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He reflects on "magic" and "crazy crowds" at Madison Square Garden. Any pop-up guests for his final show will remain a surprise. **In Life**

USA TODAY

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TAYLOR HILL/WIREIMAGE

Cheatle on Trump shooting: 'We failed'

Secret Service director grilled by House panel

John Bacon, Josh Meyer, Bart Jansen and Ken Tran
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Embattled Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle faced heated questioning Monday at the House Oversight Committee's hearing on the agency's missteps in the assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Butler County, Pennsylvania.

Numerous GOP lawmakers, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, and at least one Democratic congressman have called for Cheatle's resignation. Cheatle signaled Monday she has no intentions of resigning, saying she is "the best person to lead the Secret Service at this time."

Committee Chairman James Comer, R-Ky., opened the hearing by lauding the efforts of individual Secret Service agents that day. But he said he was concerned the agency lacks the "proper management" and said Cheatle should resign. In prepared remarks, Cheatle said "we failed" and took "full responsibility" for security lapses.

"I will move heaven and earth to ensure that an incident like July 13 does not happen again," Cheatle said.

Monday's hearing marked the first round of congressional oversight of the attempted assassination. On Wednesday, FBI Director Christopher Wray will appear before the House Judiciary Committee. And Johnson is also due to unveil a bipartisan task force to serve as a nexus point for House investigations.

Lack of answers unacceptable

Lawmakers Monday questioned the significant delay between when authorities identified the gunman, 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, as acting suspicious and his subsequent "neutralization" by a Secret Service sharpshooter.

Crooks, positioned on a rooftop approximately 150 yards from Trump, managed to discharge as many as eight rounds from an AR-style weapon, injuring Trump, killing

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Kimberly Cheatle, director of the Secret Service, is sworn in at a hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability before testifying about the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump. MEGAN SMITH/USA TODAY

Inside the Harris HQ: Surprise, then action



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at a White House event Monday honoring NCAA championship teams from the 2023-2024 season a day after President Joe Biden announced he was dropping out of the 2024 campaign and endorsing his running mate to lead the Democratic ticket into the November election. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

VP and team hit the ground running after phone call that changed the race

Francesca Chambers and Rebecca Morin USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Kamala Harris was at the vice president's residence when she got the call from POTUS. • President Joe Biden was ending his reelection campaign. And he was endorsing her. • Harris got to work immediately. Still in her Howard University hoodie, workout sweats and sneakers, she whipped up a statement. She placed calls to lawmakers, governors, civil rights leaders and union bosses. • She thanked them for their endorsements. She told them she planned to earn the Democratic presidential nomination.

She prayed with her pastor, Amos Brown III, of San Francisco's Third Baptist Church, and his wife over the phone. Harris' husband, second gentleman Doug Emhoff, was not in Washington.

Harris would ultimately make more than 100 calls over the next 10 hours, speaking to Biden multiple times as she took the reins of the flailing 2024 presidential campaign. It was her turn at the top of the ticket. And she set about making it her own.

Unlike her first presidential bid, which fizzled out in less than a year, Harris was at the precipice of power. She had quit that race before the first

More coverage

Seeking momentum: Harris' support grows as Trump goes on offense. **2A**

Now what? USA TODAY Opinion staff's views on Biden dropping out. **7A**

contest was held. But now, as the sitting vice president, she was getting a second chance.

In her first public remarks since Biden dropped out of the race, Harris praised an absent Biden's legacy at the White House.

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Susan Page
Washington Bureau Chief
USA TODAY

Democrats' fourth-quarter gamble has no playbook

WASHINGTON – It ranks as one of the biggest gambles in American political history.

Only 100-some days before the election, Democrats pushed the incumbent president and presumptive nominee off the ticket – and not because there's any guarantee that Vice President Kamala Harris or anybody else will win in November.

They did it despite President Joe Biden's resistance because the possibility of disruption, even chaos, seemed more promising than the status quo. Now victory may not be assured, but key officeholders and strategists and voters had concluded that defeat was all but guaranteed without a change.

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Olympic tattoos have made their mark

For athletes, inked rings are a badge of honor

Tom Schad
USA TODAY

Nevin Harrison had been an Olympic gold medalist for less than a month when she decided to get her very first tattoo – the iconic symbol of five interlocking rings, stenciled into the side of her left wrist. She said the inches-wide piece cost \$500. She's pretty sure she got ripped off, but she has no regrets.

"I had no idea what I was doing," said Harrison, who won the women's 200-meter canoe sprint at the 2021 Tokyo Games. "I just wanted to get the

IN SPORTS

'For my mom': Olympian keeps spirit of mother alive each time she runs. **1C**

Opening ceremony: LeBron James is named a Team USA's flag bearer. **1C**

best one and have perfect circles."

Harrison said she got the Olympic rings tattooed on her wrist in part because that's what she saw so frequently in the Olympic village in Tokyo. She was eager to take part in what has become a well-worn tradition among Olympic athletes, who have been getting tattoos of the rings since long before Harrison,

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Ukrainian high jumper Iryna Gerashchenko sports the Olympic rings on her ankle in Budapest, Hungary, for the World Athletics Championships in August 2023. Gerashchenko, 29, competed at the 2016 and 2020 Summer Games.

KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS



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Harris endorsements continue to grow

Trump goes on offense, comparing VP to Biden

Dan Morrison, Michael Collins, Karissa Waddick, Rachel Barber, Sudiksha Kochi, Savannah Kuchar, David Jackson, Marina Pitofsky, Julia Gomez and Emily DeLetter
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Americans woke up Monday to an upended presidential campaign after President Joe Biden dropped his troubled reelection bid and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as his successor in the Democratic Party's race to stop Donald Trump from regaining the White House.

Harris paid tribute to Biden in her first public remarks since becoming the de facto presumptive Democratic nominee. His "legacy of accomplishment over the past three years is unmatched in modern history," she said Monday during an NCAA event at the White House. "In one term, he has already surpassed the legacy of most presidents who have served two terms in office."

Biden, 81, faced a wellspring of pressure to leave the race after he appeared disoriented at a televised debate with Trump last month. After passing the torch Sunday to Harris, who announced her campaign shortly after, the Biden campaign machine switched gears to benefit the vice president.

Some Democratic donors celebrated what one called the "shot of adrenaline" Harris could bring to the pivotal race.

ActBlue, the Democratic fundraising platform, raised almost \$50 million hours after Biden announced an end to his reelection bid.

"This has been the biggest fundraising day of the 2024 cycle," the nonprofit said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

The initial \$46.7 million donation haul includes the total amount donated to the nonprofit, not just to Harris' campaign.

Harris endorsements are growing

The growing list of Democratic governors who have endorsed Harris include Gavin Newsom of California, Tim Walz of Minnesota, Michigan's Gretchen Whitmer, Illinois' Gov. JB Pritzker and Maryland's Wes Moore.

Scores of top Democratic lawmakers came out in support of the vice president's campaign, including House Democratic Whip Katherine Clark D-Mass., and House Democratic Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., the No. 2 and No. 3



Correspondents use the White House Briefing Room to file reports of President Joe Biden's decision not to seek reelection on Sunday in Washington, D.C. With four months until Election Day, Biden endorsed his running mate Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party nominee. Endorsements for Harris have grown since Biden's announcement.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

ranking House Democrats, respectively, and House Democratic campaign chair Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington state.

"To continue to move our nation forward and fulfill the promise of the American dream for everyone, it's absolutely essential we return the House majority to Democrats and together with President Kamala Harris, we'll deliver real results for working families and everyday Americans," DelBene said in a statement.

Trump's strategy (so far): Link Harris to Biden

Meanwhile, Trump's apparent campaign strategy against Harris is to link her to Biden.

"Harris will be even WORSE for the people of our Nation than Joe Biden," said a memo from Trump senior advisers Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita, describing the vice president as an "enabler" for Biden.

"They own each other's records, and there is no distance between the two."

Trump's running mate, Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, called Biden the "worst" president of his lifetime and said Harris

"has been right there with him every step of the way."

Delegates will pick Democratic nominee

All eyes are now on Chicago, where the Democratic National Convention is set to take place Aug. 19 through Aug. 22. Although Biden endorsed Harris to become the Democratic nominee, there is no system to automatically transfer the delegates from Biden to Harris. It's the party's 3,896 delegates who will pick their candidate. Delegates can vote for someone other than Biden even if he won their state's primary earlier this year.

That's possible because of a section in the DNC rules referred to as the "good conscience" clause, which states delegates shall "in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them." The word "sentiment" is where much of the delegates' support will hinge and opens the door to interpretation.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, an independent who left the Democratic Party in May, reportedly had considered registering again as a Democrat and

seeking the party's presidential nomination after Biden announced he wouldn't run for a second term. But Manchin told CBS News on Monday he's not running.

How does Harris fare against Trump in the polls?

Some polls show Harris beating Trump by one or two points and others showing her almost neck and neck with the former president.

A Washington Post/ABC News/Ipsos poll conducted between July 5 and July 9, found that 49% of registered voters would choose Harris while 47% would choose Trump.

But an NBC News poll conducted after the debate found Trump leading Harris 47% to 45% among registered voters. Likewise, a Fox News poll conducted between July 7 and July 10 found that 48% of registered voters would choose Harris if the election were held today compared to 49% for Trump.

Contributing: Francesca Chambers, Rebecca Morin, Kathryn Palmer, Natalie Neysa Alund, Ken Tran, Susan Page, Maya Homan, Isabel Hughes and Esteban Parra, USA TODAY Network

Cheatle

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Pennsylvania firefighter Corey Comperatore and leaving two other men in critical condition.

If the Secret Service knew there was a suspicious person in the crowd with a rangefinder and they couldn't locate him, why did they allow Trump to take the stage? And why did it take so long to remove Trump from the stage after a bullet came within half an inch of killing him?

Footage of Trump standing and pumping his fist three times post-attack has drawn criticism for exposing him to potential secondary threats.

Cheatle admitted under questioning that she did not know whether the gunman put the AR-style rifle on the roof sometime before witnesses saw him climbing up the side of the building to the rooftop and shooting – another potentially significant security failure.

"Was the gun already on the roof, or did the shooter carry the gun up with him?" Republican Rep. Andy Biggs of Arizona asked Cheatle.

"I do not have that information at this time," Cheatle replied.

"Well, when was the last sweep of that roof done prior to the rally?" Biggs asked.

"I do not have that information at this time," Cheatle said.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., told Cheatle her 60-day goal to review planning for the rally was

"unacceptable" with an election 100 days away and candidates under international threats.

"There need to be answers," Ocasio-Cortez said. "This is not a moment of theater. We have to make policy decisions and we have to make them now."

No knowledge of 'legitimate threat' before Trump took stage

Cheatle said Secret Service agents would have never let Trump on stage to begin speaking if they had known of a legitimate threat to his life from a gunman at the rally. Democratic Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois told Cheatle, however, that media reports and video footage show that the Secret Service, local and state authorities and even rallygoers had known of the threat at least 20 minutes before the gunman began shooting.

That's when the "state police informed the Secret Service of their concern," he said, citing NBC News reporting that also said that "at 5:53 p.m. the Secret Service notified its snipers about the gunman" – or 18 minutes before the first shot was fired.

"The rally wasn't paused at that point either, correct?" Krishnamoorthi asked. "No," Cheatle responded.

Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., noted the "considerable delay in removing the president from podium after the shooting began." The shooter had several magazines of bullets, Lynch said, and "the capacity and the ability if he was not neutralized to basically mow down that whole Secret Service detachment,



Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle said agents would have never let Trump on stage to begin speaking if they had known of a gunman posed a legitimate threat to his life.

MEGAN SMITH/USA TODAY

as well as the president."

Cheatle said agents threw themselves on top of Trump in under three seconds after the shooting began. "Our personnel created a body bunker on top of the president, shielding him," she said.

Cheatle says no requests for extra security for rally were denied

House Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, got into a heated exchange with Cheatle on past requests for additional security Trump's campaign made that the Secret Service denied for events.

"More than once they've asked for additional help and you've turned them down," Jordan said.

"What I can tell you is that for the event on July 13, the details that were

requested, the assets that were requested for that day, were given," she said.

While acknowledging her agency has rejected requests from Trump's campaign before for increased security, "a denial of request is not equal to vulnerability," Cheatle said.

Rep. Gary Palmer, R-Ala., questioned why the Secret Service didn't put personnel on the roof of the building the gunman occupied by saying a fictional, comic sheriff's deputy could have protected Trump better.

"You could have a put Barney Fife on the roof and kept somebody from getting up there," Palmer said, referring to a deputy sheriff character on "The Andy Griffith Show."

Who is Kimberly Cheatle?

Cheatle, the 27th director of the agency, was sworn in to office Sept. 17, 2022, according to her bio on the agency website. It says Cheatle was "responsible for successfully executing the agency's integrated mission" of dignitary protection and investigations by 7,800 special agents and others.

Prior to her appointment, Cheatle served as senior director in Global Security at PepsiCo, where she directed and implemented security protocols. Before joining PepsiCo, Cheatle served "with distinction" for 27 years in the Secret Service, her bio says, including as Assistant Director of the Office of Protective Operations. She also was part of the protective security detail for then-Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, forming a close bond with both of them.

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Harris

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“Joe Biden’s legacy of accomplishments over the last three years is unmatched in modern history,” she said. “In one term, he has already surpassed the legacy of most presidents who have served two terms in office.”

She honored the president by also speaking about her relationship with his son Beau Biden, who died of cancer in 2015. She said Beau often spoke about the kind of man his father is, including “his honesty, his integrity, his commitment to his faith and his family, his big heart and his love – deep love of our country.”

“I am a firsthand witness that every day our president, Joe Biden, fights for the American people,” Harris said. “And we are deeply, deeply grateful for his service to our nation.”

On Day One of her candidacy for the Democratic nomination, Harris planned a visit to Delaware to meet with members of the state’s delegation in New Castle County, U.S. Sen. Tom Carper said. She also planned to visit the Biden campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Harris wrote on X.

“One day down. 105 to go. Together, we’re going to win this,” she said.

Harris must still go through the Democratic National Committee process for the nomination. The party’s convention rules committee will meet to establish the procedure to elect the Democratic nominee at a meeting Wednesday.

But the Democratic Party was already unifying behind her. Messages of support were streaming in. Her foremost political rivals were standing down on 2024 presidential bids.

EMILYs List, the Congressional Black Caucus, Reproductive Freedom for All – full state delegations to the Democratic National Convention quickly came out to support Harris.

With its convention just beginning in Houston this week, the American Federation of Teachers’ executive council called an emergency meeting and came to a swift decision to back Harris, subject to the approval of its members.

“We wanted to make our intentions known as quickly as possible,” said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

The afternoon was a blur. Sometime in the early Sunday evening, Weingarten got a call from Harris.

She had left word with Harris’ staff about the union’s plans. “She called to tell me that she was running, and I said ... we’ve already taken the first step to endorse,” Weingarten told USA TODAY.

Quick turnaround

Biden’s campaign aides insisted for weeks that he would not be dropping out. Yes, they had conducted polling on Harris, but that was normal, they said.

“There is no consideration about passing the baton to her, because President Biden has made his decision,” deputy campaign manager Quentin Fuels said in an NBC interview a week before Biden called it quits.

But the pressure from party leaders proved insurmountable. Former President Donald Trump had just survived a failed assassination attempt. The image



Kamala Harris praised President Joe Biden in her first public remarks since Biden exited the 2024 race, saying his “legacy of accomplishments over the last three years is unmatched in modern history.” BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

of his bloodied fist in the air was instantaneously iconic.

His party was rallying behind him at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. Trump named his vice presidential pick, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, a first-term lawmaker who was half his age. Former rivals Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida, and Nikki Haley, the former governor of South Carolina, appeared on the stage.

It was a contrast with Biden, all right, but not the one Democrats wanted.

Holed up at his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, with COVID-19, Biden published a letter to social media. It was official. He was dropping out.

The letter thanked Harris for her work in his administration. But it did not include an endorsement. He followed up in a second post that made it clear he was giving his vice president the keys to their reelection campaign.

His announcement was shocking, though not wholly unexpected. In the weeks since the June 27 debate performance that prompted steep concerns about his cognitive ability, Democrats put a greater emphasis on the Biden-Harris campaign and the ticket including both candidates’ names.

The first campaign ad after a pause following Trump’s near-death experience? A one-minute spot on Black maternal health, one of Harris’ signature issues.

Minutes after Biden posted his letter, former Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri said no one knew Biden was going to step back on Sunday. But she said that behind the scenes, there has been a lot of work to plan for a “what if” scenario.

“A lot of this work has been going on behind the scenes,” she said in a phone interview on MSNBC. “And I don’t mean that anybody ... knew that President Biden was going to do this today. I mean that when you’re this close to an election, a lot of people work ‘Well, what if?’ ... and I think there’s a lot of people out there ready now to execute plans.”

Still, Harris herself appeared to have been caught off guard by Biden’s decision. She did not have a campaign announcement prepared. How could she without it looking as if she was pulling levers behind the scenes?

Her first public comments did not

come almost two hours after Biden endorsed her nonexistent candidacy. In a statement that thanked Biden, Harris confirmed she was running.

Amid the swirl of calls that immediately followed, the vice president made sure her staff was well fed. Lunch was a menu of salad and sandwiches. Pizza and salad were served for dinner. Harris treated herself to one with anchovies.

Harris gets a second chance

Harris’ first presidential campaign ended in disaster. Her first two years as vice president weren’t planned well, either. She struggled to find her bearings on key policy issues such as migration in Latin America and saw hefty staff turnover in her office.

At the time, it caused concerns among Democrats on whether Harris could step up to take over for Biden should the president step down.

And while many Democratic leaders rushed to support Harris, an AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research released days before Biden’s decision showed 22% of Democratic voters didn’t think she would make a good president.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg – two Democrats whose names have been thrown around as Democratic contenders in 2028 – issued back-to-back statements of support Sunday evening.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker waited until Monday. He said he wanted to speak with party leaders first. But he ultimately endorsed Harris and pledged to work hard to get her elected.

Buttigieg, a Democratic presidential contender in 2020, said Sunday evening that he he would do everything to help Harris, too. “Kamala Harris is now the right person to take up the torch, defeat Donald Trump, and succeed Joe Biden as President,” he wrote on X.

Newsom, who had been mentioned as a possible alternative for the Democratic nominee ahead of Biden stepping aside, also backed Harris. “With our democracy at stake and our future on the line, no one is better to prosecute the case against Donald Trump’s dark vision and guide our country in a healthier direction than America’s Vice President,” Newsom wrote on X.

A digital change of direction

Democrats who work closely with Harris were taken by surprise.

After a whirlwind couple of weeks in politics, EMILYs List President Jessica Mackler had hoped to take a quick break. Mackler was on vacation with her family and out for ice cream when she saw the news come through that Biden was stepping aside. She missed a call from Harris on Sunday evening, she said. “But I’m sure we’ll connect soon.”

Harris has been actively involved with EMILYs List throughout the presidential campaign and Biden’s presidency. Days after a leaked draft showed that the U.S. Supreme Court was readying a decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* that would overturn *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, Harris spoke at the organization’s annual gala.

She spoke again at the organization’s gala in 2023 just weeks after Biden initially announced their reelection campaign last year.

“We know she is a candidate that really does energize voters,” Mackler said.

Democrats expect that Harris will energize women and Black voters to get off the sidelines in the election. Harris has been the leader in the administration on abortion rights, said Mini Timmaraju, president and CEO of the liberal group Reproductive Freedom for All.

“She’s been out there building the campaign around the *Dobbs* response, since *Dobbs* two years ago,” she said.

Abortion rights is a top persuasion issue, she said. And having Harris leading the ticket, “that is going to be incredibly powerful, incredibly motivating.”

As the vice president logged call time, the Biden campaign told the Federal Election Commission it was becoming a vehicle for Harris.

By 10:30 p.m. local time, BidenHQ, the name of the Biden campaign’s social media account, transitioned to KamalaHQ. The Harris campaign team leaned into online memes – images, videos or text that spread across the internet.

The campaign’s header on X was switched to a chartreuse background with simple black text that said “kamala hq” – a reference to Grammy-nominated artist and songwriter Charli XCX’s new album, “BRAT.” The campaign also changed the account’s bio to say “Providing context,” a reference to a viral video of remarks by Harris in which she is quoting her mother.

“You think you just fell out of a coconut tree? You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you,” Harris said.

Win With Black Women, an organization that aims to support Black female candidates in elections, hosted an impromptu Zoom call after Harris threw her name in the campaign. At least 44,000 people called in and more than \$1.5 million was raised for Harris in just three hours, the organization said.

Roughly seven hours after Harris announced she was seeking the Democratic nomination, ActBlue, the PAC that raises money for Democrats, said it raised \$46.7 million from grassroots supporters.

“This has been the biggest fundraising day of the 2024 cycle. Small-dollar donors are fired up and ready to take on this election,” ActBlue wrote on X.

Contributing: Susan Page and Sarah Wire

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Better to embrace disorder than accept disaster.

There’s no neat precedent for what happens next, no ready template.

The closest may be the 1968 election, a year of political upheaval. Democratic President Lyndon Johnson, beleaguered by the Vietnam War, announced he wouldn’t seek another term – in March, not July. The party’s leading candidate, Robert F. Kennedy, was assassinated. Then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey was nominated at a convention in Chicago riven by anti-war protests.

He narrowly lost in November to Republican Richard Nixon.

On Thursday, triumphant Republicans nominated former President Donald Trump at their Milwaukee convention with widening confidence the GOP was poised to win not only the White House but also unified control of Congress in November.

That was a political lifetime ago, before the Democratic ticket and the political landscape shifted.

What’s next?

A flip in the age narrative?

The most damaging issue against Biden – his mental acuity at age 81 – has vanished for the Democrats and turned on the Republicans.

Now Trump, at 78, is the senior

citizen seeking another term. His rambling language and verbal slips, overshadowed for months by Biden’s more serious instances of confusion, are likely to face more intense scrutiny.

Democrats are poised to jump, however abruptly, to a new generation of leaders. Harris, for one, is 59.

Republicans have accused Harris of being part of a cover-up at the White House that prevented Americans from judging for themselves Biden’s fitness for office until last month’s debate with Trump. That’s an allegation she hasn’t yet answered.

“Kamala was in on it,” declared an ad now being aired by a pro-Trump super PAC, MAGA Inc., that intercuts Biden’s stumbles with Harris’ defense of him.

Even so, Trump complained on Truth Social that “we have to start all over again” with the campaign. He suggested that Republicans should be “reimbursed for fraud” for all the money they’ve spent running against Biden.

A prospective televised debate between Trump and Harris probably would be far different from Trump’s romp at the debate with Biden last month. Harris was an effective debater against Vice President Mike Pence in 2020, and she has gained experience since then.

She often displays a prosecutor’s confidence on the stump, more effective than Biden in pressing abortion rights and the question of Trump’s conviction on hush-money charges. His sentencing in New York is now set for Sept. 18, in the middle of fall’s campaign sprint.

Reminder: Democrats still divided

Minutes after announcing he withdrew from the race on Sunday, Biden backed Harris as the nominee in a post on social media. Even before she said she was running, a cascade of endorsements followed, including from former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton as well as dozens of governors, senators and House members.

But Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries and speaker emerita Nancy Pelosi made no endorsement. On Monday morning, West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin said in a series of television appearances that there should be “a process,” though in the interview on CBS he seemed to rule out running for president himself.

“Some path, some debates, we’d like to see something,” Manchin said. “I want the center of this country to say we have a voice.” Republicans portray Harris’ ideology and her roots in California as far-left, a potential problem for Democratic candidates running for Congress in red and purple states.

Still expected: Huge demonstrations outside the Democratic National Convention in Chicago over the Biden administration’s support for Israel in its war against Hamas and the toll that has taken among Palestinians in Gaza.

Like Humphrey and Vietnam, Harris will have to balance responsibility for her administration’s actions with demands by activists and others for a change in policy.

A force on both sides: Trump

Trump is the singular force that has unified the Republican Party, unchallenged not only for his nomination but also for his version of a stripped-down platform that virtually abandoned the party’s long-standing positions on restricting abortions and reducing the national debt.

Trump is also the singular force that has unified the Democratic Party, despite its divisions on economics, immigration and the Gaza war.

Just about every ranking Democrat has warned that Trump’s election to a second term in the White House would threaten democracy itself, from the sanctity of elections to the independence of the Justice Department. That fueled the fast-forward efforts to push him from the ticket in the space of weeks – even though he had won every state primary and the allegiance of almost every convention delegate, and despite broad praise for the achievements of his presidency.

Now that same concern has prompted many Democrats to coalesce behind Harris – despite concerns among some about her unsuccessful 2020 campaign and her liberalism. Even those with national ambitions of their own have fallen in line.

“I think Democrats understand the stakes in front of them,” said Jessica Mackler, president of the political powerhouse EMILYs List.

Will their gamble work? They decided it was worth a shot.

Curiosity rover makes mineral discovery on Mars

Scientist calls rare find ‘completely unexpected’

Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

The Curiosity rover made an accidental discovery on Mars – and uncovered a mineral never before found in its pure form on the Red Planet.

As the rover rolled over the planet’s rocky surface on May 30, its wheels crushed a section of rock, revealing crystals of elemental sulfur, an unexpected and rare find, according to a NASA news release.

The find was “completely unexpected,” said Abigail Fraeman, the Curiosity mission’s deputy project scientist. “It’s probably one of the most unusual things that we found the entire 12-year mission.”

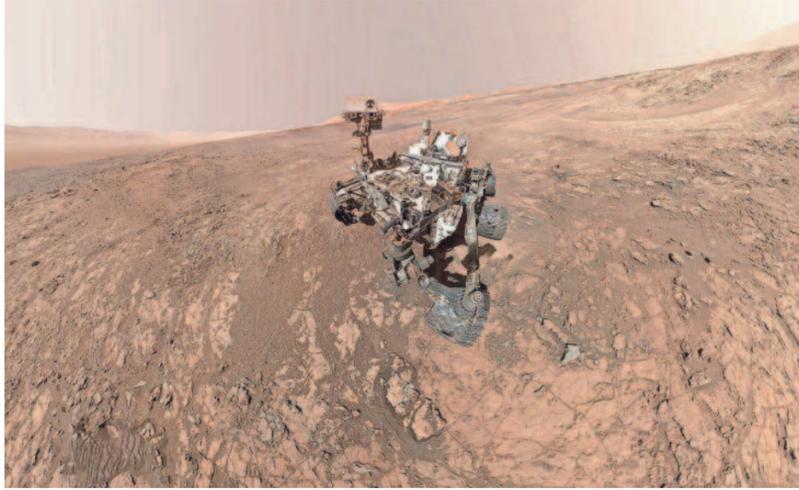
Although scientists have come across many different types of sulfur on Mars, the discovery marks the first time they found pure sulfur.

“Usually, it’s coupled with oxygen and other elements that make it into a salt or something similar, but here, what we found was just chunks of pure sulfur,” Fraeman said.

Elemental sulfur is bright yellow and has no odor. It forms in only a narrow combination of conditions – scientists didn’t expect to locate such a large amount on Mars.

“It’s telling us something new about the history of Mars and what sorts of potentially habitable environments it’s sustained in the past,” Fraeman said.

Scientists nicknamed the 5-inch sample of yellow sulfur crystals “Convict Lake” after a lake in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains, according to



NASA’s Curiosity Mars Rover snaps a self-portrait at a site called Vera Rubin Ridge on the Martian surface in February 2018 in this image obtained on June 7, 2018. PROVIDED BY NASA VIA REUTERS

NASA.

Curiosity snapped photos of the piece of sulfur using its Mastcam, a camera mounted on its head at around human eye level, with a color quality similar to that of two digital cameras, the news release said.

The rover later detected the mineral using its Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer, attached to the end of its robotic arm.

Curiosity found the sample as it traversed the Gediz Vallis channel, which runs down Mount Sharp, according to Fraeman.

The discovery came after scientists directed Curiosity towards a brightly colored field of rocks, she said.

