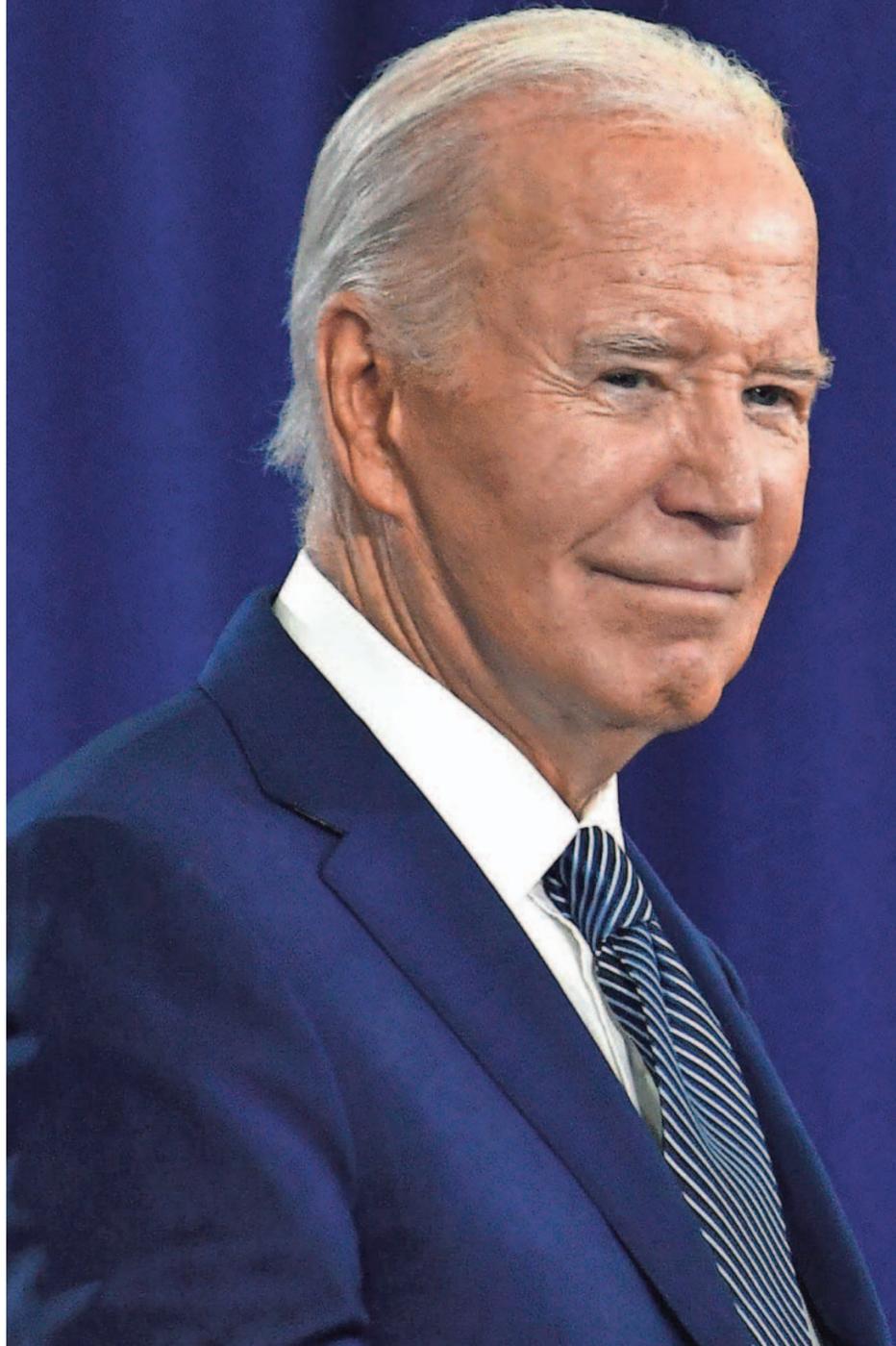


USA TODAY



BIDEN DROPS OUT OF RACE

“It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. ... While it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and my country for me to stand down.”

President Joe Biden
Statement on X

President Joe Biden has been under mounting pressure from Democratic Party leaders who have voiced concern about his ability to beat Donald Trump in November. Biden announced Sunday that he would leave the race. He is at home in Delaware, where he has been recovering from COVID. THOMAS BENDER/USA TODAY NETWORK

President endorses Harris, will address nation this week

Joey Garrison and Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden announced Sunday that he is ending his bid for reelection amid intense pressure from Democratic leaders who have been sounding the alarm that his path to beat former President Donald Trump in November has vanished.

The president’s historic withdrawal throws the 2024 race – already roiled by a shocking attempt on Trump’s life – into uncertain territory, with Vice President Kamala Harris seen as the Democrat best placed to take Biden’s place atop the party’s ticket.

Biden made the announcement from his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where he has been self-isolating since testing positive for COVID-19 late last week.

“It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President,” Biden said in a written statement. “And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in

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Scan the QR code to read updates on Biden’s decision to withdraw from the 2024 presidential race at usatoday.com.

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Triumphs, heartbreak and turbulent finale mark legacy



Susan Page
Washington Bureau Chief
USA TODAY

For Joe Biden, it has been a long road from Scranton. Biden’s reluctant announcement Sunday that he won’t seek a second term in the White House – a decision that throws the Democratic presidential race into uncharted waters – signals the end of one of the longest political careers in American history, one laced with historic achievements and dramatic reversals, heartbreak and drama.

His tenure as the nation’s 46th president, the fulfillment of a lifetime aspiration, is likely to rank as one of the most consequential in modern times. He helped navigate a course from the worst pandemic in a century, presided over an against-the-odds economic recovery, united much

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Would US be ready for President Kamala Harris?

Questions linger whether Dems will embrace her

Phillip M. Bailey, Nick Penzenstadler, Francesca Chambers and Deborah Barfield Berry
USA TODAY

Kamala Harris has been on a yo-yo string with Democratic Party bigwigs since that cataclysmic debate performance catapulted her boss out of a sure 2024 nomination.

Weeks before President Joe Biden stepped aside – and swiftly endorsed Harris to be the 2024 nominee – the vice president had emerged as the most log-

ical replacement to top the ticket after Biden wore his frailty on national TV.

Allies disseminated a logic about why Harris would be the natural successor: She could seamlessly inherit the campaign’s massive warchest; her law enforcement background is best suited to prosecute the political case against Republican Donald Trump; polling shows she can win; and having been the nation’s first multiracial and female vice president could galvanize a new generation of younger progressives.

But from the start, there has been a hesitancy to fully embrace the country’s second-in-command, with some Democrats openly overlooking her. When a group of 24 former House Democrats

sent Biden a letter earlier this month lobbying for an open convention in August, it made no mention of Harris.

The 59-year-old ex-prosecutor may seem the obvious strategic page turn for the party as well as a generational shift. Her life has been an acrobatic twist and turn, filled with personal challenges and accomplishments, including political tests in her home state of California similar to what she and the country face now.

But some wonder whether a country bitterly divided by cultural issues around race, gender and family – already seemingly poised to return

See **HARRIS**, Page 4A



Vice President Kamala Harris emerged as the most logical replacement to top the Democratic Party ticket after President Joe Biden’s disastrous debate with Donald Trump in June.

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‘Car-free’ movement makes gains as costs rise

People who opt out tout savings; policymakers point out environmental benefits. **In Money**

Winners, losers: Ranking summer’s TV game shows

Thirteen prime-time competitions include old favorites as well as newcomers. **In Life**

Global animal-to-human illness still a risk

Study urges a focus on prevention policies

Karen Weintraub
USA TODAY

Regardless of how the COVID-19 pandemic started, it's clear that deadly diseases can jump from animals to humans – and a new report from Harvard Law School and New York University finds we're not doing enough to prevent another animal-borne virus from becoming the next global pandemic.

The study, which looked at common forms of animal-human interactions in 15 countries including the United States, found dozens of examples where viruses could make the leap. Researchers argued that simple policy changes could dramatically reduce the risk of such disease crossover.

Too much of the focus so far has been limiting the damage after a pathogen has already made the jump from animals and begun to spread among people, like Ebola did in 2014, SARS-CoV-2 in late 2019 and bird flu is threatening to do, said Ann Linder, the report's lead author.

But pathogens are incredibly tiny – 10,000 times smaller than the head of a pin, she said – and can be highly contagious. “By the time you realize that there's something going on, that outbreak may have metastasized past the point where it can be contained.”

Instead, said Linder, associate director of policy and research at the Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School, “we really need to shift our mindset and our focus on (to) preventative policy. We can't be chasing down these outbreaks after the fact.”

That's why she and her colleagues have spent the last four years looking for weak spots, areas of animal-human interactions where viruses could potentially leap from one to the other. Unfortunately, they found a lot of them.

In the United States alone, the report flags the exotic pet trade, live animal markets, bat guano harvesting, guinea pig and ferret farming, coyote and fox urine production, roadside zoos, animal fighting, fur farming, commercial farming and many other potentially dangerous settings.

“This is a global problem,” said Dr. W. Ian Lipkin, a professor of epidemiology at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, who was not involved in the research.

Lipkin has long called for shuttering wet markets like the one in Wuhan, China, where COVID-19 may have originated, and following more stringent safety procedures at scientific research laboratories, like the one, also in Wuhan, where some think the virus that causes COVID-19 may have begun. “Fingerpointing is not productive,” he said.

So-called zoonotic diseases have always existed – smallpox, HIV/AIDS and last year's monkeypox outbreak are additional examples – but researchers think they're becoming more common as interactions between humans and animals increase with climate shifts, urban expansion, global travel and other changes.

“The general understanding is that the more frequent such interactions are, the (more the) risk of disease transmission heightens,” said Suresh Kuchipudi, chair of infectious diseases and microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health.

The report points out that these problems don't just happen in far-off lands, said Kuchipudi, who was not involved in the study but reviewed it as an independent scholar. “We always think this must be happening in some other part of the world,” he said. “We have the same sort of activities right in our back-



A herd of cows line up to eat at a dairy farm in Dodge County, Wis. As of mid-June, bird flu has been found on more than 90 dairy farms in 12 states, but Wisconsin is not one of them. PROVIDED BY COLLEEN KOTTKE/WISCONSIN STATE FARMER

yard. The risk exists regardless of the geography and cultural practice.”

Pushback from industry

Linder said her biggest concerns include industries that are “poorly regulated or not regulated at all.”

The report flags the U.S. mink industry as one that should be better regulated or eliminated because it poses a risk to human health and its products are unnecessary luxuries.

Not surprisingly, the mink industry disagrees with the finding that its industry is unsafe.

Mink farmers are careful stewards of both public and animal health, said Challis Hobbs, executive director of Fur Commission USA, the organization that represents U.S. mink farmers.

Mink are sold through auction houses and must be certified and follow biosecurity standards to go to market, he said via email.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, American mink farmers, at their own expense, helped develop and deliver a vaccine to protect mink from catching the SARS-CoV-2 virus, Hobbs noted.

In the U.S., mink farms participated in weekly testing for the SARS-CoV-2 virus for a long time and now tests sporadically, Hobbs said.

“We continue to work closely with federal, state, and local agencies to take all necessary precautions to protect humans and wildlife and prevent the spread of diseases,” he said.

“We adhere to rigorous animal welfare and biosecurity standards, just like other livestock industries.”

Simple changes can make a big difference

Lipkin described a research trip to Saudi Arabia to study the transmission of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, known as MERS, a SARS-like virus first identified in 2012.

MERS was believed to be transmitted via camels but no one could understand

how people in major cities like Riyadh were catching the disease when there were no camels in the area.

Lipkin visited two slaughterhouses. Following tradition, at sundown, each would begin by slaughtering camels, then cows, then sheep.

In one of the slaughterhouses, the butchers used high-pressure hoses to clean off the animal meat before shrink-wrapping it for sale; in the other, they didn't take this step.

Lipkin found extremely high levels of viral material on the beef and sheep meat in the sites where hoses weren't used and no viral material where they were.

Lipkin said he remains concerned about the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture, which increases the risk that these essential drugs won't work when people need them.

Inexpensive genetic analysis can now be used to quickly test wild or farmed animals to see what pathogens they carry that might pose a risk to humans, he said.

People who work closely with animals can also get their blood tested to see if they carry antibodies indicating they'd previously been infected with an animal-borne virus.

Policy changes to reduce risk

The report proposes a handful of policy changes in all 15 countries, spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Australia. They include enhanced regulation and monitoring of animal markets and their supply chains; improved public health protections across the livestock industry, the wildlife trade and wildlife farming industries; and policies that support sustainable agricultural practices.

Kuchipudi said it's a matter of balance between food security, economics and the health of animals and people.

“Can we stop all animal operations?” No, he said. “It's not a solution and also not appropriate.”

But risks can be reduced, particularly

when people are made aware of them, through reports like this one, Kuchipudi said.

He also said known risks should be reduced through procedures including pasteurizing all milk and milk products, processing animals carefully and either avoiding petting zoos or making sure children wash their hands thoroughly after touching animals and don't kiss them.

Such precautions are also important for the animals, Kuchipudi said, recalling many pets caught COVID-19 from their human families.

“We really need to recognize that by protecting our animals we protect our (own) health. And vice versa,” he said.

“By protecting our environment, we're also protecting human health and also animal health. They're almost inseparable.”

The group Mercy for Animals, an international nonprofit animal protection organization, also supports this concept, dubbed One Health.

Mercy for Animals has launched a campaign against using “downed pigs” – pigs that are too sick, weak or injured to walk on their own – in the food supply.

Allowing such sick pigs into the food supply and exposing workers to them creates an unnecessary risk to human health, said Frances Chrzan, the organization's senior federal policy manager.

Many public officials are concerned, for instance, that pigs will catch the bird flu circulating in poultry flocks and dairy farms.

Pigs are known to be the mixing vessels for influenza, enabling it to transform from an animal-only virus to one that can also infect people, as happened in the 2009 swine flu epidemic, said Dr. Walter Sanchez-Suarez, a veterinarian and animal welfare scientist with Mercy for Animals.

“There is a ticking bomb knowing this (bird flu) virus is everywhere and they are providing the perfect conditions for this zoonotic spillover event to really take place,” he said.

Blinken: Iran closer to having nuclear capabilities

Savannah Kuchar
USA TODAY

Iran may be “one or two weeks” away from being able to produce the materials necessary for nuclear weapons, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday.

“Where we are now is not in a good place,” Blinken told an audience at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado.

Iran has continued development of its nuclear program but has not produced a weapon yet, Blinken said. This would mark the closest the country has

come to having that capability.

The U.S. will continue trying to prevent Iran from ever having nuclear weapons, he said, preferably through diplomatic negotiations.

“What we need to see,” Blinken said, “if Iran is serious about engaging, is ac-

tually pulling back on the work that it's been doing on his program.”

He added the U.S. government has “maximizing pressure on Iran across the board. We've imposed more than 600 sanctions on Iranian persons and entities. We haven't lifted a single sanction.”

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What's next for campaign funds, delegates

Experts say power shifts to convention delegates

James Powell
USA TODAY

Immediately after announcing that he would drop out of the presidential race Sunday, President Joe Biden endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris, placing her as the presumptive Democratic nominee.

The endorsements were made in two separate social media posts.

The change at the top of the ticket comes after Biden won the overwhelming majority of delegates with Harris on the ticket.

Here's why there won't be further primaries for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Harris leading ticket makes cash transfer easier

The Biden campaign reported to the Federal Election Commission that it raised \$127 million in June.

Saurav Ghosh, a lawyer at the Campaign Legal Center, told Reuters that Harris remaining on the ticket makes the transference of those funds easier.

"If Harris remains on the ticket, as either the presidential or vice presidential candidate, the new ticket would maintain access to all the funds," Ghosh said.

Federal law states that a vice presidential candidate has a right to money raised by the campaign, but Dan Weiner, the director of the Brennan Center for Justice's Elections and Government Program, told USA TODAY that the law has gray areas.

"It's not crystal clear because I'm not

sure if the people who drafted the Federal Election Campaign Act anticipated this situation," he said.

All primaries completed, real power in hands of delegates

The last suite of primaries took place June 4, leaving the task of choosing the party's nominee to the delegates who will gather in Chicago in August.

Elaine Kamarck, author of "Primary Politics: Everything You Need to Know About How America Nominates Its Presidential Candidates," explained in a Brookings Institution podcast that the substantive power to nominate lies with the delegates at the convention, not primary voters.

"The primaries elect delegates to the convention, but the legal authority for choosing the nominee of the Democrat-

ic Party, or for that matter, the Republican Party, is not the primaries, it is the delegates voting in convention. When that happens, you have a formal nominee," Kamarck said.

The Democratic National Committee rules for delegates voted in by the primaries say that: "Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them."

William Mayer, a political science professor at Northeastern University, told Factcheck.org that the Democratic convention delegate rules allow for pledged delegates to vote for a new candidate.

"You are kind of encouraged to vote for the candidates for whom you were elected – but 'in all good conscience' you could vote for someone else," he said.

Biden

Continued from Page 1A

the best interest of my party and my country for me to stand down and to focus solely on my duties as President for the rest of my term."

Biden quickly endorsed Harris as the Democratic nominee in a separate statement. Biden said he would speak to the nation later this week to provide more detail about his decision.

It marks an extraordinary turn for Biden, who for three weeks remained defiant in the face of growing calls from Democratic lawmakers that he withdraw after a disastrous debate with Trump on June 27 raised scrutiny over the president's mental fitness.

The president's exit came after he received bleak warnings from Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Democratic House Leader Hakeem Jeffries that his candidacy could lead to massive losses for Democrats in the Senate and House.

More than 30 congressional Democrats called for Biden to bow out, and former President Barack Obama reportedly relayed similar fears to Democratic allies about Biden's prospects of beating Trump. Democratic donors from Hollywood to Wall Street also came out against the president continuing his reelection bid.

The decision upends the 2024 campaign less than 110 days before Election Day. Democratic National Committee members are now tasked with choosing an alternative nominee to take on Trump, whose polling lead has swelled while Democrats have fought internally.

Harris is now the front-runner to replace Biden as the Democratic nominee, but the party's bench of Democratic



President Joe Biden has remained defiant for weeks amid increasingly urgent calls for him to withdraw from the 2024 race after his poor debate showing against his rival Donald Trump in a debate June 27. More than 30 congressional Democrats had called for Biden to bow out.

LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/
REUTERS

governors could also be in the mix, including Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and Gavin Newsom of California.

Biden becomes the first incumbent president not to seek reelection since Lyndon B. Johnson, who in 1968 amid national unrest and turmoil within the Democratic Party over the Vietnam War stunned the nation with his decision not to seek a second full term.

Biden, 81, has battled Americans' concerns over his age since he took office, but it turned into panic for Democrats after last month's first debate with

Trump, the Republican nominee. Biden's voice sounded faint, he struggled to complete sentences and finish thoughts, and he failed to rebut many many of Trump's claims on the debate stage.

The president's campaign has been in a free fall over the past few weeks with his future in doubt. Instead of focusing solely on Trump, Democrats spent as much time and energy debating whether Biden could even defeat his predecessor.

Fundraising for the Biden campaign took a dramatic hit. And Biden not only

fell behind in key battleground states that will decide the election, but his growing unpopularity seemed to put recent Democratic strongholds like Virginia in play for Trump.

Biden's departure will mean the end of a five-decade career in Washington that began in 1972 with an upset victory for U.S. Senate in Delaware. He served as a senator for 36 years, then as Obama's vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden returned to public life to run against Trump in the 2020 presidential election, beating Trump 51%-47% in the popular vote.

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of the world against Russian expansionism, and made the biggest investment in climate change in history.

But there was a challenge he couldn't conquer: age.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President," he wrote in a letter posted on social media. "And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term."

Just 10 days ago, in the wake of a disastrous debate against Donald Trump in which he appeared to lose his train of thought, Biden insisted he wasn't staying in the race "for my legacy," but "to complete the job that I started."

In the end, voices he couldn't ignore, among them his old ally Nancy Pelosi, focused on protecting his legacy. They argued that continuing the campaign risked making his last chapter in politics leading the Democrats into disaster in November.

With questions about his mental acuity persisting, he could cost Democrats not only the White House but also control of the Senate and its hopes of regaining the House.

That catastrophic coda not only could overshadow his achievements – on creating jobs and spurring growth, on strengthening alliances and investing in infrastructure. It would also make it possible for a reelected Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress to dismantle many of them.

From young senator to aging president

When Joseph Robinette Biden was

first elected to the Senate at age 30 and skeptics asked about his age, he had a standard response. "Watch me," he would say.

That was the same rejoinder he would use a half-century later, when skeptics asked about his age in an entirely different context.

Few figures in American history have filled as many political roles as he has, from one of the youngest senators ever when he was elected in 1972 to the nation's oldest president at 81. Early on, he was a Democratic centrist on abortion, civil rights and crime. Later, as president, he would enact the most far-reaching progressive agenda since Lyndon Johnson and his Great Society.

As Barack Obama's running mate, he would be a crucial partner in electing the nation's first Black president.

Then, against the predictions of pundits, he won the Democratic presidential nomination himself on his third try, in 2020. Facing a field of contenders a generation younger, he prevailed in his party and then with the country, ousting President Trump in an election that both sides depicted as an existential test of democracy.

In office, despite slender Democratic majorities in Congress, he pursued a strikingly ambitious agenda.

"As great a legislative record as any first-term president since at least FDR," said Jeffrey Engel, director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University. "Led the country through the bulk of its greatest domestic crisis – COVID – since the Great Depression, and its greatest health crisis since the Spanish flu. Record-high stock markets and record low unemployment. Kept the nation out of war despite wars erupting around the world.

"Oh, and entered office without his predecessor on hand to peacefully hand over power for the first time since Reconstruction, a mark of the divided na-

tion he inherited."

Aides would complain Biden never got credit for the results, including avoiding the recession that most economists had forecast. He suffered setbacks, too, including a disastrous withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan that contributed to a sense of a world that was spinning out of control, with U.S. influence on the wane.

The furor over his competence to serve a second term has dented the credit he might otherwise have been able to claim for his first, Engel said. "One fears the tragedy we are witnessing in his refusal to go quietly into retirement increasingly looks like King Lear, in which a nation rips at the threads in order to make an aging leader feel loved, when he already was and should be."

A persona from an earlier era of politics

Biden never lost the persona he forged during an earlier era of politics, one in which compromise across party lines was a rule of the game.

From start to finish, he was Joe from Scranton, often referring to his Pennsylvania roots, mentioning his father even at the NATO news conference last week. Young Biden was an undistinguished student at the University of Delaware and graduated near the bottom of his law school class at Syracuse University.

He would forever have a chip on his shoulder toward Ivy Leaguers, the self-confident members of "the elite" he would decry when he rejected calls for him to withdraw from the Democratic ticket.

He was the guy who had won elections, he would note, starting with the upset when he narrowly defeated an incumbent Republican senator in Delaware.

Never far from the surface were his

personal tragedies – from the deaths of his wife and young daughter in a car crash in 1972 to the demise of son Beau in 2015 of a brain tumor thought to be associated with his service in the Iraq war. His surviving son, Hunter, would struggle with drug addiction.

Biden held the Delaware Senate seat through six more elections – a 36-year tenure that would see him chair the Judiciary Committee and then the Foreign Relations Committee – until he moved into the vice president's residence on Observatory Circle in 2009.

But he had defeats, too. He ended his bid for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination in the wake of a furor over plagiarizing a British politician's stump speech. His 2008 bid went nowhere; he finished a humiliating fifth in the opening Iowa caucuses.

In 2020, he lost Iowa, too, then the New Hampshire primary, then the Nevada caucuses. But he won the South Carolina primary, and with that staged a comeback for the Democratic nomination. And, then, the presidential election, running as a uniter in a time of division.

He would carry more than 81 million votes, the most of any presidential candidate in history.

The lessons Biden took from that victory, and from a lifetime of taking a hit and then getting back up, made it harder for him to step back this time.

"He has seen this over and over again," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters as the debate over whether he should stay at the top of the ticket raged. "People count him out. People say he's not going to win. People say, you know, all of the negative things that they want to put at his feet, and he proves them wrong over and over again."

This time, though, he decided that it was time to go. That he had reached the end of the road.

Harris

Continued from Page 1A

Trump to power – is ready for a woman of color to sit in the Oval Office.

“Black women are judged more harshly by the right, by the left – by everyone,” said Aimee Steele, founder and CEO of The New North Carolina Project, an group expanding voter engagement and access.

Steele said beyond race and gender, there are other parts of Harris’ life that she believes liberal allies will fail to accept or defend, including that she is a professional woman who went unmarried most of her life and put her career first without having biological children.

“I think we’re kidding ourselves to really believe that we are, even on the progressive side, in a post-racial democracy or a place where these types of things don’t matter,” said Steele, who unsuccessfully ran for the North Carolina legislature in 2020.

Trump and other Republicans have long been aware of the possible ticket switch, and have derided Harris as incompetent, socially awkward and responsible for chief failures in the Biden administration. And Republicans suggest that’s only the beginning.

“We’ve not really gone into depths with the record of Kamala Harris,” Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., said in a Fox News Sunday appearance this month.

A former Harris staffer wrote in *The Atlantic* this month “an automatic coronation of Harris would be a grave mistake.” She argued for a process to battle-test her against others vs. Trump.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., warned in a Instagram live Thursday it would be incorrect to think there is a consensus among Democrats that Harris will get the support of people who want Biden to leave.

Those individuals, she said, “are interested in removing the whole ticket.”

If the vice president were to lead the Democratic ticket this year, political activists such as Kristin Powell, principal of Black to the Future Action Fund, a national political advocacy group, believe it could be a game-changer. But Powell said excitement over a non-white, non-male candidate comes second to certain policy commitments, especially among those who’ve lived through the Obama era.

“We would applaud having a Black woman in the White House,” she said. “But before we get excited about whether that’s Kamala Harris, we need to understand what she’s going to give us.”

Halie Soifer, CEO of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, acknowledged that misogyny, racism and other forms of bigotry could “be exacerbated by having a woman of color at the top of the ticket.”

“But that is absolutely not a reason to cower or to allow the fear of that hate to impede progress in this country,” said Soifer, who served as a national security adviser to Harris in the Senate, “and that’s actually been driving Kamala Harris her whole career.”

A child of immigrants

Harris was born in Oakland, Calif. in 1964 amid the Civil Rights Movement to immigrant parents – her father Donald Harris, was an economist born in Jamaica and Shyamala Gopalan, was a cancer researcher from India.

In her 2019 memoir, she briefly describes her parents’ marriage falling apart when she was five, leading to divorce. Her mother took a teaching job at McGill University when Harris was 12, moving her and her sister to Montreal from 1976 until she graduated from high school.

It was in Canada where Harris first developed an affinity for lawyers who broke barriers such as Thurgood Marshall, Charles Hamilton Houston, Constance Baker Motley – giants of the civil rights movement, she wrote.

Harris returned to the states to attend Howard University where she flourished in the environment where “everyone was young, gifted and Black.” She pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., of the historic “divine nine” Greek-lettered organizations among African Americans. She interned at the Federal Trade Commission; researched at the National Archives and was a tour guide at the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

She first entered politics as a staffer for Democratic Sen. Alan Cranston, of California, and then returned home to Oakland to U.C. Hastings College of Law and graduated in 1989.

Harris revealed in her book she took the California bar exam that July and “to my utter devastation, I had failed,” an acknowledged setback for a self-described perfectionist. She passed in February 1990 and began work at the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office.

Her political star began to rise in 1994



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at a Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Paul, Minn., in March. STEPHEN MATUREN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

with her relationship with Willie Brown, the legendary California politician who at the time was the statehouse speaker, married – although long separated – and 30 years older than Harris.

California entrepreneur Trevor Traina, a longtime Harris friend and former U.S. ambassador to Austria, said that relationship was a politically formative one.

“Kamala’s a warm person who has a lot of charm and charisma. And she is the protégé of Willie Brown, who is the king of charm,” Traina said in an interview with USA TODAY. “And I think she learned well from him.”

By 2000, Harris moved to City Hall and quickly set her eyes on the city’s top prosecutor job, challenging incumbent Terence Hallinan in 2003. Her campaign sent out mailers featuring the 10 faces of previous San Francisco DAs stretching back to 1900. All male, all white. “It’s time for a change,” it read in block red letters.

Harris was California’s top cop

A decade before being elevated to the vice presidency, Harris demonstrated an uncanny ability to beat the political odds in a political landscape that, much like today’s national terrain, was dominated by aging white men.

Traina said more than any other time period, Harris’ time as San Francisco’s district attorney is an instructive window into her leadership.

“There’s a tension between the center left and the far left, which I think mirrors the national scene right now for the Democratic Party,” Traina said. “And you have politicians who need to be elected and who need to be able to speak to the center, who understand how to navigate that environment, and Kamala is one of those people.”

She took aim at the California Attorney General’s office in 2010 after the incumbent, Democrat Jerry Brown, ran for governor. It was up to Harris to retain the seat for the Democrats.

Political attacks on Harris included her decision as San Francisco DA to not seek the death penalty for a gang member who shot and killed a police officer.

On Election Day in 2010, a nationwide sweep known as the “red wave” broke and Republicans regained control of the U.S. House and reclaimed governor’s seats and statehouses nationwide. In Harris’ race against Republican Steve Cooley, the vote turned out to be one of the closest in California history. Ballot counting took more than three weeks.

Harris’ tenure as California attorney general drew accolades from Obama, who cast her as a “brilliant” and “dedicated” campaigner at a 2013 fundraiser that is best remembered for the president’s commentary on her attractiveness. (He quickly apologized.)

After becoming attorney general, it was clear to many observers Harris was aiming for even higher office, taking cautious positions on hot-button issues – or no position at all. That would become the basis of Harris biographer Dan Morain’s book, “Kamala’s Way,” about her ascent to the U.S. Senate and ultimately the vice presidency.

“It’s about her way of operating, and it’s her path to getting to where she is,” Morain said. “She can be very tough, she can be empathetic, she can be cautious, she can be unsure of herself, but she’s very smart and quick on her feet.”

It’s in this period that a friend introduced Harris to an entertainment lawyer in L.A. who would become her husband, Doug Emhoff.

By January 2015 a new lane had opened. Longtime Sen. Barbara Boxer announced she would not seek reelection in 2016.

In California’s primary system, where the top two vote-getters advance, Harris emerged as the winner to run against fellow Democrat Loretta Sanchez, an almost 10-year veteran of the House of Representatives. She sailed to a more than 20-point victory over Sanchez in the general election in 2016, with the support of Obama and his vice

president – Joe Biden.

A combative prosecutor

Harris became only the second Black woman to serve in the Senate in history, in a victory that came amid a new kind of red wave: that night, Trump defeated Hillary Clinton.

Harris arrived at the Senate primed for the conflict. Her maiden speech on the Senate floor laced into Trump’s nominee for education secretary and future Cabinet member Betsy DeVos.

She landed initial appointments to the Homeland Security and Intelligence committees. She later joined the Senate Judiciary Committees.

She leaned into questions about special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into allegations of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia and pressed future Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on abortion rights. The Kavanaugh clip went viral.

Soifer, the former national security adviser, said those examples in the Senate underscore how Harris would be the most stark contrast with Trump at a time when reproductive healthcare is at the forefront.

“She’s a force to be reckoned with,” Soifer said. “She would eviscerate him.”

Several months after the Kavanaugh hearings, Harris announced she’d run for president. She had served in the Senate just two years. She had not yet written a single piece of legislation that became law.

But she also had never lost an election.

Presidential hopes implode

Naysayers are quick to point at Harris’ failed 2020 presidential bid, which closed up shop before the first ballots were even cast.

Harris declared in her birthplace of Oakland, near the University of California, Berkeley, where her parents met.

“People in power are trying to convince us that the villain in our American story is each other. But that is not our story. That is not who we are. That’s not our America,” she said.

Harris caught the country’s attention when she went after Biden at the first Democratic debate that summer. She criticized the former vice president for comments he’d made about pro-segregationists with whom he served.

“You also worked with them to oppose busing,” she said. “And, you know, there was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bused to school every day. And that little girl was me.”

Harris shot up in the rankings. But less than three months after the breakout moment, she was down in the polls, running out of cash and her campaign was rife with infighting.

With two months to go until the Iowa Caucus, she quit the race.

But the calculus paid off. When Biden secured the nomination, thanks largely to African American voters, he chose her as his running mate.

Harris’ sharp debate skills served her well on Biden’s ticket. As then-Vice President Mike Pence tried to interrupt her, Harris delivered one of the most memorable lines of her political career that turned into an online sensation.

“Mr. Vice President, I’m speaking,” she told Pence.

What has Harris done as VP?

Harris’ election to vice president as the first woman, Black person and Asian American to serve in the role was met with celebration. That enthusiasm waned over the years as Harris fumbled early assignments.

The president tasked her with addressing the “root causes” of mass migration to the southern border – an area she had little to no expertise on as a senator or attorney general.

On a trip to Guatemala that June, Harris came under heavy scrutiny for

telling NBC’s Lester Holt she’d been to the U.S.-Mexico border. Neither she nor Biden had at that point. Harris soon caved to political pressure. Within weeks, she visited El Paso, Texas.

The pandemic and the efforts the White House took to protect the president and vice president from getting COVID left Harris isolated and unable to travel frequently. The problem was compounded as Biden and his advisers struggled with how to utilize her.

Those episodes were brought up regularly during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee last week as the GOP prepared for a scenario in which Harris could be the Democratic candidate. Republican Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., further accused her of enabling “criminals and rioters” during the protests following the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer.

Biden had served in the Senate for more than three decades before he became vice president. There was no existing schema for someone like Harris. She was a trained lawyer, who did a short stint as a senator.

“Most of that stuff is not transferable to the job of the vice president,” said Harris’ first communications director as vice president, Ashley Etienne. “So she figured out what are her strengths. And she’s over indexed on them.”

Finding footing on reproductive rights, other liberal causes

It took the leak of a Supreme Court decision reversing *Roe v. Wade* for Harris to cut her own path. She’d worked closely with abortion rights advocates in California. She was in her element.

“Obviously when she’s talking about anything in the judicial system that’s her own thing,” said Jason Williams, a professor of justice studies at Montclair State University in New Jersey. “That’s what she went to school for. That’s what she has worked (for) as ... a prosecutor for so many years.”

Harris traveled the country, sounding the alarm. Democrats lost the House in the midterm elections but kept the Senate. The election-year victories finally offered Harris an issue area she could own. She reoriented her agenda around cultural issues such as gun rights and book bans.

After Hamas launched a brutal, surprise attack against Israeli civilians on Oct. 7, Harris sat in on Biden’s calls with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Biden then sent Harris to Dubai to discuss the governance of Gaza after the war with Middle Eastern leaders.

There she delivered a searing statement about how Israel was conducting itself in the war.

“Too many innocent Palestinians have been killed,” Harris said. “Frankly, the scale of civilian suffering and the images and videos coming from Gaza are devastating.”

In March, she called for an immediate cease fire – remarks that were among the most pointed at that time from a member of the Biden administration.

VP role gives Harris an edge

The balance Harris would have to achieve as a presidential candidate is differentiating herself on those issues, while also taking credit for some of the administration’s accomplishments, such as student debt forgiveness and job creation.

“This would be the challenge: Can she communicate how much of a role she played in those kinds of outcomes?” said Ange-Marie Hancock, executive director of the Kirwan Institute at The Ohio State University and curator of the Kamala Harris Project, a consortium of scholars from the country studying the vice president.

Elaine Kamarck, a longtime Democratic National Committee member and expert on the party’s rules, told a group of Democratic activists during a Friday call that Harris has two major advantages: she’s already been vetted and she’s already on the job.

“None of the other candidates, great as they are – and some of them, I like very much, I might even like them more than the vice president – none of them have been vetted on a national stage,” Kamarck said on the call organized by the group Delegates are Democracy.

As a former prosecutor, many believe Harris also would not be intimidated by Trump, which could come with its own backlash.

“As a woman and as a woman of color, how aggressive can she be before people start having the reaction that she’s too aggressive,” said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. “Is that trope of the angry Black woman going to be thrown at her?”

While racist and sexist attacks aren’t new, Walsh is among those who expect them to ratchet up if Harris runs for president, alongside persistent questioning about ability and qualifications.

Just Curious

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How long does marijuana remain in your body?

Liam Gravvat
USA TODAY

The nationwide push to legalize marijuana got a major boost when the Biden administration announced a plan to reclassify marijuana from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule III drug this year.

While it's still illegal under federal law, marijuana is legal in some capacity in 38 states, plus Washington, D.C. Many people use it recreationally.

There is scientific evidence cannabis can be used for pain control and management.

Here's what you need to know about how the drug affects the body.

How long does weed stay in your system?

After weed enters your system, it can

take one to three hours to feel the complete effects and then another one to three hours for those effects to wear off, according to Healthline. The effects of consuming it via food or drink last much longer than smoking it, according to the American Addiction Centers.

How long can tests detect weed?

Weed can be detected in your body long after its effects have worn off.

Cannabis can be detected in first-time smokers for about three days afterward, but it may show up for five to seven days after smoking in more consistent smokers (three to four times per week), according to Medical News Today. Daily smokers can expect tests to detect weed for at least 30 days.

There are several kinds of tests. Here's how long after smoking they can

detect cannabis in your body, according to Medical News Today:

- **Urine tests:** One to 30 days after use.
- **Saliva tests:** Usually within 24 hours but could detect up to 44 hours after use.
- **Hair tests:** Up to 90 days but may give false positives if you were recently in contact with another user.
- **Sweat tests:** Seven to 14 days.
- **Blood tests:** Only a few hours.

What influences tests?

Tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, is the chemical in weed that gives users that high feeling. Every person metabolizes weed differently, which impacts how long it'll show up on a test.

Influential factors include the THC dose, the person's body fat, sex, how hy-

drated they are, recent exercise and their metabolism rate, according to Medical News Today. The strength and quantity of the THC consumed can be the difference between a positive and negative test, as drug tests are searching for THC, not cannabis.

Those with higher body fat will metabolize weed slower than those with less fat, according to Medical News Today.

Hydrating more than normal won't necessarily affect the results of a drug test, but dehydration may increase THC concentration. Regular exercise won't change a drug test's results, but exercising right before a drug test may increase the chance of a positive test.

Those with faster metabolism rates will remove THC from the body quicker than those with slower metabolisms.

Contributing: Clare Mulroy

What's the smallest animal in the world by both land and sea?

Evan Hecht
USA TODAY

According to the BBC, there are an estimated 8.7 million species of animals in the world. Experts believe some of these species will go extinct before they are able to be studied. It's believed it could take over 1,000 years to categorize them all.

There are animals that run across the land, swim in the ocean and fly through the sky. With so many animals in the world, there are some that may go unnoticed.

So, what are the smallest animals?

What is the smallest mammal in the world?

According to the BBC Science Focus,



This photo taken in February 2019 in Djibouti shows a Somali elephant shrew. STEVEN HERITAGE/GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION VIA AFP

the smallest mammal in the world is the Etruscan shrew. The Etruscan shrew, also known as the white-toothed pygmy shrew or *Suncus etruscus*, is located in North America. Most adults of the spe-

cies range from millimeters, or approximately 1.4 to 2 inches, in length and weigh around 1.8 to 3 grams, according to animaldiversity.org.

The Etruscan shrew is currently the smallest living mammal, but some extinct species were smaller. The *Batodonoides vanhouteni* has only been found fossilized but is believed to be smaller than the Etruscan shrew. The exact size and weight of the *Batodonoides vanhouteni* is unknown but the weight is believed to be between 0.93 to 1.82 grams, according to Britannica.

What is the smallest aquatic animal in the world?

According to the Ocean Conservancy, the smallest sea creatures are zooplankton.

Zooplankton describe a variety of oceanic species including single-celled protozoa, jellyfish and some crustaceans. Zooplankton are typically less than 1 inch and can even be so small you can only see them under a microscope.

One of the smallest zooplankton is the Irukandji jellyfish. The Irukandji jellyfish can be 0.06 cubic inches, according to World Atlas.

What is the smallest bug?

According to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the smallest insect in the world is the *Dicopomorpha eckmep-terygis* or fairyfly.

The fairyfly is a type of wasp and is only 0.005 inches long. Male fairyflies are not only wingless but also blind, according to animaldiversity.org.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Biblical Bush Relieves Joint Discomfort in as Little as 5 Days

Legendary "special herb" gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional "solutions."

Leading the way from nature's pharmacy is the new "King of Oils" that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls "the most significant breakthrough I've ever found for easing joint discomfort."

Biblical scholars treasured this "holy oil." Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, rely on it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears' attention is how modern medical findings now prove this "King of Oils" can powerfully...

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNK, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won't give you all the relief you need.

Doctors and scientists now confirm the "King of Oils"—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes. It does so by shutting down the

inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes "on" or "off." A study in *Journal of Food Lipids* reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is "so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints."

Relief That's 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is, the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

Yet in a study published in the *International Journal of Medical Sciences*, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense "significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days." That's relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular



The active ingredient in *Mobilify* soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days

man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That's a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, *BMJ* (formerly the *British Medical Journal*) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called *Mobilify*.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, "*Mobilify* really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast." Shirley M. adds, "Two weeks after taking *Mobilify*, I had no knee discomfort and could go

up and down the staircase." Larry M. says, "After a week and a half of taking *Mobilify*, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it's almost like being reborn." And avid golfer Dennis H. says, "I can attest to *Mobilify* easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried."

How to Get Mobilify

To secure the hot, new *Mobilify* formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 1-800-341-8082 TODAY. "It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer." Dr. Sears feels so strongly about *Mobilify*, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back."

Use Promo Code **MBUSAT49** when you call to secure your supply of *Mobilify*. Lines are frequently busy and due to heightened demand, supplies are limited. To secure your supply today, call 1-800-341-8082.

Trump was denied additional security

Secret Service cited shortages over two years

Rebecca Morin and John Bacon

USA TODAY

The Secret Service denied requests for additional security for Donald Trump over the past two years, ahead of the assassination attempt against the former president July 13, according to multiple media reports.

Agents who oversaw Trump had previously requested magnetometers and more agents to screen attendees at sporting events and other large public gatherings that Trump attended, according to The Washington Post, which first reported the Secret Service's denial of additional resources.

Agents had also requested more snipers and specialty teams at other outdoor events. Secret Service officials sometimes denied the requests because of a lack of resources and staffing shortages at the agency, the Post said.

Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi acknowledged the agency had turned down requests for additional resources sought by Trump's security detail, according to a statement from the Post and The New York Times. Guglielmi said the denied request was not specifically for Trump's rally in Pennsylvania, according to the reports.

Guglielmi said that in instances where Secret Service could not provide additional resources, they supplemented security at rallies with state and local law enforcement, as well as changed security plans to reduce the former president's exposure, according to the Times and Post.

The statement is a reversal of what the agency has previously said. One day after the shooting, Guglielmi said it was untrue that Secret Service had denied additional security resources.



Donald Trump has blood on his face as he is surrounded by Secret Service agents and taken off the stage at a campaign event at the Butler Farm Show in Pennsylvania on July 13. REBECCA DROKE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"There's an untrue assertion that a member of the former President's team requested additional security resources & that those were rebuffed," Guglielmi wrote on X. "This is absolutely false. In fact, we added protective resources & technology & capabilities as part of the increased campaign travel tempo."

