

Taking a closer look at June's economic picture

Index shown exclusively to USA TODAY examines consumer behavior and forecast. **In Money**

In 'MaXXXine,' Mia Goth revamps horror final girl

"It's fun to be the one holding the gun," she says of character turning trope on its head. **In Life**

Rookie joins veterans on MLB All-Star Game rosters

Pirates' Paul Skenes (left) makes history in his first season. Other selections: Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani (center) and Yankees' Aaron Judge. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

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FROM LEFT: CHARLES LECLAIRE/USA TODAY SPORTS; ED SZCZEPANSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS; BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS



NATO summit looms large for Biden



President Joe Biden will host world leaders this week for a NATO summit as he and his campaign face questions over his ability to win a second term. SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Spotlight will be focused on his fitness, leadership

Joey Garrison and Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden faces a pivotal moment this week as he prepares to host the leaders of more than 31 nations in Washington with a sudden new mission: command the world stage and stabilize a reelection campaign in crisis.

Much was already riding on Biden's performance at the summit marking the 75th anniversary of the NATO alliance. While his election opponent, former President Donald Trump, has ques-

tioned America's role in the organization, Biden has sought to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to NATO.

Yet after Biden's dismal debate performance 11 days ago, he must now allay the fears of worried Democrats openly discussing whether he should drop out of the race or remain their party's presidential nominee. Biden is under immense pressure to calm his critics by demonstrating competence and coherence as he welcomes NATO allies and partners to Washington for the three-day summit and as he tries to prove his case against Trump.

Biden's interactions with his European counterparts will be under especially intense scrutiny after incidents

See NATO SUMMIT, Page 3A

Biden to Democrats: I'm in 'to the end'

Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden told congressional Democrats in a letter Monday that he's not dropping out of the 2024 race.

"I am firmly committed to staying in this race, to running this race to the end, and to beating Donald Trump," Biden wrote.

Biden's campaign released the letter as lawmakers returned to Washington from recess. An increasing number

See BIDEN, Page 3A

DOJ sets target on corrupt landlords

Fines pay those sexually harassed, intimidated

Michael Loria
USA TODAY

An Ohio woman finds her locks changed after she refuses her landlord's demands for sex. A Colorado family finds the new landlord gropes the children. Paying rent for a Georgia woman becomes a chance for the landlord to forcibly kiss her.

Such instances of sexual harassment are among many transgressions the Department of Justice cited in recent cases against landlords as part of its Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative, a program that prosecutors tout as a groundbreaking program that's nabbed \$17 million in funds in dozens of cases; the money is then paid to victims.

But experts and federal officials say the program, begun in 2017, is barely scraping the surface of a deeply entrenched problem that the law has only just begun to address.

"That's only a tiny drop in the bucket," said University of Missouri School of Law professor Rigel C. Oliveri of the federal government's settlements. "That's a vanishingly tiny number of cases where the overall number has to be so many orders of magnitude greater."

Most cases wind up as lawsuits because of the legal mechanics of the Fair Housing Act, Oliveri said, though a few egregious cases have gone to trial.

Victims tend to be low-income women renting from private landlords operating free of oversight, according to experts.

Meanwhile, federal officials say the only way to discover unscrupulous landlords is for tenants to come forward.

The National Fair Housing Alliance documented 2,490 complaints based on sex in 2022, according to its most recent report, the highest number since the group of over 200 nationwide housing organizations and civil rights watchdogs began tracking the issue in 2005. The complaints also included discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Tenants can report landlords to federal officials by calling 1-800-669-9777

See LANDLORDS, Page 2A



Concepcion Martinez, 60, rakes up in front of a trailer home destroyed in Hurricane Beryl as Loel Lemus, 37, uses a machete to chop broken tree limbs Monday in Midfield, Texas. ANGELA PIAZZA/USA TODAY NETWORK

Deadly Beryl leaves 2M without power

Category 1 hurricane floods Texas coast with storm surge

Doyle Rice, Thao Nguyen, Cheryl McCloud and Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

Beryl made landfall along the Texas coast as a Category 1 storm early Monday, unleashing a barrage of severe weather as it moved inland before weakening into a tropical storm still capable of widespread damage.

Through the morning much of eastern Texas was inundated with "life-threatening storm surge," torrential rain and powerful wind gusts up to 97 mph. The dangerous conditions prompted rescue operations, disrupted hundreds of flights, left more than 2 million people without power and caused at least two deaths.

Beryl had sustained winds of over 80 mph as it made landfall around 4 a.m. near Matagorda, a coastal community between Corpus Christi and Galveston, according to the National Hurricane Center. More than five hours later, it weakened to a tropical storm, continuing to push inland with sustained winds at 70 mph, uprooting trees and knocking over power poles.

In a suburban part of Harris County, just northeast of Houston, a man was killed when a tree fell on his home and

See BERYL, Page 4A



A police officer fights fierce winds from Beryl as he searches Monday for occupants of an overturned tractor-trailer in Freeport, Texas. ADREES LATIF/REUTERS



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Motorcyclist dies as Death Valley heat soars

Natalie Neysa Alund

USA TODAY

Authorities are investigating after they said a person on a motorcycle died of heat exposure at Death Valley National Park over the weekend as temperatures broke a record high in the region.

National Park Service Rangers reported the death took place near Badwater Basin on Saturday, when the temperature at Death Valley reached a record 128 degrees. The salt flats in Inyo County are not far from the California-Nevada state line, about 130 miles west of Las Vegas by motor vehicle.

The rider was with a group of six motorcyclists traveling through the park, rangers announced in a Monday news release. Another one of the riders, officials reported, was taken to a hospital in Las Vegas to be treated for severe heat illness.

The four others were treated in the national park and released.

A medical examiner will determine the victim's cause and manner of death.

Death Valley breaks record high of 128 degrees on July 6

Preliminary data recorded 128 de-



Badwater Basin is seen from Dante's View overlook at Death Valley National Park in California, where park rangers are investigating after a motorcyclist died of heat exposure on Saturday as temperatures broke a record high in the region.

JILL CASSIDY/USA TODAY NETWORK

grees as the high temperature on Saturday, according to the park statement, beating the official daily record in Death Valley of 127 degrees, recorded in 2007.

"Due to the high temperatures, emergency medical flight helicopters were unable to respond, as they cannot generally fly safely over 120 degrees," the

statement continues.

"Heat illness and injury are cumulative and can build over the course of a day or days," park rangers said. "Besides not being able to cool down while riding due to high ambient air temperatures, experiencing Death Valley by motorcycle when it is this hot is further challenged by the necessary heavy safety

gear worn to reduce injuries during an accident."

Park officials warn visitors about extreme heat

Park officials on Monday continued to warn visitors about the danger of spending long periods of time outside during extreme heat.

"High heat like this can pose real threats to your health," said Superintendent Mike Reynolds. "While this is a very exciting time to experience potential world record setting temperatures in Death Valley, we encourage visitors to choose their activities carefully, avoiding prolonged periods of time outside of an air-conditioned vehicle or building when temperatures are this high."

Officials also recommended park visitors avoid hiking, especially at lower elevations.

Tips to avoid heat exposure include:

- Stay out of the sun when possible.
- Seek shade or air-conditioning during the hottest part of the day.
- Wear loose fitting lightweight clothing, sunscreen, a hat or carry a sun umbrella.
- Stay hydrated and eat salty snacks.

Landlords

Continued from Page 1A

or at the Housing and Urban Development website.

Quid pro quo in Ohio targets low-income women

The case of the Ohio landlord, which was settled in June, bears the hallmarks of a typical landlord lawsuit: A private operator preys on low-income women by attempting to extort them for sex and harassing them.

Between 2009 and 2020, Joseph Pedaline, a landlord in the Rust Belt city of Youngstown, offered to excuse rent in exchange for sex, forcibly touched women on the breasts and buttocks and evicted tenants who refused him, according to filings in the Northern District of Ohio.

Pedaleine changed the locks on one woman who refused his quid pro quo offers; he sued to evict another tenant for not paying her water bill — which he was supposed to cover — after she told him to quit making sexual comments about her; and he locked another woman inside an apartment and groped her, the lawsuit says.

He settled the DOJ's lawsuit and agreed to pay \$189,000 to the victims and a \$10,000 civil penalty to the federal government, according to the consent order. Pedaline must also attempt to repair the credit of the victims and quit managing rental properties.

The Department of Justice's sexual harassment initiative

The Ohio case is among the latest successes of the DOJ's Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative.

The initiative, launched in October 2017, is overseen by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and aims to enforce prohibitions against discrimination based on sex in the Fair Housing Act. It addresses sexual harassment in any way related to housing, from property maintenance workers or security guards making lewd comments to loan officers sexually extorting potential homebuyers.

Federal officials announced the program amid the height of the #MeToo movement and on the heels of a string of lawsuits against housing providers for sexual harassment, including subjecting female tenants to unwanted touching, sexual comments and indecent exposure.

"We are working to hold perpetrators of sexual harassment accountable for the ways in which they exploit their power and position to the detriment of women and families merely seeking access to housing opportunity," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights



Housing activists gather to protest alleged tenant harassment by a landlord and call for cancellation of rent in the Crown Heights neighborhood on July 31, 2020, in New York City. Millions of Americans feel behind on rent payments during the COVID-19 pandemic. SCOTT HEINS/GETTY IMAGES

Division in response to a request for comment. "Far too often, the most vulnerable among us are preyed upon and forced to endure illegal and dehumanizing conduct in order to keep a roof over their head."

Since its debut, Justice officials have filed 42 lawsuits, settled 32, won two favorable verdicts at trial and obtained \$17.2 million in monetary damages for over 400 victims, according to senior DOJ communications adviser Aryele N. Bradford.

Ohio Landlord calls allegations against him 'hearsay'

Pedaleine, a Youngstown native who began renting properties in the late '80s, called sexual harassment a serious issue — but he says he didn't do it.

"This whole MeToo thing is out of control," Pedaline told USA TODAY. "It started out as a good thing, but now it's gotten out of control."

Of about a dozen allegations against him, the 72-year-old said only one was based on a police report.

"They had one police report on all of them, and this woman was totally insane. The rest are just hearsay," he said. "It would be different if there were 12 police reports."

Pedaleine said the woman called the police after misconstruing his words after he told the woman he felt was being difficult to "buy a bottle of wine and learn how to relax."

Nearly 3,000 tenants cycled through the former landlord's buildings, Pedaline said, adding the ones accusing him were just looking for money.

He said he decided to settle because he couldn't afford to fight the federal lawsuit. The victims are due to receive around \$15,000 from Pedaline.

"Even though I got screwed, I just want to move on and be done with it," he

said. "Don't ever go into a room with a woman alone; you're asking for trouble."

Colorado landlord targets children

Matt Kirsch, the acting attorney general in Colorado who brought the case against the landlord accused of groping her tenants' children, called arguments like Pedaline's specious.

"We would dispute the idea that someone who has settled with us didn't have a good reason to settle with us," Kirsch said. "We don't pursue civil remedies unless we believe that they're justified by the facts that we developed during the course of the investigation. And we don't pursue them unless we believe that ultimately we're going to be able to prevail if the matter goes to trial."

The Colorado case concerns Kathryn Butters, a landlord in Eagle County who rented out the house next door to hers to a family that was "desperate" to find housing and had nowhere else to go," according to court filings.

Butters would show up and make sexual comments to the family's pre-teen boys; she once entered the house uninvited and looked in on the older boy in the shower and groped the younger one; and she made unwanted sexual comments about the parents, the lawsuit says.

The woman agreed to pay the family \$300,000, according to the consent order, which would be used to set up trust funds for the children.

The family declined to comment, citing fears of violating the consent order.

Government prosecution of landlords is dependent on tenants reporting, said Kirsch, who urged renters to reach out to local federal authorities at the Justice Department or Housing and Urban Development.

The Colorado family filed their complaint after going to a local housing au-

thority for help finding a new place to live, Justice officials said.

Creating more housing could be a solution to landlord problems

Oliveri, the Missouri law professor, described the cases of sexual harassment in housing as one of the last spaces where the government was still figuring out how to go after bad actors.

The former Justice Department attorney has been following the issue for nearly 25 years and said rooting out sexual harassment in housing has come as an afterthought to stopping it in the workplace.

The difference, she said, is that in the workplace, there's a lot more oversight.

"You have an HR department, you have co-workers but for many of the women in these situations, there's nowhere to go except the person who holds the keys to your apartment," Oliveri said.

Oliveri has found in her studies of sexual harassment in housing that landlords overwhelmingly pick on low-income women in private rental housing who are afraid of complaining for fear of becoming homeless.

The women who do call the cops also often find their reports go nowhere.

What's needed, according to Oliveri, is training for police to teach them to recognize the issue as criminal behavior.

"It's not a landlord-tenant dispute; it's sexual assault; it's sexual battery; it's indecent exposure," she said. "It's things that if a stranger did to a stranger, it would definitely merit a law enforcement response."

The researcher sees landlord oversight programs and training police as temporary measures for what really needs to be done: creating more housing.

"This is something that happens when housing is scarce and options are few," she said. "If you look for it, you will find it."

More landlord cases across US

● Prosecutors settled a case in April against Iraj Shambayati, a longtime Savannah, Georgia, property manager. Federal court filings had alleged instances of sexual harassment; he was ordered to pay \$590,000 to the victims.

● The Justice Department filed a lawsuit against Ariel Solis Veleta, a property manager in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in March for sexually harassing tenants. An attorney for Veleta did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

● In May, prosecutors in Massachusetts won a favorable verdict against Peter McCarthy, the operator of 14 sober homes. The 51-year-old was found guilty of sexual harassment and retaliation. He was ordered to pay \$3.8 million in damages to seven victims.

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Whitmer not eager to mull Biden's future

Michigan governor would rather discuss her book



Susan Page
Washington Bureau Chief
USA TODAY

Gretchen Whitmer has written a breezy account of her Midwestern upbringing and the plainspoken approach to the politics it forged – a book timed to come out just before the Democratic National Convention would unanimously renominate Joe Biden in a campaign that would put her home state, Michigan, at center stage.

Then Biden's disastrous debate happened.

In the firestorm that followed, the two-term governor has found herself near the top of the Frequently Mentioned Replacements should the 81-year-old president heed calls to step back from the race just a month before Democrats convene in Chicago.

This is not the topic Whitmer, 52, is eager to discuss. She would prefer to talk about her book, "True Gretch: What I've Learned About Life, Leadership, and Everything in Between," being published Tuesday by Simon & Schuster. The biggest revelation in its 159 pages is the disclosure that she had a shark tattooed on her right shoulder after the last Democratic convention. (It's a long story.)

That said, the book also lists political lessons she has learned, and some of them seem to apply to the Democrats' dilemma now. "Own your screwups," for one. For another: "Run toward the fire."

In an interview last week with USA TODAY on the video platform Google Meet, Whitmer was loyal to Biden but not oblivious to their party's unprecedented political situation and its perils – not always an easy line to walk. As one of the national co-chairs of the campaign, she is a "sounding board more than anything," she said. "But I think there's a lot of assessment that's happening right now, I would assume."

Would it be good for the nation if Biden decided not to run?

"You know what? I'm not going to entertain any conversation along that line," she replied. "The president is in this race, he is running, and he's got my unequivocal support."

Does she believe electing Donald Trump in November would imperil democracy? "I am very concerned about what a second Trump term might look like just based on the things that he himself has said about what he would do with that kind of power."

Does that raise the stakes for the conversation Democrats are having now?

"I think so," she said. "Yeah."

A warning about Michigan, again

Twenty-four hours after the CNN debate in Atlanta, Biden's campaign chair, Jen O'Malley Dillon, called her, Whitmer said – part of the campaign's outreach to reassure key Democrats. The president's struggle to speak coherently and effectively challenge Trump had shaken his own supporters.

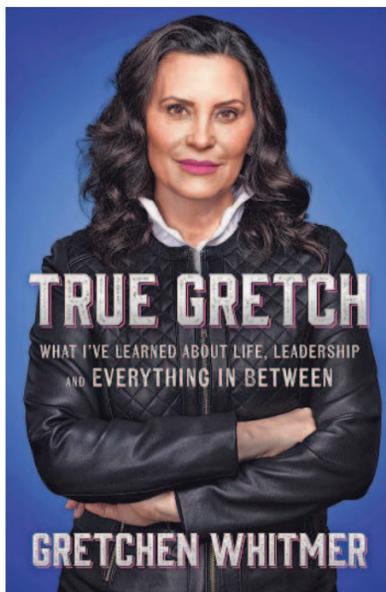
Whitmer said she gave the same warnings she had delivered before about Biden's challenges in winning Michigan, part of the so-called Blue Wall in the upper Midwest crucial to Democratic prospects.

"The nature of our conversation was me for a thousandth time reiterating Michigan's just tough terrain," she said. "It is. I've said it a million times. I'm going to say it a million more times between now and the election."

She disputed a report in Politico that she had warned O'Malley Dillon the state was no longer winnable for Biden after the debate. "It's precarious, but it can be done," she said. Or that she had placed the call herself to reassure the campaign that she wasn't encouraging the suggestion among some that she replace the president on the ticket. Speculation on possible alternatives has centered on Vice President Kamala Harris, California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Whitmer.

Asked if she had disavowed the "draft Whitmer" efforts, Whitmer said: "I may have made some remark about all these distractions. We can't get distracted, so I wouldn't be surprised if I said that, but I don't recall it specifically."

The talk makes her "uncomfortable,"



"True Gretch," by Gretchen Whitmer
PROVIDED BY SIMON AND SCHUSTER

she said. "I feel like it actually undermines the work that I'm putting in on behalf of the administration."

Whitmer, who is term-limited from running for governor again when her tenure ends in January 2027, has long dismissed out-of-hand questions about whether she might run for president one day. She says she has no plans for a White House bid, now or later. "I don't foresee that," she told the Detroit Free Press, part of the USA TODAY Network, two years ago.

Although, to be precise, "no plans" is not exactly a Shermanesque declaration of non-interest.

'That woman from Michigan' known for her bluntness, humor

Gretchen Esther Whitmer is known for her bluntness, humor and leather jackets. She's a Gen Xer, elected to the Michigan House of Representatives at 31, then to the state Senate, then to the governorship in 2018. She solidified her status as a rising Democratic star when she not only was reelected in 2022 but also led the state's Democrats to flip control of the House and Senate.

During her first term, she took charge of Michigan's aggressive and controversial efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic. Her willingness to confront Trump, then the president, raised her national profile. "That woman from Michigan," he called her, a disparagement she made her signature.

The COVID-19 measures also led to a more serious threat.

In 2020, a militia group that called themselves the Wolverine Watchmen orchestrated a plot to kidnap and kill Whitmer in retaliation for the lockdowns and other steps she had ordered during the pandemic. In all, 14 men were charged in federal or state court. Nine were convicted; five were acquitted.

The FBI disrupted the plot, but the experience left scars.

"I don't walk into any grouping of people without really being aware of where my (security) detail is, looking at the crowd to see is there anything or anyone that I should take note of or where the exits are," she said. "And so that has changed me. And I think it's sad because I am more reserved than I was."

She's not sure whether that will ever change. "Maybe when I'm not in the public eye, it'll recede," she said. "But I don't know."

A shark on her shoulder

What about that shark tattoo?

Just before she was to deliver a virtual speech to the Democratic convention in 2020, Whitmer repeated a comedian's punchline, meant to be a statement of empowerment for women. "It's Shark Week," she declared, then mouthed an obscenity. The clip was leaked and went viral.

"For that to be the thing that came out" from the speech, "I was like, 'Oh, God, what did I do?'" she said. But supporters began wearing T-shirts with the phrase, and the Discovery Channel sent her a "Shark Week care package," which she described as "lovely."

Now the phrase has become a sort of personal slogan that reminds her to "stay loose, be who you are, show up as you are," she said. "And putting the shark on my shoulder felt like just a little extra support."

For whatever comes next.

NATO summit

Continued from Page 1A

in which he has mixed up the names of foreign leaders. More recently, he struggled to complete thoughts and finish sentences during his debate against Trump in late June, setting off a panic among Democrats that has not subsided.

Visiting leaders will be looking for similar reassurances about his ability to beat Trump. European officials have expressed private concern about how Trump would approach the alliance if he returns. Biden has also claimed that at earlier summits, heads of state have pulled him aside to say "You can't let him win."

"The gravity of this moment for Biden is larger than anticipated," said Rachel Rizzo, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Europe Center. "And it just, I think, puts extra pressure on him to deliver in a way that reassures allies and reassures the American people that he is fit and ready to do this job, not just until the end of his presidency but potentially for another four years."

Lawmakers back on Capitol Hill

A growing handful of elected Democrats and party heavyweights have said Biden should step aside. The list could expand as lawmakers return to Capitol Hill this week after an extended holiday recess.

Biden is likely to be subjected himself to questions from reporters about whether he will quit the race when he holds a news conference Thursday at the end of the NATO summit – his first since the disastrous confrontation with Trump.

"This is absolutely critical," said Todd Belt, professor and political manage-

ment program director at George Washington University. "Not only is the microscope going to be on Biden, but the job of commander-in-chief is to be able to work together with our allies. And the critical job of keeping the nation secure is one of the reasons we want someone who is cognitively and physically up to the job."

Closed-door meetings

Biden will spend much of his time at the summit in group discussions about weighty topics from military and financial support for Ukraine in its costly battle against Russia to the longer-term goals of the defensive alliance that was created after World War II.

His schedule includes a one-on-one meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose country sought – but has not received – a formal invitation to join NATO. He also will come face-to-face with newly appointed British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who took power last week after the Labour Party won a landslide election.

The president and first lady Jill Biden will open the summit Tuesday evening at a commemorative event at Mellon Auditorium, where the North Atlantic Treaty establishing NATO was signed on April 4, 1949. Biden will address NATO allies publicly Wednesday afternoon and hold a dinner that night for leaders and their spouses. His agenda Thursday includes a gathering of the NATO-Ukraine Council and an event with nearly two dozen nations that have signed individual security agreements with Ukraine. He'll cap the summit off with his news conference.

"Typically, though, most of these meetings happen behind closed doors," said Steven Fish, a Berkeley political scientist and author of "Comeback: Routing Trumpism, Reclaiming the Nation, and Restoring Democracy's Edge."

mighty" telling him to quit for him to leave the race.

Since the debate fiasco, in which he froze and trailed off at times, he has consistently said that he would continue in the race.

In the letter Monday, Biden said he'd had "extensive" conversations with Democrats since then and understood their "good-faith fears and worries" about the stakes of the election. "I'm not blind to them," Biden said.

That means Biden's public remarks "for the most part can be scripted," he said. "So this isn't the kind of event where you would expect him to falter. It's not like a debate or an open-ended interview."

His political crisis could draw more attention than his larger geopolitical message this week as foreign officials field inquiries about Biden's age.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said last month before Biden's debate that the president is "someone who is very clear, who knows exactly what he is doing and who is one of the most experienced politicians in the world."

But Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski took a swipe at Biden after the debate ended, writing on X, formerly Twitter: "Marcus Aurelius was a great emperor but he screwed up his succession by passing the baton to his feckless son Commodus (He, from the Gladiator). Whose disastrous rule started Rome's decline."

"It's important to manage one's ride into the sunset," Sikorski wrote.

U.S. officials argued ahead of the summit that foreign leaders know Biden and what he is capable of.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said at a briefing that "you're going to see the president being a leader" as he brings NATO allies together for the summit. "Look, foreign leaders have seen the president close-up and personally for the past three years. And I think that's important to know. They know who they are dealing with and how effective he has been."

A defiant Biden digs in

In his highly anticipated interview Friday with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos, Biden dug in amid unrest from Democrats after his debate debacle. He refused to acknowledge Democratic detractors who want him to drop

But he asserted, as he did on Friday, "I wouldn't be running again if I did not absolutely believe I was the best person to beat Donald Trump in 2024."

Democrats who have publicly urged the president to step aside include Reps. Lloyd Doggett, of Texas; Seth Moulton, of Massachusetts; Mike Quigley, of Illinois; Angie Craig, of Minnesota; and Raúl Grijalva, of Arizona. Craig said Saturday that she does not believe Biden can effectively campaign and

out of the race, dismissed concerns about his mental fitness and rejected the validity of polls that show him losing to Trump.

When asked about the possibility of withdrawing, he responded: "Well, if the Lord Almighty comes down and tells me to do that, I might do that." He insisted that most Democrats want him to remain their nominee even as five House Democrats publicly called for his exit, and Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., was reportedly assembling Senate Democrats to ask that Biden drop out.

If Democrats wanted to hear a more conciliatory president – who recognizes the fallout from his debate performance – they did not get it from Biden.

"I don't think he did himself any favors," Belt said. "He came off as really headheated."

David Axelrod, a former adviser to President Barack Obama, said Biden is "dangerously out of touch with the concerns people have about his capacities moving forward and his standing in this race."

"Four years ago at this time, he was 10 points ahead of Trump. Today, he is six points behind," Axelrod posted on X after Biden's interview.

Biden has used appearances at international events to make a forceful case for American democracy, a key theme of his reelection campaign. Without explicitly mentioning Trump, he said last month that World War II veterans were summoning Americans "to stand up to aggression abroad and at home."

"This will be a good chance for him possibly to recover some of the authority that he has at home, or that he had more of at home, because this is a forum in which he really shines," Fish said.

But, he said, "I don't think there's going to be a lot of opportunities at the summit for him to dig himself out of the hole that he seems to have fallen into, especially after the debate."

beat his Republican rival.

Biden argued in his letter that further discussion about his quitting the ticket only helps Trump. It is time for the party to come together and move forward in unison, he said as he tried once more to put the conversation to rest.

"The question of how to move forward has been well-aired for over a week now. And it's time for it to end," he said. "We have one job. And that is to beat Donald Trump."

Biden

Continued from Page 1A

of Democrats have called on him to step aside, reportedly including the top ranking Democrats on four House committees on an evening call Sunday.

Biden said Friday in an interview with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos that it would take the "Lord Al-

Study finds a clear winner for weight loss

Mounjaro tops Ozempic in data from 18K patients

Karen Weintraub
USA TODAY

People lost substantially more weight when they took Eli Lilly's diabetes drug Mounjaro than Novo Nordisk's Ozempic, with roughly the same side effects, drop-out rate and benefit for diabetes, according to the first major head-to-head study.

Both drugs are in the same class, known as GLP-1s, but Lilly's drug, tirzepatide, sold under the brand names Mounjaro for diabetes and Zepbound for weight loss, includes a second action that seems to boost its effectiveness. Separate studies had suggested tirzepatide led to more weight loss than semaglutide, which Novo Nordisk sells as Ozempic, for diabetes and, Wegovy, at a higher dose, for weight loss.

The new study, published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine, compared data on more than 18,000 patients who began taking one of the two medications between May 2022 and September 2023. The study relied on electronic health records from Truveta, a collective of health systems across the country with access to data on more than 100 million patients.

At the time, tirzepatide hadn't yet been approved for weight loss, just diabetes, so the study looked only at people who had prescriptions for the two drugs for type 2 diabetes, although not everyone had the disease.

By November of last year, more than half of the people on both medications — 56% of those taking tirzepatide and 53% of those taking semaglutide — had stopped taking them. Although the study didn't confirm a reason, many have reported side effects from the drugs, typically gastrointestinal, including vomiting and nausea.

The study didn't report whether the people who dropped out regained any weight they lost. Research has shown that so-called yo-yo dieting can cause more health problems than simply carrying extra pounds.

But GLP-1s are by far the most effective and safest class of weight loss drugs ever developed. More than 70% of Americans meet the medical definition for being overweight and 40% for obesity. "As we've tracked GLP-1 use over the last couple of years, we've just seen these dramatic increases of use," said Tricia Rodriguez, who led the study for Truveta Research, and both drugs are "really revolutionizing the treatment of both diabetes and obesity."

Clear winner? Not so fast, Novo says

Novo Nordisk disputed the study's conclusion.

"The ideal way to compare two treatments is an adequately powered head-to-head randomized clinical trial (RCT) in obesity. Currently, no head-to-head trials have been completed comparing tirzepatide and semaglutide 2.4 mg," the company said in a statement sent by Allison Schneider, the company's director of media relations and issues management.

The 2.4 mg dosage is the highest of semaglutide typically used for weight loss. The highest dose used to address



Ozempic came in second in a head-to-head study of weight-loss drugs. But Novo Nordisk, which supplies Ozempic, disputed the study's conclusion.

JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY NETWORK



A box of Mounjaro, a tirzepatide injection drug used for treating type 2 diabetes and made by Lilly, is seen at Rock Canyon Pharmacy in Provo, Utah, on March 29, 2023. GEORGE FREY/REUTERS

diabetes is lower, so the dosage used by people in the study, which focused on people diagnosed with diabetes, would have been below the optimal dose for weight loss.

For tirzepatide, the highest dosage is the same, whether for weight loss or diabetes.

Specific takeaways from the study

People taking tirzepatide were nearly twice as likely to lose 5% of their body weight as those taking semaglutide; 2.5 times as likely to lose 10% of their body weight; and more than three times as likely to lose 15% of their body weight, the study showed.

After three months on each drug, those taking tirzepatide had lost an average of about 6%, while those taking semaglutide had lost just under 4%. At six months, those on tirzepatide had lost 10%, while those on semaglutide had lost 6%. And at a year, those on tirzepatide had lost 15% of their body weight, compared with 8% for those on semaglutide.

As has been found in other studies, people with diabetes lost less weight on the medications than people who had obesity but not diabetes.

Among the 18,386 people studied, 70% were female, 77% were white, 11%

were Black and just over half had type 2 diabetes. Their average body-mass index was 39 and their average age was 52. More than 1 in 5 also had been diagnosed with depression.

Obesity, diabetes and depression often overlap, in part because they are all so common, in part because medications for mental health conditions are associated with weight gain and diabetes onset, and in part because they contribute to one another, said Dr. Katherine Saunders, an obesity medicine expert at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York. "Obesity and diabetes can worsen depression, and depression can worsen obesity and diabetes," she said.

Why they're dropping out

Many patients stop taking these extremely effective medications because of side effects and trouble accessing them, say doctors who prescribe them.

The side effects can typically be controlled with adequate medical oversight and proper ramping up of the medication, experts say.

"Patients require more than a prescription for a GLP-1 medication in the last few minutes of a busy appointment," said Saunders, also co-founder of Intellihealth, which provides medical obesity treatment.

Personalized care, time and "tons of education and support" are needed to help people start and stick to these medications, she said.

Both drugs are meant to be taken in steps, starting at a low dose and advancing slowly to higher doses. If a patient cannot tolerate a higher dose, they are typically left at a lower one indefinitely or until side effects lessen, said Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford, an obesity medicine specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Cody Stanford said her only patients who discontinue a GLP-1 for medical reasons are the 1 in 1,000 or so who develop pancreatitis, a painful inflammation of the pancreas, and the 15% or so who don't see any substantial weight loss after a significant period of time.

For those people, Cody Stanford said, she often has to convince them the drug others describe as a "miracle" simply isn't going to work for them.

"This isn't a 'try harder' situation," she said. "If it works, it works."

Cost and access problems

A much more common reason for discontinuing a GLP-1, Cody Stanford said, is an inability to get access to a reliable and consistent supply.

Both drugs have been hard to access because of supply constraints.

Novo Nordisk says it has provided Wegovy to more than 1 million Americans since 2021, and the highest dose strengths of 1.7 mg and 2.4 mg are now fully available, "which aligns to our goal of doing our best to ensure existing patients have continuity of care as they dose escalate per the label," according to a company statement.

"At this time, we can't speculate when Wegovy will become fully available at all dose strengths but we are doing everything we can to build manufacturing capacity and supply to meet patient needs," the statement said.

Supply updates are available at WegovySupply.com.

Lilly, which declined to comment and said it was not involved in the new research, has struggled to keep up with demand for tirzepatide, particularly since it was approved for weight loss under the brand name Zepbound.

For her patients, Fatima Cody Stanford said she now has been able to access Novo's semaglutide but not Lilly's tirzepatide.

Both drugs cost about \$1,000 a month for the highest dose, and Wegovy, Novo Nordisk's semaglutide formulation for weight loss, costs more than Ozempic, its diabetes drug, because the highest dose is higher.

Cody Stanford said the high price and access problems mean people who need the medications most have the hardest time getting them.

Most of the study participants were middle-class white women — and those prescribed tirzepatide were even more likely to be white and female, Rodriguez said. There's a difference between the patients on tirzepatide and those on semaglutide, and some patients can't access either one, she said.

Black, Hispanic and Native women have the highest rates of obesity and diabetes but typically don't get coverage for GLP-1s. "There's a mismatch in who gets coverage with these more novel therapies and who doesn't," Cody Stanford said.

Beryl

Continued from Page 1A

trapped him under debris, according to Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, who called the incident tragic in an X post. Gonzalez later posted on X that a 74-year-old woman in northern Harris County was also killed when a tree fell onto a house.

Tornado warnings activated when Beryl made landfall remained in place across eastern Texas as weather officials warned of possible twisters across Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Across eastern Texas, heavy rain and the ensuing flooding triggered water rescues as people became trapped in their home and vehicles.

In Houston, the National Weather Service office said 3 to 6 inches of rain had caused flash flooding across parts of the city. An additional 2 to 4 inches of rain was expected, the weather service said, urging drivers to avoid flooded roads.

The storm prompted closures or vessel traffic restrictions at multiple ports in cities from Houston to Corpus Christi.

At Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport, nearly 1,000 arriving and department flights were canceled, according to FlightAware. William P. Hobby Airport, a smaller airport in Houston, had more than 225 cancellations,

FlightAware said.

Houston is a major hub for United Airlines, which is suffering the worst of the operational impacts from the storm so far. About 14% of United's flights, around 400 departures, were canceled early Monday.

Beryl knocked out power for more than 2.1 million customers in eastern Texas, according to the power company CenterPoint Energy, which listed 4,810 active outages.

According to PowerOutage.us, an outage tracker, more than 2.5 million homes and businesses across Texas were without power.

Last week, Beryl carved a path of destruction across the Caribbean — leaving at least 11 people dead and destroying or severely damaging infrastructure on several islands. Beryl, which at one point strengthened into the earliest Category 5 hurricane on record, last made landfall on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Friday morning. The storm then weakened into a tropical storm and then strengthened back into a hurricane before making landfall in Texas.

Beryl is expected to weaken into a tropical depression as it moves farther inland. It is projected to continue heading north across the Mississippi Valley and then the Ohio Valley, where it's expected to dissipate Tuesday and Wednesday.

Contributing: Jorge L. Ortiz, Dinah Voyles Pulver, USA TODAY; Reuters



Jose Amador stacks broken tree limbs as Concepcion Martinez rakes up smaller branches in Midfield, Texas, after Beryl made landfall early Monday as a Category 1 hurricane. ANGELA PIAZZA/USA TODAY NETWORK

Israeli tank columns advance on Gaza City

Civilians forced from homes seek shelter

Nidal al-Mughrabi
Reuters

CAIRO — Israeli forces bombarded Gaza City early on Monday and columns of tanks advanced into the heart of the city from different directions in what residents said was one of the heaviest attacks in the Palestinian territory since the start of the war.

The Gaza Civil Emergency Service said it believed dozens of people were killed but emergency teams were unable to reach them because of ongoing offensives in Daraj and Tuffah in the east and Tel Al-Hawa, Sabra and Rimal farther west.

Residents said neighborhoods in Gaza City, which lies in the north of the Gaza Strip, had been bombed throughout the night into the early morning hours. Several multifloor buildings have been destroyed, they added.

One Israeli tank thrust pushed people towards the western road near the Mediterranean Sea, residents said.

“The enemy is behind us and the sea is in front of us, where we will we go?” one Gaza City resident, who identified himself as Abdel-Ghani, told Reuters.

“Tank shells and missiles from the planes are falling on the roads and houses like hell from a volcano. People are running in all directions and no one knows where to go,” he said via a chat app.

The Israeli military said in a statement it was mounting an operation against militant infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, and that it had taken out of action more than 30 fighters.

The new Israeli offensive comes as Egypt, Qatar and the U.S. stepped up efforts to mediate a cease-fire agreement between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas as the Gaza war entered its 10th month.

The war was triggered Oct. 7 when fighters led by Hamas, which controlled Gaza, attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostages, according to Israeli figures.

More than 38,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli military offen-



Israeli tanks operate next to destroyed buildings during a ground operation in the southern Gaza Strip, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, on July 3. OHAD ZWIGENBERG/VIA REUTERS

sive since then, according to Gaza health officials.

Gaza residents said tanks advanced from at least three directions Monday and reached the heart of Gaza City, backed by heavy Israeli fire from the air and ground. That forced thousands of people out of their homes to look for safer shelter, which for many was impossible to find, and some slept on the roadside.

Medics at the Al-Ahli Arab Baptist Hospital in Gaza City had to evacuate patients to the already crowded and under-equipped Indonesian Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, Palestinian health officials said. An Israeli strike in the eastern suburb of Shejaia killed four Palestinians, medics said.

Israel’s military said it had warned civilians about its operations and it said a route would be opened so civilians could evacuate from affected areas. It

said fighters with Hamas, and allied group Islamic Jihad, were hiding behind civilian infrastructure to attack Israeli forces.

The Palestinian Fatah Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades said they fired mortar bombs against Israeli forces during the raid in southwest Gaza City.

Cease-fire talks continue

Hopes among Gaza residents of a pause in the fighting had revived after Hamas accepted a key part of a U.S. cease-fire proposal, prompting an official in the Israeli negotiating team to say there was a real chance of a deal.

Hamas has dropped a demand that Israel first commit to a permanent cease-fire before it would sign an agreement. Instead, the militant group said it would allow negotiations to achieve that throughout the six-week first

phase, a Hamas source told Reuters on Saturday.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted the deal must not prevent Israel from resuming fighting until its war objectives are met. Those goals were defined at the start of the war as dismantling Hamas’ military and governing capabilities, as well as returning Israeli hostages.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said on Monday it would be a huge mistake to stop the Israeli offensive now.

Smotrich, who heads a pro-settler party which is part of Netanyahu’s governing coalition, wrote on social media platform X: “Hamas is collapsing and begging for a ceasefire. This is the time to squeeze the neck until we crush and break the enemy. To stop now, just before the end, and let him recover and fight us again, is a senseless folly.”

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Will This Strange Antarctic Squid Solve America’s Memory Crisis?

New Deep Sea Discovery Proven to Be The #1 Natural Enhancer of Memory and Focus

Half a mile beneath the icy waters off the coast of Argentina lives one of the most remarkable creatures in the world.

Fully grown, they’re less than 2 feet long and weigh under 10 pounds...

But despite their small size, this strange little squid can have a bigger positive impact on your brain health than any other species on the planet.

They are the single richest source of a vital “brain food” that 250 million Americans are starving for, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal.

It’s a safe, natural compound called DHA — one of the building blocks of your brain. It helps children grow their brains significantly bigger during development. And in adults, it protects brain cells from dying as they get older.

Because DHA is so important, lacking enough of it is not only dangerous to your overall health but could be directly related to your brain shrinking with age.

With more than 16 million Americans suffering from age-associated cognitive impairment, it’s clear to a top US doctor that’s where the problem lies.

Regenerative medicine specialist Dr. Al Sears, says thankfully, “there’s still hope for seniors. Getting more of this vital brain food can make a life changing difference for your mental clarity, focus, and memory.”

Dr. Sears, a highly-acclaimed, board-certified doctor— who has published more than 500 studies and written 4 bestselling books — says we should be able to get enough DHA in our diets... but we don’t anymore.

“For thousands of years, fish were a great natural source of DHA. But due to industrial fish farming practices, the fish we eat and the fish oils you see at the store are no longer as nutrient-dense as they once were,” he explains.

DHA is backed by hundreds of studies for supporting razor sharp focus, extraordinary mental clarity, and a lightning quick memory... especially in seniors.

So, if you’re struggling with focus, mental clarity, or memory as you get older...

Dr. Sears recommends a different approach.

THE SECRET TO A LASTING MEMORY

Research has shown that our paleo ancestors were able to grow bigger and smarter brains by eating foods rich in one ingredient — DHA.

“Our hippocampus thrives off DHA and grows because of it,” explains Dr. Sears. “Without DHA, our brains would shrink, and our memories would quickly fade.”

A groundbreaking study from the University of Alberta confirmed this. Animals given a diet rich in DHA saw a 29% boost in their hippocampus — the part of the brain responsible for learning and memory. As a result, these animals became smarter.

Another study on more than 1,500 seniors found that those whose brains were deficient in DHA had significantly smaller brains — a characteristic of accelerated aging and weakened memory.

PEOPLE’S BRAINS ARE SHRINKING AND THEY DON’T EVEN KNOW IT

Dr. Sears uncovered that sometime during the 1990s, fish farmers stopped giving their animals a natural, DHA-rich diet and began feeding them a diet that was 70% vegetarian.

“It became expensive for farmers to feed fish what they’d eat in the wild,” explains Dr. Sears. “But in order to produce DHA, fish need to eat a natural, marine diet, like the one they’d eat in the wild.”

“Since fish farmers are depriving these animals of their natural diet, DHA is almost nonexistent in the oils they produce.”

