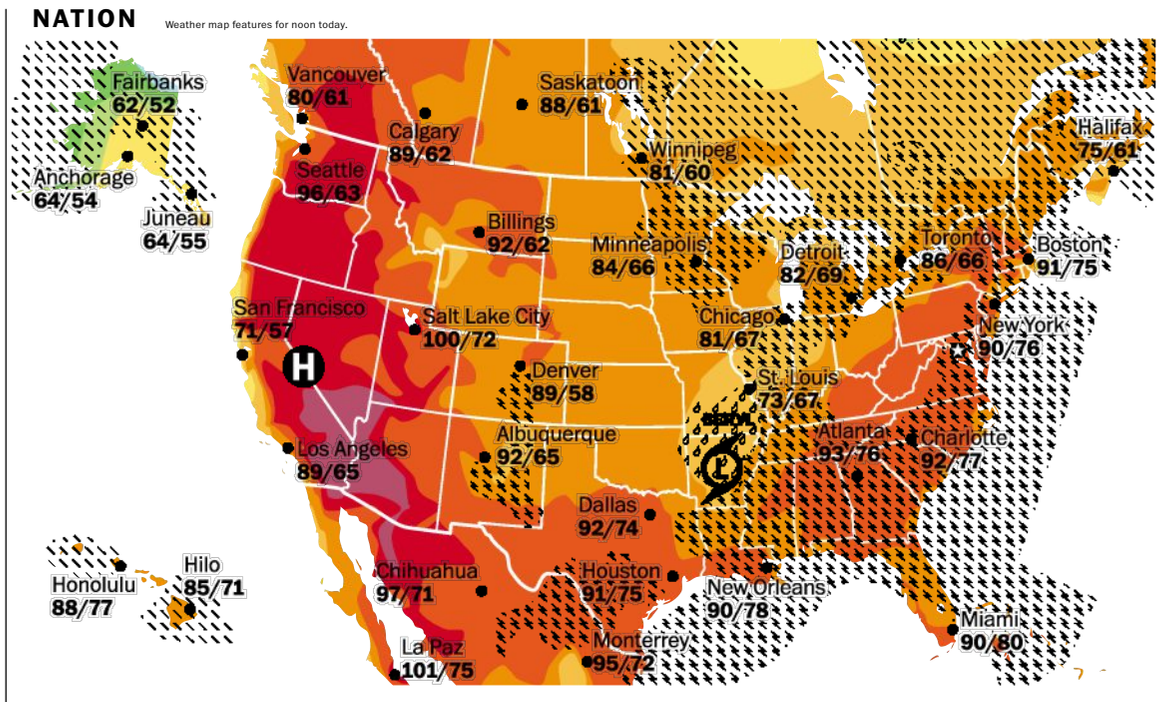
Waterways: *Upper Potomac River*: Today, partly sunny, then clouds, a t-storm around in the afternoon. Wind south 6–12 knots. Waves 0–1 foot. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay*: Today, partly sunny, then clouds, a t-storm around in the afternoon. Wind south 6–12 knots. Waves 0–1 foot on the Lower Potomac; 1–2 feet on the Chesapeake Bay.• *River Stages*: The stage at Little Falls will be around 2.70 feet today, with no change of 2.70 Wednesday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in **Bold**)

Washington	5:44 a.m.	**11:06 a.m.**	6:24 p.m.	**11:49 p.m.**
Annapolis	1:45 a.m.	**8:28 a.m.**	3:00 p.m.	**8:40 p.m.**
Ocean City	4:48 a.m.	**10:37 a.m.**	4:39 p.m.	**11:01 p.m.**
Norfolk	**12:18 a.m.**	6:42 a.m.	**12:51 p.m.**	6:45 p.m.
Point Lookout	**4:21 a.m.**	11:20 a.m.	**4:52 p.m.**	10:45 p.m.

NATION

Weather map features for noon today.



T-storms · Rain · Showers · Snow · Flurries · Ice · Cold Front · Warm Front · Stationary Front

<–10 | –0s | 0s | 10s | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70s | 80s | 90s | 100s | 110+

Yesterday's National
High: Needles, CA **120°**
Low: Gould, CO **31°**
for the 48 contiguous states

World
High: Sunaynah, Oman **122°**
Low: Uspallata, Argentina **11°**
excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow
Albany, NY	96/74/t	86/74/t
Albuquerque	92/65/s	92/66/pc
Anchorage	64/54/c	66/53/c
Atlanta	93/76/t	90/71/pc
Austin	97/74/t	97/73/t
Baltimore	98/78/t	93/78/t
Billings, MT	92/62/s	98/65/s
Birmingham	91/71/t	88/69/sh
Bismarck, ND	88/60/s	87/62/s
Boise	106/73/s	109/71/s
Boston	91/75/pc	89/74/t
Buffalo	86/70/t	79/67/t
Burlington, VT	91/71/t	79/71/r
Charleston, SC	90/78/t	92/77/t
Charleston, WV	95/75/c	89/64/t
Charlotte	92/77/t	93/72/t
Cheyenne, WY	83/53/s	87/55/s
Chicago	81/67/t	78/65/r
Cincinnati	88/69/t	77/64/t
Cleveland	85/71/pc	83/67/t
Dallas	92/74/pc	94/75/pc
Denver	89/58/pc	91/62/pc
Des Moines	83/65/pc	82/65/t
Detroit	82/69/t	74/63/r
El Paso	99/76/c	99/75/s
Fairbanks, AK	62/52/r	74/55/pc
Fargo, ND	85/63/pc	88/65/pc
Hartford, CT	95/74/t	92/75/t
Honolulu	88/77/sh	88/79/sh
Houston	91/75/pc	93/74/t
Indianapolis	78/66/r	77/63/r
Jackson, MS	90/70/t	88/68/pc
Jacksonville, FL	91/76/t	91/76/t
Kansas City, MO	82/64/s	85/66/s
Las Vegas	117/90/s	119/90/s
Little Rock	79/69/r	87/70/c
Los Angeles	89/65/s	93/65/s
Louisville	88/70/t	80/66/t
Memphis	82/67/t	84/70/c
Miami	90/80/c	93/78/t
Milwaukee	78/67/pc	73/65/c
Minneapolis	84/66/pc	85/66/t
Nashville	95/71/t	86/69/pc
New Orleans	90/78/t	91/78/pc
New York City	90/76/t	87/74/t
Norfolk	92/78/t	90/77/t
Oklahoma City	87/66/c	90/66/s
Omaha	85/65/s	85/64/t
Orlando	85/76/t	89/75/t
Philadelphia	95/77/t	92/76/t
Phoenix	116/89/s	116/90/s
Pittsburgh	93/75/pc	90/68/t
Portland, ME	85/71/t	83/68/t
Portland, OR	105/67/s	92/60/s
Providence, RI	87/72/pc	86/71/t
Raleigh, NC	95/77/t	93/74/t
Reno, NV	105/67/s	107/67/s
Richmond	96/77/t	94/76/t
Sacramento	95/59/s	105/63/s
St. Louis	73/67/r	84/68/sh
St. Thomas, VI	90/81/pc	90/81/t
Salt Lake City	100/72/pc	104/76/s
San Diego	78/66/pc	78/67/pc
San Francisco	71/57/pc	76/57/pc
San Juan, PR	91/80/t	91/79/t
Seattle	96/63/s	86/58/s
Spokane, WA	103/72/s	106/65/s
Syracuse	92/73/pc	88/72/t
Tampa	89/81/t	88/80/t
Wichita	88/65/pc	91/67/s

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow
Addis Ababa	70/55/sh	71/56/sh
Amsterdam	79/62/sh	71/60/sh
Athens	98/82/s	98/82/s
Auckland	59/49/sh	59/45/s
Baghdad	115/88/pc	117/90/s
Bangkok	93/80/t	94/80/t
Beijing	93/69/t	96/73/t
Berlin	88/70/pc	86/65/t
Bogota	68/49/c	70/47/r
Brussels	84/63/t	75/58/sh
Buenos Aires	47/36/s	48/37/s
Cairo	98/81/c	101/83/s
Caracas	78/65/t	78/64/t
Copenhagen	70/64/c	76/59/sh
Dakar	85/77/pc	86/78/pc
Dublin	58/52/sh	66/52/c
Edinburgh	59/53/r	60/51/r
Frankfurt	90/68/s	80/61/t
Geneva	88/64/pc	83/61/t
Ham., Bermuda	85/77/pc	84/77/s
Helsinki	70/50/sh	75/53/s
Ho Chi Minh City	92/77/r	90/77/t
Hong Kong	93/83/t	93/83/t
Islamabad	97/80/s	97/79/s
Istanbul	91/77/s	91/77/s
Jerusalem	91/73/s	94/75/s
Johannesburg	57/36/s	68/43/s
Kabul	93/67/s	94/66/s
Kingston, Jam.	90/81/t	90/81/t
Kolkata	92/82/t	93/83/c
Kyiv	89/70/pc	88/69/s
Lagos	85/76/sh	85/75/r
Lima	66/60/c	66/60/pc
Lisbon	76/67/r	81/67/pc
London	67/59/sh	71/55/pc
Madrid	88/66/pc	93/71/s
Manila	89/79/t	90/78/t
Mexico City	77/58/sh	71/57/r
Montreal	86/69/t	79/66/r
Moscow	85/60/c	78/57/s
Mumbai	86/80/r	86/80/t
Nairobi	74/57/t	72/54/c
New Delhi	93/84/t	97/85/t
Oslo	72/53/pc	63/59/r
Ottawa	83/66/t	74/64/r
Paris	84/64/c	79/60/c
Prague	87/65/c	86/63/sh
Rio de Janeiro	76/69/pc	77/69/pc
Riyadh	112/89/s	115/90/pc
Rome	89/64/s	92/63/s
San Salvador	85/70/t	86/69/c
Santiago	57/33/s	53/31/pc
Sarajevo	93/60/t	97/60/s
Seoul	78/73/c	83/72/r
Shanghai	99/83/pc	93/80/t
Singapore	87/77/sh	86/79/t
Stockholm	71/51/pc	71/62/pc
Sydney	66/48/pc	66/48/pc
Taipei City	96/77/pc	97/77/t
Tehran	102/82/s	102/83/s
Tokyo	94/80/c	93/78/c
Toronto	86/66/t	73/65/r
Vienna	90/69/pc	95/70/t
Warsaw	86/67/s	91/70/pc

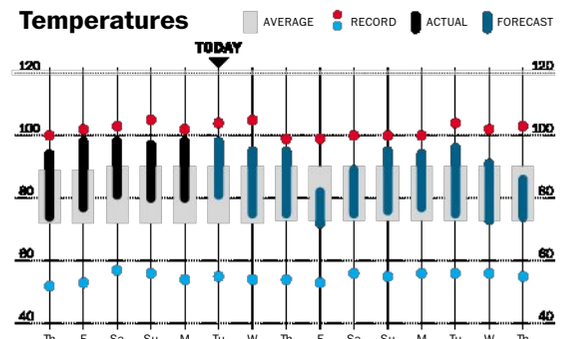
Key: **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **r**-rain, **sh**- showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sources: **AccuWeather.com**; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality data); National Weather Service

* AccuWeather's **RealFeel Temperature®** combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

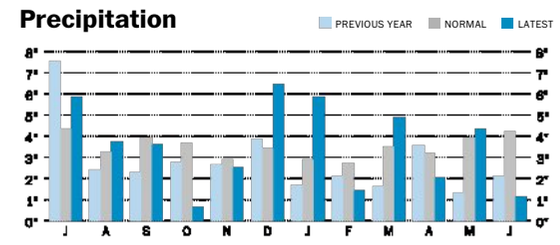


Statistics through 5 p.m. Monday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	**98°** 3:39 p.m.	**96°** 2:59 p.m.	**98°** 12:35 p.m.
Low	**80°** 6:00 a.m.	**71°** 6:00 a.m.	**73°** 5:00 a.m.
Normal	90°/72°	88°/67°	89°/68°
Record high	102° 2012	101° 2012	100° 2012
Record low	54° 1891	48° 1983	53° 2000

Difference from 30–yr. avg. (National): this month: **+2.9°** yr. to date: **+3.1°**

Precipitation



	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"
Total this month	0.26"	0.68"	Trace
Normal	1.17"	1.09"	1.04"
Total this year	19.95"	18.67"	21.69"
Normal	21.60"	22.73"	22.36"

Moon Phases

July 13	July 21	July 27	Aug 4
First Quarter	Full	Last Quarter	New

Solar system

	Rise	Set
Sun	5:51 a.m.	8:35 p.m.
Moon	9:20 a.m.	11:10 p.m.
Venus	6:37 a.m.	9:14 p.m.
Mars	2:14 a.m.	4:18 p.m.
Jupiter	3:13 a.m.	5:47 p.m.
Saturn	11:37 p.m.	11:04 a.m.

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The Washington Post
Style

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

EZ RE

C

Once-flourishing USA Today now faces struggles of other dailies

BY PAUL FARHI

It was snappy and colorful. It was new and different.

And much of the rest of the newspaper industry seemed to hate it.

USA Today left critics aghast when it debuted 42 years ago. Rival editors sneered at its bite-sized stories and relentlessly cheerful tone. (Headline on a plane crash story: "Miracle: 327 survive, 58 die") The reporting was often so brief and superficial that insiders joked their work would win awards for "best investigative paragraph." It was dubbed "McPaper," the news equivalent of junk food.

The joke was on the critics. USA Today became one of the most influential media creations of the past half century. "McPaper" now looks like the prototype for news on the internet, circa 2024.

But what about USA Today itself?

Once so ubiquitous — from its distinctive newspaper boxes and copies landing at hotel room doors nationwide — USA Today has lost much of its visibility while contending with the same economic pressures challenging all media outlets, such as a shrinking readership and an evaporating ad base.

Last week, USA Today's top editor, Terence Samuel, abruptly resigned after just a year. He was the paper's fifth editor in chief in 15 years and the first Black journalist to hold the job. Neither he nor parent company Gannett Co. offered an

SEE **USA TODAY** ON **C8**



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; SHORE FIRE MEDIA

When a spit take becomes a viral hit

Haliey Welch, a.k.a. 'Hawk Tuah Girl,' gained fame for a bawdy comment. What's next?

BY MARK ELLWOOD

At a June 29 concert in Nashville, country star Zach Bryan brought a surprise duet partner onstage to sing his hit song, "Revival." She was dressed in Daisy Duke shorts, a crop top, white boots and a wide-brimmed cowboy hat. She wasn't a fellow country star, though, but rather the internet's latest darling, Haliey Welch, better known now as "Hawk Tuah Girl." She earned the nickname via a viral video that popped up a couple weeks earlier. In it, the 21-year-old factory worker from Tennessee is asked by YouTubers Tim and Dee to share what "move in bed makes a man go crazy every time?" Welch responds with a graphic tip. "You gotta give 'em that 'hawk tuah' and spit on that thang!" she says, in a deep Southern drawl.

That clip, released June 11, has racked up millions of views across social platforms, and Welch didn't hesitate to capitalize on her raunchy sound bite. She partnered with a longtime friend, Jason Poteete of Fathead Threads, to launch her own merchandise line: caps with sloganeering taglines such as "Hawk Tuah '24" sell for $30 ($10 more if signed), or $20 graphic tees with lines including "If she don't hawk tuah, I don't wanna tawk tuah" (say it aloud). Cannily, she asked that the firm not feature her face on any of the products, focusing instead on her catchphrase. Poteete said that he's sold more than 2,000 of the hats alone with the largest orders for 100 or so at a time; Welch's cut of the sales is unclear, but Poteete confirmed to Rolling Stone that she's sharing in the profits.

Initial rumors even suggested Welch had signed

SEE **HAWK TUAH** ON **C3**

Haliey Welch's candid answer to a sex-related question made her social media famous, and she has capitalized on that with products incorporating her quote, but not her likeness.

Daughter of Alice Munro reveals family secret of sexual abuse

BY SOPHIA NGUYEN

When the Nobel Prize-winning Canadian author Alice Munro died in May at age 92, her many admirers paid tribute to the subtle construction of her short stories, which often involved the gradual unveiling of a terrible revelation.

Andrea Robin Skinner, one of Munro's daughters, published an essay in the Toronto Star on Sunday that brought to light a long-held secret in the author's own family: Munro's husband, geographer Gerald Fremlin, had sexually abused Skinner starting in 1976, when she was 9. Munro learned of the abuse when Skinner wrote to her about it 16 years later, and ultimately decided to stay with Fremlin afterward. Fremlin wrote letters to the Munro family, admitting to the abuse in graphic detail and blaming Skinner, describing her as a "homewrecker." Skinner's essay in the Star was accompanied by an article by two reporters at the paper.

Munro remained married to Fremlin until his death in 2013. "She was adamant that whatever had happened was between me and my stepfather," Skinner wrote. "It had nothing to do with her."

In the essay, Skinner described the initial sexual assault, which occurred

SEE **MUNRO** ON **C8**

JOHN CENA
The pro wrestling superstar, below, says he'll retire from the ring next year. **C2**

MEDIA
Paramount has reached a deal to merge with Skydance. Here's what that means. **C4**

CAROLYN HAX
Marriage is at breaking point over husband's approach toward addicted son. **C8**



THEATER REVIEW

Musical about Carole King is enjoyable, if not Earth-moving

BY CHRIS KLIMEK

There's a contradiction at the center of "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical," a buoyant and enjoyable if not particularly curious dramatization of roughly the first dozen years of the groundbreaking singer-songwriter's career that opened at Olney Theatre Center on Saturday night: By making its narrative spine King's evolution from teenage Brill Building hitmaker to Earth-moving solo singer-songwriter, the show asks us to buy for 2.4 of its 2.5 hours that its subject is insecure about performing in public. This was true of King, early in her career. It just isn't, you know. *Believable*.

Not in the context of a musical, anyway. Natalie Weiss, a popular YouTuber/TikToker and vocal coach, embodies the nascent star in Olney's production with more warmth than depth, but she's got it where it counts: in the pipes. The only time I didn't believe her was when she was protesting, as the show repeatedly requires King to protest, that she'd rather write songs for others than have people watch her perform them herself.

It would be unfair to expect an actor to fill in the psychological blanks left by Douglas McGrath's book, which has the reverential tenor of an authorized biography throughout its first act and becomes downright hagiographical in its too-hurried second. But anyone who's read "A Natural Woman," the memoir King published in 2012 — a year before "Beautiful" had its world premiere at San Francisco's Curran Theatre — will recognize that Weiss's inviting characterization isn't far removed from the way the self-effacing King describes herself.

While King's gifts as a composer were evident from the moment she sold her first song to publisher Don Kirshner at the age of 16, it wasn't until her late 20s — after she'd divorced her philandering husband and songwriting partner Gerry Goffin and lit out for the leafy Los Angeles hamlet of Laurel Canyon — that she came fully into her own with "Tapestry," the Grammy Award-winning, megaselling 1971 album that remains her most singular creation. King's headlining debut at Carnegie Hall that summer serves as the climax to "Beautiful," which derives what little dramatic tension it

SEE **THEATER REVIEW** ON **C3**



TERESA CASTRACANE

Ariana Caldwell stars as Little Eva in Olney Theatre Center's production of "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical."

John Cena announces his retirement, but you can still see him for a bit

BY HERB SCRIBNER

Longtime professional wrestler turned actor John Cena announced Saturday that he plans to retire from the squared circle by the end of 2025, signaling the end of one of the most notable wrestling careers in the last two decades. But his time isn't over yet.

Cena, a 16-time WWE world champion who made a career jump to Hollywood in the past decade, explained his plans to retire in front of thousands at the "Money in the Bank" WWE event in Toronto. The declaration shocked the wrestling world because Cena wasn't scheduled to appear on the show.

"I want to say thank you," he told the crowd, who responded with "Thank you, Cena" chants.

"Thank you so much for letting me play in the house that you built for so many years," he added. "Thank you so much always for your voice because it's really loud and your honesty because it's beautifully brutal."

Cena said he will appear during WWE's first episode of "Monday Night Raw" on Netflix, which is set to begin in January 2025, after a $5 billion deal between WWE and the streaming service. Cena said he will also attend two of WWE's early 2025 event "Elimination Chamber," and the annual "Royal Rumble" (where 30 wrestlers compete in an over-the-top rope battle royale for a shot at the heavyweight title). He also plans to compete at WWE's mega show, WrestleMania 41 from Las Vegas next year.



WWE/GETTY IMAGES

Longtime wrestler John Cena announced his retirement Saturday at WWE's "Money in the Bank" event at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto.

All told, Cena said he would wrestle throughout 2025 (around 30 to 40 dates, he said) and potentially seek a chance at WWE's heavyweight title. Winning the championship one more time would allow the 47-year-old Cena, who WWE deems as the "greatest of all time," to surpass 1980s and '90s wrestling star Ric Flair, who is currently tied with Cena for the record of most world title wins.

"People say they're walking away, and two years later they come back. I want to set the record straight right now, I'm done. This is it," Cena said in the news conference. "If you ever wanted to be a part of this one last time, we're going to do it as big as we can and we're fighting everybody, and we hope you come enjoy the fun and enjoy the show."

Fans on social media speculated that Cena could win one more title reign to surpass Flair, with many deeming the accomplishment a proper send-off. Others expressed sadness over his career coming to an end, mostly since he's been a mainstay in WWE for so long, immortalizing himself with his jean short aesthetic.

"They gotta hang up Cena's jorts in the arena like it's an NBA Championship banner," wrote one X user.

Asked for comment, WWE pointed to its Saturday news conference.

Cena made his WWE debut in 2002 as a generic, prototype wrestler. He didn't catch on with live audiences until he rebranded himself as the "Doctor of Thuganomics," a gimmick in which he would rap about his opponents. His career blossomed from there, and he became the face of the company for more than a decade.

Fans turned their backs on Cena once he reached the top of the mountain, as he won match after match and rarely lost the championship. Though Cena was still a massive hero for children and young fans, many adults saw him as the embodiment of pro wrestling's turn toward family-friendly content — a step away from the rowdier product that they grew up watching.

Still, he continued to headline pay-per-view events and television broadcasts. He even announced the death of Osama bin Laden at a live event.

Cena slowly stepped away from the squared circle for Hollywood with breakout performances in 2015's "Trainwreck," 2018's "Bumblebee" and 2021's "The Suicide Squad." His appearances in the Fast and Furious franchise and his starring role on HBO's "Peacemaker" show solidified his status in Hollywood. He has since made small cameos in hit projects like 2023's "Barbie" (as a merman Ken doll) and a recent episode of "The Bear." Representatives for Cena did not respond to a request for questions about what Cena's WWE retirement means for his acting career.

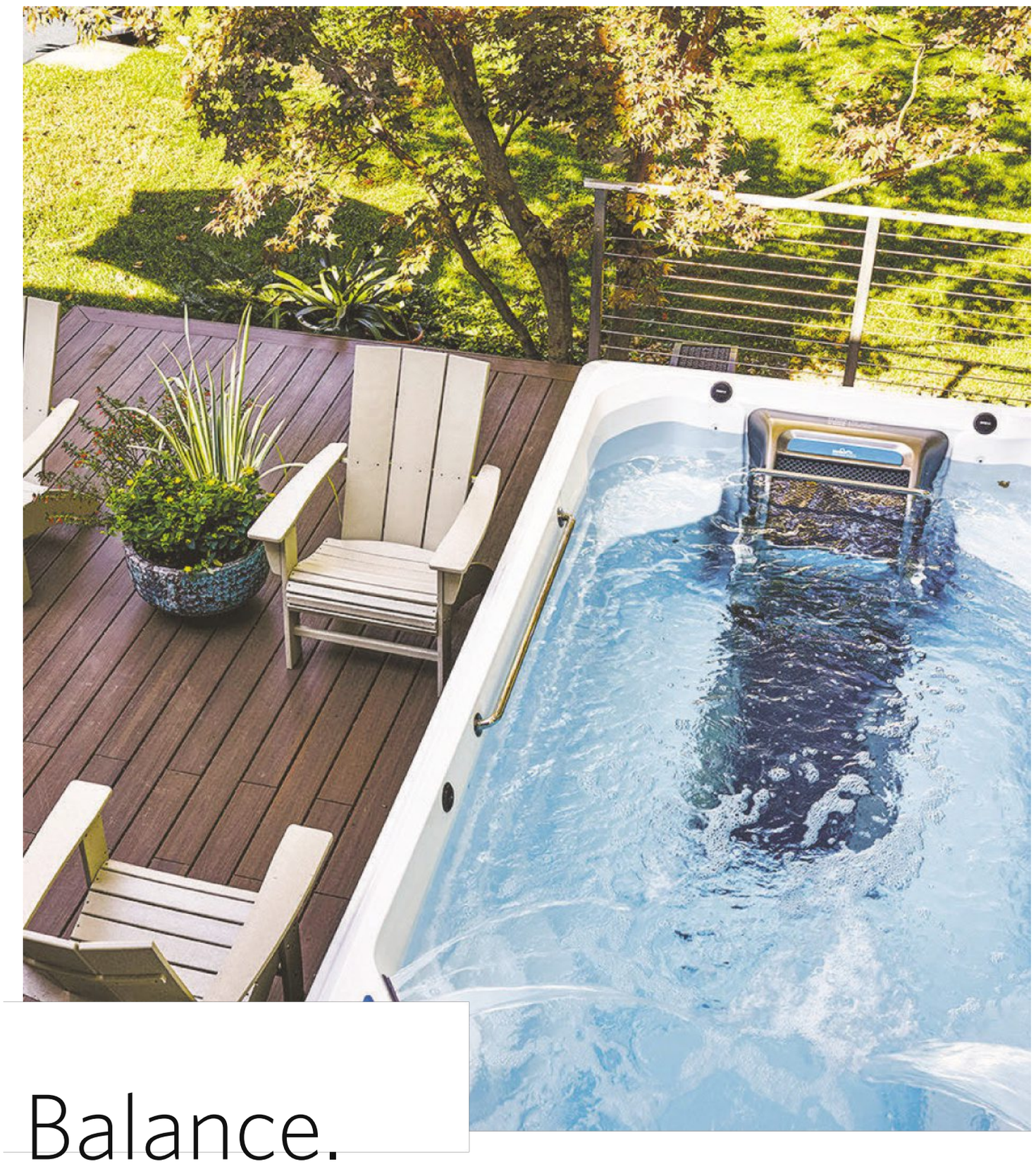
All the while, Cena has intermittingly returned to the ring to speak with crowds or hold one-off matches to further the careers of younger talent. Two of his more recent WWE matches include losses to up-and-comer Austin Theory and the villainous Solo Sikoa. Cena also briefly returned at WrestleMania 40, where he had a brief stare-down and skirmish with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (a throwback to their bouts in 2011 and 2012).

> *"If you ever wanted to be a part of this one last time, we're going to do it as big as we can and we're fighting everybody, and we hope you come enjoy the fun and enjoy the show."*
>
> **John Cena,** ahead of his retirement tour

Cena has hinted for months in various interviews that he plans to retire from professional wrestling in the near future, as his age and acting schedule hinder his ability to appear consistently. Though the official announcement appeared to come as a surprise to many, Cena told the live crowd that the "Money in the Bank" event was the right moment to declare his exit.

"Why now? Because it's 'Money in the Bank,'" he said. "The ultimate symbol of opportunity. And this farewell does not end tonight — it is filled with opportunities."

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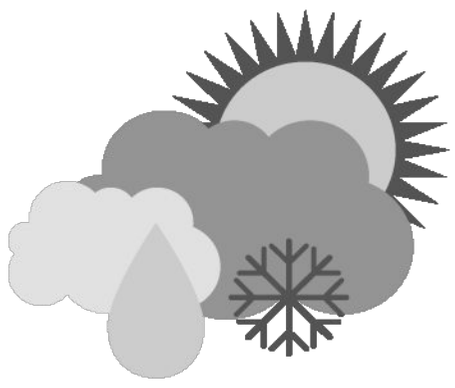
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Will online fame be fleeting for her?

HAWK TUAH FROM **C1**

with Hollywood agency UTA. "It's untrue," said a UTA spokesperson tersely, keen to emphasize there were never even discussions. Rather she's now repped by Jonnie Forster, of music specialist agency the Penthouse in Nashville; he calls her "America's sweetheart," and has already helped her register trademarks for both merchandise and entertainment services, such as live comedy shows and podcasts. Welch's new company, which owns those trademarks, is smartly named: 16 Minutes LLC. She also recently changed the spelling of her first name from the more pedestrian "Hailey" to the presumably more Googleable "Haliey."

Welch is the latest in a long line of viral celebrities, ordinary Americans minted by memes into a fleeting fame. Remember "Alex from Target," the teen who went from working at a Target cash register in Frisco, Tex., to the couch on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show"? Or Jonathan "I Like Turtles" Ware, the 10-year-old in zombie face paint who deadpanned his answer to a local TV reporter in Portland, Ore.?

Abbie Richards understands firsthand. The misinformation researcher saw her homemade conspiracy theory chart go viral during the early months of the pandemic. "It's emotional and overwhelming, and not an experience I would describe as fun or pleasurable in any way," she says now, after people on social media nicknamed her "Chart Girl."

"You're fundamentally smushed down to this tiny, tiny fraction of who you are," Richards said. "Your brain is not built to process that many people having opinions about you." The volume of such insta-stars is increasing, but only a handful manage to eke out more than a few days of fame. Hawk Tuah Girl is one of them. Richards says she made "zero dollars" off her own brief fame, and declined to create merch, despite requests. "[Welch] is certainly getting judged for it, without a doubt, but it's just a matter of how much you care," Richards said.

Welch, who didn't respond to The Washington Post's requests for comment, granted her first sit-down interview to Brianna LaPaglia (a.k.a. Brianna Chickenfry) on the "Plan Bri Uncut" podcast. (LaPaglia is also singer Zach Bryan's girlfriend.) Welch spoke there about the fake accounts that sprang up, purporting to be the real Hawk Tuah: "They got pictures of all my friends, like social media and stuff like that. It's kind of creepy. Seeing your face on another account that [you] don't belong to," she said, noting the outré requests she declined. "The guy that does my hats, he got offered $600 three days ago for me to spit in a jar and sell it."

The relative durability of Welch's meme fame is intriguing, and lies in part with a shift in online subculture, said Max Read, a journalist who came to prominence at the news site Gawker for his viral savvy. He now writes a newsletter, Read Max, on internet culture. "For years, the internet was a nerd's paradise because the outsiders came online first," he said.

That changed with the arrival of a different and larger online demographic: "It's the frat boy, jockish college sports-obsessed gambling type who likes to drink, with celebrities and personalities that collect around Barstool Sports," Read explained, referencing the media company run by Dave Portnoy. Barstool also launched the podcast "Call Her Daddy" (now on Spotify), which has the same raunchy tone as Hawk Tuah Girl's meme. Read calls this the "Zynternet," a nod to the nicotine pouches (Zyn) also beloved by that audience niche. It's no coincidence, he pointed out, that Welch has a Southern drawl, which better anchors her in this subculture. So, too, does her appearance: conventionally pretty, blond and White. It also helps that the raunchiness of her meme doesn't just appeal to the Zynternet, but also keeps her off broadcast media's roundups of social buzz. She hasn't been smothered by mainstream overexposure.

Technical changes in social media have also bolstered folks like Welch, said Rachel Richardson, whose Highly Flammable newsletter chronicles the viral world. TikTok features such as "duetting" and "stitching" allow viewers to insert their reactions into a meme and then repost it, earning a shard of reflected fame as they do. (The punchline-like Hawk Tuah is particularly easy to repurpose.) On YouTube, it's not uncommon to see fan-created content, such as analysis of a concert, earn more views than the original.

"It's like letting go of a balloon in the park. The online audience will do what they want to do with it now," Richardson said. She draws parallels between Welch and Alix Earle, a successful TikToker from New Jersey; she hawks, too, but in her case, it's brand endorsements in paid videos. "They look the same: pretty, blond, they contour their faces, and have a quick answer for things. There's a blueprint for her there."

Welch's story has also been propelled by misinformation: Errors are more feature than bug when it comes to meme fame, fueling the story rather than derailing it. In her interview on the "Plan Bri Uncut" podcast, Welch corrected a series of errors: She isn't a teacher (she's too young and works in a factory), her father isn't a preacher and she didn't drop out of school because of the video (she left years ago). "The idea she got fired from her job is a good story, because it rhymes nicely," said Read. "One of the easiest ways for someone to try to get attention for themselves on the back of something going viral is to make up a story."

Though untrue, "it's such a good narrative: she talked about sex and now she's not allowed around kids," said Abbie Richards, "And a great headline will get you clicks, which are worth money to sell ad dollars."

Welch is certainly following a template that many before her have tried. Gina Rodriguez is a former adult-film star who turned to management in 2009. She started by helping another X-rated actress, Joslyn James, parlay her role in the Tiger Woods cheating scandal into earning opportunities. Since then, Rodriguez has focused on managing meme-famers, including Patricia Krentcil (a.k.a. Tan Mom) and Nadya Suleman (who once ruled the tabloids as Octomom). For Tessica Brown, better known as Gorilla Glue Girl (after posting a video where she confessed to using that rather than hair gel when she ran low), Rodriguez brokered a hair-care line for damaged hair. "We hawked her out and were able to make it last for about a year, but now her route is reality TV — she has a very big personality."

Rodriguez's most recent breakout success was with Nathan Apodaca, or DoggFace, whose video of him skating to Fleetwood Mac's song "Dreams" while drinking cranberry juice broke out during the pandemic. "He was working in a potato factory, and living in a trailer with no running water, she said. "I reached out to him and said 'I'll make you a million dollars' and we did that in four months." She brokered merch deals: Rodriguez has a provider on standby for moments like this, and says she can have clients photographed in their own products within 24 hours.

Rodriguez also helped Apodaca snare endorsements and land acting gigs, including several episodes of the TV series "Reservation Dogs." Rather than waiting to produce comedy podcasts under her own shingle, Rodriguez doesn't understand why Welch isn't already monetizing her Hawk Tuah fame more directly — and with far less effort — by setting up photographs with paparazzi wearing her own product, probably in a bikini somewhere warm.

"In a bathing suit, she could clean up," Rodriguez said. "It's summertime after all."



SHORE FIRE MEDIA

Misinformation about Haliey Welch, a.k.a. "Hawk Tuah Girl," has helped fuel her online exposure.

In Olney Theatre musical, Weiss proves to be a natural as songwriter King

THEATER REVIEW FROM **C1**

achieves from two sources: King's losing battle to persuade creatively and sexually restless Goffin (a nimble Michael Perrie Jr.) to embrace monogamous domesticity, and the songwriting team's friendly rivalry with another prolific pair of hitmakers and romantic partners, Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann (Nikki Mirza and Calvin McCullough, respectively).

The caffeinated tempo of Olney's crowd-pleasing production is often an asset: When director Amy Anders Corcoran smashcuts from King and Goffin working through their demo of "Some Kind of Wonderful" in Kirshner's office to the Drifters performing the released version in their bedazzled blue tuxedos, we feel what a rush it must have been for a pair of still-wet-behind-the ears artists to have their songs performed on TV and radio, and in clubs that King, at least, was not yet old enough to get into. At the same time, you feel some sympathy for the four guys who look and sound so smooth as the Drifters, who like many members of the large company don't even get to speak lines of dialogue.

Weiss's relentlessly plucky King gets some tonal ballast from Donna Migliaccio's saturnine take on Genie Klein, the songwriter's less-than-encouraging mother, and especially from Bobby Smith's lovably gruff Kirshner, who has an ability to recognize a hit when he hears one, even if it's not always aligned with his personal taste.

McGrath's narrative impatience becomes harder to overlook in the second act, which speedwalks through King's decision to leave Goffin, and the East Coast, so we can get to the "Tapestry" numbers. James Taylor, who became a lifelong friend to King after her move west and encouraged her to perform isn't mentioned at all, while Kurt Boehm's scene in a terrible wig as producer Lou Adler — nudging King to put aside the painful memories of her marriage and record her own take of "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" a Goffin/King/Jerry Wexler song that had already been a Top 10 hit for Aretha Franklin — is so brief it borders on parody.

But again, the story is not the reason "Beautiful" has become a reliable seat-filler. We're here to hear these ancient-but-ageless chart-toppers — King/Goffin's "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?" recorded by the Shirelles; Mann/Weil's "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," recorded by the Righteous Brothers, plus two dozen others — performed by energetic singers. I can cling to my generally low regard for jukebox musicals while admitting this policy is sort of snobbish and nonsensical, especially when I find myself cheerfully nodding along to songs I didn't even know I knew. After all, how many of the new musicals that have arrived since "Beautiful" can boast songs as undeniable as these classics?

As Saint Stephen Sondheim once put it, "Damn few."

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, through Aug. 25 at Olney Theatre Center in Olney, Md. Two hours, 30 minutes, including one intermission. *olneytheatre.org*.



TERESA CASTRACANE

Natalie Weiss, a popular YouTuber/TikToker and vocal coach, plays the titular singer-songwriter in Olney Theatre Center's production of "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical."

Boss with a company in the tech sector won't stop bringing up age of colleagues

Asking Eric

R. ERIC THOMAS

Dear Eric: I am a 50-year-old technology worker. My boss is in her early 40s. She has made comments that are not my business about co-workers in their 60s who she says "should retire." Needless to say I'm not too far behind those folks in age.

I get Botox, filler, color my hair, diet and exercise and keep up on all the latest technology. However, like everyone who isn't a vampire, I'm aging. I've had some health issues and I will need to work until at least 65 to pay for my health insurance and medications. The earliest I could even receive Social Security is still 12 years away!

I feel very anxious about losing my job because I'm too "old." Widespread ageism is common in the tech industry, where youth is highly celebrated; it's not just my boss. Is there a gentle way to remind people that age is not a topic that should come up in the workplace unless it is specifically related to succession or retirement planning? Do I just let it go?

— No More Age Talk

Age: You don't have to let it go! What you're experiencing isn't fair and may cross a legal line. I reached out to human resources expert Hannah Marks, a people and talent adviser at Culture Marks, for guidance.

"As a first step for any employees experiencing ageism in the workplace," she said, "it is key to maintain documentation of any/all instances. From there, it's always a good idea to flag the situation to your HR team. If the company is too small and doesn't yet have an HR team (often the case in tech), bringing this up to a manager or senior leader is another good option. In more severe cases, or when HR/senior leadership has failed to appropriately address the situation, employees have the right to seek legal counsel."

You do have resources, even if the culture of your workplace suggests otherwise. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act specifically forbids age discrimination against people who are age 40 or older.

If you want to learn more about the law and your options for reporting, I'd encourage you to visit the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's website. They have a whole section dedicated to age discrimination and ways to combat it.

Last, any boss who would rather put older employees out to pasture than benefit from their experience is going to have a rude awakening in a few years.

Dear Eric: I have a cousin who recently told me that he is "in love" with a woman in a foreign country and plans to get married. He would have to fly over to her country and get married, leaving behind his son, grandson and mother, who is in a nursing home.

He has never actually met this woman, and I am concerned that the whole thing is a scam. I found out the country is one where foreigners can't have any property in their name, so anything he would buy would be only in her name. What should I say to him? I don't want to crush him.

— Concerned Cousin

Cousin: You're right to be concerned. Romance scams are quite common. Often, they start online, with the scammers professing love quickly, suddenly needing money and then vanishing. It's a huge red flag that your cousin's relationship requires him to leave the country and get married. I know you don't want to crush him, but he could be in real danger and a bruised heart is the better option.

First, be upfront about your concerns and your reasons. Use the FBI romance scam section to walk your cousin through any similarities in his life. Ask him for photos of his fiancé and do a reverse image search using Google or another search engine to see whether they're stock photos, or whether they're associated with another person. Ask him to talk you through his plan for his family, for his mother's care and his plan after getting married. Be probing but kind.

Loneliness is a major problem for many adults, especially as we get older. Assure him that he's not wrong for wanting companionship. Tell him that, if this is a scam, it doesn't mean he's not worthy of love in real life. Remind him that he's not alone. According to the Federal Trade Commission, there were more than 64,000 reported romance scams in 2023, raking in $1.14 billion dollars. These numbers don't take into account the personal turmoil that can result.

Ask your cousin to slow down the relationship for his own safety and that of his family. If he's insistent and you still have concerns, you can also report the suspected fraud to the FTC or the FBI's internet Crime Complaint Center.

(Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at eric@askingeric.com or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at *rericthomas.com*.)

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Need a recap of the Paramount-Skydance merger? Grab a bucket of popcorn.

BY HERB SCRIBNER

After months of negotiations and many, many headlines that predicted this outcome, Paramount Global and Skydance Media announced a merger Monday.

The deal, approved late Sunday, allows Skydance to acquire National Amusements, which has a controlling stake in Paramount. This long-awaited merger will close the book on the Redstone era for Paramount. The late media mogul Sumner Redstone ran Viacom, CBS and Paramount for decades before stepping away in 2016, and his daughter, Shari Redstone, has been at the helm of National Amusements.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement that we believe delivers to Paramount stockholders both immediate value and future upside opportunity," said Paramount board member Charles E. Phillips Jr. in a statement. "Following extensive negotiations with Skydance, we believe this proposed transaction will position Paramount for success in a rapidly evolving industry landscape."

Unpacking the merger, and what it means, might take some time (seriously, there are a lot of headlines about this). Here's an explainer on what we know about the merger, how the deal went down and what it means for your entertainment diet.



AMR ALFIKY/REUTERS

Skydance founder David Ellison will become CEO of New Paramount, the result of a merger between his company and the film studio.

Why did Paramount merge with Skydance?

The deal allows Skydance, a production company responsible for hits such as "Top Gun: Maverick" and "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," to expand its influence and reach. It'll also help Paramount contend with its $14.6 billion long-term debt as Skydance aims to invest in reshaping the company's future.

Paramount, one of Hollywood's oldest studios, has seen a decline at the box office in recent years and struggled to adapt to the streaming era, constantly competing with the likes of Netflix, Disney and Apple TV. Its platform, Paramount Plus, which hosts a number of original shows and even some live sports content (such as the UEFA Champions League in soccer), was one of the later streaming services to arrive. It also has had some branding hiccups.

Because of its struggles, the global entertainment giant sought a sale. And over the past six months, it has been focused on negotiations with Skydance.

What do we call this new company?

Apparently this newly merged company will be called "New Paramount," according to a press release. So. Yeah.

Didn't this deal already happen?

No, but we don't blame you for thinking so. There have been headlines about the potential deal for months. The media world waited on pins and needles to see when the deal would actually go through after a number of starts and stops.

In fact, a deal between Skydance and Paramount broke down at the last minute about a month ago and seemed to signal the end of a potential merger.

So, what's the backstory?

Prepare yourself for some "Succession"-esque dealmaking.

In December 2023, there were reports that Paramount was seeking a potential merger or sale because of its declining business model. Skydance was immediately brought up as a potential suitor. Warner Bros. Discovery reportedly explored a possible bid as well, though those talks broke down in early 2024.

Gossip over a marriage between Paramount and Skydance picked up in January when the latter explored an all-cash bid, according to Reuters. Skydance appeared to sweeten its offer to Paramount in April, and the two eventually signed off on exclusive merger talks later that month. Paramount chief executive Bob Bakish exited Paramount in late April as negotiations continued with Skydance, according to CNBC. An "Office of the CEO," a group of three CEOs tasked with leading the company, was designed to take over for Bakish as talks continued.

In May, Sony, with the private equity firm Apollo Global Management, briefly entered the chat to offer an all-cash $26 billion bid to buy Paramount, according to the Wall Street Journal. But that deal, according to reports at the time, would have splintered Paramount, an idea that was rejected by Redstone. There were also reports that media mogul Edgar Bronfman was eyeing an offer, too.

In mid-June, there seemed to be a deal in place between Skydance and Paramount. But that deal stopped short just before the ink hit paper. Paramount's leadership team then told their employees that they planned to turn the company around on their own after the deal didn't work out.

But just before the July Fourth holiday, reporting sprung up that a tentative deal had been reached between Skydance and Paramount.

What does this mean for Hollywood?

Let us put it to you this way: The company that helped make epic Tom Cruise films now controls the legacy media giant that owns CBS, MTV and Paramount Plus. That's a lot of Hollywood buzzwords.

The deal will up the status of Skydance founder David Ellison, who will become chairman and CEO of New Paramount. Ellison has already laid out some plans for Paramount, including aligning with another entertainment company for a joint streaming service, according to a report from the New York Times. Ellison also plans to use the merger to manage the company's biggest franchises, such as "Mission: Impossible" and "Top Gun," since Skydance has ownership stake in those projects already, the Times reported.

Who is David Ellison, the new CEO of New Paramount?

Ellison is already a force in Hollywood with producer credits to mega films such as "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol" (2011) and the Brad Pitt zombie flick "World War Z" (2013).

Ellison's father is Oracle founder Larry Ellison, who has funded blockbuster films like "Star Trek Into Darkness." And David's sister, Megan Ellison, is founder of Annapurna productions, the company behind "Her," "American Hustle" and "Spring Breakers."

What does this mean for you?

Expect to see some of Paramount lean into streaming services and video games. Skydance boasted its video game development studio and its "cutting-edge technology" to help Paramount grow in this new era.

And if Paramount does create a joint venture for a streaming service with another streaming company (something with Warner Bros. Discovery is reportedly a possibility), then that could mean one more (or one less) streaming service package to consider.

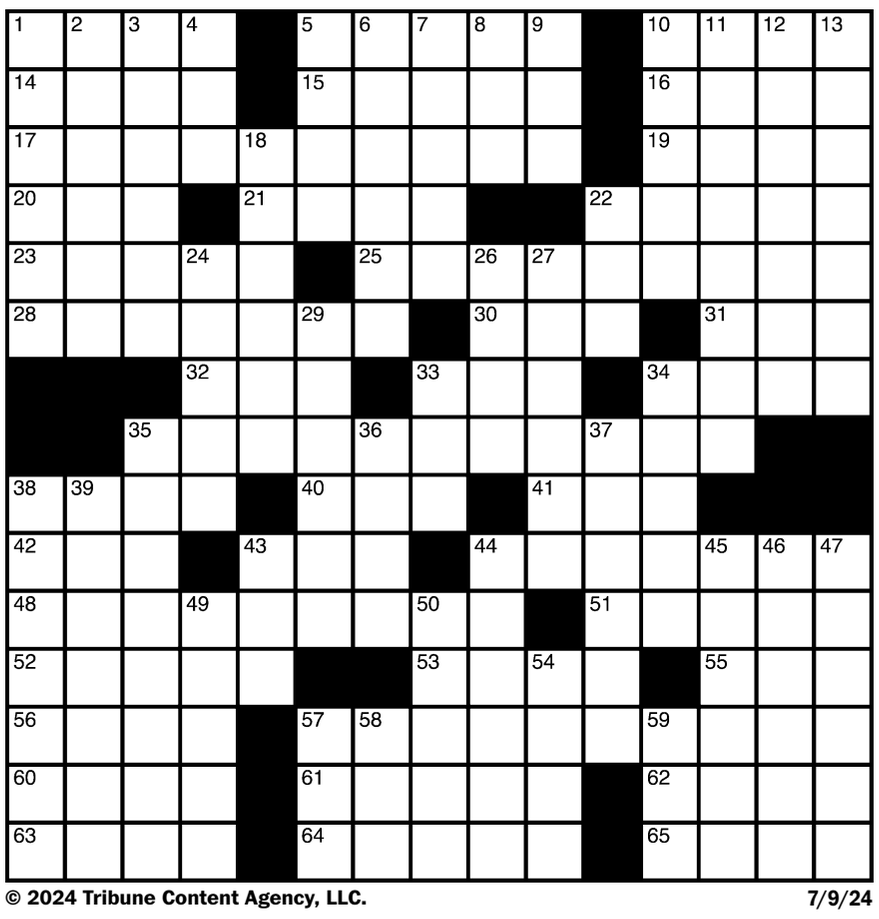
Okay, so this whole deal is over, right? Right?