Curiosity has been climbing the 3-mile-high peak for a decade, the news

release said.

The area is rich in sulfates, a sulfur-based salt left behind when water dried up billions of years ago.

NASA scientists say the channel is one of the main reasons they sent Curiosity to Mars. They believe it was carved out by streams of water mixed with debris, as evidenced by the rounded rocks found in the channel that were likely shaped by the flow of water, like river stones. Some rocks also have white halo markings, which also indicates water.

Fraeman said it will take more time to figure out what the discovery could mean about the kind of environment that once existed in the area.

“Right now, we’re kind of analyzing all of the data we collected and trying to figure out what observations we can

make that can either support or cross off some of these environments,” she said.

Curiosity searches for evidence of life on Mars

The discovery came on the 4,208th Martian day of Curiosity’s mission, NASA said.

The rover landed on the planet’s surface nearly 12 years ago with the objective of investigating whether Mars was ever habitable.

And it succeeded – early in the mission, Curiosity uncovered chemical and mineral evidence that the planet’s environment was previously habitable for small life forms known as microbes.

“We’ve certainly found with Curiosity that Mars was not only once habitable, but it was habitable for an extended period of time,” Fraeman said.

In 2018, Curiosity found organic molecules in a crater that scientists believe was once a shallow lake.

The molecules, similar to the molecular building blocks of Earth’s oil and gas, showed that the crater was habitable 3.5 billion years ago, around the same time that life developed on Earth under similar conditions.

The \$2.5 billion rover is packed with a wide range of tools, including 17 cameras, and 10 science instruments, including spectrometers, radiation detectors, and sensors to probe the Martian atmosphere and environment.

Fraeman said Curiosity has held up surprisingly well – all of its instruments are working as well as the day it landed.

Still, the terrain is filled with surprises.

“On Mars, something catastrophic could happen any day,” she said. “We always treat every day as if it’s precious.”

Tattoos

Continued from Page 1A

22, was born.

Over the past two decades, the rings tattoo has become almost ubiquitous at the Summer Olympics – visible on the arms, necks, torsos, ankles and feet of athletes competing across disciplines and in almost every sport. Some go big, with sprawling, colorful and at times ornate versions of the rings that are impossible to miss on TV. Others opt for something smaller or more subtle. But for most, the mark’s meaning is the same. It’s an ever-present reminder of the hard work they’ve put into their craft, and the success they’ve achieved.

“I do think it’s become a rite of passage,” said Chris Jacobs, a swimmer who won three medals at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul. “It’s almost like a little card for a somewhat exclusive club.”

Jacobs, 59, is credited with starting the tattoo trend more than 30 years ago. After noticing that a handful of Canadian swimmers, including the late Victor Davis, had small tattoos of the Canadian flag on their chests, Jacobs said, his mind wandered to another iconic symbol: the Olympic rings.

So during a trip to Hawaii on his way back from the Seoul Olympics, Jacobs got a small tattoo of the rings on his hip, low enough that it would be hidden by under his swimsuit during competitions. A few years later, he got another one a bit higher up on his hip. Then he decided to go even bigger – a sizable, colored version of the rings drawn on the inside of his right bicep.

“They represent a lot to a lot of people,” Jacobs explained. “I wanted to mark that period in my life, I suppose.”

Before long, some of the biggest stars in swimming – including Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte – were sporting prominent versions of the rings in the pool. And the trend quickly spread to other sports.

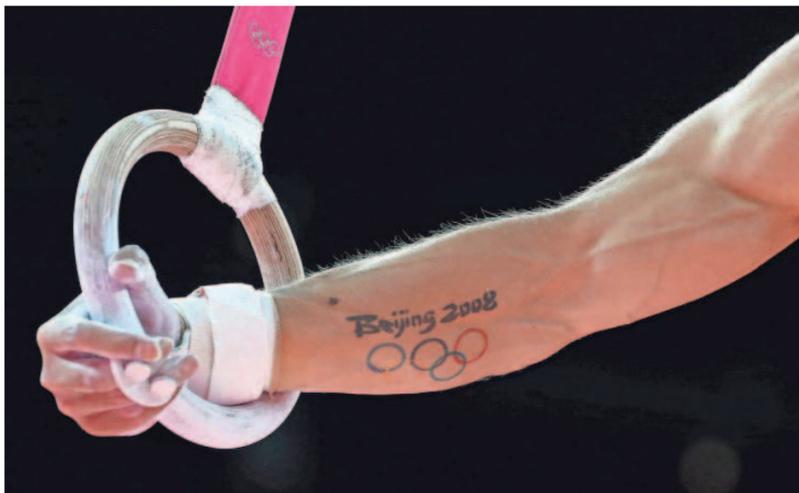
Allyson Felix, the most decorated track and field athlete in U.S. history, has the rings inked on her right ankle. Reigning 100-meter world champion Noah Lyles has them on the right side of his rib cage. And each of the past two women’s all-around gymnastics champions, Simone Biles and Suni Lee, have them on their wrists.

“It represents just an amazing era of my life,” Olympic sprinter Gabby Thomas said. “Whether or not I continued to run and no matter what I did on the track after that, I will always remember this time period and how spectacular it was and how much I’ve learned and grown from it.”

Thomas got a black-and-white version of the rings tattooed on the back of her neck after winning bronze and silver medals on the track in Tokyo. She thought about getting the tattoo in a more prominent spot, or at least one where she could see it. But she decided



American Ryan Lochte is among swimmers who have prominently worn the Olympic rings. ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY NETWORK



Spanish gymnast Sergio Munoz in the men’s qualification for artistic gymnastics at the London Olympics in July 2012. THOMAS COEX/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

she didn’t want to be constantly looking at it – nor have other people always asking about it.

“What a conversation starter,” Harrison said. “There’s Olympic rings on your arm.”

Evy Leibfarth, another canoe/kayak athlete, made her Olympic debut in Tokyo at 17 but waited until she turned 18 to get the rings. She always knew she wanted the Olympic ink but couldn’t decide on the best spot. “And one day I was just like, (forget) it, I’m going to go to the shop,” Leibfarth said. In a spur-of-the-moment call, she opted for the left side of her torso.

On the opposite end of the spectrum are athletes like Kara Goucher, who didn’t get a rings tattoo until 15 years after she first appeared at the Summer Games in 2008. “I felt like I hadn’t performed well there,” she wrote on Instagram, noting that her son helped persuade her to take pride in being an

Olympian.

Ben Hallock, who captained the U.S. men’s water polo team in 2021, said he waited seven years. “Just sort of wanted to think about why I was getting it and what it meant to me,” he said.

The tradition has also spilled over to the Paralympics, where several para-athletes have gotten rings tattooed – and then been required by Paralympic organizers to blot them out during competition.

Philip Dorward, a spokesperson for the International Paralympic Committee, wrote in an email that athletes are required to cover any tattoos that could be considered advertising – and the Olympic rings, because they represent a competing trademark, meet that definition. (The Paralympic logo is the Agitos, which resemble a trio of swooshes or check marks.)

“Even as recent as Rio, the Olympic rings still represented the entire

movement,” U.S. para-swimmer Jamal Hill said. “But now, when you come into the Paralympics, if you have Olympic rings tattooed on you, they make you black it out with a sharpie.”

Many athletes have started looking for new ways to make the classic rings tattoo their own. Long jumper Tara Davis-Woodhall got “Olympian” written in Japanese, with plans to add a French translation after this summer’s Games. U.S. shooter Mary Tucker got a partial sleeve on her right arm, with French irises and Japanese cherry blossoms serving as a backdrop for the rings.

“I think it’s so cool how everybody makes their Olympic tattoos their own in a way,” said archer Casey Kaufhold, who has an arrow running through the middle of the rings inked on her ankle.

When it comes to Olympic ink, really anything goes – with one notable exception: Superstition dictates that an athlete get the tattoo only after they have actually competed in the Games.

There are horror stories among athletes of those who jumped the gun and then got hurt or sick; Tucker said she knows of at least four athletes who got the tattoo early and then wound up missing the Olympics for one reason or another. She said she tempted fate herself when she scheduled a tattoo appointment for fall 2020, then decided not to reschedule it when the Games were postponed by a year, feeling comfortable with the risk because she had long since secured her qualification spot. The North Carolina native wound up winning a team silver medal at the 2021 Games.

“It’s just something to have with you all the times,” Tucker said. “It’s one of the most memorable moments of your life, so you want to get reminded of that. And be sure both to remember what you have done, but also stay humble and prepare to do it again.”

Biden exit sends a jolt across USA

Some go from exhausted to energized by the news in a tumultuous season

Trevor Hughes, Terry Collins and Lauren Villagran
USA TODAY

In Oakland, California, grocery store checker Erica Guthrie burst into tears when she heard the news.

In Philadelphia, the Rev. Carl Day says we're living in "the worst reality TV show in the world right now."

And in Colorado, stormchaser Jen Walton wants a vacation "from unprecedented times."

After months of a seemingly inevitable clash between two long-known and well-understood presidential candidates, President Joe Biden's decision Sunday to halt his reelection effort upended both the campaign and the day-to-day lives of Americans still reeling from the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump the weekend before.

It all comes atop years of nonstop political turmoil, and many Americans say they're exhausted, excited, anxious and baffled, sometimes all at once.

"This is literally like living in a meth lab, 24/7," said Walton, a professional storm photographer and science communicator who founded the Girls Who Chase initiative to help diversify the stormchasing community.

Liberal voters, energized, confused and concerned as Biden quits, Harris lines up support

Some liberals were energized by Biden's decision and began lining up Sunday behind Vice President Kamala Harris, who announced her candidacy and secured Biden's and other key endorsements.

Other liberals fretted over whether the Democratic Party can coalesce behind a last-minute candidate and assemble a cohesive campaign to beat Trump, the former president, reality TV show star and real estate tycoon.

Meanwhile, some conservatives demanded Biden quit the presidency immediately while also sharing conspiracy theories about his campaign withdrawal, including obsessing over why he announced his decision via a statement that didn't bear the presidential seal. Biden is isolating at home in Delaware with COVID-19, but some speculated there might be a more nefarious reason he didn't appear in person.

Harris' candidacy also raised questions across the spectrum about whether the United States is willing to elect a Black woman as president.

A month ago, Michigan sisters and self-described "double haters" Olivia and Macayla Jones said they couldn't bring themselves to vote for either Biden or Trump. Sunday, they said that Biden did the right thing in stepping back — and that they'd now vote for Harris if she tops the ticket.

But they worry about her chances as a Black woman. While the Jones sisters are Black women themselves, they wondered aloud if having a white man run against Trump would be smarter politically.

"While I personally would love to see a Black female president in my lifetime, I don't think we should have a woman of color against Trump," Olivia Jones said. "It's unsafe territory. Of course, I'm going to support her, but it's not the smart pick. This is such an important election. This is not the time to chance it."

Macayla Jones echoed her sister.

"People feel more comfortable having



Marty Carpenito of White Plains, NY, left, was sorry to hear Sunday that President Joe Biden had dropped out of the presidential race. He supports former President Donald Trump and was confident of his victory against Biden.

SETH HARRISON/USA TODAY NETWORK

a man, a white man, running for president," Macayla Jones said. "So, I feel like Vice President Harris could be the vice president again for the next Democratic candidate. But if she's the nominee, I don't think she will become president."

Still, many liberals don't think either Biden or any other Democrat should be struggling against Trump and his dozens of convictions, along with bankruptcies, divorces, business failures and ongoing attacks against democratic norms, including the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

"It's very confusing to me how the GOP line is all about loosening regulation and 'don't tread on me' — as they're slowly taking over women's right to choose what they do with their own bodies, and the rights of marginalized groups to live the way they choose," Walton said. "I deserve freedom to live my life the way I choose, just like any other American, and no one gets to tell me otherwise. Period."

Harris' candidacy sparked an outpouring of financial support for Democrats, with nearly \$50 million raised in the hours following Biden's announcement, the biggest one-day take for Democrats in the 2024 presidential election cycle, the liberal fundraising platform ActBlue reported.

Trump supporters say Biden was losing because his economic, social and border policies were out of touch with everyday Americans who are struggling to pay grocery bills and afford housing and are worried about the influx of migrants across the southern border.

A Detroit Free Press poll released Sunday before Biden dropped out showed Trump beating him in the battleground state of Michigan 49%-42%. Nine percent of voters said they would rather pick someone else, were undecided or would decline to vote, according to the poll, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points. Biden easily beat Trump in Michigan four years ago, before the Jan. 6 insurrection and Trump's criminal convictions.

Day, a liberal-learning pastor who conducts street outreach for young



Barbara Brown of White Plains, NY, was shocked to hear that President Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 presidential election. She said the Democrats should have given him another chance.

SETH HARRISON/USA TODAY NETWORK

Black men in Philadelphia, said he's frustrated the Democratic Party didn't have a clear succession plan for Biden, given the growing concerns about his age.

"They knew he was 81 years old. I felt like they've caved into the public hysteria and debate pressure instead of sticking to the achievements of the last three years of the president," he said. "I'm not certain at this point that the party will be able to create enough unity amongst itself and confidence from the American public to win right now."

Still, Day said, he'll back whomever the party picks to challenge Trump.

Scott James, a Colorado Republican, commended Biden for stepping down, a decision he called "right for himself, his family and our nation." And he said he hopes that whoever replaces Biden on the ticket commits to helping cool the political rhetoric.

"I continue to hold hope that the vitriolic temperature that exists in this nation will lower and that we can remember that 'e pluribus unum' — from many, one — is this nation's motto," he said. "I want the campaign to focus on the American people and not on the big personalities of D.C."

Voters are 'scared of the unexpected' as Biden exit roils presidential race

The news of Biden dropping out popping up on her smartphone brought Guthrie, 46, to tears as she was checking out a shopper's groceries Sunday.

An independent voter, Guthrie said she's not a big fan of Biden and doesn't like Trump or Harris, but Biden stepping away at "such a crucial time" has her distraught about the state of the nation.

"I'm just scared of the unexpected," said Guthrie, her eyes welling up. "I was just telling my husband that I don't know what America is turning into. The cost of groceries is high, gas is high and now this on top of the craziness we're already experiencing. Can America be more chaotic? It's a lot to take in."

As for what she plans to do come

Election Day?

"I still don't know who I'm going to vote for," Guthrie said as she shook her head slowly in disbelief.

Not everyone was as stunned. Until now, Diego Abel Amolitos, of El Paso, Texas, had managed to tune out politics.

The mechanic, 24, has never voted. The last time politics was front and center in his life was when he was a child and his Hispanic family got excited about Barack Obama's election as the first Black president, he said. He's registered to vote, he said, but just hasn't bothered to participate.

But after a week of unprecedented political events, Amolitos, who also drives for Uber and DoorDash, said he may have to start paying attention.

"I live in Texas, right, and people here say a lot of good things come from how they vote in a conservative way," he said as a cross with the Virgin of Guadalupe dangled from the rearview mirror of his Uber on Sunday. "But I don't know enough to really make judgment on that."

He says his vote is up for grabs, and what matters to him most is his family's health and the price of basic goods.

"When I think of my family, I think of health care," he said. "The better service the country can provide, the less I have to worry about. And also, of course inflation and things like that, the price of gas."

In Colorado, progressive activist Sara Loflin said she hopes Harris' candidacy will breathe new life into Democratic voters. Many polls have shown young liberal voters were reluctant to vote for Biden, in part because of his age, even knowing that withholding their vote for him would help return Trump to the White House.

"I think what progressives are desperate for is a clear direction, and I think today we got that," Loflin said Sunday. "Today is a day to take a breath and have gratitude for Joe Biden. And tomorrow we'll wake up and fight like hell to elect the first Black woman in the history of the United States, with whoever she decides is her running mate."



Daniel Schmitt stands in downtown Milwaukee on Sunday, the day President Joe Biden announced he would not seek re-election. Schmitt said he was not affiliated with either political party, but would rather vote for a potted plant than Donald Trump.

MAX CORREA/USA TODAY NETWORK

COVID-19 has returned for a summer visit

We should be on alert as seasonal peak arrives

Karen Weintraub
and Adrianna Rodriguez

USA TODAY

With infections peaking again across the country, it's natural to ask: Is COVID-19 still worth worrying about?

The answer: yes and no.

Yes, if you or someone you're likely to come into contact with is 65 or older, pregnant or immuno-compromised.

Or if you're headed to an event you don't want to miss, such as a wedding or a summer vacation.

If you don't mind the possibility of getting sick, infecting others, missing a week of work or slacking on other obligations or opportunities, then no.

Every summer since the pandemic began in 2020, there's been a peak in infections, though it hasn't ever been as high as those in the winter. This summer looks to be the same.

Wastewater surveillance data, which tracks the viruses we all shed when we go to the bathroom, has been trending higher for weeks, indicating that more Americans are carrying around the virus that causes COVID-19.

"COVID does not disappear the way influenza does during the summer," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee. "It's like a two-humped camel."

People travel a lot in the summer and spend time in enclosed spaces to get cool, he noted, which are "all opportunities for the virus to spread."

Not everyone will get sick if exposed to the virus, as we learned early in the pandemic.

And most people, now that they've been vaccinated and infected at least once, won't get very sick. The virus is not new to our immune systems as it was in 2020.

But the people who can't mount a strong immune response to the virus — those with compromised immune systems because of age, sickness, pregnancy or inherited problems — remain at risk of severe disease and even death if they get the disease.

Although the federal government has stopped tracking COVID-19 deaths, someone dies every day from COVID-19 in New York City alone, local hospital data shows.

"People are not taking the appropriate precautions," said Dr. Seth Feltheimer, internist and associate professor of medicine at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. "It makes it more important to be fully immunized with the boosters."

How do older adults fare against COVID-19?

Health experts note that older folks are naturally more at risk than those under 65 because their immune systems are no longer as robust and protective as they once were.

"If you're going to pick one thing that is the most predictive of problems with



Residents and staff gather during an Easter concert for vaccinated residents at the Ararat Nursing Facility on April 1, 2021 in Los Angeles. The concert was the first social event at the facility since the beginning of the pandemic. MARIO TAMAM/GETTY IMAGES

acute COVID, age is the biggest risk factor," said Dr. Daniel Griffin, an infectious disease specialist and clinical instructor of medicine at Columbia University.

As people age, their immune systems slow down and cannot respond to an invading virus as fast and strong as they once could, Feltheimer said.

People 65 and older also are more likely to have underlying diseases that worsen with an infection.

But the COVID-19 that older adults are getting is not the same novel virus that ravaged the country four years ago.

In 2020, more than 300,000 people 65 and older died from causes involving the virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2023, about 45,000 people died in that age group according to data updated in September.

However, this population remains by far the most vulnerable to the worst COVID-19 outcomes, accounting for about 63% of hospitalizations and 90% of deaths in 2023, according to a study published in October's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Staying up to date on booster shots and getting prompt treatment, using the antiviral Paxlovid, are the best ways to stave off severe disease in older Americans.

It's unclear if Paxlovid causes rebound cases of COVID-19, which can also occur without the medication. The CDC recommends high-risk patients take the antiviral, especially older adults, as evidence suggests the benefits outweigh any risk of rebound effects.

Vaccines aren't great this time of year

People at high risk of a severe infection can get an additional booster this summer, but now is not the time for healthy, young people to get another shot.

People at higher risk are eligible to get vaccinated three times a year, which Schaffner said is effective at preventing

"COVID does not disappear the way influenza does during the summer. It's like a two-humped camel."

Dr. William Schaffner
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

cases serious enough to require hospitalization.

Anyone likely to get mildly sick, based on their age and other conditions, does not need a shot more than once a year, according to the CDC.

The shots available now are targeted against last year's virus and the one circulating this year is somewhat different. The new vaccine should become available in September.

Though because the virus tends to peak right after the holidays, it might be best to wait until later in the fall, unless you expect to be in a large crowd, around a vulnerable person or have a can't-miss event sooner.

Schaffner recommends getting annual flu and COVID-19 vaccines together in October for winter protection.

A booster takes less time to become fully effective than an initial vaccine — just 7 to 10 days, according to Schaffner.

Protecting yourself in the meantime

Vaccines remain the best protection, but there are other tools available.

Of course, you can avoid crowded indoor spaces, such as bars, concert halls and airport security lines.

But if you still want to have fun this summer without risking infection, experts suggest you do what they do and wear a face mask.

They typically wear N95 or KN95 masks, which provide a better seal than the paper ones typically available at the doctor's office, Schaffner said.

Most people can get used to wearing one, he said. For people whose ears get

irritated by the elastic loops, he suggest you try another brand or a version that goes behind the head instead.

"If you wear them under your nose or on your forehead, they don't work," Schaffner said, noting that masks should fit snugly around the nose, cheeks and chin.

What to do if you do get infected

The advice for people who catch COVID-19 remains the same: Stay away from others as much as possible for at least five days.

You never know if a stranger you encounter might be vulnerable and if you don't want to be responsible for someone else's severe illness, stay home or isolate as much as possible.

It may not matter if it's COVID-19, if you're at low risk and not around anyone else.

But if you're at high risk for severe disease, it's important to know that you have the virus so you can get an antiviral.

COVID-19 tests aren't perfect — they can take a day or longer after symptoms appear before they turn positive — and they're now expensive, Schaffner noted.

The antiviral Paxlovid has been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization for medically vulnerable people over 65 and not up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines, but it must be given within five days of the start of symptoms.

Don't wait until your symptoms get bad to call the doctor if you're in that high-risk category, Schaffner advised.

Unfortunately, the medication doesn't seem to be highly protective against long COVID, in which symptoms last months after the initial infection resolves, nor does it decrease the number of days a vaccinated person has symptoms.

In general, Schaffner urged continued caution against COVID-19, particularly for people at high risk. "Wear the mask. Get yourself revaccinated and enjoy yourself while being careful."

Residents are evacuated as wildfires rage in West

Acreage in Utah and California is ablaze

Christopher Cann

USA TODAY

Wildfires ignited over the weekend engulfed hundreds of acres in California and Utah, prompting evacuation orders as they torched homes, threatened nearby communities and, in Salt Lake City, burned near the state capitol.

The fires roared across the West amid an unrelenting stretch of intense heat that's expected to continue through the week. The National Weather Service has issued heat warnings and advisories from Southern California to Washington, Idaho and Wyoming as triple-digit temperatures are expected across multiple states.

In Southern California, the Hawarden Fire, just 4 miles south of downtown Riverside, began on Sunday afternoon and grew over 520 acres, forcing residents to leave their homes as the fire rapidly expanded. Three homes were destroyed in a roaring blaze that was captured on video by local news crews.

Riverside Deputy Fire Chief Steve McKinster said at a news conference Monday that four other structures were damaged and that 1,500 homes are in the surrounding area. Damage assessments were set to begin Monday morning, he said. One firefighter has sus-



Wildfires caused evacuations in the West, including near Salt Lake City capitol. PROVIDED BY BRENT WEISBERG VIA STORYFUL

tained a minor injury, McKinster said.

Another wildfire in Riverside County, the Eagle Fire, broke out on Sunday and spread across 1,600 acres, triggering evacuation orders that were eventually downgraded as firefighters were able to contain at least 50% of the blaze and stop its "forward progress," according to Cal Fire. The blaze began in the city of Corona, about 18 miles southwest of Riverside. Several locations remained under evacuation warnings through Monday morning.

In Humboldt County, west of Redding, several areas were under evacuation orders as the Hill Fire burned over 5,580 acres since last Tuesday. The blaze, which has been contained by 7%, caused at least five injuries, according to Cal Fire. In Lake and Colusa counties, the Ridge Fire prompted officials to evacuate some residents as the flames spread across 2,500 acres since Saturday, according to Cal Fire.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom at the news conference earlier this month said

while the number of fires has been on track with previous year averages, the state is experiencing "a disproportionately high number of acres burned." Newsom cited the "unprecedented heat" as a central factor in the sharp increase.

Utah fire threatens homes near state capitol

The wildfires were not only contained to California. Over the weekend, a blaze broke out in Salt Lake City just north of the state capitol, where it threatened homes and sparked evacuation orders.

The Sandhurst Fire was first reported Saturday afternoon as it quickly spread over 200 acres, leading local emergency responders to knock on doors and evacuate some residents in a hilly area north of the capitol complex.

As of Sunday, the blaze was 10% contained, according to the Utah Wildfire Dashboard.

There were no reports of injuries or damaged buildings.

The fire was listed as "human caused" though officials have not provided any details. The Salt Lake City Police Department announced Sunday on X that all evacuation orders were lifted.

Nearly 600 wildfires have scorched more than 40,000 acres across Utah this year, according to Utah Fire Info. Approximately 425 of the wildfires were labeled human caused.

OPINION

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Biden finally drops out. Now what?

A roundup of views from our Opinion columnists

Democrats can finally focus on beating Donald Trump

Finally. President Joe Biden finally dropped out. The angst and guessing are finally over. Democrats can finally focus on beating Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and rallying voters who have been waiting.



First, let's not speed past this historic moment. An incumbent president has decided not to seek reelection as the nation watches his candidacy and health deteriorate.

This is not a small moment. It is a time to acknowledge and reflect on what it means for the state of American politics and our government. Historians will study this era and find us broken.

Today, though, we can realize that Biden has gifted us the opportunity to wake up and decide what we want for this country.

Biden's decision comes after three weeks of his campaign fighting off a mounting effort to unseat him. His failed debate performance, the failed attempt to fix it that became overwhelming and, honestly, the iconic photo of Trump raising his fist after literally dodging an assassin's bullet was all too much for a Biden campaign.

Biden is the oldest president in our history who now joins a small list of incumbents who decided not to seek a second term.

Trump, the second oldest president, is a convicted felon who is leading a reimagining of the Republican Party that for decades has presented itself as the "Party of Reagan." President Ronald Reagan also survived an assassination attempt, by the way, on the way to changing the party.

Democrats still have a chance to write how they're remembered and prevent losing to one of the most divisive presidents in modern history who has made election lies and fear the core of his party's movement.

Despite Biden's endorsement of her, I don't know if that process should include Vice President Kamala Harris. She spent most of Biden's presidency relegated to obscurity.

What I do know is that Democrats have to handle the swap with a level of campaign savvy that has eluded them. With one name change, they can inject their base with the renewed energy the campaign desperately needs.

Republicans who have wrapped themselves in criticizing Biden's age no longer have the protection of those few extra years when talking about Trump. They'll need to reflect on the aging of their own candidate, who would turn 80 in office if reelected.

Republicans now have to hear about how electing Trump is really just electing their younger vice president, JD Vance, for when Trump leaves office. And they have to realize that Democrats publicly questioned if Biden is still the future of the party. They publicly decided to put country over party. It wasn't pretty, but they did what Republicans have been unwilling to do.

— Louie Villalobos

Conservatives told the truth. Democrats just didn't listen.

If I were a Democrat, I'd be furious. As an American, I'm appalled at the way Biden's exit from the election, announced Sunday afternoon, has played out. It's far from democratic.

Biden should have made this announcement last year, ahead of his party's primaries. Democrats voted for him in large part because there wasn't a robust competition, and Biden's advisers, family and many in the media tried to hide the president's true condition.

Even though there were plenty of warning signs, as I've written about for months, the majority of the country didn't see Biden's decline for themselves until the disastrous debate he had with Trump in late June.

After that, the facade was ripped away, and there was no coming back.



People stand outside the White House to show their appreciation for President Joe Biden after he announced his withdrawal from the presidential race Sunday. SAMUEL CORUM/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

We're just over a week past the attempted assassination of Trump at a Pennsylvania rally, and days from the end of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where the GOP stood behind Trump as its nominee.

Democrats are only four weeks away from their national convention in Chicago, and now they head into that event without the incumbent president atop their ticket.

Biden offered an endorsement for his vice president Sunday, and while many Democrats think it would be easiest if she would take the reins, it's hardly a done deal.

Convention delegates will have to agree on nominating Harris. Democratic leaders likely hope that the delegates have forgotten how unpopular Harris has been as vice president, usually polling as even less popular than her very unpopular boss. I'm not sure it will be so easy to forget the past four years in the next four weeks.