“And since more than 80% of fish oil comes from farms, it’s no wonder the country is experiencing a memory crisis. Most people’s brains are shrinking and they don’t even know it.”

So, what can people do to improve their memory and brain function in the most effective way possible?



MEMORY-RESTORING SENSATION: The memory-saving oil in this Antarctic squid restores decades of lost brain power starting in just 24 hours.

Dr. Sears says, “Find a quality DHA supplement that doesn’t come from a farmed source. That will protect your brain cells and the functions they serve well into old age.”

Dr. Sears and his team worked tirelessly for over 2 years developing a unique brain-boosting formula called **Omega Rejuvenol**.

It’s made from the most powerful source of DHA in the ocean, squid and krill — two species that cannot be farmed.

According to Dr. Sears, these are the purest and most potent sources of DHA in the world, because they haven’t been tampered with. “**Omega Rejuvenol** is sourced from the most sustainable fishery in Antarctica. You won’t find this oil in any stores.”

MORE IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

Already, the formula has sold more than 850,000 bottles. And for a good reason, too. Satisfied customers can’t stop raving about the memory-boosting benefits of quality-sourced DHA oil.

“The first time I took it, I was amazed. The brain fog I struggled with for years was gone within 24 hours. The next day, I woke up with the energy and mental clarity of a new man,” says Owen R.

“I remember what it was like before I started taking **Omega Rejuvenol**... the lack of focus... the dull moods... the slippery memory... but now my mind is as clear as it’s ever been,” says Estelle H.

“My mood and focus are at an all-

time high. I’ve always had trouble concentrating, and now I think I know why,” raves Bernice J. “The difference that **Omega Rejuvenol** makes couldn’t be more noticeable.”

And 70-year-old Mark K. says, “My focus and memory are back to age-30 levels.”

These are just a handful of the thousands of reviews Dr. Sears regularly receives thanks to his breakthrough memory formula, **Omega Rejuvenol**.

WHERE TO FIND OMEGA REJUVENOL

To secure bottles of this brain-booster, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-966-5603**. “It takes time to manufacture these bottles,” says Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers who need it most.”

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product, he is offering a 100%, money-back guarantee on every order. “Send back any used or unused bottles within 90 days and I’ll rush you a refund,” says Dr. Sears.

The Hotline is taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number may be shut down to allow for inventory restocking.

Call **1-800-966-5603** to secure your limited supply of **Omega Rejuvenol**. Readers of this newspaper immediately qualify for a steep discount, but supplies are limited. To take advantage of this great offer use Promo Code: **OMGUSAT93** when you call.

Left-wing surge surprises French voters

Macron's election gamble leaves leadership gap

Kim Hjelmggaard

USA TODAY

"The slap," "It's crazy," "And now, what do we do?" – those were some of Monday's headlines from French newspapers after a gamble by President Emmanuel Macron ended in deadlock and a leadership crisis.

Macron's gamble had been to call a snap parliamentary election aimed at keeping ascending right-wing political forces in his country at bay.

But in a surprise, the vote dealt a blow to Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration, European Union-sceptic National Rally party. Official tallies showed it was pushed to an unexpected third-place finish behind Macron's centrist Ensemble coalition, which came in second. A bloc of leftist parties known as the New Popular Front, with Jean-Luc Melançon as its figurehead, defied polls and political experts to win the most seats in France's 577-seat National Assembly.

Macron's role as president is safe

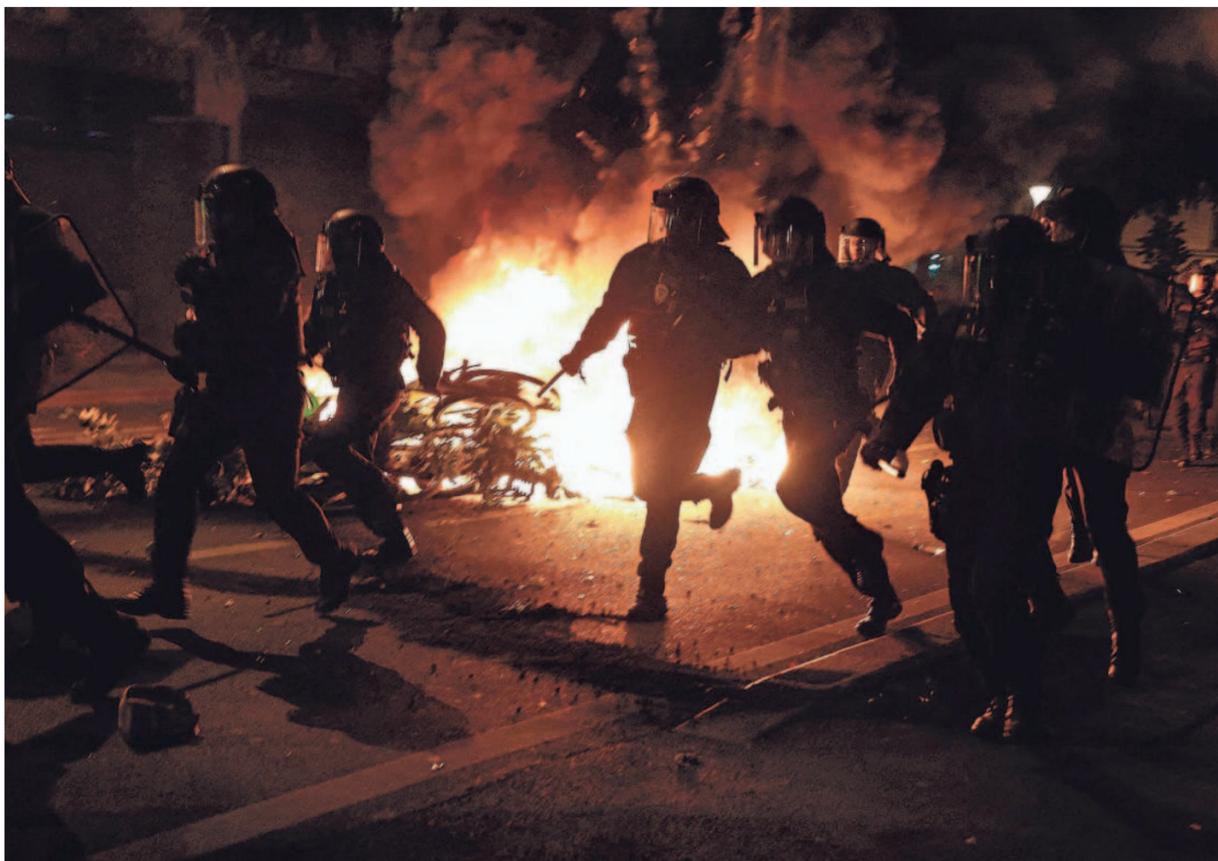
Macron's role as president is safe. It was never in doubt. His tenure does not expire before 2027. France splits its political executive function between president and prime minister, with defense and security the prerogative of the former and the latter typically concerned with domestic matters of state, such as education and immigration.

But because Sunday's outcome means no single party or alliance won an absolute majority of seats in the National Assembly, France now has what's known as a "hung" Parliament, a fragmented lawmaking body where it is difficult for any one party to achieve its political program. France's politics have been plunged into days, weeks or even months of paralysis as factions try to cobble together a governing coalition.

Is France a left-leaning country?

Left-wing parties won the most seats in the assembly. But it's not clear that, overall, France is a politically left country. Many of those seats were captured only as a result of so-called tactical voting by parties opposed to the Nationally Rally's right-wing policies: protectionist when it comes to trade and the economy, populist when it comes to reducing immigration, keen to restore what its see as France's lost "prestige" on the world stage.

The vote comes just 18 days before



French riot police run past burning bicycles during clashes with demonstrators following partial results in the second round of French parliamentary elections, at the Place de la République in Paris, on Sunday. ABDUL SABOOR/REUTERS

Paris hosts the Olympic Games.

The election was called by Macron after his party performed abysmally in European Union elections in June as the National Rally party picked up a large number of seats. Sunday's contest was chiefly about determining the political flavor of France's parliament. Surveys before the vote forecast that Le Pen's National Rally would win and be able to form a government, which in this context means choosing who would be prime minister, along with selecting a cabinet that would have to work with Macron but would not be beholden to his centrist political agenda.

Now, the country's politics are in, to use an overused phrase, uncharted territory.

France's current prime minister, Gabriel Attal from Macron's liberal centrist party, already has said he intends to resign. So he probably won't get or stay in the job for long. Macron asked Attal on Monday to stay in the role for the "stability of the country" for the "time being." Le Pen's far-right party didn't manage to win enough seats for her to appoint Jordan Bardella, 28, her charis-

matic and telegenic protégé who was, before the vote, seen as her prime-minister-in-waiting. Melançon, of the New Popular Front, has already claimed the prime minister role and said late Sunday that the "president must call on the New Popular Front to govern."

Bur Melançon's critics say he's a far-left firebrand who has come close to power in France before and each time has spooked financial markets. He opposes Macron on just about everything. He wants to lower, not raise, France's retirement age. Melançon wants to vastly expand government spending – on social welfare, on environmental protections, on health care. Macron, a former banker, is a pro-business reformer. French stock prices moved lower on Monday after it became clear no party won a clear governing majority.

"When it comes to economics, La France Insoumise (Melançon's party) is really extreme," said Jean-Yves Camus, a political scientist at the Paris-based French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs.

"It is too lenient on law and order, and on immigration. It's pro-Hamas, pro-Is-

lam; foreign policy is also a problem and raises fears among France's half a million Jews," Camus said.

On Sunday night, the statue of "Marianne" in Place de la République was lit by celebratory fireworks by left-wing supporters. It is a national symbol of France, representing reason and liberty, the ideals of the republic.

Macron has yet to make any public remarks about the election's outcome. Marine Tondrier, a Green Party lawmaker whose party is a member of Melançon's New Popular Front coalition, said this needs to change.

"According to institutional logic," she said, "Macron should call on the New Popular Front to give him the name of a prime minister. Will he do so? Or will he not? As this president is always full of surprises, we shall see."

Still, Le Pen, who will almost certainly be the National Rally's presidential candidate in 2027, when Macron's term ends, said Sunday that not all was lost. Her party, she said, picked up seats and had sown seeds for the future.

"Our victory has been merely delayed," she said.

Trump seeks immunity in other cases after ruling

Supreme Court decision puts some action on hold

Bart Jansen

USA TODAY

Donald Trump is seeking to build on his Supreme Court win, which provided immunity from criminal prosecution for his official acts as president, by asking judges in his federal classified documents case and in his New York hush money conviction to throw out charges.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon postponed deadlines Saturday to debate evidence in the classified documents case and instead asked for written arguments about Trump's immunity in the next two weeks.

Trump's lawyers asked Cannon on Friday to halt all action in the classified documents case until she rules whether the charges are valid.

New York Judge Juan Merchan postponed sentencing Trump for his hush-money conviction of 34 counts of falsifying business records, which had been set for Thursday, until September.

When the Supreme Court returns the election-interference case to U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, she must weigh which charges are still valid.

Neither Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith nor Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg has responded to the Supreme Court's decision yet.

Trump's lawyers, Todd Blanche and Christopher Kise, have argued the high court's ruling means each of the judges will have to determine which conduct is official or unofficial – and not use any official conduct as evidence for charges against unofficial conduct.

Here is where the cases stand:

Justices order 'close analysis' of if Trump conduct was unofficial

The reason for uncertainty about

criminal charges against Trump is because no former president has ever been charged before and the Supreme Court hadn't ruled on whether they could be.

Until July 1. That's when Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for a 6-3 majority that former presidents can't be tried for their official acts, but could potentially be charged for unofficial acts.

The ruling said presidents discussing policy with executive agencies can't even be questioned about their motives. This ruled out charges involving Trump urging his acting attorney general to pursue allegations of election fraud with officials in swing states.

But the ruling left open the possibility of charges dealing with Trump's recruitment of fake presidential electors to support him in states President Joe Biden won. Roberts wrote that determining whether Trump's pressure on then-Vice President Mike Pence "requires a close analysis of the indictment's extensive and interrelated allegations."

"The President is not above the law," Roberts wrote. "But under our system of separated powers, the President may not be prosecuted for exercising his core constitutional powers, and he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for his official acts."

Trial judges must now determine whether Trump's conduct for the various charges was official or unofficial.

Judge postpones filings in classified documents case

Trump was charged with retaining national defense records and conspiring to hide them from government authorities until FBI agents seized them during a search of Mar-a-Lago, his Florida estate, in August 2022.

Prosecutors have noted the entire case involves conduct after Trump left the White House in January 2021. Smith's team office said Trump did not



Former President Donald Trump, at a rally in Grand Rapids, Mich., in April, is asking judges to throw out charges in his classified documents and hush money cases. REBECCA COOK/REUTERS

have legal authority to designate secret national security documents as personal records and send them to his private home.

But Trump's lawyers have argued his decision to ship the documents to Mar-a-Lago was an official act.

In an order Saturday, Cannon scrapped a Monday deadline for Trump to disclose his experts and Wednesday deadlines for prosecutors and defense lawyers to share more evidence in the case.

Instead, Cannon set a deadline July 18 for Smith to respond to Trump's request for immunity. Trump will have until July 21 to respond.

Cannon hasn't set a date for a hearing, but said she could still collect more evidence.

Trump's lawyers want Cannon to only move forward on two issues in the case: Smith's request for a gag order preventing Trump from making comments that could incite threats against FBI agents working the case, and whether Smith was properly appointed to his job as special counsel.

In the Supreme Court's ruling on immunity, Justice Clarence Thomas, wrote a concurrence questioning Smith's ap-

pointment, even though that wasn't at issue in the case and many special counsels have been previously appointed under similar circumstances.

Judge in election interference must determine unofficial conduct

The Supreme Court hasn't formally returned Trump's election-interference case to Chutkan, under what is called a "mandate," which might not happen until Aug. 2.

"The judgment or mandate of this Court will not issue for at least thirty-two days," Supreme Court clerk Scott Harris wrote July 1 to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Chutkan will have to review which charges – if any – can go to trial once she gets the case back.

New York sentencing postponed because of potential immunity

Merchan previously postponed sentencing Trump in the hush-money case, which had been scheduled Thursday, until Sept. 18.

But that's only if necessary. Merchan plans to decide Sept. 6 whether Trump is immune from the charges, even though his case involves state charges and the Supreme Court was reviewing federal charges.

Trump was convicted May 30 of falsifying records to hide his reimbursement to private lawyer Michael Cohen, who paid \$130,000 to silence porn actress Stormy Daniels about alleged sex with Trump before the 2016 election.

The financial arrangements between Cohen and Daniels happened before Trump was elected president. But his series of 11 payments to Cohen – through his private company – happened the first year of his presidency.

Merchan previously ruled that Trump filed an immunity argument in the case too late to be considered.

OPINION

WANT TO COMMENT?

We're on Facebook (USA TODAY Opinion) and Instagram and X, formerly Twitter (@usatodayopinion). You can also comment directly on columns.

Why Beyoncé doesn't make a dime on radio



David Byrne
Opinion contributor

When I tell friends I went to Washington, D.C., to lobby on behalf of the American Music Fairness Act – which will enable musicians to get paid for radio play – they uniformly respond with a look of shock.

“What, you don't get paid when you're played on the radio?”

“Nope, as a performer I get nothing.”

“Does anybody get paid?”

“Songwriters and music publishers, but not the artist you hear singing it.”

And then I tell them that some of the only other countries that don't pay musicians for radio play are our friends in Cuba, Iran and North Korea.

Then they give me an eye roll that says, “That's crazy!”

China used to not pay, but they pay now. Russia pays! Nice bedfellows, eh? Nice example to the rest of the world!

Aretha Franklin had a worldwide hit with “Respect” – but she didn't write the song, Otis Redding did, so she got paid nothing – nothing! – for decades of U.S. radio airplay.

Sinead O'Connor's “Nothing Compares 2 U”? Nothing to her. Karen O “Under Pressure”? Nope. Willie Nelson “Always on My Mind”? Nada. Cat Power on “Ballad of a Thin Man”? Nix. “Umbrella” and Rihanna? Uh-uh. “Irreplaceable” Beyoncé? Never. “Get the Party Started” Pink? Nope. The list goes on and on.

How did this happen?

When it began, radio in the United States was positioned to musicians as a promotional tool to sell their sheet music; before recordings were available that was how music was “sold.”

Music played on the radio was often performed live in those days. The artists were singing and playing live while you heard it in your home.

It was Bing Crosby who discovered



The American Music Fairness Act would enable musicians, such as Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, to get paid for radio play. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

(and helped finance) tape recordings of his shows so he didn't have to be there for every broadcast; instead he could be with his great love, the golf course.

Records in various formats became popular, and radio play of these recordings was similarly positioned as a promotional tool.

As recording artists we were fed this same justification for why we weren't going to be paid for radio play – exposure that promotes your record sales and your live shows.

There's a kernel of truth there, but it seemed unfair even then. We were indeed making money from record sales back in the day, so we went along to get along. But it never really made sense.

Every other democracy has corrected this injustice, which makes it plain to us artists that it doesn't have to be this way in our country, either.

We love playing music and recording it. It's thrilling and fulfilling, but it is also our livelihood. Like anyone else we have

come to realize we should get paid for our hard work, our investment, our creative energy and inspirations.

We are, most of us, small businesses, entrepreneurs, risk takers – we employ other musicians and a whole ecology of other professionals to run those businesses. Making music is such an amazing thing, but it's not always easy. It takes a lot of work, and it doesn't always pay as much as its worth.

Getting paid for radio play has knock-on benefits as well. Because the United States doesn't pay foreign performers for radio play, some other countries reciprocate, tit for tat. They are holding an estimated \$300 million a year that is due to U.S. artists – and that will be released if the situation here changes when U.S. radio starts paying *their* artists. This has been going on so long that some countries, like France, funnel that money to organizations that promote their own artists, rather than having it just sit in a bank.

How much would artists get from U.S. broadcasts? The estimate is about \$500 million. So, after unlocking international performance royalties, it's at least \$800 million total.

It would get divided among the performer, the backing band and their label. Full disclosure – I personally stand to benefit as well.

Naturally the big broadcasters, and there are only a handful of them, are fighting this tooth and nail. They'll say it will hurt small businesses, but the bill is structured so that small broadcasters get a huge break, as do religious broadcasters and public radio. It's really about the big commercial chain broadcasters, who are in fact making a lot of money.

'Burning Down the House'

The big broadcasters naturally still use the “exposure” and “promotion” argument, which isn't completely untrue. I witnessed “Burning Down the House” become a hit due to radio play. But promotion like that is about introducing new music to an audience. Most of the songs played on the radio now are old, and record stores are hard to find these days. So where's the promotion?

I'll bet there's a worry on the part of lawmakers that these big broadcasters might not look kindly on a representative who votes for this bill. But then look how many musicians there are and how vocal they can be. Do our representatives really want to go up against a bunch of small business people?

I went to Washington some years ago when a similar bill came up. It didn't pass, but the good news is that this one, the American Music Fairness Act (AM-FA), is better. It's a bipartisan bill, which is rare these days, so there's that to celebrate as well.

I'm thankful this has not become a political football like so much else. AM-FA is supported on both sides of the aisle – how about that! So, c'mon Washington, let's get it done.

Singer/songwriter David Byrne, a founding member of Talking Heads, is a member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Q&A MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE JOCELYN BENSON

How the elections chief in a key swing state sees '24



Ingrid Jacques
USA TODAY

On July 4, we celebrated America's 248th birthday, and many of us also spent time contemplating what's next in our great country's future.

I know I have.

The stakes – as well as the tensions – are extra high this election year, with President Joe Biden visibly deteriorating and his opponent, former President Donald Trump, now a convicted felon.

Michigan, where I live, will once again play a pivotal role in this election as a battleground state that could very well swing the outcome in November. Trump eked out a victory here in 2016 against Hillary Clinton, and Biden won the state in 2020 with a more decisive margin of over 154,000 votes.

That didn't stop Trump and other Republicans from doubting the outcome and challenging the results in any way they could.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, was the state's top elections official in 2020, and she will oversee this election, too.

I sat down with her a few weeks ago during the Detroit Regional Chamber's annual policy conference on Mackinac Island to talk about the presidential election and democracy, as well as Trump.

My following interview with Benson has been edited for clarity and length.

Question: We are headed into a very important election. Is Michigan ready?

Answer: We know the path of the presidency runs right through our state, and I think citizens are very aware of that on both sides. And so you're seeing both a lot of attention, a lot of visits to

our state, that are going to continue to escalate because we have a contentious (U.S.) Senate race as well. So we're aware of all that, and our citizens are being inundated.

In my world, I'm focused on the fact that we've got nine days of early voting going for the first time ever. And that is an opportunity for us to make sure everyone's aware.

How about with absentee voting? Do you feel voters are getting more accustomed to that?

It seems to be less of an attack point than it was in 2020. Again, higher familiarity and trust in it than we had before.

We also have implemented a statewide system to track absentee ballots on our website that we hope gives citizens more confidence than they've had.

What are your top concerns going into this election? You've already been through one contentious presidential election. What is most on your mind?

I think two things.

One, how can we cut through the noise and protect people's faith in the process? You've seen a lot of statistics on both sides of the aisle, but people, because of this noise over the last several years, are consistently losing faith in our democracy. And for me, it's a cornerstone of my work to make sure no matter who someone votes for or where they live, that they can at least have faith in the process. Even if they aren't satisfied with the results, they can believe in the process, believe that it's secure. So restoring and ensuring voters have faith in our process is one of our top priorities this year. But also protecting voters against the efforts to fool them with misinformation.

The Detroit Regional Chamber just commissioned a poll of Michigan voters. And what really stood out to me was that 5% said violence or threats are justified if their candidate for



Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson speaks to reporters in 2022. SARAH BETH MANEY/USA TODAY NETWORK

president loses the 2024 election “after all votes are counted fairly.” How do you handle that if people are going into this election not planning on accepting what happens?

To me, democracy is about accepting results and allowing for a transition of power that is nonviolent in character. And so the idea that some citizens will just depart from that ... is really troubling because it's an effect of years of politicians sowing seeds of doubt about these institutions in a way, one could argue, to undermine people's faith in them. So it's showing that that's working at least with this small subset of our population.

It's going to be up to our elected officials on both sides of the aisle and our leaders of other institutions like business leaders, like educational leaders, and others with influence and a platform to remind us who we're supposed to be as Americans, right? And recognize that if we allow division to bring us down, we all sink.

And we've lost a lot of those voices. I think we've got to create more space for that so that we can reclaim the beauty of what our democracy is supposed to be, a bipartisan collaboration where disagreement is OK. And even some messi-

ness is OK, but we have some guardrails that we all respect and rules of the game that we abide by.

And it expands. Losing trust in our judiciary. Losing trust in Congress. Losing trust in elected leaders to solve problems. It's all connected, and we've got to as leaders take the responsibility to pull back that snowball effect if we're going to survive as a superpower nation with a thriving economy and everything else that defines us as Americans.

A big part of this election is how President Biden is really pushing how Trump is a threat to democracy. Do you believe that?

I think anyone who is peddling lies that lead to threats against election officials, threats against our system and causes people to wrongly lose faith in a process that they should believe in is a threat to the very basic foundation of what we as Americans are supposed to be about.

I do, however, also believe this conversation about who should lead our country in the future needs to be bigger than that.

I really respected the piece you did for The Washington Post last fall on how secretaries of state should not be determining whether Trump belongs on the ballot. Did you get a lot of pushback from other secretaries of state, like those in Colorado and Maine?

Yeah, I did. But I pushed back on them.

I was really disappointed in my colleagues who didn't, in my view, follow the law and what our responsibility is as states' chief election officers and essentially took the bait in a way that was really detrimental to the bigger picture of restoring and ensuring people have faith in our democracy.

Ingrid Jacques is a columnist at USA TODAY. You can contact her at ijacques@usatoday.com or on X, formerly Twitter: @Ingrid_Jacques

Colorado is dropping Medicaid enrollees

Hurdles undercut its progressive policies

Rae Ellen Bichell

KFF Health News

Colorado stands out among the 10 states that have dropped the highest share of Medicaid enrollees since the U.S. government lifted a pandemic-era restriction on removing people from the health insurance program.

It's the only blue state in a cluster of red states with high withdrawal rates – a group that includes Idaho, Montana, Texas, and Utah – in the Medicaid “unwinding” underway since spring 2023.

Colorado also is the only state that had all the policy ingredients in place to cushion the fallout from the unwinding, according to Medicaid policy analysts at KFF, an independent nonprofit that conducts health policy research.

But it seems the cushion hasn't been deployed.

“There's really a divide in Colorado between our progressive policies and our underfunded and fragmented administration,” said Bethany Pray, chief legal and policy officer at the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, a Denver-based legal aid group.

According to KFF data, during the unwinding Colorado has seen a bigger net drop in enrollment in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program than any state except Utah.

Advocates for health care access, researchers, and county administrators – the administrators handling the bulk of the Medicaid redeterminations in Colorado – say that the major issues involve outdated technology and low rates of automatic renewals. Both create obstacles to enrollment that undercut the state's progressive policies.

State officials have a rosier view. They say the drop in enrollment is a sign that they did a good job enrolling people at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Secondly, they say Colorado's economy is doing well, so more people can get insurance through their jobs.

“When we have a really stellar unemployment rate, not as many people need safety-net programs, and we're proud of that. Our people are rising and thriving,” said Kim Bimestefer, who leads the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and is the state's top Medicaid official. Her department has also said that some people choose not to fill out their eligibility paperwork because they know their incomes are too high to qualify.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that while it's true Colorado's unemployment rate is lower than the nation's as a whole, it's higher than it was before the pandemic.

State officials say they believe Medicaid enrollments dropped because many of those people found jobs, as reflected by the lower unemployment rates. But that scenario happened in fewer than half of the state's counties, a KFF Health News analysis found. Notably, in 11 counties where unemployment stagnated or increased from January 2020 to April 2024, the share of the population covered by Medicaid shrank. A low unemployment rate does not necessarily mean there is less of a need for Medicaid coverage because many employed people earn wages low enough to still qualify for the program.

Colorado increased enrollment in Medicaid and the related Children's Health Insurance Program by 35% during the COVID-19 public health emergency, compared with about 30% nationally and among Medicaid expansion states.

“We grew more, which means, logically, we're going to disenroll more,” said Bimestefer. “We went up higher, we're going to come down lower because our economy is stellar.”

Her department's website initially claimed Colorado's Medicaid enrollment grew more than any other Medicaid expansion state except Hawaii. But data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shows pandemic enrollment growth in other states, including Indiana, North Dakota, Virginia, and Nevada, also exceeded that of Colorado.

Even if it had grown the most, the argument that what comes up must come down doesn't hold water, Medicaid policy analysts said.

“A counterargument to that is we know that there was never a full participation in Medicaid prior to the pandemic,” said Jennifer Tolbert, deputy director of the KFF Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

Tolbert said she was surprised by the extent of Colorado's Medicaid enrollment losses, given it was the one state in the nation that met all the criteria that KFF expected would cushion the effects of the unwinding. Those policies include adopting the Affordable Care Act's



“There's really a divide in Colorado between our progressive policies and our underfunded and fragmented administration,” said Bethany Pray of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. ANDREW WEVERS/USA TODAY

Medicaid expansion and the automatic processing of renewals.

Tolbert was among several policy researchers who said that even if unemployment returned to pre-pandemic levels, they would expect a higher, not lower, share of Coloradans to be enrolled in safety-net coverage.

Ally Sullivan, a spokesperson for Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, said one complicating factor in Colorado's system is that it's among the handful of states where most of the eligibility verification work falls on counties, “which added complexity to the state's unwind process.”

“Colorado is committed to ensuring that Coloradans who no longer qualify for Medicaid coverage are connected to other affordable sources of coverage as soon as possible, and the state is going to great lengths to do so,” the statement said.

Minnesota is another state where verifying eligibility is largely left to the counties. Yet just 26% of its Medicaid population dropped enrollment in the unwinding, compared with Colorado's 48%. Like Colorado, Minnesota is led by a Democratic governor. Minnesota also mirrors Colorado in its population, pandemic-era increase in enrollment, the percentage of its residents living in prosperous areas, and its better-than-national unemployment rate. But Bimestefer dismissed any comparison.

“I don't care about Minnesota,” Bimestefer said. “This is Colorado. I don't care what Minnesota did.”

Advocates for health care access and researchers said a cluster of technological and administrative issues have contributed to Colorado's high withdrawal rate.

First, Colorado's eligibility database, the Colorado Benefits Management System, is outdated and clunky, according to people who use it or are familiar with systems in other states.

“It's like still using the old flip phone where you're trying to play Snake,” said Sarah Grusin, an attorney at the National Health Law Program. “We have better stuff.”

Grusin and Pray's organizations filed a civil rights complaint with several federal agencies saying that the system issues that terminated disabled Coloradans' coverage amounted to discrimination.

“It took many months to fix something that doesn't sound that complicated,” Pray said.

Bimestefer said her department is working on a plan to improve the system, which is managed by Deloitte under a \$354.4 million contract that lasts until 2027. A recent KFF Health News investigation of eligibility systems managed by Deloitte found widespread problems. In Colorado, a state-commissioned audit in 2020 found that many Medicaid beneficiaries were sent incorrect notices and deadlines.

Kenneth Smith, a Deloitte executive who leads its national human services division, said that Deloitte is one player among many who together administer Medicaid benefits and that the states own the technology and make the decisions about their implementation.

Colorado's technology woes have also weakened its ability to use a powerful tool in enrollment: automatic renewal.

Last fall, Bimestefer said, her agency had to choose between fixing the system so that it would stop dropping children who shouldn't lose coverage, or start automatically renewing people with no income or with income below the federal poverty level. It couldn't do both, she said.

Experts such as Tricia Brooks, a research professor with the Center for Children and Families at Georgetown University, said it's especially important to increase automatic renewals in states like Colorado where most of the renewal work falls on county government staff.

“What happens when you're not getting a high rate of automated renewals? You're sending out those renewal forms,” Brooks said – meaning more disenrollments. “They didn't get the mail. The notice was confusing. They tried to get help through the call center. The list goes on as to why people don't renew.”

Indeed, two-thirds of Coloradans who withdrew lost coverage for procedural reasons. That's in line with the national average, according to KFF. But paired with Colorado having withdrawn so many people overall, that means more than 500,000 Coloradans, or about 9% of the state's people, were withdrawn for procedural reasons – more than the population of its second-

largest city, Colorado Springs.

At least a third of those disenrolled were later determined to be eligible for Medicaid.

Officials at Colorado community health centers and mental health centers say they're seeing a rise in uninsured patients coming through their doors – a sign, they say, that Coloradans dropped from Medicaid aren't necessarily moving on to greener health insurance pastures.

Fifty-eight percent of those who were dropped coverage have returned to Medicaid, or now have another form of insurance. However, the state doesn't yet know what happened to the remaining 42% of people who were dropped and said it would conduct a survey to find out.

KFF Health News is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues and is one of the core operating programs at KFF – an independent source for health policy research, polling, and journalism.

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MONEYLINE

ARBY'S BRINGS BACK POPULAR POTATO CAKES

Potato Cakes are back at Arby's. The restaurant chain said Monday that the item, which was discontinued in 2021, is back on menus nationwide for a limited time. The company said Potato Cakes also have inspired "online petitions and even dedicated fan accounts" asking for their return. The Potato Cakes are available nationwide, with prices starting at \$2.39 for three.



KENT NISHIMURA/GETTY IMAGES

DELTA AIR LINES FLIGHT DIVERTS FOR SPOILED MEALS

A Delta Air Lines flight heading to Amsterdam made an emergency landing in New York City after reports that some of the in-flight meals were spoiled. The 277 passengers on board Delta flight 136 heading from Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport to Amsterdam Tuesday night were diverted to John F. Kennedy International Airport after it was discovered that a portion of the main cabin in-flight meals was spoiled. Delta consulted with medial experts who recommended the flight's diversion to New York. It is unknown how many people consumed the spoiled food, but medics met the plane in New York on Wednesday, and 12 passengers were evaluated, but refused medical attention, the Fire Department of New York told USA TODAY. Delta apologized for the emergency landing and said its Food Safety team is launching an investigation.

BRAWL BREAKS OUT ON CARNIVAL CRUISE SHIP

A large fight broke out on a Carnival Cruise Line ship, video footage shared on social media shows. A video posted to YouTube on Saturday by passenger Nick Richardson appears to show a group of fellow guests throwing chairs, tackling each other and hitting one another in the buffet area of the Carnival Paradise. Richardson happened upon the conflict about 3 a.m. on a Caribbean cruise in early June. The passengers were "talking trash to each other" before the clash escalated. Richardson estimated that 10 to 15 people participated in the fight. Security personnel intervened. Spokesperson Matt Lupoli said in an emailed statement, "As is our policy, we will not tolerate such behavior and the guests involved were fined and will not sail on Carnival Cruise Line again."



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

SAKS PARENT, AMAZON TO BUY NEIMAN MARCUS

The parent of Saks Fifth Avenue, in a partnership with Amazon, will buy rival Neiman Marcus in a \$2.65 billion deal. Richard Baker, CEO and chairman of HBC, told The New York Times said the company was "not planning on closing any stores or digital businesses or reducing services in any way." HBC said, "HBC will establish Saks Global, a combination of world-class luxury retail and real estate assets ... each of which will continue operations under their respective brands." Amazon will provide technology and logistical expertise, according to the Wall Street Journal, which first reported the deal.

USA TODAY EXCLUSIVE

A challenging forecast

How's the economy? Zeta Global uses data from information we receive, what we search and what we're charging on our credit cards to decide stability index

Jim Sergent
USA TODAY

We're just days away from the next inflation report, so how's the economy doing?

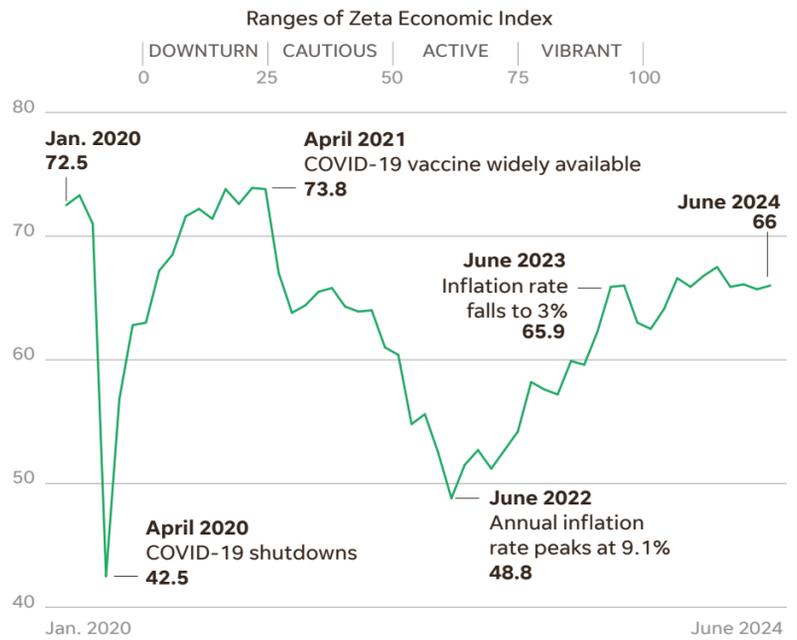
That's a simple question, but it is not so easy to answer when you produce \$28 trillion in goods and services annually. The Bureau of Economic Analysis gives us a look each quarter after weeks of crunching data.

Zeta Global (ZETA), an artificial intelligence-powered marketing cloud, says its new index, detailed exclusively to USA TODAY, can show the health of the U.S. economy every month with a single number. In June, the index ticked up to 66 – solidly within its "active" range and defined as "robust economic activity."

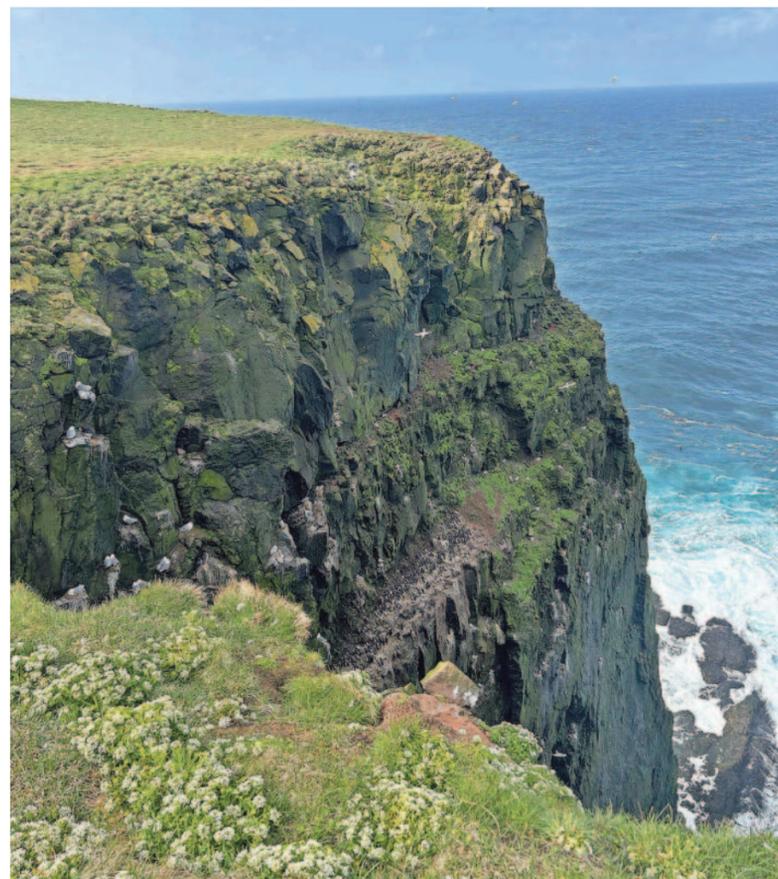
"We're largely trying to forecast GDP," CEO David Steinberg said. "The differentiator between the Zeta Economic Index and all the other indexes out there is we layer on top of it the actual behaviors of the 240 million Americans who are in our data cloud."

See **ECONOMY**, Page 2B

US stays in active range with 'robust economic activity'



SOURCE Zeta Global
JIM SERGENT/USA TODAY



Pufubjarg bird cliff in Látrabjarg, Iceland. JOSH RIVERA/USA TODAY

Nature-focused vacation can be transformative

Expeditions combine exploration, stark beauty

Josh Rivera USA TODAY

I hadn't hiked enough to know whether I liked it or not. In theory, it seemed like something I would enjoy. The reality was being overheated by two layers of jackets but with freezing hands and cold water running down my nose.

I don't like hiking. I can confidently say that now. On a recent expedition to the Arctic Circle with Aurora Expeditions, we were able to bear witness to nature's grandiosity. The aforementioned hike was to Eldborg Crater in Iceland's Snaefellsnes National Park.

After roughly 4 muddy, rocky miles, I climbed the mountain to see ... nothing. It was a crater, and like all beautiful things, it was ephemeral.

I was out of breath, cold and sweaty simultaneously, annoyed at the thought of having to make the same trek back, and grateful that I felt dwarfed by everything around me.

See **EXPEDITION**, Page 3B

It is not often that we seek out the feeling of insignificance. But it's a rewarding experience when you meet it face to face.

Boeing will plead guilty to fraud in US probe

Lets company avoid trial after 2 fatal 737 crashes

Chris Prentice, Mike Spector and David Shepardson
REUTERS

Boeing has agreed to plead guilty to a criminal fraud conspiracy charge to resolve a U.S. Department of Justice investigation linked to two 737 MAX fatal crashes, the government said in a court filing late on Sunday.

The plea, which requires a federal judge's approval, would brand the planemaker a convicted felon. Boeing will also pay a criminal fine of \$243.6 million, the DOJ said in a document filed in federal court in Texas that provided an overview of the agreement in principle.

The charge relates to two 737 MAX crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia over a five-month period in 2018 and 2019 that killed 346 people and prompted the families of the victims to demand that Boeing face prosecution.

A guilty plea potentially threatens the company's ability to secure lucrative government contracts with the likes of the DOJ and NASA, although it could seek waivers. Boeing became exposed to criminal prosecution after the DOJ in May found the company violated a 2021 settlement involving the fatal crashes.

Still, the plea spares Boeing a contentious trial that could have exposed many of the company's decisions leading up to the fatal MAX plane crashes to even greater public scrutiny. It would also make it easier for the company, which will have a new CEO later this year, as it seeks approval for its planned acquisition of Spirit AeroSystems.

A Boeing spokesperson confirmed it had "reached an agreement in principle on terms of a resolution with the Justice Department."

The planemaker also agreed to invest at least \$455 million over the next three years to strengthen its safety and compliance programs, according to the filing.

The DOJ on June 30 offered a plea agreement to Boeing and gave the company until the end of the week to take the deal or face a trial on a charge of conspiring to defraud the Federal Aviation Administration in connection

See **BOEING**, Page 2B



Investigators look over debris at the crash site of Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 on March 12, 2019, in Bishoftu, Ethiopia. JEMAL COUNTESS/GETTY IMAGES

Boeing

Continued from Page 1B

with a key software feature tied to the fatal crashes.