Not quite, but pretty much. The deal approved Monday includes a 45-day "go-shop" period, in which other superior deals could emerge. Barry Diller, who was eyeing a bid to buy Paramount last week, might be one to swoop in, according to multiple reports.

Otherwise, the dizzying negotiations have reached a conclusion.

LA TIMES CROSSWORD

By Beth Rubin & Rebecca Goldstein



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ACROSS

1 Gentle touches
5 Raise, as morale
10 Harvest
14 Baker's appliance
15 One of the Three Musketeers
16 Penne __ vodka
17 Intimate conversation in bed
19 "The Rabbit Hutch" National Book Award winner Gunty
20 Pizzeria owner in "Do the Right Thing"
21 Prepare ahead of time
22 Make a quick policy change
23 Coming in handy
25 Laundry apparatus used as a percussion instrument
28 Funnel-shaped flower
30 Apple platform
31 Greek letter before upsilon
32 Fellows
33 CPR pro
34 "Been there, __ that"
35 Aerosolized popcorn condiment
38 Yes votes
40 Key __: car remote
41 Bit of positivity?
42 Bad review
43 Poivre partner
44 Ideal
48 Timepiece innards
51 Muscat resident
52 "NCIS" protagonist __ Jethro Gibbs
53 Lyft competitor
55 Show hosts, for short
56 Actress Shawkat
57 Actor's stand-in, or a hint to what can precede both parts of 17-, 25-, 35-, and 48-Across
60 Exams for srs.
61 Foe
62 Wax alternative
63 Whack
64 Like grainy graphics
65 Best Female Athlete, e.g.

DOWN

1 Comes as a surprise, maybe
2 Fly a plane
3 "Preach!"
4 NBC sketch show, familiarly
5 Weep loudly
6 Capital of Canada
7 Hawaiian word for "family"
8 Pine-__: cleaning brand
9 Disapproving sound
10 Math comparison
11 Stairs alternative
12 Concession speech giver
13 Late, as a library book
18 First game of the season
22 "All Creatures Great and Small" airer
24 Sugar cubes
26 "Atlas" actor Liu
27 Good intel
29 Shortly
33 Flow out
34 Jeans material
35 Miss, in Mexico
36 "Carpe diem" acronym
37 "My Neighbor __": 1988 Miyazaki film
38 Sr.'s course for college credit
39 Sonia Sotomayor's alma mater
43 Pie in the __
44 "I'm cool with that"
45 Deadly African snakes
46 Release, as a carabiner
47 "__ loves company"
49 Seashore
50 More impolite
54 Dreyer's ice cream, east of the Rockies
57 "The Fresh Prince of __-Air"
58 Artist Yoko
59 French article

MONDAY'S LA TIMES SOLUTION

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

TELEVISION

7/9/24	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4.1 WRC (NBC)	♦ **NBCNe..**	♦ **Hollywo..**	♦ **America's Got Talent**				♦ **Password**		♦ **News**
4.2 WRC (IND)	Roseanne	Roseanne	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Nanny
5.1 WTTG (Fox)	♦ **Fox 5**	♦ **TMZ**	♦ **Beat Shazam**		♦ **The Quiz With Balls**		♦ **Fox 5 at 10**		♦ **Fox 5**
7.1 WJLA (ABC)	♦ Wheel	♦ **Jeopardy!**	♦ **Celebrity Fam**		♦ **Celebrity Fam** (SP)		♦ Celebrity Fam		♦ **News**
9.1 WUSA (CBS)	♦ **InsideEd.**	♦ **ET**	♦ FBI		♦ FBI: International		♦ FBI: Most Wanted		♦ **9 News**
14.1 WFDC (UNI)	♦ **Fútbol**	♦ **CONMEBOL** Semifinal: Argentina vs. Canadá (Live)					♦ **El amor no tien**		♦ Noticias
20.1 WDCA (MNTV)	♦ FamFeud	♦ FamFeud	♦ **Fox 5 News**		♦ FamFeud	♦ FamFeud	♦ **Strange**	♦ Puzzler	♦ Chi. Fire
22.1 WMPT (PBS)	♦ Farm	♦ Outdoors	♦ Finding Your Roots		♦ Experience		♦ **VOCES** (SP)		♦ **Amanp..**
26.1 WETA (PBS)	♦ **PBS News Hour**		♦ Finding Your Roots		♦ Experience		♦ **VOCES** (SP)		♦ **Amanp..**
32.1 WHUT (PBS)	♦ At Howard		♦ POV			♦ Dynamic Planet	♦ Untamed		♦ BBCNe..
50.1 WDCW (CW)	♦ Neighbor	♦ Neighbor	♦ Conners	♦ Conners	♦ Conners	♦ Conners	♦ **DC News Now**		♦ Seinfeld
66.1 WPXW (ION)	♦ Chicago Fire		♦ Chicago Fire		♦ Chicago Fire		♦ Chicago Fire		♦ Chi. Fire
A&E	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	**Neighbor.**	**Neighbor.**	**Customer**	**Customer**	Neighbor.
AMC	(5:30) Movie: Major League II ★ (1994)		Movie: Police Academy ★★ (1984)				(:15) Movie: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985)		
Animal Planet	Louisiana Lockdown		Wardens of the North		Michigan Wardens		Wardens of the North		Wardens
BET	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Movie: Coming to America ★★★ (1988)				
Bravo	The Real Housewives of Dubai		The Real Housewives of Dubai		**The Real Housewives of Dubai**		**Watch What**	The Real Housewives of Dubai	
Cartoon Network	King/Hill	King/Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	American	American
CNN	**E. B. OutFront** (Live)		**Cooper 360** (Live)		**The Source** (Live)		**CNN** (Live)		**Laura**
Comedy Central	(:10) Office	(:45) Office	(:20) The Office		(:55) Office	Office	Office	Office	**DailyShow**
Discovery	Makozilla		**Deadliest Bite**		**6000 LB Shark**		(:05) **Monster**		Cocaine
Disney	Big City	Big City	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Marvel's	Hailey	Hailey	Raven
E!	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	**E! News**
ESPN	**NBA Salt Lake League** Memphis Grizzlies vs. Philadelphia 76ers (Live)				The Ultimate Fighter Full of Violence		**The Ultimate Fighter**		**SportCtr** (Live)
ESPN2	30 for 30 Catholics vs. Convicts				**NBA Salt Lake City Summer League** Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Utah Jazz (Live)				NFL Live
Food Network	Chopped		**Chopped**		**Bobby's Triple Threat**		Bobby's Triple Threat		Chopped
Fox News	**Ingraham** (Live)		**Jesse Watters** (Live)		**Hannity** (Live)		**Gutfeld!**		**Fox News**
Freeform	Movie: Cast Away ★★★ (2000) A courier company executive is marooned on a remote island.						**Sasha Reid and the Midnight Order** (P)		**The 700 Club**
FX	(5:30) Movie: Uncharted ★★ (2022)		Movie: Jumanji: The Next Level ★★ (2019) Four friends re-enter the fantastical world of Jumanji.				Movie: Jumanji: The Next Level (2019)		
Hallmark	Movie: A Christmas Cookie Catastrophe (2022)				Movie: The Sweetest Christmas (2017)				Movie: My Christm...
Hallmark M&M	Aurora Teagarden Mysteries				Aurora Teagarden Mysteries				Murder ...
HBO	(6:15) Movie: The Dark Knight Rises ★★★ (2012)				**Hard Knocks**	(:40) House of the Dragon		(:40) Hard Knocks	(:20) Fantasm..
HGTV	Bargain Block		Farmhouse		**Farmhouse**		**Hunt Intl**	Hunt Intl	Hunters
History	Skinwalker Ranch		Skinwalker Ranch		**Skinwalker Ranch**		(:05) **Beyond**		Skinwalker
Lifetime	Castle		Castle		Castle		(:05) Castle		(:05) Castle
MASN	**Baseball** Washington Nationals at New York Mets (Live)					**Nats Xtra**	24Perfect	**Wall to Wall**	
Monumental	Caps	WNBA Basketball				Major League Cricket			
MSNBC	**The ReidOut** (Live)		**All In With** (Live)		**Wagner** (Live)		**Last Word** (Live)		**11th Hour**
MTV	Catfish: The TV Show		**Catfish: The TV Show**		**Help! I'm In**		Help! I'm In		Help!
Nat'l Geographic	Orca vs. Great White		Man vs. Shark		**When Sharks**		**When Sharks**		Man
Nickelodeon	Movie: The Secret Life of Pets ★★★ (2016)				Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
NWSN	**On Balance** (Live)		**Cuomo** (Live)		**Dan Abrams** (Live)		**Banfield** (Live)		Cuomo
Paramount	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Movie: Step Brothers ★★ (2008)				Movie: Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (2006)		
Paramount+Sho	(6:30) Movie: Out of Darkness (2022)		Fellow Travelers		Movie: Rocketman ★★★ (2019)				(:05) Movie: ...
Syfy	(6:35) Movie: The Perfect Storm ★★★ (2000) A fishing boat sails into the storm of the century.					Movie: Deepwater Horizon ★★★ (2016) (P)			
TBS	(6:30) **MLB Baseball**					**MLBClose**	**On Base**	Mod Fam	Mod Fam
TCM	(6:15) Movie: Them! ★★★ (1954)		Movie: A Fistful of Dollars ★★★ (1964)				Movie: For a Few Dollars More ★★★ (1965)		
TLC	Fat Fabulous		Fat Fabulous		**Fat Fabulous**		**Welcome**		Unexpect..
TNT	(5:00) Movie: Aquaman ★★ (2018)		Hillsong: A Megachurch Exposed		(:15) Hillsong: A Megachurch Exposed			Hillsong: A Megachurch Exposed	
Travel	Paranormal Nightshift		Paranormal Nightshift		Paranormal Nightshift		Paranormal		Paranor..
TruTV	Poker On TRU		Poker On TRU		Poker On TRU		Movie: The Other Guys (2010)		
TV Land	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	(:20) Raymond		Raymond	Raymond	(:05) King
TV One	CosbySh..	CosbySh..	Lv Single	Lv Single	Lv Single	Lv Single	Lv Single	Lv Single	Lv Single
USA Network	Law & Order: SVU		**WWE NXT** (Live)				Movie: Clash of the Titans (2010)		
VH1	Love & Hip Hop		Love & Hip Hop		Love & Hip Hop		Love & Hip Hop		Hip Hop
WNC8	Who Stole	Skin	Fed Gov	7News at..	**SportsTalk**	**WorldNe..**	**WJLANe..**	1 Day Re..	**National**

LEGEND: Bold indicates new or live programs ♦ High Definition
Movie Ratings (from TMS) ★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Fair ★ Poor No stars: not rated

Irritated by co-workers who don't knock before trying to open bathroom doors

Miss Manners

JUDITH MARTIN, JACOBINA MARTIN AND NICHOLAS IVOR MARTIN

Dear Miss Manners: I work in an office with around 30 people. There are several bathrooms available to the staff, and I have used all of them at one time or another.

When I am occupying any of them, I've noticed people never knock before trying to open the door. They will grab the handle and pull several times before they walk away. It is easy to see from the outside when the bathroom is occupied because of the type of door lock.

Is it not common courtesy to knock before attempting to open a single-occupancy bathroom? I do this even at home, and definitely when entering a public restroom.

Uh, you do realize that they are in a hurry, don't you?

Not that Miss Manners would excuse bad manners on that account. But for your colleagues to assume that the stall is empty and that they can therefore go ahead and open the door does not strike her as callous. Merely expedient.

Dear Miss Manners: At a book club meeting at our local library, the conversation got slightly off topic for a short period of time. One of the participants said, loudly, "For (expletive's) sake, will this ever end?" Everyone in the group ignored her, pretending to not hear, and the conversation quickly returned to the book we had read.

My daughter (who is also in the group) and I wished we had said something to her. How could we have told her that her remark was unkind without humiliating her?

What would you have said? "If you talk like that, we're going to wash out your mouth with soap?"

Wait — Miss Manners just realized that that is what you could have said. Club members can make rules with consequences for violations, but they cannot randomly scold one another.

So your best response is either to ignore the remark, which is a reproof in itself, or to make a joke of it.

Dear Miss Manners: I placed a rush order (two hours' notice) for four items for my local grocery store's curbside service. I parked in the appropriate spot, informed them I was there, then proceeded to wait almost 30 minutes for my items. (Someone from the store did assure me, about 10 minutes in, that my order was coming.)

When my order arrived, the young man apologized for my long wait with what seemed like great sincerity. I told him "thank you" and asked him to place my items in the trunk. He then apologized again, wearing a look that seemed to indicate he was waiting for a different response. I thanked him again, both after second the apology and after my groceries were safely in my trunk. Was there something else I should have said?

Of course you know that he was hoping for a tip. And while Miss Manners sympathizes with tip fatigue, you should have given him one. He may or may not be paid a pittance, but he depends on tips. And it wasn't his fault that the order was delayed.

New Miss Manners columns are posted Monday through Saturday on *washingtonpost.com/advice*. You can send questions to Miss Manners at her website, *missmanners.com*. You can also follow her @RealMissManners.

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MOVIE DIRECTORY

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

Tuesday, July 9, 2024
www.washingtonpost.com/movies

DISTRICT

AMC Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W.

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 1:20-4:10-9:50
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 9:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:15-1:45-4:20-6:50-9:20
MaXXXine (R) CC: 11:15-1:50-4:30-7:10-10:30
Robot Dreams CC: 1:40
The Bikeriders (R) CC: 12:45-3:30-6:20
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 11:20-3:10-7:00-9:10
Thelma (PG-13) CC: 11:10-4:10
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40
Despicable Me 4: The IMAX Experience (PG) CC: 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:20
Kinds of Kindness (R) CC: 12:40-4:15-7:00-9:15
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:10-7:20
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:30
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) OC: 7:50
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:30-10:10
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 12:50-3:20-5:50
Thelma (PG-13) OC: 6:40
Despicable Me 4 (PG) OC: 8:20

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - DC Bryant Street
630 Rhode Island Ave NE

Top Secret! (1984) (PG) 7:30
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 3:15-6:30-9:45
Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation (PG) 11:45AM
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:15-8:45-10:15
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:30-3:00-4:30-6:45-10:30
MaXXXine (R) 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-9:30-10:45
Kinds of Kindness (R) 11:00-2:45-6:00-10:00
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 12:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:30-12:15-2:15-3:00-5:00-6:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 1:30

Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market
550 Penn Street NE - Unit E

A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 12:00-2:30-4:20-7:20
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:45-2:00-5:00-6:50
JESUS: a Deaf Missions film 12:20-3:45-7:00

Avalon Theatre
5612 Connecticut Avenue

The Green Border (Zielona granica) 12:30-3:45-7:00
Thelma (PG-13) 12:15-2:35-5:00-7:30

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema
807 V Street Northwest

A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 4:40-7:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 4:50-7:10
Inside Out 2 (PG) 4:00-5:00-6:30-7:30
MaXXXine (R) 7:20
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 3:50
MaXXXine (R) 4:20

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th Street Northwest

Wattstax (R) 4:00-7:15
Inside Out 2 (PG) 3:15-7:25
MaXXXine (R) 3:30-7:30-8:10
June Zero 4:15-7:45
Daddio (R) 4:30
Thelma (PG-13) 6:30
Kinds of Kindness (R) 3:00-4:00-7:30
Thelma (PG-13) 3:45

Regal Gallery Place
701 Seventh Street Northwest

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 2:40-5:50-9:10
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) 11:00AM
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) 11:00AM
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 1:10-1:40-4:50-6:10-7:10-7:40-8:40-9:50-10:20
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:50-1:00-1:30-2:30-3:30-4:00-5:00-5:30-6:00-6:30-7:30-9:00-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:20-12:20-1:50-4:20-5:20-6:50-7:50-9:20-10:30
MaXXXine (R) 11:10-1:50-4:40-7:20-10:10
Kill (Hindi) (R) 8:50
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 11:50-3:50-8:10
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 3:20
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 12:10
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 4:10
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 2:50
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 3:00-8:00

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road

Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964) (PG) 9:10
Kinds of Kindness (R) OC: 5:00
Mickey One (1965) (NR) 12:00-9:20
The Green Border (Zielona granica) 12:05-3:05-6:05
Kinds of Kindness (R) 1:30-8:20
The Life of Oharu (Saikaku ichidai onna) (NR) 4:15

AMC Academy 8
6198 Greenbelt Road

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 10:10-1:20-4:10-8:20
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 10:20-12:50-3:15-5:45-8:15
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 10:00-12:20-2:45-5:15-7:45
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 1:10
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:30-2:00-7:10
MaXXXine (R) CC: 10:45-2:00-4:40-7:10
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 10:10-12:50-4:30-7:00
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 10:00-4:20-7:30
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 4:45

AMC Annapolis Mall 11
1020 Annapolis Mall Road

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 12:00-3:25-8:20-10:40
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 10:10-12:00-2:30-3:30-5:00-6:35-7:30-9:05-11:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:40-2:10-4:35-7:00-9:30
If (PG) CC: 9:45AM
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 9:30AM
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 9:35-11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:45
MaXXXine (R) CC: 12:20-3:00-5:35-8:10-10:45
The Bikeriders (R) CC: 10:15
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 11:15-2:45-6:45-10:00
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 10:45-1:10-6:00
Kinds of Kindness (R) CC: 11:25-3:00-6:30-10:10
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 12:40-3:50-7:10
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 9:30-10:05-12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:20
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) 10:55-1:20-3:45-6:20-8:45

AMC Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd.

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 1:00-4:15-6:45-10:00
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-9:30-11:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:30-12:45-2:00-3:15-4:30-7:00-8:15-10:45
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 12:15-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
MaXXXine (R) CC: 1:15-3:45-6:15-8:45-10:15
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 12:30-3:45-7:15
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 7:45-9:30
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 3:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 5:45

AMC Columbia 14
10300 Little Patuxent Parkway

Despicable Me 4 (PG) OC: 4:30
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 4:00
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 12:20-3:10-7:05-9:55
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 10:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 11:00AM
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 6:25-9:20
MaXXXine (R) CC: 11:20-1:55-4:30-7:10-9:45
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 1:40-5:20
The Bikeriders (R) CC: 9:55
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 11:00-3:00-6:00-9:00
Thelma (PG-13) CC: 1:20
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15
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Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 11:50-3:00
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 11:15-12:30-1:45-3:00-4:15-5:30-6:45-8:00-9:15
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:30-2:00-7:00-9:30
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) OC: 6:10

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 12:00-2:45-5:30-8:15
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 12:30-2:00-3:00-4:30-5:30-7:00-8:00-9:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 1:15-3:45-6:15-9:30
MaXXXine (R) CC: 12:50-3:30-6:10-8:45
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 12:30-3:45
Kill (Hindi) (R) CC: 7:00-9:35
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 12:15-4:10-8:00
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30
Despicable Me 4: The IMAX Experience (PG) CC: 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 12:00-3:10-6:20-8:45
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45

AMC Montgomery 16
7101 Democracy Boulevard

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 1:30-4:15-7:00-9:45
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-10:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:15-12:30-3:15-4:30-6:00-7:10-8:45-9:45
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 11:00AM
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:00-12:00-1:30-2:30-4:00-5:00-6:30-7:30-9:00
MaXXXine (R) CC: 12:30-3:30-6:15-10:00
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 11:15-3:15-7:15-9:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) OC: 1:50

AMC St. Charles Town Ctr 9
11115 Mall Circle

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 2:00-4:45-7:30-10:15
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 12:30-1:15-3:00-3:45-6:15-8:45-10:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 1:30-4:00-6:30-10:20
MaXXXine (R) CC: 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45
The Bikeriders (R) CC: 10:00
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 2:30-6:30-9:00
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 12:15-3:30-6:45
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 5:25-8:00

Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD
7000 Arundel Mills Circle

Despicable Me 4 (PG) XD: 9:00-11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) 9:00-9:15-9:30-10:55-11:25-11:35-11:50-12:05-2:00-2:10-2:25-2:40-4:10-4:35-4:45-5:00-5:15-6:45-7:10-7:35-7:50-9:20-10:10-10:25
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 9:00-11:45
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:55
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 10:25-1:20-2:15-4:20-5:10-7:15-8:05-10:15-11:00
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) XD: 7:05-9:45
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 9:40-12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10
Inside Out 2 (PG) XD: 10:40-1:15-3:50
MaXXXine (R) 9:15-11:55-2:35-5:20-8:00-10:45
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 7:25-10:50
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 9:10-2:50-6:55
The Bikeriders (R) 10:50
Kill (Hindi) (R) 6:40-9:35
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 10:45-2:45-6:45-10:45
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 11:50-2:20-3:55-4:50-7:20-9:50
Kalki 2898 AD (Hindi) (Telugu) 10:30
Kinds of Kindness (R) 11:20-3:10-6:50-10:40
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 10:00-1:15-4:30-7:45-11:00
Escape 9:55
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) 1:35
Kalki 2898 AD 3D 10:55
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 9:05-9:15-9:30-9:40-11:30-11:55-12:10-12:20-1:15-2:10-2:35-3:00-3:55-4:50-5:15-5:40-6:35-7:30-7:55-8:20-9:15-10:10-10:35-11:00; 11:55
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 9:20-10:00-10:20-10:50-11:10-12:30-12:50-1:25-1:40-3:00-3:20-4:10-5:30-5:50-6:25-8:00-8:20-8:55-11:25

Cinépolis Gaithersburg
629 Center Point Way

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 6:30-9:45; 10:45
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:45-10:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:15-11:45-1:00-1:45-3:15-4:15-4:30-6:15-7:00-7:15-9:00-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:30-12:45-1:30-3:30-5:00-7:45-11:00
MaXXXine (R) 1:00-4:15-7:15-10:15
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 11:25-3:55-8:10
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 12:00-3:30-7:00

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway

Robot Dreams 7:15
The Bikeriders (R) 7:00

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue

A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 12:50-6:50
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:30-1:30-2:45-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:15-8:15
Inside Out 2 (PG) 12:00-1:00-2:15-3:15-4:30-5:30
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 12:10-3:45-6:45
Thelma (PG-13) 12:15-3:30
Kinds of Kindness (R) 12:05-2:30-6:15
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 3:05
Inside Out 2 (PG) 7:45
Thelma (PG-13) 7:20

Landmark at Annapolis Harbour Center
2474 Solomons Island Road Unit H-1

Wattstax (R) 1:30-7:30
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 1:50-4:15-7:10
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:50-2:30-5:05-7:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:25-12:00-1:00-2:15-3:15-4:25-5:25-6:40-7:40
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:30-12:30-1:45-2:45-4:00-5:00-6:15-7:15
The Bikeriders (R) 4:30
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 11:35-3:20-7:00
Thelma (PG-13) 12:10-2:40-4:55-7:25

Phoenix Theatres Marlow 6
3899 Branch Avenue

Smurfs: The Lost Village (PG) 10:00AM
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 12:35-3:30-6:45-9:35
Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway (PG) 10:00AM
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 12:05-2:30-5:00-7:00-7:30-9:35-10:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:30-12:10-1:20-2:00-2:30-3:45-4:30-4:45-6:05-7:05-9:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 11:00-8:35

Regal Cinemas Majestic Stadium 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 2:35-5:30-8:45
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) 11:00AM
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) 11:00AM
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 10:40-11:40-12:40-1:25-2:25-3:25-4:10-5:10-6:10-6:55-7:55-8:55-9:40-10:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:15-11:30-11:45-1:15-1:45-2:00-2:30-4:00-4:30-4:45-5:15-6:30-6:45-7:15-7:30-8:00-9:15-9:30-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:30-12:30-1:10-2:10-3:05-3:45-5:50-6:40-7:40-8:40-9:20-10:20
MaXXXine (R) 11:20-2:20-5:20-8:20
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 10:15
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 4:20
Kill (Hindi) (R) 11:50-2:40-5:25-8:10
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 11:55-4:15-8:25
A Quiet Place: Day One: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) 9:00
Thelma (PG-13) 1:35-4:05-6:50
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 12:15-3:00-5:45-8:30
Despicable Me 4: The IMAX Experience (PG) 12:45-3:30-6:15
Kalki 2898 AD (Hindi) (Telugu) 12:05-8:15
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 10:55AM
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 3:15
Inside Out 2 (PG) 4:50
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 9:25

Regal Germantown
20000 Century Boulevard

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 2:00-4:50-7:40-10:25
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) 11:00AM
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) 11:00AM
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 10:45-1:20-2:30-3:50-5:10-6:20-7:50-9:00-10:20
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:55-12:00-12:40-1:10-1:50-2:20-2:50-3:20-4:00-4:30-5:30-6:00-6:30-7:00-7:30-8:00-8:40-9:10-9:40-10:10-10:30
If (PG) 11:30AM
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:50-12:20-1:30-3:00-5:50-6:50-8:30-9:30
MaXXXine (R) 11:50-2:40-5:40-8:20
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 4:40-8:50
Kill (Hindi) (R) 11:05-1:40-4:20-7:20-10:00
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 1:00-5:20-9:20
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 5:00
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 11:20AM
Inside Out 2 (PG) 4:10

Regal Hyattsville Royale
6505 America Boulevard

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 1:20-4:20-7:10
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) 11:00AM
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) 11:00AM
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:40-12:40-2:20-3:20-5:00-6:00-7:40-8:40-10:10
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:10-11:30-1:40-2:10-2:50-4:10-5:30-7:30-8:10-9:50
The Garfield Movie (PG) 2:40
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:50-12:30-1:10-2:30-3:40-5:10-7:00-8:00-9:00-9:40
MaXXXine (R) 11:20-2:00-4:40-7:20-10:00
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 5:20-9:10
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 12:20-8:30
Kill (Hindi) (R) 6:50-9:30
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 12:00-4:00-8:20
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 4:50
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 3:50
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:50-3:30-6:10-8:50
Inside Out 2 (PG) 6:20

Regal Laurel Towne Centre
14716 Baltimore Avenue

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 3:20-6:20-9:00-9:30
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) 11:00AM
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) 11:00AM
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:20-1:00-2:10-3:40-4:50-5:40-6:10-7:30-8:15
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:40-11:30-12:50-1:30-2:30-3:30-3:50-6:00-6:30-6:50-7:45-8:45-9:40-10:20
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:10-12:15-2:00-2:45-4:30-9:20-10:15
MaXXXine (R) 11:00-1:45-4:40-7:20-10:00
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 2:40-7:00-9:10
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 4:20-5:00
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 6:40
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 12:40-2:20-5:20-8:35
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) 11:45AM

Regal Rockville Center
199 East Montgomery Avenue

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 9:40
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) 11:00AM
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) 11:00AM
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:50-2:40-5:10-6:10-7:40-10:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:10-12:30-1:00-2:00-2:30-3:20-4:00-4:30-5:50-6:30-7:00-7:30-8:30-9:40
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:20-12:45-1:50-3:30-4:20-6:00-7:10-8:40
MaXXXine (R) 12:10-2:50-5:20-7:50
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 7:20
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 11:40-4:10-8:15
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 5:00
Kalki 2898 AD (Hindi) (Telugu) 8:50
Kinds of Kindness (R) 11:30-3:10-6:45-9:00
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 1:15
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 3:50
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 3:40

Regal Waugh Chapel
1419 South Main Chapel Way

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:50
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) 11:00-11:20
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) 10:40-11:00
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:05-1:50-3:00-4:50-5:50-7:20-8:50-10:10
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:30-11:50-12:40-2:20-3:20-6:00-8:10-9:00-10:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:35-11:30-2:10-3:50-5:00-7:40-9:10-10:20
MaXXXine (R) 11:40-2:40-5:20-7:50-10:25
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 7:10
The Bikeriders (R) 7:30
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 4:40-9:20
A Quiet Place: Day One: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) 9:40
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 5:30
Despicable Me 4: The IMAX Experience (PG) 11:10-1:40-4:30-7:00
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 2:30
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 1:10-4:20
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) 1:20-6:20
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 4:10

Regal Westview
5243 Buckeystown Pike

Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:30-3:10-5:50-8:35
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 2:25-5:25-8:15
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) 11:00-11:05
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) 11:00AM
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:55-11:35-1:30-2:30-3:00-4:10-7:00-7:40-9:30
If (PG) 10:10AM
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:30-1:50-4:15-9:20
MaXXXine (R) 12:45-3:25-6:05-8:55
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 11:50-7:45
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 12:00-3:55-8:00
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 1:00-3:40-6:40-9:15
Despicable Me 4: The IMAX Experience (PG) 11:20-2:00-4:35-7:15-9:50
Kalki 2898 AD (Hindi) (Telugu) 3:50
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 3:45
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 11:30-6:25
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 1:10-2:10-5:10-6:30-7:50-9:25
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:05-2:45-6:20-9:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:55-2:20-4:55-7:30-9:55
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) 5:00
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 10:50-1:40-4:25-7:10-9:45
Inside Out 2 (PG) 6:50

Xscape Theatres Brandywine 14
7710 Matapeake Business Drive

The Mask (PG-13) 1:00-4:00-7:00
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 12:00-12:50-2:40-3:40-5:30-6:30-8:10-9:50
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 6:50-9:20
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:40-1:30-2:00-3:50-4:20-6:40-9:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:50-12:40-1:10-3:00-3:30-5:20-7:40
MaXXXine (R) 2:20-5:10-7:50-10:20
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 11:25-3:45-7:45
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 12:10-3:10-6:20-9:10
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:50-2:10-4:30-6:00-7:20-8:20-10:10
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:30-3:10-5:40-8:30-9:30

iPic Pike & Rose
11830 Grand Park Avenue

A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 12:15-3:00-3:30-6:45-7:30-10:00-10:45
Despicable Me 4 (PG) (!) 11:45-12:45-2:45-4:15-6:00-6:15-9:15
MaXXXine (R) (!) 1:00-4:00-7:15-10:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:15-9:30
Inside Out 2: The IMAX Experience (PG) 12:00-3:15-6:30-9:45
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) 11:00-3:15-7:45

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd.

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 11:05-1:50-4:50-7:40
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 10:00-11:00-1:30-2:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 2:00-6:55-9:20
MaXXXine (R) CC: 9:50-12:20-3:00-5:40-8:10
The Bikeriders (R) CC: 10:40-1:25
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 11:20-3:10-7:00
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 12:00-5:00-7:30
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 4:10-7:20
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 11:30-4:30

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd.

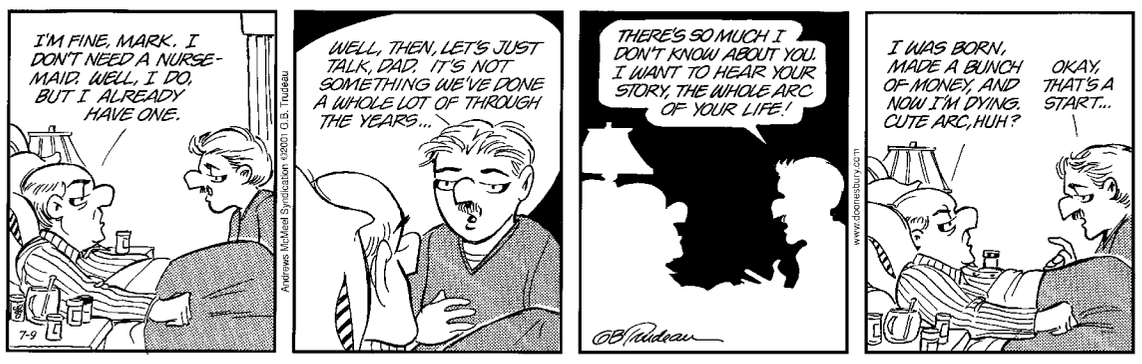
Despicable Me 4 (PG) OC: 12:00
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:40-10:20
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 11:30-12:00-1:15-2:00-2:30-3:45-4:30-5:15-7:00-7:45-8:45-9:30-10:10
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
If (PG) CC: 4:15
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 3:30-7:40
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:30-12:15-2:00-2:45-4:30-5:15-6:15-7:00-7:45-8:45-9:30-10:15
MaXXXine (R) CC: 11:45-12:45-2:15-3:15-4:45-5:45-7:15-8:15-9:45-10:45
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 6:00-9:15
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 6:00-9:30
The Bikeriders (R) CC: 11:00-1:45-4:30-7:15-10:00
Daddio (R) CC: 12:50
Kill (Hindi) (R) CC: 7:30-10:20
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 12:35-3:05-7:00-9:30
A Quiet Place: Day One: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:30
Thelma (PG-13) CC: 12:30-4:35-7:05-10:45
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 8:30-10:45
Despicable Me 4: The IMAX Experience (PG) CC: 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00
Kinds of Kindness (R) CC: 12:45-4:00-6:45-10:00
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 12:30-2:50-5:10-10:25
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 11:00-1:20-3:45
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) OC: 6:15
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 1:00-2:30-3:30-5:00-6:00-7:30-10:00
Daddio (R) OC: 3:20

AMC Potomac Mills 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle

Despicable Me 4 (PG) 5:30; 3:00
Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi- (PG-13) 9:00
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) 5:10
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 10:30-1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 9:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:30
The Garfield Movie (PG) CC: 10:50-1:40-4:20
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 10:45-12:15-2:45-5:15-7:15-7:45-10:10
MaXXXine (R) CC: 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:45-10:30
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) CC: 11:40-5:30
Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu) 10:40-8:00
The Bikeriders (R) CC: 7:00-9:50
Kill (Hindi) (R) CC: 2:30-5:15
Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R) CC: 10:30-1:10-2:20-6:10-8:20-9:10
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
***Despicable

CLASSIC DOONESBURY

GARRY TRUDEAU



PICKLES

BRIAN CRANE



BRIDGE

N-S VULNERABLE

NORTH
♠ J10 8
♥ 8
♦ AJ983
♣ Q642

WEST
♠ KQ5
♥ 1032
♦ Q762
♣ K95

EAST
♠ A732
♥ 95
♦ 1054
♣ J873

SOUTH (D)
♠ 964
♥ AKQJ764
♦ K
♣ A10

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
4 ♥	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♠ K

Cy the Cynic enjoys an active social life. He has at least three dates a week.

"You know," Cy told me, "I've wanted to go out with some women, but they didn't know I exist."

"What about that professor of philosophy you're seeing?" I asked.

"She doesn't know whether I exist," Cy said.

Cy was today's East in a penny game, and against four hearts, West led the king, queen and a third spade. The Cynic took the ace and led a club.

South doubted that Cy would lead a club from the king; South took the ace and ran his trumps. The last trump squeezed West, who couldn't keep his king of clubs and the Q-7 of diamonds, and South was home.

Cy defended as if a problem didn't exist. Cy can assume that South has the ace of clubs (from his strong bidding and because West might have cashed it at Trick Three if he had it). If West has the king of clubs, he may be threatened with a squeeze, but Cy can and should break it up by leading a diamond at the fourth trick.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold:
♠ K Q 5 ♥ 10 3 2
♦ Q 7 6 2 ♣ K 9 5

Your partner opens one heart, and the next player passes. What do you say?

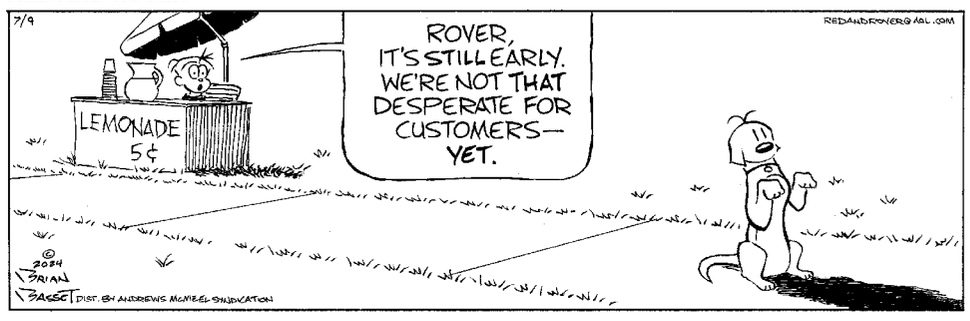
ANSWER: You have 10 high-card points — too many according to the textbooks for a single raise. Still, your trump support is weak, your distribution is flat and you have no aces. I would bid two hearts with no misgivings. Nothing is wrong with having a bit of extra strength occasionally; sometimes your partner will appreciate it.

— Frank Stewart

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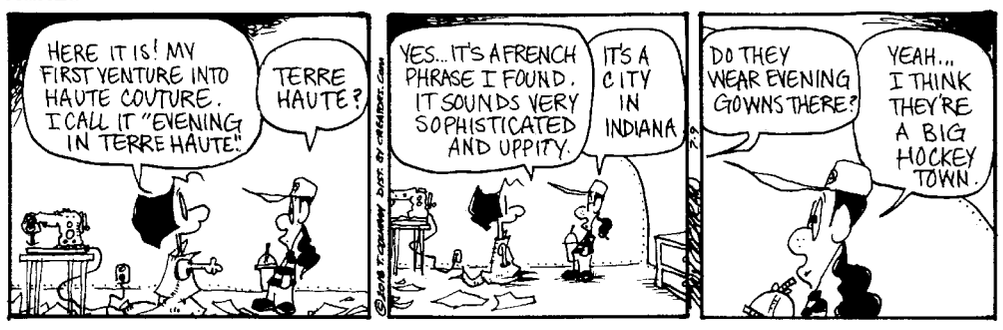
RED AND ROVER

BRIAN BASSET



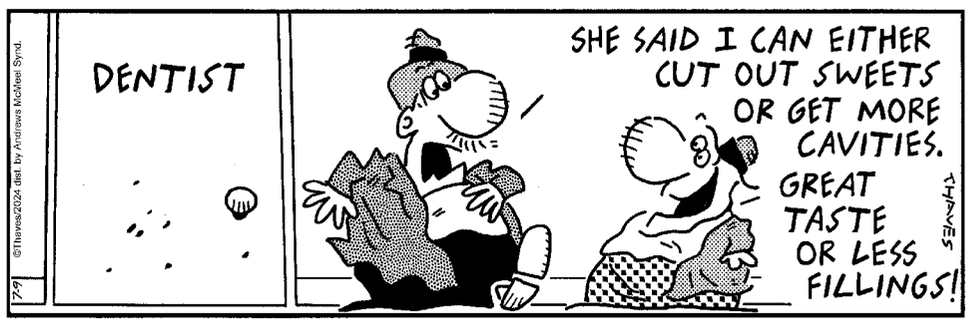
AGNES

TONY COCHRAN



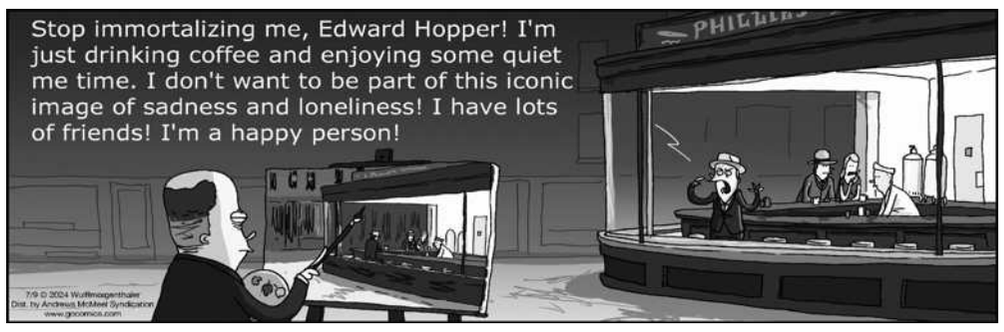
FRANK AND ERNEST

TOM THAVES



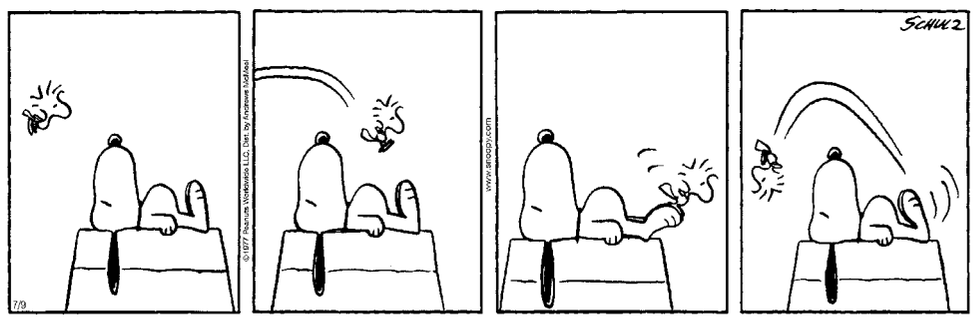
WUMO

MIKAEL WULFF & ANDERS MORGENTHALER



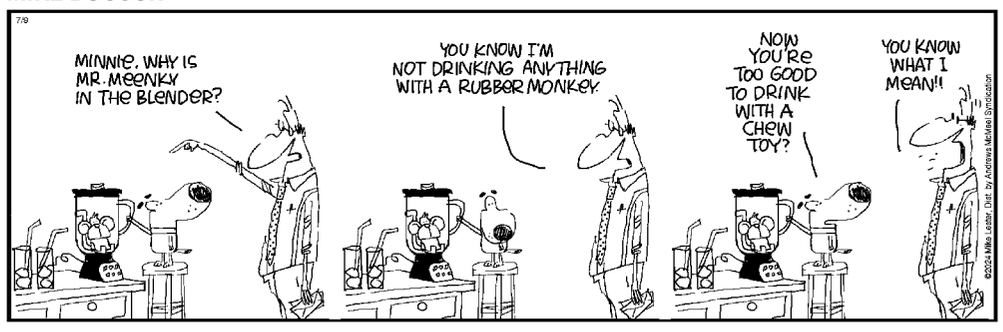
CLASSIC PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ



MIKE DU JOUR

MIKE LESTER



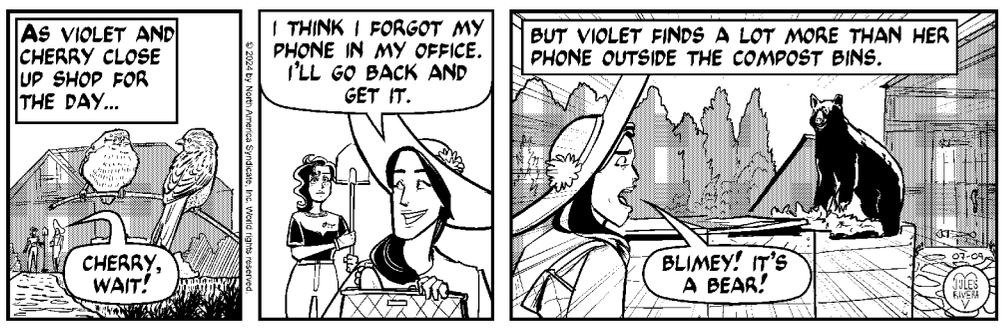
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

HILARY PRICE



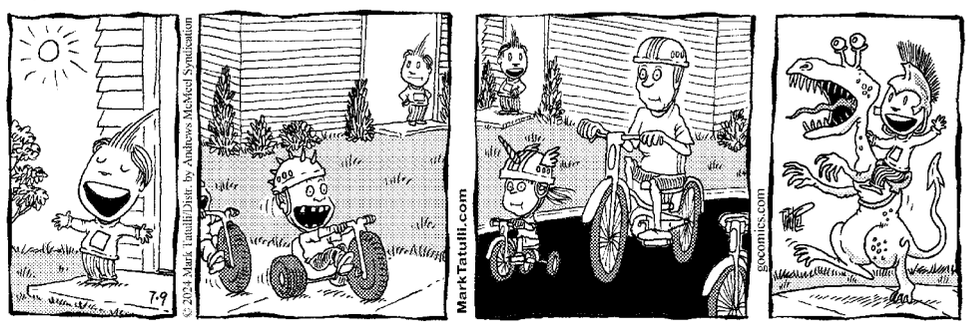
MARK TRAIL

JULES RIVERA



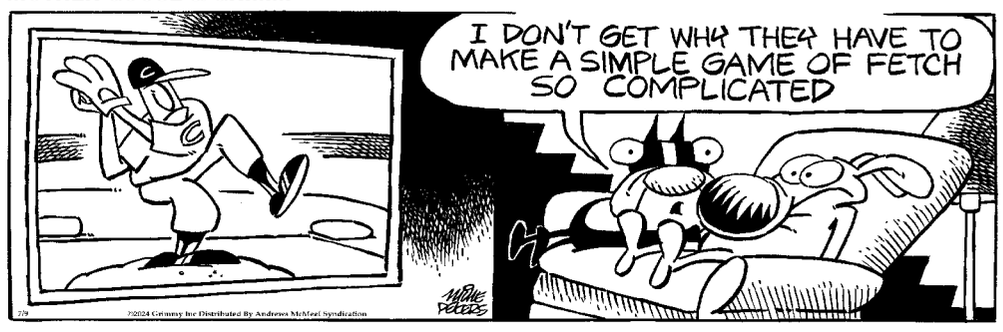
LIO

MARK TATULLI



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MIKE PETERS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

CHRIS BROWNE



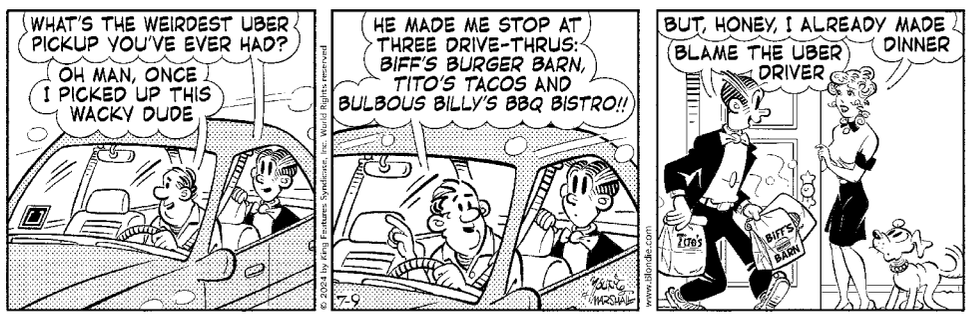
BALDO

HECTOR CANTU & CARLOS CASTELLANOS



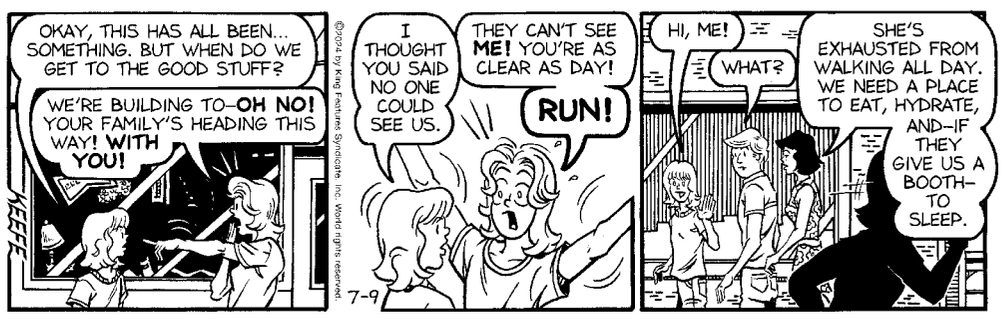
BLONDIE

DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



SALLY FORTH

FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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SCRABBLE GRAMS

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							RACK 1
A1	E1	O1	O1	S1	V4	M3	
							RACK 2
A1	E1	I1	I1	O1	Z10	D2	
							RACK 3
A1	U1	Y4	H4	N1	N1	D2	Double Word Score
							RACK 4
A1	E1	O1	U1	C3	T1	S1	2nd Letter Triple

PAR SCORE 155-165 **FOUR RACK TOTAL** ____
BEST SCORE 221 **TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

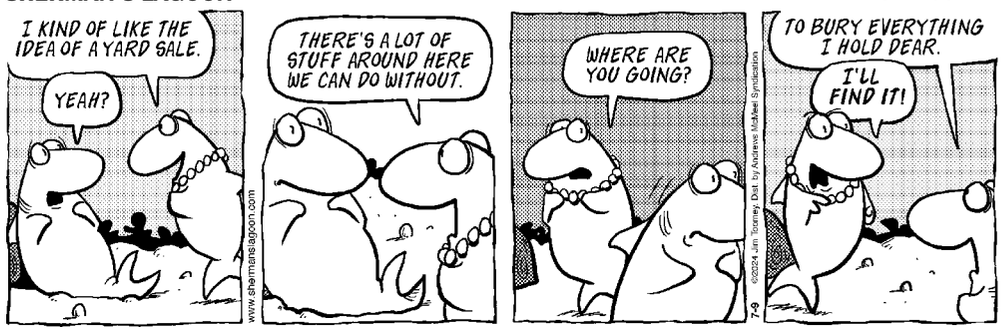
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

07-09

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

JIM TOOMEY



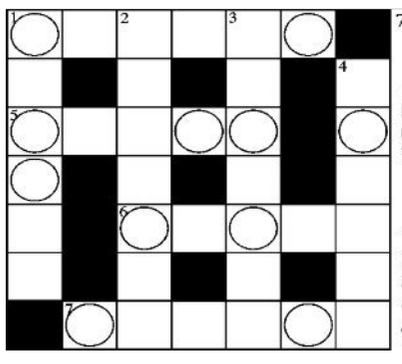
CURTIS

RAY BILLINGSLEY



JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt



7-9-24

ACROSS
1. Make ___
5. UAE city
6. ___ Day
7. ___ performance

DOWN
1. ___ machine
2. Hug
3. Trickle
4. Tower

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ANSWER
DMANSE
BAIUD
RRABO
RPATEE

ANSWER
NDDIGA
MERECBA
BEIBDLR
ETRUTR

How to play
Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS
CLUE: About two-thirds of ___ ___'s population is under the age of 35.