Republicans are not surprisingly questioning whether Biden is fit to serve out the rest of his presidency. If he can't campaign — and his very real decline is preventing him from the duties required of him — then it's a fair question to raise.

And actually, if Biden resigned the presidency, it could put Harris in a better position going into the Democratic National Convention as the de facto commander in chief.

I've disagreed with pretty much everything Biden has tried to do during his presidency, and it's been obvious to me he wasn't up to the task of president.

Yet, on a human level, this is all very sad for Biden. His family and close advisers clearly gave him bad advice and failed to tell him the truth about his chances come November.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President," Biden wrote in a letter to Americans. "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 fulfilling my duties as President for the rest of my term."

Biden could have been spared the indignity of the past few months if he had stepped down from the race last year.

Now, this late-in-the-game acceptance of reality will define his legacy. And that's on Democrats.

— Ingrid Jacques

Harris carries baggage, and so does Trump

Biden has proved that, for the first time in years, the GOP is the more organized political party in our country.

Over the past month, while Republicans were putting the finishing touches on their Trumped-up party platform and campaign ticket, Democrats were debating whether the man who has been running the country for four years was capable of running for reelection. The infighting and public conversation from Democrats made it clear. They were losing faith in their leader.

Now that Biden has dropped out, that debate is over.

The president's decision is a stunning admission that Democrats do not think Biden can defeat Trump in No-

vember, and it raises the question of whether he can still run the country.

For Republicans, it shows that their plan to attack Biden on policy worked and can be effective on Harris.

I don't knock Biden and the Democrats for this change. Trump has been gaining momentum since the presidential debate on June 27, and the assassination attempt on July 13 only grew that momentum.

Then came last week's Republican National Convention, which solidified Trump as the figurehead of the party and the party as the most organized in this country.

Republicans have their presidential nominee and vice presidential nominee and are surging in voter polls. While we certainly have our disagreements on the right, we aren't at the point where we are abandoning candidates just months before a pivotal election.

The Democrats have now ditched their candidate presumably for the Biden-endorsed Harris, who shares roughly the same favorability ratings as Biden.

It's unclear whether Harris poses a higher political threat to Trump than Biden did, but there is no doubt in my mind Trump remains in a prime position to retake the White House.

The best chance the Democrats have is to highlight Biden's exit from the race as an honorable decision, placing the future of the country and his party over his desire to cling to power.

This is the only angle from which Biden's exit is somewhat commendable, and any time Harris is asked about the transition, she would be wise to speak highly of his decision.

For Republicans, the adjustment from Biden to Harris isn't extraordinary. Harris was in the administration instituting the same policies for which Republicans have ripped Biden for the past four years.

She remains nearly as unpopular as her predecessor, and there is no reason for a significant change in strategy.

The new question for the Republican Party: If Biden isn't capable of running for reelection, how is he capable of remaining in the White House?

The Republican Party would be wise to hammer that angle from now until Election Day, highlighting the disarray of our executive branch under the Biden administration.

The historic decision would be more impactful if Americans were thrilled about it. We live in a weird scenario where a party admitting the man representing them in the White House for the past four years is unfit is favorable to allowing him to remain on the ticket.

The only reason Democrats have a glimmer of hope in this process is the fact that their opponent is Trump, one of the most politically vulnerable people in America.

Even despite his momentum, Democrats have a plethora of angles through which they can attack Trump more than any other conservative who could have been the nominee.

His legal troubles, degenerate character and actions following the 2020 election all pose vulnerabilities for a Trump campaign — vulnerabilities that

other Republicans wouldn't have. Democrats would be wise to exploit each of these and ask the GOP why they are beholden to a man with so much baggage.

While they are still fighting an uphill battle, Biden's decision gives Democrats a chance to try something new. That's better than remaining in limbo with Biden, who clearly could not win.

— Dace Potas

Gen Z progressives wanted Biden out. Now it's on us.

I was not looking forward to voting for President Biden.

I struggled to support him in 2020 when a full Democratic primary provided younger or more progressive options. This year, I struggled with his response to the Israel-Hamas war. In the past few weeks, I struggled with concerns over his age and mental acuity.

I was ready to accept Biden as the nominee, but I was going to hold my nose and vote for him to keep Trump from ever reaching the White House again. On Sunday, Biden solved my moral dilemma by dropping out of the race.

In Biden's letter, the president said it was "in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down."

He's right — this is the best decision for the country.

In doing this, Biden is cementing his legacy as a decent president.

In doing so, he is also doing something that Trump could never do — putting his own ego aside for the best of the nation.

Biden also could awaken the Gen Z progressives who were never big fans of his but also want Trump to go away.

Biden can now celebrate his wins as president. He led the country through the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic, improved our economy, signed major climate and gun legislation, declassified marijuana and canceled student debt for millions of people.

He has done what he could with his time as president. I believe that we are better under his administration than we ever would have been had Trump won the 2020 presidential election. Despite my initial qualms, I believe that Biden's win was a good thing.

Whether it was his bad polling, Democrats calling for him to step aside or news coverage that led to Biden's dropping out, the decision was always going to be his alone. Stepping down from the presidential race had to have been a difficult decision and one that requires a level of humility.

I applaud Biden for that.

For months, I've heard from other young people that there was no good option in this year's election. Trump is a nonstarter, and Biden was clearly out of touch with what young progressives wanted, especially on issues such as Israel. There has been a sense of apathy among those of us who have helped deliver Democratic victories after Trump was elected in 2016.

The polls reinforce what I've heard. According to the NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll from May, the president had just a 24% approval rating among voters ages 18-29.

This is the best thing for Gen Z voters who felt helpless in the face of a decision between two old men. Now, it's up to young progressives to prove that this was the right move by delivering a win to Democrats in November.

Gen-Z for Change, a nonprofit focused on mobilizing young voters, said it would begin the work needed to get Vice President Kamala Harris elected. I assume we'll see similar commitments from other youth organizations in the coming days.

If Harris is the nominee, I'm excited to see if she remotivates Generation Z, those born between 1997 to 2012. I hope she does.

This is the best decision for the Democratic Party, and I am happy that Joe Biden finally made it.

It's time for progressive Gen Z voters to help Democrats defeat the Republican nominee on Election Day. We wanted this to happen. Now, we have to prove it was needed and the correct path forward to beating Trump.

— Sara Pequeño

Only 3% of delegates at RNC were Black

Still-low figure is up from representation in 2016

Daniel Bice
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

MILWAUKEE - Back in 2016, former President Donald Trump made a concession about the Republican National Convention.

The delegates and audience were not racially diverse enough, Trump said.

"The truth is, I didn't like it," Trump said during a television conversation with Bishop Wayne T. Jackson. "With that being said, I don't like the job the Democrats have been doing representing African American people."

So how did the 2024 convention in Milwaukee stack up? Only slightly better.

Only 1,780 of 2,429 RNC delegates reported their ethnicity, according to convention officials. Of that number, 55 delegates said they were Black — representing 3% of the those who provided this demographic information.

That number, while still very small, is up from 2016 when only 18 delegates reported that they were Black — fewer than 1% of the total. That was the least amount of racial diversity in an RNC crowd in perhaps a hundred years.

By contrast, the peak year came in 2004, during the reelection effort for George W. Bush, according to the Washington Post. That year, nearly 7% of the Republican delegates were Black.

Overall, Blacks make up about 14.4% of the American population, according to the Pew Research Center.

In a statement, Republican officials played up the 300% increase in Black delegates since the last convention in 2016.

"The growing representation of different perspectives and backgrounds within the Big Tent GOP is indicative of the groundswell of support for President Donald J. Trump's vision to Make America Great Again," said RNC spokesman Kush Desai.

But Democrats said the numbers suggest that Trump's vision is not resonating with Black voters and other minority groups. Democratic President Joe



Delegates attend the third day of the Republican National Convention at Fiserv Forum. The third day of the RNC focus on foreign policy and threats.

WILLIAM GLASHEEN/USA TODAY

Biden won more than 90% of the Black vote in 2020.

In 2016, the Democratic National Convention had 1,182 Black delegates out of 4,766 — roughly 25% of the total. Vox reported that half of the Democratic delegates in 2016 were people of color while it was only 6% of Republicans.

Democrats hold their convention next month.

"Republicans offer lip service and photo ops in place of meaningful outreach to Black voters, while Trump's divisive rhetoric and insulting stereotypes — like suggesting that Black voters support him more because he is a felon — won't win over Black Wisconsinites in November," said DNC senior spokesman Marcus W. Robinson.

Black delegates offered differing views on the racial diversity at last week's convention in Milwaukee.

Scherie Murray, a delegate from New York who is Black, said he'd like to see more than 3% of the crowd being Black, yet at the same time, Murray said she never felt out of place at the convention.

She said she attended a number of events over the past week just for Black conservatives.

But Murray said Republicans can do more to boost its numbers, including

greater civic engagement and more involvement in the Black community. She said GOP officials should emphasize the impact of Trump's 2017 tax cut on minority communities and their financial support for historically Black colleges and universities.

As for South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott's suggestion that America "is not a racist country," Murray wasn't completely on board with him. She said she believes people, regardless of race, have the potential to be racist. But she added that class issues often get confused with racial ones.

Jerris Jackson, a delegate from California who is Black, said he didn't care how many delegates were Black.

"When I look at the crowd, I'm not really looking for people's race or color or ethnicity," he said while on the convention floor Thursday night. "We're all Americans. We all want to make America great again."

When asked about racism in society, Jackson pointed the finger at Democrats, saying they are responsible for discriminatory and racist policies over the years.

"I'm happy with the fact that Republicans are bringing in more people and broadening their base," said Rodney

Harrison, a Tennessee delegate who is Black. He said he was seeing increasing racial diversity at the local level, too.

Several of the Black delegates predicted that Trump would either double or triple his share of the Black vote in November.

Not all Black officials walked away from the convention happy.

Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson, the city's first elected Black mayor, on Friday said his "blood was kind of boiling" listening to model Amber Rose's speech as he sat in the convention hall. She proclaimed in her convention speech that she had concluded Trump was not racist.

Johnson, a Democrat, spoke specifically about the music video to rap song "Trump Trump Baby" by rapper Forgiato Blow. Rose was featured in the video, too, wearing a gold chain with a gold Trump head, complete with red MAGA cap, attached to it.

Johnson noted Blow's tattoos and the pair's gold chains, saying if they went to a conservative white neighborhood dressed like that someone would call the police on them.

"It's absolutely ridiculous, and it's not real," he said. "They want these folks for their influence on other people of color and for their vote, but if they brought their true selves to those communities, to those neighborhoods, they'd be shunned."

Asked if he worried about impact of speakers such as Scott on a national stage denying racism, Johnson said some Republicans seem like they don't want the history of racism to be told.

"As a Black person, I think about poor little Ruby Bridges going to school or the Little Rock Nine in Arkansas, and you see these vile images, these gross images of people just being racist and yelling just profanities and vulgarities and the N-word and all that stuff," he said, referencing Black students who integrated segregated schools.

"They want to erase that ... but that's important so we don't forget it," he continued. "If we really want to have racial healing in this country then we can't forget what happened in the past. We can't forget that."

Alison Dirr of the Journal Sentinel staff contributed to this report.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Takes 10 Years Off Your Face in as Little as 10 Minutes

Women are raving about the life-changing effects of this powerful formula.

There's no denying that people — mostly women — are on a mission to discover the best way to eliminate fine lines and wrinkles permanently. The \$14 billion dollars spent on aesthetic procedures in 2021 alone is a clear indication of that fact.

But now science appears to be offering a simpler solution. It's a special delivery technology adapted for skincare that gets superior results.

Known as advanced liposome technology, this powerful distribution system ensures that vital nutrients are delivered exactly where your skin needs them the most, providing your skin with maximum anti-aging benefits.

New Age-Defying 'Dermal Filler' Cream in High Demand

Al Sears, MD, of Palm Beach, Florida, recently released an anti-aging cream that adapts this breakthrough medical technology into the realm of skincare, and he's struggling to keep up with consumer demand.

Dr. Sears is South Florida's leading anti-aging pioneer. He has authored over 500 reports, scientific papers, and books on anti-aging. A frequent lecturer at global anti-aging conferences, Dr. Sears spoke at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz, along with special guest, Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people were in attendance as Dr. Sears discussed his latest anti-aging breakthroughs.

This powerful cream, known as **Restore**, keeps selling out faster than it's produced — and people are raving about the effect it's having on their skin.

"Within a few minutes of applying the cream, it visibly plumps out the under-eye area and my cheeks as well as those annoying lines that deepen as we age between the nose and lips. It also felt like it was tight-

ening and smoothing my skin at the same time. I definitely feel I look younger whenever I use it," said Amy B., of Montville, New Jersey.

"The lines around my mouth and eyes are filled in and my skin is tightened. I love having younger-looking skin, so I will continue using **Restore**" raves Cathy C., of Florida.

The best part is that this cream has no adverse side effects, doesn't require a doctor's visit or prescription, and is 100% natural.

"Advanced liposome technology ensures that vital nutrients are delivered exactly where your skin needs them the most."

Powerful Delivery System Ensures Nutrients Penetrate Deep into Your Skin

The dermis is the underlying layer of skin that supplies nourishment and oxygen, and removes waste. In other words, it's responsible for keeping your outer layer of skin healthy. Liposome technology is designed to support and nourish this deeper layer of skin by delivering nutrients directly to it.

"All of **Restore's** powerful ingredients are encapsulated in a liposome shell — an organic container that carries the beautifying agents deep into the skin cells," explained Dr. Sears.

"**Restore's** liposome shell is composed of phosphatidylcholine or PC for short. While cell membranes repel water, they absorb PC because they're actually made of it. As a result, **Restore** is delivered deep into the cell for maximum firming and volume."

When you apply liposome cream to your face, the liposomes in the skin cream work their way inside your skin, fuse with the



Revolutionary Formula Reduces the Appearance of Wrinkles in Minutes

skin cell membranes and then release their contents directly to the cells. Regular skin creams don't have this capability.

A Formula Designed to Take Years off Your Face in Minutes

Once it's penetrated the deeper layer of skin, **Restore** releases a unique blend of botanicals, vitamins and essential oils that reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, gives skin a more even tone, and moisturizes the interior layers of your dermal cells, firming and plumping your skin.

Restore's first skin-enhancing agent is Madonna lily leaf stem cell extract. It helps produce an even-toned complexion. In a clinical study reported in the Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology, participants treated with this extract for 28 days showed improvements in skin luminance and tone around the eyes.

Restore is also loaded with vitamin C, which British researchers have found reduces both wrinkles and dryness. "In **Restore** we use magnesium ascorbyl phosphate, a more stable form of vitamin C that doesn't break down in liquid as does ordinary C," explains Dr. Sears. "That means the antioxi-

dant molecules stay intact within your skin cells where they can prevent damage from dangerous free radicals."

This powerful formula also features guarana seed extract, coenzyme Q10, and avocado oil. Japanese researchers have also found that coenzyme Q10 supports production of the thin membrane that separates layers of your skin, and French studies have shown that avocado oil improves skin cell metabolism and enhances skin thickness.

Where To Get Restore

To secure the hot, new **Restore** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-725-2259** 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 **Restore**, 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."

Call NOW at **1-800-725-2259** to secure your supply of **Restore**. Use Promo Code **USARS32** when you call. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered!

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON. NO INDIVIDUAL RESULT SHOULD BE SEEN AS TYPICAL.

MONEYLINE



PROVIDED BY CUSTOMS/BORDER PROTECTION

GIANT LAND SNAILS FOUND IN BAGGAGE SCREENING

Customs and Border Protection officials in Detroit stopped a slimy cargo from messing up American crops last month. Officials conducting a secondary baggage screening found 90 giant African land snails in the luggage of a passenger arriving from Ghana. According to a news release from CBP, there was a "strange smell" emanating from the traveler's baggage that caught a specialist's attention. The passenger declared other prohibited items including beef skins and fresh peppers, but did not mention the snails before inspection. "These snails are an invasive species that could negatively impact our economy," acting port director John Nowak said in a statement. According to CBP the snails, which ranged in size from 3 to 6 inches, were intended for consumption and were seized at the airport.

TESLA TO DEPLOY HUMANOID ROBOTS FOR INTERNAL USE

Tesla will have humanoid robots in "low production" for the company's internal use next year, CEO Elon Musk said on Monday, months after he announced a rollout by the end of 2024. The automaker will have the robots "hopefully" in high production for other companies in 2026, Musk said in a post on social media platform X. Musk had said in April that the Tesla robot, called Optimus, would be able to perform tasks in factory by the end of this year and could be ready for sale as soon as the end of 2025. Humanoid robots have been in development for several years by Japan's Honda and Hyundai Motor's Boston Dynamics. Tesla put out the first generation of its Optimus robot, dubbed Bumblebee, in September 2022. This year, the company posted a video of a second generation of the bipedal robot folding a T-shirt at the firm's facility. Tesla is set to report its second-quarter results on Tuesday, with Wall Street expecting margins to hit a more than five-year low, but focus also will be on Musk's ambitious plans for robotaxis and AI products.

YOU CAN WIN FREE FOOD BY PLAYING CHICK-FIL-A GAME

Chick-fil-A is offering the chance to win free food this week by playing the limited-time Code Moo game, available through the Chick-Fil-A app. By playing Code Moo, customers can race for weekly food rewards through Aug. 17, while supplies last. Here's how it works: Code Moo is available as of July 22 via the Chick-Fil-A app, which can be downloaded on the App Store and Google Play. You can also play the game on a mobile device by visiting PlayCodeMoo.com. Users will pick a cow and race through a course, avoiding obstacles, collecting powerups and painting over burger-centric billboards along the way. Players can receive a Chick-fil-A reward each week after the racing mission is complete, and new missions launch each Monday. Food rewards are available while supplies last, and are limited to the first 2 million per week, according to Chick-fil-A.



NOE PADILLA/USA TODAY NETWORK



Mark Zuckerberg's net worth is \$187 billion. GARY A. VASQUEZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

US billionaires' wealth has doubled since 2017

Daniel de Visé USA TODAY

America's billionaires are now collectively worth a record \$6 trillion. Their wealth has more than doubled since the passage of the landmark Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017. ● Is that good news, or bad? It depends on whom you ask.

The analysis comes from Americans for Tax Fairness, a left-leaning nonprofit that advocates for wealthy Americans to pay their fair share.

Progressive tax groups contend Donald Trump's 2017 tax cuts will cost the nation \$1.9 trillion in lost revenue over 10 years, citing research by the Congressional Budget Office. They say extending the cuts, as Trump proposes, would cost another \$400 billion a year starting in 2027.

"When you have just a handful of people with this much money, I think it distorts our democracy," said David Kass, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness.

Advocates for the Trump tax cuts say lower taxes boost the economy, create jobs and put more dollars in everyone's pockets.

According to the federal Survey of Consumer Finances, even the poorest one-fifth of Americans are wealthier

now than in 2017. That group, measured

by income, saw median net worth double from \$8,000 to \$17,000 between 2016 and 2022.

The billionaire's report presumes "that the growth in the wealth of the very richest comes at the expense of everyone else. And that's not how the economy really works," said Kyle Pomerleau, a senior fellow at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute.

800 billionaires hold more wealth than half of the nation

Progressives counter that wealth is increasingly concentrated among the wealthy. The nation's roughly 800 billionaires now hold 3.8% of U.S. wealth, according to Americans for Tax

See **BILLIONAIRES**, Page 2B

Top 10 billionaires

- 1. Elon Musk (Tesla):** Net worth rose from \$20 billion in 2017 to \$258 billion in 2024
- 2. Jeff Bezos (Amazon):** Net worth rose from \$83 billion to \$216 billion
- 3. Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook):** Net worth rose from \$72 billion to \$187 billion
- 4. Larry Ellison (Oracle):** Net worth rose from \$61 billion to \$177 billion
- 5. Larry Page (Google):** Net worth rose from \$46 billion to \$157 billion
- 6. Sergey Brin (Google):** Net worth rose from \$45 billion to \$151 billion
- 7. Bill Gates (Microsoft):** Net worth rose from \$90 billion to \$136 billion
- 8. Steve Ballmer (Microsoft):** Net worth rose from \$35 billion to \$135 billion
- 9. Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway):** Net worth rose from \$81 billion to \$131 billion
- 10. Jensen Huang (NVIDIA):** Net worth rose from \$5 billion to \$118 billion

Inflation pushing more teens into the workforce

They pay for cellphones, clothes ... and even rent

Bailey Schulz and Jessica Guynn USA TODAY

At 18, Michelle Chen covers her cellphone bills as well as school expenses. She squirrels away money for college. And, with her earnings from a summer job with the Boston's SuccessLink Youth Employment Program, she helps her parents by stocking the fridge with groceries when the shelves are bare and makes sure her two younger brothers have pocket money.

Chen, a nursing major at Simmons University in Boston this fall, said she began working in fourth grade when her family ran a Chinese takeout restaurant. Since then, she has worked in social media marketing for a hair care company and as a coding instructor, learning soft skills that aren't typically taught in school such as teamwork and time management.

Those skills, she said, helped her thrive in her classes. And the extra pocket money means she can pitch in with family expenses.

"I've done many programs with underrepresented students my age all over Boston, and I've noticed a lot of my peers contribute to their families with their earnings," said Chen, who is Chinese American.

With consumer prices up more than



Michelle Chen covers her cellphone bills and college costs while pitching in with family expenses. PROVIDED BY MICHELLE CHEN

20% over the past three years, more teens are getting jobs to help out parents who are feeling the financial pinch.

Alicia Sasser Modestino, a professor of economics and public policy at Northeastern University, says more than half of teens work to contribute to household expenses such as rent, utilities and groceries or to cover their own expenses such as a cellphone, clothing and shoes.

See **TEENS**, Page 2B

Delta hits hurdles in recovery from tech outage

Zach Wichter USA TODAY

It's been a bad few days for Delta Air Lines passengers.

Though much of the global aviation industry was disrupted by Friday's CrowdStrike outage, Delta seems to be having a uniquely difficult time recovering. According to the airline, the impact on its crew scheduling software is largely to blame.

Delta and its wholly-owned regional subsidiary Endeavor Air together canceled nearly 4,500 flights between Friday and Sunday, and as of Monday morning were already posting more than 1,000 additional delays and cancellations, according to flight tracker FlightAware.

Kristi Gatto, a traveler who went to school with the reporter on this story, was one of those affected.

"I get it. Things happen. This was probably the worst flying experience that I've had," Gatto said.

Her Saturday flight from Seattle to New York was canceled after Delta said it was unable to fully staff the flight, and ultimately, Gatto paid for her another ticket to fly home from Vancouver on JetBlue instead.

See **DELTA**, Page 2B

Delta

Continued from Page 1B

Though Delta said it's working on recovering operations, it's little comfort to passengers like Gatto, now separated from their luggage and out thousands of dollars in contingency expenses.

What's happening at Delta?

In an open letter to customers, Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said the carrier's ongoing headaches are largely caused by struggles with its crew scheduling system.

"The issue impacted the Microsoft Windows operating system. Delta has a significant number of applications that use that system, and 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," the letter said. "Our teams have been working around the clock to recover and restore full functionality."

Delta's disruptions are reminiscent of Southwest Airlines' meltdown in December 2022, when winter storms threw a wrench in the carrier's crew scheduling system, leading to almost 10 days of travel chaos and more than 17,000 canceled flights. United Airlines had similar disruptions last summer when Federal Aviation Administration issues and United's own staffing squeeze led to thousands of canceled flights.

"There is no excuse for Delta to have had this problem because they had a huge data center problem in 2017 when they lost power. They have had some other technology problems in the interim," Henry Harteveltdt, president of Atmosphere Research, a travel industry analytics firm, told USA TODAY. "More importantly, in the past three years, they have seen American, Southwest and United get bogged down by their own technology problems."

United Airlines also took a big hit by knock-on effects from the CrowdStrike outage, but its operations were largely recovered by Monday.



Delta employees show up to help out as people wait to retrieve their luggage after long delays following cyber outages affecting airlines at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta on Monday. MEGAN VARNER/REUTERS

What are passengers entitled to?

According to the Department of Transportation, which classifies Friday's IT failures as "controllable" disruptions on the part of the airline, Delta is required to honor its customer commitments. Those include rebooking passengers whose flights are canceled or significantly delayed on other services at no additional cost, as well as providing hotels and meals and ground transportation vouchers for eligible travelers.

The DOT says it has received hundreds of complaints from Delta customers who did not receive those accommodations and is investigating those claims.

"I have made clear to Delta that we expect the airline to provide prompt refunds to consumers who choose not to be rebooked, and free rebooking and timely reimbursements for food and overnight hotel stays to consumers affected by the delays and cancellations, as well as adequate customer service assistance to all of their passengers," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a statement. "No one should be stranded at an airport overnight or stuck

on hold for hours waiting to talk to a customer service agent. I will ensure that our department supports Delta passengers by enforcing all applicable passenger protections."

Delta said it would reimburse customers for hotel, meal and ground transportation expenses paid out of pocket as a result of the disruptions, but not for "prepaid" costs like hotel reservations at the customer's destination, vacation experiences, lost wages, concerts or other tickets.

Travelers like Gatto, who book their own alternative flights, will be entitled to refunds for their original Delta tickets but may not be able to claim reimbursement for the new flights.

Gatto said she still plans to fight for as much compensation as she can get.

"I plan to really lay into them and let my inner New Yorker come out," she said.

Where does Delta go from here?

Delta likely will continue to be all hands on deck this week to restore reliability in its operation. But once that immediate hurdle is cleared, experts say, the company will have to do some seri-

ous reflection – and make some major investments – as a next step.

"It's a competitive landscape out there for software, for this exact purpose. Maybe they'll have to take a look at doing a transition," Jon Haass, a professor of cyber intelligence and security at Arizona's Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, told USA TODAY. "This might be the impetus, that might be the good news, the silver lining that kicks the airlines into saying we have to treat this as a modern problem, let's use modern tools to resolve it and not be beholden to the old, old tools that become more complicated with every new regulation that comes out."

Airlines often rely on older technology than many other industries, in part because their sprawling operations make upgrades cumbersome.

Haass said airlines' tight profit margins mean shareholders often don't want to see large expenditures made on backend systems, but this could force their directors and executives to do it anyway.

"As a business, they're caught in a bind, but that's why leadership has to have the nerve to say to its shareholders and say to its people: folks, here's what we're doing. Follow the flag," he said. "We'll see whether their CEO is a leader."

The fallout from this week is also likely to tarnish Delta's brand image.

"Clearly, the CrowdStrike Microsoft problem was an extraordinary unanticipated disaster, and it's not like Delta had an obligation to think what would happen if we lost all of our Microsoft-based computers, but what Delta should have been doing is looking at all of its software," Harteveltdt said. "For an airline that holds itself out as being premium, it's embarrassing to see it take so long to recover, especially when peer airlines like American and United have been able to do a better job of recovery."

He added that the next few days will be "make or break" for the airline.

"My hope is that we start to see meaningful progress from Delta within the next 48 hours. If we don't see Delta reduce the number of canceled flights by at least half in the next 24-48 hours, there's a much bigger problem brewing in Atlanta than we realized," Harteveltdt said.

Teens

Continued from Page 1B

In fact, research shows an increase in the percentage of young people paying for household bills, with two-thirds paying for some kind of household bill.

About 64% of parents living with children under 18 said they felt financially secure in 2023, down from 69% in 2022, according to a survey released in May by the Federal Reserve.

When "you look at where rents have gone, where the price of groceries has gone, then having teenagers working during the summer is absolutely essential," Modestino said.

Why are more teens working?

Teen participation in the labor market is bouncing back after decades of decline dating back to the 1970s. The labor force participation rate in June for people ages 16 to 19 was 37.4%, according to the month's jobs report – up nearly 3% from the year before and hovering near levels not seen since 2009 during the Great Recession.

Much like during the late-2000s financial crisis, many teens are driven to work by financial need, according to Andrew Challenger, senior vice president of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, an outplacement and executive and business coaching firm. He expects employers to add 1.3 million jobs for teens this summer.