The DOJ's push to charge Boeing has deepened an ongoing crisis engulfing Boeing since a separate January in-flight blowout exposed continuing safety and quality issues at the planemaker.

A panel blew off a new Boeing 737 MAX 9 jet during a Jan. 5 Alaska Airlines flight, just two days before the 2021 deferred prosecution agreement that had shielded the company from prosecution over the previous fatal crashes expired. Boeing faces a separate ongoing criminal probe into the Alaska incident.

The agreement only covers Boeing's conduct before the fatal crashes and does not shield the planemaker from any other potential investigations or charges related to the January incident or other conduct.

Boeing is set to plead guilty to making knowingly false representations to the FAA about having expanded a key software feature used on the MAX to operate at low speeds. The new software saved Boeing money by requiring less intensive training for pilots.

The Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) is a software feature designed to automatically push the airplane's nose down in certain conditions. It was tied to the two crashes that led to the FAA grounding the plane for 20 months, an action that cost Boeing \$20 billion and was lifted by the government in November 2020.

As part of the deal, Boeing's board of directors will meet with relatives of those killed in the MAX crashes, the filing said.

DOJ officials modified their process for selecting an independent monitor in response to backlash from one of the lawyers representing victims' relatives, who argued the families should select the candidate instead of the government choosing from a pool of candidates Boeing would propose, according to the court filing.

U.S. officials adjusted their plea offer to Boeing to stipulate they would select the pool of qualified candidates based on a public solicitation to which anyone can apply, including candidates the families support.

Lawyers for some of the families of the people killed in the two MAX crashes said they intended to exercise their right to oppose the deal. "The families intend to argue that the plea deal with Boeing unfairly makes concessions to Boeing that other criminal defendants would never receive and fails to hold Boeing accountable for the deaths of 346 persons," they said in a separate court filing.

The agreement does not shield any executives, the DOJ filing said, though charges against individuals are seen as unlikely due to the statute of limitations. A former Boeing chief technical pilot was charged in connection with the Boeing fraud agreement but acquitted by a jury in 2022.

The agreed penalty will be Boeing's second fine of \$243.6 million related to the fatal crashes – bringing the full fine to the maximum allowed. The company paid the fine previously as part of 2021's \$2.5 billion settlement. The \$243.6 million fine represented the amount Boeing saved by not implementing full-flight simulator training for MAX pilots.

Families of the victims of those crashes slammed the previous agreement and this year pressed the Justice Department to seek as much as \$25 billion from Boeing.

This year, the DOJ has held several meetings to hear from the victims' families as they investigated Boeing's breach of the 2021 deal.

The DOJ and Boeing are working to document the full written plea agreement and file it in federal court in Texas by July 19, the DOJ said in the court filing.

Journey to be executive-level job candidate can be arduous



Johnny C. Taylor
Columnist
USA TODAY

Johnny C. Taylor Jr. tackles your human resources questions as part of a series for USA TODAY. Taylor is president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest HR professional society and author of "Reset: A Leader's Guide to Work in an Age of Upheaval."

Question: I'm a senior manager, and my career has stagnated. What should I do to advance my career further? How do I prepare to become a viable executive-level candidate? – Samantha

Answer: Moving from senior management to an executive level can be daunting. Just as much growth is needed to get to that next level as it took to get to your current level. For most, the ascent is even steeper. Getting to middle and senior management levels means you've enjoyed a modicum of success along the way. However, don't allow past success to prevent you from doing the work to advance to the next level. You may be great at doing what you've been doing, but you must adopt a new perspective to go even further.

To this point, you may have done it on your own or maybe had a mentor offer some insight and encouragement along the way. But, if you're genuinely committed to elevating your career, the best next step is to hire a career coach, preferably an executive coach. It would be best to have an expert look at you objectively and effectively map out what it will take to get you from where you are today to the executive you want to become. You're looking for someone who can evaluate your

strengths and weaknesses and provide strategies for growth.

Learning and development should also be experiential. Look for new challenges that force you to grow. Be open to new and unfamiliar jobs and assignments that move you out of your comfort zone. You'll need to become comfortable with being uncomfortable.

Thoroughly master your power skills, or what some call soft skills. Skills such as critical thinking, organization, innovation, collaboration and interpersonal communication complement technical skills. Mastering these power skills is essential for successful leaders. It's not enough to be proficient; the best leaders are masters at power skills. People management is at the core of leadership, and these people skills and essential leadership attributes enable people to effectively interact with and empower others.

Becoming an executive is more than becoming a better manager. Your journey to the next level is about becoming an effective leader. A leader's success is not their own. It's tied to how effective, productive and successful they can make others. You must be willing to take risks and think about work differently. You must challenge yourself to grow, especially in difficult circumstances, to build adaptability, flexibility and resilience. It's this personal growth that will propel you on the path to leadership.

All the best on your journey!

Our business is growing, but we find it difficult to fill positions that enable our growth. While our workers are content and tend to remain with us long-term, we have trouble hiring new talent. How can I best leverage our current workers to recruit new candidates? – Maxine

Congratulations on your success and growth as a business. Sometimes, success burdens us with "good challenges."

Tapping into your workforce is a great way to support recruiting efforts and, ideally, connect with individuals who share common values with your staff. It's also great to hear you're doing an excellent job of retaining your current workforce.

You can lean on your workforce in a variety of ways. Consider using an employee referral program, incentivizing staff to refer quality candidates by offering monetary awards when referrals are hired. Believe it or not, small and medium-sized employers have found that adding a \$1,500-\$2,500 referral fee incentive program motivates their current employees, reduces the average time to fill vacancies and increases new employee retention. Opportunities to earn extra cash are a win-win, as they boost morale and recruitment.

Third-party endorsements can lend credibility to your employer brand and attract candidates interested in learning more about your company. Encourage employees to post open positions and share relevant content about your company on their social media.

Endorsements from your loyal employees can often be more impactful than recruiting messaging or employer branding. Feature employee perspectives on your career site. Personal stories of employees' experiences can help give people insight into your culture, workplace and benefits.

Most candidates research online employer reviews before applying for or accepting a job offer. Employee reviews can give candidates insight into their work experience and support recruitment efforts. Prompting current employees to leave such reviews of your company provides more insight.

Adding genuine perspectives from your loyal workforce can enhance your recruitment strategies and help attract prime candidates.

Economy

Continued from Page 1B

The economy's health since 2020 based on Zeta Economic Index

What factors into this new economic index?

Steinberg says years of data from traditional measures such as gross domestic product and the consumer price index play a role, but Zeta's secret sauce is their unique, anonymized view of consumers, who account for almost 70 cents of every dollar spent in the U.S. economy. What they gather through their AI cloud:

- Information that we're reading, hearing or viewing.
- What we're searching.
- What we're charging on our credit cards.

Zeta Global also uses its data to determine a stability index. It measures Americans' ability to weather recessions. The index's four categories range from negative (extremely vulnerable) to positive (well-prepared). In June, the index was "stable" at 66.1.

Consumer spending adapting to higher prices

Arguably the biggest economic news of the week will be Thursday's reading of June's inflation rate. Fed chair Jerome Powell is also scheduled to address Congress this week. The details of the consumer price index, though, will offer more data points for the Fed's policymaking committee, which meets at the end of the month.

Economists forecast the annual inflation rate for June will drop from 3.3% to 3.1% – exactly where it stood a year ago and well above the 2% range the Fed targets.

Even with the elevated interest rates and increasing prices, Zeta Global expects consumers will continue spending this month based on the consumer data they track. Three of Zeta Global's key indicators from its cloud data say we are going to keep shopping (time browsing online), purchasing more than the basics (discretionary spending) and putting more on credit (credit line expansion).

Zeta Global's findings about our spending plans are in line with those of Resonate, a consumer intelligence company that tracks 230 million U.S. consumers.

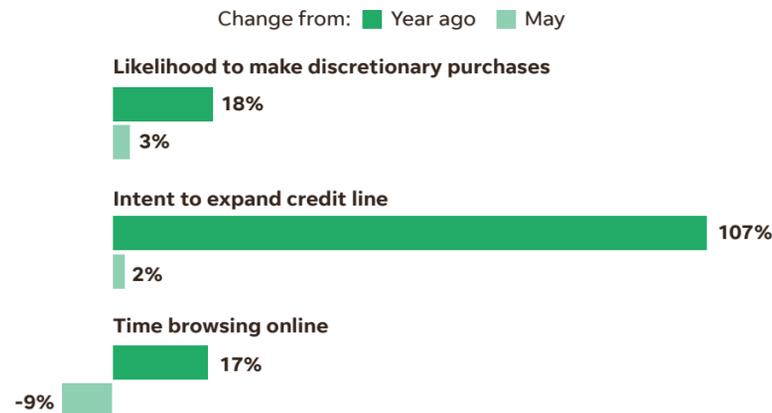
Resonate says in its summer consumer trends report that through a "continuous survey of millions of U.S. adults" Americans aren't as worried



According to a report by the U.S. Commerce Department, economic growth slowed considerably in the first three months of 2024. The next inflation report will be released this week. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Indicators suggest consumers still willing to spend

Three key spending indicators were higher in June than they were last year:



SOURCE Zeta Global
JIM SERGENT/USA TODAY

about their personal finances and health. And while we appear ready to keep spending, we may swap brands to save money.

"Consumers have not cut back on spending yet," Zeta Global's Steinberg said. "They're just trying to get more for the same amount of money."

Americans still confident in the job market

Steinberg said part of the reason we keep spending is the continued strength in the job market and consumers' optimism.

Friday's report on U.S. employment

underscored the reason for that confidence. While the unemployment rate ticked up again to 4.1% in June, the economy added 206,000 jobs. The asterisk in the report: Job gains in April and May were revised down by a total of 111,000 jobs.

Does that mean hiring is slowing and employment is softening?

A consumer's point of view might not pick up a weakening job market until it's clear employers aren't looking for new workers or layoffs turn up significantly. Still, Zeta Global's job market sentiment may be tracking the slowing opportunities. The index is down 2.6% from last June and 1% from May.

TRAVEL

Trip insurance choice can be tricky

There's no policy that fits every manner of travel



On Travel
Christopher Elliott
USA TODAY

If you're planning to travel somewhere this summer, you're probably thinking of buying travel insurance.

Kingsley Hopkins is. He's headed to Portugal and Iceland with his girlfriend, and he wants to make sure he's covered for things like medical emergencies or trip disruptions, "or if a volcano erupts," he said.

But getting the right travel insurance can be complicated. There's no one-size-fits-all policy, and Hopkins, an assistant editor at a book publishing company in New York, has been spending a lot of time thinking about how to protect his summer vacation.

Chances are, so have you.

Why finding the right travel insurance is so hard

Most surveys suggest this will be a record summer for travel. How much of a record? Demand is so high that some airlines are afraid they will run out of planes. Now *that's* busy.

At the same time, danger and uncertainty are lurking everywhere – wars in Europe and the Middle East, the usual slate of natural disasters like hurricanes and maybe a volcano or two. It's no wonder people are giving some serious thought to insurance.

Older travelers are particularly worried. And they should be, said PK Rao, CEO of INF Visitor Care. Claims by travelers over age 50 spike during the summer months.

"According to our claim data, medical emergencies tend to uptick during the summer, especially for those going on trips that involve outdoor activities," he said.

But there are so many choices out there, including credit card coverage, medical evacuation membership pro-

grams and stand-alone travel insurance. What should you get?

You need peace of mind

But don't just reflexively start shopping for a travel insurance policy this summer. Instead, look for peace of mind – knowing that if something goes wrong, you'll be taken care of.

"Knowing you're protected from unforeseen travel mishaps – like delays, lost baggage and even medical emergencies – can make the trip that much more enjoyable," said Daniel Durazo, a spokesman for Allianz Partners USA.

As it turns out, there are several ways to get the peace of mind you need. And there are times when you can safely skip travel insurance.

This is when you don't need insurance

Here's when you can skip travel insurance, according to experts:

- **If you already have coverage.** "You may already have travel coverage through your benefits at work, your credit card or through group benefits with an organization," said Jiten Puri, CEO of PolicyAdvisor.com. If you do, there's no need to buy more coverage. You're all set.

- **If you're not traveling far.** If you're taking a driving vacation and staying in a place where lodging is free, like a relative's sofa, then there's not much to insure. "If you already have health insurance, it may cover you for a domestic trip, so you don't need to think about health insurance coverage," said Joe Cronin, CEO of International Citizens Insurance.

- **If your trip isn't insurable.** Traditional travel insurance covers conventional trips with prepaid, nonrefundable components like airline tickets and hotel stays. You might find that you either already have coverage through your medical insurance, or the trip is essentially uninsurable.

So think twice before saying "yes" to optional travel insurance that your online travel agency may offer you when you're booking a trip. You might not need it.

Here's when you need travel insurance

But most travelers should consider some kind of travel insurance coverage this summer. Here's when you need the extra coverage:

- **If you have travel expenses that insurance would cover.** "If you have many prepaid, nonrefundable expenses, it's best to take out travel insurance," said Lauren Gumpport, a spokeswoman for Faye Travel Insurance. "This includes things like flights, hotel rooms, tickets and activities." The more conventional your vacation, the likelier travel insurance is to cover almost every aspect of your summer vacation.

- **If you're leaving the country.** "Your regular medical insurance might not extend coverage beyond your home borders," said John Rose, chief risk and security officer at ALTOUR. Also, many countries require travel insurance for entrance. They include Bermuda, Qatar, Sri Lanka and some European countries.

- **If you can't afford to lose your trip.** "When considering travel insurance for your summer trip, evaluate whether you can afford to lose your vacation investment due to unforeseen circumstances like illness, weather disruptions or emergencies," explained Robert Gallagher, president of the US Travel Insurance Association (USTIA). "Can you afford the financial risk if you miss your cruise departure because of covered flight delays? What if you have to cut your trip short because of illness?"

One of the most common mistakes travelers make is assuming their credit card will cover them. For example, I found that my credit card only covered my rental car as secondary insurance, which made it completely useless when I rented a car in Tampa recently. I had to buy a standalone policy from Allianz to cover the vehicle.

How one traveler insured his summer vacation

So, how did Hopkins handle his travel insurance needs? Well, as I mentioned – it's complicated.

Hopkins said he always buys some travel insurance before he takes a trip, "but how much, and what I cover, varies," he explained.

He decided that his path to peace of mind in this case was to spend a few extra dollars: He made fully refundable flight and hotel reservations, just in case something went wrong. That would eliminate a lengthy claim with his travel insurance company or credit card.

But he still needed at least \$50,000 in medical coverage with emergency evacuation because of his active schedule.

"We're going to be doing a lot of hiking in Iceland," he said. "And you just never know."

At the beginning of the year, he decided to buy an annual Medjet Horizon plan, a membership that would get him from a hospital in Portugal or Iceland to a hospital at home, in case something happened.

For insurance, Hopkins checked TravelInsurance.com to find an affordable travel insurance policy. He found coverage through Trawick International that pays up to \$50,000 in medical expenses and up to \$200,000 for an evacuation.

"I've heard good things about them," he said. "Hopefully, we won't need any of it."

How do I insure my trips?

I'm on the road about 360 days a year, so I'm always thinking about peace of mind. I currently use a Wells Fargo credit card with lots of travel benefits, and I have long-term policies through Faye and Cigna, which have worked fairly well. I also am a longtime Medjet Horizon member. If I rent a car, I turn to Allianz for my primary coverage.

I know – that's a *lot* of peace of mind.

But I've also run into trouble and had to use many of those benefits. Medjet got me back home during the pandemic. Cigna covered me after a serious ski accident in Switzerland. My old Allianz policy took care of my medical expenses when I had to see a doctor in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a few years ago.

Like I always say, when it comes to having enough insurance, better safe than sorry.

Expedition

Continued from Page 1B

Nature can make you feel small. Oftentimes, the idea of going somewhere new or familiar is set with the expectation of relaxing or enjoying yourself. It is not often that we seek out the feeling of insignificance. But it's a rewarding experience when you meet it face to face.

Embarking on an expedition cruise can offer travelers a unique adventure that combines exploration with the stark beauty of one of the world's last great wildernesses. The journey provides an intimate encounter with the region's unique wildlife while onboard experts deliver lectures about the fragile ecosystem and the need for preservation, offering a transformative journey that stays with travelers long after they return home.

The beauty of travel

As an avid ocean cruiser, I expected an expedition to hit similar benchmarks of relaxation. As soon as I stepped on board, I was dissuaded from that notion. This was an Expedition with a capital E. The small group of people on board were in this together so we were all gathered for the safety and instructional briefings – something that I usually do at my leisure in my cabin during ocean cruising.

We also all wake up together, thanks to the intercom morning announcements, which there are several during the day. Because it is an expedition, itineraries are more of a wish list than a concrete plan, so passengers are given updates on the planned activities every morning and throughout the day.

It can be daunting or reaffirming as a solo traveler to be on a rigid schedule with up to 132 others. You will share meals and experiences with your fellow passengers, it is inevitable to feel a sense of camaraderie by the end of your first 12 days. After all, you hiked almost 4 miles in the rain together, helped each other from slipping in the mud, held on to each other during bumpy Zodiac rides, and gasped in synchronicity as you spotted whales a few feet from you.



St. Jonsfjorden at Spitsbergen, Svalbard. PHOTOS BY JOSH RIVERA/USA TODAY



Eldborg crater is in Snaefellsnes National Park in Iceland. The crater is about 656 feet in diameter and 164 feet deep. It is the largest crater on this rift and was created in an eruption that occurred between 5,000 and 6,000 years ago.

Still, at the end of the hike, or the Zodiac ride or whatever that day's activity was, you have a moment to look up and see how small you truly are. The cliffs, the rocks, the water, the wind, the rain, the sun, it's all there as a reminder of their perennial beauty.

And you can't help but wonder: Why did it take almost 4,000 miles from my home to realize that?

That's the beauty of travel. The more places you visit, the more comparisons and similarities you find to your home to realize that we are so small in this world

but wield immense power to shape it.

A work deadline seems small compared to the hundreds of years it takes for moss to grow on volcanic rocks. The email you haven't responded to yet pales in comparison to the constant reminder to cover your face to protect it from the wind. And the queasy feeling of performance reviews is nothing to the constant need to check where you're stepping so you don't fall off a cliff.

Traveling and nature can do that for us. They can make us feel small and liberate us from the stress we impose on ourselves. It's one of those reminders that never register when you hear; you have to do the work of leaving your home to truly grasp it. Expeditions combine the two.

No matter how hectic your schedule is on a given week, the moss will still take almost 10 years to convert to soil. And that's OK.

Eventually, trips and expeditions end. Photos are a memento, but what stays with us are the feelings we experienced on days when we were away from home.

The reporter on this story received access to this event from Aurora Expeditions. USA TODAY maintains editorial control of content.

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Tuscaloosa: The Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter has asked for the public's assistance and patience as the shelter battles an outbreak of distemper in its dog population. In a Facebook post, the shelter said it needs to raise \$15,000 to cover the cost of testing all of the dogs and volunteers are needed to help the staff carry out a myriad of tasks related to the outbreak.

ALASKA Anchorage: Officials said Denali National Park and Preserve will reopen Wednesday even as fire crews are still battling a fire, KTUU reported.

ARIZONA Phoenix: The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has approved a clean air permit for a southern Arizona mine that allows construction to move forward, but critics say it's not stringent enough.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: The backers of a measure to allow Arkansas voters the chance to loosen the state's near-total abortion ban said they submitted more than 100,000 signatures, more than enough to qualify for the November ballot.

CALIFORNIA Sacramento: The California Department of Public Health reports a summer surge of COVID-19 infection in the state. Week over week results in late June show emergency room visits in California rose by around 23% from the week before, with a test positivity rate increasing to 8%, the highest for this time of year since summer 2022. Death rates have also gone up 14% from previous weeks.

COLORADO Denver: Colorado Parks and Wildlife said an alarming number of people have died in water-related accidents this season.

CONNECTICUT Hartford: A remembrance ceremony was held Saturday to mark the 80th anniversary of the deadly circus fire that killed 168 people, WTNH reported.

DELAWARE Dover: Delaware state attorneys are investigating a Dover nonprofit for potential fraud and misuse of government funds after the state auditor "encountered significant challenges" with auditing Code Purple Kent County earlier this year.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: Authorities said a 2-year-old French bulldog that was stolen at gunpoint has been reunited with its owner, WUSA9 reported.

FLORIDA Lakeland: Lakeland officials have gotten an estimate of what it will cost to clean up the source of the foul odor in Southwest Lakeland. City commissioners unanimously approved spending \$947,192 for Bartow-based A-C-T Environmental and Infrastructure to remove soil contaminated by a wastewater force main break in an undeveloped area north of the Carillon Lakes neighborhood. A-C-T anticipates it will have to excavate and remove about 7,840 tons of dirt to clean up the city's wastewater spill, according to its June estimate.

GEORGIA Savannah: Descendants of the seven pioneer women who saved the Davenport House and kickstarted Savannah's historic preservation movement in 1955 have led a movement for the women to be permanently recognized in a Savannah square. The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission unanimously approved plans for a monument in Columbia Square, just yards away from the Davenport House, that will recognize the original seven.

HAWAII Honolulu: An investigation is underway after a body was found in a burned out vehicle over the weekend, Hawaii News Now reported.

IDAHO Montpelier: A Montpelier man caught a tiger trout that was 9.3 pounds and 27.25 inches long in the Montpelier Reservoir, beating a previous state record that was set just weeks before, KTVB7 reported.

ILLINOIS Springfield: Negotiations on a bill creating new state regulations on carbon capture and sequestration brought together parties that had long been split. Some Illinois farmers, however, still feel left out of the agreement.

INDIANA Bloomington: Bloomington Police Department is now the lowest-paying police department in Monroe County, after the Indiana University Police Department raised its state-wide base salary nearly \$7,000 – an increase city officials worry will exacerbate the difficulty BPD already has with recruiting and retaining officers.

HIGHLIGHT: RHODE ISLAND



"The Great Elephant Migration" art installation will be in Newport through Sept. 6. JUSTIN WALKER/USA TODAY NETWORK

Newport: Cloudy skies and humidity the day after Independence Day did not curtail crowds. Many gathered along the Cliff Walk and lawns of Rough Point, The Breakers and Salve Regina's Ochre Court to get an up-close look at the life-sized elephant statues that will call the oceanfront their home until September. Modeled after a real herd of elephants, the sculptures are starting their first leg of a tour of the U.S. through an art installation called "The Great Elephant Migration." The elephants were sculpted by 100 Indian artisans living in India's Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve out of invasive weeds that threaten the elephants' habitat.

IOWA Des Moines: After 38 years as the Iowa Utilities Board, the regulatory oversight agency said it's been renamed the Iowa Utilities Commission. The name change was part of legislation Gov. Kim Reynolds signed into law in May that eliminated, merged and/or reduced the membership of dozens of state boards and commissions.

KANSAS Topeka: The Kansas Supreme Court is standing by its landmark 2019 abortion ruling that the Kansas Constitution protects the right to an abortion. The high court rejected arguments from attorneys for Attorney General Kris Kobach who argued the decision should be overturned, even after voters overwhelmingly rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to undo the decision.

KENTUCKY Louisville: A contested state program allowing companies to dump industrial wastewater into Kentucky's waterways without a permit is on pause while officials conduct an internal review of its use.

LOUISIANA New Orleans: As President Joe Biden tries to turn the tide after his disastrous debate performance last month, Vice President Kamala Harris is seeking to keep the focus on Republican opponent Donald Trump. Harris, during remarks on Saturday at the Essence Festival of Culture in New Orleans, called the 2024 race for the White House "probably the most significant election of our lifetime."

MAINE Kittery: A humpback whale has been spotted breaching in Pepperrell Cove last week, dazzling curious boaters in a rare sighting for such shallow waters.

MARYLAND Temple Hills: A 6-year-old child shot during a July Fourth holiday gathering has died, police announced. Two other people – a man and a woman – also suffered gunshot wounds in the Thursday night shooting in Temple Hills.

MASSACHUSETTS Boston: It's a hard push from now through the end of July as legislators prepare for the end of the session July 31 and ensure their pet bills find their way through both branches of government and on to the governor's desk. On the list are measures that deal with plastic waste, both single-use plastic bags and eating utensils and a proposed expansion of the 1986 Bottle Bill.

MICHIGAN Lansing: The union representing Michigan corrections officers is calling on Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to mobilize the National Guard to help staff Michigan prisons they say are chronically understaffed and unsafe.

MINNESOTA St. Paul: U.S. Rep. Angie Craig became the fifth House Democrat to call for President Joe Biden to exit the 2024 presidential race Saturday.

MISSISSIPPI Madison County: The Madison County Board of Supervisors recently approved launching a long-term disaster recovery committee. The new committee, composed of local citizens, businesses and faith-based groups, would step in to help families recover from disasters.

MISSOURI Nixa: In a sprawling field southeast of Nixa High School, construction fencing is up and heavy machinery has been moved into place. Crews are getting ready to start constructing a massive athletics and activities center.

MONTANA Glacier National Park: Authorities said a man from India and a man from Nepal drowned in separate areas of Glacier National Park, the Missoulian reported.

NEBRASKA Douglas County: Health officials said Douglas County is seeing an increase in syphilis cases, particularly among women, Omaha World-Herald reported.

NEVADA Reno: A national manufacturer that was voted this year among the nation's best employers opened a new facility in south Reno.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Portsmouth: A recent study from the Union of Concerned Scientists shows as sea levels rise, pieces of critical infrastructure in New Hampshire could be threatened by flooding from the ocean on a regular basis, New Hampshire Public Radio reported.

NEW JERSEY Trenton: A new law took effect on July 1 granting sweeping rights to an estimated 50,000 domestic workers across New Jersey. The newly-minted "domestic worker bill of rights" – which Gov. Phil Murphy signed in January – provides workplace protections for domestic service workers such as housekeepers, in-house child care providers and gardeners.

NEW MEXICO Albuquerque: Authorities said a 16-year-old boy turned himself in after a hit-and-run crash that left one man dead last month, KOB4 reported.

NEW YORK New York: Over 100 cases of dengue virus infections have been reported in New York state so far this year as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an alert June 25 over an increased risk of dengue virus infections in the U.S. Dengue fever has been reported in 43 states this year with a total of 2,241 cases nationwide as of Wednesday. New York currently has 134 reported cases, trailing only Puerto Rico, which has 1,498, and Florida with 197. All of the state's cases are travel related.

NORTH CAROLINA Raleigh: North Carolina wasn't in the top 10 states for gun purchases in 2023. However, a study showed North Carolina had a 112% increase in gun sales from 2022 to 2023. The next highest was Illinois, at a 5% increase.

NORTH DAKOTA Carrington: Clean-up efforts continue after a fiery train derailment near Carrington on Friday, KVRN reported.

OHIO Columbus: The campaign to raise minimum wage in Ohio failed to collect voter signatures in enough counties to qualify for November ballot this year but said they'll try again in 2025.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: The Oklahoma City Housing Authority is in "imminent" danger of halting housing vouchers to thousands on a waiting list just as state laws are about to ban public camping under highway bridges and on public land.

OREGON Salem: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing changes to the way it draws down Green Peter Reservoir, hoping to improve conditions for imperiled salmon while avoiding major impacts to city drinking water systems on the South Santiam River.

PENNSYLVANIA Lancaster County: Delayed flights can be annoying, but a Pennsylvania woman could not be happier after making a detour from a flight to end up on cloud nine after her top-prize lottery win. Donna Osborne, a Lancaster County resident, had just finished radiation for her breast cancer treatment when she decided to take a trip to Florida with her daughter, a news release from the Pennsylvania Lottery said. "We were on our way to see family in Florida when the flight got delayed," Osborne told lottery officials. "Well, it was delayed so many times, I decided to go home." Little did Osborne know her decision to stay in Pennsylvania would make her \$5 million richer.

SOUTH CAROLINA Greenville County: An escaped prisoner from Tennessee was caught in Greenville County after law enforcement received a tip on his whereabouts.

SOUTH DAKOTA Rapid City: Nicole Swigart, Rapid City Area Schools' superintendent, has been placed on leave following offensive comments she made during an investigation, the school board announced, Rapid City Journal reported.

TENNESSEE Hendersonville: Police have arrested a 17-year-old male in connection with the murder of a teen girl who went missing last month and whose remains were found July 3 along a busy Middle Tennessee road.

TEXAS San Angelo: Representatives of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals are displaying a new statue – "E(n)d Shearin" – at San Angelo's City Hall, sending a message about sheep shearing. The statue features artwork designed by New York cartoonist Harry Bliss showing images of sheep protesting while holding signs stating, "I'm not your socks!" and "Where is your empathy?" The statue will be there for the remainder of the month; it is a traveling sheep that will follow PETA around the U.S.

UTAH Provo: Fireworks shot into a crowd at an annual Fourth of July celebration in Utah and injured multiple people on Thursday inside a packed university stadium, city officials and event organizers reported.

VERMONT Burlington: Nurses at the University of Vermont Medical Center have called off their strike, union representatives announced last week, after the center's management agreed to significant wage increases. Nurses will now see their earnings rise by 23% over the next three years, "with an additional step added to the top of the step scale every year of the contract," according to a news release from The Vermont Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, which represents the medical center's 1,900 nurses.

VIRGINIA Richmond: State regulators removed an important protection for the blue crab when they narrowly approved reopening the winter season after a 15-year closure, subjecting the vulnerable and keystone species to additional harvest.

WASHINGTON Oak Harbor: A malfunctioning carnival ride left six people injured during a Fourth of July celebration at the Independence Day Carnival in Oak Harbor, officials said.

WEST VIRGINIA Morgantown: The West Virginia University School of Dentistry is launching the state's first and only advanced education program in pediatric dentistry in 2026, WDTV reported.

WISCONSIN Milwaukee: When travelers arrive at the Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport for the Republican National Convention July 15-18, they'll be greeted by updates, a new food option and patriotic welcomes. It's all part of the Milwaukee airport's effort to give a strong first impression for the convention. The airport has been playing a role in the convention since its inception and is effectively acting as Milwaukee's front door for the week.

WYOMING Yellowstone National Park: A park ranger is injured and a suspect is dead following an exchange of gunfire in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming last week, the National Park Service reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports



In 10 starts, Pirates pitcher Paul Skenes is 5-0 with a 2.12 ERA. CHARLES LECLAIRE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Rookie sensation now an All-Star

Pirates pitcher Paul Skenes made MLB debut May 11

The players, managers and coaches may not have been impressed enough to cast their All-Star votes for Pittsburgh Pirates rookie sensation Paul Skenes, or perhaps simply wanted to reward the veterans, but MLB officials stepped in Sunday and made sure Skenes and his 102-mph fastball will be in Arlington, Texas, for the 2024 All-Star Game, selecting him to be on the National League All-Star team.

Skenes technically replaces Phillies ace Zack Wheeler, who was selected to the All-Star Game but will be ineligible to pitch in the game since he's scheduled to pitch the final day before the break against the Oakland Athletics.

Just like that, Skenes (5-0, 2.12 ERA, 78 strikeouts in 59 2/3 innings) becomes the first player in MLB history to become an All-Star in his first season after being the No. 1 pick in the amateur



Bob Nightengale
Columnist
USA TODAY

draft, and the first rookie pitcher in Pirates history to make the All-Star team. He also could wind up as the NL's starting pitcher in the game since he'll be on normal rest.

The players, managers and coaches opted for the veterans who have excelled in the first half and not the rookies, voting for starters Tyler Glasnow of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Chris Sale and Reynaldo Lopez of Atlanta, and starters Zack Wheeler and Ranger Suarez of the Philadelphia Phillies, but not Skenes or Cubs 30-year-old rookie Shota Imanaga. They chose relievers

Jeff Hoffman and Matt Strahm of the Phillies and Robert Suarez of the San Diego Padres.

The players and managers also did not vote for St. Louis Cardinals closer Ryan Helsley, who leads MLB with 31 saves, San Francisco Giants ace Logan Webb, or Cubs ace Shota Imanaga. They were selected to the All-Star Game by MLB officials, who also picked New York Mets first baseman Pete Alonso, Giants center fielder Heliot Ramos and closer Tanner Scott of the Miami Marlins.

The addition of Alonso assures the Home Run Derby of star power with Shohei Ohtani, Aaron Judge and Juan Soto declining to participate. Alonso, a two-time HR Derby champion, said he would participate only if he made the All-Star team.

See ALL-STARS, Page 2C

Taylor Fritz storms back in Wimbledon

Pritha Sarkar
REUTERS

LONDON – Taylor Fritz punched a hole in Alexander Zverev's perfect serving record at this year's Wimbledon by producing a storming comeback from two sets down to topple the German fourth seed with a 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-3 victory to reach the quarterfinals.

Any fears that the German might struggle after he jarred his left knee following an awkward fall in the previous round were quickly dispelled, and such was his command of the contest, it seemed that nothing could stop him from finally reaching the last eight of the grass-court major for the first time.

For 2 1/2 sets on Monday Zverev's serve was impenetrable, just like it had been during the first week of the championships, as he notched up 56 successive holds over the course of four matches.

Zverev looked well set to defeat a Top 20 player at Wimbledon for the first time as he led by two-sets-to-love and was locked at 4-4 in the third.

But a tame double fault from Zverev handed Fritz an unexpected break in the next game and from then on the American's game caught fire.

He chased down everything the German could throw at him and produced some eye-popping diving winners in the fifth set to leave a shell-shocked Zverev staring at defeat.

Facing two more break points at 2-1 down, Zverev stayed alive in the game by ending a brutal, yet captivating, 21-shot exchange with a ferocious forehand winner.

But across the net he would also have seen that Fritz was prepared to put everything, including his 6-foot-4 body, on the line in an attempt to get over that finishing line.

Waving his outstretched racket arm, the American went flying to the ground as he desperately tried to get that Zverev forehand back over the net. The disappointment of that missed attempt did not last long as Fritz secured the break on the next point for a 3-1 lead and from then on there was no way back for Zverev.

A backhand winner into an open court left Fritz dropping his racket and raising his arms in triumph, while Zverev was left to digest yet another disappointing exit from Wimbledon.

"It was amazing to do that on Centre Court when you are two sets down in front of this crowd. It's a dream," Fritz told the crowd after defeating a Top 5 player at a Grand Slam for the first time in his career.

See FRITZ, Page 2C



Taylor Fritz celebrates winning the fourth set against Germany's Alexander Zverev on Monday.

HENRY NICHOLLS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Larry Celano plays a shot during a practice round ahead of the 2023 U.S. Adaptive Open at Pinehurst No. 6 in Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina.

JEFF HAYNES/USGA

Earning spot in US Adaptive Open means so much to veteran Celano

Cameron Jourdan
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

SAND CREEK STATION, Kan. – Larry Celano is no stranger to the U.S. Adaptive Open golf tournament.

He played in the first two editions of the championship before winning his qualifier this year to earn his way into the field. Celano, 55, and other adaptive athletes began teeing it up Adaptive in the third edition, but this year it means more for Celano and others.

For the first time, the United States Golf Association, which conducts the tournament, held qualifiers for the championship. Played over 18 holes, qualifiers were held at six sites across the USA between April 15 and May 31.

In its first two years, the championship field was determined largely by Handicap Index.

"Just to be able to go and actually work hard, come out and play and earn your spot, it's the most amazing thing," Celano said.

The Arizona native was wounded during the invasion of Panama on Dec. 22, 1989, as a member of the U.S. Army in the 82nd Airborne Division. He suffered an L1-L2 spinal cord injury because of gunshot wounds. He retired in June 1990 and was awarded the Purple Heart.

He also started the Seated Golfers Association, where he serves as the president.

See ADAPTIVE OPEN, Page 2C

What to know about Emma Navarro, who beat Coco Gauff at Wimbledon

Jordan Mendoza
USA TODAY

There is a new American tennis star on the rise.

Emma Navarro is on her way to the Wimbledon quarterfinals after she pulled off a major upset in the fourth round, knocking off the No. 2-ranked player in the world Coco Gauff in straight sets on Sunday at centre court.

It's been a meteoric rise for Navarro, who started her professional tennis career not too long ago. She had major college success, and 2024 has been a breakout year for her as she chases her first major tournament title as the No. 19 player in the world.

Before she makes her first major quarterfinal appearance, here's what to know about Emma Navarro:

Where is Emma Navarro from?

Navarro is from New York City.

Age

Navarro, born on May 18, 2001, is 23 years old.

Dad

Navarro's dad is billionaire Ben Navarro, who is the founder and chief executive officer of Sherman Financial Group. He has investment in tennis; he owns the Charleston Open, and in 2022, he became owner of the Cincinnati Open.

Where did Emma Navarro go to college?

Navarro was a prized tennis recruit and she played collegiately at Virginia from 2020 to 2022.

In her freshman season, she was the 2021 NCAA singles champion, which qualified her for the US Open, her first major.

She finished her career with the Cavaliers with a 51-3 singles record.



Emma Navarro of the United States celebrates winning her match against Naomi Osaka of Japan on Day 3 of Wimbledon, also known as The Championships, at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. SUSAN MULLANE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Emma Navarro pro career, major history

Navarro became a full pro in 2022 but she really started picking up steam in 2023. She started getting deep into tournaments on the WTA Tour and had a win in the 2023 French Open. In January, she won her first title at the 2024 Hobart International and continued to rise up the world rankings.

She's continued to progress at the 2024 majors. She made it to the third round of the Australian Open, and at the French Open she advanced to the fourth round of a major for the first time after she beat Madison Keys in the third round. She eventually lost to the No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka. Now, Navarro is

in her first major quarterfinal at Wimbledon.

Emma Navarro 2024 Wimbledon

- First round: Defeated Qiang Wang (6-0, 6-2).
- Second round: Defeated Naomi Osaka (6-4, 6-1).
- Third round: Defeated Diana Shnaider (2-6, 6-3, 6-4).
- Fourth round: Defeated Coco Gauff (6-4, 6-3).

Who will Emma Navarro play next?

Navarro will face Jasmine Paolini in the quarterfinals of the women's singles.

Fritz

Continued from Page 1C

"I was just thinking it sucked to be playing this well and to lose in three straights. Even though I lost the first two sets, I really believed I was playing good tennis. I felt it was just a couple of points here and there and that I could take it one step at a time and turn it around."

The American 13th seed will next face Italian Lorenzo Musetti.

With Tommy Paul also through to the last eight, Fritz's victory means it will be the first time since 2000 that more than one American man will feature in the quarterfinals.

Rybakina highest seeded women left

No. 21 seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine returned to the Wimbledon quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-1 victory Monday over China's Xinyu Wang in just 55 minutes.

A semifinalist at the All England Club in 2023 and 2019, the 29-year-old Svitolina moved a step closer to her first Grand Slam title by committing just 10 unforced errors.

Svitolina will face No. 4 seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in the round of eight. Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, was leading 6-3, 3-0 when Russia's Anna Kalinskaya was forced to retire after 53 minutes with an injured right wrist.

Rybakina, 25, is the highest-ranked player remaining in the field and the only prior winner of the grass-court major.

No. 13 seed Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia rolled to a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan. Ostapenko's 68-minute win put her in the quarterfinals for the third time, the first since 2018.

Ostapenko will face No. 31 seed Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic, who swept No. 11 Danielle Collins 7-5, 6-3. The 28-year-old, a former No. 1, broke Collins to take a 6-5 lead in the first set and closed out the match by breaking her U.S. opponent for the fourth time.

— Field Level Media

All-Stars

Continued from Page 1C

Nearly one-third of Philadelphia's roster will be on hand for the July 16 All-Star Game at Arlington, Texas, with seven of their players voted in by the fans and fellow players. They'll be represented by Bryce Harper, who will be making his first All-Star appearance in a Phillies uniform (Harper missed the 2022 All-Star Game with a broken thumb). Other Phillies making the roster include third baseman Alec Bohm, shortstop Trea Turner, starter Zack Wheeler (who will be inactive) and relievers Hoffman and Strahm.

The Dodgers have six players, including injured shortstop Mookie Betts, DH Shohei Ohtani, first baseman Freddie Freeman, catcher Will Smith, outfielder Teoscar Hernandez, and Glasnow.

Every first-place team this year is represented by at least two players except for the Seattle Mariners, whose lone All-Star is starter Logan Gilbert.

The Texas Rangers and Arizona Diamondbacks, who were in last year's World Series and will have their managers and entire coaching staffs at the All-Star Game, are represented by only three All-Stars: shortstop Marcus Semien and closer Kirby Yates of the Rangers and second baseman Ketel Marte of the Diamondbacks.

Nearly half of the All-Star rosters are filled with 32 players making their first All-Star team, including three on the Cleveland Guardians: first baseman Josh Naylor, outfielder Steven Kwan and DH David Fry. The Guardians have



Paul Skenes was the No. 1 pick in the 2023 draft. CHARLES LECLAIRE/USA TODAY SPORTS

a league-leading five All-Stars, including third baseman Jose Ramirez and closer Emmanuel Clase.

The All-Star rosters feature 24 internationally born players (35.8%).

However, with Betts being injured, there are only three Black active ball players on the All-Star teams: Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees, Riley Greene of the Detroit Tigers and CJ

Abrams of the Washington Nationals.