ANSWERS: 1A-Amends 5A-Dubai 6A-Arbor 7A-Repeat 1D-Adding 2D-Embrace 3D-Dribble 4D-Turret 5-Saudi Arabia

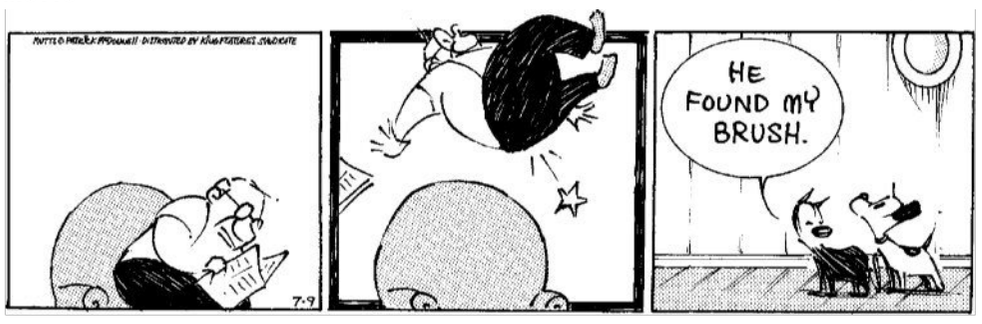
Send comments to TCA - 560 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60654 or DLHoyt@HoytInteractiveMedia.com

BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!

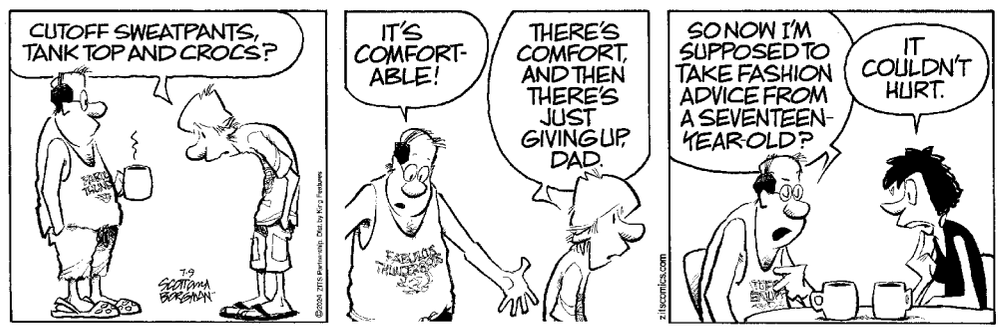
TIM RICKARD



MUTTS PATRICK McDONNELL



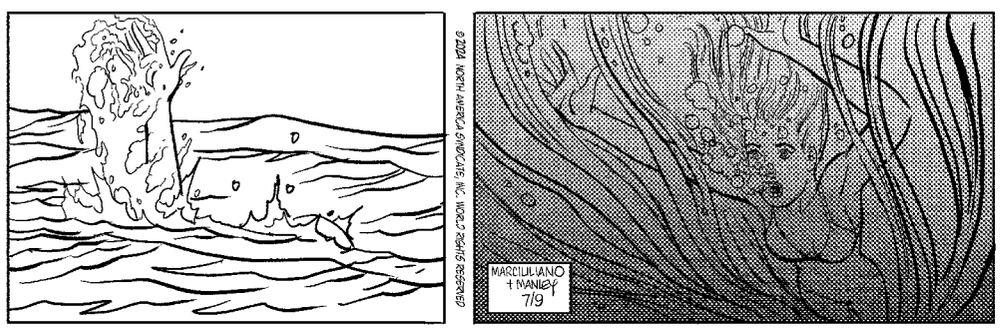
ZITS JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



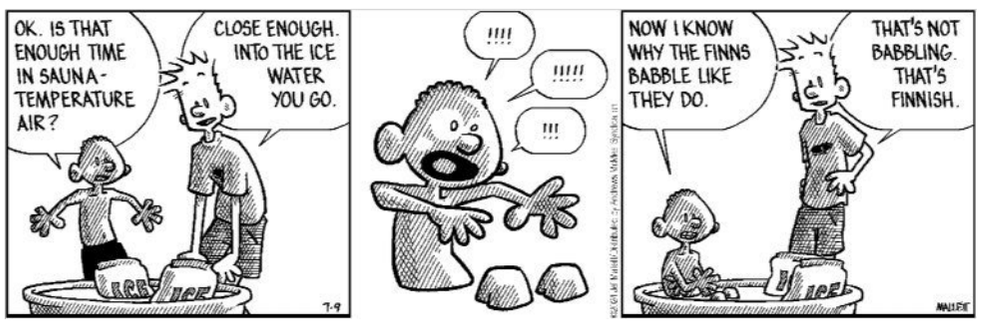
HEART OF THE CITY STEENZ



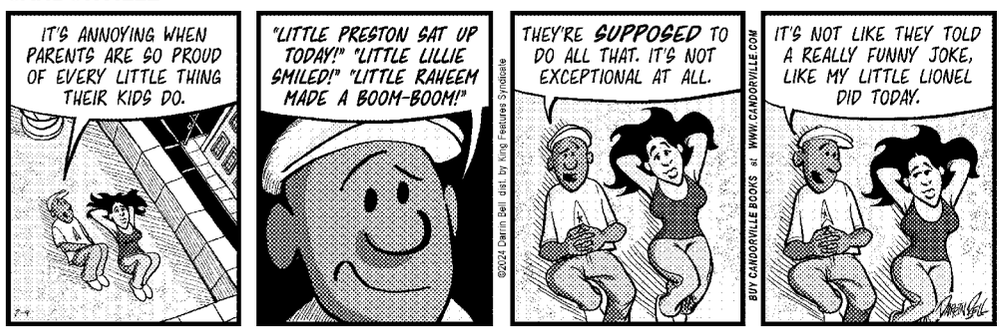
JUDGE PARKER FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & MIKE MANLEY



FRAZZ JEF MALLETT



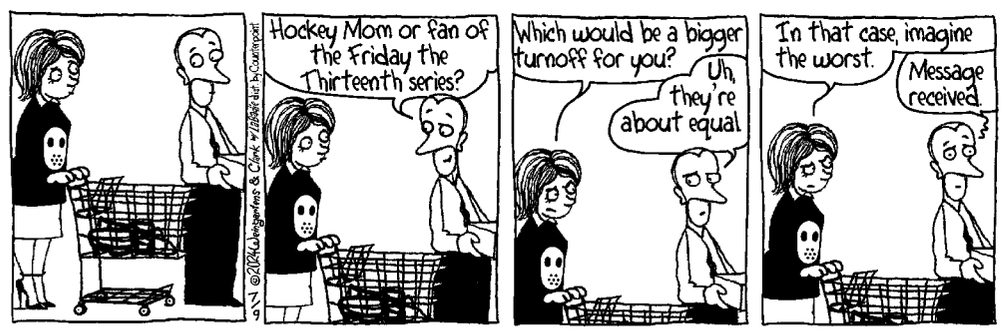
CANDORVILLE DARRIN BELL



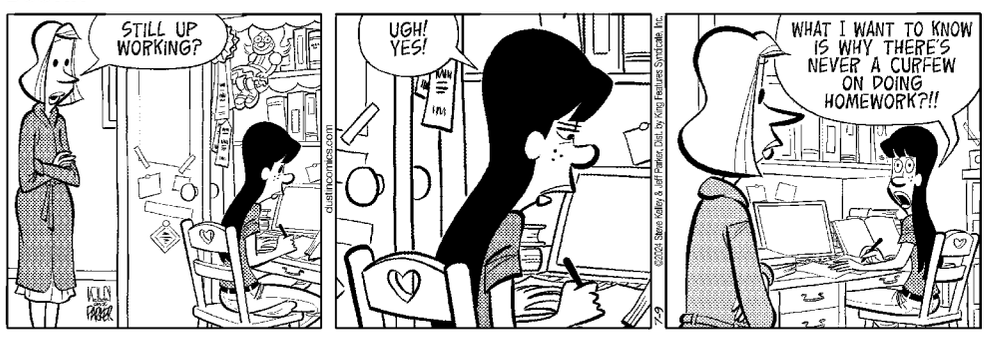
GARFIELD JIM DAVIS



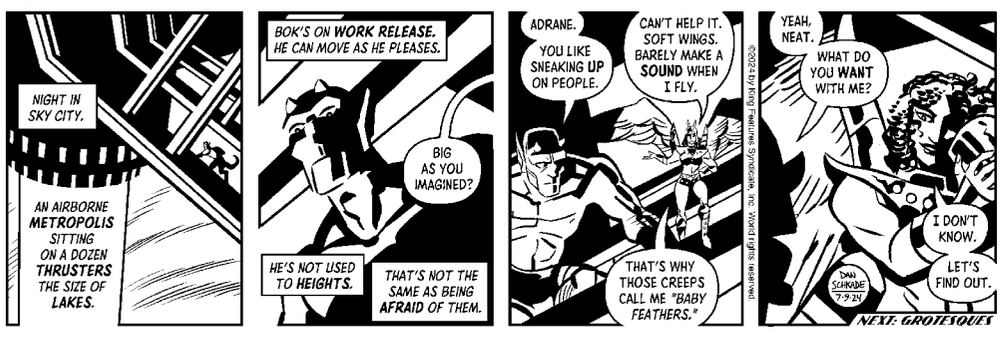
BARNEY AND CLYDE WEINGARTENS & CLARK



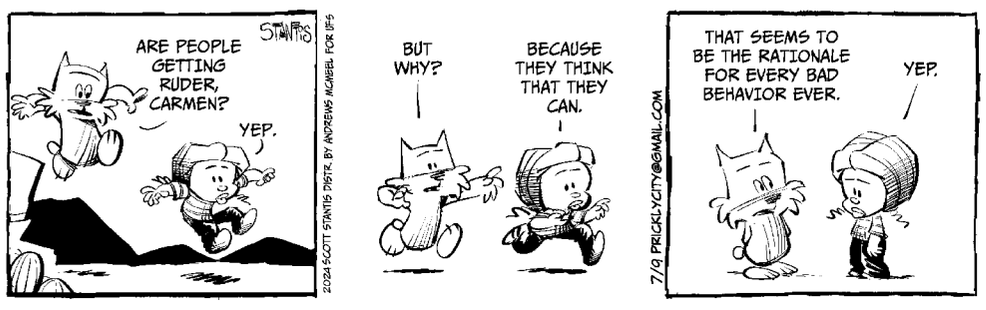
DUSTIN STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



FLASH GORDON DAN SCHKADE



PRICKLY CITY SCOTT STANTIS



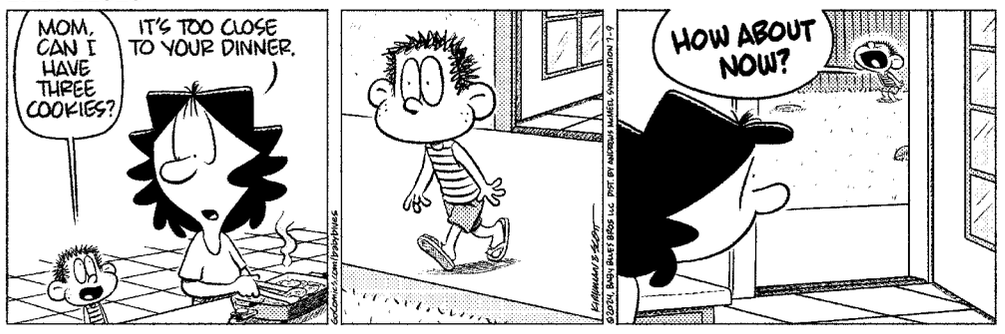
LOOSE PARTS DAVE BLAZEK



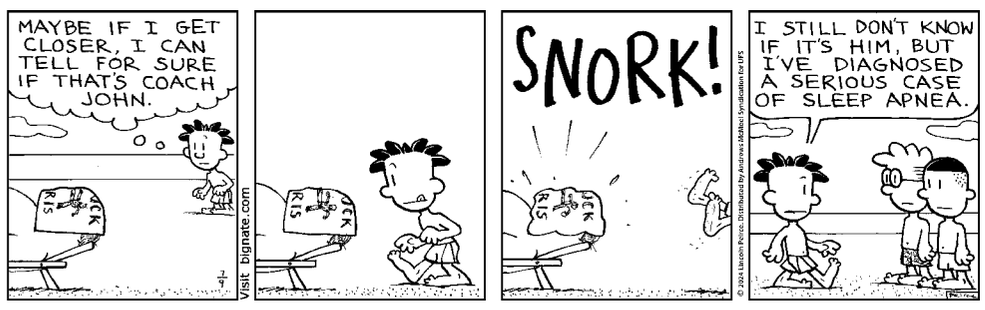
NON SEQUITUR WILEY



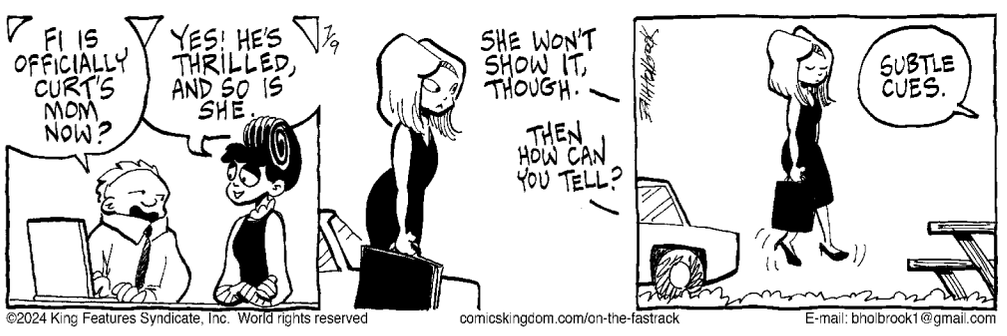
BABY BLUES RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



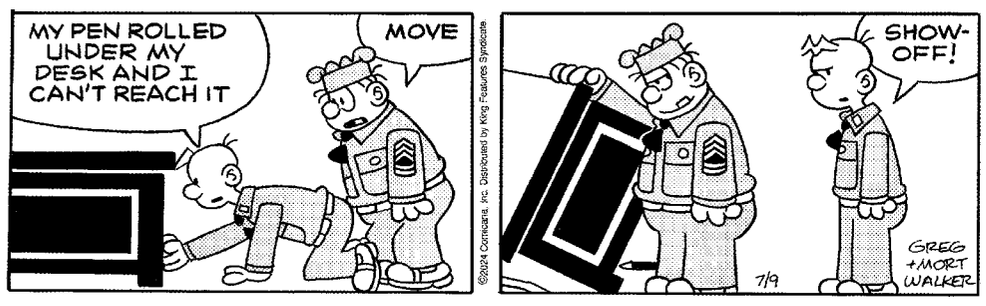
BIG NATE LINCOLN PEIRCE



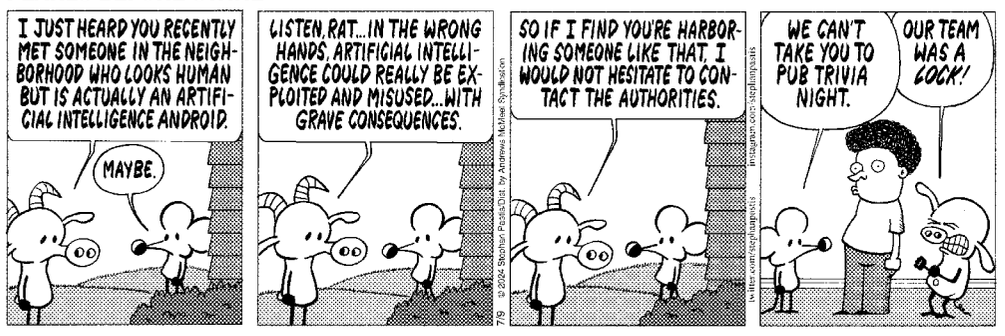
ON THE FASTRACK BILL HOLBROOK



BEETLE BAILEY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



HOROSCOPE

BIRTHDAY | JULY 9

You're energetic and enthusiastic, and you want a lot out of life. You're curious and love to learn. This is a year of service to others, especially to family. Therefore, take care of your mind, body and spirit – perhaps a personal makeover. Personalize your home with small items.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions until 10:15 a.m. today. After that, the Moon moves from Leo into Virgo.

ARIES
(MARCH 21-APRIL 19).
It will please you to do something so that you feel you're better organized today and on top of your game. This could be something related to your job or any work that you do. It also might be something related to your health or even taking care of a pet.

TAURUS
(APRIL 20-MAY 20).
This is a playful, fun-loving day for you. Do something to give yourself a treat today. Take time out of your day for a fun lunch, a walk in a park or checking out fun shops and antique stores. Basically, you want to play and relax today.

GEMINI
(MAY 21-JUNE 20).
Home, family and your private life are your priority today. Although you're focused on earnings, and your relations with siblings and relatives are positive, today you need to take a breather.

CANCER
(JUNE 21-JULY 22).
Today you have strong feelings about needing to be heard by someone. You have something to say, and you want someone to listen. (You certainly don't want to spend time in meaningless chitchat about the weather.)

LEO
(JULY 23-AUG. 22).
You're keeping a low profile; however, with both Mercury and Venus in your sign, you feel sociable! Today, money ideas, cash flow and earnings will be a focus. At a deeper level, you might give some thought to your values and what really matters in your life.

VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22).
Today the Moon is in your sign, which will make you a bit more emotional than usual. However, the good news is that when the Moon is in your sign (which occurs for two and a half days every month), your luck improves!

LIBRA
(SEPT. 23-OCT. 22).
It's a curious thing, because although you're high-viz and schmoozing and being friendly with groups and acquaintances, today you might want your privacy and a chance to catch your breath, quietly on your own.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 23-NOV. 21).
You might have an important conversation with a friend today, perhaps a female or a member of a group. People will listen to you, because both Mercury and Venus are at the top of your chart making you appear attractive as well as informed. (It's a nice bonus.)

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21).
Today personal details about your private life seem to be public for some reason. Do be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control. This could relate to financial matters or something based on a loan or a mortgage.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 19).
Because you have a strong sense of adventure today, you want to do something different. Perhaps shake things up a bit. Therefore, travel. Or be a tourist in your own city.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 20-FEB. 18).
You're working hard. However, today you might be focused on secret material or private financial matters, especially related to banking, taxes, debt or inheritances.

PISCES
(FEB. 19-MARCH 20).
Today you will have to go more than halfway to get along with others because the Moon is opposite your sign. (That's how it works.) It's not a big deal. This just requires a little friendly cooperation. You can do this.

— Georgia Nicols

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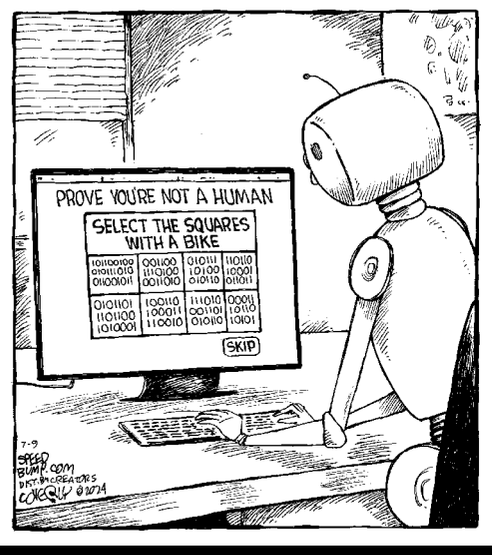
PREVIOUS SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

PREVIOUS SCRABBLEGRAMS SOLUTION

A1	R1	O1	U1	S1	A1	L1	R5ACK 1 =	57
U1	N1	E1	Q10	U1	A1	L1	RACK 2 =	98
C3	A1	P3	A1	B3	L1	E1	RACK 3 =	63
J8	U1	N1	K5	E1	T1		RACK 4 =	25
PAR SCORE 155-165							TOTAL	243

SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



DENNIS THE MENACE H. KETCHAM



FAMILY CIRCUS BIL KEANE



REPLY ALL LITE DONNA A. LEWIS



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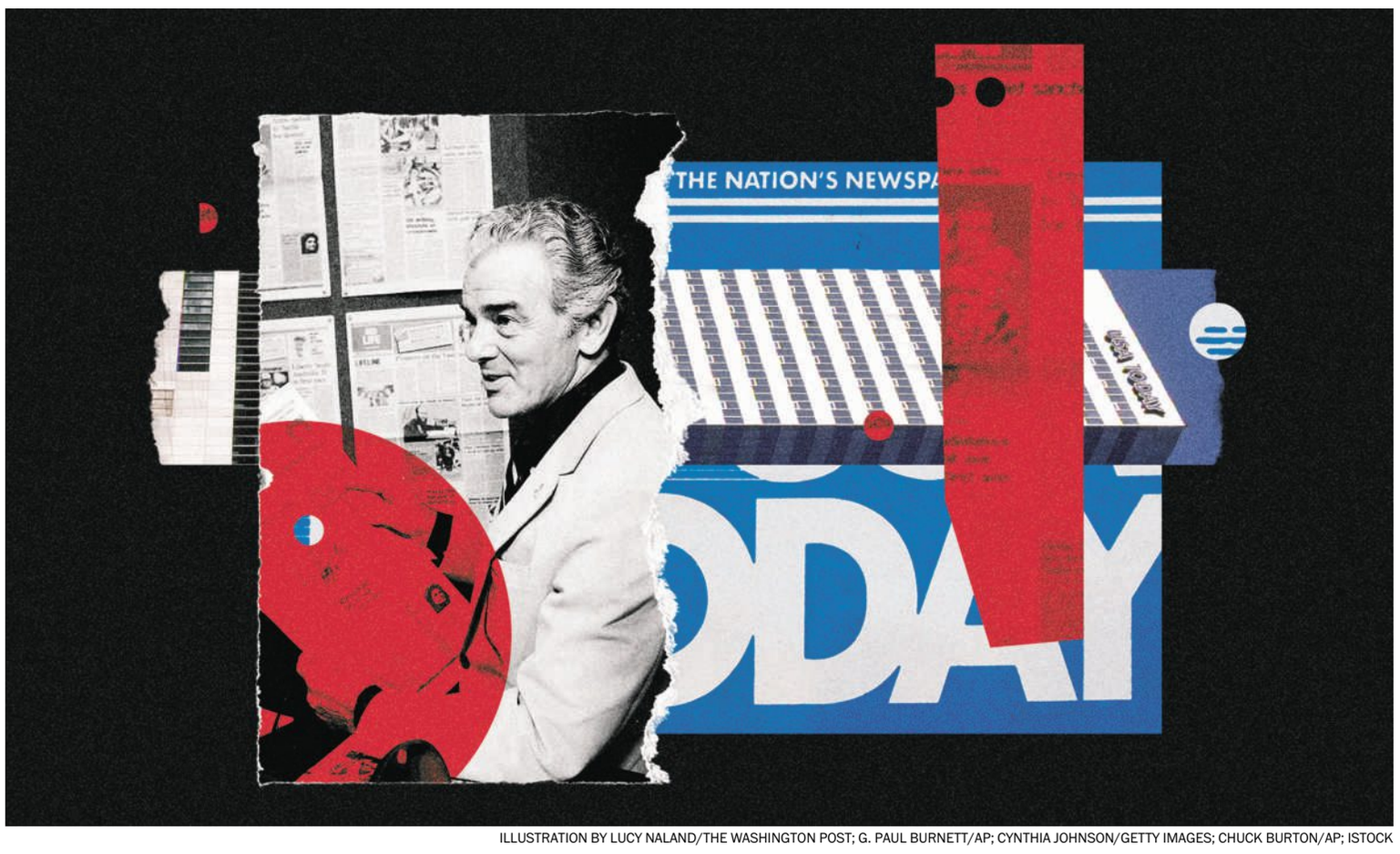


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USA Today gets aid from local papers

USA TODAY FROM **C1**

explanation.

In an interview, Samuel — previously the executive editor at NPR and a senior editor at The Washington Post — said he helped expand USA Today's digital audience during his brief tenure and encouraged his staff to "take more chances and be more brave" in the wake of a series of staff cuts before his arrival.

Though he declined to discuss the circumstances of his departure, insiders say the arrival of a new executive in April precipitated his resignation. Gannett handed Monica R. Richardson, a senior vice president, direct supervision of the newsroom, thus diminishing Samuel's authority.

Gannett appointed one of Samuel's deputies, Caren Bohan, as his interim replacement. Bohan, a former White House reporter for Thomson Reuters who joined USA Today six years ago, said that she plans to focus on "first-rate coverage of big stories," such as the Olympics and the presidential election, as well as the "innovative storytelling approaches that have been USA Today's signature since its beginning."

A Gannett spokesperson declined to comment.

Samuel, 62, is the third editor of a leading newspaper to leave this year, a reflection of the turbulence besetting the business. The others include Kevin Merida of the Los Angeles Times, who resigned in January, and Sally Buzbee at The Washington Post, who stepped down last month after new publisher Will Lewis offered her a lesser position.

From its beginning, USA Today was an expensive gamble on an untested premise: that Americans wanted a national newspaper, one that would be a "second read" to their local paper.

Gannett's late chairman, Al Neuharth, believed that millions of daily business travelers and vacationers could form the core readership of such a publication. He stood by his brainchild even as it racked up an estimated $400 million in losses during its first five years, a sum equal to about $1.15 billion today.

Neuharth tapped the then-bountiful profits of Gannett's local newspapers to underwrite his project. He also tapped into the labor of those smaller papers' journalists for his new national paper's early newsroom, paying to house them in tiny apartments — "stay-free minipads," some joked — near its then-headquarters in Rosslyn, just across the Potomac River from D.C.

(Gannett is now headquartered in New York. USA Today pulled up stakes from Rosslyn several years ago and in February closed its longtime newsroom in McLean, Va. Its remaining Beltway-area employees now work remotely or from its downtown Washington bureau.)

USA Today's greatest historical achievement may have been its ability to print and distribute a newspaper in large cities and small towns, coast to coast — and with color photos and graphics, an innovation at the time.

Gannett harnessed satellite technology and an expensive network of printing plants and truck fleets to get the paper out each day. Copies were sold from more than 100,000 distinctively designed street-corner boxes — said to resemble television sets — and purchased in bulk by hotels and airlines, which gave them away to guests and passengers.

Christine Brennan, the paper's longtime sports columnist, recalls writing in an Omaha hotel room late one night in 2008. Hours later, she heard the plop of a newspaper outside her door. She opened it to find the latest edition, her column published within. The technology and resources that made it possible, she said, "felt like a miracle."

While USA Today retains a print edition, it is now an afterthought, as it is at many papers.

Print circulation has plummeted at all newspapers. But USA Today, which once could boast that it was the most-read general interest newspaper in the country, with 2.3 million daily copies, is now just the fifth, with 113,228 at the end of last year.

As print sales dwindled, Gannett cut back on printing facilities and pushed its newsroom deadlines back so that papers could be printed earlier and trucked longer distances from fewer plants. One of USA Today's early selling points — that it carried late scores in its well-regarded sports section — is now a thing of the past.

The 21st century version of USA Today retains the name of the original paper but not much else. Gone are many of the quirky stories and the chirpy tone that gave birth to such early headlines as "USA is eating its vegetables" and "Men, Women: We're still different."

The digital presentation is straightforward and conventional, as is the writing and news judgment. The lead stories on Friday — Hurricane Beryl, the monthly jobs report, President Biden's political future — were the same as those leading other mainstream news sites.

The remodeling of the paper into a digital operation has been relatively successful, attracting 64.1 million unique visitors in May, according to Comscore, ranking it among leading news organizations.

But "monetizing" those visitors is another issue. The paper has relatively few digital subscribers — just 142,212, according to its year-end report, far behind leading paywalled news sites, such as the New York Times, The Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal. That means it's dependent on advertising, which is often sold at steeply discounted prices on the internet. Gannett doesn't disclose revenue and profit figures for USA Today, but it's unlikely that it's profitable.

Gannett's own financial challenges, meanwhile, have dangled like a sword over USA Today for a number of years. The company is the creation of a 2019 buyout of the venerable Gannett Co. (founded 1906) by the parent of GateHouse Media, another newspaper chain.

The deal saddled the combined company with about $1.8 billion in debt, leading to endless rounds of cost-cutting and asset sales. Gannett now has fewer employees as a merged company than it had before the buyout.

While USA Today has hired a few journalists in the past year, the general uncertainty about its parent company has induced a reflexive paranoia, said a former USA Today journalist, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid workplace repercussions.

The ex-staffer described the "freak out" whenever editors called a staff meeting: Even if the meeting was routine, the assumption was that more bad news was going to be announced.

Despite the unpredictable atmosphere, USA Today has managed to produce some solid journalism under Samuel and his predecessor, Nicole Carroll.

In September, sportswriter Kenny Jacoby broke news of allegations of sexual harassment against Michigan State football coach Mel Tucker, a disclosure that led to Tucker's firing. Staffer Nick Penzenstadler has done enterprising reporting on gun crimes and gun-store sales; in May, he reported on leaked data showing the U.S. sources of guns used in crimes committed by Mexico's drug cartels.

(The paper endured a miniscandal in 2022, though, when it acknowledged that 23 articles written by a breaking-news writer, Gabriela Miranda, appeared to have used fabricated sources; the articles were removed and Miranda resigned).

USA Today's staff has taken some hits amid Gannett's austerity campaign and various reorganizations. Samuel supervised 241 journalists over the past year — about 20 more than the paper had at its launch in 1982. Carroll, though was in charge of 285 journalists when she left in 2023.

Both editors in chief have managed to keep the print newspaper looking relatively healthy and full of stories, thanks to USA Today's ties to Gannett's fleet of nearly 200 daily newspapers**.** Under an operation branded as the USA Today Network, the flagship paper taps into the reporting of newspapers across the country and vice versa.

This has led to collaboration on a number of major stories; USA Today, for example, drew on reporting by the Gannett-owned News Journal in Delaware for coverage of Hunter Biden, its Florida papers for reporting on former president Donald Trump, and the entire network for the eclipse in April.

In its 42 years, USA Today has never won a Pulitzer Prize, though its reporters have recently come close. Under Carroll, the paper contributed to Pulitzer-winning stories principally reported by journalists at Gannett's regional newspapers in Phoenix, Cincinnati and Louisville.

Asked for his assessment of USA Today's contribution to journalism, longtime media critic Jack Shafer pointed instead to its design.

"Its goal of being the place for a quick and airy take on the news became the template for many of the early [web] news portals and aggregators," he said. Even the original USA Today street boxes, now mostly gone, resembled the computer monitors that would eventually supersede print as the place for quick and concise news and information, he said.

USA Today was an innovator, said Shafer. And its current fate is like that of all innovators: "What made it special," he said, "became common as others imitated it."

Sexual abuse revealed by Munro's daughter

MUNRO FROM **C1**

during a 1976 visit to her mother and stepfather. During subsequent visits, Fremlin spoke lewdly to her, exposed himself and masturbated in front of her. Skinner struggled with bulimia, migraines and insomnia throughout her youth, and at age 25, divulged the abuse to her mother.

When she next spoke to her mother, Skinner wrote, Munro focused on her own sense of personal injury, and seemed "incredulous" that Skinner described being hurt by the abuse. Munro told Skinner about "other children Fremlin had 'friendships' with, emphasizing her own sense that she, personally, had been betrayed."

Other members of the family knew about some aspect of the abuse. Soon after the initial assault, Skinner told her stepmother, who informed Skinner's father, Jim Munro. Jim Munro did not inform his ex-wife, a choice that "relieved" Skinner at first, she wrote. Later, though, his "inability to take swift and decisive action to protect me also left me feeling that I no longer truly belonged in either home. I was alone."

Skinner became estranged from the family in 2002, after telling Munro she would not allow Fremlin near her children. After reading a 2004 newspaper feature in which Munro spoke glowingly about her marriage, Skinner wrote, she decided she could no longer keep the abuse a family secret. She contacted Ontario police and shared Fremlin's letters. He was charged for indecent assault, and pleaded guilty, in 2005. Skinner hoped that this would force the public to confront her experience, but "my mother's fame meant the silence continued."

The secrecy spread beyond the family: Canadian academic Robert Thacker told the Globe and Mail that Skinner had written to him about her experiences as his book "Alice Munro: Writing Her Lives" went to press in 2005. Thacker decided not to act on the information: "I knew about the discord within the family and no, I wasn't going to do anything to make a bad situation worse." He also said he had spoken with Munro about the abuse, but did not elaborate on those conversations.

"Many influential people came to know something of my story yet continued to support, and add to, a narrative they knew was false," Skinner wrote in her essay.

Skinner and her siblings reconnected in 2014, as they began to talk more openly about the dynamics that had prevented them from discussing the abuse with each other, or understanding its severity. "We were so loyal to our mother that sometimes we were almost pitted against each other," her sister told Toronto Star reporters.

Contacted by The Washington Post for comment, Skinner wrote, "I feel that the #metoo movement has changed the way we talk about and think about shame and silence. We are fed up with the way things have been.

"I feel very grateful for people like Dylan Farrow, who spoke out at a time when it was extremely dangerous to do so. The brave people who dared to tell the truth, back when the public were a lot less trauma-informed, cleared a path for people like me. I really want to open the path for many, many others."

Readers expressed horror at the news, with some saying that it would be difficult for them to return to reading Munro's work. (As of press time, representatives for Penguin Random House Canada had not responded to a request for comment.)

"The Alice Munro news is so completely and tragically consistent with the world she evoked in her stories — all those young people betrayed and sabotaged by adults who were supposed to care for them," novelist Jess Row wrote on the social media site X. "This is the most awful feeling of recognition."

"This is gutting," Tajja Isen, a contributing editor to the Walrus, a Canadian magazine, said on X. "I have so much respect for Andrea for writing this, especially amidst a flood of pieces — including mine, just last week — that missed this part of her mother's legacy."

"Someone will surely eventually write the piece that worries we are cancelling Munro but I feel this revelation only enriches and deepens my understanding and relationship with her work," journalist Michelle Dean said on X. "I only wish it had been made sooner because Andrea Skinner did not deserve to pay this price."

Munro's Books, the bookstore cofounded by Alice and Jim Munro in 1963 and under new ownership since 2014, expressed support for Skinner in a statement: "Along with so many readers and writers, we will need time to absorb this news and the impact it may have on the legacy of Alice Munro, whose works and ties to the store we have previously celebrated."



CHAD HIPOLITO/CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Writer Alice Munro stayed with her husband Gerald Fremlin after her daughter Andrea Robin Skinner revealed that he had sexually abused her, Skinner wrote in the Toronto Star.

Stepson's addiction threatens marriage that once seemed like a 'fairy tale'



Carolyn Hax

Adapted from an online discussion.

Dear Carolyn: My 52-year-old stepson is a heroin addict. I have been married to his father for almost 25 years. There are two other sons who are lovely, successful people. The addict stepson has been in trouble with the law since his teen years.

When his father and I married, I was the more financially stable by a wide degree, so I wanted to keep our finances as separate as law allowed. We decided easily who would pay for vacations, finance home repairs, buy cars, etc. Frankly, our marriage was astonishing in its ease. It felt like a fairy tale for the first 10 years.

Since then, my husband's financials changed dramatically for the better and his income is over twice mine. We easily rearranged what we pay for to reflect this.

When I first met the addict son, I was willing to help out. He was in his early 20s, back in town, looking for work, not an addict then. The "help" he gets is now our single biggest expense. It is almost always cash, straight to his pocket. At this point, he is barely making excuses, just a text saying, "I need $50 for gas." And out the money goes. We gave him money to buy a car and he never bought it. He got a settlement from an accident and lied about where that money went. We have spent well into five figures for attorneys.

I attempted counseling, which my husband was a good sport about. We agreed not to give any more cash, but we never followed up. He lies to me about the money and doesn't seem to realize I consider him untrustworthy. I worry he may be borrowing money.



ILLUSTRATION BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The son says he's in a methadone program, and he was, but I am doubting it now. The son lies and lies and lies, and my husband says he can't not help his son, even when he catches him lying. I have tried to just accept this, but I haven't managed it. I have tried to leave him, but I haven't managed that, either. I want my fairy tale marriage back!

— Anonymous

Anonymous: Of course you do. But no one goes back.

So I urge you to harness the same skill, self-awareness and openness that brought you those happier times toward dealing with these tragic ones.

Namely, accept that your husband won't stop helping his son, who has a potentially fatal illness. Then, arrange your finances to insulate the money you need for a good life — present and future — from what your husband needs for his son. You tried to stop the spending and couldn't, then to leave and you couldn't, so: honesty and containment.

Your husband would agree to that, yes? So set it up soonest by deciding how much cash you can basically set on fire without imperiling your way of life, then put that aside as the sole resource for your husband to use toward his son. The rest goes under your control.

Obviously, your husband can access marital money in other ways, or sign for debt. The point of the exercise isn't to lock up every cent; it's to replace conflict and hiding with acceptance and a plan.

If you're thinking "been there, tried that," allow me to ask: 100 percent acceptance? That your husband won't stop trying to keep his son alive? Because that's what I'm talking about.

Readers suggested Al-Anon and Nar-Anon to help you with this. Consider another counseling "attempt," too, with this goal: love that coexists with his commitment to hold on to someone so terribly out of his hands.

Write to Carolyn Hax at *tellme@washpost.com*. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at *wapo.st/gethax*.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at *washingtonpost.com/live-chats*.

The Washington Post
SPORTS
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024
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Leonsis figures GM transition 'future-proofs' the Capitals



Barry Svrluga

The Washington Capitals initiated a transfer of power Monday. It can't be deemed normal, because the Caps are not a normal franchise. Ted Leonsis has owned the NHL team since 1999. On Monday, he installed Chris Patrick as his third general manager. In an inherently unstable business, that's remarkable stability.

The transitions, for a franchise that has made 15 postseason appearances in the past 17 years, have been seamless and in-house. George McPhee is the only top hockey executive Leonsis has fired, and when he did, he turned to Brian MacLellan, McPhee's longtime assistant. MacLellan remains the team president, a role in which, as Leonsis said, "He'll have final say on everything."

But making the day-to-day phone calls to other general managers and holding the meetings with coaches and trainers, the man with his finger on the organization's pulse, will

SEE **SVRLUGA** ON **D6**

Change at top: Caps name Chris Patrick GM; MacLellan stays on. **D5**

NBA wanted parity, but it could be set for mediocrity



Jerry Brewer

You need an accountant to follow the NBA offseason. You can't just approach any standard bean counter, either. You must find an absolute basketball nut who also loves bureaucracy, spreadsheets, contractual fine print, the jargon of wealthy people, puzzles, mazes and knots. If your new friend can do all this while juggling, consider them a keeper.

All of these skills seem necessary just to conjure a proper trade scenario in this new NBA. We've advanced to the second week of this so-called apron era, and it has been as cumbersome as the name would indicate. Since the NBA implemented a salary cap 40 years ago, the business operation has grown more complicated with every new collective bargaining

SEE **BREWER** ON **D5**



RAFAEL SUANES/USA TODAY SPORTS

After making an errant throw in the third inning Monday, Nationals shortstop CJ Abrams committed his second error of the game, a fielding miscue, in the eighth.

Defeat is in details

BY SPENCER NUSBAUM

CARDINALS 6, NATIONALS 0

Little lapses can explain big gap between the Nats and St. Louis

The gap between the Nationals and the St. Louis Cardinals shouldn't be as disparate as the 6½ games that separate them in the wild-card standings following Monday's 6-0 Washington loss. The two teams own relatively similar run differentials, with Washington actually having the leg up in that department, minus-23 to minus-33. The Nationals, too, have generally had a better starting rotation.

While the standings don't lie, the numbers hide the little things, those very tenets Dave Martinez preaches ad nauseam. Monday's loss only bolstered the manager's case.

"Not good," Martinez said of his team's defense. "You saw the game. It's not good. We got to clean that up, and we can't beat ourselves. Today we beat ourselves a little bit."

The game served as a fitting summary of how these Nationals find themselves 42-49 ahead of a six-game trip before the all-star break. The offense endured its ninth shutout, more than the team managed in the entire 2023 season. Starter Mitchell Parker logged seven innings to keep things interesting. And so a detail that occasionally serves as an afterthought — the team's minus-18 defensive runs saved, per FanGraphs, which ranks sixth worst in MLB — instead was underscored.

It showed itself when Parker was a tick too slow to cover first base in the third inning, then failed to pick up a soft groundball with his glove on the next play that put two runners on. Or, two batters later, when Alec Burleson hit what looked like a certain inning-ending double play ball at third baseman Trey Lipscomb. Lipscomb threw to second, but CJ Abrams's throw to first baseman Juan Yepez was errant, allowing Nolan Gorman to score the game's first run.

"Bottom line, I just have to get that," Parker said. "Between the half-step when covering first and getting that groundball, I just can't let it happen."

SEE **NATIONALS** ON **D4**

Nationals at Mets: 7 p.m., MASN | **Takes a village:** Wood had no shortage of support in his first week in the big leagues. **A1**

GOLF

The PGA of America tabs Keegan Bradley as the captain for the 2025 Ryder Cup team. **D2**

PRO FOOTBALL

The NFL hands Steelers DB Cam Sutton an eight-game ban for violating its personal conduct policy. **D2**

TENNIS

Frances Tiafoe, Aryna Sabalenka headline the preliminary field for DC Open later this month. **D3**

Fritz, Paul lead American revolution

BY AVA WALLACE

For first time since 2000, multiple U.S. men reach Wimbledon quarterfinals

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND — Tommy Paul arrived at the All England Club at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, only to wait for hours for the rain that has been soaking Wimbledon for days to stop. He warmed up for about 10 minutes before settling into a plush locker room to while away the hours with a putting competition.

When it finally came time to play, Paul was relaxed. He defeated Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut in straight sets — and then another wait began. No. 12 seed Paul, 27, had done his part in clinching a spot in the quarterfinals. He had to wait another day for his good buddy Taylor Fritz, 26, to do his part in ending one long dry spell for the Americans.

No. 13 Fritz defeated No. 4 Alexander Zverev, 4-6, 6-7 (7-4), 6-4, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, on Monday to ensure that multiple American men will play in the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time since 2000, when Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Jan-Michael Gambill made the final eight. Fritz and Paul join a surprise women's quarterfinalist, No. 19 seed Emma Navarro, as the last Americans standing.

Fritz notched one of the more impressive Grand Slam wins of his

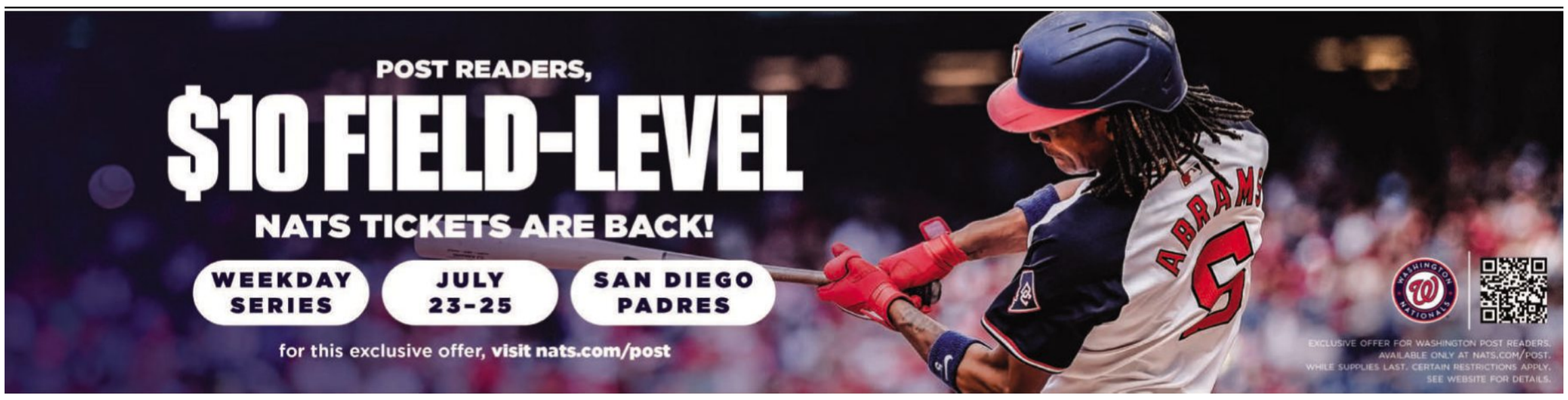
SEE **WIMBLEDON** ON **D3**

Wimbledon, quarterfinals
8 a.m., ESPN, ESPN2
A tennis journey: Lulu Sun, global citizen, lands in the quarters. **D3**



TIM IRELAND/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

No. 13 seed Taylor Fritz dropped the first two sets before rallying past No. 4 Alexander Zverev on Monday at the All England Club.



THE DAY IN SPORTS

PRO FOOTBALL

Steelers CB Sutton gets eight-game ban

The NFL suspended Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback **Cam Sutton** for the first eight games of the season for violating its personal conduct policy.

The league announced the decision Monday, stipulating that Sutton — who will not be paid during the suspension — would be eligible to apply for reinstatement Oct. 29. The discipline stems from Sutton's involvement in an alleged domestic violence dispute in Florida in March.

Sutton entered a pretrial diversion program in April after the charges were reduced from a felony to misdemeanor battery. His agreement with prosecutors required Sutton to take a mental health evaluation.

The Detroit Lions cut Sutton after an arrest warrant was issued. He found a lifeline in Pittsburgh, where he played for his first six seasons in the league from 2017 to 2022.

The Steelers signed Sutton to a one-year contract in June. He participated in organized team activities and minicamp but at the time declined to discuss what led to his arrest or any punishment that the NFL could levy.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Connecticut's Hurley cashes in with big deal

Connecticut and men's basketball coach **Dan Hurley** agreed to a six-year, $50 million contract through the 2029-30 season that makes him one of the nation's highest-paid college coaches. The move came nearly a month after he turned down a lucrative offer to coach the Los Angeles Lakers.

Hurley, who passed on guiding the NBA club to return to the two-time defending NCAA champion, also can earn more through performance-based incentives, a news release from the school said. In addition to his $400,000 base salary, he will receive $6.375 million next season, a boost that includes compensation from speaking, consulting and media obligations.

The agreement, which includes a $1 million annual retention bonus, will be covered by increased ticket sales revenue and donations from the Husky Athletic Fund, the news release added. It replaces the six-year, $32.1 million agreement reached in June 2023 after Hurley won his first national championship with the Huskies.