Department of Homeland Security secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Monday that the accusation that he had issued the denials was "a baseless and irresponsible statement and it is one that is unequivocally false." DHS oversees the Secret Service.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, speaking Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," said the Secret Service response to the Trump assassination attempt has been "unconscionable" and the director is "not fit to lead." Director Kimberly Cheatle faces a House hearing on the shooting Monday.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania congressman Brendan Boyle became the first Democratic lawmaker to publicly call for Cheatle's resignation, saying in a statement that "the evidence coming to light has shown unacceptable operational failures" and that he has lost confidence in her.

Crooks flew drone over shooting site ahead of rampage

The Secret Service has been under intense scrutiny since a gunman opened fire on thousands of Trump supporters gathered at the Butler Farm Show grounds in Pennsylvania. Trump, shot in the ear, was hustled off the stage by Secret Service personnel. Trump supporter Corey Comperatore, 50, was killed and two other rallygoers were critically wounded before a sniper fatally shot the gunman, identified as Thom-

as Matthew Crooks.

Crooks apparently flew a drone over the rally site and obtained aerial footage of the western Pennsylvania fairgrounds just hours before the event, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing a law-enforcement official briefed on the incident.

The drone was recovered by the FBI, which is leading the investigation into the shooting. The predetermined path suggests Crooks flew the drone multiple times in his efforts to plan the shooting, the official said.

Crooks unleashed a barrage of gunfire from the roof of a building about 150 meters from the stage where Trump was speaking.

Additional security in Florida draws criticism

In Florida, some officials in Palm Beach are calling for changes in the security plan around Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club. A Secret Service-initiated indefinite closure of South Ocean Boulevard, which runs along the property, began Saturday and will remain in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week until at least the Nov. 5 general election, the Palm Beach Police Department said.

Palm Beach officials said in a statement that they plan to "pursue legal options to ensure that the road remains open in the absence of the protected person(s) in residence."

Town Manager Kirk Blouin said the town would be unable to shut down the road indefinitely "unless we're ordered to."

"If there's a protectee in residence, it makes sense," Blouin told the Palm Beach Daily News, part of the USA TODAY Network. "If there's no one there, I don't understand the road closure at this moment."

Contributing: Kristina Webb and Jordan Wagner, Palm Beach Daily News

'Twisters' brings attention to tornado vulnerabilities

Experts: Shift in climate, humans adds to risks

Dinah Voyles Pulver

USA TODAY

Flying cows and trucks and a colorful cast of characters delivered a thrilling tale of tornadoes and the researchers who study them in the 1996 blockbuster film "Twister." The movie heightened awareness of the deadly storms and inspired a generation of tornado researchers and storm chasers.

Its stand-alone sequel, "Twisters," opened in theaters last week, starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Glen Powell. It's also expected to bring renewed attention to tornado safety – and experts say that would be a good thing.

At least two teams of real-life tornado experts have warned in recent weeks that changes in storm patterns and human activities have greatly increased the vulnerability and risks when it comes to tornadoes in the eastern half of the nation.

Tornadoes occur more often than they used to in some states, and less frequently in others, and they occur during expanded seasons both earlier and later in the year, even though the overall number of tornadoes has remained relatively flat, the researchers said.

When tornadoes do appear, the odds are growing they'll strike a home or other building because there's just so many more homes to hit than there were 30 or 40 years ago, stated a study co-authored by Stephen Strader, a hazards geographer and meteorologist at Villanova University. All of this increases the demands on communities that must respond after a tornado arrives.

The important thing is to focus the efforts to save lives where society's risks and the vulnerability to storms are increasing the most, said Strader's co-author Victor Gensini, an associate professor and meteorologist at Northern Illinois University.

"If a tornado goes out into the middle of a corn field and doesn't hit anything, the person who cares is the farmer, but take that same tornado and put it over a subdivision, and that illustrates the most important part of the disaster landscape," Gensini said. "Where we are and what we are matters."

'Triple threat' of tornado vulnerability

Nowhere has the tornado risk grown more than in the mid-South region, which includes parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and the western halves of Kentucky and Tennessee, Strader said.



A tornado spins west of Hawley, Texas as cars pass on U.S. 277 in May. Climate change and population growth have increased risks of severe weather, including tornadoes. RONALD W. ERDRICH/USA TODAY NETWORK

The study found that many locations in the lower Mississippi Valley or Mid-South have seen the annual average number of tornadoes increase by more than two days per decade, at the same time their populations were growing. Five counties in Mississippi have seen the biggest increases in tornado days, with an increase of 3.5 days per decade or more.

"The probability of a tornado hitting people in that mid-South region has increased by about 300%," Strader said. "It was three times more likely in 2020 than in 1980."

"It's a triple threat," Strader said. A changing climate is creating more favorable conditions for the storms that spawn tornadoes, more people than ever are moving into the region and the most vulnerable people, including the elderly and poverty-stricken, are becoming even more vulnerable.

The risk even extends into areas where fewer tornadoes are occurring, the study reported.

"Twisters," like its prequel, is set in Oklahoma. But despite the state's infamous reputation for tornadoes, researchers say fewer tornadoes occur today in Oklahoma and Texas.

Still, some areas in Texas, for example, have seen huge population growth. That puts more people and homes at risk, Strader said.

"The disaster isn't the tornado," Strader said.

"It's what the tornado is hitting that becomes the disaster, and that is 90% driven by society's exposure."

In areas where tornadoes are increasing, "we have more people than ever before," Strader said.

Those people are building more homes and setting up manufactured

homes across the landscape.

When it comes to disaster preparation and recovery, he said, when you're spreading those resources across more people the resources are being spread thin, he said.

Strader, Gensini and two colleagues, Walker Ashley and Amanda Wagner, attribute the increase in tornadoes in the East to changes in wind shear and instability in the atmosphere that can generate more storm activity.

A second paper published in June also found tornado activity has declined in the Great Plains and increased in the Midwest and Southeast.

The study, led by Timothy Coleman, a research meteorologist at the University of Alabama Huntsville, found that tornadoes also are trending away from the time many people expect them – in the warm season – toward the cold season.

Tornado activity varies from year to year, but through June, this year has produced the third most tornadoes year-to-date, behind 2011 and 2008, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

West Virginia – at 18 tornadoes – already has set a new record for tornadoes in a calendar year, the National Weather Service said recently.

The team with Strader and Gensini found an increase in the nation's billion-dollar disasters from the severe convective storms that produce tornadoes, with annual losses from such storms escalating by more than \$1 billion every year when adjusted for inflation.

Three of the top 10 costliest disasters in the nation last year involved tornadoes.

Insured losses for tornadoes and the storms that spawn them set a record in the U.S. over the past 18 months, accord-

ing to a new report from Gallagher Re, an international reinsurance firm.

In the first six months of this year, severe convective storms accounted for \$37 billion in losses, the company stated.

The increasing risks "coinciding with a robust expansion of people moving beyond traditional urban centers is an acknowledgement that where and how we live is the primary factor driving loss growth for this peril," said Steve Bowen, chief science officer for Gallagher Re.

Defining the role of a changing climate

Climate change doesn't cause tornadoes, it's a contributing factor, Gensini said. "We need to stop asking if climate caused this event."

"We need to start from the premise that climate change is affecting every event, but we need to figure out how much," he said.

He sees the fingerprint of climate change in the decreasing frequency of tornadoes in portions of the Great Plains and possibly in the increase of tornadoes in the cooler months, but the science of defining the extent of its impacts in tornadoes "is still in its infancy."

He compares it to baseball during "the steroids era."

"I have no idea if that home run was due to steroids or a really good at bat," he said. "But when I step back and look at home runs during the steroids era, it's pretty obvious something was changing the frequency of home runs."

Building community resilience to tornadoes

Communities need to develop strategies for becoming more resilient in the changing tornado landscape, Gensini said. "It's easier to protect people when we look at how we build homes and where we build homes."

"It's harder to stop the climate change train, but if you can say as a city 'We're going to enforce building codes or put in shelters,' those are the things that are going to save lives," he said.

For example, communities could think more about those who live in mobile homes, are elderly or have special needs, and mobile home residents might be reminded to start taking action at the tornado watch stage.

Continued research is "critical" in communicating the need to invest in better building practices, implementing and enforcing more stringent building codes, Bowen said.

He added it's also important to ensure everyone has an opportunity to be better prepared regardless of their socioeconomic status.

OPINION

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Can Musk buy Trump the White House?



Marla Bautista
USA TODAY

Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, has said, according to a Wall Street Journal report, that he will donate about \$45 million a month to a new super PAC supporting the election of former President Donald Trump.

The power of the uberwealthy to influence the democratic process seems to be growing in this year's increasingly intense and tense election cycle. Musk's planned donations are on an extraordinary scale, but he's hardly the only billionaire attempting to influence voters with megagifts.

Other superrich donors

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, reportedly worth more than \$106 billion, contributed \$20 million last month to a super PAC and a Democratic fund supporting President Joe Biden's reelection effort.

In May, Timothy Mellon, from a family worth an estimated \$14.1 billion, gave \$50 million to a Trump-aligned super PAC soon after the former president was convicted of 34 felonies. Mellon also gave \$20 million to a PAC supporting independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

But Musk is not just your ordinary billionaire. The founder of SpaceX and Tesla ventured into the role of social media influencer with his purchase of Twitter, which he has since redubbed X, in 2022. He claims 190 million followers



X CEO Elon Musk claims 190 million followers on the platform, which would make the Republic of Musk the eighth largest country in the world.

GONZALO FUENTES/REUTERS

on the platform, which, for the sake of comparison, would make the Republic of Musk the eighth largest country in the world. How he uses his money and his voice matter a great deal.

The contributions of the wealthy significantly influence voter dynamics and campaign strategies. The disproportionate power of wealthy individuals can shape electoral outcomes, leaving the average American voiceless.

Musk's monthly donations will bolster the Republican super PAC's ability to fund massive advertising campaigns, grassroots mobilization efforts and other voter outreach initiatives. Flexing his financial muscle also will amplify his business endeavors, increase Trump's chances of winning and boost his per-

sonal favorability with Trump and other Republicans.

SpaceX has government contracts

That last point is worth emphasizing. SpaceX has a \$1.8 billion contract with the U.S. government to build spy satellites, according to Reuters. The company also has contracts worth billions with NASA and the Pentagon to launch satellites into space and to ferry astronauts to the International Space Station.

Musk, like other big donors, isn't giving his money to politicians because he's just a generous fellow. He's buying access and influence with decision-makers in the halls of power.

Musk also endorsed Trump on X after

the former president survived an assassination attempt. Given Musk's significant social media following and influence, his endorsement carries considerable weight. It could lead to increased voter turnout among demographics that align with his views on technology, innovation and economic policies.

Government for all, not just billionaires

Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont, posted his thoughts on X this week about Musk's outsized influence: "Elon Musk, the world's richest person, is donating \$45 million a month to the Trump campaign. If democracy is to survive in the US, we need to overturn (Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission) and move to public funding of elections. We need a government that represents all, not just billionaires."

The wealthy long have tried to sway elections and influence politicians. What has changed is the level of funding, and the capacity of the superwealthy to give well beyond the means of even the run-of-the-mill millionaire.

Such donations skew the democratic process and further disenfranchise marginalized voters. These types of contributions should be a pivotal issue in coming elections, reflecting the broader debate on campaign finance reform and the future of equitable political representation.

We cannot let the average American's voice be muffled by money. Our lives and our legacies depend on equity extended to those who can't buy access to the Oval Office.

Marla Bautista is a military fellow column for USA TODAY Opinion.

What I saw at RNC was a party I no longer recognize



Dace Potas
USA TODAY

Political party conventions are truly the best forecast for a party's direction, or at least its vision, at that moment. The speakers chosen, the content they cover and the nominees elevated in each convention paint the clearest picture of that direction.

This is especially true for the 2024 Republican National Convention, as we watched the party fully embrace former President Donald Trump's vision. But what I watched unfold over last week wasn't conservative. It was the embrace of populism in the interest of winning elections, even at the cost of our principles. It was sad to see.

I watched conservatives sacrifice meaningful stances, such as being anti-abortion, opposing sexual promiscuity and opposing union strangleholds on our economy in the name of winning the election.

GOP is willing to abandon stances that matter if it means votes

The Republican Party has been toying with abandoning Reagan conservatism for some time now.

The embrace of Trump in the 2016 presidential election was the beginning, but the party at the time struck a balance, highlighting Trump as a vessel through which conservative ideas could resonate with Americans whom he appeals to.

From President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s until 2016, the GOP was the party of limited government, free markets and hawkish foreign policy.

Now, that's all in the past.

The latest platform abandons all of that in exchange for an outlook where breaches of conservative principles are justified if they favor the "common good" of winning control.

The party is building an entirely new coalition behind Trump. This coalition doesn't care if you're a conservative. All they care about is what will get you to vote for Trump.

In his vice presidential nomination acceptance speech Wednesday, JD Vance said, "We have a big tent in this



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and his family, along with vice presidential nominee JD Vance and his wife, celebrate on the final night of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on Thursday. JASPER COLT/USA TODAY

party on everything from national security to economic policy."

While that may have been true in the 2010s, the Republican Party has made it clear that it wishes to move away from that era and into a new one shaped by a populist vision.

Just look at who Republicans invited to speak at the RNC

The GOP's new strategy, trading firm stances on abortion and other issues for votes, can be seen through the people they chose to speak at their convention.

First up, and most egregiously, we have Amber Rose, an OnlyFans model and pro-abortion activist.

Rose presented herself as a misguided woman who was led by the media to believe lies about Trump. Regardless, she lives a life that is antithetical to that of conservative values. She hasn't exactly hidden it.

"I'm not a Satanist. ... Satanists are just atheists as well, but they're just more political," Rose said in an interview this year in which she defends Satanists. "They help a lot of people, a lot of women, to get abortions in Southern states that, you know, where they're illegal."

Call me closed-minded, but I have no interest in rebranding America's sup-

posedly conservative party to include people like this. There is no form of conservative ideals compatible with someone who defends Satanists for helping women get abortions.

Full stop.

Next up, we have Teamsters President Sean O'Brien. Having a union boss speak at the RNC is a complete reversal for the GOP that, as recently as 2021, introduced the National Right To Work Act into Congress. This act would outlaw forcing workers to join unions and pay dues against their will.

Embracing such an anti-worker and historically corrupt organization as the Teamsters, a group that has actively fought against right-to-work laws, is a complete reversal from the GOP. Allowing unions to keep a stranglehold on the economy and extort workers goes against principles the Republican Party has held for decades.

This particular change is an outright embrace of populism, looking to appeal to the one-fifth of voters nationwide who belong to union households. Joe Biden won this demographic nationally in 2020 and by slightly more in Midwest swing states.

Trump's own speech shows GOP's changing message includes making him God's chosen leader

Trump's speech Thursday night at

the RNC was shockingly free of divisiveness (relative to his status quo).

However, he did take the time to highlight his position as the Republican Party's figurehead. "I'm not supposed to be here tonight," Trump said, reflecting on the assassination attempt. "I stand before you in this arena only by the grace of almighty God."

Deifying politicians is dangerous

A common theme throughout the convention was speakers suggesting that divine intervention was responsible for Trump surviving the attempt on his life.

"God spared President Trump from that assassin," said Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders in her Tuesday speech, "because God is not finished with him yet."

Portraying Trump as God's chosen leader for the future is a dangerous line to walk, and deifying politicians is a dangerous game.

Trump loyalists would rather embrace nonconservatives

Trump also took time during his speech to speak directly to Vance, his pick for vice presidential nominee.

"You're going to be doing this a long time. Enjoy the ride," Trump said.

Those words highlight his vision in his selection: a successor who will take over the future of the MAGA movement.

After the events at the RNC, it is clear that the GOP is actively pursuing a new coalition without real conservatives in it. This shift is particularly disheartening to me, a Gen Z voter. I missed out on candidates like Mitt Romney, John McCain and George W. Bush and instead got Trump again.

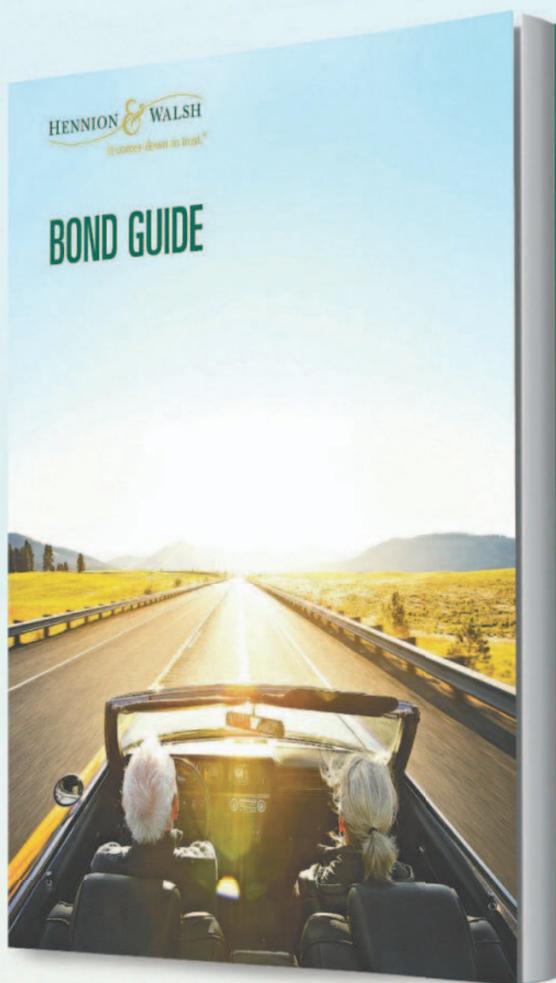
I had hoped this phase for the GOP would work itself out, and we might return to some semblance of conservative candidates in the future. But it is now clear to me that this will not happen anytime soon.

America now lacks a truly conservative political party.

Voters like me have nowhere to go unless we follow suit, sacrificing our principles as the GOP has.

Dace Potas is an opinion columnist for USA TODAY and a graduate of DePaul University with a degree in political science.

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How one software update was chaotic

Glitch shows how interconnected we are

Bailey Schulz, Felecia Wellington Radel and Josh Meyer

USA TODAY

It all started with a software update. Microsoft's "blue screen of death" upended government services and businesses across the country Friday, disrupting emergency call centers, banks, airlines and hospitals.

While Microsoft said a faulty software update from U.S. cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike was responsible for the major IT outage, the incident brought attention to just how big of a market share both companies have in their respective sectors.

"When we use all the same vendors, then these sorts of things can become more pronounced when they do happen," said Dominic Sellitto, clinical assistant professor of management science and systems at the University at Buffalo School of Management in New York.

A statement from CrowdStrike said the outage was caused by a defect in a content update to its "Falcon" cybersecurity defense software for Windows hosts.

Computers with Mac and Linux operating systems were not impacted, and CrowdStrike said the incident was not caused by a cyberattack.

There's always the potential for bugs or errors when new software is launched, but most times they're small enough the end user is generally unaware, according to Tim Ehrenkauffer, assistant professor of aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida.

The nation was certainly aware Friday – the glitch disrupted everything from 911 call centers to the Starbucks mobile app.

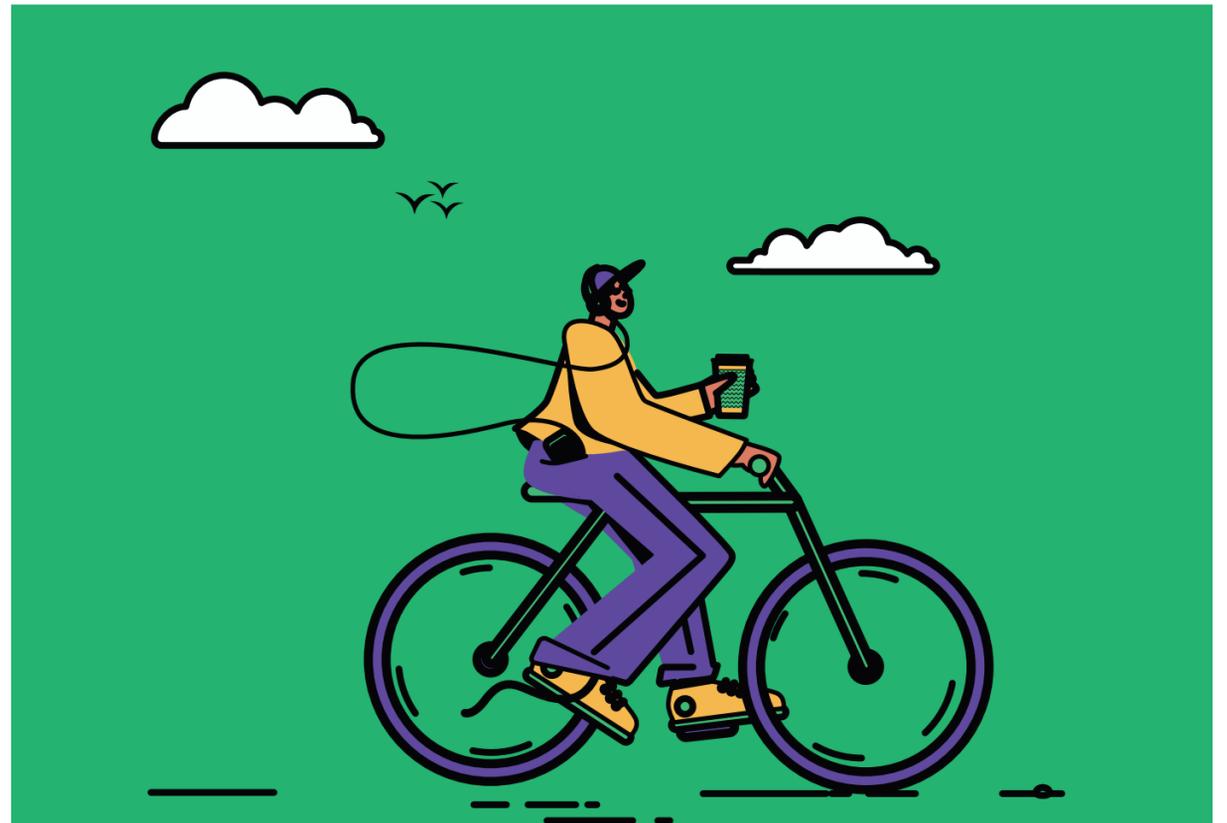
"As companies all over the world and governments and agencies and entities are reliant on single technology platforms, it does mean that these types of events are more and more and more painful," Sellitto said.

CrowdStrike is advertised as being used by more than half of Fortune 500 companies.

Meanwhile, Microsoft's Windows is one of the most popular operating systems in the world, and the company provides an estimated 85% of the productivity software used by the federal government, according to statements from Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., during last month's House Committee on Homeland Security.

"The issue we're dealing with is that the world is complex and interdependent, and the fact is that the technology that we use is global," said Scott White, an associate professor and director of the cybersecurity program and cyber academy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

See **CROWDSTRIKE**, Page 2B



More Americans going car free

Many ditch their vehicles to save money

Bailey Schulz USA TODAY

Owning a car isn't cheap. • Auto insurance costs are up more than 50% over the past four years. New vehicles jumped 20% in that time. Driving is getting costlier too, with gas prices averaging above \$3.50 and maintenance costs up because of labor shortages and the shift to more computerized vehicles. • Altogether, owning a new car costs about \$12,000 a year, according to one estimate from AAA. It's enough for some Americans to call it quits on driving altogether. • "I would rather use that (monthly car payment) to take vacations," said Dan Ekenberg, a semiretired website designer based in Boise, Idaho.

Ekenberg, 64, said he has been an avid cyclist for most of his life, and he sold his truck in summer 2021 after figuring he could save money by biking. He came close to buying a vehicle this year for longer weekend drives, going as far as to get financing preapproved, but he canceled the order.

When car shopping, "I wasn't looking for anything extravagant. In fact, the simpler, the better," he told USA TODAY. "Even though it was 'affordable,' I still just decided, looking at the financing, monthly payment, the insurance – that's money I don't need to spend."

About 8% of U.S. households don't own a vehicle, and nearly a third of the population doesn't have a driver's license. Some are too young or too old to drive. Some have disabilities that don't allow them to be behind a wheel, or don't have the financing to purchase or maintain a vehicle. But others have voluntarily joined a "car-free" movement and say owning a vehicle isn't worth the money, emissions or hassle.

The push for alternative transportation

Reducing car use has been a growing priority for some policymakers.

Some states offer tax incentives to boost the sale of electric bikes, or e-bikes – a popular car alternative in the car-free community. Colorado, which launched the country's first statewide electric bicycle tax credit in April, has had about 6,700 e-bike rebates redeemed as of July 8, according to data from APTIM, the state's administrator for the program.

"Transportation is the leading source of greenhouse gas pollution in Colorado, making low-emissions alternatives to cars particularly important to achieve our pollution reduction goals," said Will Toor, executive director of the state's energy office at a news conference in March.

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation and LA Metro in 2022 launched a pilot

See **CAR FREE**, Page 2B

Travel insurance proves to be handy for cruise passenger

Plan helped pay for bills after medical emergency

Kathleen Wong

USA TODAY

After taking a Caribbean cruise with her mother last year, Megan Ayscue didn't think she'd end up with a medical bill that would cost more than the cruise itself.

The North Carolina-based traveler and her mother boarded the Norwegian Pearl in November to visit the Dominican Republic, Curaçao and other island destinations. The two were enjoying the trip until Ayscue went snorkeling in the Dominican Republic a few days in and got water stuck in her ear.

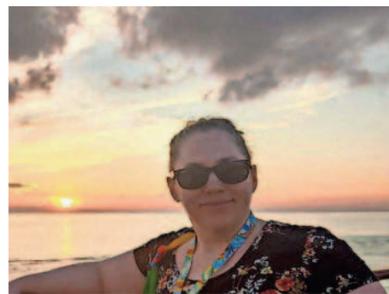
At first, she went to an infirmary in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but the problem wasn't resolved. Thankfully, her medical insurance covered the visit. Back on board, Ayscue went to the ship's infirmary, where she

was given oral antibiotics, Tylenol and ear drops. Her ear still hurt, so she went back to the infirmary the next day while the ship was at sea and was diagnosed with a bacterial infection that was spreading to her face.

"My ear had completely swelled shut. I could not hear out of my left ear. It was so painful, and I couldn't feel the side of my face," she said. The infection had spread into her lymph nodes, numbing the left side of her face.

Ayscue received an IV infusion of steroids, anti-inflammatory medicine, antibiotics and anti-nausea medicine. The doctors told her to return the next day for another infusion. Ayscue said her experience with the onboard infirmary was positive and healed her infection, but she left with a bill of \$5,528.29. Since Ayscue didn't have the money at the time, her mother put it on her credit card.

Back home, Ayscue waited six months to hear that her insurer denied covering her medical expenses from the



Megan Ayscue was left with a medical bill in the thousands after getting an ear infection on her cruise.

PROVIDED BY MEGAN AYSUCUE

cruise. Her parents had to shift money around to cover Ayscue's medical bill, and because her mother had booked the cruise on the same credit card, struggled to make her monthly payments.

Norwegian Cruise Line told USA TODAY that "we strongly encourage guests to file a claim with their health insur-

ance provider post-cruise."

There was, however, one saving grace. Thankfully, the family had purchased travel insurance for the cruise because Ayscue's mother had experienced a heart attack a few years ago. That insurance, which cost about \$300, ended up covering every cent of the medical bill.

"It ended up basically saving me and my parents from a financial cliff," she said.

Unfortunately, Ayscue's experience is not unusual, and a hefty medical bill on cruise ships can be expected, even for typical medical problems that warrant a little medical attention, such as seasickness or infections.

"It's unfortunately extremely uncommon," said Jenna Hummer, public relations director at travel insurance platform Squaremouth. "Our highest recommendation for medical coverage is always for cruises."

See **INSURANCE**, Page 2B

CrowdStrike

Continued from Page 1B

“We’ve become dependent on organizations like (Microsoft).”

Does Congress need to step in?

Within hours of the outage, some lawmakers and cybersecurity experts discussed whether Congress – or the Biden administration and the Department of Homeland Security – need to add more regulatory guardrails to make sure an outage of this magnitude doesn’t happen again.

Paul Rosenzweig, a former DHS deputy assistant secretary for policy, said the best response to Friday’s outage would be to require companies and governments to have redundant systems so they have a backup when their systems go down.

Asking companies to do that on their own would be prohibitively costly, Rosenzweig said, and few would do it. But it would be hard for Congress or the Biden administration to require them to without doing the same within the government, which would be time-consuming and astronomically expensive.

“It’s an interesting question,” said Rosenzweig, founder of Red Branch Consulting PLLC, a homeland security and cybersecurity consulting company. “The government can’t mandate people diversifying if it won’t do it itself – and it’s the biggest, if not certainly one of the biggest (Microsoft) clients.”

But Rosenzweig also warned that Friday’s outage is likely to happen again, and possibly with more serious repercussions, so governments and the private sector need to be ready.

“They have to spend extra money” to build in better protection including backups, he said. “If companies aren’t going to do that, this will happen again, either by accident like this time or by malicious action.”

Other cybersecurity experts believe the system works as it is, and that CrowdStrike bears full responsibility for the outage in ways that wouldn’t be helped by additional government intervention.

“This incident appears to be a severe failure of quality control, not a malicious act,” cybersecurity strategist and former FBI counterintelligence official



A traveler uses her mobile phone to photograph a departures board displaying blue error screens, also known as the “Blue Screen of Death” inside Terminal C in Newark International Airport, after United Airlines and other airlines grounded flights on Friday.

BING GUAN/REUTERS

Eric O’Neill said of Friday’s paralysis. “While there will be damages assessed, regulation is unnecessary; the market will drive customers to other vendors or reassure them about CrowdStrike.”

O’Neill did say, however, that better regulation of cybersecurity investment and best practices are critical because the U.S. government “has reacted poorly in this crucial arena of critical infrastructure.”

“If the U.S. government needs to bail out CrowdStrike, which I believe is too big to fail, then taxpayers will bear the burden,” O’Neill said.

‘Critical infrastructure and international partners’

In recent years, DHS and its Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency have worked to build out a network of public and private sector partnerships to help it respond to such global incidents, in the belief that the government cannot do it alone.

Educating the private sector and cybersecurity firms on what to do – and not to do – is a critical component of that, whether the problem is a cyberattack or a faulty cybersecurity update, CISA Director Jen Easterly told USA TODAY in a 2022 interview.

To that end, CISA on Friday said it was “aware of the widespread outage affecting Microsoft Windows hosts due to an issue with a recent CrowdStrike update and is working closely with CrowdStrike and federal, state, local, tribal and territorial partners, as well as critical infrastructure and international partners to assess impacts and support remediation efforts.”

CISA also warned its network of public and private partners that it observed hackers and other “threat actors taking advantage of this incident for phishing and other malicious activity.”

Where do companies go from here?

CrowdStrike and Microsoft business clients may consider alternate vendors after the global outage, but that’s no solution to the crux of the issue, said Javad Abed, an expert in cybersecurity and data vulnerability and assistant professor at the Carey Business School at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

“The CrowdStrike incident is a stark reminder that relying on a single cybersecurity tool, regardless of a vendor’s reputation, creates a dangerous single point of failure,” Abed said. “And implementing multiple layers with multiple vendors is crucial for business continuity and protecting critical operations.”

This sort of outage can happen to any vendor or company, Abed said, but it is largely preventable, and one of the fundamental principles of cybersecurity is redundancy.

Having redundancies in the infrastructure may be costly in the beginning, but would be an investment in maintaining the trust between the businesses and their customers, Abed said.

Companies should also rethink their testing and how they release updates, he says.

It’s a wake-up call for cybersecurity companies to revise their procedures, Abed said.

Car free

Continued from Page 1B

program that provides up to \$1,800 a year in subsidies for eligible transportation such as rail, bus, rideshare, bikeshare and more.

Certain companies also are advocating for “car-light” living. Uber introduced its “One Less Car” trial in the U.S. last month and said the company would offer selected participants \$1,000 to avoid using their personal vehicle for five weeks. Other companies offer subsidies to cover the cost of public transportation fares.

Still, few Americans are ditching their cars voluntarily.

Census data on car-free households suggests the number of U.S. households with no vehicles has been relatively stable, fluctuating 8% to 8.6% from 2018 to 2022. Most of those households are below the poverty line.

“A very small percentage of those without cars truly make that choice,” said Evelyn Blumenberg, an urban planning professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, national public transit ridership numbers are down, with rates about 75% of pre-pandemic numbers.

And while e-bike sales have taken off – the Department of Energy estimates 1.1 million e-bikes were sold in the U.S. in 2022, almost four times as many as in 2019 – it’s not clear how many of those bikes are replacing cars as the owner’s main mode of transportation.

It’s hard to tell how many people are giving up cars for e-bikes, said John MacArthur, the sustainable transportation program manager at Portland State University’s Transportation Research and Education Center.

Jacob Rex, 27 of Morgantown, West Virginia, purchased an e-bike after giving up on a used Subaru Outback he bought when the car was nearly 20 years old. The electric bike move came after he depleted his savings to get the Subaru, then needed a \$6,000 loan to fix it after an engine failure.

“For me to be able to afford the lifestyle that I want, and a car, and everything else, is just not possible,” he said.

The challenges of living without a car

People who spoke to USA TODAY acknowledge living without a car isn’t al-



Dan Ekenberg with his e-bike near the Boise river.

PROVIDED BY DAN EKENBERG

ways easy. Depending on location, they battle poor weather, a lack of access to reliable public transportation and poor bicycle infrastructure.

Jordan Steen, 31 of Los Angeles, has been without a car since January 2022. Though he enjoys not having to pay for gas or worry about traffic, he says the car-free life can make travel to certain parts of town “tough.” Public transportation can be inconsistent, he said, and there are times he finds himself biking next to cars going 50 mph, the only barrier between them a “little bit of paint” on the road guiding traffic.

More than 1,100 bicyclists were killed in crashes in 2022, a record since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration started tracking annual bicyclist fatalities in 1975.

Infrastructure has “definitely improved since I was a kid,” Steen said. “But I think that’s the hardest part. The weather is great. The city is not super-hilly. It’s really nice to be outside. It’s a city of people who want to be outside. But I don’t blame people for not feeling safe enough to bike everywhere.”

Most don’t. About three-fourths of Americans take a car, truck or van to work, compared with 3% who use public transportation and 0.5% who bike, according to 2022 Census data.

That’s largely because of infrastructure. For most U.S. households, a car may be the only feasible way to get to work, groceries and medical care.

“We have created an urban environment around the automobile, with a few exceptions,” UCLA’s Blumenberg said. “It makes it very difficult for most households to be car-free.”

Car ownership has also been associ-

ated with a greater likelihood of finding and retaining employment, according to a 2014 study from the Urban Institute, a Washington-based research organization focused on upward mobility and equity. Ten years after the report’s publication, little has changed, according to co-author Blumenberg.

“The accessibility advantages of having an automobile are just so, so great in most areas,” she said.

Why ditch your car?

Gloria Falco, a retired private investigator, said she gave up her car two years ago after struggling with chronic fatigue from Lyme disease. While her beach town on Florida’s Space Coast isn’t rated high for walkability, the 67-year-old said she has been able to get around just fine on foot and with the help of rideshare apps.

Meanwhile, she has been able to save money and improve her health.

“If you’re somebody who hates Uber, Lyft, you’re not going to be very comfortable at first. But everything gets easier,” she said.

Rex, of West Virginia, said biking on local trails has boosted his mental health and made him more connected to his community. And without worrying about traffic, he said, his commute is shorter than his co-workers’ when they get stuck in traffic.

But the biggest perk, he said, is the money he saves.

“I have a real savings account now. I’m saving for retirement. I’m saving for international travel,” he said.

‘I wish it was easier’

As much as some Americans love ditching their cars, it doesn’t always last.

Carson Wood, 29, a software developer, enjoyed his time without a car from 2021 to 2023 while living in Arlington, Virginia. Not driving helped offset the city’s higher cost of living, reduced his carbon footprint and meant he didn’t have to worry about parking.

But when he moved to Baltimore last year to help care for his mom, he wound up buying another car.

“I wish it was easier,” he said. “It spurred in me, politically, to try to support building more infrastructure, building more walkable areas as much as we can.”

Rex says that as much as he enjoys his car-free life, it may not last forever.

Insurance

Continued from Page 1B

Here’s everything you need to know about travel insurance and cruising.

Why do I need travel insurance for my cruise?

For starters, cruise ships are nearly always out-of-network from your typical medical insurance. “It’s not like you’ll have a co-pay, no, you’ll probably have to pay out-of-network costs and have an astronomically high bill if you break your ankle,” Hummer said.

“The thing about cruising is if you get sick on the boat, you obviously have limited resources, so those resources cost more. It’s like dining on top of a mountain or an island – it’s just harder to get supplies, so it can cost more.”

Even a low level of travel insurance can cover medical bills from your ship, but it also goes far beyond that – for example, if you need medical care in a foreign country or to return home early. Even if you port in a U.S. territory and go to a hospital there, it’s likely that visit will be out-of-network for your insurance as well.

Travelers prone to getting seasick or planning on a “high-risk activity” like jet skiing or scuba diving should also consider travel insurance for that extra protection if things go south.

What does travel insurance cover on a cruise?

It depends on what option you purchase. Emergency medical travel insurance will be your cheapest option at around \$50. That is, unless you’re considered to be at a higher risk of needing medical care – for example, if you’re 65 years and older, or going to a destination that’s considered high-risk or harbors communicable diseases.

“By purchasing a travel insurance policy with emergency medical and emergency medical transportation benefits, cruisers can be reimbursed for the cost of emergency medical care up to their policy limit, whether they’re seeking care directly on the cruise ship or at their port of call,” said Daniel Durazo, director of external communications at Allianz Partners USA, which allows people to compare travel insurances. If you opt for a comprehensive trip policy – which does cost more, 5% to 10% of your trip – you’ll be fully covered for trip cancellation plus medical expenses. “You’ll have 100% of your trip costs covered, but you’ll have options for how much medical coverage you want, like \$10,000 or up to \$1 million for medical evacuation coverage,” Hummer said. (A medical evacuation can cost tens of thousands of dollars.)

“It’s not a lot of money to insure yourself from a medical perspective,” she said.

“It’s better we spent those \$300 for peace of mind and then it actually came in handy,” Ayscue said.

But if you’re intoxicated while visiting the infirmary, it’s possible your claim for travel insurance will be denied, Hummer added. So be careful with drinking. Pregnancy complications are also not typically included, although if you feel seasickness and are also pregnant, that will be covered.

For what it’s worth, travel insurance that’s more expensive doesn’t necessarily mean it’s better or covers more, so shop around and compare what’s included, Hummer said.

Can I buy travel insurance through my cruise line?

Technically you can, as most cruise lines offer some type of insurance, but it won’t be the best coverage. “Usually, they have very specific exclusions to keep an eye out for, like, they’ll only refund you a small portion of your trip if you get sick and there’s a very small timeline,” Hummer said. Basically, if you want to buy your cruise line’s insurance, read the fine print carefully.

When should I get travel insurance for my cruise?

For the most part, the earlier you get travel insurance, the more coverage you get. However, factors such as where you depart and the time of year also play a role.

“If you’re flying into Miami to board a cruise ship and it’s the middle of hurricane season, buy your travel insurance today,” Hummer said. “Alaska probably hasn’t seen a hurricane in forever, so it’s probably OK (to wait.)”

Buying travel insurance the day before your trip doesn’t necessarily affect the cost of insurance as it does the cost of flights, just what’s covered. If a storm is predicted before you purchase insurance, then that probably won’t be covered by the time you do.

Argentina boasts favorable exchange rate

Japan also where you get most bang for buck

Zach Wichter
USA TODAY

The U.S. dollar has been especially strong lately, making traveling abroad generally a good deal for American tourists. However, not all currencies are equal when compared with the dollar.

NetVoucherCodes, a British site dedicated to helping users find online discounts, analyzed 1-, 3- and 5-year exchange rate trends to find the best destinations for American travelers abroad based on current exchange rates and overall cost-effectiveness as of the beginning of July.

So, if you're looking to pinch every penny on your next vacation and maximize your spending power, here's where they recommend visiting to get the most bang for your buck, ensuring a memorable and budget-friendly trip.

Japan

As of the time of publication, \$1 equals 156.49 Japanese yen.

"Japan is possibly one of the most sought-after vacation destinations for Americans and now it's become much more affordable to visit. Over the past year, the dollar has strengthened by 11.65% against the Japanese Yen making the country, that's often seen as expensive to visit, now accessible to many Americans. With its unique culture, world famous food and endless activities, Japan will now become more popular than ever before," according to NetVoucherCodes. U.S. airlines also are boosting service to Japan, and competition among carriers can often mean better airfares as well.

Turkey

At the time of publication, \$1 equals 33.06 Turkish lira. "The perfect time for Americans to visit the vibrant city of Is-



Buenos Aires, Argentina, boasts a blend of European and Latin influences, making the country's cosmopolitan capital one of the most sizzling cities on the planet. GRAFISSIMO/GETTY IMAGES

tanbul with its blending of cultures and mouth-watering food. Take a romantic weekend trip to Cappadocia to experience a hot air balloon ride over rolling desert or head to the coast, just minutes away from the Greek Isles," NetVoucherCodes said in their release.

Travelers can also take advantage of Turkish Airlines' stopover program to visit Turkey on the way to another destination.

Egypt

As of press time, \$1 equals 48.25 Egyptian pounds.

"Egypt is one of the most sought after vacation destinations for travelers to soak in some winter sunshine and

boasts some of the best historic landmarks in the world. The data reveals that now might be a good time to visit," said NetVoucherCodes.

It's certainly a place on many Americans' travel bucket lists, and a favorable exchange rate could help make those dreams a reality.

Malawi

At the time of publication, \$1 equals 1,734.33 Malawian kwacha.

"One of the top safari-hotspots of Africa, Malawi sees a strong dollar against the Malawian Kwacha giving Americans a better value vacation. The country has 11 national parks and wildlife reserves making it one of the best places to see

NetVoucherCodes, a British site dedicated to helping users find online discounts, analyzed 1-, 3- and 5-year exchange rate trends to find the best destinations for American travelers abroad based on current exchange rates and overall cost-effectiveness as of the beginning of July.

African animals on the planet. However, travelers are unlikely to see the benefit of a strong dollar when booking a safari from a U.S. provider, and may be best booking their own itinerary to see true savings," NetVoucherCodes' statement said. Malawi is not often a top destination for American travelers, it's one of the poorest countries in the world, but its natural beauty is unparalleled and under-appreciated.

Argentina

As of press time, \$1 equals 923.50 Argentine pesos. "The country has seen multiple instances of devaluing its currency due to economic issues so Americans looking for a cheap vacation where they can sample some of the best wine in the world and go on breathtaking hikes need look no further," NetVoucherCodes' analysis said.

Keep in mind that Argentina's economy has a reputation for instability. Many merchants also accept U.S. dollars, but the exchange rates and bartering can be confusing.

According to NetVoucherCodes, now is also a good time to visit Britain and continental Europe, with the dollar still holding its own against the pound and the Euro.

Hyundai recalls nearly 67,000 vehicles in America

Max Hauptman
USA TODAY

Hyundai Motor America is recalling nearly 67,000 vehicles due to multiple malfunctions.

The two separate recall notices, issued on Thursday by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, impact multiple Hyundai vehicle models due to potential software errors and equipment failures. Are you looking to see if any recalls were issued on your vehicle? If the car isn't listed below, owners can check USA TODAY's automotive recall database or search NHTSA's database for new recalls. The NHTSA website allows you to search for recalls based on your vehicle identification number or VIN.

Here is what to know about the vehicle recalls published by NHTSA on Thursday.