Four rookies were selected to the All-Star Game with San Diego Padres 21-year-old center fielder Jackson Merrill being the youngest, along with Oakland closer Mason Miller, Imanaga and Skenes. Merrill is the first rookie in Padres history to make the All-Star Game, while Imanaga is the first Cubs rookie pitcher to make it.

The AL players chosen in the player balloting were Royals catcher Salvador Perez and shortstop Bobby Witt Jr., Naylor, Texas Rangers shortstop Marcus Semien, third baseman Rafael Devers and outfielder Jarren Duran of the Boston Red Sox, Greene, injured Houston Astros outfielder Kyle Tucker and Fry. They also voted in pitchers Corbin Burnes of the Baltimore Orioles, Tarik Skubal of the Detroit Tigers, Garrett Crochet of the Chicago White Sox, Seth Lugo of the Royals, Tanner Houck of the Red Sox, Kirby Yates of the Texas Rangers, Clase and Miller.

MLB officials used four of their six picks in the AL to ensure that each team is represented and selected starter Tyler Anderson of the Los Angeles Angels and Gilbert of the Mariners, Carlos Correa of the Minnesota Twins and Isaac Parades of the Tampa Bay Rays. MLB also selected Yankees closer Clay Holmes and Royals starter Cole Ragans.

In the NL, players chose the five Dodgers, with Ohtani winning the fan balloting; two-time hitting champion Luis Arraez of the Padres, Atlanta DH Marcell Ozuna, third baseman Ryan McMahon of the Colorado Rockies, Merrill of the Padres, and Bryan Reynolds of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Cincinnati Reds shortstop Elly De La Cruz received the second-most votes among shortstops and will replace Betts. They also selected pitchers Chris Sale and Reynaldo Lopez of Atlanta, Suarez and Wheeler, Glasnow, Robert Suarez of the Padres and Hoffman and Strahm.

MLB's six NL selections all were used to ensure that every team was represented with the fans and players not selecting anyone from the Mets, Giants, Cardinals, Cubs, Marlins or Nationals.

Adaptive Open

Continued from Page 1C

"I will always cherish this one as much as the first one, but this one a little bit more because I had to earn my way into it," Celano said.

Celano was emotional Sunday during his pre-tournament press conference because of the opportunities afforded to him thanks to the U.S. Adaptive Open.

He said two weeks before qualifying, he had a pit in his stomach waiting for his chance to earn his way into the field. He went on to win his qualifier in Dallas.

Sand Creek Station offers a different test than the first two editions of the



Larry Celano started the Seated Golfers Association, where he serves as the president. UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION

Adaptive Open, which were held at Pinehurst No. 6. Celano said it's on par with the best courses in the country and will offer a good challenge for the adaptive athletes.

Celano said it's an emotional week to get back together and meet athletes and friends he has met playing golf through the years and being able to do it at the national championship makes it even better. The three-round tournament is scheduled to finish Wednesday.

"I get all teared up because I've met so many people," Celano said. "Even the volunteers and staff I've got to know from the USGA, it's just heartwarming. It's just so great that we got our championship and we have to earn it to be here."

MLB ALL-STAR GAME SNUBS

10 who really should have been chosen

Gabe Lacques

USA TODAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Brent Rooker, Oakland Athletics

He was a low-key star of the last Mid-summer Classic, driving in a run for the AL and eliciting “Sell the team!” chants from baseball fans on hand.

This year, he’s doubled down on that worthiness: 18 home runs, 54 RBI and a .890 OPS, eighth in the AL.

Not as buzz worthy as fireballing closer Mason Miller, the A’s lone representative, but certainly more accomplished and a likelier trade target, which would have made for fun pregame chatter.

Anthony Santander, Baltimore Orioles

His 23 home runs are most of any AL player not on the squad, and Santander’s .804 OPS as an outfielder ranks sixth in that group. Third among outfielders with 57 RBI and ninth overall in the AL.

Ronel Blanco, Houston Astros

Seems like we want to jam more feel-good stories or nifty narratives into this game, eh?

Well, Blanco would certainly fit the bill: He threw a no-hitter in just his eighth career start, at the ripe old age of 30. And he was no one-night wonder – Blanco’s 2.53 ERA ranks fourth in the AL and he’s seventh with a 1.01 WHIP. Of greater import, he’s kept the Astros afloat through a grim early start laden with pitching injuries.

Grayson Rodriguez, Baltimore Orioles

They are a game behind the Cleveland Guardians for the AL’s best record yet have two fewer All-Stars – fan-elected starters Gunnar Henderson and Adley Rutschman and starter Corbin Burnes. Not surprisingly, they might lead in snubs, too, with closer Craig Kimbrel and infielder Jordan Westburg joining Santander and Rodriguez as deserving dudes. Let’s hone in on Rodriguez, tied for the AL lead with 11 wins and sixth with 9.98 strikeouts per nine innings.



Diamondbacks first baseman Christian Walker’s 22 HRs and .853 OPS are the most of any player not on the NL’s All-Star roster. ERIC HARTLINE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Kenley Jansen, Boston Red Sox

It’s not much difference if a veteran reliever has four or five All-Star selections to his credit. But Jansen, 36, has been excellent: He’s converted 17 of 18 save chances, a 94% conversion rate that’s by far the best among the top 10 in saves. Yet it’s curious that MLB would opt for New York Yankees closer Clay Holmes to fill out the roster. Jansen has a 1.09 WHIP and .198 opponent batting average to Holmes’ 1.31 and .271; the Yankee has converted 19 of 24 save chances.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Christian Walker, Arizona Diamondbacks

You’d think a last-week push in which he laid waste to Dodger Stadium would’ve lifted the veteran to his first All-Star nod. Alas, his 22 home runs and .853 OPS are the most of any NL player not on the roster; he ranks third and eighth in those categories, respectively.

Christopher Sanchez, Philadelphia Phillies

Yeah, the Phillies got four pitchers on the squad. But they absolutely deserved one or maybe two more. Sanchez’s omission is glaring: He ranks sixth in ERA and is one of just a half-dozen NL

pitchers to toss a shutout this season. Sanchez has also given up just two home runs in 97 innings.

Trevor Megill, Milwaukee Brewers

A situation where not only is the player deserving, but a team that’s posted the third-best record in the NL deserves more reps than fan-elected starters Christian Yelich and William Contreras. Megill has been nails, saving 18 of 19 games with a 0.99 WHIP.

Masyn Winn, St. Louis Cardinals

Always considered a glove-first guy, Winn has been outstanding all around for the Cardinals, with 3.4 Wins Above Replacement ranking eighth among NL position players and behind only CJ Abrams among healthy shortstops. A .294/.343/.416 line pairs nicely with his defensive excellence.

Jake Irvin, Washington Nationals

Tough to ignore Abrams as the Nationals’ lone representative, and tough to clamor for one more bid from a fourth-place team. But Irvin is the club’s greatest success story this year, with a 2.80 ERA ranking fifth in the NL and a 1.00 WHIP trailing only All-Stars Chris Sale, Tyler Glasnow and Zack Wheeler. Has a 1.65 ERA in his last eight starts.

All-Star Game rosters

The players selected for the MLB All-Star Game, which will be held July 16 at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas:

American League

Starters

Catcher: Adley Rutschman, Baltimore Orioles
First base: Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Toronto Blue Jays

Second base: Jose Altuve, Houston Astros
Third base: Jose Ramirez, Cleveland Guardians
Shortstop: Gunnar Henderson, Baltimore Orioles

Outfield: Aaron Judge, New York Yankees; Juan Soto, New York Yankees; Steven Kwan, Cleveland Guardians

Designated hitter: Yordan Alvarez, Houston Astros

Reserves

Carlos Correa, Minnesota Twins; Rafael Devers, Boston Red Sox; Jarren Duran, Boston Red Sox; David Fry, Cleveland Guardians; Riley Greene, Detroit Tigers; Josh Naylor, Cleveland Guardians; Isaac Paredes, Tampa Bay Rays; Salvador Perez, Kansas City Royals; Marcus Semien, Texas Rangers; Kyle Tucker, Houston Astros; Bobby Witt Jr., Kansas City Royals

Pitchers

Tyler Anderson, Los Angeles Angels; Corbin Burnes, Baltimore Orioles; Emmanuel Clase, Cleveland Guardians; Garrett Crochet, Chicago White Sox; Logan Gilbert, Seattle Mariners; Clay Holmes, New York Yankees; Tanner Houck, Red Sox; Seth Lugo, Kansas City Royals; Mason Miller, Oakland Athletics; Cole Ragans, Kansas City Royals; Tarik Skubal, Detroit Tigers; Kirby Yates, Texas Rangers.

National League

Starters

Catcher: William Contreras, Milwaukee Brewers
First base: Bryce Harper, Philadelphia Phillies
Second base: Ketel Marte, Arizona Diamondbacks

Third base: Alec Bohm, Philadelphia Phillies

Shortstop: Trea Turner, Philadelphia Phillies

Outfield: Christian Yelich, Milwaukee Brewers; Jurickson Profar, San Diego Padres; Fernando Tatis Jr., San Diego Padres

Designated hitter: Shohei Ohtani, Los Angeles Dodgers

Reserves

CJ Abrams, Washington Nationals; Pete Alonso, New York Mets; Luis Arraez, San Diego Padres; Mookie Betts, Los Angeles Dodgers; Elly De La Cruz, Cincinnati Reds; Freddie Freeman, Los Angeles Dodgers; Ryan McMahon, Colorado Rockies; Will Smith, Los Angeles Dodgers; Teoscar Hernandez, Los Angeles Dodgers; Jackson Merrill, San Diego Padres; Heliot Ramos, San Francisco Giants; Bryan Reynolds, San Diego Pirates

Pitchers

Tyler Glasnow, Los Angeles Dodgers; Ryan Helsley, St. Louis Cardinals; Jeff Hoffman, Philadelphia Phillies; Shota Imanaga, Chicago Cubs; Reynaldo Lopez, Atlanta Braves; Chris Sale, Atlanta Braves; Tanner Scott, Miami Marlins; Paul Skenes, Pittsburgh Pirates; Matt Strahm, Philadelphia Phillies; Ranger Suarez, Philadelphia Phillies; Robert Suarez, San Diego Padres; Logan Webb, San Francisco Giants; Zack Wheeler, Philadelphia Phillies

Yankees falling in latest MLB power rankings



Gabe Lacques

USA TODAY

Just how far will the New York Yankees fall?

They have not won a series in their last seven tries. They’ve fallen from first place in the American League East to three games behind the Baltimore Orioles.

And in USA TODAY Sports’ power rankings, it’s taken less than a month for them to tumble from No. 1 to No. 5.

The latest indignity came Sunday night, when they lost a second consecutive series to the Boston Red Sox, leaving them just 4 ½ ahead of their resurgent rivals – or, nearly as close to third place as they are to first. After the giddiness of rookie Ben Rice’s three-homer game, the Yankees once again failed to win consecutive games – which they last did on June 12.

Now, just one week to get better before the All-Star break.

A look at our updated rankings:

1. Philadelphia Phillies (-)

● A club-record seven All-Stars – and it should’ve been more.

2. Baltimore Orioles (-)

● Heston Kjerstad 11-for-30 (.367) with 12 RBIs in 10 games since return from minors.

3. Cleveland Guardians (-)

● José Ramírez celebrates 10 years of service time and sixth All-Star selection on same day.

4. Los Angeles Dodgers (+1)

● Shohei Ohtani first player to 20 homers, 20 steals.

5. New York Yankees (-1)

● Back pages react gently to rookie’s three-homer game: BEN THRICE, ALL RICE, THE BENBINO.



Aaron Judge reacts after striking out against the Red Sox at Yankee Stadium. VINCENT CARCHIETTA/USA TODAY SPORTS

6. Milwaukee Brewers (+1)

● Christian Yelich on a heater, boosts OPS to .940.

7. Atlanta Braves (-1)

● Won 11 of last 19, still 8 games back.

8. Minnesota Twins (-)

● Have won 10 of last 14 – and shaved deficit from 7 ½ to six games.

9. Boston Red Sox (+3)

● On 16-6 tear; won 12 of 17 vs. NYY.

10. Kansas City Royals (-)

● This might have seemed impossible a year ago, but they’re sending two starting pitchers – Seth Lugo, Cole Ragans – to the All-Star Game.

11. Seattle Mariners (-2)

● As division lead goes up in flames, J.P. Crawford tries burning some sage.

12. San Diego Padres (-1)

● Luis Arraez will represent third team

in three years – Twins, Marlins, Padres – at All-Star Game.

13. St. Louis Cardinals (+1)

● Manfred Rule strikes again, as Ryan Helsley loses consecutive save streak when Ghost Runner crosses home.

14. Houston Astros (-)

● Made up eight games on Seattle in 18 days.

15. New York Mets (-)

● OMG – they’re a .500 team.

16. Arizona Diamondbacks (+1)

● Christian Walker on pace for 40 homers, 115 RBIs.

17. San Francisco Giants (+1)

● Heliot Ramos went from Sacramento shuttle to All-Star in a hurry.

18. Tampa Bay Rays (-2)

● Pivotal stretch before trade deadline begins with 10 games vs. Yankees, Guardians.

19. Washington Nationals (-)

● What a week for James Wood: A hit in first at-bat, changes numbers, homers, drives in five runs.

20. Texas Rangers (+1)

● Bid to save season perks up a bit with sweep of Rays.

21. Pittsburgh Pirates (+1)

● Paul Skenes’ last five starts: 1.39 ERA, 40 strikeouts in 32 ⅓ innings.

22. Cincinnati Reds (-2)

● Sweep Yankees in Bronx, get swept at home by Tigers? Seriously?

23. Chicago Cubs (-)

● Shota Imanaga joins Sam Jones (1955) as just the second Cubs rookie pitcher to make All-Star team.

24. Detroit Tigers (+1)

● Tarik Skubal, All-Star starter? Seems like a no-brainer.

25. Toronto Blue Jays (-1)

● In 12 games, George Springer has boosted his OPS from .559 to .672.

26. Los Angeles Angels (-)

● Shut out three times in past five games, but Anthony Rendon is back.

27. Oakland Athletics (+1)

● Would a contending team acquiring Mason Miller treat him as carefully as A’s?

28. Colorado Rockies (+1)

● With 14 home runs, All-Star Ryan McMahon should easily surpass his career high of 24.

29. Miami Marlins (-1)

● Jake Burger’s walk-off home run lets the No. 30 White Sox know just who’s boss.

30. Chicago White Sox (-)

● Now 26-66 this season, if you’re still counting.

Shilo Sanders bankruptcy case is an oddity

Brent Schrottenboer

USA TODAY

Shilo Sanders and his attorneys have been fighting two different battles in court in recent months, both with high stakes for the University of Colorado football star:

- In Colorado bankruptcy court, they are trying to free him from the \$11 million in debt he owes for allegedly assaulting and injuring a man when he was 15 years old in Dallas in 2015.

- In Texas state court, they also are seeking to have many old documents related to his youth shielded from public view despite the fact those records might be relevant to his public bankruptcy case now as an adult at age 24.

“There is no basis or justification under Texas state law or under the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules to unseal such materials relating to when Sanders was a minor simply due (to) Sanders reaching the age of majority,” Sanders’ attorneys wrote in a court filing in June.

His attorneys even have called for a hearing in Dallas next week to argue why the court should seal hundreds of pages of court records there that relate to his days as a minor.

In the bigger picture, it highlights the strange circumstances at play with how Sanders, son of Colorado coach Deion Sanders, has fallen into bankruptcy as a young adult because of what he allegedly did as a ninth-grader at a high school in Dallas. Legal experts describe it as an oddity in a justice system that generally aims not to let the mistakes of youth ruin somebody’s life.

But in this case, the law allowed a then-40-year-old man to sue a then-16-year-old boy (Sanders) in civil court in 2016 because of what Sanders allegedly did to the man a year earlier, when Sanders was 15.

The law also allowed the same civil court to hold Sanders responsible for what he allegedly did at age 15 – issuing an \$11.89 million default judgment against him that led him into bankruptcy last year at age 23.

Here’s why and what sets the case apart.

Why did case reach this point if Shilo Sanders was a minor?

The case stems from an incident in September 2015, when Shilo Sanders allegedly assaulted and caused permanent injuries to a security guard, John Darjean, who was trying to confiscate his phone at school. Darjean sued Sanders and his parents in 2016, seeking damages for his injuries. But Sanders’ parents eventually were dismissed from the case. Shilo was not. By the time he entered his college freshman year at South Carolina in 2019, he was the sole remaining defendant in the case at age 19.

Then when the case finally went to trial in Dallas in 2022, Shilo didn’t show up to defend himself in court after discharging his attorneys on the case in 2020.

As a result, the court entered a default judgment against him of \$11.89 million – a debt that Darjean is still trying to collect from him.

In Darjean’s view, Shilo simply owes him for what he did to him under laws



Colorado safety Shilo Sanders has fallen into bankruptcy as a young adult because of what he allegedly did as a ninth-grader. ANDREW WEVERS/USA TODAY SPORTS

designed to address civil wrongs – or torts – in civil court. It’s quite unlike criminal court, where children generally are afforded more privacy and leniency than adults.

“Minors are liable in tort just as adults are,” said Meredith Duncan, a law professor at the University of Houston. “Such is true in most states. The plaintiff in this case (Darjean) is suing Shilo for committing a tort (a civil wrong) and seeking to hold him civilly liable (for monetary damages). Unlike the criminal court system, on the civil side being a minor at the time of the commission of a tort does not shield one from liability. Usually, the practical difficulty in suing a minor in tort is that most minors have no money.”

The default judgment led Shilo Sanders to file for bankruptcy last October. His goal in bankruptcy court is to get that debt discharged so he can “get a fresh start, free from the oppressive burden of his debts,” according to his attorneys.

Sanders has alleged Darjean was the aggressor, not him, though it may be too late to litigate that after missing the trial about it.

How money sets this case apart

Deion Sanders previously has portrayed this case as a money grab by Darjean. However, Darjean disputes any notion that he is pursuing Shilo Sanders simply because of the wealth of Deion Sanders, a Pro Football Hall of Famer. Darjean noted how multiple probes evaluated evidence in the case and ended up favoring him, including by police, workers’ compensation authorities and the civil court in Dallas.

Court records filed by Darjean’s attorneys also noted Shilo Sanders was admitted to a Dallas County Juvenile Department center a day later after an-

other incident at school.

“I would go after anyone that assaulted me,” Darjean told USA TODAY Sports in a recent interview. “I don’t care who it was.”

It just might have been harder for him to find attorneys to fight for his rights in this case if Shilo Sanders didn’t come from a family with wealth. Darjean said his attorneys are working the case on a contingency basis – which generally means they get paid part of any settlement or recovery of the debt.

Those attorneys are fighting Shilo’s efforts to discharge his debt in bankruptcy court because they want to collect on it. If it’s not discharged by the bankruptcy court, they could continue to pursue debt collection efforts against him in the future, including any future earnings from the NFL.

This is one way the case is rare. It’s often not worth it to pursue a civil case against minors, because they often don’t have the means to pay any judgment that could result from it.

“This case is unique in many respects, including that the family of the defendant has significantly more resources than the average person,” said Jonathan Todres, a law professor at Georgia State and expert on children’s rights.

In the meantime, Darjean has said he won’t stop fighting until he gets what he’s owed. His attorneys also have suggested in court filings that Shilo is concealing assets to avoid having them sold to pay off his debt – allegations Shilo’s attorneys denied. Attorneys in the case have declined comment or not responded to requests for comment.

What has happened to Shilo Sanders so far?

Shilo Sanders is a graduate student at Colorado and was the leading tackler

on the team in 2023. But he is entering his final college season in Boulder with legal and financial problems uncommon for college football players.

In March, he underwent a property inspection to account for his assets, according to court records filed in the case. He provided the bankruptcy trustee overseeing the case with bank statements, information on his business operations and documents related to his vehicles.

“The Trustee is continuing to review documents to determine if any additional documents are needed for the Trustee’s administration of the estate,” his counsel stated in a court filing June 27.

His non-exempt assets could be sold to pay back creditors at least some of what he owes them, but his biggest creditor – Darjean – has suspected he is hiding assets and wants to prevent the court judgment from being discharged on the basis that it came from a “willful and malicious” injury.

To represent his interests, Shilo Sanders has attorneys working for him in Colorado, Washington D.C. and Texas, where they are asking the court to seal records related to his youth.

Why was Shilo Sanders not shielded from a lawsuit as a minor?

It stems from the differences in civil courts and the criminal justice system, where children are treated differently as juveniles.

“The idea behind it was that children are different from adults, and they deserve the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and be supported in their development, rather than be penalized indefinitely for missteps,” said Todres of Georgia State.

By contrast, in civil court, a child’s freedom is not at stake like it can be in the criminal justice system. Instead, it’s essentially about determining liability to recover monetary damages. In Darjean’s view, the age of his alleged attacker shouldn’t matter if he suffered severe injuries and proved who was responsible for them in court.

He sought to recover for those injuries, and the court found that Shilo Sanders “did in fact cause physical harm and injuries to John Darjean by assaulting him,” according to the “findings of fact” signed by the judge in 2022.

The court’s judgment against Sanders included \$3 million for Darjean’s future physical impairment and \$2 million for future medical care. Shilo Sanders’ attorneys said in court records that he doesn’t have the money to pay the judgment and should be allowed a discharge. Soon it will be up to the court to decide if he should stay on the hook for it.

In general, the larger civil legal system beyond this case has a “tough balancing act to do,” Todres said. “We want to ensure injured individuals receive compensation, when entitled, so they can recover fully, but we don’t want to unduly penalize a child and saddle them with a lifetime of debt because of a decision made as a kid. Part of the challenge is that our legal system’s primary remedy for injuries is monetary compensation.”

Davis Thompson sets record in PGA Tour win

Cameron Jourdan

Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

The name Davis Thompson is not unfamiliar for those who follow the PGA Tour.

He has been trending in recent weeks, with two runner-up finishes in his past six starts, including last week at the Rocket Mortgage Classic. His worst finish in that stretch, outside of a missed cut at the Canadian Open, was T-27.

And now, Thompson is a PGA Tour winner. He captured the 2024 John Deere Classic on Sunday for his first PGA Tour victory. Thompson blitzed TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois, setting a tournament scoring record of 28-under 256, besting Michael Kim’s 2017 record of 27 under. He won by four shots in his 63rd career start over a group of players at 24 under, including amateur Luke Clanton.

“I got off to a great start today and was able to just kind of cruise on the back nine,” Thompson said. “Yeah, getting off to a good start was crucial, and I was just able to ride the momentum coming in.”

With the win, Thompson also punched his ticket to the British Open Championship at Royal Troon in two



Davis Thompson holds up the trophy for winning the John Deere Classic golf tournament on Sunday. JOSEPH CRESS/USA TODAY SPORTS

weeks. He finished T-9 at the U.S. Open last month.

Thompson earned \$1.44 million with the win in addition to 500 FedExCup points.

Also in a weird twist, for the third straight year at the John Deere Classic, the winner has stayed at the same

house. In 2022, J.T. Poston took home the title while staying at the property. Last year, Sepp Straka was in a group of golfers who rented the house, and he won.

This year, Thompson was in the group who rented the house. And lo and behold, he’s the winner. He even stayed

in the same room that Straka did.

“I think I have to pay for the whole house now, which is unfortunate, but I’ll gladly write the check for that,” Thompson said.

Thompson is also the 24th golfer to earn his first career win at the John Deere Classic, which is the most of any event in PGA Tour history.

Clanton, a 20-year-old junior at Florida State, became the first amateur since Billy Joe Patton in the 1950s to finish in the top 10 in back-to-back PGA Tour starts. He birdied his last hole to shoot 8-under 63 on Sunday and finish T-2 alongside C.T. Pan and Michael Thorbjornsen, who was making his third start as a PGA Tour member after earning his card via PGA Tour University.

Patton did it in the 1957 U.S. Open and 1958 Masters. Clanton did it in consecutive weeks, and he’s in the field next week at the ISCO Championship, as well.

For Pan, his finish earned him the second spot up for grabs at the 2024 British Open Championship.

“It’s going to be a great trip,” Pan said. “Honestly going to be hectic to arrange all the travel details last minute, and it will be a good problem to have and my wife and I will be looking forward to our trip there.”

Bowman wins Chicago street race for his first 2024 victory

Joe Rivera, Ellen J. Horrow and Lorenzo Reyes
USA TODAY

Alex Bowman broke an 80-race NASCAR Cup Series winless streak on Sunday, outlasting the rain and the field to win the Grant Park 165 on the streets of downtown Chicago.

Bowman, earned his eighth career Cup Series win, holding off Tyler Reddick and Ty Gibbs in the rain-shortened race that ended with a count-down clock. When the clock hit zero, Bowman needed to maintain his lead for two laps – taking the white flag and the checkered flag – to earn his first win since March 6, 2022, at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

The past two years have been a struggle for the 31-year-old Hendrick Motorsports driver, who suffered a concussion in September 2022, then broke his back in April 2023.

“Man, I broke my back, I had a brain injury, and we’ve kind of sucked ever since,” Bowman said in an interview with NBC after the race. “You kind of second guess if you are ever going to win a race again. Last one we won, we didn’t really get to celebrate.

“We’re going to drink so much damn bourbon tonight. It’s going to be a bad deal. I’m probably going to wake up naked on the bathroom floor again.”

Bowman became the 12th driver to win a Cup Series race this season and most likely locks himself into the 16-driver playoff field with six regular-season races remaining.

The race was delayed for nearly two hours after Stage 1 ended as rain disrupted the race for the second consecutive year. Once the race resumed, every driver switched to wet-weather tires, but teams faced a conundrum on when to change back to primary slick tires once NASCAR instituted the countdown clock.



Alex Bowman celebrates with his No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports team on Sunday after winning the Grant Park 165 on the streets of Chicago.

MIKE DINOVO/USA TODAY SPORTS

Christopher Bell, who led most of Stage 2, was one of numerous drivers to change tires before that stage ended, leaving him and many other race leaders in the middle of the pack. Bowman’s team, by contrast, made the decision to continue on rain tires.

As the race wound down, Bell, driving on the faster slicks, began chasing down Bowman and made it all the way to sixth in the running order on lap 55 before contact with teammate Martin Truex Jr. in turn 2. Carson Hocevar then slammed into Bell, and any hopes Bell had of winning his fourth race of the season came to a screeching halt. The Joe Gibbs Racing driver ended up finishing three laps down in 37th.

Cup Series playoff picture: Who’s in, out ahead of Pocono

This season’s winners (locked into playoffs)

Top 16 advance to playoffs

1. Christopher Bell (3 wins, 24 playoff points)
 2. Kyle Larson (3 wins, 23 playoff points, regular-season points leader)
 3. Denny Hamlin (3 wins, 19 playoff points)
 4. William Byron (3 wins, 16 playoff points)
 5. Tyler Reddick (1 win, 8 playoff points)
 6. Ryan Blaney (1 win, 7 playoff points)
 7. Austin Cindric (1 win, 7 playoff points)
 8. Chase Elliott (1 win, 6 playoff points)
 9. Joey Logano (1 win, 6 playoff points)
 10. Brad Keselowski (1 win, 5 playoff points)
 11. Alex Bowman (1 win, 5 playoff points)
 12. Daniel Suarez (1 win, 5 playoff points)
- ### Wild-card playoff points standings
13. Martin Truex Jr. (+125 ahead of Wallace)
 14. Ty Gibbs (+84)
 15. Ross Chastain (+53)
 16. Chris Buescher (+45)
-
17. Bubba Wallace (-45 points behind Buescher)
 18. Chase Briscoe (-88)
 19. Kyle Busch (-98)
 20. Todd Gilliland (-121)

Pato O’Ward nips Alex Palou in first IndyCar hybrid engine race

Nathan Brown

The Indianapolis Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

LEXINGTON, Ohio – Just 17 days short of two years from last taking the checkered flag first at Iowa Speedway, Pato O’Ward triumphed on-track – and did so by out-driving the best team and driver in the NTT IndyCar Series.

On the debut day of IndyCar’s hybrid era, the Arrow McLaren driver chipped away at pole-sitter and championship leader Alex Palou’s early dominant lead Sunday afternoon at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course before making a race-winning pass on lap 56 as the CGR driver pulled out of the pits after making his final stop.

Despite intense pressure over the closing stretch from the two-time champ, Arrow McLaren’s O’Ward held off Palou and edged him to the checkered flag by 0.4993 seconds for both he and his team’s first win on-track since July 24, 2022.

Here’s how O’Ward did it:

Palou takes big lead early

After securing his third pole of the season by the tightest margin in IndyCar’s Fast 6 qualifying era on road and street courses (since 2005), Palou ran away from the field early Sunday afternoon, looking for back-to-back wins at the track he’s never finished off the podium at since joining CGR.

With the actual start to the race coming on lap 3 due to Scott Dixon’s mechanical failure that left him stalled



Pato O’Ward won Sunday for the first time since July 2022. INDYCAR SERIES

multiple times on the parade laps, Palou wasted little time on creating a sizable gap. By lap 10, Palou led O’Ward by 3.4 seconds and already had put nearly 6 seconds on 3rd-place starter David Malukas and nearly 7 on fourth-place Colton Herta,

By lap 25, just before the leaders pitted, that lead of Palou’s on second-place stood at 6.3 seconds.

O’Ward takes lead out of pits

Palou maintained that cushion through the front two drivers’ first round of stops, leading O’Ward by 5.5 seconds on lap 32, but it was then that O’Ward – despite running the same black-red-black tire strategy as Palou during the race – consistently ate into the pole-sitter’s lead.

The leader began to carve his way around lapped traffic on lap 38, but on lap 40 he led O’Ward by just 4.2 seconds at the race’s halfway point. Eight

laps later, Pato had shaved off one second, and by lap 50, the No. 5 Chevy driver trailed the lead by just 2.4 seconds. Two laps later, O’Ward was within 1.1 seconds of Palou and then on that lap cut within a second off the back of the No. 10.

Before he could make the pass. O’Ward’s team called him in for his final stop on lap 54 while within a half-second of Palou, but after the Ganassi driver came in the following lap, he trundled out of pit lane and saw the papaya-clad No. 5 zoom on by just seconds later.

Teammate, hybrid engine help O’Ward hang on to win

Over the final 25 laps, O’Ward could never wholly shake off the current IndyCar points leader, only periodically gapping him by 1.4 seconds. But with slow traffic ahead for much of the closing stint – including Palou’s CGR teammate Kyffin Simpson running at the end of the lead lap – O’Ward managed to use both his bank of push-to-pass and extra hybrid energy to keep Palou from getting any potential impactful runs.

Twice, too, Palou dropped a pair of wheels off-track, losing a couple tenths of a second on the leader each time.

O’Ward’s only moment of vulnerability was a touch of wheel spin coming out of the final corner on the final lap of the race, but he managed to gather himself and charge to the checkered flag.

Zimmerman, Mihailovic, Robinson on soccer team

Carrie McDonald

USA TODAY

Midfielder Djordje Mihailovic and defenders Walker Zimmerman and Miles Robinson will headline the U.S. men’s soccer team at the Paris Olympics as overage players on the 18-player roster announced Monday morning.

The U.S. men’s team has historically struggled at the Olympics, with the Paris Games marking the first time the American men have qualified for the tournament since 2008, when they finished ninth.

The team will be managed by Marko Mitrović, head coach of the U.S. men’s under-23 team.

“We couldn’t be more excited to have this group of great players and great people represent us at the Olympic Games,” Mitrović said. “It’s a special moment for all of us as they have worked their entire lives to reach this stage.

“Our goal is to make our country proud and we will give everything for the United States,” Mitrović added.

The team qualified for Paris by winning the 2022 Concacaf Under-20 Championship.

The men’s Olympic tournament is restricted to under-23 players, and clubs are not obligated to release their players for the Games. With the exception of three roster spots open to older players, rosters must be comprised of athletes born on or after Jan. 1, 2001. The overage players will be Zimmerman, 31; Robinson, 27; and Mihailovic, 25.

Benjamin Cremaschi is the youngest player on the roster at 19 years old and will remain age-eligible for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Despite the young lineup, 15 of the 18 players named to the roster have already earned caps on the senior U.S. men’s national team (USMNT).

Zimmerman will lead the team as the most-capped USMNT player with 42 international appearances, including all four of the USMNT’s games at the 2022 World Cup. Robinson also brings experience at major international tournaments, having been selected to the roster for the USMNT’s disastrous campaign at the 2024 Copa América tournament, which resulted in the team’s group stage elimination.

MLS players feature heavily on the roster with 10 of the 18 athletes currently playing in the league and the remainder playing across Europe.

Additionally, all players except defender Maximilian Dietz either played in the MLS or developed in an MLS academy set-up.

“Almost every player developed through our American soccer pathway, rising to become professionals, and now they will live their dreams of competing at the Olympics,” Mitrović said.

The U.S. will play its first game against host nation France at 3 p.m. EDT on July 24 at Stade de Marseille in Marseille before facing New Zealand and Guinea in Group A.

U.S. men’s soccer team for the 2024 Paris Olympics

Goalkeepers (2): Patrick Schulte (Columbus Crew), Gaga Slonina (Chelsea/ENG)

Defenders (6): Maximilian Dietz (Greuther Furth/GER), Nathan Harriel (Philadelphia Union), Miles Robinson (FC Cincinnati), John Tolkin (New York Red Bulls), Caleb Wiley (Atlanta United FC), Walker Zimmerman (Nashville SC)

Midfielders (5): Gianluca Busio (Venezia/ITA), Benjamin Cremaschi (Inter Miami CF), Jack McGlynn (Philadelphia Union), Djordje Mihailovic (Colorado Rapids), Tanner Tessmann (Venezia/ITA)

Forwards (5): Paxten Aaronson (FC Utrecht/NED), Taylor Booth (FC Utrecht), Duncan McGuire (Orlando City SC), Kevin Paredes (Wolfsburg/GER), Griffin Yow (KVC Westerlo/BEL)

Alternates (4): Josh Atencio (Midfielder, Seattle Sounders FC), Jacob Davis (Defender, Sporting Kansas City), Johan Gomez (Forward, Eintracht Braunschweig/GER), John Pulskamp (Goalkeeper, Sporting Kansas City)

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EURO 2024 SEMIFINAL PREDICTIONS

France's epic battle with Spain precedes English-Dutch in blue-blood final four

Robert Zeglinski

BetFTW | USA TODAY NETWORK

Eventually, the cream always rises to the top.

From start to finish, Euro 2024 has already played out like one of the most exciting men's international soccer tournaments anyone could remember. However, despite some upstart underdogs making deep runs, some all-time legends choking in the biggest possible spots, and an entire country waiting with bated breath over its team's place in the tournament, the final four in Germany has more or less played out exactly as expected.

These semifinals are all blue bloods and chalk, baby.

In one corner of the ring, we've got a historic rivalry that goes far beyond soccer. I'm talking, of course, about Kylian Mbappe's France and Lamine Yamal's Spain in another matchup that feels extremely worthy of a final. Did you know these two nations haven't played against each other in a knockout round at a major tournament in over a decade?

We were way overdue, dearest readers.

On the other end, we've got the English, sitting in their third semifinals of a tournament in four go-rounds with Gareth Southgate. There's little doubt England has the requisite talent to finally win its first men's European championship. But the Dutch, a gifted, if fellow historically snake-bitten group, will have other ideas while facing Jude Bellingham and Co.

In a round that should live up to the hype, here are my picks for the Euro 2024 semifinals.

Tuesday, 3 p.m. EDT, Fox: France vs. Spain

As thrilling as these Euros have been, most teams haven't consistently impressed me.

Even some heavyweights have seen drab, uninspiring stints of play that made any reasonable soul wonder how they won a single game.

Well, except for the juggernaut Spanish.

Your move, Didier Deschamps and France.

While Spain has effectively controlled the proceedings in every game it's played, the French have been, weird-



Spanish teammates Alvaro Morata, right, and Lamine Yamal enjoyed the quarterfinal victory against Germany on Friday. ALEXANDER HASENSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES

ly, grinding results out. I'm not exaggerating. Despite having one of the better rosters on hand in Germany, France has yet to score an open-play goal through five games. It's wild that a team this good would struggle this much to put the ball in the net, but it helps speak to how the French have been losing the offensive margins they're accustomed to winning.

Of course, on the flip side, France hasn't conceded a goal in open play either. That's probably just as important.

When it comes to this semifinal duel, I think we're pretty evenly matched. There's enough star power between Rodri, Dani Olmo, Nico Williams, Lamine Yamal for the Spanish and Kylian Mbappe, N'Golo Kanté, Ousmane Dembélé, and Antoine Griezmann for the French to last us a lifetime. And both squads seldom make mistakes to beat themselves.

However, when push comes to shove, I trust Spain more.

From depth to how its top-end talent has actually performed in these Euros, it's clear the Spanish are ready to battle for their fourth European championship. With all due respect to the French,

that grind-it-out style eventually wears thin.

Prediction: Spain 2, France 1

Wednesday, 3 p.m. EDT, Fox: England vs. Netherlands

From a historical perspective, few things are sadder than a big soccer game between the English and the Dutchmen.

This is England's third major semifinal appearance under Gareth Southgate, a remarkable achievement with a true golden generation. Yet it somehow manages to fall flat on its face before finishing the job. It's basically a trademark for this bunch.

The Netherlands, meanwhile, is back competing with the big boys after a dry spell featuring just one quarterfinal berth (at the 2022 World Cup) in its previous four tournaments. Mind you, this has often happened despite usually having some of the most talented rosters in the world.

If anyone knows heartbreak better than the English, it's the Dutch.

This late into the tournament, I find England's continued approach confounding.

Southgate seemingly refuses to make any meaningful tactical adjustments that would jump-start his predictable offense. It's hard to misuse a core featuring Bellingham, Harry Kane, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka, but not for Southgate. And it almost seems like England is content simply not to lose games rather than go all-out and earn a hard-fought victory. It's infuriating to watch as a neutral observer.

This isn't great news for the English because it feels like the Netherlands loves playing with volatility.

The Dutch have scored at least two goals in four of their five games, and they have been very comfortable chasing deficits. For a team with less comparative star power than their remaining peers, the Dutch are selling out, pressing for quality goals, and being rewarded accordingly. After initial skepticism about the Oranje, it's a delightful brand of soccer that has won me over.

It's the semifinals, so this matchup will be full of drama no matter what. But I think the Dutch are more willing to take risks. The soccer gods usually smile at these kinds of teams.

Prediction: Netherlands 3, England 2

COPA AMERICA

Messi not the only star to watch in semifinals

Safid Deen

USA TODAY

The Copa America semifinals are set, and only three matches remain before one nation hoists the trophy.

Will Lionel Messi and Argentina continue their soccer dominance, like they did during Copa America 2021 and World Cup 2022, with another title?

Or will another up-and-comer, like Colombia, Uruguay or Canada, seize the crown and set themselves on a momentous path to the World Cup 2026?

The semifinals begin Tuesday (8 p.m. EDT, FS1) when Argentina plays Canada again, in a rematch of their tournament opener, at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Colombia and Uruguay will play Wednesday (8 EDT, FS1) at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The semifinal winners will play in the Copa America 2024 final on Sunday at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, while the losers play in the third-place game on Saturday in Charlotte.

Here are five players to watch in the Copa America semifinals:

5. Uruguay striker Darwin Núñez

The Liverpool striker shined with two goals in group play but missed a header near the net that would have helped Uruguay avoid a penalty shootout against Brazil and was eventually subbed off against Brazil to help Uruguay play the result.

Although Uruguay did not appear its strongest against Brazil, the country has a feather in its cap no other club has: a win over Argentina in World Cup qualifying last November, in which Núñez scored.

Simply put, Núñez needs to have a better performance than his last two outings, which included a meaningless 1-0 win over the U.S. after already



Lionel Messi and Argentina will take on Canada in the Copa America semifinals Tuesday. MARIA LYSAKER/USA TODAY SPORTS

clinching a quarterfinal, if Uruguay is to advance in the semifinal round.

4. Canada goalie Maxime Crépeau

Crépeau rebounded from his biggest mistake in the tournament, veering too far off his line and allowing a goal scored over his head, to help Canada beat Venezuela 1-1 (4-3 in penalties) to advance to the semifinals.

No player has more saves than Crépeau's 16 in four Copa America matches, and he has allowed just three goals in four games with two coming against Argentina in the tournament opener on June 20. But Crépeau had six saves against Argentina, making the world champions work for their goals.

Crépeau is a major reason why Messi is scoreless during Copa America, and his play in the semifinal will be instrumental if Canada hopes to pull off one of the biggest upsets in soccer history Tuesday.

3. Argentina star Lionel Messi

It might be a surprise that the best player in the world is ranked third on this list, but Messi has underwhelmed slightly during this Copa America.

Although he has been the catalyst to three of Argentina's six goals, he's scoreless through three of four matches played. He missed one due to a right groin injury. And his penalty miss during Argentina's shootout win over Ecuador was reminiscent of his shortcomings before Argentina found its winning ways at this tournament three years ago.

Messi is the biggest star playing in Copa America, and he potentially has two matches remaining to make his mark. He is relatively healthy and has often needed a game or two after returning from injury to get back to his scoring ways as we've seen during his MLS stint with Inter Miami.

