



## THE SHOE DROPS!

**Crooked Sen. Menendez — who hid bribes in his closet — convicted of being foreign agent**

# BOB

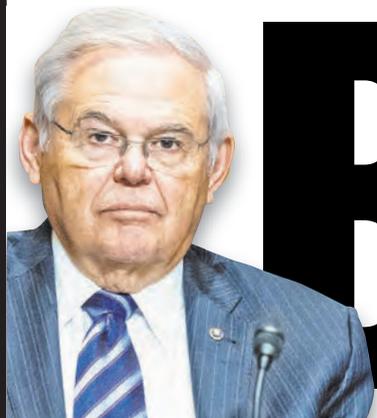
# THE

# BILKER



Sen. Bob Menendez yesterday was convicted of accepting bribes and doing favors for Egypt and Qatar, and keeping the cash and gold bars he received hidden in his shoes (pictured) among other places. But the Democrat from New Jersey refused to resign from the Senate.

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### NEW YORK

■ Midday Nos. Tue.: **484**  
 ■ Midday Win-4 Tue.: **8101**  
 ■ Midday Take 5 Tue.:  
**9, 17, 24, 30, 31**

■ Evening Nos. Tue.: **295**  
 ■ Evening Win-4 Tue.: **3417**  
 ■ Evening Take-5 Tue.: **10, 24, 25, 28, 37**

■ Pick 10 Tue.: **2, 3, 7, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 26, 32, 35, 42, 43, 46, 51, 55, 57, 59, 61, 75**  
 ■ Cash-4-Life Tue.: **3, 14,**

**29, 51, 53; Cash Ball: 3**

■ Mega Millions Tue.: **5, 35, 42, 58, 66; Mega Ball: 22; Megaplier: 2**

### NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Tue.: **414; Fireball: 4**  
 Pick-4 Tue.: **1199; Fireball: 4**  
 Cash-5 Xtra Tue.: **19, 22, 24, 42, 45; Xtra: 4**

### CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Tue.: **342; Wild: 1**  
 Play-4 Tue.: **9689; Wild: 5**  
 Cash-5 Tue.: **2, 15, 19, 26, 28**

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# Turn the AC down?

## Set conditioners at stifling 78, city says

By NICOLE ROSENTHAL & VALENTINA JARAMILLO

To avoid burning up, city officials are recommending New Yorkers power down.

With scorching temperatures hitting the Big Apple this week, City Hall urged people to avoid using large appliances and to set air conditioners to a sweltering 78 degrees.

Con Edison once again advised city dwellers to limit energy use in order to “keep service reliable,” especially during peak hours of 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The recommendations quickly came under fire Tuesday when the mercury reached nearly 100 degrees, and felt more

like 110 degrees.

“I think it’s BS,” Ahmed N., 23, told The Post while walking his dog in Herbert Von King Park in Bedford-Stuyvesant. “It shouldn’t be [a] personal responsibility to combat a collective problem like climate change.”

“They don’t need the lights in Times Square,” Candace Lowe, 35, said outside the Wayside Out Tompkins Louis Armstrong Center, a cooling center in Bed-Stuy. “He [Adams] should be turning those off.”

But the area is on its own network, meaning lowered energy there wouldn’t affect other neighborhoods, a ConEd spokesperson told The Post.



Getty Images

<b>TODAY</b>	97°	P.M. t-storms
<b>TOMORROW</b>	87°	A.M. t-storms
<b>FRIDAY</b>	87°	Partly sunny
<b>SATURDAY</b>	88°	High clouds

**SPLASH DASH:** Water fountains are one way to keep cool.



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# Post legend Cindy Adams a grad at 94

# HIGH SCHOOL GOSSIP!

By NICKI GOSTIN

It's never too late to graduate.

The Post's own Cindy Adams says she was "stunned" to be receiving a belated high-school diploma — albeit "800 years too late."

She was finally granted one Monday in a ceremony with both the governor and mayor.

The legendary gossip columnist explained that she became a high-school dropout because she wasn't handy with a needle and thread.

"I couldn't sew my graduation dress," says Adams, 94.

"In those days, we had a thing called Home Ec., short for Home Economics. I had a 90-something average. I graduated in three years instead of four but I couldn't sew the dress."

Adams said that her mother took it to a professional to complete but the high-school principal saw right through it.

"He said, 'She didn't make this dress,'" she remembered. "She doesn't graduate. She doesn't get a diploma. She can't go to college."

The ceremony, which took place at Adams' alma mater, Andrew Jackson HS in Queens, attracted a starry bunch.

Gov. Hochul, Mayor Adams and American Federation of Teachers honcho Randi Weingarten all spoke, extolling Adams.

"If you had had that opportunity to graduate, you could have gone onto college," the governor mused.

"Maybe gone on to become a world renowned celebrity columnist for a place like the New York Post. I don't know what you would have done with that diploma, but I think you've done all right.

"You graduated from the school of hard knocks."

## Tell it to Judge Judy

Good pal Judith "Judge Judy" Sheindlin also spoke movingly about her friend of 30 years, sharing that they met when their mutual bank teller introduced them to each other.

"She is as loyal a friend as they come," the celebrated TV jurist said. "She is as loyal a champion as one could want, she's honest. She is one of the most devoted people to the people who she cares for and who care for her."

**Cindy Adams / P. 20**



Stephen Yang

## ONLY IN QUEENS, KIDS, ONLY IN QUEENS:

The Post's Cindy Adams proudly hoists a degree from Andrew Jackson HS in Cambria Heights, only "800 years too late," jokes the onetime dropout (it's a long story). The one-woman tabloid institution was joined by New York luminaries on her long overdue graduation day including dear friend Judith Sheindlin, Mayor Adams and Gov. Hochul (right), who noted that Cindy was already a degree-holder from "the school of hard knocks."



# Rx worth pedaling Won't lose sleep over exercise

This is wheelie good news. Bike commuters have a 47% lower risk of early death and a 10% lower risk of hospitalization for any reason than commuters who drive or take the train, new research has found.

"Active commuting has population-level health benefits and can contribute to reduced morbidity and

mortality," the UK researchers wrote Tuesday in BMJ Public Health.

The study of more than 82,000 UK residents found that commuting by bike led to lower risks of dying from cancer (by 51%) of hospitalization for heart disease (24%) and being prescribed drugs for mental-health issues (20%). Tracy Swartz

Squats are better than diddly-squat in the evening.

Taking a break from the couch-potato life to do simple exercises before bed can help you sleep about a half-hour longer, new research says.

"These results add to a growing body of evidence that indicates evening exercise does not disrupt sleep

quality, despite current sleep recommendations to the contrary," researchers from the University of Otago in New Zealand wrote in Tuesday's BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine.

Here's the catch, though: The touted three-minute circuit of exercises — meant to be a break from

sitting — should be completed every half hour over four hours in the evening.

When participants did exercises — that included chair squats and calf raises — they slept an average of 27 minutes more than when they spent the four hours sitting, the researchers found.

The average sleep duration was seven hours and 12 minutes versus six hours and 45 minutes.

Participants didn't change their bedtimes, but their average wake times differed.

It was 7:35 a.m. after the prolonged sitting and 8:06 a.m. after the activity breaks. Tracy Swartz

# Convicted on all 16 counts in vast

## Defiant bum mum on quit Chuck urges sen. out

By JOSH CHRISTENSON  
and KYLE SCHNITZER

A defiant Sen. Bob Menendez declined to say whether he would resign following his federal conviction on bribery charges Tuesday — even as a chorus of Democrats called on him to step down.

The three-term New Jersey Democrat ignored questions outside Manhattan federal court about whether he planned to leave the Senate — as he insisted “I have never violated my public oath.”

Within an hour of the jury’s decision, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) demanded Menendez’s resignation.

“In light of this guilty verdict, Senator Menendez must now do what is right for his constituents, the Senate, and our country, and resign,” Schumer said in a statement.

Menendez, 70, had chaired the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee until his indictment last September on corruption charges, which expanded in the subsequent months to include counts of acting as an unregistered foreign agent for Egypt and Qatar.

### ‘Needs to resign’

Schumer insisted his longtime colleague had “a right to due process and a fair trial” — but accepted Menendez’s decision to step down as Foreign Relations chairman as the case progressed.

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), who chairs the Banking Committee where Menendez serves, said Tuesday: “I have been clear since last fall that Senator Menendez needs to resign.”

“If he refuses to do so, the Senate should expel him,” Brown said about Menendez.

The chairmen of the other committees where Menendez currently serves — including Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) of the Finance Committee and Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.), who took the Garden State Democrat’s place on the Foreign Relations Committee — did not respond to requests for comment.

Other Democrats, including New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, said that he should call it quits.

“If he refuses to vacate his office, I call on the US Senate to vote to expel him,” Murphy said in a statement.

### ‘Made-for-TV scandal’

It’s unclear whether Schumer will hold a vote to possibly boot Menendez, which would require a two-thirds majority.

The heads of the Senate Ethics Committee, Democrat Chris Coons and Republican James Lankford, said they would complete an investigation into Menendez “promptly” now that the trial ended — and weigh the “full range of disciplinary actions available.”

Menendez had played coy about his plans to run for a fourth term in office until being roundly defeated by Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ) in the June Democratic Party, while also suggesting a potential third-party run as an independent.

The Republican running for the seat, Curtis Bradshaw, said Menendez should step down, noting that the Garden State deserves more than “corruption and made-for-TV political scandals, courtesy of Bob Menendez and the Democratic machine.”

By BEN KOCHMAN

He’s a newly minted felon. New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez was found guilty Tuesday of accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars of bribes in exchange for using his powerful post to enrich and protect three businessmen and the Egyptian and Qatari governments.

Menendez, 70, wearing a blue suit and pink tie, sat with his head bowed and kept a poker face while the jury forewoman read the word “guilty” 16 times, convicting him of each count that he faced.

The bombshell verdict was delivered in Manhattan federal court after about 12½ hours of deliberations spread over three days. It capped a nine-week trial that revealed how the senator leveraged his position to cater to the whims of men who showered him and his wife with 1-kilogram gold bars, cash and gifts including a Mercedes-Benz convertible.

“This wasn’t politics as usual,” US Attorney Damian Williams told reporters outside court Tuesday. “This was politics for profit.”

Jurors heard how the Democrat’s cluttered Englewood Cliffs house was teeming with gold bars and cash when FBI agents raided it in June 2022. Photos revealed at trial showed 13 gold bars worth \$150,000 found inside Menendez’s bedroom, and \$486,471 in cash spread out all over the house — including wads of bills totaling \$14,500 stuffed into a pair of well-worn Timberland work boots.

Cash-filled envelopes were also found stuffed inside Menendez’s official US Senate jacket emblazoned with his name.

### ‘Sold power of his office’

Menendez’s conviction immediately added fuel to calls for the three-term senator — who has proclaimed his innocence and claimed he was targeted because he’s a prominent Latino — to resign, which he has refused to do.

Menendez faces what could amount to a life sentence — with some of the counts carrying a possible term of up to 20 years behind bars — when he learns his fate Oct. 29.

The trial was his second time facing federal corruption charges. An earlier case in which the senator was charged with accepting lavish bribes — including all-expense-paid vacations and private flights — in exchange for doling out favors to a Palm Beach doctor ended in a mistrial in 2017.

The charges a jury of 12 New



Yorkers convicted him of in the Manhattan case included bribery, extortion, obstructing justice and acting as an illegal foreign agent.

“Mr. Menendez sold the power of his office,” prosecutor Paul Monteleoni told jurors in the government’s closing statement.

“It wasn’t enough for him to be one of the most powerful people in Washington,” Monteleoni said. “It wasn’t enough for him to be entrusted by the public with the power to approve billions of dollars of US military aid to foreign countries . . . Robert Menendez wanted all that power — but he also wanted to use it to pile up riches for himself and his wife.”

His attorneys tried to poke holes in the government’s case by arguing that Menendez’s “beautiful, tall” wife Nadine had “kept him in the dark” about what she was asking co-defendants Wael Hana, 40, and Fred Daibes, 66, to give her.

Hana and Daibes were each convicted of funneling the bribes to Menendez and his wife in exchange for a series of valuable favors and promises.

Prosecutors detailed a dizzying array of actions Menendez took between 2018 and 2022 on behalf of his cronies, including Hana, a

businessman, who bribed the senator with hundreds of thousands of dollars of cash and gold.

In exchange, prosecutors said, Menendez did favors for Egypt including ghostwriting a letter asking the US to unfreeze \$300 million in aid that had been held up due to human rights concerns.

### Tit-for-tat corruption

Menendez also leaned on an Agriculture Department official to protect Hana’s lucrative monopoly on approving halal meat exports to Egypt, evidence revealed.

In exchange, Hana gave Nadine Menendez a no-show job worth \$120,000 per year, prosecutors said.

“What else can the love of my life do for you?” Nadine told an Egyptian official while the senator smoked cigars and swigged red wine during a May 2019 meeting at Morton’s The Steakhouse, an FBI agent testified.

The senator also traded gold bars and cash for trying to meddle in a federal bank fraud case against Daibes and setting up a meeting between the real estate mogul and a member of the Qatari ruling family, prosecutors said.

Gold bars in the Menendezes’

# BOB THE BILKER

## bribery & influence scheme



**NADINE MENENDEZ**  
Senator's wife trial put on hold.

## Justice delayed for con's sick wife

The fate of Sen. Bob Menendez's wife Nadine was left in limbo Tuesday after a judge indefinitely delayed her federal corruption trial — hours before a jury convicted her embattled husband of a sprawling plot to pocket gold bars and other bribes.

In a brief ruling Tuesday morning, Judge Sidney Stein ruled that “the ends of justice” were best served by adjourning the trial of Nadine Menendez, 57, which had been set to unfold later this year.

The judge did not cite a reason for his decision, but issued the ruling after Nadine's lawyer wrote in a June court filing that she is “in intense, chronic pain” after having had surgery in which “medical equipment [was] implanted in her body” as part of her breast cancer treatment.

The New Jersey senator, 70, said in May that his wife was suffering from “Grade 3 breast cancer” and would require a mastectomy.

Nadine Menendez served as a key cog in the scheme to scoop up gold, cash and a luxury car in exchange for catering to crooked Garden State businessmen and Egyptian and Qatari officials, Manhattan federal prosecutors said.

The senator's lawyers, Avi Weitzman and Adam Fee, wrote Tuesday that Menendez's “highest priority is his wife's health, and we are pleased that she is being given the time she needs to focus on treatment.” *Ben Kochman*

**MEDAL OF DISHONOR:** Sen. Bob Menendez leaves Manhattan federal court Tuesday after being found guilty of 16 counts of felony corruption — including receiving gold bars (below) and cash (left) in exchange for political favors.



# DEM BOB GUILTY IS GOOD AS GOLD

safe had serial numbers linking them to Daibes, while envelopes of cash bore fingerprints tying them to both him and Hana, trial evidence showed.

Also involved in the bribery scheme was New Jersey insurance broker Jose Uribe — who

pleaded guilty and flipped on Menendez. Uribe testified that he bought Nadine a new Mercedes-Benz C-300 in exchange for help stulting state criminal probes.

Uribe told Menendez the name of a man being probed by state authorities, and the morning

after, Menendez pressured New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal to speak about the active criminal probe, Grewal testified.

Menendez did not testify.

The defense called three witnesses, including the senator's older sister, who testified that

Menendez's long-standing habit of stashing cash was part of a “normal” distrust of banks due to his Cuban heritage.

“It's a Cuban thing,” Caridad Gonzalez testified.

*Additional reporting by Kyle Schnitzer*

# Nazi murder Santa

By MATT TROUTMAN

The leader of the neo-Nazi Maniac Murder Cult plotted a New Year's Eve hate attack in which a goon dressed as Santa Claus would hand out poison-laced candy to minorities across New York City, federal authorities said Tuesday.

Georgian national Michail "Commander Butcher" Chkhikvishvili, 20, also planned a similar poison candy spree targeting Jewish school children in Brooklyn, and sent information on how to make bombs and ricin-based poisons, feds said.

"Dead Jewish kids," he messaged an undercover FBI agent, according to federal court records.

"MMC will become bigger than Al Qaeda once it drops," he boasted about video he planned to publish after the attack.

But Chkhikvishvili's alleged hateful Santa fantasies never came to fruition.

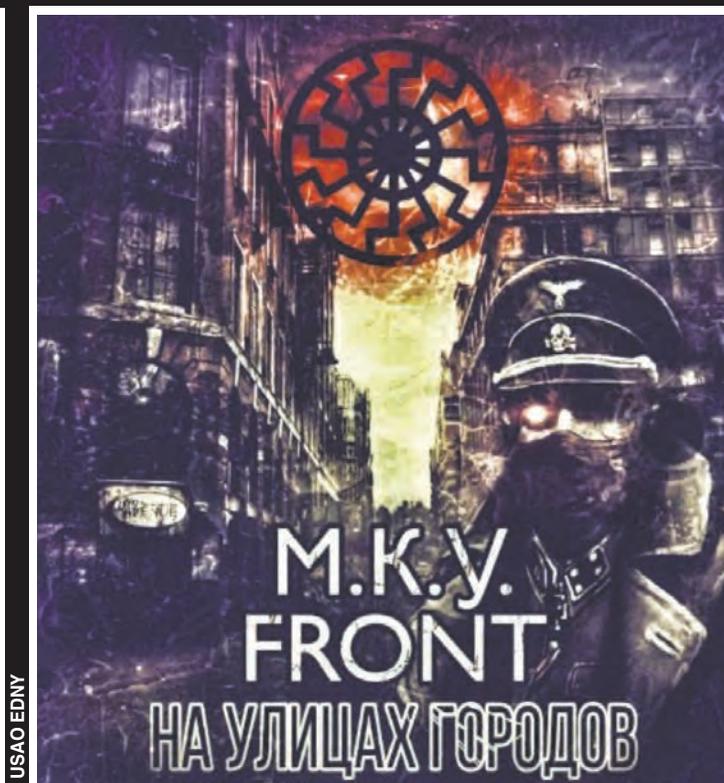
## Interpol warrant

International authorities arrested him in Moldova, an East European nation between Romania and Ukraine, on July 6 on an Interpol warrant, said officials with the Brooklyn US Attorney's Office.

A federal grand jury in Brooklyn on Monday indicted Chkhikvishvili on a solicitation-of-hate-crime charge, among other felonies, after an FBI New York Joint Terrorism Task Force probe, records show.

"The defendant sought to recruit others to commit violent attacks and killings in furtherance of his Neo-Nazi ideologies," said US Attorney Breon Peace.

A 22-page criminal complaint unsealed this week details Chkhikvishvili's role as a leader and recruiter within the Maniac Murder Cult, a Russia- and



USAO EDNY

**SICKENING:** Michail Chkhikvishvili, a leader of the Maniac Murder Cult, an ultra-right hate group that has created these images, has been arrested on a charge of soliciting a person to dress as Santa Claus and hand out poison candy to New York minority children.



Ukraine-based neo-Nazi group.

Chkhikvishvili, who lived with his grandmother in Brooklyn in 2022, published a manifesto called the "Hater's Handbook" in which he proudly proclaimed he "murdered for white race [sic]," the complaint states.

He bragged to another, unnamed neo-Nazi leader that he tortured and tried to kill an elderly Jewish man, according to the complaint.

Records show Chkhikvishvili once worked for a Brooklyn rehabilitation facility and was employed by an Orthodox Jewish family to care for a now-deceased man, the complaint states.

## Bust in plot to poison NYC minority kids

"I get paid to torture dying jew," he bragged in a message, according to the complaint. The feds aren't accusing Chkhikvishvili of causing the man's death.

An undercover FBI agent in 2023 posed as a potential recruit and began exchanging messages with Chkhikvishvili, who provided instructions for making

bombs and committing arson, according to the complaint.

Chkhikvishvili, starting in November, began prodding the undercover to commit an attack even bigger than that of Anders Brevik, a Norwegian neo-Nazi who killed 77 people in a 2011 bombing and mass shooting.

"Chkhikvishvili devised a

scheme to murder racial minorities and others in New York City on New Year's Eve by dressing up as Santa Claus and handing out candy laced with poison," according to the complaint.

According to the complaint, Chkhikvishvili pushed the undercover to create ricin, a deadly poison.

When New Year's Eve passed without a hate attack, Chkhikvishvili switched the plan to focus on poisoning children on "some Jewish holiday," according to the complaint.

Chkhikvishvili faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

mtroutman@nypost.com

# Teachers union sets classless anti-Israel votes

America's second-largest teachers union has drafted a group of resolutions calling for the end of US military aid to Israel and defending the anti-Israel protests that have rocked campuses across the country.

The American Federation of Teachers, which is affiliated with the United Feder-

ation of Teachers that represents most New York City public school teachers, will vote on the proposals at its convention in Houston next week.

One of the resolutions, which calls for a cease-fire between the Jewish state and the terrorist group Hamas, demands a halt to US

military assistance.

"American military cannot be used in ways that facilitate the seizure of Palestinian land [and] the violent dispossession of Palestinian communities," the resolution reads.

A related proposal suggests the US is "enabling genocide" in Gaza. "As long

as Israel continues to block substantive and meaningful aid to Gaza, the AFT calls for the US to halt military aid to Israel," it says.

Another resolution calls for anti-Israel protesters to be protected, even after violent demonstrations have swept college and school campuses.

"The AFT expresses solidarity with those students, faculty and other academic workers . . . who have faced repressive and violent crackdown of their protests," the resolution reads.

A coalition of pro-Israel educators swiftly condemned the resolutions as antisemitic.

"These resolutions not only marginalize our Jewish students . . . and staff but also contribute to an environment of fear and hostility in our schools," said Tova Plaut, an instructional coordinator and founder of the New York City Public School Alliance.

Carl Campanile

# January warms up to July

January Jones / Instagram



Summer has never been sweeter. January Jones shows her stripes Sunday in a series of fun bikini snaps on Instagram, captioned solely with three heart emoji — a red, then a white, then another red. The “Mad Men” actress, 46, stunned in a red and white swimsuit with matching red baseball hat and gold jewelry, with her blonde hair pulled back behind dark shades.

## TikTok takes it on the chin strap

TikTok users are a wellspring of wellness advice — from sleep specialists sharing snooze suggestions to sustenance savants’ top tips for avoiding colon cancer.

It is also the hallowed land of bizarre beauty hacks and the latest trend, wearing a chin strap to bed, claims to be a marriage of the aesthetic and health-conscious. Devotees of the strap swear it

“snatches” the jawline, delivering a cost-effective face-lift during sleep. In has also been heralded as a cure-all for snoring and teeth grinding.

Dr. Daniel Barrett, a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon, has trashed the trend as silly.

“I don’t think wearing this long term is actually going to do anything for your neckline,” Barrett advised in a TikTok of his own.

“I’ve never seen any studies, there’s no evidence to back this up, that wearing this is going to help with anything,” he said, adding that plastic surgery and weight loss can slim jawlines instead.

Some influencers also claim the chin strap can alleviate sleep apnea, a potentially life-threatening disorder that affects roughly 39 million Americans. Reda Wigle

# MIRACLE DRIFTER RESCUE

New York Post, Wednesday, July 17, 2024

nypost.com



## Float from Qns. to NJ

By HANNAH FIERICK,  
LARRY CELONA,  
REUVEN FENTON  
and OLIVIA LAND

A city fisherman who hopped in the water off Queens to cool off Monday was apparently pulled by currents for about 5 miles — all the way to New Jersey — before being rescued, authorities and sources say.

Pete Ordane, 34, was finally spotted by a commercial fisherman and his son in the water about 2 miles off Sandy Hook in the Garden State around 9 a.m. Monday, the Middletown Township Police Department said.

The survivor told authorities he most likely entered the ocean around Breezy Point in Queens and “was pulled out by the tide and had been treading water for several hours until he was found by the fishermen” off the coast of New Jersey.

“Ordane advised police that he went into the water to cool off,” a local source said. It wasn’t immediately clear when Ordane went into the water. The tips of Sandy Hook and Breezy Point are about 5 miles apart by water.

Ordane lives in Brooklyn and is a regular fisherman who fre-

quently parks his car in the lot outside the guard booth at the Breezy Point Surf Club, a source in the beach enclave told The Post. He was not at his usual spot Monday or Tuesday, the source said.

### Safe on dry land

The boaters who fished Ordane from the water brought him to the Monmouth Cove Marina in Port Monmouth, NJ, officials said.

Despite his ordeal, Ordane was found to be in “good condition” and was released after refusing further medical treatment, the Middletown cops said.

A worker at the marina told The Post they saw an apparently disoriented man hanging about the area shortly afterward.

“He was totally oblivious. He was a little bit out of it,” the worker recalled.

“He said, ‘Which way to the road?’ and we pointed that way. He went around the back and we said, ‘No, not that way. The other way.’ And that was the last we saw of him,” the marina worker said.

The boaters who rescued Ordane wished to remain anonymous, police said.

hannah.fierick@nypost.com

# TRUMP ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

## Mullahs in slay plot vs. ex-prez

US officials received intel about a sinister Iranian plot to assassinate former President Donald Trump just weeks before a deranged gunman shot at the GOP nominee at a Pennsylvania rally over the weekend.

The threat prompted the Secret Service to boost its protection around the 78-year-old, two US officials said — though the additional resources didn't prevent Saturday's shooting, which does not appear connected to the rogue nation's plans.

Trump was grazed in the ear after Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, opened fire. Three rallygoers were hit by gunfire, including Corey Comperatore, a 50-year-old hero firefighter who was killed as he protected his family.

The potential Iranian plot was shared with the lead agent on Trump's protection detail and with the Trump campaign, the officials said.

"As we have said many times, we have been tracking Iranian threats against former Trump administration officials for years, dating back to the last administration," said National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson.

"These threats arise from Iran's desire to seek revenge for the killing of Qassem Soleimani. We consider this a national and homeland-security matter of the highest priority."

When Trump was president, he ordered the killing of Soleimani, the leader of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force, in 2020.

"At this time, law enforcement has reported that their investigation has not identified ties between the shooter and any accomplice or co-conspirator, foreign or domestic," Watson stressed.

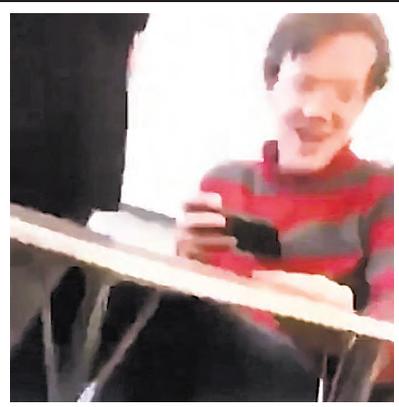
The Secret Service has repeatedly warned the Trump campaign not to hold outdoor rallies following the threat, sources told CNN. *David Propper and Chris Nesi with Wires*

# HITTING ROOF



TMZ/BACKGRID

## 'Scrawny' gunman kin quiet



X@TRIGGERHAPPY1

**FAMILY:** Thomas Matthew Crooks (above) tried to kill former President Donald Trump (above right), but his sister (right inset) is described as "real friendly" by a resident in the family's Bethel Park, Pa., neighborhood (pictured right).

Details are beginning to trickle out about the family of would-be Trump assassin Thomas Matthew Crooks — even as federal investigators struggle to determine a clear motive for the attack.

The Crooks family has been silent and kept out of the public eye. Neighbors who live on the same street as the Crooks in Bethel Park, Pa., barely recognized them.

A neighbor of Katie Crooks, Thomas' sister, described her as a "hardworking" woman who juggles two jobs who moved into their apartment building with the help of her brother three years ago.

"The person who helped her, I couldn't tell if it was a male or a female," the neighbor

told The Post of his initial reaction to Thomas, 20.

"A couple of days later I asked if it was one of her siblings and she said it was her brother. The one who shot Trump ... He was real scrawny," he added.

The neighbor noted that Katie's father, Matthew Crooks, appeared to be too heavy to help her move and opted to drive the moving truck.

While he couldn't speak much about Thomas, the neighbor noted that Katie was a "real go-getter" who worked as a janitor at a high school and as a server at a restaurant.

"She's real friendly," he said. "She's a nice girl. I couldn't say a bad word about her."

Like her brother, Katie is a

registered Republican. Their father is a registered Libertarian.

Katie was presumably spotted exiting her red Hyundai Kona Monday night and bringing in luggage to the Crooks' family home, according to local and national outlets.

As details emerge about his family, a former classmate who attended Bethel Park HS with Crooks revealed that he was nicknamed "the school shooter" and teased over his hygiene and body odor.

Julianna Grooms, 19, said because Crooks stood out as a freshman, wearing wide-legged jeans and SpongeBob SquarePants T-shirts, he became "an easy target for bullies." *Jack Morphet, Joe Marino and Ronny Reyes*



# OVER HER EXCUSE

## Secret Service big: Too 'sloped' to guard

By CHRIS NESI

Embattled Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle says she has no plans to resign, even after the revelation that the agency decided not to guard the roof from which Thomas Crooks opened fire on former President Donald Trump because it was too slanted.

"That building in particular has a sloped roof at its highest point. And so, you know, there's a safety factor that would be considered there that we wouldn't want to put somebody up on a sloped roof," Cheatle told ABC News in a startling admission.

"And so, you know, the decision was made to secure the building, from inside," she said.

Cheatle admitted the agency knew the building rooftop was a security vulnerability but opted not to position agents there, leaving it wide open for Crooks to take up an ideal sniper perch with an unobstructed view of Trump on stage.

From the roof, Crooks had a clear line of sight to the GOP nominee with his AR-style semi-automatic rifle, about 130 yards away.

### 'Dangerous situation'

Tactical-operations experts were outraged by Cheatle's explanation that the building's slope was an insurmountable obstacle to properly securing the area.

James Gagliano, a retired FBI supervisory special agent and Army veteran, said he didn't understand her reasoning. "You just have to work with the terrain you're presented with," he said.

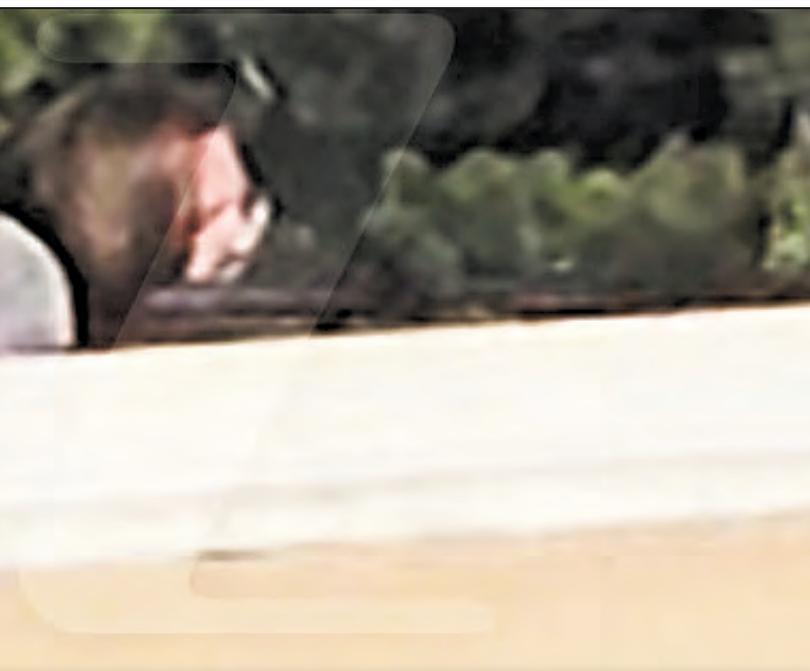
Popular right-wing talk show host Dan Bongino, a former Secret Service agent and NYPD cop, was indignant about Cheatle's contradictory reasoning.

"The Secret Service director said, 'Don't worry, we didn't put someone on the roof because it could've created a dan-



**'SAFETY FACTOR':** Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle rejects calls for her resignation after failing to position a guard on a "sloped roof" (top left) from where a would-be assassin shot ex-President Donald Trump.

Jovanny Hernandez



X/@bpcsdino

gerous situation.' Like what? Someone getting shot in the head?" he said on "The Dan Bongino Show" podcast.

Washington GOP congressional candidate Joe Kent, a former Army Special Forces officer, wrote on X that the slope doesn't explain the catastrophic security breach. "You can't get on the roof, but you identified the building/roof as a threat, so what's the excuse for not securing the perimeter & all access points to the building/roof?"

Cheatle has faced steadily increasing pressure to step down as the depths of the agency's disastrous handling of Trump's attempted assassination have come to light.

She told ABC "the buck stops with me" as she addressed the mounting criticism — but refused to resign from her post.

"It was unacceptable," Cheatle told ABC News Monday of her agency's response to Saturday's Trump campaign rally in Butler, Pa. "And it's something that shouldn't happen again."

Crooks, 20, fired multiple shots with an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle from the rooftop, wounding Trump and two others and killing a former firefighter.

"It was obviously a situation that

as a Secret Service agent, no one ever wants to occur in their career," Cheatle told ABC News.

"The buck stops with me. I am the director of the Secret Service, and I need to make sure that we are performing a review and that we are giving resources to our personnel as necessary."

### 'Changes' coming

In a statement Monday, which did not acknowledge the agency's failings in any way, the Secret Service chief touted "changes" would be coming to Trump's security apparatus for the duration of the campaign.

But the lukewarm missive did little to quiet doubters, who have lambasted Cheatle for prioritizing woke "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" initiatives — like pledging to make the Secret Service 30% women by 2030 — over providing robust and effective security.

On the day of the shooting, Trump's security detail included three women, who former FBI Assistant Director Chris Swecker told The Post appeared totally ill-equipped when Crooks opened fire.

Additional reporting by Caitlin McCormack

# TRUMP ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

**PIERS  
MORGAN  
UNCENSORED**



**P**RESIDENT Biden, during his latest rambling, incoherent, bad-tempered, and often excruciatingly awkward TV interview, was very clear about one thing regarding Donald Trump's shooting: Don't blame me, pal!

In fact, he looked indignant that the interviewer, NBC's Lester Holt, would even suggest such a terrible thing.

It was extraordinarily insightful to watch Biden working so hard to deflect any attention for his own culpability in raising the political temperature to such scarily dangerous levels that someone would try to assassinate his rival four months before the election.

When asked what his first reaction was to the shooting, Biden instantly went on his favorite Trump-bashing greatest hits rant about Jan. 6, Charlottesville, Nazis, both sides, etc.

Think about that for a moment.

Here is the president of the United States declining to even pretend to care that his immediate predecessor, and current rival for the forthcoming election, just came within an inch of being killed.

No, what was more important to "Mr. Nice Guy" Biden was that he score instant political points to infer that Trump had it coming.

## 'Didn't say crosshairs!'

To his credit, Holt was having none of it and pointed out that just days before the shooting, Biden declared Trump an "existential threat" to America and told donors: "It's time to put Trump in the bull's-eye."

But even when confronted with his use of such obviously violent language, Biden raced to avoid any responsibility for his shameful rhetoric.

"I didn't say crosshairs!" he exclaimed, as if that made any tangible difference.

They mean the same thing when used about human beings: making someone a target.

"I was talking about 'focus on,' " the 81-year-old president told Holt in the Monday interview.

Biden then launched into another anti-Trump diatribe until Holt interjected to say: "But have you taken a step back and done a little soul searching on things that you may have said that could incite people who are not balanced?"

It was a very pertinent ques-

tion to which Biden should have responded by saying, "Yes, I have. I regret the more inflammatory language that I, and other Democrats, have used about Donald Trump, and we must all, on both sides, dial it down to have more civilized political debate going forward."

That would have been the correct and respectful thing to say given the gravity of what happened on Saturday night.

Not least when your side has spent eight years screaming that Trump is the new Adolf Hitler, whose Nazi regime murdered 12 million people including 6 million Jews in the Holocaust, and incessantly, and hysterically, branded him a "fascist" and "dictator" and "tyrant" and just about every other ludicrously exaggerated and offensive label they can hurl at him.

## What did he expect?

If you call someone that kind of thing often enough, and repeatedly state that they represent a clear and present danger to the country, then eventually someone is going to act on it.

We don't yet know the shooter's motives, but we do know he wanted Trump dead.

And we also know that many so-called tolerant left-wingers on social media disgustingly expressed their dismay that he wasn't successful or insisted the shooting was staged.

When it comes to Trump, all liberal rhetorical bets have been off for a long time, which is ironic given the biggest problem most of his critics on the left have with him is his own incendiary rhetorical language and the way he speaks about people.

Not that they would ever admit they're part of the problem.

In response to Holt's "soul-searching" question, Biden just went on the attack against Trump again, even justifying the violent words he used about him while simultaneously denying he ever said them.

"How do you talk about the threat to democracy, which is real, when a president says things like he says?" he raged. "Do you just not say anything 'cause it may incite somebody? I have not engaged in that rhetoric... my opponent has engaged in that rhetoric."

Yes, you bloody have engaged in it, Mr. President.

Endlessly.

How dare you try to pretend you haven't.

As fork-tongued Biden ranted, yet again, about Jan. 6, and then about how Trump — disgracefully — mocked Nancy Pelosi's husband when he was hit with a hammer by an intruder, Holt in-

# Joe, Dems have blood on hands in anti-Don incitement

tervened, again, to say what we were all thinking: "This doesn't sound like you're turning down the heat, though?"

Entirely unsurprisingly, this merely promoted Biden to go off once more at Trump for election-denial and packing the Supreme Court with conservative judges, etc.

Honestly, it was pathetic to watch.

As was the rest of the interview, which just confirmed what the debate debacle established —

that Biden is now so cognitively impaired, he cannot possibly serve another four years in office.

But nor should he be allowed to evade accountability for his role in inflaming tensions.

## Dial down the temp

The Democrats announced they were suspending a hateful \$50 million advertising campaign attacking Trump following the assassination attempt.

But it won't be long before they're back calling him a despot Hitler-esque monster who must be stopped, because they can't help themselves, and Biden will be leading the charge because that's the only way he knows how to compete against him.

If the president really wants to dial down the temperature, he should start by admitting his own appalling contribution to it, and properly atone for the damage it's done.



## More 'man'power in Secret Service

Former President Donald Trump was flanked by a horde of male Secret Service agents as he arrived at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee — a stark contrast to the security team protecting him during the assassination attempt.

Nearly a dozen burly male agents were spotted surrounding Trump in tight formation as he made an appearance at the GOP convention's opening night Monday.

No female agents could be seen close to him, according to various clips and photos making the rounds on

social media.

It marked a dramatic change from the security detail protecting Trump at the campaign rally in Butler, Pa., when a sniper opened fire — grazing him in the ear.

In that instance, three female agents were among those seen immediately swarming the ex-president and whisking him off stage. It comes after the head of the Secret Service, Kimberly Cheatle, vowed the agency would “adapt our operations as necessary in order to ensure the highest level of safety and security.”

*Emily Crane*



**HE-MEN:** Ex-President Donald Trump is surrounded by male Secret Service on Monday, unlike on Saturday (inset).

AP (inset)

## Democrats say the most deplorable things

Here are some of the unhinged things Democratic officials and fundraisers said after Trump was shot:



**Colo. state Rep. Steven Woodrow:**

“The last thing America needed was sympathy for the devil but here we are,” he wrote.

His post garnered nearly 2 million views before he deleted it and eventually his entire X account. In a text exchange with Colorado Public Radio, the state lawmaker made an abrupt about-face, acknowledging that his post had been “inarticulate” and apologizing “that my words caused additional pain.”

**Tenn. state Rep. Antonio Parkinson:** “I certainly hope this is not a staged act. But...”

After his post went viral — viewed more than 2 million times — Parkinson walked back his toxic rhetoric, denouncing “all acts of violence and those perpetrating them” in a series of follow-up tweets.



**Allegheny County Council member Bethany Hallam:** “Wow, the crime in Butler County is out of control.”

Council member Sam DeMarco has called on Hallam to resign. Although she later deleted her comment, she sniped online critics, “Yeah, man. I just realized I didn’t know s--t about what happened and shouldn’t say anything unless I do, so I deleted it. You should try it sometime,” station WTAE reported.

DeMarco said her actions were in “extremely poor taste” and represented “an example of where rhetoric has gone in the wrong direction and is over the top.”

**Missouri House candidate Jess Piper:**

Executive director of left-wing advocacy group Blue Missouri who is also seeking a seat in the state’s House of Representatives, expressed “horror” at seeing a Trump-supporting emergency-room doctor being interviewed after the rally. Following it up with casually wondering if such a physician would disregard their Hippocratic Oath on a whim.



Jess Piper  
@piper4missouri

After the shooting, there was an interview with an ER doctor and, honestly, I was fairly horrified to realize that there are ER doctors who are also Trump supporters...

Would they render care to an undocumented person? A child who’s been raped? A gay person? A trans person?

9:55 AM · Jul 15, 2024 · 727.3K Views

**I don't condone violence but please get you some shooting lessons so you don't miss next time oops that wasn't me talking**



**Congressional staffer Jacqueline Marsaw:** An aide of Democratic Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.) urged the shooter to “get you some shooting lessons.” She was swiftly fired.

who’s been raped? A gay person? A trans person?” She asked her X followers, completely seriously.