Hurley, a 51-year-old who is 141-58 in six seasons with the Huskies and 292-163 overall entering his 15th as a Division I head coach, acknowledged the Lakers' six-year, $70 million offer was "obviously tempting." He also was mentioned as a candidate for the Kentucky coaching vacancy after **John Calipari** left for Arkansas. But Hurley reiterated last month that he belongs at Connecticut and said in Monday's news release that "it's an honor" to represent the school and that he is proud of what the program has built.

SOCCER

England-Netherlands ref was tied to scandal

The referee for England's semifinal against the Netherlands at the European Championship will be **Felix Zwayer**, who once had ties to a match-fixing scandal in Germany.

Wednesday's game will be Zwayer's fourth of Euro 2024 and his second featuring the Netherlands after refereeing its 3-0 win over Romania in the round of 16. UEFA and the German soccer federation announced the appointment.

England midfielder **Jude Bellingham** was fined 40,000 euros (about $43,400) while playing for Borussia Dortmund in 2021 for criticizing an appointment of Zwayer.

As a young assistant referee, Zwayer received a six-month ban in 2006 over an allegation that he received money from another referee, **Robert Hoyzer**, who was banned for match-fixing. A ruling in the case, which was published in 2014 by German newspaper Die Zeit, found Zwayer accepted 300 euros (about $325) from Hoyzer ahead of a 2004 game and did not immediately report the incident. The newspaper said there was no evidence Zwayer manipulated a game and he eventually provided crucial evidence.

After Zwayer oversaw a close 3-2 loss for Dortmund to Bayern Munich in December 2021, Bellingham said, "You give a referee that's, you know, match-fixed before, the biggest game in Germany — what do you expect?"

Zwayer told German broadcaster Sky the following month that he received "unbelievable" emailed messages and Berlin police informed him of a death threat made against him online. …

Rodri called for more protection for players after one of his Spain teammates was ruled out of the rest of the European Championship.

Pedri's tournament ended when the midfielder suffered a knee injury Friday in a challenge by **Toni Kroos** at the start of a quarterfinal against Germany, which Spain went on to win, 2-1. Spain Coach **Luis de la Fuente** said Kroos should have been sent off, but he did not even receive a yellow card.

"As football players, we always want to be protected," Rodri said. "This is the job of the referee. He puts the standard, so what is a yellow card or red card is his job, It's not our job. And we play with the rules or with the level he put. This is the reality."

Rodri, considered the best defensive midfielder in the world, said he is expecting another physical encounter in Tuesday's semifinal against France. …

Champions League runner-up Borussia Dortmund made Germany defender **Waldemar Anton** its first signing of the offseason, leaving Stuttgart in need of a new captain for its return to top-level European competition next season.

Anton played all but one Bundesliga game for Stuttgart last season as the team defied expectations to finish second in the league. That helped earn him a call-up to Germany's squad for the European Championship; he came off the bench in two games during the host nation's run to the quarterfinals.

Anton is likely to team up on defense with **Nico Schlotterbeck** after **Mats Hummels** left the club last month when his contract expired. Anton joins Dortmund on a four-year contract for an undisclosed transfer fee after four years at Stuttgart. …

New AC Milan coach **Paulo Fonseca** was met with skepticism and doubts about the club's direction upon his arrival.

Fans are upset that Bologna standout **Joshua Zirkzee** apparently chose Manchester United over Milan and that the seven-time European champion still doesn't have a replacement for **Olivier Giroud** at center forward. Milan has not made a signing during the opening days of the transfer window despite finishing 19 points behind Serie A champion Inter Milan last season.

"We all know that we need a center forward. We're working together to bring in the right striker with the right attributes," Fonseca said at his introduction after signing a three-year contract last month to replace **Stefano Pioli**.

Giroud left after his contract expired; **Álvaro Morata** and **Romelu Lukaku** have been mentioned as possible replacements for him. …

Paraguay fired coach **Daniel Garnero** after a winless Copa América.

Paraguay lost its group matches to Colombia, Brazil and Costa Rica. The 54-year-old Argentine had been in the job for just 10 matches. His team scored just five times and conceded 13 goals since he took over in September from **Guillermo Barros Schelotto**.



PAUL CHILDS/REUTERS

Played him like a fiddle

Novak Djokovic shows off his violin skills after beating Holger Rune in straight sets to reach the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

SPOTLIGHT: GOLF

Bradley — not Woods — is Ryder Cup captain

BY MATT BONESTEEL

The PGA of America announced Monday that Keegan Bradley will captain the 2025 U.S. Ryder Cup team, ending speculation that 15-time major champion Tiger Woods would take on the role.

Many golf fans were hoping the PGA of America would turn to Woods after the Americans' noncompetitive Ryder Cup showing last year in a 16½-11½ loss to the Europeans in Italy. Captain Zach Johnson received criticism for several reasons, including the six captain's picks (who combined to go 4-12-4), the pairing decisions and what was perceived as lax preparation and insufficient motivation for the event.

Instead, the PGA of America tabbed Bradley to lead the team next year at Bethpage Black on Long Island. It's an outside-the-box selection; U.S. Ryder Cup captains tend to be golfers on the downside of their playing careers. But Bradley, 38, is ranked 19th in the world and scored a PGA Tour win as recently as June 2023 at the Travelers Championship. Johnson passed him over for a captain's choice spot on last year's team, a move that was criticized at the time.

Bradley also never has been an assistant captain for a Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup team, which was perceived as a prerequisite for the Ryder Cup job. As a player, he has appeared on just two Ryder Cup teams — both of them losers, in 2012 and 2014 — and has a 4-3 match record.

"I am proud and excited to name Keegan Bradley as Captain of the 2025 United States Ryder Cup Team," PGA of America President John Lindert said in a statement. "Keegan's past Ryder Cup experience, strong relationships and unwavering passion for this event will prove invaluable as he guides the U.S. Team over the next year and a half. We are confident that with Keegan at the helm, the 2025 U.S. Ryder Cup Team will compete at Bethpage with the same confidence and determination that has defined his career."

After Johnson informed Bradley in August that he would not be on the 2023 team, Bradley posted a photo of his Ryder Cup bag from 2012, when the United States lost to Europe by a point. Bradley revealed that he had not opened the bag since the Sunday of that loss and would not open it again until he was on a winning Ryder Cup team.

"I am incredibly honored to accept this opportunity to Captain the United States Team at the 2025 Ryder Cup," Bradley said in a statement Monday. "I would like to thank the PGA of America Ryder Cup Committee for their trust in me as we embark on this journey to Bethpage Black. My passion and appreciation for golf's greatest team event have never been stronger. The Ryder Cup is unlike any other competition in our sport, and this edition will undoubtedly be particularly special given the rich history and enthusiastic spectators at this iconic course."

Woods captained Team USA to a 16-14 comeback victory over the International team at the 2019 Presidents Cup in Australia, but the Ryder Cup is seen as a step up in prestige. As a player, Woods appeared eight times at the Ryder Cup but posted a 13-21-3 record, and the Americans won the trophy just once with Woods on the roster.

Woods previously voiced concern that he would not have time to take on Ryder Cup captain's duties. He is heavily involved in PGA Tour governance, having been named vice chair of the newly created PGA Tour Enterprises board of directors, and is among the key players trying to broker an agreement between the tour and LIV Golf's Saudi funders. Woods also is still playing despite injuries that recently have limited his appearances to the major championships.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

MLB

6:30 p.m.	**Chicago Cubs at Baltimore** » MASN2, WIYY (97.9 FM), WSBN (630 AM)
6:30 p.m.	**Los Angeles Dodgers at Philadelphia** » TBS
7 p.m.	**Washington at New York Mets** » MASN, WJFK (106.7 FM), WDCN (87.7 FM)
9:30 p.m.	**Seattle at San Diego** » MLB Network

NBA SUMMER LEAGUE

7 p.m.	**Salt Lake City: Memphis vs. Philadelphia** » ESPN
8 p.m.	**California Classic: San Antonio vs. Chinese national team** » NBA TV
9 p.m.	**Salt Lake City: Oklahoma City at Utah** » ESPN2
10 p.m.	**California Classic: Charlotte at Sacramento** » NBA TV

SOCCER

3 p.m.	**European Championship, semifinal: Spain vs. France** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
8 p.m.	**Copa América, semifinal: Argentina vs. Canada** » Fox Sports 1

TENNIS

8 a.m.	**ATP/WTA: Wimbledon, quarterfinals** » ESPN, ESPN2

OLYMPICS

Skinner backtracks on SafeSport thoughts

Olympic medal-winning gymnast **MyKayla Skinner** drew criticism for a since-deleted YouTube video in which she said the U.S. Center for SafeSport is making it difficult for coaches to do their job.

Skinner, who won the silver medal on vault at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, said coaches "can't get on athletes" out of fear of being reported to SafeSport, an independent entity that handles allegations of abuse from various governing bodies across the Olympic movement.

"[Coaches] have to be really careful about what they say, which in some ways is really good. But at the same time, to get where you need to be in gymnastics, you have to be … a little aggressive and a little intense," Skinner said.

The 27-year-old, who retired after the Tokyo Games, seemed to draw a line between the lack of structured coaching and the five-woman team that will represent the United States at the Paris Olympics.

"Besides **Simone [Biles]**, I feel like the talent and the depth just isn't like what it used to be," Skinner said. "… A lot of girls don't work as hard. The girls just don't have the work ethic."

Skinner later backtracked, posting on social media that it was not her intention to "offend or disrespect any of the athletes or take away from their hard work."

She also said she hadn't fully dealt with the emotional and verbal abuse she experienced while training under former U.S. national team coordinator **Martha Karolyi**. Skinner previously told the Associated Press that she was "scared" to return to the national team in 2019 after competing collegiately at Utah, even though Karolyi was no longer part of the program following the **Larry Nassar** sexual abuse scandal.

Rachael Denhollander, a former gymnast who was the first to come forward and detail sexual abuse by Nassar, then a national team doctor, said Skinner's comments show there's still a "long way to go" in educating people about the impact abusive behavior has.

"When an athlete reminisces about one of the most abusive coaches in gymnastics history, suggesting her abusive model was necessary for work ethic, we have a problem," she posted on social media.

SafeSport declined to comment. …

Jamie Davis is leaving USA Volleyball to take over as CEO of USA Water Polo.

Davis's appointment, effective Oct. 1, was announced by USA Water Polo. The hiring was unanimously approved by the organization's board of directors at a recent meeting.

Davis is replacing **Chris Ramsey**, who announced in December that he is retiring after the Paris Olympics. Ramsey is among the longest-tenured leaders for the U.S. Olympic governing bodies.

Davis, a former TV and sports business executive, was hired as USA Volleyball's CEO in 2017. During his time with the organization, membership grew from 339,000 in 2017 to 435,000 this year, the group said.

MISC.

Utah re-signs Hayton to a two-year contract

The Utah Hockey Club re-signed center **Barrett Hayton** to a two-year contract worth $5.3 million. The contract carries a salary cap hit of $2.65 million for the restricted free agent.

Hayton, 24, was the fifth pick of the 2018 draft by the team formerly known as the Arizona Coyotes. He has 84 points in 209 games since making his NHL debut in 2019. Injuries limited him to 33 games last season, when he had three goals and seven assists. …

The New Orleans Pelicans and center **Daniel Theis** agreed to a one-year contract, a person familiar with the agreement told the AP.

The 6-foot-8 German played in 59 games, making three starts, for the Los Angeles Clippers last season, averaging 6.3 points and 4.1 rebounds. The 32-year-old began the season with Indiana but played just one game before the Pacers bought out his contract.

— From news services

At surprising Wimbledon, citizen of world Sun stands out

BY AVA WALLACE

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND — The list of things the tennis world has yet to learn about Lulu Sun is long.

The journey of the 123rd-ranked Sun, who is competing in just her second main draw of a Grand Slam, from the qualifying tournament to a quarterfinal berth at Wimbledon — where the women's tournament has seen top seed after top seed ousted — came as a surprise.

Here, then, is a starter course.

Sun, 23, was born in a town of 2,538 on New Zealand's South Island to a Chinese mother and Croatian father, though her stepfather is German-English and hails from about 200 miles down the road from Centre Court, where she unseated 2021 U.S. Open champion and British darling Emma Raducanu in the fourth round Sunday.

Her family left that small town in New Zealand when she was young for the slightly larger town of Shanghai, where Sun spent a few years before moving to Geneva.

After all that cultural education, it came time for the trilingual Sun — who speaks bubbly, polished English with nary a hint of an accent, as well as French and Mandarin — to continue her academic education at her mother's prodding.

Naturally, this citizen of the world chose to attend the University of Texas.

"I had no plans on going to university. I thought I was going to go straight to pro. I was still playing juniors. … Then I got injured. My mom, she was worried about when am I going to take my exams, all that," Sun said, yadda yadda-ing her mother as daughters do. "Basically, she saw a message from Howard [Joffe], the coach at Texas. She was like: 'Oh, my God! This is a good school! You have to go. Text him back.' I was like, 'Okay, sure.'"

Sun then proved that particular Longhorns bias had managed to seep into her blood, nestled there next to the Swiss and Chinese and Kiwi and Croatian and German-English influences, despite just one season in Austin in which she helped the team win an NCAA championship.

She said she fell in love with the school after comparing it to another Texas institution where she had played a tournament, that institution being Texas Tech.

"I was like, 'Oh, my God, there's nothing here,'" Sun said, laughing. "I was so in awe with Austin, the city. I loved it so much that I was like, wow, this is a school that's so big, and they have everything. It was really amazing."

The grandeur of Austin might feel distant now compared with Sun's achievements over the past two weeks.

Since Sun fended off a match point that might have bounced her from the second round of qualifying, her feisty, freewheeling game has made her a "first" several times over.

She is the first women's qualifier to reach the quarterfinals here since Kaia Kanepi in 2010, the first woman from New Zealand to make the Wimbledon quarterfinals and the first Kiwi player to do so since Chris Lewis, the 1983 runner-up to John McEnroe.

She is perhaps the biggest surprise here, an achievement in itself given the unexpected nature of the women's quarterfinalists. The only top 10 seeds remaining are No. 4 Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, and No. 7 Jasmine Paolini, the surprise French Open finalist from last month. Top-seeded Iga Swiatek lost in the third round, No. 2 Coco Gauff was upset in the fourth round, and No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka withdrew because of a shoulder injury ahead of her first-round match.

Sun will face 28-year-old tour veteran Donna Vekic of Croatia in her quarterfinal and will be ready to play the same big-hitting tennis she displayed against Raducanu.

"I don't think it's surprising. At the same time, I wasn't thinking, 'Oh, I'm going to be in the quarterfinals of Wimbledon,'" Sun said of her run. "I honestly was just like, okay, first match. I got through it. I was like, okay, next match. After I passed qualies, I was super delighted because the last qualies I played at Wimbledon, I lost in the final round of qualies in three sets. I was super disappointed. When you're so close to qualifying, it kind of hurts your heart. So just getting to the main draw was a big step already. Playing all these players up until now, it's just opportunity, a new opportunity each time."

Sun announced herself here with a momentous first-round win over No. 8 Qinwen Zheng to notch her first victory over a player ranked inside the top 50. In the fourth round, she won the first Centre Court match of her career against Raducanu, batting away questions about the bias of the British fans by saying they're not nearly as partisan as those at the French or U.S. Opens.

She watched YouTube videos of Steffi Graf playing Martina Navratilova for inspiration and remembered to come to the net because the everlasting example of Roger Federer lurks in her mind perhaps stronger than it does for most. Sun played for Federer's Switzerland until March, at which point she made the difficult decision to represent her nation of birth.

It still feels a bit unnatural for her to have to officially represent a single country at all.

"It was definitely difficult because I grew up a little bit in New Zealand. I was born there. My family is still there. I grew up in Switzerland as well. Both countries are dear to me," Sun said. "It wasn't an easy decision, because it never is when you have to choose between two things. … It will always be all the countries that I have been in and have grown up or have a link to; they will always be within me in a way. I don't think that's ever going to leave."



HENRY NICHOLLS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Lulu Sun's journey has taken her from a tiny New Zealand town to Shanghai to Geneva to Austin and now to the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Two U.S. men are still alive at the All England Club

WIMBLEDON FROM D1

career by coming back from two sets down against Zverev, who made the French Open final last month. The big-hitting German hadn't lost a set in Wimbledon's first three rounds and was serving so well that he hadn't dropped a service game. He hadn't so much as faced a break point since the first round.

Zverev breezed through the first two sets. But Fritz, who won a warmup tournament on grass ahead of Wimbledon, felt he was playing too well to give in. He backed up against Zverev's serve and gave himself more time to place returns exactly where he wanted.

Fritz finally broke Zverev in the third set — just once. But in a match that came down to big serves and short points, that was enough of a foothold.

"Once we got into the rallies," Fritz said, "I felt like I was playing about as good as I could play."

Zverev didn't feel the same about his performance. The 27-year-old took a nasty spill in his third-round match against Cameron Norrie, suffering what he called a bone bruise and a torn capsule in his left knee. He wore a protective sleeve throughout Monday's match.

"I was on one leg today," Zverev said. "He is playing great. … But also I do know that the match was not high level. I mean, it wasn't a particularly great tennis match. … There wasn't really long rallies, because I couldn't play long rallies."

Zverev had another complaint to air at the net after the match, when he informed Fritz that he felt some of the spectators in his box were being disrespectfully loud, especially considering Zverev was having trouble moving.

"Me and Taylor, we grew up together, playing each other since juniors. I think it was fairly obvious that I wasn't 100 percent today, right?" Zverev said when asked about the exchange. "… His team is extremely respectful. I think his coach, his physio, also his second coach, they're extremely respectful. There's some other people that maybe are in the box that are not maybe from the tennis world, that are not maybe … watching every single match. They were a bit over the top. That's okay. No issues. No drama."

Fritz's win ended a personal dry spell: Monday was his first victory over Zverev in three tries at a Grand Slam. They had met twice before at Wimbledon.

The Californian advanced to face No. 25 seed Lorenzo Musetti, one of two Italians left in the final eight alongside top-seeded Jannik Sinner. Paul, who also won a grass-court tournament ahead of Wimbledon, has a marquee matchup against third-seeded Carlos Alcaraz set for Court No. 1 on Tuesday.

Paul hit 11 aces in his win over Bautista Agut on Sunday and is hoping first-punch tennis aids him as much as it did Fritz on Monday.

"Serve and return are big for me. We both play a pretty aggressive style of tennis," Paul said of Alcaraz. "He's been playing pretty well and ultra-aggressive. It's fun for people to watch. Honestly, it's fun to play against."

No. 2 seed Novak Djokovic advanced in the other fourth-round match Monday; he beat No. 15 Holger Rune, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, to reach his 60th Grand Slam quarterfinal. On Wednesday, Djokovic will face No. 9 Alex de Minaur, who beat Arthur Fils, 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taylor Fritz broke Alexander Zverev, who played through a knee injury, in the third set to turn the tide.



ANDREJ ISAKOVIC/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Tommy Paul, pictured in his third-round victory Friday, faces Carlos Alcaraz in a quarterfinal Tuesday.

Even vying with Games, DC Open has big names

Sabalenka, Jabeur, Keys in women's field; Tiafoe among notable U.S. men

BY SAPNA BANSIL

The DC Open, a fixture of the District's midsummer calendar, will host several of the top tennis players in the world who are forgoing the Paris Olympics and choosing instead to prioritize the North American hard-court circuit.

The preliminary field, released Tuesday morning, includes nine top-20 players and a number of the sport's biggest names. World No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka, No. 10 Ons Jabeur, No. 13 Madison Keys and No. 16 Victoria Azarenka headline the women's tournament. The men's field features No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov and many notable Americans, among them No. 14 Ben Shelton, No. 21 Sebastian Korda and No. 29 Frances Tiafoe.

The tournament, in its 55th year, will take place at William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center in Rock Creek Park from July 27 to Aug. 4 — the same week that the Olympic tennis championships will be staged on the red clay of Roland Garros in France.

Many players have opted to skip the Olympics and focus their attention on hard-court tournaments in D.C., Toronto and Cincinnati, which offer prize money, ranking points and preparation for the U.S. Open, the season's final Grand Slam.

One such player is Tiafoe, a native of Hyattsville and a fan favorite who will make his eighth appearance at his home tournament after advancing to the quarterfinals the past two years. Tiafoe lost to Carlos Alcaraz in a five-set third-round match Friday at Wimbledon.

"I love what his story represents. … The way someone can come from where he came from and now represent our community on stages all over the globe, wearing Commanders shirts in practice, wearing Wizards and Mystics shirts," tournament chair Mark Ein said. "Every time he's there, the electricity in the stands is palpable. So it's always one of the things I most look forward to at the tournament."

Among the players heading to Paris: No. 2 Coco Gauff, the tournament's defending women's singles champion, and three other American women ranked in the top 20 — No. 5 Jessica Pegula (the 2019 Citi Open champion), No. 11 Danielle Collins and No. 17 Emma Navarro, who is coming off a win over Gauff at the All England Club.

Also returning to Paris is No. 1 Iga Swiatek of Poland, the clay-court virtuoso who is 35-2 all-time at Roland Garros and taking aim at another title on her favorite surface.

Dimitrov is the only top-10 player who is scheduled to compete in the men's field in D.C. No. 1 Jannik Sinner, No. 2 Novak Djokovic and No. 3 Alcaraz, along with tennis legends Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray, are all set to play at the Olympics, which released its entry list July 4.

Injuries could play a factor in who ultimately arrives in D.C. for the event. Sabalenka and Azarenka, both former world No. 1s, withdrew from Wimbledon with shoulder injuries. Dimitrov, Keys and women's No. 18 Anna Kalinskaya were all forced to retire from their fourth-round matches.

For now, the field includes five former Grand Slam champions in Sabalenka, Azarenka, No. 49 Sofia Kenin, No. 50 Sloane Stephens and wild-card entrant Emma Raducanu. No. 12 Daria Kasatkina, No. 15 and 2022 champion Liudmila Samsonova, No. 33 Elise Mertens and wild-card entrant Paula Badosa are also lined up for the women's field. No. 22 Karen Khachanov, No. 24 Adrian Mannarino and wild-card entrant Denis Shapovalov are in the men's field.

Stephens, the 2015 champion, and Kenin are among 14 Americans slated to appear. The group also includes Seb Korda, whose father, Petr, won the tournament in 1992, and Reilly Opelka, who has battled injuries and not regularly played on tour since 2022.

Ein said 96 percent of tickets have been sold.

"We're really excited about the player field that we have," Ein said. "It's a great mix of top players, fan favorites, people who've won the biggest championships in the world [and] people who have a connection to our tournament and to our region."

BASEBALL

National League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Philadelphia	58	32	.644	—	5-5	L-2
x-Atlanta	49	39	.557	8	5-5	W-2
New York	44	45	.494	13½	4-6	L-1
Washington	42	49	.462	16½	4-6	L-2
Miami	32	58	.356	26	4-6	W-2

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Milwaukee	53	38	.582	—	5-5	W-1
St. Louis	48	42	.533	4½	7-3	W-2
Pittsburgh	43	47	.478	9½	4-6	W-1
Cincinnati	43	48	.473	10	5-5	W-1
Chicago	42	49	.462	11	5-5	W-1

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Los Angeles	55	36	.604	—	5-5	L-1
San Diego	49	45	.521	7½	6-4	L-2
x-Arizona	45	45	.500	9½	6-4	W-2
San Francisco	44	47	.484	11	5-5	L-2
Colorado	32	59	.352	23	5-5	L-2

x-Late game

American League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Baltimore	57	33	.633	—	7-3	W-1
New York	55	37	.598	3	3-7	L-1
Boston	49	40	.551	7½	6-3	W-1
Tampa Bay	44	46	.489	13	4-6	L-3
Toronto	41	49	.456	16	4-6	W-2

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Cleveland	56	33	.629	—	5-5	L-1
x-Minnesota	51	39	.567	5½	7-3	W-2
Kansas City	49	43	.533	8½	5-5	W-1
Detroit	43	48	.473	14	6-4	W-4
x-Chicago	26	66	.283	31½	5-5	L-2

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Seattle	49	43	.533	—	4-6	L-2
Houston	46	44	.511	2	6-4	L-2
x-Texas	42	48	.467	6	5-5	W-3
x-Los Angeles	37	52	.416	10½	4-6	L-1
Oakland	34	58	.370	15	5-5	L-1

x-Late game

Cardinals 6, Nationals 0

CARDINALS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Winn ss	5	0	0	0	0	2	.289
Burleson dh	5	1	2	3	0	1	.283
Contreras c	3	0	0	0	1	3	.266
Goldschmidt 1b	5	2	2	1	0	0	.229
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.266
Donovan lf	4	0	2	1	0	0	.271
Nootbaar rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.234
Gorman 2b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.210
Siani cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.233
TOTALS	**38**	**6**	**11**	**5**	**1**	**9**	**—**

NATIONALS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.279
Thomas rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.245
Wood lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.276
Winker dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.268
Ramírez ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.259
Ruiz c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.223
García 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.274
Vargas ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Yepez 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.313
Lipscomb 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.231
Young cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.262
TOTALS	**34**	**0**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**—**

ST. LOUIS	**001**	**100**	**022**	**—**	**6**	**11**	**0**
WASHINGTON	**000**	**000**	**000**	**—**	**0**	**8**	**2**

E: Abrams 2 (9). **LOB:** St. Louis 7, Washington 7. **2B:** Donovan (20), Ruiz (9). **HR:** Goldschmidt (12), off Parker; Burleson (14), off Barnes. **RBI:** Goldschmidt (34), Burleson 3 (45), Donovan (44). **SB:** Siani (10).

CARDINALS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mikolas	6⅓	6	0	0	0	3	93	4.88
Kittredge	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	17	3.15
Romero	1⅓	2	0	0	0	0	19	2.48

NATIONALS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Parker	7	6	2	1	1	6	91	3.44
Barnes	1	2	2	1	0	2	25	3.74
Adon	1	3	2	2	0	1	17	5.40

WP: Mikolas (7-7); **LP:** Parker (5-5). **Inherited runners-scored:** Kittredge 1-0. **HBP:** Adon (Contreras). **T:** 2:24. **A:** 16,454 (41,376).

HOW THEY SCORED

CARDINALS THIRD
Nolan Gorman singles. Michael Siani singles. Nolan Gorman to second. Masyn Winn called out on strikes. **Alec Burleson hits into a force out, Michael Siani out at second, Nolan Gorman scores. Throwing error by CJ Abrams.** Willson Contreras strikes out swinging.
Cardinals 1, Nationals 0
CARDINALS FOURTH
Paul Goldschmidt homers. Nolan Arenado lines out. Brendan Donovan grounds out. Lars Nootbaar singles. Nolan Gorman flies out.
Cardinals 2, Nationals 0
CARDINALS EIGHTH
Alec Burleson homers. Willson Contreras called out on strikes. Paul Goldschmidt reaches on fielding error by CJ Abrams. Nolan Arenado flies out. **Brendan Donovan doubles, Paul Goldschmidt scores.** Lars Nootbaar strikes out swinging.
Cardinals 4, Nationals 0
CARDINALS NINTH
Nolan Gorman singles. Michael Siani singles. Nolan Gorman to third. Masyn Winn strikes out swinging. **Alec Burleson singles, Michael Siani scores, Nolan Gorman scores.** Willson Contreras hit by pitch. Alec Burleson to second. Paul Goldschmidt grounds out. Willson Contreras out at second.
Cardinals 6, Nationals 0

NATIONALS' LEADERS

Entering Tuesday's game.

Batters	Avg	H	2B	HR	RBI	BB	SB
Call	.313	5	1	0	1	3	1
Yepez	.313	5	2	0	1	2	0
Abrams	.279	92	21	14	46	29	14
Wood	.276	8	1	1	6	6	1
García	.274	79	15	10	44	14	12
Winker	.268	75	17	10	41	46	12
Young	.262	66	13	1	18	15	20
Ramírez	.259	7	1	0	6	0	0
Vargas	.247	40	12	0	18	13	5
Thomas	.245	61	10	8	37	21	21
Adams	.235	20	5	2	7	7	1
Meneses	.231	65	11	3	42	21	2
Lipscomb	.231	30	1	1	9	11	10
Ruiz	.223	52	9	5	25	9	1
Senzel	.209	43	10	7	18	27	1
Rosario	.183	40	11	7	26	13	8
Millas	.167	5	1	1	1	2	2
Gallo	.164	23	7	5	11	21	1
Robles	.120	3	0	0	2	5	4
Nuñez	.077	1	0	0	0	1	3
Totals	**.239**	**720**	**148**	**75**	**359**	**266**	**119**

Pitchers	W	L	ERA	H	ER	BB	SO
Floro	3	2	2.06	35	10	11	35
Finnegan	2	4	2.17	24	9	12	39
Williams	5	0	2.22	45	14	16	47
Irvin	7	6	2.80	82	33	24	94
Law	4	2	3.35	55	20	14	48
Parker	5	5	3.44	81	35	19	74
J.Barnes	5	2	3.74	31	14	9	24
Gore	6	7	3.83	101	40	34	112
Harvey	2	4	4.40	43	21	12	46
Garcia	0	3	5.04	31	17	10	43
Herz	1	3	5.17	35	18	9	41
Adon	0	0	5.40	6	3	3	3
Corbin	1	8	5.49	118	61	35	68
Weems	1	1	6.03	36	23	16	26
M.Barnes	0	0	6.75	16	10	4	10
Rainey	0	0	6.84	27	19	16	20
Rutledge	0	0	9.00	2	1	0	1
Gray	0	2	14.04	15	13	5	9
Totals	**42**	**49**	**4.02**	**783**	**361**	**249**	**740**

NL leaders

Entering Monday's games.

BATTING

Profar, SD	.315
Ohtani, LA	.314
Arraez, SD	.312
Betts, LA	.304
Harper, Phi	.303
Freeman, LA	.301

HOME RUNS

Ohtani, LA	28
Ozuna, Atl	23
Walker, Ari	22
Harper, Phi	20
Hernández, LA	19
Alonso, NY	18

ERA

López, Atl	1.71
Suárez, Phi	2.58
Sale, Atl	2.71
Wheeler, Phi	2.74
Irvin, Was	2.80
Sánchez, Phi	2.96

STRIKEOUTS

Glasnow, LA	143
Cease, SD	138
Sale, Atl	127
Peralta, Mil	124
King, SD	120
Wheeler, Phi	119

AL leaders

Entering Monday's games.

BATTING

Kwan, Cle	.364
Witt, KC	.324
Altuve, Hou	.309
Judge, NY	.308
Correa, Min	.305
Alvarez, Hou	.298

HOME RUNS

Judge, NY	32
Henderson, Bal	27
Santander, Bal	23
Ramírez, Cle	23
Devers, Bos	21
Naylor, Cle	21
Soto, NY	21

ERA

Lugo, KC	2.21
Burnes, Bal	2.32
Skubal, Det	2.37
Blanco, Hou	2.53
Houck, Bos	2.68
Anderson, LA	2.81

STRIKEOUTS

Crochet, Chi	146
Ragans, KC	134
Skubal, Det	132
Ryan, Min	118
López, Min	116



NICK WASS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nationals starter Mitchell Parker allowed two runs — one earned — on six hits in seven innings but failed to make a couple of defensive plays in the third.

Nats, still struggling with details, fall in finale

NATIONALS FROM **D1**

It showed itself again in the eighth, when Abrams committed his second error and Jacob Young's dive at Brendan Donovan's sinking liner came up empty. The ball rolled to the wall for a 4-0 Cardinals lead.

The team had spent extra time working with Parker on pitcher fielding drills in recent weeks, doing so following Parker's defensive miscue June 11 that cost the team four unearned runs. Martinez said Parker struggles on plays toward first base because he falls off the mound to his right, but he added it wasn't an excuse for the lapses. Abrams has had his fair share of highlights but has graded out as the worst defensive shortstop in baseball by most metrics, including Baseball Savant's outs above average and defensive runs saved.

The problem was all the more glaring as the defense of the Cardinals (48-42) flourished, with Michael Siani robbing Abrams of extra bases with a catch at the wall, a play all the more magnified when the Nationals stranded men on first and third, and stealing a possible double from Yepez an inning later with another catch at the wall.

The efforts helped Cardinals starter Miles Mikolas work through 6⅓ innings despite striking out just three. Parker had six strikeouts.

"We're good. We were in a lot of these games; it's all you can ask for," said Lane Thomas, who went 1 for 4. "That's what's good about this team is we don't really panic in these situations."

And while Parker and Abrams have been revelations for the Nationals — the 24-year-old rookie left-hander pitching to a 3.44 ERA in 91⅔ innings despite not making the Opening Day roster and the 23-year-old shortstop announced as an all-star Sunday — a season of progress hasn't been without its speed bumps.

"This is a time of year where it's tiring," Martinez said. "Everybody's tired. Cardinals are tired. We're tired. We're going to go play the Mets; they're going to be tired. We've got to find a way, and the best way to do it is focus on the little things. We got to start focusing on the little things and not beat ourselves."

Note: The Nationals recalled right-hander Joan Adon from Class AAA Rochester and optioned left-hander DJ Herz in a corresponding move. Washington has transitioned Adon into a relief role after the 25-year-old had served as a starter for most of his time in the organization; he had typically hit a wall around the fourth inning after giving the team a few good frames. Adon pitched the ninth Monday, allowing two runs on three hits.

Martinez said Herz is set to stay in Rochester until the all-star break, a decision based mainly on managing his innings.

NATIONALS ON DECK

at New York Mets		
Tuesday	7:10	MASN
Wednesday	7:10	MASN
Thursday	1:10	MASN
at Milwaukee Brewers		
Friday	8:10	MASN2
Saturday	4:10	MASN2
Sunday	2:10	MASN
vs. Cincinnati Reds		
July 19	6:45	MASN
July 20	6:45	MASN
July 21	1:35	MASN

Radio: WJFK (106.7 FM), WDCN (87.7 FM)

Pirates 8, Mets 2

Mitch Keller pitched eight innings for his 10th win of the season, Joshua Palacios's home run capped a five-run sixth inning, and Pittsburgh beat New York.

Keller allowed two runs and seven hits while striking out six and walking none. He is the first Pirates pitcher to have double-digit victories before the all-star break since Gerrit Cole in 2015.

METS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Lindor ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Nimmo lf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.252
Alvarez dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.299
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Vientos 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.294
Torrens c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.283
Iglesias 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.313
McNeil rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.214
Bader cf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.272
TOTALS	**34**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**0**	**6**	**—**

PIRATES	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
McCutchen dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.225
Reynolds lf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.278
Cruz ss	3	2	2	2	0	0	.247
Hayes ph-3b	1	1	1	0	0	0	.233
Tellez 1b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.244
Gonzales 2b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.274
Palacios rf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.300
Suwinski cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.181
Bart c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Triolo 3b-ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.205
TOTALS	**32**	**8**	**8**	**6**	**2**	**5**	**—**

NEW YORK	**000**	**002**	**000**	**—**	**2**	**8**	**1**
PITTSBURGH	**000**	**205**	**01X**	**—**	**8**	**8**	**0**

E: McNeil (5). **LOB:** New York 6, Pittsburgh 2. **2B:** Gonzales (11). **HR:** Nimmo (14), off Keller; Cruz (14), off Scott; Palacios (1), off Houser.

METS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Scott	5⅔	1	2	2	1	3	4.15
Orze	0	2	3	3	1	0	
Houser	2⅓	5	3	3	0	2	5.65

PIRATES	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Keller	8	7	2	2	0	6	3.40
Honeywell	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.00

WP: Keller (10-5); **LP:** Orze (0-1). **Inherited runners-scored:** Houser 2-2. **HBP:** Keller (Lindor). **WP:** Houser. **T:** 2:22. **A:** 16,158 (38,753).

Tigers 1, Guardians 0

Jake Rogers led off the eighth inning with a double and broke a scoreless tie on an error, helping Detroit edge American League Central-leading Cleveland.

Guardians SS Brayan Rocchio was charged with the error when Mark Canha's grounder got under his glove, allowing Rogers to score from third after he advanced on Wenceel Perez's single.

GUARDIANS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Kwan lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.358
Martínez cf-rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.400
Ramírez 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.269
J.Naylor 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Fry dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.300
Giménez 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.253
Schneemann rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Freeman ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Rocchio ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.218
B.Naylor c	2	0	0	0	1	2	.203
TOTALS	**28**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**5**	**—**

TIGERS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Pérez rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.262
Keith 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.245
Canha dh	3	0	0	1	1	2	.223
Greene cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.258
Urshela 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.249
McKinstry 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.189
Báez ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.185
Baddoo lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.125
Rogers c	3	1	1	0	0	1	.211
TOTALS	**30**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**—**

CLEVELAND	**000**	**000**	**000**	**—**	**0**	**3**	**1**
DETROIT	**000**	**000**	**01X**	**—**	**1**	**7**	**0**

E: Rocchio (5). **LOB:** Cleveland 2, Detroit 7. **2B:** Báez (10), Rogers (7).

GUARDIANS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Williams	5⅓	4	0	0	1	5	4.82
Hentges	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	2.78
Sandlin	1	1	0	0	0	1	3.45
Barlow	⅓	2	1	1	1	0	3.68
Herrin	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	1.47

TIGERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Montero	6⅓	3	0	0	1	4	4.64
Holton	1⅓	0	0	0	0	0	3.64
Miller	1	0	0	0	0	1	5.76

WP: Holton (4-1); **LP:** Barlow (2-3); **S:** Miller (1). **Inherited runners-scored:** Hentges 1-0, Herrin 2-0, Holton 1-0. **T:** 2:11. **A:** 17,677 (41,083).

Reds 6, Rockies 0

Rece Hinds homered and doubled in his major league debut and Andrew Abbott pitched seven innings of three-hit ball as Cincinnati defeated Colorado.

Elly De La Cruz had an RBI double and a pair of runs. He also stole two bases in the first inning, giving him 45 this year and moving him past Billy Hamilton for most in Reds history before the all-star break.

ROCKIES	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Blackmon rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.256
Tovar ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.263
McMahon dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.274
E.Díaz c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.299
Rodgers 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.282
Doyle cf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.273
Toglia 1b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.187
Goodman lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.177
Cave ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.256
Schunk 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.077
TOTALS	**29**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**2**	**9**	**—**

REDS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
India 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.270
De La Cruz ss	3	2	2	1	1	0	.251
Candelario 3b-1b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.243
Steer lf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.241
Stephenson c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.232
Ríos 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Espinal 3b	1	0	1	1	0	0	.188
Marte dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.136
Hinds rf	3	1	2	1	0	0	.667
Benson cf	2	1	0	0	1	2	.187
TOTALS	**30**	**6**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**9**	**—**

COLORADO	**000**	**000**	**000**	**—**	**0**	**4**	**2**
CINCINNATI	**000**	**200**	**04X**	**—**	**6**	**8**	**0**

E: E.Díaz (3), Kinley (1). **LOB:** Colorado 4, Cincinnati 4. **2B:** McMahon (20), Hinds (1), De La Cruz (17). **HR:** Hinds (1), off Kinley.

ROCKIES	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Feltner	7	4	2	1	3	6	5.29
Kinley	⅔	3	4	2	1	2	7.78
Molina	⅓	1	0	0	0	1	6.03

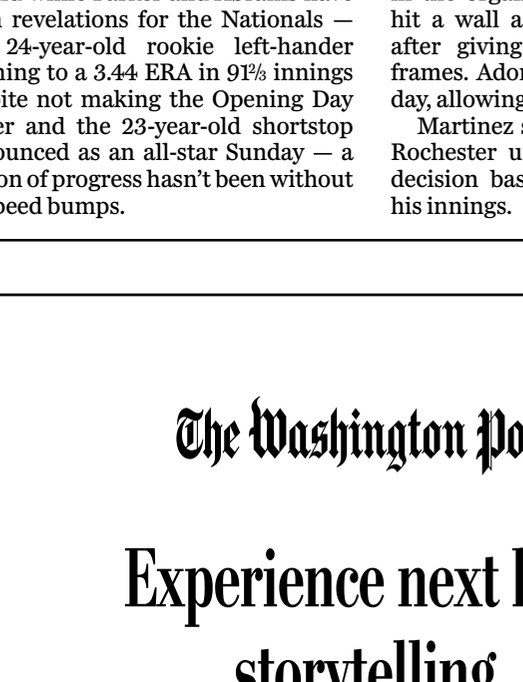
REDS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Abbott	7	3	0	0	2	8	3.06
Cruz	1	0	0	0	0	1	4.46
Zulueta	1	1	0	0	0	0	2.25

WP: Abbott (9-6); **LP:** Feltner (1-8). **Inherited runners-scored:** Molina 2-1. **T:** 2:20. **A:** 15,873 (43,891).

The Washington Post

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NOTES

PERSONNEL DEPT.

Angels: Activated 3B Anthony Rendon from the 10-day injured list. The former Nationals star missed 68 games after he strained his left hamstring while running out an infield hit on April 20. IF Miguel Sanó was designated for assignment.

Braves: Recalled OF Eddie Rosario, who recently signed with his former club after being released by the Nationals. Rosario had been at Class AAA Gwinnett. …

All-star LHP Chris Sale was scratched from his scheduled start Monday night, and Atlanta pushed him back to start Tuesday against the Diamondbacks. RHP Bryce Elder, an all-star last season who has spent much of this year at Class AAA, made the start Monday.

Cardinals: Activated OF Lars Nootbaar (oblique) from the 10-day IL and optioned IF José Fermin to Class AAA Memphis.

TODAY

NL games

NATIONALS AT METS, 7:10

	W-L	ERA	TEAM
Irvin (R)	7-6	2.80	8-10
Quintana (L)	3-5	4.22	9-8

DODGERS AT PHILLIES, 6:40

Miller (R)	1-1	6.12	3-3
Wheeler (R)	9-4	2.74	10-8

ROCKIES AT REDS, 7:10

Quantrill (R)	6-6	3.77	9-9
Montas (R)	4-6	4.19	5-11

PIRATES AT BREWERS, 8:10

Pérez (L)	1-4	4.85	4-9
Rea (R)	8-2	3.34	11-4

BRAVES AT DIAMONDBACKS, 9:40

Sale (L)	11-3	2.71	11-5
Gallen (R)	6-4	3.06	7-6

NL scores

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
at Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 0
St. Louis 8, at Washington 3
N.Y. Mets 3, at Pittsburgh 2
Arizona 9, at San Diego 1
Milwaukee 9, at L.A. Dodgers 2

MONDAY'S RESULTS
St. Louis 6, at Washington 0
at Pittsburgh 8, N.Y. Mets 2
at Cincinnati 6, Colorado 0
Atlanta at Arizona, late

Interleague games

CUBS AT ORIOLES, 6:35

	W-L	ERA	TEAM
Imanaga (L)	7-2	3.16	12-4
Kremer (R)	4-4	3.93	5-5

ROYALS AT CARDINALS, 7:45

Wacha (R)	5-6	3.74	7-8
Pallante (R)	4-3	4.00	5-2

MARLINS AT ASTROS, 8:10

Rogers (L)	1-9	4.91	3-14
Blanco (R)	8-3	2.53	12-4

MARINERS AT PADRES, 9:40

Gilbert (R)	5-5	2.91	10-8
Mazur (R)	1-2	7.52	3-3

BLUE JAYS AT GIANTS, 9:45

Kikuchi (L)	4-8	4.12	5-13
Snell (L)	0-3	9.51	2-4

Interleague scores

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Detroit 5, at Cincinnati 1
at Cleveland 5, San Francisco 4
at Miami 7, Chicago White Sox 4
at Chicago Cubs 5, L.A. Angels 0
Kansas City 10, at Colorado 1

MONDAY'S RESULTS
No games scheduled.

AL games

GUARDIANS AT TIGERS, 6:40

	W-L	ERA	TEAM
Lively (R)	8-4	3.14	9-5
Maeda (R)	2-5	6.71	5-10

YANKEES AT RAYS, 6:50

Rodón (L)	9-6	4.46	11-7
Pepiot (R)	4-5	4.40	7-8

ATHLETICS AT RED SOX, 7:10

Estes (R)	3-3	4.39	5-5
Bello (R)	8-5	5.19	9-6

TWINS AT WHITE SOX, 8:10

Ober (R)	8-4	4.12	9-8
Fedde (R)	6-3	3.13	7-11

RANGERS AT ANGELS, 9:38

Scherzer (R)	1-2	2.70	1-2
Contreras (R)	1-1	4.04	1-1

AL scores

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Baltimore 6, at Oakland 3
at Minnesota 3, Houston 2
at Texas 13, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 5, at Seattle 4 (10)
Boston 3, at N.Y. Yankees 0

MONDAY'S RESULTS
at Detroit 1, Cleveland 0
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox, late
Texas at L.A. Angels, late

Kerr and Curry make peace with Thompson's departure

BY BEN GOLLIVER



JEFF CHIU/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stephen Curry (30) and Klay Thompson, who recently signed with the Mavericks, won four NBA titles together while with the Warriors.

LAS VEGAS — Before Steve Kerr and Stephen Curry could begin their month-long chase for gold at the Paris Olympics, the decorated NBA coach and his two-time MVP guard had to come to terms with Klay Thompson's departure in free agency, the end of an often glorious era for the Golden State Warriors.

Curry and Thompson, dubbed the Splash Brothers as they established themselves as the greatest shooting backcourt in NBA history, won four championships and reached six NBA Finals since they teamed up in 2011. With Kerr taking the reins in 2014 and Draymond Green captaining the defense, Golden State reached five straight finals from 2015 to 2019 and won an NBA-record 73 games during the 2015-16 season. After Thompson missed the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons with ACL and Achilles' tendon injuries, the Warriors bounced back to win the 2022 championship.

"It sucks," Curry said Sunday after a USA Basketball training camp session when asked for his reaction to Thompson's departure. "It's one of the hard things to process just because I never imagined this would be the reality. I always wanted to ride out into the sunset with [Thompson and Green] and have an opportunity to stay relevant from a winning perspective while we did it. . . . I just want him to be happy. He deserves that. He deserves to enjoy playing basketball for however long he wants to play. It does suck that it won't be with us."

Entering this summer, Curry (15 years), Thompson (13 years) and Green (12 years) were the NBA's longest-tenured players with the same organization and Kerr (10 years) was the NBA's third-longest-tenured coach. But Thompson, 34, chose to sign a three-year, $50 million contract with the Dallas Mavericks after more than a year of unsuccessful negotiations with Golden State. His departure opened a new chapter for the free-spending Warriors, who looked to trim payroll and avoid the NBA's new punitive "second apron" salary tier.

Kerr, who succeeded Gregg Popovich as the U.S. team's coach following the Tokyo Olympics, thanked Thompson for "13 incredible years" shortly after Olympic training camp opened Saturday at UNLV.

"Going through it all together has been so meaningful and so amazing," Kerr said. "We're going to miss Klay. We wish him the best. These things rarely go like you want, where you get to draw it up and execute it and everybody goes out together. We were hoping that could happen, but it didn't. We wish Klay well. We love him, and we'll miss him."

The writing appeared to be on the wall last season, when Thompson was shifted to a bench role for the first time since his rookie season and averaged fewer than 20 points for the first time in a decade. In what proved to be his last game with the Warriors, he went scoreless and shot 0 for 10 from the field in a play-in tournament loss to the Sacramento Kings.

Kerr said Thompson concluded he needed "a fresh start," adding that the five-time all-star struggled to adjust after injuries cost him two years of his prime. The Warriors, who already had signed Curry and Green to long extensions, didn't make Thompson an offer that was to his liking in 2023, and the sides never gained much traction before free agency opened.

After he signed a five-year, $189 million maximum contract in 2019, injuries prevented Thompson from recapturing his all-star form, particularly on the defensive end, which affected his market value. Curry said he was kept abreast of major updates during Thompson's contract negotiations, which dragged out over almost 18 months. Thompson, however, instructed Curry not to intervene on his behalf.

"That doesn't mean I listened to him," Curry said.

But once Thompson decided to join the Mavericks, Curry didn't put up a fight.

"He was in need of a change," Curry said. "It wasn't a situation where I felt I needed to try to convince him to stay. He knew exactly what he meant and still means to our organization, to me as his teammate and to Draymond. It's one of those deals where you have to trust that he's making the right decision for himself."