The stage is set for Messi to deliver a

shining moment in his career and elevate Messi mania to another level during Copa America.

2. Argentina goalie Dibu Martínez

Sometimes, all-time great dynasties need another star to cement their place in history. Martínez has done that time and time again for Messi and Argentina, like he did during their World Cup shootout win over France and like their Copa quarterfinal victory against Ecuador last week.

When the lights are the brightest, Martínez often delivers. He saves his best for the penalty shootouts, becoming an enigma with each shot attempt he blocks and each celebration he does afterward to further psych out his opponents.

Martínez began the tournament with three clean sheets against Canada, Chile and Peru and has another chance to keep the Canadians at bay in the semifinal. Argentina needs him to continue delivering if they're going to cement their dynasty with another Copa America title.

1. Colombia star James Rodríguez

Luis Díaz crowned Rodríguez in celebration after his goal in a 5-0 win against Panama in the quarterfinal. He's been the best player during Copa America, the engine Colombia has relied on during its semifinal march.

Rodríguez leads all players with five assists, more than double the next player in line. He was instrumental in Colombia's avoidance of Uruguay until the semifinal, fueling Colombia's comeback draw against Brazil to meet Panama in the quarterfinals.

Colombia has 11 goals in four games – five coming in the win against Panama – and appears as the strongest team to beat in the Copa America semifinals.

Nacua fueled by family as he achieves stardom

Jordan Mendoza
USA TODAY

Life is sure different for Los Angeles Rams receiver Puka Nacua.

One year ago, the former BYU wide-out was drafted in the fifth round, hoping to not only be a contributor, but stay on the roster.

Now, Nacua has solidified himself as one of the top players for Los Angeles after he had a record-breaking rookie season.

With success comes fame, and it's something he's had to adjust to. Even though the constant attention he gets when in public has led to him spending more time at home than before, Nacua has a soft spot for the happiness and smiles that greet him. Whenever he's out and about, he gets plenty of shakas and references to his stylish hair. And there are more and more people out sporting his jersey on a near everyday basis.

The more and more it happens, the more everyone realizes Nacua is a certified star.

"To be recognized out here in LA – of all places – is definitely a different level," Nacua told USA TODAY Sports. "My family sees that and they're like, 'Wow Puka, you actually are really famous.'"

Another result of his on-field success is Nacua was named as one of the newest additions to Toyota's NFL partners, along with Kyle Hamilton of the Baltimore Ravens, Michael Pittman Jr. of the Indianapolis Colts and Christian Gonzalez of the New England Patriots. It's an ideal partnership for Nacua since he owns a Supra, noting it is the same car that Paul Walker drove in the original "The Fast and the Furious" movie.

Another reason Nacua is aligned with the brand is Toyota said it wanted athletes who have deep connections to their communities, family and friends, and for Nacua, family is everything.

Sure he is busy, but Nacua always makes time for his family, mostly his mom, Penina Nacua, and six other siblings. They FaceTime together at least once a day, sometimes even three times in a day. The resilience and strength his mother showed after he lost his father in his early teens is something he is forever grateful for, and something he often



Rams wide receiver Puka Nacua takes part in organized team activities at Cal Lutheran University in May. With a full season under belt, Nacua feels like he can spend more time in training camp honing in on certain aspects of his game.

KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

thinks about when he takes the football field.

"My mother is everything to me and my family. Being able to be the rock of our family and support us in that hard time," Nacua said. "The strength of the single mother, being able to carry all of us kids and then to continue to carry on, it's something that I use to call upon."

Preparing for 2024 season

Nacua has a tall task ahead of him as he tries to live up to or even top his rookie season, which he finished with 105 receptions and 1,486 receiving yards, both NFL rookie records.

Ahead of the 2024 season, Nacua has trained with All-Pro teammate Cooper Kupp during the offseason to get the full scope of what it takes to be an elite receiver. ESPN reported the workouts have been so intense, Nacua started the

training constantly throwing up, realizing he needed to change his diet to match Kupp.

Not only is he acting like Kupp, but Nacua has also started to look just like him. No longer does he have a baby face, but a full-on beard too, almost becoming a mini-Kupp, even though they are the same height.

Nacua admitted people have told him he's looking just like Kupp, and even though Nacua trimmed it down a bit, expect the facial hair to stick around this season. "Coop's got a nice thick one," he said. "During the season, I don't know if I'll shave my beard. But for now, while it feels like it's 700 degrees in California, I'm gonna be a nice slim beard guy."

But the training sessions with Kupp have been a big benefit to Nacua's preparation for the season, checking off all the boxes he wanted to achieve as training camp nears. With a full season un-

der belt, Nacua feels like he can spend more time in training camp honing in on certain aspects of his game, including in the weight room and in recovery. Becoming more precise is something he can afford to do since he doesn't have to worry about getting cut before taking a meaningful snap.

All the particular training is preparation for Nacua to reach his biggest goal this season: to not miss a game – something he achieved his rookie year.

"You never know what play might be your last," Nacua said. "I feel like I've prepared my body well enough for what we're about to go through and I'll be ready to roll for hopefully 21 weeks."

He also has his eyes set on winning the triple crown – leading the league in receptions, receiving yards and receiving TDs – something Kupp did in 2021, giving him another opportunity to mirror his illustrious mentor.



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'Beverly Hills Cop' co-stars come back on the case

Eddie Murphy surrounds himself with familiar faces in Netflix's "Axel F." **Page 2D**

A year later, the Sphere has shifted concert expectations

The high-tech, \$2.3 billion venue has changed Las Vegas and changed the game. **Page 4D**

LIFELINE



JC OLIVERA/GETTY IMAGES

HOW WAS YOUR DAY? JOHN AND BILLY STAMOS

John Stamos is ushering in a new star. On Friday, the "Full House" star, 60, was joined by his 6-year-old son Billy on the drums during a Beach Boys concert. Billy, whom Stamos shares with wife Caitlin McHugh Stamos, was fitted with lime green noise-dampening headphones as he joined his dad for a drum solo during "Good Vibrations." Stamos is playing drums and guitar with The Beach Boys through September on The Endless Summer Gold Tour.



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Tom Hanks is 68. Fred Savage is 48. Courtney Love is 60.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). Impulsive indulgences? The moon's clash with Leo provokes emotional ups and downs. You seek a security blanket.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Moody moments? Navigating a family dilemma requires patience. Unfortunately, patience is in short supply!

Gemini (May 21-June 21). The vibes are "off." It feels like the other shoe is about to drop.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Torn between security and stretching outside your comfort zone? The moon's clash with Uranus provokes agitation.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Spontaneous outbursts? Your instincts are good, but your methods are messy.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Unable to relax? You are on edge. You're haunted by existential fears.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Dealing with unexpected drama? Outbursts from friends have you feeling out of sorts.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Seeking to make a statement? Thoughtless behaviors provoke conflict in already shaky relationships.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Frustrated with your job? The moon's clash with Uranus makes you want to throw in the towel.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Impulsive behavior? Fears dissolve. You're looking for thrills and excitement!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Hurtful behavior? Conflicts with loved ones provoke offense, then anger.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Forced off-course? Expect the unexpected. Distractions and delays botch routines.

MOVIES



Maxine (Mia Goth) is stalked by a mystery killer but she's no damsel in distress in "MaXXXine." PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JUSTIN LUBIN/A24 FILMS

In 'MaXXXine,' Mia Goth takes control as a new kind of final girl

Brian Truitt USA TODAY

Mia Goth has not yet put a body part in wet cement at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood – a place her starlet in the 1980s-set meta slasher movie "MaXXXine" would kill to be included. What Goth is an old pro at is weathering goop being put on her head to make a life cast.

• She has had it done for a few movies, including one rather stressful session for Marvel's upcoming "Blade." "I remember being very tired and a little hungry. I went in and we did the cast and I actually had to rip it off because I needed to take a breather and have a cup of tea," Goth says of the incident, which ended up being good practice for a similar scene in "MaXXXine" (in theaters now). • Being covered in gunk is honestly one of Maxine Minx's lesser worries in director Ti West's ambitious, blood-soaked horror trilogy. In 2022's "X," Maxine is the lone survivor of a porn-film crew after a 1979 massacre perpetrated by an elderly Texas couple, including vicious wife Pearl, also played by Goth. (The actress played a younger version of her as a murderous, fame-starved farm girl circa 1918 in the prequel "Pearl.") **See MAXXXINE, Page 4D**



Maxine (Goth, left) tries to keep it together as an FX artist (Sophie Thatcher) creates a life cast in "MaXXXine."

MUSIC REVIEW

Vegas shows the 'Love' for Cirque

Melissa Ruggieri
USA TODAY

LAS VEGAS – And in the end, the "Love" was overwhelming.

On Sunday, the groundbreaking marriage between the most well-known amalgamation of art, circus and theater and one of the richest catalogs in music history came to a close after 18 years with tears, hugs and peace signs filling the stage.

"The Beatles Love by Cirque du Soleil" and its 60-person multicultural cast bade farewell at a boisterous, invite-only finale in its soon-to-be-demolished home, The Mirage. The casino and hotel, purchased by Hard Rock International two years ago, closes on July 17 and will reopen in spring 2027 as Hard Rock Las Vegas.

But on this night of goodbyes, the \$100-million custom-built 2,013-seat "Love" theater was packed with friends and family of the cast and crew and at least one well-respected name in The Beatles' universe – Giles Martin.

Martin, the son of the late Beatles producer and honorary fifth member George, is the architect behind the most magical aspect of "Love" – its 2008 Grammy-winning soundtrack stocked with unique reconstructions of Beatles songs.

Cirque du Soleil CEO Stéphane Lefebvre spoke briefly before the final performance lifted off with the chilling isolated harmonies of The Beatles' singing "Because." He praised Martin's musical acumen and the show for all of the "peace and joy and happiness and love" it has brought the 12 million people Lefebvre said have seen "Love" in nearly two decades.



The trippy vibe of "Strawberry Fields Forever" is brought to life in Cirque du Soleil's "The Beatles LOVE," which closed after an 18-year run.

PROVIDED BY MATT BEARD PHOTOGRAPHY

While it was mostly a standard performance of the 90-minute show, the audience loudly whooped and cheered at the start of each segment, providing a vibe more akin to a concert than a Cirque production.

The cast appeared to perform with extra vigor and emotion – the roller skating leaps during "Help" seemed a little bit higher, the ever-elegant Dr. Robert (Jimmie Cervera) and original Father McKenzie (Eugen Brim, who left the production in 2016 and returned in February) shimmied and shouted with extra oomph – and a few unscripted hugs were witnessed among the hippie kids during the trampoline-heavy "Revolution."

In the only fourth-wall breaker, the Sugar Plum Fairy – aka Lady Madonna's baby daddy – who usually speaks in tribal language before a stomping splash dance in yellow Wellingtons, said to the crowd, "I am feeling a lot of love tonight!" before asking them to clap the rhythm of "Lady Madonna."

When the usual finale of "All You Need Is Love" arrived and red confetti showered from the rafters, the cast took its typical walk around the stage brandishing peace signs and singing along with the optimistic anthem. But this time, tears among them were visible. Since its 2006 opening, the show, blessed by Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr and endorsed by Yoko Ono and

See CIRQUE, Page 4D

STREAMING

'Cop' co-stars come back for 'Axel F': We catch up with their careers

Marco della Cava USA TODAY

As movie cast reunions go, few will generate more nostalgic laughs than the one assembled for "Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F."

The fourth installment in the franchise (streaming now on Netflix) comes 40 years after the original Eddie Murphy launch pad, and 30 years after the third movie in the series.

But John Landis' 1994 film "Beverly Hills Cop III" fared less well at the box office than its predecessors and noticeably excluded a few key players, including John Ashton as the lovable but tough cop John Taggart and Paul Reiser as affable detective Jeffrey Friedman.

This time, the core "Cop" team is back, including Ashton and Reiser, as well as Bronson Pinchot as art dealer Serge. A few newcomers to Murphy's humor-meets-mayhem camp include Taylour Paige as his daughter Jane, Kevin Bacon as Captain Grant, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt as cop Bobby Abbott.

"We had done three 'Beverly Hills Cop' movies, but the third one is a little soft compared to the other two, and it's because we don't have all of the people from the original," Murphy tells USA TODAY.

"Now, we're back with John back as Taggart, we've got Paul, we've got Bronson, you just needed all the ingredients that were in the first picture," he says. "Everyone who was alive - well, except for Lisa Eilbacher (she played Axel's sleuthing pal Jenny), who is very much still alive - but everyone else, we brought them back. And it was so good to be back on set with them."

We take a quick look at what some of those original "Cop" cast members have been up to over the decades:

Eddie Murphy

Murphy's huge success with "Beverly Hills Cop" was followed by a steady string of movies with mixed box-office results, including "The Golden Child" and "Another 48 Hrs."

But in 1988, Murphy found his comedic groove again, teaming up with pal Arsenio Hall for "Coming to America," a premise he'd return to in 2021's "Coming 2 America." He played multiple characters, a nod to his idol Peter Sellers, and would again showcase his chameleon talents in 1996's "The Nutty Professor."

The 63-year-old star's resume is too lengthy and diverse to summarize.

Suffice to say, he has recorded albums as a vocalist, created two classic stand-up specials ("Delirious" and "Raw"), made voicing a donkey cool ("Shrek"), won a Primetime Emmy for his "Saturday Night Live" hosting return, was given the Mark Twain Prize for humor, and is the proud father of 10 children.

Judge Reinhold

Reinhold, 67, rocketed to fame on the



Paul Reiser, left, returns as Jeffrey Friedman and Eddie Murphy is Axel Foley in "Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F," the fourth installment in the series and the first new addition in 30 years. PROVIDED BY MELINDA SUE GORDON/NETFLIX



John Ashton as Chief John Taggart and Judge Reinhold as Billy Rosewood return in "Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F." The two actors were key foils for Murphy's Axel Foley in the hit original comedy from 1984. PROVIDED BY ANDREW COOPER/NETFLIX



Bronson Pinchot returns as the art dealer Serge in "Axel F," which features many of the cast members from the 1984 hit film. PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

heels of his likable if befuddled police officer in "Beverly Hills Cop," boasting a pal-next-door appeal that would later be claimed by actors such as Jason Segel. While Reinhold tried to parlay that success into leading roles, his movie "Vice Versa" was a flop. Reinhold returned to his supporting role niche, both in the "Cop" sequels and the Tim Allen star vehicle series "The Santa Clause."

Many TV fans may best know Reinhold for his 1994 Emmy-nominated "Seinfeld" stint, in which he played a "close talker" (someone who stands uncomfortably close during a conversation) who develops an unnatural affection for Jerry's parents.

John Ashton

Ashton, 76, was another working actor whose role in "Beverly Hills Cop" made him suddenly recognizable. But nevertheless, his bread and butter would remain character roles in a long string of movies and TV shows over the subse-

quent decades.

While his most high-profile non-Taggart role was that of a rival bounty hunter in the cult classic movie "Midnight Run," Ashton spent nearly 40 years, from 1974 to 2012, appearing in countless TV series, including "Kojak," "Wonder Woman," "M*A*S*H," "Dallas" and "Law & Order: SVU."

Bronson Pinchot

Pinchot, 65, made a name for himself shortly out of Yale, the year before "Cop" came out, when he appeared in the Tom Cruise classic "Risky Business." His performance as the outrageous and wildly accented art dealer in "Cop" then led to memorable appearances in movies such as "After Hours," "True Romance" and "The First Wives Club." And of course, there was Pinchot's eight-year run in the TV sitcom, "Perfect Strangers."

While he has largely been away from Tinseltown's spotlight in the past decades, Pinchot has made a name for him-

self as an audiobook narrator, with some 400-plus titles to his credit so far, from Flannery O'Connor novels to the "Memoirs of General William T. Sherman."

Paul Reiser

Reiser, 68, is another actor who, before "Cop," appeared in a now-classic film, 1982's "Diner." His success in Murphy's cop comedy eventually led to NBC greenlighting a sitcom Reiser co-created, "Mad About You" (1992 to 1999), in which he co-starred with Helen Hunt as his on-screen wife.

While that series won a host of awards, 2011's "The Paul Reiser Show" lasted but a few episodes.

Reiser is less known for his considerable musical skills.

He co-composed the theme song for "Mad About You," and has collaborated with singers such as Melissa Manchester. His early forays as a musical act eventually bombed enough for him to turn to stand-up comedy.

STREAMING

Emma Roberts is a 'Space Cadet,' but no fan of flying

Ralphie Aversa

USA TODAY

In the new Amazon movie "Space Cadet" (streaming on Prime Video), Emma Roberts plays Tiffany "Rex" Simpson, an unlikely savior for a U.S. space mission gone awry. But in real life, don't expect Roberts in orbit anytime soon. The actress says that she's claustrophobic and has a hard enough time with aircrafts that stay in the atmosphere.

"I do not like flying on planes, I'm not a good flyer," Roberts, 33, says to USA TODAY. "I don't like it if I start thinking about it too much. I start to freak out. Like my hands are itching (now) thinking about it."

Roberts recalls one shoot that required her to fly from her home in LA to New York. The actress' anxiety about the flight reached a point where she floated the idea of driving cross-country. Eventually, she relented and boarded the plane.

Roberts found herself flying east for "Space Cadet," as parts of the movie were filmed in New Jersey and Alabama.

Her character Rex is a bartender who lives in Florida and once had dreams of space exploration. After her high school



In "Space Cadet," Emma Roberts plays a bartender with aspirations to become an astronaut. PROVIDED BY ERIC LIEBOWITZ/AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

reunion, she applies for the space program. Rex is accepted thanks to her best friend (Poppy Liu) taking a few "creative

liberties" with her résumé.

"Space Cadet" also stars Gabrielle Union. Roberts hopes to take the rest of

the summer off, then will reunite with the movie's producers in the fall for "Fourth Wall."

"I play a has-been teen star that gets kidnapped and that's about all I can say," she says. "It's a genre-bending thriller."

It's perhaps a return to the type of material that fans know Roberts for: Although she, too, was a teen star on Nickelodeon, the actress also is known for starring roles on "American Horror Story" and "Scream Queens."

Roberts was born in Rhinebeck, New York, a village about 100 miles north of Manhattan to mother Kelly Cunningham and father Eric Roberts, brother of Julia Roberts.

The family moved to New York City before relocating to LA. While the actress doesn't remember much about Rhinebeck from her childhood, she has grown fond of the area.

"We went back when I was older and it's just so beautiful," she says. "I love upstate New York. ... As I get older and having a 3-year-old, there's just so much more to do upstate. I just appreciate it way more."

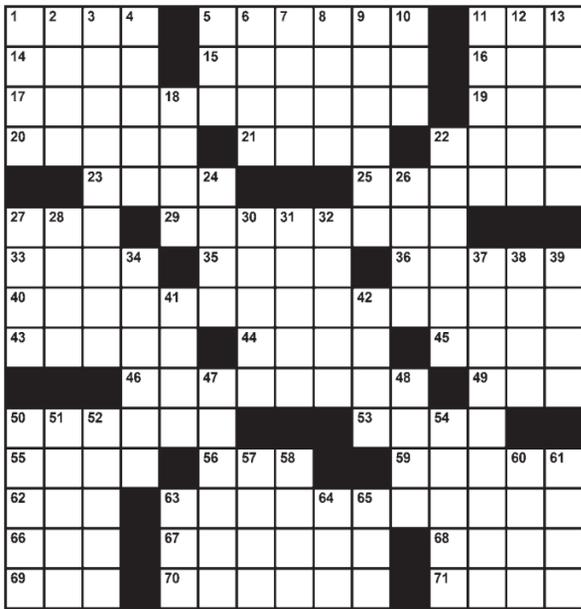
The only thing Roberts probably doesn't appreciate about it is the flight there.

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Jared Goudsmit
BY Kareem Ayas

SEE DOUBLE

- ACROSS
1 "Waterloo" band
5 Says "Boo!" to, say
11 Prattle on
14 Like a screamo concert
15 Cozy nook
16 Soccer cheer
17 Flying transport in "One Thousand and One Nights"
19 Ask for a dog biscuit
20 On the open water
21 Hammer part
22 Dress longer than a midi
23 Sculpture of the head and shoulders
25 Catchphrase such as "The Snack That Smiles Back"
27 ___ Dhabi
29 Like robots that resemble people
33 Temporarily given
35 Indonesian island home to Uluwatu Temple
36 Ward off
40 Device with a swing lens
43 Zoom alternative
44 When doubled, a dolphinfish
45 Droops
46 Made oneself comfortable
49 "___ on your life!"
50 Take a breath
53 Honolulu's island
55 Maca or radish
56 College transcript stat
59 "Et cetera" language
62 Button near the spacebar
63 Driving test obstacle
66 Ascot, e.g.
67 Under ___ (not yet fixed)
68 Drum sets
69 ___ noodles (dish with snakelike fish)
- DOWN
1 ___ mater
2 Dhoni or dinghy
3 Carrot-chomping cartoon character
4 French "Goodbye!"
5 Biological pouch
6 Slow ___ (sarcastic applause)
7 Farmland unit
8 Lasso material
9 "Nevertheless..."
10 Group of reps at the gym
11 Kit prepared for an emergency
12 "___ play "Despacito" (request to Amazon's virtual assistant)
13 "Get started!"
18 Eid gift
22 Devices next to routers
24 Richard Antoine White's brass instrument



© Andrews McMeel

7/9

- 70 Longs
71 Book return opening
- 26 Turkish currency
27 Strahlhorn's mountain range
28 Parrot's bill
30 "___ Mia!" (I-Across musical)
31 Stage name, e.g.
32 Not appealing to all audiences
34 A magician might pull a rabbit out of one
37 Liquid in some stir-fry dishes
38 Therefore
39 "She had the ___ laugh"
41 Not fictional
42 Italian
43 "Goodbye!"
47 BA or MFA
48 Mineral in blush
50 SO angry
51 "I swear!"
52 Place where mints are often placed on pillows
54 Chops crudely
- 57 Oldest Smurf
58 A great distance away
60 "Put your back ___ it!"
61 Parrot's home
63 Attempt
64 Shark's appendage
65 Org. with a 4/15 deadline

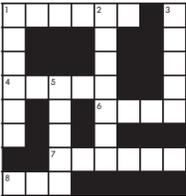
Monday's Answer



7/8

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TXTPERT

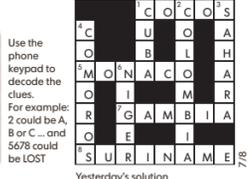


- Across
1. 267486
4. 26766
6. 4766
7. 676486
8. 846
- Down
1. 227266
2. 8726486
3. 27466
5. 72366

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Today's theme

Elements



Yesterday's solution

Numbers

More puzzles: puzzles.usatoday.com
Want solutions? answers.usatoday.com
Feedback: feedback@usatoday.com



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



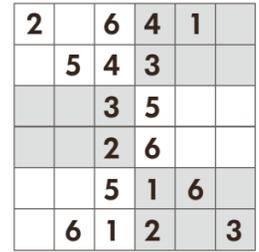
7/9

DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION
ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

© Andrews McMeel

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).



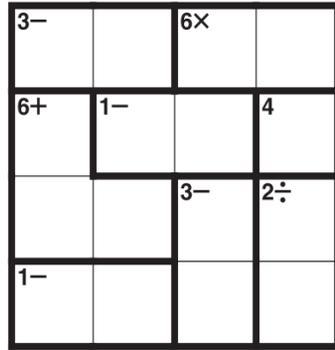
DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

Monday's Answers

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

7/8

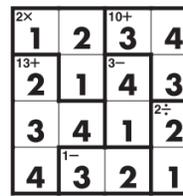
KENKEN



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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



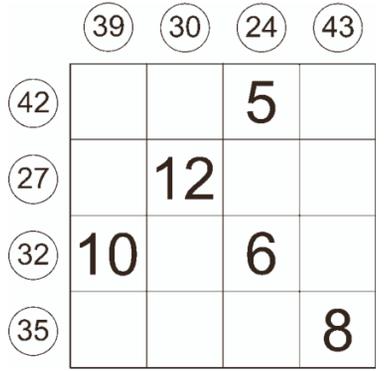
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2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo Difficulty: HARD



Solution to Monday's puzzle

7	3	16	4
2	11	10	15
13	1	9	8
6	12	14	5

Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

- Find and Circle:
Three mammals starting with L
Three six-letter fruits
Three seven-letter countries
Three jobs/professions ending with R
Two New England states

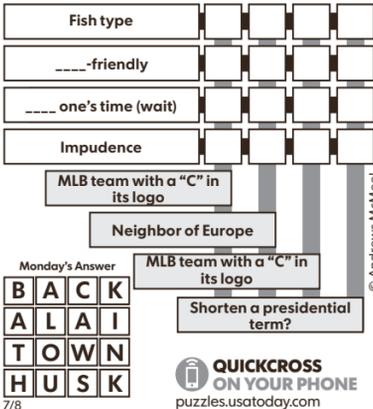
Monday's answer: GUITAR VIOLIN CELLO HARP LUTE / ELECTRON NEUTRON PROTON / SECOND MINUTE DECADE / HYENA LLAMA PUMA / WEST



QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

7/9



UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

7/9



BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

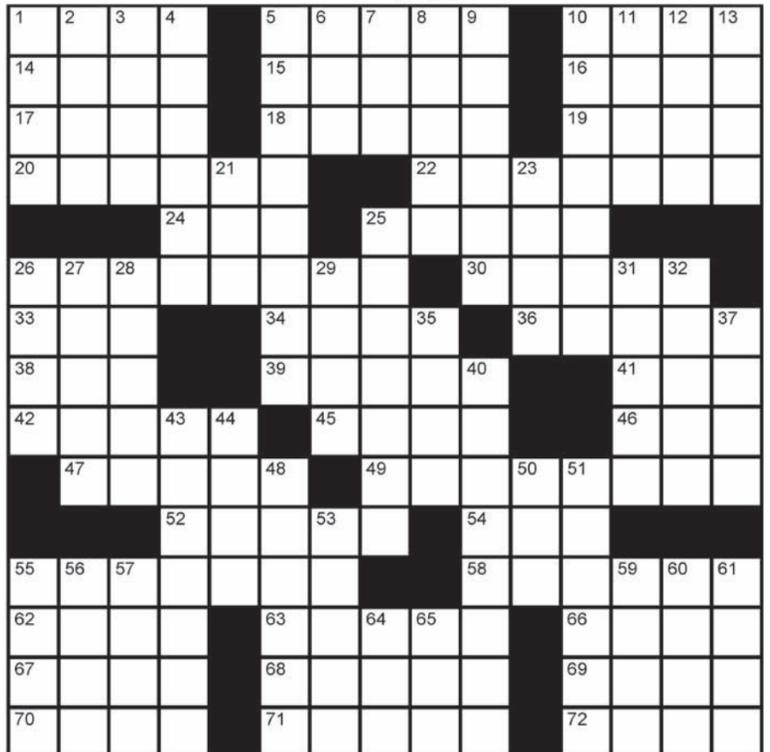
- 1 Bin for storing corn
5 Pico de gallo
10 Stitches
14 Volcanic emission
15 Expanse
16 Great Lake
17 Aid and ___
18 Jargon
19 Abundant
20 Harass
22 Like ears ready for studs
24 Rolled cake
25 River deposit
26 Retail event (2 wds.)
30 Thespian
33 Org. for dentists
34 Lemon peel
36 Notorious ruler
38 "___ River Valley"
39 Knock's answer
41 Mature
42 Cripples
45 Genealogy diagram
46 Mother Superior
47 Flies up and around
49 Proceeding as planned
52 Dapper
54 Rocks in a glass
55 Supreme ruler
- 58 Make binding
62 Cunning
63 ___ and desist
66 Diva's song
67 "Waiting for the Robert ___"
68 Singer ___ Carpenter
69 Actor ___ Moranis
70 Pike
71 Time in office
72 Patch location
- DOWN
1 Sudden sound
2 Broccoli ___
3 Currier's partner
4 "___ Hymn of the Republic"
5 Look up to the heavens
6 Timetable abbr.
7 Fall behind
8 Extent
9 ___ the Hun
10 Make notched, as a knife
11 Guitarist
12 Clapton
12 Bride
13 Pip
21 Dawn
21 Dawn personified
23 Engrave
25 Reduce to rubble

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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- 26 Work the land
27 Perfect
28 Broadcast receiver
29 Fasting time
31 Ape
32 Scoundrel
35 High schooler
37 Fender mishap
40 Not talking
43 Affluent
44 Pole on a ship
48 Portfolio holdings
50 Pro
- 51 Observation
53 Special pleasure
55 Pitcher
56 Venus de ___
57 Entreaty
59 "___ go brag!"
60 Agreeable
61 Pilfer
64 ___ Ben Canaan
65 D.C. figure



7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES
1 celebrity chef Julia (5)
2 Venus and Serena, e.g. (7)
3 how nursery rhyme rowers go (7)
4 comedic actor Bateman (5)
5 lady of high social position (11)
6 divides (5)
7 not cinched in the middle (8)

SOLUTIONS

TS ERS CHI ILY SI
ST AN ME SON WOM
RR BE GEN LD LE
LT SS PAR TLE JA

Monday's Answers: 1. BARRETTE 2. SLIME 3. CAMPBELLS 4. DOSAGE 5. ATTORNEY 6. SATIRIZED 7. SALTIER

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOPGR
CENEI
LAHTE
RALSAY

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app: Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

THE NEW CASINO HAD A BOWLING ALLEY THAT WAS ATTRACTING ___

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NOVEL BOUND ACCENT BOTH
Answer: He rounded first and hurried to second because he wanted to get there — ON THE DOUBLE

MUSIC

A year later, Sphere changed the sight, sound game

Melissa Ruggieri

USA TODAY

Amid an eruption of fireworks above the Las Vegas Strip, the Sphere awakened.

It was a quiet arrival for a Fourth of July occurrence last year when the simple message “hello world” appeared in the middle of a palette of swirling lights on its 580,000-square-foot exosphere.

That 2023 introduction to the \$2.3 billion venue – crafty in capturing the attention of tourists and cameras and subtle in its blinking arrival – proved a mere primer to the splendor of the Sphere, with its outer skin capable of displaying more than 1 billion different colors on 1.2 million LED puck lights.

Though the venue didn’t officially welcome crowds to its interior until Sept. 29, when U2 kicked off its revolutionary residency, the exosphere of the rotund building quickly became a social media phenomenon. Viral videos and photos of artwork, shifting shapes, whimsical messages and a personable yellow emoji flooded social platforms around the world.

“It’s all anyone was talking about,” says Jennifer Koester, the Sphere’s president and chief operating officer. “The reaction was unprecedented. It really tapped into a collective consciousness.”

The same could be said for the Sphere in general, which captured our attention the past year with innovative technology brought to reality on stage during residencies by U2, Phish and Dead & Company.

How the Sphere celebrated July Fourth

To celebrate its one-year anniversary on July 4, the exosphere was set to become, as always, a canvas, and one that can be viewed by anyone.

The XO Stream, the official livestream of the exosphere, was to launch at 9:30 p.m. PT on thesphere.com and YouTube, where it will continue 24 hours a day.

The initiation of the livestream will coincide with The Fourth of July Celebration show (which repeats at 11:40 p.m. PT) designed by Sphere Studios.

A history of Nevada, an inside-out view of the venue, patriotic renderings and a digital fireworks show are among the planned visuals, as well as a stroll



This cute, fuzzy creature welcomed visitors attending Phish’s April 2024 shows at the Sphere in Las Vegas.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SPHERE ENTERTAINMENT



The stars and stripes made their debut in 2023 when the Las Vegas Sphere first lighted for the Fourth of July.

through some of the most intriguing illuminations from the past year, including nods to its musical guests.

Koester says when she looks at last year’s “amazing” content and compares it to the 2024 offering, she “a little bit in awe” of the creative evolution.

“Everything we’re doing here continues to push the boundaries,” she says, noting that the artwork from the eight winners of the recent Sphere XO Student Design Challenge also will debut on the exosphere and continue to be shown this summer.

“The Vegas community has really



Dead & Company are playing shows through August at the Las Vegas Sphere, the third band to host a residency at the innovative venue.

embraced us, and it’s so important for us to honor the relationship,” she says.

The Sphere adds outside sound to the mix

Along with the debut of XO Stream, the Sphere unveiled another sensory supplement July 4 – outside sound.

The system dubbed XO Audio features sound synced to the imagery on the exosphere, sort of a digital version of the famed Bellagio fountains, except it will run 24/7.

When word leaked a few months ago

that the Sphere planned to add an auditory component, some area businesses voiced concern over the possibility of more noise in an already-clamorous city.

But, Koester confirms, “the audio is designed to be only within the Sphere property and we will always comply with all local regulations.”

The sounds are to be created by Sphere Studios or feature popular music and sounds from a music library. All will be curated specifically for the illuminations, but no, you won’t hear live music from Dead & Company on show nights or the Eagles when they begin their residency in September.

“The purpose is continuing to celebrate the exosphere and its commitment to art and science,” Koester says.

The exosphere already has served as a backdrop for “branding moments” – the Super Bowl this year and Vegas’ long-term contract with Formula 1 presented prime opportunities – and will continue to serve as both a visual stimulator and revenue generator.

For now, the addition of the livestream and audio punctuates an active first year for the Sphere.

“Bringing these two features to the world,” Koester says, “is the right time for us.”



Trampolines are the foundation of the performance of “Revolution” during Cirque du Soleil’s Beatles show. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MATT BEARD PHOTOGRAPHY

Cirque

Continued from Page 1D

Olivia Harrison as family surrogates for John Lennon and George Harrison, has been attended by all of those within The Beatles organization numerous times.

Starr, who celebrated his 84th birthday Sunday with his annual outdoor party in Los Angeles, watched a performance while in Vegas for his own run of shows at The Venetian in May, while Harrison attended two of the final “Love” shows in late June.

When “Love” made its debut, it was the first Cirque show to use recorded music and the initial production centered on a legendary music act. “Viva Elvis” followed in 2010 at Aria Resort & Ca-

sino for a disappointing two-year stint, while the successful “Michael Jackson ONE” still is dazzling audiences at Mandalay Bay after a decade. Even with the curtain closed on “Love,” its legacy will endure through its timeless soundtrack.

But it also is the end of something special, as Giles Martin told USA TODAY in a 2022 interview about the show.

“It’s the only place in the world you can step into The Beatles’ universe,” he said. “I always liked the idea that it was The Beatles’ room. I love that about Vegas – you’re surrounded by the ding of slot machines and people wandering around with yards of tequila and then you walk into the hallowed grounds of ‘Love.’ I get the same thrill every time I walk in that theater.”

Millions of others would undoubtedly concur.



“The Beatles LOVE by Cirque du Soleil” played its last performance at The Mirage Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas on Sunday.

MaXXXine

Continued from Page 1D

“MaXXXine” catches up with Maxine in 1985, as the now-successful adult-film star has the chance to break mainstream in Hollywood when she’s cast in a high-profile horror sequel. Unfortunately, she also is targeted by a mystery killer at the same time the Night Stalker haunts the streets of L.A.

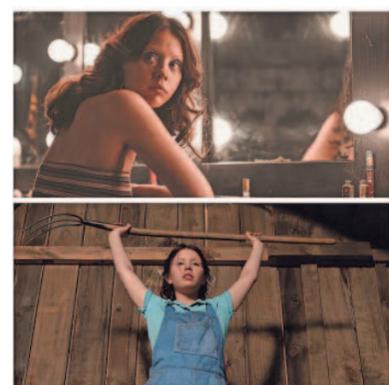
From first filming “X” to now headlining “MaXXXine,” Goth’s own star has grown – even going viral on TikTok – and the 30-year-old actress sees parallels between herself and the equally “determined” Maxine: “We knew what we wanted and we were going after it.” Adds West, “She was very much ready to prove herself that she could carry a movie.”

Ever been affected by a movie? ‘MaXXXine’ is for you

West tackles a bunch of themes over the course of his trilogy, from stardom and celebrity to the Moral Majority and Satanic panic of the ‘80s. But he also wanted to explore how characters are affected by different eras of cinema for a movie-loving audience, even those who aren’t horror fiends.

With “X,” which sported a tone akin to “The Texas Chain Saw Massacre,” West wanted to show the “entrepreneurial DIY nature of trying to make a tiny movie outside of the system and carve your own niche,” he says. Then “Pearl,” a Technicolor nightmare influenced by “The Wizard of Oz” and old Disney films, centered on “someone who’s unhappy with their state in life and looks to the glitz and glamour of the movies as the grass is greener: If I had a life like that, it would be better.”

And with “MaXXXine,” inspired by the “gritty, sleazy” likes of “Vice Squad” and “Angel,” the 43-year-old filmmaker set out to recapture his own experiences of going to an ‘80s video store: “There’s this endless amount of movies that look salacious and subversive and interesting.”



Mia Goth first played fame-starved actress Maxine in the 2022 horror film “X” (top) and dug into the backstory of “X” villain Pearl as a young woman in the prequel of the same name.

PROVIDED BY A24 FILMS

‘MaXXXine’ puts a dangerous spin on the horror final girl

In the trilogy, Goth portrays two very different characters: Pearl, the jealous woman with a violent backstory, and Maxine, the preacher’s daughter who lives by the mantra “I will not accept a life I do not deserve.” “She’s got a chip on her shoulder. She’s hungry to prove herself to the world and even more importantly to herself,” Goth says of Maxine.

And with her in particular, West wanted to reinvent a well-tread trope: “A big part of it was to try to have the final girl not act like one.” In “X,” Maxine escapes and gruesomely runs over Pearl’s head at the end, and in “MaXXXine,” she’s not to be trifled with either, pulling a gun on a creepy dude in Buster Keaton cosplay and driving her heel into a rather sensitive spot on his body.

“She’s fully aware that she has little to no control over people around her and the situations that might take place around her, but she is in full command of her decisions and her actions and she has the fearlessness and the courage to act on those,” Goth says. “It’s fun to be the one that’s holding the gun, taking matters into her own hands.”

NATION & WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE

Biden tells fellow Democrats he's 'not going anywhere,' 3NN



BERYL CHURNS ACROSS TEXAS

At least 3 dead, over 2.7 million left without power

REUTERS

Tropical Storm Beryl brought howling winds and torrential rain to southeast Texas on Monday, killing at least three people, flooding highways, closing oil ports, canceling more than 1,300 flights and knocking out power to over 2.7 million homes and businesses.

Beryl, the season's earliest Category 5 hurricane on record, weakened from a hurricane after pounding the coastal Texas town of Matagorda with dangerous storm surges and heavy rain before moving across Houston, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The agency said conditions could spawn tornadoes in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

The storm, which was expected to rapidly weaken

as it moved inland, swept a destructive path through Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines last week. It killed at least 11 in Mexico and the Caribbean and before reaching Texas, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick told reporters.

In Texas, a 53-year-old man and a 74-year-old woman were killed in two incidents by trees that fell on their homes in the Houston area on Monday. A third person, a city of Houston employee going to work, drowned in an underpass, Patrick said.

Oil refining activity slowed and some production sites were evacuated in the state that is the nation's biggest producer of U.S. oil and natural gas.

"For those of you in northeast Texas, be aware.

See **BERYL**, Page 8NN



Jack Reyna and his son work to drain floodwater in their neighborhood Monday after Hurricane Beryl swept through Houston. PHOTOS BY BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

ABOVE: A vehicle is left abandoned in floodwaters on a highway Monday after Hurricane Beryl swept through the area in Houston. Tropical Storm Beryl developed into a Category 1 hurricane as it hit the Texas coast late Sunday night.

ANALYSIS

Gambit dilutes Macron's power

Surge by left wing leaves centrist camp battered

Michel Rose
REUTERS

PARIS – President Emmanuel Macron may have seen off the threat of France's far right, but he now faces a frustrating final three years in office after gambling away much of his political power in an election that has left France with a chaotic hung parliament.

Rolling the dice after Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN) humbled his own party in June's presidential election, Macron challenged voters to decide again where power should lie.

Le Pen and her young protege Jordan Bardella were confident victory would be theirs. They were wrong.

A surge by the left-wing New Popular Front alliance, aided by tactical anti-RN voting, thwarted Le Pen. Even Macron's own centrist camp bettered the far-right vote.

Macron, 46, has a history of winning audacious bets, not least his first presidential run in 2017 when he had never held elected office. While he may have neutered the far right for now, Sunday's vote will shift political power from the Elysee Palace to a potentially disorderly parliament.

His Prime Minister, Gabriel Attal, gave his own blunt assessment, seeking to distance himself from Macron's electoral gamble on which he had not been consulted.

"From tomorrow, the center of gravity of power will be ... more than ever in the hands of the parliament," Attal said as he announced his plan to resign from his post on Monday morning.

Macron rejected his offer, asking him to stay on for now to help to ensure stability.

Out of touch

Macron said he wanted the election to provide clarity, but it has had the opposite effect, plunging France into the uncharted waters of coalition government and weakening his authority as president.

Macron's office did not return a request for comment.

The president's snap election call stunned close allies and opponents alike. Some from Macron's own camp have denounced it as a reckless move though others close to him argue it was not an entirely illogical decision, according to half a dozen sources in government or in his party speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity.