Piper hasn’t walked back her bizarre remarks just yet, but later in a separate post she finally acknowledged “there are likely hundreds

of thousands of doctors who identify as Republican,” adding, “but to identify with Trump and attend his rally? My God.”

# Blaming Biden for mom slay.

MILWAUKEE — The brother of slain Maryland mom of five Rachel Morin slammed President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris Tuesday in an emotional speech on the second night of the GOP convention.

“Rachel, a joyful accomplished athlete and mother of five, was raped and murdered by a suspected illegal immigrant . . . this was described as among the most brutal and violent offenses that has ever occurred in Harford County, Maryland,” Michael Morin said in his remarks.

“My sister’s death was preventable,” the brother argued.

“Joe Biden and his designated border czar Kamala Harris opened our borders to him and others like him,” he raged in reference to Rachel’s killer.

“To this day, we have not heard from Joe Biden or Kamala Harris,” he said.

Rachel, 37, was killed on a Bel Air, Md., hiking trail on Aug. 5, 2023, allegedly by Victor Martinez-Hernandez, an illegal migrant from El Salvador who has ties to street gangs and a violent history, according to authorities.

“They never apologized,” Michael Morin said of the president and vice president. “But when Rachel was killed, President Trump called my family to offer his condolences.

“He wanted to meet with us.

## Don’s ‘kind’ call to widow

The grieving widow of the hero firefighter killed during a failed assassination attempt on Donald Trump said the former president called her Tuesday to offer his condolences.

“He was very kind and said he would continue to call me in the days and weeks ahead,” Helen Comperatore wrote of Trump on her private Facebook page.

He cared. That is leadership. We need real leadership back in the White House.”

In June, Trump raged on Truth Social that Biden is to blame for Rachel’s killing because the president has refused to “shut down the border.”

Madeline Brame, a New York mother whose Army veteran son was murdered in 2018, slammed Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg at the GOP convention Tuesday for releasing the “homicidal maniacs” that killed her son.

“He received enemy fire from the Taliban only to be murdered by a knife in New York City,” Brame said of her son, Sgt. Hason Correa, 35, who was fatally beaten and stabbed by a group of four people during a scuffle outside a Harlem apartment building.

Brame railed against what she called Bragg’s “soft-on-crime” approach.

“Two of the homicidal maniacs responsible for my son’s death had their gang assault and murder charges completely dismissed,” she said.

“Alvin Bragg charged her with assault with a shoe,” she raged, referring to one of Correa’s assailants.

Brame previously claimed that Bragg’s office treated her and her family “like garbage” as it prosecuted her son’s attackers.

*Victor Nava*

“I told him the same thing I told everyone else. He left this world a hero and God welcomed him in. He did not die in vain that day,” she said of her husband, according to a screenshot of the post.

Her husband, Corey Comperatore, 50, was fatally shot by a sniper at a Trump rally in Butler, Pa., on Saturday. *Allie Griffin*

# OLD FOES

By DIANA GLEBOVA

MILWAUKEE — Two of Donald Trump’s former 2024 rivals and harshest critics, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, took the stage Tuesday on Day 2 of the Republican National Convention and enthusiastically championed the ex-president in a stunning display of unity for the party.

The back-to-back speeches came towards the end of the night and were in line with Trump’s larger theme of “unity” that he announced after being nearly assassinated Saturday night. Trump had prepared a “hot” speech for the convention, but tossed it aside after being shot, according to his son Donald Trump Jr.

Haley — who was Trump’s last remaining challenger for the GOP nomination — was invited to speak at the convention just days ago and was welcomed to the stage with a mix of cheers and boos.

“President Trump asked me to speak at this convention in the name of unity. It was a gracious invitation and I was happy to accept,” Haley, 52, began.

The former governor of South Carolina then quickly shot down any question about her loyalty after the bitter primary challenge.

“I’ll start by making one thing perfectly clear: Donald Trump has my strong endorsement, period,” Haley declared.

## ‘For sake of nation’

The one-time presidential hopeful then spoke directly to her supporters and voters who might be hesitant about supporting the 45th president in a third run.

“My message to them is simple: You don’t have to agree with Trump 100% of the time to vote for him,” Haley said to loud applause.

Haley, who served as the UN ambassador under Trump, underscored the concern surrounding the 81-year-old President Biden’s age and mental fitness.

“If we have four more years of Biden or a single day of [Kamala] Harris, our country will be badly worse off,” she said.



AP



AP

**UNITED FRONT:** Former 2024 Republican presidential hopefuls Nikki Haley (right), Ron DeSantis (above) and Vivek Ramaswamy (top) sing Donald Trumps praises at the RNC on Tuesday in Milwaukee.

“For the sake of our nation, we have to go with Donald Trump.”

Haley also touted her former boss’ foreign-policy record.

“Think about it, when Barack Obama was president, Vladimir Putin invaded Crimea. With Joe Biden as president, Putin invaded all of Ukraine,” she said.

“But when Donald Trump was president, Putin did nothing — no invasion, no wars.”

She also praised Trump’s tough sanctions on Iran.

“A strong president doesn’t start wars. A strong president prevents wars,” Haley declared.

The South Carolina Republican then argued that a “unified Republican Party” is “essential” to saving the country because Democrats are “putting our freedoms in danger.”

“We must not only be a unified party. We must also expand our party. We are so much better when we’re bigger. We are stronger when we welcome people into our party who have different backgrounds and experiences,” she continued.

Both DeSantis and Haley had endorsed Trump after dropping out of the primary. However, Haley,

## ALL FOR DON



**3 CHEERS:** Donald Trump is flanked by House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (left) and running mate J.D. Vance.

Haley: Reuters; Inset: Getty Images

# Nikki and Ron stand up as part of Team Trump

who dropped her bid after Super Tuesday, waited months to say she would vote for Trump. She later released her 97 delegates to vote for Trump if they chose to do so at the convention.

## Can't let Don down

DeSantis, 45, took the stage immediately after Haley to rapturous applause and proclaimed Republicans need to send Biden "back to his basement."

The Sunshine State governor launched into full-scale criticism of the Biden administration, re-

calling the 13 service members who died during Biden's disastrous Afghanistan pullout.

He labeled Biden a "figurehead" and a "tool" for imposing a leftist agenda.

Unlike Haley, DeSantis didn't directly call for "unity" and instead focused on Biden's weaknesses and Trump's strengths.

"Donald Trump has been demonized. He's been sued. He's been prosecuted and he nearly lost his life," DeSantis said. "We cannot let him down, and we can not let America down," he said to thunderous cheers.

The GOP primary challenger ended his speech by calling Americans to "fight! fight! fight" — echoing Trump's call after he miraculously dodged a sniper's bullet over the weekend.

DeSantis suspended his presidential campaign right before New Hampshire primary and immediately endorsed Trump, despite the former president's campaign launching personal attacks about his height and eating habits throughout the challenge — including bizarre allegations of him eating pudding with his fingers.

Trump, however, has since

made peace with both candidates, saying he sees Haley "on our team in some form" in the future, and reportedly told DeSantis, "Ron, I love that you're back."

Former 2024 candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, 38, also spoke earlier Tuesday night, stressing the need for "unity."

The millionaire entrepreneur said Trump will "unite this country. Not through empty words, but through action. Because you know what, success is unifying. Excellence is unifying. That's who we are as Americans."

dglebova@nypost.com



## Chat leak has RFK 'mortified'

Independent presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was "mortified" after footage leaked of his call with Donald Trump in which the former president appeared to voice vaccine skepticism in a bid to woo him, and dished on a chat with President Biden after his near-assassination.

"When President Trump called me, I was taping with an in-house videographer. I should have ordered the videographer to stop recording immediately. I am mortified that this was posted. I apologize to the president," he posted on X.

Trump reportedly contacted Kennedy (above) seeking to nudge him to drop out of the race and endorse him instead. Kennedy later confirmed Tuesday that the video was real.

"I agree with you, man. Something's wrong with that whole system, and it's the doctors you find. Remember, I said I want to do small doses. Small doses," Trump says in the leaked call.

"When you feed a baby, Bobby, a vaccination that is like 38 different vaccines, and it looks like it's meant for a horse, not a 10-pound or 20-pound baby. It looks like you're giving, you should be giving a horse this, and do you ever see the size of it?" he added.

"It's so massive and then you see the baby all of a sudden starting to change radically."

Throughout his 2024 bid, Kennedy has knocked Trump for his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and has long expressed skepticism about the safety measures taken to approve certain vaccines.

Ryan King

# Don Jr. backs Vance in 2028

MILWAUKEE — Donald Trump Jr. predicted Tuesday there is a “very high chance” that J.D. Vance will be elected president in 2028, adding that he himself would “never throw his hat in the ring” to be an elected official.

“I think there would be a very high chance, right?” Trump Jr. said of the running mate of his father, who wouldn’t be able to run for president again in 2028 if he wins another four-year term in the White House in November.

“He’s the one guy in that movement that’s a politician that’s out there that actually really speaks to the America First people and isn’t sort of, ‘We’ll be right back to the establishment,’” Trump Jr. said of Vance at an Axios event.

Vance, at 39, is half of former President Donald Trump’s age. If elected into office as Trump’s vice president, he will be the second-youngest veep in history.

Trump Jr. had pushed for Vance to be Trump’s running mate for months.

Their friendship led some to believe he could be angling for a political relationship with the Ohio senator, but the younger Trump refuted those claims Tuesday.

“I could never throw my hat in the ring or anything like that,” he said.

Instead, Trump Jr. said he would want to be an adviser for his dad and have the power to “block” anyone from working with him.

“All I want to do is block the guys that would be a disaster. Right? I want to block the liars. I want to block the guys that are pretending they’re with you,” he said.

Trump Jr. also said a debate pitting Vance against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris would be “ugly” and that the senator was able to “destroy someone with facts.”

Diana Glebova

# MAGA makeover drawing GOP’s shift to a party for the worker

LET’S play a game. Let’s entertain the thought that the Republican Party should get a new name that reflects the new future Donald Trump envisions for it.

In that case, the GOP would become The Workers Party.

Not, of course, in the socialist sense, for Trump remains the ultimate capitalist. Rather, the new party emerging before our eyes

at the Milwaukee convention is one whose No. 1 focus is the wellbeing of working-class Americans. They are the forgotten people who elected Trump in 2016, and as he aims for the White House again, he is making it absolutely clear that they are the core constituency driving his agenda.

Farewell to the Chamber of Commerce and good riddance to Mitt Romney. Hello, restaurant workers — no taxes on tips, Trump pledged. And get this — even big unions could be invited to the party.

## Diversity in action

The change inevitably will lead to a much more diverse Republican Party, as demonstrated by the numerous non-white speakers Monday.

The lineup wasn’t a hint that Trump is chasing a progressive-like DEI agenda, as some of his supporters complained on social media.

The clear justification came with the most controversial of those speakers, model and rapper Amber Rose. She hit it out of the park with her personal story of how she found “my people” in the GOP.

As Van Jones said on CNN, her remarks were a “bunker buster” and “dangerous” for Democrats because her experience strikes at the heart of the left’s view that Trump and all Republicans are racists.

In fact, a more diverse GOP is a natural outgrowth of a heightened focus on workers because the working and middle classes obviously comprise many black, Latino and Asian workers as well as whites.

And most of them have seen their family finances decline under Joe Biden.

More evidence that Trump is rebranding the party came with the

fact that Monday’s keynote speech was delivered by Teamsters union president Sean O’Brien. His mere appearance at the podium was a shock to the old system, never mind his fiery challenge to the traditional GOP establishment of big business and union-free shops.

Many delegates were stunned into silence by O’Brien’s message, uncertain whether to cheer or boo him off stage.

They were probably wondering if he had stumbled into the wrong convention.

Trump, who loves to stir the pot, seemed subdued following the assassination attempt but appeared to welcome O’Brien’s forceful pitch that big companies such as Amazon and Walmart are wildly successful largely because many of their workers are underpaid.

Besides, there’s zero chance O’Brien just happened to stumble into the prime-time slot by accident. He was there because Trump wanted him there and wanted delegates — and a TV audience — to hear his views.

It’s worth recalling that Trump generally had good relations with tradesman in his New York construction days despite the fact that the industry was completely unionized.

## Stronger than Reagan

Two other observations are relevant to what is unfolding at the convention.

First, Trump’s remake of the GOP is possible only because the party is his to a degree that few politicians of any stripe ever achieve. As he told me recently, “about 90% of the party is MAGA,” a far cry from his first term where he was often thwarted by congressional Republicans who viewed him as an alien outsider who would soon be gone.

Ed Rollins, the architect of Ronald Reagan’s 1984 landslide victory and his White House political director, says he has never seen anyone with so much control over the party, and that includes Reagan.

“There were factions even then,” Rollins told me Tuesday. “Despite Reagan’s success, the Bush people were always around, looking to do things their way.”

Trump’s selection of Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance as his running mate



MICHAEL GOODWIN

# GOP’s shift to a party for the worker

should be seen as part of this control and his new focus.

Vance, the author of the famed autobiography “Hillbilly Elegy,” initially rejected Trump’s populism and the man himself but has come to be one of his most forceful and articulate supporters.

To underscore the point, Trump, in making the veep announcement, noted that Vance’s book “championed the hardworking men and women of our country” and added that Vance “will be strongly focused on the people he fought so brilliantly for, the American Workers and Farmers in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wis-

consin, Ohio, Minnesota and far beyond . . .”

The assignment illustrates the second point — the political dimension that is both cause and effect of a new GOP. It’s hard to become the majority party if you keep losing the popular vote.

The Democrats’ blue wall in the Electoral College depends on some of the very Rust Belt states Trump has assigned to Vance — Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan. Without them, Dems can’t win the White House, as Trump proved when he won all three and defeated Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Joe Biden flipped them back in

# in regular-folk Republicans



**'MAKE' TIME:** Former President Donald Trump, with friends, family and running mate J.D. Vance, said the Republican Party is now 90% MAGA.

2020, and also took two normally red states — Georgia and Arizona. Most polls now show Trump leading in all or nearly all of those battleground states and putting several reliably blue states in play, including Virginia.

It doesn't hurt his chances that Biden still hasn't locked up the support of his own party.

## Dems in disarray

A survey showing that Trump is beating him among independents in contested states also showed that Biden generally has the support of only about 86% of Dems in those states, while Trump has the support of 92% or more of Republicans.

The movement by Barack Obama and others to get Biden to step aside has temporarily calmed down but is likely to flare up again

when the president inevitably stumbles and mumbles through another event.

It was telling that while the GOP was opening its convention with confidence that Trump will prevail in November, Biden was feuding with NBC's Lester Holt.

When Holt pressed him on his debate debacle and the party revolt, the president had no answers except lies and he repeatedly kept trying to shoot the messenger.

"What's up with you guys? Come on, man," an exasperated Biden whined at one point.

When a Dem is feuding with the top anchor at NBC, it's the equivalent of a shootout in a lifeboat because they're on the same team.

One wild card in all these developments is whether and how the assassination attempt affects Trump and his outlook.

The large bandage on his right

ear is an inescapable reminder of how close he came to death.

In my interview with him Sunday en route to Milwaukee, he was grateful and seemed like a man with a new lease on life.

"I'm not supposed to be here. I'm supposed to be dead," he told me and Byron York of the Washington Examiner.

The first impact of his harrowing experience was that he tore up his acceptance speech for Thursday night, saying "I had all prepared an extremely tough speech, really good, all about the corrupt, horrible administration."

In its place, he hopes to begin the process of trying to unify the country.

He acknowledged the difficulties, but the fact that he wants to try is encouraging.

Perhaps we are seeing the first fruits of that goal already. Conven-

tiongoers, as if the failed assassination gave them a new lease on life too, are brimming with confidence and enthusiasm.

After all, turning the party's focus and power to working-class Americans is by definition an uplifting approach because those workers cut across racial, ethnic, religious and geographic differences.

Naturally, there are potential pitfalls. The nation's exploding debt must be curbed and excess protectionism will stymie the very growth that could lift all boats.

Also, America First policies, if carried to extremes, could give our adversaries a free hand to menace us and our allies around the globe.

The challenge, then, is finding the right balance. Trump and Vance surely know that, but first they have to win the election.

## Dems to restart push vs. the prez

Democratic efforts to convince President Biden to relinquish the party's nomination could restart "soon," three congressional Democratic sources tell The Post, saying the assassination attempt Saturday against former President Donald Trump only temporarily interrupted the momentum.

The president's political fate was the biggest political news

story in the two weeks before Trump

was grazed by a bullet at a Pennsylvania rally, which instantly booted the growing mutiny off front pages.

Momentum had been building against Biden as many leading Democrats hedged in public remarks about whether he should allow Vice President Kamala Harris or someone else to lead the ticket following his startling confused appearance at the CNN debate with Trump.

Those escalating calls for Biden to retire "could start back up soon if there's a sufficient trigger," such as Biden stumbling in public appearances or interviews, one of the Democratic sources in Congress told The Post.

But other sources told The Post that a specific spark may be unnecessary because Democrats recognize that Trump, who already was leading Biden in national and swing-state polls, was strengthened politically by the assassination attempt.

"Trump is now stronger than ever," the second congressional Democratic source said.

"I think the public pressure only subsided because of the shooting and will be once again applied," the insider said. *Steven Nelson*



# Meet the 'pop' stars



**TOO COOL:** Jing Wen Ng's (above) popsicle at Noksu is like other elevated takes on the humble treat at The Press Club Grill (top, from left), Jazba, and El Lugar and (bottom, from left) Junoon and NARO.

## 'Nut' sets fire to an apt. bldg.

A disturbed Brooklyn man who has terrorized a Bushwick apartment building for months was behind an early morning blaze that injured at least nine tenants Tuesday, sources and neighbors said.

The suspected arsonist even tried to block the building's front door to keep tenants from escaping as flames engulfed the four-story walk-up at 3 a.m., witnesses told The Post.

"He's crazy," next-door neighbor John Palma said. "All of our neighbors in that building have been complaining about the guy. Like he's been here for about a year and they keep calling the police and the police come pick him up and then he just is brought back."

Police said Tuesday that a man in his 60s, whose name is being withheld, was spotted setting the fire at 127 Evergreen Ave., but no arrests have been made.

Residents said the alleged firebug, who remains on the loose, was placed in the building through the Institute for Community Living, a nonprofit contracted by the city to find housing and services for the needy.

An ICL spokesperson confirmed it had placed a tenant in the building.  
*Kevin Sheehan, Larry Celona and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*

## Hizzy fit over FDNY exit grill

A visibly irritated Mayor Adams on Tuesday said it was a "sexist belief" that the FDNY's male-dominated culture had anything to do with the sudden departure of its first woman commissioner, Laura Kavanagh.

"When a man leaves you don't say, 'You didn't give men support,'" Hizzoner said at his weekly news conference. "If a man wants to go on and do something with his life, I have no one asking, 'Oh, you didn't give him the support he needed?'"

The tirade came after The Post exclusively reported Kavanagh was pushed out after conflicts with male underlings. *Haley Brown and Matt Troutman*

By HAILEY EBER

Fine-dining and popsicles might seem like an awkward union, but at trendy restaurants across the city, chefs are serving frozen desserts on a stick.

"Everybody's doing popsicles," said Jing Wen Ng, the chef de cuisine at Noksu (49 W. 32nd St., Koreatown, NoksuNYC.com), a 15-seat chef's counter.

She serves a haute pop as a palate-cleansing "pre-dessert" on the 11-course, \$195 tasting menu at the restaurant, which was opened by a Per Se alum last fall in the 32nd Street entrance of the Herald Square subway station.

"It's an unexpected dish," said Ng. "I don't think [people] expect to be served a popsicle in a fine dining-tasting menu setting."

But, it's not just any old pop from the ice box.

It has a traditional shape, but the flavors — verjus, shiso and kaffir lime — take it up several notches. The popsicle is plated in a small pool of Yakult, a yogurt drink, and garnished with bronze fennel, lemon balm and cilantro flowers.

"It's very summery," said Ng.

Here are five other elevated options for keeping you cool:

**Corn Okusu Popsicle — \$11 at NARO Terrace, 615 5th Ave., Rockefeller Center, Midtown, NaroNYC.com**

At NARO, the upscale Korean restaurant in Rockefeller Center from the team behind Atomix — the highest ranked restaurant in New York City on the "World's 50 Best List" — the tasting menu in the main dining room runs \$165. But at the more casual outdoor terrace, you can get a Korean fried chicken sandwich (\$16) topped with Amber Kaluga caviar (\$28) and finish the meal with a dessert on a stick.

Pastry chef Luke Deardurff has had various flavors on the menu and the current variety is delicious Instagram bait: sweet corn ice cream with a savory corn-jam swirl that's molded into the shape of an ear of corn.

The same mold is used to make a corn cookie that is charred. There's also a hit of chocolate ganache.

**Kulfu Pops — \$16 at Junoon, 19 W. 24th St., JunoonNYC.com**

At the acclaimed upscale modern Indian restaurant, diners can close out their meal with a refreshing sampler of the frozen In-

dian dessert known as kulfu.

Pastry chef Gustavo Tzoc makes them in four flavors: Alphonso mango, rose petal, ube (purple yam) and saffron-cardamom.

They're served on beautiful wooden boards — "They're like a tapestry" — custom-made for the purpose.

"I cannot take them off the menu," Tzoc said of the popular pops. "There would be a revolt."

**Gola — \$14 at Jazba, 207 2nd Ave., East Village, JazbaNYC.com**

Jazba, a more casual spot from the Junoon team that opened last fall in the old Momofuku Ssam space, recently added a frozen dessert to its menu.

Instead of kulfu, it's a gola — a treat made by compressing finely shaved ice into a popsicle form.

"It feels like snow. We use a [hand-cranked] machine that we brought from India," said Tzoc, who draws parallels between the dessert and treats served in Guatemala, where he's from.

The gola is presented unadorned with four small squeeze bottles of syrups — in flavors ranging from black plum to rose — that diners get to apply themselves.

**Ice Cream Truck-Inspired — \$16 at The Press Club Grill, 1262 Broadway, Koreatown, PressClubGrill.com**

At Franklin Becker's new Italian-influenced steakhouse, one of the desserts takes its inspiration from the strawberry shortcake Good Humor bars that Becker grew up eating in Brooklyn.

Strawberry sorbet and sweet cream ice cream are coated in a nostalgic cookie crumble.

"[We] took the Strawberry Shortcake to new heights," Becker boasted. "Whenever you can evoke memories of childhood on the dessert menu, it's a great thing."

**Paleta cocktails — \$19 at El Lugar Cantina, 30 W. 30th St., Chelsea, ElLugarCantina.com**

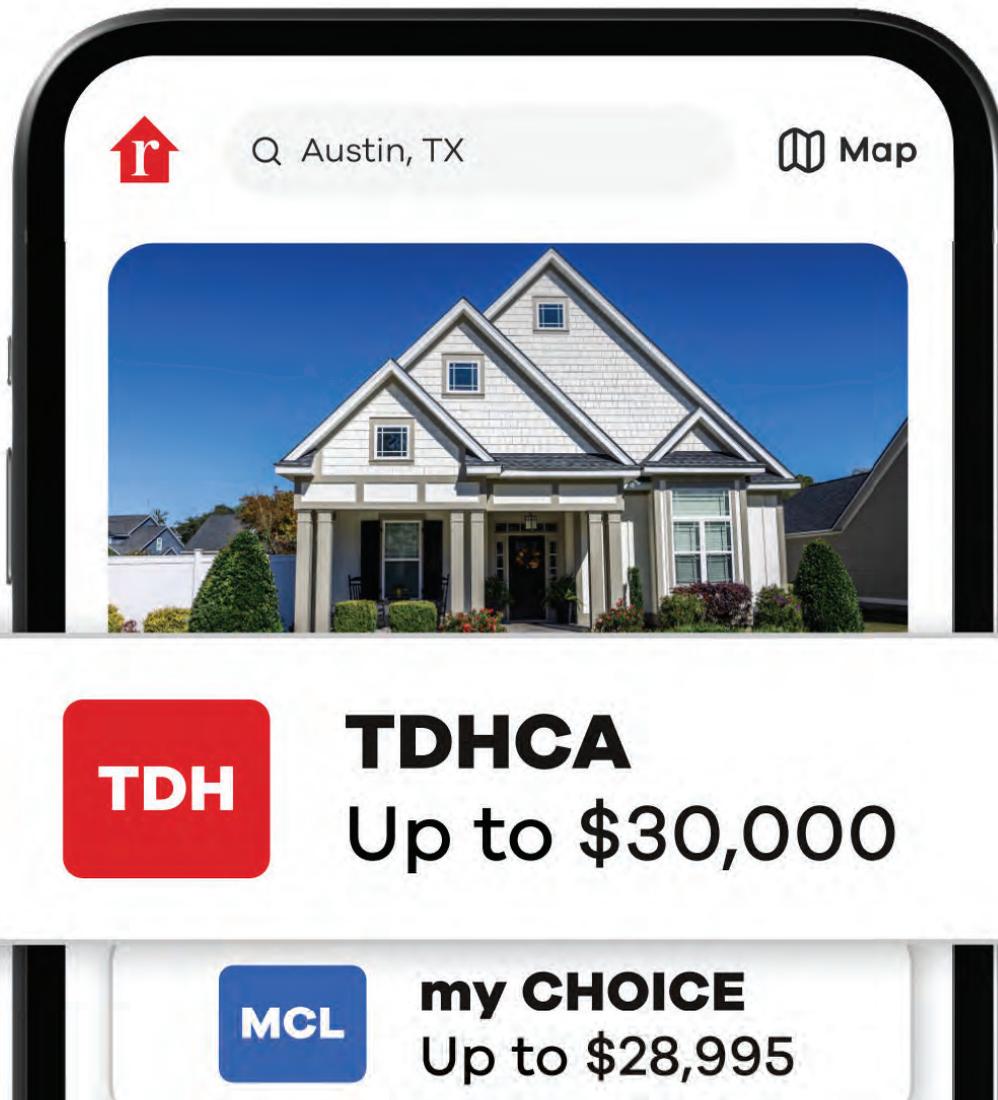
At the festive El Lugar, which opened early this year, the popsicles are especially adult. Mexican-style paletas, made in collaboration with popular dessert company La Newyorkina, come in flavors such as rum-coconut and spicy tequila-mango, and they're served in boozy, coordinating cocktails, such as a boozy mango nectar-and-tequila concoction

*heber@nypost.com*

## Fancy popsicles NY's new *must* desserts

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# College coach hits the books

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## Port in a storm

**DAVE Portnoy** had to be rescued by the US Coast Guard after he was “nearly lost” at sea. The Barstool Sports founder, 47, told followers in a video that they “almost lost Captain Dave today. Captain Dave almost was lost to the ocean, mother ocean.” Portnoy explained that he wanted to take his mother out for a boat ride off Nantucket while she was visiting him. He admitted his “critical mistake” in trying to unhook his 28-foot vessel from the dock and buoys amid “heavy, heavy winds.” The craft had “no power, no radio, no anchor, no nothing,” and he and his boat drifted out. Another seaman eventually saw him and radioed for help.



## Hamps date smite

ALL dressed up — and didn't actually go. **Bethenny Frankel** showed off her flirty look for her first date since her breakup from fiancé **Paul Bernon**, only to end up ditching her mystery suitor. The “Real Housewives” alum (above) shared in a video her “outfit of the date” before going out in the Hamptons. But the video concludes with her driving alone, telling viewers, “Abort . . . abort.” She later explained that she canceled the date after the man asked her to pick him up, which inspired her “to do the FBI deep dive” and she learned via divorce documents that his ex-wife is supporting him financially.

UCONN basketball coach **Dan Hurley** is shopping a book, Page Six has exclusively learned, and sources say he'll dish on his blockbuster \$70 million offer from the LA Lakers.

A top editor was seen reading Hurley's proposal on a Metro-North train yesterday morning headed into Grand Central, and multiple sources confirmed the book is making the rounds.

We hear that Hurley will be meeting with potential co-authors.

Said a literary source of the proposal: “He gets into whether he should run a ‘fast break to the Showtime Lakers.’”

Last month, Hurley — coach of the two-time

reigning men's national champions, the Huskies — rejected a six-year, \$70 million gig from the storied NBA franchise.

Hurley instead signed a new, \$50 million contract last week that will keep him at UConn through 2030.

Reports had circulated that the coach — who joined the team in 2018 and brought them their first championship in nine years in 2023 — intentionally considered NBA offers to prompt UConn to pay him more.

But he blasted the buzz by saying in an interview last month: “One of the worst takes I've heard is this was a leverage play by me to improve my situation at UConn . . . I don't need

leverage here. We've won back-to-back national championships at this place.” He also said the Lakers' courtship even took a toll on his personal life, and his wife “got violently angry” as a result.

A source quipped of the editor reading the proposal on the train, “Perhaps the literati should get some spy craft training before riding the ‘Mad Men’ express to NYC.”

Another publishing insider said of reading hot properties in public, “You've got to be careful when you're reading a proposal — especially on the subway or Metro-North. Or any train coming from Brooklyn or Montclair. Even the Jitney could be risky!”



Naomi Campbell (left) and Eiza González Ibiza the heat on a yacht in Spain to celebrate Michelle Rodriguez's 46th birthday.

BACKGROUND

## Wein'ing off ex

DON'T expect newly engaged power couple **Huma Abedin** and **Alex Soros** to wed too soon — because she's still not divorced from disgraced politician **Anthony Weiner**, sources confirm. We exclusively reported on the engagement last week, which they celebrated in Italy before Abedin was seen back in NYC wearing a dazzling diamond rumored to cost around \$1 million. Abedin filed for divorce from Weiner in 2017, when he was on trial for sexting a 15-year-old. The former congressman was sentenced to 21 months in prison. In 2021, Abedin revealed the divorce was nearly finalized. “We are in the final stages,” she told the Cut. “Lawyers are doing their lawyer thing.” Page Six is told the delay is purely “clerical.” Meanwhile, Abedin and Soros are ready to grow their family and welcome a baby, friends say. “Huma and Alex are so in love,” one insider told Page Six this week. “I know they are excited to start their life together, and they definitely want kids.”

## Theater kids at the news desk

**JOE Scarborough** and **Mika Brzezinski** may be more like **Donald Trump** than they'd like to admit. “They have a flare for the dramatic,” a network insider told Page Six, and they know how to turn it on for the camera. The MSNBC couple returned to “Morning Joe” yesterday after the network pulled their show Monday for special coverage of Saturday's assassination attempt on Trump. Scarborough and Brzezinski — plus co-anchor **Willie Geist** — addressed the issue at the top of the hour. “We were told, in no uncertain terms, on a Sunday evening that there was going to be one news feed across all NBC news

channels yesterday,” a disappointed Scarborough revealed to viewers. “The ‘Today’ show, **Lester Holt** . . . We were going to stay as a network in breaking-news mode throughout all day yesterday. That did not happen. We don't know why that didn't happen. Our team was not given a good answer as to why that didn't happen. But it didn't happen.” Their revelation left some at the network rolling their eyes. “Joe and Mika are acting childish and immature. They just need to grow up,” an insider said.

## Adele says adieu

“HELLO”? More like goodbye! **Adele** said she's taking a step back from music after her “Week-ends with Adele” Las Vegas residency ends in November. “I don't have any plans for new music at all,” the “Hello” singer said Sunday in an interview with German outlet ZDF. “I want a big break after this and I think I want to do other creative things, just for a little while.” She added, “I don't like being famous. I love that I get to make music all the time.” Adele began her Vegas residency at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace in November 2022.

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## Sightings

**DEBBIE Bancroft**, **Joey Wölffer**, **Sharon Coplan Hurowitz**, **Kendall Werts** and artist **Kaws** at the Parish Art Museum's Midsummer Dance and Dinner . . . **Liev Schreiber** and **Susan** and **David Rockefeller Jr.** being poured bubbly Aphrodise rosé at the South Fork Natural History Museum and Nature Center's gala . . . ATTORNEY **Arthur Aidala** and **Geraldo Rivera** at Rao's . . . **ROSIE Perez** and her artist hubby, **Eric Haze**, at the Hamptons Fine Art Fair.

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# A graduate — only in NY



**Cindy Adams**

paid star, who still owes me \$7 for losing in gin.

**No, no & no!**

THE principal — and who knows where his remains now remain — said to me: “You cannot graduate. You can’t go to college. And I will see to it that you cannot get your diploma.”

I remain living proof that I could not go on to higher education.

This aged story came about accidentally at dinner with union chief of education Randi Weingarten, and our mutual friend p.r. man Robert

SCHOOLS have changed. In my day it was shoulder bags. Today, it’s shoulder holsters.

I went to high school so long ago — the Dutch hadn’t even haggled for our 15-mile island yet.

I raced through Andrew Jackson High School in Jamaica, Queens.

A four-year course — I did it in three years. My IQ in the high 90s.

But there was Home Ec. Home Economics — you had to sew. I can’t sew. Because I couldn’t make my own graduation dress the principal denied my graduation, my going to college and my diploma.

I’m in the NY Post since 1981. I’m living proof that nothing will ever happen to a person in life if they don’t go to Harvard, Yale, Columbia — where the main subject is learning to hate your fellow human beings.

I thank our gorgeous Gov. **Kathy Hochul**, handsome Mayor **Eric Adams**, Schools Chancellor **David Banks**, the omnipotent **Randi Weingarten** with p.r. exec **Robert Zimmerman** for organizing this.

Plus, my 30-year friend Judge **Judy**, TV’s highest-

my diploma. It’s in my maiden name — Cynthia Heller.

Fotogs came, reporters came, friends came, the governor and the mayor came, Randi and the education chancellor came, as did microphones, press and cameras and flowers.

**Bail on Yale**

A lifetime’s passed. I’ve written a column four days a week in the New York Post since 1981. I’ve written books (none of which were in the school’s library). I have had a TV documentary.

I have lived with kings, queens and shahs, and am now living proof that life doesn’t end if you don’t go to a fancy schmancy Ivy League school.

I’m also on WABC radio every Sunday 2 p.m., and I thank the station’s co-owner **Margo Catsimatidis** for **Arnold** the driver, WABC president **Chad Lopez** and for her car schlepping me to Jamaica.

So the message is: Everyone — anyone — can make it. It’s a question of working — and working — and trying. And not being scared.

And, because I am a widow and an orphan ... just asking **Keith Poole**, editor of the NY Post, to give me



Zimmerman.

Randi couldn’t believe it. She said, “That’s what happened in those days before unions. When principals could make their own rules.”

So yesterday she organized for this still-active school (the original principal’s bones are now elsewhere) to hand me

a raise.

And remember the immortal words of Irving Meyer Cicero, who at election time said: “Listen, education is wonderful. It helps you worry about things all over the world.”

**For me, only in New York, kids, only in New York.**

# Migrants busted in COPA riot

At least 11 illegal migrants are among the 27 people arrested and accused of taking part in the melee during the COPA America final in Miami, The Post can reveal.

Luis Beltran Martinez and Elkin Mayorga, both Colombian nationals, are among the migrants arrested after fans stormed Hard Rock Stadium Sunday during the tournament final between Colombia and Argentina.

They were both charged with battery on a law enforcement officer and trespassing. Mayorga is also facing charges of disorderly intoxication and resisting an officer with violence.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has a hold on their cases and at least nine others with lesser charges, according to arrest records.

ICE issues a hold on a case when they're requesting to take migrants into their custody if authorities intend to release them.

Internal Homeland Security documents obtained by The Post show that Mayorga crossed the southern border illegally on March 24, 2022, in Yuma, Arizona, and was arrested by border agents. Three days later, he was released with a tracking device as part of ICE's Alternatives to Detention program. *Jennie Taer*

# Death leap in Midtown

A 64-year-old man jumped to his death from a luxury Midtown hotel Tuesday morning, cops said.

The man plunged from the 20th floor of The Kimberly Hotel on East 50th Street near Lexington Avenue and landed in the third-floor courtyard, police said.

He was pronounced dead by responding EMS workers around 10 a.m., and the NYPD responded to the scene around 10:20 a.m.

The man was not immediately identified.

The boutique suite hotel is home to 154 spacious luxury suites, most with private balconies, according to its website. *Amanda Woods*

# STAR-MANGLE BANNER ALIBI



**FALL STAR:** Singer Ingrid Andress apologized on Instagram (right) for being “drunk” when she butchered the national anthem at the MLB Home Run Derby on Monday night, saying she was headed to rehab.

## Derby anthem singer ‘drunk’

By JACLYN HENDRICKS

Country singer Ingrid Andress revealed Tuesday she was “drunk” during her much-maligned rendition of the national anthem ahead of Monday’s Home Run Derby and is “checking myself into a facility today to get the help I need.”

“I’m not gonna bulls--t y’all, I was drunk last night,” Andress said in a statement on social media. “I’m checking myself into a facility today to get the help I need. That was not me last night. I apologize to MLB, all the fans, and this country I love so much for that rendition. I’ll let y’all know how rehab is I hear it’s super fun.”

Andress, 32, was widely panned for her rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, with some MLB All-Stars, including Phillies third baseman Alec Bohm, struggling to remain composed.

“Bohm trying not to laugh lmao,” one X user posted on Monday while another wrote Bohm “was having a hard time” keeping a straight face.

The four-time Grammy nominee, known for songs such as “Lady Like” and “More Hearts Than Mine,” drew comparisons to Fergie and Roseanne Barr, who have been mocked for their cringe-worthy renditions of the national anthem in the past.

“May have moved Roseanne Barr down to number two worst anthem!!” one X user exclaimed Monday.

Another posted, “Still better than Fergie. Poor girl couldn’t hear herself.”

Barr screeched her way through “The Star-Spangled Banner” in 1990, when she performed at a San Diego Padres game, capping the infamous moment by grabbing her crotch and spitting on the pitcher’s mound.

Fergie was ripped for her bizarre rendition at the 2018 NBA All-Star Game and later addressed the backlash.

“I’m a risk taker artistically, but clearly this rendition didn’t strike the intended tone,” she said at the time. “I love this country and honestly tried my best.”

*jhendricks@nypost.com*

I’m not gonna bullshit y’all, I was drunk last night. I’m checking myself into a facility today to get the help I need. That was not me last night. I apologize to MLB, all the fans, and this country I love so much for that rendition. I’ll let y’all know how rehab is I hear it’s super fun.

xo, Ingrid

# Chancellor: Small classes not important

New York City Schools Chancellor David Banks claimed Tuesday that parents don’t care if classrooms are overcrowded, as he argued against a billion-dollar-plus state mandate to reduce their size.

Banks testified at a public

hearing in Albany where he asked legislators to adjust the formula used to fund schools around the state so the Big Apple can fund the smaller-class-size mandate.

Shortly before, Banks spoke at a Police Athletic League luncheon in Man-

hattan along with billionaire businessman and Harlem native John Catsimatidis.

He and Catsimatidis drew on their shared experience in the city’s public school system, saying they grew up in “overcrowded” classrooms and turned out fine.

Banks noted that according to the state’s guidelines, classes at Manhattan’s Stuyvesant HS are “overcrowded” — yet “everyone is doing extraordinarily well.”

“And the parents are saying to us, ‘Whatever you do, to meet this law, do not cut

off the enrollment number. Don’t lower the enrollment number. We don’t care that it’s overcrowded,” he said.

“But what is better than class sizes is a high-quality teacher,” Banks said.

*Aneeta Bhole and Vaughn Golden*

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# Stroller spitter gets plea

A stroller-pushing maniac who shoved and spit on strangers in a series of attacks in Manhattan took a plea deal on Monday — and faces five years behind bars.

Sam Mensah, 33, pleaded guilty to assault charges in Manhattan Supreme Court just as he was set to face trial this week for assaulting at least five women on the Upper East Side in 2023, prosecutors said.

Mensah, who had racked up nearly a dozen prior arrests, became a neighborhood staple for months due to his violent, unprovoked attacks — with surveillance images catching him pushing a young boy in a black Bravo stroller during the assaults.

He was nabbed in September 2023 for shoving a grandmother, 64, near East 77th Street and Third Avenue.

Mensah will be remanded until his sentencing on Sept. 5. *Dorian Geiger and Kyle Schnitzer*

Albany Water/Facebook



# HIDE AND 'SNAKE'

## Serpent slithers into capital's water main

By JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

It's enough to make your skin crawl.

An Albany Water crew working on the capital city's pipes stumbled on a shocking clog in the system — a 14-foot boa constrictor that was living inside a water main, local officials say.

The workers were repairing the 48-inch water main at Tivoli Preserve on Friday when they were startled by the slithery intruder, Albany Water said on Facebook.

News of the snake's appearance was but a footnote in the agency's update on the repairs.

"In other news: during mobilization to the main break repair Friday the crews were encountered by a 14ft Boa Constrictor that had come from the woods to the site," the post said.

The city called in the state Department of Environmental Conservation to remove the critter.

Albany Water said the incident shouldn't affect the city's water supply.



**SSSSSURPRISE!** Crews repairing a 48-inch water main at Tivoli Preserve in Albany encountered a 14-foot boa constrictor living inside. It was removed by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation.



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# U. don't know jack

## Poll: Stunning US history illiteracy among undergrads



Emanuel Leutze

**BY GEORGE!** Good luck expecting college students to ID the key figure in “Washington Crossing the Delaware.” Just 31% knew who James Madison was.