Thompson, who last season averaged 17.9 points, 3.3 rebounds and 2.3 assists while shooting 38.7 percent on three-pointers, will join a Dallas team that made an unexpected run to the Finals before losing to the Boston Celtics in five games. With Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving in place as the lead ballhandlers, Thompson will function as an auxiliary shooter who can help fill the hole created by starting forward Derrick Jones Jr.'s departure for the Los Angeles Clippers.

"Prior to [his injuries], Klay didn't need a lot of counseling," Kerr said. "The last couple of years, he's needed it. I'm amazed at his ability to come back from those injuries to help us win another championship and play at the level he's played at. It's funny: People say he had a bad year, but look at his numbers. A lot of guys with those numbers sign for $220 million these days. Klay has been an incredible performer for us. The last couple of years, there's no doubt, they've been very tough on him. We've all tried to help him through those times. It makes sense in his heart to get a different change of pace, change of location, get out of California and go play on a different team."

During the Warriors' heyday, Thompson was Curry's relatively quiet and quirky sidekick, known for his clutch shooting, his love of boating and his dog, Rocco. His career highlights included making 11 three-pointers in a Game 6 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder in the 2016 Western Conference finals, scoring 60 points in just 29 minutes in a 2016 victory over the Indiana Pacers and making an NBA record 14 three-pointers in a 2018 win over the Chicago Bulls.

Thompson, a 2011 lottery pick out of Washington State, ranks sixth on the NBA's three-point list and has made at least 10 three-pointers in a game nine times, the most of any player besides Curry in NBA history. The Warriors announced last week that his No. 11 jersey will one day be retired and hang in the rafters at Chase Center.

Golden State began the process of moving on by acquiring defensive-minded guard De'Anthony Melton, do-everything forward Kyle Anderson and wing shooter Buddy Hield.

The Warriors waived guard Chris Paul before free agency in a cost-cutting move, leaving Curry to return from his first Olympics to a team that will look vastly different.

Kerr, a five-time champion as a player, was a member of the Chicago Bulls' "Last Dance" team that won the 1998 championship before Michael Jordan's second retirement led to a roster splintering. The dissolution of the Bulls' dynasty helped Kerr take a pragmatic approach to Thompson's departure.

"I haven't ever had fantasies that this thing would go on for another five or six years and Steph, Klay and Dray would retire together and I would retire with them," Kerr said. "There's never been that thought. I've been around the league a long time, whether in Chicago or other situations, and it's never easy when these things start to run out. The biggest thing is that the relationships endure and the memories endure. Klay is going to have a statue outside Chase [Center] someday. He'll be beloved by his teammates, coaches and fans forever."

JERRY BREWER

In search of level playing field, NBA could disappoint

BREWER FROM D1



KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

Nikola Jokic and the Nuggets lost a vital contributor this offseason when Kentavious Caldwell-Pope left for the Orlando Magic.

agreement between the owners and players. But the one that's now in effect makes the NFL, known for its tricky system of funny money and funnier math, seem rudimentary.

To codify its newfound parity, the NBA has created a model that demands unprecedented competitive balance. A league of dynasties was already experiencing a shift, crowning a different champion each of the past six seasons. The change had occurred in a fairly organic manner, with a slight nudge coming from harsh luxury tax penalties for perpetual big-spending franchises. But now the rules are force-feeding parity, too. It's an overcorrection that has taken much of the fun out of this free agency period.

For the first time in more than a decade, the offseason isn't an edge-of-seat drama. It's kind of a turn off. This definitely isn't 2010 anymore, the summer of LeBron James and "The Decision," the seismic event of a banner year of player movement. That spawned 13 years that became breathlessly referred to as the player empowerment era because the league's stars realized ways in which they could join forces and have greater influence in the team-building process.

With a new generation taking over the league, the superteam mentality was fading. But there was still lingering bitterness from some owners, as well as legitimate concern about all teams having an opportunity to succeed. The latest CBA feels like a rebuke of the wealthiest, most ambitious owners *and* of superstars who think they're clever enough to do things their own way. Still, there's going to be a price to pay for imposing parity.

This stagnant offseason is a glimpse of the potential problems. Of course, we should give the new system time and allow teams grace as they navigate a different way of doing business. However, it seems that timid dealmaking might become common.

The NBA has compromised its many conflicting interests into an awkward reality. The league has never had a hard salary cap like the NFL. It has always wanted to create exceptions for teams to have wiggle room above the cap. But unlike Major League Baseball, it doesn't want a $200 million gap between the teams that spend the most and the least on payroll. Since 1999, the NBA has had a luxury tax system, one more effective than what baseball employs, and over multiple CBAs, that tax has grown more punitive.

The apron system applies taxes and shackles to fat-wallet franchises. The NBA salary cap sits just below $140.6 million for the 2024-25 season. Teams must spend at least 90 percent of that number, or $126.5 million. The first apron is set at $178.1 million. The second apron is $188.9 million. In addition to paying taxes into the owners' revenue-sharing pool, teams above the first apron are prohibited from acquiring players through sign-and-trade deals. They cannot use trade exceptions to acquire players, and they have no wiggle room to take back money in trades. That means, if they're trading a player who makes $20 million, they cannot acquire a salary (or multiple salaries) totaling more than $20 million. There used to be leeway for teams to take back up to 120 percent of the salary they shipped, but not anymore for teams over the first apron.

If your team has a payroll above the second apron, the rules are even more restrictive. In addition to the first apron rules, these teams cannot aggregate contracts in trades, limiting them to one-for-one player trades. They cannot include cash to finalize deals. If they complete a season above the second apron, their first-round pick seven years into the future is frozen, meaning they can't include it in a trade. Then, if a team is over the second apron in any of the ensuing four seasons, the draft pick immediately drops to No. 30, the final selection of the first round.

Now, it's hard to know which teams can trade with each other — and then you must figure out how they can execute these deals.

The system is cruel, but it's understandable as a deterrent against inorganic team building. The days of stripping a team bare and creating salary cap space to sign multiple franchise players in free agency are basically over for the league's most coveted destinations. So is the urge to trade away all your assets to acquire big-name talent because then you would have to replenish the roster with minimum contracts and a bunch of lower-tier, hit-or-miss draft prospects. But for all the intricate restrictions, there wasn't ample consideration of enhancing the benefits for teams that prefer to draft, develop and reward their own players.

No one should cry that Paul George and the Los Angeles Clippers broke up partly because of the apron ramifications. But the Golden State Warriors and Klay Thompson, their 2011 first-round pick and homegrown foundational member of a dynasty, is a different consideration. And if you're tired of the Warriors, what about the Denver Nuggets? They drafted their best three players: three-time MVP Nikola Jokic, Jamal Murray and Michael Porter Jr. They made smart trades for Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Aaron Gordon to solidify a starting five that led them to the 2023 championship. But they just lost Caldwell-Pope in free agency to the Orlando Magic. They can't afford to keep a valuable role player because they're afraid of this new system. In essence, they're being punished because Jokic, Murray and Porter grew into significant players, and the system treats the Nuggets the same as a team that collected talent inorganically. There should be at least one drafted player exception, or franchise tag, that doesn't count against the aprons.

I'm not anti-parity. Smart policies that limit the extreme advantages of some franchises are worthwhile. I'm pro-greatness, though. Enforced parity peddles mediocrity if you're not careful. A true NBA superstar ranks just below an NFL franchise quarterback in importance. In football, a special quarterback erases a lot of problems in a balanced league. But you must wonder whether the talent of NBA stars can circumvent rules that make it all the more difficult for good teams to advance to great. And even if they get there, their stay is almost guaranteed to be short.

The reigning champion Boston Celtics are the next great test of this system. They built through the draft and made good trades. Their top five players are under contract for multiple seasons. They could win multiple championships, perhaps even reignite the Celtics' dynasty.

They're also for sale.

They are the NBA's best team, its greatest hope and the model for this weird new apron era, in which everything good is fleeting.

Caps name Patrick GM, but MacLellan to remain

BY BAILEY JOHNSON

After a decade at the helm of the Washington Capitals, Brian MacLellan stepped aside as the team's general manager, the Capitals announced Monday morning.

Chris Patrick, who has worked closely with MacLellan for the past three years and has been with Washington for 16 seasons, will take over the day-to-day operations as general manager and become senior vice president. MacLellan will remain the president of hockey operations, overseeing the front office but not running the organization on a daily basis.

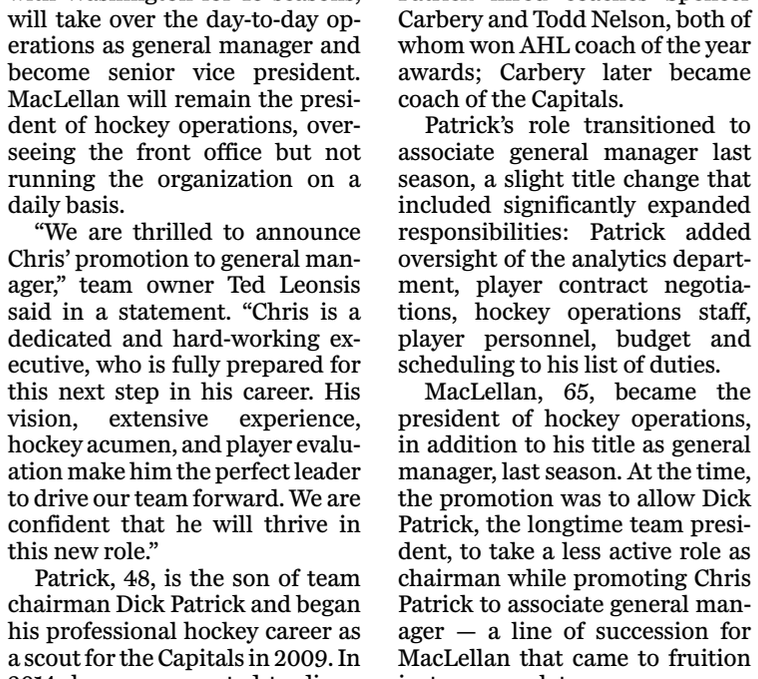
"We are thrilled to announce Chris' promotion to general manager," team owner Ted Leonsis said in a statement. "Chris is a dedicated and hard-working executive, who is fully prepared for this next step in his career. His vision, extensive experience, hockey acumen, and player evaluation make him the perfect leader to drive our team forward. We are confident that he will thrive in this new role."

Patrick, 48, is the son of team chairman Dick Patrick and began his professional hockey career as a scout for the Capitals in 2009. In 2014, he was promoted to director of player personnel, and he became an assistant general manager in 2021, primarily overseeing minor league operations with the Hershey Bears in the American Hockey League and managing the professional scouting staff.

During his tenure, the Bears won back-to-back Calder Cup championships in 2023 and 2024. Patrick hired coaches Spencer Carbery and Todd Nelson, both of whom won AHL coach of the year awards; Carbery later became coach of the Capitals.

Patrick's role transitioned to associate general manager last season, a slight title change that included significantly expanded responsibilities: Patrick added oversight of the analytics department, player contract negotiations, hockey operations staff, player personnel, budget and scheduling to his list of duties.

MacLellan, 65, became the president of hockey operations, in addition to his title as general manager, last season. At the time, the promotion was to allow Dick Patrick, the longtime team president, to take a less active role as chairman while promoting Chris Patrick to associate general manager — a line of succession for MacLellan that came to fruition just one year later.



ZACH GUERETTE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Patrick will take over day-to-day operations of the Capitals, while Brian MacLellan will remain and oversee the front office.

BARRY SVRLUGA

It's another easy handoff for unusually stable Caps

SVRLUGA FROM D1

be Patrick, the 48-year-old member of one of hockey's royal families who, 16 years ago, left a secure and lucrative job in finance to start at the bottom level in the Capitals' front office. His father is longtime Capitals president Dick Patrick, whose father, uncle and grandfather all won the Stanley Cup as players. Chris played collegiately at Princeton. He could have been successful doing something else. He couldn't shake the game. Now he's running a team.

"I view it as a natural progression for the organization," Leonsis said by phone Monday. "It kind of future-proofs us. Mac and Chris are really, really birds of a feather. I was joking with someone the other day that Chris is more like Mac than he is his dad. They think about hockey — and the economics of hockey — in a very smart and very analytical way."

While this transition was going to come at some point — the Caps promoted MacLellan to president of hockey operations and general manager last summer, when they also extended his contract — it also seems sudden. MacLellan, 65, just finished leading the execution of an offseason plan that, at initial glance, seems to have vastly improved a roster that had to scrape into the playoffs in its last regular season game.

"This was going to happen at some point, right?" MacLellan said. "I'm good with it. And I'll be there to help him."

Before we get to the younger Patrick — and how he'll approach the transition from the Alex Ovechkin Era to whatever lies beyond — a moment on MacLellan. I'll admit, when Leonsis finally parted ways with McPhee following the 2014 season — a difficult decision, for sure — and he essentially turned to McPhee's right-hand man, I had doubts. You acknowledged the need for new leadership and picked the guy who had been in the room all along?

What Leonsis discovered — what he acted on — was that MacLellan was a disarmingly honest and acutely analytical thinker who had clear plans for how to improve the roster, with Ovechkin and Nicklas Backstrom remaining as the centerpieces. Does trading Troy Brouwer for T.J. Oshie seem like a good move all these years later? What about signing Brooks Orpik and Matt Niskanen as free agent defensemen? Or trading for Lars Eller?

What followed were back-to-back Presidents' Trophies in 2015-16 and 2016-17, kick-in-the-gut losses to Pittsburgh in the playoffs each season, before the Stanley Cup in 2018. It's easy to point to the fact that the Caps haven't won a playoff series since the championship, and that has to change. But they have played relevant hockey for the entirety of MacLellan's stewardship, a 10-season period in which only Boston and Tampa Bay have racked up more regular season points. MacLellan wouldn't know this, but among GMs with at least 500 games overseeing a franchise, only two have earned a higher percentage of available regular season points.

"When you really think about it, we won a lot of games," MacLellan said. "When you're pushing through it, you're not thinking about it. But when you look back, we've been competing for a long time. That consistency, that's a big thing for me."

There is, then, a consistency in approach. MacLellan had a 10-year career as an NHL player, but he didn't go straight into scouting and front-office work afterward. Rather, he went back to school and got an MBA. Patrick initially resisted the pull of the family business and went to work on Wall Street, then for Constellation Energy. He got his MBA from the University of Virginia in 2008 — but took all that background and applied it to hockey.

"I don't think enough organizations value that kind of experience," MacLellan said.

When Patrick joined the Capitals for the 2008-09 season — a hire made by McPhee — he did so at the bottom rung of the front office.

"He was making a lot of money in his old job," Leonsis said. "I laughed. Like, 'What are you doing?' He just said, 'Well, it's in my blood.'"

"When I was in finance, I would go to games as a fan, and I felt like I was missing out," Patrick said. "I mean, I'm a fan, and that's fun. But I feel like I could offer so much more. I just didn't want to always have that question about myself."

Over the years, he earned more and more responsibility. When MacLellan was promoted last year, Patrick assumed the title of associate general manager. The line of succession seemed obvious.

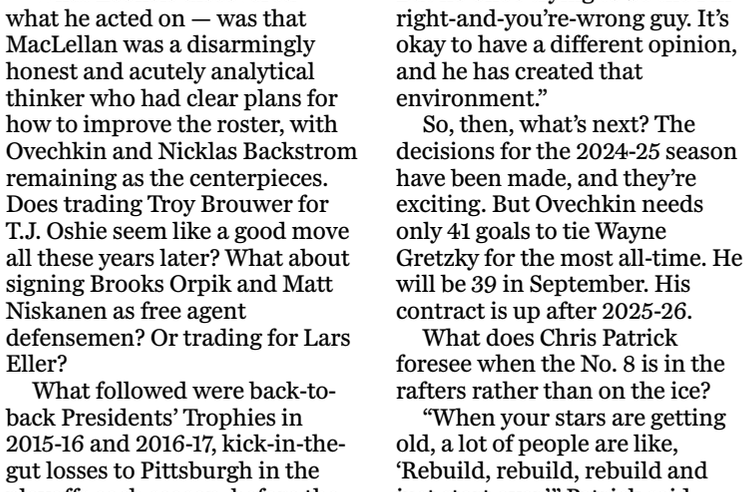
"I really consider Mac a mentor for my whole career," Patrick said. "He's very organized, very thoughtful. He has a plan, and he works through a very analytical process to execute it. And everybody in our group has a voice. It's not a democracy, and it shouldn't be. Mac makes the final decision. But no one's trying to be the I'm-right-and-you're-wrong guy. It's okay to have a different opinion, and he has created that environment."

So, then, what's next? The decisions for the 2024-25 season have been made, and they're exciting. But Ovechkin needs only 41 goals to tie Wayne Gretzky for the most all-time. He will be 39 in September. His contract is up after 2025-26.

What does Chris Patrick foresee when the No. 8 is in the rafters rather than on the ice?

"When your stars are getting old, a lot of people are like, 'Rebuild, rebuild, rebuild and just start over,'" Patrick said. "That's a strategy, but I don't know if that's a strategy for everybody."

The strategy for the Caps, going forward, will increasingly have Chris Patrick's fingerprints on it. The challenge will be twofold: Usher the franchise into an era when it no longer has its undisputed franchise player but also maintain the consistency that a generation of fans here have come to expect.



BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

While Chris Patrick, right, becomes the Capitals' general manager, predecessor Brian MacLellan, left, remains the team president.

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SCOREBOARD

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA

EAST	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	17	4	.810	—
Connecticut	17	4	.810	—
Indiana	9	13	.409	8½
Chicago	8	12	.400	8½
Atlanta	7	13	.350	9½
Washington	5	17	.227	12½

WEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	15	6	.714	—
Seattle	14	7	.667	1
Las Vegas	13	7	.650	1½
Phoenix	11	10	.524	4
Los Angeles	5	16	.238	10
Dallas	5	17	.227	10½

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
at Connecticut 80, Atlanta 67
at Las Vegas 104, Dallas 85
at Seattle 84, Chicago 71
Phoenix 84, at Los Angeles 78

MONDAY'S RESULTS
No games scheduled.

TUESDAY'S GAME
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Washington at Indiana, noon
New York at Connecticut, 11 a.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 12
Las Vegas at Seattle, 3
Dallas at Phoenix, 3:30

THURSDAY'S GAME
Chicago at New York, 7

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series

FEDEX CUP LEADERS
Through Sunday.
1. Kyle Larson, 671.
2. Chase Elliott, 660.
3. Tyler Reddick, 648.
4. Denny Hamlin, 629.
5. Martin Truex Jr, 601.
6. William Byron, 599.
7. Ryan Blaney, 587.
8. Christopher Bell, 586.
9. Ty Gibbs, 560.
10. Brad Keselowski, 558.
11. Alex Bowman, 553.
12. Ross Chastain, 529.
13. Chris Buescher, 521.
14. Joey Logano, 484.
15. Bubba Wallace, 476.
16. Chase Briscoe, 433.
17. Kyle Busch, 423.
18. Daniel Suárez, 410.
19. Todd Gilliland, 400.
20. Austin Cindric, 389.
21. Josh Berry, 369.
22. Michael McDowell, 365.
23. Carson Hocevar, 363.
24. Noah Gragson, 353.
25. Ricky Stenhouse Jr, 339.
26. Ryan Preece, 311.
27. Daniel Hemric, 297.
28. Erik Jones, 290.
29. Justin Haley, 287.
30. John H. Nemechek, 284.
31. Corey LaJoie, 283.
32. Austin Dillon, 256.
33. Harrison Burton, 231.
34. Zane Smith, 220.
35. Kaz Grala, 166.
36. Joey Hand, 43.
37. Jimmie Johnson, 35.
38. Derek Kraus, 32.
39. David Ragan, 17.
40. Cody Ware, 17.
41. Kamui Kobayashi, 8.
42. Will Brown, 6.
43. Cam Waters, 2.

NASCAR Xfinity Series

POINTS LEADERS
Through Sunday.
1. Cole Custer, 657 (0).
2. Justin Allgaier, 619 (1).
3. Chandler Smith, 618 (2).
4. Austin Hill, 597 (2).
5. Jesse Love, 548 (1).
6. Riley Herbst, 523 (0).
7. AJ Allmendinger, 522 (0).
8. Sheldon Creed, 505 (0).
9. Parker Kligerman, 495 (0).
10. Sam Mayer, 474 (2).
11. Shane Van Gisbergen, 457 (3).
12. Sammy Smith, 455 (0).
13. Ryan Sieg, 432 (0).
14. Brandon Jones, 388 (0).
15. Anthony Alfredo, 370 (0).
16. Brennan Poole, 326 (0).
17. Parker Retzlaff, 310 (0).
18. Josh Williams, 289 (0).
19. Jeremy Clements, 260 (0).
20. Jeb Burton, 252 (0).
21. Leland Honeyman, 246 (0).
22. Kyle Weatherman, 240 (0).
23. Ryan Ellis, 237 (0).
24. Kyle Sieg, 221 (0).
25. Aric Almirola, 202 (1).
26. Blaine Perkins, 192 (0).
27. Matt DiBenedetto, 184 (0).
28. Hailie Deegan, 174 (0).
29. Ryan Truex, 163 (1).
30. Carson Kvapil, 154 (0).
31. Garrett Smithley, 143 (0).
32. Josh Bilicki, 140 (0).
33. Austin Green, 112 (0).
34. Dawson Cram, 106 (0).
35. Patrick Emerling, 82 (0).
36. Joey Gase, 74 (0).
37. BJ McLeod, 69 (0).
38. David Starr, 66 (0).
39. JJ Yeley, 61 (0).
40. Ed Jones, 57 (0).
41. Sage Karam, 49 (0).
42. Alex Labbe, 46 (0).
43. Nick Leitz, 41 (0).
44. Jordan Anderson, 40 (0).
45. Logan Bearden, 36 (0).
46. Brad Perez, 32 (0).
47. Bubba Pollard, 31 (0).
48. Caesar Bacarella, 30 (0).
49. Natalie Decker, 27 (0).
50. Justin Bonsignore, 25 (0).
51. Patrick Gallagher, 25 (0).
52. Myatt Snider, 18 (0).
53. Preston Pardus, 18 (0).
54. Dexter Bean, 17 (0).
55. Nathan Byrd, 17 (0).
56. Daniil Kvyat, 16 (0).
57. Andre Castro, 16 (0).
58. Chad Finchum, 15 (0).
59. Frankie Muniz, 11 (0).
60. Glen Reen, 10 (0).
61. RC Enerson, 9 (0).
62. Boris Said, 9 (0).
63. CJ McLaughlin, 6 (0).
64. Armani Williams, 4 (0).
65. Thomas Annunziata, 3 (0).
66. Ryan Vargas, 2 (0).
67. Akinori Ogata, 1 (0).

TRANSACTIONS

NFL

Houston Texans: Re-signed DL Jerry Hughes to a contract.
NFL: Suspended Pittsburgh Steelers DB Cameron Sutton 8 games for violating the NFL's Personal Conduct Policy.

MLB

Boston Red Sox: Traded RHP CJ Weins to Detroit Tigers. Placed OF Parker Meadows on the 10-day IL.
Chicago White Sox: Recalled RHP Jordan Leasure from Charlotte (IL). Optioned RHP Steven Wilson to Charlotte.
Detroit Tigers: Reinstated SS Javier Báez from the 10-day IL. Optioned SS Ryan Kreidler to Toledo (IL). Recalled RF Akil Baddoo from Toledo.
Los Angeles Angels: Designated 3B Miguel Sanó for assignment. Reinstated 3B Anthony Rendon from the 60-day IL.
Minnesota Twins: Reinstated RHP Chris Paddack from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Josh Winder to St. Paul (IL).
Seattle Mariners: Reinstated RHP Gregory Santos from the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Emerson Hancock to Tacoma (PCL).
Tampa Bay Rays: Sent LHP Richard Lovelady on a rehab assignment to FCL Rays.
Arizona Diamondbacks: Selected the contract of RHP Yilber Diaz from Reno (PCL).
Atlanta Braves: Designated CF J.P. Martínez for assignment. Optioned LHP Dylan Lee and 3B Luke Williams to Gwinnett (IL). Recalled RHP Bryce Elder from Gwinnett. Selected the contract of LF Eddie Rosario from Gwinnett.
Cincinnati Reds: Recalled OF Rece Hinds and RHPs Yosver Zulueta from Louisville (IL). Optioned RHP Graham Ashcraft to Louisville.
St. Louis Cardinals: Reinstated LF Lars Nootbaar from the 10-day IL. Optioned SS José Fermín to Memphis (IL).

NBA

Boston Celtics: Re-signed G JD Davison to a two-way contract.
Chicago Bulls: Received G Chris Duarte and draft consideration from the Sacramento Kings.
Detroit Pistons: Signed F Tobias Harris to a contract.
Golden State Warriors: Signed G De'Anthony Melton to a contract.
Minnesota Timberwolves: Signed Gs Rob Dillingham and Terrence Shannon Jr. to rookie scale contracts.
Sacramento Kings: Received G DeMar DeRozan from the Chicago Bulls.
San Antonio Spurs: Received F Harrison Barnes and draft consideration from the Sacramento Kings.
Toronto Raptors: Re-signed F Scottie Barnes to a rookie scale extension. Re-signed G Immanuel Quickley to a contract.

SOCCER

MLS

EAST	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	15	4	3	48	42	26
Inter Miami CF	14	4	5	47	51	37
Columbus	11	3	6	39	40	18
New York	9	4	9	36	36	27
New York City FC	11	9	2	35	33	27
Charlotte FC	9	8	5	32	24	23
Orlando City	7	9	6	27	32	36
Nashville	6	8	8	26	25	31
Toronto FC	7	13	3	24	30	43
Atlanta	6	10	6	24	31	32
CF Montreal	5	9	8	23	31	46
New England	7	12	1	22	20	38
Chicago	5	11	6	21	28	40
Philadelphia	4	9	9	21	36	39
D.C. United	4	11	8	20	30	47

WEST	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	13	4	4	43	43	24
Real Salt Lake	12	3	7	43	48	27
LA Galaxy	12	4	7	43	44	30
Colorado	11	8	4	37	44	37
Portland	9	8	6	33	45	39
Vancouver	9	7	5	32	34	29
Seattle	8	7	7	31	31	26
Houston	8	7	6	30	29	26
Austin FC	8	8	6	30	25	31
Minnesota United	8	9	5	29	35	37
FC Dallas	6	11	5	23	32	37
St. Louis City SC	4	8	10	22	30	39
Sporting KC	5	13	5	20	37	48
San Jose	4	16	2	14	30	56

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3
Cincinnati 3, at D.C. United 2
Miami 2, at Charlotte FC 1
at New York City FC 2, CF Montreal 0
Orlando City 2, at Toronto FC 1
at New England 2, Atlanta 1
at Chicago 4, Philadelphia 3
Vancouver 3, at Minnesota 1
at St. Louis City SC 2, San Jose 0
at Columbus 2, Nashville 0
at Real Salt Lake 3, Houston 2

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
at FC Dallas 3, Portland 2
at Colorado 2, Sporting KC 1
Los Angeles FC 2, at LA Galaxy 1

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
at Orlando City 5, D.C. United 0
at Cincinnati 6, Miami 1
at Columbus 4, Toronto FC 0
Vancouver 1, at CF Montreal 1
New York 0, at Philadelphia 0
at Austin FC 2, New York City FC 1
at Real Salt Lake 5, Atlanta 2
at Seattle 2, New England 0

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
at Sporting KC 3, FC Dallas 2
at San Jose 1, Chicago 0
at Colorado 4, St. Louis City SC 1
at LA Galaxy 2, Minnesota 1
at Portland 4, Nashville 1
Los Angeles FC at Houston, ppd.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Nashville at D.C. United, 7:30
Charlotte FC at Cincinnati, 7:30
Atlanta at CF Montreal, 7:30
Orlando City at New England, 7:30
Philadelphia at Toronto FC, 7:30
Seattle at Austin FC, 8:30
New York City FC at Chicago, 8:30
LA Galaxy at FC Dallas, 8:30
Minnesota at Houston, 8:30
Vancouver at St. Louis City SC, 8:30
New York at Colorado, 9:30
Real Salt Lake at Portland, 10:25
Columbus at Los Angeles FC, 10:30
Sporting KC at San Jose, 10:30

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
D.C. United at Minnesota, 8:30
New York City FC at Atlanta, 7:30
Chicago at Cincinnati, 7:30
Charlotte FC at Columbus, 7:30
Toronto FC at Miami, 7:30
CF Montreal at New York, 7:30
New England at Philadelphia, 7:30
Austin FC at FC Dallas, 8:30
Orlando City at Nashville, 8:30
Colorado at LA Galaxy, 10:30
Houston at San Jose, 10:30
St. Louis City SC at Seattle, 10:30
Sporting KC at Vancouver, 10:30
Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC, 10:45

Rapids 4, St. Louis City SC 1

Late Sunday

ST. LOUIS CITY SC	1	0	1
COLORADO	2	2	4

First Half: 1, Colorado, Cabral, 4 (Bassett), 6th minute; 2, St. Louis City SC, Klein, 1 (Reid), 12th; 3, Colorado, Bassett, 7 (Cabral), 35th.
Second Half: 4, Colorado, Lewis, 1 (Harris), 81st; 5, Colorado, Yapi, 1 (Lewis), 90th.
Goalies: St. Louis City SC, Roman Burki, Ben Lundt; Colorado, Zack Steffen, Adam James Beaudry.
Yellow Cards: Durkin, St. Louis City SC, 75th.
St. Louis City SC, Roman Burki (Ben Lundt, 32nd); Tim Parker, Jayden Reid, Michael Wentzel (Joshua Yaro, 78th); Njabulo Blom (Anthony Markanich, 79th), Chris Durkin, Hosei Kijima (Samuel Adeniran, 59th), Johnny Klein, Indiana Vassilev, Akil Watts (Tomas Totland, 59th); Nokkvi Thorisson.
Colorado, Zack Steffen; Michael Edwards (Sebastian Anderson, 86th), Andreas Maxso, Keegan Rosenberry, Sam Vines; Cole Bassett, Omir Fernandez (Jonathan Lewis, 67th), Oliver Larraz (Jasper Loffelsend, 85th), Connor Ronan; Kevin Cabral (Calvin Harris, 67th), Rafael Navarro (Darren Yapi, 83rd).

Galaxy 2, Minnesota United 1

Late Sunday

MINNESOTA	0	1	1
LOS ANGELES GALAXY	1	1	2

First Half: 1, Los Angeles Galaxy, Pec, 8 (Yamane), 25th minute.
Second Half: 2, Minnesota, Pukki, 3 (Dotson), 73rd; 3, Los Angeles Galaxy, Pec, 9 (Cuevas), 90th.
Goalies: Minnesota, Alec Smir, Francesco Montali; Los Angeles Galaxy, John McCarthy, Novak Micovic.
Yellow Cards: Nelson, Los Angeles Galaxy, 20th; Puig, Los Angeles Galaxy, 22nd; Sang-bin, Minnesota, 89th.
A: 20,043.
Minnesota, Alec Smir; Michael Boxall, Devin Padelford, D.J. Taylor (Caden Clark, 45th+1); Alejandro Bran (Teemu Pukki, 61st), Hassani Dotson (Carlos Harvey, 76th), Robin Lod, Joseph Rosales, Jeong Sang-bin, Miguel Tapias; Bongokuhle Hlongwane (Franco Fragapane, 77th).
Los Angeles Galaxy, John McCarthy; Martin Caceres, John Nelson (Mauricio Cuevas, 79th), Miki Yamane, Maya Yoshida; Marky Delgado, Diego Fagundez (Edwin Cerrillo, 66th), Joseph Paintsil, Gabriel Pec, Riqui Puig (Carlos Garces, 90th+3); Dejan Joveljic (Miguel Berry, 46th).

Timbers 4, Nashville SC 1

Late Sunday

NASHVILLE	0	1	1
PORTLAND	4	0	4

First Half: 1, Portland, Mora, 10 (Rodriguez), 18th minute; 2, Portland, Rodriguez, 10 (Mosquera), 21st; 3, Portland, Rodriguez, 11 (Moreno), 24th; 4, Portland, Williamson, 2 (Moreno), 29th.
Second Half: 5, Nashville, Surridge, 8 (Moore), 82nd.
Goalies: Nashville, Joe Willis, Elliot Panicco; Portland, James Pantemis, Trey Muse.
Yellow Cards: Kallman, Nashville, 90th+4.
Red Cards: Anunga, Nashville, 35th.
Nashville, Joe Willis; Daniel Lovitz (Josh Bauer, 47th), Jack Maher, Shaq Moore, Walker Zimmerman (Brent Kallman, 77th); Brian Anunga, Hany Mukhtar (Tyler Boyd, 78th), Alex Muyl, Dru Yearwood (Amar Sejdic, 63rd); Forster Wekem Ajago (Teal Bunbury, 63rd), Sam Surridge.
Portland, James Pantemis; Miguel Araujo, Claudio Bravo, Juan Mosquera (Eric Miller, 62nd), Dario Zuparic (Zac McGraw, 63rd); David Ayala (Antony Alves Santos, 46th), Diego Chara, Santiago Moreno (Cristhian Paredes, 76th), Eryk Williamson (Victor Enriquez Velazquez, 86th); Felipe Mora, Jonathan Rodriguez.

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	11	0	5	38	32	12
Kansas City	10	1	5	35	40	22
Washington	11	4	1	34	32	18
Gotham FC	9	3	4	31	19	13
Portland	8	5	3	27	27	20
North Carolina	8	7	1	25	20	17
Chicago	7	7	2	23	23	22
Bay FC	6	10	0	18	19	28
Louisville	3	6	7	16	21	22
San Diego	3	7	6	15	12	17
Angel City	4	9	3	15	16	26
Houston	3	8	5	14	11	23
Seattle	2	9	5	11	16	28
Utah	2	11	3	9	8	28

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 3, at Bay FC 0
at Chicago 1, Houston 0
Orlando 2, at Kansas City 1
Gotham FC 2, at Angel City 1

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
at North Carolina 3, Louisville 1
Utah 1, at Seattle 1

FRIDAY, AUG. 23
Orlando at Houston, 8
Bay FC at Utah, 9:30

SATURDAY, AUG. 24
Portland at Gotham FC, 2
Angel City at San Diego, 4
Chicago at Louisville, 7:30

Copa América

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
Mexico 0, Ecuador 0
Jamaica 0, Venezuela 3

MONDAY, JULY 1
United States 0, Uruguay 1
Panama 3, Bolivia 1

TUESDAY, JULY 2
Brazil 1, Colombia 1
Costa Rica 2, Paraguay 1

QUARTERFINALS
THURSDAY'S RESULT
Argentina 1, Ecuador 1; Argentina 4-2 on penalty kicks

FRIDAY'S RESULT
Venezuela 1, Canada 1; Canada 4-3 on penalty kicks

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Colombia 5, Panama 0
Uruguay 0, Brazil 0; Uruguay 4-2 on penalty kicks

SEMIFINALS
TUESDAY'S MATCH
Argentina vs. Canada, 8

WEDNESDAY'S MATCH
Colombia vs. Uruguay, 8

THIRD PLACE
SATURDAY'S MATCH
Semifinal losers, 8

CHAMPIONSHIP
SUNDAY'S MATCH
IN MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.
Semifinal winners, 8

European Championship

ROUND OF 16
SATURDAY, JUNE 29
Switzerland 2, Italy 0
Germany 2, Denmark 0

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
England 2, Slovakia 1 (OT)
Spain 4, Georgia 1

MONDAY, JULY 1
France 1, Belgium 0
Portugal 0, Slovenia 0; Portugal 3-0 on penalty kicks

TUESDAY, JULY 2
Netherlands 3, Romania 0
Turkey 2, Austria 1

QUARTERFINALS
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Spain 2, Germany 1 (OT)
Portugal 0, France 0; France 5-3 on penalty kicks

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
England 1, Switzerland 1; England 5-3 on penalty kicks
Netherlands 2, Turkey 1

SEMIFINALS
TUESDAY'S MATCH
Spain vs. France, 3

WEDNESDAY'S MATCH
Netherlands vs. England, 3

FINAL
SUNDAY'S MATCH
IN BERLIN
Semifinal winners, 3

TENNIS

Wimbledon

At All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club; in London
Purse: $19,280,205
Surface: Grass

MEN'S SINGLES — FOURTH ROUND
Lorenzo Musetti (25), Italy, def. Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, France, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; Alex de Minaur (9), Australia, def. Arthur Fils, France, 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; Taylor Fritz (13), United States, def. Alexander Zverev (4), Germany, 4-6, 6-7 (7-4), 6-4, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3; Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Holger Rune (15), Denmark, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

WOMEN'S SINGLES — FOURTH ROUND
Elena Rybakina (4), Kazakhstan, def. Anna Kalinskaya (17), Russia, 6-3, 3-0, ret; Elina Svitolina (21), Ukraine, def. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-2, 6-1; Jelena Ostapenko (13), Latvia, def. Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, 6-2, 6-3; Barbora Krejcikova (31), Czechia, def. Danielle Collins (11), United States, 7-5, 6-3.

MEN'S DOUBLES — SECOND ROUND
Jack Withrow and Nathaniel Lammons (12), United States, def. Mackenzie McDonald and Ben Shelton, United States, 6-4, 6-4.

MEN'S DOUBLES — THIRD ROUND
Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (1), Argentina, def. Dustin Brown, Jamaica, and Sebastian Baez, Argentina, 6-3, 6-3; Harri Heliovaara, Finland, and Henry Patten, Britain, def. Marcelo Melo and Rafael Matos, Brazil, 7-6 (7-1), 6-2; Mate Pavic, Croatia, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (4), El Salvador, def. Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia (16), France, 6-4, 7-6 (7-1); Hendrik Jebens and Constantin Frantzen, Germany, def. Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Lloyd Glasspool, Britain, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-3); Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Neal Skupski (9), Britain, def. Evan King and Christopher Eubanks, United States, 7-5, 6-3; Jordan Thompson and Max Purcell (15), Australia, def. John-Patrick Smith, Australia, and Andreas Mies, Germany, 6-4, 6-3; Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni (11), Argentina, def. Charles Broom and Arthur Fery, Britain, 6-2, 6-7 (7-4), 7-5.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES — THIRD ROUND
Timea Babos, Hungary, and Nadiia Kichenok, Ukraine, def. Asia Muhammad, United States, and Aldila Sutjiadi (15), Indonesia, 7-5, 6-3; Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff (11), United States, def. Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini (5), Italy, 6-2, 6-4; Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Elise Mertens (1), Belgium, def. Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Sofia Kenin (14), United States, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

MIXED DOUBLES — SECOND ROUND
Santiago Gonzalez and Giuliana Olmos, Mexico, def. Luke Johnson and Freya Christie, Britain, 6-4, 6-0; Olivia Nicholls and Henry Patten, Britain, def. Maia Lumsden and Julian Cash, Britain, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5); Rajeev Ram and Katie Volynets, United States, def. Zhang Shuai, China, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez, El Salvador, 2-6, 6-4, 12-10; Fabrice Martin, France, and Cristina Bucsa, Spain, def. Harriet Dart and Lloyd Glasspool, Britain, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5); Jamie Murray, Britain, and Taylor Townsend, United States, def. Nicolas Barrientos, Colombia, and Miyu Kato, Japan, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5); Ena Shibahara, Japan, and Nathaniel Lammons, United States, def. Max Purcell, Australia, and Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, 6-1, 6-2; Michael Venus and Erin Routliffe (2), New Zealand, def. Harri Heliovaara, Finland, and Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, 6-4, 6-4; Alexandra Panova, Russia, and Kevin Krawietz, Germany, def. Austin Krajicek, United States, and Laura Siegemund (4), Germany, 7-5, 6-4; Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Jan Zielinski (7), Poland, def. Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Hugo Nys, Monaco, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4); Neal Skupski, Britain, and Desirae Krawczyk (6), United States, def. Rafael Matos and Luisa Stefani, Brazil, 6-4, 6-7 (7-4), 11-9.

WTA

NORDEA OPEN
At Bastad (Sweden) Tennis Stadium
Purse: $115,000
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
Ann Li, United States, def. Rebecca Sramkova, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2; Katarina Zavatska, Ukraine, def. Yuliia Starodubtseva, Ukraine, 7-5, 6-1; Tamara Zidansek, Slovenia, def. Kajsa Rinaldo Persson, Sweden, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1; Miriam Bianca Bulgaru, Romania, def. Chloe Paquet, France, 6-4, 6-2; Louisa Chirico, United States, def. Renata Zarazua (8), Mexico, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; Martina Trevisan (7), Italy, def. Astra Sharma, Australia, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3.

DOUBLES — ROUND OF 16
Maria Carle and Julia Riera, Argentina, def. Amina Anshba, Russia, and Anastasia Detiuc (1), Czechia, 6-3, 6-4; Magali Kempen and Lara Salden, Belgium, def. Anita Wagner, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Eleni Christofi, Greece, 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 10-4.

GRAND ESTA OPEN 88
At Tennis Club de Contrexeville (France)
Purse: $100,000
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES — QUALIFICATION ROUND
Conny Perrin, Switzerland, def. Gao Xinyu (1), China, 6-3, 6-2; Amandine Monnot , France, def. Iryna Shymanovich (2), Belarus, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; Elena Pridankina (4), Russia, def. Caroline Werner, Germany, 7-5, 3-6, 6-1; Diana Martynov, France, def. Tina Nadine Smith (8), Australia, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
Margaux Rouvroy, France, def. Francisca Jorge, Portugal, 6-4, 6-1; Kateryna Baindl, Ukraine, def. Carole Monnet, France, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1; Maria Mateas, United States, def. Noma Noha Akugue, Germany, 6-2, 7-6 (7-1); Suzan Lamens (7), Netherlands, def. Jenny Lim, France, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6); Lucia Bronzetti (4), Italy, def. Simona Waltert, Switzerland, 6-1, 6-2.

WTA

SINGLES RANKINGS
Through Sunday.
1. Iga Swiatek, Poland, 11585
2. Coco Gauff, USA, 7943
3. Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus, 7841
4. Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan, 6026
5. Jessica Pegula, USA, 5025
6. Marketa Vondrousova, Czechia, 4463
7. Jasmine Paolini, Italy, 4228
8. Zheng Qinwen, China, 4055

GOLF

Official World Golf Ranking

Through Sunday.

1.	Scottie Scheffler	17.66
2.	Rory McIlroy	9.24
3.	Xander Schauffele	8.79
4.	Ludvig Aberg	5.93
5.	Wyndham Clark	5.90
6.	Collin Morikawa	5.45
7.	Viktor Hovland	5.37
8.	Patrick Cantlay	5.17
9.	Bryson DeChambeau	4.89
10.	Jon Rahm	4.60
11.	Tommy Fleetwood	3.97
12.	Brian Harman	3.92
13.	Hideki Matsuyama	3.90
14.	Sahith Theegala	3.84
15.	Max Homa	3.66
16.	Tony Finau	3.51
17.	Tom Kim	3.48
18.	Russell Henley	3.47
19.	Keegan Bradley	3.41
20.	Matt Fitzpatrick	3.30
21.	Matthieu Pavon	3.24
22.	Tyrrell Hatton	3.17
23.	Cameron Young	3.13
24.	Sepp Straka	3.09
25.	Akshay Bhatia	3.09
26.	Justin Thomas	2.95
27.	Sam Burns	2.92
28.	Sungjae Im	2.91
29.	Jason Day	2.89
30.	Byeong Hun An	2.75
31.	Min Woo Lee	2.75
32.	Denny McCarthy	2.70
33.	Shane Lowry	2.70
34.	Jordan Spieth	2.64
35.	Chris Kirk	2.54
36.	Nick Taylor	2.51
37.	Adam Hadwin	2.44
38.	Davis Thompson	2.43
39.	Cameron Davis	2.42
40.	Corey Conners	2.42
41.	Lucas Glover	2.37
42.	Christiaan Bezuidenhout	2.37
43.	Stephen Jaeger	2.28
44.	Robert MacIntyre	2.24
45.	Nicolai Hojgaard	2.23
46.	Will Zalatoris	2.22
47.	J.T. Poston	2.21
48.	Brooks Koepka	2.21
49.	Eric Cole	2.21
50.	Si Woo Km	2.20

PGA Tour

FEDEX CUP LEADERS
Through Sunday.

		Points	Money
1.	Scottie Scheffler	5,768	$27,696,858
2.	Xander Schauffele	3,257	$12,636,360
3.	Rory McIlroy	2,445	$10,034,665
4.	Collin Morikawa	2,241	$7,509,252
5.	Wyndham Clark	2,088	$9,728,975
6.	Ludvig Aberg	1,992	$7,830,998
7.	Hideki

The Washington Post

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TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

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815 Legal Notices

All medical records retained by Laura Primakoff, Ph.D will be destroyed after September 3, 2024. Clients can obtain their records or have them transferred by contacting Dr.Primakoff at drprimakoff@gmail.com, calling 301-299-6888, or coming to Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda on September 3 between 10am and 12noon.

830 Special Notices

Public Notice
All medical records retained by Dana O'Brien, PhD, LLC will be destroyed after September 5, 2024. Clients can obtain their records or have them transferred by contacting Dr. O'Brien at dr.danaobrien@gmail.com, calling 3014934320, or coming to 11119 Rockville Pike, #200, Rockville, MD on Sept. 5 between 9:00 and11:00 AM.

875 Fauquier County

Trustee's Sale
4048 Rock Run Lane,
Goldvein, Virginia 22720
(GPIN: 7826035099000;
Mblu.: 7826/ 03/ 5099/ 000/)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 27, 2019, in the original principal amount of $39,600.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Fauquier, Virginia in Deed Book 1592, page 1643, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on **August 20, 2024, at 12:00 PM** in front of the building housing the Fauquier County Circuit Court, 40 Culpeper Street, Warrenton, VA 20186, the property designated as Lot 16, Black Wood Forest, as the same is duly platted and recorded in deed book 281, page 513, of the land records of Fauquier County, Virginia; said plat is entitled division of the property of Northern Virginia Properties, Inc. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of $4,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than $9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com [glasserlaw.com], outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense.

This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or REO Solutions, LLC, and/or NF-PDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 234760-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Jul 9,16,23 2024 0012464674

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SHIH-CHON: "Teddy Bears". $900-$1100. Maryland. SHIH-TZU: $1100-$1250. M/F. Health guar. 301-252-9213 www.windsoroakfarm.com

SHIH POO PUPS - Non shedding, 10-12lbs at maturity, up to date shots, dews removed. Ready to go now,. Call **804-694-9143**

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820 Official Notices

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS
ONE COUNTY COMPLEX COURT
PRINCE WILLIAM, VA 22192

July 16, 2024
Public Hearings

2:00 p.m.