The government expected to face no-confidence motions from opponents later in the year, and Macron hoped to catch them offguard with a quickfire ballot on his own terms.

See **MACRON**, Page 6NN

GOP platform tempers party's language on abortion

Trump's policy priorities reflected in document

James Oliphant and Helen Coster
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The Republican Party released its platform on Monday that denies anti-abortion activists within the party the far-reaching language they sought on abortion and embraces the views of its presidential candidate, Donald Trump.

The platform, a formal statement of party goals, puts forward Trump's position that the issue of abortion is to be

INSIDE

Trump promises immigration crackdown in potential second term. 7NN

determined by individual U.S. states. It makes no mention of a federal ban or protecting a fetus as a person under the U.S. Constitution – tenets that have been included in past platforms and were demanded by a cadre of influential evangelicals.

The platform, which is not binding, also pledges that Trump and Republicans will build a missile defense shield over the United States, carry out "the

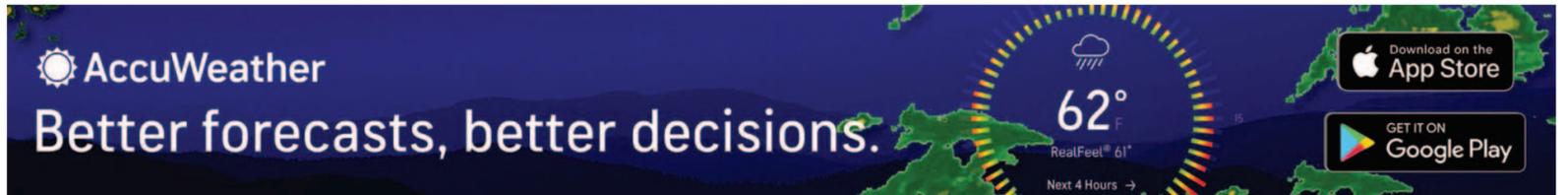
largest deportation in American history" of people in the country illegally, make permanent Trump's signature tax cuts and pass "large tax cuts for workers" while demolishing foreign drug cartels, protecting Medicare and Social Security benefits, and supporting public funds being used for private school tuition.

All are policies Trump advocates on the campaign trail, underscoring his grip on the party ahead of its convention next week in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he will be formally nominated to take on President Joe Biden in a Nov. 5

See **PLATFORM**, Page 7NN



The GOP platform also pledges that Republicans will build a missile defense shield over the U.S. and carry out "the largest deportation in American history." BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS FILE

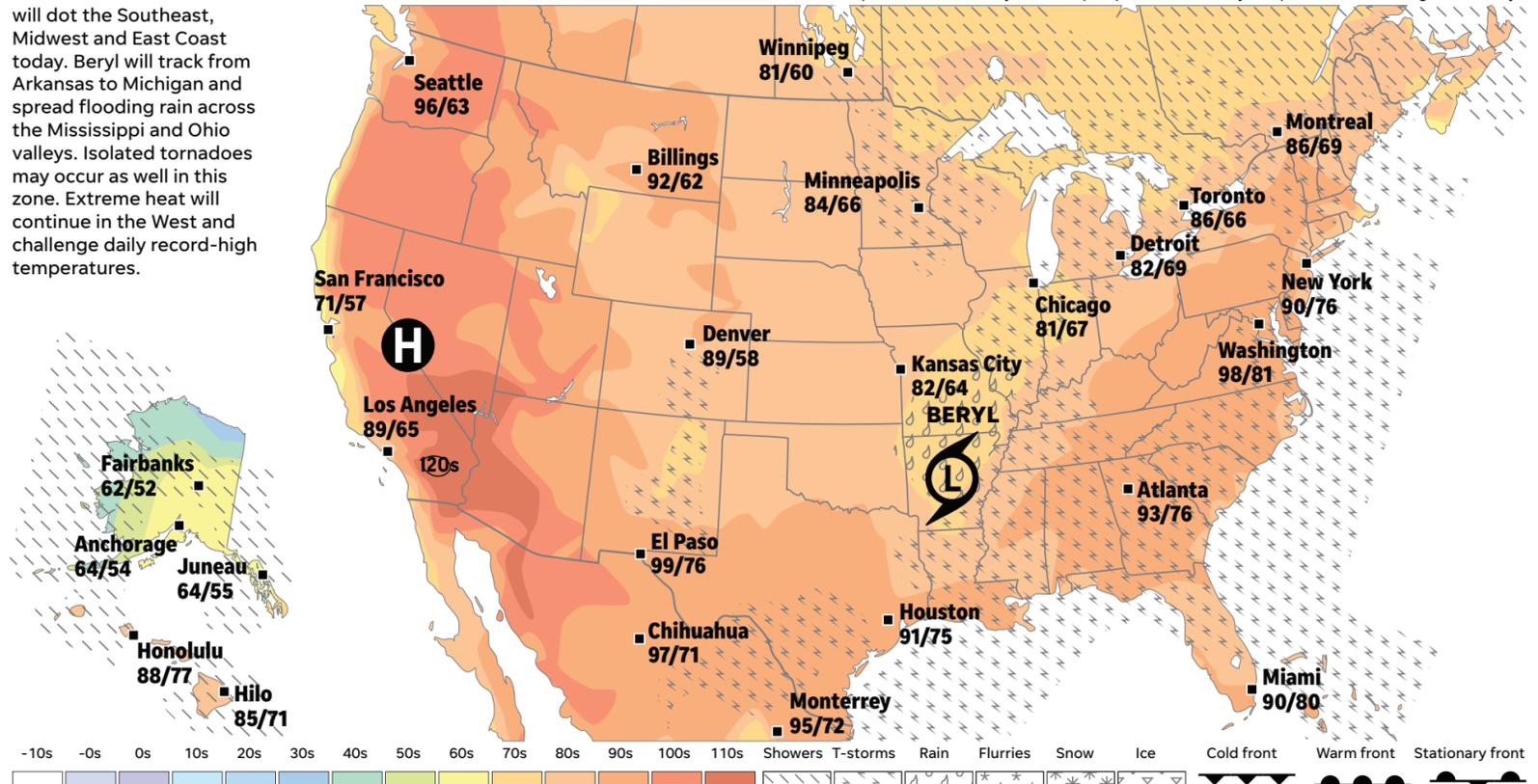


NATIONAL SUMMARY

Afternoon thunderstorms will dot the Southeast, Midwest and East Coast today. Beryl will track from Arkansas to Michigan and spread flooding rain across the Mississippi and Ohio valleys. Isolated tornadoes may occur as well in this zone. Extreme heat will continue in the West and challenge daily record-high temperatures.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Tuesday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



MONDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 122 at Needles, CA
Low: 31 at Gould, CO
Precip: 7.71" at Palacios, TX

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)
High: 122 at Needles, USA
Low: 11 at Uspallata, Argentina
Precip: 7.71" at Palacios, USA

TODAY IN HISTORY

Thunderstorm downburst winds were implicated in the demise of a Boeing 727 attempting takeoff from New Orleans, La., on July 9, 1982. All 145 people aboard were killed. The plane scraped against trees and wires, then crashed.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: Has it ever reached 100 degrees in Alaska?

A: Yes, at Fort Yukon in June 1915

NATIONAL CITIES TUESDAY

	High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	86/61/pc	47	● Evansville, IN	84/68/t	60	● Levittown, PA	98/76/t	89
Abilene, TX	94/71/pc	49	● Fall River, MA	86/72/pc	56	● Lincoln, IL	74/65/r	56
Accomac, VA	88/75/t	78	● Farmington, NM	94/62/s	69	● Louisville, KY	88/70/t	93
● Adrian, MI	80/69/t	68	● Fayetteville, NC	93/76/t	53	● Lubbock, TX	91/68/pc	57
● Akron, OH	88/70/pc	80	● Fond du Lac, WI	81/65/pc	47	● Manitowoc, WI	76/64/pc	59
Alamogordo, NM	95/69/pc	132	● Fort Myers, FL	92/78/pc	48	● Mansfield, OH	85/70/pc	71
● Alexandria, VA	98/80/t	78	● Fort Smith, AR	83/68/r	31	● Marshall, NC	89/72/c	50
Alliance, OH	89/70/t	81	● Framingham, MA	94/72/t	61	● Marshall, WI	80/60/pc	43
● Amarillo, TX	89/65/s	58	● Freeport, IL	80/64/pc	52	● Massillon, OH	89/71/t	76
Ames, IA	83/62/s	55	● Fremont, OH	85/71/pc	68	● McLean, VA	98/80/t	78
● Anderson, SC	93/76/t	51	● Fort Collins, CO	89/57/pc	79	● Melbourne, FL	87/75/t	40
Appleton, WI	82/66/pc	45	● Gadsden, AL	91/71/t	36	● Memphis, TN	82/67/t	44
Asheville, NC	88/70/t	47	● Gainesville, FL	86/76/t	48	● Middletown, NY	94/71/t	80
Ashland, OH	85/70/pc	69	● Galesburg, IL	79/63/pc	48	● Milford, MA	91/71/t	57
● Athens, GA	92/75/t	43	● Gastonia, NC	92/75/t	61	● Milwaukee, WI	78/67/pc	59
Augusta, GA	92/75/t	52	● Glen Rose, TX	93/69/pc	48	● Monroe, MI	80/70/t	72
Austin, TX	97/74/t	38	● Gonzales, LA	90/75/t	47	● Monroe, LA	88/70/t	38
● Bartlesville, OK	87/62/pc	61	● Great Falls, MT	92/58/s	46	● Montgomery, AL	92/76/t	33
● Battle Creek, MI	82/67/t	58	● Green Bay, WI	83/66/pc	43	● Muncie, IN	79/70/r	73
● Bedford, IN	80/65/r	69	● Greenville, SC	92/75/t	56	● Murfreesboro, TN	94/71/t	52
Binghamton, NY	91/70/pc	72	● Hackensack, NJ	93/76/t	100	● Naples, FL	91/80/c	45
● Bluffton, SC	89/78/t	44	● Hagerstown, MD	98/77/pc	79	● Nashville, TN	95/71/t	55
Bremerton, WA	98/58/s	54	● Hattiesburg, MS	90/74/t	30	● Neptune, NJ	86/74/t	64
● Brockton, MA	93/73/pc	62	● Henderson, KY	82/66/t	58	● New Bedford, MA	85/72/pc	55
Brownwood, TX	95/69/pc	48	● Hendersonville, NC	88/71/t	47	● New Bern, NC	92/76/t	42
Burlington, IA	78/65/s	49	● Herkimer, NY	92/70/t	69	● New Philadelphia, OH	90/71/pc	75
Burlington, NC	92/74/t	58	● Hillsdale, MI	80/67/t	64	● Newark, OH	91/72/pc	73
● Burlington, VT	91/71/t	46	● Holland, MI	74/66/t	64	● Newton, NJ	95/74/t	88
● Cambridge, OH	93/74/pc	73	● Hornell, NY	91/71/pc	67	● New York, NY	90/76/t	96
Camdenton, MO	74/63/r	39	● Houma, LA	90/77/t	52	● Norwich, CT	87/72/t	65
Canandaigua, NY	88/70/t	66	● Howell, MI	82/66/t	62	● Ocala, FL	85/76/t	45
● Canton, OH	89/71/t	79	● Hutchinson, KS	89/62/s	53	● Oklahoma City, OK	87/66/c	78
Carlsbad, NM	92/71/pc	67	● Hyannis, MA	82/72/pc	49	● Opelousas, LA	90/73/t	47
● Chambersburg, PA	100/77/pc	76	● Indianapolis, IN	78/66/r	67	● Oshkosh, WI	81/66/pc	47
● Cherry Hill, NJ	97/77/t	88	● Iowa City, IA	81/66/s	50	● Palm Beach, FL	86/80/t	48
● Cincinnati, OH	88/69/t	71	● Ithaca, NY	91/70/pc	70	● Palm Springs, CA	121/86/s	92
● Clarksville, TN	89/69/t	58	● Jackson, MS	90/70/t	31	● Panama City, FL	89/80/t	42
● Coldwater, MI	79/66/t	63	● Jackson, TN	87/66/t	39	● Peoria, IL	77/66/pc	48
● Columbus, OH	89/73/pc	79	● Jacksonville, FL	91/76/t	37	● Pensacola, FL	89/78/t	33
Corning, NY	94/70/pc	69	● Jacksonville, NC	88/77/t	40	● Peoria, VA	78/67/pc	48
Corpus Christi, TX	98/79/pc	47	● Kent, OH	86/69/pc	82	● Petersburg, VA	95/76/t	46
● Daytona Beach, FL	85/76/t	43	● Kewanee, IL	77/64/pc	48	● Phoenix, AZ	116/89/s	82
Deming, NM	95/70/pc	75	● Keyser, WV	98/73/c	75	● Port Huron, MI	82/67/t	76
DeRidder, LA	90/70/pc	39	● Kinston, NC	92/75/t	48	● Portsmouth, NH	91/74/t	64
Des Moines, IA	83/65/pc	61	● Knoxville, TN	94/75/pc	53	● Poughkeepsie, NY	94/74/t	78
Detroit, MI	82/69/t	77	● Lafayette, IN	76/66/r	62	● Providence, RI	87/72/pc	61
Devils Lake, ND	80/61/t	56	● Lafayette, LA	90/76/t	46	● Pueblo, CO	89/57/pc	66
● Dover, NH	92/72/t	58	● Lakeland, FL	89/77/t	44	● Quincy, MA	93/74/pc	61
El Paso, TX	99/76/c	109	● Lansing, MI	83/66/t	60	● Redding, CA	110/74/s	61
Elmira, NY	95/70/pc	71	● Las Cruces, NM	98/72/pc	118	● Reno, NV	105/67/s	78
● Erie, PA	85/72/t	75	● Lebanon, PA	97/75/t	91	● Ravenna, OH	86/69/pc	82
Eugene, OR	107/58/s	71	● Leesburg, FL	84/77/t	42	● Richmond, IN	82/70/pc	77

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W		Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W		Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W
● Acapulco	87/76/r	85/75/r	● Cape Town	58/53/r	61/58/r	La Paz	58/29/s	57/27/s
Addis Ababa	70/55/sh	71/56/sh	● Caracas	91/75/t	91/75/t	● Lagos	85/76/sh	85/75/r
Algiers	87/72/s	88/69/pc	● Casablanca	83/64/s	88/68/s	● Lima	66/60/c	66/60/pc
Amman	94/74/s	97/77/s	● Colombo	88/80/t	88/80/t	● Lisbon	76/67/r	81/67/pc
● Amsterdam	79/62/sh	71/60/sh	● Copenhagen	70/64/c	76/59/sh	● London	67/59/sh	71/55/pc
Ankara	90/66/sh	87/66/sh	● Damascus	100/70/s	102/69/s	● Madrid	91/64/pc	96/68/s
Asuncion	57/37/s	58/46/pc	● Dublin	58/52/sh	66/52/c	● Manila	89/79/t	90/78/t
Athens	98/82/s	98/82/s	● Geneva	88/64/pc	83/61/t	● Mexico City	77/58/sh	71/57/r
Auckland	59/47/pc	60/44/pc	● Guatemala City	75/63/t	77/62/t	● Milan	90/70/pc	91/71/pc
Baghdad	115/88/pc	117/90/s	● Hanoi	97/81/t	97/82/t	● Mombasa	86/73/pc	85/72/pc
Bangkok	93/80/t	94/80/t	● Harare	79/45/s	79/44/s	● Montevideo	49/39/c	50/34/c
Beijing	93/69/t	96/73/t	● Havana	93/78/sh	92/75/t	● Montreal	86/69/t	79/66/r
Beirut	89/80/s	90/79/s	● Helsinki	64/54/sh	66/61/s	● Moscow	85/60/c	78/57/s
Belgrade	97/72/s	99/72/pc	● Hong Kong	93/83/t	93/83/t	● Nairobi	74/57/t	72/54/c
Berlin	88/70/pc	86/65/t	● Jakarta	90/75/t	91/75/pc	● New Delhi	93/84/t	97/85/t
Bogota	68/49/c	70/47/r	● Jerusalem	91/73/s	94/75/s	● Panama City	89/76/t	87/77/t
● Brussels	84/63/t	75/58/sh	● Johannesburg	56/40/s	67/46/s	● Paris	84/64/c	79/60/c
Bucharest	100/72/s	101/71/c	● Kabul	93/67/s	94/66/s	● Port-au-Prince	94/74/t	97/76/c
Budapest	96/73/s	99/71/pc	● Khartoum	104/85/pc	102/81/s	● Rio de Janeiro	76/69/pc	77/69/pc
Buenos Aires	47/36/s	48/37/s	● Kyiv	89/70/pc	88/69/s	● Riyadh	112/89/s	115/90/pc
● Cairo	98/81/c	101/83/s	● Kingston	92/81/pc	92/81/pc	● Rome	89/64/s	92/63/s
● San Jose	82/68/t	81/68/r	● San Salvador	85/70/t	86/69/c	● Santiago	57/33/s	53/31/pc
● Sao Paulo	63/57/r	70/58/sh	● Sarajevo	93/60/t	97/60/s	● Shanghai	99/83/pc	93/80/t
● Singapore	87/77/sh	86/79/t	● Stockholm	71/51/pc	71/62/pc	● Singapore	87/77/sh	86/79/t
● Sydney	66/48/pc	66/48/pc	● Taipei	96/77/pc	97/77/t	● Tegucigalpa	82/67/t	84/66/t
● Toronto	86/66/t	73/65/r	● Tehran	102/82/s	102/83/s	● Tokyo	94/80/c	93/78/c
● Tunis	95/73/pc	95/73/s	● Vancouver	80/61/s	76/58/s	● Toronto	86/66/t	73/65/r
● Vienna	90/69/pc	95/70/t	● Warsaw	86/67/s	91/70/pc	● Wichita Falls, TX	92/69/c	61
● Worcester, MA	88/72/t	66	● Wooster, OH	87/71/pc	75	● Zurich	86/65/pc	77/60/sh

● Denotes possible travel delays Tuesday

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



WEST AFRICA

The Three Musketeers

The military leaders of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger signed a treaty over the weekend to enhance their mutual defense and integration, a major geopolitical shift that marked a departure from traditional alliances with Western and regional powers, Al Jazeera wrote.

Niger's Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, Burkina Faso's Capt. Ibrahim Traore, and Mali's Col. Assimi Goita inked the agreement during a summit in the Nigerien capital Niamey, the first joint meeting of the army leaders, all of whom came to power in military coups between 2020 and 2023.

The confederation treaty will strengthen the mutual defense pact, the Alliance of Sahel States, that the three countries announced last year.

Observers said the move also underscored their collective departure from the Economic Community of West African States earlier this year.

The three leaders criticized ECOWAS and Western nations – particularly former colonial ruler France – for their perceived interference and exploitation. Traore emphasized that the era of foreign dominance over their resources is over, while Goita asserted that an attack on one member would be seen as an attack on all.

ECOWAS suspended the three countries after their respective military takeovers.

But analysts suggested that the junta leaders' statements and the treaty indicate a stance against rejoining the bloc. They added that the new AES aims to create a more self-determined union and weakens ECOWAS's influence, which analysts say is unlikely because of heavyweights such as Nigeria in the large bloc.

The summit also coincided with the withdrawal of US forces from Niger, which comes as the coup-plagued region continues to grapple with violence from armed groups linked to al-Qaida and Islamic State.



IRAN

Presidential vote could herald a big little shift

Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian won Iran's presidential runoff over the weekend on promises of social freedoms and increased engagement with the West, a victory that underscored calls for change in the Islamic Republic amid disillusionment with the current theocratic regime, the Washington Post reported.

Pezeshkian won nearly 54 percent in Friday's second round of voting, beating his hardline rival, Saeed Jalili, who won around 44 percent.

On Saturday, the president-elect vowed to be a leader for "all Iranians" and pledged to pursue peace and "constructive" global interactions. He emphasized government reform and accountability amid widespread public apathy and low voter turnout of 50 percent.

A cardiac surgeon and former health minister, Pezeshkian has proposed moderate reforms that would not challenge the country's theocratic rule under Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei: These pro-

posals include lifting internet restrictions and increasing financial transparency to remove Iran from the Financial Action Task Force blacklist.

He also advocated ending mandatory dress codes for women, reflecting the unrest that gripped Iran between 2022 and 2023. The mass anti-government demonstrations began after the death of Mahsa Amini, who died in September 2022 in the custody of the country's morality police after being detained for allegedly violating the hijab laws.

Pezeshkian also supports talks with the West to lift the debilitating sanctions on Iran and help the country's struggling economy.

Despite Pezeshkian's victory, analysts said he will face strong headwinds from Iran's hardline conservatives dominating the government and cooperating with Khamenei.

The supreme leader previously condemned those candidates advocating better relations with the West, CNN added.

He also called on Pezeshkian to act "in continuation of the path" of his predecessor, the late President Ebrahim Raisi.

Raisi, a hardliner, and other senior officials died in a helicopter crash in May, prompting the government to call for new presidential polls.

DISCOVERIES

Scribe spine

Ancient Egyptian scribes probably had carpal tunnel syndrome and were definitely in pain from other occupational hazards, according to a new study.

Researcher Petra Brukner Havelková and her team recently studied the skeletal remains of 69 people buried in the Egyptian necropolis of Abusir dating from around the third millennium BCE.

Among the samples, 30 of them belonged to scribes who held elevated social status because of their integral administrative roles in the ancient kingdoms – and because only one percent of the population was literate.

But the work had "occupational risks," the authors wrote.

The scribes showed a higher incidence of degenerative changes in their joints and bones, compared to other occupations: Common problems these scribes faced included osteoarthritis in the jaw, right collarbone, shoulder, knees, and spine.

The team also found signs of physical stress on the humerus and the left hip bones, as well as alterations in the right ankle.

They explained that these changes were consistent with depictions of those scribes in ancient Egyptian art, which show them sitting cross-legged with unsupported arms and forward-leaning heads.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they also suffered from carpal tunnel syndrome on the hand, but unfortunately we can't identify that on the bones," Brukner Havelková told the Guardian.

The researchers suggested that these postures and repetitive tasks could have caused a lot of physical strain for the scribes, who began their "office work" in their teens.

Co-author Veronika Duliková told Newsweek that the findings give better look at what early clerical and administrative work was "without desks and special chairs designed for sitting for long periods of time."

Biden says he's 'not going anywhere'

Dismisses concerns of Dems as doubts grow

Richard Cowan and Nandita Bose
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden vowed to push on with his re-election bid on Monday, dismissing the concerns of some fellow Democrats on Capitol Hill and donors that his persistence could cost their party the White House and Congress in the Nov. 5 U.S. election.

Biden, 81, said any candidates who doubt his ability should challenge him at the Democratic National Convention in August – an effort that stands no chance of success unless he lets the delegates he won in primaries this year consider other candidates.

"The bottom line here is that I am not going anywhere," Biden said in a phone call he placed to MSNBC's "Morning Joe." He repeated that message to donors on a private call later in the day, according to two sources on the call. Biden faces a critical week as he tries to shore up a campaign that has been on defense since a shaky June 27 debate against Republican Donald Trump, which raised questions about his ability to do the job for another 4½ years.

Several congressional Democrats have called for him to drop out. A larger number have voiced concern that worries about his age and ability, on top of Biden's poor public approval ratings, could hurt their prospects for retaining the Senate, which they control by a 51-49 majority, and winning back the House, where Republicans have a 219-213 edge.

Democratic Rep. Adam Smith released a strongly worded statement calling on Biden to step aside after his "alarming" performance on the debate stage and "unacceptable" response in the days since.

"Any candidate for the highest office in our nation has a strong burden to bear," Smith said. "That candidate must be able to clearly, articulately, and strongly make his or her case to the American people. It is clear that President Biden is no longer able to meet this burden."



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden return to the White House on Sunday after attending campaign events in Pennsylvania. CHRIS KLEPONIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"Any candidate for the highest office in our nation has a strong burden to bear. ... It is clear that President Biden is no longer able to meet this burden."

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash.

Sen. Dick Durbin, the chamber's No. 2 Democrat, told reporters Biden's candidacy "will be thoroughly discussed this week, as it should." He said he had spoken with about a dozen of his colleagues, who held a range of views.

Another Democrat, Rep. Joe Morelle, said many of his constituents had told him they worried Biden was not capable of serving as president, though he stopped short of calling on him to drop out.

"The bigger question is, how does he dispel concerns that were raised from his performance in the debate?" Morelle told reporters.



White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Monday that President Joe Biden was given a clean bill of health in February.

EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS

A number of Democratic lawmakers said the answer was for the campaign to give Biden more unscripted moments in front of voters.

"Let Joe be Joe," Sen. Alex Padilla said.

Biden's halting debate performance has prompted some to question whether he was suffering from a neurological disorder such as Parkinson's disease,

which can cause slurred speech and halting movement.

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden was given a clean bill of health in February and is not being treated for the disease. Biden's doctor has said further testing is not warranted, she said.

If Republicans were to capture the White House and both houses of Congress, Trump would face few constraints on his ability to push through major policy changes.

'Biden is the nominee'

Some lawmakers said they still supported his candidacy.

"President Joe Biden is the nominee and has been selected by millions of voters across this country," Rep. Steven Horsford, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, said on social media. Black voters are a critical part of Democrats' base of support.

In his letter to Democrats, Biden said he was aware of their concerns but said it was time to put them aside. Biden will have little time to campaign this week as he hosts a meeting of NATO member states, capped with a rare solo press conference on Thursday.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll last week found that one in three registered Democratic voters believed that Biden should quit the race, with 59% of respondents in the president's party saying he is too old to work in government.

That poll also found that none of his possible replacements fared better in a matchup against Trump. The poll found Biden and Trump tied at 40% each.

Biden's troubles appear to be increasing the number of races Democrats need to worry about in November.

Internal party polling shows that New Mexico and Virginia became more competitive following the debate, according to a source familiar with the findings, and the nonpartisan Center for Politics at the University of Virginia last week shifted its ratings on the states of Michigan and Minnesota to make each slightly more favorable for Republicans.

Together, those states will host a half-dozen of the most competitive House races.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Wall Street ends mixed while chip stocks rally

Noel Randewich and Ankika Biswas
REUTERS

Wall Street ended mixed on Monday as investors awaited fresh inflation data, commentary from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and the start of quarterly earnings season.

Nvidia, Intel, Advanced Micro Devices and other chipmakers rose, lifting the Philadelphia semiconductor index about 2%.

Traders will scrutinize consumer price data due on Thursday and producer price data expected on Friday to gauge the Fed's progress in fighting inflation.

Investors worry that waiting too long to cut interest rates could damage the labor market and push the economy into a recession. They will closely monitor Powell's semiannual testimony before U.S. Senate and House committees on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"What investors want to hear is a dovish tone and an acknowledgment that the two-sided risks are more evenly balanced today, in particular, with respect to the labor market," said Ross Mayfield, an investment strategy analyst at Baird.

Expectations for interest rate cuts as early as September grew after Friday's nonfarm payrolls report showed U.S. job growth slowed in June – the latest data to point to weakness in labor market conditions.

Traders now see a greater than 75% chance of a rate cut of at least 25 basis points by September, up from last week's 60%, according to CME's Fed-Watch.

Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo are slated to kick off Wall Street's second-quarter earnings season on Friday.

Analysts on average see S&P 500 companies increasing their aggregate earnings per share by 10.1% in the second quarter, up from an 8.2% increase in the first quarter, according to LSEG I/B/E/S. According to preliminary data, the S&P 500 gained 5.66 points, or 0.10%, to end at 5,572.84 points, while the Nasdaq Composite gained 49.58 points, or 0.27%, to 18,403.74. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 31.14 points, or 0.08%, to 39,344.73.

Paramount Global fell after it agreed on Sunday to merge with Skydance Media, scripting a new chapter for one of Hollywood's oldest studios.

Morgan Stanley CIO: S&P could fall 10% by election

David Randall
REUTERS

NEW YORK – A decline of 10% in the benchmark S&P 500 stock index before the U.S. presidential election in November is "highly likely," Morgan Stanley Chief Investment Officer Mike Wilson said in an interview on Monday with Bloomberg TV.

Among the reasons for a decline are uncertainty over how swiftly the Federal Reserve will bring interest rates down from nearly two-decade highs and falling pricing power on the part of companies, increasing the likelihood of disappointing earnings results, he said.

"The average company has not had good earnings results," he said, adding that a nearly 17% gain in the S&P 500 for the year to date has been powered by a small number of companies.

At the same time, price to earnings multiples have been rising. "Valuations to me look very unexciting," he said.

Wilson maintained a bearish outlook for the majority of this year, one of few prominent forecasters to do so. In late May, he lifted his base-case 12-month forecast for the S&P500, an estimate of what the fair value of the index will be in a year, to 5,400 points. At the time, that was only 2% above its level but 20% higher than his previous forecast of 4,500.

The S&P 500 closed Monday at 5,572, some 3% above Wilson's 12-month target price.

Paramount, Skydance deal turns spotlight on top studios

Harshita Mary Varghese and Jaspreet Singh
REUTERS

Skydance Media's deal to merge with Paramount Global ends a monthslong saga that had enough drama to rival a Hollywood movie, including a near collapse in deal talks, boardroom shakeup and a flurry of competing offers.

The companies agreed to a two-step process, in which Skydance and its deal partners will acquire National Amusements, which holds the Redstone family's controlling stake in Paramount, for \$2.4 billion in cash.

Skydance will subsequently merge with Paramount, offering \$4.5 billion in cash or stock to shareholders and providing an additional \$1.5 billion for its balance sheet.

Here are Hollywood's top studios and their performances:

Universal Pictures

Universal Pictures, founded in 1912 and owned by media giant Comcast through its subsidiary NBCUniversal, is one of Hollywood's biggest film studios.

It owns classics such as "Jurassic Park," "Fast and Furious" and "Minions." "Jaws" and "E.T. the Extraterrestrial," which became the highest-grossing films of all time during their initial releases, are also part of Universal's library.

The film library consists of over 6,500 titles, according to its annual report.

Universal was ranked No. 1 in the worldwide box office last year for the first time since 2015.

Universal Pictures and Focus Features, under the banner of Comcast, racked up about \$1.94 billion in box office revenue in the U.S. and Canada in 2023, according to research firm Comscore.

Paramount Pictures

Paramount Pictures, considered the jewel of Paramount Global, has attracted many suitors over the years.

However, Shari Redstone, the company's controlling shareholder through her stake in parent company National Amusements, has been reluctant to part with the studio that her father, the late Sumner Redstone, acquired in 1994.

The studio's library consists of more than 1,000 titles, including "Star Trek," "Godfather" and "Mission Impossible," with rights to an additional 2,500 films.

"Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One", starring Tom Cruise, is its top-grossing film, bringing in box office revenue of \$172.1 million last year in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico, IMDb's Box Office Mojo data showed.

Last year, Paramount Pictures grossed \$842.4 million in box office revenue in the U.S. and Canada, Comscore data showed.

The Walt Disney Studios

Walt Disney and brother Roy Disney founded "Disney Brothers Cartoon Stu-



Paramount Pictures' library consists of more than 1,000 titles, including "Star Trek," "The Godfather" and "Mission Impossible," with rights to an additional 2,500 films. MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS FILE

dio" after signing a contract with distributor M.J. Winkler for "Alice Comedies" in October 1923. The studio was renamed Walt Disney Studios in 1926.

Its collection of renowned studios includes Disney, Walt Disney Animation Studios, Pixar Animation Studios, Lucasfilm, Marvel Studios, Searchlight Pictures and 20th Century Studios.

Disney is home to popular film franchises such as "Avengers," "Guardians of the Galaxy," "Pirates of the Caribbean" and holds a collection of live-action versions of classic tales such as "Alice in Wonderland," "Maleficent," "The Jungle Book," "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Lion King."

Cumulatively through Sept. 30 last year, the company has released about 1,100 full-length live-action films and 100 full-length animated films.

Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group

Owned by Warner Bros. Discovery, Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group includes Warner Bros. Pictures, New Line Cinema and Warner Bros. Pictures Animation.

The company has a library of 12,500 feature films including franchises such as "Wonder Woman," "Harry Potter" and "Batman."

Warner Bros. Pictures Animation began its journey with the iconic "Looney Tunes" in 1930 and has produced classics such as "The Iron Giant," "The Lego Movie" franchise and "Happy Feet."

It made headlines in 2023 with the feminist doll adventure, "Barbie," which topped \$1 billion in ticket sales worldwide.

Sony Pictures Entertainment

Sony Pictures Entertainment, a unit of Japan's Sony Group, was formed through the \$3.4 billion purchase of Columbia Pictures Entertainment in 1989.

The Sony Pictures Motion Picture Group includes more than 3,500 movie titles as of March 2023, including 12 best picture Academy Award winners.

It has produced some of the indus-

try's most notable franchises such as "Jumanji," "Resident Evil," "Spider-Man," "Bad Boys" and "Men in Black."

Skydance Media

The Santa Monica, California-based independent studio was founded in 2010 by David Ellison, son of billionaire Oracle founder Larry Ellison.

In 2006, David Ellison dropped out of school to finance "Flyboys," a World War I movie about fighter pilots starring James Franco and Ellison. The film flopped and another project, "Northern Lights," failed to take flight.

"The name Skydance comes from David's love of aviation," according to the website. "True Grit" was the company's first feature film that received 10 Academy Award nominations.

The studio became well known after it partnered with Paramount Global and co-produced "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Mission: Impossible" films.

A24 Films

New York-based independent studio A24 was founded by three film executives, Daniel Katz, David Fenkel and John Hodges, in 2012.

The first film A24 produced and financed, together with Brad Pitt's Plan B Entertainment, was "Moonlight," which won the Oscar for best picture in 2017.

Some of its box office success has come from the horror genre, with such critically acclaimed films as "Hereditary" and "Midsommar."

The studio brought in \$136.7 million in box office revenue from U.S. and Canada last year, according to Comscore data, driven by hits like "Priscilla."

Amazon MGM Studios

Amazon.com closed its \$8.5 billion deal to buy MGM in 2022, combining the fabled moviemaker behind "Rocky" and "James Bond" with the online retailing giant.

MGM bolstered Amazon Prime Video's offering with more than 4,000 film titles.

Heat, hurricanes could roil fuel prices

Shariq Khan and Nicole Jao
REUTERS

NEW YORK – A double whammy of record heat and hurricanes should test U.S. refiners' resilience in coming weeks, raising the risk of extremely volatile fuel prices in the middle of the peak travel season, analysts said.

The Atlantic hurricane season from June through November is an annual threat for U.S. refineries. Half of the country's over 18 million-barrel-per-day refining capacity is located along the Gulf Coast, highly susceptible to tropical storms. The U.S. is the largest fuel market in the world.

Refiners this year may have to brace for more storms than usual. Government forecasters expect up to seven major hurricanes in coming months, double the annual average of three major Atlantic hurricanes with wind speeds over 111 miles per hour.

Citgo Petroleum Corp was cutting output at its 165,000 barrel-per-day Corpus Christi refinery on Saturday and plans to run the facility at minimum during Tropical Storm Beryl's passage over the Texas Coast, sources said.

The largest ports in Texas also closed operations and vessel traffic in preparation for Beryl, which strengthened

back to a hurricane before hitting the area early on Monday.

The intensity and timing of Beryl, which at one point became the earliest Category 5 hurricane on record, signals an active and disruptive season ahead, said Neil Crosby, crude market analyst at Sparta Commodities.

"Hurricanes remain the biggest wild card for gasoline prices," said GasBuddy analyst Patrick De Haan. "No better reminder of that than Beryl," he said.

Evacuation orders ahead of storms can lift stockpiling and boost fuel demand, causing prices for gasoline, diesel and other refined products to move higher, De Haan said.

If a major storm hits the Gulf Coast's refining system, it could remove as much as a million barrels a day of fuel supply and lead to extended outages or even permanent closures, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Hurricanes heading for the Gulf Coast could also knock out a similar amount of crude supply, with the offshore Gulf of Mexico region housing around 14% of U.S. crude output.

In 2021, U.S. oil and gas companies suspended more than 1.7 million barrels oil output in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

Outages of around 1.5 million bpd of crude production and refining capacity can cause gasoline prices to jump by 25 cents to 30 cents, according to EIA.

Warmer temps

In addition to hurricanes, refineries this year must contend with more problems related to scorching heat.

The latest U.S. monthly temperature outlook foresees above average temperatures in large parts of the U.S. in July, typically the hottest month.

Excessive temperatures have super-sized effects on commodity supply chains, including oil and fuel, JPMorgan analysts wrote last month.

Most refineries are designed to operate between 32 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Triple-digit temperatures could lead to equipment malfunctions and reduction in refining capacity.

Extreme heat last year led to a 500,000 bpd reduction in Gulf Coast refined products output, the JPM analysts wrote.

Similar effects are being felt this year. Unit upsets reported by Phillips 66 at its Wood River refinery in Illinois last month were likely due to heatwaves, according to Kloza and other industry experts.

Boeing in talks with Pentagon on guilty plea's possible impact

David Shepardson and Tim Hetherington
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Boeing is in talks with the U.S. Defense Department over how the planemaker's planned guilty plea could affect its extensive government contracts, a person briefed on the matter said.

On Sunday, the Justice Department said in a court filing that Boeing had agreed to plead guilty to a criminal fraud conspiracy charge to resolve an investigation linked to two 737 Max fatal crashes in 2018 and 2019 that killed 346 people.

A guilty plea potentially threatens the company's ability to secure lucrative government contracts with the likes of the U.S. Defense Department and NASA, although government agencies can waive any restrictions. Final details of the deal are expected to be filed by July 19.

Pentagon spokesperson Air Force Maj. Gen. Patrick Ryder told reporters the agency would make an assessment to decide the impact of the guilty plea on Boeing's contracts. He did not address whether the agency was in talks with the planemaker.

"DOD will assess the company's remediation plans and agreement with the Department of Justice to make a determination as to what steps are necessary and appropriate to protect the federal government," Ryder said, adding any actions would be under U.S. government contracting regulations.

Boeing and the Justice Department had no immediate comment. NASA declined to comment.

Boeing shares pared early gains and closed up 0.6%.

Boeing's Defense and Space unit is vital to its business, with \$7 billion in first-quarter sales, up 6% from a year ago.

In its annual report, Boeing said U.S. government contracts represented 37% of last year's revenue including foreign military sales. A government report said Boeing had \$14.8 billion in Pentagon contracts in 2022.



On Sunday, the Justice Department said in a court filing that Boeing had agreed to plead guilty to a criminal fraud conspiracy charge to resolve an investigation linked to two fatal 737 Max crashes. PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

The financial costs tied to the plea appear "manageable relative to the company's scale and overall obligations," said Ben Tsocanos, airlines director at S&P Global Ratings.

"We expect that Boeing will likely continue to be a key supplier of defense and space products following the guilty plea," he added.

The deal is also likely to be scrutinized outside the United States where Boeing is a key player on global markets, defense industry experts said.

The Canadian government said it is "awaiting a decision on these legal proceedings and will assess implications once confirmed" and said the planned acquisition of the Poseidon P-8A is proceeding.

All this comes at a time when geopolitical tensions are rising, pushing up defense spending.

On paper, Boeing faces possible restrictions on future exports to a swath of international markets, though whether it is actually excluded could depend on discretion allowed to local

agencies and the realities of the defense market, they added.

Foreign sales

For example, Britain, which operates Boeing's P-8A maritime patrol plane, and the European Union both have rules barring contractors with definitive criminal convictions from bidding for public contracts across many sectors for certain periods.

"That is the letter of the law," said Keith Hayward, a fellow of the U.K.'s Royal Aeronautical Society, whose published research include works on localization in the defense industry.

"The worst case analysis is that they would simply be barred from bidding, but this is a highly political as much as a legally defined business," Hayward said.

"It depends how much the customer wants the product and whether Boeing control a particular product line – P-8 is a good example – where there aren't many alternatives."

Shareholder clashes with Tesla over legal fees

Tom Hals
REUTERS

WILMINGTON, Del. – A record \$7 billion in attorneys' fees for three firms that successfully challenged Elon Musk's \$56 billion Tesla pay package provides an incentive for lawyers to hold corporate boards accountable, an attorney for a company shareholder told a Delaware judge on Monday.

For more than six hours, legal teams for the company and a shareholder sparred over how much to award to three law firms which represented Richard Tornetta, who owned nine shares of Tesla when he sued over Musk's pay package in 2018.

The fee Tornetta has asked for on behalf of the firms 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, court documents submitted by Tornetta's lawyers showed.

John Reed, Tesla's lawyer, said on Monday that the fee petition never should have been filed.

"It looks like a real-life lawyer joke," he told Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick of the Court of Chancery.

The legal fee represents a cut of the value that the plaintiff's lawyers say was created for Tesla by a Delaware judge's January ruling that rescinded Musk's \$56 billion pay package.

The firms that represented Tornetta include Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann.

Tornetta's attorney Greg Varallo said the shareholder's legal team was seeking far less than the law allows, which is up to 33% of the benefit to Tesla from the lawsuit.

He said the January ruling was the largest judgment ever by an American court, excluding punitive damages, and argued that Tornetta's lawyers should receive 11% of that judgment paid in the form of 29 million Tesla shares.