### RIKKI SCHLOTT



**A** NEW survey shows college students know just about nothing about their country. When asked about the nation’s history, its leaders, and our governmental structure, American college students categorically failed on all fronts according to a new survey.

Universities might be churning out the next generation of progressive activists, but when it comes to civics they’re straight up illiterate.

The grim survey, called “Losing America’s Memory,” polled more than 3,000 undergraduates and was conducted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni in May and June.

When it came to America’s history, students had massive gaps in their knowledge. Just 31% could identify James Madison as the Father of the Constitution, and only 28% knew that the 13th Amendment freed slaves.

They might be college educated, but they sure are ignorant.

How the government functions

is apparently a big blind spot, too, with 60% of students failing to identify the length of congressional terms. Less than a third (32%) knew that an impeachment trial takes place before the Senate — and that’s “despite living through two recent presidential impeachment trials,” as ACTA points out.

### Pitiful on past & present

They also appear not to know who is in charge, either.

Just 27% could identify Kamala Harris as the president of the Senate (28% incorrectly said it was Joe Biden). Only 37% knew John Roberts is the chief justice of the Supreme Court, and a mere 35% knew Mike Johnson is the speaker of the House.

According to ACTA, the results are “alarming” and reveal a “dangerous level of civic illiteracy” that “should concern all Americans.”

They’re entirely right.

College students might be proficient in gender ideology and critical race theory, but they are flunking on the most important topic of all: responsible citizenship.

We’ve long known that civics education in our K-12 system is absolutely dismal.

According to the Nation’s Report Card, just 22% of American eighth-graders are proficient in civics, and worse yet just 13% are proficient in basic-level US history.

That’s a hugely disappointing failure of our educational system — and one that colleges and universities should be working tirelessly to close.

Instead, they’ve abdicated the responsibility to inculcate even the most basic knowledge required to be an informed and engaged citizen.

“It should not be possible to get a bachelor’s degree without learning the basics of American history and government, but this is the norm,” ACTA Vice President of Policy Bradley Jackson said in a statement about the survey. “[Colleges] must lead the way toward a renewal of civic education, rather than aggravating polarization and flattening our discourse with illiberal ideology.”

Between all the core curriculum requirements and new student orientations that colleges foist upon their students, surely there should also be room to ensure that kids are ready to engage in our democratic process once they leave campus gates.

But colleges seem more intent on instilling woke ideology than civic literacy — creating a graduating class filled with more agitated activists than informed citizens.

### Not-so-bright future

This next generation of students is living through a tense moment in the American story, between mass rioting, historical polarization, and now even assassination attempts.

They should be more informed and engaged than ever. History is being written before their eyes. Their votes could determine the future of their nation. How in the world, then, are they so woefully uninformed?

Students in higher education are supposed to be the most educated of our populace. If even our degree-holding citizens are failing on such a fundamental level, our future is dim.

We should be demanding better of our colleges and universities. It’s time to overhaul their priorities.

Civic literacy should be the absolute minimum requirement of a college education. Instead, it’s a massive blind spot.

## Fani beau divorce is official

Ousted Trump prosecutor Nathan Wade has finalized his “difficult divorce” from his wife following his affair scandal with Georgia District Attorney Fani Willis, according to his ex-wife’s lawyers.

Wade and wife of 26 years, Joycelyn Wade, settled their Cobb County, Georgia divorce case Monday, court records show and Joycelyn’s lawyers confirmed to The Post.

“The Wade’s divorce is indeed finalized,” said Stephanie Weil, Joycelyn’s attorney. “Divorce is a very painful process even under ordinary circumstances, but Joycelyn endured a particularly difficult divorce by any measure.”

The settlement terms were not immediately made public in court records.

“Despite the cacophony of false accusations levied by her former husband and those with political agendas, Joycelyn Wade always remained above the fray displaying dignity and grace,” Weil said. “In that spirit, we will not be commenting on the particulars of the divorce.”

“Our team was privileged to walk alongside Joycelyn on this challenging journey and we know her future will be full of the happiness she so richly deserves,” the lawyer added.

Priscilla DeGregory

## 2 hikers die in Utah park

A Wisconsin restaurant owner and his daughter died when they became lost during a scorching hike in a Utah park last week.

Albino Herrera Espinoza, 52, and Beatriz Herrera, 23, were trekking in Canyonlands National Park on Friday when they lost their way and ran out of water, according to the San Juan County Sheriff’s Office.

The 8.1-mile Syncline Loop they hiked on is described by the National Park Service as the most challenging trail in the park’s Island in the Sky district.

Temperatures there soared above 100 degrees on Friday. Olivia Land

# Olympian wears 'spray-on' shoes

By BROOKE STEINBERG

Hellen Obiri, the Kenyan distance runner and two-time Olympic silver medalist, will make history at the 2024 Paris Olympics — thanks to her shoes.

Her footwear, from sportswear company On, is sprayed together. The Cloudbloom Strike LS is created from a single continuous filament — in just three minutes.

The robot arm holds the sole up to a sprayer as the arm rotates the shoe and releases thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) — a material with characteristics of both plastic and rubber — spiraling the stream as a helix. It lands as a single continuous string and bonds to the sole and itself without any glue.

Next, the robot arm will pass the shoe along to another robot that sprays it with color. That cures in just three minutes, and then the shoes are immediately ready for wearing.

## How's it made?

The technology is revolutionary because the shoe's upper is the hardest part to produce. While the fluffy outsoles are made in a mold, the upper deals with all the intricacies of traditional garment production such as stitching, glue, fabrics and tension wires. "Modern shoemaking is not so modern," Ilmarin Heitz, senior director of footwear at On, told The New York Times. "It's just using 2D patterns . . . and we're trying to wrap them around a very complex 3D shape."

He added that the material used in LightSpray technology is so form-fitting that athletes often opt to wear it without socks.

Now, the shoes are going to get their world debut at the Olympics in Paris — though Obiri was initially hesitant.

"The first time I saw the shoes, I said, 'No,'" Obiri told the Times. "I can't run with these."

"In the changing room, even my colleagues were saying, 'It's a



# 'FIRST' FOR RUNNER



**BIG STEP:** Kenyan distance runner Hellen Obiri will race in the upcoming Paris Olympics wearing the Cloudbloom Strike LS, a synthetic shoe that's sprayed on and hardens (above)

joke," she added. "They were saying, 'You can't use these shoes for a marathon.'"

She decided to try wearing them in practice and eventually the Boston Marathon in April — which she won.

"She wouldn't give them back," quipped Nils Altrogge, the director of innovation, technology and research for On.

"When you trust the shoes, you have that mentality, like, 'I'm going to run fast,'" Obiri shared.

On claims that the technology doesn't just decrease production

time — it also reduces 75% of the carbon footprint of the upper production.

"One of the visions was, imagine if you go to a race, you have one of these robots with you, and on race day if it's wet or dry, the robot sprays you a perfect shoe for the moment," Heitz explained. "And at the end of the race you take it off, recycle it and go to the next race."

Oddly enough, the idea for this kind of production came four years ago on Halloween from a senior member of On's innovation

team, Johannes Voelchert.

Voelchert saw a video of someone who squeezed a thin filament of hot glue into a fluff of spider web and wondered if a shoe could be made the same way.

Heitz was all for it.

"My brief was, 'You go wild, go crazy, and I pay.'"

The Cloudbloom Strike LS was the debut of LightSpray technology. It was first offered for a limited time in April, but it will be available again this fall for \$330 — just in time for the New York City Marathon on Sunday, Nov. 3.



DE'NEIL TIMBERLAKE

"A beautiful soul."

## Tragic Bx. boy a 'sweet child'

A 5-year-old boy who died after he was found foaming at the mouth in his family's Bronx apartment was the youngest of five being raised by their struggling dad who was facing eviction, his family told The Post.

De'Neil Timberlake, described by his grandfather as "a beautiful soul," was pronounced dead at St. Barnabas Hospital shortly after his father found him unconscious inside the apartment in Belmont around 3:30 am on Sunday, authorities said.

"He was a sweet child," grieving grandfather Joseph James said. "He was sweet as hell. He didn't cause any trouble. I'm broken-hearted right now."

"He liked playing with his brothers and sisters. He liked running, he liked jumping," James said. "He liked to eat french fries and hotdogs. He loved to give hugs and he loved to smile."

He defended De'Neil's father, who was "doing his best" with his children.

"The father is not a bad person," James said. "He lives here by himself with them. He takes care of three kids by himself. Most fathers don't want to care for one. It's a tragedy. An accidental tragedy."

"They make my grandson's father look like a monster. It's just wrong."

No charges have been filed in the case.

James told The Post that his grandson vomited while sleeping on his back and choked to death.

Georgett Roberts and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

## IS claims deadly mosque blitz Soccer gang goons

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for an attack at a Shi'ite Muslim mosque in Oman, the group said on Tuesday, which left at least nine people dead, including three attackers, a rare security breach in the oil-producing Gulf state.

The attack on Monday, which is unusual in the

wealthy, Sunni Muslim-dominated Gulf states, raises fears the Islamic State group may be trying to gain a foothold in new territory.

"Three suicide attackers from the Islamic State attacked last night a gathering of Shi'ite [Muslims] while they were practicing their annual rituals at a

temple in the Wadi al-Kabir district in the capital," according to group's statement, which cited three security sources.

The Islamic State fighters fired on Shi'ite worshippers and exchanged gunfire with Omani security forces until morning, the statement added.

Police in Greece say suspected members of a gang charged with extortion, bombings, arson attacks and multiple assaults have been linked to soccer-related violence in Athens.

Maj. Gen. Fotis Douitsis, head of the police's criminal investigations in greater Athens, said Tuesday that 17 suspected members of the

gang were arrested in raids across the capital on Sunday.

Police seized automatic weapons, hand guns, hand grenades, swords, knives, brass knuckles and 248,090 euros (\$270,000) in cash.

"What is alarming is that members of the criminal organization participated in [violent] incidents involving soccer fans," Douitsis said. AP

Reuters

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# NYC reemploying conditions for aid

## Ending COV-era job pause

By **HALEY BROWN**

The Adams administration this month will again begin requiring low-income residents to show they are trying to get work if they want to receive an extra cash supplement, ending a COVID-era pause in the taxpayer-funded multibillion-dollar program.

More than 552,000 New Yorkers who receive the cash benefit will be subject to the mandatory work requirements again starting July 28.

The reinstatement comes as the city deals with an unprecedented number of applications for the assistance. In February, the Department of Social Services

reported a more than 25% increase in applications for cash assistance since Adams took office in 2022.

The Adams administration budgeted a staggering \$2.46 billion in federal, state and city funds to cover the ballooning program, city records show. The city budgeted \$1.99 billion during the fiscal year that ended June 30 and \$1.57 billion in fiscal 2022.

The money, given out in varying amounts based on household size, is intended to be used for necessities such as clothing, utilities and food.

A single adult can receive \$183 a month, while a

family of three, can receive \$389 monthly, Gothamist said.

According to a rep for the DSS, the Big Apple avoided reinstating the work requirements right after the pandemic because “low-income New Yorkers were still reeling from its devastating economic impact.”

But Monday, in an email to community partners, the DSS said the work requirements will be reinstated. Once a person is sanctioned for failing to meet the work requirements, they could also lose other social services benefits, such as food stamps or housing subsidies, according to the notice from DSS.

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# Minn. gun age law is tossed

A federal appeals court Tuesday ruled a Minnesota law requiring a person to be at least 21 years old before obtaining a permit to carry a handgun in public for self-defense is unconstitutional.

The St. Louis-based 8th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with gun rights groups in finding the state's ban violated the rights of 18- to 20-year-olds under the Constitution's Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

Judge Duane Benton, writing for a panel of three jurists all appointed by Republican presidents, held that under recent US Supreme Court rulings that have expanded gun rights, the state's 2003 law could not be deemed valid.

"Importantly, the Second Amendment's plain text does not have an age limit," he wrote.

The panel upheld a lower-court judge's ruling last year in favor of the Second Amendment Foundation, the Firearms Policy Coalition and the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, gun rights groups which had sued alongside some of their members.

Gun rights groups have filed similar lawsuits challenging age-based restrictions on carrying firearms in other states. *Reuters*

# Ukr. village captured

The chief of Russia's general staff, Valery Gerasimov, thanked Russian forces Tuesday for capturing the village of Urozhaine in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, Russia's Defense Ministry said.

Russian forces have captured a string of villages since seizing the strategic city of Avdiivka in Donetsk region in February. The region is the focal point of Russia's slow advance through eastern Ukraine along the 600-mile front.

Unofficial Ukrainian bloggers acknowledged that Ukrainian forces had relinquished control of Urozhaine. *Reuters*

# Shark swims by lifeguard, shuts LI beach



# 'JAWS' FOR ALARM

**'FIN & BEAR IT':** A 7-foot shark's fin surfaced just a few feet from a lifeguard's surfboard as he paddled about 30 yards from the shore of Lido Beach on Monday. The sighting led to an hour-long closing.



By MATT TROUTMAN

It was a "Jaws"-dropping encounter.

A 7-foot shark swam uncomfortably close to a Long Island lifeguard paddling just off the shore of Lido Beach on Monday afternoon, forcing the temporary closure of the sandy stretch, local authorities say.

The lifeguard remained calm as a shark's signature fin surfaced a few feet from his board about 30 yards from shore, said Hempstead Town Supervisor Don Clavin.

The toothy beast then swam past the guard without incident, but the 5 p.m. sighting still prompted Lido lifeguards to whistle bathers in from the water and close the beach for roughly an hour.

## 'Latest sighting'

"It was very, very orderly," Clavin said.

Lido Beach reopened Monday evening and remained open Tuesday.

The shark sighting was only the

latest in New York City-area waters this summer.

Two separate sightings off the Rockaways in Queens prompted temporary beach closures last week, and spotters along Long Island eyed sharks into this week.

"We anticipated additional sightings taking place," Clavin said. "When it happens, our lifeguards are trained."

Beyond the surfing lifeguard, Hempstead has jet ski-riding shark-patrollers, spotters on the shore and drones in the air, Clavin said.

The Hempstead area has seen more shark sightings in the past three years than the entire decade before — a spike Clavin attributes to warmer, cleaner water drawing in baitfish that are tasty morsels for hungry sharks.

Baitfish happen to draw sharks in the local beaches' wading areas, where swimmers are cooling off from hot summer days, he said.

"So far, knock on wood, it's paying off," he said of new shark-spotting measures. "The worst thing that people have to worry about is a sunburn."

# Own Karen's pad for 849G Vid-iot busted in tot death

Karen Read has placed her "meticulously maintained" four-bedroom, three-bathroom home in Mansfield, Mass., on the market two weeks after her murder trial ended with a hung jury.

Read, who was accused of mowing down her Boston cop boyfriend John O'Keefe in 2022, listed the two-story colonial-style house for \$849,900.

"Ms. Read has not been living in Mansfield since last year and now wishes for another family to enjoy

the property she spent many years enhancing," Read's real-estate agent Richard Rocci of RE/Max Platinum, told Boston.com.

Read, 44, and her murder investigation gained a cult following, with supporters believing she had been framed, as her lawyers claimed. Prosecutors had claimed she drunkenly — but intentionally — ran over O'Keefe after she dropped him off at his friend's home and then left him out in a snowstorm to die. *Allie Griffin*

An Arizona dad charged with murder for leaving his 2-year-old daughter in a sweltering car was too busy playing games on PlayStation for more than three hours while the toddler died, new reports reveal.

Christopher Scholtes, a 37-year-old father of three, claimed he only left little Parker Scholtes sleeping inside his 2023 Acura MDX for 30 minutes after returning home from shopping because he didn't want to wake her.

But newly released court records show he fiddled with video games for more than three hours — until his horrified doctor wife came home and found the girl dead inside his car, KPLC-TV News reported.

"I told you to stop leaving them in the car," Erika Scholtes, an anesthesiologist, scolded her husband in text messages after the July 9 tragedy, the outlet reported.

"How many times have I told you?" *Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*



Cameron Brink was No. 2 in this year's WNBA draft behind Caitlin Clark, but the 22-year-old LA Sparks rookie, who at 6-foot-3, is quickly becoming the league's leading fashion star, swishing and dishing in Bulgari and Versace on the cover of *Flaunt*. "You get the sleep you can," she says of her whirlwind year. "I think you just take advantage of the momentum that's around the sport right now."

## LA's hoop dreamgirl

# MYSTERY BANGKOK SLAYINGS

## 6 poisoned in hotel

By EMILY CRANE

Six people, including two American-Vietnamese and four Vietnamese nationals, were found dead and foaming at the mouth in a luxury hotel in Thailand on Tuesday in what cops are investigating as deliberate poisoning.

Local news outlet Khaosod English reported that cops are looking at whether possible "cult activities" or business-related issues could be to blame for the mysterious deaths after the bodies were discovered at the five-star Grand Hyatt Erawan in Bangkok just after 5:30 p.m.

Maj. Gen. Theeradet Thum-suthee, investigative commander of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, confirmed they were likely poisoned and appeared to have consumed coffee and tea in the room.

The guests had checked in to different rooms over the weekend, but their bodies were found in one room, with no signs of any struggle, Bangkok Police Chief Lt. Gen. Thiti Sangsawang said.

"This was not self-harm, but someone caused the deaths," Thiti said, adding that police were currently looking for a seventh person, also a Vietnamese na-

tional, connected to the group.

A hotel maid made the grim discovery after the three men and three women failed to check out on time.

Their luggage was found packed and ready to go by the door, the Thiti said.

Investigators are testing several drinks that were found inside the room after traces of "suspicious substances" were spotted floating in the cups and glasses.

Food that had been ordered via room service hadn't been touched, Thiti noted.

Two of the guests — Chong Sherine, 56, and Dang Hung Van, 55 — both had American citizenship, the Bangkok Post reported. The four others were identified as Nguyen Thi Phuong Lan, 47; Pham Hong Thanh, 49; Tran Dinh Phu, 37; and Nguyen Thi Phuong, 46.

The relationship between the dead isn't known.

"We are tracing every step since they got off the plane," Thiti said.

Another person, who is believed to be a tour guide, was reportedly taken in for questioning by cops in the aftermath, although it wasn't clear if they were a suspect.

With Wires



FLAUNT

# Fiery meteor over NY

A meteor soared over the Statue of Liberty before disintegrating about 30 miles above Midtown on Tuesday morning, according to NASA.

The space rock passed through the atmosphere over the Big Apple around 11:15 a.m. — the same time New Yorkers reported seeing a flash of fire streak across the sky and felt the ground lightly shaking beneath their feet.

Twenty people across New York, New Jersey and Connecticut reported seeing the fireball — with one person saying it was illuminated green, yellow and white.

The speeding spectacle lasted about 30 seconds before fragmenting into three pieces, an eyewitness wrote to the American Meteor Society.

NASA's Meteor Watch estimates that the "daylight fireball" was first spotted about 40 miles above New York Harbor's Upper Bay — where Lady Liberty stands.

Moving at a rate of 34,000 miles per hour, "the meteor descended at a steep angle of just 18 degrees from vertical," NASA posted on Facebook. No meteorites — or debris from outer space that hits the Earth's surface — were produced by the event. *Katherine Donlevy*

## Knifeman slain at RNC

MILWAUKEE — A knife-wielding homeless man who allegedly "heard voices" was shot dead outside the Republican National Convention Tuesday — marking the second fatality at a GOP event in days.

A witness at the scene told The Post that the man was swinging two steak knives at police about five blocks away from the GOP event's headquarters — just two hours before the nation's leading party members were slated to take the stage.

Several eyewitnesses said the victim was "shot in the back" while he was trying to run away from security.

*Amy Sikma and Caitlin Doornbos*

# Unfit To Probe

## Don't trust the FBI to investigate Secret Service

**P**RESIDENT Biden on Sunday announced an FBI investigation into the Secret Service's astounding failure to protect Donald Trump at the rally in Butler, Pa., promising the probe would be "thorough and swift."

But it's folly to trust a federal law enforcement agency to obliterate interagency niceties by exposing all the foibles and flubs of fellow G-men.

Instead, we'll likely see a vintage DC investigation along these lines: Please tell us if you screwed up. Also, is there someone else we can blame?

Congress is jumping on the Secret Service's Butler debacle, asserting its right to investigate.

House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer has requested Secret Service chief Kimberly Cheatle to "preserve all documents" tied to the Trump shooting, and Cheatle could take a high-profile hammering before the committee next week.

Meanwhile, Rep. Lance Gooden (R-Texas), citing a lack of "faith in the current FBI leadership," joined Rep. Jim Banks (R-In.) to call for a select House committee, while Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.) announced plans for a bipartisan Senate investigation.

Yet the White House is telling Americans to blindly trust an agency whose acronym is now widely presumed to stand for Following Biden's Instructions.

This is the same FBI that kowtowed when Team Biden wanted parents who protested school closures and mask mandates at school board meetings to be categorized as terrorist threats. An FBI analysis in 2021 recommended targeting conservative Catholics — and claimed the Bureau could "distinguish the bad Catholics from the good ones" based on their "preference for the Traditional Latin Mass and pre-Vatican teachings."

The agency knew early on that Hunter Biden's laptop was bona fide, but did nothing to debunk the claims by CIA officials and others that it was Russian disinformation prior to the 2020 election. FBI officials also browbeat Twitter and other social media companies to suppress The Post's bombshell laptop revelations.



Obtained by NY Post

**Bloody aftermath: Law enforcement agents killed Trump's would-be assassin, but critics question the FBI's inquiry into the security breach.**

Will the FBI treat the Secret Service like it did Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign? The agency shrugged off the destruction of tens of thousands of subpoenaed emails tied to her breach of federal classified data laws.

Actually, the Secret Service has already been caught destroying far more evidence.

In January 2021, a Secret Service sweep missed a pipe bomb planted outside the Democratic National Committee headquarters shortly before Kamala Harris, then the Vice President-elect, arrived there.

Months later, the agency admitted it had erased the cellphone records of dozens of officials and agents — after they were requested by the department's inspector general.

No Secret Service official faced any penalty for that. Is the routine destruction of self-incriminating evidence a perk of federal law enforcement?

Biden declared on Sunday, "We don't yet have any information about the motive of the shooter ... Let the FBI do their job."

Like the job done by the FBI after the 2016 Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, perhaps? Police repeatedly spoke with shooter Omar Mateen via cellphone as he was killing 49 people while pledging allegiance to the Islamic State. But the FBI initially

expunged the comments from the phone transcripts, enabling President Barack Obama to falsely portray the attack as having been spurred by anti-gay bias.

More recently, the FBI fought to suppress the crazed writings of Audrey Hale, the transgender mass killer who attacked the Covenant Christian School in Nashville last year. One leaked excerpt purportedly revealed that Hale loathed the children for their "white privilege."

Perhaps the best recent example of an independent Biden administration "investigation" is Attorney General Merrick Garland's willingness to risk jail rather than reveal the audiotape of his boss' interview with Special Counsel Robert Hur. Team Biden will stonewall a congressional subpoena for clearly political reasons — what might they suppress regarding the assassination attempt on Trump?

If Biden's rhetoric dubbing Trump a neo-Nazi influenced Secret Service decisions on the level of protection the Republican deserved, for example, don't expect the FBI to reveal it.

So congressional investigations and whistleblower leaks are the best chance to get at the truth of the matter.

Biden said Sunday that "nothing is more important than [unity] right now."

But a façade of unity is no substitute for truth.

# FAST TAKES

## Conservative: Hey, Jack Smith — You're Fired!

Monday, "special counsel Jack Smith heard the line Donald Trump made famous in 'The Apprentice': You're fired!" quips The Wall Street Journal's William McGurn. The line was from federal judge Aileen Cannon, as she dismissed Smith's classified-documents case against Trump. Cannon ruled that no statute authorizes Smith's appointment, nor was he confirmed by the Senate. As Justice Clarence Thomas has noted, this is no "trifling technicality." The need for a statute and for the Senate's "advice and consent" stems from the Constitution's Appointments Clause, a reaction to the Founders' experience with the British monarchy. Cannon's dismissal of the case, notes McGurn, is a "win" for Trump. But if she and Thomas are right, "it's a bigger victory for the Constitution, the American people and all future presidents."

## From the left: Welcome to a 'New Political Era'

After "the attempted assassination of Donald Trump, a series of reversals may mark the beginning of a new political era," marvels Matt Taibbi at Racket News. The White House OK'd Secret Service protection for RFK Jr., essentially admitting it had previously been denied "for political reasons" or "spite." MSNBC pulled "Morning Joe," an admission the show's "format only holds up under something less than maximum scrutiny." Meta lifted restrictions of Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts. Dems' lawfare games are failing. And Axios quoted a "senior House Democrat" saying, "We've all resigned ourselves to a second Trump presidency." All this might signal the "collapse" of the notion Trump is such an "existential" threat he can't be treated as any other politician. "We appear headed for a new world."

## Election watch: GOP Gets Behind Trump's No. 2

"Donald Trump once privately told associates that ... the field of possible [veeps] did not include a no-brainer," i.e. "a candidate whose appeal was so strong, so obvious, and so broad that he or she would have been a consensus pick," recalls Byron York at the Washington Examiner. On Monday, Trump "announced his choice: Sen. J.D. Vance." Some GOPers would've preferred someone with more "executive experience." Yet "everybody supports Trump," so "now everybody supports Vance, too." And "Vance's Appalachian background and Marine experience" will benefit Trump, who believes he'd "help the ticket win the crucial states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin." If Vance helps capture even one state, he'll "very likely be the next vice president of the United States."

## Liberal: Vance Gives Dems a Shot

"A fully functional Democratic campaign might be able to make some hay" of Trump's VP pick Sen. J.D. Vance, muses Nate Silver at the Silver Bulletin. They might treat him "as a cipher about whom little is known but who has been endorsed by right-wing groups like the authors of Project 2025." They "had success in running against these sorts of candidates in 2022." "The question is whether the Democratic campaign is firing on anything resembling all cylinders right now," given that it's "spending much of its time in a defensive posture stage-managing Biden's appearances and fending off the intraparty revolt against him." Yet another reason "a new Democratic ticket, with more ideological balance than the Republican one, could perhaps offer a fresher spin."



J.D. Vance

## From the right: Don's 'Triply Smart' Veep Pick

"A new bogeyman has emerged in US politics": "James David 'JD' Vance," snarks Daniel McCarthy at Spiked. Vance, 39 and now Donald Trump's running mate, "is only half Trump's age" and poised to be "more Trumpian than Trump — more of a populist, more right-wing and more disciplined and effective." He's "not a dull 'movement' man" and is deeply involved in "questions of the role of religion, and particularly the Catholic Church, in public life." Vance has "attracted the most attention," of course, as a "critic of US involvement in the war between Russia and Ukraine." But he's "a triply smart pick for vice-president," because he's "young, populist and gives the Trump movement a future." — *Compiled by The Post Editorial Board*

# Joe's Self-Damage Tour

President Biden's damage-control tour did yet *more* damage Monday, as his Lester Holt interview went even worse than the one with George Stephanopoulos.

Joe couldn't even bring himself to apologize for saying Dems should put Donald Trump in a "bullseye," instead lamely insisting "I didn't say crosshairs." Cold comfort after an assassin's bullet nearly felled Trump.

Rather than bring down the heat, he offered more "end of democracy" in a mangled rush of words: "We have to stop the whole notion that there are certain things that are contrary to our democracy that we're for. The idea of saying that you, that I didn't win the election when every court in the land . . . including the conservative Supreme Court said we won, the idea of having a loyalty pledge from all of the folks."

Behind the stumbles, he's repeating the canard that Trump's an aspirant dictator.

Whatever the question, Biden was a snappish and cranky old man with nothing to say beyond a litany of familiar complaints.

He scolded Holt again and again for asking (gentle!) questions. Pushed on his disastrous debate performance, Joe said he didn't "plan" to repeat it, as if he *had* planned the

first one.

Then he fired off a sulky "Lester, look, why don't you guys ever talk about the 18, the 28 lies [Trump] told? Where are you on this? Why didn't the press ever talk about that?"

When Holt mildly noted the media *have* hit Trump over his lies, Biden got even more childish: "No you haven't! No you haven't!" Pathetic in anyone, let alone a sitting president. Another answer: "What's up with you guys? C'mon, man."

Petulance wasn't the only failure on full display; so was Biden's shaky grasp on reality: Special counsel Robert Hur's investigation of his document crimes had "concluded I didn't do a damn thing wrong," he asserted — when in fact Hur found Biden did *plenty* wrong, but wasn't worth prosecuting because of his obvious senility.

Holt was firm but friendly; Biden's just too far gone to take advantage of any shot at redemption. Blame his cognitive decline — but also the fact that he has nothing of substance to say on any real issues, which is why he can't drop the "democracy" noise.

As ugly as this media tour has been so far, Americans can be grateful: It's letting them finally, truly see Biden for what he is.

# Expel Sen. 'Gold Bars' Now

They won't get fooled again. Jurors found Bob "Gold Bars" Menendez guilty on all 18 counts Tuesday.

He skated in his last corruption trial, in 2017 — with jurors deadlocked, triggering a mistrial. This time, justice was served.

What arrogance: Menendez got away with his sleaze — then went right back to rolling in it. His actions were just helping constituents, "exactly what we want our elected officials to do," insisted his lawyer, Adam Fee.

No: Constituents don't include the Qatari and Egyptian governments. And they don't reward you with a Mercedes, no-show jobs and high six figures in cash and gold bars.

Prosecutors laid out damning evidence of a mind-blowing list of favors that bribing Menendez bought, such as using his Senate heft to help Egypt win millions in US aid. "What else can the love of my life do for you?" his

wife Nadine asked an Egyptian official.

Jurors convicted him on 16 felony counts, including fraud, bribery, extortion, obstructing justice and acting as an illegal foreign agent. His sentence could total over 200 years; pray it's a good chunk of that.

Menendez's vast corruption deserves consequences to match. And pols who abuse the public trust earn even higher sanctions.

Bob is defying widespread calls to resign; he won't even call off his bid for reelection as an independent (which could throw the race to the Republican). Many think he's angling for one more bribe: a presidential pardon right after Election Day.

The Senate should act *now* to make him the first senator expelled in more than a century. Don't wait on the Ethics Committee: Strip him of every possible chance to abuse his office for even one more day.

# Success Scholars Succeed Again

More proof that charter network Success Academy's model doesn't just work, it blows the competition out of the water: In this year's Regents exams, Success' *middle* schoolers beat the 2023 results of nearly 200,000 regular public *high* schoolers by more than 30%.

How? Most regular public schools keep hiding their own incompetence by lowering the bar. Success believes kids can meet high standards, starts challenging them early and gives them the tools and support to be college-ready by graduation.

Now the state's education "leaders" are making Regents exams optional — again giving up on teaching kids, even as they pretend that standardized tests are some-

how unfair to minority students.

The outcomes for the kids at Success pour cold water on that argument: Of the 2,400 Success scholars who sat for the Regents in June, 56% were black, 31% Hispanic and 74% economically disadvantaged — yet *they* passed with flying colors.

Success' model isn't for every student — but it's a winner for knowledge-hungry kids who, *without* the chance at a charter, would be stuck in poorly run neighborhood schools from kindergarten on — and so never encouraged and supported to bloom. Instead, they're thriving at Success.

If Gov. Hochul and Mayor Adams still need a sign they should be pushing *hard* for new charters, here's a big, flashing one.

# A Near-Assassination: Secret Service on the Hook

**THE ISSUE:** The Secret Service's failure to prevent the sniper attack on former President Donald Trump.



Donald Trump

•The roof where the shooter was lying should have been under the direct observation of the Secret Service ("Gunner's easy view to a kill," July 16).

They should have had at least two or three agents on the highest roof in that warehouse area. There, they would have seen the sniper and killed him before he was able to fire.

The roof was within 150 yards of the stage former President Donald Trump was speaking from and had an unobstructed line of sight. No one should have been on a roof that had a clear view within 1,500 yards.

If the area cannot be secured from snipers, there should be bullet-proof glass around the stage or podium. This is not rocket science.

**Wayne Johnson**  
Alexandria, Va.

Apparently, he was spotted by spectators before the shots rang out, yet agents didn't act.

**Matt Engel**  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

•There is a lot of finger-pointing between the Secret Service and the FBI regarding Trump's attempted assassination.

Right now, that should sit on the back burner.

What should be applauded are the bravery and quickness of the Secret Service agents who literally covered President Trump with their own bodies, knowing they could be shot. Save the bashing for a bit and praise the courage of the Secret Service.

**Lorraine Fittipaldi**  
Apollo Beach, Fla.

•Why, in this day and age of modern technology, didn't the Secret Service have drones checking the perimeter?

**Patricia Venalek**  
Macomb, Mich.

•Why didn't the Secret Service secure the rooftops of the few small buildings overlooking the rally site?

Why did they fire on the assailant only after he had shot Trump and others at the rally, despite being advised minutes previously by bystanders that a man with a rifle

was crawling across a rooftop overlooking the venue? Is the Secret Service that incompetent?

It's almost as if the agency hierarchy, or the counter-assault teams employed by them at this venue, were attempting to facilitate the assassination they were ostensibly trying to prevent.

**Richard Sautner**  
Ridgewood, NJ

•It is obvious to everyone that the Secret Service completely dropped the ball by not having someone covering the roof. But rest assured, we'll see few firings because the Biden administration will likely refuse to fire DEI appointments.

**Jake McNicholas**  
Whitestone

•Florida Rep. Mike Waltz has accused the Secret Service of refusing to provide requested additional protection for Trump.

The Secret Service then blamed local police for failing to secure an area outside the agents' perimeter of responsibility. This sounds like an admission.

The head of the Secret Service should resign.

**Jorge Sierra**  
The Bronx

•The Secret Service did a poor job of getting Trump into the emergency vehicle.

It seems they surrounded him with all agents being 6 feet or less, while Trump is 6 feet 4 inches. If you look at the video, it shows his head above theirs and available for another clear shot.

**Michael Shapiro**  
Boca Raton, Fla.

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# Jews' Rising Doubts About the Dems

It takes a lot to get Jews to shun Democratic candidates, but Joe Biden might've managed it. And not only because Jews, like everyone else, worry about Biden's fitness for office for another four years.

The ducks were already lined up for a shift long before his disastrous debate debacle. Back in February, a Siena poll found Biden trailing Donald Trump among New York Jews, 53% to 44%.

Yes, *New York Jews supported Trump over Biden* — a shocking turnaround for this reliably Dem demographic. Biden was behind again in May, too: 48% to 44%. Siena's June poll put the prez back on top, 52% to 46%, but that's the best he's done over the past half year.

And remember: For the past century, Jews have generally given Democrats running for president 70% of their votes or more. Lyndon Johnson and Franklin Roosevelt got 90%. Indeed, not since Jimmy Carter have Jewish voters lent less than 57% support to the Dem wannabe.

In 2020, Biden himself won over 68% of Jewish voters — so even a drop to 50% or 55% in November would be telling. And potentially consequential: Despite Jews' small numbers overall, Commentary's John Podhoretz estimates their votes could throw swing-state Pennsylvania to Trump.

True, Siena's small sample size means a large margin of error, and the poll only looked at New York's Jews; other polls suggest Biden may do better nationally. But New York is home to more than a quarter of America's Jewish population, and the fall-off here is nothing short of stunning. It can't all be sampling error.

Already Jews have come out to eliminate one antisemitic Democrat, Rep. Jamaal Bowman (NY), and are targeting another, Rep. Cori



**ADAM BRODSKY**

Israel protests that feature barbs and even violence aimed at Jews — and by Biden saying protesters “have a point.” They see college administrators not just refusing to condemn antisemitism but at times even engaging in it. And they see elite schools, and Dems like Biden, pushing the DEI agenda that turns students into antisemites.

Jews have watched as Democratic prosecutors like Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg refuse to charge protesters who intimidate and physically attack them.

They see Democratic members of The Squad absurdly accusing Israel of genocide and demanding Biden stop it from pursuing the perpetrators of Oct. 7. And they see

**For the first time . . . many Jews feel nervous about America as a refuge.**

Bush (Mo.), who trails the challenger in her upcoming Democratic primary by 23 percentage points.

What's sparking the change? Oct. 7 — and its aftermath. That was the worst day for Jews since the Holocaust. But what happened since then has opened their eyes to the left's alarming antisemitism and hatred of Israel, which has been growing — and increasingly tolerated — among Dems.

At the 2012 Democratic convention, delegates booed at having their platform include language recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Then came the rise of the left's DEI, anti-racism and settler colonialism ideologies, which paint Jews as oppressors and colonizers.

Today, just 35% of Democrats sympathize more with Israelis than Palestinians, Gallup reported, compared to a whopping 80% of Republicans who side with Israelis.

For the first time in their lives, many Jews feel nervous about America as a refuge. A new survey by New York Solidarity Network found 40% of Empire State Jews believe the United States is no longer a safe haven for them. They're alarmed by endless anti-

their president doing little to counter it all, knowing he'd raise holy hell if, say, blacks or the trans community were targeted.

On top of all that, Jews fret over Biden's hostility toward Israel. Yes, his rhetoric immediately after Oct. 7 — when he vowed to stand with the Jewish state — couldn't have been more encouraging. Yet he soon began blasting Israel for what he (falsely) called “indiscriminate bombing” and “over-the-top” military action in Gaza.

He demands a cease-fire there and has withheld weapons for Israel. He seeks to reward Hamas' atrocities with the creation of a Palestinian state that can be used as staging ground for more terror attacks. Biden also reportedly blocked Israel from taking out Hezbollah at the war's start, and instructed it not to respond to Iran's massive missile-and-drone attack.

He might just be seeking to pander to his anti-Israel base. But it's only more reason for Jews to sour on him and his party.

If Biden remains the Democratic nominee in November, we'll find out just how steep a price Jews will make him pay for all that.

# WATCH WHAT HE DOES

## Judging Trump's foreign policy

**P**RESIDENT Biden's foreign-policy failures have set the world on fire — and the conflagration is now the backdrop as Republicans present their very different vision.

Biden has invited multiple conflicts by his projection of American weakness, his open border welcoming drugs and terrorists, an energy policy that attacks American-made resources but promotes our enemies' products and a defense-industrial base unprepared for war against China (let alone its wider axis).

In contrast, the GOP's party platform reflects a traditionally conservative if not hawkish national security approach: secure borders, a doctrine of “peace through strength” and a “bigger, better, and stronger” military.

Republicans promise to unleash American energy, counter China, defeat terrorism, stand with Israel and embrace modern military objectives like missile defense, AI and space dominance. They even pledge to deport foreign pro-Hamas radicals from college campuses.

The agenda is no surprise, of course, since it reflects the way Donald Trump largely governed for four years — often to the chagrin of his party's neo-isolationists.

But it is policy outcomes where Trump and Biden most radically differ. Where Trump worked to build a wall along the southern border and dramatically lowered illegal entries, Biden's reversals of Trump policies led to millions of illegal crossings — including thousands from countries like China, Russia and Iran, and at least hundreds more linked to ISIS.

Trump worked with Congress to increase defense spending. Biden tried to cut it. Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan was a double national-security nightmare — breathing new life into Al Qaeda and ISIS-K, while emboldening America's top state adversaries to go on offense, starting with Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Trump pushed NATO to increase its defense spending and unhook from Russian energy. Biden lifted sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, embraced anti-American energy policies, gave Vladimir Putin a five-year extension on a

**RICHARD GOLDBERG**

flawed nuclear-weapons treaty and put Moscow in charge of brokering a new Iran deal.

Trump left the White House exerting maximum pressure on Iran and extending maximum support to Israel, a strategy that yielded historic peace agreements. Biden's record is one of maximum deference to Iran and pressure on Israel — a strategy that led to the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, a seven-front war against Israel and nonstop attacks on Red Sea commerce. The world's leading state sponsor of terrorism is now on the one-yard line of the nuclear-weapons threshold.

Trump established China as his top national-security priority and withdrew from the China-aligned World Health Organization after it helped hide the origins of COVID. Biden favored accommodation over

confrontation with China in hopes of sealing an ineffectual climate-change deal; our East Asian democratic allies are paying the price.

An already dangerous and unstable world will be far worse four years from now if we maintain open borders, focus on wokism over winning in our military, stifle American energy, expand our debt, degrade our defense industrial base and let Iran acquire nuclear weapons while disinvesting from our own.

Restoring deterrence, however, demands strong leadership. Deterrence has two pillars: capability and will. Every American president has capability, thanks to the US military. The commander-in-chief's will, however, gets tested.

Trump's will was tested by Iran, with Qassam Soleimani losing his life as a result. Biden's will was tested by the Taliban — and Kabul fell, setting off a chain reaction that led to the invasion of Ukraine and an emboldened China-led axis.

When dictators today hear the American president say “Don't,” they believe it means “Go.” That must change quickly.

The old Chinese proverb “Kill the chicken to scare the monkey” may soon come into play — if elected, Trump will likely be tested again. He will need to act swiftly to reverse any lingering perception of a United States unwilling to act forcefully in its own interests.

But with America's enemies now staring at a photo of Trump lifting his fist in the air, blood dripping, moments after being shot, they ought not mistake populist rhetoric and political strategy for an unwillingness to fight.