Hyundai Santa Fe recalled for software errors

Hyundai is recalling 12,349 of its 2024 Santa Fe models.

According to the NHTSA report, "A software error in the transmission control unit may result in a vehicle roll away when the vehicle is in park."

Dealers will update the transmission control unit software according to the notice, and owners are expected to be mailed by Sept. 9 and the recall number is 263.

Multiple models recalled for fuel pump failures

A second recall notice from the NHTSA issued on Thursday affects 54,647 Hyundai vehicle models.

Recalled vehicles:

- 2019-2023 Genesis G70
- 2022-2023 Hyundai Elantra N
- 2022-2023 Hyundai Kona N
- 2019-2022 Hyundai Veloster N

According to the recall notice, "the fuel pump may fail, which can result in a loss of drive power."

Dealers will update the engine control module software and inspect and replace the fuel pump assembly as needed free of charge.

Contributing: Ahjané Forbes, USA TODAY



The Carnival cruise ship Sunrise is seen docked at Miami Port, in Miami on June 18, 2022. Picture taken with a drone. MARCO BELLO/REUTERS

How cruise ships avoid hurricanes

Communications with lines help craft stay safe

Nathan Diller
USA TODAY

Hurricane Beryl wreaked havoc earlier this month as it hit the Caribbean, Yucatan Peninsula and Gulf Coast of Texas, leaving flooding, fallen trees and power outages in its wake, among other damage. More than a dozen deaths have been reported in the Houston area alone.

The storm also upended travel plans, including for cruise lines that altered itineraries in an effort to avoid the bad weather. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June through November, and the storm may leave cruise passengers wondering whether they should wait to venture out into the open ocean until another time.

But experts said there's no need to be too concerned. Here's what to know.

Is it safe to take a cruise during hurricane season?

"In general, I would say the answer is yes, though there are always exceptions," Stephanie Goldberg-Glazer,

chief experience officer and owner of the travel agency Live Well, Travel Often, said in an email. "Cruise lines can typically sail around storms or alter itineraries and schedules to get out of the path of storms."

That doesn't necessarily mean a trip will go on as planned though. Hurricanes are unpredictable and can both form and pick up strength quickly, she noted, adding that cruise lines may skip or replace scheduled stops to get out of Dodge. The water may also be rougher if there is a storm nearby (it's always a good idea to have some seasickness remedies on hand). Goldberg-Glazer also emphasized that in bad weather, passengers should use caution and listen to crew member instructions.

How do cruise ships avoid hurricanes?

Cruise ships are in constant communication with the lines' operations departments, said Andrew O. Coggins, a cruise industry analyst and professor of management science at Pace University's Lubin School of Business. If weather developments are expected to impact a route, they can adjust accordingly.

The vessels have onboard tools, as

well, such as a barometer to track air pressure and navigation systems to help determine the optimal route. "Ships also have radar, but the aim is not to get so close that the clouds show up on the radar screen," Coggins said in an email.

Where else can travelers go during hurricane season?

Goldberg-Glazer said hurricane season's most active times tend to be between July and October. Many cruise ships leave the Caribbean during the summer, heading to destinations like Alaska and the Mediterranean, so there are plenty of alternatives.

"However, for many people, especially those within driving distance of a cruise port, the Caribbean is an easy and affordable getaway," she added. While she doesn't warn travelers to avoid the region, she said she recommends buying travel insurance, which can offer coverage for weather-related cancellations.

"Cruise ships are, in general, incredibly safe," Goldberg-Glazer said. "The officers in charge of navigating have years and years of experience and their (main) focus is to keep passengers safe and comfortable."

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Montgomery: A Montgomery police officer has been relieved of duty after being charged with harassment, a Montgomery Police Department spokesperson said.

ALASKA Kodiak: Officials are urging dock users at Kodiak's biggest boat harbor to watch out for bald eagles after several attacks on people were reported, KMXT reported.

ARIZONA Tucson: After a five-year stint, the University of Arizona is doing away with "UArizona." The 2019 style change was an adjustment for many fans and alumni, even landing the school in a segment of SNL's "Weekend Update." Now, university communications staff are being directed to return to "U of A" as the school's abbreviated title in promotional materials and articles.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences announced that a new program the school is launching will provide contraceptive services and reproductive health education to women in rural counties, KATV reported.

CALIFORNIA San Francisco: Apple is partnering with the philanthropic arm of real estate firm Sobrato and two other California-based groups to launch a fund with an initial investment of \$50 million to support affordable housing projects in the San Francisco Bay Area.

COLORADO Denver: A mountain lion in Colorado has become the first one in North America identified as having contracted fatal "staggering disease."

CONNECTICUT New Haven: Yale police have increased presence after recent crimes have been reported across campus, WFSB reported.

DELAWARE Wilmington: U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has resolved a compliance review of Colonial School District. The resolution agreement stems from allegations the Delaware district was not providing students with disabilities equal access to Advanced Placement courses. The agreement now looks to ensure ongoing compliance with Section 504 and Title II, the office said in a news release, following its investigation.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: Officials said seven trees will be removed at Garfield Park in the coming weeks, DC News Now reported. The removal comes after a large tree branch fell and killed a woman at the park, according to the news outlet.

GEORGIA Atlanta: The condition of Georgia's infrastructure received a decidedly mediocre grade of "C+" in a report by the Georgia section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Capitol Beat News Service reported.

HAWAII Honolulu: A study found that Hawaii has the worst road conditions in the nation, with nearly 39% of the roads across the state in unacceptable condition, KHON2 reported.

IDAHO Boise: The Idaho Conservation Corps is conducting a six-week research program that aims to find out how the heat affects different landscapes in the city, KTVB7 reported.

ILLINOIS Springfield: The sixth budget under the Pritzker administration went into effect July 1, a budget again emphasizing investment in education but one that some advocates say falls short. Included in the \$53.1 billion budget signed by Gov. JB Pritzker is funding for new and continued programs to bolster early childhood through higher education.

INDIANA Monroe County: Edgewood schools are refuting dark web-based claims their computer systems were hacked by the same Russia-linked cybercrime syndicate that shut down Monroe County's offices and courts for a week in early July.

IOWA Washington County: An Iowa telepharmacy company faces allegations in a civil lawsuit that it sold counterfeit Ozempic, the high-demand weight-loss drug, to a Michigan company. The lawsuit appears to be one of the first of its kind accusing a licensed pharmacy in Iowa of selling customers fake semaglutide. It's an uncommon but increasing problem nationally, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

KANSAS Topeka: A doctor has lost his medical license after being part of a national telemedicine scheme to defraud Medicare of millions of dollars.

HIGHLIGHT: FLORIDA



Florida Institute of Technology professors and students are refurbishing the Ortega Observatory telescope. MALCOLM DENEMARK/USA TODAY NETWORK

Melbourne: It was touted as Florida's largest research telescope when it was installed just 17 years ago. But now, the Florida Institute of Technology's aging showcase telescope has been rendered sightless for five years or more, its plastic and rubber components deteriorating amid sauna-like 120-degree heat inside its metal dome atop the F. W. Olin Physical Sciences Center. That could change. A small team of students and faculty is working hands-on to try to resurrect and upgrade the damaged optical instrument using systematic "reverse engineering" methodology.

KENTUCKY Louisville: Some national political operatives have turned their attention to Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear. The popular Democrat's ability to pull votes in a deep red state could make him an attractive top-of-ticket candidate, several political scientists said. And while a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll found 70% of Democrats nationwide had not heard of Beshear, the governor has lately taken steps to help build his reputation outside Kentucky.

LOUISIANA Baton Rouge: Louisiana students in grades K-3 improved their reading scores by 10 percentage points on the state's first universal literacy screener, according to a news release from the Louisiana Department of Education.

MAINE York: The town Selectboard is considering reigniting a legal battle to realign its boundary with Kittery, despite officials in Kittery urging York's board to halt what they call "aggressive" actions.

MARYLAND Annapolis: For the first time since the pandemic, the number of children in Maryland enrolled in pre-kindergarten programs climbed above 30,000 last year. Since then, that number has grown and additional enrollment is expected. The state is in the early stages of implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a decadelong education reform law, which requires an expansion of full-day pre-K for 3- and 4-year-old children.

MASSACHUSETTS Boston: Data from the yearly count of the state's unhoused conducted in communities across Massachusetts at the end of January is still being processed and analyzed. However, it appears the numbers of individuals and families that are in unstable housing situations has increased in fits and starts over the last 11 years.

MICHIGAN East Lansing: In the thick of the science of reading movement, the kind of reading lessons a Michigan student receives depends on the public school they attend, according to a new report. Some of the materials used most in reading lessons across Michigan elementary schools are not highly rated, the report found.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis: University of Minnesota officials said a mechanical engineering team successfully launched the new state flag into its first flight to space, along with the U.S. flag and school flag KARE11 reported.

MISSISSIPPI Jackson: Though the Mississippi Braves are currently playing their last season in the Jackson metro area, a new developmental baseball league, the Legacy League, hopes to fill the void by coming to Jackson in 2025.

MISSOURI Rocheport: Mid-Missouri's favorite native vineyard earned statewide honors at the recent Missouri Wine Competition. Rocheport's Les Bourgeois Vineyards won best of class in the sparkling wine category for its Brut.

MONTANA Cascade County: Three inmates have died in custody at the Cascade County Detention Center since June 29, Montana Free Press reported.

NEBRASKA Lincoln: Officials said the first confirmed case of rabies in a fox has been reported in the city, KOLN reported.

NEVADA Nevada Beach: A dog's death over the July 4 holiday isn't linked to swimming in Lake Tahoe, according to the two government agencies that tested the water. The tests were done at Nevada Beach on Tahoe's east shore and El Dorado beach in South Lake by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: Years after the pandemic threw businesses into disarray, changing expectations around work and leading to widespread worker shortages, New Hampshire's workforce demand is still strong. Currently, 85% of New Hampshire residents between 25 and 55 are employed, according to the state Department of Employment Security.

NEW JERSEY Morris County: Twenty-one historic sites in Morris County have been awarded \$3.6 million in grants to help restore and preserve the properties.

NEW MEXICO Ruidoso: Two weeks after a team of investigators issued a brief announcement that a lightning strike ignited the deadly fire in Ruidoso, calls for a fuller explanation are growing from local officials and members of the public, Source New Mexico reported.

NEW YORK New York: Babies R Us is making a comeback later this year as 25 Kohl's locations throughout New York will house shops filled with baby essentials.

NORTH CAROLINA Boiling Springs: Gardner-Webb University's Dover Library recently received a \$42,000 grant from the State Library of North Carolina. The money will be used to digitize historical church records on microfilm and documents in the Cleveland County Historical Collection.

NORTH DAKOTA Carrington: Officials said the cleanup of the site of a 29-car train derailment near Carrington could take all summer, North Dakota Monitor reported.

OHIO Columbus: When it comes to the swinger lifestyle, Ohio ranked among the top 10 places interested in swinging, or the practice of exchanging partners for sex. Adult novelty toy outlet Joy Love Dolls analyzed Google Trends data over a 12-month period to reach its conclusions.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: About a quarter of Osage citizens participated in the tribal nation's first census, results released by the northern Oklahoma tribe show. Alice Goodfox, an Osage Nation lawmaker, said that while the data may not reflect all tribal citizens, it still gives Osage officials an idea of what's working well and what might need to change. It also provides information about Osage language and culture that isn't captured in the U.S. census.

OREGON Salem: Gov. Tina Kotek released a proposal to increase the State School Fund's current service level estimate for the 2025-27 biennium by \$515 million.

PENNSYLVANIA Harrisburg: As many Pennsylvania counties face a long-term decline in population, some cities and towns across the commonwealth have already started seeing their residents decrease since 2020. Population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that nearly 66% of Pennsylvania's more than 2,500 municipalities saw their communities drop in size between 2020 and 2023, but the difference in most towns ranged from a loss of between one to about 50 people. Some of the state's larger cities have been losing residents in much greater numbers and consistently over the past three years.

RHODE ISLAND Providence: The McKee administration has given the go-ahead to a team assembled by Aetna Bridge Co. of Warwick to demolish the condemned westbound span of the Washington Bridge. In state lingo, the administration executed a "purchase order" for the \$45.8 million demolition contract, which is tantamount to what state officials call a "notice to proceed." The demolition is not likely to begin until September.

SOUTH CAROLINA Woodruff: Months after Duke Energy employees held a final meeting for residents in rural Green Pond to share concerns about a new transmission line that will cut through their rural community, the utility company announced it has selected the power line's route. The new line will now slice through the middle of the Green Pond community, located near Woodruff in the southwest corner of Spartanburg County.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: Sioux Falls is seeing a sharp downturn in mosquitoes following city-wide sprays that took place as the flying pests swarmed the city, buoyed by flooding and warm temperatures. The city has a mosquito trap in each of the 18 "spray zones" around the city that allow for mosquitoes to be captured, counted and tested.

TENNESSEE Memphis: The city of Memphis lost more than \$770,000 in an apparent phishing scam in 2022, the city confirmed.

TEXAS Austin: The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency announced that it has selected the Texas Institute for Electronics at the University of Texas as the recipient of \$840 million to build a Department of Defense microelectronics manufacturing center.

UTAH Salt Lake City: Utah's Republican Gov. Spencer Cox, once an outspoken critic of Donald Trump, pledged his support to the former president in the wake of an assassination attempt.

VERMONT Burlington: The state held its first ever national tattoo convention, which organizers said was several years in the making, WCAX reported.

VIRGINIA Charlottesville: Mushroom-infused edibles have been under scrutiny by health officials following a series of hospitalizations linked to one brand of mushroom products. Now new research is claiming that some mushroom gummies on store shelves – including some from that brand – contain illegal hallucinogens. A study conducted by experts at the University of Virginia's poison center found that some mushroom gummies purchased off store shelves in Virginia contained federally illegal Schedule I substances that were not listed on their product labels.

WASHINGTON Seattle: Police said an investigation is underway after the statue of Sadako Sasaki, a Japanese girl who survived the Hiroshima bombing and later died at 12 years old from radiation sickness, was stolen from Seattle's Peace Park, KOMO News reported.

WEST VIRGINIA Huntington: William "Kenney" Grant, the founder of popular local pizza chain Gino's Pizza, has died at age 94, WSAZ reported.

WISCONSIN Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Schools administrators are closing the district's Head Start preschool programs, preparing for the potential loss of an estimated \$10.5 million in federal funding because of safety problems at the sites.

WYOMING Casper: Officials said a 14-year-old wanted in connection to the killing of a man in Denver has been arrested in Casper, Wyoming News Now reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

Trade deadline market seems so different



Bob Nightengale
Columnist
USA TODAY

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — There are nine shopping days remaining before the MLB trade deadline, with no one having any idea who is actually available to acquire.

Are All-Star first baseman Pete Alonso and New York Mets veteran starting pitchers available, or are they staying put?

Are the Rangers playing Texas Hold 'em, or can you really bid on starting pitchers with glossy playoff resumes like Max Scherzer and Nathan Eovaldi?

Will the Chicago Cubs be begging for offers for center fielder-first baseman Cody Bellinger or telling their loyal fan base they're all-in?

Never has there been seen so much uncertainty this close to the trade deadline, several executives say, with teams literally waiting until the final few hours before the July 30 deadline whether they plan to be buyers or sellers.

"With just very few exceptions right now, almost everybody is in a hold," Jerry Dipoto, Mariners president of baseball operations, said on Seattle radio Wednesday. "Because what you see when you pick up the paper and look at the standings, or flip on a site and check out where teams stand, almost everybody in baseball is within three games of a playoff spot it seems. ...

"There are a lot of teams that have a chance at the halfway mark, and that's going to make the trade deadline a little more complicated than it usually is."

Indeed, there are only five teams that are really out of playoff contention in both leagues: the Chicago White Sox, Colorado Rockies, Miami Marlins, Oakland Athletics and Los Angeles Angels.

So how can you really buy when there's no inventory?

"I think we're going to see teams just stand pat and go with what they have," one National League executive said. "The asking price is so high, you may be better off just staying pat and taking your chances."

There is no Justin Verlander-type pitcher on the market unless the Detroit Tigers are out of their minds and trade Cy Young contender Tarik Skubal. There is no Juan Soto-type impact hitter on

See NIGHTENGALE, Page 2C



Xander Schauffele celebrates with the Claret Jug after winning the British Open Championship. In May, he won his first major title at the PGA Championship.
JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

2X major '24 champ

Schauffele follows up PGA with British Open title

Adam Schupak
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

TROON, Scotland — Having shed the scar tissue of never having won a major with his victory at the PGA Championship in May, Xander Schauffele fired a final-round bogey-free 5-under-par 66 at Royal Troon Golf Club on Sunday to win the 152nd British Open by two shots over Justin Rose and Billy Horschel.

With the come-from-behind victory, Schauffele became the first male golfer since Brooks Koepka in 2018 to win two

majors on the PGA Tour in a season.

Schauffele carded four birdies on the final nine to slam the door on the competition and win his ninth career PGA Tour title with a 72-hole total of 9-under 275.

The 30-year-old San Diego native piled up 12 top-10 finishes and six top-5s in his first 27 major starts without a victory, leading to questions whether he could close.

In 2018, Schauffele was tied for the lead heading into the final round of the 2018 Open Championship at Carnoustie

Golf Links in Scotland but carded a 2-over 72 in the final round and lost to Italy's Francesco Molinari by 2.

This time, Schauffele showed he has the mettle to be a closer. In tricky conditions all week that turned Troon into a survival of the fittest, Schauffele was a model of plodding consistency, shooting rounds of 67-72-69. Conditions turned nastiest on Saturday afternoon with wind whipping and rain falling, but Schauffele managed to card four birdies in his first 10 holes before giving back shots at Nos. 11 and 18 to join a six-way

logjam one back in second place. "Today was a day where you're one bad shot away from having a nightmare on certain holes," Schauffele said.

On Sunday, with a brisk southwesterly wind blowing off the Firth of Clyde and gray skies, Schauffele showed great patience, starting with five pars before picking apart Troon with six birdies in his next 10 holes, including on the 11th, 13th, 14th and 16th.

It's also the first time since 1982 that all four majors were won by Americans and the first time since Tiger Woods won consecutive British Opens in 2006-

See SCHAUFFELE, Page 2C

Clark's rise parallels early Tiger, from talent to skeptics



Christine Brennan
Columnist
USA TODAY

One sports career is in disheartening decline. The other is in exhilarating ascendance. Born in different centuries, Tiger Woods and Caitlin Clark are going in opposite directions.

Yet, while one is 26 years older than the other, they do have much in common. It's as if their thrilling careers have been running on parallel tracks a generation apart.

How often over the past year and a half, since Clark's rise to her immense popularity, has the rush to buy tickets to see her or national obsession to watch her on TV reminded us of someone else?

And when we thought about it, and landed on who that someone might be, wasn't it Tiger?

Woods, 48, brought millions of new fans to the game of golf. Clark, 22, is bringing millions of new fans to women's basketball. In both cases, most of these fans never watched or cared about the sport before Woods or Clark arrived. Grandmothers who didn't like golf started planning their Sundays around Woods' final-round tee time. Grandfathers who usually scoffed at women's sports began arranging their afternoons or evenings around tip-off of Clark's Iowa or Indiana Fever games.

Quickly the masses realized these weren't just terrific athletes, they were entertainers daring to pull off breathtaking shots (and in Clark's case,



Fans hold a sign up for Indiana Fever rookie guard Caitlin Clark before a game in Dallas. KEVIN JAIRAJ/USA TODAY SPORTS

See BRENNAN, Page 2C

Nightengale

Continued from Page 1C

the market unless the Toronto Blue Jays have a change of heart and trade Vladimir Guerrero Jr.

There still may be plenty of trades in the next week, but precious little sizzle.

The best pitcher expected to be dealt will be White Sox ace Garrett Crochet.

And the most concerns surrounding a player will be Garrett Crochet.

So many questions, so few concrete answers, with every game until July 30 determining teams' strategy on how they'll handle the deadline.

The trade deadline highlights the early top storylines of the second half.

Who will be the most aggressive at the deadline?

The New York Yankees, Los Angeles Dodgers, Mariners and San Diego Padres could be the most aggressive.

After spending \$1.3 billion in free agency this offseason, the Dodgers know that anything less than a World Series championship will be an absolute failure.

The Yankees, after trading away a good chunk of their future for Soto and getting another MVP season out of Aaron Judge, need to play at least late into October or will consider the season



White Sox pitcher Garrett Crochet will be a hot commodity at the MLB trade deadline. DAVID BANKS/USA TODAY SPORTS

a waste of time.

The Mariners, a team that scares everyone with that starting rotation, can't go into August without acquiring at least one premium bat, whether it's Jazz Chisholm, Luis Robert Jr., Isaac Paredes or Alonso. This is a team that has struck out more times than anyone else in baseball (1,013 at the All-Star break), ranking last with a .219 batting average and 28th in runs scored (3.87), slugging percentage (.367) and OPS (.667).

Padres general manager A.J. Preller, who gambled and lost when they acquired Soto, now must make the post-season or he could be looking for a new job with the ownership no longer protecting him after Peter Seidler's death.

What will the Blue Jays do?

The Blue Jays, baseball's most underachieving team, will do plenty of selling at the deadline before they do

some firing in the offseason.

They are expected to trade pitcher Yusei Kikuchi, center fielder Kevin Kiermaier, catcher Danny Jansen and DH Justin Turner – and could entertain offers for pitchers Chris Bassitt and Kevin Gausman.

But is Toronto willing to go all of the way and trade Guerrero and Bo Bichette too?

Highly unlikely.

The Blue Jays still want to keep the team together one more year, but if they're still underperforming a year from now, the stars will be dumped at next year's trade deadline.

Are the Astros all-in?

The Houston Astros were buried, losing 24 of their first 36 games by early May and 10 games out of first place on June 18 – but look who was in first place in the AL West Division going into Sunday.

The Astros went on a 17-6 run heading into the All-Star break while the Mariners went 8-15.

The Astros, with their starting rotation hammered by injuries all season long, ranking just 17th in ERA, still badly need reinforcements.

Astros GM Dana Brown vows they will be aggressive, yet with a weak farm system and up against the luxury tax, can they really afford anyone besides a cheap rental?

Schauffele

Continued from Page 1C

07 that Americans went back-to-back in the Open Championship.

Thriston Lawrence, who was 10 strokes back to start the weekend, shot 65 on Saturday, tying for the low round of the week, to play his way into the final group and surged into the lead at 7 under with four more birdies on the front nine. But the birdies dried up for the South African on the back nine and he lost the lead with a bogey at No. 12. The

four-time winner on the DP World Tour settled for his best career finish in a major, a solo fourth that earned him a spot in next year's Masters.

The 43-year-old Rose was attempting to win his second major more than a decade after winning the 2013 U.S. Open. He had to go through final qualifying just to make the field and put up a terrific fight until he made bogey at No. 12. He closed with a birdie at the last for a 4-under 67.

Horschel, the 54-hole leader, pictured himself hoisting the Claret Jug before he went to bed but hit into a pot bunker off the tee at the third, found the

sand at the famed Postage Par-3 eighth and short-sided himself at No. 10, leading to bogey each time.

"Ah, Billy, Billy, Billy, you've made three mistakes today," he said to himself aloud as he waited at the 11th tee. "Let's clean it up."

He did, signing for 68, but it was too late. His T-2 finish is his best result in 43 majors.

Until this season, Schauffele's most notable title had been capturing a gold medal at the Olympics held in 2021 in Tokyo. In May, he canned a 5-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole to outlast Bryson DeChambeau and win the PGA Champi-

onship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky. Having got the monkey off his back, Schauffele said he carried the belief that he can close out a major and he validated the first title.

"I imagine it's not going to hurt me," Schauffele said on Saturday evening. "If I'm in that spot with a few holes to play, I think I can maybe lean on that."

In just a matter of nine weeks, he's shifted the narrative from can he close to being a borderline Hall of Famer. Now he possesses both the Wanamaker Trophy and the Claret Jug and earned the distinction of Champion Golfer of the Year.

Brennan

Continued from Page 1C

breath-taking passes) that no one else in their sport could. And they were doing it in a way that particularly appealed to the newcomer to the sport: often set apart from the other athletes, appearing on the TV screen alone, so visually approachable.

The parallels don't end there. While a good portion of the nation was falling in love with them, they both had their doubters: peers and pundits who couldn't believe someone so young could rise to the top of their sport so quickly, make the leap from the amateur or college world to the professional ranks and succeed almost immediately.

Two-time U.S. Open champion and longtime golf commentator Curtis Strange was interviewing the 20-year-old Woods, playing as a professional for the first time in Milwaukee in August 1996, when Woods said he wanted "a victory" in his first pro tournament.

Strange smiled. "You'll learn."

In less than two months, Woods won his first PGA Tour event in Las Vegas. In April 1997, at 21, he won the Masters, the first of his 15 major titles.

"I said what the world was thinking at the time," Strange said in a phone interview the other day. "I have to laugh now. I'm the first one to say, I was the one who learned. We all learned very quickly and we all admitted it."

Woods had Strange; Clark had legendary WNBA veteran Diana Taurasi. At the 2024 Women's Final Four, in which Clark led Iowa to its second consecutive NCAA final, losing to South Carolina, Taurasi looked ahead to Clark's WNBA career and said, "Reality is coming."

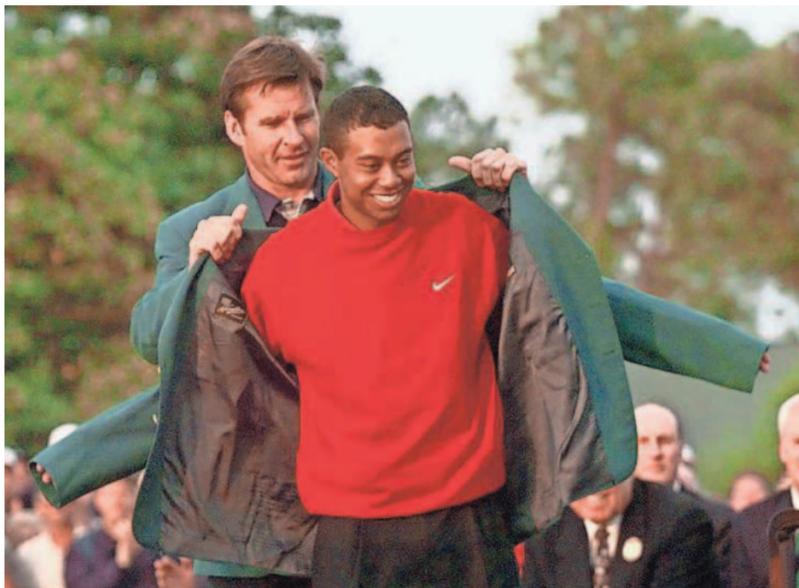
In the 3½ months since Taurasi said those words on ESPN, Clark has become one of the best players in the league while facing more defensive attention than any other WNBA player and playing the toughest schedule.

On Wednesday, she set the WNBA single-game assist record with 19. That's not a rookie record. That's the most assists in a game in league history. In that game, she scored or assisted on 66 points for Indiana, the most ever in a WNBA game. She is the WNBA leader in assists per game and is in the top 20 in the league in points, rebounds, blocks and steals per game.

After she and the Fever beat Taurasi's Phoenix Mercury last month, Taurasi changed her tune.

"It's amazing," she said. "What Caitlin's been able to do in her short career so far has just been nothing short of remarkable."

It turns out reality was coming for the



Tiger Woods gets his green jacket from 1996 champ Nick Faldo after winning the 61st Masters at Augusta National Golf Club. PORTER BINKS/USA TODAY

WNBA, not for Clark.

For Strange, who said he watches "every second" he can of Clark's games, it's easy to see what's happening.

"Quickly the WNBA players are learning with Caitlin what we all learned with Tiger," Strange said. "Both of them had tremendous resumes coming up but we all know the jump from amateur to professional is the largest leap of your life, so how was that person going to transform from that to that? In both cases they did it so well."

Golf TV ratings soared for more than two decades with Woods and only now are falling back to earth.

The story is similar for Clark – the soaring part, not the falling part – with women's college and pro basketball, with a significant caveat: Men's golf already was an established, mainstream sport pre-Tiger due to the popularity of Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, among others. Woods then lifted it into the stratosphere.

Women's basketball has had great stars for decades but has been largely ignored by the male-dominated sports TV and media establishment. So this is all uncharted territory, led by Clark.

"It's the whole package," Strange said of Woods and Clark. "The TV camera likes them, which means we're going to like them. It's the smile, it's the look, it's the fitness, it's the way they go about it. With Caitlin, she comes across mid-court and you can't take your eyes off of her. It's like going to a Mike Tyson fight, don't go to the bathroom in the first round, you're gonna miss the knockout. Don't take your eyes off her when she crosses mid-court because it might go

up from anywhere."

Clark's maturity is obvious as she tries to grow her sport

There also are some noteworthy differences between Woods and Clark, especially as role models. Until very recently, Woods never wanted to sign autographs before or after a round of golf and generally disliked his time around the media.

Clark on the other hand wades into crowds of parents and children, many waving signs and wearing her No. 22 jersey, before and after every game, home and away, signing scores of autographs and posing for dozens of selfies.

And interviews? She is often available to the media two or three times a day on game days, and seems to enjoy the back-and-forth no matter how mundane it might be.

In this way, a young Tiger often acted his age, and the golf media accepted it. Clark never has acted her age. She's 22 going on 40. Maybe 50. Her poise and maturity in the glare of the national spotlight has been so admirable, and women's basketball and all women's sports are better because of it.

Why does this matter? Clark sees herself as someone who wants to grow her sport, and talks constantly about how important it is to her to encourage young girls – and boys – to play basketball as well as other sports. If we had a dollar for every time she mentions "girls and boys," well, we would have a lot of dollars by now.

But she does focus extensively on female athletes, which she knows is es-

sential considering the massive gap between men's and women's sports in this country in terms of TV ratings, TV rights deals, player salaries and professional opportunities.

It is fitting that in April, she reposted this tweet from The Sporting News: "The final three games of Caitlin Clark's career at Iowa all broke the record for most-watched women's college basketball game (fire emoji)" The post on X, formerly Twitter, continued with these numbers: 12.3 million vs. LSU, 14.2 million vs. UConn and 18.7 million vs. South Carolina.

Clark added this underneath the tweet: "18.7 MILLION (fire emoji)"

That's the viewership total that beat the men's NCAA final by nearly 4 million, an unthinkable achievement until Clark arrived on the scene.

As a Black man in a lily-white, exclusive, country-club sport, Woods largely preferred to not speak out on societal and cultural issues. Early on, a 1996 Nike ad about him did make waves: "There are still golf courses in the United States that I cannot play because of the color of my skin," it said, but not long after it appeared, Woods decided to avoid most controversial topics for the length of his time at the top of the game.

It was of course his right to do that, but the result, all these years later, is illuminating. The diversity many golf leaders hoped Tiger would produce has failed to materialize. It's obvious any time you turn on the TV and watch who's playing on the PGA and LPGA tours.

In stark contrast, change did occur in the women's game as talented young South Koreans flocked to the LPGA tour after countrywoman Se Ri Pak's 1998 U.S. Open victory. Woods never had such coattails.

Of course there are many barriers to entry in American golf, including how difficult the game can be to learn, how much it costs and how far golf courses are from diverse neighborhoods, but one wonders what might have been had Woods championed diversity from the get-go the way Clark has embraced Title IX's message of inclusion for girls and women in sports.

With Clark, there's no need to wonder. Even though she's only 22, we know how much she cares about being a role model. She said she never missed a game in college because she felt a responsibility to play for the fans who were coming just to see her.

So we can be pretty sure what youth sports will look like in the near future. Thousands of kids hooping it up, many of them girls new to sports. And what will they be doing? Racing down the court in transition, passing behind their backs and launching 3's from the logo.

2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

Team USA not panicking after loss

Cydney Henderson

USA TODAY

PHOENIX — The U.S. national women's basketball team finds itself in a familiar situation.

Ahead of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, a team made up of WNBA All-Stars handed Team USA an eight-point loss. The Dallas Wings' Arike Ogunbowale was named the 2021 MVP. Team WNBA again handed the national team an eight-point loss on Saturday, beating Team USA 117-109, ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympics. Ogunbowale again was named the All-Star Game MVP after scoring a record 34 points.

"It was a little bit déjà vu feeling," said Breanna Stewart, who finished with a team-high 31 points, 10 rebounds and three assists.

Team USA has seen how this story ends before. The players went on to win gold at the Tokyo Olympics, the seventh in a row, after their All-Star weekend exhibition loss. So they are not alarmed.

"We are not going to press the panic button right now," said A'ja Wilson, who had 22 points and six rebounds. "We needed the test."

Team USA head coach Cheryl Reeve said Team WNBA's success over the national team just highlights the level of talent in the U.S.

"The depth of talent that we have in



WNBA All-Star player Nneka Ogumike shoots over Team USA's A'ja Wilson.

JOE CAMPOREALE/USA TODAY SPORTS

the USA, there's no one who has anything close to it," Reeve said. "There are players on this team that are great players. Everybody knows that. There's no suggestion whatsoever that there are players on (Team) WNBA that aren't good enough to play on the national

team. ... But only 12 could make it."

Reeve jokingly added: "Is Arike Ogunbowale playing for any of these teams we are going to play?"

Ogunbowale was held scoreless in the first half before rattling off 34 points, the most ever scored in a WNBA All-Star

Game, passing the previous record set by Jewell Loyd (31) in 2023.

"Coach (Cheryl Miller) actually called me out in front of everyone at halftime," Ogunbowale recalled. "I wasn't expecting her to say my name. She was talking about the team and she pointed at me. (Miller) just told me to take a deep breath and play my game."

Ogunbowale said the Olympic gear inspired her performance: "They are getting ready to play (at the Olympics) and they want to win, so we're not going to get embarrassed as well. ... I love competition. If I hear somebody is trying to beat me, I'm going to beat them twice as hard. That's usually what happens when we play Team USA."

Reeve said if her teammates take anything from this performance, it's that they must improve their defensive effort.

"We just came out and played. We didn't come out and really compete," Reeve said. "We need more of a collective effort defensively. We had a lot of one-on-one. Little help. Little rim protection. We don't want to give up 60 points in the paint. ... That to me was our greatest disappointment."

Team USA will face Germany in London on Tuesday, the final exhibition match before the Paris Games. Team USA begins Olympic group play in France on July 29.

MVP Ogunbowale lights up 2nd half

Cydney Henderson and Heather Tucker

USA TODAY

PHOENIX — Cheryl Reeve, head coach of the U.S. women's national team, predicted that Team USA would face adversity in Saturday's exhibition match against Team WNBA in Phoenix.

She was right.

Team WNBA handed Team USA a 117-109 loss in front of a sold-out crowd at Footprint Center in the WNBA All-Star Game. The matchup was closely contested through the first half, but then entered Team WNBA's Arike Ogunbowale, who set a record for the most points scored in a WNBA All-Star Game and earned her second MVP nod.

Ogunbowale was held scoreless in the first half but went on to record 34 points (10-for-20 field goals) following a pep talk from coach Cheryl Miller. She knocked down 8 of 13 three-pointers to help Team WNBA extend its lead to as many as 20 points. Ogunbowale finished with six assists, three rebounds and two steals.

Ogunbowale joined Lisa Leslie (1999, 2001, 2022), Swin Cash (2009, 2011) and Maya Moore (2015, 2017, 2018) as the only WNBA stars to win multiple All-Star MVP awards. Ogunbowale was the All-Star MVP in 2021.

Caitlin Clark set a rookie record with 10 assists and Angel Reese became the first rookie with a double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Allisha Gray, who won the 3-point shooting contest and the skills competition Friday, added 16 points.

Breanna Stewart led Team USA with 31 points. A'ja Wilson added 22, while Diana Taurasi had 14.

Allisha Gray wins WNBA All-Star 3-point contest ...

Atlanta Dream's Allisha Gray swept the WNBA All-Star activities on Friday. After winning the skills challenge earlier in the night, she took down New York Liberty big Jonquel Jones in the 3-point challenge to become the first person in



Ogunbowale

WNBA history to win both in the same season.

"It feels amazing. Another \$55K in my pocket," Gray said, referring to Aflac's \$55K bonus for each competition.

It came down to the final 3-point ball.

Both Gray and Jones had hot and cold streaks during the final round. Gray finished with 22 points, which she contributed to fatigue from competing in both events. Jones had the opportunity to tie Gray's score with her last ball, but it came up just short of the basket. Jones held her head in disappointment as she finished with 21 points.

"(Jones) had me nervous, I'm not going to lie," Gray admitted.

... and skills challenge by 2.4 seconds

Phoenix Mercury's Sophie Cunningham challenged the hometown crowd at Footprint Center to bring the energy for the final round of the WNBA All-Star Skills challenge, where she went head-to-head with the Atlanta Dream's Allisha Gray.

"Y'all I thought you were pretty quiet," Cunningham said to the crowd after her first round.

Fans were roaring during the next round. Although Cunningham struggled from beyond the arc, she caught momentum in the back-half to finish in 34.5 seconds, quicker than her first-round time of 35.5 seconds.

Gray highlighted her speed and was quick out of the gate again. She also struggled to knock down her 3-point shots but sprinted down the court for her outlet pass and layup to win at 32.1 seconds. She said she was fatigued from sprinting but still came out victorious.

Gray and Cunningham hugged after the contest. Commissioner Cathy Engelbert presented her with a trophy.



South Sudan's Carlik Jones dribbles the ball Saturday as the USA's Jrue Holiday defends.

HENRY BROWNE/GETTY IMAGES

South Sudan gives wake-up call to US men in tuneup



Jeff Zillgitt

Columnist
USA TODAY

As exhibition games go, a U.S. loss to South Sudan in a men's 5x5 basketball 2024 Paris Olympic tuneup game would've been a bad one.

Not just bad. But embarrassing, too. The U.S. avoided that with a 101-100 victory against South Sudan on Saturday in London.

But it was touch-and-go. South Sudan led by as many 16 points, had a 58-44 halftime lead and still owned a double-digit lead midway through the third quarter. South Sudan led 100-99 with 20 seconds to play and had a chance for a monumental upset on the game's final shot.

South Sudan gave the U.S. a game and a wake-up call.

The U.S. has LeBron James, Steph Curry, Joel Embiid, Anthony Edwards and Anthony Davis and a team full of All-Stars, and South Sudan does not.

James saved the game for the U.S. and prevented an embarrassing loss. He scored the winning basket on a driving layup with eight seconds remaining in the fourth quarter in a dominating FIBA performance: 23 points on 9-for-13 shooting, six rebounds and six assists.

Embiid had 14 points and seven rebounds, and Edwards had 11 points. Curry added 12 points, and Davis had another double-double with 15 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks.

Still, South Sudan demonstrated what other Olympic medal hopefuls are thinking: in a one-game scenario under FIBA rules (shorter game, fewer possessions, more physical), beating the U.S. is possible. Maybe not likely. But possible.

South Sudan shot 61.1% from the field and 7-for-14 on 3-pointers, and the U.S. shot 41.7% from the field (15-for-36) and 1-for-12 on 3-pointers and committed nine turnovers in the first

half. Turnovers have been an issue in the exhibition games for the U.S., a result of putting together a team with no previous experience playing together.

That's the blueprint for other nations against the U.S., though not easily accomplished: shoot well from the field, especially on 3-pointers, and get the U.S. to have a bad game shooting with a high turnover rate. It's just difficult to limit that many outstanding players even in a 40-minute game. But it's not going to stop teams from trying.

South Sudan is in its infancy as a country and getting ready to play in its first Olympics for men's basketball. Just two players (Wenyen Gabriel and Carlik Jones) have NBA experience, and 17-year-old center Khaman Maluach will play for Duke next season and is a potential 2025 NBA draft lottery pick.

The roster is filled with G League and other international league players. But there is talent and direction. Former NBA player Luol Deng is the president of the South Sudan Basketball Federation and an assistant coach for South Sudan head coach Royal Ivey, who played in the NBA.

It's a team that was not expected to get out of Group C with the U.S., Serbia and Puerto Rico. The U.S. is a massive -500 favorite to win its fifth consecutive gold medal in Paris, and the South Sudan is +25000 to win gold. That performance though must give South Sudan confidence it can surprise people at the Olympics.

The U.S. and South Sudan will play July 31 in the second group game for both teams. I didn't think the U.S. needed a wake-up call for these Olympics. Not with the way coach Steve Kerr has talked about how difficult it will be to win gold and not with this roster filled with MVPs and All-Stars.

The U.S. needs to be ready from the start, and falling behind double digits to a more talented team might result in a loss. But if you're looking for positives, the U.S. handled a struggle challenge, played through its struggles without getting too frustrated and won a close game.

SPECIAL EDITION **PARIS '24**
Complete guide to the Summer Games

Summer Games preview

On newsstands: Our 56-page edition takes an in-depth look at the athletes, the scene, the Seine and other key sites and themes to know heading into the Paris Games. How did Simone Biles find her balance after Tokyo? Why is Katie Ledecky still the best swimmer in the world? What did sprinters Sha'Carri Richardson and Noah Lyles learn about themselves through struggles on the way to becoming champions? Plus: 10 more key questions for Paris and the Games; what you can watch each day; and a trip back 40 years ago at Los Angeles, the Games that saved the Olympic movement. We also review the history of each Paris Olympic event (breakdancing, anyone?), how they work and look at the top U.S. and international athletes within them. Plus, five inspiring players to watch at the Summer Paralympics. The issue is also available at onlinestore.usatoday.com.

Supporters want baseball 'visionary' on Hall ballot

Bobby Maduro owned MiLB's Sugar Kings

Cesar Brioso
USA TODAY

His minor league baseball team relocated to another country against his wishes and professional sports outlawed in his native Cuba following a Communist revolution, Roberto "Bobby" Maduro finally gave up his dream.

The Cuban entrepreneur's family had already fled to the United States, and Maduro left Havana by plane on April 16, 1961 – hours before the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion – knowing he would never get the chance to bring a major league team to Havana.

But this wasn't the end of Maduro's baseball story, one that remains unfamiliar to many baseball fans.

A group of baseball historians is trying to change that. They – and some former major league players – believe Maduro's body of work makes him worthy of Hall of Fame consideration.

"I always saw him as a visionary type of person," Lou Hernández told USA TODAY Sports about Maduro, who owned the Havana Sugar Kings of the Class AAA International League from 1954 to 1960.

"He always saw the internationalization of the game as a way of broadening it and promoting it. ... In a way he was sort of a forerunner for the globalization that we see in modern baseball today."

Author of "Bobby Maduro and the Cuban Sugar Kings," Hernández is one of the historians who this past week submitted a packet of information to the Hall of Fame, endorsing Maduro's inclusion on the ballot of Classic Baseball Era finalists, which is expected to be announced a few days after the last game of the 2024 World Series.

Tony Pérez, Cookie Rojas endorse Bobby Maduro for Hall of Fame

The packet contains 15 signed endorsements, including letters from Hall of Famer Tony Pérez and former major league player, manager and coach Cookie Rojas, who played for the Sugar Kings in 1959-60.

"As owner of the Sugar Kings, Mr. Maduro was directly responsible for many Cuban prospects reaching the major leagues, of which I was one," Rojas wrote.

Wrote Pérez: "Bobby Maduro helped pave the way for me into organized baseball and eventually to the Hall of Fame."

The vote by the Classic Baseball Era Committee will take place and be announced in December.

"I feel like we've got a pretty good chance right now," Anthony Salazar, chair of the Society for American Baseball Research's Latino Baseball Research Committee, told USA TODAY Sports.