1. **Special Use Permit #SUP2024-00002, Tommy's Car Wash at Minnieville:** This is a request to allow a self-service tunnel car wash facility with self-serve vacuum stations. The subject property is ±1.29 acres that's located on the northeast corner of Minnieville Road and Fowke Road. The current addresses of the subject property are 2816 and 2806 Garber Way in Woodbridge, VA and the parcels are identified on the County's Maps as GPIN 8292-55-9694 and 8292-56-9007. The property is in the General Business District (B1) Zoning District and designated as Mixed Use (MU-4) with a T-4 Transect that recommends a range of 0.57 to 1.38 FAR in the Comprehensive Plan. The property is located within the Minnieville Road Highway Corridor Overlay District – **Occoquan Magisterial District**

2. **Special Use Permit #SUP2019-00044, Haymarket Junction Motor Vehicle Fuel Station**: This is a request to allow a motor vehicle fuel station with a quick service food store and restaurant on ±2.53 acres. The subject site is located on the southwest corner of the intersection at John Marshall Highway (Route 55) and James Madison Highway (Route 15); is located at 6371 John James Way and is identified on County Maps as GPIN: 7298-61-6115. The subject site is zoned M-2, Light Industrial; is designated COM-3, Commercial with a T-3 Transect that recommends a range of 0.23 to 0.57 FAR in the Comprehensive Plan. The site is located within the Haymarket Activity Center and the James Madison Highway Corridor Overlay District, HCOD – **Gainesville Magisterial District**

3. **Rezoning #REZ2024-00012, Haymarket Junction Wendy's**: This is a request to rezone from M-2, Light Industrial to B-1, General Business. There is a concurrent request for a special use permit to allow a restaurant drive-through and sign modifications. The subject is ±0.91747 (pt) acres, property is located at 6366 John James Way immediately southeast of the intersection of John Marshall Highway (Route 55) and John James Way and is identified on County maps as GPIN 7298-61-3823. The site is zoned B-1, General Business and M-2, Light Industrial; is designated COM-3, Commercial with a T-3 Transect that recommends a range of 0.23 to 0.57 FAR in the Comprehensive Plan. The site is located within the Haymarket Activity Center and the James Madison Highway Corridor Overlay District, HCOD – **Gainesville Magisterial District**

4. **Special Use Permit #SUP2024-00008, Haymarket Junction Wendy's**: This is a request for a special use permit to allow a restaurant drive-through and sign modifications. There is a concurrent request for rezoning the property associated with this application. The subject is ±0.91747 (pt) acres, property is located at 6366 John James Way immediately southeast of the intersection of John Marshall Highway (Route 55) and John James Way and is identified on County maps as GPIN 7298-61-3823. The site is zoned B-1, General Business and M-2, Light Industrial; is designated COM-3, Commercial with a T-3 Transect that recommends a range of 0.23 to 0.57 FAR in the Comprehensive Plan. The site is located within the Haymarket Activity Center and the James Madison Highway Corridor Overlay District, HCOD – **Gainesville Magisterial District**

5. **Special Use Permit #SUP2023-00036, Braemar Flagship Car Wash**: This is a request for special use permit to allow a self-service car wash facility on approximately ±1.71 acres. The property is located approximately 360 feet southeast of the intersection of Linton Hall Road and Sudley Manor Drive. The subject site is located at 9420 Linton Hall Road and identified on County maps as GPIN 7495-88-0915. The property is zoned RPC, Residential Planned Community; is designated RPC, Residential Planned Community and is within the Braemar Activity Center in the Comprehensive Plan; and is located within the Lake Manassas Dam Inundation Zone – **Brentsville Magisterial District**

6. **Special Use Permit #SUP2023-00025, Heathcote Marketplace Pad A (Financial Institution)**: This is a request for a special use permit to allow a drive-through facility associated with a financial institution with signage modifications. This request is concurrently being processed with SUP2023-00026 and SUP2023-00027. The ±4.3-acre subject property for the proposed commercial service center is located at the northeast corner of James Madison Highway (Rt. 15) and Heathcote Boulevard and is currently addressed 14890 Heathcote Boulevard. The subject SUP pad site is identified on County maps as GPIN 7298-93-9607 (portion); zoned B-1, General Business; designated MU-3, Neighborhood Mixed Use; located within the Haymarket Activity Center; and partially located within the Environmental Resource Protection Overlay in the Comprehensive Plan. The project area is also located within the Airport Safety Overlay District and within the James Madison Highway Corridor Overlay District – **Gainesville Magisterial District**

7. **Special Use Permit #SUP2023-00026, Heathcote Marketplace Pad B (Motor Vehicle Service)**: This is a request for a special use permit to allow a motor vehicle service facility with signage modifications. This request is concurrently being processed with SUP2023-00025 and SUP2023-00027. The ±4.3-acre subject property for the proposed commercial service center is located at the northeast corner of James Madison Highway (Rt. 15) and Heathcote Boulevard and is currently addressed 14890 Heathcote Boulevard. The subject SUP pad site is identified on County maps as GPIN 7298-93-9607 (portion); zoned B-1, General Business; designated MU-3, Neighborhood Mixed Use; located within the Haymarket Activity Center; and partially located within the Environmental Resource Protection Overlay in the Comprehensive Plan. The project area is also located within the Airport Safety Overlay District and within the James Madison Highway Corridor Overlay District – **Gainesville Magisterial District**

8. **Special Use Permit #SUP2023-00027, Heathcote Marketplace Pad C (Car Wash)**: This is a request for a special use permit to allow a self-service car wash with tunnel and vacuum stations including signage modifications. This request is concurrently being processed with SUP2023-00025 and SUP2023-00026. The ±4.3-acre subject property for the proposed commercial service center is located at the northeast corner of James Madison Highway (Rt. 15) and Heathcote Boulevard and is currently addressed 14890 Heathcote Boulevard. The subject SUP pad site is identified on County maps as GPIN 7298-93-9607 (portion); zoned B-1, General Business; designated MU-3, Neighborhood Mixed Use; located within the Haymarket Activity Center; and partially located within the Environmental Resource Protection Overlay in the Comprehensive Plan. The project area is also located within the Airport Safety Overlay District and within the James Madison Highway Corridor Overlay District – **Gainesville Magisterial District**

9. **Special Use Permit #SUP2023-00035, Mystikos Armament LLC Residential Home Business**: This is a request for a special use permit amendment to allow a home-based firearm gunsmithing and manufacturing business, in a single-family home, with walk-in customers by appointment only. The property is located at 9356 Boley Pl, northwest of the intersection of Vint Hill Road and Boley Place Road. The subject site is identified on County maps as GPIN 7395-18-3037 on approximately ±1.60 acres; is zoned A-1, Agricultural and is designated AF, Agricultural and Forestry, in the Comprehensive Plan and is located within the Domestic Fowl Overlay District and Agritourism and Arts Overlay District – **Brentsville Magisterial District**

10. **Special Use Permit #SUP2023-00019 Popeyes at Evergreen Village**: This is a request for a special use permit to allow a freestanding restaurant and drive-through with associated waivers and modifications. The Property is located at 9885 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, VA,20110, approximately ±600 feet north of the intersection of Wellington Road and Prince William Parkway. The subject site is identified on County maps as GPIN 7895-24-2689 on ± 0.24 acres; is zoned B-1, General Business and is designated Mixed-Use T-3, Neighborhood, in the Comprehensive Plan; and is located in the Liberia Avenue Sector Plan – **Coles Magisterial District**

11. **Special Use Permit #SUP2024-00004, Starbucks at Princeton Woods**: This is a request for a special use permit to allow for drive-through facilities and associated sign modifications. The Property is located at 17050 Richmond Highway, approximately ±150 feet south of the intersection of Richmond Highway and Pine Bluff Road. The subject site is identified on County maps as GPIN 8289-26-5265 on ± 0.76 acres; is zoned B-1, General Business and is designated MU-4, Mixed Use (Community) with a T-4 Transect that recommends a range of 0.57 to 1.38 FAR in the Comprehensive Plan; and is located within the Southbridge Activity Center Special Planning Area, Highway Corridor Overlay, and the Prehistoric Sensitivity Area – **Potomac Magisterial District**

12. **Rezoning, #REZ2023-00024, Shenandoah Rezoning**: This is a request to rezone ±6.93 acres from B-1, General Business District to M-2, Light Industrial District, including modifications, to allow development for future industrial uses. The subject property is located on the northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Carolina Drive; it is addressed as 10941 Samuel Trexler Drive and is identified on County maps as GPIN 7695-13-7339. The site is designated I-3, Technology/Flex, with a T-3 Transect that recommends a range of 0.23 to 0.57 FAR in the Comprehensive Plan and is located within the Airport Safety Overlay District, E-Commerce Overlay District, Highway Corridor Overlay District, Agritourism and Arts Overlay District – **Brentsville Magisterial District**

13. **Special Use Permit Amendment, SUP2024-00007, Costco-Potomac Mills Circle Fuel Station**: This is a request to amend SUP #PLN2006-00130 to allow the expansion of an existing motor vehicle fuel station, retail. The property is ±1.21 acres (part of a ±104.72 acres parcel) and is located immediately north of the intersection of Potomac Mills Circle and New Bedford Way and Southwest from the intersection of Biddeford Way and Potomac Mills Circle. The property's address is 2700 Potomac Mills Circle and the parcel is identified on the County's Maps as GPIN 8291-79-1954. The property is in the General Business District (B1) Zoning District and designated as Mixed Use (MU-6) on the County's Comprehensive Plan. The property is located within the Resource Protection Area Overlay, Environmental Resource Protection Overlay, Land Use Special Planning Areas, E-Commerce Overlay District, and the Agritourism and Arts Overlay District – **Occoquan Magisterial District**

14. **Special Use Permit #SUP2024-00009, Cozy Nest Family Childcare**: This is a request for a special use permit to allow a family day home for up to nine (9) children and one non-resident employee. The Property is located at 16052 Barn Swallow Place, approximately ±420 feet east of the intersection of Fawn Hollow Lane and Barn Swallow Place. The subject site is identified on County maps as GPIN 8390-86-0289 on ±0.0796 acres; is zoned R-6, Suburban Residential; and is designated as RN-4, Residential Neighborhood, in the Comprehensive Plan; and is within the Rippon VRE Activity Center Special Planning Area, Prehistoric Sensitivity Area, and the Agritourism and Arts Overly District – **Woodbridge Magisterial District**

For additional information regarding the Board meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Board at (703) 792-6600. All meeting materials are posted online when the agenda is published, and at that time, a copy of all staff reports, proposed resolutions and ordinances, and other documentation will be available for review by the public in the office of the Clerk of the Board at One County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia, 22192.

Members of the public may appear at the Board of County Supervisors' Chamber in the McCoart Building, One County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia, at the designated time to express their views.

ACCESSIBILITY TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: The hearings are being held at a public facility believed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone with questions on the accessibility of the facility should contact the Clerk to the Board at One County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia, or by telephone at (703) 792-6600 or TDD (703) 792-6295. Persons needing translation or interpreter services must notify the Clerk to the Board no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

840 Trustees Sale - DC

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP
555 12TH STREET, NW
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, DC 20004
202-371-6351

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE
NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 20-UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING
WITH A FIRST FLOOR COMMERCIAL UNIT
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"THE V AT GEORGIA AVENUE"
3557 – 3559 GEORGIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20010

By virtue of a certain Construction Deed of Trust, Security Agreement, Assignment of Rents and Fixture Filing (the "Deed of Trust"), duly recorded February 28, 2020 as Instrument No. 2020028612 among the Land Records of the District of Columbia (the "Land Records"), which Deed of Trust also constitutes a security agreement and creates a security interest in all fixtures and personal property described in the Deed of Trust, a default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby and the covenants contained therein, and at the request of the party secured thereby (the "Noteholder"), and following mailing of a Notice of Foreclosure Sale recorded with the Recorder on June 21, 2024 as Instrument No. 2024057994 and Affidavit of Non-Residential Mortgage Foreclosure recorded with the Recorder on November 15, 2022 as Instrument No. 2022112985, and the recordation of a Deed of Removal of Substitute Trustee and Appointment of New Substitute Trustee recorded with the Recorder on June 21, 2024 as Instrument No. 2024057994 and at the request of the party secured thereby (the "Noteholder"), the undersigned Substitute Trustee, will sell, at public auction, within the office of ALEX COOPER AUCTIONEERS, INC., 4910 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 100, WASHINGTON, D.C. on

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024 AT 12:15 PM

All that certain lot or parcel of land located and being in the City of Washington in the District of Columbia and being more particularly described as follows:

Lot numbered Eighty-nine (0089) in Square numbered Three Thousand Thirty-Three (3033) in the subdivision made by Miriam E. Ochoa and Rafael Rodriquez, Jr. as per plat recorded in the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia in Book 196 at page 107.

Property description: The property is improved by a newly constructed 6-story corner building containing 10 one-bedroom and 10 two-bedroom units. The first floor has a commercial unit. There is storage in the lower level.

TOGETHER WITH any and all buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances now erected on the above-described land, including, without limitation, all equipment, apparatus, machinery and fixtures of any kind or character forming a part of said buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances, and any furniture, furnishings, equipment, machinery and other personal property owned and located in, upon or about the above-described land and any buildings thereon all as more particularly described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust (collectively, the "Property").

TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE PROPERTY
PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to the Construction Deed of Trust, Security Agreement, Assignment of Rents and Fixture Filing as evidenced by UCC Financing Statement duly recorded February 27, 2020 as U.C.C. Initial Filing No: 2020 1421132. Service Request No: 20201609227 among the Delaware Department of State and upon occurrence of a default thereunder, the Noteholder, Parkview Financial REIT, LP, as the holder of a security interest and lien on all of the tangible and intangible assets of the Debtor, will sell at public auction on the same date and at the same time and place, ALL OF THE FIXTURES and TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE PROPERTY, ETC. of the Debtor located on or about the Real Estate (that is subject to the security interest and lien of Parkview Financial REIT, LP and not owned by any third party.)

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. The Property will be offered as an entirety only. The bid which yields the highest price for the Property will be accepted by the Substitute Trustee (unless the sale is postponed or cancelled) and all bids will be provisional until acceptance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Substitute Trustee absolutely reserves the right to postpone the sale and/or cancel the sale at any time until the auctioneer announces that the Property is "sold" and the deposit in the required amount and form is received by the Substitute Trustee. A deposit in the amount of **$100,000** in the form of a cashier's check or certified check will be required as a condition to bidding. The deposit must be increased to **10% of the purchase price within two (2) business days after the sale**, which increased deposit must be in the form of a cashier's check or certified check and delivered to the office of the Substitute Trustee. The Noteholder secured by the Deed of Trust (or any related party) shall be exempted by the Substitute Trustee from submitting any bidding deposit. The Substitute Trustee will, as a condition of the sale, require all potential bidders except the Noteholder to show their deposit before any bidding begins. The retained deposit of the successful purchaser shall be applied, without interest, to the successful purchaser's credit at settlement; provided, however, that in the event the successful purchaser fails to consummate the purchase in accordance with the terms of sale as herein provided, such deposit, at the option of the Substitute Trustee, will be forfeited. The terms of sale must be complied with and settlement consummated thereon within 45 days from day of sale unless extended at the sole discretion of the Substitute Trustee. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. The balance of the purchase price over and above the retained deposit, with interest thereon at the note rate then being charged from the date of sale through the date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, will be due at settlement in certified funds; and if not so paid, the Substitute Trustee reserves the right to retain the deposit and resell the Property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser, after such advertisement and on such terms as the Substitute Trustee may deem proper, and to avail themselves and the Noteholder of any legal or equitable rights against the defaulting purchaser.

The Property is sold subject to the rights, if any, of parties in possession, if such rights have priority over the Deed of Trust, and to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, rights of way, and limitations of record. The Property will be sold "WHERE IS" and in "AS IS" condition without any warranty as to condition, express or implied, and without any representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the information furnished to prospective bidders by the Substitute Trustee or any other party and without any other representations or warranty of any nature. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Property will be sold without representation or warranty as to (i) title to the Property, (ii) the nature, condition, structural integrity, or fitness for a particular use of any improvements, fixtures or personal property included within the Property, (iii) the environmental condition of the Property or the compliance of the Property with federal, state and local laws and regulations concerning the presence or disposal of hazardous substances, (iv) compliance of the Property with the Americans with Disabilities Act or any similar law, or (v) compliance of the Property with any zoning laws or ordinances and any and all applicable safety codes, and acceptance of the Deed to the Property by the successful purchaser shall constitute a waiver of any claims against the Substitute Trustee or the Noteholder concerning any of the foregoing matters. The successful purchaser recognizes that any investigation, examination or inspection of the Property is within the control of the owner or other parties in possession of the Property and not within the control of the Substitute Trustee or the Noteholder.

Conveyance shall be by Substitute Trustee's Deed, without covenant or warranty, express or implied. The risk of loss or damage by fire or other casualty to the Property from and after the date of sale will be upon the successful purchaser. Sold subject to all taxes, ground rents, public charges, assessments, sewer, water, drainage and other public improvements whether assessments have been levied or not. The Noteholder and Substitute Trustee assume no liability for fuel, gas, electricity, utilities and other operating charges accrued before or after the sale and all such charges shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser from the date of sale. All costs incident to the settlement and conveyancing including, without limitation, examination of title, conveyancing, all recordation taxes and charges, all transfer taxes and charges, title insurance premiums, notary fees, settlement fees and all other costs incident to settlement shall be at the cost of the successful purchaser. If the Substitute Trustee cannot convey title, the purchaser's sole remedy is a return of deposit. Further particulars may be announced at the time of sale. For further information, please contact James E. Van Horn 202-371-6351.

James E. Van Horn
Substitute Trustee

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 9,12,16,19,22,24 2024 0012465621

TRUSTEE'S SALE
Of Valuable Real Estate located in the
District of Columbia
known as
1535 – 1545 New Jersey Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20001
(the "Property")

By virtue of a certain Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents, and Security Agreement duly recorded in the land records of the District of Columbia on September 9, 2013 as Instrument No. 2013104689 (the "Deed of Trust") and in accordance with the Notice of Foreclosure Sale recorded June 12, 2024 as Instrument No. 2024054824, Public law 90-566, an Affidavit of Non-Residential Mortgage Foreclosure, and at the request of the party secured by the Deed of Trust, the Trustee will sell at public auction at the office of HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS INC., 5335 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 440, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20015, on **July 23, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.** the Property described in the Deed of Trust, including certain land and premises, situate in the District of Columbia, and being now known as

All of Square East of Square numbered Five Hundred Ten (510) in the District of Columbia.

NOTE: Said property now known for purposes of assessment and taxation as Lot 800 in the square East of Square 510.

Property Address:1535-1545 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20001

TAX ID: Square 0510-E, Lot 0800

Terms of Sale

The Property will be sold "WHERE IS" and in "AS IS" condition and the purchaser shall assume the risk of loss or damage to the property after the time of the foreclosure sale. Neither the Trustee, the party secured by the Deed of Trust, the auctioneer, nor any of their respective agents, successors or assigns (collectively, the "Selling Parties") make any representation or warranties, express or implied, with respect to the Property, or any tenancies or parties in possession, including without limitation, the description, use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, habitability, marketability, or insurability (hazard or title), subdivision, zoning, environmental condition, compliance with building codes or other laws (such as Americans with Disabilities Act), ordinances or regulations, fitness for a particular purpose, or merchantability of all or any part of the Property. The purchaser waives and releases the Selling Parties from any and all claims the purchaser or the purchaser's successors or assigns may have now or may have in the future relating to the sale or the condition of the Property. The Property will be sold subject to rights of parties in possession, any building or housing violations, easements, agreements, restrictions, terms, rights of way, covenants, conditions, rights of redemption, other encumbrances, statutes, if any, affecting the Property, whether or not of record and all statutes, ordinances or court rules, to the extent such things have priority over the Deed of Trust and to the extent such things survive the foreclosure sale. The Property is also sold subject to a post-sale audit of the status of the loan. All interested bidders are specifically encouraged to review all federal, state and local statutes, ordinances, and court rules concerning the Property and to contact the appropriate governmental authorities prior to the sale date regarding the Property, including without limitation, encumbrances, liens, violations, permitted uses and the requirements, if any, for registration, obtaining possession, cure of violations, construction, completion, or development. The Trustee will not deliver possession to the purchaser, who shall be solely responsible for obtaining possession of the Property.

A deposit of $50,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in the form of a cashier's check or certified check, or in such other form as the Trustee may determine in his sole discretion. Whenever the purchaser is also the party secured by the Deed of Trust, payment of the required Deposit and purchase price is made by crediting the amount thereof to the indebtedness. The balance of the purchase price with interest thereon at 10% per annum from the date of sale to the date of settlement shall be paid within thirty (30) days after the date of sale unless such time is extended at the sole discretion of the Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser if settlement is delayed for any reason whatsoever. The party secured by the Deed of Trust shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER.

Real property taxes, water charges, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. All costs incident to the settlement and conveyancing including, without limitation, examination of title, conveyancing, all recordation taxes and charges, all transfer taxes and charges, title insurance premiums, notary fees, settlement fees and all other costs incident to settlement shall be at the cost of the purchaser. Conveyance of the Property shall be by Trustee's Deed, without covenant or warranty, express or implied, specifically including marketability or insurability as to hazard or title. The Trustee will not sign any loan or settlement document which makes or implies any warranty with regard to the Property. In the event the Trustee is unable for any reason to convey marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy at law or in equity shall be to request and receive a return of the Deposit, after which this sale shall be void and of no effect and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Trustee, the Selling Parties, or the Property.

In the event of a default by the purchaser, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustee and all expenses of the sale, including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price, shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. The Trustee or secured party shall be entitled to avail themselves of any legal or equitable rights against the defaulting purchaser. Any resale shall be at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser and shall include any attorney's fees or costs in connection with all litigation, including appeals, involving the Property or the proceeds of a resale; or contesting the right to conduct a resale; or seeking to invalidate this sale or any resale. The defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the Property regardless of any improvements made. This advertisement, as amended or supplemented by any oral announcements during the conduct of the sale, constitutes the entire terms upon which the Property shall be offered for sale.

Patricia Sweeney, Sole Acting Trustee.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David Shames at 240-687-3382

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, INC.
5335 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Ste 440
Washington, DC 20015
202-463-4567
www.hwestauctions.com

Jul 9,12,16,19,22 2024 0012463865

850 Montgomery County

Piel Law Firm, LLC
502 Washington Avenue, Suite 730
Towson, Maryland 21204

MORTGAGEE'S SALE
RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY

5115 BRENTFORD DRIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Mortgage executed by Alloysius Ocheni and Charity Ocheni, dated November 17, 2004, and recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, at Liber 29583, folio 344 (the "Mortgage"), the holder of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage being Vimla Jashnani (the "Holder"), default having occurred under the terms of the Mortgage, the Holder will offer for sale at public auction to the highest qualified bidder at the steps of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850, on:

Friday, July 12, 2024 at 3:59 p.m.

ALL OF THAT real property being situate in Montgomery County, Maryland, and the improvements thereon (collectively, the "Property"), in fee simple, being more particularly described in the Mortgage, and generally known as 5115 Brentford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Pursuant to that certain Order of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Maryland, in the case entitled Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for ABFC 2005-HE2 Trust ABFC Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-HE2 v. Jashnani, et al., Case No. C-15-CV-21-000602, the Mortgage is subordinate under that certain deed of trust lien recorded in the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland at Liber 29911, folio 373 (the "WF Deed of Trust"), but only up to a maximum amount of $285,000.00. Accordingly, the sale of the Property in accordance herewith is subject to the WF Deed of Trust up to the maximum amount of $285,000.00.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000.00), in the form of certified check or cashier's check at the time of sale will be required of all purchasers other than the Holder or his affiliate. The deposit must be increased to 10% of the purchase price within two (2) business days, and delivered to the office of the Trustee in the same form as the initial deposit. The balance of the purchase price shall be due in cash or by certified check with interest on the unpaid balance of the purchase price at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum from the date of sale to and including the date of settlement. In the event the Holder, or an affiliate thereof, is the successful bidder at the sale, such party will not be required to make a deposit or to pay interest on the unpaid purchase money. Taxes, water rent, ground rent, if any, and all other municipal charges and liens owed against the Property shall be the responsibility of the purchaser(s) and shall be paid by the purchaser(s) at settlement. In addition, all other charges, expenses and liens owed against the Property including, but not limited to, all condominium fees and expenses and public charges and assessments owed against the Property and payable on an annual basis, such as sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if any, shall also be the responsibility of the purchaser(s) and shall be paid by the purchaser(s) at settlement. The Holder reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to extend the time for settlement, if applicable. In the event taxes or other municipal charges owing on or with respect to the Property have been prepaid they shall be adjusted at settlement between the Holder and the purchaser(s) to the date of the foreclosure sale.

The Property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition and without any warranties or representations, either express or implied, as to the nature, condition or description of the improvements. In addition, the Property will also be sold subject to all existing housing, building and zoning code violations, subject to all critical area and wetland violations, subject to all environmental problems and violations which may exist on or with respect to the Property, and subject to all matters and restrictions of record affecting the same, if any. The purchaser(s) at the foreclosure sale shall assume the risk of loss for the above-referenced Property immediately after the sale takes place. It shall be the purchaser(s)' responsibility to obtain possession of the Property following ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland.

The Property will be sold subject to all of the following that are not extinguished as a matter of law by the foreclosure sale: all easements, conditions, liens, restrictions, rights of redemption, covenants, encumbrances, ground rents, ground leases, such state of facts that an accurate survey or physical inspection of the Property might disclose, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

The purchaser(s) shall pay all documentary stamps, state and local transfer taxes, recordation taxes and fees, title examination costs, attorneys' fees, conveyance fees and all other incidental settlement costs. The purchaser(s) shall settle and comply with the sale terms within ten (10) days following the final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, unless said period is extended by the Holder for good cause shown. Time is of the essence.

In the event the purchaser(s) fails to go to settlement as required, in addition to any other legal or equitable remedies available, the Holder may, without further order of the court, declare the aforementioned deposit forfeited and resell the Property at the purchaser's sole risk and expense. In such event, the defaulting purchaser(s) shall be liable for the payment of any deficiency in the purchase price, all costs and expenses of both sales, reasonable attorneys' fees, all other charges due, and incidental damages. The parties' respective rights and obligations regarding the terms of sale and the conduct of the sale shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of Maryland.

If the Holder is unable to convey the Property as described above, the purchaser(s)' sole remedy at law or in equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit, without interest thereon. Upon refund of the deposit to the purchaser(s), the sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser(s) shall have no further claim against the Holder.

The information contained herein was obtained from sources deemed to be reliable, but is offered for informational purposes only. The Auctioneer and the Holder do not make any representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy of this information.

Vimla Jashnani,
Holder

For further information, contact:
Hunter C. Piel, Esquire
502 Washington Avenue, Suite 730
Towson, Maryland 21204
(410) 849-4888

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
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Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012464567

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850 Montgomery County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
12908 Neola Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to ANDREW VALENTINE, Trustee(s), dated October 7, 2005, and recorded among the Land Records of MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 31374 , folio 245, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 50 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850 ON,

JULY 24, 2024 at 11:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT NUMBERED TWENTY-FOUR (24) IN BLOCK LETTERED AND NUMBERED A-9 IN THE SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "CONNECTICUT AVENUE PARK" AS PER PLAT THEREOF DULY RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND IN PLAT BOOK 46 AT PLAT NO. 3477. THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON BEING KNOWN AS 12908 NEOLA ROAD, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20906. TAX ID# 13-01288598

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $28,000.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 2% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense, of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020 . File No. (23-28131)

BRENNAN FERGUSON, JOHN C. HANRAHAN,
JEREMY B. WILKINS, AMANDA DRISCOLE,
ROBERT OLIVERI, PAUL HEINMULLER,
Substitute Trustees

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jul 9,16,23 2024 0012465459

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

16913 HARBOUR TOWN DRIVE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated May 3, 2005, recorded in Liber 30054, Folio 407 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of $1,000,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 19, 2024 AT 12:49 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $114,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 67920-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 2,9,16 2024 0012464720

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

19169 BROOKE GROVE COURT
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MD 20886

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated February 22, 2010, recorded in Liber 39138, Folio 356 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of $765,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 19, 2024 AT 12:47 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $28,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 322849-2)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 2,9,16 2024 0012464719

Pardo & Drazin, LLC
Russell S. Drazin, Attorney
4400 Jenifer Street, NW, Suite 2
Washington, DC 20015
202-223-7900

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
19117 N. Kindly Court
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
Account ID 09-00797654

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust ("Deed of Trust") dated April 19, 2022 and recorded on April 21, 2022 in Book 65632 at Page 198 from EXQUISITE QUARTERS LLC ("Borrower"), as grantor, to RUSSELL S. DRAZIN ("Trustee"), as trustee, for the benefit of WCP FUND I LLC ("Lender"), as beneficiary, securing that certain Commercial Deed of Trust Note ("Note") dated April 19, 2022 in the principal amount of $272,880.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, Trustee will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County located at 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on

JULY 25, 2024 AT 10:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE-SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Montgomery County, Maryland, commonly known as 19117 N. Kindly Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20886, and more fully described in the Deed of Trust, as well as ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY encumbered by the Deed of Trust (collectively, "Property").

The Property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition and subject to recorded covenants, conditions, restrictions, agreements, and senior liens, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $30,000.00 by cashier's check will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within ten (10) days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate in effect under the debt instrument secured by the Deed of Trust from the date of sale to the date of settlement. Secured Party, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit or to pay interest.

Purchaser shall settle within ten (10) days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENT BY PURCHASER. Cost of all documentary stamps (recordation taxes), transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by purchaser. Taxes, ground rent, water, and sewer, if applicable, are to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by purchaser.

In the event purchaser does not settle as required for any reason, purchaser shall be in default. Upon such default, Trustee may file a motion to resell the Property at the risk and expense of defaulting purchaser. Purchaser hereby consents to entry of such resale Order without further notice. Defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the Property, and the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustee and all of the expenses of this sale (including attorneys' fees and full commission on the gross sale price) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. Purchaser shall pay all attorneys' fees and costs, and all other damages of any kind or nature, incurred by Trustee and the secured party, and their respective agents, employees, successors and assigns, in connection with any such default.

If Trustee is unable to convey title, purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect.

Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the Property from the date of sale forward.

Trustee reserves the right, in his sole discretion, to reject any and all bids, to withdraw the Property from sale at any time before or at the auction, to extend the time to receive bids, to waive or modify the deposit requirement, to waive or modify the requirement that interest be paid on the unpaid purchase money, and/or to extend the period of time for settlement.

Additional terms may be announced at the sale. Purchaser will be required to execute and deliver to Trustee a contract of the sale at the conclusion of the bidding.

Russell S. Drazin, Trustee

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jul 9,16,23 2024 0012465452

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

160 TALBOTT STREET, UNIT #160-104
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated October 29, 2007, recorded in Liber 35242, Folio 524 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of $223,250.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 26, 2024 AT 3:43 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and described as Unit Number 160-104 in a Plan of Condominium Subdivision styled "Condominium Plat - Woodmont Spring Condominium" and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $19,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 137961-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 9,16,23 2024 0012465198

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

20052 APPLEDOWRE CIRCLE, UNIT #255
GERMANTOWN, MD 20876

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Tracy Alfonso dated May 1, 2007 and recorded in Liber 34290, folio 570 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 26, 2024 AT 3:48 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Montgomery County, MD and described as Unit 255 in Greenfields at Brandermill Condominium and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #09-02482401.
The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $24,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale.
If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, the deposit shall be forfeited, to the Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without reselling the property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him/herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 22-001615-MD-F-1.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 9,16,23 2024 0012465195

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

3167 BEAVERWOOD LANE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated August 2, 2007, recorded in Liber 34781, Folio 216 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of $405,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 19, 2024 AT 12:45 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $34,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 354840-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 2,9,16 2024 0012464717

McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
312 Marshall Avenue, Suite 800
Laurel, MD 20707
www.mwc-law.com

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

5325 SARATOGA AVENUE
CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from John E. Donahoe and Sheila B. Donahoe, dated March 27, 2006 and recorded in Liber 32127, folio 51 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof and at the request of the parties secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 19, 2024 AT 12:40 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Montgomery County, Maryland and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property is improved by a dwelling.
The property, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, encumbrances and agreements of record affecting the subject property, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit in the form of cashier's or certified check, or in such other form as the Substitute Trustees may determine, at their sole discretion, for $7,000 at the time of sale. If the noteholder and/or servicer is the successful bidder, the deposit requirement is waived. Balance of the purchase price is to be paid within ten (10) days of the final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase price at the rate of 8.49% per annum from date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees, if the property is purchased by an entity other than the noteholder and/or servicer. If payment of the balance does not occur within ten (10) days of ratification, the deposit will be forfeited as liquidated damages. The purchaser agrees that the property may be resold pursuant to an order of court, waives personal service upon themselves and/or any principal or corporate designee of any documents filed regarding the failure to pay the purchase price within ten (10) days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail of said documents at the address provided by the purchaser in the Memorandum of Sale. The purchaser will not be entitled to any surplus or profits arising from the resale even if they are the result of improvements made by the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event settlement is delayed for any reason. Taxes, water rent, and all other public charges and assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale, and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes (including agricultural transfer taxes, if applicable), and all settlement charges shall be borne by the purchaser. The sale is subject to a post sale audit of the loan, including but not limited to an analysis of whether the borrower entered into a loan modification agreement, filed bankruptcy, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. The Substitute Trustees will convey either insurable or marketable title. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable or marketable title or, the post sale audit concludes that the sale should not have occurred, or the sale is not ratified by the court for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit without interest even if the purchaser has made improvements to the property. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. The purchaser at the foreclosure sale shall assume the risk of loss for the property immediately after the sale. (Matter #24-600190).

Laura H. G. O'Sullivan, et al., Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 2,9,16 2024 0012464722

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

2887 SCHOOLHOUSE CIRCLE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20902

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated October 23, 2003, recorded in Liber 26109, Folio 282 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, with an original principal balance of $267,750.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 12, 2024 AT 3:54 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $22,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 367161-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
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Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012464237

McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
312 Marshall Avenue, Suite 800
Laurel, MD 20707
www.mwc-law.com

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

54 STONEGATE DRIVE A/R/T/A 54 STONGATE DRIVE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Myron D. Welton and Terrelle D. Welton, dated November 12, 2007 and recorded in Liber 35269, folio 518 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof and at the request of the parties secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 12, 2024 AT 3:47 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Montgomery County, Maryland and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. The property is improved by a dwelling.
The property, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, encumbrances and agreements of record affecting the subject property, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit in the form of cashier's or certified check, or in such other form as the Substitute Trustees may determine, at their sole discretion, for $47,000 at the time of sale. If the noteholder and/or servicer is the successful bidder, the deposit requirement is waived. Balance of the purchase price is to be paid within ten (10) days of the final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase price at the rate of 5% per annum from date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees, if the property is purchased by an entity other than the noteholder and/or servicer. If payment of the balance does not occur within ten (10) days of ratification, the deposit will be forfeited as liquidated damages. The purchaser agrees that the property may be resold pursuant to an order of court, waives personal service upon themselves and/or any principal or corporate designee of any documents filed regarding the failure to pay the purchase price within ten (10) days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail of said documents at the address provided by the purchaser in the Memorandum of Sale. The purchaser will not be entitled to any surplus or profits arising from the resale even if they are the result of improvements made by the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event settlement is delayed for any reason. Taxes, water rent, and all other public charges and assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale, and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes (including agricultural transfer taxes, if applicable), and all settlement charges shall be borne by the purchaser. The sale is subject to a post sale audit of the loan, including but not limited to an analysis of whether the borrower entered into a loan modification agreement, filed bankruptcy, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. The Substitute Trustees will convey either insurable or marketable title. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable or marketable title or, the post sale audit concludes that the sale should not have occurred, or the sale is not ratified by the court for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit without interest even if the purchaser has made improvements to the property. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. The purchaser at the foreclosure sale shall assume the risk of loss for the property immediately after the sale. (Matter #19-602369).

Laura H. G. O'Sullivan, et al., Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
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Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012464239

850 Montgomery County

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

14122 CHELMSFORD ROAD ROCKVILLE, MD 20853

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Arturo Diego Rivera and Joanna Starosta Rivera dated November 4, 2005 and recorded in Liber 31726, folio 192 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 12, 2024 AT 3:42 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Montgomery County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #13-01373312.
The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $50,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale.
If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, the deposit shall be forfeited, to the Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without reselling the property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him/herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 22-002141-MD-F-1.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012464231

850 Montgomery County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
301-961-6555

SECURED CREDITOR'S SALE of One Share of Capital Stock of the Montgomery Mutual, Inc. in the cooperative housing apartment development of the Cooperative, located at

3516 CHISWICK COURT, UNIT #37-A SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

Pursuant to a Financing Statement and Recognition Agreement June 24, 2011, default occurred thereunder, the undersigned Attorney for the Secured Creditor will sell at public auction at the at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, at the Court House Door, 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850, on

JULY 12, 2024 AT 3:52 PM

One (1) share of Capital Stock of Montgomery Mutual, Inc. as referenced in the Cooperative Unit Loan Security Agreement, proprietary lease, occupancy agreement or ownership contract appurtenant thereto dated June 24, 2011, and all supplements thereto. The right to possess and use the Cooperative, 3516 Chiswick Court, #37-A, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Recognition Agreement subject to the terms, provisions and conditions contained in the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws Occupancy Agreement and House Rules of the Montgomery Mutual, Inc.
The proprietary documents will be sold subject to Articles of Incorporation, by-laws, Mutual Ownership Contract and house rules and regulations of Montgomery Mutual, Inc. Also subject to monthly cooperative fees in the amounts to be announced at the time of sale.
The membership shares will be sold subject to their proportionate share of certain purchase money mortgages recorded in the Land Records of Montgomery County,
It shall be the Purchaser's sole responsibility to obtain the approval by Montgomery Mutual, Inc. of the purchaser as an active member. If the Purchaser is not approved, then the Purchaser shall be deemed in default of this contract, the deposit forfeited and property re sold without further order of the Court. Purchaser will be subject to use and occupancy restrictions and other provisions of the Cooperative's governing documents thereafter.
The proprietary documents will be sold subject to underlying liens on the real property, the exact amount of which will be announced at the time and place of the sale.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $6,000.00 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase price at the rate of 4% per annum from the date of sale to the date the Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF9 Master Participation Trust, the Secured Creditor receives the balance of the purchase price. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. Settlement is due within ten (10) days of the attorneys for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF9 Master Participation Trust, the Secured Creditor providing closing instructions in writing to the Purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. Should the Purchaser default under the terms of sale, the Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF9 Master Participation Trust, the Secured Creditor reserves the right to forfeit the deposit and resell the right to occupy and use the property, at the risk and expense of the defaulting Purchaser and/or without forfeiting deposit, U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF9 Master Participation Trust, the Secured Creditor may avail itself of any legal or equitable remedies available. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. The assignment/transfer of the right to possess and use of unit shall be subject to approval of the Cooperative, and it shall be the Purchaser's obligation to obtain said approval prior to expiration of the settlement period provided for herein. Any purchase shall be subject to all By-Laws and Regulations of the Cooperative Association, which may include a requirement that the unit be owner-occupied. Should U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF9 Master Participation Trust, the Secured Creditor in its sole discretion determine that it is unable to convey either insurable or marketable title, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit without interest, at which time the sale shall be void and of no effect, and Purchaser shall have no further claim against U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF9 Master Participation Trust, the Secured Creditor, its agents, attorneys and assigns. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale, or any right of redemption if applicable by the Cooperate Association or party which may redeem the collateral. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Patricia M. Beam otherwise known as the debtor is entitled to an accounting of the unpaid indebtedness and the charge, if any for the accounting. U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF9 Master Participation Trust, the Secured Creditor makes no representation or warranty whatsoever concerning the physical condition of the unit being sold.

BWW Law Group, LLC, Attorneys for the Secured Creditor

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
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Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012464223

851 Prince Georges County

Samuel I. White, P.C.
448 VIKING DRIVE, SUITE 350
VIRIGINA BEACH, VA 23452

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
4307 23rd Place
Temple Hills, MD 20748

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to RGS TITLE , Trustee(s), dated February 22, 2008, and recorded among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 29520, folio 410, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON,

JULY 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT NUMBERED FOUR (4) IN BLOCK LETTERED "E" IN THE SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "MARLOW HEIGHTS", IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK WWW 23 AT PLAT NO. 40, ONE OF THE LAND RECORDS OF SAID PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND. (6TH ELECTION DISTRICT).

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $20,000.00 PAYABLE ONLY BY certified funds, shall be required at the time of sale. CASH WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DEPOSIT. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 5.81% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale. There will be no abatement of interest for any reason. Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. There will be no abatement of taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments for any reason. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited, and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser and the purchaser agrees to pay reasonable attorneys' fees for the Substitute trustees, plus all cost incurred, if the Substitute Trustee's have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. The purchasers waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with such a motion and expressly agrees to The purchaser agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is return of the deposit.

The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into a repayment agreement, reinstated, or paid off the loan prior to sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sol remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Trustee's File No. (82581)

Robert A. Jones, et al SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

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851 Prince Georges County

Samuel I. White, P.C.
448 VIKING DRIVE, SUITE 350
VIRIGINA BEACH, VA 23452

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
3560 65th Avenue Unit 7D
Hyattsville, MD 20784

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to RICHARD T. CREGGER, Trustee(s), dated February 13, 2007, and recorded among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 27235, folio 702, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON,

JULY 11, 2024 at 2:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

UNIT NUMBERED 3560-7D IN BUILDING NUMBERED SEVEN (7) IN THE CONDOMINIUM KNOWN AS "PHASE 14, THE OAKS AT SIXTY-FIFTH CONDOMINIUM", AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK REP 203 AT PLATS NUMBERED 33 AND 34 AND DECLARATION OF COVENANTS AND BY-LAWS RECORDED IN LIBER 15647 AT FOLIO 391 AS AMENDED IN LIBER 17351 AT FOLIO 533 FOR PHASE 7; ALL AS RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND; BEING IN THE 2ND ELECTION DISTRICT OF SAID COUNTY.

THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO A PRIOR MORTGAGE. IF AVAILABLE THE AMOUNT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF THE SALE

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $20,000.00 PAYABLE ONLY BY certified funds, shall be required at the time of sale. CASH WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DEPOSIT. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 9.88% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale. There will be no abatement of interest for any reason. Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. There will be no abatement of taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments for any reason. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited, and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser and the purchaser agrees to pay reasonable attorneys' fees for the Substitute trustees, plus all cost incurred, if the Substitute Trustee's have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. The purchasers waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with such a motion and expressly agrees to The purchaser agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is return of the deposit.

The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into a repayment agreement, reinstated, or paid off the loan prior to sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sol remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Trustee's File No. (81692)

Robert A. Jones, et al SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012461439

851 Prince Georges County

Samuel I. White, P.C.
448 VIKING DRIVE, SUITE 350
VIRIGINA BEACH, VA 23452

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
12211 Kingsford Court
Mitchellville, MD 20721

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to JOHN BURSON, Trustee(s), dated February 8, 2005, and recorded among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 21685, folio 413, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON,

JULY 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

THE LAND REFERRED TO IS SITUATED IN THE CITY OF MITCHELLVILLE, COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGES, STATE OF MARYLAND, IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT NUMBERED TWENTY-THREE (23) IN BLOCK NUMBERED SIXTYSEVEN (67) IN THE SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "PLAT NO. 43, KETTERING", AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK WWW 89 AT PLAT NO. 2, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND. BEING IN THE 7TH ELECTION DISTRICT OF SAID COUNTY

THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO A PRIOR MORTGAGE. IF AVAILABLE THE AMOUNT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF THE SALE

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $20,000.00 PAYABLE ONLY BY certified funds, shall be required at the time of sale. CASH WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DEPOSIT. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 3.75% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale. There will be no abatement of interest for any reason. Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. There will be no abatement of taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments for any reason. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited, and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser and the purchaser agrees to pay reasonable attorneys' fees for the Substitute trustees, plus all cost incurred, if the Substitute Trustee's have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. The purchasers waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with such a motion and expressly agrees to The purchaser agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is return of the deposit.

The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into a repayment agreement, reinstated, or paid off the loan prior to sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sol remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Trustee's File No. (83009)

Robert A. Jones, et al SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
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Baltimore, MD 21286
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851 Prince Georges County

GREENSPOON MARDER, LLP
201 International Circle, Suite 230
Hunt Valley, MD 21030

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
12539 E WOODSTOCK DRIVE
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from OMAR S. ESPY, dated July 14, 2021 and recorded in book 46074 , page 147 among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. C-16-CV-23-004186; Tax ID No. 15-1740869) the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY courthouse located at FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 .

JULY 11, 2024 at 2:00 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $ 25,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at five percent (5%) from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-001359-01)

SYDNEY E. ROBERSON, NICOLE LIPINSKI, MARC MEDEL,
Substitute Trustee (s)

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012462434

851 Prince Georges County

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C.
6100 Executive Blvd. Suite 400
Rockville MD 20852

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE
SHARES OF CAPITAL STOCK
"MEMBERSHIP SHARES" OF THE
Greenbelt Homes Inc.
A cooperative housing corporation, entitling the owner thereof to possession of a dwelling unit
KNOWN AS
4 Southway, Unit F
Greenbelt, MD 20770

SALE ON
July 11, 2024 at 2:30 pm

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a certain Security Agreement from Gregory Carter, Debtor to PNC Mortgage, dated February 17, 2017, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the secured creditor, by its undersigned attorney will sell at Public Auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 14735 MAIN ST., DUVAL WING ENTRANCE, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772:

All the membership shares described in said Security Agreement being shares of of Greenbelt Homes, Inc., allocated to 4 Southway, Unit F, greenbelt MD 20070, together with all rights, duties and obligations under the terms of a certain Occupancy Agreement/ Proprietary Lease dated February 17, 2017 between Gregory Carter, and Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Subject to the terms, provisions and conditions contained in the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Occupancy Agreement, Recognition Agreement and Proprietary Lease and Mutual Ownership Contract of Greenbelt Homes Inc.

The membership shares will be sold subject to their proportionate share of certain underlying purchase money mortgages, the exact amount due thereon will be announced at time of sale if available and subject to all conditions, liens restrictions and agreements of record affecting same, and subject to any assessments.

TERMS OF SALE: A cash deposit, certified check or cashier's check in the amount of $20,000.00 will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale, except that the Secured Party will not be required to give a deposit. Balance to be paid in cash 30 days following sale. Interest to be charged at the rate of 4.375 per annum on the unpaid purchase price from date of sale to date of settlement. All costs incident to the transfer of membership shares shall be borne by the purchaser. All adjustments of cooperative fees and assessments will be made as to date of sale, and to be assumed by thereafter by the purchaser. In the event that the purchaser fails to go to settlement as required, the property shall be re-sold at purchaser's risk and expense and the deposit is forfeited. If secured convey, purchaser's sole remedy is return of the deposit. Additional Sale terms announced at the sale.

DANIEL J. PESACHOWITZ, ESQUIRE
ROBERT JONES, ESQUIRE
SAMUEL I. WHITE P.C.
Attorneys

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012462628

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852 Anne Arundel County

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LEESBURG, VA 20175
703-777-7101

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
5221 Kramme Avenue
Brooklyn, MD 21225

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from LINDA D. ROHRBACK, dated October 16, 2017 and recorded in Liber 31495, folio 361 among the Land Records of **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**, MD, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No.C-02-CV-22-001356; Tax ID No.05-749-04951800) the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located at 8 CHURCH CIR, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401, on

JULY 10, 2024 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit $10,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 22-000970)

JAMES E. CLARKE,
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

A181, A316, A311, A183, A425, A426, A461, A463, A508

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012463205

853 Calvert County

GREENSPOON MARDER, LLP
201 International Circle, Suite 230
Hunt Valley, MD 21030

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
7634 Bayside Road
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from MARY FRANCES DAY, dated February 24, 2006 and recorded in book 02704 , page 591 among the Land Records of CALVERT COUNTY, Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. C-04-CV-23-000406; Tax ID No. 03-049132) the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction CALVERT COUNTY courthouse located at 175 MAIN ST, PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678 .

JULY 11, 2024 at 9:30 AM

THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO AN IRS RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CALVERT COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $ 21,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for CALVERT COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at five percent (5%) from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-000843-01)

SYDNEY E. ROBERSON, NICOLE LIPINSKI, MARC MEDEL,
Substitute Trustee (s)

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012461754

855 Charles County

GREENSPOON MARDER, LLP
201 International Circle, Suite 230
Hunt Valley, MD 21030

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
11689 Cygnet Drive
Waldorf, MD 20601

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from LUCIUS BAKER AND CELESTINE BAKER, dated May 30, 2006 and recorded in book 05880 , page 0424 among the Land Records of CHARLES COUNTY, Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. C-08-CV-22-000716; Tax ID No. 06-210740) the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction CHARLES COUNTY courthouse located at 200 CHARLES STREET (IN THE BREEZEWAY BETWEEN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS), LA PLATA, MD 20646 .