*Richard Goldberg is a senior advisor at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.*

# The Post Puzzle Page

## SCRABBLE® G R A M S

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E1	E1	I1	S1	H4	M3	C3
E1	I1	R1	N1	T1	N1	V4
E1	I1	I1	Y4	T1	C3	N1
E1	E1	O1	S1	C3	L1	N1

Triple Word Score

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

3rd Letter Double

PAR SCORE 145-155  
BEST SCORE 225  
FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**TODAY'S ANSWER**

SCRABBLE G R A M S

SOLUTION

RACK 1 = 92  
RACK 2 = 60  
RACK 3 = 11  
RACK 4 = 62  
TOTAL 225

PAR SCORE 145-155

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

### Bridge

North dealer  
N-S vulnerable

**NORTH**  
♠ A K 8  
♥ A K J 6  
♦ A 6 5  
♣ 4 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ Q 9  
♥ 9 4 2  
♦ K J 9 7 4  
♣ K 7 6

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 7 6 4  
♥ Q 10 8 5  
♦ 8 3  
♣ Q 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ 5 3 2  
♥ 7 3  
♦ Q 10 2  
♣ A J 10 9 8

North 1 ♠ Pass  
East 2 ♣ Pass  
South 3 ♠ Pass  
West 3 NT All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ 7

### Word Force

## DRAINED

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 11** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

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

creep niece price  
crepe pence repin  
eerie piece ripen  
nicer preen

### Wonderword

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

**JOB PERKS** Solution: 9 letters

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

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## POST SUDOKU

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

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

[www.SudokuWiki.org](http://www.SudokuWiki.org)

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**Solutions on Page 42**  
© Syndicated Puzzles

### Very Easy #6,612

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

### Difficult #6,402

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

### Quick Crossword

- Across**
- Mazda two-seater
  - Nerve centers
  - A bit open
  - "What a bummer!"
  - Soon, quaintly
  - Small bay
  - Part of a cross-examination
  - French 10
  - Salt Lake City college athletes
  - Female sheep
  - Mint family herb
  - Earlier than
  - High school honor that may come with a tiara
  - Pa. neighbor
  - Having five sharps, on a score
  - One of a kind
  - Nobleman's address
  - Adjust, as wheels
  - non grata
  - Flee
  - Verdi opera set in Egypt
  - Hibernation spot
  - Tackle the slopes
  - Highlighted excerpt in an article
  - WNBA official
  - Spoils
  - Place for the Torah
  - Stella \_\_\_ cookies
  - Pro vote
  - "Behave!" and an apt title for this puzzle
  - "Got it!"
  - Future atty.'s exam
  - Give a quick review
  - Moist
  - "Sisters" Emmy winner Ward
  - Writing class writing assignment
- Down**
- Waze display
  - Jim
  - French buddy
  - Cannondale two-seater
  - Not voting 56-Across
  - Owned
  - Mentally restless
  - Pitcher Jim who wrote the 1970 memoir "Ball Four"
  - Show scorn
  - Put on a show

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

11 \_\_\_ de vivre  
12 Affirm  
13 Painter Magritte  
18 Strike, as from a formal record  
19 Retired fast jet, briefly  
23 Steeple topper  
24 James of "Gunsmoke"  
25 Turn around  
27 Bridle strap  
28 Hooting birds  
30 Witty remark  
32 Louisiana religion with African roots  
33 Will who voices Lego Batman  
36 Musical mixtures  
37 Basra's country  
38 "Fleishman Is in Trouble" actress Claire  
40 Hibernation spot  
41 Heap  
43 Like the northern lights  
46 Read carefully  
47 Seventh planet from the sun  
49 Big name in ice cream  
50 April \_\_\_ Day  
52 Surrounded by

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

(C) 2024 Tribune Media Services  
53 Set's opposite  
54 Was aware of  
57 Loosen (up)  
59 Susan of "L.A. Law"  
60 School support org.  
61 Private chats on soc. media  
62 Sine \_\_\_ non  
63 Asset in a covert op

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Strong banks

Bank of America shares climbed 5.4% after a second-quarter profit of \$6.9 billion beat expectations despite declining from a year earlier. Morgan Stanley posted a 41% jump in profit to \$3.1 billion.

### Prime injuries

Amazon's Prime Day sales event has been "a major cause of injuries" for warehouse workers, a Senate probe found. Amazon criticized the report and said workplace safety is a top priority.

### Tyson plea

Suspended Tyson Foods CFO John R. Tyson pleaded not guilty to charges that include driving while intoxicated and careless driving. Tyson's trial is set for late August.

### Toys to court

A judge rejected Build-A-Bear Workshop's effort to dismiss a lawsuit claiming that its Skoosherz plush toys were unauthorized knockoffs of Squishmallows, the plush toys made by a unit of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway.

### Time to sell?

Shares of Warner Bros. Discovery rose more than 7% after an analyst report said the struggling media giant could create more value for its shareholders if it explored options, including a potential sale.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

# AD-VANCE WARMING

## GOP veep pick thrills tech venture capitalists

By THOMAS BARRABI and LYDIA MOYNIHAN

Donald Trump's selection of Sen. J.D. Vance as his 2024 running mate is seen as a potential windfall for Silicon Valley, and major tech venture capitalists are going public with their support.

While best known as the author of the hit memoir "Hillbilly Elogy," which detailed the concerns of Rust Belt voters, the Ohio Republican also has close ties to the tech industry. Prior to entering politics, he worked as a VC alongside the likes of billionaire Peter Thiel, who co-founded PayPal, Palantir Technologies and Founders Fund.

His nomination for vice president was a bullish sign for Silicon Valley donors who are betting a second Trump presidency would adopt tech-friendly policies such as a softer regulatory touch on AI and cryptocurrency.

Vance also supports an antitrust crackdown on dominant Big Tech giants like Google who are accused of stifling smaller rivals, a popular position with so-called "Little Tech" startups backed by tech VCs. He also has been critical of Section 230, a statute that shields tech platforms from liability for third-party content posted on their sites.

### Urged Google breakup

"[Vance] might be the embodiment of defending Little Tech," one tech policy source who requested anonymity told The Post. "He is a big champion of AI and enabling tech innovation."

The conservative has publicly called for a breakup of Google and is one of dozens of lawmakers who support the Kids Online Safety Act,

### Silicon simpatico



which would establish a legal duty of care for platforms such as Meta and TikTok to protect children online.

He is one of a handful of so-called "Khanservatives," i.e. Republican lawmakers who have expressed support for Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman Lina Khan, a Democrat who has rankled some establishment Republicans with a series of aggressive antitrust actions.

"I guess I look at Lina Khan as one of the few people in the Biden administration who I think is doing a pretty good job," Vance said at an antitrust conference in February.

Vance's stance aligns with that of Trump, whose FTC and Justice De-

partment launched antitrust probes into Google, Meta, Amazon and Apple during his first term in office.

"President Trump and Vice President Vance will be the first crypto administration and will assemble the brightest minds in tech, AI, quantum computing, crypto, defense, transportation and biotech to create a renaissance in American dynamism and innovation," Shervin Pishevar, a tech investor and managing director of EdisonAlpha Fund, told The Post.

One notable supporter is Elon Musk, who lauded Vance as a "great choice" and said the ticket "resounds with victory." Musk formally endorsed Trump after the Republican

nominee narrowly escaped an assassination attempt at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania over the weekend.

The Tesla CEO has also said he is committing about \$45 million toward a new Trump political action committee called America PAC, which also has backing from Palantir co-founder Joe Lonsdale, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Elsewhere, Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz, who co-founded the tech-focused VC fund that bears their name, have told employees that they are planning to donate large sums to unspecified PACs in support of Trump's presidential bid, The Information reported.

# Dow wows way to record-high closing

The Dow Jones Industrial Average soared more than 700 points to an all-time closing high on Tuesday after retail sales data supported the view that the Federal Reserve is approaching its easing cycle, reining in inflation while

avoiding a recession.

The S&P 500 rose 0.6%, clinching its 38th record close of the year, while the Nasdaq edged 0.2% higher.

In another signal of more companies participating in the market's rally, stocks of smaller companies also out-

paced their larger rivals after having lagged for a while.

The move into beaten-down segments of the market reflects increased confidence that the Fed is on track to potentially begin cutting interest rates in September as inflation cools.

Traders are pricing in near-certain odds of a rate cut in September, up from about a 73% probability a week ago, according to CME Group's FedWatch.

"As you look at the economic data, it's slowing down but not at a concern-

ing pace," said Tom Hainlin, national investment strategist at US Bank Wealth Management in Minneapolis. "The Fed is seeing what it wants to see — it's that sweet spot of the economy slowing down but not too much and not too fast." *Wires*

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# Wheel-&-deal bar scene returns after COVID



By JENNIFER GOULD

Famed chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's new Park Avenue restaurant has become the epicenter of a new, post-pandemic phenomenon for Wall Street's movers and shakers: the power hour, Side Dish has learned.

As soon as the closing bell rings, traders, investors and C-suite executives flock to Four Twenty Five, which opened last December at 425 Park Ave., the Norman Foster-designed skyscraper that counts hedge fund giant Citadel as its main tenant.

They come not only for the \$25 cocktails and bar food that includes \$68 egg toast with caviar, but also for the all-important face time needed to make deals — before they race off to catch their trains.

While many city power brokers decamp to summer homes in the Hamptons, Greek islands or the Italian Riviera, the power hour was in full swing during a recent visit by Side Dish.

There wasn't an empty seat at the bar by 5 p.m. and the lounge was also full. Male and female executives in summer suits relaxed while sipping those \$25 olive oil-washed martinis or \$19 raspberry lychee bellinis.

## Deals & drinks

Finance geeks with backpacks noshed on bar food that includes slightly cheaper fare like \$16 tuna tartare with avocado and \$28 sea urchin and black bread crostini.

"I come once a week around 4:30 to 5:30 to meet clients and friends," one investor said. "In the world of finance, those two are one and the same. It's a people business. You need to spend time together to get deals done."

Another well-dressed barfly said he comes in three times a week for the power hour.

"It's a convenient time to meet," the trader said. "People want a drink and a snack in a beautiful room before heading home or going back to the office."

Younger workers in their 20s, many from Citadel, sauntered in around 6 p.m., in dress pants without jackets or ties, to enjoy craft cocktails like Old Fashioneds, and the Naked and Famous (mezcal,

## Talk here ain't cheap!

Wall Street bigs are flocking to Jean-Georges Vongerichten's (inset) new Park Avenue eatery, Four Twenty Five (below), after markets close to make deals and enjoy the famed chef's \$25 cocktails and bar food (right) that includes \$68 egg toast with caviar.



Michael Nagle

# 'Power hour' back in NYC

Aperol, Yellow Chartreuse and lime).

Similar power hours have popped up at Chef Daniel Boulud's Le Pavillon at One Vanderbilt by Grand Central, at the Monkey Bar uptown and the Bar Room at the Beekman Hotel downtown, in FiDi. More junior traders tend to head to less pricey spots like Papillon Bistro & Bar on East 54th Street

"After so many years of being locked up in confined spaces, people want to be out," one 34-year-old investor said. "People are finally making investments in the city again, and ready to turn a new

leaf after COVID."

At Le Pavillon, regulars include Peter Bazeli, principal and managing director of the real estate development advisory firm Weitzman, who hits the power hour three or four times a week before catching his 6:02 p.m. train home to Pelham in Westchester County.

## Le Pavillon is hot, too

"I host clients and business contacts at Le Pav because it's convenient for everyone, and the service and setting are exceptional. They treat me well, they treat my clients and guests well, and then every-

one can catch the train so easily," he said, adding that some colleagues come in from the suburbs and country homes just to meet for a 4:30 cocktail, "and then we all go home."

Others, like top real estate broker Jenny Lenz, 34, pop into Four Twenty Five at around 5 p.m. for a glass of Sancerre, and might stay for dinner with clients, especially after showing their properties on nearby Billionaires' Row.

"It's a beautiful space and we always love Jean-Georges' food. We'd follow him anywhere," she said.

jgould@nypost.com



**80 CLARKSON ST.**  
Overlooks the Hudson River.

# \$1B loan to build towers

By STEVE CUOZZO

As foundation work proceeds on two dramatically styled downtown apartment towers, the high-profile riverfront project just landed the cash foundation it needed.

Atlas Capital Group nailed down a \$985 million construction loan to build the towers at 80 Clarkson Street, which it's developing with Zeckendorf Development and Baupost Group, sources told The Post.

The fresh financing — believed to be the largest Manhattan residential construction loan since before the pandemic — means the full-block project will soon "go vertical" at the Hudson River site between Houston and Clarkson streets.

One tower is expected to be finished in 2026, the other in 2027. The towers will stand on a podium base and are technically the same building.

A representative for Atlas didn't respond to a request for comment.

The Atlas website says the project "will consist of over 100 luxury homes in two towers rising up to 450 feet offering dramatic river and city views from every room."

The developers are also putting up a 175-unit senior affordable housing building on the site that is not covered by the loan.

The lenders, according to sources, are London-based Cale Street Partners and San Francisco-based Farallon Capital Management. The loan was arranged by Newmark.

# Elon's new HQ: Te-X-as

Elon Musk said Tuesday he will shift the headquarters of privately held SpaceX and social media site X to Texas from California — calling Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to sign a new student gender identity law “the final straw.”

The law, signed Monday, blocks school districts from requiring teachers to notify parents about changes in a student's gender identity or sexual orientation without the child's permission.

It also requires the state's Department of Education to create resources for families of LGBTQ+ students from seventh grade through high school.

“This is the final straw,” Musk wrote on X. “Because of this law and the many others that preceded it, attacking both families and companies, SpaceX will now move its HQ from Hawthorne, California, to Starbase, Texas.”

Musk added that he made “it clear to Governor Newsom about a year ago that laws of this nature would force families and companies to leave California to protect their children.”

In another post, the multibillionaire added that the San Francisco headquarters for X will move to Austin, Texas.

Thomas Barrabi

## Convicted in Oprah fraud

Ozy Media and founder Carlos Watson were convicted of fraud by a Brooklyn federal jury Tuesday, in a case accusing them of lying to investors about the now-defunct startup's finances and sham deals with Google and Oprah Winfrey.

Watson, a former cable news anchor and investment banker, and Ozy were each convicted of securities fraud conspiracy and wire fraud conspiracy, while Watson was also convicted of identity theft.

Prosecutors said Watson could face about 24 to 29 years in prison. His sentencing is set for Nov. 18. *Reuters*

# EYE-OPENER AT CBS



ALEXANDRA STEIGRAD

**T**HE stunning fall of the “woke” boss at CBS News last week was a “head on a stick moment” at the Tiffany Network — and a case of a divisive executive who had long been viewed as untouchable.

That's the story I'm hearing over and over about Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews, a 30-year CBS News veteran who was its highest-ranking woman of color — and who abruptly stepped down as president last week after less than a year on the job.

The Dominican-born executive — who for years had weathered CBS firestorms including the sexual misconduct scandals that toppled Charlie Rose and “60 Minutes” boss Jeff Fager in 2018 — had once been described to me as “Machiavelian.”

Others called her “political” or even “charming.” Most agreed she had created her own universe of loyalists whom she promoted over the years — and a list of enemies that she either neutralized or maneuvered out of the company.

Last week, however, CBS News CEO Wendy McMahon announced that Ciprian-Matthews will move to a temporary consulting role for the rest of the 2024 election before exiting the company for good.

## No longer untouchable

As the explosive memo circulated early last Wednesday, my phone lit up with text messages from shocked insiders.

“What happened?” one asked incredulously.

The answer, it looks like, is that Ciprian-Matthews behaved like she was untouchable for longer than she actually was.

A couple of key mistakes helped pave the way for her exit in recent months, I am told.

No. 1 was Ciprian-Matthews' rough handling of senior investigative correspondent Catherine Herridge. More than two years ago, Herridge was personally asked by a top CBS exec to aggressively cover the Hunter Biden saga, I am told.

It was a directive from the highest levels — executive and ownership level — at CBS and its corporate parent Paramount Global, according to multiple sources.

Nevertheless, multiple sour-



## 'Head on a stick moment'

In the wake of CBS News President Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews' (left) abrupt move to a consulting role last week at the behest of department CEO Wendy McMahon (below, middle), insiders say the ex-prez put up roadblocks in the network's coverage of First Son Hunter Biden by investigative reporter Catherine Herridge (below, right).

## Hunter hush talk after News boss shake-up

ces said Herridge still encountered roadblocks from Ciprian-Matthews and her loyalists, Mark Lima, the Washington DC, bureau chief, and Matt Mosk, head of the investigative unit.

More specifically, insiders claimed that Ciprian-Matthews had been “dragging her feet” — a “classic Ingrid tactic” that the exec implored instead of saying “no” to her bosses or talent looking for promotions. She also allegedly failed to act on a new cost-trimming mandate from McMahon to use local correspondents to cover stories when appropriate, the sources said.

Insiders said McMahon last fall tried to light a fire under Ciprian-Matthews and Mosk by assigning two producers to the investigative unit to help Herridge. But Herridge didn't end up getting the help, the sources said.

Herridge declined to comment for this report. But she did

confirm to Tucker Carlson in an interview on X last Thursday that she encountered obstacles. Those obstacles only got bigger, she said, when she turned her lens on the Biden administration.

CBS News strongly denied that Ciprian-Matthews stood in the way of any Hunter Biden coverage.

## Network's defense

The spokesperson noted CBS News was the first to run an interview with an IRS whistleblower who alleged irregularities in the investigation of the president's son and another exclusive with the IRS agent in charge of the probe.

“Everyone can plainly see that it was specifically under Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews' editorial purview that CBS News reported aggressively on Hunter Biden,” the rep said.

The award-winning corre-

spondent was ousted in February as part of layoffs across Paramount Global that claimed 800 jobs. The news division only saw 20 cuts — and surprise, surprise — Herridge was one of them.

A month before Herridge was fired, I published an investigation on Ciprian-Matthews which revealed that the exec had been accused of discriminatory hiring practices and favoritism by employees.

Herridge had been among the employees who complained, I am told. In the end, the probe deemed Ciprian-Matthews a “bad manager” but she was still promoted twice, most recently to president of the news division.

Ciprian-Matthews declined to comment on the allegations through a spokeswoman at the time.

With the recent announcement that Paramount is slashing \$500 million from the budget, CBS brass had the cover to ax Ciprian-Matthews.

And if anything, it gave McMahon — who in addition to CEO shared the title of president of CBS News with Ciprian-Matthews and was rumored to be unhappy about it — a cudgel to eliminate her rival.

# Sally Brompton



# Daily Horoscope

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

**CANCER (June 22-July 23)**  
 You must expect a few upheavals in the run up to the Sun leaving your sign at the start of next week but they don't have to be traumatic. Upsets of an emotional nature are probably best dealt with by pretending they do not exist.

**LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)**  
 You don't have to choose between pleasure and duty - there is room for them both in your life - but over the next 24 hours you will have to put yourself out more for other people. In return, they will feel it's their duty to bring pleasure to you!

**VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)**  
 Don't waste time and energy trying to keep other people's schemes afloat because you can see they are not going to work. Why use up your precious resources helping them salvage their dreams when your own dreams are so much more attainable?

**LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)**  
 Go out of your way to be nice to someone who, while not a close friend, is certainly a colleague or contact it will pay to have on your side. What you do for them now they will happily do for you later on in the year.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)**  
 You won't change other people's beliefs by coming on strong and beating them over the head with facts and figures. Your arguments may be persuasive but what if they don't want to be convinced? Try offering them something that will buy their support.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)**  
 It's not like you to lack confidence but the Sun's journey through one of the

more sensitive areas of your chart of late has depressed your expectations a bit. Never mind. Come the start of next week you'll be back to your getting best.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)**  
 You need to accept that there are some battles in life that can never be won and one such battle is right there in front of you now. Accept that it's not worth fighting over a lost cause and find a way to back away from it gracefully.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)**  
 The planets warn if you come on too strong over the next 24 hours you run the risk of creating enemies that did not exist before. A more measured approach to negotiating with colleagues and rivals is the best way to bring lasting success.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)**  
 As the Sun nears the end of its journey through the most dynamic area of your sign you can and you must bring a project of some kind to a conclusion. You have already achieved more than expected so don't push too hard and risk losing those gains.

**ARIES (March 21-April 20)**  
 If you are losing interest in something you have been working on for the past few weeks it may be because you can sense you are destined for bigger and better things - and you're right, you are. Why push ahead with something that no longer inspires you?

**TAURUS (April 21-May 21)**  
 You may think you can do ten

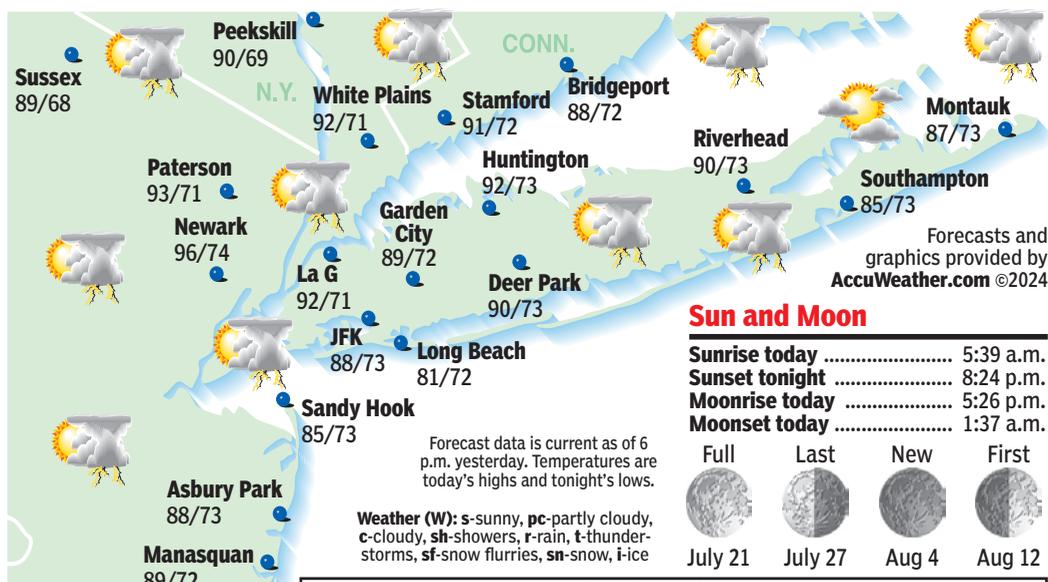
things at once and do them all well but you are wrong. The message of the stars today is that you need to cut your commitments back to the bone. Do one thing really well and leave it at that.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21)**  
 The planets warn this is probably not the best time to gamble with your cash or take on any kind of risky new venture. Also, be wary of people who look and sound as if they know what they are talking about but refuse to offer you firm guarantees.

**BIRTHDAY WEDNESDAY**  
 It's your life and it must always be your decision as to what you are going to do with it. Having said that, don't close your ears to advice this year because a friend may see opportunities that you cannot. Your dream could be their dream too.

## Post Weather Report

<b>Wednesday</b>  <b>Today:</b> Hot, humid; a heavy t-storm in the p.m. High 91 to 97. <b>Tonight:</b> Showers and a heavier t-storm. Low 70 to 76.	<b>Thursday</b>  <b>Tomorrow:</b> Not as hot; a t-storm around in the a.m. High 81 to 87. <b>Tomorrow night:</b> A moonlit sky. Low 65 to 71.
<b>Friday</b>  Partly sunny. High 81 to 87. <b>Evening</b> A moonlit sky. Low 66 to 72.	<b>Saturday</b>  High clouds. High 82 to 88. <b>Evening</b> Becoming clear. Low 68 to 74.

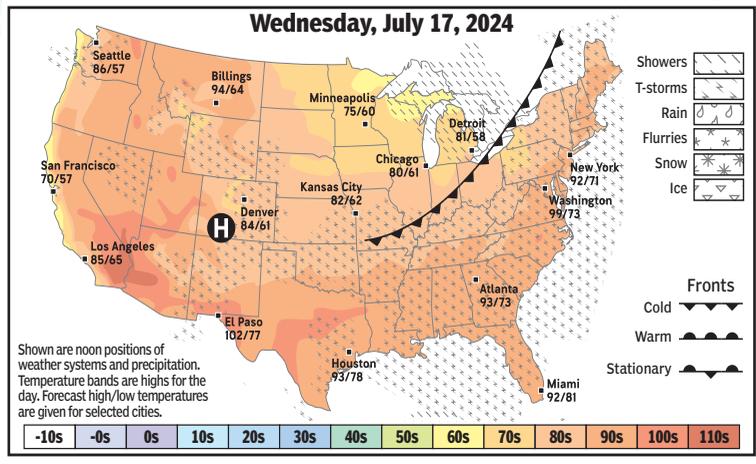


**Sun and Moon**

Sunrise today ..... 5:39 a.m.  
 Sunset tonight ..... 8:24 p.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 5:26 p.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 1:37 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
July 21	July 27	Aug 4	Aug 12

**Almanac**  
 YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM  
**Temperature**  
 High: 94, Low: 78, Mean: 86  
**Departure from Normal**  
 Yesterday: +8 degrees  
**Precipitation**  
 Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 2.54", Year: 28.22", Normal year to date: 26.07"  
**Cooling Degree days yesterday** ..... 21  
**Total for the month (normal)** ..... 260 (198)  
**Total since Jan. 1 (normal)** ..... 680 (506)  
**Last year to date** ..... 491  
**Heat Index** (at noon yest.) ..... 97  
**UV index** (for Wed.) ..... 9 (Very High)  
**Humidity** (at noon) ..... 48%  
**AIR QUALITY**  
**Pollen:** Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds  
**AQI rating:** (for Wed.) ..... Moderate



## AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
High Tide for	4:49a	5:20p	5:50a	6:13p
Coney Island	4:56a	5:39p	5:46a	6:26p
Fire Island	9:03a	9:04p	9:56a	9:54p
Hempstead	8:53a	9:04p	9:46a	9:55p
Huntington	4:33a	5:04p	5:34a	5:57p
Jones Inlet	6:32a	6:54p	7:17a	7:38p
Montauk Point	9:08a	9:00p	10:01a	9:52p
Port Washington	4:53a	5:24p	5:54a	6:17p
Sandy Hook				

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	88/67/t	86/60/pc
Danbury	91/71/t	86/61/pc
Glens Falls	85/65/t	84/57/pc
Gr Barrington	88/66/t	83/56/pc
Kingston	87/68/t	87/58/c
Liberty	83/62/t	78/55/pc
Monticello	86/63/t	79/54/pc
Newburgh	90/69/t	86/59/pc
Poughkeepsie	89/69/t	85/60/pc
Saratoga Springs	88/66/t	85/58/pc
Stroudsburg	89/66/t	84/59/pc
Torrington	91/67/t	85/59/c
Syracuse	81/64/t	80/61/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	100/82/s	102/86/s
Baghdad	114/87/pc	114/88/pc
Beijing	96/71/pc	103/73/pc
Berlin	76/59/pc	80/59/c
Cairo	98/78/s	99/80/s
Dublin	70/57/c	67/59/c
Geneva	81/58/s	85/61/s
Hong Kong	94/84/r	94/84/t
Jerusalem	91/69/s	91/69/s
Kabul	91/67/s	91/69/s
London	75/55/pc	79/60/pc
Madrid	97/68/s	99/72/s
Mexico City	75/56/pc	74/57/sh
Montreal	83/65/t	78/60/pc
Moscow	85/66/pc	82/64/sh
Paris	80/58/s	85/62/pc
Rio de Janeiro	75/67/s	75/67/s
Rome	93/68/s	92/66/s
Sydney	66/49/s	64/45/s
Tokyo	87/76/t	93/79/c

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Biling. (Mandarin) Early Childhood SWD (Birth-Gr. 2) Teacher, Brooklyn or Bronx, NY. Instruct early childhood students (Birth-Grade 2) as part of bilingual education program for Mandarin-speaking students who are English language learners & who have neurological problems in learning. NYS Teaching Cert. in Students w/Disab. (Birth-Gr. 2) & Early Childhood Educ. (Birth-Gr. 2); NYS Biling. Educ. Ext. Cert. in Mandarin reqd. Salary range: \$64,789 - \$85,957 per year. Jobs located in Brooklyn or Bronx, NY in a NYC Public School w/in NYC DOE's jurisdiction. Apply online at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/careers/teachers>. NYC Dept of Education is an EOE.

Biling. (Mandarin) Speech & Lang. Disabil. (Gr. K-12) Teacher, Brooklyn or Bronx, NY. Develop individual or group activities or programs in schools to meet individual needs of students with behavioral, speech, language, or related problems, & employ special educational techniques to instruct these students. NYS Teaching Cert. in Speech & Lang. Disabilities; NYS Biling. Educ. Ext. Cert. in Mandarin reqd. Salary range: \$64,789 - \$85,957 per year. Jobs located in Brooklyn or Bronx, NY in a NYC Public School w/in NYC DOE's jurisdiction. Apply online at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/careers/teachers>. NYC Dept of Education is an EOE.

**ENGINEERING**

Haley & Aldrich, Inc. in NY, NY seeks multiple openings for multiple positions including Environmental Engineer. Pay range: \$132k-\$142k. Qualified applicants mail resumes to M. Berciano, 2033 N. Main St., Ste. 309, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, clearly referencing job #HA123.

**FINANCIAL**

Manager, Tax w/ Spotify USA, Inc. in NY, NY. Assist in mng the implementatn of tax planning opportunities & driving process efficiencies rel to dom & foreign ops. Posin reqs a Master's deg (U.S. or foreign equiv) in Acctg, Tax, or a rel field & 5 yrs of exp as a tax assoc, tax analyst, or a rel role OR Bach deg (U.S. or foreign equiv) in Acctg, Tax, or a rel field & 7 yrs of exp as a tax assoc, tax analyst, or a rel role. Must have 5 yrs (or 7 w/ Bach) of exp w/ utiliz tax plng software & tools, incl One Source & Thomson Reuters; reviewing tax compliance reqs & recommendg changes in line w/ regulatory updates; wrking w/ shared svc cntr (offshore team) Must have 3 yrs (or 5 w/ Bach) of exp w/ : process improvemnts arnd Fin & Acctg ops; major Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systm. Must have 1 yr (or 2 w/ Bach) of exp w/ robotic process automatns. Sal: \$137,114 - \$197,282/yr. Company HQ: NY, NY. Telecommuting permitted: Telecommuting role to be performed anywhere in the U.S. Dom & internat travel reqd 10% of the time. Qualified Applicants: See full details & apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/b92636fe-3437-4ea0-93ca-4ad9a1ee4153>

ING Financial Services LLC has multiple positions available in New York, NY. Refer to job number, apply online & see position requirements at [www.ING.com](http://www.ING.com): Transaction & Relationship Managers, T&C (Job#:REQ-10077103) Responsible for monitoring of assigned Trade & Commodity Finance client portfolios. Salary range: \$182,500-\$230,000; Associates, Financial Sponsors (Job#:REQ-10076838) Work w/ the Financial Sponsors Group which is a global team mandated w/ coordinating the relationship & product coverage of multi-strategy alternative investment managers that are active across a range of asset classes around the world. Salary range: \$130,000-\$165,000.

**FINANCIAL**

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**PROFESSIONAL**

Managing Director Boiron Americas Inc. is hiring a Managing Director, North America to manage day-to-day operations of frozen fruit distributor at Long Island City, NY office. 5 yrs. exp. & Assoc. deg reqd. Salary range: \$224,349 to \$255,283.84/yr. Mail CV to HR, Boiron Americas Inc., 28-07 Jackson Ave, 5th Floor, Long Island City, NY 11101.

**EMPLOYMENT**

Insights Manager / Senior Data Scientist w/ Spotify USA, Inc. in NY, NY. Provide end-to-end support in personalizatn features devlpmnt, from goal setting & planning, experimentatn, to launch performance insights & recommendatns optimizatn. Positin reqs a Bach deg (U.S. or foreign equiv) in Stats, Math, Data Analytics, Eco, or a rel quant subject area & 6 yrs of exp in data sci, machine learning or a rel role OR a Master's deg (U.S. or foreign equiv) in Stats, Math, Data Analytics, Econ, or a rel quant subj area & 4 yrs of exp in data sci, mach learnng or a rel role. Must have 6 yrs (or 4 w/ Master's) of exp w/ : analysis & model of big data using SQL/BigQuery; python or R incl exp in data ming & manipulatin of big data to extract valuable insights abt user behavior. Must have 5 yrs (or 3 w/ Master's) of exp w/ : designing, running, & analyzing online experiments on a lge user base, incl acceptg or rejectg hypotheses & applying stat tests; Must have 4 yrs (or 2 w/ Master's) of exp w/ : collaboratg w/ mach learning engrs, supportg w/ feature selectns, targets settg, modls devlpmnt, test dsign, & hypotheses testg; Must have 3 yrs (or 1 w/ Master's) of exp w/ : wrking on a globally distributed team. Sal: \$160,110 - \$240,164/yr. Company HQ: NY, NY. Telecommuting permitted: wrk may be performed from anywhere w/in the Eastern Time Zone region of the U.S. Qualified Applicants: See full job details & apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/61d6c2ad-8dba-40d6-9852-fecb92f43163>

Senior Business Intelligence Engineer wanted by Advance Magazine Publishers Inc. d/b/a Conde Nast in New York, New York. Promote and grow Business Intelligence (BI) footprint at Conde Nast. Liaise with Data Engineering team to architect solutions. Work with Business stakeholders to promote the benefits of the platform and try to solve business problems. Teach, train, and help grow the skill set of BI developers on the team. Recommend enhancements to the BI Data Warehousing for performance improvement; and establish and maintain communication with internal business partners. Requires: Master's degree in Computer Science, Data Science, Information Technology, or closely related and 1 year in the job offered or as Senior BI Developer using Qlik Sense in same fields, or closely related and 5 years post-baccalaureate progressive experience in the field, which includes 1 year in the job offered or as a Senior BI Developer using Qlik Sense and nprinting, or any suitable combination of education, training or experience. Salary \$157,768 per year. Send resume: HR, Attn: Naomi Castillo, 34th floor, Advance Magazine Publishers Inc. dba Conde Nast, 1 World Trade Center, New York, NY 10007 or apply online at <https://www.condenast.com/careers>. Refer to job code: R-16800

Senior Data Scientist w/ Spotify USA, Inc. in NY, NY. Perform complex data sci tasks in leading the social channel Customer Svce (CS) forecasting team w/ direct responsibility for CS & Workforce Mgmt (WFM) impact on stfwr product changes at Spotify. Position reqs a Master's deg (US or foreign equiv) in Bus Analytics, Data Sci, Stats, or a closely rel info scis field & 3 yrs of exp in data sci or a closely rel field OR Bach deg (US or foreign equiv) in Bus Analytics, Data Sci, Stats, or a closely rel info scis field & 5 yrs of exp in data sci or a closely rel field. Must have 3 yrs (or 5 w/ Bach) of exp w/ : bldng stat models, incl time series regression models; utilizing SQL or BigQuery; Python, R, or similar stat tool; working w/ lge datasets; analyzing results & presenting results to tech & non-tech stakeholders; using data sci techniques for data discovery & exploratn; & Model Interpretation. Sal: \$123,161 - \$184,741/yr. Company HQ: NY, NY. Telecommuting permitted: Telecommuting role to be performed anywhere in the U.S. Qualified Applicants: Apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/bf64d0d0-32d4-446e-8b59-96e210da13e>

**PROFESSIONAL**

Data Scientist - User Fraud w/ Spotify USA, Inc. in NY, NY. Bld & eval mach learnng modls to predict user behavior. Master's deg (US or foreign equiv) in Bus Analytics, Data Sci, Stats, or a closely rel info scis field & 2 yrs of exp in data sci or a closely rel field. Must have 2 yrs of exp w/ : bldg stat & mach learning modls; Python & SQL; wrking w/ lge datasets, & bldg data pipelines using Scala or Python; visualizatn tools (Tableau or matplotlib); Stat Inferences; analyzing results & presentg results to tech & non-tech stakeholders; & usg mach learnng & data sci techniques for data discovery & exploratn. Must have 1 yr of exp w/ : Modl Interpretatn; & modelg techniques to incl: regressn modls, tree modls, neural networks, clusterg. Sal: \$160,110 - \$240,164/yr. Company HQ: NY, NY. Telecommuting permitted: Telecommuting role to be performed anywhere in the U.S. Qualified Applicants: Apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/04c54449-af3b-4b60-8759-6dad683092e>

Associate Managing Consultant, Advisors Client Services @ Mastercard International Incorporated (Purchase, NY) F/T Wrk on small teams to slve our clnts mst chllngng strtcg prblms thrgh data-drivn sltns. Apply a rch of qntitative & qltative anlytlc tchnqs to grsly identify clnt issues & synthesize the analysis into clear, sound cmmndtns. Req: a Master's deg, or frgn equiv, in Data Sci, Busnss Analytics, Qntitative Mthds/Sci or rtd, & 2 yrs of exp in job offered, or as a Bsnss Anlyst, Data Anlyst or rtd. Altrntivly, Alvaroequiv will acct a Bachelor's deg, or frgn equiv, & 5 yrs of prgrssvly rpsnbl exp. Exp must incl: 1 yrs w/ each: SQL; Excel; Tableau; Statistical Modeling; Market Research; Expert Interviews; Preparing slides with analysis outputs and recommendations. \$154,315.00 - \$192,000.00/yr. Employer will accept any suitbl combo of edu, training, or exprnc. Telcmmuting and/or wfh may be permissible prsant to cmpany policies. Snd rsm to Ashlee Nagel, Ashlee.Nagel@mastercard.com, Mastercard, 434 Ascension Way, SL: UT 84123. Ref MC56-2024.

Senior Luxembourg Counsel: (NY, NY) Head firm's Luxembourg Funds practice; provide global project mgmt for asset mgrs setting up fund platforms which incl funds in jurisdictions incl US, Cayman & Luxembourg. Req: JD or Master's deg in Law, or foreign equiv. Must have 6 yrs exp representing asset mgrs in connection w/ formation of Luxembourg private funds, fundraising, ongoing operational matters & regulatory compliance matters; incl coordinating work across various jurisdictions. Exp must incl advising asset mgrs w/ respect to matters under EU regulatory framework for private funds, incl AIFMD, CBDF, SFDR. Must be fluent in written & spoken French w/ ability to communicate w/ Luxembourg counterparts in French. Regular trips to Luxembourg, & periodic int'l & domestic travel, is reqd. \$550,000 - \$600,000. Resume to: Catherine Sparks, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, 425 Lexington Ave., NY, NY 10017 or AttorneyRecruiting@sttblaw.com. Ref to Req. #241.

Senior Data Scientist w/ Spotify USA, Inc. in NY, NY. Perform analyses on lge sets of data to extract practical insights that will help drive product, platform, & bus decsions. Positin reqs a Master's deg (U.S. or foreign equiv) in Bus Analytics, Data Sci, Electrical Engng, or a rel field & 4 yrs of exp in a data sci or rel role. Must have 4 yrs of exp w/ : bldg stat & machine learning modls; Python & SQL; wrkg w/ lge datasets & bldg data pipelines using Scala or Python; visualizatn tools (Tableau or matplotlib); Stat Inferences; analyzing results & presentg results to tech & non-tech stakeholders; usg mach learnng & data sci techniques for data discovery & exploratn; & Model Interpretatn. Sal: \$163,238 - \$240,164/yr. Company HQ: NY, NY. Telecommuting permitted: Telecommuting role to be performed anywhere in the U.S. Qualified Applicants: Apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/d951a12c-1d45-465c-831f-82f25ac9786a>

**PROFESSIONAL**

FP&A Senior Lead Analyst for Citibank, N.A. (NY, NY) Provide financial oversight, generate new ideas & structure & quantify benefits that Transfrmt will bring to firm. Work w/ Bus/Functn LFOs to coordnate Mnthly Financs reptg for transfrmt, ensurg consistncy Prgrm Group coverage as well as sys connectivity. Dvlp & implmnt Citi-Wide investmnt trackg strategies & processes. A telecommut/hybrid work sched may be permitted w/in a commutable distance from the worksite, in accrdnce w/ Citi policies & protcls. Req: Bachelor's or foreign equiv, in Bus Ad, Finance, or rtd field & 7 yrs prgrssvly resp, post-bach exp as FP&A Sr Lead Analyst, FP&A Sr Mgr, Bus Analysis Mgr, or rtd positn involvg finncal planning & bus analytics for global finncal svcs institutn. 7 yrs exp must incl: Dvlpng & implmntng finncals; Condtctg finncal analysis & communcntg reslts & actnble cmmndmtns; Communcntn & presntatn skills to convy finncal insights & reslts to both tech audiences & C-suite stakeholders; & Know finance concepts incl P&L, balance sheet acnts & ratios for Consumr bankng. 1 yr exp must incl: Leveraging Think Cell, PowerPt TMI & Tableau; & Utilizing tableau to create interactive dashbds incl transfrmt data. Salary range: \$210,084 to \$230,000/yr; 40 hrs/wk. Applicants submit resumes at <https://jobs.citi.com/>. Please reference Job ID #24749706. EO Employer.