"There's no shortage of applicants," said John Linehan, president and CEO of

Zoo New England in Massachusetts, an employer partner with the City of Boston's youth employment program.

Modestino said the spike in teen workers comes from a combination of push-and-pull factors, with employers looking for extra help to fill entry-level jobs in a tight labor market and teens seeking additional income to combat inflation.

But it's not just money teens are after. Teens crave more social interaction after months of isolation during the pandemic.

"COVID made me more shy. I wasn't really social. But when I started this job, it got me out of my comfort zone and it helped me talk more and make new friends," said Mia Gardner, 16. Gardner makes at least \$15 an hour as part of City Spotlights Summer Leadership Program at the Boch Center, a nonprofit arts and culture organization and an employer partner to the City of Boston's youth employment program.

Increasingly, teens are working to cover their own expenses. Alexandria Hibbler, 19, says she's working at the Las Vegas Municipal Court this summer to boost her savings and to "live a little," spending money on things like nails, hair, food, clothes and vacations.

Other teens are turning to summer jobs to better prepare for careers after high school.

Saleena Johnson, 17, works three jobs, including a gig at Boston's Franklin Park Zoo through the ZooTeen program.

Johnson dreams of a future as a veterinarian or zookeeper and said her role with the zoo helps prepare her for that. A \$15 hourly wage means she can save for

college and prepare to buy a car.

"I want to bring joy to other people, and I want to help animals," she said, but "college is really expensive."

Challenger said jobs teach skills teens otherwise would "never get during school" and can help college graduates build out their resumes.

Kayla Washington, 19, a student at Prairie View A&M University in Texas, said she's working at an all African American family practice through the Strong Future Las Vegas Youth Employment Program to get work experience to make her resume stand out after college.

But students who aren't after a four-year degree benefit, too. With some universities estimating the cost of attendance for the upcoming academic year at nearly \$100,000, more families are re-considering the expense and looking at pre-apprenticeship programs, trade schools, the military, or immediately entering the workforce.

Modestino says summer jobs and part-time work during the school year can help teens figure out which path is best for them.

"If you are not going to college, you certainly need job experience to figure out what it might be you would do other than college," Modestino said.

Are there risks to too much work?

Research shows having a job increases high school graduation rates, reduces criminal justice involvement and increases wages.

But there is such a thing as too much work for teens. A 2011 study from the University of Washington found stu-

dents who worked during the school year had similar school performance as other students – so long as they worked fewer than 20 hours a week. Working 20 hours a week or more during the school year was linked to a slide in academics and more behavioral issues.

More teens pitching in

A 2021 car accident left 34-year-old Philadelphia resident Annabel Moldonado with migraines and light and noise sensitivity, affecting her ability to work. Since then, her son has done what he can to pitch in.

Arad Ginez, 16, has worked at an energy company, a day care and Bank of America's Financial Center Internship Program. Some of the money goes toward rent, some to school supplies, some for food for his three siblings.

"I can't repay her for everything she's done for me, but I'm trying to," Ginez said.

"The fact that things cost more means that more families have less money left over for the other things that teens would want, clothes, eating out or going to the movies," said Modestino, of Northeastern University.

Moldonado said she initially pushed back against her son getting a job, worried it would affect his grades. But while Ginez said work can make keeping up with extracurriculars and homework more difficult, he tries to get homework taken care of during school hours and has maintained a spot on the honor roll.

"He proved me wrong," Moldonado said. "There's no way for me to express how proud I am."

Billionaires

Continued from Page 1B

Fairness, while the bottom half of American families control only 2.5%.

"Wealth inequality in our country is staggering and just growing worse," said Steve Rosenthal, a senior fellow at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. "To me, that wealth inequality creates a lot of social problems. Those who have can call the shots, and those who don't have to struggle to get by."

The group's report, titled The Billionaire Century and released on July 11, draws from an analysis of Forbes data on billionaires.

Trump's 2017 tax cuts

Trump enacted sweeping tax cuts in 2017. Billed as the largest tax overhaul in three decades, the Tax Cuts and Jobs

Act lowered taxes across the board. Some of the cuts delivered big savings to the wealthy:

- The top individual tax rate, for the highest earners, dropped from 39.6% to 37%.

- The wealth threshold for paying estate taxes doubled from \$5.5 million to \$11.2 million.

- The corporate tax rate dropped from 35% to 21%.

- A new deduction reduced taxes by up to 20% for pass-through businesses, such as partnerships and sole proprietorships.

The wealthiest Americans benefit from other tax breaks that predate the Trump presidency. For example, when well-heeled investors sell a long-held asset, such as a property or stock shares, they typically pay a maximum capital gains tax of 20%, which is far below the 37% top tax rate on personal income. The capital gains tax rate has been comparatively low for decades.

Different paths on tax cuts

Trump has vowed to double down on his tax cuts, which largely expire in 2025, if he wins the election in November. President Joe Biden, who has since announced that he will not seek a second term, had pledged to extend some of the cuts but to raise taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations.

This month, the Biden administration announced it had recovered \$1 billion in past-due taxes from high-wealth Americans. The effort focused on taxpayers with more than \$1 million in income and more than \$250,000 in documented tax debt.

Economists across the ideological spectrum have faulted both parties for their aversion to raising taxes. The nation faces a \$1.27 trillion budget deficit in fiscal year 2024.

"There's this kind of myth out there that there's disagreement between the parties over tax increases," said Michael

Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, in a May interview with USA TODAY. "The reality is that one party, the Republicans, don't want to raise taxes on anybody, and the other party, the Democrats, don't want to raise taxes on 98% of the people, and that's just a terrible situation to be in."

'Resources of a small nation'

Celebrity billionaires have amassed eye-popping wealth over the last eight years, doubling their collective net worth from \$2.9 trillion in 2017 to \$6 trillion in 2024, according to the Americans for Tax Fairness analysis.

The typical billionaire near the top of the list is "not merely somebody who's well-off. It's somebody who has the resources of a small nation," said Joe Hughes, a senior policy analyst at the left-leaning Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

ASK HUMAN RESOURCES

Evaluating workplace culture on a job hunt



Johnny C. Taylor
Columnist
USA TODAY

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

Question: When looking for a job, how can I identify what kind of culture a company has? What questions should I ask in interviews to determine if a job fits me? – Corwin

Answer: Identifying a company's culture is an underrated component of job seeking. So, thanks for asking the question. We could all benefit from strategies to evaluate workplace culture, knowing how a particular work environment will mesh with your unique personality and work style.

Before you turn your eye toward any prospective employer, it's important to understand your preferences and work style. Consider the following questions to help clarify your opinions:

- **Decision-making:** How do you like to make decisions? Are you cautious, or are you a risk-taker?

- **Dealing with ambiguity:** How open are you to accepting unclear or new situations in the workplace?

- **Structure:** How do you respond to varying degrees of structure within a company?

- **Managerial styles:** How comfortable are you with different managerial styles?

- **Teamwork:** Do you prefer to work alone or in teams?

- **Adaptability:** How adaptable are you?

Additionally, clarify your values. What ideals or fundamental beliefs do you live by, both personally and professionally? What motivates you? What qualities do you admire in your role models?

Even before an interview, you can be-



Before you turn your eye toward any prospective employer, it's important to understand your preferences and work style. GETTY IMAGES

gin to compile insights into an employer's unique culture. Review their website to understand their mission, vision, values, and history. If possible, speak with current or former employees about their experiences. Look at employee reviews on platforms such as Glassdoor or Indeed to better understand the company's culture.

During interviews, aim to get a clear understanding of the culture. Remember that even within a smaller group or department, there may be a subculture to consider. Your interview is an opportunity to identify what it means to work for the prospective company, in a specific department, and for your potential manager.

Here are some questions to ask during an interview to gauge company culture:

- Can you describe a typical day in this role?

- How does the company incorporate its values into daily work?

- How does the team collaborate on projects?

- How are decisions typically made?

- What opportunities are available for professional growth and development?

- How is feedback given and received?

- How does the company celebrate successes and achievements?

- What typically happens when something goes wrong?

Understanding yourself and the prospective employer will empower you to make an informed decision. I hope your next position suits you well!

I've worked as a materials engineer for almost five years. I'm weighing a couple of internal job promotions. One is a supervisory position overseeing people who hold my current job. The other is a more specialized materials engineering position that requires some intensive training. Both offer similar pay, but they are very different. What should I consider in weighing these two career moves? – Kasim

I commend you for reaching out as you look to move up the ladder. Many people are content to remain in similar roles throughout their careers, while others seek dynamic evolution. Moving forward doesn't necessarily mean moving into management; it can also mean advancing toward increased specialization. As you stand at this career cross-

roads, weighing these fundamentally different paths is crucial to shaping your future.

Niche specialization can often be extremely rewarding and offer a more stable career path. As your work becomes more specialized, fewer people are available to perform it, which can drive up the demand for, and value of, your skills. However, there are other aspects to consider.

Consider the long- and short-term value of the field you would work in. Is there a sustained demand for specialized skills in this area? If so, it pays to stay at the forefront of technological advancements and new tools in your field. Highly specialized work can be lucrative, but technological changes could make certain specializations obsolete. Commit to continuous learning to remain relevant and adaptable. Understand how this role fits into the bigger picture and interacts with other organizational functions.

Moving into management means adopting an entirely new skill set. As a supervisor, you'll lead front-line workers in executing your organization's strategic vision. There are key aspects to consider here as well.

Are you interested in inspiring, evaluating, and empowering others? Effective management goes beyond task execution; it involves motivating a team to work well together. A people manager's success is tied to the performance of the team. Your performance will reflect how well the people under your supervision perform. Do you see yourself enjoying the responsibilities of leadership? Management often involves resolving conflicts, making strategic decisions, and handling administrative tasks.

Ultimately, both paths offer opportunities for growth and fulfillment. By carefully considering your interests, career goals and the insights from those around you, you can make a decision that aligns with your aspirations. Whichever path you choose, you can still have a dynamic, lucrative and fulfilling career if you prepare accordingly.

I wish you the best in making this significant decision and continued success on your professional journey!

What you should do after a data breach



Tech Talk
Kim Komando

Ticketmaster, Advance Auto Parts, Santander Bank, ATT, Bank of America, file transfer service MOVEit, Trello and Discord. Those are just some of the major companies targeted in data breaches so far this year.

It's easy to ignore news of a data breach, I know. There are just so many that it all turns into white noise. The Change Healthcare hack alone exposed one-third of Americans. That's either you or someone you love dearly.

So, what do you do if your data is exposed? Your No. 1 goal is to protect yourself from future scams.

Do these things right away

- **Make a list of your data that was exposed.** Keep a document, Post-it, a note on your phone, or whatever works for you. Be suspicious of anyone who references it in an email or phone call to prove they're legit.

- **Watch your money.** Update your PIN and banking login credentials. Even if they weren't involved directly in the breach, hackers can use your personal info to access it. Keep an eye on your bank and credit card statements.

- **Freeze your credit.** This will keep scammers from opening a credit card or loan in your name. Like setting up a fraud alert, you'll need to contact each of the three credit bureaus. It takes a little work, but it's a solid defense.

Crooks love to play the long game

They'll wait until your guard is down and target you months after the initial breach. This is part of the reason so many people fall for phishing scams.

- **Be wary of any email requests.** Even if a request is legit, it's OK to take your time to figure it out. If it's the first you're hearing of something, it's not urgent. Better safe than sorry.

- **Watch out for health-care-related requests.** If you receive an explana-

tion of benefits or a bill for services you didn't receive, contact your health care provider and insurance company right away. Someone else may have gotten those services using your name.

- **If you get an out-of-the-blue message from an old friend,** be extremely cautious. Hackers love to use your info to pose as friends or family. Ignore texts from strangers who pretend to have the wrong number and want to chat, too.

What about revealed passwords?

On July 4, Hackers posted a file named RockYou2024.txt to a dark web forum. The file includes a mind-numbing 9,948,575,739 passwords. And there's a very good chance it puts you at risk. The RockYou2024 leak is made up of passwords from both old and new data breaches.

It's one thing when criminals have your name, phone number and financial details. Having access to your passwords is a whole different ball game.

A tactic called credential stuffing

This is when crooks take your leaked passwords and try to break into as many services, sites, accounts and apps as they can. They're hoping you got lazy at least once and reused that password somewhere else.

Any system that isn't protected against brute-force attacks is at risk, and this goes beyond smartphones and computers. Even internet-connected cameras and industrial equipment are on the hackable list.

What are your next steps?

Visit Cybernews' Leaked Password Checker to see if your passwords were exposed. HaveIBeenPwned is another option. Enter your email address into either one, and I'll bet you'll find yourself on the list.

Now the hard part: Reset the passwords for every single account associated with those leaked passwords.

Your browser can help

Your browser's password manager



If your data has been exposed, your No. 1 goal is to protect yourself from future scams. GETTY IMAGES

can alert you if your passwords have been involved in a breach. Here's how to view or enable this feature in three popular browsers:

- **Google Chrome:** Password alerts are enabled by default. If you think you might've missed one, head to Google's Password Manager and run a Password Checkup.

- **Microsoft Edge:** You'll need to turn on Edge's **Password Monitor**. To do this, go to **Settings > more** (the three-dot menu at the top right of your browser window) > **Settings > Profiles > Passwords**. Then, toggle on the switch for **Show alerts when passwords are found in an online leak**.

- **Apple Safari:** Password monitoring is on by default for browsers running on MacOS 14 or iOS 14 and later. To check for alerts on your iPhone or Mac,

and to update any compromised passwords, go to **Settings > Passwords > Security Recommendations > Change Password on Website**.

Oh, and this is important to remember: Any random two-factor authentication (2FA) codes you receive via email or text that you *didn't* ask for could mean someone is trying to access your accounts.

Share this tip with someone you care about. Protecting others from scams starts with knowledge.

Learn about all the latest technology on the Kim Komando Show, the nation's largest weekend radio talk show. Kim takes calls and dispenses advice on today's digital lifestyle, from smartphones and tablets to online privacy and data hacks. For her daily tips, free newsletters and more, visit her website.

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Tuscaloosa: Former University of Alabama football coach Nick Saban was inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame, along with six other prominent figures in the state.

ALASKA Juneau: Officials said two black bears were euthanized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in downtown Juneau last week after displaying aggressive behavior around trash cans, KTOO reported.

ARIZONA Phoenix: Reports of fatal drownings for children up to 5 years old are increasing in Phoenix, according to data from Children's Safety Zone. The Phoenix Fire Department has reported eight drowning deaths for children 5 and under, as of July 2024.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: The state of Arkansas responded to a challenge brought by Arkansans for Limited Government, the group behind a proposed ballot measure to legalize limited access to abortion in the state. Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin filed a motion to dismiss a suit before the Arkansas Supreme Court concerning Secretary of State John Thurston's refusal to begin the certification process for the ballot question.

CALIFORNIA Indian Wells: The BNP Paribas Open's impact to the Coachella Valley economy was more than \$400 million prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to one report. This year, that number more than doubled. The annual tennis tournament, held at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in March, generated an estimated total gross economic impact of more than \$852 million on the Coachella Valley regional economy, according to a study.

COLORADO Pueblo: Major improvements are coming to Pueblo County's trail system with the help of nearly \$9 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Scheduled for completion in early 2026, the Medal of Honor Boulevard Trail will serve as a connection for bicyclists and passengers traveling between the city of Pueblo and Pueblo West.

CONNECTICUT Hartford: Recent Census estimates show that Connecticut has the third lowest share of housing built in the 21st century in the country, The CT Mirror reported.

DELAWARE Wilmington: More than three years after being officially announced, demolition and remediation will begin later this summer on the long-delayed, more than \$100 million project that will change the face of Delaware's largest city. Riverfront East, which will redevelop the east side of Wilmington's Riverfront to mirror the 30-plus years of development on its west side, will transform the now largely abandoned 86.3 acre site into blocks of new retail shops, residences, office space and greenways with a riverwalk along the Christina River.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: Officials said an investigation is underway after four people were injured in a multi-vehicle crash in Northeast, D.C.

FLORIDA Daytona Beach: After a record-breaking 13 guns were intercepted at the Daytona Beach International Airport in 2023, numbers for the first half of 2024 show a decrease not only for the local airport but also statewide. According to a news release from the Transportation Security Administration, just two guns have been intercepted at the Daytona Beach airport so far. This time last year, the TSA had intercepted nine guns. The decrease is also reflected statewide with 382 intercepted guns reported in the first six months of 2024. By July of last year, 396 had been intercepted.

GEORGIA Atlanta: Bus systems in two cities will receive nearly \$20 million in federal funds to replace older buses with electric models, Capitol Beat News Service reported.

HAWAII Honolulu: Officials said a University of Hawaii football athlete has been arrested on felony abuse charges, Hawaii News Now reported.

IDAHO Boise: City officials said two historic pools will be getting a makeover to keep up with newer codes and regulations, KTVB7 reported.

ILLINOIS Springfield: A then-Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy shot Sonya Massey in the face while in her home, even as Massey put her arms in the air and said "I'm sorry" while ducking for cover.

HIGHLIGHT: TEXAS



Jessi Silva attended the Blackwell School during a period of segregation of Mexican Americans from white people. OMAR ORNELAS/USA TODAY NETWORK

Marfa: The Biden administration established a formerly segregated school for Mexican American students as the country's newest national park, making it the third National Historic Site to document the experiences of Latino Americans before the Civil Rights Movement. Open from 1909 to 1965, the Blackwell School is one of the last remaining "Mexican schools" in the U.S. The school, which operated under the doctrine of "separate but equal" education, exemplifies the racism and cultural disparities that dominated the United States during the period of de facto segregation from 1889 to 1965, according to the National Park Service.

INDIANA Lake County: A Lake County resident is the first person in the state this summer to contract West Nile virus, a mosquito-borne disease that can cause severe symptoms, the Indiana Department of Health announced.

IOWA Des Moines: Attorneys for the state have filed to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the investigation that roiled Iowa collegiate athletic programs and resulted in multiple criminal charges. More than 20 people, mostly student athletes at the University of Iowa and Iowa State University, were accused last year of underage gambling and identity theft, the latter for allegedly using other peoples' online gambling accounts to place wagers on athletic events.

KANSAS Salina: Kansas isn't just a flat, barren land consisting of only crops and cattle. That's the message that the filmmakers of "Kansas from Above," a documentary showcasing aerial footage of the Sunflower State, want their audience to realize. The documentary, which will have three additional showings over the next few weeks at the Salina Art Center Cinema, uses drone footage to look at the varied topography of Kansas, traveling east to west.

KENTUCKY Louisville: More details are continuing to emerge about a new public-private nonprofit taking the lead on economic development in Louisville, as its board members met for the first time last week. The Louisville Economic Development Alliance, or LEDA, was formally established this month but has been in the works since late last year, growing out of a recommendation from the city's economic plan, Growing Louisville Together, released in December.

LOUISIANA Baton Rouge: A Louisiana federal judge said five school systems will have to wait to post the Ten Commandments in classrooms until at least Nov. 15 as the case questioning the constitutionality of the state's new law begins in Middle District Court in Baton Rouge.

MAINE Arundel: The Maine Classic Car Museum will host "Astrocar," an art exhibition opening on Friday.

MARYLAND Annapolis: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is moving forward with its shrimp pilot program that could be a financial boon for the state. The department recently announced it is working with the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Committee's Shrimp Workgroup to develop a commercial Shrimp Pilot Program in state waters of the Atlantic Ocean using a 16-foot beam trawl. That could be the first step of expanding shrimp operations already seen in neighboring states like Virginia.

MASSACHUSETTS Newburyport: Plum Island's iconic Pink House is a long unoccupied two-story house that was built in 1925. Incredibly photogenic, it has been steadily sinking into the area's saltwater marsh ever since. Now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has put the well-known house up for auction. The auction is the last chance for a group, named Support the Pink House, to save the local landmark from demolition.

MICHIGAN Bellevue: The Eaton County Sheriff's Office said it is investigating after a pair of excavators were damaged by vandals at Cheney Limestone Quarry.

MINNESOTA Brooklyn Park: Officials said a 3-year-old child is in critical condition after getting attacked by two dogs, KARE reported.

MISSISSIPPI Jackson: The state of Mississippi can continue denying people previously convicted of certain felonies the right to vote, according to a new ruling by the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

MISSOURI Columbia: Interest is growing in converting an unused portion of the city-owned Colt Railroad into a trail system.

MONTANA Great Falls: The state's largest nursing home plans to close its doors weeks after being terminated from the federal Medicare and Medicaid program after "a history of serious quality issues" and violations for deficient patient care, Montana Free Press reported.

NEBRASKA Omaha: Officials said a mosquito-borne virus called the Jamestown Canyon Virus has been detected for the first time in the state, WOWT reported.

NEVADA Carson City: A proposed voter identification ballot measure has qualified for the general election in Nevada, organizers announced. The Nevada Secretary of State confirmed that Repair the Vote's proposed constitutional amendment passed the signature validation process and will appear before voters this fall. Nevadans will have to approve it in two subsequent general elections – 2024 and 2026 – before it can go into effect.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: Gov. Chris Sununu announced he has signed House Bill 1205, banning transgender girls from participating in school sports in grades 5-12.

NEW JERSEY Bridgewater: The Raritan Headwaters Association, a watchdog group that keeps an eye on the longest river within the borders of New Jersey that supplies drinking water to more than 1.8 million state residents, says the health of the region's waterways has slightly improved, but still earns a grade of C.

NEW MEXICO Socorro County: The New Mexico Congressional delegation announced significant funding toward the replacement of the Nogal Canyon Bridge along a section of Interstate 25 in Socorro County.

NEW YORK New York: A federal judge refused to halt New York City's crackdown on unlicensed sellers of cannabis, citing public safety concerns.

NORTH CAROLINA Gaston: For the last two years, Gaston County Schools' nutrition department has worked to cultivate its farm-to-lunchroom program. With help from local agriculture professionals and Deep Roots farm owners Wisdom and Cherie Jzar, the program is expected to expand in coming years.

NORTH DAKOTA Pembina County: Officials said a motorcycle driver was seriously injured and his passenger was killed after crashing into a deer, KVRN reported.

OHIO Mechanicsburg: A new solar farm in Madison County is tackling the longstanding complaint that the growing number of utility-sized solar projects in Ohio are taking critical farmland out of production. Renewable energy company Savion has opened Madison Fields Solar Farm, a 180-megawatt project capable of generating enough power to run 38,000 homes. The farm will also test on whether it is possible to grow crops between and around the rows of 400,000 solar panels on about 1,000 acres of land in Pike Township.

OKLAHOMA Bartlesville: After almost a year of delay, Buffalo Roam Studio will take ownership of one of Bartlesville's historic sites and transform it entirely. In October of last year, the Bartlesville City Council unanimously approved \$2 million in city investments and other measures, paving the way to repurpose the former First Christian Church into a "cutting-edge" film studio and film school.

OREGON Salem: An Oregon man, using a dead child's identity to evade authorities, was arrested after more than 20 years on the run.

PENNSYLVANIA Upper Makefield Township: Upper Makefield has hired an independent consultant to submit an old part of Washington Crossing village for designation as a historic district by the state preservation office.

RHODE ISLAND Providence: Rhode Islanders are not very happy this summer about the "direction of the state" and Gov. Dan McKee's job performance, according to a newly released poll by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

SOUTH CAROLINA Charleston: The case against two men charged in the deaths of two Simpsonville women will continue after a judge denied a motion to alter the charges.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: The president of a South Dakota-based election integrity group, and a District 11 candidate who was narrowly defeated in a June primary election, are asking the South Dakota Supreme Court to compel a number of state and local officials to take a number of actions regarding the state's elections – including invalidating 132 votes that have already been the subject of controversy.

TENNESSEE Knoxville: While Tennessee falls behind nearly all other Southeast states on the amount of electricity it produces from solar power, the Knoxville Utilities Board is a solar leader in the state, according to a new report from the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

UTAH Logan: Utah State University announced it has officially fired football coach Blake Anderson, two weeks after giving him notice of the school's intent to terminate his contract.

VERMONT Shelburne: A new neighborhood is coming to Shelburne, with nearly 100 affordable homes and apartments.

VIRGINIA Staunton: An illegal credit card skimming device was recently discovered at a Kroger store in Staunton, and police said more than 100 people unknowingly used the compromised credit card keypad, court documents show.

WASHINGTON Seattle: Three Washington girls are being hailed as heroes after they stopped the attempted kidnapping of a 6-year-old girl.

WEST VIRGINIA Summersville: Officials said the body of a missing man has been recovered near Summersville Lake, WDTV reported.

WISCONSIN Superior: The federal government is giving away a lighthouse in Superior, and qualifying groups have until Aug. 5 to complete an application to be a potential owner of the historic landmark. This is the second time in just over a decade that the government has tried to offload the building. It first tried to give the lighthouse away around 2013 after the building was declared excess property for the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security. During that first go-around, no organization applied or qualified to take the building over.

WYOMING Cheyenne: A new study ranks Wyoming as the third best state in the nation for access to addiction treatment, Casper Star-Tribune reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports



First-time U.S. Olympian McKenzie Long will run the 200 meters in the Paris Summer Games. "There's power," she says, in knowing her mom "is up there protecting me and watching me, and sees everything unfold before I can see it." PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

Spirit of Olympian's mom kept alive each time Long runs

Lindsay Schnell
USA TODAY

PARIS – McKenzie Long's mom is everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

In the stands of every track stadium, she is next to her daughter before races as Long listens to "Softest Place on Earth" by Xscape, her mom's favorite song.

At the starting line, when Long folds her 5-foot-6 frame into the blocks, she swears she can feel her mom's spirit, from the tips of her peach nails to the toes of her pink Adidas spikes.

And at the finish line, she is waiting to celebrate Long, a 24-year-old sprint-

ing star from Ole Miss who will compete in her first Olympics in Paris.

"I talk to her every day, every race," Long told USA TODAY Sports. In June at the NCAA Championships, where Long won three titles, an Instagram post of her sitting solo in the stands went viral. It looked like the 24-year-old was merely taking a quiet moment to herself. Few knew the whole backstory.

"I'm talking to God, too: 'God, hug my mom really, really tight as she watches me run across this track,'" Long said. "I (tell) my mom, 'I want to feel you. Ease my mind. Let me go out there as confident as I can be. Allow me to be who McKenzie Long is.'"

There's power, Long said, in knowing

her mom "is up there protecting me and watching me, and sees everything unfold before I can see it."

Long's world shattered on Jan. 29, when she received a call that her mom, Tara Jones, died of a heart attack in her sleep at her home outside Honolulu. She was 45.

That Long will run in the prelims of the women's 200 meters on Aug. 4 is astounding not because her talent is a surprise, but because no one would have blamed her if she'd decided competing was too hard as she navigated grief. Her coach, Holland Sherrer, would have understood if she'd walked away. But he

See LONG, Page 4C

"I talk to her every day, every race. I'm talking to God, too: 'God, hug my mom really, really tight as she watches me run across this track.' I (tell) my mom, 'I want to feel you. Ease my mind. Let me go out there as confident as I can be.'"

US Olympic sprinter McKenzie Long

LeBron one of USA's flag bearers in Paris

Tom Schad
USA TODAY

One of the most recognizable athletes on Team USA will lead the delegation into the Paris Summer Olympics this week.

LeBron James has been voted by his fellow U.S. athletes as one of the two flag bearers for Friday's opening ceremony, which will take place on barges floating down the Seine River in the middle of Paris.

James, who is the NBA's all-time leading scorer, is making his fourth and perhaps final Olympic Games appearance after previously representing Team USA in 2004, 2008 and 2012.

"It's an incredible honor to represent the United States on this global stage, especially in a moment that can bring the whole world together," James said in a statement released Monday by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

"For a kid from Akron, this responsibility means everything to not only myself, but to my family, all the kids in my hometown, my teammates, fellow Olympians and so many people across the country with big aspirations. Sports

have the power to bring us all together, and I'm proud to be a part of this important moment."