If Maduro, who died in 1986, were to make it onto the ballot, "It would be something that would give me great pride," Maduro's son Jorge told USA TODAY Sports. "It's incredible, the accomplishments of that man. He dedicated his entire life to baseball. ... It would be a tremendous recognition and he would very much deserve it."

Bobby Maduro's tumultuous time in Cuba



Members of the Jersey City Jerseys before an International League game in 1960 after Jersey City, New Jersey, became the home of the relocated Havana Sugar Kings. Among those pictured are Cuban players Vic Davalillo and Orlando Peña.

TRANSCENDENTAL GRAPHICS/GETTY IMAGES

The bulk of Maduro's time as a baseball team owner coincided with perhaps the most vibrant era for the Cuban Winter League, followed by the most volatile time for the country.

Along with business partner Miguelito Suárez, Maduro built El Gran Stadium of Havana, which became the home for the Cuban League from 1946 to 1961.

Already a co-owner of the Cienfuegos team in the Cuban League, Maduro bought the Havana Cubans of the Class B Florida International League and moved the franchise to the International League in 1954 as the Cuban Sugar Kings, although they appeared in the standings in U.S. newspapers as Havana.

The team's motto: "*Un paso mas y llegamos*" – "One more step and we arrive" – alluding to Maduro's goal of seeing a major league team in Havana.

During the Sugar Kings' early years, Fidel Castro was mounting a revolution against Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, with violence periodically breaking out in Havana, including a 1957 attack on the Presidential Palace in an attempt to kill Batista.

Such incidents prompted repeated calls to relocate the Sugar Kings. Maduro often had to assuage concerns from league president Frank Shaughnessy and fellow team owners, who at times threatened to refuse to play games in Havana.

After Castro overthrew Batista on Jan. 1, 1959, gunfire erupted around Gran Stadium in celebration of the anniversary of Castro's revolutionary 26th of July Movement. Stray bullets grazed Sugar Kings shortstop Leo Cárdenas and Frank Verdi of the Rochester Red Wings. Neither was seriously wounded but the Red Wings refused to finish the series.

Remarkably, the Sugar Kings completed that season, winning the International League championship and then beating the American Association champion Minneapolis Millers in a dramatic seven-game Junior World Series played mostly in Havana.

Turmoil in Havana only escalated during the 1960 season, and weeks after a June explosion at a munitions dump at Havana Harbor rocked the city, Shaughnessy ordered the Sugar Kings be relocated to Jersey City over Madu-

ro's objections – while the team was in the middle of a four-city, 14-game road trip.

Maduro's baseball resume

After Maduro left Cuba in 1961, he regained control of his franchise, which had become the Jersey City Jerseys, and eventually worked in the commissioner's office.

Although much of his career was focused on baseball outside the U.S., Maduro had a wide breadth of accomplishments:

- Built and co-owned El Gran Stadium of Havana, today called Estadio Latinoamericano.
- Helped negotiate the Cuban League's entry into organized baseball in 1947.
- Helped establish the framework for the Caribbean Series in 1948.
- Co-owner of Cienfuegos of the Cuban Winter League (1949-53).
- Owner of the Class B Havana Cubans of the Florida International League in 1953.
- Owner of Havana Sugar Kings of the Class AAA International League and minor league affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds (1954-60).
- Launched *Los Cubanitos*, a Cuban youth league modeled after Little League with 5,000 participants (1954-60).
- Owner of the minor league Jersey City Jerseys (1960-61), Jacksonville Suns (1962-63).
- General manager of the Jacksonville Suns (1964-65).
- Latin American scout for the St. Louis Cardinals (1964-65).
- Director of Inter-American Relations (1965-78) under MLB Commissioners William Eckert and Bowie Kuhn, serving as a cultural liaison between MLB and the Caribbean leagues.
- Founded the short-lived Inter-American League (1979).
- Inaugural member of the class of the Latino Baseball Hall of Fame in the Dominican Republic in 2010.

"Bobby Maduro was a pioneer in our Latino baseball community, and what he accomplished has been nothing short of an incredible feat in the '50s, '60s and '70s," Salazar said. "You've got an incredible track record of selfless

acts and creating pathways for Latino ballplayers and baseball in general."

Hurdles to inclusion on Hall of Fame ballot

Yet, Maduro's resume is not well-known among modern baseball followers, which Monte Cely, who has attended 11 Caribbean Series since 2011, acknowledged might be the biggest hurdle.

"Awareness is certainly a big issue," he told USA TODAY Sports of the efforts to get Maduro on the ballot. Cely said this most recent effort has been aided by feedback from prior committee voters.

"One key item was, can you make a comparison or contrast to anyone that's currently in the Hall of Fame?" Cely said. "And fortunately, one of our endorsers did just that."

Thomas E. Van Hynning, who has written two books about the Puerto Rican winter league, wrote in his endorsement letter that Maduro's contributions to the game "mirror" that of Hall of Famer Alex Pompez, owner of the New York Cubans of the Negro Leagues who was inducted by a special committee vote in 2006.

"If you look at the executives that are in the Hall of Fame, Alex Pompez is probably the closest analogy," Cely said. "Bobby Maduro's very unique in terms of his breadth of accomplishments, but Pompez is probably the closest executive in terms of comparing accomplishments, etc."

Another concern is the 2022 changes that restructured the committees into two – one for players and another for managers, executives and umpires – Contemporary Baseball Era (from 1980) ballots and one Classic Baseball Era ballot (before 1980).

"So, now you've got just one ballot that goes out every three years that's everybody 1980 and before," Cely said. "So, access to that ballot could be a little more crowded."

Jorge Maduro's biggest concern? Time.

"He (Bobby Maduro) died so many years ago," Jorge said. "My only concern is that a lot of time has passed and that makes it harder for people to recognize what he did, but he deserves it."

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TO: All potential victims (investors) and/or creditors of Scott A. Kohn (Kohn) and/or Future Income Payments (FIP).

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Beattie B. Ashmore, Esquire was appointed by the United States District Court, District of South Carolina, as the Receiver for Scott A. Kohn and Future Income Payments, among other entities. On August 18, 2022 Scott A. Kohn (individually, and doing business as FIP) pled guilty in the United States District Court to fraud.

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If you did not receive a Proof of Claim form by mail, it can be downloaded from the Receiver's website at www.receiverfip.com. Proof of Claim forms must be mailed no later than September 30, 2024 to:

Beattie B. Ashmore, Receiver Kohn FIP
Attn: Proof of Claim
Post Office Box 9019
Greenville, South Carolina 29604

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NIGHTENGALE'S NOTEBOOK

Can Aaron Judge break his AL home run record?

Bob Nightengale

USA TODAY

Aaron Judge, with 34 homers and 85 RBIs, is only the fourth player in major league history to produce those numbers before the All-Star break, joining Mark McGwire (37 homers, 87 RBI), Luis Gonzalez (35, 86) and Chris Davis (37, 93).

Two years ago, the New York Yankees outfielder set the AL record with 62. He could break it this season.

This is a guy who was hitting .197 with six homers and a .725 OPS on May 2, but in the next 63 games Judge hit .367 with 28 homers and a 1.324 OPS.

So, yes, anything is possible.

Can the Red Sox make the postseason?

The Boston Red Sox have massively exceeded expectations with a 31-18 record since May 19 and went into Sunday sitting in the final wild-card spot.

Take a bow manager Alex Cora, who will be the hottest free agent of the winter.

Who could have imagined that Tanner Houck would be a Cy Young candidate, Ceddanne Rafaela would be a Rookie of the Year candidate and Jarren Duran would be the All-Star Game MVP.

"Everybody in that clubhouse," Cora told reporters, "believes we can pull this off."

Forget the white flag that was supposed to come at the trade deadline.

The Red Sox, who are 28-12 against sub-.500 teams, are going for the flag they can hang at Fenway Park.

"We can win the division," Cora says.

They'll certainly be tested out of the gate the second half with seven of their first 10 games against the Dodgers, Yankees and Mariners, and 22 of their first 31 games against teams with a winning record.

Will White Sox end up with worst record ever?

The Chicago White Sox had their worst record (27-71) in franchise history after 98 games, losing more games than any other team at the All-Star break. But the question historians want to know is whether they will topple the 1962 Mets (40-120-1) for the worst record in baseball history.

The White Sox are on pace to lose 117 games, but when you consider they plan to gut their roster at the trade deadline, shopping anyone and everyone, they're certainly giving themselves every opportunity for infamous history.

Their Magic Number is 16 victories to avoid history.

Can the Guardians keep winning?

It's hard to believe the Cleveland Guardians, the youngest team in baseball, have the AL's second-best record (59-38) despite a rotation that ranks only 13th in the league with a 4.52 ERA.

Who could have imagined they would make up for their pitching deficiencies with the fifth-best offense in the league with Steven Kwan hitting a major league-leading .351, Jose Ramirez second in the AL in RBIs, Josh Naylor third and DH David Fry making the All-Star team?

The same team that was last in homers last season now ranks seventh.

Cleveland's biggest challenge may be fortifying its bullpen, which easily has the lowest ERA (2.62 ERA) in the league, with the Yankees being the second-best (3.46), but has pitched the fourth-most innings in the AL. Hunter Gaddis, Scott Barlow and closer Emmanuel Clase all rank in the top five in appearances.

Will this be first year a DH wins MVP award?

In other words – does Shohei Ohtani win the NL



Yankees center fielder Aaron Judge had six homers on May 2 but in the next 63 games hit 28 more before the All-Star break. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

MVP? He's hitting .315 with 29 homers and 23 stolen bases, leading the league in homers, runs scored, slugging percentage and OPS. He could be the first to hit 50 homers and steal 40 bases in the same season.

The closest a DH came to winning the MVP was David Ortiz, who finished runner-up in 2005, and Edgar Martinez, who finished third in 1995. Ohtani is the favorite at this juncture, battling with first baseman Bryce Harper of the Phillies and DH Marcell Ozuna of Atlanta.

Can the Yankees recover?

The Yankees looked like the best team in baseball, jumping out to a 49-22 record, and then looked like one of the worst teams by finishing the first half with a 9-18 stretch.

They were cruising along with the most runs (359), second-most homers (105) and the second-best OPS (.771), and New York suddenly stopped hitting with Anthony Volpe and Alex Verdugo badly struggling and Giancarlo Stanton going on the injured list.

It wasn't just the offense, either, that tanked.

The starting rotation had a 2.78 ERA, best in the major leagues through June 14, and then cratered with an MLB-worst 6.20 ERA.

The Yankees have the fourth-easiest remaining schedule, but if they want to be playing deep into October, they have no choice but to get help.

Will the Dodgers live up to expectations?

You don't drop \$1.3 billion over the winter and expect anything less than a World Series championship.

Yet, for a team absolutely loaded with talent, they have far too many questions to be comfortable.

How's Clayton Kershaw going to pitch when he comes back? Will Walker Buehler ever regain his form?

What happens when Mookie Betts returns, and where is he playing? Can the bottom of the order improve?

Is the bullpen built for a long October?

So many questions, with time running out for answers.

Anything less than a World Series championship would be one of the most disappointing seasons in Dodgers history.

Around the basepaths

- The Yankees, for the first time, are willing to include No. 1 prospect Spencer Jones in a trade for White Sox ace Garrett Crochet or Tigers Cy Young candidate Tarik Skubal. The White Sox, however, are holding out for a bigger package from the Yankees and others.

- The Dodgers have spoken to the White Sox about a blockbuster that would include Crochet, center fielder Luis Robert and perhaps reliever Michael Kopech, too.

- The are engaged in talks with the Orioles and Dodgers for Skubal.

It's a long shot that Skubal will be traded, but the Tigers are listening and have told teams they will move him only if they are overwhelmed by an offer.

Certainly, the Orioles have the talented prospects to pull off a deal, centering around Jackson Holliday, and may become the World Series favorites if they acquire Skubal to team with Corbin Burnes at the top of the rotation.

- The Red Sox and Yankees have had talks with the Cubs about starter Jameson Taillon, but the Cubs are undecided whether they will be buyers or sellers.

- The Phillies have no interest in Marlins center fielder Jazz Chisholm, have shied away from White Sox outfielder Tommy Pham and don't believe that Athletics outfielder Brent Rooker is a fit.

- The best reliever available on the market, executives say, is Marlins closer Tanner Scott. He is yielding a 1.30 ERA and has struck out 46 batters in 41 ⅓ innings. The Phillies are keeping a close eye on Scott with closer Jose Alvarado's recent struggles (4.35 ERA) and badly want another late-inning reliever.

- For the first time in more than a half-century, the Athletics are not listed on the baseball schedule as "OAK." Instead, the 2025 schedule has "ATH" representing the franchise, which is spending the next three seasons playing at the Giants' Triple-A ballpark in Sacramento while constructing their new ballpark in Las Vegas.

Trouble for NL East champions: All-Star Max Fried on injured list

Gabe Lacques

USA TODAY

Max Fried, the Atlanta Braves ace who is less than half a season from free agency, was placed on the 15-day injured list Sunday with forearm neuritis, a potentially troubling development for a club ravaged by injuries.

Fried, 30, told the Braves he felt some discomfort while warming up for his All-Star Game appearance on Tuesday, but it subsided and he proceeded to pitch a scoreless inning, manager Brian Snitker told reporters Sunday.

But when the pain returned Friday, Fried informed the team and had an MRI and other tests. The imaging, Snitker told reporters, revealed no tissue damage but did show nerve irritation.

Fried, who missed the 2015 minor league season after having Tommy John surgery, was sidelined for more than two months in 2023 with a forearm strain. While the two forearm injuries do not necessarily portend doom, they can certainly be precursors to elbow ligament trouble.

The Braves, six-time defending NL East champions, are hopeful Fried can return when his IL stint is complete, but that period of time will cover Major League Baseball's July 30 trade deadline, leaving Atlanta potentially in position to work the market while uncertainty surrounds arguably its best pitcher.

Fried becomes the third former Brave All-Star to suffer a significant injury this season, joining pitcher Spencer Strider (Tommy John surgery) and reigning NL MVP and outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. (torn ACL). Still, the Braves have an enviable front end of the rotation, led by fellow All-Stars Chris Sale and Reynaldo Lopez. Minor leaguer Dylan Dodd was recalled to replace Fried on the active roster.



Braves pitcher Max Fried says he felt discomfort warming up before the All-Star Game and then again Friday. RICK SCUTERI/USA TODAY SPORTS

Fried posted a 3.08 ERA in 18 starts this season, ranking fifth in the National League, and his two complete games lead the league. He is one of just a few young players the Braves did not sign to a long-term contract, such as Acuña, Strider, center fielder Michael Harris Jr. and infielders Austin Riley and Ozzie Albies.

He is expected to be one of the top free agent pitchers available this winter.

"It's a little strange, because I still feel like in my core, I'm a young guy who's still learning and trying to constantly master his craft," Fried told USA TODAY Sports last month. "And feel like I still have so much more to give."

"It's a little weird to be at that point where you can look back, because you've had some experience. But also for me, I feel like I have so much more to look forward to, that it's kind of a weird in between."

LEGAL MONDAY

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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re: Chapter 11, Case No. 24-11378 (JTD)
DERMTECH, INC., et al.,
(Jointly Administrated)
Debtors. Docket Ref. Nos. 33 & 92

NOTICE OF AUCTION AND SALE HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. On June 18, 2024, DermTech, Inc. and DermTech Operations, Inc. (each, a "Debtor" and collectively, the "Debtors") filed voluntary petitions for relief pursuant to chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code, as amended (the "Bankruptcy Code") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Bankruptcy Court").

2. On June 21, 2024, the Debtors filed a motion (the "Bidding Procedures and Sale Motion"), pursuant to sections 363 and 365 of the Bankruptcy Code and rules 2002, 6004, and 6006 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure ("Bankruptcy Rules"), seeking entry of an order (the "Bidding Procedures Order") (a) scheduling an auction (the "Auction") for the sale of all or substantially all of the Debtors' assets (the "Assets") and a hearing to approve the sale of the Assets (the "Sale Hearing"); (b) approving procedures (the "Bidding Procedures") for submitting competing bids for the Assets; (c) approving procedures related to the designation of a Stalking Horse Bidder; (d) approving the form and manner of the notice of the Auction and the Sale Hearing; (e) establishing procedures for the assumption and assignment of the Assumed Contracts (as defined in the Bidding Procedures Order) to any purchaser(s) of the Assets and approving manner of notice thereof (the "Assumption and Assignment Notice"); and (f) granting related relief.

3. On July 15, 2024, the Bankruptcy Court entered the Bidding Procedures Order. Pursuant to the Bidding Procedures Order, if at least two (2) Qualified Bids with regard to any particular Assets (as defined in the Bidding Procedures Order) are received by the Bid Deadline (as defined below), the Debtors will conduct the Auction. The Auction shall be held on August 9, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) or such other time as the Debtors shall designate and notify to all Qualified Bidders after consultation with the Consultation Parties. Professionals and principals for the Debtors, each Qualified Bidder (including, its representative(s), if any), each of the Consultation Parties, and any other parties the Debtors deem appropriate shall be permitted to attend and observe the Auction. Only parties that have submitted a Qualified Bid, as set forth in the Bidding Procedures Order, by no later than August 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) (the "Bid Deadline") may bid at the Auction. Any party that wishes to take part in this process and submit a Bid (as defined in the Bidding Procedures) for any portion of the Assets must submit their competing Bid prior to the Bid Deadline and in accordance with the Bidding Procedures.

4. The Sale Hearing to consider approval of the sale of the Assets to the Successful Bidder(s) at the Auction, free and clear of all liens, claims and encumbrances, will be held before the Honorable John T. Dorsey, United States Bankruptcy Judge, 824 North Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 on August 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time), or at such other time thereafter as counsel may be heard. The Sale Hearing may be adjourned by the Debtors from time to time without further notice to creditors or parties in interest other than by announcement of the adjournment in open court on the date scheduled for the Sale Hearing or by including such adjournment on any agenda filed with the Bankruptcy Court or by the filing of a notice with the Bankruptcy Court.

5. Objections to approval of the Sale (with the exception of objections related solely to the conduct of the Auction, the identity of the Successful Bidder, the ability of the Successful Bidder to provide adequate assurance of future performance, or the assumption and assignment of contracts, including related care costs, which must be received by a different deadline), must be in writing, state the basis of such objection with specificity, and be filed with the Bankruptcy Court and served on or before August 7, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) (the "Sale Objection Deadline") by the following parties (collectively, the "Notice Parties"): (a) counsel to the Debtors, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C., 222 Delaware Avenue, Suite 800, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (Attn: Erin R. Fay, Shane M. Reil, and Catherine C. Lyons (emails: eray@wsg.com, sreil@wsg.com, and clyons@wsg.com)); (b) the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware, J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building, 844 King Street, Suite 2207, Lockbox 35, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (Attn: Linda J. Casey (email: linda.casey@usdoj.gov) and Fang Bu (fang.bu@usdoj.gov)); and (c) proposed counsel to the official committee of unsecured creditors, Hogan Lovells US LLP, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400, Los Angeles, California 90067 (Attn: David P. Simonds, Todd M. Schwartz, and Edward J. McNeilly) (emails: david.simonds@hoganlovells.com; todd.schwartz@hoganlovells.com; edward.mcneilly@hoganlovells.com) and Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP, Hercules Plaza, 1313 North Market Street, 6th Floor, P.O. Box 951, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (Attn: Christopher P. Samis) (email: csamis@potteranderson.com).

6. Objections related solely to conduct of the Auction, identity of the Successful Bidder, and adequate assurance of future performance by the Successful Bidder must be raised at or prior to the Sale Hearing (the "Auction Objection Deadline").

UNLESS AN OBJECTION IS TIMELY FILED AND SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE, IT MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT AND THE BANKRUPTCY COURT MAY GRANT THE RELIEF REQUESTED WITHOUT FURTHER HEARING AND NOTICE.

This Sale Notice is subject to the fuller terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures and Sale Motion and the Bidding Procedures Order, with such Bidding Procedures Order controlling in the event of any conflict. The Debtors encourage all parties-in-interest to review such documents in their entirety. Parties interested in receiving more information regarding the sale of the Assets and/or copies of any related document, including the Bidding Procedures and Sale Motion or the Bidding Procedures Order, may make a written request to Catherine C. Lyons (clyons@wsg.com). In addition, copies of the Bidding Procedures and Sale Motion, the Bidding Procedures Order and this Notice are on file with the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, Third Floor, 824 North Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 and are available on the Debtors' claims and noticing agents' website free of charge at https://cases.stretto.com/DermTech.

Dated: July 16, 2024, Wilmington, Delaware. WILSON SON SINI GOODRICH & ROSATI, P.C., c/o Catherine C. Lyons, Erin R. Fay (No. 5268), Shane M. Reil (No. 6195), Catherine C. Lyons (No. 6854), 222 Delaware Avenue, Suite 800, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, Telephone: (302) 304-7600, E-mails: eray@wsg.com, sreil@wsg.com, clyons@wsg.com and Benjamin Hoch, Marsha Sokach (admitted pro hac vice), 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 40th Floor, New York, New York 10019, Telephone: (212) 999-5900, Facsimile: (212) 999-5899, E-mails: bhoch@wsg.com, msokach@wsg.com, Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number are: DermTech, Inc. (0849) and DermTech Operations, Inc. (8997). The Debtors' service address is 12340 El Camino Real, San Diego, California 92130.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Bidding Procedures.

Paul wins, vows to take Tyson's throne



Jake Paul wore a gladiator getup in defeating Mike Perry on Saturday. JULIO AGUILAR/GETTY IMAGES

Josh Peter
USA TODAY

Jake Paul had a message for Mike Tyson.

He delivered it after he knocked down Mike Perry three times and beat the bare-knuckle brawler by TKO in the sixth round Saturday night.

In front of thousands of fans inside Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida, during an in-ring interview, he said, "Mike, I love you, but this is my sport now."

"You're a legend. You're one of the two most famous boxers to ever live. You and Muhammad Ali. It's an honor to get in the ring with you. I'm so, so hon-

ored, you're a legend.

"But I'm going to take your throne, brother."

On his X account, Tyson posted a countdown for his fight with Paul. That was 118 days and counting.

Tyson likely took a sigh of relief Saturday night after Perry got knocked down but kept getting up before the referee finally stopped the fight.

Paul said Tyson called him before his fight against Perry. "(Tyson) was concerned about me taking this fight," Paul told reporters earlier in the week. "He's like, 'What is Jake thinking? This guy Mike Perry is a killer.' So he had some concerns."

In fact, Paul claimed a loss to Perry would have ended his highly anticipated fight with Tyson. Paul agreed to fight Perry after Tyson suffered an ulcer flare-up May 26, which led to the Tyson-Paul fight being postponed.

They are now scheduled to fight on Nov. 15 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, and it will be broadcast by Netflix.

"And I'm going to get another KO and prove everyone wrong once again," Paul said. "Everyone said that this is a mistake taking this fight. That I was an idiot, I was risking it. But that's why I'm here. I take big risks. I put it on the line. And it's anyone, anytime anywhere."

Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar wins third Tour

Carrie McDonald
USA TODAY

Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar won the 2024 Tour de France with yet another commanding stage victory during Sunday's time trial.

Pogacar is now the first man in the 21st century to win both the Giro D'Italia and Tour de France in the same season after winning six individual Tour stages along his way to the overall victory. The Slovenian won his third Tour de France following his victories in 2020 and 2021. He has now successfully reclaimed the title from rival Jonas Vingegaard, the 2022 and 2023 champion.

After three weeks of exhilarating competition between the sport's greatest rivalry in Pogacar and Vingegaard, historic moments and over 2,000 miles of racing, this year's final stage was historic as it switched Paris' Champs-Élysées for the Promenade des Anglais. This year was the first time the finish line was not in or near Paris because the city is hosting the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The time trial included a 21-mile ride from Monaco to Nice, France, with rolling hills and an overall elevation gain of 695m – not a negligible figure but significantly less inclined than the recent mountainous stages. Pogacar led rivals Vingegaard and Remco Evenepoel through every checkpoint of the time trial. This year was the first time since 1989 that the competition ended with a time trial.

Although Vingegaard did not achieve a coveted three-peat, his inspiring runner-up performance was an extraordinary feat considering he returned to competition after having suffered serious injuries that hospitalized him for 12 days in April.



Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar celebrates as he crosses the finish line Sunday for his third Tour de France title. ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOLAT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Belgium's Remco Evenepoel rounded out the general classification podium following a third-place finish in the time trial. This result is an outstanding achievement for the 24-year-old, who made his Tour de France debut this year.

Evenepoel also won the white jersey, awarded to the best young rider, with a commanding lead. He will surely be one to watch in the future.

Cavendish finishes his final Tour de France

One of the greatest sprinters in history has officially said farewell to cycling's most iconic competition.

Great Britain's Mark Cavendish, 39, crossed the Tour de France finish line for the final time in a time of 54 minutes

and 38 seconds. The Brit was set to retire at the end of last season but returned for a final Tour de France after he crashed out of last year's race.

Cavendish finally got his fairy-tale ending to his inspiring career during this year's Stage 5, where he sprinted to victory for a record-breaking 35th career Tour de France stage win.

It's safe to say Cavendish accomplished what he came for (and more).

Cavendish spoke to the media after he finished the time trial.

"It was just about enjoying it," Cavendish said of today's stage. "There's no pressure for me today, which is strange for a final stage of the Tour. I knew my family were waiting at the finish and I was just absorbing it. I think I got all the emotions out of the way yesterday and I

could really just enjoy today."

Cavendish also confirmed that Sunday's stage was "likely" his last professional race and reflected on his career.

"I feel very lucky to have had the career I've had, to work with the people I have, to meet the people I have and be able to live the dream," Cavendish said.

"You see the success, you see the photos of wins, videos of wins, but it's rare people see everything that goes in behind, everything that makes it. It's taught me a lot about myself, it's taught me a lot about how to be a father, and that's the biggest thing I take from the sport."

Biniam Girmay officially makes history as first Black rider to be green jersey winner

After finishing Stage 21 within the time limit, Biniam Girmay of Eritrea and Intermarché-Wanty is officially the first Black rider in history to win the points classification. Girmay has had a stellar Tour de France, establishing himself as the best sprinter of the field with his three stage victories and green jersey win, even after suffering injuries that required stitches during Stage 16.

Polka-dotted jersey wearer Richard Carapaz wins super-combative rider award

After votes from a jury and the public, Ecuador's Richard Carapaz has been named the super-combative rider of this year's Tour de France. Carapaz made history as the first Ecuadorian to win an individual Tour stage with his Stage 17 victory and the first to win the mountains classification after Saturday's final group racing stage.

Messi's limp shows he's far from return to field

Safid Deen
USA TODAY

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Lionel Messi smiled and waved to adoring fans during a celebration Saturday before Inter Miami's 2-1 MLS win over Chicago Fire FC to honor his latest Copa America title.

Messi stood near Inter Miami co-owner Jorge Mas as a video filled with highlights from his illustrious career was shown inside Chase Stadium. They stood on a custom mat, with "Lionel Messi 45 titles" covering the center circle of the pitch.

"Tonight, we celebrate a great milestone of our captain Leo Messi in becoming the footballer who has lifted the most trophies in the history of this sport," Mas said. "And I am sure he won't stop at 45. We hope he can lift many more in the future."

No player has won more titles for club and country.

No player has celebrated more success in soccer history.

However, this celebration was brief and somber. And the quest to Messi's 46th title is on standby.

Messi slowly limped to and from midfield, wearing a walking boot on his injured right ankle. He wasn't inclined to say a few words, allowing his smiles and waves to speak for him.

Every step he took was a reminder of the awkward play that caused his right ankle to twist inside, swelling to the size of a softball, as he wept on Argentina's bench in the second half of the Copa America final before the victory was ensured.

It was also a telling barometer of just how soon Messi will return from injury: It might not be soon at all.

Messi's ankle will be evaluated on a week-to-week basis, Inter Miami coach Tata Martino said last week.

Martino was mum about Messi's sta-



Inter Miami CF owner Jorge Mas presents a plaque to honor Lionel Messi for Argentina's victory in the 2024 Copa America final. RICH STORRY/USA TODAY SPORTS

tus after the game, including his potential to miss the MLS All-Star Game this week.

The way Messi walked showed it could be a month-to-month affair.

The bad news: Leagues Cup begins next Saturday, and Messi will likely be unavailable to help Inter Miami defend its title (the 44th of his career).

The tournament is a five-week dash with a final set for Aug. 25. It might not be enough recovery time for Messi to make his return.

The good news: Inter Miami is in tremendous shape for the rest of the MLS season, and a playoff run where home-field advantage and less travel for Messi could also play its parts.

Inter Miami has won six of seven matches without Messi since Copa

America began, adding another on Saturday thanks to goals by Matias Rojas in the sixth minute and Jordi Alba in the 75th minute in a 2-1 win over Chicago.

"We tried to put together a team where we could hide the absences, especially Leo's absence," Martino said of squad. "And well, I think, in that sense, the guys who had to take charge have given very good (performances)."

Inter Miami has 53 points after the Chicago match and a first-place lead in the MLS Eastern Conference strengthened with two wins and two losses by second-place Cincinnati this past week.

If Inter Miami failed to gain another point, they likely could still qualify for the MLS playoffs.

The 50-point threshold alone would be good for at least a Top 7 seed in each

of the last three seasons, and the MLS playoffs welcome nine teams from each conference.

Not only has Inter Miami won without Messi, they're on prime footing to continue competing for a top playoff seed in anticipation for his return.

Seeing Messi raise another trophy this year would be a sight to see.

But just seeing Messi return to action – when he's not injured, crying or limping – would be good enough for his legion of adoring fans.

When will Messi return from injury?

It's unclear when Messi will return, but he will be evaluated on a week-to-week basis, Martino said last week.

When did Messi get hurt?

Messi injured his ankle during the Copa America final against Colombia last Sunday. He was injured in the first half and tried to play in the second half before making an early exit.

What is Inter Miami's record?

Inter Miami (16 wins, four losses, five draws) is first in the Supporters' Shield Standings with 53 points (two points ahead of the team in first place). The club also leads MLS with 56 goals.

When does Leagues Cup tournament begin?

The Leagues Cup begins next Saturday, with matches between MLS and LIGA MX clubs, all live streamed on Apple TV.

Inter Miami will host Puebla next Saturday in Chase Stadium and face Tigres UANL on Aug. 3 at NRG Stadium in Houston in the first two games of Leagues Cup.

LIFELINE



ROBERT DEUTSCH/USA TODAY

THEY SAID WHAT? THE STARS' BEST QUOTES

“Let me fly you to the moon so we can gaze among the stars.”
-Richard Simmons, in a social media post written before he died on July 13. The late fitness guru's staff shared the message Saturday on Facebook and X, explaining that Simmons had planned to post it on July 14. “We thought you'd want to see it,” his staff said. The post included a photo of Simmons wearing a NASA spacesuit.



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Selena Gomez is 32. David Spade is 60. Danny Glover is 78.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY

More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). Is your authentic roar beginning to surface? Express passion and radiance in all you do.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). What are the roots of your emotional security? Leo season fires up today, shining a light on your internal foundation.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Your communication abilities become enhanced with fiery confidence. What are you lit up to share?

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Ready to take pride in your value? Leo season arrives to cast a spotlight on self-worth. Look for validation within.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Time to come out of hiding! Step into the light now. Your aura is brilliant.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Shine light on what's hidden. Leo season reveals the realm of your unconscious, brightening what's normally in the dark.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Go out and be seen! Your social life is entertaining and vibrant. Feel the blessing of friendship.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Recognition is on its way! People take notice of your achievements. Flaunt what you've been working on.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Expand your sense of self. Who are you evolving into? Leo season fires up your connection with spiritual purpose.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Step into the transformation portal. What shape would you like to emerge as?

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). How does partnership help you to become your best self? Bonds you share with others are highlighted during Leo season.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Who you are and what you do are inextricably linked. Is your current routine giving you life?

TELEVISION NEWS & VIEWS



A contestant is about to be hit by a ball in “The Quiz With Balls.”

PROVIDED BY KELLY GARDNER/FOX

If you're game, prime time has a competition for everyone

Kelly Lawler USA TODAY

Are you ready to play? ● Happy July, in which your choices for summer nighttime TV on the broadcast networks pretty much comes down to “The Bachelorette” and game shows. 'Tis the season of trivia questions, heartwarming stories, thousands of dollars of payouts (or maybe millions) and a whole lot of dramatic music. This summer 13 game shows are airing on broadcast in prime time, from old favorites such as “Let's Make A Deal” and “Celebrity Family Feud” to shiny new ones such as “Lucky 13” and “The Quiz With Balls” (yes, that's really the title).

● But while there's a lot of fun to be had with any game show (prize money! silly animations! proving you are way smarter than the average American!), not every series is actually actually enjoyable to watch, no matter how happy the contestants are.

● So if you're looking for some easy watching as the temperatures climb and the humidity index rises, we've ranked the 13 prime-time game shows from worst to first. Spoiler alert: Adding giant balls is not the answer to everything.

13. 'The Quiz With Balls'

Fox, Tuesdays, 9 EDT/PDT

The new Fox show's double entendre of a name aside, this show, in which families compete for cash by answering trivia questions – and seeing one member dumped into a pool for

wrong guesses – is pretty dumb. Host and “Saturday Night Live” alum Jay Pharoah tries his best, but the cheesy concept never really works. It's not ridiculous enough to be funny, nor serious enough to be gripping.

See **GAME SHOWS**, Page 4D



John Mulaney and Nick Kroll compete for charity on the celebrity “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” PROVIDED BY CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/ABC

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Go ahead, embrace your 'brat summer'

Alyssa Goldberg USA TODAY

“Brat summer” is upon us.

We're dancing at the club until sunrise – unabashedly, of course. Painting our nails neon green. Working it out on the remix. Staying up late having an existential crisis and loving our lives anyway. We're everywhere, we're so Julia.

Confused? For those of you who are not chronically online, we can clue you in to the phenomenon that has taken over pop listeners since the release of Charli XCX's album “BRAT” on June 7, which has fans declaring this is a “Brat summer.” USA TODAY called the album an embrace of “a hot-mess pop star aesthetic, prioritizing club culture at its core but still offering introspective lyrics on aging, womanhood, grief and anxiety.” That's a good starting place to understanding what this trend is all about.

In a TikTok interview, Charli XCX broke down her definition of the word “brat”: “You are just that girl who is a little messy and maybe says dumb things sometimes, who feels herself but then also maybe has a breakdown but parties through it. It is honest, blunt and a little bit volatile. That's Brat.”



Charli XCX, at The All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon, England, has the song for a brat summer.

STUART C. WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

What is a brat summer?

Brat summer is the lifestyle associated with being a “brat,” and not in the way you may think. Charli XCX fans aren't throwing tantrums like a badly behaved child; being a brat to them means indulging in pleasure and not concerning yourself with societal expectations. Rather than conforming to the status quo – on matters of aging, clean living or etiquette – brats focus more on having fun, embracing their community and unapologetically embracing individuality.

One of the trademark mantras of brat summer is to be “so Julia,” a reference to Charli's song “360” and actress and model Julia Fox, who was featured in the single's music video. On the Zach Sang Show, Fox said being “so Julia” means “just being that girl.”

It's “being confident, putting yourself out there, being out, being about, being the center of attention.”

Dressing for a 'brat summer': Y2K fashion and green galore

Brat summer also uses fashion as cultural signifiers, uplifting styles that are bold, colorful and sometimes provocative, often inspired by Gen Z's revival of Y2K fashion.

According to Charli, the brat summer essentials can go “luxury or trashy.” There are no specific rules for how to dress, because being a brat is all about embracing your individuality.

See **BRAT SUMMER**, Page 4D

MOVIES

Science in 'Twisters' is mostly fiction

Marco della Cava
USA TODAY

Spoiler alert! We're discussing important plot points and the ending of this summer's tornado-chasing thriller "Twisters" (in theaters now), so blow on down the road if you haven't seen it yet.

"Twisters" has twin interwoven storylines driving the mayhem forward.

One is the tension-filled chemistry between the disaster movie's protagonists, dueling storm chasers Kate Carter (Daisy Edgar-Jones) and Tyler Owens (Glen Powell). The actors bring a believable zip to the brewing relationship.

The other is Kate's lifelong obsession with figuring out how to use science to make a raging tornado vanish literally into thin air. And on that count, we have largely ventured into the realm of the improbable.

Kevin Kelleher was a tornado consultant both on director Lee Isaac Chung's Oklahoma-rooted tale as well as Jan de Bont's 1996 original "Twister." Kelleher spent most of his career at the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Oklahoma.

The first film focused on deploying tiny flying balls into a tornado to better understand the DNA of that windy phenomenon. "It was accurate except for the fact that we didn't have tiny computers that could fit in small balls 30 years ago," he says.

Can you make a tornado vanish as in 'Twisters'?

Kelleher says that while it's now conceivable to replicate the tech in "Twister," that's not the case for "Twisters."

In the updated version, Kate's brainstorm involves chasing a massive tornado and performing a timed release of a few dozen big canisters of chemicals into the updraft, which reacts with the moisture in the funnel and eventually causes it to weaken and disappear.

Such tech obviously would be a boon to those communities that suffer damage and loss of life every year at the hand of tornados, largely Midwestern and Southern states. The science is technically sound.

"There are chemicals that can absorb water, and as we know, moisture and rain is a fuel for thunderstorms," Kelleher says. "Theoretically, if you remove moisture, you diminish the effects of a



Lily (Sasha Lane) is almost sucked into a tornado but for a helping hand from Tyler (Glen Powell) in "Twisters."

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MELINDA SUE GORDON/UNIVERSAL/WARNER BROS. AND AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT



From left, actors Daisy Edgar-Jones and Powell, and director Lee Isaac Chung take a break during the filming of "Twisters" in tornado-plagued Oklahoma. The science portrayed in the movie is somewhat accurate.

tornado."

That is indeed what we see in "Twisters" as Daisy single-handedly defuses a massive tornado as it's about to level a nearby town. She does so by driving a pickup into the path of the storm and dramatically popping the tops off her chemicals, watching as they are sucked into the vortex and, ultimately, neutral-

ize the threat.

Unfortunately, Kelleher says, what we see in "Twisters" is not possible – for now.

"It's a matter of scale, really," he says, adding tornado experts agree that "to have any sort of effect remotely like this, you'd likely need 22,000 tons of this stuff, which you obviously couldn't just back onto a pickup truck's trailer and drive into a storm. So it's pretty science fiction at this point."

Radar panels that detect a tornado's shape do exist

There's another high-tech component to "Twisters" that's worthy of inquiry. It involves a second group of storm chasers led by Javi (Anthony Ramos) who are trying to get more data by quickly surrounding the moving funnels with three door-sized radar panels that use triangulated data to conjure a computer-generated image of the tornado's structure.

In the movie, Javi and his team jump out of their trucks and within seconds pop their radar shields into place. Does such equipment exist? Yes and no.

Again, it's about scale.

"For the movie, they basically miniaturized the radar (shields)," Kelleher says.

"There really are devices that can (take images of tornado shapes), but to hop in and out of vans like that with them, no way. And they forgot that each one needs its own generator."

Kelleher says tornado science is an ever-evolving pursuit of data on a quirk of nature that repeatedly defies full understanding.

The minute you think a tornado is about to form and touch down, it will vanish. And vice versa, as blue skies seem to morph into a menacing horizon in mere moments.

But given the lives and property damage at stake, the research into understanding this elusive phenomenon will continue, no matter how daunting the task, he says.

Even small jumps in knowledge can lead to earlier warnings that might cut death tolls.

In the end, "Mother Nature is powerful, and we are not. Our ability to influence and change the weather is minimal."

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Maguire, Chee spur talk of age gaps in relationships

Charles Trepany
USA TODAY

Age-gap relationships have once again entered public discourse, this time thanks to Tobey Maguire.

The "Spider-Man" star, 49, and model Lily Chee, 20, sparked relationship rumors after they were photographed together at a Fourth of July party, according to photos published in Page Six. The two have not publicly commented on the rumors. USA TODAY has reached out to Maguire's representatives for comment.

Yet their silence hasn't stopped people on the internet from mocking even the idea of Maguire dating someone so much younger than he is. "If she could magically double her age right now, she'd still be a decade younger than you," a TikTokker says in a video. "That's not weird?"

Age-gap relationships aren't uncommon among celebrities – just take 49-year-old Sarah Paulson and 81-year-old Holland Taylor, for example. Or 21-year-old Aoki Lee Simmons and 65-year-old Vittorio Assaf. Or 37-year-old Kristin Cavallari and 24-year-old Mark Estes.

Mental health experts tell USA TODAY that age-gap relationships have unique challenges, and it's critical to consider the power dynamics involved to have a happy, healthy and safe relationship.

Maguire, Chee and society's age-gap obsession

Hollywood has a storied history of famous couples with notable age gaps, such as Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Boggart (25-year gap) or Marilyn Monroe and Joe Dimaggio (12-year gap). More recently, Kylie Jenner and Tyga (who met when Jenner was 14 and Tyga was 21) and Florence Pugh and Zach Braff (a 21-year gap) have raised eyebrows, as have several of Scott Disick's relationships.



Tobey Maguire, 49, has been spotted with model Lily Chee, 20, sparking age-gap relationship discourse. The two have yet to comment publicly.

JESSE GRANT/GETTY IMAGES; EUGENE GOLOGURSKY/GETTY IMAGES

Some have called out their former, older partners after feeling taken advantage of. Take Demi Lovato's single "29," which was adopted by myriad TikTok users calling out their own past relationships. "Finally 29/Funny, just like you were at the time/Thought it was a teenage dream, just a fantasy/But was it yours or was it mine? 17, 29," Lovato sings in "29," rumored to be about ex Wilmer Valderrama.

When Taylor Swift, 34, rereleased her 2012 album "Red," she updated her breakup ballad "All Too Well," allegedly about actor Jake Gyllenhaal (who is nine years her senior), to include callouts to an age difference.

The media tends to portray age-gap romances in a one-dimensional manner: The older man, wealthy and stable, has the power – socially, financially and even sexually – while his attractive, young, dependent "trophy wife" offers one thing: beauty. Public discourse



around age-gap relationships also can be brutal when an older woman dates a younger man, as evidenced by the label "cougar," which paints older women as wild animals on the prowl.

Ultimately, for any couple with an age gap to have a successful romance, both people need to see each other as equals and drown out the noise surrounding their relationship.

"You have to be confident in your relationship," Janet Morrison, a certified sex and relationship coach, has told USA TODAY. "The biggest external factor that influences most of these relationships is not the age but the response and acceptance of the relationship by peers."

Can age-gap relationships work?

Experts agree the biggest pitfall of an age-gap relationship is when it veers into toxic power imbalances. This hap-

pens when a couple can't see or treat each other as equals in the relationship, or when both partners don't have an equal voice in the relationship.

Meghan Gillen, a professor of psychology at Penn State Abington who studies developmental psychology and body image, has told USA TODAY that individuals in age-gap relationships should evaluate the situation for themselves.

"Does it feel appropriate? Does it feel comfortable? Do you feel like you can relate to the person ... or do you feel like the person has power over you?"

Younger partners in particular also need to stay vigilant of potential gender, social and power dynamics at play.

"Significant age-gap relationships require more work than the average relationship, from the public's perception alone," Rori Sassoon, a relationship expert and matchmaker, has told USA TODAY. "If you're only in it to feed your ego, beware."

Other difficulties can come up, too. Ian Kerner, a therapist and sex and relationship specialist, says it can be hard for couples with large age gaps to integrate family and friends into each other's lives. It also can be hard to find common interests and activities.