Product Designer w/ Spotify USA, Inc. in NY, NY. Partner w/ the tech & prod teams on key initiatives & inspire the organizatn by showg/ prototyping the possible design before it is bld. Positin reqs a Bach deg (U.S. or foreign equiv) in Human Comp Interactn, Comp Sci, Design & Tech, Graphic Design, or a rel field & 2 yrs of exp in the job offered or in a rel role OR Master's deg (U.S. or foreign equiv) in Human Comp Interactn, Comp Sci, Design & Tech, Graphic Design, or a rel field. Must have wrking know of the followg skills gained thru coursewrk or exp: Creating lo-fidelity mockups to quickly illustrate design solutns using Procreate, Lucidchart, & Paper; Designg hi-fidelity usr interfaces across pltrforms (web, iOS, Android), viewports, & screen sizes using Figma, Sketch, Principle, Prototipe, Adobe XD, & Adobe After Effects; Creating prod & feature demos using Loom, Keynote, Google Slides, & Adobe After Effects. Sal: \$128,340 - \$192,510/yr. Company HQ: NY, NY. Telecommuting permitted: Telecommuting role to be performed anywhere in the U.S. Qualified Applicants: See full job details & apply online at: <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/56a984e6-a928-42ba-ba00c-086fe40f9d45>

Associate Principal 2, IQVIA Inc., NY, NY. May teleco w/in commutng dist of wrksite. Key contct in comm strtg creatn for hc & pharma incl clts. Salary rng: \$239,760 - \$337,200/yr. Suplrv 3-5. Req: Bach / Mast in Bus, Intl Bus & Econ, LS / rel / equiv. Req: 5 yrs w/ Bach / 3 yrs w/ Mast progressive drg pharma / hc ind comm strtg consult exp incl (if Bach 5 yrs / if Mast 3 yrs): brnd strtg devl / mgmt & implemntn of launch strtg; mgmt proc for pharma / hc co on launch & comm strtg topcs w/ sr lvl clt teams; 1 yr (w/ Bach / Mast); leadng team mbrs; & PM of comm strtg consult proj for pharma / hc clts. Req: 5-10% US & < 5% intl trvl. M-F, 9a-5p 8+ hrs/ day w/ var hrs. Resume to: [USRecruitment@iqvia.com](mailto:USRecruitment@iqvia.com) & ref #1113488.

Lead Recruiter (New York, NY) Dsgn & implement sourcing strategies to identify & engage top talent, incl int'l candidates; build & maint relationships w/ employment candidates; manage scheduling & logistics for candidate interviews; drive referrals from internal team members & external networks. Req: Bach's deg in HR mgmt, int'l btl, or reltd field, + min. 1 yr of full cycle int'l recruiting exp for professional positions (legal, commercial, finance, etc.), incl utilization of HRIS & ATS systems (e.g., Greenhouse, Ashby). Up to 10% work trvl. Salary \$65k-\$90k/yr. Mail resumes to: Aleena Raza, Shiftsmart, Inc., Attn: HR Dept, One World Trade Center, Ste. 46L, New York, NY 10007 EOE.

**PROFESSIONAL**

CSC Holdings, LLC seeks a Vice President, Care Operations to establish, implement, and communicate a strategic direction for customer care operations, leveraging industry best practices to increase customer loyalty, reduce operational costs, and generate revenue. Drive operations-related policies and processes to ensure effective and consistent support and execution. Collaborate with key decision makers and business owners to develop new customer care operations initiatives and business opportunities. Lead internal and external (vendor) teams and provide leadership in a 24/7 operations model. #LI-DNI. Position requires a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Operations Management, Accounting, or a related field, followed by 10 years of progressively responsible experience in customer care or customer service leadership in the telecommunication industry. Experience must include a minimum of: 5 years of experience with developing, planning, and implementing operations strategies; 5 years of experience with developing and presenting business cases encompassing operational, financial, and customer impact analyses; 5 years of experience with managing outsourced call centers in different locations; 5 years of experience with setting up and exiting outsourcing agreements; and 5 years of experience with developing and operating digital customer care channels. 10-20% domestic and international travel required. Job location: Long Island City, NY. Rate of Pay: \$225,000.00 - \$235,000.00 per year. To apply, please visit <https://www.alticecareers.com> and search by job title or enter Job ID number: 6179.

**TECH CAREERS**

Senior Machine Learning Engineer w/ Spotify USA, Inc. in NY, NY. \*Telecommuting permitted: wrk may be performed w/in normal commuting distance from the Spotify USA Inc. office in NY, NY. Mach Learning Research: Dvlp & implmnt mach learning models to accurately predict & compute user retentn probabilities & the lifetime value of over 2 billion users across Spotify's personalizatn services. Positin reqs a Master's deg (US or foreign equiv) in Math, Comp Sci, Sftwr Engng, or a rel field & 4yrs of exp in machine learning or a closely rel field; OR Bach deg (US or foreign equiv) in Math, Comp Sci, Sftwr Engng, or a rel field & 6yrs of exp in mach learning or a closely rel field. Must have 4yrs of exp w/ : conductng mach learning res on stats & deep learning based algorithms (e.g. Random Forests, K Nearest Neighbors, Reinforcement Learning, & Deep Neural Networks) & translatg said res modls into product grade mach learning systems handng millions of users & solving crucial bus problems; Must have 2yrs of exp w/ : optimizng data & mach learning pipelines to save on compute & storage cloud costs & design, running, & analyzing A/B experiments on a lge scale on new prod or feature launches. Sal: \$196,460-\$294,690/yr. Qualified Applicants: See full job details & apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/4e994e4e-cf6a-4f90-b602-3da4ef95443e>

IT: The Bank of New York Mellon seeks SVP, Project Mgr in NY, NY, to srk as liaison betn clients & internal tech groups to ensure delivery of projects on time, w/ budget, & to spec. Remote work permitted w/1 commutable distance from worksite. REQ/MTS: Bach or equiv. & 10 yrs exp in: Dvlpng plans for lrg scale softw implementations incl. project's overall scope, task estimation, avail resources & their allocations using Gantt Charts, Work Breakdown Structure & Project Baselines; Utilizing knowl of SDLC methodologies & proficiency w/ MS Project, Atlassian Jira, Confluence, MS Office & SQL tools to practice Agile Methodology & Waterfall softw devlpmt lifecycle processes. Sal range: \$175,200-\$185,000/yr. Pls apply at <https://bnymellon.eightfold.ai/careers> & utilize ref code # 54973. Pls indicate "referral source - advertisement - NYP".

# Classifieds

## EMPLOYMENT

### TECH CAREERS

Senior Machine Learning Engineer w/ Spotify USA Inc. in NY, NY. Bld new product features. Prototype new algorithms, eval w/ small scale experiments, & implement solutns at scale. Master's deg (U.S. or foreign equiv) in Stats, Math, Comp Sci or a rel field & 1 yr of exp in the job offered or in a rel quantitative role. Must have 1 yr of exp w/: Working w/ disparate data sources, both structured & unstructured; Understandg how to manipulate data & perfmr feature engg on data sets; Utilizg data exploratn / data visualizatn tools such as ggplot pkg in R & matplotlib in Python; Utilizg Cloud platfrms such as GCP or AWS; Wrtg code in statl programming languages, such as Python or R, w/ proper documentatn; Utilizg Mach Learnng techniques such as clusterg & decisn tree learnng, & understandg their real-wld advantages/draw-backs; Explng the intuitn & as-sumptns behind Mach Learnng algorithms, & applyng these concepts to craft Mach Learnng systems tht solve challengng problms. Sal: \$196,460-\$294,690/yr. Company HQ: NY, NY. Telecommuting permitted: role may be performed remotely in any region w/in the U.S. Qualified Applicants: See full job details & apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/dd46cfd5-31d9-404b-8039-c8007f32c624>

Data Scientist II w/ Spotify USA Inc. NY, NY. Drive bus decisns by using diffrent analytcl & stat approaches, incl both regulr reportng & ad-hoc investigatns. Master's deg (US or foreign equiv) in Stats, Econ, Bus Admn, Data Sci, Data Analytics, or a rel field & 3 yrs of exp in bus & mktg analytics or rel role. Must have 3 yrs of exp w/: mng data & performg analysis using SQL & Python; analyz lge data sets & modlg big data usg Python or R; measurg the impact of bus, mktg & growth initiatives; synthesizng analytcl findngs into actnble strategies using Google Sheets, Excel, PowerPoint (or sim sftwr). Emprly will also accept Bach deg (US or foreign equiv) in Stats, Econ, Bus Admn, Data Sci, Data Anlytics, or a rel field & 5 yrs of exp in bus & mktg analytics or rel role. Must have 5 yrs of exp w/: mng data & performg analysis using SQL & Python; analyz lge data sets & modlg big data using Python or R; measurg the impact of bus, mktg & grwth initiatives; synthesizing analytcl findngs into actnble strategies using Google Sheets, Excel, PowerPoint (or sim sftwr). Sal: \$163,238-\$184,741/yr. Company HQ: NY, NY; Telecommuting permittd: work may be performed in any loc in the U.S. Qualified Applicants: See full job details and apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/1eda8929-7e76-45de-887d-eba39d0ced95>

Software Engineer for Flatiron Health, Inc., NY, NY. Req: Bachelor's in Comp Sci, Mgmt Systems, or rtd + 3 yrs of exp (or Master's + 1 yr). Telecommuting permitted. Salary Range (NY, NY) is \$145,000 - \$194,400/yr. Annual pay range for this position is based on preferred primary loc of the role listed above. Base pay offd may vary dependng on job-rtld knowl, skills, & exp. An annual bonus & equity may be provided as part of the compensation package, in addition to a full range of medical, fin'l, &/or other benefits, dependng on the position offd. Apply through <https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/community-portal/jobs/6088365> (Job ID: IM0004)

IT: The Bank of New York Mellon seeks Principal Developer in NY, NY, to consult w/ internal bus. groups to provide high-level app softw dvlpmnt srvc or technl support. Remote work permitted w/ commutable distance from worksite. REQ/MTS: Bach or equiv, & 10 yrs exp: Creatng web srvc using # & ASP.NET exposng them thru SOAP & RESTful implementation to Authenticate, Lookup & Retrieve data from SQL; Planning, analyzng, designng, implementng & maintainng Softw Dvlpmnt Life Cycle (SDLC) using JavaScript, C#, & JQuery. Sal: \$187,680-\$246,000/yr. Qualified applicants please apply online at <https://bnymellon.eightfold.ai/careers> & utilize ref code #55717. Please indicate "referral source - advertisement - NYP."

ICE Data Indices LLC seeks Sr Bus. Analyst in NY, NY, to collab in all phases of softw dvlpmnt lifecycles, from req'mnt gatherng thru dvlpmnt & testng to on-going support & maint'ce. Wrk w/in dvlpmnt team w/focus on maintainng & calculatng Exchange Traded Funds ("ETFs") & indices, as well as responsible for receivng input data, processng accordng to req'mnts, & publishng & reportng output. Req'mnts: Bachelor's or foreign equiv in Electronic Eng'g, Info. Systems Mgmt, or rel. field & 5 yrs of progressively responsible exp: documentng large, complex softw projects; operatng in agile dvlpmnt environment utilizng Jira; performng complex fin'l calculations in Excel; wrtng MS SQL queries to eval large data sets; summarizng complex fin'l calculations in Excel; workng w/fin'l data, incl Reference Data, Pricing, & Mrkt Data; workng w/ETFs, indices, & fund acctng; usng Fixed Income, Equity, Derivates & Capital Mrkts; creatng, evaluatng, & manipulatng Fin'l/Quant models; & performng project mgmt. In alternative, bus. will accept Master's or foreign equiv in one of above listed fields & 3 yrs of exp w/ above listed skills. Telecommuting &/or work from home may be permissible pursuant to company policies. When not telecommuting, must report to work site. Expected base salary for this role is between \$163,238-\$182,104/yr, 40 hrs/wk. Base salary range does not incl Intercontinental Exchange's incentive compensation. While we provide this range as general guidance, at ICE we compensate employees based on skillset & exp of individual. Submit resume to [recruitingresumes@ice.com](mailto:recruitingresumes@ice.com) & indicate job code HTM070824NYP in subject line.

SAKS.COM LLC seeks Sr. Analyst, Customer Analytics & Tech in NY, NY, to dvlp & maintain procedures for dsgn'g, executng, measurg & trackng A/B tests for promotonal campaigns using tools such as Apache Airflow, SQL & Github. Req'mnts: Master's or foreign equiv in Bus. Intelligence & Analytics or rel. field & 2 yrs of exp in job offered or rel. occupation: Applyng data eng'g practices, machine learnng modelng & data analytics techniques to ensure stable data pipeline; providng personalized customers' exp improvement & troubleshooting issues that arise in mrktng campaigns; workng w/reports & dashboards incl mrktng campaigns' revenue, website clickstream data & omni channel performance; utilizng codng language such as SQL & Python to dvlp machine learnng models, such as products relevance, purchase prediction & lifetime value models; dsgn'g & dvlpmg A/B Testng measurement procedures & implementng automated processes; & performng ad-hoc analysis to investigate data quality & mrktng campaigns performance. Telecommuting &/or work from home may be permissible pursuant to company policies. When not telecommuting, must report to work site. Offered salary is between \$100,000.00 - \$130,000.00/yr. Submit resume to [jobs@saks.com](mailto:jobs@saks.com). Please indicate job code LY06262024NYP.

Engineering Manager I w/ Spotify USA, Inc. in NY, NY. Lead & mng a team of data, web & backend engineers thru hiring, coachng, mentoring, feedback, & hands-on career dvlpmnt. Position reqs a Bach deg (US or foreign equiv) in Comp Sci; Electronics Engng; Electrical Engng or rel field & 4 yrs of exp in software engg or rel. role. Must have 4 yrs of exp w/: HTML & JavaScript; Java dvlpmnt; data structures & algorithms; Git; REST APIs; & SQL. Must have 2 yrs of exp w/: distributed micro services architecture; agile methodology; & CI/CD. Must have 1 yr of exp w/: mng engineers; & exp as a tech lead. Sal: \$262,621 - \$267,900 / yr. Company HQ: NY, NY. Telecommuting permitted: Telecommuting role to be performed anywhere in the U.S. Dom & internat'l travel reqd 10% of the time. Qualified Applicants: Apply online at <https://jobs.lever.co/spotify/9532db6b-3dd5-448f-8c7e-b7ffacc3f902>

NYSE Market (DE), Inc. seeks Lead Full-Stack Dvlpr in NY, NY, to collab w/in team of softw dvlprs responsible for dsgn & dvlpmnt of web apps that support ICE's bus. needs by leveragng modern front-end tech. Req'mnts: Bachelor's or foreign equiv in Comp Info. Sys, Comp Eng'g or rel. field & 5 yrs of progressively responsible exp in job offered or rel. occupation: utilizng Spring Boot to create REST Web Services app; utilizng Spring JDBC/Hibernate query RBDs incl Postgres, Oracle & SQL Servers, MongoDB, & Git to dsgn & dvlp multi-threaded apps using Java; performng implementation of unit/integratng testng & producing code coverage reports; utilizng MongoDB (object-based database) for configuratng & refncng data; utilizng Spring actuator & other loggng tools to monitor app health; utilizng AWS cloud environment & its services incl S3, SNS, SQS, Cloudwatch, & Cloudtrail for app deployment; & performng code review for peers for any pull request to release branch. Telecommuting &/or work from home permissible pursuant to company policy. Expected base salary for this role is between \$169,229 - \$190,000. Base salary range does not incl Intercontinental Exchange's incentive compensation. While we provide this range as general guidance, at ICE we compensate employees based on skillset & exp of individual. When not telecommuting, must report to work site. Submit resume to [recruitingresumes@ice.com](mailto:recruitingresumes@ice.com) & indicate job code AB070824NYP in subject line.

Systems Engineer sought by Healthix, Inc. in New York, NY. Design, build and manage datacenter, SDDC and hybrid deployments to optimize overall site operations. Design Disaster Recovery solutions aligning to RTOs RPOs to ensure business continuity on-prem/cloud. Design and implement backup solutions for application consistent backups for CACHE/IRIS database health share applications. Manage Hitrust phases for reviewing current versus delta controls to revise new controls as well as plan and execute implementation of req controls for closing Hitrust GAPS and CAPs to mitigate key risks. Design and implement VDI solution for reducing hardware costs for end user devices and effectively manage the fiscal budget allocation. Design and implement SDN solutions for network micro-segmentation and distributed firewalling and routing. Train/mentor the teaming for high performance and maintaining SLAs, coordinating with stake holders and delegation for datacenter and cloud migrations/operations. Remote work permitted. Must work on-site at least one day per week. Requires: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or a related field and 5 years of post-baccalaureate, progressive experience. Must have 5 years of experience in NetApp/Vmware, data center builds, and data migrations. Must have 3 years of experience in systems administration, InterSystems CACHE, Hitrust CSF, and PHI/PII databases. Any required experience may have been gained concurrently. Salary range: \$168,854 - \$178,000/year. Send resume to [HumanResources@healthix.org](mailto:HumanResources@healthix.org) and list position title in Subject.

IT: The Bank of New York Mellon seeks Vice President, Full-Stack Engineer II in NY, NY, to consult w/ internal bus. groups to provide appropriate app softw dvlpmnt srvc or technl support. Remote work permitted w/ commutable distance from worksite. Reqs: Bach or equiv, & 7 yrs exp in: Building complex integratng betw Salesforce & other apps using API & Web Srvc (REST/SOAP/Bulk); Implementng salesforce features using APEX, SOQL, SOSL, Lightning Components, Communities, Custom Dvlpmnt, Process Builder, Approval Process, Data Security model, Triggers, Visualforce, Flow, Reports, Dashboards, & Dynamic forms. In alt, Emp will accept Master's & 5 yrs exp. Sal: \$181,300-\$246,000/yr. Qualified applicants please apply online at <https://bnymellon.eightfold.ai/careers> & utilize ref code #56090. Please indicate "referral source - advertisement - NYP."

NYSE Market (DE), Inc. seeks Technology Project Lead in NY, NY, to collab w/in Project Mgmt Office ("PMO") responsible for mgmt & delivery of broad program comprised of component projects ranging from minor product launches to large-scale new bus. ventures containing major tech upgrades & implementations. Req'mnts: Bachelor's or foreign equiv in CS or rel. field & 5 yrs of progressively responsible exp in job offered or rel. occupation: utilizng agile softw dvlpmnt methodology & tools incl Jira & Azure DevOps to deliver softw product features; managng agile scrum process incl managng scrum ceremonies or events; implementng agile organizational & workflow patterns at enterprise scale; conductng Scrum of Scrums, Groomng, Retrospective & Review sessions; & creatng current & future process flows, helpng identify gaps in process. Industry recognized certs in enterprise scale agile methodologies such as SAFe, Nexus or Large-Scale Scrum (Less) req'd. Telecommuting &/or work from home may be permissible pursuant to company policies. When not telecommuting, must report to worksite. Expected base salary for this role is between \$157,768 - \$189,625/yr, 40 hrs/wk. Base salary range does not incl Intercontinental Exchange's incentive compensation. While we provide this range as general guidance, at ICE we compensate employees based on skillset & exp of individual. Submit resume to [recruitingresumes@ice.com](mailto:recruitingresumes@ice.com) & indicate job code NS070824NYP in subject line.

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## NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICES

**PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF COOPERATIVE APARTMENT SECURITY**

BY VIRTUE OF DEFAULT in a security agreement executed on January 29, 2008 by Sylvia Navon, and in accordance with its rights as holder of the security, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Owner Trustee for Cascade Funding Mortgage Trust 2018-RM2, by Kim Carrino, Auctioneer, will conduct a public sale of the security consisting of 270 shares of common stock in 140 East 95th Street Owners Corp. and all rights title and interest in and to the street address, 140 East 95th Street, Unit No. 3C, New York, NY 10128 together with fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with UNIT 3C on July 31, 2024 at 10:00AM on the portico at 60 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007, in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the principal amount of \$282,851.41 plus interest from January 31, 2023 and costs, subject to open maintenance charges. The secured party reserves the right to bid. Ten percent (10%) deposit by bank or certified funds required at Auction, payable to the attorneys for the secured party. Closing within 30 days. Such sale shall be subject to the terms of sale.  
GROSS PLOWLY LLC  
1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100  
Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 204-1700 ATTORNEYS FOR SECURED CREDITOR 81221

**PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF COOPERATIVE APARTMENT SECURITY**

BY VIRTUE OF DEFAULT in a security agreement executed on February 09, 2010 by Yetta Kurland AKA Yetta G. Kurland, and in accordance with its rights as holder of the security, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., by Kim Carrino, Auctioneer, will conduct a public sale of the security consisting of 1,300 shares of common stock in 161 West 16th St. Owners Corp. and all rights title and interest in and to a proprietary lease between corporation and debtor for UNIT 5C in a building known as and by the street address, 161 West 16th Street, Apt 5C, New York, NY 10011 together with fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with UNIT 5C on July 31, 2024 at 10:00AM on the portico at 60 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007, in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the principal amount of \$2,012.05 plus interest from October 01, 2023 and costs, subject to open maintenance charges. The secured party reserves the right to bid. Ten percent (10%) deposit by bank or certified funds required at Auction, payable to the attorneys for the secured party. Closing within 30 days. Such sale shall be subject to the terms of sale.  
GROSS PLOWLY LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 204-1700 ATTORNEYS FOR SECURED CREDITOR 81344

Boldyn Networks Infrastructure US LLC is proposing to construct a 32.5ft metal pole telecommunications tower facility located at 75 South Street, New York, New York County, New York 10005 (40 42 18.56N 74 0 17.95W). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 016695-PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, at (781) 418-2314, or at [citybridgelink5g@ebiconsulting.com](mailto:citybridgelink5g@ebiconsulting.com).

Boldyn Networks Infrastructure US LLC is proposing to construct a 32.5ft metal pole telecommunications tower facility located at 95 Wall Street, New York, New York County, New York 10005 (40 42 18.0318N; 74 0 26.2548W). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 016693-PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, at (781) 418-2314, or at [citybridgelink5g@ebiconsulting.com](mailto:citybridgelink5g@ebiconsulting.com).

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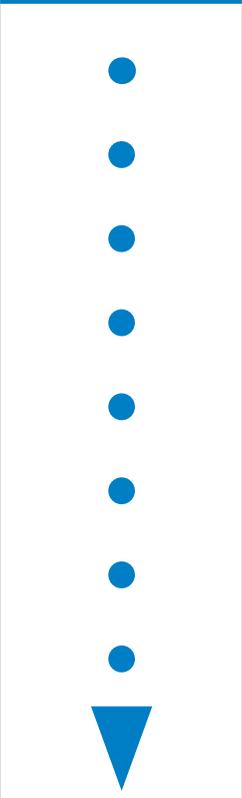


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vcangialosi@nypost.com



## Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

### Lock of the Day

Save Time (2nd)  
Lock Record: 2 for 3 (67%)  
Meet Record: 14/43 \$79.60

### Yonkers results Monday

FIRST-1-mile pace; nw7500I5; purse \$15,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 7:12

TIME-27.0; 55.2; 1:23.2; 1:51.4

2 TwnBeluxe(MKkley) 3.50 2.10 2.10

4 WalkinshawN(ASiegelman) 2.90 2.10

3 Caughtnalandslide (J Stratton) 2.20

• Exacta (2/4) \$3.95 • Triple (2/4/3) \$8.50 •

• \$1.10 Superfecta (2/4/3/5) \$1.79

Scr: UndrthsouthrnSun

SECOND-1-mile pace; 3-6yo50clm; purse \$22,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 7:31

TIME-28.0; 56.2; 1:24.0; 1:51.4

1 Verdun (M Kakaley) 2.50 2.10 2.10

3 Just Enuff Stuff (J Bartlett) 3.60 2.20

2 Surfside Beach (J Stratton) 2.10

• Exacta (1/3) pays \$3.85 • Triple (1/3/2)

\$7.40 • \$1.10 Superfecta (1) • Daily double (2/1)

\$2.55

Scr: Bounty Hunter.

THIRD-1-mile pace; 30000clm; purse \$18,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 7:49

TIME-27.4; 57.2; 1:25.4; 1:54.0

6 NowhereCrkA(JBrtitt) 7.40 3.30 3.40

8 ImAPowerplyA(ASegelmn) 4.80 3.40

5 Artist Best (T Butler) 4.30

• Exacta (6/8) \$14.80 • Triple (6/8/5) \$68.00 •

• \$1.10 Superfecta (6/8/5/2) \$17.57

Scr: Kerford Road A.

FOURTH-1-mile pace; nw15000I5; purse \$21,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 8:09

TIME-27.0; 56.1; 1:23.4; 1:52.1

4 Kingsville (J Marohn) 5.00 2.70 2.50

5 AnothrmstpeceN(JBrtlett) 2.10 2.10

1 Mikiteen (J Bongiorno) 4.20

• Exacta (4/5) pays \$6.70 • Triple (4/5/1)

\$39.25 • \$1.10 Superfecta (4/5/1/6) \$16.00 • \$1

Pick 3 (1/6/4) \$16.80 • \$1 Pick 4 (2,7/1,4/6/4)

\$53.25

Scr: Ever Hoping A.

FIFTH-1-mile pace; nw20000I5; purse \$24,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 8:35

TIME-27.2; 56.2; 1:23.4; 1:51.3

4 Ammo (M Kakaley) 4.20 2.40 2.10

3 Tip Top Cat (J Bongiorno) 2.10 2.10

2 Captivate Hanover (A Siegelman) 2.40

• Exacta (4/3) \$3.65 • Triple (4/3/2) \$10.20 •

• \$1.10 Superfecta (4/3/2/5) \$4.77 • \$1 Pick 3

(6/4/4) \$20.90

SIXTH-1-mile pace; nw30000I5; purse \$30,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 8:59

TIME-26.4; 56.0; 1:23.1; 1:51.3

1 TyphnBnrrN(JBngn) 7.20 2.90 2.60

2 Ultimaroca (J Stratton) 2.40 2.20

8 American Dealer N (J Bartlett) 4.40

• Exacta (1/2) \$6.60 • Triple (1/2/8) \$38.75 •

• \$1.10 Superfecta (1/2/8/4) \$17.17 • \$1 Pick 3

(4/4/1) \$26.50

SEVENTH-1-mile pace; 50000clm; purse \$22,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 9:21

TIME-27.3; 56.3; 1:24.1; 1:52.2

2 ReIWlley(JBngorno) 4.20 2.80 2.10

1 Optical Illusion N (D Dube) 4.10 2.80

6 Shine A Light (J Bartlett) 2.20

• Exacta (2/1) \$7.50 • Triple (2/1/6) \$19.00 •

• \$1.10 Superfecta (6/1/4/2) \$8.85

EIGHTH-1-mile pace; nw32551I5; purse \$30,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 9:41

TIME-27.2; 56.2; 1:23.2; 1:50.4

6 CoverDbrd(JStrtton) 5.90 3.00 2.50

1 WhtsStnleyGotA(GBrennn) 3.00 2.70

4 Backstreet Shadow (B Holland) 2.80

• Exacta (6/1) \$8.90 • Triple (6/1/4) \$22.60 •

• \$1.10 Superfecta (6/1/4/2) \$8.85

NINTH-1-mile pace; 3-5yo 30cl; purse \$18,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FIT OFF: 10:03

TIME-28.3; 57.0; 1:25.2; 1:54.3

4 Vandalism (T Butler) 6.00 24.00 6.30

3 TakeACloserLook(MKkley) 3.10 2.50

6 Lyons Pride (J Bongiorno) 7.90

• Exacta (4/3) \$158.75 • Triple (4/3/6)

\$1,088.50 • \$1.10 Superfecta (4/3/6/5) \$311.15

• Late double (6/4) \$138.00 • \$1 Pick 3 (2/6/4)

\$282.00 • \$1 Pick 4 (1/2/6/4) \$1,650.00 • Pick

5 (4/1/2/6/4) \$3,381.00

Attendance: N/A.

Total Handle-\$481,048.

### 1 2 3/8 miles(T); \$150,000; A.P. Smithwick; stplchs

Jumping into Week 2 at the Spa. **LIMPERATOR** won a Grade 1 at Aqueduct at this distance. Crushed allowance by 8 lengths here last summer. Board hitter 9 of 10. **ABAAN** is the M/L fave after winning 4 straight. Beat top pick twice. **FREDDY FLINTSHIRE** was 6th and **ZIGGIE POPS** was 3rd behind Limperatore. Freddy won a 50k, same distance in April and offers better value. Ziggie Pops won by open lengths 2 back. **PICKANUMBER** Irish-bred won twice before shipping to the US.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Ziggle Pops(GB),148	G Watters	3-1-4	Fisher	6-1
2	Abaan,158	B Dalton	1-1-1	Dalton	9-5
3	West Newton(GB),144	H Beswick	7-5-1	Hendriks	20-1
4	Freddy Flintshire,146	S Mulqueen	6-3-2	Brion	10-1
5	L'Imperator(FR),154	J Gainford	1-3-3	Kingsley	3-1
6	Going Country(IRE),140	P Hendriks	6-4-3	Brion	20-1
7	Pickanumber(IRE),152	J Bargary	x-x-x	Young	2-1

### 2 1 1/8 miles; \$100,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Graduation time for **SAVE TIME**. Stretched to this distance and ran home a clear 2nd. Moves forward for Chad Brown who also saddles **FAZOOLS**. Fell more than 16 lengths back before closing to within a neck, debuting at Monmouth. Gets another furlong to work with. **CARARRA** is 0 for 6 after running evenly for 3rd at 38-1. McPeek gives the Churchill invader another 1/16. **REFUSE TO LOSE** finished well to be 3rd, then 2nd. Sprint to route for DePaz.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Fade to Grey(L),118	J Velazquez	7-x-x	Pletcher	6-1
2	Save Time(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	2-2-3	C Brown	7-5
3	Goodnight My Angel(L),118	M Franco	5-5-x	Pletcher	8-1
4	Cararra(L),118	J Alvarado	3-10-11	McPeek	12-1
5	Refuse to Lose(L),124	R Santana, Jr	2-3-x	De Paz	4-1
6	Fazoals(L),118	F Prat	2-x-x	C Brown	2-1

### 3 5 1/2 fur; \$90,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

Two-year-old fillies make their career debuts. Our order of finish **LIGHTNING MAMA** (Maker/Vazquez/Bolt Dor) **VEHEMENTE** (Sharp/Saez/Vekoma), **AILANI** (Giddings/Santana), **BELLACOSE** (J Englehart/Franco) and **PRACTICALLY SUMMER** (Mott/Alvarado). Vehemente the M/L favorite. Ailani best value.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Vehemente,119	L Saez	x-x-x	Sharp	9-5
2	Bubbe Dearest,119	I Castillo	x-x-x	Maker	8-1
3	Lightning Mama,119	R Vazquez	x-x-x	Maker	6-1
4	Trail of Gold,119	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Donk	10-1
5	Pawtucketshuffie,119	F Prat	x-x-x	De Paz	6-1
6	Practically Summer,119	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	7-2
7	Bellacose,119	M Franco	x-x-x	Englehart	6-1
8	Ailani,119	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Giddings	15-1

### 4 7 fur; \$35,000; c1m(\$16,000); 3up(f)

Mike Maker moves **MALU** lower. Close 2nd, distant 7th at Churchill. J Ortiz picks up the mount. **SHARPER GAL** ships from Kentucky as well. Broke maiden (5th start) then 6th of 8 running for 50k. Rebound chance but not sure she wants 7/8. Gaffalione was aboard for the W. **PERMED** Turf to dirt for Pletcher. 0 for 2 on dirt but gets a field she can beat and gets Saez back.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dashing Della(L),122	J Castellano	3-6-5	Arenas	15-1
2	Toot Your Horn(L),122	J Gomez	6-5-7	Contessa	20-1
3	Permed(L),120	L Saez	8-1-3	Pletcher	3-1
4	Jay's Love(L),120	J Rosario	4-6-8	Barrera	8-1
5	Sharper Gal(L),120	T Gaffalione	6-1-2	Sharp	5-2
6	Pebble Lane(L),122	R Maragh	12-5-2	Duggan	12-1
7	Accelerina(L),124	M Franco	10-10-1	Rodriguez	8-1

8	Malu(L),124	J Ortiz	7-2-1	Maker	2-1
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### 5 1 1/16 miles(T); \$115,000; alw; 3up(f)

Irish filly **OLIVIA MARALDA** has made 2 starts in the US. Beat a 1/2 length in both, latest in a Grade 1 at Santa Anita. **ICHIBAN** MTO. Wired similar on the 4th of July. Took 2nd in the muddy Empire Distaff last year. **SABALENKA** makes 4YO debut for Beckman. 0 for 7 last year but runnerup in a 750k at Kentucky Downs. Geroux at a price. **NO SHOW SAMMY JO** surged late to win 2 straight, both at a mile. Should get the extra 1/16.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	A Primera Vista(L),122	L Dettori	1-1-1	Raven	10-1
2	Be Your Best(IRE)(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	13-4-2	De Paz	7-2
3	Panama Red(IRE)(L),122	J Ortiz	4-6-1	Stidham	15-1
4	Sabalenska(L),122	F Geroux	7-7-2	Whitworth	20-1
5	Promiseher America(L),122	R Santana, Jr	2-7-5	De Paz	12-1
6	No Show Sammy Jo(L),124	M Franco	1-1-4	Motion	5-1
7	Swoop to Finish(L),124	J Alvarado	5-2-1	Mott	12-1
8	Breath Away(GB)(L),122	J Rosario	2-4-2	Clement	6-1
9	Olivia Maralda(IRE)(L),122	F Prat	2-2-x	Walden	8-5
10	Value Area(L),118	Rider TBA	7-1-3	Pletcher	3-1
11	Ichiban(L),124	J Lezcano	1-10-8	Rice	6-5

### 6 5 1/2 fur(T); \$57,000; mdn c1m(\$50,000); 3up(f)

Debut day for **LADY REIGNS**. Sired by Violence who is by Medaglia Doro. Castellano rides for Antonucci. Draws hedge; offers fair 1st out value. **PRECISELY** debuted 3rd behind a pair of next out winners after flashing speed. That was 13 months ago. Drops for Ward; 1st time lasix; Dettori on; blinkers off. Brad Cox' **HUE** switches surfaces after a debut dud on dirt.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Lady Reigns(M),119	J Castellano	x-x-x	Antonucci	8-1
2	Hue(L),119	F Geroux	8-x-x	Cox	4-1
3	Bellequeux(L),119	J Rosario	9-8-x	Baker	15-1
4	Precisely(M),119	L Dettori	3-x-x	Ward	5-2
5	Bobby Jean(M),119	J Velazquez	6-x-x	Hennig	12-1
6	Parade Ring(IRE)(L),119	K Carmouche	6-5-4	A Dutrow	9-2
7	Park Avenue Betty(L),119	J Ortiz	9-x-x	Kimmel	15-1
8	Exotic Cat(L),124	O Hmdz Mreno	5-6-10	Pregman	50-1
9	Street View(L),119	M Franco	6-6-4	Weaver	5-1
10	Sassy Allie(L),119	I Ortiz, Jr	6-x-x	Falcone	10-1
11	Althena(L),119	L Luzzi	6-11-2	Paragallo	50-1
12	Barstool Babe(L),124	J Ortiz	6-8-4	Rice	7-2
13	Swan(L),119	Rider TBA	5-2-x	Potts	15-1

### 7 7 fur; \$50,000; alw; 4up(f)

Awesome Again? **SHES AWESOME** exits a troubled 4th. Winner previous 3 starts. Rider change to Gaffalione. **THERESASILVERLININ** Fast filly brings a 3 race winning streak from Churchill. The one to catch. **IM BUZZY** was 3rd, a neck better than the compromised Shes Awesome. Four wins, four 3rd place finishes in her 8 starts this year. Prat rides for Gustavo Rodriguez. And **DECK OF CARDS** has won 3 in a row as well. May match strides with Therasasilverlinin early.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	I'm Buzzy(L),118	F Prat	3-3-3	Rodriguez	8-1
2	Fontanafredda(L),118	J Castellano	1-4-2	Persaud	15-1
3	Killy Start(L),118	J Rosario	1-1-7	Contessa	12-1
4	She's Awesome(L),118	T Gaffalione	4-1-1	Rodriguez	6-1
5	Deck of Cards(L),120	R Vazquez	1-1-1	Maker	6-1
6	Jackie the Joker(L),118	L Luzzi	1-6-3	Potts	15-1
7	Obrigada(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	8-3-5	Rodriguez	8-1
8	Icy Reply(L),118	L Rivera, Jr	1-5-4	Ferraro	12-1

9	She Caught My Eye(L),118	J Lezcano	5-3-3	Rice	5-1
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10	Therasasilverlinin(L),118	L Saez	1-1-1	Maker	2-1
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### 8 1 mile(T); \$150,000; New York Stallion Stake; 3YO(f)

The Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stallion Series. **SPIRIT OF ESTHER** is an 0 for 5 maiden after rallying for 2nd, this distance. Plenty of speed in here. Alvarado at a price. **SOLOSHOT** was 1st, **MY SHEA D LADY** was only 2 lengths back in 5th and **BEING BETTY** was 3rd in a 150k sprint at Aqueduct. My Shea D Lady was making her grass debut and may be better in rematch. **BOSSY JEANS** moved lower and responded, graduating gate-to-wire. Saez will have her involved early.

# The *POST* Line


**WNBA**
**Wednesday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LYNX	8.5 (151.5)	Dream
Fever	4.5 (173.5)	WINGS

**CFL**
**Friday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
REDBLACKS	2.5 (52.5)	Elks
Blue Bombers	2.5 (50.5)	ROUGHRIDERS

**Saturday**

Argonauts	3.5 (52.5)	TIGER-CATS
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**Sunday**

Lions	4.5 (52.5)	STAMPEDERS
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**NFL**
**Thursday- Sept. 5**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
CHIEFS	2.5 (46.5)	Ravens

**Friday- Sept. 6**

+Eagles	1.5 (48.5)	Packers
+Sao Paulo, Brazil		

**Sunday- Sept. 8**

GIANTS	1 (41.5)	Vikings
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**Monday- Sept. 9**

49ERS	5.5 (45.5)	Jets
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**Home Teams In CAPS**
**Men's Olympic Basketball**
**Sunday- July 28**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
+United States	13.5 (179)	Serbia

**Wednesday- July 31**

+United States	33.5 (175.5)	South Sudan
+Lille, France		

## SPORTS SHORTS

### NFL: 49ers' Aiyuk requests trade

**Brandon Aiyuk** has requested a trade from the 49ers because the two sides haven't made progress on a new contract, a person familiar with the star wide receiver's decision told The Associated Press.

Aiyuk is scheduled to make \$14.1 million this season in the final year of his rookie contract. The 2020 first-round pick was a second-team All-Pro last season, when he had 75 catches for 1,342 yards and seven touchdowns.

● **Caleb Williams** finally inked his rookie contract Tuesday with the Bears as the quarterback and No. 1 pick in the 2024 draft signed a four-year deal worth \$39 million — fully guaranteed with a \$25.5 million signing bonus, per ESPN. The deal includes a fifth-year team option.

The Bears also agreed to a four-year contract with an option for the 2028 season with rookie receiver **Rome Odunze**, the No. 9 overall pick in the draft from Washington.

● Patriots wide receiver **Kayshon Boutte** will not be prosecuted on charges related to illegal online gaming that police said took place while he was underage and still a player at Louisiana State University, the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney's office said Tuesday.

Boutte has completed a "gambling awareness" program and has agreed to a ban from gaming in Massachusetts and on the FanDuel and BET99 online sites.

### NBA: Kobe's dad dies at 69

**Joe "Jellybean" Bryant**, the father of the late Basketball Hall of Famer **Kobe Bryant**, has died, his alma mater announced Tuesday. Bryant, who spent eight seasons in the NBA with three different franchises, was 69. The Philadelphia In-

quirer, citing La Salle coach **Fran Dunphy**, reported that Joe Bryant recently had a massive stroke.

● **Kyrie Irving** broke his left hand during an offseason workout and had surgery, and the Mavericks didn't provide a timeline for his recovery in an announcement of the injury Tuesday night.

● **Jontay Porter**, who has been banned from the NBA after admitting that he helped bettors by intentionally underperforming in games, asked a federal court Wednesday for permission to resume his playing career in Greece with Promitheas BC.

● The Lakers have hired Kings G League coach **Lindsey Harding** as an assistant coach. Harding, 39, earned the G League Coach of the Year for the Stockton Kings.

● Free agent guard **Patrick Beverley** announced on his podcast that he is leaving the NBA to play next season in Israel with Hapoel Tel Aviv BC. The 36-year-old is a three-time NBA All-Defensive selection.

### SOCCER: U.S. women ends in draw

The U.S. women's soccer team played to a 0-0 draw with Costa Rica in sweltering temperatures in its final exhibition tune-up game before the Paris Olympics. It was 98 degrees Fahrenheit (37 Celsius) at kickoff at Audi Field after Washington tied the hottest day on record in the nation's capital at 104 degrees hours earlier.