Varallo argued that a large fee award would encourage shareholder attorneys to try to protect small investors.

"If Delaware continues to perceive value in policing bad behavior, then narrowing incentives would be a very bad idea," Varallo said.

Reed countered that the January ruling destroyed value by sending Tesla's stock down as it created uncertainty about Musk's future at the company.

He asked McCormick to award as little as \$13.6 million as a fee.

More than 8,000 Tesla stockholders have flooded the court with some 1,500 letters and objections over the fee, according to court documents.

The request vastly outstrips the current record fee in shareholder litigation of \$688 million in an Enron class action, according to Stanford Law School.

The Musk case took a dramatic turn when Tesla shareholders in June voted to ratify Musk's pay, which Tesla has argued corrected the flaws in the 2018 process that McCormick identified in her ruling.

The company argues that Musk's pay package has been restored and that Tornetta's legal victory has been transformed into a loss.

McCormick will hear arguments about the legal impact of the ratification vote in the coming weeks.

McCormick may take weeks or months to issue a ruling on the legal fee.

Creditors seek approval to sue Sacklers

Dietrich Knauth
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Purdue Pharma's creditors sought permission from a U.S. bankruptcy court on Monday to sue the company's wealthy owners, arguing that the litigation can serve as both a negotiating tool and a fallback option as the OxyContin maker restarts talks on a bankruptcy settlement.

Purdue is going back to the drawing board to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of lawsuits against it and its Sackler family owners alleging that the company's deceptive marketing of OxyContin spurred an opioid addiction crisis in the U.S. A U.S. Supreme Court decision last month upended a previous bankruptcy deal.

The Supreme Court ruled that Purdue Pharma's bankruptcy settlement can not shield the Sackler family members, who have not filed for bankruptcy themselves, from lawsuits over their role in the opioid epidemic. The decision imperiled billions of dollars in funding that Purdue and the Sacklers had promised to pay toward addressing the harms of the deadly crisis.

A court-appointed committee of Purdue creditors, which includes individuals harmed by the opioid crisis as well as insurers and companies with

opioid claims, said in a Monday court filing in White Plains, New York, that they need the ability to sue to ensure that the Sacklers are not "allowed 'off the hook' for their grotesque misconduct in creating and fueling the opioid crisis."

The committee said it intends to engage in mediation and settlement talks with Purdue and the Sacklers before pursuing litigation.

A spokesperson for the Sackler family members said the committee's court filing was "riddled with factual errors" and "contrary to the goal of working together towards a resolution that provides billions of dollars for communities and people in need." The family members have denied wrongdoing but previously expressed regret that OxyContin "unexpectedly became part of an opioid crisis."

The committee said it supported Purdue's previous bankruptcy settlement as the most efficient way to get money to the victims of the opioid crisis, but it believes that the legal claims against the Sacklers are worth more than the \$6 billion that the family members agreed to pay.

The committee asked U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane for "derivative" standing to pursue Purdue's own legal claims against the Sacklers.

Purdue likely has the largest claims against the Sacklers, including claims that they drained over \$11 billion from the company and that their conduct made Purdue liable for other lawsuits, according to the committee.

The Sackler family members disputed the \$11 billion figure on Monday, saying half of the money they took from the company was used for tax payments.

Purdue, which pleaded guilty to misbranding and fraud charges related to its marketing of OxyContin in 2007 and 2020, supported the committee's request, saying in a Monday court filing that the company is "not the most appropriate entity to pursue litigation" against the Sacklers.

In exchange, Purdue insisted that the creditors' committee give mediation a chance before taking further action, and said it remains "hopeful" that a new deal can be reached without further litigation.

The company has spent nearly five years in bankruptcy, attempting to reach a comprehensive settlement of legal claims by state and local governments, family members of opioid overdose victims, and others who have sued or may sue in the future.

Purdue is scheduled to appear in court on Tuesday for the first time since the Supreme Court's June 27 ruling.

NY Fed: Near-term inflation expectations moderating

Michael S. Derby
REUTERS

NEW YORK – The path U.S. inflation is expected to follow over coming years generally softened in June, amid retreating projections of price increases for a wide array of consumer goods and services, a Federal Reserve Bank of New York report released on Monday said.

Inflation a year from now was seen at 3% as of June, from the expected rise of 3.2% in May, while three years from now inflation was seen at 2.9% from May's 2.8%, according to the bank's latest Survey of Consumer Expectations. Inflation five years from now was seen at 2.8% from May's 3%.

The report found that expected price gains for gas, food, rent, medical and college costs all moderated in June relative to what survey respondents projected in May. Expected year-ahead home price gains also cooled, hitting 3% in June from the prior month's 3.3%.

Ebbing price pressure expectations came in a landscape where survey respondents said they see future earnings growth rising at a faster pace and future income growth slowing. Spending expectations held steady at a pace above where it was before the coronavirus pandemic struck.

The survey also found respondents saying credit is getting slightly harder to get as they also marked down their

household's financial situation. Respondents' outlook on the job market was mixed.

The New York Fed report, which is closely watched for what it says about how the public foresees inflation developing, came as central bankers are actively debating whether inflation pressures have moderated enough to allow them to cut their short-term interest rate target.

Fed policymakers want to see inflation move sustainably down to 2% and, after data proved unexpectedly strong over the start of the year, they have been cautious to interpret recent cooling in inflation data as opening the door to a rate cut.

The softening in expected inflation could bolster central bankers' confidence that price pressures are on the right path. Fed officials have often looked to the relative stability of expected inflation in the face of recent shocks as a reason to be optimistic inflation will ultimately return to target.

"Despite the severity of the shocks, longer-term inflation expectations remained remarkably stable and close to the FOMC's 2% goal," New York Fed President John Williams said in a speech last week. "Medium-term expectations returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022," he said, adding "and short-term expectations followed suit in 2023."

France's RN to lead right-wing group at European Parliament

Seeks to transfer power back to member states

REUTERS

BRUSSELS – France's National Rally (RN) will lead the European Parliament's third-largest alliance, Patriots for Europe, forged by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, the group announced on Monday.

Marine Le Pen's far-right RN joined the alliance in the European Parliament earlier on Monday, a day after it suffered a blow to its ambitions by finishing in third place in elections to the French National Assembly.

Austria's far-right Freedom Party, Fidesz and the populist Czech ANO party led by Andrej Babis had already agreed to join forces, citing the fight against illegal immigration, as well as transfer-

ring more powers from Brussels back to member states as the alliance's goals.

With the addition of RN's 30 members, the Patriots will pose a challenge to the center-right European People's Party (EPP), which supports Ursula von der Leyen for a second term as European Commission President.

"As patriotic forces, we are going to work together in order to retake our institutions and reorient policies to serve our nations and peoples," Jordan Bardella, prominent RN member and the group's new president, said in a statement.

In total, the Patriots have 84 members including 11 from Hungary's Fidesz and 8 from Italy's League. Kinga Gál of Fidesz and Roberto Vannacci of the League will be vice presidents.

To form a new political grouping, 23 MEPs are needed who represent at least a quarter of EU member states.

"After a lot of work, the large Patriots group is born together with the League in Brussels, which will be decisive in changing the future of this Europe," League leader Matteo Salvini wrote on X.

Third behind the center-right EPP and center-left Socialists and Democrats, the Patriots have leaptfrogged the rival far-right ECR group, led by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who is allied with the League in domestic politics.

Meloni was dealt a blow to her own alliance efforts after Spain's far-right party Vox left her bloc last week and joined the Patriots.

The RN's strong showing in the European election in France helped push the liberal Renew bloc that included President Emmanuel Macron's centrists from third place down to fifth in the new European parliament.

Sources: Satellite photos show Iran expanding missile production

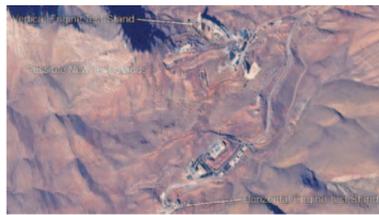
Jonathan Landay and Parisa Hafezi
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Recent satellite imagery shows major expansions at two key Iranian ballistic missile facilities that two American researchers assessed are for boosting missile production, a conclusion confirmed by three senior Iranian officials.

The enlargement of the sites follows an October 2022 deal in which Iran agreed to provide missiles to Russia, which has been seeking them for its war against Ukraine. Tehran also supplies missiles to Yemen's Houthi rebels and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, both members of the Iran-backed Axis of Resistance against Israel, according to U.S. officials.

Images taken by commercial satellite firm Planet Labs of the Modarres military base in March and the Khojir missile production complex in April show more than 30 new buildings at the two sites, both of which are located near Tehran.

The images, reviewed by Reuters, show many of the structures are sur-



A satellite photo shows suspected missile engine test stands at the Khojir complex, near Tehran, Iran, in this handout image obtained by Reuters on Monday. PLANET LABS PBC AND MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY, JAMES MARTIN CENTER FOR NONPROLIFERATION STUDIES/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

rounded by large dirt berms. Such earthworks are associated with missile production and are designed to stop a blast in one building from detonating highly combustible materials in nearby structures, said Jeffrey Lewis of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

The expansions began at Khojir in

August last year and at Modarres in October, Lewis said, based on images of the sites.

Three Iranian officials, who asked not to be identified because they were not authorized to speak publicly, confirmed that Modarres and Khojir are being expanded to boost production of conventional ballistic missiles.

"Why shouldn't we?" said one official.

Reuters was unable independently to confirm the Iranian officials' comments. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a Reuters request for comment on the expansion of the complexes.

New buildings, dirt berms

Shahid Modarres and Khojir are overseen by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the elite paramilitary organization that plays a central role in Iran's missile and nuclear programs. It controls large segments of the Iranian economy and answers directly to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

NEWS IN BRIEF

White House says gaps remain between Israel, Hamas on truce

WASHINGTON – Senior U.S. officials are in Cairo for talks to achieve a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, but gaps still remain between the two sides, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said on Monday.

Speaking at a briefing, Kirby said CIA Director Bill Burns and U.S. Middle East envoy Brett McGurk were in Egypt, meeting with their Egyptian, Israeli and Jordanian counterparts on Monday. He added that there will be follow-up discussions in the next few days.

"We've been working this very, very hard. And there are still some gaps that remain in the two sides in the positions, but we wouldn't have sent a team over there if we didn't think that we had a shot here," Kirby said.

NYU settles antisemitism lawsuit brought by Jewish students

NEW YORK – New York University settled a lawsuit by Jewish students who accused the school of failing to stop antisemitism on campus.

Terms of the settlement reached on Monday were not immediately available. A lawyer for the students and an NYU spokesman said the parties will issue a joint statement on Tuesday.

The accord resolves one of the earliest of the many lawsuits accusing major universities, including New York's Columbia University, of allowing and encouraging antisemitism following the outbreak of war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

Cuba foils plot to sneak arms onto island from US, official says

HAVANA – Cuba has foiled a plot to sneak arms and ammunition onto the Caribbean island from the United States, detaining nearly three dozen people in a broader scheme authorities say sought to destabilize its government, a Cuba Interior Ministry official said on Monday.

Cuba first unveiled details of the plot last December, when authorities said a Cuban man residing in the United States arrived on the island by jet ski, armed with guns, ammunition and military gear, to recruit others and commit acts of violence.

A subsequent seven-month investigation, said Victor Álvarez, a lead criminal investigator with Cuba's Interior Ministry, unveiled a broader plan that includes participation by 32 Cuban residents and a U.S.-based group called La Nueva Nación Cubana.

US military forces withdraw from Niger's Air Base 101 in capital

NIAMEY – The U.S. military withdrew its personnel from Niger's Air Base 101 near the airport in the capital Niamey on Sunday, ahead of its exit from a major drone base near the desert city of Agadez in the coming weeks.

Niger's ruling junta in April ordered the U.S. to withdraw its nearly 1,000 military personnel from the country following a coup last year in the West African nation.

The focus will next shift to withdrawal from the \$100 million drone base near Agadez in central Niger, which had provided crucial intelligence about jihadist-linked groups, U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Kenneth Ekman said on Friday.

The pullout from that base, known as Air Base 201, will likely take place in August, he said.

Reuters

Speaker Mike Johnson to 'emphatically' demand more from NATO allied nations

Patricia Zengerle
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – House Speaker Mike Johnson combined praise for NATO with a call for members to meet their targeted annual spending of at least 2% of GDP on defense in his first major foreign policy speech as the chamber's Republican leader.

"I just want to say this, and I'll deliver the message to them emphatically: Republicans, of course, celebrate the peace and prosperity that NATO has secured and will continue to stand by our partners as we prevent needless wars," the Republican House leader said at the Hudson Institute think tank.

"But we also believe that NATO needs

to be doing more," he said, as members of the military alliance gathered for this week's summit in Washington, which will include meetings with members of the U.S. Congress.

Johnson also took a hard line on China, calling it "our single greatest threat... engaging in malign influence operations around the world."

He said the House will vote on a series of bills to counter China this year, including beefed up sanctions and efforts to clamp down on trade policies seen as harmful to U.S. interests.

Defense spending by NATO members has become a highly contentious issue in recent times as former President Donald Trump accuses Europeans of spending too little on their own security

and relying on Washington for protection.

Johnson is a close ally of Trump and, as speaker, sets the legislative agenda for the House.

Months after Democratic President Joe Biden asked the House to approve funding for Ukraine, Johnson changed course this year to allow the House to vote on – and pass – billions of dollars in additional aid to the country.

Johnson said people have come up to him at events all over the country and thanked him for passing the funding.

"People understand that (Russian President Vladimir Putin) would not stop if he took Kyiv. He's a ruthless dictator in my view," Johnson said.

Macron

Continued from Page 1NN

Macron's move was indicative of how out of touch he had become with an electorate that was increasingly disenchanted with him, sources who know him well said.

"He dissolved parliament because he thought he could win," said one former advisor who worked with Macron at the Elysee, speaking anonymously to talk frankly about the president.

"What really astonishes me is how badly he misjudged the mood of the country," added the former aide, who noted "how quickly you can lose touch with reality" from inside the gilded cage of the President's palace.

Weakened hand

France's fragmented parliament is likely to weaken its role in the European Union and further afield, and make it

hard for anyone to push through a domestic agenda.

Leaders of the leftist alliance launched talks on what should happen next, with options including a minority government or a complex broader coalition.

Allies of Macron, who has not spoken publicly since Sunday's results, sought to distance themselves from an unpopular president and his election call. Macron's former prime minister Edouard Philippe said the vote had resulted in great uncertainty.

"I regret it but I am not surprised," Philippe said.

Others have put the blame on the small coterie of aides surrounding Macron. Ahead of the election, a visibly angry Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire hit out at the "lice crawling through the palace cracks" in a TV interview.

Macron's history of placing winning bets had given him an indestructible sense of his own destiny, most sources agree.

Theater producer Jean-Marc Du-

montet, a close friend of the Macrons, said the president's commitment to his decisions "makes you deaf to everything people around you tell you."

Growing unpopularity

Elected in 2017 on a promise to rejuvenate French politics, Macron's popularity nosedived after he began to govern in a so-called "Jupiterian" fashion. He loosened labor rules by decree, cut housing allowances and raised fuel taxes while defiantly defending his security guard who beat up protesters.

His perceived arrogance soon created deep resentment across the country, which erupted in 2018-2019 with the "yellow vest" crisis. What began as a revolt against rising fuel prices soon morphed into a seven-month challenge to Macron's authority.

After being reelected in 2022 after Russia launched its war on Ukraine, Macron's raising of the pension age using executive constitutional powers to bypass parliament further damaged his

reputation among working-class and middle-class voters.

Aides said Macron believed voters would overlook his unpopularity and instead focus on his economic record. Alexandre Holroyd, a former lawmaker in the National Assembly, said Britain's Brexit vote should have served as a warning against such thinking.

Yet Macron didn't just misjudge how low his stock had fallen among voters, three sources said. He underestimated the left's ability to put aside its differences on issues like Gaza and antisemitism to form a united front against the far right.

The election revitalized the left, with France's next prime minister likely to come from its ranks. Fresh faces including moderate Raphael Glucksmann, Green leader Marine Tondelier and leftist Francois Ruffin have all emerged to challenge hard-liner Jean-Luc Melancon as the bloc's potential leader.

There is still a chance that Macron could turn political gridlock to his own advantage.

Prosecutor: Menendez put power up for sale

3-term NJ senator faces charges of bribery, fraud

Luc Cohen
REUTERS

NEW YORK – U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez sold his power for money and gold to help Egypt's government and businessmen who showered the once-powerful senator and his wife with bribes, a prosecutor said on Monday in his closing argument at Menendez's corruption trial.

Over more than seven weeks of testimony, federal prosecutors sought to persuade a jury that Menendez accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars of bribes in the form of gold bars, cash, and car and mortgage payments.

In exchange, prosecutors said the New Jersey Democrat sought to help Egypt secure billions of dollars in U.S. military assistance and aid the business and legal interests of New Jersey businessmen Fred Daibes, Wael Hana and Jose Uribe.

"It wasn't enough for him to be one of the most powerful people in Washington," prosecutor Paul Monteleoni said in his closing argument in Manhattan federal court. "He also wanted to pile up riches for himself and his wife."

At the trial, jurors saw gold bars federal agents seized from Menendez's home. The agents also found more than \$480,000 of cash, including some stuffed in envelopes inside a jacket bearing the senator's name.

Menendez, 70, has pleaded not guilty to 16 criminal charges including bribery, fraud, acting as a foreign agent and obstruction. His lawyers have sought to shift the blame toward his wife, Nadine Menendez, who prosecutors say he used as a go-between for the bribes.

Nadine Menendez has also pleaded not guilty and will be tried separately starting in August.

The case has likely ended the three-term senator's political career. Bob Menendez resigned as chair of the Senate's influential foreign relations committee after being charged in September. He is running for reelection in November as an independent, but is considered a long shot.

At the outset of a closing argument expected to last five hours, Monteleoni said Bob Menendez sought to benefit Hana and Egyptian officials after Hana put Nadine Menendez on his payroll in a "sham job" that paid her \$10,000 per month.

Bob Menendez ghostwrote a letter for Egyptian officials to respond to concerns a fellow senator had raised about the country's human rights record, and pressed a U.S. Department of Agriculture official to stop scrutinizing a deal prosecutors say Egypt's government granted Hana's company to certify halal meat.

"When Menendez hears Nadine is going to get paid, he springs into action again and again," Monteleoni said. "He sold all of that trust and all of that power for the benefit of Hana and of Egypt for money and for gold."

Trump would crack down on immigration in 2nd term

Deportations and travel bans eyed

Ted Hesson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Republican former President Donald Trump has promised to crack down on illegal immigration and restrict legal immigration if elected to a second four-year term on Nov. 5.

Here are some of the policies under consideration, according to Trump, his campaign and news reports:

Border enforcement

Trump has said he would restore his 2019 "remain in Mexico" program, which forced non-Mexican asylum-seekers attempting to enter the United States at the southern border to wait in Mexico for the resolution of their cases. The program was terminated by President Joe Biden, a Democrat seeking a second White House term. Biden defeated Trump in 2020, pledging more humane and orderly immigration policies, but has struggled with record levels of migrants caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally.

Trump also would reinstate the COVID-19-era Title 42 policy, which allowed U.S. border authorities to quickly expel migrants back to Mexico without the chance to claim asylum, he told Time magazine in an interview.

He would use record border crossings and trafficking of fentanyl and children as reasons for the emergency moves, Time reported, citing comments from advisers.

Trump has said he will seek to detain all migrants caught crossing the border illegally or violating other immigration laws, ending what he calls "catch and release."

Mass deportations

Trump has pledged to launch the largest deportation effort in U.S. history, focusing on criminals but aiming to send millions back to their home countries.



Migrants walk into the United States beside the U.S.-Mexico border wall on June 5 at Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif. FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trump told Time he did not rule out building new migrant detention camps but "there wouldn't be that much of a need for them" because migrants would be rapidly removed.

Trump would rely on the National Guard, if needed, to arrest and deport immigrants in the U.S. illegally, he said.

Stephen Miller, the architect of Trump's first-term immigration agenda, said in an interview last year with a right-wing podcast that National Guard troops from cooperative states could potentially be deployed to what he characterized as "unfriendly" states to assist with deportations, which could trigger legal battles.

Biden in 2023 outpaced Trump deportation totals for any single year and is on pace for even more this year.

Travel bans

Trump has said he would implement travel bans on people from certain countries or with certain ideologies, expanding on a policy upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018. Trump previewed some parts of the world that could be subjected to a renewed travel ban in an October 2023 speech, pledging to restrict people from the Gaza Strip, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and "anywhere else that threatens our security."

Legal immigration

Trump said last year that he would seek to end automatic citizenship for children born in the U.S. to immigrants living in the country illegally, an idea he flirted with as president. Such an action

would run against the long-running interpretation of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution and would likely trigger legal challenges. Trump would again suspend the resettlement program if re-elected, the New York Times reported in November 2023.

Trump has said he would push for a "a merit-based immigration system that protects American labor and promotes American values." In his first term, he took steps to tighten access to some visa programs, including a suspension of many work visas during the COVID pandemic. The Trump campaign criticized a Biden program announced in June that will allow immigrants in the U.S. illegally to obtain permanent residence if they are married to a U.S. citizen and have lived in the U.S. for at least a decade.

Trump has vowed to end Biden "parole" programs that have allowed hundreds of thousands of migrants with U.S. sponsors to enter the U.S. and obtain work permits, including Ukrainians and Afghans. He has called Biden's programs an "outrageous abuse of parole authority."

Family separation

In a town hall with CNN last year, Trump declined to rule out resuming his contentious "zero tolerance" policy that led thousands of migrant children and parents to be separated at the U.S.-Mexico border in 2018. He defended the separations again in November, telling Spanish-language news outlet Univision that "it stopped people from coming by the hundreds of thousands."

DACA

Trump tried to end a program that grants deportation relief and work permits to "Dreamer" immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children, but the termination was rebuffed by the Supreme Court in June 2020. Following the Supreme Court ruling, the Trump administration said it would not accept any new applications to the program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, and would explore whether it could again attempt to end it.

Trump plans to try to end DACA if elected, the New York Times reported.

Group rolls out \$4M ad buy to boost GOP

Gram Slattery
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – AFP Action, a major conservative advocacy group backed by billionaire Charles Koch, is rolling out over \$4 million worth of digital ads starting on Monday backing Republican congressional candidates throughout the country.

The ad buy, first disclosed to Reuters, will buoy Republican Senate candidates in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, Montana and Nevada. In all of those states, Republican challengers are locked in relatively tight races with incumbent Democratic senators.

While Democrats currently hold a 51-49 Senate advantage, they will be defending several competitive seats when voters go to the polls on Nov. 5,

and Republicans have a solid chance of flipping control of the chamber.

The ad buy, the group's biggest one-time purchase this cycle, will also support 11 Republicans vying for House seats in five states, including battlegrounds Michigan, Arizona and Pennsylvania.

The group is spending \$3.5 million for ads in Senate races and \$549,500 on House races, with \$1 million dedicated to supporting the candidacy of Pennsylvania Senate candidate David McCormick. The latest ads will run on multiple digital platforms, including streaming services.

So far this election cycle, the group has spent slightly over \$15 million supporting Republican congressional candidates, excluding the latest buy.

"This ad buy is a continuation of our

'Firewall Strategy' to prevent one-party progressive rule in Washington," AFP Action said in a statement.

AFP Action has not traditionally thrown its weight behind presidential candidates. This cycle, however, the group supported Trump challenger Nikki Haley in the final months of the Republican nominating contests.

The group ultimately cut off Haley in February after she lost the primary in her home state of South Carolina, and said it would focus on trying to win the Senate and defend the House, where Republicans hold a six-seat majority.

The content of the ads vary, though they largely attack Democrats for failing to contain inflation and secure the U.S.-Mexico border. Polls consistently show both issues to be major vulnerabilities for Democrats.

Platform

Continued from Page 1NN

election.

Trump called into the platform committee meeting on Monday and spoke to its members for about 15 to 20 minutes, said Ben Proto, a committee member from Connecticut, where he serves as the party's state chair.

Proto said there was little debate over the platform's provisions, which will be presented to the party at large for adoption at the convention.

"Pretty much everybody on the committee understood that this was his document," Proto said. "This was his vision. It aligns very closely with, obviously, a lot of Republican positions."

Not everybody, however, was on board. Tony Perkins, a prominent evangelical leader and a member of the platform committee, complained afterward that the process was "choreographed" and did not allow for disagreement.

"The 2024 platform is a concise statement of campaign priorities, but not a declaration of enduring principles for a political party," Perkins said in a statement.

Perkins was among a group of social conservatives that last month sent Trump a letter asking him to preserve language from past platforms that called for "a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the 14th Amendment's protections apply to children before birth."

The new platform falls short of that, instead only saying that states are now free to pass laws in accordance with the Constitution and with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in 2022 overturning a woman's right to abortion and enabling states to impose tougher restrictions.

It is silent on federal regulation of the abortion drug mifepristone – which some anti-abortion groups also want restricted – and notes that the party supports policies that advance IVF treatments, birth control and prenatal care.

Trump campaign operatives had worked behind the scenes to try to fill the platform committee with people more amenable to accepting Trump's stance on abortion, according to people familiar with the matter.

Still, one anti-abortion activist said on Monday that she was satisfied with the platform's language.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, the president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America

who last week warned the Trump campaign that its longstanding political alliance with social conservatives was in jeopardy if the party took a watered-down position on abortion, said in a statement that the party had reaffirmed its commitment to protect unborn life.

The Biden campaign condemned the platform's abortion stance as extreme.

"Donald Trump has made it clear with his own words and actions what he will do if he regains power – rip away women's freedoms, punish women and ban abortion nationwide," spokesperson Sarafina Chitika said in a statement.

Clear priorities

The Trump campaign had indicated a desire for a simpler document than in the past, one with a clear distillation of Trump's priorities if elected and free of special-interest jargon.

"President Trump's 2024 Republican Party Platform articulates his vision to Make America Great Again in a way that is concise and digestible for every voter," said Trump campaign senior advisers Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles in a statement.

In a section focused on the economy,

Republicans pledge to "end Democrats' unlawful and unAmerican Crypto crack-down" and to defend the right to mine bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency.

Trump has portrayed himself as a champion for crypto, including at a San Francisco fundraiser in June with tech executives during which he slammed Democrats' attempts to regulate the cryptocurrency sector.

The Republican platform calls for prohibiting China from "buying American Real Estate and Industries," one of the broadest proposed restrictions yet on Chinese ownership of U.S. assets.

Trump has campaigned to eliminate Chinese Communist Party purchases of U.S. farmland and has promised to root out Chinese ownership of U.S. companies involved in critical sectors like energy, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications.

The document echoes other Trump pledges, including imposing a U.S. naval blockade to bar the entry of fentanyl, reviving a travel ban limiting entry to the country of people from largely Muslim-dominant countries, abolishing the Department of Education and emphasizing same-day voting over mail-in or early voting.

Ukraine will be on summit agenda

Kyiv isn't joining NATO alliance yet

Andrew Gray and Sabine Siebold
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Leaders of NATO's 32 member countries meet this week in Washington for a summit of the trans-Atlantic security alliance, with further support for Ukraine in the war against Russia's invasion high on their agenda.

Here is what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy – who has been invited to attend the summit – can expect from the July 9-11 gathering, according to NATO officials and diplomats.

Will NATO invite Ukraine to become a member?

No. NATO takes decisions by consensus and there is no agreement among its 32 members to extend an invitation while Ukraine is at war. However, many NATO members – particularly those from Eastern Europe – want to signal that Kyiv is moving closer to membership. At a summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, last year, NATO leaders declared that "Ukraine's future is in NATO" and reaffirmed their commitment to a statement in Bucharest in 2008 that Kyiv would join the alliance.

This year, many NATO countries want to state that Ukraine's path to membership is "irreversible". But alliance members are still wrangling over the summit declaration, including over how much to emphasize that Ukraine has to complete reforms, such as crack-downs on corruption, before it could join.

Diplomats say the United States and Germany are among the countries most wary of going further on membership at this stage. If Ukraine joins NATO, other members would be obliged to come to its assistance if it was attacked by Russia, under the alliance's Article 5 mutual defense clause.

In an interview with Time magazine published last month, President Joe Biden said securing peace in Ukraine would mean making sure Russia could never attack the country again. But, he said, "it doesn't mean NATO, they are part of NATO" – dampening Ukraine's hopes of entering the alliance any time soon.

He also noted he had previously said he was not "prepared to support the



A drone view shows a building heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike in Kyiv on Monday amid Russia's attack on Ukraine. YAN DOBRONOSOV/REUTERS

NATOization of Ukraine". However, officials say NATO will unveil a package of measures at the summit to help Ukraine, which it will present as a "bridge to membership".

What will be in the package?

It will include a pledge of continued financial support and a move by NATO to take over the coordination of arms supplies and training of Ukraine's forces.

NATO as an organization does not supply arms to Ukraine directly but many of its members are among Kyiv's biggest weapons providers. The United States, possibly joined by other allies, is expected to announce more weapons for Ukraine at the summit, including Patriot air defense systems.

What will the financial pledge be?

Leaders are expected to endorse an agreement struck between NATO allies last week to provide 40 billion euros of military aid to Ukraine in the coming year, two Western European diplomats told Reuters.

The alliance says this matches the amount given annually since Russia's

2022 invasion. The pact includes a provision to re-evaluate allied contributions at future NATO summits, according to one of the diplomats.

NATO members "will aim to meet this pledge through proportionate contributions", the agreement said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg had suggested a five-year commitment of 100 billion euros. But multiple allies objected, saying their budget rules did not allow such a long-term commitment or that they could not make a pledge on behalf of future governments.

What will NATO coordinate?

The alliance has agreed to take over much of the coordination of arms deliveries from the U.S.-led Ukraine Defense Contact Group, an ad-hoc coalition of some 50 nations, also called the Ramstein group, named after a U.S. air base in Germany where it first met.

This gives NATO a more direct role in the war against Russia's invasion while stopping well short of committing its own forces. The alliance will also coordinate the training of Ukrainian forces,

much of which is done by the European Union and Britain.

Some diplomats see the move as a way to guard against any attempt by Donald Trump – if he wins November's U.S. presidential election – to stop military aid for Ukraine.

But this would have a limited effect, as the U.S. is NATO's dominant power and provides the majority of weaponry to Ukraine. So if Washington wanted to slash Western aid to Kyiv, it would still be able to do so.

Stoltenberg has said the effort will be run from a U.S. base in Wiesbaden, Germany, commanded by a three-star general and involve nearly 700 personnel. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who has maintained close ties to Russia, has secured an opt-out from the initiative. Its name has also been contentious. Germany objected to it being called a "mission," arguing this could be seen as implying NATO will send troops to Ukraine.

It is currently known as NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine, or NSATU for short.

Beryl

Continued from Page 1NN

You will have tropical storm winds, maybe as late as midnight or 1 a.m. You will have flooding, you will have rain, and you need to stay off the roads," Patrick said.

State officials had yet to assess the economic damage as officials remained on a rescue footing while powerful winds continued to blow. Restoring power would take several days, said Thomas Gleeson, chair of the Texas Public Utility Commission.

More than 2,500 first responders were deployed statewide, said Nim Kidd, chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Following warnings that it could be a deadly storm for communities in its path, people rushed to board up windows and stock up on fuel and other essential supplies.

Strong gusts, torrential rain

Before daybreak, strong gusts and torrential rain lashed cities and towns such as Galveston, Sargent, Lake Jackson and Freeport, television video showed. By late morning, many fallen trees blocked roads in Houston as the worst of the storm passed, with persisting winds and some road flooding, rendering lanes on major freeways impassable. The city barricaded flooded areas.

Crews using a life jacket and ladder fire truck rescued a man from a truck on a flooded stretch of freeway, video posted on social media by Houston's local ABC station showed. Patrick said there were several other rescues.

Floodwaters exceeded 10 inches across most of Houston, Mayor John Whitmire said.

"We're literally getting calls across Houston right now asking for first responders to come rescue individuals in desperate life safety conditions," Whitmire said.

The storm had strengthened to a Category 1 hurricane as it crossed the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico before making landfall. But the NHC said it was expected to weaken into a tropical depression overnight and a post-tropical cy-



The damaged roof of a gas station is seen Monday in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl in Edna, Texas. DANIEL BECERRIL/REUTERS



Allison Crane walks out of her flooded neighborhood Monday after Hurricane Beryl passed through Galveston, Texas. RICH MATTHEWS/REUTERS

clone on Tuesday.

That was still enough to deliver more heavy rain as it moved northeastward from eastern Texas on Monday afternoon, across Arkansas on Tuesday, into

the Lower Ohio Valley on Tuesday night, and finally into the Lower Great Lakes on Wednesday, the U.S. National Weather Service said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard had positioned staff to assist with search and rescue efforts. FEMA also readied water, meals and generators to boost local response efforts, according to the Biden administration.

Schools said they would close as the storm approached. Airlines canceled more than 1,300 flights, and officials ordered a smattering of evacuations in beach towns. Small businesses in Houston delayed openings or were closed on Monday.

More than 2.7 million homes and businesses in Texas lost power, according to Patrick and PowerOutage.us. Several counties in southeastern

Texas – including Houston, where many U.S. energy companies are headquartered – are under a flash-flood warning as thunderstorms unleashed up to nearly 12 inches of rain in some areas.

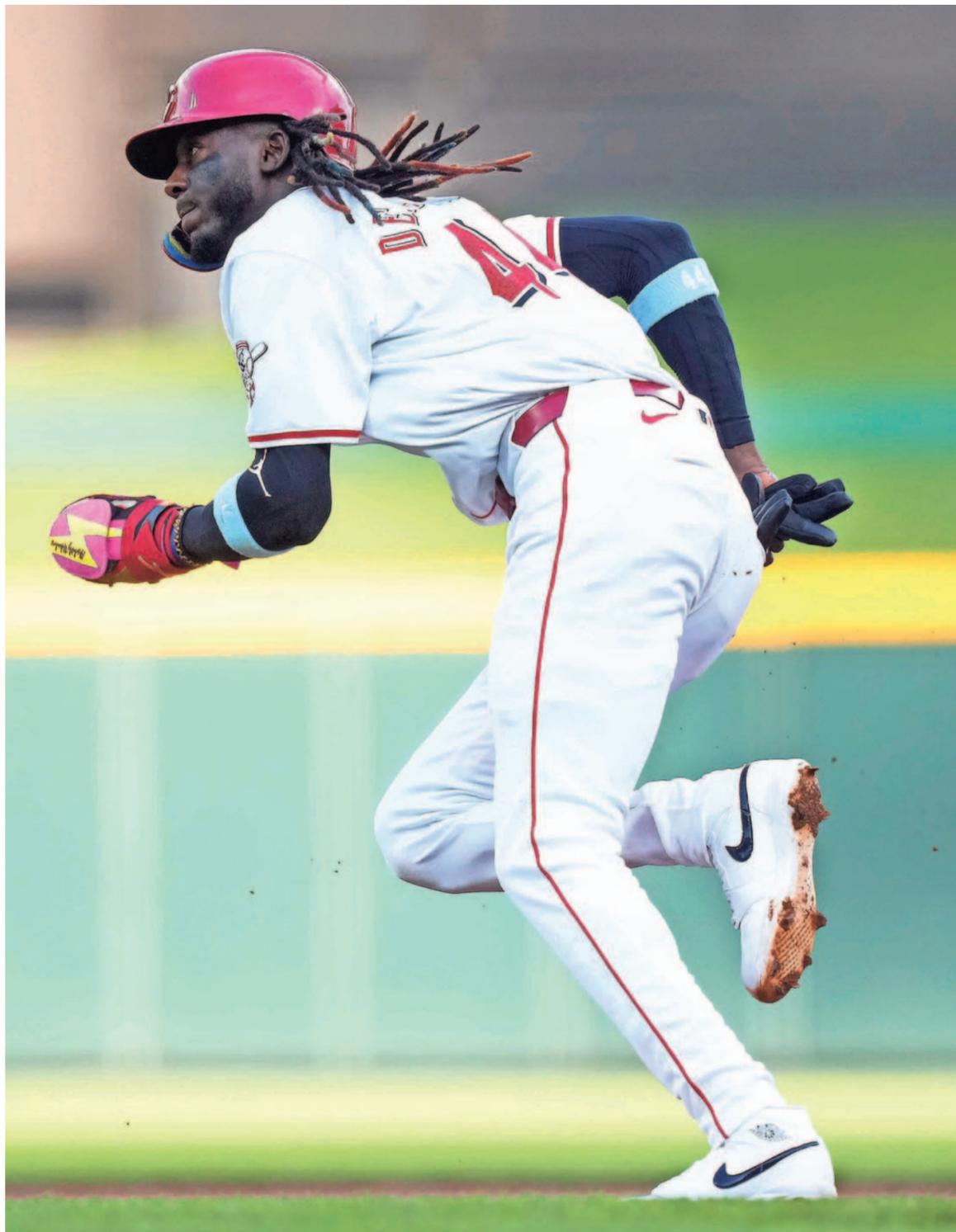
Closures of major oil-shipping ports around Corpus Christi, Galveston and Houston ahead of the storm could disrupt crude oil exports, along with shipments of crude to refineries and motor fuel from the plants. The Corpus Christi Ship Channel has re-opened, while the Port of Houston was projected to resume operations on Tuesday afternoon.

Some oil producers, including Shell and Chevron, evacuated personnel from their Gulf of Mexico offshore production platforms ahead of the storm.

Marathon Petroleum Corp.'s refinery in Texas City, Texas, was hit by a power interruption on Monday amid the storm, the company said in a statement.

SPORTS **EXTRA**

MLB



Reds shortstop Elly De La Cruz steals second base after reaching on a walk in the first inning against the Rockies in Cincinnati on Monday. SAM GREENE/CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

REDS STAR ON A ROLL

Elly De La Cruz went 2-for-3 with an RBI double one day after earning his first career All-Star selection and the Cincinnati Reds blanked the visiting Colorado Rockies 6-0 on Monday night. He also stole two bases and scored twice. **ROUNDUP AND BOXES, PAGE 4NS**

GOLF

Bradley named US captain for Ryder Cup

REUTERS

Keegan Bradley has been named U.S. captain for the 2025 Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black in New York, the PGA of America announced on Monday after a search process during which they also talked to Tiger Woods about taking the job.

Bradley succeeds twice major champion Zach Johnson as U.S. captain after the latter faced plenty of criticism following the last edition of the biennial event where his squad failed to get the job done against Europe.

"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," PGA of America President John Lindert said in a news release.

Woods, who won the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage Black, had been the overwhelming favorite to take over as captain but has been busy off the golf course and previously said he was unsure if he could devote the necessary time the position demands.

For Bradley, who counts the 2011 PGA Championship among his six wins on the PGA Tour, his appointment as captain comes after he was left off the 2023 U.S. Ryder Cup squad in a year in which his six top-10 finishes on the PGA Tour included two wins.

In his two Ryder Cup appearances – 2012 and 2014 – Bradley amassed a 4-3 record.

"My passion and appreciation for golf's greatest team event have never been stronger," said Bradley.

"The Ryder Cup is unlike any other

See **BRADLEY, Page 2NS**



Keegan Bradley tees off on the second hole during the third round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club.

ADAM CAIRNS/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

TENNIS WIMBLEDON

Down two sets, Fritz reaches quarterfinals

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

No. 13 seed Taylor Fritz dropped the first two sets against No. 4 Alexander Zverev of Germany, but rallied for 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-3 victory to reach his second quarterfinal at Wimbledon on Monday in London.

Fritz, who lost to Spain's Rafael Nadal in the 2022 quarterfinals, will face No. 25 Lorenzo Musetti of Italy, who took down lucky loser Giovanni Mpetshi Pericard of France 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

"It was amazing to do that on Centre Court from two sets down," Fritz said after his third career comeback when trailing by two sets. "I thought it would really suck to be playing this well and to lose in three straight.

"I had the belief. I thought I was playing really good tennis ... and that it was just a couple of points here and there. I

thought I could take it one set at a time and turn it around."

Fritz finished with 67 winners, 15 aces and 23 unforced errors, while Zverev totaled 55 winners, 19 aces and 33 unforced errors. Fritz also won the battle of second-serve points, 69 percent to 47 percent.

Fritz, who was broken only once, earned a break to go up 3-1 in the fifth set. He then overcame an 0-30 deficit on his serve to take a 4-1 lead. The American closed out the match with a backhand winner on his own serve.

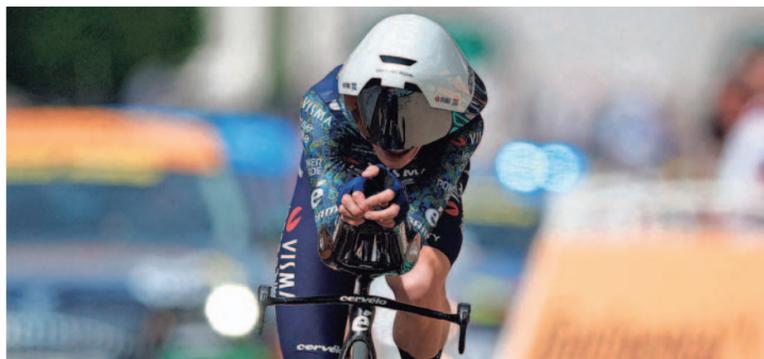
Musetti advanced to his first major quarterfinal, committing just eight unforced errors to 23 winners. After dropping serve midway through the opening set, he didn't face another break point for the rest of the match.