To combat this, Kerner says it's essential to find things both people enjoy doing together.

"When it comes to dating, date within an age range where you feel confident and comfortable," Sassoon has told USA TODAY, urging singles to find a partner with similar "levels of life experience and intentions of the relationship."

And remember, there are plenty of examples of healthy, thriving relationships with significant age gaps.

"Humans find connection in all sorts of places," says Erik Anderson, a licensed marriage and family therapist. "As long as both parties are able to consent, we shouldn't be so critical of relationships."

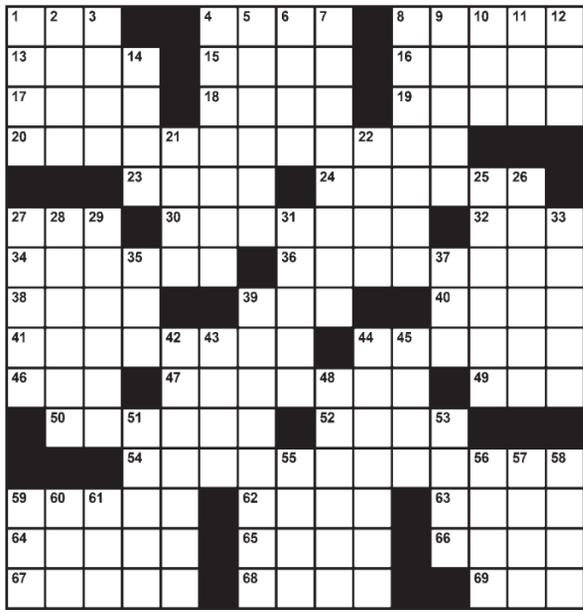
Contributing: David Oliver

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Amanda Rafkin
BY Rachel Fabi

BACKPACK

- ACROSS**
- 1 Little devil
 - 4 Email from a prince, probably
 - 8 Fever and Dream, for two
 - 13 Pieces of formal neckwear
 - 15 Prefix meaning "one thousand"
 - 16 Towers of ___ (logic puzzle)
 - 17 Genesis garden
 - 18 "Descent ___ Avernus" (D&D adventure)
 - 19 Country that celebrates Sham El-Nessim
 - 20 American name for a particular 1980 hockey game
 - 23 Where to find a life line
 - 24 Tangles
 - 27 Not great
 - 30 Place to pick up some oolong
 - 32 Org. that designates Superfund sites
 - 34 In the thick of
 - 36 Economical lodging option
 - 38 Alaska city where the Iditarod ends
 - 39 Illuminated
 - 40 Regarding
 - 41 Boeing 747 or Airbus A380, e.g.
 - 44 Lustrous fabric
 - 46 "The loneliest number"
 - 47 Took a garden hose to
 - 49 Streets (Abbr.)
 - 50 Fads
 - 52 Big test
 - 54 2008, 2020 and 2032, in the Chinese zodiac
 - 59 Peeled
 - 62 Theater award that aptly sounds like the first letters of "Off" and "Broadway"
 - 63 Per person
- DOWN**
- 1 Collected object in a video game
 - 2 Size between mini and maxi
 - 3 Colleague
 - 4 Frying pan
 - 5 Movie theater
 - 6 Range below soprano
 - 7 Very ambitious project
 - 8 Where P-Town is
 - 9 ___ beaver
 - 10 "No preference!"
 - 11 Floor washer
 - 12 Use a chair
 - 14 Zipper alternative
 - 21 Pets that use scratching posts
 - 22 When some ties are broken



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7/22

- 64 Existential boredom
- 65 Period before Easter
- 66 Word before "cap" or "jerk"
- 67 Adjust to change
- 68 Caustic substances
- 69 Make an effort
- 25 The ___ of two evils
- 26 Deliberately hurt
- 27 Twangy instrument
- 28 Quantity
- 29 Light switch that slides
- 31 Strike down mightily
- 33 Central parts of neurons
- 35 Politician Haaland
- 37 Back muscle, for short
- 39 "Move out, team!"
- 42 Took accountability
- 43 "Girls Trip" actress Pinkett Smith
- 44 Groups of six
- 45 ___ Belle Thoms (co-founder of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses)
- 48 Hone
- 51 Examine closely
- 53 Shy
- 55 Follow the commands of
- 56 Tirade
- 57 Taiwanese computer company
- 58 ___/them (certain pronoun pair)
- 59 Potpie morsel
- 60 As well as
- 61 Messenger molecule

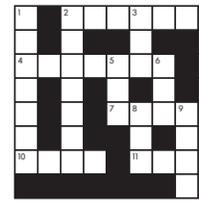
Friday's Answer



7/19

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TXTPERT

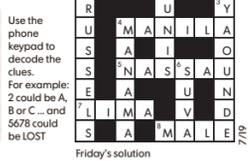


- Across**
- 2. 267725
 - 4. 3363763
 - 7. 9333
 - 10. 4283
 - 11. 793
- Down**
- 1. 2833464
 - 2. 2667678
 - 3. 786
 - 5. 769
 - 6. 393
 - 8. 327
 - 9. 3739

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Today's theme

Agriculture



Friday's solution

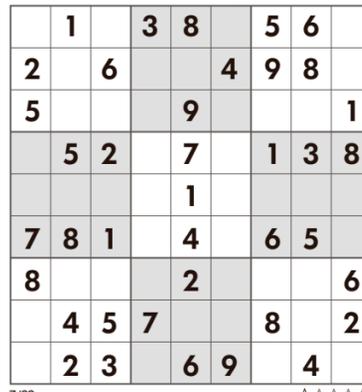
Numbers

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



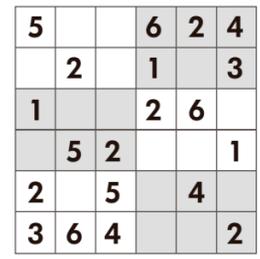
7/22

DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

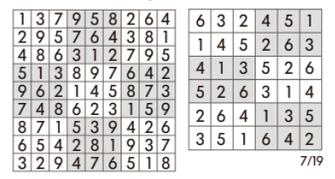
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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).



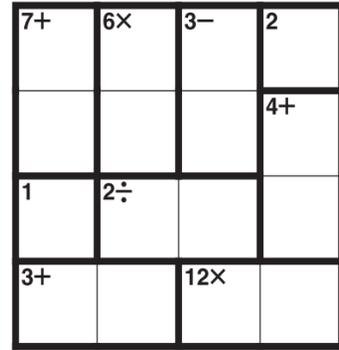
DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

Friday's Answers



7/19

KENKEN



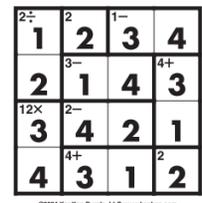
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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

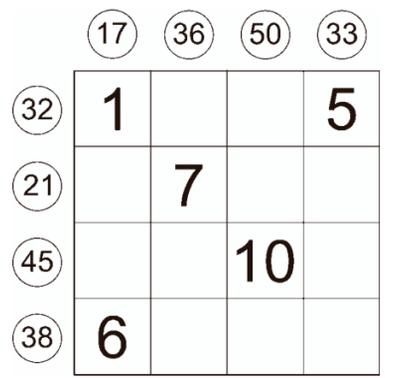
FRIDAY'S SOLUTION



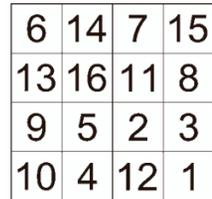
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KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo Difficulty: HARD



Solution to Friday's puzzle



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Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

- Find and Circle:
- Three evergreen trees
 - Three words with Y in the middle
 - Apollo 11 astronauts (last names)
 - Three words with ZZ in the middle
 - Actress Hayek

Friday's answer: BATMAN SCREAM ALIEN ROCKY CRANK SHREK JAWS / HOSPITAL RESIDENT BACHELOR ACTIVATE / OCEAN INLET / MAINE / TRUE

7/22

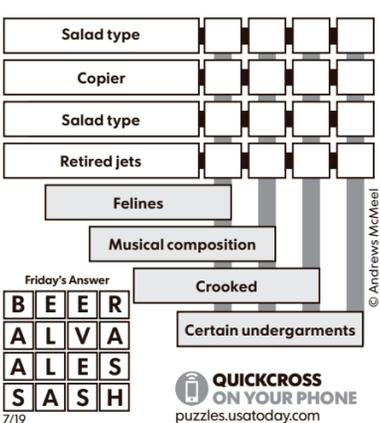


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QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

7/22



UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

7/22



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BONUS CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 On ___ (equal)
 - 5 Reduce
 - 10 Prohibitions
 - 14 Terry garment
 - 15 Lone Ranger's sidekick
 - 16 "Woe is me!"
 - 17 Sept
 - 18 Rose oil
 - 19 Wheelbarrow
 - 20 Wonderland's Mad —
 - 22 Wildly inconsistent
 - 24 Tall grass
 - 25 Airborne toy
 - 26 First appearance
 - 30 Roofed projection on a housetop
 - 34 Exist
 - 37 Dressed to the —
 - 39 Spinet
 - 40 Fiddling despot
 - 42 Ancient garment
 - 44 "No ifs, — or buts"
 - 45 Inventor Nikola —
 - 47 Alloy
 - 49 Compass pt.
 - 50 Heavy hammer
 - 52 Neither hot nor cold
 - 54 Singer — Amos
- DOWN**
- 1 Foot part
 - 2 Of a northern region
 - 3 Lessen
 - 4 Hired
 - 5 Play the lead
 - 6 Destiny
 - 7 Money for the pot
 - 8 Bare
 - 9 Simply awful
 - 10 Germs
 - 11 Jai —
 - 12 DEA agent, for short
 - 13 Defunct airliner
 - 21 Paradise
 - 23 On the summit of
 - 56 Common houseplant
 - 59 Bandit
 - 62 Brook
 - 64 Wander
 - 65 List of candidates
 - 67 Ancient Peruvian
 - 68 Press
 - 69 Not of this world
 - 70 Flit
 - 71 Stein contents
 - 72 Cavalry animal
 - 73 General Robert —

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION



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- 27 Nipped
- 28 E pluribus —
- 29 Doctrine
- 31 Horse's hair
- 32 Brings to a close
- 33 American Beauty
- 34 Emmets
- 35 Film spool
- 36 Gaelic
- 38 Building locale
- 41 Experienced one (hyph.)
- 43 Upper limit
- 46 Eager
- 48 Pump some iron
- 51 Effaces
- 53 Laugh at
- 55 Fjord
- 57 Of the kidney
- 58 Pearly substance
- 59 Caliber
- 60 Craze
- 61 Be bold
- 62 Do a farm job
- 63 Term in chess
- 64 Massage
- 66 Game outcome

DON'T QUOTE ME

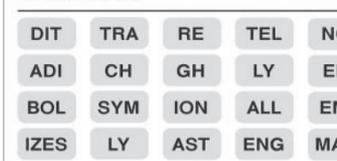
Composer Leonard Bernstein talks about achievements.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
ACHIEVE ENOUGH NEEDED NOT THINGS THINGS

TO _____ GREAT _____, TWO _____ ARE _____; A PLAN, AND _____ QUITE _____ TIME.

7 LITTLE WORDS

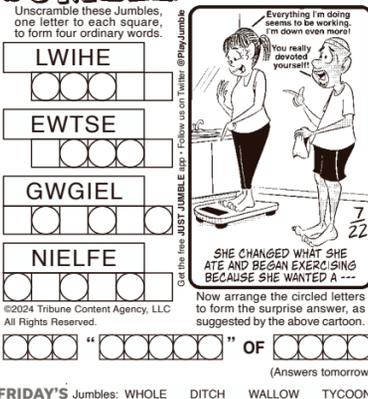
- Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.
- CLUES**
- 1 established ritual (9)
 - 2 enjoying a book (7)
 - 3 fireplace ledge (6)
 - 4 questioned assumptions (10)
 - 5 older Deschanel sister (5)
 - 6 awful (7)
 - 7 represents (10)
- SOLUTIONS**



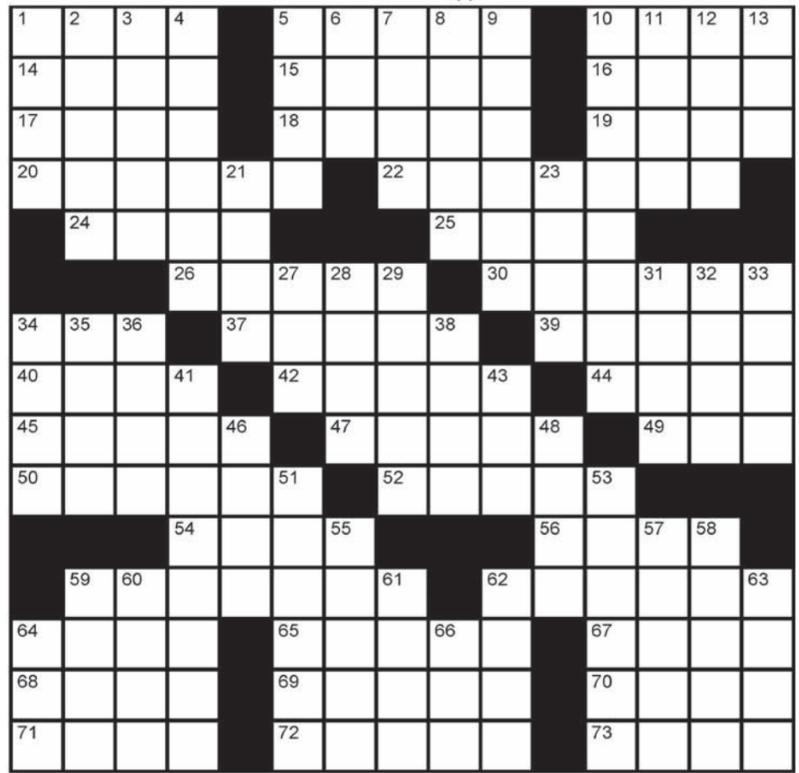
Friday's Answers: 1. KANSANS 2. TAPPING 3. CHARS 4. ELIMINATED 5. PROJECTOR 6. CARELL 7. SEISMIC

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



FRIDAY'S Jumbles: WHOLE DITCH WALLOW TYCOON
Answer: The dog that had arrived from northern China was hungry and ready to — CHOW CHOW DOWN



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

You can thaw out your ‘functional freeze’

David Oliver

USA TODAY

Fight. Flight. Freeze?

Yes, our bodies react in all kinds of ways to all kinds of stressors, one of which is to “freeze,” i.e., shut down physically, mentally and emotionally. This might make sense in the case of a life-threatening situation, but not something that makes sense for everyday life like going to work, casually dating, or meeting up with a group of friends. And it *really* doesn’t make sense when you’re under the covers at home not planning to move and not texting people back because even simple tasks feel overwhelming (at least according to one viral TikTok).

This phenomenon is known as a “functional freeze.” It’s not a clinical term, but you might hear such names as freeze response, autopilot mode, or stress paralysis if you’re talking to a therapist about similar feelings. Or you might have a more common diagnosis including depression or anxiety that’s manifesting as a freeze.

Everyone might experience a freeze from time to time, but mental health professionals encourage people to watch out for warning signs in case something more serious develops.

“People are able to engage in kind of the bare minimum basic functioning, so still going to work and engaging with others, but performance may slip,” says T.M. Robinson-Mosley, counseling psychologist. “Relationships may not be as healthy or productive. Communication may be a challenge. You may cancel plans and it just is really difficult.”

Why do people functionally freeze?

Why does this freezing happen? Think of stressors adding up like tiles in a game of Tetris. Block after block that



Signs of functional freeze include ongoing low levels of depression and anxiety, a desire to isolate from others and difficulty taking care of yourself and exhaustion.

KANNIKA PAISON/GETTY IMAGES

builds and builds until it’s game over.

“Everyday stress can build to a level that’s overwhelming for your body – but how that stress is expressed will be different for everyone,” says Miranda Nadeau, a licensed psychologist. Freezing can happen anywhere: at home, at a big work meeting, a public speaking event, or a tense conversation. You might be a so-called “functional freezer” “if you find yourself mentally and physically stuck in place, going through the motions on autopilot.” It’s another response beyond getting angry (fighting) or outright canceling (fleeing).

“Functional freeze allows you to continue going about your life, but in a robotic, disconnected way,” Nadeau adds. “It’s like your brain hits pause on emotional engagement to keep you operational in the short term.”

It’s associated with “bed rotting,” another social media-friendly term meaning when a person stays in bed, either for an entire day or for an extended peri-

od of a day, without engaging in any daily activities or chores, according to Mosley. Scrolling on your phone to unwind isn’t a problem in moderation, of course. It’s the interference with other activities that raises eyebrows.

People who functionally freeze may seem all right on the outside but privately struggle. “They may appear high functioning, socializing with others and keeping up the outward appearance of normalcy, yet internally they’re feeling emotionally numb, stuck and dissociated from the world around them,” says Chase Cassine, licensed clinical social worker. “However, they’re going through the motions to ‘survive in life; not thrive in it.’”

What are signs of functional freeze?

Signs of functional freeze include ongoing low levels of depression and anxiety, a desire to isolate from others, difficulty taking care of yourself and exhaustion, according to Mosley.

It could also show up in other ways:

- **Emotional numbness.** “You sit through a stressful meeting without feeling anxious, only to realize later that you can’t remember much of what was talked about,” Nadeau says.

- **Strict routines.** Maybe you move through your daily tasks with precision and refuse to deviate in favor of creativity or spontaneity.

- **Procrastination and indecision.** “You might avoid taking action because you’re stuck in a state of overthinking and paralysis,” Nadeau adds.

Keep in mind, too, that “functional freeze is not a clear diagnosis,” Mosley says. “It could simply be the indication that something else is happening,” i.e., anxiety, depression, another mental health condition. You may experience a functional freeze for a day or two, but two weeks or more suggests more is go-

ing on.

Consider it in terms of frequency, intensity and time. Can you not remember the last time you felt good? Does your worry feel excessive? How long have you felt like this?

Is there a way to stop functional freezing?

If this sounds like you, don’t panic. You have options.

- **Reduce your stress.** Try mindful breathing, exercise, or stretching. You could even take more breaks during the day as you can, even as small as 15 minutes.

- **Remember that less is more.** Create an “it’s done” list to identify what you’ve already accomplished. “Sometimes we can feel really fatigued and also really demotivated when we’re unable to see progress,” Mosley says.

- **Ground yourself.** Literally, go “grounding,” i.e., take a barefoot walk on the grass. Yoga or deep breathing also could help you connect to the present moment. Knitting, gardening and hiking are great options too.

- **Switch up your routine.** Make a left instead of a right on the way to work. Or are there other tasks you’ve been putting off doing that you can mix in with your regular ones?

- **Get in touch with your emotions.** “Practice naming your emotions, even if they’re uncomfortable,” Nadeau says. “Journaling or talking with a trusted confidant can help you process what you’re feeling instead of numbing out.”

- **Seek mental health treatment.** If you’re struggling to “unfreeze” yourself, it may be time to ask for professional help. “In working with a qualified therapist, a collaborative effort can assist the client in identifying and providing tools to help the brain and nervous system feel safe, centered and grounded,” Cassine says.

Game shows

Continued from Page 1D

12. ‘The Wall’

NBC, Mondays, 10 EDT/PDT

This Chris Hardwick-hosted and LeBron James-produced series gives out cash based on trivia questions and the results of a Plinko-like “big board” with balls dropping toward cash additions or subtractions to the prize pot. There always are heartwarming stories, but Hardwick is a grating host and the game play really drags.

11. ‘Celebrity Family Feud’

ABC, Tuesdays, 8 EDT/PDT

If you like Steve Harvey, you’ll like his version of the classic “survey says” game show. If you don’t like Harvey, this is not for you. Too corny. Too much. Even in a flashy genre like game shows, there is such a thing as subtlety. “Family Feud” knows no such thing (even with the Golden Bachelor in tow).

10. ‘The 1% Club’

Fox, Mondays, 9 EDT/PDT (also streaming on Amazon Prime)

Patton Oswalt hosts this new show that tests whether 100 contestants are as smart as the smartest 1% of Americans. The group is asked increasingly difficult questions until only a few players are left, and those remaining split a \$100,000 prize, with chances to bank smaller winnings by exiting the game along the way. Although Oswalt is funny, the format is pretty dull, with complicated questions that aren’t fun to play along with at home and too many contestants to get emotionally attached to any of them.

9. ‘Lucky 13’

ABC, Thursdays, 9 EDT/PDT

Another new entry, hosted by Gina Rodriguez and Shaquille O’Neal, is a

variation on “Who Wants to Be A Millionaire” mixed with “Deal or No Deal.” Contestants answer 13 true-or-false questions, then guess how many of them they got correct. The more accurate they are with their answers and their guesses, the more money they make, up to \$1 million. But they also can make money for wrong answers – if they predict that they got those answers wrong. But if their score doesn’t match up with their predictions, then they could leave with nothing. It’s kind of fun but convoluted, and unfortunately, Rodriguez and O’Neill aren’t nearly as charming as the best hosts on this list.

8. ‘I Can See Your Voice’

Fox, Thursdays, 8 EDT/PDT

Ken Jeong hosts this reverse “Masked Singer,” in which contestants guess whether performers are good or bad singers based on their lip-syncing ability, background info, a Q&A and input from a panel of C-list celebrities. It’s fun to play along at home, but whether the contestants win is random. And Jeong is an acquired taste.

7. ‘Let’s Make a Deal’

CBS, Wednesdays, 8 EDT/PDT starting Aug. 7

The syndicated staple gets a prime-time run this summer with the same audience costumes, ridiculous zonks and cash and prizes hidden behind Curtain No. 3. If you like frenzy, bright colors and Wayne Brady, this is the show for you.

6. ‘Beat Shazam’

Fox, Tuesdays, 8 EDT/PDT

One of many Fox game shows for music lovers but the only one for Jamie Foxx lovers, “Shazam” takes its title from the popular music-recognizing app, as teams try to be first to recognize the song playing. Successful teams will go up



Shaquille O’Neal and Gina Rodriguez host ‘Lucky 13.’

PROVIDED BY RONDA CHURCHILL/DISNEY

against the AI for big bucks at the end. Hosted by Foxx and DJ’ed by his daughter Corinne, the show is more of jukebox party than a tense competition, but there’s nothing wrong with jamming to hit songs.

5. ‘Name that Tune’

Fox, Mondays, 8 EDT/PDT

This one is the *other* Fox game show about recognizing music, hosted by Jane Krakowski and with Randy Jackson at the piano, a slightly more dynamic pair. The original “Tune” dates to the 1970s, and this game requires more musical acuity than “Shazam.” In one round contestants try to identify songs by only a pun-filled clue and a single note. But it’s fun to play along with at home. How many notes does it take *you* to identify Billy Joel’s “Moving Out”?

4 ‘Press Your Luck’

ABC, Thursdays, 8 EDT/PDT

ABC has revived a number of game shows the past few years, but its latest might just be its best. “Luck,” hosted by the ever-charming Elizabeth Banks, re-creates the gloriously 1970s set, music and even the hand-drawn “Whammy” cartoons of the original. The game, in which contestants spin for the chance to win cash and prizes while trying to avoid Whammy spaces that drain their banks, gets a small update with

a whopper of a bonus round. Still adorable without being annoying, and the good kind of nostalgia.

3. ‘Who Wants to Be a Millionaire’

ABC, Wednesdays, 8 EDT/PDT

The staple \$1 million dollar prize is worth less now thanks to inflation, but the winning format of this 25-year-old game show remains the same. This year, pairs of celebrities are competing for charity as host Jimmy Kimmel asks increasingly difficult multiple-choice questions, and the interplay and banter from contestants such as John Mulaney and Nick Kroll is almost better than the game show. We’ll see if any of them can join celebrity chef David Chang as the only famous faces ever to win the seven-figure prize money.

2. ‘Password’

NBC, Tuesdays, 10 EDT/PDT

Sometimes the most entertaining game shows have low stakes and less money but are high on laughs. The revival of this classic quiz show is a delight thanks mostly to host Keke Palmer, whose mix of zany and sarcastic humor is a perfect fit for this format. Competitors are going for only a \$25,000 prize, but that makes it less of a loss when their celebrity partners completely mess up easy clues.

1. ‘Don’t Forget the Lyrics’

Fox, Thursdays, 8 EDT/PDT

Niecy Nash is the perfect kind of bold and musically talented host for a show that turns our collective memory of song lyrics into a competition for big money. Of all the musical game shows on the air, this one finds a way to deploy both its dance tunes and the high stakes of potentially winning \$1 million in the most emotional and enjoyable way. Going on journeys with successful contestants who just can’t remember Devo lyrics and might lose a bundle might remind you of the heart-stopping early seasons of “Millionaire,” only with more karaoke.

Brat summer

Continued from Page 1D

But if there were to be a dress code, there would probably be a lot of Von Dutch trucker hats, baby tees and “strappy white tank tops,” paired with low-rise jorts or a miniskirt.

Brat also is a color: slime green. Clothing and makeup brands have got-

ten on board, pushing out their green products through “BRAT”-themed marketing techniques.

ColourPop Cosmetics posted a guide for “brat inspired makeup” with their “lime green faves.”

Kate Spade shared a “brat summer starter pack” with green purses, hats and swimwear. And athleisure brand Adanola has teased a “brat summer collection” with the caption “BRAT, but make it Adanola.”

No one does ‘brat summer’ better than Charli herself

The pop singer, 31, has had her own brat summer as well, entwining debauchery and classiness. From hosting DJ sets with her friends, including Addison Rae, Julia Fox and fiancé George Daniel of The 1975, in Brooklyn, London, Ibiza and Glastonbury, to watching tennis matches at Wimbledon, Charli is showing that a brat can have it all.

While celebrities such as the cast of “Twisters” (Glen Powell, Daisy Edgar Jones and Anthony Ramos), Jake Shane and Alix Earle, “Chicken Shop Date” host Amelia Dimoldenberg, Matty Healy’s fiancé Gabbriette and Ashley Tisdale, are taking part in brat summer, you can’t beat the original.

As Charli sings on “Von dutch”: “It’s OK to just admit that you’re jealous of me/You’re obsessing, just confess it ’cause it’s obvious.”

NATION & WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE

Thousands protest in Spain's Mallorca against mass tourism, 9NN

BIDEN BOWS OUT

'It is in the best interest of my party and my country for me to stand down,' president says in statement

Joey Garrison and Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden said Sunday he is ending his bid for reelection amid intense pressure from Democratic leaders sounding the alarm that his path to beat former President Donald Trump in November has vanished. • The president's historic withdrawal throws the 2024 race – already roiled by a shocking attempt on the Republican presidential nominee's life – into uncertain territory, with Vice President Kamala Harris widely seen as the Democrat most likely to take Biden's place atop the party's ticket. • Biden made the announcement from his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where he has self-isolated since testing positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday night. • "It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President," Biden said in a written statement. "And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and my country for me to stand down and to focus solely on my duties as President for the rest of my term."

See BIDEN EXIT, Page 3NN



GET THE LATEST

Scan the QR code to read updates on

Biden's decision to withdraw from the 2024 presidential race at [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com).

President Joe Biden's decision not to seek reelection comes after he faced calls from an increasing number of Democratic legislators, donors, political pundits, and media outlets to end his campaign. SAMUEL CORUM/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE



Harris could replace Biden as Dem nominee

VP formerly served as senator, attorney general

Phillip M. Bailey, Nick Penzenstadler, Francesca Chambers and Deborah Barfield Berry
USA TODAY

Vice President Kamala Harris has been on a yo-yo string with Democratic Party bigwigs since President Joe Biden's cataclysmic debate performance catapulted her boss out of the likelihood of a 2024 nomination.

Harris emerged as the most logical replacement for Biden at the top of the ticket after the president wore his frailty on national TV just over three weeks ago.

Allies disseminated a logic about why Harris would be the natural



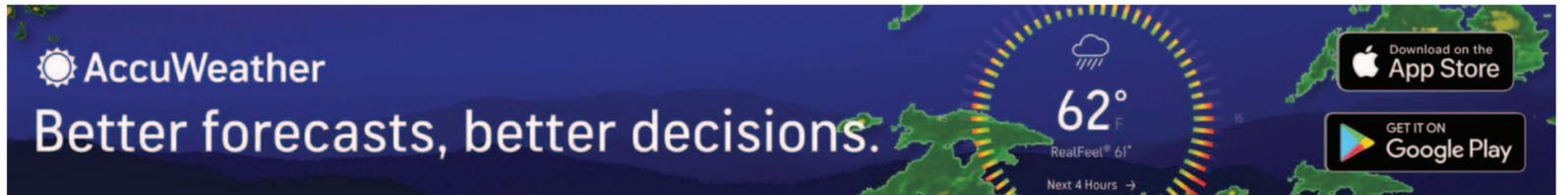
Kamala Harris emerged as the most logical replacement for President Joe Biden at the top of the ticket after the president wore his frailty on national TV just over three weeks ago. REBECCA COOK/REUTERS FILE

successor: She could seamlessly inherit the campaign's massive funds; her law enforcement background is best suited to prosecute the political case against Republican Donald Trump; polling shows she can win; and having been the nation's first multiracial and female VP could galvanize a new generation of younger progressives.

But from the start, there has been a hesitancy to fully embrace the country's second-in-command, with some Democrats openly overlooking her. When a group of 24 former House Democrats sent Biden a letter last week lobbying for an open convention in August, it made no mention of Harris.

The 59-year-old former prosecutor may see the obvious strategic page turn for the party as well as a

See HARRIS, Page 6NN

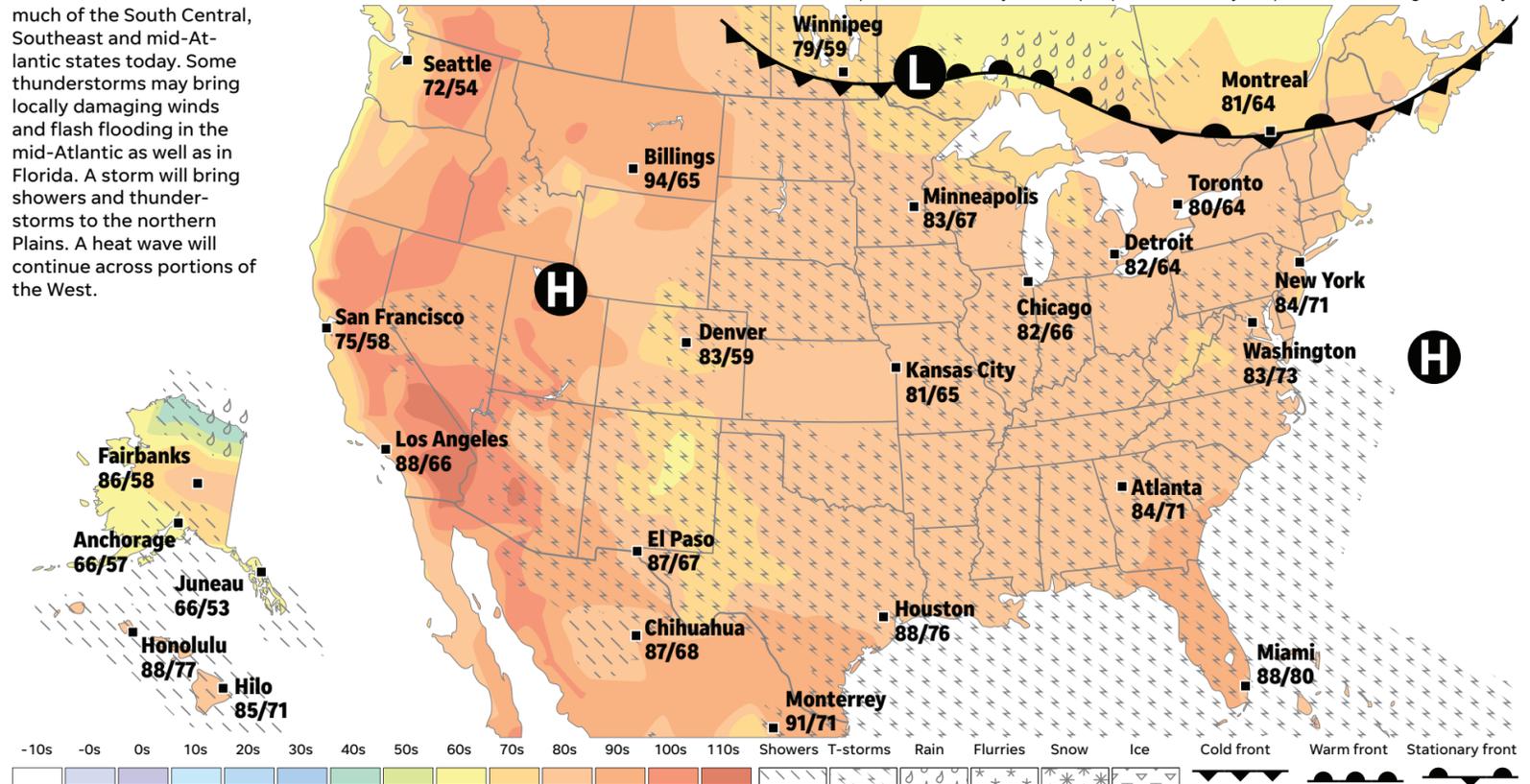


NATIONAL SUMMARY

Thunderstorms will dot much of the South Central, Southeast and mid-Atlantic states today. Some thunderstorms may bring locally damaging winds and flash flooding in the mid-Atlantic as well as in Florida. A storm will bring showers and thunderstorms to the northern Plains. A heat wave will continue across portions of the West.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Monday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 115 at Palm Springs, CA
Low: 37 at Walden, CO
Precip: 2.66" at Galveston, TX

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High: 120 at Nasiriya, Iraq
Low: 15 at Wepener, South Africa
Precip: 6.34" at Surat, India

TODAY IN HISTORY

On July 22, 1918, one lightning strike killed 504 sheep in Wasatch National Park, Utah. In one year, lightning often kills more people than floods, tornadoes or hurricanes do.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: An aurora gives off a thousand, a million or a trillion watts of energy?

A: One trillion watts

NATIONAL CITIES MONDAY

	High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality
● Aberdeen, SD	89/64/t	71	● Evansville, IN	84/68/t	63	● Levittown, PA	87/71/t	62
● Abilene, TX	85/69/t	51	● Fall River, MA	86/71/pc	52	● Lincoln, IL	83/62/pc	68
● Accomac, VA	80/73/t	48	● Farmington, NM	88/64/t	67	● Louisville, KY	85/71/t	60
Adrian, MI	81/62/pc	49	● Fayetteville, NC	85/74/t	35	● Lubbock, TX	79/64/t	52
Alamogordo, NM	81/65/c	64	● Fond du Lac, WI	82/63/pc	36	● Manitowoc, WI	77/65/pc	29
● Alexandria, VA	83/72/t	69	● Fort Myers, FL	90/75/t	49	● Mansfield, OH	82/64/pc	55
Alliance, OH	80/63/c	66	● Fort Smith, AR	84/70/t	53	● Marshall, NC	77/65/t	37
Amarillo, TX	81/63/t	62	● Framingham, MA	87/69/pc	43	● Marshfield, WI	79/61/pc	38
Ames, IA	80/64/pc	53	● Freeport, IL	80/63/pc	50	● Massillon, OH	82/64/c	63
● Anderson, SC	85/71/t	30	● Fremont, OH	83/66/pc	50	● McLean, VA	82/71/t	66
● Appleton, WI	83/63/pc	30	● Fort Collins, CO	84/58/t	79	● Melbourne, FL	89/76/t	43
● Asheville, NC	80/65/t	38	● Gadsden, AL	86/70/t	33	● Memphis, TN	85/71/t	72
Ashland, OH	81/63/c	53	● Gainesville, FL	92/73/t	35	● Middletown, NY	85/68/t	56
● Athens, GA	85/70/t	31	● Galesburg, IL	83/61/pc	59	● Milford, MA	86/69/pc	42
● Augusta, GA	89/73/t	31	● Gastonia, NC	82/71/t	33	● Milwaukee, WI	80/66/pc	39
● Austin, TX	87/73/t	32	● Glen Rose, TX	84/71/t	58	● Monroe, MI	80/64/pc	48
Bartlesville, OK	84/63/pc	49	● Gonzales, LA	87/75/t	34	● Monroe, LA	90/73/t	52
Battle Creek, MI	82/62/pc	52	● Great Falls, MT	96/63/pc	70	● Montgomery, AL	87/72/t	30
● Bedford, IN	81/63/t	56	● Green Bay, WI	83/64/pc	26	● Muncie, IN	82/64/pc	62
● Binghamton, NY	82/64/t	56	● Greenville, SC	83/71/t	33	● Murfreesboro, TN	84/70/t	62
● Bluffton, SC	89/79/t	42	● Hackensack, NJ	87/71/pc	69	● Naples, FL	89/76/t	53
Bremerton, WA	74/51/pc	25	● Hagerstown, MD	79/70/t	68	● Nashville, TN	85/72/t	71
Brockton, MA	87/71/pc	48	● Hattiesburg, MS	88/73/t	26	● Neptune, NJ	82/72/pc	57
● Brownwood, TX	84/69/t	48	● Henderson, KY	82/66/t	63	● New Bedford, MA	85/71/pc	53
Burlington, IA	80/64/pc	59	● Hendersonville, NC	78/66/t	36	● New Bern, NC	86/76/t	39
● Burlington, NC	82/71/t	35	● Herkimer, NY	86/66/t	44	● New Philadelphia, OH	82/63/c	65
● Burlington, VT	85/67/c	26	● Hillsdale, MI	80/60/pc	49	● Newark, OH	82/62/pc	59
Cambridge, OH	81/64/c	68	● Holland, MI	81/60/c	51	● Newton, NJ	84/69/t	59
● Camdenton, MO	79/64/pc	50	● Hornell, NY	85/63/sh	59	● New York, NY	84/71/pc	69
Canandaigua, NY	84/65/c	53	● Houma, LA	87/75/t	40	● Norwich, CT	84/70/pc	50
Canton, OH	81/65/c	64	● Howell, MI	81/62/pc	41	● Ocala, FL	93/74/t	39
Carlsbad, NM	78/65/t	67	● Hutchinson, KS	86/64/pc	53	● Oklahoma City, OK	83/66/t	76
● Chambersburg, PA	79/70/t	66	● Hyannis, MA	81/71/pc	47	● Opelousas, LA	86/73/t	33
● Cherry Hill, NJ	87/72/t	62	● Indianapolis, IN	83/66/t	64	● Oshkosh, WI	82/64/pc	31
● Cincinnati, OH	82/66/t	53	● Iowa City, IA	81/64/pc	53	● Palm Beach, FL	87/80/t	53
● Clarksville, TN	85/70/t	61	● Ithaca, NY	83/65/sh	58	● Palm Springs, CA	113/87/s	83
Coldwater, MI	80/60/pc	52	● Jackson, MS	88/74/t	41	● Panama City, FL	89/78/t	34
● Columbus, OH	83/67/pc	60	● Jackson, TN	84/71/t	66	● Pensacola, FL	86/77/t	36
● Corning, NY	86/67/t	56	● Jacksonville, FL	91/75/t	39	● Peoria, IL	84/66/pc	67
Corpus Christi, TX	95/78/t	58	● Jacksonville, NC	84/76/t	37	● Petersburg, VA	81/73/t	43
● Daytona Beach, FL	91/75/t	66	● Kent, OH	80/63/c	60	● Phoenix, AZ	109/92/t	89
Deming, NM	87/66/t	60	● Kewanee, IL	83/62/pc	59	● Port Huron, MI	79/58/pc	37
● DeRidder, LA	87/73/t	34	● Keyser, WV	81/67/t	73	● Portsmouth, NH	83/67/s	38
Des Moines, IA	81/66/pc	51	● Kinston, NC	85/75/t	34	● Poughkeepsie, NY	87/70/t	56
Detroit, MI	82/64/pc	50	● Knoxville, TN	84/70/t	41	● Providence, RI	84/70/pc	53
● Devils Lake, ND	83/62/t	81	● Lafayette, IN	83/62/pc	61	● Pueblo, CO	83/58/t	73
Dover, NH	83/66/s	36	● Lafayette, LA	87/77/t	36	● Quincy, MA	83/71/pc	51
● El Paso, TX	87/67/t	70	● Lakeland, FL	94/75/t	63	● Redding, CA	112/78/s	53
● Elmira, NY	86/67/t	57	● Lansing, MI	82/63/pc	46	● Reno, NV	100/70/pc	70
Erie, PA	79/66/c	66	● Las Cruces, NM	87/65/t	70	● Ravenna, OH	81/62/c	61
Eugene, OR	84/51/s	37	● Lebanon, PA	83/70/t	65	● Richmond, IN	82/63/t	62
			● Leesburg, FL	93/76/t	47			

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W		Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W		Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W
● Acapulco	89/76/t	90/76/t	Cape Town	62/42/s	60/52/sh	La Paz	55/28/pc	60/29/s
Addis Ababa	69/56/sh	69/56/sh	Caracas	91/77/t	91/75/t	Lagos	84/76/c	85/75/r
Algiers	87/66/s	88/64/s	Casablanca	90/67/s	98/70/s	Lima	65/60/pc	66/60/pc
Amman	95/75/s	94/72/s	Colombo	88/80/sh	88/80/t	Lisbon	97/68/s	95/67/s
Amsterdam	72/63/pc	70/59/sh	Copenhagen	69/56/sh	71/59/pc	● London	76/62/pc	75/59/c
Ankara	99/67/s	97/67/s	● Damascus	104/71/s	103/70/s	Madrid	98/67/s	103/70/s
Asuncion	85/62/s	87/66/pc	● Dublin	69/55/sh	68/55/pc	Manila	83/78/t	84/78/t
Athens	97/78/s	98/79/s	● Geneva	79/60/sh	82/59/pc	Mexico City	71/55/r	74/58/r
Auckland	60/49/pc	60/52/s	● Guatemala City	78/64/t	81/62/t	Milan	94/74/s	90/71/t
Baghdad	113/93/pc	115/91/pc	Hanoi	90/80/t	86/79/t	Mombasa	86/70/c	84/72/pc
Bangkok	92/80/t	92/81/t	Harare	81/49/s	81/48/s	Montevideo	63/50/pc	68/57/pc
Beijing	95/78/pc	99/81/pc	Havana	91/75/t	93/76/s	Montreal	81/64/c	82/63/pc
Beirut	91/80/s	91/80/s	Helsinki	71/64/s	72/65/c	Moscow	72/55/c	76/56/r
Belgrade	90/70/pc	90/68/s	● Hong Kong	92/83/t	93/83/t	Nairobi	76/53/c	76/52/pc
Berlin	78/57/pc	81/61/pc	Jakarta	92/79/pc	91/74/pc	New Delhi	96/84/t	96/82/t
Bogota	67/50/sh	68/47/r	Jerusalem	90/70/s	90/71/s	Panama City	87/76/t	87/76/t
● Brussels	73/62/pc	73/57/r	Johannesburg	70/48/s	73/47/s	Paris	77/64/pc	77/56/sh
● Bucharest	92/68/s	93/68/pc	Kabul	95/72/s	95/69/s	Port-au-Prince	97/75/s	96/75/t
Budapest	92/70/s	87/65/pc	● Khartoum	97/79/pc	97/80/c	Rio de Janeiro	74/65/s	74/64/s
Buenos Aires	63/54/pc	65/59/c	Kyiv	84/65/s	84/66/s	Riyadh	113/89/s	113/89/s
Cairo	101/81/s	100/80/s	Kingston	92/80/pc	91/81/c	Rome	89/71/t	92/71/s
						San Jose	83/67/t	82/68/t
						● San Salvador	88/70/t	88/70/pc
						Santiago	66/42/s	55/37/sh
						Sao Paulo	78/53/s	74/54/pc
						Sarajevo	87/61/t	85/63/pc
						Shanghai	102/84/pc	99/83/pc
						Singapore	92/82/c	91/81/t
						Stockholm	73/60/pc	70/56/sh
						Sydney	67/47/pc	67/46/s
						Taipei	100/82/t	96/81/t
						● Tegucigalpa	83/67/t	85/65/pc
						Tehran	102/82/s	102/83/s
						● Tokyo	94/82/pc	94/81/pc
						Toronto	80/64/c	83/69/pc
						● Tunis	92/76/s	92/75/s
						Vancouver	73/56/s	70/57/pc
						Vienna	87/68/c	86/67/pc
						Warsaw	91/65/pc	80/60/pc
						Yerevan	85/64/s	88/66/s
						Zagreb	87/67/t	86/66/pc
						Zurich	77/62/sh	78/60/pc

● Denotes possible travel delays Monday

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

BIDEN DROPS OUT

Biden ended reelection bid on social media

Kanishka Singh REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden ended his reelection campaign on Sunday after fellow Democrats lost faith in his mental acuity and ability to beat Donald Trump. He announced his decision in a letter posted on social media, and in a subsequent post he endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be their party’s candidate.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

July 21, 2024

My Fellow Americans,

Over the past three and a half years, we have made great progress as a Nation.