JULY 11, 2024 at 12:00 PM

Property is subject to a prior mortgage.

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CHARLES COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

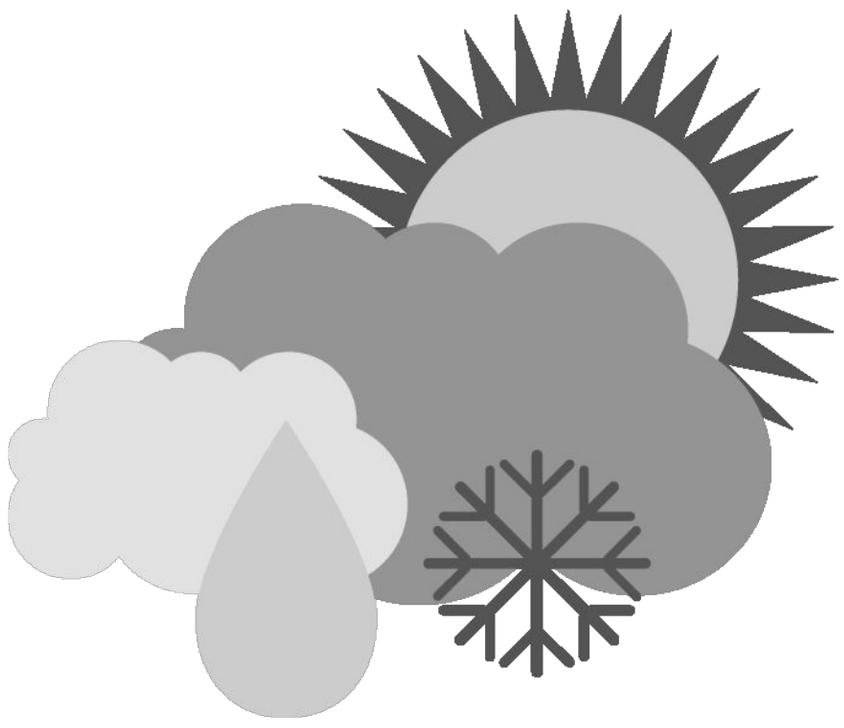
The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $ 21,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for CHARLES COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at five percent (5%) from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 55978.0036)

NICOLE LIPINSKI, MARC L. MEDEL,
Substitute Trustee (s)

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012462438



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S0141 12x10.5

855 Charles County

Samuel I. White, P.C.
448 VIKING DRIVE, SUITE 350
VIRIGINA BEACH, VA 23452

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
7810 Bel Alton Newtown Rd
La Plata, MD 20646

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to WILLIAM J. PETRINA, Trustee(s), dated July 1, 2014, and recorded among the Land Records of CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 8613, folio 0258, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE CHARLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 200 CHARLES STREET (IN THE BREEZEWAY BETWEEN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS), LA PLATA, MD 20646 ON,

JULY 11, 2024 at 12:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CHARLES COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

IN THE COUNTY OF CHARLES, STATE OF MARYLAND: LOT NUMBER ONE (1) IN A SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS NEWTON VILLAG AS SHOWN ON A PLAT MADE BY D. H. STEFFENS, SURVEYORS, ON APRIL 25, 1996, DULY RECORDED AMONG THE PLAT RECORDS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN PLAT BOOK 10 FOLIO 85, CONTAINING 20,949 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, MORE OR LESS. TAX ID: 01-020447

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $20,000.00 PAYABLE ONLY BY certified funds, shall be required at the time of sale. CASH WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DEPOSIT. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 8.49% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale. There will be no abatement of interest for any reason. Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. There will be no abatement of taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments for any reason. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited, and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser and the purchaser agrees to pay reasonable attorneys' fees for the Substitute trustees, plus all cost incurred, if the Substitute Trustee's have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. The purchasers waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with such a motion and expressly agrees to The purchaser agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is return of the deposit.

The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into a repayment agreement, reinstated, or paid off the loan prior to sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sol remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Trustee's File No. (87709)

Robert A. Jones, et al SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012461422

855 Charles County

Samuel I. White, P.C.
448 VIKING DRIVE, SUITE 350
VIRIGINA BEACH, VA 23452

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
9478 Vess Ct
Waldorf, MD 20603

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to ANDREW VALENTINE, ESQ. , Trustee(s), dated November 20, 2006, and recorded among the Land Records of CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 6164, folio 485, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE CHARLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 200 CHARLES STREET (IN THE BREEZEWAY BETWEEN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS), LA PLATA, MD 20646 ON,

JULY 11, 2024 at 12:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CHARLES COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT NO. 13, IN SECTION 5, IN A SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "CHARLES CROSSING", AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 55 AT PLAT 455 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND.

THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO A PRIOR MORTGAGE. IF AVAILABLE THE AMOUNT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF THE SALE

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $20,000.00 PAYABLE ONLY BY certified funds, shall be required at the time of sale. CASH WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DEPOSIT. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.5% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale. There will be no abatement of interest for any reason. Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. There will be no abatement of taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments for any reason. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited, and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser and the purchaser agrees to pay reasonable attorneys' fees for the Substitute trustees, plus all cost incurred, if the Substitute Trustee's have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. The purchasers waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with such a motion and expressly agrees to The purchaser agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is return of the deposit.

The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into a repayment agreement, reinstated, or paid off the loan prior to sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sol remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest.

Trustee's File No. (81679)

Robert A. Jones, et al SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jun 25,Jul 2,9 2024 0012461617

856 Frederick County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
5318 Wye Creek Dr
Frederick, MD 21703

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to DAVID E. WATERS AND ANTHONY B. OLMERT SR, Trustee(s), dated December 27, 2017, and recorded among the Land Records of FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 12271 , folio 415 , the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE FREDERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 100 W. PATRICK ST, FREDERICK, MD 21701 ON,

JULY 24, 2024 at 9:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in FREDERICK COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

ALL THAT LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN BALLENGER ELECTION DISTRICT, FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, BEING LOT 14 ON THE PLAT OF WYE CREEK SUBDIVISION SECTION TWO, PREPARED BY SUTCLIFFE AND ASSOCIATES, INC., AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 13, FOLIO 62, ONE OF THE PLAT RECORDS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, CONTAINING 1.336 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS. PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 23-438429

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $31,500.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 4.25 % on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense, of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020 . File No. (22-02358)

JOHN ANSELL, JEREMY B. WILKINS,
ROBERT A. OLIVERI, AMANDA DRISCOLE,
PAUL HEINMULLER, Substitute Trustees

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Jul 9,16,23 2024 0012464564

856 Frederick County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

5447 LYNDALE WAY
FREDERICK, MD 21703

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated November 1, 2019, recorded in Liber 13329, Folio 382 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, with an original principal balance of $254,578.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

JULY 19, 2024 AT 10:47 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Frederick County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $24,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note, or any modifications thereto, from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The purchaser waives personal service of any papers filed in connection with its failure to settle within ten days of ratification and expressly agrees to accept service by first class mail at the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. (Matter No. 364126-1)

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al.,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 2,9,16 2024 0012464716

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

1488 HEATHER RIDGE COURT
FREDERICK, MD 21702

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Derrick J. Smith dated March 21, 2022 and recorded in Liber 15825, folio 500 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

JULY 19, 2024 AT 10:40 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Frederick County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. Tax ID #02-075911.
The property, which is improved by a dwelling, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $21,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Frederick County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. There will be no reduction of interest due to overpayment of deposit. Adjustment of all real property taxes (excluding recapture of previously reduced or exempt taxes) and any other public charges or assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer charges, and ground rent to be adjusted to date of sale and paid at execution of the deed, except where the secured party is the purchaser, and thereafter assumed by the purchaser. All due and/or unpaid private utility, water and sewer facilities charges, condo/HOA assessments and Columbia Assoc. assessments, to the extent such amount survive foreclosure sale, are payable by the purchaser without adjustment. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, recaptured taxes (including but not limited to agricultural taxes), and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms to be announced at the time of sale.
If the Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, the deposit shall be forfeited, to the Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without reselling the property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. Defaulting purchaser waives personal service of any document filed in connection with such a motion on him/herself and/or any principal or corporate designee, and expressly agrees to accept service of any such document by regular mail directed to the address provided by said purchaser at the time of the foreclosure auction. Trustees' file number 22-002770-MD-F-2.

Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, et al., Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
908 York Road • Towson, MD 21204 • 410.828.4838
www.alexcooper.com

Jul 2,9,16 2024 0012464723

856 Frederick County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

900 BLUELEAF COURT, UNIT #9-3A A/R/T/A UNIT J
FREDERICK, MD 21701

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated November 17, 2017, recorded in Liber 12147, Folio 118 among the Land Records of Frederick County, MD, with an original principal balance of $129,600.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Frederick County, at the Court House Door, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701, on

JULY 19, 2024 AT 10:45 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Frederick County, MD and described as Unit Numbered and Lettered Nine-Three A (9-3A), Phase Nine (9), in Building Numbered Nine (9), in a Condominium Regime known as "Monocacy Overlook Garden Condominium, Fredericktowne Village, PND Section 13" and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

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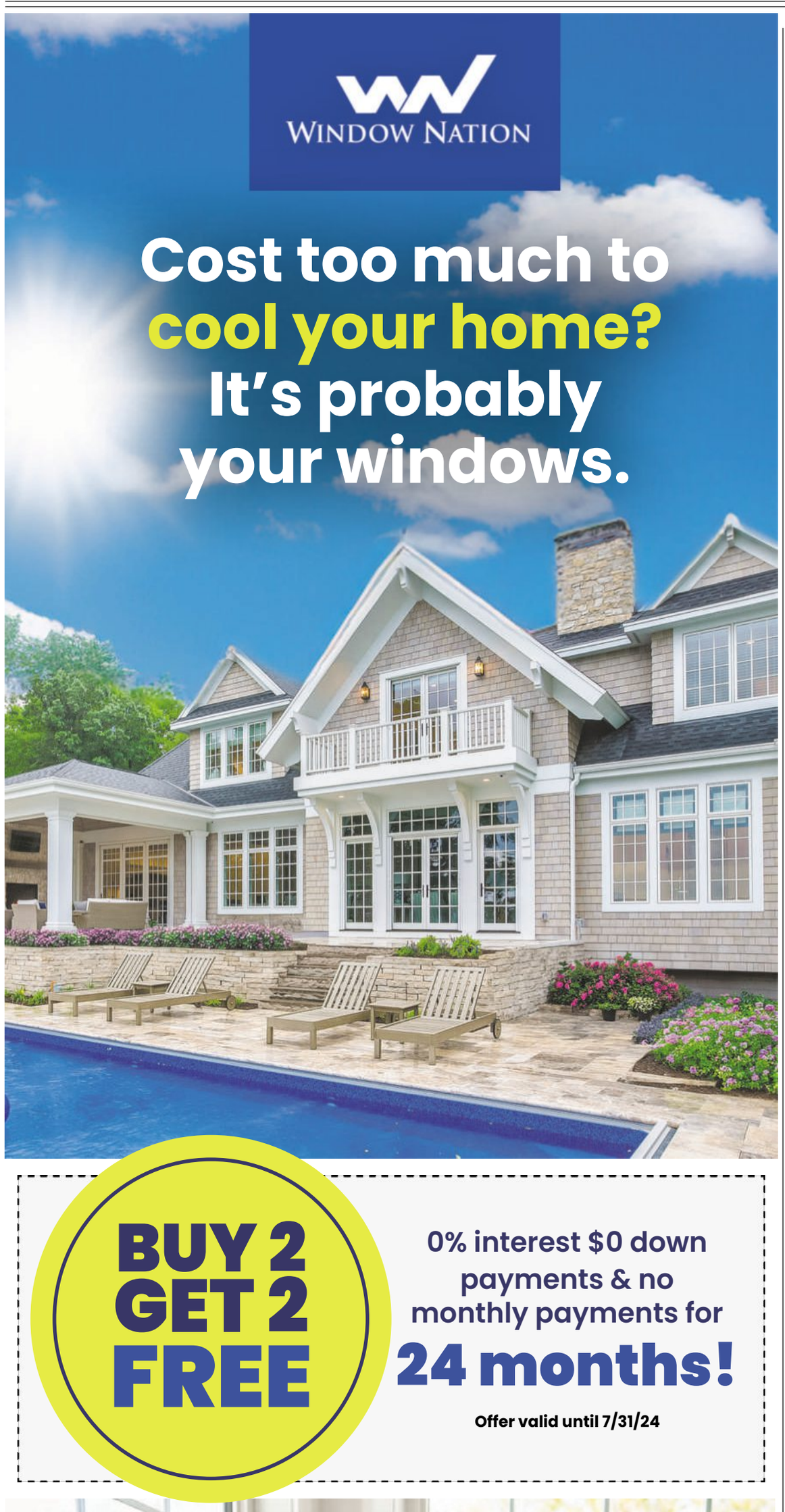
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NICOLAS AGUILERA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forward Kevin Paredes of South Riding was named to the U.S. squad for the Olympics on Monday.

U.S. sets Olympic men's soccer roster

BY STEVEN GOFF

Kevin Paredes and Griffin Yow, 21-year-old soccer players from Northern Virginia who launched their careers as D.C. United homegrown players before venturing to Europe, are going to the Paris Olympics together.

The wingers were among 18 players named Monday to the U.S. men's squad, which will compete at the Summer Games for the first time since 2008. The 16-nation tournament is restricted to players 23 and under, with three exceptions per team.

Paredes (South Riding) and Yow (Clifton) have been part of the youth national team setup for some time. But because soccer's governing body, FIFA, does not require clubs to release players for the Olympics, Paredes needed permission from Wolfsburg in the German Bundesliga and Yow from Belgian club Westerlo to join the U.S. squad.

Several of U.S. Coach Marko Mitrovic's player requests were declined by clubs, including those for midfielder Aidan Morris (Middlesbrough) and forwards Haji Wright (Coventry City) and Brandon Vazquez (Monterrey), multiple people familiar with the situation said.

Several age-eligible players, such as Gio Reyna and Yunus Musah, were not realistic call-ups because of club preseason demands and their participation at Copa América with the senior national team this summer.

"It was actually a really difficult process in last eight to 10 months, talking to the clubs and trying to get all the players released," Mitrovic said. "Yes, there were challenges, but we ended up with a roster that we really believe can represent us in the best possible way, and I feel very good about the team that is going to go to Paris."

The U.S. team will report to training camp this week in Bordeaux, France. Group play will begin July 24 against France in Marseille, followed by New Zealand on July 27 in Marseille and Guinea on July 30 in Saint-Etienne. Two will advance to the quarterfinals.

Since the age restriction was implemented in 1992, the only time the U.S. men have advanced out of group play was the 2000 Sydney Olympics, when they finished fourth.

All but three U.S. call-ups have made senior national team appearances.

Paredes and Yow are among eight European-based players headed to the Olympics. This past season — his second full campaign in Germany since United transferred him for a club-record $7.35 million in January 2022 — Paredes scored three goals in 28 league appearances (15 starts).

This summer he was a candidate for the Copa América squad, but U.S. senior national team coach Gregg Berhalter decided to save him for the Olympics.

Yow, who moved to Belgium in July 2022, had seven goals in 28 league matches (25 starts) this past season.

The other 10 U.S. players are from MLS teams, including all three overage selections: center backs Walker Zimmerman (Nashville SC) and Miles Robinson (FC Cincinnati) and midfielder Djordje Mihailovic (Colorado Rapids).

Zimmerman, 31, and Robinson, 27, started together in six 2022 World Cup qualifiers and eight times overall. Zimmerman started at the World Cup in Qatar, but Robinson missed the tournament with an Achilles' tendon injury. Mihailovic, 25, has played for the senior squad 11 times and is enjoying a standout MLS season with 10 goals and nine assists.

The roster also includes midfielder Benjamin Cremaschi, who, at 19, was the youngest selection. In his second season on Inter Miami's first team, Cremaschi has been mentored by Argentine superstar Lionel Messi.

U.S. roster

Goalkeepers: Gabriel Slonina (Chelsea), Patrick Schulte (Columbus Crew).

Defenders: Maximilian Dietz (Greuther Fürth), Nathan Harriel (Philadelphia Union), Miles Robinson (FC Cincinnati), John Tolkin (New York Red Bulls), Caleb Wiley (Atlanta United), Walker Zimmerman (Nashville SC).

Midfielders: Gianluca Busio (Venezia), Benjamin Cremaschi (Inter Miami), Jack McGlynn (Philadelphia Union), Djordje Mihailovic (Colorado Rapids), Tanner Tessmann (Venezia).

Forwards: Paxten Aaronson (Utrecht), Taylor Booth (Utrecht), Duncan McGuire (Orlando City), Kevin Paredes (Wolfsburg), Griffin Yow (Westerlo).

Alternates: GK John Pulskamp (Sporting Kansas City), D Jacob Davis (Sporting Kansas City), MF Josh Atencio (Seattle Sounders), F Johan Gomez (Eintracht Braunschweig).

Vibes heading into Paris aren't great

BY THOMAS FLOYD

NEW YORK — Lindsey Horan gets giddy just thinking about it: "The Star-Spangled Banner" echoing in Marseille as American athletes take the field and Olympic soccer unfolds before a packed Stade Vélodrome.

When the U.S. Olympic men's soccer team opens the Paris Games against France on July 24, the women's captain plans to be among its most ardent supporters.

"It's going to be insane," said Horan, whose U.S. women kick off the following day in Nice. "That's going to be sold out — like, 70,000. The stadium's crazy. So I cannot wait to root them on."

For Horan, soon to be a three-time Olympian, the experience is a newfound novelty. Although the U.S. women have participated in every tournament since the International Olympic Committee added women's soccer in 1996, the men are headed to the Summer Games for the first time since 2008. Considering the U.S. women's and men's programs typically operate on unaligned calendars and jet off to disparate corners of the world, Monday afternoon's news conference in Midtown Manhattan represented the rare occasion in which players and coaches from both squads spoke side by side.

The synergy, however, isn't all about mutual admiration for two programs also engaged in synchronized soul-searching. The women's reassessment began last summer, when a stunning round of 16 exit from the World Cup prompted coach Vlatko Andonovski's ouster. For the men, the wounds are fresher: The Olympics largely function as an under-23 tournament on the men's side, but those players are feeling the reverberations of the senior national team crashing out of the Copa América group stage last week — casting doubt on Coach Gregg Berhalter's future less than two years before a World Cup on home soil.

So even if Olympic soccer pales in comparison to the World Cup, this summer's Games still offer an opportunity for both programs to start digging out of their respective doldrums.

"While it didn't go as planned with Copa, I think it is an opportunity for fans to unite behind this team and root for us to represent the United States well, as well as the women and the rest of Team USA," said men's defender Walker Zimmerman, one of the team's three overage selections. "Olympics are special in that way."

The scrutiny will be sharper for a four-time gold medal-winning women's team with a high bar it has failed to clear of late. After settling for bronze at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and failing to make the World Cup semifinals for the first time in nine appearances, the United States has dropped to fifth in the FIFA rankings. While a run to the inaugural women's Concacaf Gold Cup title this year solidified the Americans' regional supremacy, a group-stage loss to Mexico — its first since 2010 — sounded alarm bells anew.

New coach Emma Hayes's belated introduction also raises questions about the team's preparedness after the London native decided to see through Chelsea's 2023-24 campaign and take the U.S. reins less than two months before the Summer Games. But Hayes, whose hiring was announced in November, emphasized that the team's roster evaluation and tactical evolution began under interim coach Twila Kilgore well before the new boss oversaw her first matches last month.

"I feel we're very prepared to go into this tournament, regardless of the short leading time," Hayes said. "A lot of that work has been done over the last year, reflecting from the World Cup and then putting the roster together bit by bit."

That turnover meant phasing out World Cup-winning veterans such as Alex Morgan, Becky Sauerbrunn and Kelley O'Hara to make room for a gifted but unproven crop of new talent. Just 10 of the 18 players Hayes picked for the Olympic squad made last summer's World Cup team, with left back Jenna Nighswonger, defensive midfielder Sam Coffey and 19-year-old forward Jaedyn Shaw among the major-tournament debutantes poised to play key roles.

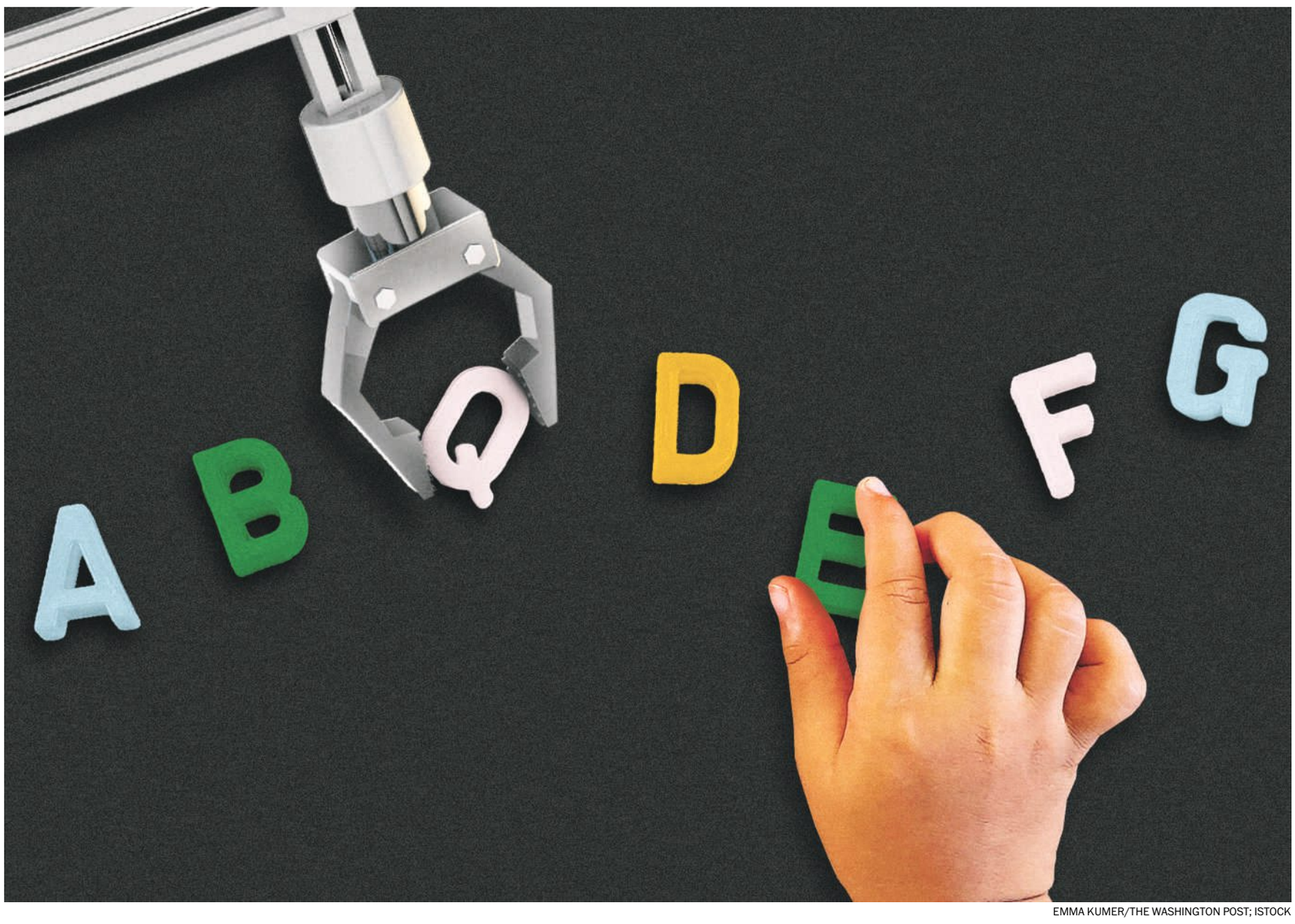
"It's a chance for a lot of young players to get that opportunity and to really feel like they can make an impact," defender Tierna Davidson said. "But it's always going to be a challenge."

Veteran Crystal Dunn added: "Obviously, we stepped out of the World Cup not feeling too amazing about our performance. But I think at the end of the day, we knew that we have an incredible opportunity to regroup and get back to it."

A youth squad by design, the men's team features even more fresh faces, but there's some continuity: 15 of the 18 players selected by Coach Marko Mitrovic have seen the field for the senior national team. The overage players — Zimmerman, Miles Robinson and Djordje Mihailovic — have all played in multiple Concacaf Gold Cups, and Zimmerman started three matches at the 2022 World Cup.

So even if Robinson is the only holdover from the team that flamed out of Copa América, the players recognize the Olympics as an opportunity to help right the U.S. ship and make their cases for 2026 World Cup consideration.

The Washington Post
HEALTH&SCIENCE
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 · SECTION E
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EMMA KUMER/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

Is that chatbot smarter than a 4-year-old?

In a study, AI model failed at tasks easily mastered by young children

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

Laura Schulz has spent her career trying to unravel one of the most profound human mysteries: how children think and learn. Earlier this year, the MIT cognitive psychologist found herself baffled by her latest test subject's struggles.

The study participant wowed her by carrying on a breezy conversation, deftly explaining complex concepts. An array of cognitive tests also were no problem. But then the subject flunked some reasoning tasks that most young children easily master.

Her test subject? The AI chatbot ChatGPT-4.

"This is a little bizarre — and a little troubling," Schulz told her colleagues in March during a workshop at a Cognitive Development Society meeting in Pasadena, Calif. "But the point isn't only to play gotcha games. … We have failures of things 6- and 7-year-olds can do. Failures of things 4- and 5-year-olds can do. And we also have failures of things that babies can do. What's wrong with this picture?"

Voluble AI chatbots, eerily proficient at carrying on conversations with a human, burst into the public consciousness in late 2022. They sparked a still-roiling societal debate about whether the technology signals the coming of an overlord-style machine superintelligence, or a dazzling but sometimes problematic tool that will change how people work and learn.

For scientists who have devoted decades to thinking about thinking, these ever-improving AI tools also present an opportunity. In the monumental quest to understand human intelligence, what can a different kind of mind — one whose powers are growing by leaps and bound — reveal about our own cognition?

And on the flip side, does AI that can converse like an omniscient expert still have

SEE AI ON E6

PERSPECTIVE

Why does cancer still scare us so much?

BY STEVEN PETROW

Let's start with the good news: Cancer deaths are down, almost one-third since 1991, according to the American Cancer Society. And now the bad: Cancer fear is not. In fact, experts say cancerphobia seems as strong as ever, even as mortality falls. Why's that?

Part of the reason, says Jessy Levin, an attending psychologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, is because we're much more open about talking about all our maladies, including cancer, these days. More openness means less stigma, which is good, but the frequent stories about prominent cases — among them King Charles, Princess Catherine and actress Olivia Munn — can up the fear factor.

When it comes to cancer, we have a lot of fears: about treatment and its side effects, pain and suffering, radiation and recurrence, impotence and infertility, and of course the biggest one, dying. Some of these fears are now overstated or outdated, thanks to medical advances. Still, there's a reason the oncologist and writer Siddhartha Mukherjee called cancer the "emperor of all maladies" and why it tops lists of the diseases we fear the most, even if it's not the biggest killer (that "honor" goes to cardiovascular disease). It is widely thought of as a "vicious, unpredictable, and indestructible enemy," which is how a systematic review of attitudes put it.

Cancer used to be considered a death sentence, which was not an unreasonable fear before the development of modern treatment methods. For instance, testicu-

SEE CANCER ON E4

Charting the evolution to (and from) the 'dad bod'

BY IAN MCMAHAN

What if evolution led us to the "dad bod"?

In humans' evolutionary past, a drop in testosterone may have helped men adjust to and increase their involvement in their children's lives, says Lee Gettler, an anthropologist who has studied the science of men's changing bodies. But lower testosterone can also drive a softer, less toned, paunchier physique, a.k.a. a dad bod.

"The biological traits that were beneficial in the environments we lived in hundreds of thousands or millions of years ago are now mismatched to aspects of our current environment," says Gettler, director of the Hormones, Health and Human Behavior Lab at the University of Notre Dame. Meaning that lower testosterone helped those early hunter-gatherers become better fathers — but at a time when life involved lots of physical activity and less-than-abundant food.

"The important thing to message to dads about this is that we just need to keep trying to work hard to the best of our abilities to take care of our bodies," Gettler says. "It's hard when you have to try to get enough sleep and you have to try to get

SEE DAD BOD ON E6

Investigating storms' pasts for clues about hurricanes' future

Paleotempestologists say ancient mud samples offer a warning about periods when intense systems struck frequently

BY DINO GRANDONI


SAUL MARTINEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Coastal geology researcher Emily Elliott of Dauphin Island Sea Lab and her student Katie Campbell, left, extract a sediment core — a plastic tube containing sediment — from the bottom of a lake in Florida's Topsail Hill Preserve State Park in June.

CAMPBELL LAKE, FLA. — Emily Elliott was searching the water for something precious.

Mud.

Elliott, a University of Alabama scientist who studies ancient hurricanes, came to this lake on the Gulf Coast for sediment that can unlock the secrets of the violent storms of the past — and offer a glimpse of future tempests as Earth's climate warms.

Aboard a tiny pontoon, Elliott got low to guide a rigid plastic tube vertically underwater as her colleague Josh Bregy heaved a metal post driver up and down above her hardhat-covered head — *ding! ding! ding!* — to embed the tube deep into the bottom of the lake.

After hours on the water, they winched up a 1½-foot cylinder of lake bed. Sandwiched between sections of mud was what Elliott was looking for: a layer of sand, the potential remnants of a deadly storm that had hit the Florida Panhandle.

"It's a beautiful example of a hurricane layer," she said, running her finger down the clear tube.

This soggy, dirty work is part of a field of research called paleotempestology, the study of ancient hurricanes. The growing and relatively new science seeks to understand the storms that struck this and other coastlines before humans started

SEE HURRICANES ON E2

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What to know about lone star ticks, which can transmit disease and are linked to a meat allergy. **E3**

ANIMALS
Tips on ways to help queasy pets overcome motion sickness from long car rides. **E5**

PARASITES
Some health experts warn that taking selfies may give head lice the chance to spread. **E5**


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY SABENS/ THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK



SAUL MARTINEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Dauphin Island Sea Lab paleotempestology researcher Josh Bregy is seen here speaking with a group of students as they prepare to extract core samples from trees at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Ala., on June 7. The rings in coastal trees record subtle signs of past hurricanes.

Researchers dig into stormy history

HURRICANES FROM **E1**

recording the weather with modern instruments.

What researchers have found so far in that ancient mud offers a warning. Sifting through the sediment, paleotempestologists have spotted periods in which intense storms struck coastlines more frequently than current records show. Their work suggests oceans are capable of producing hurricane seasons far more relentless than anything modern society has seen so far.

Now, by burning fossil fuels and pumping heat-trapping gases into the air, the world risks re-creating those stormier conditions. Forecasters have already predicted that this year's hurricane season, which started June 1, may be among the worst in decades. Hurricane Beryl, which exploded into a dangerous Category 4 hurricane June 30, charged across the Caribbean last week.

If the past is "any indication of what we'll see," Elliott said, "our coastal zones are really vulnerable."

The hunt for ancient hurricanes

In 1989, Louisiana State University professor Kam-biu Liu was giving a lecture about the layers of ash left at the bottom of lakes by volcanic eruptions. A student, Miriam Fearn, asked if scientists can also see the marks left by hurricanes.

"That got me thinking. I said, 'Of course, that should be doable,'" Liu said. That summer, he and Fearn found a layer of sand deep under an Alabama lake left by a 1979 storm.

Paleotempestology was supercharged after Category 5 Hurricane Andrew struck the Bahamas, Florida and Louisiana in 1992, killing dozens and causing billions of dollars in damage. The reinsurance industry, which financially backs home insurers and other insurance companies, pumped money into prehistoric hurricane research to better understand the risk of major storms.

"They really put their money where their mouth was, and really kick-started the field," said Jeff Donnelly, another early ancient hurricane researcher at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

To predict how hurricane patterns will change in response to rising temperatures, climate scientists don't have much to go on: roughly 170 years of instrumental data, a blink of an eye in Earth's history. Paleotempestology holds the promise of extending the storm record by thousands of years and painting a more complete picture of how bad hurricanes can get.

When an intense hurricane makes landfall, the water crashes into beaches and carries waves of sand inland. If a lake is positioned just right along the coast, that material washes into it and settles on the bottom. By measuring radioactive carbon in those layers, paleotempestologists can figure out when a storm struck.

Over time, that coarse beach sand deposited by storms becomes encased in mud or sandwiched between layers of finer sand. In general, the more intense the storm, the coarser the sand, since it takes more power to sweep heavier grains to lakes.

Spotting a sandy hurricane layer among a bunch of other sand can be difficult — like "looking for hay in a haystack," Elliott said.

Elliott knows persistence. She grew up in Michigan, helping her father build houses during summer breaks while in college studying geology. She said she used to get into tense conversations with her more conservative dad about climate change.

But more recently, she has taken the time to walk him through the data and answer his questions. "We just sat down and we talked about it," she said. "And now we've moved to a place where he's at least more willing to have the conversation and acknowledges something is changing."

Digging deeper

Here on Campbell Lake, in Florida's Topsail Hill Preserve State Park, only a thin ridge of blinding white sand separates the freshwater body from the Gulf of Mexico. This is one of only a few places in the world with coastal dune lakes. Elliott, an up-and-coming ancient hurricane researcher, thought it was a perfect place to look for signs of old storms.

"Coastal lakes are by far our favorite place to core," she said.

After embedding the tube in the lake bed, Elliott and Bregy, a scientist at Clemson University, took turns cranking a winch and pulling the cylinder by hand to haul up a sliver of the lake's valuable sediment.

"This better be mud," Bregy said. "Keep going, keep going, keep going," urged Elliott. "It's got to get out." That first, 1½-foot core contained a sand layer from a relatively recent storm, probably Hurricane Opal in 1995.

To find older tempests, the team had to dig deeper into the lake bed — and into the past. Without a motor for the pontoon, Elliott and Bregy relied on their undergraduates in kayaks and a canoe to tow it across the nearly 100-acre lake.

Far from the shady pines along the lake's edge, the small armada pulled the pontoon toward the middle of the lake. Another group of students sat on shore — on the lookout for alligators.

"Watch your heads," said Bregy before he began to ding, ding, ding another hollow plastic tube down into the lake bed. Exhausted, he began imagining what he would eat that evening. "I'm going to get some ice cream tonight," he said. "I'm going to get some strawberries."

The next two cores were bigger: about 3 feet and 13 feet long. The longest probably dates back more than 10,000 years, Bregy said. Their chalky smell suggested they contain marine microfossils rich in calcium carbonate that can tell researchers which layers washed in from the ocean.

Once back on dry land, Elliott and Bregy high-fived.

A warning from the past

Other Gulf Coast sediment cores reveal a period of intense hurricane activity in the region — worse than what we see today. It lasted for centuries before abruptly ending around 600 to 800 years ago.

What caused storms to rage and then subside? One theory is that a change in the position of a high-pressure system over the Atlantic called the Bermuda High may have nudged storms away from the Gulf Coast and toward the Eastern Seaboard. That would explain why New England lakes record an uptick in storms right after hurricane activity declined along the Gulf Coast.

Another factor is a torrent of warm water called the Loop Current, which runs through the Gulf of Mexico. It once flowed close to the shore before sliding south into the Gulf, a shift that lowered water temperatures and deprived storms of wind-churning energy.

The fact that the Gulf's surface temperature is warming back up today due to climate change is worrying to those who study ancient hurricanes.

"What these records clearly show is that the climate system, outside of human interference, is already able to adjust itself in ways that give us activity like we haven't seen in the last century or so," Donnelly said. "The big question is, now that we are actually turning the knobs of climate ourselves, what's the likely outcome?"

To find the answer, paleotempestologists are looking beyond the layers of sand for other evidence of hurricanes: exploring caves for drip deposits formed by cyclone rain, searching lakes for coral boulders washed by storms, scouring libraries for newspaper clips, ship logs and diary entries for accounts of hurricanes.

"When you have different techniques and they work together," Liu said, "then that might be the best approach."

Much of Elliott and Bregy's work focuses on tree rings. Hurricanes leave subtle marks in coastal trees — at least when they aren't blown down — as their rings record extreme precipitation and saltwater flooding from the past.

Bregy goes to great lengths to find old wood, harvesting it from remnant stumps and even excavated coffins. He recently got a tetanus shot after getting poked by a rusty nail while sampling lumber in an old attic.

"The problem here in the eastern U.S. is that there's just been so much logging," Bregy said. "It's hard to find old living trees."

Counting sand

Back on shore, Elliott knelt and used a power tool to cut one of the sediment cores in half. A thin strip of plastic curled off as she guided the device along the length of the tube. Always ready to offer a lesson, she helped one of her students complete the job.

"Beautiful," she said, complimenting his work. He paused, but she urged him on. "You're good, you're good."

A series of dark bands in the halved sediment core may be hurricane layers, though only a thorough lab analysis will reveal the truth. Elliott's and Bregy's labs will look for marine fossils, measure sand grain size and analyze isotope levels in order to gauge the intensity of old storms and figure out when they struck.

"This is the start of our work," Elliott said.

In her hotel after the day of work on Campbell Lake, Elliott called her dad. "'What did you see? What did you learn?'" she recalled him asking.

Later in a phone interview, Elliott's father, Tony Timmons, acknowledged the climate is changing, though he "can't get my arms wrapped around that it's all man-made." Having more scientists like his daughter look into climate change might make people more likely to accept it.

"Em will explain things to me and it makes it interesting to me, and I understand," he said.

He added: "What she's doing is important."





SAUL MARTINEZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: A sediment core that was embedded deep into the bottom of Campbell Lake at Topsail Hill Preserve State Park in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. ABOVE: Members of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab cut into one such tube, which contains a sliver of the lake's sediment.

SCIENCE NEWS

Melting of Alaska's Juneau ice field accelerates, losing snow nearly 5 times as fast as in 1980s

By Seth Borenstein

The melting of Alaska's Juneau ice field, home to more than 1,000 glaciers, is accelerating. The snow-covered area is now shrinking 4.6 times as fast as it was in the 1980s, according to a new study.

Researchers meticulously tracked snow levels in the nearly 1,500-square-mile icy expanse going back to 1948 with added data back to the 18th century.

It slowly shriveled from its peak size at the end of the Little Ice Age around 1850, but then that melt rate sped up about 10 years ago, according to a study in Nature Communications last week.

"What's happening is that as the climate is changing, we're getting shorter winters and longer summers," said study lead author Bethan Davies, a glaciologist at Newcastle University in England. "We're having more melt, longer melt season."

It's melting so fast that the flow of ice into water from now averages about 50,000 gallons every second, according to study co-author Mauri Pelto, a professor of environmental science at Nichols College in Massachusetts.

"In fact, glacier shrinkage in Alaska from the year 2000 to the year 2020, we're losing more ice in Alaska than anywhere else," Davies said.

Only four Juneau ice field glaciers melted out of existence between 1948 and 2005. But 64 of them disappeared between 2005 and 2019, the study said. Many of the glaciers were too small to name, but one larger one, Antler glacier, "is totally gone," Pelto said.

Alaska climatologist Brian Brettschneider, who was not part of the study, said the acceleration is most concerning, warning of "a death spiral" for the thinning ice field.

An ice field is a collection of glaciers, while an ice sheet is something continent-wide. (Only two ice sheets remain, in Greenland and Antarctica.)

The most famous glacier in the Juneau ice field is the Mendenhall Glacier, a tourist hot spot. The Arctic is warming about four times as fast as the rest of the globe, with Alaska warming 2.6 degrees since 1980, according to federal weather data.

Pelto first went to the Juneau ice field in 1981 to try to make the U.S. ski team and has continued to study it since, giving up competitive skiing for research.

"In 1981, it wasn't too hard to get on and off the glaciers. You just hike up and you could ski to the bottom or hike right off the end of these glaciers," Pelto said. But now they've got lakes on the edges from melted snow and crevasses opening up that makes it difficult to ski, he said.

It's also now like a staircase of bare rocks there, Pelto said. White snow and ice reflect the sun's heat, and the dark rocks absorb it, making the ground warmer and melting more snow in a feedback effect that amplifies and accelerates the warming-triggered melt, the study said.

Key is the snow elevation line. Below the snow line, snow can disappear in the summer, but there's snow cover year-round above. That snow line keeps moving upward, Pelto said.

The shape of Juneau's ice field, which is rather flat, "makes it vulnerable to particular tipping points," because once the snow line moves up, large areas are suddenly more prone to melt, Davies said.

"The tipping point is when that snow line goes above your entire ice field, ice sheet, ice glacier, whichever one," Pelto said. "And so for the Juneau ice field, 2019, 2018 showed that you are not that far away from that tipping point."

Even if all the snow in the Juneau ice field melted, and that's a long way away, it would not add much to global sea levels, Pelto said. But it is a big tourist destination and cultural hot spot, Davies said.

"It is worrisome because in the future, the Arctic is going to be transformed beyond contemporary recognition," said Julienne Stroeve, a University of Manitoba ice scientist who wasn't part of the study. "It's just another sign of a large transformation in all the ice components (permafrost, sea ice, land ice) that communities depend on."

— Associated Press

SCIENCE SCAN



ISTOCK

Researchers posit that hitchhiking ants have a heat tolerance that allows them to withstand the high temperatures in closed vehicles.

ECOLOGY

No thumb, will hitchhike: Invasive ants may use passenger vehicles to gain new territory

By Erin Blakemore

Free ride without raising a thumb: A citizen science project reveals the pattern of active ant hitchhiking on vehicles and its ecological implications

Ecological Entomology

Scientists have long known invasive insects hitch rides on agricultural vehicles, a behavior that allows them to spread even further. Now, a new analysis suggests ants may do the same with everyday vehicles, too.

Published in Ecological Entomology, the study relied on a citizen science project in Taiwan. First, researchers combed Facebook for reports of ant infestations in private cars between 2017 and 2022, then they assembled a team of volunteer spotters who used Facebook to report sightings in private vehicles and on scooters.

The study revealed 52 cases of "active ant hitchhiking," the researchers wrote, with ants making their way into cars' interiors and even engines. Researchers counted nine species overall, seven of which were invasive. Reports grew during warmer months and dropped off during colder months. Cars parked near trees were particularly likely to attract ants, the researchers found, probably due to ants' ability to climb onto the cars using hanging tree branches and leaves.

The successful invaders may have something in common, the researchers speculate: heat tolerance that allows them to withstand the high temperatures inside closed passenger vehicles and on painted surfaces. Tree-dwelling ants are likelier to successfully hitch rides than ground-dwellers, the researchers surmise, because the same features that allow them to climb trees make them better able to cling to the slippery paint on cars.

Now that scientists know ants can hitch rides on private vehicles, too, they can use the discovery to further study how invasive species expand their habitats. The researchers call for more surveillance efforts and the development of a framework for predicting ant behavior in an attempt to better manage ant invasions.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

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BIG NUMBER

23 percent

Higher adherence to a Mediterranean diet was associated with a 23 percent reduction in all-cause mortality in women. The reduction was explained by differences in multiple risk factors. The Mediterranean diet focuses on plant-based foods and healthy fats, including vegetables, fruits, whole grains and extra virgin olive oil. The research, published in JAMA Network Open in May, was based on data from a study that followed 25,315 women, average age of 55, for 25 years. During the study period, the women completed health questionnaires every six months for the first year and yearly after that. In addition to blood testing, the researchers used a 131-question food-frequency questionnaire and assigned each participant a Mediterranean diet score based on their adherence to the diet and their consumption of vegetables (excluding potatoes), fruits, nuts, whole grains, legumes and fish. Points were also given for eating healthier fats, lower consumption of red and processed meat, and whether alcohol intake fell within five to 15 grams per day (roughly one five-ounce glass of wine, a 12-ounce beer or 1.5 ounces of liquor). The researchers found that those who adhered most closely to the foods on the Mediterranean diet experienced a 23 percent lower overall mortality risk during the study period. Nearly 3,900 participants died during the study period, including 935 whose deaths were attributed to cardiovascular disease and 1,531 from cancer. "It's important to emphasize that the benefit was seen for both cancer and cardiovascular mortality, which are the top causes of death in general in women," said Samia Mora, the study's senior author and the director of the Center for Lipid Metabolomics at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Because the participants in the study were primarily non-Hispanic White people, the researchers acknowledge the findings may be limited.

— Ian McMahan

HEALTH NEWS

Untreated water tied to salmonella outbreak in cucumbers that sickened 450 people in U.S.

BY JONEL ALECCIA

Untreated water used by a Florida cucumber grower is one likely source of salmonella food poisoning that sickened nearly 450 people across the United States this spring, federal health officials said last Tuesday.

But that grower doesn't account for all of the cucumber-related illnesses and 125 hospitalizations that were reported from late March through early June, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.



FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION/AP

The spring outbreak was tied to a cucumber grower in Florida.

Salmonella found in untreated canal water used by Bedner Growers of Boynton Beach, Fla., matched a strain of the bacteria that caused some of the illnesses reported in more than 30 states and D.C. Additional types of salmonella were detected in soil and water samples collected at the site, FDA officials said.

Bedner Growers supplied Fresh Start Produce Sales of Delray Beach, Fla., which recalled crates of cucumbers in late May after the first illnesses were reported. Bedner Growers also supplied cucumbers to multiple places where ill people reported buying or eating the produce, FDA said.

The canal water was not applied to edible parts of the cucumber plants, but was used for subsoil watering, said Bedner Growers' owner Steve Bedner. He added that it complies with federal rules and is "a common industry practice."

Investigators originally said there were two outbreaks of salmonella possibly tied to cucumbers, but combined them into one because of several similarities, including the timing and the type of food. Nearly 70 percent of sick people interviewed reported eating cucumbers before they fell ill, the FDA said. The investigation is continuing.

Bedner Growers' cucumber growing and harvesting season is over. There is no product from the farm remaining on the market, the FDA said, so there's likely no ongoing risk to the public.

— Associated Press

HEALTH SCAN

DISEASE

Chad eliminates fly-borne sleeping sickness targeted by World Health Organization program

BY ERIN BLAKEMORE

Chad has eliminated human African trypanosomiasis, a fly-borne tropical disease also known as sleeping sickness, the World Health Organization recently announced.

The elimination marks a milestone for the agency's program targeting what it calls neglected tropical diseases. The WHO hopes to eliminate such diseases, most of which disproportionately affect poor and rural populations, in 100 nations. Chad is the 51st country to successfully eliminate such a disease, the agency reports in a news release.

Human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) is caused by parasites and spread through the bite of the tsetse fly. The disease can take months or more than a year to progress, first causing flu-like symptoms and then crossing into the central nervous system. HAT can cause behavior changes and disrupt sleep, triggering aggression and other symptoms. When left untreated, it is nearly always fatal. Since there is no vaccine to prevent the disease, eradication efforts usually focus on controlling tsetse flies and preventing fly bites.

The disease comes in two forms named after the type of parasite that causes it. The gambiense form is most common and makes up about 92 percent of cases. So far, Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana and Chad have eliminated the disease. The other variant, the rhodesiense form, has been eliminated in Rwanda.

HAT was once much less common, falling to just 4,435 cases declared in Africa in 1964. But the disease resurged in the second half of the 20th century as emerging African nations underwent wars and political and social instability, and by 1998 the WHO counted 37,991 new cases per year.

Chad eliminated HAT with improved surveillance, testing and pest control, the WHO reports. "This achievement results from years of dedicated efforts by our health workers, communities, and partners," said Abdel Modjid Abderahim Mahamat, Chad's minister of health, in the news release. "We will continue this momentum to tackle other neglected tropical diseases and ensure a healthier future for all Chadians."



ISTOCK

Human African trypanosomiasis is spread by tsetse flies.

FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

What to know about lone star ticks

BY CATHERINE ROBERTS

The most distinctive feature of lone star ticks may be the starlike white splotch on the backs of adult females that gives them their name. But it's the baby (larval) lone star ticks that may make a bigger impression. That's because they tend to hunt in packs, colloquially — and horrifyingly — referred to as "tick bombs."