● Inter Miami coach **Gerardo Martin** said Tuesday that **Lionel Messi** will miss the next two games after the Argentina star injured his right ankle in the final of the Copa America against Colombia Sunday.

Messi, 37, will miss Miami's games against Toronto FC on Wednesday and Saturday against the Chicago Fire.

## ACTION TOP PLAY

# Fever believers, keep riding Clark Express

By **ANDREW NORTON**  
actionnetwork.com

After winning only 13 games last season, the Indiana Fever (11-14) are already closing in on that win total with 15 regular-season games remaining.

Caitlin Clark is averaging 16.8 points, 7.8 assists, 5.8 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game. In her first WNBA season, the Iowa product didn't need much time to adapt to professional life.

On Wednesday night, in the final game before the month-long All-Star and Olympics break, the Fever travel to Dallas to face the Wings, who have a 5-19 record and have dropped six of their past seven games.

The Wings have dealt with several injuries to key players this season, but they did get Odyssey Sims and Natasha Howard back recently. Still, they have been abysmal, losing six of their past seven games and 17 of 19 overall.

During that stretch, the Wings have allowed opponents to make 49% of their shots from the field and 37% of their attempts from behind the arc.

Meanwhile, the Fever's season started slowly, but they have come on strong lately, securing eight wins in their past 12 games. They are coming off a road win against the league's best defensive team (Lynx) and beat the first-place Liberty on July 6.

Indiana has found a way to win games despite shooting poorly from behind the arc. The Fever have only hit 26.4% of their 3-point attempts over their past six outings but have still secured four wins in that stretch.

This is the perfect game for Indiana to escape its recent 3-point shooting



**Caitlin Clark**

Getty Images

struggles. The Wings have allowed teams to knock down 3s at a high clip, particularly over their past 10 games; opponents are hitting 41% from deep in that span.

This should be a fairly straightforward game for Clark and a surging Fever team.

**THE PLAY:** Fever -4.5 (-108, Fan-Duel).

Andrew Norton handicaps basketball for Action Network.

## STITCHES

# Feeling Feverish? Take Indiana

Slim pickens. Wednesday's sports menu looks like the menu at Red Lobster at 11 p.m., after the "all you can eat for \$20" wolves have wiped out the shrimp & crab buffet tables. Monday's "Action Top Play" focused on darts. Stitches' campaign manager Don Reed after further review: "Maybe darts isn't such a ridiculous idea after all. There's no bullpen in darts." The "BULLpens" will resume blowing our saves on Friday. Stitches, who has appeared on more dart boards than Prince Harry, will play \$50 on Caitlin Clark and the

Fever who are in Dallas to take on the...hold on let me check...ah yes, the Wings.

-\$

Like most of our first half plays, the Home Run-Demolition Derby didn't go our way. Looked to the National League to turn our luck around but they turned our stomachs.

Hunter "Queasy" Greene gave up a two-run homer to Jarren Duran and the American League won it 5-3. Down -1,056 rayfosses.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups		HOME	AWAY				
	TODAY July 17	THU July 18	FRI July 19	SAT July 20	SUN July 21	MON July 22	TUE July 23
	NO GAME	NO GAME	T.B. 7:05 YES WFAN	T.B. 1:05 YES WFAN	T.B. 1:35 YES WFAN	T.B. 1:05 YES WFAN	Mets 7:05 YES WFAN
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Miami 7:10 SNY WCBS	Miami 4:10 PIX11 WCBS	Miami 1:40 PIX11 WCBS	Miami 6:40 SNY WCBS	Yanks 7:05 PIX11 WCBS
	Olympic Break: Next Game- August 15 Los Angeles 9:00 ESPN						

Today		Today		Saturday	
	CF Montreal 7:30 Apple TV+		Atlanta United 7:30 Apple TV+		Chicago Red Stars 5:00 CBSSN

Today's Sports on the Air			
<b>NBA Summer League</b>	3 p.m.	Heat vs. Mavericks	ESPN2
	3:30 p.m.	Kings vs. Knicks	NBATV
	5 p.m.	Raptors vs. Jazz	ESPN2
	5:30 p.m.	Celtics vs. Hornets	NBATV
	8 p.m.	Suns vs. Thunder	NBATV
	9:30 p.m.	Lakers vs. Hawks	ESPN
<b>Soccer</b>	10 p.m.	Warriors vs. Cavaliers	NBATV
	7:30 p.m.	CF Montreal at Red Bulls	Apple TV+
	7:30 p.m.	NYCFC at Atlanta United	Apple TV+
	8 p.m.	USL Championship: Rhode Island at Birmingham	CBSSN
	8:30 p.m.	Orlando City SC at Nashville SC	FS1
	9 p.m.	Liga MX: Pumas UNAM at Juarez	FS2
<b>WNBA Basketball</b>	10:30 p.m.	Real Salt Lake at LAFC	FS1
	7:30 p.m.	Fever at Wings	ESPN
<b>Basketball</b>	Noon	Pre-Olympic Showcase: U.S. vs. Serbia	FS1
<b>Golf</b>	4 a.m. (Thurs.)	DP World/PGA Tour: The Open Championship, 1st Round	USA
	6 a.m.	ATP Newport, ATP Hamburg, ATP Gstaad, ATP Bastad, WTA Budapest, WTA Palermo- Early Rounds	Tennis
<b>Tennis</b>	4:30 a.m. (Thurs.)	ATP Newport, ATP Hamburg, ATP Gstaad, ATP Bastad, WTA Budapest, WTA Palermo- Early Rounds	Tennis
	9:30 p.m.	West Coast All-Star Game	MLBN
<b>Baseball</b>	2 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
<b>Horse Racing</b>	2 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN

TENNIS			
Favorites to win U.S. Open			
MEN	ODDS	WOMEN	ODDS
Carlos Alcaraz	+165	Iga Swiatek	+275
Jannik Sinner	+170	Aryna Sabalenka	+300
Novak Djokovic	+188	Coco Gauff	+500
Daniil Medvedev	+700	Naomi Osaka	+600
Alexander Zverev	12/1	Elena Rybakina	+700
Stefanos Tsitsipas	28/1	Jessica Pegula	12/1
Ben Shelton	28/1	Mirra Andreeva	14/1
Taylor Fritz	33/1	Danielle Collins	14/1
Frances Tiafoe	40/1	Jasmine Paolini	18/1
Holger Rune	40/1	Karolina Muchova	20/1
Hubert Hurkacz	40/1	Bianca Andreescu	20/1
Andrei Rublev	50/1	Emma Raducanu	20/1
Casper Ruud	50/1	Madison Keys	25/1
Matteo Berrettini	50/1	Marketa Vondrousova	25/1

## ODDS & ENDS

**GOLF**  
Favorites to win The Open Championship Thursday-Sunday, Troon, Scotland

PLAYER	ODDS
Scottie Scheffler	+550
Rory McIlroy	+800
Xander Schauffele	12/1
Ludvig Aberg	14/1
Bryson DeChambeau	16/1
Collin Morikawa	16/1
Tyrrell Hatton	22/1
Jon Rahm	25/1
Tommy Fleetwood	25/1
Robert MacIntyre	33/1
Viktor Hovland	33/1
Brooks Koepka	40/1
Shane Lowry	40/1
Tom Kim	40/1
Patrick Cantlay	45/1
Tony Finau	45/1
Cameron Smith	50/1
Hideki Matsuyama	50/1
Joaquin Niemann	50/1
Sahith Theegala	50/1
Cameron Young	55/1
Louis Oosthuizen	55/1
Sungjae Im	55/1
Aaron Rai	55/1
Adam Scott	66/1
Brian Harman	66/1
Corey Conners	66/1
Matt Fitzpatrick	66/1
Min Woo Lee	66/1
Wyndham Clark	66/1
Jordan Spieth	66/1
Justin Thomas	66/1
Alex Noren	80/1
Akshay Bhatia	100/1
Davis Thompson	100/1
Nicolai Hojgaard	100/1
Sam Burns	100/1
Sepp Straka	100/1
Si Woo Kim	100/1

Top American	
PLAYER	ODDS
Scottie Scheffler	+275
Xander Schauffele	+600
Collin Morikawa	+750
Bryson DeChambeau	+800
Brooks Koepka	16/1
Patrick Cantlay	18/1
Tony Finau	18/1
Sahith Theegala	20/1
Cameron Young	22/1

Top Senior	
PLAYER	ODDS
Padraig Harrington	+275
Phil Mickelson	+300
Stewart Cink	+350
Ernie Els	+400
Alex Cejka	12/1
Darren Clarke	14/1
Justin Leonard	16/1

## ACTION BET SMART

# Schauf' (not Scheff') is Open fave to back

By DEREK FARNSWORTH  
actionnetwork.com

This year's Open Championship will be held at the Old Course at Royal Troon in Scotland — a par-71 that measures 7,385 yards. The last time the course hosted The Open was in 2016, when Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson put on an epic battle in extremely difficult conditions.

A classic links course, Royal Troon features the longest hole in Open Championship history (623-yard No. 6) and the famous postage stamp (123-yard No. 8).

As is usually the case in the UK, weather will have a major impact on scoring. The forecast calls for 20-plus mph gusts on most of the days during the tournament. Given how small the greens are and how much trouble there is off the tee, expect a low rate for greens hit in regulation.

This is not a course where golfers are going to be able to overpower off the tee. They will have to contend with several blind tee shots, numerous fairway bunkers, and gorse bushes and tall fescue if you stray too far offline.

Royal Troon is a strategic course, which is why both total driving and links experience are high on my list in picking outright winners. I will also be looking at strokes-gained approach, scrambling, Open Championship experience and strokes gained per round in windy conditions.

Here are my best bets for the weekend:

### Xander Schauffele (12/1, BetMGM)

Enjoying a career year, Schauffele already has 11 top-10 finishes and even picked up his first major championship (PGA Championship) a couple of months ago.

He's elite in all four of the strokes-gained categories (off the tee, on approach, around the green and putting) and doesn't have the same scar tissue as Rory McIlroy, who has let three majors slip through his fingers in the last couple of years.

Schauffele has an excellent track record on links courses and nearly won The Open in 2018. Since then, he's posted finishes of

T41, T26, T15 and T17 at this event. Now that he has a major under his belt, he shouldn't be intimidated if he's in the mix on Sunday.

### Tyrrell Hatton (28/1, DraftKings)

Hatton didn't win on the PGA Tour last year, but had one of the most consistent seasons of any golfer. He then joined LIV earlier this year and has been somewhat of an afterthought for casual golf fans.

However, he has posted a top 10 at The Masters and was in contention at the U.S. Open until a bad Sunday dropped him to 26th. He's played in two LIV events since then, winning one and finishing third in the other.

He's long been one of the best links players in the world and has three top-20 finishes at The Open Championship in the last four years. He is capable of being positive in all four of the strokes-gained categories.

### Hideki Matsuyama (50/1, BetMGM)

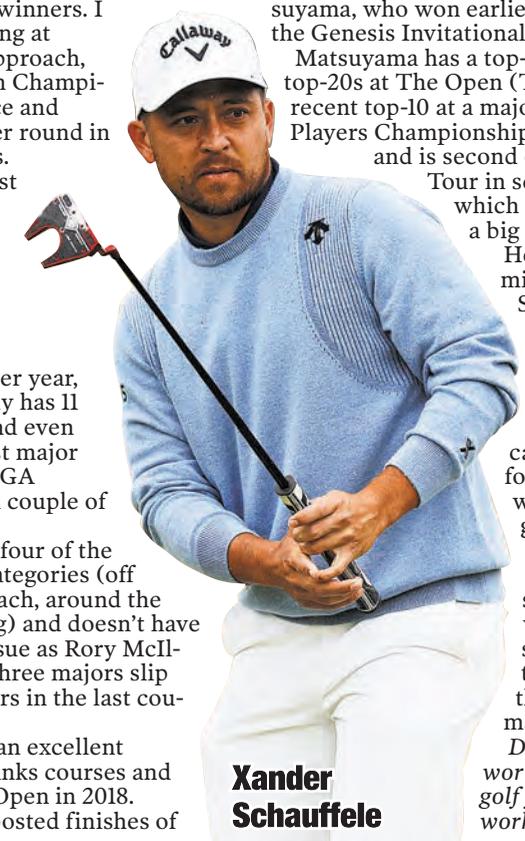
For every major, I write a betting-trends story for Action Network based on the winners of each event over the last 10 years. This week, I found seven trends for the Open Championship and only four golfers met them all: Scottie Scheffler, McIlroy, Schauffele and Matsuyama, who won earlier this year at the Genesis Invitational.

Matsuyama has a top-10 and four top-20s at The Open (T13 last year), a recent top-10 at a major (T6 at The Players Championship in March), and is second on the PGA

Tour in scrambling, which I expect to play a big role this week.

He's coming off a missed cut at the Scottish Open, but he gained 4.7 strokes tee to green in the two rounds he played. We can forgive him for one awful week on the greens (-4.8 strokes putting). He's sneaky this week and has some very enticing odds in the outright market.

Derek Farnsworth analyzes golf for Action Network.



**Xander Schauffele**

Getty Images

# England coach steps down after Euro loss

By JAMES ROBSON

After eight years, four major tournaments and two finals, Gareth Southgate announced he was stepping down as England manager on Tuesday, saying it was “time for change.”

Sunday’s 2-1 loss to Spain in the European Championship final proved to be his last game in charge of the national team.

“As a proud Englishman, it has been the honor of my life to play for England and to manage England. It has meant everything to me, and I have given it my all,” he said. “But it’s time for change, and for a new chapter.”

Southgate’s contract was due to expire this year and his announcement comes after months of uncertainty surrounding his future.

Mikel Oyarzabal’s 86th-minute winner in Berlin was a painful way to end his reign after he transformed the fortunes of England’s underperforming national team.

Hired in 2016, he led England to back-to-back finals at the Euros and to the semi-finals of the World Cup in 2018.

But, ultimately, he was unable to end the nation’s decades-long wait for a first major trophy since the World Cup in 1966.

“Gareth, I want to thank you — not as the President of the FA, but as an England fan,” Prince William said on X. “Thank you for creating a team that stands shoulder to shoulder with the world’s finest in 2024. Thank you for showing humility, compassion, and true leadership under the most intense pres-

sure and scrutiny. And thank you for being an all-round class act. You should be incredibly proud of what you’ve achieved. W”

Southgate said before the European Championship that it would likely be his last tournament if England did not win.

During it, he faced fierce criticism for the team’s early performances and some fans threw plastic beer cups in his direction at the end of the 0-0 draw with Slovenia in the group phase.

But he achieved what no other England manager has by leading his team to two finals, including a first on foreign soil.

“Gareth has made the impossible job possible and laid strong foundations for future success. He is held in the highest regard by the players, the backroom team, by everyone at the FA and across the world of football,” said Mark Bullingham, chief executive of the English Football Association.

Before Southgate’s arrival England had won only seven knockout games at tournaments since 1966. The team won nine during his tenure.

England was also in the top five of FIFA’s rankings for six years under Southgate. Previously its longest run had been seven months.

The World Cup semifinal in 2018 came after England had suffered the humiliation of being eliminated by Iceland at Euro 2016 and failed to advance beyond the group stage of the World Cup in 2014.

England had not advanced to a semifinal since Euro 96 and hadn’t reached that stage of a World Cup since 1990.

## AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Baltimore	58	38	.604	—	—	3-7 W-1	30-22	28-16
<b>Yankees</b>	58	40	.592	1	+3½	4-6 L-1	25-19	33-21
Boston	53	42	.558	4½	—	7-3 W-2	24-25	29-17
Tampa Bay	48	48	.500	10	5½	5-5 W-1	27-27	21-21
Toronto	44	52	.458	14	9½	5-5 W-1	21-24	23-28

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	58	37	.611	—	—	4-6 L-1	30-11	28-26
Minnesota	54	42	.563	4½	+½	6-4 L-1	27-18	27-24
Kansas City	52	45	.536	7	2	5-5 L-2	31-18	21-27
Detroit	47	50	.485	12	7	8-2 W-2	24-24	23-26
Chicago	27	71	.276	32½	27½	2-8 L-4	17-34	10-37

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	52	46	.531	—	—	5-5 L-3	30-18	22-28
Houston	50	46	.521	1	3½	6-4 L-2	28-21	22-25
Texas	46	50	.479	5	7½	7-3 W-2	24-21	22-29
Los Angeles	41	55	.427	10	12½	5-5 W-3	22-29	19-26
Oakland	37	61	.378	15	17½	5-5 W-1	22-25	15-36

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

### Tuesday

AL All-Stars 5, NL All-Stars 3

### Wednesday

No games scheduled

## NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	62	34	.646	—	—	5-5 L-1	37-16	25-18
Atlanta	53	42	.558	8½	+4	6-4 W-1	29-17	24-25
<b>Mets</b>	49	46	.516	12½	—	7-3 L-1	26-26	23-20
Washington	44	53	.454	18½	6	3-7 L-1	20-24	24-29
Miami	33	63	.344	29	16½	3-7 W-1	18-31	15-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	55	42	.567	—	—	3-7 W-1	29-17	26-25
St. Louis	50	46	.521	4½	+½	5-5 L-1	26-22	24-24
Pittsburgh	48	48	.500	6½	1½	7-3 W-4	22-24	26-24
Cincinnati	47	50	.485	8	3	5-5 L-1	25-28	22-22
Chicago	47	51	.480	8½	3½	7-3 W-1	25-21	22-30

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10 Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	56	41	.577	—	—	3-7 L-2	28-19	28-22
San Diego	50	49	.505	7	1	4-6 L-1	26-28	24-21
Arizona	49	48	.505	7	1	6-4 L-1	26-24	23-24
San Francisco	47	50	.485	9	3	5-5 W-1	28-22	19-28
Colorado	34	63	.351	22	16	4-6 W-1	20-27	14-36

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

### Tuesday

AL All-Stars 5, NL All-Stars 3

### Wednesday

No games scheduled

## WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
<b>Liberty</b>	21	4	.840	—
Connecticut	18	6	.750	2½
Indiana	11	14	.440	10
Chicago	10	14	.417	10½
Atlanta	7	16	.304	13
Washington	6	19	.240	15

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	17	8	.680	—
Las Vegas	16	8	.667	½
Minnesota	16	8	.667	½
Phoenix	13	12	.520	4
Los Angeles	6	18	.250	10½
Dallas	5	19	.208	11½

**Tuesday**  
Liberty 82, Connecticut 74  
Phoenix 96, Washington 87  
Seattle 93, Los Angeles 83  
Chicago 93, Las Vegas 85

**Wednesday**  
Atlanta at Minnesota, 1pm  
Indiana at Dallas, 7:30pm

## AL All-Stars 5, NL All-Stars 3

NL All-Stars	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	3	1	0	0	0	0	.292
McMahon 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.272
Ohtani dh	2	1	3	1	1	1	.316
c-Ozuna ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.303
Turner ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.349
Abrams ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.268
Harper 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.301
Ramos rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.298
Contreras c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Smith c	2	0	1	0	0	0	.272
Yelich rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.326
b-Freeman ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.291
Alonso 1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Bohm 3b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.295
De La Cruz 3b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.256
Hernández cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Merrill cf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.278
Profar lf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.305
Reynolds lf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.284
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	

AL All-Stars	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan lf	1	1	0	0	1	0	.352
R.Greene lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.271
Henderson ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Seager ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.270
Witt ss	1	0	0	0	1	1	.323
Soto rf	1	1	1	2	1	0	.295
Santander rf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.237
Judge cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.306
Duran cf	2	1	1	2	0	0	.284
Alvarez dh	0	0	0	1	0	0	.296
a-Fry ph-dh	2	0	1	1	0	0	.279
d-Castro ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Ramirez 3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Paredes 3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.261
Gerrero 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.288
Naylor 1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Rutschman c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.275
Perez c	1	0	0	0	1	0	.282
Semien 2b	2	1	1	0	0	0	.242
Westburg 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.271
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	

**NL All-Stars 003 000 000 — 3 10 0**  
**AL All-Stars 003 020 00x — 5 5 0**

a-singled for Alvarez in the 3rd. b-grounded out for Yelich in the 6th. c-grounded out for Ohtani in the 7th. d-grounded out for Fry in the 8th. **LOB:** NL 6, AL 3. **2B:** Harper (21), Soto (15). **HR:** Ohtani (29), off Houck; Duran (10), off H.Greene. **RBI:** Ohtani 3 (69), Soto 2 (66), Fry (33), Duran 2 (41). **Runners left in scoring position:** NL 3 (Contreras 2, Ozuna); AL 0. **RISP:** NL 1 for 4; AL 2 for 4. **Runners moved up:** Henderson. **GDP:** Freeman, Harper. **DP:** AL 2 (Semien, Henderson, Gerrero; Naylor, Witt, Naylor).

NL All-Stars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	1.90
Fried	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	10	3.08
Webb, BS, 0-0	1.0	3	3	3	1	1	31	3.47
Imanaga	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	2.97
H.Greene, L, 6-4	1.0	2	2	2	0	0	18	3.34
Sánchez	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.96
López	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	1.88
Suarez	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	8	1.67
Strahm	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	5	1.49
Scott	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	11	1.34
Hoffman	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.12

AL All-Stars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burnes	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	19	2.43
Skubal	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.41
Houck	1.0	4	3	3	0	1	15	2.54
Crochet	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	3.02
Miller, W, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	2.27
Ragans, H, 0	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	10	3.16
Lugo, H, 0	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	16	2.48
Yates, H, 2	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	1.05
Clase, S, 29-32	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	13	0.81

**Umpires:** Home, James Hoyer; First, Bruce Dreckman; Second, John Tumpance; Third, Nic Lentz; Right, Nestor Ceja; Left, Ben May. **T:** 2:28. **A:** 39,343 (40,000).

## MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	15	5	3	48	43	29
Inter Miami CF	14	4	5	47	51	37
Columbus	12	3	6	42	45	19
<b>Red Bulls</b>	9	4	10	37	37	28
<b>NYCFC</b>	11	9	3	36	33	27
Charlotte FC	10	8	5	35	27	24
Orlando City	8	9	6	30	35	37
Toronto FC	8	13	3	27	32	44
Nashville	6	9	8	26	26	33
CF Montréal	6	9	8	26	32	46

# Holmstrom deal could signal end for vets

By ETHAN SEARS

The Islanders squeezed the last juice out of their salary cap space on Tuesday, announcing they signed Simon Holmstrom to a one-year deal out of restricted free agency.

Holmstrom's salary comes in at \$850,000, per PuckPedia, leaving the Islanders with just \$50,000 of cap space as they appear to have a complete roster. With Holmstrom, who will likely compete for a bottom-six role just as last year, the Isles have 13 forwards under contract to go with seven defensemen and two goaltenders — one short of the 23-man limit, but without any immediately apparent means of fitting another player under the cap.

It is a hair below Holmstrom's qualifying offer, but unlike the \$874,000, two-way deal he could have taken, this is a one-way deal.

That spells bad news for Oliver Wahlstrom, Matt Martin and Cal Clutterbuck, none of whom looked likely to return even before this.

Wahlstrom, also a restricted free agent, has an arbitration hearing coming up, but Lou Lamoriello acknowledged at the draft that the Islanders are looking to move him. Martin and Clutterbuck, both unrestricted free agents, have yet to sign elsewhere, but their pathways back to Long Island appear extremely narrow, at best.

Holmstrom, a first-round pick back in 2019, is coming off a second NHL season in which he recorded 25 points (15 goals, 10 assists) and carved out a role for himself in the Islanders' bottom six. There were stretches of the season in which he was a useful penalty killer and he scored five shorthanded goals, but that tapered off and by the end of the season, the Swede was off the PK.

A one-year deal for the 23-year-old, which will place him back into restricted free agency next summer, sets Holmstrom up as a potential trade chip as the season goes along, particularly if he can't win a consistent role in a bottom six where either he, Hudson Fasching, Kyle MacLean, Anders Lee or Maxim Tsyplov will be the odd man out after training camp. (Fasching, who also enters a contract year, is in a similar position).

Holmstrom has earned plaudits for his two-way play and defensive responsibility, but the Islanders would like to see him take more steps offensively. It's a common refrain that the youngster has an excellent shot, but he'll need to use it more often.

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# GRATE SCOT



**A STINGING SHOT:** Tiger Woods took exception to Colin Montgomerie saying he should retire — pointing out that he can play in the British Open until he is 60 because he's a former champion while Montgomerie, well, can't.

Getty Images

## Tiger shreds Monty over retirement talk

By MARK CANNIZZARO

TROON, Scotland — Tiger Woods, never one to ignore a dig at him, was ready for the question Tuesday morning at Troon.

Days earlier, Colin Montgomerie, a Ryder Cup hero for Europe and former No. 2 player in the world — though he never won a major championship or a PGA Tour event in the U.S. — made pointed comments suggesting that Woods should retire.

At age 48 and in diminished physical condition with leg and back injuries, Woods hasn't been in contention to win a tournament

in years, with his last victory the 2019 Masters.

"I hope people remember Tiger as Tiger was, the passion and the charismatic aura around him," Montgomerie told The Times of London. "There is none of that now. At Pinehurst [for the U.S. Open last month] he did not seem to enjoy a single shot and you think, 'What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and he won't enjoy it there either."

Woods, in his press conference in advance of this week's British Open at Troon, where Montgomerie grew up playing as a child and whose father was the club secre-

tary, shot back at the chatty Scot.

"Well, as a past [Open] champion, I'm exempt until I'm 60 [and] Colin's not," Woods said with a wry smirk. "He's not a past champion, so he's not exempt. So, he doesn't get the opportunity to make that decision. I do. When I get to his age [61], I get to still make that decision, where he doesn't."

Montgomerie, in the Times interview, suggested Woods should have retired at the 2022 British Open at St. Andrews.

"That was the time," Montgomerie said. "Stand on that [Swilcan] bridge, start waving, and everyone goes, 'So, is that it?' Yeah, it is."

"It would have been a glorious way to go. The stands were full, the world's TV cameras — from all continents — were on him, he's walking up there on his own, tears were in his eyes obviously ... you can't beat that walk."

Woods has won 15 majors and captured three British Opens — St. Andrews twice (2002 and '05) and Royal Liverpool ('06).

"There is a time for all sportsmen to say goodbye, but it's very difficult to tell Tiger it's time to go," Montgomerie said. "Obviously, he still feels he can win. We are more realistic."

Not in Woods' eyes.

## Woods explains passing on captaincy

By MARK CANNIZZARO

TROON, Scotland — Tiger Woods, in his first public comments since turning down the U.S. Ryder Cup captaincy for the 2025 matches at Bethpage Black, strongly endorsed Keegan Bradley, who was chosen in his place.

Woods also explained his reasoning for not accepting the post, while stating he has plans to put his hat in the ring for a future captaincy, possibly 2027 in Ireland.

"The decision was very difficult for me to make," Woods said Tuesday. "My time has been so loaded with the [PGA] Tour and everything and what we're trying to accomplish. I'm on so many different subcommittees that it just takes so much time in the day, and I'm always on calls."

"I told Seth [Waugh, the outgoing CEO of the PGA of America] that I just didn't feel like I could do the job properly. I couldn't devote the time. I barely had enough time to do what I'm doing right now [playing], and add in the TGL [The Golf League] starts next year, as well as the Ryder Cup.

### BRITISH OPEN NOTES

"You add all that together and then with our negotiations with the PIF [with LIV Golf], all that concurrently going on at exactly the same time, there's only so many hours in the day. I just didn't feel like I would be doing the captaincy or the players in Team USA justice if I was the captain with everything that I have to do."

Woods, though, seems like a virtual certainty to captain the 2027 U.S. team.

Firstly, he's expressed the desire to do so one day.

Secondly, he'll want to do it while he's still at least in some way a contemporary of the current players.

And thirdly, he has a strong relationship with J.P. McManus, the owner of Adare Manor, where the '27 Ryder Cup will be played.

That would set him up with a chance to be a hero captain and end Europe's dominance on European soil, where the Americans haven't won since 1993.

"I'll put my hat in the ring again when I have more time and I feel like I can devote myself to a Ryder Cup," Woods said. "As of right now, I've got so many different things I'm juggling and trying to get right at the same time for all the players that are a part of the PGA Tour. It's one of those things where you just can't get it wrong."

► Much was made after **Bryson DeChambeau** won the U.S. Open and **Rory McIlroy** bolted Pinehurst in a huff of disappointment without congratulating him.

McIlroy, the following day, released a statement on social media congratulating DeChambeau. And on Monday, he got to do it in person on the Troon practice grounds.

"I said hello to him and we talked and he said congrats," DeChambeau said Tuesday. "So everything's great there. He's a fierce competitor. I know he's going to give the fans, give everybody as much as he can this week. I'm going to be doing the same. We're going to be competing. Hopefully it will be another good battle."

# LIV-ING IN THE SHADOWS



**T**ROON, Scotland — They've gone their separate ways, and it's a shame for the game.

Because not long ago, it looked like the sport was in store for one hell of a rivalry between Jon Rahm and Scottie Scheffler.

Rahm was fluctuating from No. 1 to No. 2 in the world, flip-flopping with Scheffler, when he took the Saudi money and fled to LIV Golf in December 2023.

Since then, it has seemed like Rahm, once the face of the PGA Tour, has disappeared into witness protection.

Scheffler, meanwhile, has won, won and won some more, further cementing himself as the No. 1-ranked player in the world in a dominant manner not seen in the nearly 14 years since Tiger Woods was dusting the rest of the field and distancing himself from the competition.

Rahm won four times in the 2022-23 season, including the Masters. Then he left for LIV, and hasn't won a golf tournament since.

He's played two events on the PGA Tour this year, tying for 45th at the Masters and missing the cut at the PGA Championship, before withdrawing ahead of the U.S. Open last month with an infection in his foot.

Scheffler?

He has six wins in 2024, including a second Masters title and a second consecutive Players Championship.

Understandably, entering this

## An afterthought since taking Saudi millions, Rahm looks to refind form and challenge world's best again

week's British Open at Royal Troon, Scheffler is a heavy favorite and Rahm is bordering on an afterthought.

"Last year from Masters on, I didn't really play my best," Rahm said Tuesday. "I didn't feel at my best up until Ryder Cup. Ryder Cup was the only resemblance to maybe the early part of the year. This year, the first half hasn't been my best."

"But Nashville and last week [in Spain, both LIV events where he finished fourth and 10th, respectively], I felt closer to getting to a higher level of golf where maybe there isn't as many thoughts on my process. Maybe I'm playing a little bit more freely and seeing the ball flight that I want to see more often."

"Yeah, I'm getting much closer to what it might have been early last year."

This week will provide a proper litmus test as to how far apart Rahm is from Scheffler.

"I've talked to Jon a little bit [and] obviously he's very disappointed with his major championship performance," European Ry-

der Cup captain Luke Donald said. "The first two were certainly not up to his standard. Then obviously the unfortunate timing of the injury [at the U.S. Open]."

"I think it's a big week for him. It, I'm sure, has been a massive focus for him to try and get his game to a level where he's going to be back in contention at a major. Yeah, I think there's a little bit of pressure on that, and we'll see how he deals with it."

Brad Faxon said he was with Rory McIlroy, whom he helps with his putting, when Rahm was making the decision to go to LIV and texting back and forth with McIlroy about it.

"I think it was a really hard decision for Jon Rahm — this pile of money versus leaving a Tour you've been very successful and comfortable on," Faxon said. "When

you listen to some of Jon's comments about how difficult it was to be home in Scottsdale [Ariz.] while the PGA Tour event, the Waste Management was being played and he couldn't [play in it]."

"He also made a comment about one of the events he did play in Saudi Arabia, was hitting a shot, and there was a picture of him hitting a second shot up this hill into a hole and there was virtually no spectators watching a player that used to be the No. 1 player in the world."

"I think he misses that. Couple that with some of the injuries he had, the difference in travel, now around the world versus mostly in the U.S. and Europe for him. I think it's a big adjustment."

It's up to Rahm to show he can handle the adjustment. Otherwise, his decision to jump to LIV will only continue to be scrutinized.

"It's clear that there have been changes this year," Rahm said. "But there is a point when you have to get used to certain things. But I am very comfortable with where I am and so keen to keep competing because I know that in a matter of in one moment, in one swing, or one day that changes it all and you may start a streak of good weeks."

For the good of the game, this week would be a good time for that to happen. Even better if it were he and Scheffler dueling it out late on Sunday the way Phil Mickelson and Henrik Stenson did the last time the Open was played at Troon, in 2016.

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Mark Cannizzaro



**DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS:** Barely two years ago, Jon Rahm and Scottie Scheffler (top) were going back and forth as the No. 1 player in the world. Since Rahm took millions to go to LIV Golf, his game has faltered big time while Scheffler has dominated.

Getty Images (2)



## British Open

Royal Troon Golf Club  
Troon, Scotland

### On the air

#### Thursday

Peacock: 1:30 a.m.-4 a.m.  
USA: 4 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### Friday

Peacock: 1:30 a.m.-4 a.m.  
USA: 4 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### Saturday

USA: 5 a.m.-7 a.m.  
NBC: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### Sunday

USA: 9 a.m.-Noon;  
NBC: 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

### FORE-CAST

#### Thursday

64 degrees  
Showers   
50 pct. chance of rain  
Winds: NNE 13 mph

#### Friday

64 degrees  
Cloudy   
20 pct. chance of rain  
Winds: NNE 12 mph

#### Saturday

63 degrees  
Showers   
60 pct. chance of rain  
Winds: NE 12 mph

#### Sunday

61 degrees  
Showers   
40 pct. chance of rain  
Winds: ENE 14 mph

### Notable pairings

#### Thursday-Friday

**4:36 a.m.-9:37 a.m.:**

Jon Rahm; Tommy Fleetwood; Robert MacIntyre

**4:47 a.m.-9:48 a.m.:**

Ludvig Aberg; Bryson DeChambeau; Tom Kim

**5:09 a.m.-10:10 a.m.:**

Rory McIlroy; Max Homa; Tyrrell Hatton

**5:20 a.m.-10:21 a.m.:**

Keegan Bradley; Will Zalatoris; Gordon Sargent

**9:26 a.m.-4:14 a.m.:**

Wyndham Clark; Hideki Matsuyama; Brooks Koepka

**9:37 a.m.-4:25 a.m.:**

Tiger Woods; Xander Schauffele; Patrick Cantlay

**9:48 a.m.-4:36 a.m.:**

Collin Morikawa; Sam Burns; Si Woo Kim

**10:10 a.m.-4:58 a.m.:**

Jordan Spieth; Scottie Scheffler; Cameron Young

By MARK CANNIZZARO

TROON, Scotland — Tuesday marked exactly 30 days since Rory McIlroy missed those two short putts on the final three holes at Pinehurst, allowing the U.S. Open to slip through his hands.

The pain was evident on his ashen face as he staggered, dazed, off the 18th hole on his way into the scoring tent.

And it was even more apparent as the tires of his courtesy SUV tore through the parking lot gravel moments after Bryson DeChambeau seized the moment and the win that McIlroy had ruefully left behind.

In the aftermath of perhaps the most devastating defeat of his career, which has been starved for a fifth major for 10 years and counting, McIlroy received dozens of texts.

One of them was from Tiger Woods, who Tuesday revealed he sent an encouraging note to McIlroy about a week after the U.S. Open, purposely waiting for the dust to settle from the defeat.

"I just sent him a nice text, that was it," Woods said. "I waited a week before I sent it. I wanted to let it calm down. I know he was being besieged by a lot of different things going on, and just let it cool down for a week."

The message?

"Just basically, 'As you know, I'm your friend. I know this is a difficult moment. We've all been there as champions. We all lose,'" Woods said. "Unfortunately, it just happened, and the raw emotion of it, it's still there, and it's going to be there for, I'm sure, some time. The faster he's able to get back on a horse and get back into contention, like he did last week, the better it is for him."

A funny thing happened along the way from Woods' text: McIlroy never got the

# How Rory got over Open heartache

**IN A NEW YORK MINUTE:** Rory McIlroy said a visit to Manhattan helped him quickly move past his U.S. Open meltdown.

Getty Images



message ... until Tuesday.

"Full disclosure, I changed my number two days after the U.S. Open, so I didn't get it until he told me about it today," McIlroy said. "I was like, 'Oh, thanks very much.' So, I blanked Tiger Woods, which is probably not a good thing."

"Tiger has been nothing but incredible to me over the course of my career in the good moments and the bad. He sent me an incredible message after [losing at] St. Andrews in 2022. I met Tiger when I was 15 years old, and I've built up a great relationship with him, his whole family. He really enjoys spending time with my mom and dad as well."

"So, yeah, it means a lot that he reached out. Actually, it means a lot that he waited a few days to reach out, which if he hadn't have waited that long, I probably would have got it. It's always nice when your hero and the guy that you had [a poster of] on your bedroom wall is

reaching out and offering words of encouragement."

McIlroy was asked, a bit tongue-in-cheek, if there are "five stages of grief," did he add another one by changing his number.

"It wasn't out of grief, but OK," McIlroy said with a laugh.

He said it took him three or four days after Pinehurst before he came out of his funk. A trip to Manhattan eased the pain, as he walked the High Line alone in his thoughts, listening to tunes in his earbuds and ate at one of his favorite New York City restaurants, Le Bernardin.

He called the trip to Manhattan "liberating in some way," adding, "The thing is just to get out, to not be on a [TV] screen, to look around. I think trying to find the joy from the small things in life I think is really important."

"Going there especially is a good reset, just in terms of seeing everyone living their lives and the hustle and the bustle. Honestly, no one gave

a s--t if I missed the putt at Pinehurst. It's a nice perspective to keep ... just to go and get lost in a big city like that and just be one of the herd sort of going about your day. For me, it's a nice feeling."

It was in New York City, McIlroy said, where he was able to refocus himself from the agony of the U.S. Open defeat to the things he's been doing well.

"I went from being very disappointed and dejected to trying to focus on the positives to then wanting to learn from the negatives and then getting to the point where you become enthusiastic and motivated to go again," he said. "It's funny how your mindset can go from 'I don't want to see a golf course for a month' to like four days later being can't wait to get another shot at it."

"When that disappointment turns to motivation, that's when it's time to go again."

## Cannizzaro's picks

**Ludvig Aberg:** Yes, he had a disappointing finish in last week's Scottish Open after a great start, but he's in great form, is fearless and supremely talented. He closes the deal this week unlike last. This is a youngster who played in a Ryder Cup before he played in his first major — the first to ever do that. He's that good.



**Cameron Young:** Still seeking his first career PGA Tour win after 69 starts, but you could make the argument that he should have won the 2022 Open at St. Andrews, where he finished runner-up. He finished tied for eighth last year at Hoylake. Young plays links golf well and he's due.

**Rory McIlroy:** He's in contention every week it seems. He's 10 years due to win a major. And he seems to have gotten over the devastation of his U.S. Open loss.

**Adam Scott:** Sure, he's turning 44 this week. But Scott has been playing well, as evidenced by his runner-up finish last week at the Scottish Open. That result has surely boosted his confidence entering this week.

**Robert McIntyre:** The pride of Scotland who won his national open last week could very well be in contention this week at Troon ... depending on how quickly all the whiskey he drank in celebration of last week wears off.

— Mark Cannizzaro

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

# Manfred: Automated strike zone a 'possibility' by 2026

ARLINGTON, Texas — Rob Manfred cautioned that there are issues to work out, but he acknowledged there is a “viable possibility” that Major League Baseball will add an automated system to help umpires determine balls and strikes beginning in 2026.

The commissioner, speaking from the Live! Hotel nearby Globe Life Field during All-Star week, said the competition committee that votes on rules changes likely would not greenlight the system without testing it out first during spring training.

There is a chance, then, that the system is implemented next spring. If all goes well, it could be fully embraced by the start of the 2026 season.

“But is that going to be the year?” Manfred said before Tuesday’s All-Star Game. “I’m not going to be flat-footed on that issue.”

The Automatic Ball-Strike challenge system has been used at the Triple-A level since 2022. In the system, human umpires still determine the calls, but teams have a limited number of challenges they can use to appeal those calls. When challenged, high-speed cameras that capture the location of each

pitch determine whether the call is upheld or overturned.

Both Manfred and MLB Players Association executive director Tony Clark said players have preferred the ABS challenge system, which blends the human element with the technology, rather than a full acceptance of a robo-ump.

Manfred said that while the technology “is good to a hundredth of an inch,” there have been hiccups in determining the strike zone itself.

“We do have technical issues surrounding the definition of the strike zone that still needs to be worked out,” Manfred said.

The league overhauled its rules ahead of the 2023 season, most notably with the advent of a pitch clock, and received plenty of backlash concerning the abruptness of the on-field adjustments.

Manfred would like to take more time with this alteration.

“One thing we learned with the changes last year is a little more time is better than not enough time,” he said. “I mean that in terms of making sure that when you bring something to the big leagues, you got to make sure you got it right.”

➤ The league and its players are open to the possibility of participating in the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Baseball will be played at the 2028 games with or without major leaguers after the sport was re-added to the Olympics in 2021, when MLB only allowed players who were not on 40-man rosters to participate.