Today, America has the strongest economy in the world. We’ve made historic investments in rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, and in expanding affordable health care to a record number of Americans. We’ve provided critically needed care to a million veterans exposed to toxic substances. Passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. Appointed the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. And passed the most significant climate legislation in the history of the world. America has never been better positioned to lead than we are today.

I know none of this could have been done without you, the American people. Together, we overcame a once in a century pandemic and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. We’ve protected and preserved our Democracy. And we’ve revitalized and strengthened our alliances around the world.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term.

I will speak to the Nation later this week in more detail about my decision.

For now, let me express my deepest gratitude to all those who have worked so hard to see me reelected. I want to thank Vice President Kamala Harris for being an extraordinary partner in all this work. And let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the American people for the faith and trust you have placed in me.

I believe today what I always have: that there is nothing America can’t do – when we do it together. We just have to remember we are the United States of America.



A copy of a letter released on the Facebook account of U.S. President Joe Biden states that he has ended his reelection campaign Sunday. JOE BIDEN/SOCIAL MEDIA VIA REUTERS

Biden exit

Continued from Page 1NN

Biden quickly endorsed Harris as the Democratic nominee in a separate statement on X. First lady Jill Biden on Sunday reposted the president’s message with heart emojis and retweeted her husband’s endorsement of Harris in the 2024 election.

Harris said in a statement she is honored to have Biden’s endorsement and will seek the Democratic nomination.

“With this selfless and patriotic act, President Biden is doing what he has done throughout his life of service: putting the American people and our country above everything else,” Harris said.

“My intention is to earn and win this nomination. Over the past year, I have traveled across the country, talking with Americans about the clear choice in this momentous election. And that is what I will continue to do in the days and weeks ahead. I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party – and unite our nation – to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda,” she said.

Democratic National Committee chairman Jaime Harrison said in the coming days Democrats will “undertake



After announcing he wouldn’t run for reelection, Joe Biden, left, quickly endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee in a separate statement on X. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS FILE

See BIDEN EXIT, Page 4NN

BIDEN DROPS OUT

How Biden and his inner circle blew it

Strategic missteps follow campaign to its final days

Trevor Hunnicutt
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden's decision to end his reelection campaign on Sunday followed a series of strategic missteps by his campaign team and White House aides that amplified concerns that the 81-year-old president wouldn't be able to win in November's election, or run the country for another four years.

Biden's halting performance at the June 27 presidential debate against Republican candidate Donald Trump, pushed even some of his closest allies to question whether he could endure a full campaign, and added gasoline to a smoldering Democratic Party movement questioning the wisdom of his second term.

Within days, Biden went from the party's figurehead to a liability. He became the first sitting president to stand down from a possible reelection since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.

These were some of the key moments that led to Biden's downfall.

The debate coup: April to June

Biden himself set the debate in motion, after he told radio show host Howard Stern in April that he'd debate Trump, despite worries from some of his Democratic allies that a debate might do little to improve his chances or even cast an unflattering light on him.

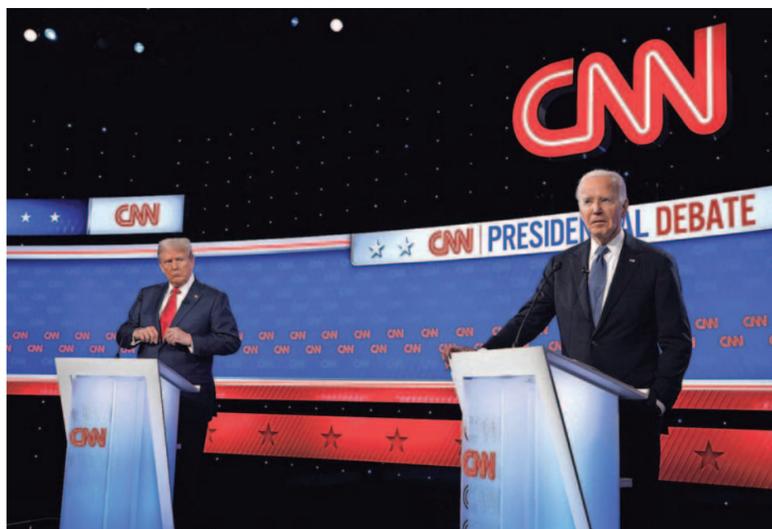
Some Biden aides thought they had scored a coup in agreeing to a June debate. They worked with broadcaster CNN to shape the rules in what they thought was their favor and agreed on May 15 to two debates, including the first on June 27.

An earlier debate would serve Biden well, some aides thought, convincing voters that there was no other anti-Trump option in the race, but also cushioning the blow of any mediocre performance by the president.

The format – no audience to pump up Trump's punchlines, no third-party candidates, moderators they could trust and a mute button on the microphones – would, they thought, favor Biden's style.

Jet lag: June 4 to 27

Biden flew to Europe twice and to the West Coast over a 14-day period before



In CNN's Atlanta studios on June 27, President Joe Biden stumbled over his words and lost his train of thought. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES FILE

taking just a few days to rest at his vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Biden was tired and dragging by the end of the travel, according to several people who observed him during this period.

He and his aides headed to Camp David for focused prep sessions on June 21, where they peppered Biden with details, then followed up with mock debates for the better part of seven days.

A bad night: June 27

In CNN's Atlanta studios, Biden stumbled over his words and lost his train of thought. His delivery, appearance and voice drew the immediate attention of reporters, who asked his aides for an explanation.

Officials told reporters as the debate was underway some new information: Biden was sick with a cold, they said.

Biden's hoarseness would improve as the debate went on but his disjointed answers took voters, donors and Democratic officials by surprise. One Democratic strategist called it "a disaster."

Trump, 78, repeated a series of well-worn, glaring falsehoods during the 90-minute debate, including claims that he actually had won the 2020 election. Biden failed to refute them, leaving sentences and thoughts unfinished.

Trump jabbed Biden for being incoherent: "I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence. I don't think he knows what he said."

Fallout: June 27 to July 2

"I know I'm not a young man, to state the obvious," Biden said the day after the debate, admitting a poor performance. "Nearly fell asleep on stage," he said on July 2.

Calls for Biden to step down would start in the hours after the debate. Calls from Biden aides to worried Democrats facing reelection campaigns, who saw their political futures flashing before their eyes, wouldn't start until days later.

Some lawmakers started to break ranks, starting with U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett on July 2, and then gathering steam.

Angry donors told Biden's aides they would need to see a turnaround in the candidate's performance. Senior Democrats and Biden allies also began to hint at changes to the ticket.

House of Representatives Democrat Jim Clyburn – a kingmaker of sorts within the Democratic Party who was instrumental in Biden's 2020 win – said on July 2 that he would back Vice President Kamala Harris if Biden did depart and suggested the idea of a "mini-primary" if Biden stepped aside.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a longtime Biden ally, said it was legitimate to ask whether Biden's performance in Atlanta was an "episode" or a condition.

She also hinted that Biden would need to examine his choice to say in the race.

The dam breaks: July 5 to 8

Biden would fail to quiet the chorus of dissent.

In his first major interview after the debate, on July 5, Biden told ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos that only the "Lord Almighty" could cast him from the race.

More worrying to some Democrats, Biden said he could accept remaining in the race and losing to Trump "as long as I gave it my all and I did as good a job as I know I can do."

Thirty-six Democratic U.S. lawmakers and one independent who caucuses with the Democrats would ultimately call for Biden to step off the ticket over the 24 days that followed the debate.

NATO, polls: July 9 to 12

Biden tried to move on. He gave interviews, held a press conference and gave stern speeches on the campaign trail as well as at the NATO summit of U.S. allies.

But the events sometimes raised more concerns than they quieted.

At the NATO summit during the second week of July, Biden mixed up the names of his vice president, Harris, and his Republican rival, Trump, and those of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose countries are at war with each other.

Polls showed Biden trailing other Democrats in many of the key states and districts Democrats need to win in November. Biden was unmoved, still believing he was the best candidate to face Trump, that he could rebound from this setback as he has so many times before, a view reinforced by a close circle of aides.

Trump rally shooting: July 13

Trump was shot while giving a speech in Pennsylvania. The bullet grazed his ear, bloodied his face, and photos of the former president holding up his fist in defiance were shown widely.

Republicans spoke of divine providence, unifying around their candidate. Democrats worried if their own chances were cursed.

Days later, Biden got COVID while campaigning in Nevada. Recuperating at his Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, home, he would be left with time, alone and in isolation, to decide whether and how to end his campaign.

Biden exit

Continued from Page 3NN

a transparent and orderly process to move forward as a united Democratic Party with a candidate who can defeat Donald Trump in November."

Harrison said the process will be "governed by established rules and procedures of the Party."

"Our delegates are prepared to take seriously their responsibility in swiftly delivering a candidate to the American people," Harrison said, adding that the American people will hear "in short order" from the Democratic Party on the next steps in the nomination process.

The DNC convention is set for Aug. 19-22 in Chicago, but Democratic National Committee leaders have planned for a virtual roll-call vote before Aug. 7 to satisfy concerns with ballot deadlines in several states.

Trump, Johnson knock Biden after exit

Trump, in a post on his social media site Truth Social, wrote: "Crooked Joe Biden was not fit to run for President, and is certainly not fit to serve – And never was!

"We will suffer greatly because of his presidency, but we will remedy the damage he has done very quickly."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., called on Biden to resign as president following his decision not to seek a second term.

"If Joe Biden is not fit to run for president, he is not fit to serve as president," Johnson said in a statement. "He must resign the office immediately. Nov. 5 cannot arrive soon enough."

Johnson said Biden's decision to leave the race under pressure from Democrats who feared he would lose to Trump "invalidated the votes of more than 14 million Americans who selected

Joe Biden to be the Democrat nominee for president."

"The party's prospects are no better now with Vice President Kamala Harris, who co-owns the disastrous policy failures of the Biden administration," he said. "As second in command and a completely inept border czar, Harris has been a gleeful accomplice – not only in the destruction of American sovereignty, security, and prosperity, but also in the largest political coverup in U.S. history. She has known for as long as anyone of his incapacity to serve."

Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said in a statement on X that he commends Biden for stepping out of the 2024 race.

"His infirmities were evident to any unbiased observer from the beginning. It was this progressive deterioration – and his abandonment of Democratic Party principles – that prompted me to enter the race and ensure American voters had a viable, vigorous alternative to Donald Trump," Kennedy said.

He also called on the Democratic Party to "return to its traditional commitment to democracy and exemplify it with an open process."

"Instead of anointing a candidate hand-picked by DNC elites, the party should use neutral polling to identify the candidate who can best beat Donald Trump. The delegates should then select a nominee based on this information," Kennedy said. "If they had done this to begin with, I would not have had to leave the Democratic Party."

Schumer, Jeffries, Obama praise decision

The exit marks an extraordinary turn

"Our delegates are prepared to take seriously their responsibility in swiftly delivering a candidate to the American people. The American people will hear 'in short order' from the Democratic Party on the next steps in the nomination process."

Jaime Harrison
Chairman, Democratic
National Committee

for Biden, who for three weeks remained defiant in the face of growing calls from Democratic lawmakers

that he withdraw after a disastrous June 27 debate with Trump raised scrutiny over his mental fitness.

Biden had received bleak warnings from Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Democratic House Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., that his candidacy could lead to massive losses for Democrats in the Senate and House. Now, both Democratic leaders have joined other party officials in praising the president for his decision to bow out.

"Joe Biden has not only been a great president and a great legislative leader but he's a truly amazing human being," Schumer said in a post on X.

"His decision of course was not easy, but he once again put his country, his party, and our future first. Joe, today shows you are a true patriot and great American," he added.

Jeffries issued a statement that praised Biden's accomplishments as president but did not address whether Harris should be the nominee. "American is a better place today because President Joe Biden has led us with intellect, grace and dignity. We are forever grateful," he said.

Former President Barack Obama praised Biden's decision to end his campaign, saying he selflessly put the country's interests ahead of his own.

Biden's "outstanding track record" while in office gave him "every right to run for re-election and finish the job he started," Obama said. But, "Joe understands better than anyone the stakes in

this election – how everything he has fought for throughout his life, and everything that the Democratic Party stands for, will be at risk if we allow Donald Trump back in the White House and give Republicans control of Congress."

Biden, who served as vice president during the eight years of Obama's presidency, has never backed down from a fight, Obama said.

"For him to look at the political landscape and decide that he should pass the torch to a new nominee is surely one of the toughest in his life," the former president said. "But I know he wouldn't make this decision unless he believed it was right for America. It's a testament to Joe Biden's love of country – and a historic example of a genuine public servant once again putting the interests of the American people ahead of his own that future generations of leaders will do well to follow."

Biden, 81, becomes the first incumbent president not to seek reelection since Lyndon B. Johnson who, in 1968 amid national unrest and turmoil within the Democratic Party over the Vietnam War, stunned the nation with his decision not to seek a second full term.

Biden's departure will mean the end of a five-decade career in Washington that began in 1972 with an upset victory for U.S. Senate in Delaware. He served as a senator for 36 years, then as Obama's vice president from 2009-2017. Biden returned to public life to run against Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

He framed the race as a "battle for the soul of the nation" and defeated Trump 51% to 47% in the popular vote.

Biden said he would speak to the nation later this week to provide more details about his decision to leave the 2024 presidential campaign.

Contributing: Joey Garrison, Michael Collins, Kathryn Palmer, Karissa Waddick, Marina Pitofsky, Sarah D. Wire and Sudiksha Kochi, USA TODAY

BIDEN DROPS OUT

Biden's legacy: Triumphs, heartbreaks

There was one challenge he couldn't conquer: age



Susan Page
Washington Bureau Chief
USA TODAY

For Joe Biden, it has been a long road from Scranton.

Biden's reluctant announcement that he won't seek a second term in the White House – a decision that throws the Democratic presidential race into uncharted waters – signals the end of one of the longest political careers in American history, one laced with historic achievements and dramatic reversals, heartbreak and drama.

His tenure as the nation's 46th president, the fulfillment of a lifetime aspiration, is likely to rank as one of the most consequential in modern times. He helped navigate a course from the worst pandemic in a century, presided over an against-the-odds economic recovery, united much of the world against Russian expansionism, and made the biggest investment in climate change in history.

But there was a challenge he couldn't conquer: age.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President," he wrote in a letter posted on social media. "And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term."

Just 10 days ago, in the wake of a disastrous debate against Donald Trump in which he appeared to lose his train of thought, Biden insisted he wasn't staying in the race "for my legacy," but "to complete the job that I started."

But in the end, voices that he trusted, among them his old ally Nancy Pelosi, focused on protecting his legacy. They argued that continuing the campaign risked making his last chapter in politics leading the Democrats into disaster in November.

With questions about his mental acuity persisting, he could cost Democrats not only the White House but also control of the Senate and its hopes of regaining the House.

That catastrophic coda not only could overshadow his achievements – on creating jobs and spurring growth, on strengthening alliances and investing in infrastructure. It would also make it possible for a reelected Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress to dismantle many of them.

From young senator to aging president

When Joseph Robinette Biden was first elected to the Senate at age 30 and skeptics asked about his age, he had a standard response. "Watch me," he would say.

That was the same rejoinder he would use a half-century later, when



As president, Joe Biden enacted the most far-reaching progressive agenda since Lyndon Johnson and his Great Society.

OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

skeptics asked about his age in an entirely different context.

Few figures in American history have filled as many political roles as he has, from one of the youngest senators ever when he was elected in 1972 to the nation's oldest president at 81.

Early on, he was a Democratic centrist on abortion, civil rights and crime. Later, as president, he would enact the most far-reaching progressive agenda since Lyndon Johnson and his Great Society.

As Barack Obama's running mate, he would be a crucial partner in electing the nation's first Black president.

Then, against the predictions of pundits, he won the Democratic presidential nomination himself on his third try, in 2020. Facing a field of contenders a generation younger, he prevailed in his party and then with the country, ousting President Trump in an election that both sides depicted as an existential test of democracy.

In office, despite slender Democratic majorities in Congress, he pursued a strikingly ambitious agenda.

"As great a legislative record as any first-term president since at least FDR," said Jeffrey Engel, director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University. "Led the country through the bulk of its greatest domestic crisis – COVID – since the Great Depression, and its greatest health crisis since the Spanish flu. Record-high stock markets and record low unemployment. Kept the nation out of war despite wars erupting around the world.

"Oh, and entered office without his predecessor on hand to peacefully hand over power for the first time since Reconstruction, a mark of the divided nation he inherited."

Aides would complain Biden never got credit for the results, including

avoiding the recession that most economists had forecast. He suffered setbacks, too, including a disastrous withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan that contributed to a sense of a world that was spinning out of control, with U.S. influence on the wane.

The furor over his competence to serve a second term has dented the credit he might otherwise have been able to claim for his first, Engel said.

"One fears the tragedy we are witnessing in his refusal to go quietly into retirement increasingly looks like King Lear, in which a nation rips at the threads in order to make an aging leader feel loved, when he already was and should be."

A persona from an earlier era of U.S. politics

Biden never lost the persona he forged during an earlier era of politics, one in which compromise across party lines was a rule of the game.

From start to finish, he was Joe from Scranton, often referring to his Pennsylvania roots, mentioning his father even at that NATO news conference. Young Biden was an undistinguished student at the University of Delaware and graduated near the bottom of his law school class at Syracuse University.

He would forever have a chip on his shoulder toward Ivy Leaguers, the self-confident members of "the elite" he would decry when he rejected calls for him to withdraw from the Democratic ticket.

He was the guy who had won elections, he would note, starting with the upset when he narrowly defeated an incumbent Republican senator in Delaware.

Never far from the surface were his personal tragedies – from the deaths of

his wife and young daughter in a car crash in 1972 to the demise of son Beau in 2015 of a brain tumor thought to be associated with his service in the Iraq war. His surviving son, Hunter, would struggle with drug addiction.

Biden held the Delaware Senate seat through six more elections – a 36-year tenure that would see him chair the Judiciary Committee and then the Foreign Relations Committee – until he moved into the vice president's residence on Observatory Circle in 2009.

But he had defeats, too. He ended his bid for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination in the wake of a furor over plagiarizing a British politician's stump speech. His 2008 bid went nowhere; he finished a humiliating fifth in the opening Iowa caucuses.

In 2020, he lost Iowa, too, then the New Hampshire primary, then the Nevada caucuses. But he won the South Carolina primary, and with that staged a comeback for the Democratic nomination. And then the presidential election, running as a uniter in a time of division.

He would carry more than 81 million votes, the most of any presidential candidate in history.

The lessons Biden took from that victory, and from a lifetime of taking a hit and then getting back up, made it harder for him to step back this time.

"He has seen this over and over again," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters as the debate over whether he should stay at the top of the ticket raged. "People count him out. People say he's not going to win. People say, you know, all of the negative things that they want to put at his feet, and he proves them wrong over and over again."

This time, though, he decided that it was time to go. That he had reached the end of the road.

Poll data led to Biden decision, sources say

Announcement came as a surprise to staffers

Steve Holland and Jarrett Renshaw and Bianca Flowers
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – U.S. President Joe Biden gave most of his aides only a moment's notice of his decision on Sunday to quit the race for re-election, after an agonizing 48 hours poring over polling data which showed his path to victory was closing, two sources said.

Only the night before, Biden was still telling many aides that he would continue campaigning to defeat Republican rival Donald Trump in November. In the words of one source, "the message was proceed with everything, full speed ahead."

After digesting the poll data, though, Biden changed his mind and gathered his senior White House and campaign team for a call shortly before 1:45 p.m. on Sunday, moments before making his announcement public in a letter to all Americans.

Biden was isolating at his home at

Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, since testing positive for COVID on Wednesday. Still nursing a cough, he had spent most of the weekend stewing over Democratic pressure to force him to leave the race, aides said.

With him were long-time senior aides Annie Tomasini, Steve Richetti and Mike Donilon and a top aide to first lady Jill Biden, Anthony Bernal.

Once resolved, he shared his decision on the call by reading the letter he would soon release.

"He read the letter to us and wanted us to understand his thinking. He said he had wrestled with it over the last 48 hours," said one official.

Immediately after that call, White House chief of staff Jeff Zients called senior White House staff together to inform them of the decision.

"This was really closely held," the official said.

"It came as a surprise to most White House folks."

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris had already spoken multiple times that day, a person familiar with their conversations said.

At 1:46 p.m., Biden made his bomb-

"He read the letter to us and wanted us to understand his thinking. He said he had wrestled with it over the last 48 hours. This was closely held."

White House official

shell announcement.

Divided party

His decision came less than a month after Biden had a disastrous debate against Trump that raised questions about the mental acuity of the 81-year-old Democratic president.

After the debate, Biden began losing ground to Trump in battleground states, and Biden's campaign was pursuing a razor-thin path to reelection.

"It became hard with the growing opposition within the party. We have to be

united going into November. That was a factor," the senior White House official said, while noting there had still been significant support for Biden across the country.

"I'm still processing it," said Marcus Mason, an at-large member of the Democratic National Convention.

"The president will go down in history as a patriot who put his country and party over his own ambitions."

Biden had been particularly irked at former House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, whom Biden advisers believed was orchestrating a pressure campaign to get him to stand down.

Hours before the announcement, the Biden campaign denied reports he was planning to drop out.

"It is false. And I think that it is false to continue to try to gin up this narrative," deputy campaign manager Quentin Fulks told MSNBC's "The Weekend" on Sunday morning.

There were plenty of signs Biden had been thinking about pulling out for several days, with sources saying the Democratic incumbent had been doing some soul-searching.

BIDEN DROPS OUT

Harris

Continued from Page 1NN

generational shift. Her life has been an acrobatic twist and turn, filled with personal challenges and accomplishments, including political tests in her home state of California similar to what she and the country face now.

But some wonder whether a country bitterly divided by cultural issues around race, gender and family is ready for a woman of color to sit in the Oval Office.

“Black women are judged more harshly by the right, by the left – by everyone,” said Aimy Steele, founder and CEO of the New North Carolina Project, an group expanding voter engagement and access.

Steele said beyond race and gender, there are other parts of Harris’ life that she believes liberal allies will fail to accept or defend, including that she is a professional woman who went unmarried most of her life and put her career first without having biological children.

“I think we’re kidding ourselves to really believe that we are, even on the progressive side, in a post-racial democracy or a place where these types of things don’t matter,” said Steele.

Trump and other Republicans have long been aware of the possible ticket switch, and have derided Harris as incompetent, socially awkward and responsible for chief failures in the Biden administration. And Republicans suggest that’s only the beginning.

“We’ve not really gone into depths with the record of Kamala Harris,” U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., said in a Fox News Sunday appearance this month.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., warned on Instagram Thursday it would be incorrect to think there is a consensus among Democrats that Harris will get the support of people who want Biden to leave.

Those individuals, she said, “are interested in removing the whole ticket.”

If the vice president were to lead the Democratic ticket this year, political activists such as Kristin Powell, principal of Black to the Future Action Fund, a national political advocacy group, believe it could be a game-changer. But Powell said excitement over a non-white, non-male candidate comes second to certain policy commitments, especially among those who’ve lived through the Obama era.

“We would applaud having a Black woman in the White House,” she said. “But before we get excited about whether that’s Kamala Harris, we need to understand what she’s going to give us.”

Halie Soifer, CEO of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, acknowledged that misogyny, racism and other forms of bigotry could “be exacerbated by having a woman of color at the top of the ticket.”

“But that is absolutely not a reason to cower or to allow the fear of that hate to impede progress in this country,” said Soifer, who served as a national security adviser to Harris in the Senate, “and that’s actually been driving Kamala Harris her whole career.”

A child of immigrants with a fierce, ‘extraordinary’ mother

Harris was born in Oakland, Calif., in 1964 amid the Civil Rights Movement to immigrant parents – her father, Donald Harris, was an economist born in Jamaica and her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was a cancer researcher from India.

In her 2019 memoir, she briefly described her parents’ marriage falling apart when she was five, leading to divorce. Her mother took a teaching job at McGill University when Harris was 12, moving her and her sister to Montreal from 1976 until she graduated from high school.

It was in Canada where Harris first developed an affinity for lawyers who broke barriers such as Thurgood Marshall, Charles Hamilton Houston, Constance Baker Motley – giants of the civil rights movement, she wrote.

Harris returned to the states to attend Howard University, where she flourished in the environment where “everyone was young, gifted and Black.” She pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. of the historic “divine nine” Greek-lettered organizations among African Americans. She interned at the Federal Trade Commission; researched at the National Archives; and was a tour guide at the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

She first entered politics as a staffer for Democratic Sen. Alan Cranston of California and then returned home to Oakland to UC Hastings College of Law and graduated in 1989.

Harris revealed in her book she took



Vice President Kamala Harris is seen as the most logical replacement to top the Democratic Party ticket after President Joe Biden’s debate performance in June prompted calls for him to end his campaign. SHAWN THEW/POOL VIA USA TODAY NETWORK

the California bar exam that July and “to my utter devastation, I had failed,” an acknowledged setback for a self-described perfectionist. She passed in February 1990 and began work at the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office.

Her political star began to rise in 1994 with her relationship with Willie Brown, the legendary California politician who at the time was the statehouse speaker, married – although long separated – and 30 years older than Harris.

California entrepreneur Trevor Traina, a longtime Harris friend and former U.S. ambassador to Austria, said that relationship was a politically formative one.

“Kamala’s a warm person who has a lot of charm and charisma. And she is the protégé of Willie Brown, who is the king of charm,” Traina said in an interview with USA TODAY. “And I think she learned well from him.”

By 2000, Harris moved to City Hall and quickly set her eyes on the city’s top prosecutor job, challenging incumbent Terence Hallinan in 2003. Her campaign sent out mailers featuring the 10 faces of previous San Francisco DAs stretching back to 1900. All male, all white. “It’s time for a change,” it read in red block letters.

Harris was California’s top cop before election to Capitol Hill

A decade before being elevated to the vice presidency, Harris demonstrated an uncanny ability to beat the political odds in a landscape that, much like today’s national terrain, was dominated by aging white men.

Traina said more than any other time period, Harris’ time as San Francisco’s district attorney is an instructive window into her leadership.

“There’s a tension between the center left and the far left, which I think mirrors the national scene right now for the Democratic Party,” Traina said. “And you have politicians who need to be elected and who need to be able to speak to the center, who understand how to navigate that environment, and Kamala is one of those people.”

She took aim at the California Attorney General’s office in 2010 after the incumbent, Democrat Jerry Brown, ran for governor. It was up to Harris to retain the seat for the Democrats.

Political attacks on Harris included her decision as San Francisco DA to not seek the death penalty for a gang member who shot and killed a police officer.

On Election Day in 2010, a nationwide sweep known as the “red wave” broke and Republicans regained control of the U.S. House and reclaimed governor’s seats and statehouses nationwide. In Harris’ race against Republican Steve Cooley, the vote turned out to be one of the closest in California history. Ballot counting took more than three weeks.

Harris’ tenure as California attorney general drew accolades from Obama, who cast her as a “brilliant” and “dedicated” campaigner at a 2013 fundraiser.

After becoming attorney general, it was clear to many observers Harris was aiming for even higher office, taking cautious positions on hot-button issues – or no position at all. That would become the basis of Harris biographer Dan Morain’s book, “Kamala’s Way,” about her ascent to the U.S. Senate and ultimately the vice presidency.

“It’s about her way of operating, and it’s her path to getting to where she is,” Morain said. “She can be very tough, she can be empathetic, she can be cautious, she can be unsure of herself, but she’s very smart and quick on her feet.”

It’s in this period that a friend introduced Harris to an entertainment law-

yer in L.A. who would become her husband, Doug Emhoff.

By January 2015, a new lane had opened. Longtime Sen. Barbara Boxer announced she would not seek reelection in 2016.

In California’s primary system, where the top two vote-getters advance, Harris emerged as the winner to run against fellow Democrat Loretta Sanchez, an almost 10-year veteran of the House of Representatives. She sailed to a more than 20-point victory over Sanchez in the general election in 2016, with the support of Obama and his vice president – Biden.

Harris became only the second Black woman to serve in the Senate in history, in a victory that came amid a new kind of red wave: that night, Trump defeated Hillary Clinton.

Harris arrived at the Senate primed for the conflict. Her maiden speech on the Senate floor laced into Trump’s nominee for education secretary and future Cabinet member Betsy DeVos.

She landed initial appointments to the Homeland Security and Intelligence committees. She later joined the Senate Judiciary Committee.

She leaned into questions about special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into allegations of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia and pressed future Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on abortion rights.

Soifer, the former national security adviser, said those examples in the Senate underscore how Harris would be the most stark contrast with Trump at a time when reproductive health care is at the forefront.

“She’s a force to be reckoned with,” Soifer said. “She would eviscerate him.”

Several months after the Kavanaugh hearings, Harris announced she’d run for president. She had served in the Senate just two years. She had not yet written a single piece of legislation that became law.

But she also had never lost an election.

Sizzling debate performance, then presidential hopes implode

Naysayers are quick to point at Harris’ failed 2020 presidential bid, which closed up shop before the first ballots were even cast.

Harris declared in her birthplace of Oakland, near the University of California, Berkeley, where her parents met.

“People in power are trying to convince us that the villain in our American story is each other. But that is not our story. That is not who we are. That’s not our America,” she said.

Harris caught the country’s attention when she went after Biden at the first Democratic debate that summer. She criticized the former vice president for comments he’d made about pro-segregationists with whom he served.

“You also worked with them to oppose busing,” she said. “And, you know, there was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bused to school every day. And that little girl was me.”

Harris shot up in the rankings. But less than three months after the breakout moment, she was down in the polls, running out of cash, and her campaign was rife with infighting.

With two months to go until the Iowa Caucus, she quit the race.

But the calculus paid off. When Biden secured the nomination, thanks largely to Black voters, he chose her as his running mate.

Harris’ sharp debate skills served her well on Biden’s ticket. As then-Vice President Mike Pence tried to interrupt her, Harris delivered one of the most

memorable lines of her political career that turned into an online sensation.

“Mr. Vice President, I’m speaking,” she told Pence.

Some wonder: What has Harris done as vice president?

Harris’ election to vice president as the first woman, Black person and Asian American to serve in the role was met with celebration. That enthusiasm waned over the years as Harris fumbled early assignments.

The president tasked her with addressing the “root causes” of mass migration to the southern border – an area she had little to no expertise on as a senator or attorney general.

On a trip to Guatemala that June, Harris came under heavy scrutiny for telling NBC’s Lester Holt she’d been to the U.S.-Mexico border. Neither she nor Biden had at that point. Harris soon caved to political pressure. Within weeks, she visited El Paso, Texas.

The pandemic and the efforts the White House took to protect the president and vice president from getting COVID left Harris isolated and unable to travel frequently. The problem was compounded as Biden and his advisers struggled with how to utilize her.

Those episodes were brought up regularly during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee last week as the GOP prepared for a scenario in which Harris could be the Democratic candidate. Republican Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., further accused her of enabling “criminals and rioters” during the protests following the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer.

Biden had served in the Senate for more than three decades before he became vice president. There was no existing schema for someone like Harris. She was a trained lawyer who did a short stint as a senator.

“Most of that stuff is not transferable to the job of the vice president,” said Harris’ first communications director as vice president, Ashley Etienne. “So she figured out what are her strengths. And she’s over indexed on them.”

It took the leak of a Supreme Court decision reversing Roe v. Wade for Harris to cut her own path. She’d worked closely with abortion rights advocates in California. She was in her element.

“Obviously when she’s talking about anything in the judicial system, that’s her own thing,” said Jason Williams, a professor of justice studies at Montclair State University in New Jersey. “That’s what she went to school for. That’s what she has worked (for) as... a prosecutor for so many years.”

Harris traveled the country, sounding the alarm. Democrats lost the House in the midterm elections but kept the Senate. The election-year victories finally offered Harris an issue area she could own. She reoriented her agenda around cultural issues such as gun rights and book bans.

After Hamas launched a brutal, surprise attack against Israeli civilians on Oct. 7, Harris sat in on Biden’s calls with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Biden then sent Harris to Dubai to discuss the governance of Gaza after the war with Middle Eastern leaders.

There she delivered a searing statement about how Israel was conducting itself in the war.

“Too many innocent Palestinians have been killed,” Harris said. “Frankly, the scale of civilian suffering and the images and videos coming from Gaza are devastating.”

In March, she called for an immediate cease-fire – remarks that were among the most pointed at that time from a member of the Biden administration.

The balance Harris would have to achieve as a presidential candidate is differentiating herself on those issues, while also taking credit for some of the administration’s accomplishments, such as student debt forgiveness and job creation.

“This would be the challenge: Can she communicate how much of a role she played in those kinds of outcomes?” said Ange-Marie Hancock, executive director of the Kirwan Institute at the Ohio State University and curator of the Kamala Harris Project, a consortium of scholars studying the vice president.

Elaine Kamarck, a longtime Democratic National Committee member and expert on the party’s rules, told a group of Democratic activists during a Friday call that Harris has two major advantages: She’s already been vetted and she’s already on the job.

“None of the other candidates, great as they are – and some of them, I like very much, I might even like them more than the vice president – none of them have been vetted on a national stage,” Kamarck said on the call organized by the group Delegates are Democracy.

BIDEN DROPS OUT

Dems praise Biden for decision, service

USA TODAY NETWORK

A handful of important Democrats across the U.S. immediately threw their weight behind Vice President Kamala Harris to be the party's presidential pick, a move seemingly to coalesce support around the former California senator after President Joe Biden withdrew from the race Sunday.

The move came quickly after Biden put his own public support behind his vice president – who formally announced her presidential bid Sunday afternoon.

"I am honored to have the President's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination. Over the past year, I have traveled across the country, talking with Americans about the clear choice in this momentous election," Harris said in a statement.

"And that is what I will continue to do in the days and weeks ahead. I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party – and unite our nation – to defeat Donald Trump."

But a handful of equally powerful Democrats – including Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, whose name has been talked about as another possible nominee – did not immediately endorse her in the race, indicating the party may need more time before they formally choose the person to face former President Trump in the fall.

Harris has repeatedly made visits to Michigan, both as a candidate before the 2020 election and as vice president. Democrats and Republicans agree that Michigan will be key for any presidential nominee.

In Kentucky, Gov. Andy Beshear, who some also believe could be a running mate on a Democratic ticket with Harris, called on Americans to unite.



Beshear

"We need to dial down the anger, rancor and noise," Beshear said. "We have an opportunity to remember that we are taught to treat our neighbor as yourself – and that we are all each other's neighbor."

Beshear applauded Biden as a "consequential president" who "showed up for Kentucky after devastating tornadoes and historic flooding," and helped the state repair aging infrastructure.

Former Vice President Al Gore also



Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, left, posted on social media that he wished President Joe Biden the best. The two served together on the Senate Judiciary Committee. SAM GREENE/CINCINNATI ENQUIRER FILE

"I have known President Biden since 1995, when I entered the U.S. Senate and served with him on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Fran and I wish President Biden and the First Lady all the best as he serves out the remainder of his term and in the years ahead."

Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, in a post on X

praised Biden after his decision to withdraw from the presidential race, calling the move a "selfless decision."

"As President, Joe Biden has been – and is – an exceptional leader," Gore said in a statement to serve as Nashville Tennessean.



Gore

"He is responsible for developing and signing the most significant investment in climate solutions into law. He helped our nation navigate a global pandemic, ushered in an economic recovery that has created good-paying jobs for Americans across the country, and restored America's standing abroad."

Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine posted on social media platform X that he wished Biden the best.

"I have known President Biden since 1995, when I entered the U.S. Senate and served with him on the Senate Judiciary Committee," DeWine said. "Fran and I wish President Biden and the First Lady all the best as he serves out the remainder of his term and in the years ahead."

Also in Ohio, Akron Mayor Shammias Malik wrote on Facebook that he hoped the country will get behind Harris.

"I haven't always agreed with President Biden, and I think any discussion of his legacy will have to account for his handling of the conflict in Gaza, but I believe he is a fundamentally decent and good man," Malik said. "His book, 'Promise Me Dad,' has helped me grapple with loss in my life. Now, our country has an opportunity to move forward by electing VP Kamala Harris over Former President Trump. Our country has a

choice to make – a return to the chaos and creeping authoritarianism of the Trump years or continuing to build on the progress of the past four years."

On Sunday afternoon, most of Michigan's Democratic congressional delegation immediately backed Harris, aside from U.S. Reps. Elissa Slotkin and Rashida Tlaib. Slotkin, running to succeed U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, did issue a statement supporting and thanking Biden.

But Tlaib, who has remained critical of Biden's approach to the war in Gaza, did not immediately release any comments.

In Iowa, Democrats began weighing in with reactions that were a mixture of relief and sadness. Many praised Biden for doing what they said is the right thing for the country.

Former U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, who was among those initially calling on Biden to step aside, on Sunday congratulated him for "taking this courageous and unselfish step."

Biden's appearance in the June debate stood in sharp contrast with the Biden who campaigned heavily for the presidential nomination throughout Iowa's 2020 Democratic caucuses.



Harkin

That year, Biden earned the endorsement of many of Iowa's top Democratic officials, including state Sen. Pam Jochum of Dubuque, then-U.S. Reps. Cindy Axne and Abby Finkenauer, and former Govs. Tom Vilsack, who now serves in Biden's Cabinet as secretary of agriculture, and Chet Culver.

None of those politicians publicly called on Biden to step aside following the debate. But some, like Jochum, offered lukewarm support.

"It really is up to Joe Biden. The ball is in his court to make that final decision," Jochum told the Des Moines Register, adding that the Democratic Party needs to come together and refocus its attention on contrasting Biden's accomplishments with Trump's record.

Contributing: Dave Boucher, Detroit Free Press; Leo Bertucci, Louisville Courier Journal; Vivian Jones, Nashville Tennessean; April Helms, Akron Beacon Journal; and Brianne Pfannenstiel and Stephen Gruber-Miller, Des Moines Register.

People's reactions to Biden ending campaign

Leah Douglas and Douglas Gillison
REUTERS

President Joe Biden on Sunday ended his reelection campaign. He said in a letter posted on social media platform X that he would remain in office until the end of his term and address the country later this week on his decision.

Below are reactions from politicians, industry and advocacy groups and other observers.

● **Kamala Harris, vice president:** "I am honored to have the president's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination," Harris said in a statement. "I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party – and unite our nation – to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda."

● **Donald Trump, former president:** In a phone call with CNN minutes after Biden announced his exit from the 2024 race, former President Trump responded, "He is the worst president in the history of our country. He goes down as the single worst president by far in the history of our country." Trump also said he thought Vice President Kamala Harris will be easier to defeat than Biden would have been, according to CNN.

● **Barack Obama, former president:** "I also know Joe has never backed down from a fight. For him to look at the political landscape and decide that he should pass the torch to a new nominee is surely one of the toughest in his life. But I know he wouldn't make this decision unless he believed it was right for America," the former president said in a statement. "I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges."

● **Chuck Schumer, Senate majority leader:** "Joe Biden has not only been a great president and a great legislative leader but he is a truly amazing human being. His decision of course was not easy, but he once again put his country,

his party, and our future first. Joe, today shows you are a true patriot and great American," the Democrat said in a statement.

● **Elise Stefanik, House Republican Conference chairwoman:** "If Joe Biden can't run for re-election, he is unable and unfit to serve as President of the United States. He must immediately resign," Stefanik said in a statement.



Stefanik

● **Robert F. Kennedy, Independent presidential candidate:** "I commend President Biden for stepping down. His infirmities were evident to any unbiased observer from the beginning. It was this progressive deterioration – and his abandonment of Democratic Party principles – that prompted me to enter the race and ensure American voters had a viable, vigorous alternative to Donald Trump," Kennedy said in a post on X.

● **Hakeem Jeffries, House Democratic leader:** "America is a better place today because President Joe Biden has led us with intellect, grace and dignity. We are forever grateful," Jeffries said in a statement.

● **Steve Scalise, House majority leader:** "Democrat party bosses just proved that they have absolutely no respect for their own voters. After lecturing others about democracy, they just forced Joe Biden off the ticket – trashing the primary choice of 14 million of their own voters," Scalise, a Republican, said on X.



Scalise

● **Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee:** "Americans and democracy-loving people around the world owe Joe Biden a debt of gratitude. The Congressional Black Caucus PAC joins President Biden in fully supporting Kamala Harris as our party's nominee," the organization said in a

statement posted to X.

● **Nancy Pelosi, U.S. representative and former House speaker:** "President Joe Biden is a patriotic American who has always put our country first. His legacy of vision, values and leadership make him one of the most consequential presidents in American history. With love and gratitude to President Biden for always believing in the promise of America and giving people the opportunity to reach their fulfillment. God blessed America with Joe Biden's greatness and goodness."

● **Gavin Newsom, California governor:** "President Biden has been an extraordinary, history-making president –



Newsom

a leader who has fought hard for working people and delivered astonishing results for all Americans. He will go down in history as one of the most impactful and selfless presidents," Newsom posted on X.

● **Nanette Barragan, Congressional Hispanic Caucus chair:** "I am with you @JoeBiden – I endorse @KamalaHarris as our Democratic nominee & will work tirelessly to make sure she is elected our next President in November," Barragan said in a post on X.



Barragan

● **Jim Clyburn, South Carolina Democratic congressman:** "I echo the good judgment (Biden) demonstrated in selecting Vice President Harris to lead this nation alongside him, and I am proud to follow his lead in support of her candidacy to succeed him as the Democratic Party's 2024 nominee for president," Clyburn said in a statement.



Clyburn

● **Peter Welch, U.S. senator:** Welch, the first Democratic senator to call on

Joe Biden to drop his reelection run, on Sunday praised the president for ending his quest, saying he showed "good judgment and great humility" and "put the country first." "It was an agonizing decision," Welch said in an interview with Reuters. "Every fiber of his being wanted to continue to fight and to beat Trump again." Welch declined to endorse Harris, who he acknowledged was the front-runner to replace Biden. The Democrats should have "an open process so that whoever our nominee is, including Kamala, has the strength of having a process that shows the consensus position of the party," he said.

● **Barbara Lee, U.S. representative** Lee, a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, said in a phone interview there is "no other option" but to choose Harris as the party's nominee. "She is the best vice president," Lee said. "She is experienced, capable and smart. She has been a part of the Biden-Harris legacy that needs to continue."