James will be Team USA's male flag bearer at the opening ceremony, while the USOPC said the delegation's female flag bearer will be unveiled Tuesday. The flag bearers were selected by a vote of the 592 athletes on Team USA, orchestrated by the team's athletes' commission.

According to the USOPC, James is the first U.S. men's basketball player to serve as flag bearer and just the third basketball player of any gender, joining Sue Bird (2020) and Dawn Staley (2004).

The opening ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. EDT (or 7:30 p.m. local time) on Friday.

It has been billed as a spectacle by the International Olympic Committee and Paris 2024 organizers, with the ceremony taking place along a three-plus mile stretch of the Seine rather than a traditional stadium.

The typical parade of nations will feature delegations of athletes floating down the river in boats before disembarking in front of the Trocadero.

Because the U.S. is hosting the next edition of the Summer Games, in Los Angeles in 2028, it will be the second-to-last boat in Friday's order – only ahead of the current hosts, France.

Harbaugh leads Ravens' defense against QB critics

Chris Bumbaca
USA TODAY

OWINGS MILLS, Md. – An illness kept Lamar Jackson from attending the Baltimore Ravens first training camp practice of the 2024 season.

Jackson's absence did not stop head coach John Harbaugh from defending the two-time MVP from the various criticisms the quarterback has received since the Ravens fell to the Kansas City Chiefs in last season's AFC championship game. Harbaugh went so far as to say Jackson will be "recognized as the greatest quarterback ever to play in the history of the National Football League."

"For whatever reason – there's a lot of great things said about Lamar – but there's a lot of stuff that's said that you have to just scratch your head about and wonder 'What's that person's even thinking?'" Harbaugh said Sunday during an impassioned two-minute speech. "But we take it personally."

Fox NFL analyst Mark Schlereth made waves over the Fourth of July weekend by claiming Jackson had failed to develop wide receivers during his six-year career – on top of a 2-4 postseason record.

The comments apparently caught the attention of Ravens brass and Harbaugh.

"I read the stuff. I see the guys say

what they say on the shows ... the good ones, I just scroll past because that's candy, that's not real," Harbaugh said. "But it's the bad ones – I read it right away. I don't let it go."

To Harbaugh, it's unfair that Jackson continues to receive the same scrutiny since he was a junior in high school.

"The success he's had in the National Football League, and it still comes up," Harbaugh said. "He's still growing; he's got a growth mindset. He's going to get better and better, no doubt. But what does he have to do to prove himself to some people, right?"

Baltimore believed in Jackson enough to create an offense for him in 2019, Harbaugh said, which was his first MVP campaign. When that system no longer worked, the Ravens created a new one for him in 2023 under offensive coordinator Todd Monken. Again, Jackson won MVP and the Ravens were the No. 1 seed in the AFC.

But it was another season without Jackson's ultimate goal: the Lombardi Trophy. Until he hoists it, the doubters and critics will find screen time on Harbaugh's phone.

"That's the vision," Harbaugh said of winning a Super Bowl. "It's going to happen by Lamar, his work ethic and his brilliant talent – by all of us pouring into that effort together as a team."

"That's how it's going to happen. And I believe it like we've already seen it."

NFL RECORD PROJECTIONS

Rodgers may face familiar foe in end

Nate Davis
USA TODAY

Like an already convulsive presidential election cycle, the NFL is about to kick into high gear with teams set to report to training camps en masse this week. And like the election, just when you think you have fully grasped what's going on with America's most popular sports league ... well, think again. And then again. Upsets, injuries, firings, pressure, chemistry and other factors can all instantly change the complexion of the pro football landscape – just ask Aaron Rodgers, Joe Burrow, the Eagles, Bill Belichick or even eventual champion Chiefs, each veering into unexpected outcomes during a wild 2023 campaign.

Onward. With preseason just around the corner, and all 32 rosters about as optimized as they're going to be, it's time to delve into our annual exercise of projecting each club's record – and that means caucusing our way through the league to find the best teams before winnowing the field to 14 postseason qualifiers and, ultimately, attempting to determine who's atop the Super Bowl 59 ticket seven months in advance. And while it doesn't drive the outlook, be mindful of history – and that means some team is probably going from worst to first place (or vice versa), the playoff field will turn over by *at least* four teams (as it has in each of the previous 34 seasons) ... and, sorry K.C., there probably won't be a three-peat champion, none ever materializing in the Super Bowl era (since 1966).

(A note on methodology: Using the most current information amid a few iterations of this exercise, I predict winners and losers for all 272 regular-season games to arrive at projections. The outcomes allow me to apply tiebreakers, when needed, to determine and seed the 14-team playoff field before arriving at a champion. Warning, past performance is no guarantee of future returns.)

Now, without further ado, the results of our way-too-early exit polling:

NFC EAST

(3) Philadelphia Eagles (10-7): They have their third set of coordinators (offensive coordinator Kellen Moore, defensive coordinator Vic Fangio) since the start of the 2022 campaign, when they advanced to Super Bowl 57; said goodbye to retired former mainstays Jason Kelce and Fletcher Cox; and welcomed free agent RB Saquon Barkley and DE Bryce Huff (and welcomed back DB C.J. Gardner-Johnson) before adding what appears like another strong draft class. Quite a bit of turnover. But what rarely changes about this franchise is its ability to win – Philly missing the playoffs just once since the start of the 2017 season. No team has successfully defended this division's crown in 20 years, another reason to expect the Eagles to reclaim the top spot – though they'll have to survive a September slate that includes two road games and one home date ... in South America.

Dallas Cowboys (8-9): Owner Jerry Jones will doubtless publicly disagree with this assessment at his annual news conference assessing the state of the franchise ... and perhaps quadruple down on his avowed “all-in” mantra for 2024. But his coach (Mike McCarthy), quarterback (Dak Prescott) and, arguably, best player (CeeDee Lamb) are currently scheduled to enter a lame-duck campaign on the heels of an offseason when the Cowboys were depleted by free agency, apparently unwilling to further cripple their cap in the near term. To survive, they'll likely need new (and former) coordinator Mike Zimmer to sustain what's been an opportunistic defense and McCarthy to prove this offense is more than an aerial show while enduring a brutal four-game stretch following a Week 7 bye that includes three opponents that were 2023 playoff teams. Feels like too much to ask, especially given what could be lingering off-field distractions.

Washington Commanders (7-10): New front office, new coach (Dan Quinn), new locker room leaders, including first-round QB Jayden Daniels, and just a generally growing good-feels vibe as this organization continues moving beyond its former regime. Though the bottom fell out on the field last year, it seems like Washington should get back to the seven- or eight-win plateau where it has hovered for the better part of a decade. But it feels like the Commanders are actually charting a positive course this time rather than treading water – and don't be surprised if they struggle early and finish strong, which would seem to align with their schedule and the familiar arc of



NFL stars Patrick Mahomes, Christian McCaffrey (23) and Aaron Rodgers (8) head into the 2024 season with major expectations. ILLUSTRATION BY SPENCER HOLLADAY

many rookie passers.

New York Giants (4-13): If you've been watching “Hard Knocks,” you've gleaned insight into GM Joe Schoen's offseason thinking – namely to diversify his cap allotment beyond now-departed Barkley while trying to build a roster that will allow the team to provide one more fair assessment of convalescing QB Daniel Jones (ACL) ... and, yes, the Barkley divorce certainly doesn't seem like a decision that will serve Jones well. Maybe the arrival of hyped first-round WR Malik Nabers and a fortified O-line will provide the desired offset. But unless first-year coordinator Shane Bowen's defense dials in quickly and spectacularly, it's difficult to find many wins here – particularly before December – in what's actually the NFC East's most difficult schedule (based on opponents' 2023 winning percentages).

NFC NORTH

(2) Green Bay Packers (13-4): What a dazzling statement QB Jordan Love made in his first year as the post-Rodgers starter, driving what was the NFL's youngest roster in 2023 to the verge of an appearance in the NFC championship game. This talent-teeming nucleus should continue to ascend, especially if it enjoys the expected boosts from the new set of rookies and free agent additions like RB Josh Jacobs and S Xavier McKinney. But the real delta here could occur courtesy of new DC Jeff Hafley, who's shifting the scheme and charged with shifting the fortunes of a bunch that's underachieved despite being armed with seven first-round picks. Fresh rings in Titletown? Could be.

(5) Detroit Lions (11-6): Like the Pack, their Lombardi bid last season came up just short in a playoff loss at San Francisco. However, outside expectations will now match what HC Dan Campbell has demanded internally from his team the past few years. The rest of a division the Lions just won for the first time is also fast improving. A pathway to the first Super Bowl berth in franchise history likely requires a strong start as the Lions play just two home games over an eight-week period spanning October and November. But it could happen if a young core continues to blossom – WR Jameson Williams needs to step up – and reaps results from an upgraded pass defense.

(7) Chicago Bears (9-8): The narrative that no No. 1 overall pick has entered a more favorable situation in the common draft era (since 1967) than QB Caleb Williams? We're buying it. The 2022 Heisman Trophy winner is surrounded by weapons on offense and supported by a defense that found its footing after last year's midseason trade for DE Montez Sweat. Williams obviously had no role for a club that won four of its final six games in 2023, but he has a great chance to sustain that momentum given Chicago plays the easiest schedule (aside from NFC South teams) – and, if you count San Francisco's Brock Purdy in 2022, could well make it four seasons in a row that a rookie quarterback has led a team to the postseason.

Minnesota Vikings (5-12): Starting with All-Pro WR1 Justin Jefferson, there's quite obviously ample talent on

this roster. There's also bound to be ample whiplash as the organization transitions from QB Kirk Cousins, likely to journeyman Sam Darnold and then again to first-rounder J.J. McCarthy – quite possibly at some point this year. Throw in the fact that five of the Vikes' first seven opponents were playoff teams last season, a list that doesn't include their London date with the Jets? All signs point toward a mulligan, even if HC Kevin O'Connell likely manages to field a competitive squad.

NFC SOUTH

(4) Atlanta Falcons (9-8): Their perplex approach to roster building will doubtless draw further scrutiny during camp and preseason given the likelihood first-round QB Michael Penix Jr. will flash mobility and arm strength Cousins could only dream of. But the Falcons didn't sign the veteran to a four-year, \$180 million deal without the expectation he'd significantly upgrade a position that began to betray the team when Matt Ryan went into decline in 2021, his final year in the ATL. The Falcons have plenty of talent, a new coach (Raheem Morris) who was hired over Belichick and has been consistently praised by his players elsewhere and the benefit of the league's weakest schedule. Between Week 3 and 9, the team will play five home games and face all of its divisional foes – a stretch that could launch Atlanta to its first NFC South crown since 2016.

New Orleans Saints (8-9): They're 25-26 and without a playoff appearance since QB Drew Brees' retirement – and little reason to expect much else now. Despite quite a bit of churn behind center the past few years and, now, philosophically after the departure of long-time OC Pete Carmichael Jr., the roster doesn't look markedly different overall – even with last week's news that RT Ryan Ramczyk is unsurprisingly lost for the season to chronic knee issues. Unless new OC Clint Kubiak can ignite this attack – and that will mean significantly more from QB Derek Carr and contractually disgruntled RB Alvin Kamara – the Saints don't have much of a prayer.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers (8-9): Let's first salute an organization that hasn't missed the postseason since 2019 and hasn't finished outside first place in the division since 2020. Let's also be realistic about a squad that's 18-19 over the past two seasons, playoffs included, and has benefited from its station in the NFC South. The Bucs literally allocated hundreds of millions into continuity this spring, specifically a three-year, \$100 million reinvestment in QB Baker Mayfield. But staying on top, even amid this quartet, won't be easy. Between Week 2 and 10, Tampa Bay will have three divisional games and four more against all the teams that reached last season's conference championship round.

Carolina Panthers (4-13): With new HC and quarterback whisperer Dave Canales and his positive vibes in the building, every reason to expect major progress from QB Bryce Young – and that could realistically mean doubling Carolina's 2023 victory total, as modest a goal as that is.

NFC WEST

(1) San Francisco 49ers (13-4): Logical as it is to keep WR Brandon Aiyuk now (and well into the future), this is probably the Niners' last crack at Super Bowl glory with this entire foundation given the cap-crushing windfall that's invariably coming to Purdy a year from now. But presently, San Francisco certainly has the horses – many of them thoroughbreds – to make a very deep playoff run ... and maybe win the photo finish this time after Super Bowl 58's near miss. Primo opportunity for a fast start with five of their first six contests against 2023 non-playoff teams.

(6) Los Angeles Rams (10-7): For the second straight year, they enter the season with major questions on defense – this time due to the retirement of Aaron Donald and the departure of Morris, who'd been the coordinator since 2021. But the Rams invested heavily on that side of the ball in the draft while reallocating copious cap resources into the offensive line. And if WR Cooper Kupp can play his first full season since a scintillating 2021 showing, LA could have the best receiver tandem in the league if Puka Nacua simply approaches his record-setting rookie effort. October could be a critical stretch given the Rams will be home the entire month.

Arizona Cardinals (7-10): Despite a new coaching staff, limited snaps for QB Kyler Murray and widespread roster reboot, the Cards were a tough out nearly every week last season. This year, Murray should be physically recovered from his 2022 ACL tear and assisted by a draft haul that brought seven players among the top 90 overall selections – with the primary focus on first-round WR Marvin Harrison Jr. Arizona will be tested early, facing 2023 postseason squads in five of the first six weeks. But this season could be a springboard to a breakout 2025 for this club.

Seattle Seahawks (5-12): New coaches, new playbooks, new culture ... and hardly any guarantee that this roster currently fits the philosophies of Mike Macdonald, 37, now the youngest HC in the league. Hard to believe a group that's been ineffective defensively while struggling to run the ball in recent years will suddenly do an about-face in 2024 – and having just three home games in the season's second half certainly won't help.

AFC EAST

(2) New York Jets (12-5): Let's try this again. The roster – on paper – looks as good as any in the league. The defense, a top-five unit the past two seasons despite a general lack of offensive support, might be the NFL's best ... on paper. Buffalo, division champs since 2020, appears diminished by salary cap adjustments. Most important, Rodgers says he's healthy after a torn Achilles ended his much-hyped 2023 debut season with the NYJ after four snaps. Given the supporting cast around him, including a bolstered offensive line and arrivals of WRs Mike Williams and rookie Malachi Corley, Rodgers shouldn't need to vie for a record-tying fifth league MVP award for this team to break through for its first title in 56 years. And

wouldn't it be something if that happened against his former employer in Wisconsin? To get there, the Jets will have to surmount a schedule that includes six prime-time dates and a European detour in the first 11 weeks.

(5) Buffalo Bills (10-7): They won seven of their final nine games last season, both losses by three points (including a playoff heart-breaker at home against the Chiefs), after installing Joe Brady as the offensive coordinator. Though WR Stefon Diggs wasn't a major component of that hot finish, Buffalo will have to carry on without him, WR2 Gabe Davis and quite a few former key players the team just couldn't afford to keep. And the Bills better adapt to their new reality by midseason because, between Weeks 9 and 15, they'll face just one team that didn't reach the postseason in 2023 – and that apparent reprieve is a Week 11 trip to Indy. Maintaining their divisional eminence might be too much to ask of QB Josh Allen and Co. in the midst of this adjustment period.

Miami Dolphins (8-9): If you believe football teams should be built inside out and/or that games are won in the trenches ... then this might not be the crew for you given the interior stalwarts (DT Christian Wilkins, G Robert Hunt, C Connor Williams) who were not resigned. And if you don't believe in a team that's faded badly in both of HC Mike McDaniels' seasons, albeit each concluding in the playoffs, then you won't be encouraged by the fact that the Fins' last six games come against four 2023 playoff teams (three on the road) and the Jets (twice).

New England Patriots (3-14): For a team that plays in the shadow of a lighthouse, 2024 has been a sea change – most notably from the organizational chart to the quarterback depth chart. Rookie HC Jerod Mayo and rookie QB Drake Maye may both be great ... eventually. Yet given how little the roster has evolved otherwise – one that won four games in legendary Belichick's final season in Foxborough – expectations have to be realistic. And it might be something of a wait before Mayo breaks into the win column ... though the Pats could very well "win" the No. 1 pick of the 2025 draft.

AFC NORTH

(4) Cincinnati Bengals (11-6): Your most likely worst-to-first candidate – hardly a hot take given Cincy won the division in 2021 and '22. The numbers say the Bengals have, by far, the easiest schedule in the division, the other teams saddled with the three hardest dockets in the league. But they've also got hurdles: the departures of OC Brian Callahan, RB Joe Mixon, WR3 Tyler Boyd and DT D.J. Reader; unhappy campers in WR2 Tee Higgins and DE Trey Hendrickson; and Burrow, the keystone to the operation, on the road back from last year's season-ending injury to his passing wrist. But RB Zack Moss, S Geno Stone and third-round WR Jermaine Burton could be among this season's most underappreciated newcomers. And the margin for error at the outset seems pretty generous given the Patriots, Commanders and Panthers – owners of the league's three worst records in 2023 – show up on Cincinnati's September schedule.

(7) Cleveland Browns (10-7): The won 11 games and nearly the division in 2023 despite a slew of major injuries, most notably QB Deshaun Watson (shoulder) and RB Nick Chubb (ACL) missing most of the season with ailments to, respectively, the most concerning parts of their bodies from a professional standpoint. It's imperative for Watson to finally find his footing in this offense, and new WR2 Jerry Jeudy and last season's top-ranked defense are good things to lean on. However, with the Bengals the only 2023 non-playoff team among Cleveland's final five opponents, the Browns can't afford a slow start – especially since they're stuck with the NFL's toughest schedule (their opponents with a .547 winning percentage in 2023).

Baltimore Ravens (10-7): Optimism is inevitably building given the addition of RB Derrick Henry to a team that finished a win shy of the Super Bowl after earning a No. 1 playoff seed last season. But how well will an established 30-year-old back accustomed to running starts from a deep backfield alignment actually mesh with QB Lamar Jackson, the two-time league MVP so often at his best when not under center? And despite Henry's arrival, the Ravens must also overcome a litany of losses from the roster, particularly on defense and the offensive line, as well as Macdonald's departure from the DC post. This isn't to suggest Baltimore, which faces four 2023 division winners in the first seven weeks, isn't playoff caliber – the Ravens only miss the postseason field in this projection after very narrowly losing the strength-of-victory tiebreaker to Cleveland.

Pittsburgh Steelers (9-8): Heading



The Packers running back group is boosted by the addition of Josh Jacobs (8). MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

2024 NFL record projections

AFC WEST		AFC NORTH		AFC SOUTH		AFC EAST	
Chiefs (1)	13-4	Bengals (4)	11-6	Colts (3)	11-6	Jets (2)	12-5
Chargers	9-8	Browns (7)	10-7	Jaguars (6)	10-7	Bills (5)	10-7
Raiders	6-11	Ravens	10-7	Texans	9-8	Dolphins	8-9
Broncos	4-13	Steelers	9-8	Titans	6-11	Patriots	3-14
NFC WEST		NFC NORTH		NFC SOUTH		NFC EAST	
49ers (1)	13-4	Packers (2)	13-4	Falcons (4)	9-8	Eagles (3)	10-7
Rams (6)	10-7	Lions (5)	11-6	Saints	8-9	Cowboys	8-9
Cardinals	7-10	Bears (7)	9-8	Bucs	8-9	Commanders	7-10
Seahawks	5-12	Vikings	5-12	Panthers	4-13	Giants	4-13

JIM SERGENT/USA TODAY

into his 18th season at the helm, we know HC Mike Tomlin won't be associated with a losing ledger. But while these Steelers appear more formidable following the acquisitions of QBs Russell Wilson and Justin Fields, plus what might be this year's most enviable class of rookies, things could certainly get messy as Arthur Smith installs a new offense for an organization attempting to get back to its hard-nosed roots – all while also trying to determine whether one of its new quarterbacks, with disparate skill sets and experience, is the answer for 2025 and beyond even though neither is signed for next season. And coming out of their Week 9 bye, the Steelers hit the road five times in a seven-week span. Pittsburgh hasn't finished in last place since divisional realignment in 2002, but there's a first time for everything – last year being the first in the Super Bowl era when an entire divisional membership (AFC North) finished above .500. Déjà vu?

AFC SOUTH

(3) Indianapolis Colts (11-6): They got a combined 14 games out of All-Pro RB Jonathan Taylor and rookie QB Anthony Richardson in 2023 – yet nearly made the playoffs anyway. Just wait until coach and strategist extraordinaire Shane Steichen is playing with a full deck – Richardson, a self-described mix of Jackson and Cam Newton flashing as advertised – one that now includes rookie WR Adonai Mitchell. The defense has also been augmented by a rookie, first-round DE Laiatu Latu, and should field one of the league's best pass rushes. And with no 2023 playoff teams on the schedule after Week 12, the Colts are set up to perhaps be postseason dark horses in 2024.

(6) Jacksonville Jaguars (10-7): They spent big bucks in free agency and might've gotten a gem in first-round WR Brian Thomas Jr. But if newly minted QB Trevor Lawrence and WR Christian Kirk are fully healthy, and key youngsters (Lawrence, LB Devin Lloyd, OLB Travon Walker and OT Anton Harrison among them) continue to develop, a club com-

ing off dissimilar 9-8 campaigns – ending with a surge in 2022 and flameout in 2023 – could be back in the playoff mix.

Houston Texans (9-8): Coming off a stunning turnaround in 2023, led by rookie HC DeMeco Ryans and QB C.J. Stroud, they'll justifiably be a chic Super Bowl pick in some quarters. And Stroud could take another step, backed by an offense he deemed a "five-headed monster" last week given the additions of Diggs and Mixon to a group that already included WRs Nico Collins and Tank Dell and TE Dalton Schultz (not to mention RB Dameon Pierce, who nearly rushed for 1,000 yards as a rookie in 2022). Yet sophomore slumps happen, too. Unfamiliar expectations can become overwhelming. And a team that finished one game ahead of the injury-riddled Colts and Jags in 2023 must now play a first-place schedule, which also projects as the AFC South's hardest in 2024 – one that includes three consecutive division winners from last season coming out of a Week 14 bye. Progression? Regression? Stay tuned, but the latter must be considered in equal measure with the former.

Tennessee Titans (6-11): For a team brining in a first-time head coach (Callahan) while purging cornerstones Henry and QB Ryan Tannehill, the Titans' freewheeling offseason spending seemed a bit unusual. And while it makes sense to juice the offensive menu with more targets (WRs Calvin Ridley and Boyd, RB Tony Pollard) for second-year QB Will Levis and the passing game Callahan is known for, it remains to be seen if this approach is sustainable over the long term. Regardless, while a playoff return might be a stretch in 2024, the Titans have too much talent to be anyone's patsy.

AFC WEST

(1) Kansas City Chiefs (13-4): With speed receivers Hollywood Brown and rookie Xavier Worthy now in the fold, widespread expectations that – despite an open question at left tackle – an offense that bogged down at times in 2023

Postseason predictions

NFC playoffs

Wild card: (2) Packers def. (7) Bears; (6) Rams def. (3) Eagles; (5) Lions def. (4) Falcons

Divisional: (1) 49ers def. (6) Rams; (2) Packers def. (5) Lions

Championship game: (2) Packers def. (1) 49ers

AFC playoffs

Wild card: (2) Jets def. (7) Browns; (6) Jaguars def. (3) Colts; (4) Bengals def. (5) Bills

Divisional: (1) Chiefs def. (6) Jaguars; (2) Jets def. (4) Bengals

Championship game: (2) Jets def. (1) Chiefs

Super Bowl 59 (New Orleans)

Jets def. Packers

could return to its combustible ways. The defense has never been better since HC Andy Reid arrived in 2013. And given the generally moderate (at best) forecast for the remainder of a division the Chiefs have ruled since 2016, it seems highly likely they'll improve on last season's 11-6 record – the worst since Patrick Mahomes became QB1 in 2018. Beyond that, this very capable team has a tall task if it's to break ground as the first to achieve a Super Bowl three-peat – none of the previous eight teams that have gone back to back since 1966 have gotten back to Super Sunday the following year, and three missed the playoffs entirely.

Los Angeles Chargers (9-8): The last time new HC Jim Harbaugh took over an NFL team, the 2011 49ers, it made a seven-win improvement and nearly qualified for Super Bowl 46 before falling in overtime of that season's NFC title game. That might be too much to ask of these Bolts, particularly after they were forced into some offseason cost purging that hit the receiving corps especially hard. Still, plenty of talent remains, and the Chargers are seemingly in better shape at quarterback than those Niners with Justin Herbert, who's set to operate behind an O-line recharged by rookie RT Joe Alt. What seems to be a favorable season-ending schedule could vault this team into what might be a watershed 2025 campaign.

Las Vegas Raiders (6-11): They've got some nice players in premium spots – DE Maxx Crosby, LT Kolton Miller, first-round TE Brock Bowens, Wilkins and WR Davante Adams ... as long as he's around – and a new coach in Antonio Pierce who galvanized this group during his nine-game interim stint last season. But questions abound otherwise, notably regarding Adams' future and at quarterback, where Gardner Minshew II and Aidan O'Connell seem to be vying for a bridge role to an unknown successor.

Denver Broncos (4-13): Rookie QB Bo Nix may execute HC Sean Payton's offense more efficiently than did Wilson, his two-year tenure in the Rockies coming to an abrupt and expensive end in March. But Nix doesn't appear to have nearly the help that fellow rookies Caleb Williams and even Daniels have in what has all the makings of a reset in Denver – one that may not bear serious fruit for several years.

Brennaman back – is hiring deserved?



Mike Freeman
Columnist
USA TODAY

About four years ago, broadcaster Thom Brennaman did something disgraceful. Thinking he was off the air, he uttered a gay slur during a live broadcast of a Cincinnati Reds vs. Kansas City Royals baseball game. He referred to Kansas City as “one of the (gay slur) capitals of the world.”

Because the internet moves at warp speed, the clip didn’t just go viral, it went so viral, so fast, that not long after he said that, Brennaman was fired from all of his various baseball duties. It didn’t help that as he was apologizing, he suddenly stopped, and described a Nick Castellanos homer. That meme is still in heavy circulation on social media today.

That moment went like this: “I made a comment earlier tonight that I guess went out over the air that I am deeply

ashamed of. If I have hurt anyone out there, I can’t tell you how much I say from the bottom of my heart that I am so very, very sorry. I pride myself and think of myself as a man of faith, as there’s a drive into deep left field by Castellanos, that will be a home run, and so that will make it a 4-0 ballgame.”

Why is all of this important now?

Brennaman was just hired by the CW as the network’s lead voice for nationally televised college football games. So, remarkably, he’s back.

That fact is in itself fascinating. People deserve second chances but it doesn’t really seem like Brennaman has done much to earn one.

But there’s a bigger issue and it has to do with first chances.

The CW had an opportunity to hire a fresh face. Maybe a woman. Maybe a person of color. Someone looking for a break or even a veteran looking to expand their opportunities.

Again, second chances are a good thing. I’ve gotten them. You have. Many have. Did it have to be this one for Brennaman? When there are so many talent-



Brennaman

ed people out there?

In many ways, this is a real DEI hire, at least in the way right wingers talk about DEI. DEI has been a huge talking point on the right (and an ugly one). There are exceptions, of course, but it would be rare for a woman or person of color to have such a public, disgraceful, and memed flame-out and get a job of this magnitude afterward. This is true. Didn’t Earn It.

Brennaman has his supporters. “Neither Thom nor anyone else denies that he had a serious misstep,” legendary broadcaster Bob Costas told *The Athletic*. “A misstep for which some consequence would have been appropriate. But the price he has paid is beyond disproportionate. Especially when you consider that he had a fine reputation prior to the incident, and took every proper step to make amends subsequent to it.”

“His return to the booth is overdue and I am sure the audience will be happy to hear his voice again.”

The Brennaman story, as the Defector notes, feels more like a processed and packaged rollout thin on the actual merit of him deserving this job and big on he just deserves it because ... because ... because he just does.