**Casey Wasserman**, a prominent agent and the chairman of the LA’s Summer Olympic Games, has met with owners to sell them on the idea.

“We’re talking about what can be done — what exactly would it look like?” Manfred said. “What are the compromises that we

would have to make in terms of our season? I remain open-minded on that topic.”

It is possible that the Games take the place of the All-Star break.

“The feedback that we’ve gotten so far from players is such that there is an interest in participating if given an opportunity,” Clark said.

➤ Amid plenty of criticism from fans and players about the jerseys worn during the All-Star Game, Manfred said the league will discuss returning to players wearing their own teams’ jerseys next season.

“I’m aware of the sentiment on this issue,” Manfred said. “It’s something we’re going to have conversation about coming out of the All-Star Game. ... Obviously the conversations have to involve the players first and foremost, but Nike, some of our partners.

“But I am aware of the sentiment and I do know why people kind of like that tradition.”



**CHANGES COMING?** Rob Manfred said MLB could potentially add an automated system that will help umpires determine balls and strikes. USA TODAY Sports

## ALL-STAR NOTES

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Call this “Saquon Barkley, Endgame.”

The final steps that led Barkley to depart the Giants after six seasons for greener pastures in Philadelphia was the compelling focus in Episode 3 of “Hard Knocks,” aired Tuesday night on HBO. Tucked into this peek behind the curtain was a resounding message to Giants fans: Joe Schoen, the general manager, makes the final call on football matters, even if that decision rankles his boss, co-owner John Mara.

With NFL free agency beckoning, the episode opens up with Schoen calling Barkley’s agent, Ed Berry, asking, “In order to get Saquon, what would we have to do? There’s no sense going back and forth.”

Schoen listens and then repeats these numbers: \$12.5 million yearly average on a three-year deal and \$25 million in guaranteed money.

“If I offered him [those numbers,] he’d be a Giant?” Schoen says. “Alright, I’ll give you a call back. This may be above me on Saquon.”

Schoen then calls Mara and says, “I told the agent ‘If we make that deal, he’s gonna be a Giant?’ and he’s like ‘Well ...’ He hemmed and hawed, he’s like ‘I’m not gonna say that.’”

Next, coach Brian Daboll sits down in Schoen’s office and they discuss a variety of free agents. Schoen says, “I think the priority is the offensive line” and Daboll agrees. They discuss guards Jon Runyan and Robert Hunt and tackle/guard Jermaine Eluemunor.

Daboll confirms to Schoen that bringing back Tyrod Taylor as the backup quarterback is his preference. Schoen mentions that he believes Gardner Minshew will cost between \$10 million to \$20 million and that Drew Lock and Sam Darnold can be had for \$4 million.

“I would take Tyrod over all those guys,” Daboll said.

Schoen puts out there at running back that Devin Singletary will likely cost \$5 million a year and D’Andre Swift will cost \$6 million per year. Daboll signs off on Singletary, a player he and Schoen know from their time in Buffalo.

Mara arrives in Schoen’s office, is briefed on the free-agent plans and wants to know the latest on Barkley. Schoen looks at his phone and says, “I just got a text

# GOLD, ‘HARD’ CASH

## Latest episode reveals final negotiations before Saquon bolts

**THE FINAL RESULT:** Tuesday night’s episode of “Hard Knocks” peels back the curtain on the final talks between Joe Schoen (inset) and Saquon Barkley’s camp, which ended with Barkley joining the Eagles. A; HBO

that Chicago’s driving the price up and Philly’s out — I don’t know if that’s true or not.”

Mara: “I’ll have a tough time sleeping if Saquon goes to Philly, I’ll tell you that.”

“As I’ve told you, I’ve been around enough players but he’s the most popular player we have — by far.”

Mara’s wishes are clear. He wants Barkley back.

The Giants hear that the Jets are interested in two of their prime offensive line targets, Runyan and Eluemunor, with the Jets offering Runyan \$9 million per year. The Giants increased

their offer to \$10 million per year to get him. Hunt’s price is too high and the Giants move from \$6 million a year to \$7 million to secure Eluemunor.

Schoen calls Berry and repeats the contract numbers previously discussed: \$12.5 million average and \$25 million guaranteed. Schoen listens to what Berry says and responds with “North of that? We’re not gonna go there. We’re out.”

Before hanging up, Schoen — no doubt remembering what Mara told him about Barkley ending up with the Eagles — asks

Berry, “Is it in the division? I’m trying to prepare myself mentally for what’s going to happen, that’s all.”

In the next scene, Mara walks into Schoen’s office and Chris Rossetti, the director of pro scouting, reads Barkley’s contract details from the Eagles. It is a three-year deal for \$37.75 million, with \$26 million guaranteed.

There is no tantrum from the owner.

“Alright,” Mara says, and heads to the door.

Schoen, seated behind his desk, says, “We’re gonna be fine.”

Mara smiles. “I think we will be too,” he says and walks out.

The other marquee free agent, safety Xavier McKinney, was glossed over in the episode, with only a scant few mentions. McKinney left for a four-year, \$68 million deal from the Packers. Schoen, hearing the contract over the phone, said “Oh my God, 17 [million] a year, huh? That makes him the second highest-paid safety in the league.” Schoen sounded incredulous about this.

The completion of the trade with the Panthers for

edge rusher Brian Burns included Schoen telling new defensive coordinator Shane Bowen “that’s probably all you’re getting,” alluding to how much money (five years, \$141 million) it was going to take to sign Burns. Schoen is seen finalizing the deal on the phone with Dan Morgan, the Panthers’ general manager and one of Schoen’s closest friends in the league.

“Why do we need to add a seventh [round pick], Dan?” Schoen asks before the parameters of the trade were completed — without the inclusion of that seventh-round pick.

After what Schoen termed a “stressful” first day of free agency, the Giants on Day 2 learned that Taylor was gone, signing with the Jets on a two-year deal worth up to \$18 million. “The injuries, the price-point, we stretched to \$7 million [per year] to get him here,” Schoen tells Mara about losing Taylor.

The Giants pivot to Lock for \$5 million. Win some, lose some.

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## Rookie tight end lands on PUP list

The Giants rookies reported to training camp Tuesday and one of them, tight end Theo Johnson, arrived with a hip flexor issue and was placed on the physically unable to perform list.

The extent of the injury is not known but this is not expected to be a long-term setback. Johnson can work with the trainers on the side while on the PUP list and can come

off the list whenever he is deemed ready to take the field.

The rookies are in for a week in advance of the July 23 reporting date for the veterans. The first full-squad practice is July 24.

Johnson, selected out of Penn State in the fourth round of the NFL Draft, is expected to compete for immediate playing time and possibly a starting role alongside Daniel

Bellinger, who returns for his third season with the Giants. There is an opening at the position with the retirement of Darren Waller.

Johnson has great size (6-foot-6, 259 pounds) and stood out athletically at the NFL scouting combine. In 44 games (29 starts) in college, he had 77 receptions for 938 yards and 12 touchdowns.

— Paul Schwartz

"The five players on the floor function as one single unit. Team, team, team. Right? No one more important than the other."

— Gene Hackman as coach Norman Dale, "Hoosiers"

EVERY theory or even mandate about how an NBA championship team needs to be built is flipped by the one that celebrates its 20th anniversary this summer.

The 2004 Detroit Pistons are the championship exceptions of the last 45 NBA seasons.

And as the NBA moves forward, there might never be another champion like them.

Their singularity is due to one reason: Since Magic Johnson entered the NBA and led the Lakers to the 1980 championship, the 2004 Pistons are the only team to win the title without a single star. Forget the idea of multiple stars — the Pistons didn't have even one.

Every other championship in the past 45 years has been won by a team that's featured at least one of the following players and in some cases several of them:

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Moses Malone, Julius Erving, Isiah Thomas, Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Hakeem Olajuwon, Clyde Drexler, Tim Duncan, David Robinson, Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Dwyane Wade, Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, Dirk Nowitzki, LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Kyrie Irving, Kevin Durant, Kawhi Leonard, Anthony Davis, Giannis Antetokounmpo, Nikola Jokic and now Jayson Tatum.

Some of those are the greatest of the greatest — Jordan, LeBron, Magic, Bird, Curry, Shaq, Kobe. Some are probably a slight notch below that all-time best group — Malone, Wade, Garnett, Nowitzki, Leonard, Giannis. Given Tatum's age, we'll see where the 26-year-old of the newly crowned Celtics ultimately lands in history, but there's no question that he's one of the league's elite players. In his last three seasons, Tatum's been All-NBA First Team and finished in the MVP top-six each year.

The 2004 Pistons? Their starting five featured Chauncey Billups, Richard "Rip" Hamilton, Rasheed Wallace, Tayshaun Prince and Ben Wallace.

To be clear, the Pistons boasted terrific players. But they weren't stars. Prior to the championship run, the quintet had combined for three All-Star berths (two by Rasheed Wallace, one by Ben Wallace) and two Defensive Player of the Year awards (both by Ben Wallace) — yet none of the five would have qualified as franchise players.

Detroit's leading scorer during that regular season was Hamilton at 17.6 points per game, which ranked 37th in the NBA (Hamilton upped his average to 21.5 in the playoffs). Billups, the Pistons' superb point guard, paced them in assists at 5.7 per game.

It feels as if the Pistons are largely forgotten — or at least relatively ignored. It's inexplicable that not a single book has been written about the sport's unique champion over the past four and a half decades (perhaps Malcolm Gladwell could simply repurpose his famed "Outliers" tome into a retrospective). The 1969 Mets own the Miracle Mets moniker, yet the 2004 Pistons stunners have no snappy tag. There's an ESPN 30-for-30 episode about the 1991-92 "Bad Boys" Pistons. There should also be one about the Detroit hoopsters who succeeded them as champs 12 years later.

Everyone who follows the NBA hears axioms such as, "You need stars to win" and "Such-and-such player can't be the best player on a championship team." And while

# THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD

THE 2004  
DETROIT  
PISTONS

Ben  
Wallace

Two decades later, celebrating an NBA champ we'll never see again

By MARK HALE

the first is almost always accurate, it clearly isn't ironclad. And while the second is obviously debatable, depending on what player we're talking about, there's no way anyone would have said that any of the 2004 Pistons fit the conventional rubric of "best player on a championship team."

"We knew that we didn't have one guy that could carry the whole team," Billups told The Post in a recent interview. "But that doesn't mean that we couldn't win."

◆◆◆

How did they win? Mainly with defense, durability and depth.

## Defense

During the season, the Pistons tied the Spurs for fewest points allowed per game at 84.3 and ranked second in defensive rating at 93.9. It was a completely different sport then. This past season, by comparison, the Timberwolves allowed the fewest points at 106.5 and led in defensive rating at 108.4.

In the playoffs, the Pistons were even better, allowing a postseason-best 80.7 ppg and sporting a postseason-best 90.3 defensive rating. Again, for comparison, the Magic this

past postseason allowed the fewest points per game at 95.9 and led in playoff defensive rating at 100.0.

In Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Semifinals, the Pistons held the Nets to 56 points. In Game 7, they limited the Nets to 69. In their four wins over the Lakers in the five-game NBA Finals, they allowed an average of just 77.5 points. Other than O'Neal and Bryant, no Laker averaged more than 6.4 ppg in that series — and even Bryant averaged his 22.6 ppg on just 38.1% shooting from the field.

Offensively that season, the Pistons were shaky. They scored the sixth-fewest points per game and tied for 18th in field-goal percentage.

"The game is so different now. It's like a video game for me when I watch it. You see great individual play, but I coined the phrase 'play the right way,'" head coach Larry Brown told The Post recently. "I thought that team did that about as well as any team I've ever been around."

Of course, that's another element of the Pistons' success — they were coached by one of basketball's best in Brown, a Hall of Famer (told this, Brown said he appreciated the compliment, but praised his

coaching staff, his GM and his owner).

## Durability

Four Pistons starters — Billups, Hamilton, Prince and Ben Wallace — started at least 78 games during the season. Rasheed Wallace was acquired for the final 26 games of the season and played in 22 of them, starting 21. The quintet then started all 23 playoff games, each averaging between 34.6 and 40.2 minutes per game.

## Depth

Brown also raved about his bench, saying that the backcourt duo of Mike James and Lindsey Hunter "could guard as well as anybody," calling muscular power forward Corliss Williamson "a matchup nightmare for everybody" and hailing 6-foot-11 Mehmet Okur as a surefire backup to both Wallaces.

This was by design.

"It was always the model that you had to have two superstars and then build out your roster from there," then-president of basketball operations Joe Dumars told The Post. "For me, my two superstars have to be as good as the two best superstars at that time if we were going to win. And that was Shaq and Kobe."



Reuters (2); AP (2); UPI; Getty Images

lective unselfishness that was geared toward winning above all.

"Everybody had a story," he said. "Everybody came from some failures."

To be clear, the Pistons were hardly a Cinderella. The season before, under coach Rick Carlisle, they had advanced to the Eastern Conference Finals, losing to the Nets.

In training camp before the 2003-04 season, Billups was confident that the Pistons were at the very least an Eastern Conference Finals team. Fifty-six games into the season, they were 34-22 when Dumars traded with the Hawks for Rasheed Wallace, whom he now characterizes as "the final piece." Billups agrees. After the first practice with their new big man, Billups says he told his wife, "We're gonna win a championship this year."

"What we needed was exactly what Rasheed brought," Billups said, pointing out Wallace's communication defensively, his intelligence, his scoring acumen and his value as a teammate. "We found those things out in one practice."

The Pistons went 20-6 after the deal, finishing 54-28 to take the East's No. 3 seed. They then rolled through the sixth-seeded Bucks in the first round of the playoffs (4-1); avenged the previous season's playoff loss by beating Jason Kidd, Richard Jefferson and the No. 2 Nets in the second round (4-3); captured the East title by knocking out Jermaine O'Neal, Metta World Peace and the top-seeded Pacers (4-2); then ripped the star-studded Lakers in the Finals (4-1).

Billups earned Finals MVP, averaging 21.0 points and 5.2 assists while shooting a blistering 51% from the field and 47% from 3.

The next season, they advanced to Game 7 of the NBA Finals before losing to the Spurs.

The unlikely champions were this close to becoming a dynasty.



The 2004 Pistons are outliers — and that prompts two questions.

1. Should NBA organizations think about building teams using them as a model?
2. Can a team built this way ever win a championship again?

Let's start with the first one.

This is tricky. The 2004 Pistons indeed won the championship — but they're the only team built like this in the last 45 years to accomplish that feat. If you're an acolyte of their philosophy, you can say that their title shows that the model can work. On the other hand, 97.8% of the time in the last 45 years a different formula worked. To borrow from Chris Rock, "You can do it, but doesn't mean it's to be done. You can drive a car with your feet if you want to — that doesn't make it a good f-king idea."

Billups is now in a team-building capacity as head coach of the Trail Blazers. So does he abide by the "it's a stars-driven league, and you should prioritize trying

to acquire stars" philosophy? Or does he want to build in Portland the way the 2004 Pistons were constructed?

"The beauty of it to me is this: No, you can't win without stars. But when you're rebuilding, you can raise some," Billups said. "You don't always have to go out and get 'em. You can raise 'em."

He points to the Thunder, citing their development of Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Jalen Williams ("they're raising them to be stars and they're well on their way").

Brown believes that organizations should focus on players who are more team-oriented.

"I look at [Pat] Riley — there's something about Miami that I smile every time I see them play. Because they're all about the right things. If you don't do it the right way, they move on from you. I think that everybody should think that way," Brown said. "If you want to be in an individual sport, play tennis or run track. You want to play basketball, to me you need those grunge kids that are so unselfish that will do anything to see your team succeed."

"That's what I saw with the Knicks with the Villanova kids. I think we don't put enough stock in that."

Dumars won't rule out the possibility that a team built like the 2004 Pistons could win it all again.

"The teams that prioritize depth are the ones that are generally more successful now," he said. "Even though they may have a superstar or two, I think teams value depth more than ever before."

Billups, however, doesn't think there will be another champion like the 2004 Pistons.

"I don't see it in today's game," he says. "I just don't see it."

While Billups concedes that fewer stars are needed now to win than was the case several years ago, he notes the Pistons didn't have a single "max player," which in his mind is an anomaly. And he says that having a bunch of players who didn't care about All-Star teams or money is "never gonna happen again in today's game."

Brown does make an argument that the 2004 Pistons had stars, saying, "My whole thing was, I look at Rasheed, I look at Chauncey, I look at Ben, I look at Rip ... it's hard for me to not think of those guys as being stars."

Billups adds: "We had All-Stars, but we didn't have a superstar."

He also noted that "it's aged very well. You've got two Hall of Famers that were on that team" — Ben Wallace was inducted in 2021, Billups was elected two months ago — "that back then all everybody talked about was we didn't have a superstar, et cetera. Which, in my opinion, was true."

Out of the 44 other champions since 1980, the team that most resembled the 2004 Pistons might have been the 2014 Spurs. The legendary Duncan was on the team — but he was 38 years old. Then again, he was still Duncan and he still finished 12th in the MVP voting that season. That team also had a young future superstar in Leonard, who won NBA Finals MVP.

And Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili were still on the team. That's four Hall of Famers. And that's perhaps the closest team.

Semi-close. Nowhere near the uniqueness of Dumars, Brown, Billups and Co. Since the Magic-Bird era, there's been no other team like them.

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The problem, Dumars says, was this: "My two superstars, no matter who I get, are not going to be better than Shaq and Kobe."

Dumars opted instead to build with depth, saying he told GMs who asked of his plan, "Guys, I'm going to try to go 10 deep." He was informed, "Joe, nobody's done that in 20 years."

In the Finals, the team that Dumars assembled because he couldn't gather two stars as good as O'Neal and Bryant proceeded to clobber a roster featuring O'Neal and Bryant.



Dumars, Brown and Billups all noted another reason why the Pistons thrived — because of who the players were before they joined forces in Detroit. Dumars outlined how they arrived.

Billups (drafted No. 3 overall), Rasheed Wallace (No. 4 overall) and Hamilton (No. 7 overall) were lottery picks — but none were

drafted by Detroit. Billups joined the Pistons, his fifth team in his first six years, as a free agent in 2002. Hamilton was acquired in a trade with the Wizards. Ben Wallace was undrafted out of Virginia Union, then traded twice, the second time to Detroit. Prince was a Pistons original, but he was the No. 23 overall pick in 2002, hardly a can't-miss prospect.

"I don't want to say they were castoffs, but they weren't the marquee guys," Dumars said. "Every single person associated with that team had that chip of something to prove. Even the coach, Larry Brown, had never won an NBA title. ... And myself, trying to do something that everyone says, 'This is not the way to do it.'"

Added Brown, "A lot of these guys, they overcame a lot of adversity, and when they got to Detroit, they forgot all about that."

Billups said "the secret sauce" was a col-

**You see great individual play, but I coined the phrase 'play the right way.' I thought that team did that about as well as any team I've ever been around.**

— 2004 Pistons coach Larry Brown



AP

# Burke stepping up to give Stewie rest

By BRADLEY LOCKER

For their second straight game, the Liberty were without two-time MVP Breanna Stewart.

Yet for another night, the team secured a victory — with many thanks to the efforts of backup forward Kennedy Burke.

Against the Connecticut Sun, the 27-year-old Burke compiled nine points and four steals in only 24 minutes of game action.

And in her second start of the season, Burke may have elevated her game during the most pivotal moments.

After the Sun knotted the score at 61-61, Burke corralled an errant pass and took it all the way to the tin to give the Liberty a two-point lead.

Then, in the early moments of the fourth quarter, Burke picked off another miscue before zeroing in on an open Sabrina Ionescu for three.

“Just keeping my head up,” Burke said about her approach. “I know every time I get the ball, I want to make sure that my teammates are available.”

The capstone moment arrived when the five-year veteran converted a layup that gave New York a five-point advantage with 8:48 to go.

“She’s got guard-like skills,” head coach Sandy Brondello said postgame. “She just continues to get better. KB anticipates so well.

## ASG battle of teammates

By BRADLEY LOCKER

Although the Liberty’s final first-half game against the WNBA’s No. 2-seeded Connecticut Sun provided ample theater, so too does a prolonged All-Star break ahead.

Accounting for the All-Star Game and 2024 Paris Olympics, the team won’t play another organized WNBA matchup until Aug. 15, a full 30 days away from practices and a league-best winning rate.

Unlike many squads, though, the Liberty have sufficient star power to stay connected despite an absence from Brooklyn.

In fact, during Saturday’s 20th annual All-Star Game — pitting the league’s best against the players ready to don the stars and stripes for Team USA — Libs forward Jonquel Jones will square off against Olympic teammates Sabrina Ionescu and Breanna Stewart.

That intra-team matchup has generated some lighthearted competition.

“[Jones] said she wanted to block

She’s a good heads-up player in the transition phase.”

Replacing a player averaging 19.3 points and 9.0 rebounds per game is a feat not many can mirror, but Burke has provided positive contributions with Stewart still resting.

On Saturday in Chicago, Burke notched seven points and three steals in 31 minutes played, helping the Liberty to an 81-67 victory.

“I think she gets more and more comfortable in what we’re doing here,” Brondello said. “Playing her game has been really big for us these last two games, especially.”

Although she may not be a household name, Burke’s play is still appreciated by her teammates.

“KB’s very talented,” Jones said. “The stops that she had for us in that fourth quarter were amazing, and they were vital. So, she just has to keep doing it.”

Heading into a nearly month-long All-Star break with a league-leading 21-4 record, the Liberty anticipate slotting Stewart right back next to Ionescu and Jones when play resumes on Aug. 15.

Yet even if moved back to a diminished role, Burke could prove a key reserve during the team’s push for its first title.

“She brought the energy that we were missing,” guard Ivana Dojkić said. “I think she did a great job in the most important part of the game. I’m very proud of her.”

my shot,” Ionescu said with a laugh. “I said I wasn’t going to be shooting over her. I don’t want to give her any opportunity to block it.”

Jones, a five-time All-Star who also partook in the 2021 All-Stars vs. Olympians contest, sensed a different energy during the first year of the distinct format.

“It felt more serious starting in the beginning,” Jones said. “It felt like, ‘Oh yeah, we want to go win this.’ I feel like Team USA kind of had that idea, like, ‘We don’t want them to win because we want to prove that we are the premier USA players that are going to go and represent the USA.’”

With Saturday’s All-Star Game featuring household stars like A’ja Wilson, Diana Taurasi, Stewart — plus rookie dynamos Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese — players recognize another stepping stone for the surging popularity of women’s basketball.

“Every All-Star [Game], I feel like, is just getting bigger and bigger and bigger,” Ionescu said.

# STAR OF



## Laney-Hamilton uses hiatus

By BRIDGET REILLY

The monthlong Olympic break has come at a fortunate time for Betnijah Laney-Hamilton and the Liberty.

The Liberty’s star wing underwent a “minor” surgery on her right knee on Tuesday and is expected to miss four to six weeks, the team announced.

“Yeah, ‘B’ had a little bit of a cleanout today,” head coach Sandy Brondello said before the Liberty’s 82-74 win. “If you’re going to have a

cleanout, it’s probably the best time now at an Olympic break, isn’t it? She’ll get that done in four to six weeks. Everything went well so that’s what we’ll plan for.”

Laney-Hamilton had missed the past three games due to the injury, before the Liberty ended the first half of the WNBA season Tuesday night at Barclays Center with a win against the Sun.

The Liberty resume play following the Olympic break on Aug. 15, a little more than four weeks after Laney-Hamilton’s surgery.

“It was a very straightforward surgery,” Brondello continued. “[She’s] had some issues with her knees. I think they are just old basketball knees, but I think most pro athletes have the same thing. So it’s just managing that. I don’t think there’s any restrictions when she comes back. It’s just to use the time that we can over this Olympic break and build it back up again.”

Laney-Hamilton, a 10-year veteran, has a history of knee troubles.

In 2022, she suffered a right knee injury and underwent arthroscopic

# THE SHOW

## Davante's agents say star WR not leaving

By RYAN GLASSPIEGEL

A reunion between Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams may not be on the horizon after all.

While a number of football broadcasters have implied or speculated the Raiders will be trading Adams — possibly to the Jets — his agents deny that this is the case.

“This is baseless, unfounded speculation and Davante is expected to be with the Raiders as there has been absolutely no trade talk — period,” Adams’ agents Kenny Chapman and Frank Bauer told ESPN’s Adam Schefter in a statement Tuesday.

Adams is entering his third season with the Raiders after playing the first eight years of his NFL career with Rodgers in Green Bay.

He has been one of the most productive wide receivers in the NFL for the last six years, but there were times last season when his frustration clearly bubbled over, such as when he shoved a cameraman to the ground in Kansas City after the Raiders lost to the Chiefs.

The ball got rolling last week when Rodgers said he “can’t wait” to play with Adams again, making people question if the quarterback might know something the general public doesn’t.

Speaking on “Boomer & Gio” on WFAN on Monday, former Jets quarterback Boomer Esiason prognosticated that Adams would be on his way out of town this summer.

“I’m hearing — that this is going to happen, if it does happen — somewhere in late August, early September,” Esiason said. “I’m not sure about why it would take that long.”

Esiason didn’t believe Adams would demand a trade, but that one would nonetheless happen.

Then, on Tuesday, ESPN NFL analyst Dan Orlovsky appeared on “Get Up” and said that he’d heard Adams to the Jets was a “done deal.”

“I think Davante Adams plays for the Jets this season,” Orlovsky said. “The reason why I say that is this: Have you watched Netflix, the ‘Receiver’ stuff, have you seen the frustration from Davante Adams? It’s not that much better of a situation [now.] The only reason it wouldn’t happen is if he would feel bad about leaving Antonio Pierce, their new head coach.”

By BRIDGET REILLY

## Ionescu scores 30 to lead Libs into break with big win over No. 2 Sun

As they limped into the fourth quarter tied Tuesday night, the Liberty looked like a team ready for a monthlong break.

They’d played an exceptionally sloppy third quarter against the Sun and seemed desperate to simply get through the final 10 minutes before going on hiatus.

Thanks to Sabrina Ionescu, they’ll have nice memories of their last moments of game action until they play again.

<b>LIBERTY</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>74</b>

Ionescu led the Liberty to an 82-74 victory over the WNBA’s second-best team with 30 points, including a 3-pointer that broke a 63-63 tie to open the final period off a steal from Kennedy Burke, who had a career-high four steals.

Ionescu followed her 3-pointer with a rebound to start a fast break that ended with her dishing to Burke in the paint for a 68-63 lead.

It was the 13th time Ionescu has scored at least 30 points — setting a franchise record for most career 30-point games — and the Liberty improved their league-best record to 21-4, despite missing stars Breanna Stewart (load management) and Betnijah Laney-Hamilton (knee) for the second straight game.

“She has to be the best point guard in this league, isn’t she?” head coach Sandy Brondello said of Ionescu after the win. “It’s just big time. Just her growth from last year. This is my third year, but from Year 1 to Year 2 to Year



### PLENTY TO SMILE ABOUT:

Sabrina Ionescu looks back at the gleeful crowd after scoring three of her 30 points in the Liberty’s 82-74 win over the Sun at Barclays Center on Tuesday.

Michelle Farsi (2);  
Corey Sipkin

3, I didn’t expect her to be as good as she is right now. She has greatness about her. She’s just consistent every single night. And that’s what greatness is, it’s bringing it every night. There’s no excuses. She’s always going to find a way, loves the moment, and those players are really special.”

It was the Liberty’s seventh consecutive victory over the Sun, including their first-round playoff matchup in the 2023 season.

Ionescu, who will be an Olympian for the first time, was not

perfect, committing seven turnovers.

But teammate Courtney Vandersloot scored eight points, and Leonie Fiebich and Burke had nine each.

“It was huge. We talked about it. At the end of the third, 10 more minutes we have to buckle down and play harder, get stops, and play our best basketball for 10 more minutes,” Ionescu said. “It was crucial to be able to get some stops. [Burke] got huge steals for us. Everyone just did a little bit more than what they did previously to help us get that lead.”

## to get surgery on her ailing right knee

partial meniscectomy surgery, which is performed on torn meniscus cartilage. She sat for three games in June of this season due to an injury to the same knee.

She returned and played three games before experiencing swelling in the knee during the Liberty’s bus trip to Connecticut for their 71-68 win on July 10.

“She’s doing well,” said Courtney Vandersloot, who spoke to her after the surgery. “The surgery went well and she’s rested. I told her the comeback starts now.”

The Liberty (21-4) had a busy injury report beyond Laney-Hamilton for Tuesday night’s crucial game against the second-place Sun (18-6).

Breanna Stewart was out for Tuesday’s game, but more for load management reasons than any concern over her right hamstring, according to Brondello.

The absence comes in an effort to manage her playing time ahead of the WNBA All-Star game and her preparation for the 2024 Paris Olympics with the United States women’s team.

“It’s about rest. I have always played her a lot of minutes,” Brondello said. “She’s just a competitor. She wants to play, sometimes you have to hold her back.”

Backup wing Kayla Thornton and backup center Nyara Sabally were available after being listed as questionable with a neck injury and back issue.

Sabally wore a back brace during warm-ups. She’s missed 14 games this season due to the injury. She returned on June 11 against the Sky at Barclays Center.



Betnijah Laney-Hamilton

By STEFAN BONDY

LAS VEGAS — If the big offer came from a team other than the Thunder, Isaiah Hartenstein would have re-signed with the Knicks at a discount, the center told The Post.

But the combination of a three-year, \$87 million deal — with \$58.5 million of it guaranteed in the first two years — and a chance for a championship was too difficult to turn down.

“I was going to make sure I was set for the rest of my life,” Hartenstein said. “But then at the same time, if it wasn’t a team like OKC, I would’ve taken a pay cut because I loved it [in New York]. But I now have an opportunity to make that money, make that pay raise, and still compete. I think that was the main factor.”

## EXCLUSIVE

The Knicks, as Hartenstein confirmed in the interview Monday with The Post, made the biggest offer they could given their cap restrictions — four years, \$72.5 million — which is about \$11 million less annually than the Thunder contract.

Jalen Brunson participated in the pitch to retain Hartenstein.

“They said whatever we can give you, we’re going to give you,” Hartenstein said. “I talked to Jalen a couple times, Jalen and the guys. They really wanted me back and I really appreciate that. But it was definitely a hard decision. I couldn’t say no to an opportunity like this.”

A couple weeks after Hartenstein’s departure in free agency, Brunson agreed to an extension at a hefty discount — a four-year, \$156.5 million deal that could’ve been about \$113 million more over five years if he waited until free agency next summer.

Hartenstein, a journeyman through most of his six pro seasons with \$22.65 million in career earnings, explained why he wasn’t in the same position to make a sacrifice like Brunson.

“He’s kind of in a different situation than I’m in. Already made \$100 million [in his career]. He’s the star player, knows he probably won’t ever get traded. So it’s a different situation,” Hartenstein said. “But that also shows what kind of a leader he is to make those sacrifices. I don’t think a lot of people are making those sacrifices. I think our situations are a little bit different but I have a lot of respect for him as a player and a human being for doing that.”

Hartenstein became a pivotal part of the Knicks’ success while developing into one of their top analytical performers. He started 49 games after Mitchell Robinson’s injury and boasted the

# RATE OF INTEREST

- Hartenstein would’ve taken less to stay if not for OKC
- Financial security, title shot ‘main factor’ for leaving NY



team’s best net rating at +10, earning more playmaking freedom from Tom Thibodeau.

Looking back on his two seasons in New York, Hartenstein said his favorite moment was grabbing the offensive rebound that led to Donte DiVincenzo’s dramatic go-ahead trey in Game 2 of the first

round against the Sixers.

The reaction from the Garden crowd was explosive.

“That was something special,” Hartenstein said.

The Knicks still haven’t replaced Hartenstein, who was arguably their second-best player in the playoffs after Brunson.

Assuming the oft-injured Robinson starts again at center, the current backup is Jericho Sims.

It’s the biggest position concern for the Knicks as they open their full-blown window window.

Hartenstein also enters the unknown as the center for a team that was established and stacked before his arrival.

His chemistry and connection to last season’s Thunder center, Chet Holmgren, is of paramount importance toward the team’s championship goals after they earned the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference last season.

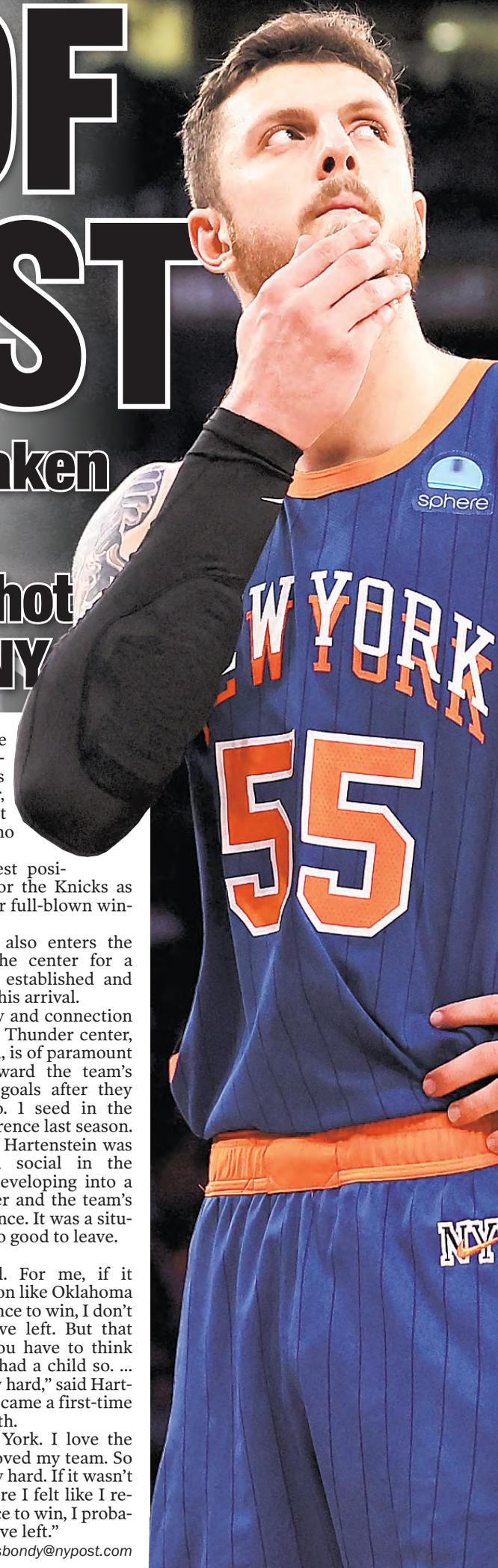
In New York, Hartenstein was well-liked and social in the locker room, developing into a defensive leader and the team’s top paint presence. It was a situation almost too good to leave.

Almost.

“It was hard. For me, if it wasn’t a situation like Oklahoma City with a chance to win, I don’t think I would’ve left. But that money is — you have to think about it, I just had a child so. ... But it was really hard,” said Hartenstein, who became a first-time father last month.

“I love New York. I love the front office, I loved my team. So it was definitely hard. If it wasn’t a situation where I felt like I really had a chance to win, I probably wouldn’t have left.”

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**AN OFFER HE COULDN'T REFUSE:** Isaiah Hartenstein said he loved his two years with Jalen Brunson (left) and the Knicks and was willing to accept a discounted salary to stay in New York until Oklahoma City offered him a three-year, \$87 million deal. "I was going to make sure I was set for the rest of my life," he said.

USA TODAY Sports;  
N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

# Silver won't engage on Dolan issues

By STEFAN BONDY

LAS VEGAS — In the last year, the Knicks sued another NBA team, questioned the commissioner's objectivity and sent a scathing letter to the other owners about the league's direction.

Given a chance to respond or elaborate Tuesday, Adam Silver mostly sidestepped the issues with the Knicks and James Dolan.

"My response is we try to keep these issues in the family. And I would say, yes, Jim Dolan did send a letter out to his partner teams and to the league office," Silver said after the owners meetings in Vegas. "That was discussed certainly at our meetings. But I don't think it's appropriate to get into the specifics of what was discussed at our meeting."

Silver was also asked about a New York court's decision last month to send the Knicks' lawsuit against

the Raptors back to the commissioner to arbitrate. As part of the suit, the Knicks claimed Silver couldn't objectively settle the dispute because, in part, he was beholden to Raptors minority owner Larry Tanenbaum.

"The second part of your question [about the Knicks questioning my objectivity], I won't respond to," Silver said. "The first part is that we did receive notice of the court's decision and are in the process of working through those issues at the league office right now."

With his long-standing problems with the NBA's revenue-sharing model as the backdrop, Dolan has gone scorched earth against the NBA's new media deal and Silver, in particular.

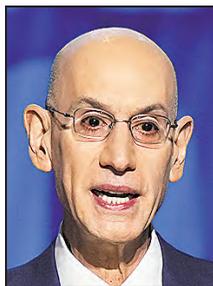
In the letter from Dolan that was obtained by ESPN, the former Cablevision scion noted his beef with the revenue sharing and added more grievances while forcefully concluding, "Pride of ownership is what is sacrificed. We are well on our way to becoming a one size fits all, characterless organization. Just remember we did this on the backs of owners like Jerry Buss."

Dolan argued the NBA's new media rights deal would leave Regional Sports Networks "unviable" since too many of the games are given to the national broadcasters. Dolan owns MSG Network, which has not been immune to the dramatic diminishment of cable subscribers during the streaming service boom.

On Tuesday, Silver reiterated his emphasis on streaming services as the league finalizes its \$76 billion media rights megadeal.

Dolan did not attend the NBA's Board of Governors meetings Tuesday in Vegas, instead sending MSG Sports COO Jamaal Lesane as the Knicks representative.

In August, the Knicks filed a lawsuit against the Raptors for stealing scouting information through a video coordinator. It was rare for one NBA team to sue another given they're business partners and there's an NBA constitution, but the Knicks sought more than \$10 million in damages and argued that Silver was too compromised to settle it.



ADAM SILVER

**LONG-RANGE PLAN:** Jalen Wilson is working on improving his 3-point shot as he looks for more playing time on the rebuilding Nets.  
USA TODAY Sports



## Wilson out to find his shot in Year 2

By BRIAN LEWIS

LAS VEGAS — Jalen Wilson is just entering his second NBA season, but is starting to have the look of a veteran with twice as much experience.

The physicality was always there for the Nets wing. But the improved jumper has the second-round pick looking like a viable option for Brooklyn.

"Very much so. He's extremely poised, never gets too high or too low," Nets assistant Steve Hetzel, head coach of the Summer League team, said after Wilson was the driving force in the Nets' 92-85 win over the Knicks on Tuesday at Thomas & Mack Center. "We've challenged him to be better defensively. This was the best defense I've ever seen him play."

Wilson's work in Vegas bodes well for him earning time on a rebuilding team. He scored 27 points and finished a plus-19, both game-highs. The wing shot 8 of 16 overall, and 5 of 10 from deep.

And in a game in which the Nets trailed by 21 points, Wilson carried them across the line. He never came off the floor in the Nets' 35-23 fourth quarter, pouring in 15 points to lift them to the win.

So far in his stay in Las Vegas, the 23-year-old has looked like an improved player from his first.

"Probably just being able to do it again. It's fresh as a rookie; you don't know really what to expect. But now this is my second year coming back," said Wilson. "It's just fun. You get to see things, get to experience having a chance to win it. That's the thing that drives a guy, especially when it's our second time doing it."

A four-year player at Kansas, the physicality isn't a shock and was even there last season as a rookie. But questions about his 3-point shot in college contributed to him falling to Brooklyn at 51st overall in last year's draft.

How he answers those questions will determine if he can be a sec-

ond-round steal.

"Shooting helps everything at any level of basketball because it provides space on the floor for his teammates," Hetzel said. "So, the better he can shoot the ball or the more room there is for getting in a pick and roll, Keon [Johnson] to attack one-on-one, the shooting provides all the space that we need."

Wilson hit just 31.6 percent from deep in college and 32.4 as a rookie. But through three games in Las Vegas, he's averaging 21.3 points and has shot a far more auspicious 14-of-29 from behind the arc.

"Just my time really being in Brooklyn. Everybody here is valuable on time and wanting to get better every single day. I can call anyone no matter how early or late it is to get in the gym," said Wilson. "The same shots we shoot in the game, we're shooting in practice every single day. So I just attribute it to all the time we've been putting in this summer in Brooklyn and all the help the coaches have been giving us."

It's a new staff. And it'll be a new-look Nets team, with Mikal Bridges traded away and the deep rebuild underway. That means a youth movement — and potentially minutes to be had for Wilson.

"I'm just excited for any opportunity. I feel like it's a blessing that we all have this opportunity to play and people have trust in us," said Wilson. "It's a great thing to have an organization that has confidence in all of us to go out and play and to build into it. So I just think it's a great opportunity."

"[My goal] is just compete, play hard, learn as much as I can. And game-by-game hopefully it just keeps slowing down and slowing down. I feel like that first year is just so fast for a rookie because we're just like 'We're in the NBA now.' It's different. So hopefully the second year is slowed down and I get to really learn the game."

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# PEN PALS!

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

ARLINGTON, Texas — If the Yankees and Mets are contenders — and through the first half of the season, despite the Yankees slowing late and the Mets slowing early, both have played like contenders — then several All-Star relievers are open to joining them.