See **WIMBLEDON, Page 2NS**



Taylor Fritz celebrates his win against Alexander Zverev at Wimbledon on Monday. SUSAN MULLANE/USA TODAY SPORTS

CYCLING TOUR DE FRANCE



Jonas Vingegaard, leader of Team Visma-Lease a Bike, crosses the finish line after Stage 7 of the Tour de France on Friday. Vingegaard is 1:15 behind the leader heading into Tuesday's Stage 10. STEPHANE MAHE/REUTERS

Vingegaard lies in wait

Vincent Daheron
REUTERS

ORLEANS – With defending champion Jonas Vingegaard entering the event having not raced for three months, Tadej Pogacar was hoping to put the hammer down early in the Tour de France, but while he leads on the first rest day, the Slovenian has not knocked his big rival out.

After nine stages, Pogacar has the yellow jersey and leads Belgian Remco Evenepoel by 33 seconds and Denmark's Vingegaard by 1:15.

It is not quite enough, however, to start thinking of celebrations of a possible Giro d'Italie/Tour de France double, the first since 1998.

Predictably, Pogacar took a swash-buckling approach to the race and managed to gain time on Vingegaard in the individual time trial and first high mountain stage, although most of the seconds he won that day were down to his descending skills.

On the second stage, he tried to distance Vingegaard on a short, punchy climb, but failed. On Sunday, on a stage peppered with gravel roads, he tried relentlessly, but failed again.

"Tadej was the strongest," said Vingegaard, whose defensive tactics were criticised by Pogacar and Evenepoel, with the Belgian saying that sometimes you have to show courage in the race,

referring to the Danish rider.

Vingegaard, who three months ago sustained a collapsed lung and rib fractures in a crash at the Tour of the Basque Country, called it "riding smart" when asked about Evenepoel's comments.

The leading trio had the chance to distance fourth-placed Primoz Roglic on Sunday, but Vingegaard refused to collaborate, only focusing on not losing time.

The Visma-Lease a Bike leader is waiting for his moment, knowing five more mountain stages and a potentially decisive time trial are still to come.

"I'm growing into the race, feeling better every day," he said on Monday.

"I feel like I have already a high level. Way better than I could have expected after only one and a half month of preparation."

Vingegaard found it hard to compare his level with last year's, when he crushed Pogacar in the final week on his way to securing his second consecutive title.

"It's difficult to say because we only had one real mountain stage so think I think it is maybe under (last year's level) but of course it's good for me that it's been easy in the first week," he said.

"I'm focusing on the next two weeks because even in the second week there will be hard stages, especially at the weekend."



Tiger Woods previously said he was unsure if he could devote the necessary time to being Ryder Cup captain. JIM DEDMON/USA TODAY SPORTS

Bradley

Continued from Page 1NS

competition in our sport, and this edition will undoubtedly be particularly special given the rich history and enthusiastic spectators at this iconic course. I look forward to beginning preparations for 2025."

While Woods discussed the captaincy with the PGA of America he is, in addition to playing a limited schedule, also involved in numerous business ventures and part of the peace negotiations between the PGA Tour and Saudi backers of LIV Golf. When asked about the captain's job in May ahead of the PGA Championship, Woods said the two sides were still talking about what that would look like and whether he had the time to do it.

"I'm dedicating my so much time to what we're doing with the PGA Tour, I

don't want to not fulfil the role of the captaincy if I can't do it," Woods said in May.

"What that all entails and representing Team USA and the commitments to the PGA of America, the players, and the fans and as I said, all of Team USA. I need to feel that I can give the amount of time that it deserves."

The 15-times major champion was an obvious candidate for the captaincy having made eight appearances as a player in the Ryder Cup between 1997 and 2018 during which he compiled an overall record of 13-21-3.

Woods was also a victorious player-captain for the 2019 Presidents Cup in Melbourne and has served as a captain's assistant in both that event and the Ryder Cup.

Team Europe announced last November that Luke Donald, who led his team to a convincing Ryder Cup victory in Italy last year, will return as captain for the 2025 edition.

Wimbledon

Continued from Page 1NS

"When I had the chance in the break points that I had during the match, and the games where I broke him, I was always, like, two points in advance," Mussetti said.

In other action, No. 9 seed Alex de Minaur of Australia defeated unseeded Arthur Fils of France 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 to reach his first Wimbledon quarterfinal.

de Minaur made 72 percent (43 of 60) of his first-serve points and saved 9 of 16 break points, though Fils had the edge in winners (24 to 23). de Minaur also pushed Fils into 66 unforced errors while committing 41.

"I definitely made it a lot harder than I probably should have," de Minaur said after the match. "But again, happy to get through. ... I just backed my return, so very happy with that and on to the next."

de Minaur will take on No. 2 Novak Djokovic of Serbia, who rolled to a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over No. 15 Holger Rune of Denmark.

Djokovic, a seven-time Wimbledon champion, had his serve working the entire match, winning 74.5 percent (38 of 51) of his first serves and 72.4 percent (21 of 29) of second serves. The World No. 2 also saved both break points he faced in the two-hour, three-minute match.

"I am very pleased. I don't think he played close to his best to be honest. It was a tough start for him," said Djokovic, who has won 24 major titles. "He lost the first 12 points and I think that got to him mentally. ... I am glad to get through in three sets."

Svitolina breezes into quarterfinals

No. 21 seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine returned to the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over China's Xinyu Wang in just 55 minutes.

A semifinalist at the All England Club in 2023 and 2019, the 29-year-old Svitolina moved a step closer to her first Grand Slam title by committing just 10 unforced errors.

Svitolina struck eight aces among her 21 winners and saved all three break points she faced, while Wang finished with 16 winners and 24 unforced errors.

Svitolina will face No. 4 seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in the round of



Elina Svitolina serves against Wang Xinyu during their women's singles fourth-round match at Wimbledon on Monday. ANDREJ ISAKOVIC/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

eight. Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, was leading 6-3, 3-0 when Russia's Anna Kalinskaya was forced to retire after 53 minutes with an injured right wrist.

Rybakina and Svitolina have split their previous four meetings. Rybakina won their only previous match on grass at Eastbourne in 2021, and also won the most recent meeting at this year's French Open in straight sets.

"(Svitolina is) a tough opponent," Rybakina said. "She reads the game well. She defends pretty good. Some slices here and there. It's not going to be easy, of course. But if I play aggressive, I'm going to serve well, I have all the chances to win of course. I will try to focus on myself and see how it goes."

Rybakina, 25, is the highest-ranked player remaining in the field, and the only prior winner of the grass-court major.

Rybakina improved to 18-2 lifetime at Wimbledon, joining Ann Jones and Steffi Graf as the only women in the open era with a career win rate of 90 percent or better.

"I didn't know about these stats," Rybakina said. "I know I've been winning a lot on grass. It's nice to be next to these names with these statistics. Yeah, I think it's great to be there and really happy to show good tennis on grass."

No. 13 seed Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia rolled to a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan. Ostapenko's 68-minute win put her in the quarterfi-

nals for the third time, the first since 2018.

Ostapenko, 27, has only lost 15 games through her first four matches. With 29 winners against Putintseva, she took her total to 88 in 63 games played.

Ostapenko will face No. 31 seed Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic, who swept No. 11 Danielle Collins 7-5, 6-3.

The 28-year-old Krejcikova, a former World No. 1, broke Collins to take a 6-5 lead in the first set and closed out the match by breaking her opponent for the fourth time.

Collins, who is retiring at the end of the season due to health issues, committed 36 unforced errors to 19 for Krejcikova, who finished with 20 winners.

NFL



Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Cameron Sutton takes the field against the New York Jets during the first quarter at Acrisure Stadium.

CHARLES LECLAIRE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Steelers CB Sutton suspended 8 games

Michael Middlehurst-Schwartz
USA TODAY

Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Cameron Sutton was suspended by the NFL on Monday for eight games for violating the league's personal conduct policy. Sutton was released by the Detroit Lions on March 21, one day after the Hillsborough County (Florida) Sheriff's Office publicly spread word that it had issued a warrant for his arrest stemming from his involvement in an alleged domestic violence incident earlier in the month.

He was charged with misdemeanor battery and entered a pretrial diversion program in April.

Sutton, 29, signed a one-year deal

with the Steelers on June 5, reuniting him with the team with which he spent the first six years of his NFL career.

Sutton started 17 games for the Lions last season and recorded one interception with six passes defended.

"I met this guy in Knoxville, man, six, seven years ago, whatever it was, when he came out of school," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said in June when asked about Sutton. "He's a great guy. He loves football.

"It's probably the totality of our relationship, and I probably represent the sentiment of the organization and saying that it's less about specific conversations, particularly of late, and it's about the relationship established over a longer period of time."

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Connecticut coach Dan Hurley has won back-to-back national titles.

JOE RONDONE/ARIZONA REPUBLIC

UConn's Hurley signs new 6-year, \$50 million contract

John Leuzzi
USA TODAY NETWORK

Dan Hurley is not going anywhere anytime soon.

The 2024 Naismith Coach of the Year signed a new contract with UConn Monday that will keep him in Storrs, Connecticut, through the 2029-2030 season. It was first reported by CBS Sports' Jon Rothstein.

"It's an honor to coach basketball at UConn and to represent this world class institution and the great state of Connecticut," Hurley said in a statement. "We are extremely proud of the championship program that we have rebuilt for our supporters and fans. We will continue to obsessively pursue championships and historic success, while continuing to develop great young men. Bleed Blue!"

As noted in the contract of Hurley's new deal with UConn that was provided to the USA TODAY Network by the university, Hurley's contract with the Huskies is for six years and \$50 million.

Hurley's new contract with UConn comes one year after he signed a six-year, \$32.1 million contract extension following the Huskies' first of two back-to-back national championships. It also comes less than a month after turning down a six-year, \$70 million

contract to coach in the NBA for the Los Angeles Lakers.

"On behalf of UConn Nation, we are thrilled that Coach Hurley will continue to lead the Men's Basketball program for the foreseeable future," UConn Director of Athletics David Benedict said in a statement. "Dan and (his wife) Andrea have poured themselves into the rebuilding of this program that culminated in the last two National Championships.

"This contract is recognition for the immense amount of effort that went into producing those results and the dedication it will require to sustain a program that expects to compete for conference and national championships in the future."

Since taking over the Huskies program in 2018, after six seasons at the University of Rhode Island, Hurley has returned the UConn program to its winning ways from the late 1990s and early 2000s. He led UConn to back-to-back national championships this past season by defeating Purdue 75-60, giving the Big East its fifth national title in the last 10 years — the most out of any conference in that span.

He is 141-58 overall in six seasons at UConn, which includes two national championships and a Big East regular season and tournament title.

NBA NOTEBOOK

George: Clippers' initial offer was 'disrespectful'

WIRE REPORTS

Paul George said he received a "disrespectful" first offer during his season-long negotiations with the Los Angeles Clippers before eventually signing a four-year, \$212 million deal with the Philadelphia 76ers as a free agent.

Speaking on "Podcast P with Paul George," the nine-time All-Star said Los Angeles opened negotiations with a two-year, \$60 million offer in October.

"I never wanted to leave LA," George said on the podcast. "LA is home, this is where I wanted to finish at, and I wanted to work as hard as possible to win one in LA. That was the goal, to be here and be committed to LA. As it played out though, the first initial deal was I thought kind of disrespectful. In all of this, no hard feelings, no love lost ...

"It's a business. So the first initial deal was like two years, 60. So I'm like, 'Whoa, whoa, whoa. That's crazy!' I'm like, 'Naw, I'm not signing that.'"

George said he wanted a deal similar to the reported three-year, \$152.4 million extension that Clippers gave to Kawhi Leonard in January. The holdup there was that George wanted a no-trade clause.

George said the best in-season offer was around \$44-45 million per year. He cut off negotiations not long after Leonard signed his extension.

Leonard and George both joined the Clippers in the summer of 2019.

"I'll take what Kawhi got, no problem," George said. "I was cool with that and we were still taking less. Kawhi took less, so if Kawhi takes less, it's not about me being paid more than him.

"Y'all give him that, give me that. They didn't want to do that."

George said he informed Leonard that he was going to leave for Philadelphia.

"I owed Kawhi that conversation," George said. "He understood like, 'Go get your bag.' I look at Kawhi as one of my best friends in this league. Somebody that I (expletive) with. Our families love each other. So it was tough to leave him just with how much I enjoyed being out there with him. That weighed a lot on me, just, 'Damn, I'm leaving my boy.' We talked and he gave me his blessings of like, 'Man, just go do what's best for you.'"

George averaged 22.6 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists in 74 games last season.

In 14 NBA seasons with the Indiana Pacers (2010-17), Oklahoma City Thunder (2017-19) and Clippers, George has career averages of 20.8 points, 6.3 boards, 3.7 assists and 1.7 steals across 867 games (819 starts).

Embiid calls new Big 3 in Philly 'amazing'

Sixers superstar Joel Embiid loves the look of the new Big 3 in Philadelphia while admitting that his "patience was tested" along the way.

The 76ers just landed George on a max deal this offseason, the missing piece to what Embiid hopes results in a championship alongside himself and rising star Tyrese Maxey.

"I think as far as the fit, it looks amazing," Embiid told ESPN. "It is great, especially when you got a big ... I don't like to call myself a big, but when you got a player that posts up and that isos quite a bit, you need to have willing shooters and guys that are not afraid to pull the trigger. PG, great shooter, 40 percent, 45 catch and shoot; Tyrese, we know great shooter, off the dribble, catch-and-shoot.

"On paper, and as far as the fit, it looks fantastic."

Further, the team was able to keep Kelly Oubre Jr. and signed Caleb Martin, Andre Drummond and Eric Gordon.

It's a far cry from this point last year, when the team was saddled with the offseason drama of James Harden, who was eventually traded to the Los Angeles Clippers in November. Sixers general manager Daryl Morey was very deliberate in carving out cap space to land a player like George to make a title run.

"I'd be lying to say that patience wasn't tested," Embiid told ESPN. "Because I'm at the point where there's no awards, there's no regular season or no All-NBA or All-Stars is going to change the way my legacy is. Well, there's a few things that can change it, but the main one is the championship. So when you start thinking about what you want to be remembered as, you want to be remembered as someone that's won."

LeBron: Bronny doesn't care about critics

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown, but Bronny James apparently



Paul George signed a four-year, \$212 million deal with the Philadelphia 76ers as a free agent.

JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY SPORTS

doesn't care.

Despite abundant criticism and claims of nepotism, Lakers icon LeBron James said his eldest son Bronny does not care about the rampant scrutiny he has faced since the Lakers selected him with the No. 55 overall pick in the 2024 NBA draft.

"I don't know if people really understand Bronny," LeBron James told ESPN Sunday in an interview. "He doesn't care. I actually care a little bit. When I came in (as a rookie), I wanted people to like me, and some of the things that people were saying about me kind of bothered me early on in my career. ... He doesn't give a (expletive).

"He does not care about nobody. He doesn't even listen to that stuff. He's like the coolest. He's like the complete opposite of his dad. His dad will say something (to address the critics). Bro does not care. ... Everything that's being said about him, he really does not care."

LeBron — known widely as King James — and Bronny could become the first father-son duo to appear in a regular season game in NBA history. LeBron's 21-year career, in which he has scored more points than any other player, is already two years older than Bronny, 19, who declared for the draft in May after one season with the USC Trojans.

Bronny, who missed the first eight games of the season as he recovered from a medical procedure to treat a congenital heart defect, averaged 19.3 minutes, 4.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game in 25 games for USC. Critics have said that LeBron used his influence to steer Bronny to the Lakers.

"Just imagine if you were a kid, you were born into a situation where your dad was super famous, super wealthy and you the kid still had the drive to want to be able to accomplish things for yourself," LeBron James told ESPN. "I personally don't know if I would've been able to do that if the roles were reversed.

"When I was coming up, I had no choice. I literally had no choice. ... I had to make it out for me. My mom, my family, my hometown, my city. Bronny has all the choices in the world. If Bronny wants to stop right now or never played basketball or just wanted to be a gamer or wanted to be a chef or wanted to be nothing to whatever, he could have done that."

In his NBA debut Saturday, in the California Classic summer league, Bronny James scored four points on two-of-nine shooting from the field — including 0-for-3 from three-point range — and added two assists, two rebounds and one steal in 21 minutes. He also missed a pair of free throws.

The Lakers held Bronny out of Sunday's California Classic game against the Warriors as a precaution because of swelling in his left knee.

Bronny signed a four-year, \$7.9 million rookie deal on Wednesday, the same day LeBron James reached a two-year, \$104 million deal with the Lakers.

"People don't understand how hard that is and the commitment for him to be coming out of heart surgery less than a year ago," LeBron James said, "for him to be able to be in the NBA, the kid, he's special."

MLB

MONDAY'S ROUNDUP

Twins top White Sox in 11 innings

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Brooks Lee delivered a go-ahead RBI single in the 11th inning and Byron Buxton had three hits to boost the Minnesota Twins to an 8-6 victory against the host Chicago White Sox on Monday.

Matt Wallner, Carlos Correa and Trevor Larnach homered as Minnesota improved to 8-0 against Chicago this season while winning for the seventh time in nine games overall.

Chicago used RBI singles from Eloy Jimenez and Nicky Lopez and Lopez's slick baserunning to take a 5-2 lead after six innings.

Braves 5, Diamondbacks 4, 11 innings

Sean Murphy hit a game-tying two-run homer in the ninth inning and Marcell Ozuna lined a tiebreaking sacrifice fly to center in the 11th as the Atlanta Braves rallied for a victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix.

Arizona was two strikes away from winning in the ninth when Murphy hit a 431-foot blast to right-center off Paul Sewald. It was Murphy's fifth homer of the season and also represented Sewald's third straight blown save. Austin Riley also homered for the Braves, who won their third straight game.

Corbin Carroll had the lone run-scoring hit for the Diamondbacks, who had just four hits. Arizona missed a chance to move above .500 for the first time since April 3.

Reds 6, Rockies 0

Rece Hinds hit a towering home run in his MLB debut as the Cincinnati Reds blanked the visiting Colorado Rockies.

Hinds, recalled from Triple-A Louisville with Cincinnati down three outfielders due to injury, also went 2-for-3 batting eighth and crushed a 449-foot solo home run to give the Reds a 3-0 lead in the eighth inning. Left-hander Andrew Abbott (9-6) tossed seven shutout innings as Cincinnati snapped a three-game skid. Neither Abbott nor Colorado starter Ryan Feltner (1-8) allowed a hit over the first three innings before Charlie Blackmon opened the fourth with a single off Abbott.

Tigers 1, Guardians 0

Jake Rogers scored the game's only run in the eighth, Keider Montero delivered a strong start and the Detroit Tigers stretched their winning streak to four games by edging the visiting Cleveland Guardians.

Montero held the Guardians to three hits in 6 2/3 innings. He walked one and struck out four. Tyler Holton (4-1) picked up the win and Shelby Miller recorded his first save.

Angel Martinez had two of Cleveland's three hits.



Twins third baseman Brooks Lee (72) hits an RBI single against the White Sox during the 11th inning at Guaranteed Rate Field. KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

Cardinals 6, Nationals 0

Alec Bursleson homered and drove in three runs, Miles Mikolas pitched into the seventh inning and the visiting St. Louis Cardinals beat the Washington Nationals. Paul Goldschmidt homered and scored twice for the Cardinals, who took three of four from the Nationals and have won six of eight overall.

Washington rookie Mitchell Parker (5-5) completed seven innings for the third time this season, allowing two runs (one earned) on six hits.

Pirates 8, Mets 2

Joshua Palacios homered as part of a five-run sixth inning and Mitch Keller tossed eight strong innings as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the visiting New York Mets for a split of their four-game series. Oneil Cruz added a two-run homer for Pittsburgh, which had lost two straight since winning the series opener 14-2 on Friday. Brandon Nimmo hit a two-run homer for New York, which closed out a 4-4 road trip.

Rangers 9, Angels 4

Corey Seager and Wyatt Langford each homered and doubled, Nathaniel Lowe had three hits and the Texas Rangers routed the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif. Marcus Semien went 2-for-4 with a walk for the Rangers, who finished with 12 hits against Angels starter Davis Daniel (1-2) and three relievers. Mickey Moniak amassed two hits, two runs and two RBIs for the Angels, who lost for the seventh time in eight games.



Braves second baseman Ozzie Albies hits a sacrifice fly against the Diamondbacks in the 10th inning at Chase Field. RICK SCUTERI/USA TODAY SPORTS

MONDAY'S BOX SCORES

Atlanta 5, Arizona 4 (11)											
Atl.....	100	000	002	11-	5	8	4	0			
Ariz.....	000	003	000	10-	4	8	1				
Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.				
Kelenic cf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.271				
Albies 2b	4	0	0	0	2	.261					
Riley 3b	4	2	1	1	1	.253					
Olson 1b	4	0	1	0	1	.239					
Ozuna dh	4	0	0	0	0	.207					
Duvall rf	5	0	1	0	2	.184					
Rosario lf	4	1	1	0	0	.184					
White if	1	0	0	0	0	.167					
Murphy c	4	1	2	0	1	.224					
Arca ss	3	0	1	0	0	.211					
a-d'Arnaud ph	1	0	0	0	0	.233					
Short ss	0	1	0	0	0	.133					
Totals	39	5	8	5	2	11					
Arizona											
Carroll rf	5	1	1	0	0	.210					
Newman 3b	0	0	0	0	0	.286					
Marte 2b	4	1	0	0	0	.281					
Pederson dh	3	0	0	0	0	.276					
Walker lb	4	0	0	1	1	.265					
Gurriel Jr. lf	4	0	1	0	0	.268					
Moreno c	4	0	0	0	0	.249					
Suarez 3b	4	0	0	0	0	.207					
b-McCarthy pr-f	0	1	0	0	0	.279					
Thomas cf	3	0	1	0	0	.212					
Perdomo ss	3	1	1	0	1	.273					
Totals	34	4	4	4	2						
a-was announced for Arca in 9th. b-ran for Suarez in 10th.											
E: Arca. HR: Riley (12), Murphy (5). RBI: Albies (44), Riley (38), Ozuna (73), Murphy 2 (11), Carroll (25), Walker (65), Gurriel Jr. (55), Perdomo (9). SB: Kelenic (5), Carroll (16), Gurriel Jr. (4). SF: Albies, Ozuna, Gurriel Jr., Perdomo, S. Thomas. Runners left in scoring position: Atlanta 2 (Riley, Ozuna), Arizona 4 (Gurriel Jr., Suarez 3). RISP: Atlanta 2 for 8, Arizona 1 for 8.											
Atlanta											
Elder	5.0	4	3	2	1	7.6	5.71				
Holmes	3.0	0	0	0	1	3.0	1.15				
Iglesias W, 1-1	2.0	0	1	0	0	2.1	2.34				
Sewald BS, 3	1.0	0	0	0	1	1.7	2.31				
Martinez L, 3-1	2.0	1	2	0	0	1.29	1.42				
Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA			
Diaz	6.0	4	1	1	1	5	83	1.50			
Ginkel H, 7	1.0	1	0	0	2	1.5	2.61				
Thompson H, 14	1.0	0	0	0	1	1.5	1.67				
Sewald BS, 3	1.0	2	2	0	1	2.3	3.93				
Martinez L, 3-1	2.0	1	2	0	0	1.29	1.42				
Elder pitched to 4 batters in the 6th. Inherited runners: Holmes 3-1. Umpires: HP-Tichenor, 1B-Clemons, 2B-Blauser, 3B-Gonzalez. T: 2:45. A: 20,594.											
Texas 9, L.A. Angels 4											
Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA			
LAA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.				
Semien 2b	4	1	2	2	1	0	.232				
Seager ss	5	2	2	2	0	0	.273				

Smith 3b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.290				
Langford lf	5	2	2	2	0	0	.273				
Garcia rf	5	1	1	0	0	3	.241				
Lowe 1b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.276				
Heim c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.244				
Jankowski dh	3	1	0	0	0	0	.211				
Taveras cf	3	1	1	1	1	2	.239				
Totals	38	9	12	8	2	9					
L.A. Angels											
Rendon 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.266				
Schanuel 1b	2	0	0	0	2	0	.236				
Pillar lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.274				
Hira dh	0	1	0	0	1	3	.333				
O'Hoppe c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.275				
Drury 2b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.182				
White if	4	2	2	0	0	0	.196				
Murphy c	4	0	1	1	0	1	.184				
Adell rf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.259				
Guillorme ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.259				
Totals	33	4	8	4	3	8					
E: Drury. 2B: Seager (12), Langford (12). 3B: Moniak (2). HR: Seager (17), Langford (5). RBI: Semien 2 (49), Seager 2 (45), Langford 2 (39), Lowe (36), Taveras (22), Rendon (4), Moniak 2 (25), Adell (38). SB: Jankowski (6), Taveras (11). Runners left in scoring position: Texas 2 (Semien, Seager), L.A. Angels 3 (Pillar 2, O'Hoppe). RISP: Texas 5 for 9, L.A. Angels 3 for 7. GIDP: Seager, Heim, Adell, Guillorme. DP: Texas 2, L.A. Angels 2.											
Texas											
Gray W, 4-4	5.0	5	3	3	1	2	7.8	4.01			
Urena	1.2	3	1	1	2	2	3.4	2.78			
Robertson H, 20	0.1	0	0	0	1	6	3.11				
Leclerc	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	4.12				
Sborz	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	1.0	3.68			
L.A. Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA			
Daniel L, 1-2	3.2	8	7	7	0	3	6.1	5.82			
Fulmer	3.0	4	2	2	0	5	5.9	3.83			
Marte lf	1.1	0	0	0	2	2	3.67				
Crouse	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	1.0	1.00			
Gray pitched to 1 batter in the 6th. Inherited runners: Urena 1-1, Robertson 3-3, Fulmer 1-1, Marte 1-1. HBP: Jankowski. WP: Marte. Balk: Daniel (1). Umpires: HP-Cuzzi, 1B-Randazzo, 2B-Tosi, 3B-Bellini. T: 2:38. A: 25,193 (45,517).											
Minnesota 8, Chicago 6 (11)											
Minn.....	100	100	400	02-	8	15	2				
Chi.....	000	001	013	010	00-	6	7				
Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.				
Castro 2b	6	0	2	0	0	1	.272				
Correa ss	5	1	1	0	1	0	.303				
Larnach dh	4	1	1	1	1	0	.242				
Miranda 1b	5	0	2	0	0	1	.332				
Kepler rf	4	2	1	0	1	0	.259				
Buxton cf	5	2	3	1	0	1	.282				
Lee 3b	5	1	2	2	0	0	.458				
Jeffers c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.239				
a-Margot pr-f	1	0	1	0	0	0	.235				
Wallner lf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.367				
Vazquez c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.202				
Totals	44	8	15	8	2	6					
Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.				
Castro 2b	6	0	2	0	0	1	.272				
Correa ss	5	1	1	0	1	0	.303				
Larnach dh	4	1	1	1	1	0	.242				
Miranda 1b	5	0	2	0	0	1	.332				
Kepler rf	4	2	1	0	1	0	.259				
Buxton cf	5	2	3	1	0	1	.282				
Lee 3b	5	1	2	2	0	0	.458				
Jeffers c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.239				
a-Margot pr-f	1	0	1	0	0	0	.235				
Wallner lf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.367				
Vazquez c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.202				
Totals	44	8	15	8	2	6					
Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA			
Castro 2b	6.0	7	2	2	1	4	8.9	4.95			
Leisen BS, 4	0.2	4	4	0	0	2	2.9	5.22			
Anderson	1.1	1	0	0	1	0	1.5	4.76			
Brebbia	1.0	0	0	0	1	9	4.50				
Kopech	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	5.31				
Shuster L, 1-2	1.0	2	2	1	0	0	1.2	5.79			
Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA			
Fleener	6.0	7	2	2	1	4	8.9	4.95			
Leisen BS, 4	0.2	4	4	0	0	2	2.9	5.22			
Anderson	1.1	1	0	0	1	0	1.5	4.76			
Brebbia	1.0	0	0	0	1	9	4.50				
Kopech	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	5.31				
Shuster L, 1-2											

OLYMPICS MEN'S SOCCER

Zimmerman, Mihailovic, Robinson on US team

Carrie McDonald
USA TODAY

Midfielder Djordje Mihailovic and defenders Walker Zimmerman and Miles Robinson will headline the U.S. men's soccer team at the Paris Olympics as overage players on the 18-player roster announced Monday morning.

The U.S. men's team has historically struggled at the Olympics, with the Paris Games marking the first time the American men have qualified for the tournament since 2008, when they finished ninth.

The team will be managed by Marko Mitrovic, head coach of the U.S. men's under-23 team.

"We couldn't be more excited to have this group of great players and great people represent us at the Olympic Games," Mitrovic said. "It's a special moment for all of us as they have worked their entire lives to reach this stage."

"Our goal is to make our country proud and we will give everything for the United States," Mitrovic added.

The team qualified for Paris by winning the 2022 Concacaf Under-20 Championship.

The men's Olympic tournament is restricted to under-23 players, and clubs are not obligated to release their players for the Games. With the exception of three roster spots open to older players, rosters must be comprised of athletes born on or after Jan. 1, 2001. The overage players will be Zimmerman, 31; Robinson, 27; and Mihailovic, 25.

Benjamin Cremaschi is the youngest player on the roster at 19 years old and will remain age-eligible for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Despite the young lineup, 15 of the 18 players named to the roster have already earned caps on the senior U.S. men's national team (USMNT).

Zimmerman will lead the team as the most-capped USMNT player with 42 international appearances, including all four of the USMNT's games at the 2022 World Cup. Robinson also brings experience at major international tournaments, having been selected to the roster for the USMNT's disastrous campaign at the 2024 Copa America tournament, which resulted in the team's



Walker Zimmerman (3) heads the ball against the Netherlands during the first half of a round of 16 match in the 2022 FIFA World Cup at Khalifa International Stadium. YUKIHITO TAGUCHI/USA TODAY SPORTS

group stage elimination.

MLS players feature heavily on the roster with 10 of the 18 athletes currently playing in the league and the remainder playing across Europe.

Additionally, all players except defender Maximilian Dietz either played in the MLS or developed in an MLS academy set-up.

"Almost every player developed through our American soccer pathway, rising to become professionals, and now

they will live their dreams of competing at the Olympics," Mitrovic said.

The U.S. will play its first game against host nation France at 3 p.m. EDT on July 24 at Stade de Marseille in Marseille before facing New Zealand and Guinea in Group A.

U.S. men's soccer team for the 2024 Paris Olympics

Goalkeepers (2): Patrick Schulte (Columbus Crew), Gago

Slonina (Chelsea/ENG)
Defenders (6): Maximilian Dietz (Greuther Furth/GER), Nathan Harriel (Philadelphia Union), Miles Robinson (FC Cincinnati), John Tolkin (New York Red Bulls), Caleb Wiley (Atlanta United FC), Walker Zimmerman (Nashville SC)
Midfielders (5): Gianluca Busio (Venezia/ITA), Benjamin Cremaschi (Inter Miami CF), Jack McGlynn (Philadelphia Union), Djordje Mihailovic (Colorado Rapids), Tanner Tessmann (Venezia/ITA)
Forwards (5): Paxton Aaronson (FC Utrecht/NED), Taylor Booth (FC Utrecht), Duncan McGuire (Orlando City SC), Kevin Paredes (Wolfsburg/GER), Griffin Yow (KVC Westerlo/BEL)
Alternates (4): Josh Atencio (Midfielder, Seattle Sounders FC), Jacob Davis (Defender, Sporting Kansas City), Johan Gomez (Forward, Eintracht Braunschweig/GER), John Puskamp (Goalkeeper, Sporting Kansas City)

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All times Eastern

MLB

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	57	33	.633	-
N.Y. Yankees	55	37	.598	3
Boston	49	40	.551	7½
Tampa Bay	44	46	.489	13
Toronto	41	49	.456	16
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	56	33	.629	-
Minnesota	52	39	.571	5
Kansas City	49	43	.533	8½
Detroit	43	48	.473	14
Chicago	26	67	.280	32
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	49	43	.533	-
Houston	46	44	.511	2
Texas	43	48	.473	5½
L.A. Angels	37	53	.411	11
Oakland	34	58	.370	15

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	58	32	.644	-
Atlanta	49	39	.557	8
N.Y. Mets	44	45	.494	13½
Washington	42	49	.462	16½
Miami	32	58	.356	26
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	53	38	.582	-
St. Louis	48	42	.533	4½
Pittsburgh	43	47	.478	9½
Cincinnati	43	48	.473	10
Chicago	42	49	.462	11
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	55	36	.604	-
San Diego	49	45	.521	7½
Arizona	45	45	.500	9½
San Francisco	44	47	.484	11
Colorado	32	59	.352	23

Sunday's Scores				
Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 0				
St. Louis 8, Washington 3				
N.Y. Mets 3, Pittsburgh 2				
Detroit 5, Cincinnati 1				
Cleveland 5, San Francisco 4				
Miami 7, Chicago White Sox 4				
Minnesota 3, Houston 2				
Chicago Cubs 5, L.A. Angels 0				
Texas 13, Tampa Bay 2				
Kansas City 10, Colorado 1				
Baltimore 6, Oakland 3				
Milwaukee 9, L.A. Dodgers 2				
Toronto 5, Seattle 4				
Arizona 9, San Diego 1				
Boston 3, N.Y. Yankees 0				

Monday's Scores				
Pittsburgh 8, N.Y. Mets 2				
St. Louis 6, Washington 0				
Detroit 1, Cleveland 0				
Cincinnati 6, Colorado 0				
Minnesota 8, Chicago White Sox 6				
Texas 9, L.A. Angels 4				
Atlanta 5, Arizona 4				

Tuesday's Games				
Chicago Cubs (5-4) at Baltimore (Kremer 4-4), 6:35 p.m.				
Cleveland (Lively 8-4) at Detroit (Maeda 2-5), 6:40 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Miller 1-1) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 9-4), 6:40 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 9-6) at Tampa Bay (Pejiot 4-5), 6:50 p.m.				
Oakland (Estes 3-3) at Boston (Bello 8-5), 7:10 p.m.				
Colorado (Quattrill 6-6) at Cincinnati (Montas 4-6), 7:10 p.m.				
Washington (Irvin 7-6) at N.Y. Mets (Quintana 3-5), 7:10 p.m.				
Kansas City (Wacha 5-6) at St. Louis (Pallante 4-3), 7:45 p.m.				
Minnesota (Ober 8-4) at Chicago White Sox (Fedde 6-3), 8:10 p.m.				
Miami (Rogers 1-9) at Houston (Blanco 8-3), 8:10 p.m.				
Texas (Scherzer 1-2) at L.A. Angels (Contreras 1-1), 9:38 p.m.				
Atlanta (Morton 5-5) at Arizona (Gallen 6-4), 9:40 p.m.				
Seattle (Gilbert 5-5) at San Diego (Mazur 1-2), 9:40 p.m.				
Toronto (Kikuchi 4-8) at San Francisco (Hicks 4-5), 9:45 p.m.				

Wednesday's Games				
Minnesota (Lopez 8-7) at Chicago White Sox (Thorpe 3-1), 2:10 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 7-2) at Baltimore (Burnes 9-3), 6:35 p.m.				
Cleveland (Bibee 7-3) at Detroit (Olson 3-8), 6:40 p.m.				
Seattle (Miller 6-7) at San Diego (King 7-5), 6:40 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 7-4) at Tampa Bay (Efrin 5-5), 6:50 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Stone 9-2) at Philadelphia (Sanchez 6-4), 7:05 p.m.				
Oakland (Sears 5-7) at Boston (Pivetta 4-5), 7:10 p.m.				
Colorado (Freeland 0-3) at Cincinnati				

All-Star Game rosters				
NL starting lineup				
Catcher: William Contreras, Brewers				
First base: Bryce Harper, Phillies				
Second base: Ketel Marte, Diamondbacks				
Third base: Alec Bohm, Phillies				
Shortstop: Trea Turner, Phillies				
Outfield: Christian Yelich, Brewers; Jurickson Profar, Padres; Fernando Tatis Jr., Padres				
Designated hitter: Shohei Ohtani, Dodgers				

NL reserves				
CJ Abrams, Nationals; Pete Alonso, Mets; Luis Arraez, Padres; Mookie Betts, Dodgers; Ely De La Cruz, Reds; Freddie Freeman, Dodgers; Ryan McMahon, Rockies; Will Smith, Dodgers; Teoscar Hernandez, Dodgers; Jackson Merrill, Padres; Heliot Ramos, Giants; Bryan Reynolds, Pirates				

NL pitchers				
Tyler Glasnow, Dodgers; Ryan Hestley, Cardinals; Jeff Hoffman, Phillies; Shota Imanaga, Cubs; Reynaldo Lopez, Braves; Chris Sale, Braves; Tanner Scott, Marlins; Paul Skenes, Pirates; Matt Strahm, Phillies; Ranger Suarez, Phillies; Robert Suarez, Padres; Logan Webb, Giants; Zack Wheeler, Phillies				

AL starting lineup				
Catcher: Adley Rutschman, Orioles				
First base: Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Blue Jays				
Second base: Jose Altuve, Astros				
Third base: Jose Ramirez, Guardians				
Shortstop: Gunnar Henderson, Orioles				
Outfield: Aaron Judge, Yankees; Juan Soto, Yankees; Steven Kwan, Guardians				
Designated hitter: Yordan Alvarez, Astros				

AL reserves				
Carlos Correa, Twins; Rafael Devers, Red Sox; Jarren Duran, Red Sox; David Fry, Guardians; Riley Greene, Tigers; Josh Naylor, Guardians; Isaac Paredes, Rays; Salvador Perez, Royals; Marcus Semien, Rangers; Kyle Tucker, Astros; Bobby Witt Jr., Royals				

AL pitchers				
Tyler Anderson, Angels; Corbin Burnes, Orioles; Emmanuel Clase, Guardians; Garrett Crochet, White Sox; Logan Gilbert, Mariners; Clay Holmes, Yankees; Tanner Houck, Red Sox; Seth Lugo, Royals; Mason Miller, Athletics; Cole Ragans, Royals; Tarik Skubal, Tigers; Kirby Yates, Rangers				

WNBA

Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Liberty	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
Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	15	6	.714	-
Seattle	14	7	.667	1
Las Vegas	13	7	.650	1½
Phoenix	11	10	.524	4
L.A. Sparks	5	16	.238	10
Dallas	5	17	.227	10½

Sunday, July 7				
Connecticut 80, Atlanta 67				

MLB				
Las Vegas 104, Dallas 85				
Seattle 84, Chicago 71				
Phoenix 84, L.A. Sparks 78				
Tuesday, July 9				
Minnesota at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.				
Wednesday, July 10				
N.Y. Liberty at Connecticut, 11 a.m.				
Washington at Indiana, noon				
Atlanta at Chicago, noon				
Las Vegas at Seattle, 3 p.m.				
Dallas at Phoenix, 3:30 p.m.				

SOCCER

MLS				
Eastern Conference				
	W	L	T	Pts
Cincinnati	15	4	3	48
Inter Miami CF	14	4	5	47
Columbus	11	3	6	39
N.Y. Red Bulls	9	4	6	36
N.Y. City FC	11	9	2	35
Charlotte FC	9	8	5	32
Orlando City	7	9	6	27
Nashville	6	8	6	26
Toronto FC	7	13	3	24
Atlanta	6	10	2	21
CF Montreal	5	9	2	17
New England	7	12	1	22
Chicago	5	11	6	21
Philadelphia	4	9	5	17
D.C. United	4	11	8	20

Western Conference				
	W	L	T	Pts
Los Angeles FC	13	4	4	43
Real Salt Lake	12	3	7	43
LA Galaxy	12	4	7	43
Colorado	11	8	4	37
Portland	9	8	6	33
Vancouver	9	7	5	32
Seattle	8	7	7	31
Houston	8	7	6	30
Austin FC	8	6	30	25
Minnesota	8	9	5	29
FC Dallas	6	11	5	23
Saint Louis	4	8	10	22
Portland 4, Nashville 1				
San Jose	4	16	2	14

Saturday, July 13				
Nashville at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.				
Atlanta at CF Montreal, 7:30 p.m.				
Charlotte FC at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.				
Orlando City at New England, 7:30 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Toronto FC, 7:30 p.m.				
LA Galaxy at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.				
Minnesota at Houston, 8:30 p.m.				
N.Y. City FC at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.				
Seattle at Austin FC, 8:30 p.m.				
N.Y. Red Bulls at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.				
Real Salt Lake at Portland, 10:25 p.m.				
Columbus at Los Angeles FC, 10:30 p.m.				
Sporting KC at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.				

Copa America Semifinals				
Tuesday, July 9				
Argentina vs Canada, 8 pm, MetLife Stadium				
Wednesday, July 10				
Colombia vs Uruguay, 8 pm, Bank of America Stadium			</	