“If the sports media world wants to welcome Brennaman back into the fold and give him another job, the least it can do is be clear-eyed about what has actually happened over the last four years,” wrote Tom Ley. “Despite themselves, every story published about Brennaman has made it abundantly clear that he’s been engaged in a sustained public and private campaign to get his job back, and that he sees himself mostly as a victim. Returning to the booth wasn’t enough of a victory on its own, either. He needed one more chance to let us all know how hard the last four years have been for him, what a good man he is, and how much he deserves this opportunity. We all appreciate the update.”

Bingo.

Brennaman gets his second chance and he’s happy to receive it. But does he actually deserve it?

Long

Continued from Page 1C

also knew she had a rare gift.

“When these situations happen, I believe you have one of two choices – you’re either going to use it to help you, or it’s going to be the end of you,” Sherrer said. “I told her, ‘McKenzie, the normal person can go grab a tub of ice cream, sit on the couch, take a month, a week. They can quit their job. They can find something else to do. But you’re special. God has laid his hands on you and blessed you with a talent that not many people on this planet have.’”

So Long kept running. Because what happens when she stops?

Track is grief’s best distraction

With the second-fastest 200 meters in the world this year, Long is expected to make the 200 final in Paris’ Stade de France, in a race built not only on speed but also on grit and heart, characteristics Long has displayed all season.

She is here after finishing third at the USATF trials and is a strong contender to medal. But her journey to cross the finish line and qualify for Team USA on June 29 at Hayward Field in Eugene – five months to the day she lost her mom – took a lot longer than 21.91 seconds. It started Feb. 9, at a meet in Arkansas.

Hours after she got the news about her mother, Long and Sherrer sat on the steps outside her apartment and talked. She had a meet in just 11 days. Sherrer told her that whenever she ran next, it would be the first race without her mom. It would hurt no matter the date.

Long knew another truth, too, and she’s only half-joking about this one: “She would haunt me if I stopped.”

“That was the meet where I decided, ‘OK, I’m going to continue doing this for my mom.’”

Long’s love of running started in elementary school in Ironton, Ohio, two hours south of Columbus. She’d leave boys in the dust at recess, crush everyone in tag with her foot speed. Playing at home with her two older brothers and younger sister, she’d bounce off couches and do handstands in the living room, forcing Jones to sign her up for gymnastics. (Long claims this is why she has such good turnover speed on the track.)

She blossomed in high school, winning Ohio’s indoor 60 meters state championship and finishing runner up in the outdoor 100 and 200. She started her college career at North Carolina State before transferring to Ole Miss and rewriting the Rebels’ record book.

Along the way, Long and Jones started talking about the Olympics. Jones saw big things on the horizon for her baby girl, even if she was often too nervous to watch her run live. She did once in high school and could not handle it again. From then on, she’d leave the stadium – not just walk around the concourse or visit the concession stand but go all the way to the parking lot and wait to hear from her daughter.

Jones was always Long’s first post-race phone call, the one in charge of giving her a pep talk, soothing her nerves and challenging her to continue improving. Jones was a straight shooter and because of her age – she had Long when she was only 20 – they sometimes had more of a friendship than a conventional mother-daughter relationship. It was Jones who made Long’s workout playlist titled “Don’t Be A Lazy B****” a fact that both embarrasses and delights Long.

“Oh my goodness, my mom, she was



McKenzie Long ran the 2nd-fastest 200 meters in the world in 2024 by a woman.

PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

going to be my momager,” Long said. “She wanted to be involved, included.”

That’s why this summer has been equal parts rewarding and heartbreaking. Long is the first to say her mother’s death has fueled her the past five months.

“If it wasn’t for her being gone, I would definitely not be as successful. I am motivated, I am competitive, but this was a whole other level of finding my inner self. This was a completely different shift that I never thought that I was even capable of doing.”

At the same time, not being able to hug her mom, not being able to bring her to Paris, breaks her heart all over again. Track has been both the best and worst diversion.

She’s not nervous for the Olympics, though she’s a newbie to the world stage. But she is nervous for the season – and her distraction – to end.

‘It doesn’t get better’

The irony of grief is that while known for its crippling isolation, overwhelming those going through it with gutting loneliness, it is one of the most universal human experiences. And in the past five months, Long has waded deep into it.

Some days she wakes up and feels, for lack of a better word, normal. She’ll go to practice, laugh with teammates, smile at the photo of her mom on her phone’s background. To the uneducated eye, she’s just like any other carefree 20-something chasing her dreams.

Other days it “feels like a pit,” Long said, anchoring her to her bed. She wakes up and doesn’t want to talk to anyone or do anything, except look through pictures of her mom.

Sherrer has been at her side through it all, conscious to adjust daily to her needs. The son of a pastor, he called his father as soon as he heard the news. His dad’s message was simple: You need to be there for McKenzie. What that looks like can change constantly – one day she’ll need to be hugged, the next day she’ll need to be pushed. Some days she comes to the track ready to attack her workout with teammates. Other days she needs to be able to practice by herself, to be alone with her emotions.

She’s got a lot of those, too. She’s furious at her mother for leaving her; heartsick that she was taken from her; terrified of what might become of her family in the wake of Jones’ absence. What about the grandbabies she’ll never get to meet? The races where she won’t get to hype up Long?

It’s an exhausting cycle. And she’s sick of being told it’ll get better.

“That’s the worst thing you could

possibly say to somebody who’s grieving,” Long said. “I would say you can navigate it better. You can handle it better. But it doesn’t get better. There’s always that pit of grief in the background of everything you do.”

She has become a vocal, passionate advocate for therapy, a practice the Black community hasn’t always embraced. About two weeks after Jones died, Long had a realization: “I didn’t want to throw my life away.”

Long never considered self-harm but knew wallowing forever – “I just didn’t care about anything that was going on” – wasn’t the answer.

“I felt myself getting to that point and I was like, this isn’t me, I want help,” she said.

She also wants people to know it’s OK to ask for that help. Therapy is “a blessing,” and has helped her understand that grief, and the roller coaster that comes with it, is normal.

Her therapist was the one who told her she didn’t have to push Jones out of the picture just because she wasn’t here physically. She could, and should, include her mom in everything – and no one should feel forced to bury or hide their grief. Long knows it “is going to be there no matter what.” Sharing grief shrinks its power. That way you don’t drown.

And yet, Long admitted she protects herself from grief, too. She did not go to her mother’s memorial service because “I knew I would be broken.” She’s not sure she can ever visit Hawaii again. Her push to extend her season came both from a desire to achieve dreams and a fear of what happens when it’s over.

“I know for a fact once the season is done and I’m able to breathe, I will probably be in another sunken mood for several days,” she said.

Her younger sister Carmen, 22, is still in that sunken mood. It scares Long. Weeks ago, she called Long at 4 a.m., crying.

“She was just panicking. She was like, ‘I don’t want to feel this anymore,’” said Long, fear and desperation in her own voice. “It made me cry. I couldn’t be there. That’s my baby sister, and she is over there in Hawaii by herself. I’m very, very worried about her.”

She’s tried to encourage Carmen to talk to her mom, too, to include her in every activity. Doing that, Long said, is the only reason she’s in Paris now.

Her voice in a dream

The morning of the U.S. trials, Long sat in her Eugene hotel room and sobbed.

“It was a surreal moment,” she re-



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 (break-dancing, 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.

called. “I’d never made a final in anything big, anything major like the Olympic trials. It was crazy. I sat on the floor and just cried. I cried to her. I was just like, ‘I wish you could see me.’ It was a good cry though. It was needed.”

At the Olympics, Long doesn’t just want her mom there – she wants to leave a piece of her behind in Paris. Maybe she’ll hide Jones’ hairbrush somewhere, or carve her name into a city pillar. Something small and silly, to match Jones’ personality. She wants everyone to know: McKenzie Long and Tara Jones were *both* here. They accomplished their dream together.

Long sees “angel numbers” – repetitive digits – everywhere. At the SEC Outdoor Championships, where she won the 100 and finished second in the 200, she stayed in hotel room 444. It was her mom, nudging her.

She dreams about her, too.

“When I do, it’s really, really vivid,” Long said. “The most recent dream I had was right before trials, and she was talking to me, but her physical body was dead. She was dead, but her mouth was open and she was talking. You would think that’s not possible, how is this even happening? But it didn’t scare me. I woke up and was confused. What does this mean? What are you trying to tell me?”

She told her therapist about the dream.

“She was talking to me, but she wasn’t physically alive,” Long said.

Say it again, her therapist said.

“She was talking to me, but she wasn’t alive.”

Say it again.

“She was talking to me, but she wasn’t alive.”

Say it again.

“She was talking to me, but she wasn’t alive.”

Long smiled. She gets it, and she’s listening.

Kyle Larson wins at Indianapolis

Ellen J. Horrow
USA TODAY

Kyle Larson had dreams about celebrating at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in May.

Two months later, Larson kissed the bricks at Indy after winning NASCAR's Brickyard 400 on Sunday in double overtime under caution.

Larson bested Ryan Blaney on the second overtime restart and held off Tyler Reddick after taking the white flag before Cup Series officials threw a yellow flag for a Ryan Preece crash. Larson didn't have to battle Reddick to the checkered flag and could instead coast across the yard of bricks for his first win at the iconic speedway.

"This is just such a prestigious place and such hallowed ground," Larson said in a post-race interview with NBC Sports. "Pretty neat just to get an opportunity to race on the oval again. What a job by our team, who never gave up at all."

Two months ago, the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series champion strapped into an Indy car for the Indianapolis 500, seeking to become the first driver to win the motor sports double of the Indy 500 and NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600 on the same day. But a pit-road speeding penalty spoiled his Indy 500 bid as he finished 18th, and Mother Nature thwarted his plans at the Coca-Cola 600 when rain fell at both Indianapolis and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Everything went right for Larson in the final stage of Sunday's Brickyard 400, however, as his No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports team played the right fuel



Kyle Larson celebrates his NASCAR Brickyard 400 win by kissing the Yard of Bricks with wife Katelyn Sweet. BRETT PHELPS/INDYSTAR

strategy and gave him a car that could rocket through the field – even as some contenders crashed out of the race and others ran out of gas.

"What a job by our team; they never gave up at all," Larson said. "Today definitely felt meant to be for us. I just can't believe it. It's surreal to win here."

But even as Larson and Hendrick Motorsports digs in to celebrate this momentous win – his series' leading fourth of the season and the 27th of his Cup Series career – he's already thinking about next year and another attempt at the double.

"How about we come back next May and try and kiss these bricks in an Indy car," Larson shouted to the fans before detailing his plans, when asked if he was definitely running the double again. "I'd love to, I'd love to. We're working on it. So, I hope we can announce something soon and see you all next May."

Herta, Kirkwood go 1-2 for Andretti in Toronto

Nathan Brown
The Indianapolis Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

Six consecutive times – dating to the start of the 2022 NTT IndyCar Series campaign – Colton Herta and the No. 26 Andretti Global program started on the pole and failed to win.

Those half-dozen races have ended a variety of ways, from a DNF (did not finish) 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 seventh.

After leading nearly all 85 laps during IndyCar's annual stop on the streets of Toronto, Herta and company executed two almost flawless pit stops, 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. "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 sixth, lost the rear of his No. 5 Chevy coming through the turn 1 right-hander and slid into the outside wall. 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 Pietro Fit-



Pole-sitter Colton Herta won in Toronto, his eighth career IndyCar Series victory. PROVIDED BY INDYCAR SERIES

tipaldi and Santino Ferrucci ran over the nose of the No. 5 and went airborne.

The red flag lasted just under 20 minutes, with 13 cars left on the lead lap and 16 running when the cars fired back up and peeled off pit lane, 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 fourth 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 the track.

Nick Dunlap, just 20, wins second title on PGA Tour

Todd Kelly
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

Nick Dunlap has won again on the PGA Tour, but this time he gets to cash the winner's check.

Dunlap scored 19 points in Sunday's final round of the Barracuda Championship, the fifth and final opposite-field event on the PGA Tour's 2024 schedule and also the lone event that uses the Modified Stableford scoring system.

Dunlap's day matched the highest



Dunlap

single-day scoring mark of the week at the Old Greenwood course at Tahoe Mountain Club. His Sunday scorecard featured seven birdies (worth two points) and an eagle (worth five) and would have added up to a 62 if it were a stroke-play event. His eagle came courtesy of a 55-foot bomb on the par-5 15th.

Dunlap vaulted up the leaderboard to finish with 49 points. He then had to

play the waiting game to see if third-round leader Mac Meissner or anyone else could catch up. But no one could and Dunlap, who doesn't turn 21 until Dec. 23, collected a second piece of hardware this year.

Dunlap won the American Express in January to become the first amateur since Phil Mickelson in 1991 to win on the PGA Tour Dunlap's amateur status, though, kept him from collecting the top prize of \$1.512 million. He turned pro shortly after that and now has a second

tour win on his resume.

He's the first golfer in PGA Tour history to win as both an amateur and a pro in the same season.

His win this time around is good for \$720,000.

Maybe more important, Dunlap, who was No. 95 on the FedExCup points list heading into the Barracuda, has shot up to 63rd. If it holds, it would put him into the FedExCup Playoffs in his rookie season. The top 70 make the field at the FedEx St. Jude Championship.

Chanettee Wannasaen prevails at Dana Open for 2nd LPGA win

Beth Ann Nichols
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

Chanettee Wannasaen's second LPGA victory felt miles different from her first, when she became the third Monday qualifier in tour history to win at last year's Portland Classic.

This time the 20-year-old came into the final round of the Dana Open with some history as she held the 54-hole lead for the first time in her pro career.

The Thai player was up by as many as five strokes midway through the round Sunday but watched that advantage dwindle to one as last year's Louise

Suggs Rookie of the Year, Haeran Ryu, shot up the board.

Xiyu "Janet" Lin was the only top-20 player in the world in Sylvania, Ohio, for the 40th anniversary of the Dana Open. Lin, who is still looking for her first LPGA title, tied for fifth.

"Right now, I feel like I can't explain anything," Wannasaen told Golf Channel's Amy Rogers when it was over. "I just feel so proud of myself."

Wannasaen held on to win by one stroke with birdies on the last two holes, draining an 18-footer to clinch the title at 20 under. She becomes the third Thai player to win this season, joining Patty



Wannasaen

Tavatankit and Athaya Thitikul. At 20 years, 3 months, 5 days, Wannasaen is the youngest player to win this season.

"Last day I cannot like calm down because my heart is like boom, boom, boom, boom," she said. "Every hole."

When the final group made its way to the 18th tee, a total of four groups were on the final hole at Highland Meadows. Wannasaen and Ryu took a rest on a nearby bench as players ahead attacked the closing par 5. They waited 24 minutes before teeing off.

Wannasaen's last tee shot found the bunker, and though she led by one stroke, she still pulled out a fairway metal from 217 yards and opted for the aggressive play. She got away with the questionable approach, avoiding any real danger with her second shot and getting up and down from short left of the green to squeak out the win.

In the aftermath, Wannasaen was already looking ahead.

"Right now, I'm feel like I'm going looking for third trophy," she said. "Yeah, I think it's coming."

It's worth noting that the tour returns to Portland, Oregon, in two weeks.

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FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

Team	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

Team	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

Team	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

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	63	36	636	-
Atlanta	52	47	525	8½
N.Y. Mets	50	48	510	12½
Washington	47	53	470	16½
Miami	35	64	354	28

Central Division

Team	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

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	59	41	590	-
San Diego	51	49	510	8
San Francisco	48	52	480	11
Colorado	36	64	360	23

Sunday's Games

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
Philadelphia 3, Colorado 2
L.A. Angels 8, Oakland 5
Seattle 6, Houston 4
L.A. Dodgers 9, Boston 6

Monday's Games

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees
Detroit at Cleveland
N.Y. Mets at Miami
St. Louis at Pittsburgh
Cincinnati at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs
Chicago White Sox at Texas
Arizona at Kansas City
Boston at Colorado
Houston at Oakland
L.A. Angels at Seattle
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers

Tuesday's Games

Detroit at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore at Miami, 6:40 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
San Diego at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Cincinnati at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.
Milwaukee at Chicago, 8:05 p.m.
Chicago at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Arizona at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Boston at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
Houston at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Cincinnati at Atlanta, 12:20 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 1:10 p.m.
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Boston at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.
Houston at Oakland, 3:37 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 3:40 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Arizona at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	16	4	5	53	56	39
Cincinnati	15	7	3	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	47
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	49
Nashville	6	11	8	26	29	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

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	14	5	7	49	50	36
Los Angeles FC	14	5	4	47	48	30
Real Salt Lake	12	5	8	44	51	34
Colorado	12	9	5	41	50	43
Vancouver	11	8	5	38	43	35
Houston	10	7	7	37	35	30
Portland	10	8	7	37	29	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
Portland	6	10	6	24	41	52
Saint Louis	4	10	11	23	46	46
San Jose	4	19	2	14	31	61

Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.
Wednesday's Game
MLS All-Stars vs. Liga MX All-Stars at Columbus, 8 p.m.

GOLF

PGA Tour 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)
Shane Lowry	69-75-66-69-279 (-5)
Sungjae Im	66-69-72-68-280 (-4)
Jon Rahm	76-72-66-69-283 (-1)
Scottie Scheffler	70-70-71-72-283 (-1)
Daniel Brown	65-72-73-74-284 (-0)
Matthew Jordan	71-71-71-71-284 (-0)
Adam Scott	70-77-66-71-284 (-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)
Pdraig Harrington	72-73-71-72-288 (+4)
Sepp Straka	70-74-73-71-288 (+4)
Laure 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)
Max Homa	73-73-70-74-290 (+6)
Min-Kyu Kim	70-76-69-75-290 (+6)
Matteo Manassero	73-73-70-74-290 (+6)
Guido Migliozzi	73-75-71-71-290 (+6)
Justin Thomas	69-76-67-74-290 (+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	70-73-78-71-292 (+8)
Thorbjorn Olesen	72-73-76-71-292 (+8)
Calum Scott	71-75-70-76-292 (+8)
Ali White	72-74-69-78-293 (+9)
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	72-75-74-74-293 (+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)
Joaquin Niemann	71-71-76-76-294 (+10)
Brian Harman	73-73-72-77-294 (+10)
Rasmus Hojgaard	74-72-74-75-295 (+11)
Phil Mickelson	73-74-72-77-295 (+11)
Tommy Morrison	75-73-74-73-295 (+11)
Jacob Skov Olesen	76-71-72-76-295 (+11)
Jeonhwan Wang	72-72-77-74-295 (+11)
Austin Eckroat	73-73-72-78-296 (+12)
Nicolai Hojgaard	69-75-77-77-296 (+12)
Hideki Matsuyama	75-72-75-74-296 (+12)
Tom McElderry	73-72-77-74-296 (+12)
Dickie 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	71-76-71-74-298 (+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)
Masahiro Yano	73-75-78-76-302 (+18)
Stacy Lewis	75-72-77-80-302 (+18)
Darren Fichardt	77-71-80-78-306 (+22)

LPGA Tour Dana Open 2024 Sunday

Sylvania, Ohio
Highland Meadows Golf Club
Purse: \$1.75 million
Yardage: 6,666; Par: 71
Final Round

C. Wannasaen	66-65-66-67-264 (-20)
Hae-Ran Ryu	67-68-65-65-265 (-19)
Ssu-Chia Cheng	69-67-66-68-270 (-14)
Linn Grant	67-65-70-68-270 (-14)
Xiyu Liu	65-67-70-70-272 (-12)
Mary Liu	68-65-70-69-272 (-12)
Dottie Ardina	71-69-68-66-274 (-10)
Celine George	71-67-67-69-274 (-10)
Hye-Jin Choi	64-71-69-70-274 (-10)
Sarah Kemp	68-67-69-70-274 (-10)
Stacy Lewis	67-70-67-70-274 (-10)
J. Suwannapura	69-69-68-68-274 (-10)
Pajaree Anannarukarn	67-71-67-70-275 (-9)
Jiwon Jeon	72-68-68-67-275 (-9)
Lucy Li	68-68-67-72-275 (-9)
Yui Joon Jang	68-71-64-73-276 (-8)
Mao Saigo	68-67-70-71-276 (-8)
Yuri Yoshida	69-72-68-67-276 (-8)
Marina Alex	71-66-70-70-277 (-7)
Laetitia Beck	73-67-69-68-277 (-7)
Jennifer Chang	69-72-72-64-277 (-7)
Paula Reto	66-69-71-71-277 (-7)
Kiira Rihijarvi	69-72-65-72-277 (-7)
Sarah Schmelzer	71-69-73-68-277 (-7)
Alena Sharp	71-68-71-67-277 (-7)
Maja Stark	69-68-72-68-277 (-7)
Lexi Thompson	72-69-69-67-277 (-7)
N. Vongtaveelap	66-72-72-67-277 (-7)
Min-Ji Kang	73-69-70-66-278 (-6)
Emma Talley	76-72-66-69-283 (-1)
Xiaowen Yin	74-67-69-68-278 (-6)
Archipaya Yubol	72-69-69-68-278 (-6)
Aditi Ashok	65-72-68-74-279 (-5)
Kristen Gillman	69-69-70-71-279 (-5)
Lin Hee Im	72-68-69-70-279 (-5)
Grace Kim	71-69-73-67-279 (-5)
Kaitlin Milligan	72-67-67-73-279 (-5)
Brittany Lang	70-68-69-73-280 (-4)
Jeongeun Lee	70-72-67-71-280 (-4)
Wichanee Meechal	72-70-68-70-280 (-4)
Malia Nam	71-70-64-75-280 (-4)
Annie Park	68-71-67-74-280 (-4)
Weiwel Zhang	70-70-71-69-280 (-4)
Daniela Quaresima	71-70-73-67-281 (-3)
Lindsey Duncan	69-71-71-70-281 (-3)
Grueen Kaur	74-67-70-70-281 (-3)
Olivia Cowan	70-69-71-72-282 (-2)
Esther Hensel	68-68-71-75-282 (-2)
Haeji Kang	68-74-67-73-282 (-2)
Maude-Aimee LeBlanc	72-70-69-71-282 (-2)
Morgane Metraux	69-72-71-70-282 (-2)
Jing Yan	68-72-69-73-282 (-2)
Jaravee Boonchant	72-67-71-73-283 (-1)
Carliota Giganda	71-69-73-70-283 (-1)
Alexandra Forsterling	71-71-69-72-283 (-1)
Gina Kim	71-69-71-73-284 (0)
Kaitlyn Papp	71-69-67-77-284 (0)
Madeline Summerlin	71-68-75-71-285 (+1)
Lauren Hartlage	71-69-72-73-285 (+1)
Yi-Sang Hong	70-70-69-76-285 (+1)
Agathe Laisne	70-71-72-72-285 (+1)
Gigi Stoll	72-70-72-73-285 (+1)
Mostly Sunny	72-70-74-69-285 (+1)
Liqi Zeng	73-69-71-72-285 (+1)
Caroline Masson	73-69-71-73-286 (+2)
Ali White	67-71-74-74-286 (+2)
Auston Kim	71-71-72-73-287 (+3)

Erica Shepherd	73-69-72-73-287 (+3)
Laura Wearn	71-73-73-287 (+3)
Sandra Gal	72-69-72-75-288 (+4)
Christina Kim	69-73-74-73-289 (+5)
Ruixia Liu	69-70-76-74-289 (+5)
Sophia Popov	70-72-75-72-289 (+5)
Rachel Rohanna	72-69-76-76-293 (+9)

DEALS

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
ATLANTA BRAVES - LF Whit Merrifield Signed as Free Agent one-year contract. Nacho Alvarez Jr. Purchased From Minors. 2B Ozzie Albies Placed on 10-Day IL Fractured left wrist.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CINCINNATI BENGALS - T Amarius Mims signed/draft choice Four-year contract (fifth-year option).
HOUSTON TEXANS - WR Jared Wayne cut. RB Cam Akers signed/unrestricted free agent from Minnesota.

Saban believes Texas is SEC-ready



Blake Toppmeyer
SEC Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK

Texas isn't quietly slipping into the SEC through the side door and observing the room before opening its mouth. Of course not. If everything is bigger in Texas, that includes the mouths.

Texas entered the nation's fiercest, richest, deepest and most boastful conference like a steer in a china shop.

"We're not just coming to compete. We're coming to win," Texas school president Jay Hartzell said on the eve of the Longhorns' entrance into the SEC.

You thought the SEC had some kind of ego? You haven't seen the SEC with Texas yet.

"We believe the SEC is where we belong," Texas board of regents chairman Kevin Eltife said recently.

I believe he's right.

The SEC enjoys football, money and stroking its ego. So does Texas.

These birds of a feather are finally flocking together.

Some have suggested the SEC will rein in Texas' ego. I disagree. The SEC will give Texas' ego room to breathe. Think Dennis Rodman with the 1990s Bulls. Never did Rodman's ego find a more accommodating home.

SEC sure seems giddy to have Texas Longhorns

The SEC bent over backward to welcome the Longhorns. Not even the queen receives a reception like this.

On July 1, the SEC's league office tweeted an official welcome to Texas before posting a welcome to Oklahoma. The SEC Network posted up in Austin for a live broadcast before broadcasting from Norman the next day.

Can you tell who's playing second fiddle?

The SEC also chose Dallas as host for the conference's media days, marking the first time the event has ever been hosted west of Birmingham, Alabama.

As excited as the SEC is to have added blue-blooded Oklahoma, I sense that it's especially thrilled to have nabbed Texas. Why? Well, Texas oozes revenue. It's one of college athletics' richest brands.

But, also, maybe the SEC realizes

Texas is poised to become one of the biggest, baddest, boldest programs in this big, bad, bold conference.

Nick Saban endorses Texas football

Even the GOAT respects the Horns.

Nick Saban used to command the Wednesday spotlight during media days. Now, Saban occupies the SEC Network set, and he praised the Longhorns prior to their turn on stage last Wednesday.

Saban, the seven-time national champion coach, picked Georgia and Texas to meet in Atlanta for the SEC championship game.

Saban saw firsthand the strength of Steve Sarkisian's program last season, when the Longhorns whipped Alabama inside Bryant-Denny Stadium en route to a 12-win season.

Saban questioned how the interior of Texas' defense will hold up after it lost some important pieces from a unit that ranked 15th nationally for scoring defense last year. Otherwise, Saban approves of Sarkisian's roster.

"I really like Texas," Saban said.

Apparently, Alabama retained Saban on the payroll to feed Texas rat poison.

And what of Texas' influence off the field? Texas wielded the biggest stick at the Big 12's decision-making table. Saban suggested that stick won't carry as much thwack inside the SEC's board room.

"They're not going to run the SEC," he said. "There's a whole lot of arrogant people in a lot of places in the SEC, so they can forget all about that."

Hmm, we'll see about that. I expect Texas' clout will remain mighty.

As for Texas' football team, Saban thinks they'll get on fine in their new digs.

"They'll be a good team and a great program," Saban said, "and Sark will do a great job."

And Texas will become the SEC's best addition ever.

Texas played a role in the Southwest Conference's demise. Its overbearing grip on the Big 12 contributed to that conference's years-long distrust and dysfunction.

In the SEC, though, Texas' bravado won't be out of place. The Longhorns found a conference that will embrace their ample ego.

Texas Longhorns head coach Steve Sarkisian talks with Alabama Crimson Tide head coach Nick Saban in 2022.
SCOTT WACHTER/USA TODAY



Colorado head football coach Deion Sanders received a discretionary bonus of \$250,000 late last year. CANDICE WARD/USA TODAY SPORTS

CU gave Sanders publicity bonus

Brent Schrottenboer
USA TODAY

The University of Colorado gave an unusual discretionary bonus of \$250,000 to football coach Deion Sanders late last year for the national recognition the university received during Sanders' first year on the job, according to records obtained by USA TODAY Sports.

The bonus hasn't been made public until now and was unusual for at least a couple of reasons:

- It wasn't part of any specific stipulation or milestone reached in his employment contract. This made it a gift of sorts for Sanders, who otherwise was paid \$5.5 million in his first season at Colorado.