● **United Auto Workers:** "Vice President Kamala Harris walked the picket line with us in 2019, and along with President Biden has brought work and jobs back to communities like Lordstown, Ohio, and Belvidere, Illinois. That's the legacy President Biden leaves and that's the work we will continue to build on as a union," the union said in a statement.

● **Dick Durbin, senator and majority whip:** "Throughout his public career, Joe Biden always put country first. His four years as president made it clear that he was determined to put our country back on track and restore the soul of our nation. America will be forever grateful for all he has given to this country," Durbin posted on X.

● **Bill and Hillary Clinton, former president and secretary of state:** "We are honored to join the president in endorsing Vice President Harris and will do whatever we can to support her," the Clintons said in a statement.

WEEK AHEAD

Investors hopeful earnings slow US tech retreat

Lewis Krauskopf
REUTERS

NEW YORK – As earnings season goes into full swing, bullish investors hope solid corporate results will stem a tumble in technology shares that has cooled this year's U.S. stock rally.

The S&P 500's technology sector has dropped nearly 6% in just over a week, shedding about \$900 billion in market value as growing expectations of interest rate cuts and a second Donald Trump presidency draw money away from this year's winners and into sectors that have languished in 2024.

The S&P 500 has fared somewhat better, losing 1.6% in just over a week, with declines in tech partly offset by sharp gains in areas such as financials, industrials and small caps. The benchmark index is up over 16% this year.

Second-quarter earnings could help tech reclaim the spotlight. Tesla and Google-parent Alphabet both report on Tuesday, kicking off results from the "Magnificent Seven" megacap group of stocks that have propelled markets since early 2023. Microsoft and Apple are set to report the following week.

Big tech stocks "have been leading the charge, and it's for a good reason," said Scott Wren, senior global market strategist at the Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Strong results from the market's leaders could assuage some of the worries that have recently dogged megacaps, including concerns over stretched valuations and an advance highlighted by eye-watering gains in stocks such as Nvidia, which is up 145% this year despite a recent dip.

On the other hand, signs that profits are flagging or artificial intelligence-related spending is less than anticipated would test the narrative of tech dominance that has boosted stocks this year. That could turn quickly into a problem for broader markets: Alphabet, Tesla, Amazon.com, Microsoft, Meta Platforms, Apple and Nvidia have accounted for around 60% of the S&P 500's gain this year.

Corporate results for the market's leaders are expected to meet a high bar. The tech sector is projected to increase year-over-year earnings by 17%, and earnings for the communication services sector – which includes Alphabet and Facebook parent Meta – is seen rising about 22%. Such gains would outpace the 11% estimated rise for the S&P 500 overall, according to LSEG IBES.

Anthony Saglimbene, chief market strategist at Ameriprise Financial, believes many investors were caught off guard by an inflation report earlier this month that all-but-cemented expectations of a September rate cut by the Fed, sparking a rotation into areas of the market that have struggled under tighter monetary policy.

The move out of tech accelerated last week, after a failed assassination attempt on Trump appeared to boost his standing in the presidential race.

In addition, semiconductor shares were hit hard after a report last week said the United States was mulling tighter curbs on exports of advanced semiconductor technology to China. The Philadelphia SE semiconductor index has tumbled about 8% since last week.

"What we're advising investors to do is use some of the pullbacks in these areas as an opportunity to allocate on a longer-term basis," said Saglimbene, who believes the upcoming earnings reports could ease the selling pressure on Big Tech.



During the recent rotation, the number of stocks gaining compared to those declining over five days reached its highest rate since November, according to Ned Davis Research.

BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS FILE



Students attend a class at Super Climax Academy, a coaching institute training students to prepare for competitive examinations to secure government jobs, in Prayagraj, India. PHOTOS BY SAHIBA CHAUDHARY/REUTERS FILE

India's youth drawn to government work

Private sector seen as 'last option' despite booming economy

Sahiba Chaudhary and Ira Dugal REUTERS

PRAYAGRAJ, India – Sunil Kumar, 30, has spent the last 9 years of his life chasing a job in the Indian government. ● Packed with scores of others in makeshift classrooms under tin roofs with barely enough light and air, Kumar has spent years cramming for a variety of tests, including the prestigious civil services exam needed to get a job as a federal government bureaucrat. He has also tried for a provincial civil services post and two other tests for lower level government positions. ● He has been unsuccessful in 13 attempts to get a job.

A resident of Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state, Kumar said he will continue to try for a government job until he turns 32, three years short of the cut-off for him to take a civil services exam.

"There is more security in government jobs," Kumar said.

"If it happens in 2-3 years, the struggle of 10 years will be worth it."

According to government figures, 220 million people applied for federal jobs between 2014-2022, of whom 722,000 were selected. Many of those would have been repeat attempts, but still, tens of millions of young Indians chase government jobs every year even though the economy is booming and the private sector is expanding.

The trend underscores cultural and economic anxieties facing many Indians. Despite living in the world's fastest-growing major economy, many are grappling with an uncertain employment market where job opportunities, let alone job security, are hard to come by. Many see government employment as more secure than private-sector jobs in the world's most populous nation.

"If one person in the family gets a government job, the family believes they are settled for life," said Zafar Baksh, who runs a training institute for those taking tests for such jobs.

In neighboring Bangladesh, student protests against reserved quotas in government jobs killed more than 100 people last week.

Since 2014, India's GDP has grown from \$2 trillion to near \$3.5 trillion in fiscal 2023-24 (April-March) and is expected to expand 7.2% in the current year.

The aspirants say the government offers lifelong security, health benefits, pensions and housing, which they may not get in private employment. Few will admit to it, but many of the government jobs also offer the prospect of money under the table.

Growing demand for the cram school classes has attracted large players and lessons have moved online too, said Baksh, who sees it as a lucrative and perennial business.

"There will always be demand."

Not enough good jobs

Discontent over employment opportunities was cited by analysts as a key reason for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party failing to win a majority on its own in the general election, and returning to power only with the support of allies.

Government data released this month showed 20 million new employment opportunities were generated in India each year since 2017/18 but private economists said much of this was self-employment and temporary farm hiring rather than formal positions with regular wages.

The government, which presents the first budget since the election this week, is likely to push job creation by giving tax incentives for new manufacturing facilities as well as by encouraging local procurement across sectors like defense, Nomura said in a statement this month. But these will take time to yield jobs.



Pradeep Kumar Gupta, Rai Pal Singh, and Shubham Pandey study in their room, while Ankit Pal makes lunch at a student's lodge in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India. Aspirants like Gupta and his friends often share rooms to reduce expenses as they prepare for government jobs exams.

"It's not just that there aren't enough jobs out there, it's also that there are not enough jobs that pay well and give you security of tenure and other benefits," said Rosa Abraham, assistant professor at the Centre for Sustainable Employment at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru city.

For 22-year old Pradeep Gupta, who hopes to land a government job, working in the private sector is the "last option."

"There is honor, job security and less pressure" in a government job, he said, speaking in the Uttar Pradesh city of Prayagraj, a booming center of cram schools.

Nearly 5 million students applied for 60,000 vacancies in the Uttar Pradesh police force earlier this year and an exam for the post of constable in central government security agencies saw 4.7 million applicants for 26,000 posts.

Across all levels of government, including schools, health services and the military, nearly 6 million jobs remain unfilled, India's main opposition party, the Indian National Congress, has estimated.

An email to the federal government seeking data on government employment and vacancies was not answered.

Good business

For Maroof Ahmed, who has been running a cram school in Prayagraj since 2014, this has meant good business.

Currently, he said, his academy has five branches, tutoring close to 30,000 students a year through physical and online classes.

Success rates, or those who procure jobs, are low at about 5-10%, but demand remains high, he said.

No data was available on the number of such coaching institutes across the country since much of the industry is informal and unorganized.

"If one person in the family gets a government job, the family believes they are settled for life."

Zafar Baksh, runs a training institute for those taking tests for such jobs



Two people perform as they take part in a demonstration to protest against tourism and housing prices on the island of Mallorca in Palma de Mallorca, Spain on Sunday. JAIME REINA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Thousands protest in Spain's Mallorca against tourism

Horaci Garcia
REUTERS

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain – Thousands of anti-tourism activists protested in Spain's Palma de Mallorca on Sunday in the latest demonstration against a key industry for the Iberian nation.

Carrying makeshift models of planes and cruise ships, protesters walked through the streets of the capital of Mallorca with posters reading 'no to mass tourism' and 'stop private jets.'

Anti-tourism activists have staged a series of protests this year in Barcelona, and other popular holiday destinations like Palma de Mallorca, Malaga and the Canary Islands, saying visitors drive up housing costs, leaving residents unable to afford to live in city centers.

Some tourists supported the march while others appeared uncomfortable.

Pere Joan Femenia, of Menys Turisme, Mas Vida (Less Tourism, More Life) which organized Sunday's protest in Mallorca, told Reuters protesters wanted less tourists on the island.

"Mass tourism is making it difficult

"Mass tourism is making it difficult for local people who cannot afford to live on their own island because tourist flats push up prices."

Pere Joan Femenia
Protest organizer with Menys Turisme, Mas Vida (Less Tourism, More Life)

for local people who cannot afford to live on their own island because tourist flats push up prices. Tourists fill up beaches and put a strain on public services in the summer," he said.

"We want to cut mass tourism and to ban non-residents from buying houses which are just used for a few months a year or for speculation."

Tourism generates 45% of the Balearic Islands' gross domestic product, according to data from Exceltur, an industry organization.

In the first quarter of this year, 16.1 million people visited Spain, an increase of 18% compared with the same period last year.

Visitors spent 109 billion euros (\$118.56 billion) in Spain last year.

Barcelona will raise tourist tax for cruise visitors, mayor says

Barcelona will raise the tourist tax for cruise passengers visiting the city for less than 12 hours, the mayor said in an interview published on Sunday.

Jaume Collboni said the current tourist tax for stopover cruise passengers was 7 euros (\$7.61) per day. He did not say by how much the tax would be increased.

"We are going to propose...substantially increasing the tax for stopover cruise passengers," he told El Pais newspaper.

"In the case of stopover cruise passengers (less than 12 hours) there is intensive use of public space without any benefit for the city and a feeling of occupation and saturation. We want to have tourism that is respectful of the destination."

He said tourists, not local taxpayers, should pay for local projects like air-conditioning schools.

The proposal will have to be agreed with the Catalan regional government, Collboni said.

Bangladesh students protest job quotas

Sudipto Ganguly
REUTERS

Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday scrapped most of the quotas on government jobs that had sparked nationwide protests.

Here are details of the protests and their history:

What triggered the protests?

The demonstrations started last month after the High Court reinstated a quota system for government jobs, overturning a 2018 decision by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government to scrap it.

That move, which covered the 30% of jobs reserved for family members of freedom fighters in the 1971 war for independence from Pakistan, followed similar student protests.

But the Supreme Court suspended the high court order after the government's appeal. On Sunday it dismissed the lower court order and directed that 93% of jobs should be open to candidates on merit.

The court reserved 5% of jobs for family members of independence fighters and 2% for people from so-called backward groups and people with disabilities.

The students had stepped up their protest when Hasina refused to meet their demands, citing the court proceedings.

What is the quota system?

Introduced in 1972, Bangladesh's quota system has gone through several changes since. When it was abolished in 2018, 56% of government jobs were blocked under various quotas.

The bulk covered groups such as freedom fighters' families, with women and those from underdeveloped districts receiving a share of a tenth each, with 5% allotted to Indigenous commu-



Smoke billows from the backside of Dhaka's southern outskirts neighborhood as a clash erupts between police and anti-quota protesters in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday. Nationwide clashes between police and university students have killed 151 people. ANIK RAHMAN/ANIK RAHMAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

nities, and 1% for people with disabilities.

The protesting students want all categories abolished, except the last two.

What sparked the violence?

The protests turned violent this month following clashes between thousands of anti-quota demonstrators and members of the student wing of Hasina's Awami League party. Police fired rubber bullets and hurled sound grenades and tear gas to scatter protesters who also blocked railway tracks and major roads.

What do students fear?

Hasina is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh, who led its freedom movement. Protesters and critics say the 30% quota for families of freedom fighters favors Awami League supporters, which

led the independence fight.

Experts also attribute the unrest to stagnant job growth in the private sector, making public sector jobs, with their accompanying regular wage hikes and privileges, very attractive.

The quotas shrink the number of government jobs open for all, hurting aspirants who want them filled on the basis of merit.

The economy, once among the world's fastest growing, has stagnated, inflation hovers around 10% and dollar reserves are shrinking.

What has the prime minister said?

The protests are the first challenge to Hasina's government since she won a fourth consecutive term in January in elections boycotted by the main opposition. She has condemned the loss of lives and called for patience ahead of the Supreme Court's verdict.

IN BRIEF

Activists plan protests during Netanyahu's Washington visit

WASHINGTON – Activists opposing Israel's war in Gaza and Washington's support for its Middle Eastern ally plan protests at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday to coincide with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's U.S. visit this week.

Police expect a "large number of demonstrators" and were making additional security arrangements but said there were no known threats.

Netanyahu will be in Washington for a Wednesday address to a joint session of U.S. Congress. He is expected to meet President Joe Biden.

The U.S. has seen months of protests from pro-Palestinian groups and college students over U.S. support for Israel amid its war in Gaza that has killed at least 38,983 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities while displacing nearly all its 2.3 million population and causing a hunger crisis.

Biden has recently supported talks for a ceasefire but has continued military support for Israel.

Israel's military campaign followed an Oct. 7 attack by Hamas, whose militants surged into Israel, killing 1,200 and taking around 250 hostages, according to Israeli figures.

A coalition of groups is expected to participate in the protests, among them ANSWER (an acronym for "Act Now to Stop War and End Racism"), women-led peace and human rights group CodePink, Palestinian groups such as Palestinian American Community Center and Jewish groups including Jewish Voice for Peace.

"Our plan includes adding more officers – including from several outside agencies," the U.S. Capitol Police said.

A flyer urged the formation of a "People's Red Line around the Capitol building" on Wednesday, where demonstrators will criticize the U.S. government for not drawing a "red line" in supporting Israel despite the war's death toll.

Airbus looks at opportunities to create scale in space, satellites

LONDON – Airbus is looking at opportunities to create scale in defense, space and particularly satellites markets, CEO Guillaume Faury said on Sunday.

Airbus and France's Thales are exploring a tie-up of some space activities as new competition disrupts the sector, two industry sources said last week.

The sources said preliminary talks, first reported by La Tribune, were focusing on the companies' overlapping satellite activities.

"We are looking at opportunities to create scale, and that's true in defense, that's true in space, and in particular on satellites," Faury said, ahead of this week's Farnborough Airshow.

Airbus and Thales Alenia Space, in which Italy's Leonardo holds a 33% stake, are Europe's largest makers of satellites for telecommunications, navigation and surveillance.

Demand for their geostationary satellites is increasingly under pressure as traditional manufacturers face competition from massive constellations of expendable satellites in low Earth orbit, like the Starlink network of Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Airbus last month took a \$980 million charge on its struggling space services business, on top of over \$544 million last year.

Saudi Arabia to visit Brazil, Chile seeking to diversify mining

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia – Saudi Arabia's mining minister will visit Brazil and Chile over the coming two weeks, the ministry said on Sunday, as the world's leading oil exporter seeks to expand its international presence in mining.

In Brazil, talks will cover mining, food processing, and aviation, while in Chile the focus is on lithium, needed for electric vehicle batteries.

"This aligns with the Kingdom's direction toward expanding the production of EVs," a Saudi government statement said.

Saudi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Bandar Alkhorayaf will land in Brazil on Monday and leave for Chile, the world's second largest producer of lithium, next Sunday.

Long dependent on oil, Saudi Arabia hopes to use lithium to help diversify its economy and turn itself into a hub for EV manufacturing. The diversification strategy includes plans to expand into international mining to secure access to minerals including copper, cobalt, and nickel as well as lithium.

Reuters



A Ukrainian serviceman in the 24th Mechanized Brigade prepares shells for a howitzer to fire toward Russian positions on the front line near Chasiv Yar in the Donetsk region on Saturday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has again urged for freer use of long-range weapons amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. PRESS SERVICE OF THE 24TH MECHANIZED BRIGADE/HANDOUT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Zelenskyy calls for long-range weapons

Russian drones, missiles target Kyiv

REUTERS

KYIV, Ukraine – Ukraine needs long-range weapons to protect its cities and troops on the front line from Russian bombs and drones, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday after a massive overnight drone and missile attack.

Russia launched its fifth drone attack on Kyiv in two weeks overnight, with Ukraine's air defense systems destroying all the air weapons before they reached the capital, Ukraine's military said.

Ukraine's air force said on Telegram that its air defense systems destroyed 35 of the 39 drones and two cruise missiles that Russia had launched over-



Zelenskyy

night. The weapons, the air force said, targeted 10 of Ukraine's regions.

It was not immediately clear how many drones were launched at Kyiv. There were no casualties and no significant damage reported, Serhiy Popko, head of the Ukrainian capital's military administration, said on Telegram.

"During last night alone, the Russian army used almost 40 'Shaheds' against Ukraine. Importantly, most of them were shot down by our defenders of the sky," Zelenskyy said on Telegram, referring to the drones.

He said it was necessary to destroy Russian bombers at Russian air bases to

protect Ukraine from air raids.

"Our sufficient long-range capabilities should be a fair response to Russian terror. Everyone who supports us in this supports the defense against terror," Zelenskyy said.

Zelenskyy renewed his call for Western allies to allow long-range strikes on Russia on Friday in London, saying Britain should try to convince its partners to remove the limits on their use.

NATO members have taken different approaches to how Ukraine can use weapons they donate. Some have made clear Kyiv can use them to strike targets inside Russia while the United States has taken a narrower approach, allowing its weapons to be used only just inside Russia's border against targets supporting Russian military operations in Ukraine.

Russia launched three Iskander bal-

istic missiles, Ukraine's air force said, without saying what happened to them.

The military administration of the Sumy region in Ukraine's northeast bordering Russia said on Telegram that a Russian missile damaged critical infrastructure in the Shostkynskiy district of the region.

The administration did not provide detail on what infrastructure was hit.

There was no immediate comment from Russia about the attacks. Moscow says it does not attack civilian targets in Ukraine.

"These systematic attacks ... with drones, once again prove that the invader is actively looking for an opportunity to strike Kyiv," Popko said.

"They're testing new tactics, looking for new approach routes to the capital, trying to expose the location of our air defense."



Travelers rest where they can at the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport on Sunday. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Delta faces widespread flight cancellations after IT outage

David Shepardson and Caroline Valetkevitch

REUTERS

Delta Air Lines struggled to restore normal operations on Sunday after last week's crippling global cyber outage, canceling about 1,000 flights on top of the 3,500 it had already scrapped.

The Atlanta-based airline, which canceled just over a quarter of its schedule Sunday and delayed another 1,700 flights, or 46%, is facing ongoing operational problems caused by the outage's impact on its crew tracking system.

The issue has stranded thousands of Delta travelers across the country, with some resorting to car rentals to drive hundreds of miles and others facing days for new flights or canceling trips altogether.

Delta has offered no timetable for when normal operations would resume and has already canceled another 137

flights for Monday, according to Flight-Aware.

A software update by global cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike triggered system problems for Microsoft customers including many airlines on Friday.

While other U.S. airlines have largely recovered, Delta has struggled to return to normal. United Airlines canceled 9% – or 262 – of its flights on Sunday, second-most among carriers.

Delta CEO Ed Bastian said the issue impacted its Microsoft Windows systems, snarling a critical application.

"In particular one of our crew tracking-related tools was affected and unable to effectively process the unprecedented number of changes triggered by the system shutdown," Bastian told customers in an email.

He told employees in a separate note on Sunday that Delta "will continue to tactically adjust our schedule as needed to ensure the safety of our operation."

Boeing sees significant improvement in 737 MAX factory after safety crisis

REUTERS

LONDON – Boeing is seeing a significant improvement in production flow at its 737 MAX factory, its new commercial planes chief said on Sunday, as the U.S. planemaker works to overcome a safety crisis.

Speaking to reporters in London ahead of this week's Farnborough Airshow, Stephanie Pope said the changes Boeing was making to the Seattle-area factory were significant.

"This isn't minor change. This is transformational change," she said in her first remarks to media since being appointed earlier this year.

"We are a stable company," she added. Boeing is mired in crisis after a cabin panel on a 737 MAX 9 jets blew off mid-air in January, prompting a slowdown in production of its top-selling plane as well as heightened regulatory and legal scrutiny.

Boeing has also agreed to plead guilty to a criminal fraud conspiracy charge over a probe related to two earlier fatal 737 MAX crashes, the Justice Department has said in court filings. Pope declined to comment on a plea deal.

The company is seeing a "significant improvement in the flow of our 737 factory," Pope said, while acknowledging that Boeing has disappointed airline customers.

She said Boeing would need to be more predictable on deliveries after production slumped.

The Federal Aviation Administration in January took the unprecedented step of barring Boeing from increasing pro-

duction beyond 38 MAX planes per month until it is satisfied with the planemaker's quality and manufacturing improvements.

"This isn't about safety and quality versus schedule," Pope said. "These are not competing priorities."

Speaking at the same event, the head of Boeing's defense and space division signaled that unit was having a tough quarter.

"We had a good start to the year, but this quarter you'll see to be significantly challenged," Ted Colbert said.

"It'll look like it looked in the third quarter of last year as we go through some more challenges on the fixed price development programs," he said.

Pope became CEO of Boeing's commercial division as part of a broader management shakeup that will see CEO David Calhoun stepping down by year's end.

Pope has been cited as a possible contender to take the reins of Boeing, although the company is facing calls from airlines and some industry officials to choose a leader with an engineering background which she lacks. Pope said she was focused on her current role "24/7."

She reiterated that the company expects to bring MAX production back to a rate of around 38 a month by the end of 2024.

Pope also said the planemaker had settled on a design to address a engine anti-ice system that has significantly delayed certification of the 737 MAX 7, and suggested a fix could be completed by next year.

Floating parade set to open Olympics

Ingrid Melander
REUTERS

PARIS – Paris will begin its Olympics extravaganza with an unprecedented opening ceremony on the River Seine on Friday.

Here is what you need to know about the ceremony:

What will you see?

Organizers have promised a show like no other and said it would be daring and joyful.

For the first time, the opening ceremony will not take place in a stadium. Instead, dozens of boats will carry thousands of athletes and performers on an almost 4-mile floating parade on the Seine. Departing from the Austerlitz bridge, they will sail by Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral and arrive near the Eiffel Tower, after passing under bridges and gateways and near many of the French capital's landmarks. Organizers have said they will take advantage of the historic monuments, the riverbanks, the sky and water "and there won't be a single riverbank or bridge that won't be filled with music, dance, or performance."

Details, including some of the artists taking part, have been kept secret.

The show will be "a large fresco" celebrating Paris, France and the Games and will interweave the parade of athletes, artistic performances and elements of protocol, said Thomas Jolly, the artistic director of the opening ceremony. The ceremony is due to start at 7.30 p.m. local time (1:30 p.m. Eastern time) and last just under four hours. Organizers said it would reach a climax at around 9:35 p.m. when the sun sets.

Who will be there?

The show will be attended by over 100 heads of state and government and over 300,000 spectators will watch from the river's banks, organizers said, adding that there will be some 80 giant screens along the way. The Paris 2024 committee said there would be about 10,500 athletes and some 222,000 people will get free invites, while 104,000 will have to buy a ticket.

Boats carrying the athletes will be equipped with cameras to allow those watching on TV or their phone to get a close-up view, the committee said.

How will security be handled?

Organizing the ceremony in the heart of an iconic city like Paris may make for great pictures, but it's also a major security challenge.

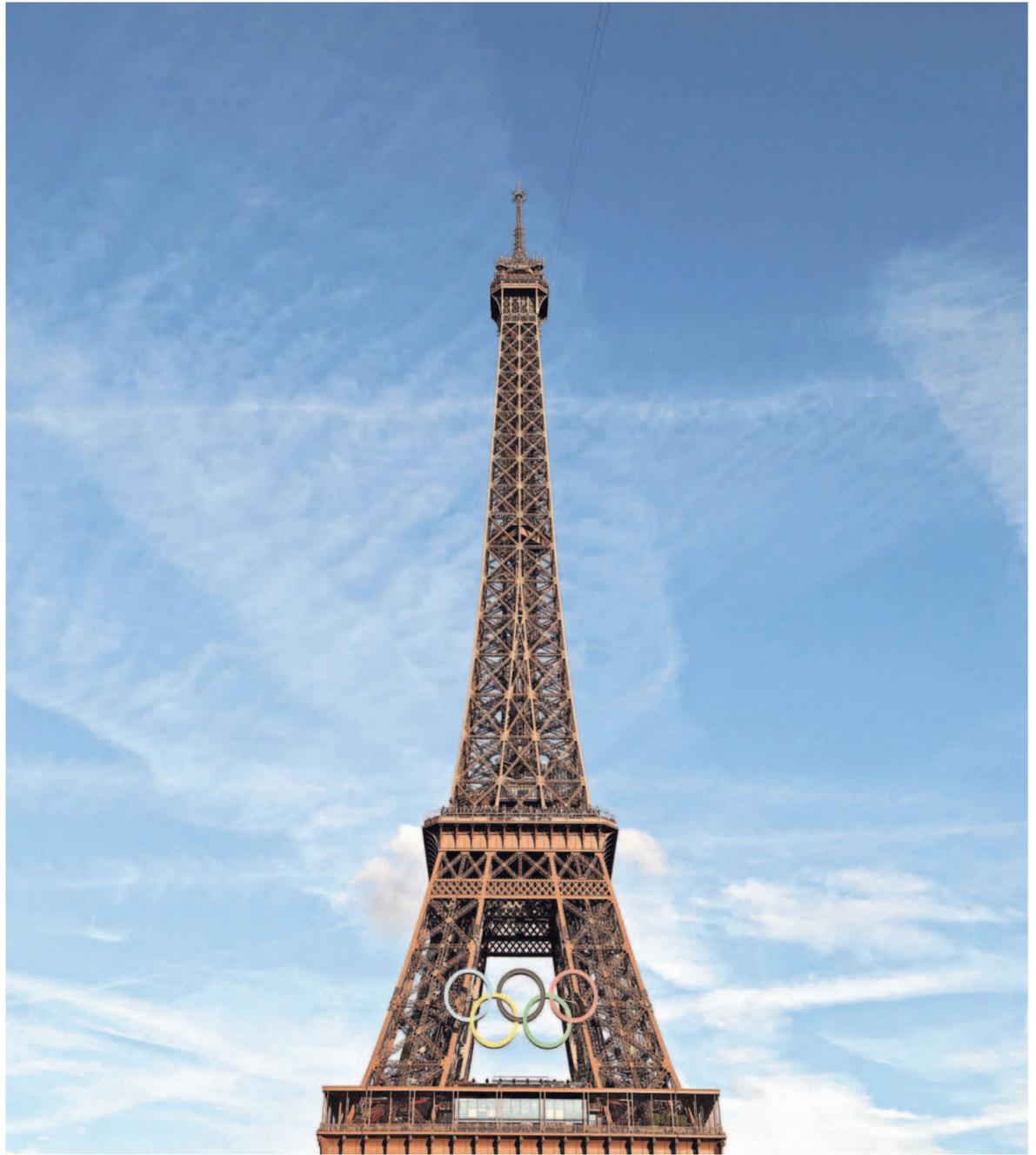
Some 45,000 police will be dispatched to ensure the ceremony's security, including special intervention forces. Snipers will be deployed on the top of buildings along the route. An anti-drone system will be in place.

Spectators and local residents alike will need to carry permits on a QR code to get anywhere near the riverbanks. Cars won't be allowed into the area, with few exceptions. Nearby metro stations will be closed, as will many of the bridges. No planes will be allowed to fly over Paris – unless they are part of the ceremony.

With wars in Gaza and Ukraine, and security concerns at home, France already has its security alert at its highest level.

Officials have said there were no specific terror threats to the July 26 ceremony.

But should specific concerns arise, there are backup plans, that would either see the ceremony limited to the



The Paris opening ceremony will feature a floating parade that will sail by Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral and other monuments before arriving near the Eiffel Tower. KAI PFAFFENBACH/REUTERS

Pope hopes truce on wars can come from games

REUTERS

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis said on Sunday he hoped the Paris Olympics would be an occasion for truces in the world's conflicts, urging athletes to be messengers of peace and models for young people.

The games start Friday with an opening ceremony on the River Seine that will feature about 10,500 athletes and over 100 heads of state and government.

During his weekly address to the crowds in St. Peter's Square, the pope

said he hoped that "according to the ancient tradition, the Olympics will be an opportunity to establish a truce in wars, by demonstrating a sincere desire for peace."

He mentioned the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Myanmar and other countries, saying "let us not forget war is a defeat."

Last month the final statement of a Group of Seven leaders' meeting held in Italy included a unanimous call for a truce in global conflicts during the Olympic Games.



"According to the ancient tradition, the Olympics will be an opportunity to establish a truce in wars," Pope Francis said on Sunday.

ALESSANDRO GAROFALO/REUTERS FILE

Trocadero square near the Eiffel tower, or the Stade de France stadium.

The main potential risk would be from a lone attacker, officials have said over the past months, while also flagging potential petty crime and possible protests. A man was arrested in May in Saint-Etienne, suspected of planning an attack in the name of Islamic State at the city's soccer stadium during the Olympics. A right-wing sympathizer was arrested in eastern France in July on suspicion of plotting attacks to take place during the Olympics.

Past opening ceremonies

Tokyo 2020

The opening ceremony was overshadowed by the COVID pandemic. Postponed by a year due to the coronavirus, the Games were held largely without spectators.

Rio 2016

A financially constrained Brazil had little choice but to put on a more low-key show, with minimal technology and a heavy dependence on the vast talent of Brazil and its Carnival party traditions.

London 2012

The 86-year-old Queen Elizabeth put aside royal reserve in a video where she stepped onto a helicopter with James Bond actor Daniel Craig to be carried aloft from Buckingham Palace as part of a dizzying ceremony designed to highlight the grandeur and eccentricities of the nation.

Beijing 2008

About 1 billion people watched the opening ceremony, which involved 10,000 performers, 2008 drummers and a dramatic sky-walking finale.

Taiwan must protect its sovereignty, president says

Ben Blanchard
REUTERS

TAIPEI, Taiwan – Taiwan must protect its sovereignty and know its own culture and history, President Lai Ching-te said on Sunday, rejecting what he said was the previous mistaken belief the island could serve as a base to "retake" China.

Lai, who took office in May, and his ruling Democratic Progressive Party, champion Taiwan's separate identity from China, a position that frequently angers Beijing, which views the island as an inviolable part of Chinese territory.

Speaking to the DPP's annual convention, Lai said those who fought to bring democracy to Taiwan – martial law only ended in 1987 – had a clear understanding of the island's place in the world.



Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te and his ruling Democratic Progressive Party champion Taiwan's separate identity from China.

ANN WANG/REUTERS FILE

They "did not hesitate to shed blood and used their lives to debunk the mistaken idea that 'Taiwan is a base to retake the mainland,' and instituted the national policy of putting Taiwan first," said Lai, who is also DPP chairman.

Chiang Kai-shek and his defeated Republic of China government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's communists.

Chiang hoped to regroup his forces on Taiwan and attack China to destroy Mao's People's Republic of China. Chiang died in 1975 without achieving that dream.

Lai said Taiwan had different priorities.

"Now, our responsibility to unite the people, oppose annexation (by China) and ensure national sovereignty," he said, speaking in Taiwanese, also known as Hokkien, rather than the main language of government, Mandarin.

"We must do our best to let the whole country's people understand Taiwan's own history and culture, and establish a national identity that the 23 million people living in Taiwan are a communi-

ty of destiny," he added.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office did not answer calls seeking comment outside of office hours on Sunday. China calls Lai a "separatist."

Lai rejects China's sovereignty claims saying only Taiwan's people can decide their future. He has repeatedly offered talks with Beijing but been rebuffed.

China staged war games shortly after Lai's inauguration, and has continued to send warplanes and warships around Taiwan on a daily basis. Taiwan starts its annual Han Kuang war games on Monday, which this year aim to be as close as possible to actual combat.

Lai said the DPP will always adhere to a democratic and free constitutional system.

"We will never allow Taiwan to suffer the danger of extinction due to the failure of democratic politics," he added.

SPORTS **EXTRA**

GOLF BRITISH OPEN



Xander Schauffele poses with the Claret Jug on the 18th hole after winning the British Open at Royal Troon on Sunday in Troon, Scotland. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

A SUPER SUNDAY

Schauffele wins jug with faultless 65 in final round

REUTERS

TROON, Scotland – American Xander Schauffele emerged from a tightly-bunched leaderboard to win the 152nd British Open with a supreme blemish-free final-round 65 at Royal Troon on Sunday.

Beginning the day among a group of players one stroke behind leader Billy Horschel, unflappable world No. 3 Schauffele was in total control as he produced an immaculate display to finish at 9-under 275.

When Schauffele tapped in for par on the 18th green, the Claret Jug was his, even if South Africa's Thriston Lawrence, who had earlier led the tournament, was still to finish his round.

Justin Rose, bidding to become the first Englishman to win the Open since Nick Faldo in 1992, was left to ponder what might have been as he finished two shots back tied for second place having barely put a foot wrong over the weekend.

American Horschel birdied the 18th to join Rose at 7 under and Lawrence was fourth at 6 under with another American, Russell Henley, fifth at 5 under and Ireland's 2019 Open champion Shane Lowry sixth at 4 under.

The 30-year-old Schauffele had not won a major until dominating this year's PGA Championship in May when he finished a record 21 under par to edge out Bryson DeChambeau.

He took his new-found swagger to the Ayrshire coast, however, to claim the Open in commanding fashion.

See **OPEN**, Page 2NS



Justin Rose hugs Xander Schauffele on the 18th green during the final round of the British Open at Royal Troon. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

MLB

Mauer, Helton, Beltre, Leyland enter Hall of Fame

Jerry Beach
FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. – Joe Mauer closed out Sunday's National Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony with 27 words that summarized the experience for he and his fellow honorees.

"To stand here today and say that I am now a small part of baseball history is a statement that will never fully sink in for me," Mauer said.

Humility, a bit of disbelief and a connection between baseball's past and present were the underlying themes for Mauer, Todd Helton, Adrian Beltre and Jim Leyland, all of whom were officially inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Clark Sports Center in this bucolic upstate town. Mauer and Beltre were elected by the Baseball Writers Association of America in their first year on the ballot while Helton earned



Hall of Fame inductee Joe Mauer makes his acceptance speech during the National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cooperstown, N.Y. GREGORY FISHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

See **HALL**, Page 6NS

NASCAR



Kyle Larson celebrates his win in the Brickyard 400 by kissing the Yard of Bricks at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. ADAM CAIRNS/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Larson takes Brickyard 400 for fourth win of season

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Kyle Larson checked off a third crown jewel race Sunday afternoon.

Larson won a second overtime shootout under caution in the 28th

Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the NASCAR Cup Series' return to the legendary oval in Speedway, Ind.

See **NASCAR**, Page 3NS

GOLF

ROUNDUP

Wannasaen hangs on to win Dana Open

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Twenty-year-old Chanettee Wannasaen of Thailand notched her second LPGA Tour victory by winning the Dana Open on Sunday in Sylvania, Ohio.

Wannasaen started the day with a three-stroke lead at Highland Meadows Golf Club and fired a 4-under-par 67 to finish at 20-under 264 for the week.

She was ahead by five shots with nine holes to go, then stumbled from Nos. 10-13 with two bogeys and one birdie in that stretch. Wannasaen converted two crucial birdies at the par-5 17th and 18th holes, as South Korea's Haeran Ryu made a late run to card a 65 and finish second at 19 under.

"I know she is very good player, very good golfer," Wannasaen said of Ryu. "I know her. Today I think she is like 5-under or 6-under. That's play really well. Yeah, she made me a little bit nervous."

Ryu, who began the day in second place, made four birdies over the final five holes, but her bogey at the par-4 16th came back to bite her. She needed to shoot one better than Wannasaen on one of the final two holes to force a play-off.

"Try not to short shot," Ryu said of her approach at the final hole. "I think almost five, six meters birdie, and, OK, I got to try to the birdie or eagle and then I want to go to playoff. But really good shots and almost get it in."

Wannasaen admitted she was nervous entering the round but said it was thrilling to be in contention again.

"It's really exciting, because like on the last putt, in my brain it's like nothing," Wannasaen said. "Just like being, 'Get in, get in. Just birdie. I don't want to par; just birdie.'"

"After I putt in, the (fans screamed), and after that notice, 'Oh, my God, a lot of my fans supporting me on this week.'"

Wannasaen earned her first victory on our last September at the Portland Classic. Earlier this week, she set career-low marks for 36-hole score (131)



Chanettee Wannasaen plays her shot from the 18th tee during the final round of the Dana Open at Highland Meadows Golf Club on Sunday in Sylvania, Ohio. RAJ MEHTA/GETTY IMAGES

and 54-hole score (197). Ssu-Chia Cheng of Taiwan and Linn Grant of Sweden each shot 68 to tie for third at 14 under. Mary Liu (69) and Xiyu Lin (70), both of China, tied for fifth at 12 under.

PGA Tour

Nick Dunlap made a 56-foot eagle putt and earned the second win of his rookie season at the Barracuda Championship on Sunday at Tahoe Mountain Club in Truckee, Calif.

Dunlap, 20, won The American Express as an amateur in January and

turned pro one week later. That win didn't qualify him for the Open Championship, so he played the PGA Tour's lone Modified Stableford event this week and scored a total of 49 points.

Under Modified Stableford scoring, birdies are worth two points, eagles are worth five and albatrosses are worth eight. Each par is zero points, while bogeys are minus-1 point and double bogey or anything worse is worth minus-3.

Dunlap's bogey-free, 9-under 62 in the final round featured seven birdies and one massive eagle, totaling 19 points. The eagle came at the par-5 15th,

where he swept a right-to-left putt from across the green and watched it drop into the right side of the cup.

"After I made the putt on 15, we started playing through some serious adrenaline," Dunlap said on the Golf Channel broadcast.

That single shot leapfrogged Dunlap over three players and into the outright lead, and his final birdie at the par-4 17th hole provided some much-needed insurance. Mac Meissner and Vince Whaley arrived at the par-4 18th behind Dunlap by four points, needing an eagle to win, and neither came close.

Open

Continued from Page 1NS

Precision golf meant he hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation and he hit nine of 14 fairways.

"Hearing your name called with 'Open champion' after it is something I've dreamt of for a very long time," Schauffele said after being presented with the Claret Jug.

Schauffele's victory means the last seven majors have all been won by Americans, and for the first time since 1982 Americans have swept all four majors in a season.

After the wild weather on Saturday had left 24 players within six shots of the lead, the year's final major looked set for a nerve-jangling climax.

Midway through the afternoon that seemed likely, but Schauffele was simply too accurate off the tee, on the fairways and the greens, making six birdies and not a single bogey in a masterful exhibition of links golf.

When a dialled-in Rose birdied the second and fourth to move to the top of the leaderboard, hopes of a British winner were soaring. Schauffele, however, made his move with consecutive birdies at the sixth and seventh to share the lead.

Lawrence briefly led at under after an exquisite approach and birdie on the ninth while Rose bogeyed the 12th – only his fifth dropped shot of the entire championship.

Schauffele continued to turn the screw, becoming the only player all day to birdie the treacherous 11th and sinking another at the par-four 13th where Rose missed his birdie putt. The relentless Schauffele also birdied the 14th to give himself breathing space.

Former U.S. Open champion Rose, who had to qualify this year, had a sniff of an eagle at the 16th but could only make a birdie, as did Schauffele.

"I can't wait to drink out of it," Schauffele said of getting his hands on the famous silverware.

"My dad's here so I'll let him do the honors of choosing."

Twenty six years after making his name by winning the amateur's Silver Medal with a fourth-placed finish at Royal Birkdale as a 17-year-old, Rose came so close to glory.

"I saw glimpses of my name at the top of the leaderboard at times, did some of



Billy Horschel reacts on the 18th green during the final round of the British Open at Royal Troon.

JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

the hard work on the back nine, but Xander got that momentum," the 43-year-old Rose said.

"He's an ice cold competitor and one

of the best players in the world and it was tough to keep up."

World number one Scottie Scheffler had to be content with a tie for seventh

after a costly double-bogey at the ninth stymied his progress. The American double-bogeyed the 18th after scuffing his tee shot little more than 100 yards.

AUTO RACING

INDYCAR

Herta, Kirkwood go 1-2 for Andretti in Toronto

Nathan Brown
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Six consecutive times – dating back to the start of the 2022 IndyCar campaign – Colton Herta and the No. 26 Andretti Global program started on pole and failed to win. Those half-dozen races have ended a variety of ways, from a DNF at Long Beach to a runner-up finish at Toronto, with combinations of bad luck, strategy miscues and pit lane mistakes in between.

Sunday, the 24-year-old driver ensured there wouldn't be a 7th.

After leading nearly all 85 laps during IndyCar's annual stop on the streets of Toronto, Herta and company executed a pair of almost flawless pitstops, hit on the proper strategy and held off a teammate and a six-time series champ during a late-race caution and an even later red flag to capture his first win in 41 starts.

"We've been knocking on the door for a win for so long. 41 starts without a win is a long time. Michael (Andretti) is an owner that demands perfection and results, and we're people who work for the team that demand it, too, and I'm so happy," Herta said post-race.

"I wish we didn't have this long of a break. I want to go get right back in for another one."

With fewer than 15 laps to go, Pato O'Ward, sitting 6th and on a solid recovery run up from 14th on the starting grid, lost the rear of his No. 5 Chevy coming through the Turn 1 right hander and slid into the outside wall. Just a few spots back, Andretti Global's Marcus Ericsson couldn't avoid O'Ward's car in the braking zone and skidded into the side of O'Ward.

From there, O'Ward's car would essentially turn into a ramp, as first Pietro Fittipaldi and then Santino Ferrucci ran over the nose of the No. 5 and went airborne – with Ferrucci the second AJ Foyt Racing car in as many race weekends to have all four wheels lift off the ground and overturn in mid-air.



Colton Herta holds the crystal trophy after winning the race on the streets of Toronto on Sunday.

DAN HAMILTON/USA TODAY SPORTS

The ensuing red flag lasted just under 20 minutes, with only 13 cars left on the lead-lap and 16 running when the cars fired back up and peeled off pitlane, followed shortly by a race restart with nine laps to go.

The 16 cars still running took the green flag with nine laps to go, and before they could turn a single lap, Will Power lunged on his Team Penske teammate Scott McLaughlin, both of them solidly in the hunt for the championship entering Sunday, to try and snag 4th-place away for the closing stretch.

As chaos happened behind them, teammates Herta and second-place Kyle Kirkwood didn't put a wheel wrong all day, with Kirkwood admitting post-race that he was extra cautious on the early- and late-race restarts to give his Andretti Global teammate out front an extra cushion to ensure they both could make it through the packed-up moments unscathed and live to fight it out on-track.

FORMULA ONE



Oscar Piastri celebrates Sunday after winning the Hungarian Grand Prix.

BERNADETT SZABO/REUTERS

Piastri gets his 1st win after team orders

Alan Baldwin Reuters

BUDAPEST – Australian Oscar Piastri took his first Formula One win in a McLaren one-two at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday after Lando Norris reluctantly handed back the lead on team orders three laps from the end on an afternoon of high drama.