A common need for both New York clubs — and another dozen or so teams around the league — is in the bullpen, where the Yankees could use more swing-and-miss and the Mets could add any arm (and especially a lefty) capable of getting outs. By FanGraphs' Wins Above Replacement estimation, the Yankees' pen ranked 17th (and has trended far worse in the past month) during the first half, while the Mets' was 21st.

There will be significant competition for reliable eighth- and ninth-inning arms, but the Yankees and Mets figure to be monitoring the top names on the market.

So will White Sox standout Garrett Crochet.

"I see it. I hear it. I watch TV," the All-Star lefty said this week. "I definitely see that sort of thing. But at the end of the day, it's really flattering. It's just a compliment to the work that I've put in up to this point."

Crochet is in the White Sox rotation but could be seen as an often unhittable bullpen arm. In 20 starts, the 25-year-old has pitched to a 3.02 ERA with a majors-best 150 strikeouts in 107 1/3 innings.

But this is the first time he has exceeded 100 innings in his career, including collegiately. The 2020 first-round pick was brought right to the majors that year as a reliever, was a bullpen weapon in 2021 and required Tommy John surgery in 2022. In his first full season back, he has been a revelation.

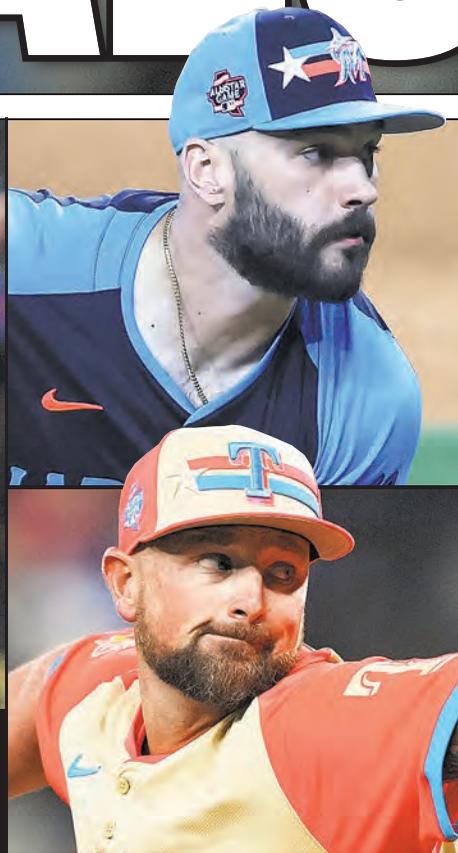
He said he's "in a pretty good spot" physically, but a team that trades for him might choose to manage his innings out of the pen. And if a team offers the MLB-worst White Sox enough to pry away Crochet, he would want to go to a contender.

"I think that anybody would



**HUNTING SEASON:** The Yankees and Mets both will be looking for bullpen help at the trade deadline, and All-Stars Garrett Crochet (from top left clockwise), Tanner Scott and Kirby Yates could all be of interest.

USA Today Sports (2); Getty Images



## Yankees & Mets have their eyes on these All-Star arms

want to go to the World Series," Crochet said.

Among the available All-Stars who could come out of the bullpen, Crochet might fetch the biggest price. But there are others who could tempt the Yankees and Mets:

### Mason Miller, A's

The flame-throwing phenom, who has struck out 70 in 39 2/3 dominant innings with Oakland, could be one of the prizes of the deadline if the A's decide he is better cashed in than kept.

The righty's four-seam fastball averages — averages — 100.9 mph. He isn't even arbitration eligible until before the 2027 season. He could be a long-term piece of the A's — or whatever team blows Oakland away in a trade.

The A's are known for many things, including attempting to

maximize players' value before trading them. There is always the unknown with a pitcher's arm and particularly an arm as powerful as Miller's.

For his part, Miller also said he was flattered by interest around the league but believes he will stay with the A's.

"I don't anticipate me really heading out this year," Miller said. "The value I'm bringing right now to the team, I think they want to hold on to that, and I'm happy to be a part of that group."

But if he does get shipped out, the Waynesburg (Pa.) University, Gardner-Webb and A's product, who has not tasted a big market, "wouldn't shy away" from a major city, he said.

Wherever he is, he just wants to win.

"Every player's goal is to win a

World Series," Miller said. "And whatever group you're a part of, that is the goal. ... For certain groups that's more attainable."

### Tanner Scott, Marlins

The southpaw would make sense, especially for the Mets, who have long needed a replacement for Brooks Raley. After the Mets emerged as sellers and dealt David Robertson to Miami last season, the two teams could strike the same kind of swap with their roles reversed.

The 29-year-old Scott is an eight-year veteran, a longtime effective reliever and a first-time All-Star. With a fading Marlins club, he has saved 14 games and pitched to a 1.34 ERA.

There is little reason for the Marlins, who are paying him \$5.7 million this season, to keep the

free-agent-to-be around. Scott understands the situation but said he doesn't pay attention to the rumors, even if his wife and family might bring them to his attention.

"Where my feet are, that's where I'm at," said Scott, who also added that he just wants to be in contention for a title. "Going to the World Series is always every baseball player's goal, wherever I am."

### Kirby Yates, Rangers

If the Yankees bring in Yates, it would mean a reunion with a righty who appeared in 41 games and posted a 5.23 ERA in 2016 in pinstripes.

But on the mound, at least, Yates is unrecognizable from the pitcher he used to be.

"Extremely different," said Yates, a 37-year-old in his 10th big-league season. "I don't really even throw a slider anymore. That was my out pitch in New York."

Yates credits the Yankees clubhouse in general and CC Sabathia in particular for teaching him the day-to-day routines that helped him "change everything" in the following offseason. Among those changes was discovering a splitter that has become his best pitch and given him another baseball life.

This year, Yates — who is making \$4.5 million and will be a free agent at season's end — has saved 16 games and pitched to a 1.05 ERA with the Rangers, who are four games under .500 and five games back in the AL West. Absent a hot streak, the reigning champions could become sellers.

Yates won't be paying attention to the possibilities of whether he could end up with the Yankees or Mets, but he is glad he played for the Yankees once at least.

"It's a pretty cool feeling telling people you got to play for the New York Yankees for a year," Yates said. "It's definitely a unique, special place. I think everybody that's played there will tell you that."

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# Unsolved mysteries of MLB's trade deadline

**A**RLINGTON, Texas — The first half officially closed Tuesday night with the All-Star Game, but with way more than half a season completed.

No team had played fewer than 95 games and, in all, an MLB-record 1,449 games and 59.6 percent of its schedule had been exhausted prior to the Midsummer Classic (thanks to MLB Network research). Yet, even with that much season played, there remains so much mystery about a trade deadline two weeks away, including:

**1. Is Mason Miller available?** It feels like no player should be more so.

The A's are unlikely to play a meaningful game until they get to Las Vegas, no earlier than 2028. That is hundreds of appearances from now for a bad team. And the risk of staying healthy for that period for a guy who throws the hardest average fastball in the majors (100.9 mph) and had shoulder and elbow issues over the past two seasons seems red-line high.

Miller has five years of control and is the kind of end-game piece that every contender would see meaningfully upgrading championship odds. Thus, the A's could theoretically return a haul.

Conversely, as heated as buying teams would be to add Miller's heat — his 46.7 strikeout percentage is not only first, but second is in the distance: Josh Hader at 40.4 — there must be concern by any acquiring team of giving up that haul and having Miller blow out quickly.

Oakland manager Mark Kotsay, an AL All-Star coach, said, "I don't [think Miller will be traded]. For us, where we're trying to go, what we're trying to do, to build something from within, he is a big part of that development. I can't say 100 percent because I don't make those decisions. But when I look at him, I see part of our nucleus."

Except having an elite closer on the AL's second-worst team with no hope of being much better soon is akin to spritzing perfume in a sewer. How big a difference is there between winning 62 or 67 games due to a strong closer? Does trading Miller and also his fine setup man Lucas Erceg at a moment when the market is hungering for these types actually put the A's closer to winning than keeping them?

Of course, that would mean getting the trades right, and as even Kotsay noted, the A's traded a haul in recent years, including Chris Bassitt, Matt Chapman, Frankie Montas, Sean Murphy and Matt Olson, and, "How many of the pieces that were prospects [obtained in return] have developed to become impact adds, how many were successful?"

The answer is not many (any?). Does that make the A's gun shy and hold onto Miller believing there will be other times — in the off-season, next trade deadline, etc. — to move him? Do they put such a price on him as to make it nearly impossible to move? Or do they believe now is the moment of his greatest value and get a bidding war going?

"There's always the possibility — it can't be ruled out," Miller said. "If somebody comes with something they can't refuse, I'm sure that they would do it. But I also think they see and appreciate the value that I'm bringing in my role this year."

**2. Are the defending champions buyers or sellers?** The Rangers won seven of nine going into the break, including a key two of three at Houston. Still, they were just 46-50, five games out of first. GM Chris Young said he is prepping for both scenarios, but, "We are going to do everything we can to win this year."

Young said he "wants to take as much time as possible to make a choice and hope in the next week [the results] make it clear we are buyers." If they are sellers, they have seven walk-year arms in Nathan Eovaldi, Andrew Heaney, Max Scherzer, Jose Leclerc, David Robertson, Kirby Yates and Michael Lorenzen, plus Jon Gray with one year left — so they can be a pitching clearinghouse in the coming weeks while also seeing if they can get a big price on right fielder Adolis Garcia and first baseman Nate Lowe.

But the Rangers have the fourth-easiest remaining schedule via Tankathon and believe they will get third baseman Josh Jung back by Aug. 1, left fielder Evan Carter and starter Tyler Mahle not long after and Jacob deGrom perhaps before Sept. 1. DeGrom, rehabbing from Tommy John surgery, is throwing three 30-pitch bullpens a week, and Young said, "He looks as good as I've seen him. I'm excited about it. The velo has been there, the command has been on point and the action on the changeup has been terrific and he is starting to spin it now."

**3. What is Garrett Crochet?** The White Sox are open to trading the All-Star lefty. But this is what one pitching-needy executive said: "How many innings does he have left this year and how do you get to them — starting, relieving, both, and then, if you are lucky, how do you get through October? He's valuable, but how valuable for the rest of this year, which is key?"

Crochet, mostly due to injury, had thrown 73 professional innings from 2020-23. He is at 107 1/3 this year with an MLB-best 35.2 strikeout percentage among qualified starters. This is somewhat similar to what the Yankees are thinking about with Luis Gil, who missed most of the past two seasons and was at 102 1/3 innings. At some point, may both have to be slowed down or put in the pen or just hit a wall and stopped?

The White Sox, though, to make this worthwhile, have to get a trade befitting a top-of-the-rotation starter who can't be a free agent until after the 2026 season. That means a huge return.

"That's the plan right now [to make it through the season as a starter]," Crochet said. "We're taking it start to start and this is heavily communication based [with the team] and between each start seeing how I feel."

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Joel Sherman



**AN A-PLUS:** A's reliever Mason Miller, walking off the mound after a scoreless fifth inning in Tuesday's MLB All-Star Game, is one of the key figures approaching the trade deadline. Miller's 100-mph velocity and his prodigious strikeout numbers — plus five years of team control — make him an appealing asset. AP

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

ARLINGTON, Texas — Juan Soto looked out for Aaron Judge on the field. Judge returned the favor off of it.

The traveling Yankees show, comprised of probably the best duo in baseball, was inseparable Tuesday, when the first-year teammates played and acted as if they have spent decades together in the same outfield.

Soto ensured Judge got an at-bat he craved before Judge ensured Soto could dodge a question he did not want to face about his future, the two complementing each other well in an eventual 5-3 American League victory in the All-Star Game at Globe Life Field.

AL 5  
NL 3 **Boxscore**  
**Page 42**

All stars are not created equal. Shohei Ohtani, whose three-run home run in the third inning gave the National League an early lead, is in his own stratosphere. Paul Skenes, the rising star who has burst onto the scene at just 22, is growing in stature. Judge and Soto have been known as two of the best hitters in the game, in a class sparsely filled with maybe a handful, for much of their careers. The way they have gravitated toward each other might be turning their solo acts into co-star performances.

“It was an unbelievable experience,” said Soto, who was starting his first All-Star Game — and first next to Judge. “It’s once in a [life]time that you get the chance to go [to the All-Star Game] for a first time with one of the best players in the league.”

Immediately, Judge needed Soto’s help, and immediately he got it.

Much of the talk leading into the night revolved around a matchup that was not assured: Skenes, a rookie flamethrower, would only pitch one inning, and Judge was hitting cleanup for the American League.

After two quick outs from Steven Kwan (a pop-out) and Gunnar Henderson (a tap-out), it was all up to Soto. A player who

# JOINED AT THE HIP

## Judge, Soto show how comfortable they are together

probably has the best batting eye in baseball faced a 2-2 count.

“Definitely after two strikes, I was trying to work the at-bat because I wanted to make sure he faced him, too,” said Soto, who fouled off a 100.1 mph fastball before taking two balls and a walk. He glanced back at Judge, who approached the plate. “Just looked at him and said: ‘Hey, come on, it’s all you.’”

Judge’s moment had arrived, but it was over just as soon. The Yankees captain saw a first-pitch, 99.7 mph fastball and couldn’t lift it, grounding out to end the inning.

The moment was not to be, but Soto provided the chance that Judge — and Skenes, who admitted he wanted to face the Yankees home run king — wanted.

After watching out for his

buddy, Soto watched out for his team. Down 3-0 after Ohtani’s blast in the top of the third, the American League turned to Soto in the bottom of the inning. Marcus Semien and Kwan reached against Giants starter Logan Webb, setting the table for Soto’s ground shot into right-center that drove in two. Soto never stopped running and watched center fielder Teoscar Hernandez wait for the ball to reach him, enabling Soto to turn a single into a two-run double. He then came around to score on David Fry’s single before the AL pulled ahead in the fifth on a two-run shot from Boston’s Jarren Duran.

The American League clung to the lead, and Judge and Soto clung to each other. They were both affixed with microphones for the FOX broadcast, then left

the game together after four innings before conducting their interviews with media side by side.

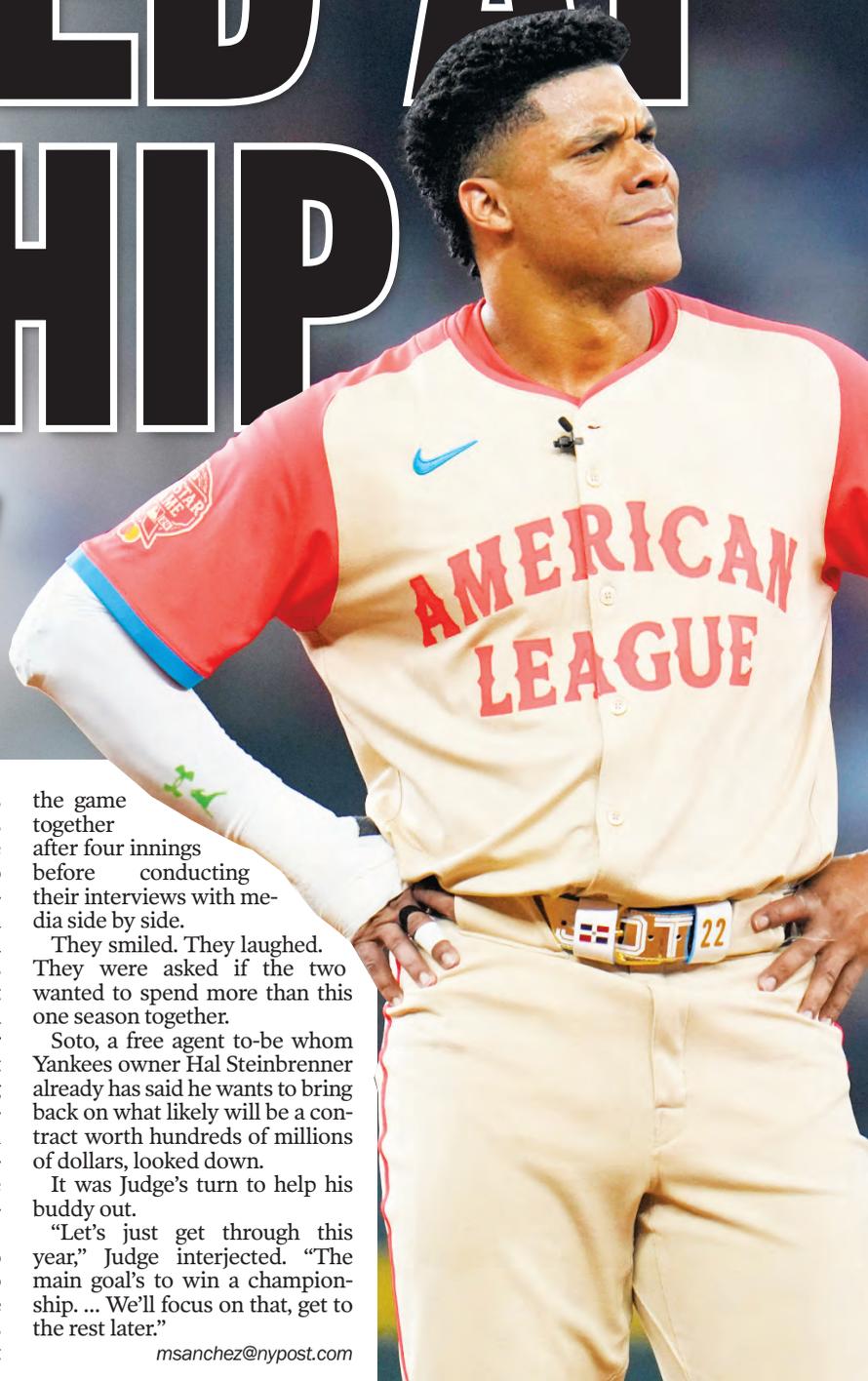
They smiled. They laughed. They were asked if the two wanted to spend more than this one season together.

Soto, a free agent to-be whom Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner already has said he wants to bring back on what likely will be a contract worth hundreds of millions of dollars, looked down.

It was Judge’s turn to help his buddy out.

“Let’s just get through this year,” Judge interjected. “The main goal’s to win a championship. ... We’ll focus on that, get to the rest later.”

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## Ohtani becomes 1st Dodger since Piazza to go deep in ASG

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

ARLINGTON, Texas — Was there any doubt that Shohei Ohtani, star of stars, would make his mark on the All-Star Game?

It took only two at-bats for the Dodgers \$700 million main attraction to barrel up a Tanner Houck splitter and send it 400 feet, deep into the right-field seats at Globe Life Park, for a three-run shot.

“In general I haven’t really hit well during the All-Star Game,” Oh-

tani, who entered play 1-for-4 with two walks and a strikeout in his first three Midsummer Classics, said through an interpreter. “I was just relieved that I put a ball in play.”

Ohtani’s fourth All-Star Game was his best. The No. 2 hitter drew a walk in the first inning before getting ahead, 2-0, in the third inning, when he saw a hanging Houck splitter.

“Just a good swing,” said Houck,

the Red Sox starter.

“It was impressive to watch,” said Aaron Judge, who had the nice vantage point of watching from center field. “I wish it didn’t happen right there.”

Ohtani became the first Dodger to homer in the showcase event since Mike Piazza in 1996. Only two things went wrong for Ohtani on Tuesday: His National League side lost, 5-3, which might have cost him an MVP award, and he had the mis-

fortune of facing A’s closer Mason Miller in the fifth inning.

In Ohtani’s final at-bat, he watched two strikes go by — one at 100.6 mph, another 101.8 mph — before swinging through a hard slider.

“Both his pitchers were extremely, very good pitches,” Ohtani said. “They were heavy.”

► The American League used nine pitchers, and **Clay Holmes** was not among them. Only Houck allowed a run, and each AL pitcher

who was used completed his inning. Holmes said he was going to enter if another pitcher needed help finishing off an inning.

“You always want to pitch, but I kind of knew coming in that I was going to clean up an inning,” Holmes said.

► Red Sox outfielder **Jarren Duran** smacked a two-run, go-ahead home run in the fifth inning and was named the MVP.

The American League has won 10

### ALL-STAR GAME NOTES

# Yanks shouldn't deal Jones ... unless it's for Tigers ace

**A**RLINGTON, Texas — The Yankees are right to be uber cautious about trading multi-talented center fielder Spencer Jones.

As the deadline approaches, Jones remains the key guy other teams seek in trade. However, the Yankees should keep Jones unless they can somehow pry away one particular All-Star — and that All-Star is very likely to stay where he is.

In what would be a major deadline coup, if the Yankees can land Cy Young favorite Tarik Skubal of the Tigers for a package including Jones, go for it.

But if it's either of three other outstanding All-Star pitchers — White Sox starter Garrett Crochet, A's reliever Mason Miller or Marlins reliever Tanner Scott — as good as they are, the Yankees should probably pass.

The Yankees declined to part last spring with Jones for star White Sox starter Dylan Cease, and even Juan Soto, who eventually came for quite a haul. So that'll give you an idea of what they think of him.

The Yankees are more focused on the bullpen, and that's no surprise. But if they can land Skubal, no prospect should be untouchable. He's that good.

But while there have been trade rumors regarding the left-handed Skubal (who leads MLB starters with a 4.5 WAR and 2.41 ERA), it seems like a major long shot that the improving Tigers would part



Jon Heyman

with him two-plus years before free agency. "No way," surmises one involved person. (Of course, stranger things have happened at the trade deadline.)

For his part, Skubal suggested he wouldn't mind staying.

"I try not to think about it too much," Skubal said about a potential trade. "I love playing for the Tigers."

Meantime, the hard-throwing Crochet, who's been linked to the Dodgers, Padres and Orioles, as well as the Yankees, has a good chance to be dealt, the 103-.7-mph-throwing Miller with five years of control left has an outside chance to be dealt (better chance than Skubal) and Scott is all but gone. They are all terrific, but they aren't Skubal.

Crochet is amazing in his own way. His previous innings high was 54 1/3 and he's on pace for about 200 now (when I mentioned that to him, he corrected me, pointing out the jump is even greater since he threw just 12 2/3 innings last year). And yet, Cro-

chet, who leads MLB with 150 strikeouts, said, "Who's to say we should limit the innings?"

Miller's about the most dominant closer going, isn't a free agent until after 2029 and would allow the Yankees to move their All-Star closer Clay Holmes into a set-up role. Same goes for Scott, a rental sure to go. However, it's unwise to surrender a big-time prospect for a reliever, even a great one.

The most obvious reason to hold onto Jones, 23, is his extraordinary talent. Yes, the 37.1 percent strikeout rate is a concern, but recall that the great Aaron Judge had a 44 percent strikeout rate his first (partial) year in the bigs before becoming the game's best position player.

Jones has exceptional power (although of course no one can match Judge there) and he's among the very fastest players in baseball. So the skill set is enviable.

That's the biggest reason to hold onto Jones, of course. But the other one is that superstar right fielder Juan Soto and starting left fielder Alex Verdugo are free agents, and there's no guarantee free agents return — no matter how much they like playing in pinstripes.

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Tarik Skubal

## Chisox, Fish actively selling early

By JON HEYMAN

The White Sox and Marlins are the most active sellers, and if they can get deals done quickly, before the list of sellers grows, it may benefit them.

The Marlins are dangling infielder-outfielder Jazz Chisholm and are certain to trade All-Star closer Tanner Scott. They say the move of Chisholm back to second base from center field isn't trade related, but two rumored teams with interest (Yankees and Mariners) do need infielders.

Considering the White Sox's current timeline, word is reliever-turned-starter Garrett Crochet and outfield star Luis Robert (the Mariners make sense for him, too) have a decent chance to be dealt. They seem even likelier to trade Erick Fedde and should certainly should find takers for Tommy Pham, Paul De-

Jong and Michael Kopech.

The Phillies and Royals are thought to have some interest in Pham as they search for an outfielder while the Mariners and Pirates also seek bats.

### Ringin' endorsement for Jazz

Chisholm, who's being considered by the Yankees, Mariners and others, is known for his flashy style. And he was a bit too outspoken once, when he publicly ripped solid veteran Miguel Rojas.

But one ex-Marlins person endorses him.

"Jazz is a good kid, he just needs direction," the former Fish said. "He is a really good worker — first one to the park. All the antics is just a show. Deep down, he is humble.

"The New York fans would love him, he loves to interact with the crowd" the person continued. "Just your classic super talented

kid who needs a little structure as he can wander off at times."

The infield choices are growing thin. Luis Rengifo is out (and may not make it back as soon as hoped), and Jonathan India seems unlikely to be traded now as the surging Reds could be a buyer. ...

The Mets continue to seek bullpen help, as they remain a buyer for now.

That means Pete Alonso appears to be staying. ...

Prices are high for relievers as the oft-injured Hunter Harvey brought back the Royals' No. 2 prospect plus pick No. 39 in the draft. ...

Good for Kansas City going for it, though. They seek a corner outfield bat, too ...

Friends say Texas product Noah Syndergaard plans to revamp things, lose 25 or so pounds and aim for a comeback next year.

Don't count Thor out.



**PAIR FORCE:** Juan Soto (left) talks to teammate Aaron Judge after the Yankees captain grounded out against rookie phenom Paul Skenes in the first inning of the American League's 5-3 win over the National League in Tuesday's All-Star Game.

AP

## with 400-foot home run

of the past 11 All-Star Games.

► Former Met and current Royal **Seth Lugo** put two runners on with one out in the seventh inning, but then struck out Colorado's **Ryan McMahon** and induced a ground out from Atlanta's **Marcell Ozuna**.

► **Pete Alonso** got one at-bat as a pinch-hitter in the ninth and struck out against Cleveland's **Emmanuel Clase**. Before the game, Alonso — the only Mets All-Star — said he

wished he had company.

"I would've loved to have them," Alonso said of **Francisco Lindor** and **Brandon Nimmo**. "I wish they were here for sure."

Lindor, who got off to a slow start this season that might have cost him, has yet to make an All-Star Game in his four seasons in Queens.

Nimmo has been among the better players in baseball since 2017, but has not yet made an All-Star team, saying this year that he is "just not winning the popularity contest."



**HUNGRY FOR MORE** The travel series “Somebody Feed Phil” has been renewed for an eighth season by Netflix, making it one of the longest running unscripted series by the streamer. The show follows “Everybody Loves Raymond” creator **Phil Rosenthal** (directional) as he eats in various countries around the world.



**WE COME IN PEACE** A single camera workplace comedy called “Area 51,” which will follow the humans and aliens that work in this location, is being developed at CBS. The series is being made by “God Friended Me” creators **Stevn Lilien** and **Bryan Wynbrandt** and “The Neighborhood” writer/producer **Laura Moran**.

# TV Wednesday

By **KAREN KEMMERLE**

## DOUBLE DECKERS

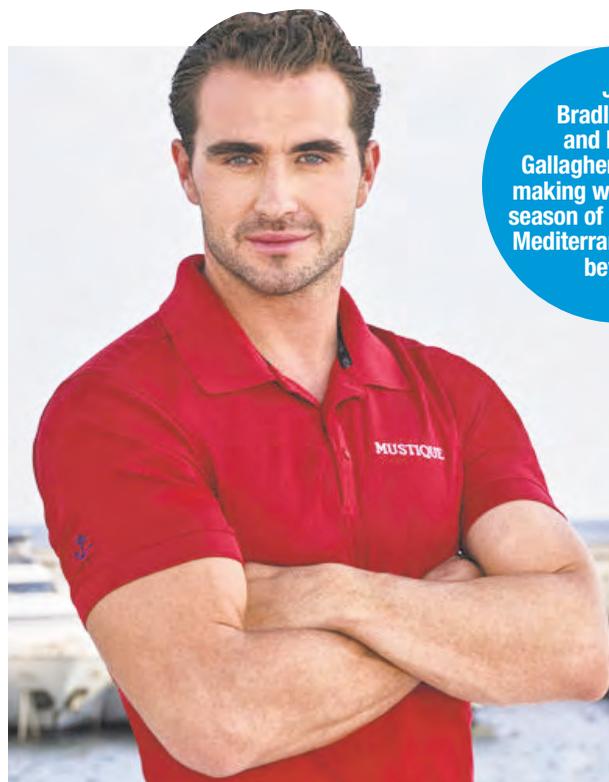
‘Below Deck’ stars Joe Bradley and Nathan Gallagher discuss their Bravo bromance for the ages

**B**ELOW Deck Mediterranean” is sailing through its ninth season on Bravo with no signs of slowing down!

While fans have loved to watch the crew of the Mustique fall in line under the guidance of Captain Sandy Yawn and Chief Stew Aesha Scott, another power duo has emerged: deck hands Joe Bradley and Nathan Gallagher. The connection between the Liverpudlian and Irishman was instantaneous. They immediately bonded because of their similar personalities, their charm with the ladies, and—most importantly—their efficiency in performing their on-deck duties.

While Gallagher had eyes only for fellow deck hand, Gael Cameron, Bradley quickly found himself caught in the middle of stews Elena “Elle” Dubiach and Bri Muller. Bradley, who made it very clear to both women that he “was not looking for a girlfriend,” doesn’t agree with the minority of viewers who think he should immediately pick just one woman to pursue. “What am I doing? Just having a flirt,” said Bradley. “Am I doing anything wrong at the young age of 27 and exploring?” According to Gallagher (and most viewers), Bradley is doing exactly what he’s supposed to do during a charter season. “He’s dating on the yacht,” reasoned Gallagher.

When asked if the two have kept in touch after “Below Deck Med”—which both men admitted to being fans of before going on the



Joe Bradley (left) and Nathan Gallagher (right) are making waves on this season of ‘Below Deck Mediterranean’ ... and beyond



show—Bradley and Gallagher confirmed their bromance is stronger than ever. “Every single day since the day we met, we’ve been in contact,” said Bradley. “We’re having, like, four- or five-hour phone calls every day,” added Gallagher. The men’s banter was on full display during a recent episode

of “Watch What Happens Live.” Host Andy Cohen was clearly taken with the dynamic duo. “What a legend he is, eh?” marveled Bradley. “Those conversations flew.”

Bradley and Gallagher hopped on Zoom to talk to DECIDER about love triangles, why strawberries are the sexiest fruit, and more.

**Joe, is this Ellie-Bri situation the first love triangle you have ever been part of in your yachting career?**

**JB:** Listen, girl, no, I’m sorry, but I’m very forward with my intentions.

**NG:** Very open.

**JB:** Yeah, I’m an open book. If talking to couple girls is going to hurt someone on a personal level, then

I would stop. But what am I doing? Just having a flirt.

**NG:** You’re not looking for a girlfriend.

**Why would you force yourself to stay with a person you didn’t gel with because you’re doing a charter season together? Wouldn’t you explore different options?**

**JB:** That’s why it’s called dating. How can I choose a woman within a six to eight-day period? It’s unrealistic. I don’t even know me mom [laughs]. I’m living a normal life. Every single day is a new day for me.

**Why is a strawberry the sexiest fruit?**

**NG:** Because it’s nice, subtle...

**JB:** Juicy.

### Case dismissed

Oscar winner **Halle Berry** (directional) is no longer attached to star in **Ryan Murphy’s** legal drama “All’s Fair” due to a “scheduling conflict.” The actress was set to be a lead in the Hulu series alongside **Kim Kardashian** and **Glenn Close**.



### Spy games

“Queen & Slim” star **Jodie Turner-Smith** has joined the cast of the upcoming series “The Agency.” She will star alongside **Michael Fassbender** in the spy thriller, which will eventually air on Paramount+.



### What's on Tonight



### SCI-FI

**Terminator 2: Judgment Day:** Day: 5:40 p.m. on PARSHO. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton. A cyborg, must protect a kid from a more powerful cyborg.



### DRAMA

**Man on Fire:** 11 p.m. on AMC. Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning. An agent is recruited by a couple to help protect their little girl from kidnapers.



### COMEDY

**The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon:** 11:35 p.m. on WNBC 4. Actress Kerry Washington; actor Anthony Ramos; musical guest Clairo.

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	
2	WCBS	2	2	2	CBS News Norah	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	The Price Is Right at Night: Mothers-in-Law (R)	Big Brother		Republican Convention		CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) Late Show	
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	Chicago Med: Get By With a Little Help (R)	Decision 2024: Republican Convention			News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show		
5	WNYW	5	5	5	Family Feud (R)	Extra (R)	TMZ (R)	MasterChef: LAFC Field Challenge	(9:02) Gordon Ramsay's Food Stars: Breakfast		The 10 O'Clock News		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?: In the Hot Seat	Claim To Fame: Double The Trouble		The Republican National Convention - Your			News	(11:35) Kimmel Live
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Dish Nation (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Dateline: The Devil in Disguise	Dateline: A Place in the Sand		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	TMZ Live		
11	WPIX	11	11	11	PIX11 Evening News	Sports Nightly	The Big Bang Theory	Police 24/7: On the Run (R)	Wild Cards: Dead of Night (R)		PIX11 News at Ten		Seinfeld: Conversion	Seinfeld: Bookstore	
13	WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		2024 RNC Convention Coverage: Night 3					Amanpour and Company		
21	WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News Report	Antiques Roadshow (R)		Finding Your Roots: Secret Lives (R)			Olympic	Lincoln	Show Me	BBC News	
25	WNYE	25	22	25		92Y on NYCLife		Secrets NY	New York	Neighbor	Eat Harlem	\$9.99	Story in	Speakeasy	
31	WPXN	31	3	531	Blue: Blues	Blue Bloods: Past Tense		Blue Bloods: Two-Faced		Blue Bloods: Rectify		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods: Bedfellows	
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	La rosa de Guadalupe		Golpe de suerte		Marea de pasiones		El amor no tiene receta		Noticias	Noticiero
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP: Part 1		(7:58) Top Chef VIP: Part 2					El Conde: Amor y honor	Noticiero	
55	WLNY	55	10	10	Queens	Man	Man	News 8pm		48 Hours		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181		Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Arrest	Arrest	Court Cam	Court Cam	
AMC	54	43	231		(5:30) My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy)			Cast Away (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks. PG-13 ★★★½			Man on Fire (2004) R ★★★½				
BET	37	54	270		Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Tyler Perry's Sistas		Tyler Perry's Sistas (R)			
BBCAM	71	101	189		Bones	Bones: Mastodon Room		Bones: Couple in Cave		Bones: Meathead		Bones: Body and Bounty		Bones: Bones	Werent
BRAVO	18	44	185		Listing LA	Mil. Listing LA: Indecent		Mil. Listing LA (R)		Million Dollar Listing LA		Watch What	Mil. Listing LA (R)		Office ★★★½
CNBC	15	24	102		Money	Last Call		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100		Situation	Erin Burnett OutFront			CNN Republican National Convention: Night 3						
COM	45	50	190		South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park: Black Friday (R)	Mike Judge		Mike Judge	Daily Show	Mike Judge	
DIS	49	31	250		Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Descendants 2: Emojified (2017) NR			Hailey's (R)	Hailey's (R)	Jessie	Jessie	
DSC	66	27	120		Exp Unkwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown		Alien: Fact: Abduction		Exp. Unknown: The Lost	
E!	24	51	196		Family	13 Going on 30 (2004, Comedy) Jennifer Garner. ★★½			13 Going on 30 (2004, Comedy) Jennifer Garner. ★★½			E! News	E! Story (R)		
ESPN	28	36	70		Sports Live.	Countdown	WNBA Basketball: Indiana Fever at Dallas Wings from College Park Center. Live.								
ESPN2	29	35	74		NBA Live.	SC Featured		SEC Now		In the Arena: Ep. 1		The Ultimate		The Ultimate	
FBN	43	106	117		Bottom	Democracy 2024: Republican National Convention Speeches					2024: Rep. Nat'l Conv.		Rep. Nat'l Con. (R)		
FNC	44	26	118		Sp. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime	Hannity		Fox News RNC		Gutfeld!		
FOOD	50	97	164		Grocery (R)	Guy's Grocery Games (R)		Guy's Grocery Games (R)		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games (R)		Guy's Grocery Games (R)	
FREFRM	38	49	199		The Lion King (1994, Family)	James Earl Jones. ★★★½			The Lion King II: Simba's Pride (1998) G ★★★½			Royal Rule	The 700 Club (R)		
FS1	400	99	83		The Herd	Gold Cup		UEFA Euro 2024 Replay.		MLS Soccer: Nashville SC at Orlando City SC. Live.		MLS Soccer Live.			
FX	10	40	53		Rogue One	Solo: A Star Wars Story (2018, Science Fiction) Alden Ehrenreich. PG-13 ★★★					The Mummy (1999, Adventure) Brendan Fraser. ★★★				
HALL		191	240		Godwink	Pride, Prejudice, and Mistletoe (2018) Lacey Chabert.			A Merry Scottish Christmas (2023) Lacey Chabert.			Christmas Made to Order			
HGTV	64	98	165		Love It (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Backed by the Bros		Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)
HIST	40	47	128		(6:00) Pawn	Pawn Stars: A Surreally		Pawn Stars (R)		Pawn Stars: Zigging		(10:03) Pawn Stars			
ID	23	171	123		Murder (R)	In Heartland (R)		Lt. Joe Kenda (R)		Detective with Lt. Kenda		Fear Thy Neighbor		Fear Thy Neighbor (R)	
LIFE	62	45	140		Castle	Castle: Countdown		Castle: One Life to Lose		Castle: Law and Murder		Castle: Slice of Death		Castle: The Dead Pool	
MeTV	33	33	3		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Hillbillies	Acres	Hogan	Hogan	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78		The Bettor	The Juice		The Bettor		NBA Basketball		MSG Shorts	MSG Shorts	Club 30: Eli Manning	
MSG Plus	48	88	80		(2:00) FanDuel	Racing Live.			NHL Hockey Replay.		Poker		Poker		
MSNBC	14	23	103		Ari Melber	The ReidOut					Republican National Convention: 2024 Republican National Convention - Day 3				
MTV	20	53	210		Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121		Shark Kill	Shark Side Moon (R)		Sky Sharks (R)		Shark Attack 360		Shark Attack 360		When Sharks Attack (R)	
NICK	6	121	252		The Boss Baby: Family Business (2021, Adventure)	Alec Baldwin.					Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
OWN	173	180	145		Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil: Romancing		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It	
PARMT	36	56	54		Men	Men	Men	My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Joe Pesci. R ★★★			My Cousin Vinny (1992) R				
SNY	26	60	77		Mets Classics: LFGM						Amazin'	Gary, Keith & Ron 18		Sports Live.	Sports Live.
SYFY	17	48	180		(6:00) Men in Black II (2002, Action) ★★	Men in Black III (2012, Science Fiction) Will Smith.					The Ark: Fail Experiment		The Fifth Element (1997)		
TBS	8	39	52		Bang	Bang	Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite			Family	Family	Family	Family	
TCM	82	41	230		(6:00) A Thunder of Drums (1961) ★★★½	Boxcar Bertha (1972) Barbara Hershey.		(9:45) Targets (1968, Thriller) Boris Karloff. NR ★★★		Dementia					
TLC	52	28	139		Dr. Pimple	Dr. Pimple Popper (R)		My 600-lb Life: James B's Journey (R)			My 600-lb Life: Lucas' Journey (R)				
TNT	3	37	51		Supernat.	Supernatural		Miss Congeniality (2000, Comedy) Sandra Bullock.			Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) ★★				
TVLAND	85	34	241		Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond	Loves Ray.		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50		SVU: Flight	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217		Dating Nkd	Dating Naked (R)		Dating Naked: Arrivals (R)		Dating Naked: Stripped		Dating Naked (R)		Dating Naked (R)	
WE	59	42	149		(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Marine Down		NCIS: Left for Dead		NCIS: Eye Spy		NCIS: My Other Left Foot		NCIS: One Shot, One Kill	
YES	53	89	76		Major League Cricket: Washington Freedom vs. MI New York Replay.						CenterStage	Homegrown			
HBO	511	301	400		(6:41) A Star Is Born (2018, Drama) Bradley Cooper, Lady Gaga. R	Wild Wild Space (2024) Chris Kemp.			NY Giants		(11:15) Of the Dragon (R)				
MAX	531	371	420		xXx: State of the Union (2005) Ice Cube.	I, Frankenstein (2014) Aaron Eckhart. ★★		(9:33) Life After Beth (2014, Comedy) R		Vampire's Assistant ★★★½					
MGM Plus	595	395			Emperor	Hotel Cocaine (R)		IF (2024, Comedy) Ryan Reynolds. ★★★		(9:45) Daddy's Home (2015, Comedy) Will Ferrell. ★★★		She's That			
PARSHO	551	321	365		Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) R	Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995) Bruce Willis. R ★★★			Live Free or Die Hard (2007, Thriller) Bruce Willis. ★★★						

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## The Best Sports Now

STEFAN BONDY EXCLUSIVE

Hartenstein says he wanted to stay with Knicks, but OKC offer too good to pass up

# I COULDN'T SAY NO

Isaiah Hartenstein, who signed a three-year, \$87 million deal to jump from the Knicks to the Thunder, says he would have taken a discount to stay with the Knicks, but when Oklahoma City offered him life-changing money — and a chance to win a title — he couldn't say no. **PAGES 52-53**

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