- The bonus came shortly after the Buffaloes finished the season on a six-game losing streak and finished 4-8 overall.

"Sanders to earn an Employee Recognition Bonus for the national recognition he has brought to the University and Athletics Department this season," states the pay form signed by CU officials in early December.

Not many major college football coaches, if any, get huge bonuses that aren't spelled out in their contracts or after they lose eight of their final nine games of the season. But the university could make the case that Sanders, 56, deserved it.

Why Deion received this bonus

The employee recognition bonus he received in this case was due to the national publicity he brought to the university as the flamboyant former two-sport star in pro football and baseball.

"The employee recognition bonus is a discretionary bonus awarded by Athletic Director Rick George for the immense impact Coach Prime has made on the football program, the Athletic Department, and the university in his first season," the university said in a statement last week to USA TODAY Sports.

For example, the university gained

about \$343 million in "earned media" value during Sanders' first season on the job from July 31 to Nov. 27, according to data provided by the university from Cision, its media monitoring service. By contrast, it gained only about \$87 million during the same period in 2022 before Sanders' arrival in Boulder, when the Buffaloes finished 1-11.

That's not cash revenue but instead represents the advertising equivalency value of the media exposure that came during the football season, when the Buffs had five of the top 25 most-watched games in all of college football, including the College Football Playoff, according to the university.

Such exposure has residual benefits. CU Boulder since has reported a record number of applicants for the fall 2024 semester and a 50.5% increase in Black applicants.

More context on Coach Prime's bonus pay

The bonus pay form was signed Dec. 1 by then-CU Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano, who also authorized it. That happened to be the day after Sports Illustrated named Sanders as its "Sportsperson of the Year," citing how he revitalized the CU football program. The print edition of the magazine then featured Sanders, DiStefano, George and others from CU in a photograph together on the cover.

The amount of this discretionary bonus still exceeds many other performance-based incentives in his contract that he didn't reach in his first season, including \$150,000 for winning six games and \$200,000 for getting invited to a New Year's Six bowl game.

Last season, Sanders ranked fourth among public school coaches in the Pac-12 at \$5.5 million in guaranteed pay, behind Oregon's Dan Lanning, who ranked first at \$6.6 million, according to the USA TODAY Sports coaches' pay database.

The Buffaloes open their second season under Sanders on Aug. 29 at home against North Dakota State.

Contributing: Steve Berkowitz

Packers' Jordan Love won't practice until new deal

Ryan Wood
Green Bay Press-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Two days before training camp, Jordan Love informed the Green Bay Packers he will not participate on the field until an agreement is reached on his contract extension.

Love was a full participant through the entirety of the offseason program, taking reps with the starting offense. The start of training camp is structured no differently with practices that are not padded, but Love's agent informed the team Saturday night the quarterback will be sidelined until a deal is struck.

General manager Brian Gutekunst said he is "optimistic" an extension will be signed in the next couple of days.

"We're working really hard to get that done," Gutekunst said. "I think it's really important for us. At the same time, the thing that I have confidence in is that we both want the same thing. We want Jordan here for a long time, give him that stability for him, and it gives us some stability for our group as well. These are big deals. It takes time. They're not as easy as some people think."

Gutekunst said he understood Love's decision to hold out until an extension is reached, though he emphasized the importance for the Packers to have their quarterback on the field in training camp.

Love reported to camp last week and will continue participating in all off-field portions of training camp.



Packers quarterback Jordan Love was a full participant through the entirety of the offseason program.
SARAH KLOEPPING/USA TODAY NETWORK — WISCONSIN

VP Kamala Harris praises NCAA champion athletes at WH event

Steve Gardner
USA TODAY

Surrounded by national champion college athletes, Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday praised the "grit and determination" they showed on the way to reaching their goals.

Speaking at a brief ceremony outside the White House, Harris noted the pres-



Harris

ence of seven undefeated teams, 11 repeat champions and 20 first-time winners.

In addition, she singled out six athletes in particular who will be representing the United States the next few weeks at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

"As members of Team USA you are ambassadors for our nation, and with pride we will cheer you on," Harris said.

"And we look forward to congratulating you when you bring home the gold," she added.

In her first public remarks since President Joe Biden announced on Sunday his withdrawal from the 2024 campaign and endorsed Harris to be his suc-

cessor as the Democratic nominee, the vice president noted that Biden is "recovering fast" from his bout with COVID-19.

She also praised the president's "honesty, integrity, commitment to his faith and to his family, his big heart and his deep love of our country," coming less than 24 hours after his stunning announcement.

Hall of Famers stir old, new memories

Bob Nightengale
USA TODAY

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — They were a Tennessee college quarterback, a backup catcher who spent 17 years in the minors, an infielder from the Dominican Republic sandlots, and a hometown hero from St. Paul, Minnesota.

They came together Sunday afternoon and delivered stirring, emotional speeches, mixed in with a healthy dose of humility and humor at the Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Manager Jim Leyland recalled walking to a coffee shop in Siesta Key, Florida, with his wife just a few weeks after being informed he was elected into the Hall of Fame.

“Katie, can you believe in your wildest dreams that I’ve been elected to the Hall of Fame?” Leyland said. “Katie replied, ‘Jim, you’re not in my wildest dreams.’”

The estimated crowd of 28,000 roared.

“My contributions to our beautiful pastime pale in comparison to the joy it has brought to my life,” Leyland said, “the heart of a little boy, and the soul of an old man.”

Third baseman Adrian Beltre, only the fifth Dominican player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, proved that sleep can be overrated, believing there’s no need to stress out over a speech. He danced late into the evening Saturday with his wife and friends, and then absolutely nailed his Hall of Fame speech, improvising about a quarter of it.

If Beltre has any nervousness, Hall of Famer David Ortiz alleviated every ounce of it by stepping off the stage to grab a cup of coffee, and then rubbing Beltre’s head as he walked to the podium to speak, knowing how much Beltre hates anyone touching his scalp.

“That never relaxes me ...” Beltre said. “I don’t love it. I don’t like it. But it was a little cue to go back to the days when I was playing, and it’s like, ‘OK, get ready to go out there and do your best with the speech.’”

“I’m open to people being able to play



Class of 2024 inductees Jim Leyland, Adrian Beltre, Todd Helton and Joe Mauer show off their Baseball Hall of Fame plaques. GREGORY FISHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

around with me.”

Beltre took the opportunity to do a little playing around himself, seeing former Seattle Mariners pitching great Felix Hernandez in the audience and saying, “To that guy who calls himself, ‘King,’ I loved playing with you, but I loved hitting against you even more.”

Helton was the starting quarterback at the University of Tennessee, sandwiched between Heath Shuler, who played five years in the NFL before becoming a U.S. congressman, and Peyton Manning, a Pro Football Hall of Famer. After following and preceding these two stars, Helton knew he better go into baseball.

Still living in Knoxville, Tennessee, Helton runs occasionally into people in town who stop and ask him if he’s that same great former Volunteers quarterback.

“Yes,” Helton said, “but I’ve played a little baseball since.”

Mauer, the hometown kid who played his entire 15-year MLB career with the Minnesota Twins, got teary-eyed talking about his grandfathers, figuring out that his parents and relatives watched him play 1,215 times at the old

Metrodome and Target Field.

“It was tough. I mean there were a lot of emotions there,” Mauer said after the ceremony. “Back home, a lot of people know I lost my dad recently and my grandpa, both grandpas, a couple of years ago. They were able to watch my whole career, and I think they were with me today making sure that I could articulate the speech that I had.”

“I know they were here.”

It seemed like half of the Twin Cities was there, too, with Twins fans dominating the crowd.

“I wanted to be a Twin from Day 1,” said Mauer, who joined St. Paul natives Dave Winfield, Jack Morris and Paul Molitor in Cooperstown. “And that feeling never waned ... for 18 years.”

Each 2024 inductee spent considerable time thanking their former teammates, managers and scouts, along with everyone who helped them along the way, but Leyland took it a step further. He singled out Gene Lamont, his long-time coach and former minor league roommate from 1966. He spoke about how special it was for him to be working alongside Lamont, with the two of them getting teary-eyed as he spoke.

“We became best friends,” Leyland said. “I have so much respect for him as one of the best baseball men I’ve ever been around. I was so proud that he was there today. And I thought it would be totally unfair not to talk about him.”

There was plenty of baseball royalty in the crowd, with players like Gary Sheffield, Justin Morneau, Andy Van Slyke, Charles Johnson, Shawn Greene, Felix Hernandez, Nelson Cruz, Joe Nathan, Ian Kinsler, Richie Sexson, Elvis Andrus, Alex Avila, Brian Dozier, Colby Lewis and Mitch Moreland. Former managers Clint Hurdle and Ron Gardenhire were in attendance, as well as current and former general managers Dave Dombrowski, Bill Schmidt, Derek Falvey, Thad Levine, Terry Ryan, Jon Daniels, Al Avila and Bill Smith.

Helton’s former high school teammates and 86-year-old coach Bud Bales were on hand, too, all wearing special Knoxville Central High School team jerseys with Helton’s No. 16 on the back.

“I’m so happy and appreciate of those guys making the trek up here,” Helton said. “Some of those guys sat in airports for 16 hours to get here. Or they ditched the airport, rented three cars, and drove 12 hours to get here.”

“That means the world to me.”

The new Hall of Famers all thanked their legion of fans, but Leyland, who also led Team USA to the World Baseball Classic title in 2017, ended his speech eloquently, letting everyone know what the fans mean to the game of baseball.

“No matter which Hall of Famers you’re here to support today,” Leyland, “or which team you choose to root for, your presence is always felt.”

“On your feet in the ninth, with the home team clinging onto a one-run lead.”

“Turning on your television for the first game of the World Series and seeing 50,000 fans waving towels, hoping and praying that this may be their year.”

“Or a little boy or girl getting their first autograph, and scurrying back to the fans to show mom and dad.”

“Ladies and gentlemen, that’s you.”

“That’s baseball. And this is the Hall of Fame.”

MLB POWER RANKINGS

Angels hoping for better 12 months ahead

Gabe Lacques
USA TODAY

No, it probably won’t be the worst season in Los Angeles Angels franchise history. Yet you’d be hard-pressed to come up with a more disastrous 12-month period than the one about to wrap up.

On July 26, 2023, the Angels were fired up, trading a handful of prospects to acquire Chicago White Sox pitchers Lucas Giolito and Reynaldo Lopez. A day later, Shohei Ohtani pitched his greatest game as a professional, one-hitting the Detroit Tigers in a double-header sweep.

And then? Well, the bottom fell out.

Just three games out of a wild-card spot and flush with reinforcements, the Angels finished the season 18-40. Ohtani blew out his arm in August and left as a free agent in December. The veterans were flipped to save luxury tax penalties as quickly as they were brought in.

It’s gone no better this season, with a 42-57 mark and .424 winning percentage, which would be third worst in franchise history, and they kicked off the second half by dropping two of three games to the woebegone Oakland Athletics and cementing their status in the bottom five of USA TODAY Sports’ power rankings.

Some good news: Mike Trout should return this week after missing nearly three months with a meniscus tear. Perhaps that will kick-start 12 months of better vibes. It’s not a very tough act to follow.

A look at this week’s rankings:

1. Philadelphia Phillies (-)

● J.T. Realmuto returns and the gang’s all here.

2. Baltimore Orioles (+1)

● They’re 13-7 in Corbin Burnes’ starts – and the AL is 1-0.

3. Cleveland Guardians (-1)

● Very quietly have lost seven of 10.

4. Los Angeles Dodgers (+1)

● If your closer (Evan Phillips) is on the struggle bus, might as well win a game off your old one (Kenley Jansen).



Carson Fulmer reacts Sunday after surrendering a home run to Miguel Andujar, but the Angels rallied to beat the Athletics. DARREN YAMASHITA/USA TODAY SPORTS

5. New York Yankees (-1)

● Aaron Boone says they keep getting beat on third and long, otherwise known as days Gerrit Cole doesn’t pitch.

6. Milwaukee Brewers (+1)

● They can sweeten the trade market by knocking the Cubs further from contention this week.

7. Atlanta Braves (-1)

● Shelving Max Fried and Ozzie Albies probably puts division hopes out of reach.

8. Boston Red Sox (-)

● All-Star MVP Jarren Duran was drafted three GM regimes ago.

9. Minnesota Twins (-)

● A Brewers sweep in the upper Midwest jamboree means they’re once again tied with the ...

10. Kansas City Royals (-)

● With first career complete game, Seth Lugo’s starter transformation is, well, complete.

11. Houston Astros (+1)

● Won’t see Mariners again until Sept. 23. Might live rent-free in their heads until then.

12. St. Louis Cardinals (+1)

● Struggling Paul Goldschmidt sinks to No. 7 in lineup, lowest he’s hit as a Cardinal.

13. Seattle Mariners (-2)

● Six runs scored Sunday breaks four-game streak of zero, one or two pushed across.

14. Arizona Diamondbacks (+1)

● Starting LHP Jordan Montgomery should be back this week, with LHP Eduardo Rodriguez and RHP Merrill Kelly not far behind.

15. San Diego Padres (+1)

● Starting RHPs Dylan Cease and Michael King come out of the All-Star break unhittable.

16. New York Mets (-2)

● Starting RHP Kodai Senga is back this week.

17. Tampa Bay Rays (+1)

● Starting RHP Taj Bradley is emerging as a frontline guy.

18. Pittsburgh Pirates (+1)

● Win a series versus Phillies on a Paul Skenes-less weekend. This bears watching.

19. Texas Rangers (-2)

● Reality sets in: They’re 11th among 15 AL teams.

20. San Francisco Giants (-)

● Hayden Birdsong’s 12 strikeouts vs. Colorado most by a Giants rookie since Timmy Lincecum in 2007.

21. Washington Nationals (+2)

● James Wood’s three-run homer caps stirring sweep of Cincy.

22. Detroit Tigers (+2)

● Trade Tarik Skubal? Silly talk.

23. Cincinnati Reds (-2)

● Nine-game trip begins grimly – and has to turn around at Atlanta and Tampa Bay or it’s break up the band.

24. Chicago Cubs (-2)

● Back of the rotation is low-key killing them; just 4-14 in Kyle Hendricks’ starts.

25. Toronto Blue Jays (-)

● Will it be one stick of dynamite or a skyscraper implosion come deadline day?

26. Los Angeles Angels (-)

● Win their final game ever at Oakland Coliseum.

27. Oakland Athletics (-)

● Zack Gelof’s average drops to .199.

28. Colorado Rockies (-)

● Todd Helton could relate to this squad, as the Hall of Famer finished fourth or fifth in 12 of his 17 seasons.

29. Miami Marlins (-)

● Jazz Chisholm says Miami is “home for me.” We’ll see for how much longer.

30. Chicago White Sox (-)

● Have been swept 14 times.

LIFELINE



MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

THEY SAID WHAT? THE STARS' BEST QUOTES

“There was a scenario that we talked about beforehand. I would basically take a little, tiny point and just kind of trace the letter ‘A’ – just the tip of a small knife. There wasn’t even blood. ... It was more like a scrape.” – Actor Armie Hammer to Piers Morgan, discussing 2021 allegations that he carved an “A” into former partner Paige Lorenze’s pelvis.



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Actor **Daniel Radcliffe** is 35. Guitarist **Slash** (aka Saul Hudson) is 59. Singer **Michelle Williams** is 45.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY
More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). The urge to create may arise through a collective drama. Obsessed with shedding the light? Express yourself through artistry.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Power struggles in the outer world may rock your core. Your courage is tested.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Enlightened by a fixed belief? The sun opposing Pluto may expose a way of thinking that needs to be transformed.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). A fixation on wealth may overtake you. Is your identity and self-worth tied up in how much you have?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). The desire for independence can create intensity in a relationship. Is the need to control affecting the connection?

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Work through ego issues that affect your well-being. Today shines a light on your destructive qualities.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What brings you happiness is going through a complete overhaul.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You want success, but emotional healing may have to happen first. Transfigure your inner world to blossom in the outer.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your words have immense power. Are you using them effectively? Get the big picture of the message you are sending.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Is your value system undergoing renovation? Dig deep into what matters to you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Partnership drama can be an eye-opener today. Being confronted to change? Try not to take it too personally.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Putting your all in your work? Your pride is intensified. Meditate on this driving force.

MUSIC



Billy Joel surveys a Madison Square Garden crowd during one of his residency shows at the vaunted venue. He'll wrap up his 10-year run on July 25. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MYRNA SUAREZ FOR BILLY JOEL

Billy Joel reflects on the 'magic' of the Garden

Melissa Ruggieri | USA TODAY

In March, Billy Joel played the 100th show of a residency that began in January 2014. ● His feeling a decade ago was: I'll keep showing up every month or so as long as the demand continues. ● Demand responded. Mightily. ● For more than 10 years – except the COVID-19 pause in 2020 – Joel and his airtight band led tens of thousands through singalongs of “Piano Man” and “Scenes from an Italian Restaurant,” sold nearly 2 million tickets and reaffirmed Madison Square Garden as the live music cathedral of the world. ● On Thursday, he'll say goodbye (not to Hollywood) to the most successful residency this side of Celine Dion. ● “I’m going to miss doing it a lot,” he told USA TODAY in April during an interview about the CBS special to commemorate his 100th residency performance. “I love it. The band loves it. The crowd is a New York-crazy crowd. The minute you walk onstage you’re aware they’re rooting for you. The only way you could mess up that gig is to try to screw it

See **JOEL**, Page 2D



Joel takes the stage at Madison Square Garden in New York, where he will wrap his 10-year residency on Thursday.

STREAMING

Viewing to get you ready for Olympics

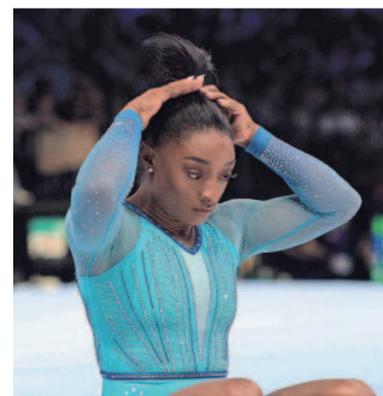
Kelly Lawler | USA TODAY

Are you ready to go for the gold? The 2024 Paris Olympics are coming, with opening ceremonies set for Friday (NBC and Peacock, 1:30 p.m. EDT/10:30 a.m. PDT; replay at 7:30 p.m. EDT/PDT). Plenty of “stories” will play out at this year’s Games: Athletes who lead double lives as rocket scientists; the return of Simone Biles; and even excrement in Paris’ Seine river. But those are only the stories to be told this year. The worldwide sporting event has a long history of them.

In preparation for the 2024 Games, we recommend five documentaries that illuminate the Olympics then and now. From a series in which Biles finally speaks for herself to a deeply impactful history of racism to Russian doping, these five docs will keep you in the glory and the drama as you count down to the torch lighting.

'Simone Biles Rising'

Netflix
Much has been said by commentators (from experts to the unqualified members of the peanut gallery) about Biles’ decision to drop out midway through the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 because of mental health concerns. But it’s refreshing to hear from the gymnast herself, often called the “greatest of all time.” Biles, now a 27-year-old married woman in a sport dominated by teenagers, candidly discusses Tokyo, her experience as a survivor of sexual abuse from former Team USA doctor Larry Nassar (now serving a decades-long prison sentence for abusing dozens of athletes) and the unique pressures she faces. Ahead of her third Olympics, it’s a reminder that Biles is a person first and a symbol of American athletic prowess second. We need to give her the compassion we give ourselves. (Two episodes now streaming; two more, covering her Paris competition, are due later this year.)



Simone Biles in the gymnastics venue in the documentary “Simone Biles Rising.” PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

'Sprint'

Netflix
Call it the prequel to the 2024 games. This six-episode documentary about track and field runners in competitions leading up to Paris has all the good drama of a sports story and sets up characters (these lively athletes really do feel like characters) for battles of good vs. evil (or at least up-and-comers vs. favorites) on the track. From the colorful and spirited Sha’Carri Richardson to the ambitious and energetic Noah Lyle, you can really get to know these sprinters before they run for their lives (and medals) in the City of Lights. Blink and you’ll miss them.

'With Drawn Arms'

Starz, Tubi
Many sports stories are cheeky and cheering, or even lighthearted. But sports is more than what athletes do on the field or the court. This spectacular and moving 2020 documentary is

See **OLYMPICS**, Page 2D

MOVIES

How great thou Art? Clown returns in time for Christmas in 'Terrifier 3'

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

Let's hope you're asking Santa Claus for a stocking full of blood and gore this year, because Art the Clown is coming to town.

Though he's back just in time for Halloween, the silent horror villain plans to have a very bloody Christmas in the slasher movie "Terrifier 3" (in theaters Oct. 11). USA TODAY has a selection of exclusive images from the film at [usatoday.com/entertainment](https://www.usatoday.com/entertainment) before a new teaser trailer drops online Wednesday.

The cult franchise has become a hit for scary-movie fans and a litmus test for more squeamish audiences. And with the new threequel, writer/director Damien Leone couldn't pass up a chance to have the silly and sadistic Art (played by David Howard Thornton) in yuletide wear.

"You can put this character anywhere, in any setting, in any time, and he would work. He's just so ridiculous in any situation," says the filmmaker, who wanted to do his own spin on the "maniac" Santa. "If I put Art the Clown in the Santa suit, now that makes Art fresh again."

"Terrifier 3" catches up with Sienna (Lauren LaVera) and her younger brother, Jonathan (Elliott Fullam), five years after the events of the previous film, which ended with Sienna embracing an warrior angel spirit and decapitating Art (who since the first "Terrifier" has been possessed by a mysterious evil entity). They're spending the holidays in Miles County with their aunt and uncle, but the ensuing years have been hard coping with the past trauma.

"Especially for Sienna, it hasn't been an easy road," Leone says. "She's been in and out of a mental health facility just dealing with all of this – not only just what she's been through but what she's becoming and what her role is in this universe."

Art returns, naturally, and "still has his eyes set on them with a lot of unfinished business," the director adds. "Terrifier 3" will reveal more about the evil entity, which took the shape of Art's "Terrifier 2" sidekick, the Little Pale Girl, and fans will learn "why it resurrected Art and what its intentions are and why it's trying to target Sienna."



Art the Clown (David Howard Thornton) returns to Miles County for a holiday killing spree in the slasher threequel "Terrifier 3."



Sienna (Lauren LaVera) visits her relatives for the holidays but Art the Clown is looking for revenge. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JESSE KORMAN/DARK AGE CINEMA

In addition to building out the "Terrifier" mythology – Leone teases he'll "address" Art's connection to Sienna and her late father – the film features Victoria Heyes (Samantha Scaffidi) in a significant role: The disfigured final girl from the original "Terrifier" is possessed by the entity, too, and was last seen in "Terrifier 2" giving birth to Art's head in a mental health institution.

Among the supporting cast, AEW wrestler Chris Jericho reprises his role as hospital nurse Burke and Jason Patric will make his franchise debut as a

"really amazing" character, Leone says. "I literally have a 'Lost Boys' magnet on my fridge." The filmmaker heard that Patric, a "Terrifier" fan, dressed up as Art for Halloween and didn't believe it. "Sure enough, it was true."

"Black Christmas" and Robert Zemeckis' seasonal "Tales from the Crypt" episode are holiday horror influences on "Terrifier 3," as well as "Bad Santa," Leone says. "Pretty much any classic Christmas movie trope you could imagine, I try to put Art the Clown in that situation and see how he would handle



Victoria Heyes (Samantha Scaffidi), the final girl from the first "Terrifier" now possessed by an evil entity, continues to play a major role in the horror franchise.

that."

But a silent night for Art equals a deadly night. Even with ornaments and decorations all over the place, Leone is making sure "Terrifier 3" lives up to the franchise's grisly reputation, which in the past has included reports of people fainting and puking at showings. The new flick "certainly is way more relentless and gory, that's for sure."

But trying to outdo his own kill scenes and those of other slasher movies is one of the harder parts of Leone's job. "There's only so many things you can do to the human body," he says. "It's easy to really just hack somebody to pieces for five minutes. Can you also be creative when you're doing it." Thankfully, Art's inherent levity, like his penchant for wearing sunflower sunglasses, keeps the film from leaning too dark and grim to be accessible. "As evil as he is, he's equally charming and there's something sweet about him. You almost want to be his friend."

The success of the "Terrifier" movies "remains very surreal," Leone says. In 2022, "Terrifier 2" grossed \$15.4 million on a reported budget of \$250,000, and the third film looks to make even a bigger splash this fall, when fans can get their hands on new life-size animatronic "Terrifier" Halloween decorations and Art Funko Pop toys.

"You know you've made it when they make a Funko," Leone says. "I'm always pinching myself."



Tamari Davis and Sha'Carri Richardson make a run for it in the Netflix documentary "Sprint." PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

Olympics

Continued from Page 1D

a close examination of one of the most famous and impactful moments in Olympic history: when Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in support of the Black Panther movement on the winners podium during the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Smith looks back on the moment in the film, a powerful examination of racism then and now.

'Icarus'

Netflix

Sports meets true crime in this intense, and intensely fascinating, 2017 Oscar-winning account of the Russian government's mass-doping scandal, which resulted in the country's banishment from major world sporting events for four years. More like a thriller than a nonfiction story, "Icarus" will keep you glued to the screen with more tension than most of the Olympic sporting events this year.

'The Price of Gold'

ESPN+

Forget "I, Tonya," this ESPN "30 for 30" documentary is the definitive ac-



'Icarus,' about a Russian doping scandal in competitive cycling, wins the Oscar for best documentary. PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

counting of the Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan incident, in which Kerrigan was assaulted in an attack organized and carried out by people in Harding's life.

Measured, unbiased and without sensationalism, this 2014 film will make you rethink what you assume about both skaters, but especially Harding. Often heartbreaking, the interviews and archival footage tell a story that you know and one you don't, delving into the psychology of the athletes but also of American culture at large in 1994.

Joel

Continued from Page 1D

up."

Joel's final residency show will air (not live) exclusively on SiriusXM's The Billy Joel Channel (79), which is back through Aug. 15. Joel noted that he hadn't wrangled any special guests yet – Sting joined him for the March show that aired on CBS – but there was "all kinds of scuttlebutt, so I'm assuming someone will be there."

Joel's representative confirmed that any potential pop-up performers will remain a surprise.

Joel says playing Madison Square Garden is 'magic'

Joel, 75, first played MSG in 1978, shortly after the release of "The Stranger," which catapulted him to superstardom with FM standards including "Just the Way You Are," "Movin' Out (Anthony's Song)," "Only the Good Die Young" and the aforementioned live darling, "Scenes."

His final residency show dovetails with his 150th overall performance at the venue he describes as "magic" not only because of its repute – "No one knows where you're playing in Kansas City or San Francisco, but when you do the Garden, the whole world knows it," he says – but also because of the venue's actual construction.

"The building is on springs," he says of the spring-loaded floor stationed above the ice for hockey games. "So when the crowd stomps in unison, it actually moves the building. We're going up and down on stage like, 'Whoa, they're literally rocking the house.'"

Where else is Joel performing in 2024?

But Joel's farewell to a standing set of shows in no way equates to retirement.

As he told Willie Geist on NBC's "Sunday Today," the conclusion of his

MSG contract means he can return to other venues in the New York area and specifically mentioned Yankee Stadium, Citi Field (home of the Mets) and MetLife Stadium in northern New Jersey. He also is adamant that the final residency performance doesn't mean he won't ever play MSG again.

Joel, who throughout his 10-year MSG run spiked his schedule with stadium shows both solo and with fellow megastar co-headliners such as Stevie Nicks and Sting, already has several dates checked on the calendar for the rest of 2024, including a stadium show with Rod Stewart on Sept. 13 in Cleveland, a solo gig at the new Intuit Dome in Los Angeles Oct. 12 and three dates with Sting: Sept. 27 in St. Louis, Oct. 25 in San Antonio and Nov. 9 in Las Vegas.

Is that Joel on the LIRR? Maybe.

Fans attending the final residency show at MSG and arriving via public transportation might want to keep an eye out for an unassuming guy in jeans and a baseball cap. It's a description that fits a hefty batch of riders, which is exactly the point.