Lewis Hamilton took third for Mercedes, his 200th Formula One podium coming despite a late collision with Red Bull's championship leader Max Verstappen, who came off worse and finished fifth. "Very, very special. This is really the day I dreamed of as a kid, standing on the top step of an F1 podium," Piastri said before the ceremonies.

"Obviously, a bit complicated at the end, but I put myself in the right position at the start, and thank you to the team for an amazing effort and an amazing car."

He apologized over the radio at the checkered flag for it being more "painful" than necessary.

The fifth Australian to win a grand prix seized the lead from pole-sitter Norris at the start as Verstappen took second with a short-cut after being

forced wide.

Verstappen had to give the place back as stewards' investigated and Piastri was ahead until Norris came in for his second stop to cover against Hamilton, with Piastri staying out and losing out.

McLaren told Norris to re-establish the order "at his convenience" with more than 20 laps remaining but the gap between only grew larger and the Briton showed no sign of complying.

"I know you'll do the right thing," Norris was told with 14 laps to go after the team repeated that they wanted Piastri to win. "Well you should have pitted him first," he replied.

"Lando, he can't catch you up. You've proved your point," the Briton was told when he moved six seconds clear with six laps remaining.

"The way to win a championship is not by yourself. You're going to need Oscar, and you're going to need the team," Norris was told, before eventually complying.

"The team asked me to do it, so that's it," he said in his pre-podium interview, making no attempt to hide his unhappiness.

NASCAR

Continued from Page 1NS

As the first Cup race on the IMS oval since July 5, 2020 neared its finish, sixth-place Kyle Busch wrecked with three laps left to create the shootout scenario with leader Brad Keselowski.

However, Keselowski pulled off before the green flag due to a lack of fuel, and a big melee soon occurred just outside the top 10.

In the second two-lap shootout after a red-flag period, leader Larson pulled his No. 5 away from Ryan Blaney, who slowed dramatically. Larson beat pole-sitter Tyler Reddick before the 10th caution came out for Ryan Preece's spin to freeze the field and end the race.

Larson's series-leading fourth win was the 27th of his career and first at the 2.5-mile speedway.

It was Hendrick Motorsports' 11th career victory at IMS, a track record.

Larson has scored wins at the Brickyard 400, Darlington's Southern 500 and Charlotte's Coca-Cola 600, three of the four crown jewel races, with only the Daytona 500 missing on his racing resume.

"It's for sure up there," said Larson, who led eight laps, before kissing the bricks. "It's just such a prestigious place and such hallowed ground. Pretty neat to just get to race here on the oval again."

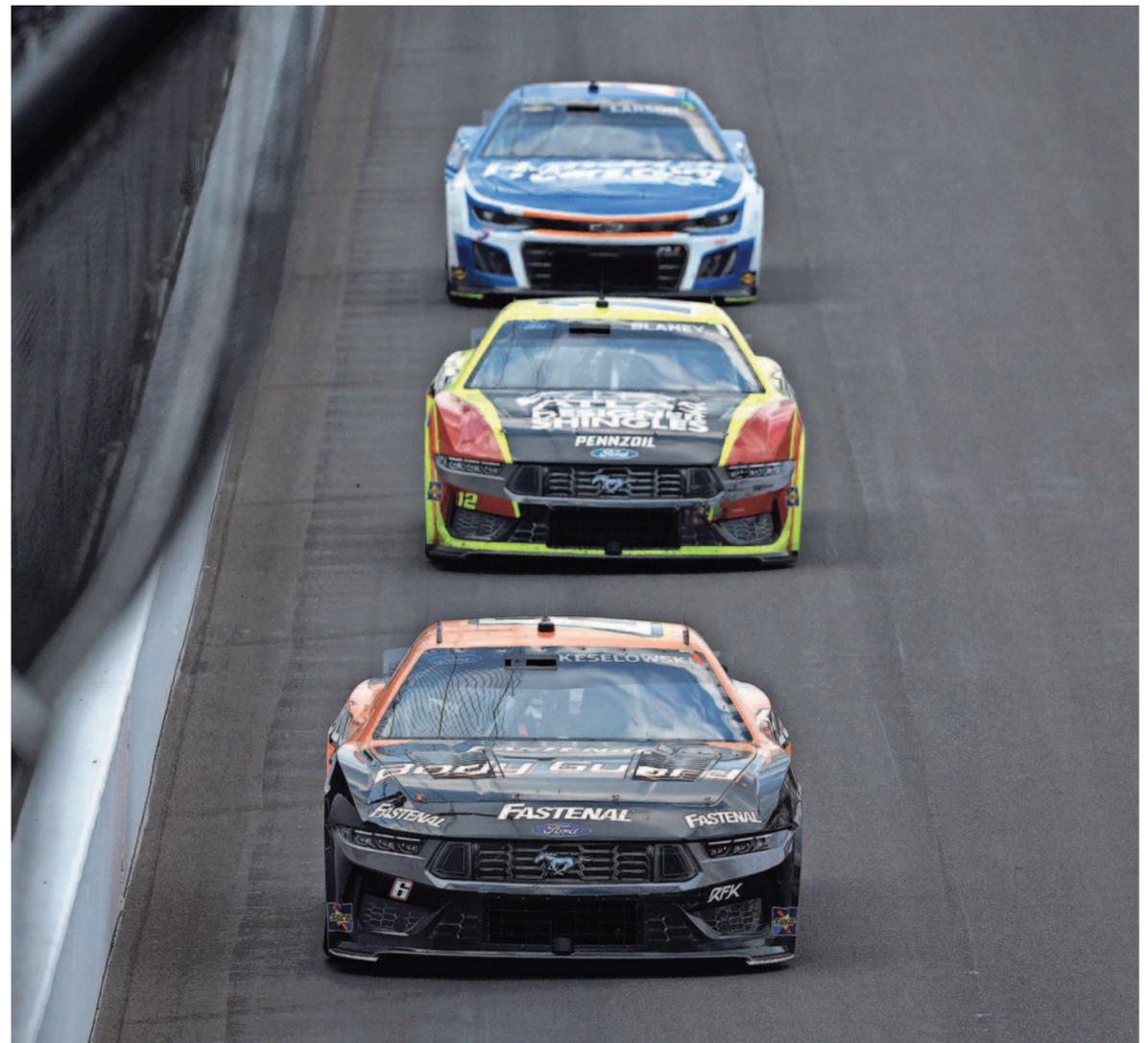
Running in second as the first overtime was about to go green, Blaney watched leader Keselowski run out of gas then saw third-place Larson slide up to the inside line, the preferred groove at the flat track, as Keselowski hit pit road.

"Call it off and re-choose," Blaney said of what he felt NASCAR should have done. "You promote the third-place guy before the second-place guy. It's not right. It's just dumb luck (considering) where Brad ran out. ... I'm just upset. That's a heartbreaker."

Rounding out the top-five finishers were Blaney, Chase Elliott and Bubba Wallace.

In his 700th career Cup start, Busch brought his No. 8 Chevrolet home in 25th.

Reddick and his No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota were quickest in Friday's prac-



Brad Keselowski (6), Ryan Blaney (12) and Kyle Larson (5) race during the Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday.

SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES

tice and matched that on Saturday with his eighth career pole over team co-owner Denny Hamlin.

When the green came out Sunday, Reddick created a healthy gap on his boss and the rest of the field by leading them all before pitting on Lap 37 in the first of the two 50-lap stages.

Hamlin gained the lead for the first

time when 2018 Brickyard winner Keselowski pitted with eight laps to go as the final driver who had not received pit service.

The No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing driver kept a strong pace and beat Larson and Blaney at Lap 50, giving Hamlin his sixth stage win this season and first ever at IMS.

William Byron, one of four three-time winners in 2024 to start the race, had a hard hit when his No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet crashed into the inside wall on Lap 74 after contact in the back of the pack. In his first segment win since 2022, Wallace received the full bonus points by beating Elliott and Hamlin to close Stage 2.

MLB

SUNDAY'S ROUNDUP

Mariners overcome Alvarez, Astros

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Jorge Polanco and Luke Raley hit home runs as the Seattle Mariners snapped a five-game skid and moved into a virtual tie for first place in the American League West with a 6-4 victory against the visiting Houston Astros on Sunday afternoon.

Right-hander Bryan Woo (4-1) pitched 5 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings for the victory. He allowed two runs on four hits, with no walks and five strikeouts.

Yordan Alvarez hit for the cycle and Jeremy Pena also homered for the Astros, who had taken over the division lead by winning the first two games of the series. Alvarez became just the second player in the 25-year history of T-Mobile Park to accomplish the feat after Oakland's Miguel Tejada in 2001. Alvarez singled in the first inning, homered off the facade of the upper deck in the fourth, tripled to center in the sixth and doubled down the right field line in the eighth.

Cubs 2, Diamondbacks 1, 10 innings

Nico Hoerner scored the tying run in the ninth and drove in the winning run in the 10th to give the Chicago Cubs a win against the visiting Arizona Diamondbacks, avoiding a sweep of the three-game series.

Dansby Swanson was intentionally walked to start the 10th, which put runners on first and second. Miguel Amaya then laid down a bunt and beat the throw to first to load the bases with no outs. Joe Mantiplay (3-2) got Pete Crow-Armstrong to fly out to shallow left for the first out. Humberto Castellanos then came in to face Hoerner and walked him on five pitches to force in the winning run.

Justin Martinez came out of the bullpen for Arizona for the third straight day in his first save opportunity of the season and gave up a leadoff double to Hoerner to start the ninth. Hoerner moved to third on a grounder to short by Michael Busch and scored on a single up the middle by Seiya Suzuki to tie it 1-1.

Brewers 8, Twins 7

Rhys Hoskins hit a tiebreaking, two-run home run in the top of the eighth inning, Eric Haase blasted two home runs and the Milwaukee Brewers held on for a win over the Minnesota Twins in Minneapolis.

Jackson Chourio finished 2-for-4 with a double, a homer and three RBIs for Milwaukee, which finished a two-game sweep of the Twins. Haase also drove in three runs.

Twins right-hander Griffin Jax (3-4) allowed two runs in one inning.

Cardinals 6, Braves 2

The visiting St. Louis Cardinals hit four solo home runs to back the solid effort from starting pitcher Miles Mikolas and beat the Atlanta Braves in the rubber game of their three-game series.

Paul Goldschmidt, Alec Burleson, Lars Nootbaar and Willson Contreras all went deep for St. Louis.

Atlanta rookie Spencer Schwellenbach (3-5) pitched six innings and allowed four runs on seven hits – three of them home runs – and eight strikeouts. The loss snapped his two-game winning streak. Atlanta second baseman Ozzie Albies injured his left wrist in the ninth inning.

Nationals 5, Reds 2

Rookie James Wood's three-run homer in the eighth inning broke a tie and lifted the Washington Nationals to a win and a three-game sweep of the visiting Cincinnati Reds.

Keibert Ruiz grounded a single into right field with two outs in the eighth against right-hander Lucas Sims (1-4), and Ildemaro Vargas followed with a bunt single. The Reds brought in left-hander Justin Wilson to face the lefty-swinging Wood, who hammered Wilson's first pitch, a 94-mph fastball up in the zone, 404 feet to left field.

Cincinnati's Stuart Fairchild opened the fifth inning by connecting on a fastball and sending it into the left field seats to tie the game at 2-2.

Rays 6, Yankees 4

Randy Arozarena homered again and Richie Palacios hit his first career home run to lead off a game as the Tampa Bay



Astros designated hitter Yordan Alvarez (44) hits a double against the Mariners during the eighth inning at T-Mobile Park. JOHN FROSCHAUER/USA TODAY SPORTS



Cubs second baseman Nico Hoerner is doused by teammates after a bases-loaded walk to beat the Diamondbacks in extra innings at Wrigley Field. MATT MARTON/USA TODAY SPORTS

Rays went deep four times for the second straight day in a 6-4 victory over the host New York Yankees.

Jose Siri added a two-run homer in the seventh and Jose Caballero contributed a solo shot in the ninth for the Rays, who have hit 41 of their 95 homers this season in the past 28 games.

Juan Soto hit an RBI double in the ninth as the Yankees lost for the 20th time in 29 games since getting to 50 wins on June 14.

Phillies 6, Pirates 0

Tyler Phillips pitched six shutout innings and Nick Castellanos homered to help the Philadelphia Phillies notch a victory over the host Pittsburgh Pirates.

Castellanos, Alec Bohm and Garrett Stubbs each had two hits, one RBI and one run for Philadelphia, which halted a three-game losing streak. The skid matched a season worst from late May.

The Pirates had just six hits while seeing their season-best six-game winning streak come to an end. Joey Bart had two hits for the Pirates, who had just one at-bat with a runner in scoring position.

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 4

George Springer had two home runs, a double and three RBIs and the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the visiting Detroit Tigers.

Ernie Clement hit the go-ahead RBI single in the sixth as the Blue Jays avoided a three-game series sweep.

Justyn-Henry Malloy hit a grand slam for the Tigers, whose four-game winning streak ended.

Padres 2, Guardians 1

Michael King took a no-hitter into the seventh inning of his latest stellar start and Kyle Higashioka hit a two-run double as the San Diego Padres sent the Cleveland Guardians to a rare home-series loss.

King (8-6) retired the first 10 Guardians he faced before walking Angel Martinez in the fourth. It was Martinez who

also recorded Cleveland's first hit against King, when he dropped the ball into short center field to lead off the seventh with San Diego ahead 2-0.

Martinez then went to third on a Jose Ramirez single off the glove of first baseman Luis Arraez, and Ramirez was thrown out trying to stretch that hit into a double. Josh Naylor followed with a groundout to second that made it a one-run contest.

Marlins 4, Mets 2

Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Jake Burger each homered while the Miami Marlins' bullpen recorded 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ scoreless innings in their win over the visiting New York Mets.

Declan Cronin (2-2), the first of four relievers, got the win after working 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings in relief of starter Trevor Rogers. A.J. Puk and Calvin Faucher took care of the seventh and eighth before Tanner Scott pitched the ninth to garner his 16th save in 18 chances.

New York's Christian Scott (0-3) took the loss, yielding three runs off seven hits and two walks in four innings while striking out four.

Royals 4, White Sox 1

Seth Lugo threw a complete game, Bobby Witt Jr. tallied three hits and the Kansas City Royals beat the visiting Chicago White, clinching a three-game sweep.

Lugo (12-4) allowed just one run on three hits, while striking out six and walking none en route to Kansas City's ninth win in 10 tries against Chicago this season. Sunday was Lugo's first career complete game.

Hunter Renfroe, Maikel Garcia and Dairon Blanco recorded RBI singles in the bottom of the eighth, putting Kansas City ahead for good. Garcia, Blanco and Vinnie Pasquantino each finished 2-for-4.

Rangers 3, Orioles 2

Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer and four Texas pitchers cooled off Balti-

more's bats as the Rangers salvaged the finale of their three-game series against the Orioles with a win in Arlington, Texas.

Heim's fourth-inning blast provided enough support for starter Andrew Heaney, Josh Sborz, David Robertson and Kirby Yates, who limited Baltimore to its fewest runs and hits (five) in a game this series.

Anthony Santander's 27th home run of the season came after Adley Rutschman drew a one-out walk in the eighth.

Giants 3, Rockies 2

Jorge Soler homered among his two hits, Tyler Fitzgerald also went deep, and the San Francisco Giants beat the Colorado Rockies in Denver.

Hayden Birdsong (2-0) struck out a career-high 12 batters in just his fifth major league start. He kept Colorado hitless until the fourth inning and finished the day allowing just two hits in six innings. He ended the longest start of his season with a strikeout of Michael Toglia for the third time, all swinging.

Brendan Rodgers homered for Colorado, which had its three-game winning streak snapped, matching the second longest by the club this season.

Angels 8, A's 5

Kevin Pillar capped a five-run eighth inning with a tiebreaking two-run double, and the Los Angeles Angels secured their first victory at Oakland this season with a win over the Athletics.

Singles by Logan O'Hoppe and Zach Neto off Lucas Erceg (2-3) set the stage for the rally which began when Brandon Drury was hit by a pitch and Jo Adell drew a bases-loaded walk to make it 5-3. An pinch-hit RBI infield single by Nolan Schanuel and RBI fielder's choice by Anthony Rendon tied the score before Pillar bombed his double off the left-field fence, giving the visitors the lead for good.

Miguel Andujar singled twice and homered to help Oakland take a 5-2 lead. His fourth homer of the year broke a 2-2 tie in the fifth.

Dodgers 9, Red Sox 6

Shohei Ohtani hit a 473-foot home run beyond the bleachers in center field in the fifth inning to highlight a six-homer performance from the Los Angeles Dodgers, who completed a three-game series sweep of the visiting Boston Red Sox.

Freddie Freeman, Teoscar Hernandez, Gavin Lux, Austin Barnes and Jason Heyward each added a home run for Los Angeles.

Jarren Duran stayed hot with four RBIs for the Red Sox, clubbing the early two-run shot off Paxton. Boston starter Kutter Crawford (6-8) surrendered six runs on seven hits – five of which were homers – in five innings. He didn't issue a walk and fanned two. Boston started fast, getting a Romy Gonzalez double to open the game before Duran hit a home run, his 12th of the season. The MVP of Tuesday's All-Star Game, Duran had two homers in the series.

MLB

SUNDAY'S BOX SCORES

L.A. Dodgers 9, Boston 6												
Boston	200	001	003	-	6	9	0					
LAD	201	120	03x	-	9	10	1					
Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Aug.					
Gonzalez 1b	3	1	1	0	0	2	255					
a-Smith ph-1b	2	1	1	0	0	0	232					
Duran lf-cf	5	2	2	4	0	1	290					
O'Neill rf-1b	4	0	0	0	1	3	259					
Dobson 3b	4	0	0	0	1	1	287					
Wong c	2	1	1	0	3	1	306					
Yoshida dh	3	0	1	1	1	0	260					
Westbrook 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	179					
b-Abreu ph-1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	258					
Hamilton ss-2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	270					
Rafaela cf-ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	253					
Totals	36	6	9	6	6	14						

L.A. Dodgers 9, Boston 6												
Ohtani dh	AB	R	H	BI <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th> <th>Aug.</th> <td colspan="5"></td>	BB	SO	Aug.					
Ohtani dh	4	1	1	1	0	0	263					
Hernandez lf	4	1	1	1	0	0	292					
Freeman 1b	4	1	1	1	0	0	255					
Pages cf	4	0	0	0	1	2	255					
Lux 2b	4	2	3	0	0	1	227					
Rojas ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	271					
Biggio 3b	3	1	1	1	0	0	186					
Heyward rf	4	0	0	0	1	1	205					
Hernandez 3b-ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	194					
Barnes c	3	1	1	1	0	1	261					
Totals	34	9	10	9	1	5						

a-flued out for Gonzalez in 6th. b-struck out for Westbrook in 6th.
E: Hernandez. **2B:** Gonzalez (5), Smith (11), Duran (30), Pages (17), Lux (10). **HR:** Duran (12), Ohtani (30), Hernandez (20), Freeman (16), Lux (5), Heyward (5), Barnes (1). **RBI:** Duran (4), Yoshida (25), Rafaela (53), Ohtani (70), Hernandez (64), Freeman (66), Lux (2) (27), Biggio (3), Heyward (22), Barnes (7). **SB:** Wong (5), Hamilton (2), Lux (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 5 (Smith, Duran, Westbrook, Abreu, Hamilton). **L.A. Dodgers 1 (Rojas).** **RISP:** Boston 3 for 14, L.A. Dodgers 3 for 4. **GIDP:** Abreu. **DP:** L.A. Dodgers 1.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Crawford L, 6-8	5.0	7	6	6	0	2	76	3.37
Horn	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.16
Anderson	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	10	4.50
Jansen	1.0	3	3	3	0	1	20	3.06

L.A. Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Paxton W, 8-2	5.0	4	3	3	4	7	95	4.43
Kelly H, 10	0.2	1	0	0	0	2	11	4.20
Yarborough H, 1	1.3	0	0	0	0	3	16	3.66
Banda H, 3	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	2.60
Phillips	0.1	3	3	2	1	24	3.77	
Hudson S, 6	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.56

Paxton pitched to 2 batters in the 6th. **Inherited runners:** Kelly 2-1, Yarborough 2-2, Hudson 3-2. **HBP:** Yoshida. **Balk:** Jansen (2). **Umpires:** HP-Gibson, 1B-Estabrook, 2B-Bacchus, 3B-Diaz. **T:** 2:42. **A:** 50,824 (56,000).

L.A. Angels 8, Oakland 5												
LAA	000	110	051	-	8	15	0					
Oakland	002	010	200	-	5	8	0					

L.A. Angels	AB	R	H	BI <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th> <th>Aug.</th> <td colspan="5"></td>	BB	SO	Aug.					
Rendon 3b	6	1	2	1	0	1	241					
Moniak cf	3	1	1	1	0	1	209					
c-Pillar ph-cf	2	0	1	2	0	0	273					
Ward lf	4	0	1	1	1	2	227					
Calhoun dh	5	1	0	0	0	1	261					
O'Hoppe c	4	2	2	0	0	2	279					
Neto ss	5	1	2	0	0	1	260					
Drury 1b-2b	1	1	1	1	1	2	171					
Adell rf	4	1	1	1	2	3	198					
Guillome 2b	2	0	1	0	0	0	250					
a-Hiura ph-2b	1	1	0	0	0	0	148					
b-Schanuel ph-1b	2	0	1	0	0	0	245					
Totals	39	8	15	7	4	9						

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th> <th>Aug.</th> <td colspan="5"></td>	BB	SO	Aug.					
Butler rf	3	2	2	0	2	0	237					
Andujar lf	5	1	3	1	0	0	304					
Bleday cf	4	1	1	1	1	2	233					
Rooker dh	4	0	1	2	1	1	294					
Langellers c	3	0	1	0	1	1	213					
Toro 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	256					
Harris 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	165					
Brown 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	194					
Gelof 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	199					
Schuemann ss	2	1	0	0	2	1	254					
Totals	33	5	8	4	4	4						

a-fouled out for Guillome in 6th. b-singled for Hiura in 8th. c-grounded into a fielder's choice for Moniak in 7th. **2B:** Pillar (10), Butler (9), Bleday (28), Rooker (19). **HR:** Moniak (6), Andujar (4), Atlanta 3 (Riley, Laureano 2). **RISP:** St. Louis 1 for 2, Atlanta 1 for 3. **GIDP:** Goldschmidt, Riley, Olson 2 for 3. **DP:** St. Louis 3, Atlanta 1.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Nikolas W, 8-8	6.0	7	2	2	1	3	88	5.02
Fernandez H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	1	9	237	
Kittredge H, 26	1.0	1	0	0	0	10	3.38	
Helsley	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	19	2.30

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Schwellenbach L, 6-0	7	4	4	0	8	98	4.62	
3-5	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	3.04
Chavez	2.0	2	2	1	3	1	39	1.87

L.A. Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fulmer	4.2	5	3	3	2	3	77	3.66
Strickland	1.1	1	0	0	1	0	19	3.38
Crouse	0.1	1	2	2	1	0	10	1.93
Joyce	0.2	0	1	0	0	1	16	2.65
Garcia W, 4-1 H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	39	3.98
Estevez S, 18	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	2.53

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Estes	5.2	8	2	2	2	4	97	5.11
McFarland H, 12	1.3	1	0	0	0	1	18	4.23
Eguez L, 2-3	0.2	1	1	1	0	2	4	4.01
Alexander BS, 2	0.1	2	1	1	0	0	9	3.20
Otanez	1.2	2	1	1	1	5	39	6.28

Erceg pitched to 4 batters in the 8th. **Inherited runners:** Joyce 2-0, McFarland 2-2, Alexander 3-0, Otanez 1-1. **HBP:** O'Hoppe, Drury. **WP:** Joyce, Erceg, Otanez. **Umpires:** HP-Torres, 1B-Metz, 2B-Willis, 3B-Tomlinson. **T:** 3:08. **A:** 10,380 (46,847).

Seattle 6, Houston 4												
Houston	000	101	110	-	4	9	0					
Seattle	020	103	00x	-	6	9	1					

Houston	AB	R	H	BI <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th> <th>Aug.</th> <td colspan="5"></td>	BB	SO	Aug.					
Alvarez 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	255					
Bregman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	255					
Alvarez dh	4	2	4	2	0	0	301					
Diaz c	3	0	0	0	1	0	284					
Singleton 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	226					
b-McCormick ph-1b	2	0	1	0	1	0	206					
Pena ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	274					
Meyers cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	236					
Cabbage rf	4	0	1	0	0	3	254					
Dubon lf-1b	3	1	1	0	2	2	279					
a-Loperfido ph	1	0	0	0	1	0	247					
Totals	35	4	9	4	1	1						

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th> <th>Aug.</th> <td colspan="5"></td>	BB	SO	Aug.					
Crawford ss	4	2	0	0	1	3	390					
Robles cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	263					
Rodriguez cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	223					
Raleigh c	4	0	0	0	0	0	209					
Polanco 2b	4	2	2	1	0	0	205					
Rojas 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	244					
Haniger dh	2	1	1	0	0	0	208					
Riley lf-1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	235					
Moore lf	2	0	1	1	1	1	212					
Totals	31	6	9	6	2	6						

a-struck out for Dubon in 9th. b-struck out for Singleton in 9th.
E: Snider. **2B:** Alvarez (22), Dubon (18), Robles (5), Rojas (15). **3B:** Alvarez (2), Moore (4). **HR:** Alvarez (20), Pena (8), Polanco (6), Riley (11). **RBI:** Alvarez (2), McCormick (20), Pena (43), Polanco (19), Riley (3), Moore (2). **CS:** Moore (3). **SB:** Robles (7). **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 2 (Altuve, McCormick), Seattle 3 (Crawford, Rodriguez, Raleigh). **RISP:** Houston 3 for 8, Seattle 2 for 7. **GIDP:** Bregman, France. **DP:** Houston 1, Seattle 1.

Washington 5, Cincinnati 2												
Cincinnati	010	010	000	-	2	5	1					
Washington	002	000	03x	-	5	9	0					

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th> <th>Aug.</th> <td colspan="5"></td>	BB	SO	Aug.					
India 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	275					
De La Cruz ss	3	0	1	0	1	2	255					
Candlish dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	350					
Steer lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	239					
Friley rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	280					
Marte 3b	4	1	1	0	1	0	176					
Fairchild cf	3	1	1	0	0	0	227					
Benson lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	188					
Wynns c	2	0	0	0	0	0	353					
a-Stephenson ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	242					
Totals	32	5	2	2	2	9						

Washington	AB	R	H	BI <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th> <th>Aug.</th> <td colspan="5"></td>	BB	SO	Aug.					
Abraham ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	267					
Thomson rf	3	0	0	0	1	2	246					
Yepez 1b	4	1	1	0	1	0	367					
Ramirez dh	3											

CYCLING TOUR DE FRANCE

Pogacar claims his third Tour title

REUTERS

NICE, France – Tadej Pogacar became the first rider to achieve the Giro d'Italia/Tour de France double since 1998 when he claimed his third Tour title on Sunday, cementing his domination by winning the final stage for his sixth stage success.

The Slovenian beat defending champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark and Belgian Remco Evenepoel, who were second and third overall and on the final stage, with a winning margin of 6, minutes, 17 seconds.

"I'm super happy, I cannot describe how happy I am after two hard years in the Tour de France, always some mistakes and this year, everything to perfection," Pogacar said.

Pogacar won the 33.7-km individual time trial from Monaco to Nice in a time of 45 minutes and 24 seconds, destroying his rivals with a gap of one minute and three seconds over Vingegaard, winner of the last two Tours.

The winner could easily have played it safe having started the final day with a commanding lead over Vingegaard, but once again he showed no mercy and from the start he went for the stage win, his third in a row, to finish the Tour in style. Eritrea's Biniam Girmay won the green jersey for the points classification with Richard Carapaz of Ecuador taking the polka dot jersey for the mountains classification. Pogacar's UAE Team Emirates won the team classification, while Evenepoel, who won the stage seven time trial, took the white jersey for the best young rider in his first Tour, finishing 9:18 behind the winner.

The Tour finished outside Paris for the first time in its 121-year history, due to the upcoming Olympic Games, and it was the first time the Tour ended with a time trial since 1989, when Greg LeMond overtook Laurent Fignon on the final day.

This was never going to be as dramatic, however, given Pogacar's emphatic lead and domination of the race.

Pogacar led since winning stage four, extending the gap to over 3 minutes after taking stages 14 and 15 before another



Tadej Pogacar celebrates his overall victory on the podium with teammates and staff after the 21st and final stage of the Tour de France on Sunday. MARCO BERTORELLO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

two successive victories on stages 19 and 20 all but confirmed his overall win.

Vingegaard came into this year's event having not raced for three months after suffering a collapsed lung and fractured rib at the Tour of the Basque country, and while he never looked like he would retain his title, he did manage a stage win.

On stage 11, Vingegaard held off Pogacar to take the victory, and moved ahead

of Evenepoel into second place after finishing runner-up to Pogacar on stage 14.

Evenepoel had hoped to repeat his earlier time trial stage win, but was soon overtaken by Vingegaard at the first intermediate checkpoint, but once Pogacar set off it was clear he had the stage victory in mind, to show his utter domination of the Tour.

No rider has completed the Giro/Tour double since the late Marco Pantani,

and Pogacar became only the eighth rider to achieve the feat after also won six stages on his way to winning the Giro.

"I think this is the first Grand Tour where I was totally confident every day, even in the Giro I remember I had one bad day I won't tell which one," Pogacar said.

"This year's Tour de France was just amazing and I was enjoying it since day one until today."



Jim Leyland, Adrian Beltre, Todd Helton and Joe Mauer pose with their Baseball Hall of Fame plaques during the National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cooperstown, NY. GREGORY FISHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Hall

Continued from Page 1NS

enshrinement in his sixth year of eligibility. Leyland was elected by the Contemporary Baseball Era committee last December. "Just standing back there, waiting to go up on to the stage, the guys are so kind, they all came by and offered me advice (saying), 'Don't worry about it, don't be nervous, you got this,'" Helton said at a post-ceremony press conference. "And for me, that was the beginning of feeling like I belong.

"But we have a players-only dinner tonight and I'll probably feel like I belong after that."

Helton, who hit .316 with 369 homers in a 17-year career spent entirely with the Colorado Rockies, recalled growing up a fan of Hall of Famers Jim Kaat and Rod Carew because his late father, Jerry, played minor league ball with the Twins. He also drew chuckles in the first speech of the afternoon when he said he's still recognized around the Univer-

sity of Tennessee, his alma mater, for his brief stint backing up Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning on the football team.

"Every so often I'll get, 'Are you Todd Helton? Weren't you a quarterback for the Vols?'" Helton said. "(He said) 'Yes. But I played a little baseball since then.'"

Beltre, who collected 3,166 hits and became the third player to enter the Hall of Fame wearing a Texas Rangers hat, signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers for about \$23,000 at age 15 in 1994.

Four years later, he received the news of his promotion from Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda, who was serving as the Dodgers' interim general manager, and began a career in which he established himself as one of the best all-around third basemen of all time as well as one of the most enthusiastic players in the game.

"Baseball is my passion," Beltre said. "I love it. I love baseball and I have so much fun playing the game."

Leyland, a career .222 hitter who never got above Double-A before he won 1,769 games with four teams and direct-

ed the Florida Marlins to a World Series win in 1997, elicited the biggest laughs of the day when he recalled a conversation with his wife, Katie, shortly after he was elected last December.

"I casually said, 'Katie, can you believe in your wildest dreams that I've been elected to the Hall of Fame?'" Leyland said. "And Katie replied, 'Jim, you're not in my wildest dreams.'"

Leyland, who managed Hall of Famer Jack Morris as a minor league skipper with the Detroit Tigers in 1977, grew emotional at the end of his speech, when he said the spirit of the game is embodied in full stadiums and the sight of children getting their first autograph. "Ladies and gentlemen, that's you," Leyland said. "That's baseball."

Mauer, a Minnesota native who spent his 15-year career with his hometown Twins and won three batting titles as a catcher before concussions forced him to move to first base, is the youngest Hall of Famer at 41 years old and the first one to debut in the 2000s. He offered a glimpse at the potential future of the game by speaking to his son Chip, who

was born two days after Mauer announced his retirement following the 2018 season.

"I now get to relive my childhood love of baseball through your eyes," Mauer said. "Seeing your excitement as I watched you hold Babe Ruth's bat at the museum back in January was a full-circle moment that brought me back to my days of pretending to be a big-leaguer in our backyard.

"I now get to coach your team and have car rides to and from games where we talk about how baseball is about so much more than winning and losing."

Ichiro Suzuki, who finished with 3,089 hits despite not debuting in America until he was 27 years old, is expected to be a first-ballot inductee next year. He'll be joined on the ballot by CC Sabathia, who won a Cy Young and a World Series while finishing with 251 victories and 3,093 strikeouts. Longtime closer Billy Wagner, who came up five votes shy of the 75 percent necessary for induction in his penultimate year on the ballot, is the top returnee on the 2025 ballot.

SCOREBOARD



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MLB

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	60	39	.606	-
N.Y. Yankees	59	42	.584	2
Boston	53	45	.541	6½
Tampa Bay	50	49	.505	10
Toronto	45	54	.455	15

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	59	39	.602	-
Minnesota	54	44	.551	5
Kansas City	55	45	.550	5
Detroit	49	51	.490	11
Chicago	27	74	.267	33½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	52	47	.525	-
Seattle	53	48	.525	-
Texas	47	52	.475	5
L.A. Angels	42	57	.424	10
Oakland	39	62	.386	14

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	63	36	.636	-
Atlanta	54	44	.551	8½
N.Y. Mets	50	48	.510	12½
Washington	47	53	.470	16½
Miami	35	64	.354	28

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	57	42	.576	-
St. Louis	52	47	.525	5
Pittsburgh	50	49	.505	7
Chicago	48	53	.475	10
Cincinnati	47	53	.470	10½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	52	47	.525	-
San Diego	52	50	.510	8
San Francisco	48	52	.480	11
Colorado	36	64	.360	23

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	59	41	.590	-
Arizona	51	49	.510	8
San Diego	52	50	.510	8
San Francisco	48	52	.480	11
Colorado	36	64	.360	23

Saturday's Scores

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

Sunday's Scores

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

Monday's Games

Tampa Bay (Littell 3-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 9-7), 1:05 p.m.
Detroit (TBD) at Cleveland (Carrasco 3-7), 6:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Peterson 4-0) at Miami (Chirinos 0-1), 6:40 p.m.
St. Louis (Pallante 4-4) at Pittsburgh (Keller 10-5), 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Greene 6-4) at Atlanta (Fried 7-5), 7:20 p.m.
Philadelphia (Suarez 10-4) at Minnesota (TBD), 7:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Myers 6-3) at Chicago (TBD), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago (Fedde 7-3) at Texas (TBD), 8:05 p.m.
Arizona (TBD) at Kansas City (TBD), 8:10 p.m.
Boston (Houck 8-6) at Colorado (Marquez 0-0), 8:40 p.m.
Houston (TBD) at Oakland (Harris 1-3), 9:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (TBD) at Seattle (Miller 7-7), 9:40 p.m.
San Francisco (TBD) at L.A. Dodgers (TBD), 10:10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Detroit (TBD) at Cleveland (TBD), 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore (Suarez 5-3) at Miami (TBD), 6:40 p.m.
St. Louis (Lynn 5-4) at Pittsburgh (Skene 6-0), 6:40 p.m.
San Diego (Vasquez 2-5) at Washington (Parker 5-5), 6:45 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Quintana 4-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 10-5), 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Pepiot 6-5) at Toronto (TBD), 7:07 p.m.
Cincinnati (TBD) at Atlanta (Lopez 7-3), 7:20 p.m.
Philadelphia (Wheeler 10-4) at Minnesota (TBD), 7:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rea 9-3) at Chicago (TBD), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago (Crochet 6-6) at Texas (TBD), 8:05 p.m.
Arizona (TBD) at Kansas City (TBD), 8:10 p.m.
Matthew Jordan71-71-71-284 (0)
Boston (TBD) at Colorado (TBD), 8:40 p.m.
Houston (TBD) at Oakland (Bido 1-1), 9:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (TBD) at Seattle (Gilbert 6-5), 9:40 p.m.
San Francisco (TBD) at L.A. Dodgers (TBD), 10:10 p.m.

WNBA

Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Liberty	21	4	.840	-
Connecticut	18	6	.750	2½
Indiana	11	15	.423	10½
Chicago	10	14	.417	10½
Atlanta	7	17	.292	13½

Washington	6	19	.240	15
Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	17	8	.680	-
Seattle	17	8	.680	-
Las Vegas	16	8	.667	½
Phoenix	13	12	.520	4
L.A. Sparks	6	18	.250	10½
Dallas	6	19	.240	11

Saturday, July 20

All-Star Game: Team WNBA 117, Team USA 109

SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA
Inter Miami CF	16	4	5	53	56 39
Cincinnati	15	7	4	48	44 33
Columbus	12	4	7	43	47 22
N.Y. Red Bulls	10	4	11	41	42 31
N.Y. City FC	11	9	5	38	36 30
Charlotte FC	10	8	7	37	30 27
Orlando City	9	9	7	34	39 38
Toronto FC	9	14	3	30	34 47
Atlanta	7	11	7	28	35 36
Philadelphia	6	10	9	27	45 42
CF Montreal	6	10	9	27	34 29
Nashville	6	11	8	26	26 39
D.C. United	6	11	8	26	35 50
Chicago	6	12	7	25	30 42
New England	7	14	2	23	23 47

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA
LA Galaxy	14	5	7	49	50 36
Los Angeles FC	14	5	5	47	48 30
Real Salt Lake	12	5	8	44	51 34
Colorado	11	9	6	39	47 41
Vancouver	11	8	5	38	43 35
Houston	10	7	7	37	35 30
Seattle	10	8	7	37	34 29
Portland	10	9	6	36	50 42
Minnesota	9	10	6	33	40 41
Austin FC	8	10	7	31	28 37
FC Dallas	8	11	6	30	38 39
Sporting KC	6	14	6	24	41 52
Saint Louis	4	10	11	23	32 46
San Jose	4	19	2	14	31 61

Saturday, July 20

Inter Miami CF 2, Chicago 1
Toronto FC 1, CF Montreal 0
New England 1, FC Dallas 1
Philadelphia 3, Nashville 0
Atlanta 2, Columbus 1
Orlando City 1, N.Y. City FC 1
N.Y. Red Bulls 3, Cincinnati 1
Minnesota 2, San Jose 0
Sporting KC 1, Saint Louis 1
Austin FC 2, Charlotte FC 2
Colorado 2, Real Salt Lake 1
Los Angeles FC 3, Seattle 0
Houston 4, Vancouver 3
LA Galaxy 3, Portland 2

Wednesday, July 24

MLS All-Stars vs. Liga MX All-Stars at Columbus, 8 p.m.

GOLF

The Open Championship

Sunday

Troon, Scotland

Royal Troon Golf Club

Purse: \$17 million

Yardage: 7,385; Par: 71

Final Round

Xander Schauffele	69-72-69-65=275 (-9)
Billy Horschel	72-68-69-68=277 (-7)
Justin Rose	69-68-73-67=277 (-7)
Thriston Lawrence	71-74-65-68=278 (-6)
Russell Henley	69-75-66-69=279 (-5)
Shane Lowry	66-69-77-68=280 (-4)
Sungjae Im	76-72-66-69=283 (-1)
Jon Rahm	73-70-72-68=283 (-1)
Scottie Scheffler	70-70-71-72=284 (0)
Daniel Brown	65-72-73-74=284 (0)
Matthew Jordan	71-71-71-71=284 (0)
Adam Scott	70-71-66-71=284 (0)
Byeong Hun An	75-71-68-71=285 (1)
Jason Day	73-68-76-68=285 (1)
Alex Noren	69-75-71-70=285 (1)
John Catlin	76-70-69-71=286 (2)
Mackenzie Hughes	69-74-75-68=286 (2)
Collin Morikawa	73-70-72-71=286 (2)
Dean Burmester	71-69-76-71=287 (3)
Daniel Hillier	76-71-68-72=287 (3)
Shubhankar Sharma	76-72-67-72=287 (3)
Ewen Ferguson	74-73-70-71=288 (4)
Sepp Straka	70-74-73-71=288 (4)
Laurie Canter	71-74-70-74=289 (5)
Patrick Cantlay	73-68-75-73=289 (5)
Corey Conners	71-70-80-68=289 (5)
Joe Dean	69-77-71-72=289 (5)
Ryan Fox	73-73-76-67=289 (5)

Jordan Spieth	71-74-74-70=289 (5)
Sam Burns	76-69-65-80=290 (6)
Eric Cole	72-73-72-73=290 (6)
Dustin Johnson	74-69-72-75=290 (6)
Min-Kyu Kim	73-71-72-74=290 (6)
Chris Kirk	70-76-69-75=290 (6)
Matteo Manassero	73-73-70-74=290 (6)
Guido Migliozzi	73-75-71-71=290 (6)
Justin Thomas	68-78-67-77=290 (6)
Brendon Todd	73-73-70-74=290 (6)
Cameron Young	73-73-71-73=290 (6)
Kurt Kitayama	77-69-74-71=291 (7)
Matt Wallace	70-77-71-73=291 (7)
Jorge Campillo	80-68-73-71=292 (8)
Emiliano Grillo	71-74-72-75=292 (8)
Max Homa	76-72-70-74=292 (8)
Si Woo Kim	76-71-71-74=292 (8)
Brooks Koepka	76-71-71-74=292 (8)
Thorbjørn Olesen	72-73-76-71=292 (8)
Calum Scott	71-75-70-76=292 (8)
Sean Crocker	72-74-69-78=293 (9)
Harris English	76-71-72-74=293 (9)
Matt Fitzpatrick	70-78-73-72=293 (9)
Robert MacIntyre	72-75-72-74=293 (9)
Richard Mansell	75-71-74-73=293 (9)
Adrian Meronk	73-72-73-75=293 (9)
Matthieu Pavon	72-72-77-72=293 (9)
Gary Woodland	76-68-72-77=293 (9)
Abraham Ancer	73-75-70-76=294 (10)
Joaoquin Niemann	71-71-76-76=294 (10)
Brian Harman	73-73-72-77=295 (11)
Rasmus Hojgaard	74-72-74-75=295 (11)
Phil Mickelson	73-74-72-76=295 (11)
Tommy Morrison	75-73-74-73=295 (11)
Jacob Skov Olesen	76-71-72-76=295 (11)
Jeonghun Wang	72-72-77-74=295 (11)
Austin Eckroat	73-73-72-78=296 (12)
Nicolai Hojgaard	69-75-75-77=296 (12)
Hideki Matsuyama	75-72-75-74=296 (12)
Tom McKibbin	73-72-77-74=296 (12)
Davis Thompson	74-73-71-78=296 (12)
Rickie Fowler	79-69-74-75=297 (13)
Tom Hoge	74-70-74-80=298 (14)
Marcel Siem	73-71-77-77=298 (14)
Young-han Song	71-76-77-74=298 (14)
Alex Cejka	73-74-72-80=299 (15)
Darren Clarke	77-71-76-75=299 (15)
Aaron Rai	73-74-75-77=299 (15)
Luis Masaveu	73-75-78-76=302 (18)
Andy Ogletree	75-72-79-77=303 (19)
Darren Fichard	77-71-80-78=306 (22)

Dana Open 2024

Sunday

Sylvania, Ohio

Highland Meadows Golf Club

Purse: \$1.75 million