"When you find one," says Holly Gaff, a professor of biological sciences at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, "you usually make, I always jokingly say, 500 new best friends crawling up your leg."

Lone star ticks aren't the greatest driver of tickborne disease in the United States — that distinction belongs to blacklegged ticks, which spread Lyme disease, the most common infection you can get from a tick bite in this country. And though a bite from a lone star tick is less likely to result in disease than a bite from a blacklegged tick, lone star ticks do cause a diverse array of health problems, transmitting bacteria and viruses and also potentially triggering an enigmatic allergy to red meat.

Lone star ticks used to be found mostly in the Southeastern United States, but they are on the move — and their numbers are growing. They're becoming more and more common in Northern states, and even parts of Canada, where they were once scarce.

"Lone star ticks, once they become established, they become much more common than blacklegged ticks," says Andrea Egizi, a research scientist who runs the tick-borne disease laboratory of the Monmouth County Division of Mosquito Control in New Brunswick, N.J. And of all the ticks that commonly bite humans, experts consider lone star ticks the most aggressive species around. You're a lot more likely to be bitten by a lone star than a blacklegged tick in areas where they're both common.

Here's what you need to know about this increasingly common species of tick and how getting bitten can affect you.

Bacterial infection. Lone star ticks are the main vector for a few types of bacteria that can cause the disease ehrlichiosis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention usually receives reports of more than a thousand cases of ehrlichiosis each year, with a record of more than 2,000 cases reported in 2019.

Although that's likely a significant underestimate of the true number of cases, it's unclear to what extent people may experience asymptomatic or mild cases of the disease. Mild cases of ehrlichiosis resemble a number of other tick-borne diseases, causing symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle ache, nausea, and vomiting and rash, which is more common in children than in adults.

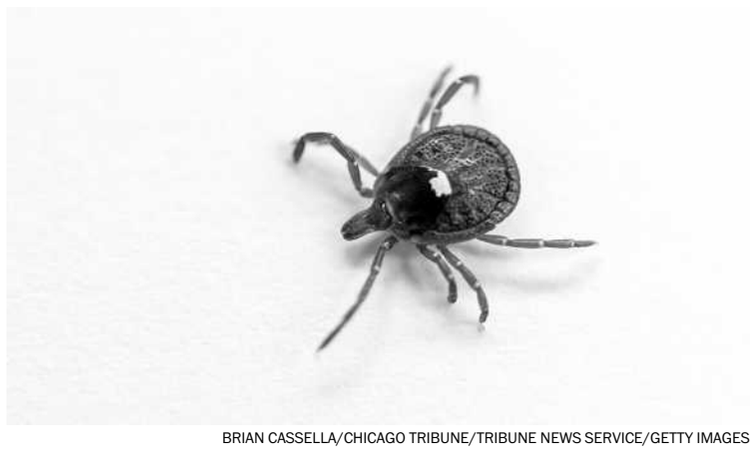
The antibiotic doxycycline, which is also used to treat Lyme, can be very effective. But if treatment is delayed, ehrlichiosis can be serious. Late-stage problems can include damage to the brain or nervous system, respiratory failure and organ damage. In about 1 percent of cases, ehrlichiosis can be fatal.

Lone star ticks are also one of several tick species that can transmit the bacteria that cause tularemia, another rare but potentially fatal illness. Another disease transmitted by lone stars, called Southern tick-associated rash illness (or STARI), resembles Lyme disease, but its cause — whether a bacteria or something else — is still unknown.

Viral infection. Lone star ticks are thought to be the primary vector of an emerging tick-borne virus, Heartland virus. About 60 cases of Heartland virus had been documented as of 2022, mainly in Midwestern and Southern states, according to the CDC. A few of those cases have been fatal, says Gonzalo Vazquez-Prokopec, an associate professor in the department of environmental sciences at Emory University in Atlanta, who studies lone star ticks and Heartland virus.

It's totally unknown, however, how many people may be experiencing mild or asymptomatic illness from undetected Heartland virus. That's in part because testing for the pathogen isn't available anywhere except the CDC. So testing generally occurs only if a doctor thinks you may have it — which may occur only if other standard treatment for tick-borne diseases (such as doxycycline) proves ineffective.

One of the key mysteries Vazquez-Prokopec and other researchers are trying to solve is which animals are the "reservoir" for Heartland virus — essentially, the animal from which lone star ticks pick up the pathogen and go on to spread it to humans. With Lyme disease, for example, white-footed mice serve as the reservoir in nature, and knowing this helps researchers predict how the disease will spread.



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE/GETTY IMAGES

Insect repellents can be effective against lone star ticks.

Meat allergy. This may be the lone-star-induced health problem you're most familiar with, as awareness of it has spread in recent years. Scientists aren't sure why, but in some cases, a bite from a lone star tick can trigger an allergy to a protein in red meat, called alpha-gal. (Not everyone who receives a bite from a lone star tick will develop the allergy, and it's also not clear whether alpha-gal allergy can be caused by triggers other than a tick bite.)

Alpha-gal allergy can be difficult to diagnose because unlike essentially every other allergy, the reaction can be delayed by several hours after eating red meat. And though different people who develop the allergy will experience different levels of sensitivity to the protein, alpha-gal can also be found in other products made from mammals, including dairy products, gelatin and even some medications. This can add to the difficulty of pinpointing the cause of a reaction.

Where lone star ticks are spreading

Lone star ticks have long been firmly established in the Southeastern United States. In recent decades, however, their numbers have been increasing in Midwestern and Northeastern states. Between 2017 and 2021, according to CDC data, nearly half of reported ehrlichiosis cases were in five states: Arkansas, Missouri, New York, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Even in some areas where blacklegged ticks are more widely known (and feared), lone star ticks may now be more common. In New Jersey, for example, people who submitted ticks for identification in Monmouth County between 2006 and 2016 were much more likely to send in lone star ticks than blacklegged ticks, according to a study Egizi published in the journal PLOS One. And other research shows lone star ticks have also exploded in population in areas of Delaware, New York, Connecticut and more.

Some scientists explain this expansion in terms of climate change: A warming climate is making larger swaths of the Northern United States more hospitable to lone star ticks. But recent research suggests that lone star ticks may, in fact, be reestablishing themselves in high numbers in areas where they were once common, before forests were clear-cut for agriculture in the 19th century.

Deer, the main source of food for lone star ticks, are likely a major player in this story. Deer populations plunged in areas where forests were largely eliminated, but they made a comeback in the 20th century as some former farms became forested again. It seems the deer brought lone star ticks with them.

How to protect yourself from lone star ticks

One of the first words entomologists tend to use when talking about lone star ticks is "aggressive."

Unlike blacklegged ticks, which often perch themselves on a tall blade of grass or branch and wait to hitch a ride as you pass by, lone star ticks will actively chase you down. Suppose you sit down on the ground for a picnic in a lone star tick area, Old Dominion's Gaff says. Lone star ticks, sensing the carbon dioxide you're emitting, will crawl across the ground to reach you.

Thus, when you're in lone star tick territory, it's important to take precautions to keep them from biting you. As with other tick species, applying an effective insect repellent to any exposed skin is an important measure.

Another very useful anti-tick measure is to wear clothing treated with the insecticide permethrin. Gaff says she is particularly careful to treat her shoes with permethrin because ticks often crawl upward from the ground, so treated shoes can be a barrier to reaching your skin. Unfortunately, when it comes to keeping lone star ticks out of a place like your yard, we know a lot less about what will be effective than we do with, say, blacklegged ticks. Still, some measures can help. Keeping your grass mowed and your lawn tidy and free of leaf litter is wise. And if you can fence your property to keep deer out, that's also useful.

Certain measures that can help reduce blacklegged tick numbers definitely won't help with lone stars, though, Gaff says, and that's anything that's aimed at targeting ticks on mice. Lone star ticks generally don't feed on mice, so measures like tick tubes, which contain insecticide-treated material that mice take to their nests, won't make any difference on lone star tick populations.

Finally, pesticides that can be sprayed as a barrier around the edge of your yard will help reduce numbers of lone star and other types of ticks. But these are measures to try to avoid, if you can, because these chemicals can also harm beneficial insects.

If you do find a tick crawling on your skin or get bitten by one, it can be difficult to figure out which kind it is. There's a lot of overlap between lone star tick and blacklegged tick habitats. And while the markings on adult female ticks of the two species are different enough that you might be able to distinguish between them, the smaller nymphs and larvae can be much harder to identify.

If you notice a large number of tiny ticks crawling on you at the same time, though, those are likely to be lone stars. Gaff has a hack for that: When she's in tick territory, she carries a lint roller, which she can use to pull off a whole lot of tick larvae at a time.

Even if you don't notice any ticks on you while you're out in their territory, it's still smart to take precautions to prevent bites once you get home, such as taking a shower. Unlike mosquitoes, which land and bite quickly, ticks tend to take their time crawling around on your skin in order to find a place to bite. Taking a shower is a good way to wash away any ticks that haven't attached themselves yet, and it also gives you an opportunity to do a thorough check for any bites.

"A lot of people who have ticks right in their backyard may not want to put on a repellent every time they go outside, but they should definitely incorporate tick checks in their daily routine," Egizi says.

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There's real danger in digging sand holes on the beach

BY STEPHEN P. LEATHERMAN

While millions of Americans vacation on beaches every year to seek out sun, sand and the sea, many might not realize how dangerous digging holes in the sand can be. In February, a 7-year-old girl died after an approximately five-foot hole she and her brother had dug in the sand on a Florida beach collapsed in on her, burying her alive.

As a coastal science researcher who's been studying beaches for many years, I was called in to help investigate the girl's death. Many people tried to help free her, but the sand hole continued to collapse as they dug, and more sand poured in. Firefighters didn't arrive until several minutes after the incident — too late to resuscitate the victim.

Digging holes in sand might seem innocent, but if the hole is deep enough and collapses on a person, it is extremely difficult to escape. In fact, some research suggests more people die of sand burial suffocation than shark attacks.

Collapsing sand holes led to 31 deaths, mostly children and 87 percent male, from 1997 to 2007 in the United States. During that period, 21 others were in a reported sand hole collapse but survived, many requiring CPR.

Victims of sand hole collapse have ranged in age from 3 to 21. The holes were generally two to 15 feet in diameter and two to 12 feet deep. Digging, tunneling, jumping and falling into the hole have all inadvertently triggered collapse.

Sand basics

Sand isn't actually a type of material. It's a category of material size, ranging from 0.0025 to 0.08 inches in diameter. The type of sand is determined by the materials making it up. Quartz sand, made up of silicon dioxide, is the most common sand found on beaches, except for tropical coasts where coral sand beaches, made up of calcium carbonate, are found.

Material coarser than sand is not soft to the touch, and it doesn't make sturdy sandcastles. Silt and clay, which are finer than sand, make water murky and are commonly called mud.

Sand's weight depends on the materials it's made of. Pure quartz sand, which is very white, weighs around 90 pounds per cubic foot when dry.

But most beaches contain a mixture of minerals, creating a tan or brown appearance. The minerals that darken the sand are much heavier — the sand on most beaches would weigh up to 130 pounds per cubic foot when dry.

Dry, loose grains of sand will form a pile with a slope angle of about 33 degrees, termed its angle of repose. The angle of repose is the steepest angle at which a pile of grains remains stable, and the force of friction between each grain determines that stability.

When sand is wet, it's more stable because the surface tension between water and sand grains can hold the pile of sand in place vertically. But, once it dries, the pile will collapse as there's no more surface tension.

So, if you dig a hole in the beach, it'll stay stable for as long as the sand stays moist. Once it dries, the hole collapses.



ISTOCK

Experts say holes should not be any deeper than the knee height of the shortest person in your group.

Sand is unstable

When the sand forming the hole either dries out or someone stands near the edge of the hole adding extra weight, the sand hole collapses in, and the heavy grains fill all open spaces in the hole. This leaves no air available for a trapped person to breathe.

While skiers trapped in avalanches can cup their hands to form an air pocket because snow is light, that's not the case when sand collapses.

Rescuing someone from a collapsed sand hole is very difficult because sand is both heavy and unstable. As rescuers scoop away sand to free the victim, the hole will continue to collapse under the rescuers' weight and refill with sand. According to some research, rescuers have only about three to five minutes to save a person who is trapped in a sand hole before they suffocate.

Professionals such as firefighters will place boards across the hole when rescuing someone from a sand hole collapse. This way, they can reach down and use tools to remove the sand without putting any weight directly on the edge of the hole.

Experts recommend never digging a hole deeper than the knee height of the shortest person in your group — with two feet being the maximum depth.

How to rescue someone

To rescue someone in a collapsing sand hole, focus on exposing their mouth and removing sand from on top of their chest. If you expose their mouth, you can administer rescue breathing while other rescuers continue digging out their chest.

Too many people crowding a sand hole rescue can cause more harm than good. Just two or three rescuers should work in the victim's immediate area while others work on clearing sand away from the wider excavation area, which makes it easier for those in the center to remove sand. The people on the perimeter can clear sand away from the central area using anything available, from buckets and shovels to beach chairs and boogie boards.

Sand hole collapses can happen suddenly and in situations that don't seem dangerous to most. Even a shallow hole can injure someone who stumbles into it. So during your next trip to the beach, make sure to keep an eye out for sand holes and fill them as soon as possible.

Stephen P. Leatherman is a professor of coastal science at Florida International University. This article was produced in collaboration with theconversation.com.

WELL+BEING

Social media's claims about curing a 'leaky gut' often don't hold water



Ask A Doctor

TRISHA PASRICHA

Q: I keep hearing about "leaky gut" and the symptoms it causes. What is it exactly? What's the best way to fix it?

A: "Leaky gut" is a colloquial term for increased intestinal permeability — or how easily molecules pass from inside our intestines into our bloodstreams. Some people use the term loosely as a diagnosis, claiming that a leaky gut can cause food sensitivities, bloating, brain fog, acne and fatigue. They even link it to increased frequency of infections or autoimmune conditions.

But leaky gut is a physiological process, not a formal medical diagnosis. We all experience increased permeability from time to time. It's something that fluctuates constantly because of factors such as stress, infections and the food we eat.

Think of changes in permeability as a clue that something else may be going on. Studies have found that a growing number of diseases — inflammatory bowel disease, Parkinson's disease, obesity, Type I diabetes, celiac disease and irritable bowel syndrome, to name a few — are associated with increased intestinal permeability. We're still learning about these relationships. It's not always clear if changes in permeability precede the diseases they're associated with and what effect they're having.

But the data is especially compelling in one area — liver disease. Research has found that consuming a high-fat diet or more alcohol can increase intestinal permeability, allowing bacterial toxins to slip past our gut lining and reach the liver, where they cause small amounts of inflammation. Over time, these small inflammatory events add up to problems such as fatty liver, which is on the rise, affecting 1 in 5 Americans.

Can you fix a leaky gut?

Many people on social media claim you can "cure" a leaky gut with probiotics, digestive enzymes or other supplements. These claims are not supported by scientific evidence. Instead, here are the five important recommendations I tell my patients who are worried about increased intestinal permeability. These well-studied interventions improve the integrity of your gut lining and have proven benefits for your overall health.

Cut down on ultra-processed and high-fat foods. Eating a typical Western diet has been shown to induce more than double the amount of bacterial toxins in the blood, which can occur with elevated intestinal permeability. Studies have also found that emulsifiers, a common food additive to prolong shelf life, and artificial sweeteners in ultra-processed foods compromise the gut barrier. Not coincidentally, ultra-processed food consumption is linked to symptoms such as chronic abdominal pain and constipation often seen in irritable bowel syndrome.

Reduce stress. Psychological stress increases intestinal permeability through the effects of the hormone cortisol (raise your hand if you've ever felt sick to your stomach before a big test). In an oft-cited study from Belgium, the stress experienced by university students who had to give a public speech to graduate generated significant increases in intestinal permeability.

Minimize or stop alcohol use. Recent data has suggested that there is probably no "healthy" or safe amount of alcohol use in general, and this aligns with the data on alcohol's effect on increasing intestinal permeability established over the past 30 years.

Increase fiber in your diet. The fiber we eat gets fermented by our gut microbiota, which then produce beneficial short-chain fatty acids such as butyrate. These can fortify our intestinal lining and are associated with reduced inflammation.

Avoid NSAIDs. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen have long been known to damage our intestinal lining. When possible, substitute acetaminophen for chronic pain and preventive medication alternatives for migraines if you find yourself reaching for high NSAID doses for several days.

How do you tell if you have a leaky gut?

My patients often ask me how to check if they have a leaky gut. There are some sophisticated tests we do in the laboratory to measure intestinal permeability — such as using specialized devices called Ussing chambers involving biopsies taken during an endoscopy. These kinds of tests are not available in a standard doctor's office, and I would be wary of any third-party company offering unvalidated testing.

Research has found that consuming a high-fat diet or more alcohol can increase intestinal permeability.

To me, treating the many diseases and symptoms associated with altered intestinal permeability is most relevant. For instance, a 2021 study published in Gastroenterology found that certain patients with chronic abdominal pain and higher permeability improved after four weeks of treatment with a proton pump inhibitor. Others with food sensitivities may benefit from working with a registered dietitian to identify particular triggers. These possibilities should be thoroughly evaluated by a physician familiar with the science.

What I want my patients to know

Some doctors may tell you that leaky gut is not a real thing because they're wary of all the misinformation peddled around it on social media. Neurogastroenterologists like me study intestinal physiology in depth, and I can assure you that changes in permeability are real.

But I worry that people are getting so caught up in the claims surrounding leaky gut that they may miss diagnosing an underlying disease. For example, people with celiac disease often have bowel trouble and brain fog — this should be assessed by a physician and treated accordingly. Feeling sluggish all the time could be because of iron deficiency anemia, and constipation and bloating may be related to hypothyroidism or irritable bowel syndrome. If you're suffering, we need to methodically examine the whole picture — and not leave it simply at "leaky gut" — to get you feeling your best.

Despite cancerphobia, there are ways to lower your risk of the disease

CANCER FROM **E1**

lar cancer, which I was diagnosed with in 1984, now has a five-year survival rate of 95 percent, compared to roughly 80 percent in 1975, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The five-year breast cancer survival rate is now 91 percent, compared with 76 percent in 1975, the NCI reports.

When it comes to all cancers, the five-year survival rate is now more than 69 percent, up from roughly 50 percent in 1975, according to the NCI.

At the same time, some immunotherapies and other medicines don't take nearly the toll of older therapies, which have common side effects of nausea, vomiting and hair loss. That's why both experts and cancer survivors told me repeatedly, "Get the facts about your type of cancer," which can go a long way to rein in fear.

David Ropeik, a retired journalist and author of the new book "Curing Cancerphobia: How Risk, Fear and Worry Mislead Us," debunks other outdated anxieties. "Our fear of cancer has not caught up to the progress medicine has made" in recent decades, he says. "As many as two-thirds of the nearly 200 cancers can [now] be treated as chronic conditions or cured outright, but we don't believe that."

As a result, there are what Ropeik terms too many "fear-ectomies" — medical unnecessary surgeries such as prostatectomies and radiation for asymptomatic, slow-growing prostate cancers and full mastectomies for breast ductal cancer that hasn't spread and often won't. In both those cases, experts say active surveillance with periodic follow-ups is a good approach.

Ropeik says that our perceived lack of control or powerlessness over this disease makes things worse. "When we can't do anything about it, we will be more afraid," he told me. Levin, the psychologist, agrees: "We want to be able to say, 'I can do this and avoid that.' Cancer sticks in your mind as one of those things 'I can't control.'"

But science over the last two decades has found there is so much more individuals can do to reduce their cancer risk, most importantly:

Don't smoke. Researchers recently reported that those who quit had a 17 percent lower overall risk of *any* cancer than those who continued to smoke. They specifically found a 42 percent lower risk of lung cancer, a 27 percent lower risk of liver cancer, a 14 percent lower risk of stomach cancer and a 20 percent lower risk of colorectal cancer.



BENJAMIN CREMEL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales, rides in the Trooping the Colour military parade in London on June 15. The princess announced her cancer diagnosis earlier this year, and the parade marked her first public outing in months. Her case has fueled worldwide questions about cancer.

Eat right. Studies have found that healthy diets (less meat and processed food, more veggies, whole grains and fish), regular exercise, sunscreen and preventive screenings also reduce our cancer risk, Levin said, though not to zero, "which is really tough for people to cope with."

Cancerphobia can lead to overscreening, overdiagnosis and overtreatment by boosting the discovery of some cancers that are considered unlikely to spread or cause symptoms. Overtreatment refers to a decision to choose more aggressive, even riskier treatments than medically necessary, such as those prostatectomies and mastectomies mentioned above.

So what can be done to curb cancer anxiety? In addition to doing research to understand your condition, here are a few strategies experts suggest:

Mind-body interventions: These include cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness meditation, relaxation techniques and the use of the creative arts (as a means for self-expression). A meta-analysis published in Psycho-Oncology concluded, "these interventions yielded significant, small-to-medium effects," which were maintained at follow-up assessments up to two years. Some research has suggested that the psychotropic drug psilocybin may be helpful, though much research on this topic is underway.

Keep talking about what's causing anxiety. The fears that we know are actually less scary than the fears that are hidden. Levin added that avoidance doesn't diminish risk, but it may limit your options. Find a therapist who has dealt with these issues. Many cancer hospitals can make referrals.

It's okay to ask for help. Actually, it's not only okay but a sign of strength to say, "I can't do this alone." Don't be scared to say that you're overwhelmed. Most people are; you don't have to be the proverbial cancer warrior.

Help comes in many forms. Among them are psychotherapists, social workers and religious leaders, nutrition experts, organized support groups and, of course, friends and family. If you're worried about the treatment process, find people who have gone through it. Worried about finances? Seek out financial experts who can evaluate your situation.

Beth Rosenberg, a retired cardiologist in North Carolina, summed up precisely how cancer fear can harm us as much, if not more, than a cancer diagnosis. "Sadly, I cared for too many patients [who feared] what might be found, [and] waited until the pain, or bleeding, was no longer tolerable." She remembered a patient who delayed seeing a dermatologist because she feared a skin blemish was cancer — which it turned out to be. Or the woman who didn't come in until her breast tumors were too large to ignore. Both died within the year. "The scars and pain that resulted were so much greater than if they'd been able to work through their fear and come in sooner," said Rosenberg.

Pet owners can help queasy riders cope on summer trips

BY MARLENE CIMONS

Raylan, my late shepherd mix, had a problem with car rides. He'd hop into the back seat, excited for a new adventure, but could last only about 15 minutes before standing up, drooling and retching. Within seconds, he would vomit. On long trips, there could be as many as a half-dozen such episodes.

I tried everything: a medication prescribed by my veterinarian specifically for dogs with motion sickness, over-the-counter antihistamines, a human nausea drug usually given to patients undergoing chemotherapy, homeopathy and Chinese herbs. Nothing worked. I always arrived at my destination with a queasy dog and a load of soggy, smelly towels.

With summer underway, many people are planning vacations in pet-friendly places reachable by car. But for humans whose dogs (or cats) get carsick, these excursions can become an unpleasant ordeal.

"It's really sad, even traumatic, to see your pet go through it, especially since they can't vocalize what is happening," said Matthew Lechner, an internal medicine specialist at Veterinary Referral Associates in Gaithersburg, Md. "It can be visceral and emotional for both humans and their pets."



ISTOCK

What causes motion sickness in dogs?

Motion sickness in dogs — as in humans — results from a disturbance in the body's vestibular system, a complex set of structures and neural pathways centrally located in the inner ear that regulate balance and physical orientation. When there is a conflict between certain stimuli — what the eyes are seeing, for example, with what the body is feeling — equilibrium is disrupted and the vestibular system sends a distress signal to the brain, including to its vomiting center.

"A driver almost never gets motion sick because he is looking out the window," said Trisha Dowling, professor of veterinary clinical pharmacology at Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. "He is focused on the outside and how the world is moving in relation to the car, and that helps. But a dog's visual field is limited to what the dog sees sitting on the car seat. At the same time, his body is feeling motion. There's a dissonance that trips the trigger."

Carsickness in dogs most often occurs in puppies because their inner ear structures aren't fully developed yet. Many young dogs outgrow it. But some, like Raylan, never do. Also, dogs, regardless of age, can become anxious in cars, which can prompt carsickness.

Can cats get carsick, too?

Yes. Cats also are anxious during car rides. This, in addition to vomiting, can result in urination, defecation and yowling. "Cats live 99 percent of their lives in a house, so a car ride — a visit to the vet, for example — is immensely stressful," Lechner said. "You are dragging them out of their world."

Cats, though, usually ride in carriers. This contains the vomit and other substances, which keeps the car seat from getting soiled. But you'll still need to clean up your cat and carrier, which can be nasty for you and your cat. (Small dogs also can ride in crates.)

How is carsickness in pets treated?

Don't give your pet anything without consulting your veterinarian. Even over-the-counter medications can cause side effects. These recommendations should be used only as a guide for your conversations:

Maropitant citrate, brand name Cerenia, is the gold standard for treating carsickness in dogs. It's a prescription tablet for dogs with motion sickness, which research has shown to be safe and effective. It was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2007, and a generic version became available last year.

Injectable Cerenia is licensed for both dogs and cats and is often used for chronic vomiting or nausea from surgery or chemotherapy. It also can be given in a vet's office before a trip.

The tablets aren't approved for cats, although veterinarians prescribe them "off label." While Cerenia helps cats, other drugs used in dogs usually don't, Lechner said.

Maropitant citrate works by blocking a neurotransmitter — or chemical messenger — called substance P involved in nausea and vomiting, thus reducing their likelihood.

"Nothing will be as powerful as Cerenia," Dowling said. "It's the best thing we have."

Other options include drugs for humans that can be used for dogs, though you should check with your vet on dosage and other requirements:

- **Dimenhydrinate**, brand names Dramamine, Gravol, Travtabs, Driminate and Triptone; and **diphenhydramine**, brand name Benadryl. These are antihistamines used to prevent motion sickness and can help dogs, especially dogs with vestibular disease. These, however, can cause drowsiness.

"It's really sad, even traumatic, to see your pet go through it, especially since they can't vocalize what is happening."

Matthew Lechner, internal medicine specialist at Veterinary Referral Associates in Gaithersburg, Md.

- **Meclizine hydrochloride**. It is another antihistamine, and the active ingredient in the less drowsy version of Dramamine. Antihistamines target the balancing center in the inner ear.
- **Ondansetron**, brand name Zofran. This drug helps prevent nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy, radiation or surgery. It also works by blocking certain substances in the body involved in vomiting.

Consult your vet about what to give your cat. For instance, the vet might prescribe an anti-anxiety medication to relieve your cat's stress.



MARLENE CIMONS

The writer's late shepherd mix, Raylan, would get carsickness.

Most medications should be given several hours before leaving. Follow the instructions on the label, or from your vet. Some veterinarians recommend skipping food, but others suggest a small meal or snack. "Having a little bit of food in the stomach keeps things moving, so I think a small meal before leaving is better than being totally fasted," Lechner said.

Some people give their dogs gingersnaps — since ginger is known to relieve nausea — but there are no studies showing it helps, Lechner said. He added that other ingredients in cookies and ginger products, such as sugar substitutes, could be quite risky.

There are other measures you can take to help your pet:

Keep the car cool. Dogs often pant when they become motion sick, so air conditioning and ventilation can help. But don't let your dog hang its head out the window. Flying debris can hurt sensitive eyes — and the dog could jump out.

Keep a dog in a crate or buckled in the rear seat. This is the safest place for them, experts aid.

What happens when Cerenia or other drugs alone don't work?

Talk to your veterinarian about a combination approach. When individual drugs failed to help Raylan, my vet suggested using Cerenia with the less drowsy version of Dramamine. The solution worked.

Even though Cerenia usually is effective, motion sickness in dogs is complicated with different pathways and mechanisms of action, which "explains why sometimes one drug is not enough," said Kate Illing, a veterinarian and researcher with the Dog Aging Project. "Dogs have multiple receptors and neurotransmitters and nerves that affect nausea and vomiting. To treat, we try to target one or more of them."

While Cerenia affects the brain's vomiting center, antihistamines work on the inner ear's balance function, a strategy that finally proved effective for Raylan. "When Cerenia wasn't enough, adding on the antihistamine was the synergism he needed," Dowling said.

The bottom line: Don't give up. "It can be a messy and often frustrating problem," Illing said. "But persevere. And have patience."

In head lice outbreaks, selfies may be a culprit

BY LINDSEY BEVER

Anecdotal reports about a global rise in head lice cases have prompted warnings from some experts about a popular and universal activity among children and teenagers: taking selfies.

Head lice, itchy parasites that live on the scalp, are typically spread through direct head-to-head contact, mostly among children. And getting close for group selfies — which often means pressing two or more heads together to fit into a cellphone frame — could give head lice an opportunity to crawl from one head to another, as they cannot jump or fly.

Selfies "serve as a significant transmission source," Federico Galassi, a researcher with the Pest and Insecticide Research Center in Buenos Aires, said in an email.

Are lice on the rise?

It is not clear whether head lice outbreaks are getting worse. So far, experts said, that has not been widely demonstrated in the scientific literature, though anecdotal reports suggest it might be true. Some head lice removal clinics in North America and parts of Europe are reporting an uptick in demand for their services.

"We have seen growth all across the country," said Krista Lauer, national medical director of Lice Clinics of America, a nationwide lice removal company, which saw an 18 percent increase in in-clinic treatments and a nearly 20 percent rise in lice-removal product sales over a 12-month period ending in April.

Clinics outside the United States are reporting similar situations. Shawnda Walker, who owns Nitwits, a lice removal clinic in Toronto, said 2022 was particularly quiet but business started to pick up late last summer and she has seen "a significant increase." And Lice Squad, which has clinics across Canada, has seen about a 50 percent increase in service requests over the past year, said Dawn Mucci, founder and chief executive of the company.

"We are seeing the same in the U.K.," Dee Wright, owner of the Hairforce, which has six clinics across Britain and is in the process of opening a seventh, said in an email about the rise in demand. "Our clientele are showing a war weariness."

Clinic owners said many clients seek professional help after failed attempts with treatments at home.

Jennifer Rosa, who owns two Lice Lifters clinics in Plymouth Meeting and Washington Crossing, Pa., said many caregivers who bring in their children have already tried prescription treatments, over-the-counter products or home remedies.

"They're not working, so that's why they turn to us for help," she said.

A lice comeback

Some experts said that many countries simply may be seeing a return to pre-pandemic lice levels. Lice outbreaks fell sharply during the early days of the pandemic when most children were not allowed to go to school or day care or engage in extracurricular activities. Studies from Britain, Argentina, Poland and elsewhere have reported pandemic drops in lice infestations among schoolchildren.

"We know that kids are back in the classroom, doing playdates, playing sports, doing the activities they used to do," Albert Yan, a pediatric dermatologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and one of the of the clinical report on head lice from the American Academy of Pediatrics, said in an email. "It's not surprising that we are returning to what I suspect are more expected levels of head lice infestation."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY SABENS/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

Ian Burgess, director of the Medical Entomology Center in Cambridge, said this could be interpreted as a surge, "but it's a bit like waves in water, just undulating up and down."

At least one expert is skeptical, however, saying that because many of the reports of lice infestations come from commercial lice-removal clinics, the anecdotal reports may reflect marketing efforts.

Richard Pollack, a public health entomologist from Harvard University who has studied the over-diagnosis of lice infestations, reported that, in his research, the majority of children who were presumed to have lice did not. Many had other types of bugs in their hair — aphids, ants, beetles — from playing outside, or other culprits, including dandruff, hair spray residue and even cookie crumbs, he said.

Or, other experts said, it could be that clinic visits are on the rise because lice have developed resistance in some regions to over-the-counter lice removal products that people use at home.

In the United States, unit sales for lice treatments have been on the decline in recent years at brick-and-mortar stores, according to data from the research firm NIQ. In the 52-week period ending on May 18, unit sales were down 1.5 percent compared with the year before. Compared with the same period four years ago, unit sales were down by 33 percent.

How do you get rid of lice?

Head lice, which are typically considered only a nuisance, are treated with prescription and over-the-counter topical medications, home remedies or by repeatedly combing through lice-infested hair, though experts said combing alone is not enough to eliminate lice. Some people use olive oil, mayonnaise or hair conditioner sprinkled with baking soda to smother or stall live crawling lice, then repeatedly comb with a fine-toothed comb to remove both live lice and unhatched eggs that have attached to hairs, as well as the empty eggshells. Many home remedies, however, are time-consuming, messy and may not kill all lice and their eggs, some experts said.

In a 2004 study, researchers tested six home remedies on head lice — vinegar, isopropyl alcohol, olive oil, mayonnaise, melted butter and petroleum jelly — and found that the only product that caused significant mortality to the lice was petroleum jelly. This treatment was difficult to remove from hair, and none of the treatments prevented lice from laying eggs.

Certain essential oils, which are more commonly used against lice in South America, can work but vary in effectiveness. Research shows that eucalyptus, pennyroyal, marjoram and rosemary may be useful to treat head lice. And a study in Israel reported that a citronella formulation was effective as a repellent against them. But until more data is available on the safety of essential oils to treat head lice, the American Academy of Pediatrics said essential oils should not be used on babies, children or adolescents.

"Parents should avoid local remedies with unproven effectiveness on patients with head lice," Matthew Falagas, director of the First Department of Internal Medicine at Hygeia Hospital in Athens, and an adjunct associate professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, said in an email.

Most prescription and over-the-counter lice-removal products consist of a topical agent such as a shampoo that aims to kill lice and their eggs, sometimes called nits.

A challenge with using over-the-counter topical medications at home is that many people do not understand the life cycle of lice, said Sherry Torkos, a pharmacist in Ontario. Oftentimes, these chemicals must be applied more than once, including reapplication seven to nine days after the first treatment to kill any eggs that survived and subsequently hatched.

"If you don't kill the lice and the eggs, the cycle perpetuates," Torkos said.

Also, research shows that lice have built up resistance to many popular over-the-counter lice products that contain permethrin and pyrethrin, which are insecticides. A prescription anti-parasitic agent known as Natroba has replaced permethrin as the go-to treatment in the United States, said John Clark, a pesticide toxicologist who studies lice at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Alternatively, there are products containing dimethicone, an insecticide-free silicone-based polymer that suffocates lice, killing them at all life stages, experts said.

A Food and Drug Administration-cleared medical device, which is used at Lice Clinics of America, uses heated air to eradicate lice and their eggs in one treatment. Because lice do not have a heavy exoskeleton and are not well protected from water loss, blowing hot air dehydrates and kills them, said Clark, whose laboratory helped test the product.

Experts urged caregivers not to use hair dryers to achieve similar results as it may burn the scalp or blow lice onto others.

How do you prevent head lice?

Lice are a common concern in childhood and are not related to personal hygiene. There is no surefire way to prevent them, but caregivers should regularly check their children's heads for lice, particularly when children are scratching, said Kate King, president of the National Association of School Nurses.

While sharing brushes, combs and clothing such as hats is not a common way to spread lice, King advised against it.

Additionally, caregivers should encourage children to avoid head-to-head contact, particularly with anyone who may have lice.

Children with long hair may be able to reduce their risk by pulling back their hair in a ponytail or a bun during activities requiring close contact with other kids to try to keep their hair from intermingling.

Researchers seek to program a bit of the child mind into AI

AI FROM E1

something crucial to learn from the minds of babies?

"Being able to build into those systems the same sort of common sense that people have is very important to those systems being reliable and, secondly, accountable to people," said Howard Shrobe, a program manager at the federal government's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, which has funded work at the nexus of developmental psychology and artificial intelligence.

"I emphasize the word 'reliable,'" he added, "because you can only rely on things you understand."



CHET STRANGE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Children play during recess at Palmer Lake Elementary School in Monument, Colo., in February 2022. Researchers who study the human mind are fascinated by how easy it is to "break" sophisticated AI chatbots with reasoning tasks that young children can perform with ease.

Scaling up vs. growing up

In 1950, computer scientist Alan Turing famously proposed the "imitation game," which quickly became the canonical test of an intelligent machine: Can a person typing messages to it be fooled into thinking they're chatting with a human?

In the same paper, Turing proposed a different route to an adultlike brain: a childlike machine that could learn to think like one.

DARPA, which is known for investing in out-there ideas, has been funding teams to build AI with "machine common sense," able to match the abilities of an 18-month-old child. Machines that learn in an intuitive way could be better tools and partners for humans. They might also be less prone to mistakes and runaway harms if they are imbued with an understanding of others and the building blocks of moral intuition.

But what Schulz and colleagues mulled over during a day of presentations in March was the weird reality that building an AI that exudes expertise has turned out to be easier than understanding, much less emulating, the mind of a child.

Chatbots are "large language models," a name that reflects the way they are trained. How exactly some of their abilities arise remains an open question, but they start by ingesting a vast corpus of digitized text, learning to predict the statistical likelihood that one word follows another. Human feedback is then used to fine-tune the model.

In part by scaling up the amount of training data to an internet's worth of human knowledge, engineers have created "generative AI" that can compose essays, write computer code and diagnose a disease.

Children, on the other hand, are thought by many developmental psychologists to have some core set of cognitive abilities. What exactly they are remains a matter of scientific investigation, but they seem to allow kids to get a lot of new knowledge out of a little input.

"My 5-year old, you can teach him a new game. You can explain the rules and give an example. He's probably heard maybe 100 million words," said Michael Frank, a developmental psychologist at Stanford University. "An AI language model requires many hundreds of billions of words, if not trillions. So there's this huge data gap."

To tease out the cognitive skills of babies and children, scientists craft careful experiments with squeaky toys, blocks, puppets and fictional machines called "blicket detectors." But when describing these puzzles to chatbots in words, their performance is all over the map.

In one of her experimental tasks, Schulz tested ChatGPT's ability to achieve cooperative goals — a salient skill for a technology that is often pitched as a tool to help humanity solve the "hard" problems, such as climate change or cancer.

In this case, she described two tasks: an easy ring toss and a difficult beanbag toss. To win the prize, ChatGPT and a partner both had to succeed. If the AI is a 4-year-old and its partner is a 2-year-old, who should do which task? Schulz and colleagues have shown that most 4- and 5-year-olds succeed at this type of decision-making, assigning the easier game to the younger child.

"As a 4-year-old, you might want to choose the easy ring toss game for yourself," ChatGPT said. "This way, you increase your chances of successfully getting your ring on the post, while the 2-year-old, who might not be as coordinated, attempts the more challenging beanbag toss."

When Schulz pushed back, reminding ChatGPT that both partners had to win to get a prize, it doubled down on its answer.

To be clear, chatbots have performed better than most experts expected on many tasks — including other tests of toddler cognition and the kinds of standardized test questions that get kids into college. But their stumbles are puzzling because of how inconsistent they seem to be.

Eliza Kosoy, a cognitive scientist at the University of California at Berkeley, worked to test the cognitive skills of LaMDA, Google's previous language model. It performed as well as children on tests of social and moral understanding, but she and colleagues also found basic gaps.

"We find that it's the worst at causal reasoning — it's really painfully bad," Kosoy said. LaMDA struggled with tasks that required it to understand how a complex set of gears make a machine work, for example, or how to make a machine light up and play music by choosing objects that will activate it.

Other scientists have seen an AI system master a certain skill, only to have it stumble when tested in a slightly different way. The fragility of these skills raises a pressing question: Does the machine really possess a core ability, or does it appear so only when it is asked a question in a very specific way?

People hear that an AI system "passed the bar exam, it passed all these AP exams, it passed a medical school exam," said Melanie Mitchell, an AI expert at the Santa Fe Institute. "But what does that actually mean?"

Playing to learn

To fill this gap, researchers are debating how to program a bit of the child mind into the machine. The most obvious difference is that children don't learn all of what they know from reading the encyclopedia. They play and explore.

"One thing that seems to be really important for natural intelligence, biological intelligence, is the fact that organisms evolved to go out into the real world and find out about it, do experiments, move around in the world," said Alison Gopnik, a developmental psychologist at the University of California at Berkeley.

She has recently become interested in whether a missing ingredient in AI systems is a motivational goal that any parent who has engaged in a battle of wills with a toddler will know well: the drive for "empowerment."

Current AI is optimized in part with "reinforcement learning from human feedback" — human input on what kind of response is appropriate. While children get that feedback, too, they also have curiosity and an intrinsic drive to explore and seek out information. They figure out how a toy works by shaking it, pushing a button or turning it over — in turn gaining a modicum of control over their environment.

"If you've run around chasing a 2-year-old, they're actively acquiring data, figuring out how the world works," Gopnik said.

After all, children gain an intuitive grasp of physics and social awareness of others and begin making sophisticated statistical guesses about the world long before they have the language to explain it — perhaps these should be part of the "program" when building AI, too.

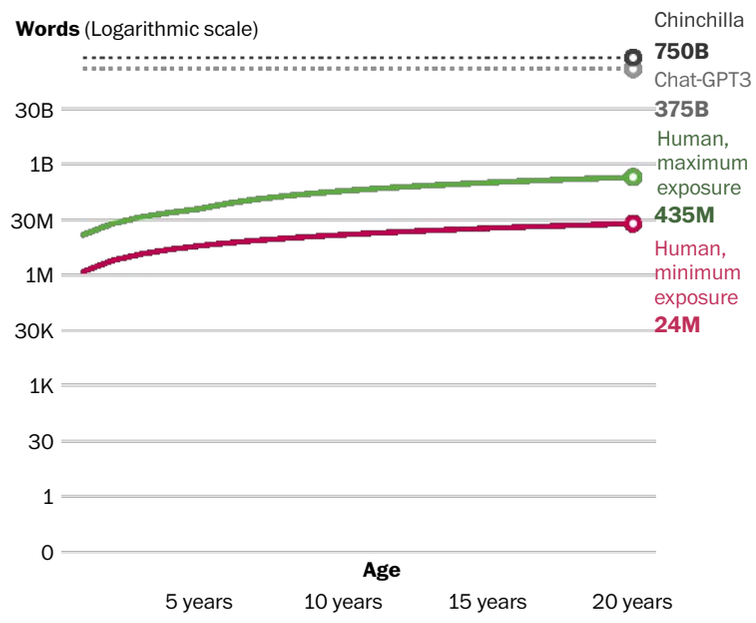
"I feel very personal about this," said Joshua Tenenbaum, a computational cognitive scientist at MIT. "The word 'AI' — 'artificial intelligence,' which is a really old and beautiful and important and profound idea — has come to mean a very narrow thing in recent times. ... Human children don't scale up — they grow up."

Schulz and others are awed, both by what AI can do and what it can't. She acknowledges that any study of AI has a short shelf life — what it failed at today it might grasp tomorrow. Some experts might say that the entire notion of testing machines with methods meant to measure human abilities is anthropomorphizing and wrongheaded.

But she and others argue that to truly understand intelligence and to create it, the learning and reasoning abilities that unfold through childhood can't be discounted.

"That's the kind of intelligence that really might give us a big picture," Schulz said. "The kind of intelligence that starts not as a blank slate, but with a lot of rich, structured knowledge — and goes on to not only understand everything we have ever understood, across the species, but everything we will ever understand."

The data gap: how many words humans are exposed to in early life, compared with two AI large language models



Source: Michael Frank/Trends in Cognitive Sciences

ANDREW VAN DAM, CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON / THE WASHINGTON POST

The dad-bod lesson: Men need to remember to take care of their bodies

DAD BOD FROM E1

enough exercise and you have to try to not finish the chicken nuggets on the kid's plate, even though you don't want to waste them at the restaurant."

Research on men's bodies

In a study Gettler and colleagues conducted in the Philippines, "we found that new dads with newborns have very substantial drops in their testosterone, on average, which could reflect changes during pregnancy or immediately in the period after their babies are born."

The men in the study were in their 20s, and their testosterone went down about 25 percent on average. "That's a big biologically meaningful change," Gettler says. "Far greater than what might be simply due to aging, which might only drop testosterone levels 10 percent per decade after the 30s."

In a similar article, published in Evolution, Medicine and Public Health in 2017, Gettler used U.S. population data to show that American men who were partnered and living with children had substantially greater body fat, particularly around their waists, than single men not living with children.

The difference in body fat between the two groups — the dad-bod phenomenon — was explained by their lower testosterone levels, Gettler wrote. Age-matched single men, not living with babies or young children, had higher testosterone, on average. Studies have also shown that men's brains change with fatherhood. As for why those evolutionary ancestors saddled today's fathers with a steep hormonal drop, Gettler says it's about priorities.

"The idea is that that transition with this decline in testosterone, whether you're talking about bird fathers or human fathers or other mammalian fathers, helps to shift priorities away from mating effort, away from competition and more toward partnering with the mother to help raise demanding offspring," he says.

But humans have also evolved, Gettler explains, such that fathers can be involved in a range of ways that are costly in terms of time, energy and resources.

A transition decade

People often have less time to exercise as they start families and dive deeper into work, typically in their 30s.

"Generally, sometime around the age of 30, a sedentary person starts to lose muscle at about the rate of a half percent per year," says Brad Schoenfeld, an expert on muscle physiology and a professor in exercise science at Lehman College in the Bronx. "That's usually in that dad-body age range, so certain parts will begin to sag, and any addition of extra body fat in the area only accentuates the effect."

But it can also be an important time to emphasize men's health and well-being.

"I think it is important to shift the exercise narrative away from a focus on weight loss to a focus on health and well-being gain," says Shelley Keating, an obesity researcher and senior lecturer at the University of Queensland's School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences in Australia.

"For dads, or anyone for that matter, looking to make positive changes, it's important to understand that most health benefits of exercise occur irrespective of weight change," Keating adds. In other words, it's not all about what you see when you step on the scale.

So, what's a dad to do?

Avoiding or unraveling the dad bod takes exercise and healthy diet choices, and before you start, it's a good idea to consult qualified professionals.

"I always like to indicate that this is best supported by a doctor or dietitian to make sure no essential food groups are being cut and micronutrient requirements are being met," Keating says.

Men should also be realistic. "Try and make your healthiest choices and your best choices as often as you can, and at the same time, recognize you may not always be able to do that," says Craig Garfield, a pediatrics professor at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and an attending physician at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Garfield also founded the first public health survey of fathers in the perinatal period. The most important thing is for new parents to take care of themselves, he adds, because that's ultimately best for the baby, too.

Exercise and diet

For most men, an hour or two of strength training a week is enough to push back against the dad bod, Schoenfeld says.



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"The important thing to message to dads ... is that we just need to keep trying to work hard to the best of our abilities to take care of our bodies."

Lee Gettler, anthropologist

Total body exercise: Schoenfeld recommends working all the major muscles of the body in the same workout session, preferably with exercises that involve multiple joints. This includes push-ups, squats, pull-ups, lunges and overhead presses. Perform a minimum of one leg-pressing exercise (e.g., squats), one upper-body-pulling exercise (e.g., pull-up) and one upper-body-pushing exercise (e.g., bench press) per week. You can use machines or free weights. Aim for a minimum of four weekly sets per muscle group a week.

Cardiovascular training: When the goal is getting healthy and losing weight, exercise at or even below the current physical activity guidelines of 150 to 300 minutes per week of moderate intensity exercise or 75 to 150 minutes per week of vigorous-intensity exercise can help shed abdominal fat, Keating says. For weight loss via aerobic exercise alone, more than 60 minutes at least five days a week is recommended.

Time crunch training: When finding time to exercise is a problem, low-volume, high-intensity interval training (HIIT) programs allow a shorter exercise session with the same gain or better. But before starting HIIT, older adults and anyone at risk of cardiovascular disease, including those starting exercise after a period of being inactive, should get medical clearance to do so.

Nutrition: Generally, to lose weight, you should eat approximately 500 to 1,000 calories less than normal per day, Keating says. The diet should focus on whole foods and improving diet quality. As with exercise, the sustainability of the diet is a key for long-term weight-loss success, she says. Improving your diet quality can improve your heart health even in the absence of weight loss.