This year, Joel mentioned in an interview with Newsday that he ditched his helicopter rides to MSG – "One day it occurred to me that maybe this isn't the most stable aircraft in the world. Maybe you're pushing it," he told USA TODAY of his then-15-minute commute – and hopped on the Long Island Railroad instead.

Though his inner circle dissuaded him from cramming among the public and expressed concern he would be recognized and mobbed by fans, Joel shrugged off the trepidation with typical nonchalance.

"I said: 'No one will notice me. No one will think I could possibly be on the train.' And that's exactly what happened," he says. "We have a cop friend who was going to meet me at Jamaica station where I changed trains and I said, 'I don't need a bodyguard. I'm not Michael Jackson.' I've done it a few times and I'll probably do it again."

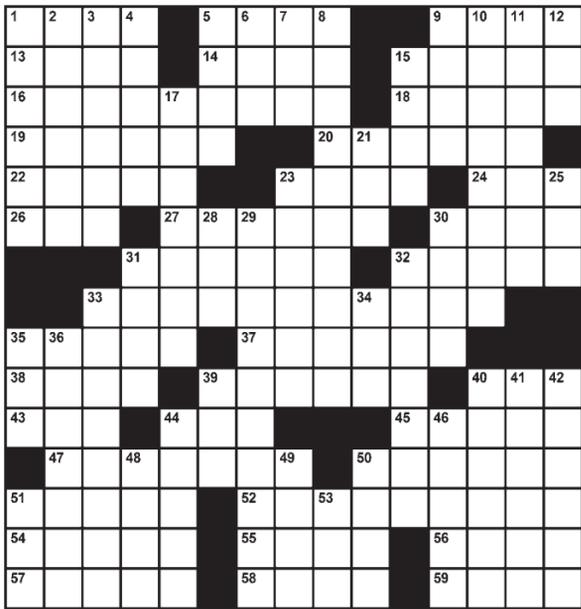
Much like his history at Madison Square Garden.

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Anna Gundlach
BY Marshal Herrmann

MIDDLE AMERICA

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___ Xtra (soda brand)
 - 5 Ceremonial accessory
 - 9 Degrees for many profs
 - 13 At any point
 - 14 Polynesian carving
 - 15 Flora's counterpart
 - 16 Meatless lunch dish
 - 18 Spleen or skin
 - 19 Like many washed-rind cheeses
 - 20 Watch a friend's Frenchie
 - 22 Of little importance
 - 23 Prescriptions, for short
 - 24 Black, white or green beverage
 - 26 Billboards, usually
 - 27 The very beginning
 - 30 Person likely to have a large corner office
 - 31 Tribulations
 - 32 Body part that speech comes out of
 - 33 "We need some clues"
 - 35 Flat-bottomed boat
 - 37 Harm the reputation of
 - 38 Skewed view
 - 39 "Holy ___!"
 - 40 Farming noun or verb
 - 43 Sob
 - 44 Sunfish's appendage
 - 45 Earn points
 - 47 Cam and Mitchell in "Modern Family," e.g.
 - 50 Spot for a yacht
 - 51 Mushroom that's a delicacy
 - 52 "Metroid" protagonist
 - 54 Best possible
 - 55 Excitedly eager
 - 56 Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg
- DOWN**
- 1 Where a pooch might be pampered
 - 2 Words on an Election Day sticker
 - 3 Suits
 - 4 Main force
 - 5 "Stick around!"
 - 6 Feel unwell
 - 7 Jamaican music genre
 - 8 Concealed spot for valuables
 - 9 Disc golf standards
 - 10 Resolve a dispute with an embrace
 - 11 Ancestry.com purchase
 - 12 Word in the names of three of California's four biggest cities
 - 15 ___ up (gets steamy)
 - 17 Jump with a wingsuit, maybe
 - 21 Poem of praise
 - 23 Tasty bit
 - 25 "Pokemon" protagonist
 - 28 Refine like bourbon
 - 29 "Thanks, Captain Obvious"
 - 30 Radius or ulna
 - 31 Dishonestly manipulates, like an outcome
 - 32 Bottomless brunch beverages
 - 33 Ill-defined situation
 - 34 Possessed
 - 35 "EastEnders" network
 - 36 Apple products sold in pairs
 - 39 Component of pewter and solder
 - 40 Swanky party
 - 41 Fabulously decorated
 - 42 Withdrew bit by bit
 - 44 Chap
 - 46 Casino game with snake eyes and boxcars
 - 48 Enjoy a book
 - 49 Word meaning "tale" in Old Norse
 - 50 Coffee holders
 - 51 "Mamma ___!"
 - 53 Morticia, to Wednesday



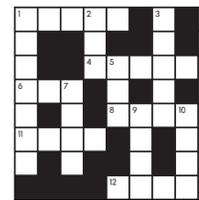
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7/23

- Monday's Answer**
- IMP SCAM TEAMS
TIES KILO HANOI
EDEN INTO EGYPT
MIRACLE ON ICE
PALM SNARLS
BAD TEASHOP EPA
AMIDST MOTEL SIX
NOME LIT ASTO
JUMBOJET SATEEN
ONE WATERED RDS
TRENDS EXAM
YEAR OF THE RAT
PARED OBIE EACH
ENNUI LENT KNEE
ADAPT LYES TRY
- 7/22

CROSSWORDS ON YOUR PHONE
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TXTPERT



- Across**
- 1. 74466
 - 4. 42925
 - 6. 262
 - 8. 7325
 - 11. 6722
 - 12. 2272
- Down**
- 1. 722666
 - 2. 624
 - 3. 55262
 - 5. 277
 - 7. 2825
 - 9. 3972
 - 10. 5262

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Today's theme

Animals



Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5/6/7/8 could be LOST



Yesterday's solution

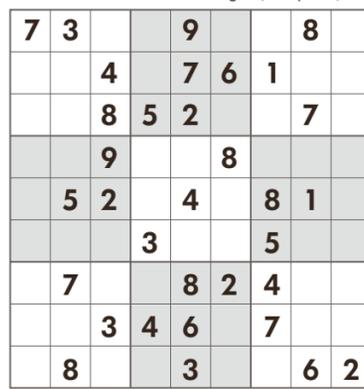
Numbers

More puzzles: puzzles.usatoday.com
Want solutions? answers.usatoday.com
Feedback: feedback@usatoday.com



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



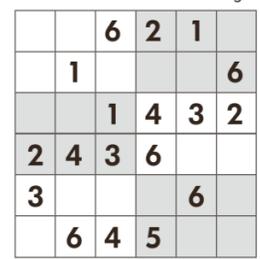
7/23

DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

© Andrews McMeel

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

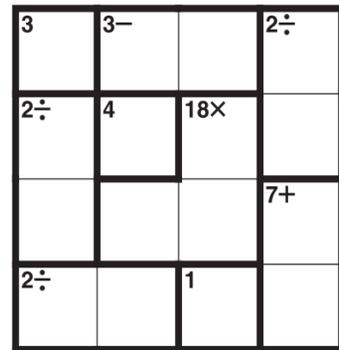


DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

Monday's Answers

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

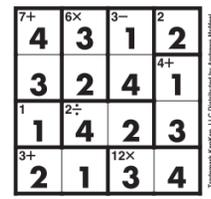
KENKEN



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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

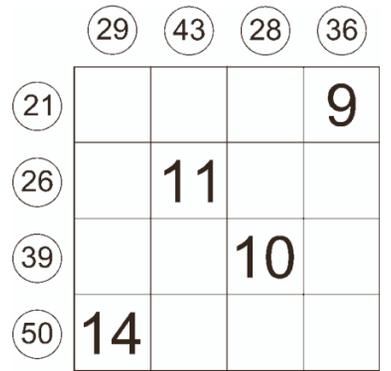


2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo Difficulty: EXPERT



Solution to Monday's puzzle

1	11	15	5
2	7	9	3
8	14	10	13
6	4	16	12

Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

- Find and Circle:
- Six birds ending with E
- Four dairy products
- Three five-letter musical instruments
- Two neighboring countries
- Two things worn on the foot

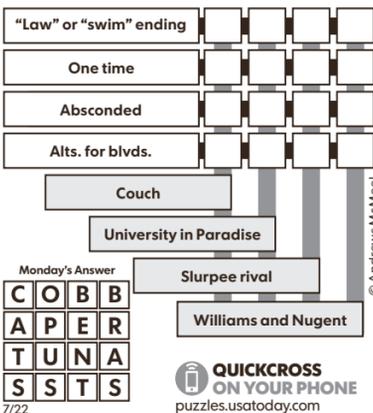
Monday's answer: SPRUCE CEDAR PINE / ACRYLIC ABYSS BUYER / ARMSTRONG COLLINS ALDRIN / PUZZLE DAZZLE BUZZER / SALMA



QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

7/23



UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

7/23



BONUS CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mary's little pet
 - 5 Interlock
 - 9 Be in a whirl
 - 13 Buckeye State
 - 14 Fight (hyph.)
 - 15 "Kiss Me, —"
 - 16 Ripped
 - 17 Bring about
 - 18 Object of devotion
 - 19 Position
 - 21 Talk idly
 - 23 Taxing agcy.
 - 24 Go — -free
 - 25 Menace
 - 30 Inexplicable thing
 - 34 Regret
 - 35 Frenzied
 - 37 Make unclean
 - 38 Weapons
 - 40 Under the weather
 - 41 Burrow
 - 42 Wind into loops
 - 43 Cherished ones
 - 46 Cul-de- —
 - 47 Bury
 - 50 Makes more palatable
 - 52 Warty creature
 - 54 "— of the Worlds"
 - 55 Desert in Africa
 - 57 River in Brazil
 - 61 Duffer's game
 - 62 Strictness
 - 65 Actress — Moore
 - 66 Jacob's twin
 - 67 Antelope
 - 68 Guitarist
 - 69 Labor
 - 70 Wall St. letters
 - 71 Memorization
- DOWN**
- 1 Quite a bit of
 - 2 "Cat on — — Tin Roof"
 - 3 Actress — Sorvino
 - 4 Clyde's partner in crime
 - 5 Males
 - 6 Common abbr.
 - 7 Shocks
 - 8 Old Roman poet
 - 9 Easily startled
 - 10 Go through water
 - 11 "Believe — — not!"
 - 12 Actor — Gibson
 - 14 Nap
 - 20 Stuff
 - 22 Weight measure
 - 25 Draw a certain way
 - 26 Michigan's lake
 - 27 Send
 - 28 Oklahoma town
 - 29 Butler in "The Nanny"
 - 31 Gander
 - 32 City in Italy
 - 33 Baldwin and Guinness
 - 36 Talon
 - 39 Lazy
 - 44 Payoff
 - 45 Line of stitches
 - 48 Extinct bird
 - 49 Like a wasteland
 - 51 Merchant
 - 53 Diurnal
 - 55 Midding (hyph.)
 - 56 Jai —
 - 58 Zip
 - 59 Leave out
 - 60 Pleasant
 - 61 "Come and — it!"
 - 63 Fuel
 - 64 "You're Still the —"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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DON'T QUOTE ME

Actress Elizabeth Taylor talks about success.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
AWAY GREAT IT SMELLS SUCCESS YOUR
_____ IS A _____ DEODORANT. _____
TAKES _____ ALL _____ PAST _____

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 authors' rough drafts (11)
- 2 sleeping like a bear (11)
- 3 entry-level workers, often (8)
- 4 male carriers (7)
- 5 having many segments (9)
- 6 topping off, as a drink (9)
- 7 judges' order-keeping tools (6)

SOLUTIONS

RE ERNA MAN IN IPTS
HIB PA TING MAIL LTI
TRA FIL MEN USCR GAV
LING ELS RT MU EES

Monday's Answers: 1. TRADITION 2. READING 3. MANTEL 4. CHALLENGED 5. EMILY 6. GHASTLY 7. SYMBOLIZES

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EPSTW
SRKIF
OPRTAS
EBNODY

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Did you see the defendant take this picnic basket? Yes, I did! I went and hid the ranger. I just makes us all look bad!

THEY CALLED THE GRIZZLY TO THE STAND TO —

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHILE SWEET WIGGLE FELINE Answer: She changed what she ate and began exercising because she wanted a — NEW "WEIGH" OF LIFE

MUSIC NEWS & VIEWS

Rodrigo is all GUTS, grit and rock star sass

Melissa Ruggieri
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Has it been only four years since we were introduced to Olivia Rodrigo's brew of vitriol and valentines?

Preternaturally poised and already schooled in the art of stagecraft, Rodrigo is not only pop music's reigning young Jedi but the type of performer who is practically mind-melded to her army of devotees.

She barely needs to stomp a Doc Martens-clad foot before being blasted with a level of adoration to nearly knock her off the stage. A few pogos during her opening song — “Bad Idea Right?” — and the concrete floors of a filled-to-the-rafters Capital One Arena trembled from the collective weight of fans who followed her lead. If she ever forgets a lyric, 20,000 people already screaming every word of every song will fill in any gaps.

It's not just a concert but a multi-generational movement. A sanctuary for her predominantly Gen-Z followers, sure. But also a mental getaway for their parents, many of whom were spotted around the arena in purple attire in honor of Rodrigo's signature hue.

Since February, Rodrigo, 21, has bopped around the world on her GUTS World Tour, named for her Grammy-nominated sophomore album that dropped last fall. The 94-date run launched in February in Palm Springs, California, detoured to Europe in May and June and just returned for a second U.S. leg, which landed in Washington, D.C., on Saturday for its second date.

For a high-velocity 100 minutes, Rodrigo, her formidable all-female band and troupe of dancers zipped through serrated-guitar revenge anthems and heartsick ballads with spunk, sass and the kind of tautness that comes from months of perfecting.

Here are some highlights from Saturday's show.

Rodrigo takes flight

About midway through the show, Rodrigo climbed into the scoop of a crescent moon that traversed her around the arena, giving fans a few minutes to bask



Olivia Rodrigo showcases her rock instincts during her GUTS World Tour show at its California kickoff in February. PROVIDED BY CHRISTOPHER POLK FOR LIVE NATION

in her girlish aura.

Singing “Logical” and “Enough for You,” Rodrigo waved to the hyperventilating throng — white stars bobbing from the rafters — as she presented some of her prettiest vocals of the show.

‘Vampire’ and ‘Obsessed’ offer cool visuals

Rodrigo slipped backstage for a handful of outfit changes — silver shimmering crop top and a black two-piece

with fishnets among them — and the stage-length video screen behind her served its purpose with some effects (“The Grudge”), home video of Rodrigo as a child (“Teenage Dream”) and artsy reflections of her stage movements.

This wasn't an ostentatious production, just a sleek counterpart to her brisk songs.

But Rodrigo sneaked in some cool camera effects during “Obsessed.” A lens placed under the Lucite catwalk captured Rodrigo from the floor up, allowing her ample new angles from which to sneer and intentionally roll her silver-speckled eyes.

During her hit “Vampire,” which shuddered with angsty drama, Rodrigo stood in front of a black and white moon as the song escalated to one of her hallmark booming crescendos. As the music accelerated, the stage coloring turned deep red, providing the ideal ethereal backdrop to the musical melodrama.

Rodrigo subtly nods to her influences

If you're paying attention to the pre-show music, you'll get a dose of The Runaways and their power-punk-pop classic, “Cherry Bomb,” as well as the chirpy declaration of “I'm Just a Girl” from No Doubt.

By the closing quartet of (pre-encore) songs, Rodrigo channeled her inner Alanis Morissette, stalking the stage in a fire-red bodysuit as a symphony of electric guitars wailed behind her for “The Grudge,” “Brutal,” “Obsessed” and the sardonic “All-American Bitch.”

She also has shared stages with Sheryl Crow and Jewel and expressed her affection for the art-rock of The Killers.

Rodrigo pays attention, dabbling smidgens of Crow in the songwriting of “Making the Bed” and “Teenage Dream” (“I'd tell my 18-year-old self not to worry,” Rodrigo said before the song) and adopting a Killers-esque synth swirl around “Pretty Isn't Pretty.”

The vulnerability in her songs, as well as the gleeful spite and anger Rodrigo can conjure, are legit.

Just imagine what she can accomplish in the next decade.



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NATION & WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE
Impact of Biden's economic agenda may be felt in distant future. **4NN**

VP SEEKS NOMINATION

HARRIS GAINS SUPPORT FROM PARTY LEADERS



Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign said it raised \$81 million in the 24 hours after President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

Secures enough votes to become Democrats' chosen candidate

Sarah D. Wire and Sudkisha Kochi USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Vice President Kamala Harris successfully moved Monday to shore up the support she needed to secure the 2024 Democratic presidential nomination, potentially avoiding a bitter internal party dispute one day after President Joe Biden announced he's backing out of his own White House campaign. • A USA TODAY count of delegates shows the 59-year old Harris has secured endorsements of the 1,968 delegates needed to become the party's nominee in the first round of voting. There are 3,936 Democratic delegates in total, including former presidents, state and local party leaders, members of Congress and governors, but only about half get to vote in the first round. • California's delegates put Harris over the top when they voted unanimously to back her.

See **HARRIS**, Page 8NN

Next up: Running mate choice

Beshear, Whitmer among those in contention

Trevor Hunnicutt and Nandita Bose
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden's weekend decision to drop his reelection bid and endorse Vice President Kamala Harris to replace him as the Democratic candidate leaves Harris with a major, immediate decision: whom to pick as her running mate.

Harris has enlisted the law firm of Eric Holder, the former attorney general, to vet possible running mates, sources told Reuters.

These are some of the top people being discussed, according to people familiar with internal policy discussions.

See **RUNNING MATE**, Page 7NN



Harris has outlined a series of policies she promised to pursue including signing laws to protect abortion rights and ban assault rifles and said she would make rebuilding the middle class the focus of her presidency. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

Campaign embracing meme fame

Internet may help Harris reach younger voters

Stephanie Kelly
REUTERS

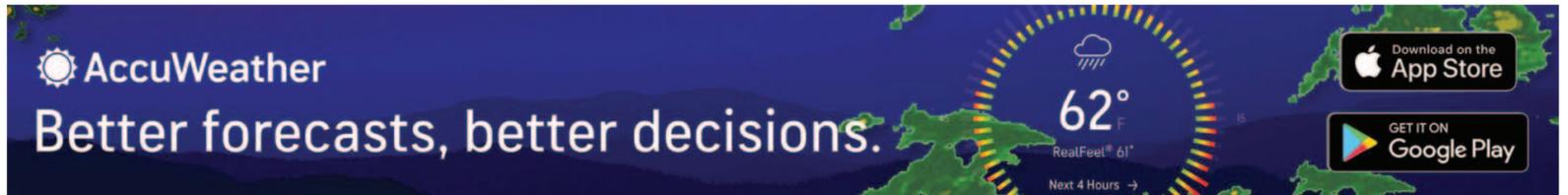
NEW YORK – Kamala Harris is not yet the Democratic Party's candidate for president but her status online is already clear: she is a meme.

In the latest testament to her viral presence among Generation Z, those born between 1997 and 2012, British pop sensation Charli XCX name-checked her in a weekend tweet that called the vice president a "brat."

And Harris' campaign is leaning into it.

Soon after the artist tweeted "kamala IS brat" on Sunday night – giving Harris the name of her latest album – the vice

See **INTERNET**, Page 9NN

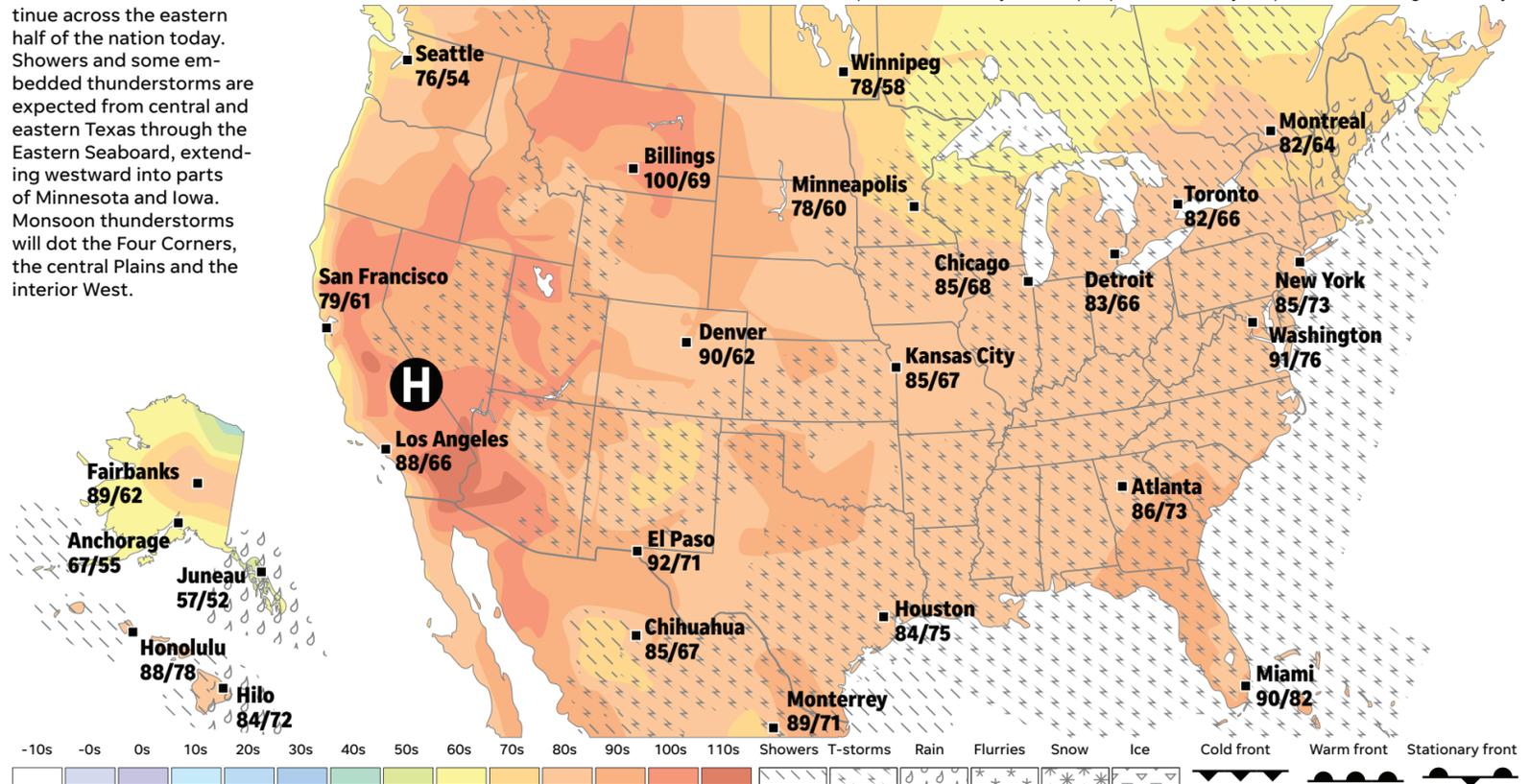


NATIONAL SUMMARY

Active conditions will continue across the eastern half of the nation today. Showers and some embedded thunderstorms are expected from central and eastern Texas through the Eastern Seaboard, extending westward into parts of Minnesota and Iowa. Monsoon thunderstorms will dot the Four Corners, the central Plains and the interior 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 Tuesday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



MONDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 113 at Needles, CA
Low: 31 at Walden, CO
Precip: 2.49" at Athens, TX

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High: 120 at Adrar, Algeria
Low: 24 at Oruro, Bolivia
Precip: 5.39" at Bach Longvi, Vietnam

TODAY IN HISTORY

On July 23, 1979, heavy rain pushed the Reedy River out of its banks at Greenville, S.C. Sections of Kansas received more than 5.00 inches of rain. Thunderstorms dumped 2.00 inches of rain on Johnstown, Pa., in just one hour.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: How many t-storms rumble across the U.S. each year?

Approximately 100,000

NATIONAL CITIES TUESDAY

	High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	88/63/pc	69	Evansville, IN	85/70/t	63	Levittown, PA	90/73/t	44
Abilene, TX	92/70/t	57	Fall River, MA	80/69/r	40	Lincoln, IL	84/66/t	66
Accomac, VA	85/74/t	47	Farmington, NM	92/66/s	79	Louisville, KY	85/71/t	83
Adrian, MI	84/64/t	51	Fayetteville, NC	89/75/t	37	Lubbock, TX	89/67/pc	62
Akron, OH	84/66/t	45	Fond du Lac, WI	78/63/t	35	Manitowoc, WI	73/63/t	38
Alamogordo, NM	88/64/s	56	Fort Myers, FL	90/75/t	53	Mansfield, OH	83/66/t	46
Alexandria, VA	90/75/t	47	Fort Smith, AR	87/71/c	51	Marshall, NC	83/67/t	43
Alliance, OH	84/65/t	42	Framingham, MA	78/67/r	43	Marshfield, WI	74/58/t	44
Amarillo, TX	88/65/t	68	Freeport, IL	81/64/t	45	Massillon, OH	85/66/t	50
Ames, IA	82/64/t	45	Fremont, OH	85/67/t	50	McLean, VA	89/74/t	43
Anderson, SC	88/72/t	42	Fort Collins, CO	92/61/s	83	Melbourne, FL	89/78/t	38
Appleton, WI	77/61/t	34	Gadsden, AL	83/70/t	39	Memphis, TN	80/72/t	67
Asheville, NC	82/67/t	43	Gainesville, FL	92/73/t	47	Middletown, NY	83/66/t	42
Ashland, OH	83/65/t	44	Galesburg, IL	85/64/pc	56	Milford, MA	78/66/sh	38
Athens, GA	88/70/t	42	Gastonia, NC	87/71/t	37	Milwaukee, WI	84/67/t	47
Augusta, GA	91/72/t	38	Glen Rose, TX	89/72/t	46	Monroe, MI	82/66/t	54
Austin, TX	86/72/t	46	Gonzales, LA	86/75/t	37	Monroe, LA	83/73/t	35
Bartlesville, OK	87/65/pc	59	Great Falls, MT	103/62/pc	103	Montgomery, AL	89/72/t	35
Battle Creek, MI	84/65/t	53	Green Bay, WI	75/61/t	38	Muncie, IN	84/65/t	62
Bedford, IN	84/67/t	58	Greenville, SC	88/72/t	39	Murfreesboro, TN	80/70/t	57
Binghamton, NY	80/66/t	47	Hackensack, NJ	89/73/t	53	Naples, FL	88/77/t	50
Bluffton, SC	90/79/t	43	Hagerstown, MD	89/72/t	40	Nashville, TN	82/72/t	61
Bremerton, WA	76/49/pc	30	Hattiesburg, MS	88/73/t	34	Neptune, NJ	86/74/t	40
Brockton, MA	77/67/r	46	Henderson, KY	84/68/t	62	New Bedford, MA	80/67/r	41
Brownwood, TX	88/68/t	51	Hendersonville, NC	83/67/t	41	New Bern, NC	89/77/t	42
Burlington, IA	83/66/pc	56	Herkimer, NY	82/66/sh	51	New Philadelphia, OH	84/65/t	43
Burlington, NC	86/72/t	44	Hillsdale, MI	83/63/t	50	Newark, OH	85/65/t	48
Burlington, VT	81/65/pc	39	Holland, MI	82/67/t	53	Newton, NJ	86/68/t	41
Cambridge, OH	87/67/t	40	Hornell, NY	81/62/t	46	New York, NY	85/73/t	54
Camdenton, MO	83/65/pc	54	Houma, LA	86/75/t	36	Norwich, CT	80/69/c	41
Canandaigua, NY	81/65/t	55	Howell, MI	83/65/t	51	Ocala, FL	91/74/t	42
Canton, OH	84/66/t	43	Hutchinson, KS	89/65/pc	51	Oklahoma City, OK	87/67/s	58
Carlsbad, NM	87/67/pc	72	Hyannis, MA	76/69/r	34	Opelousas, LA	81/72/t	35
Chambersburg, PA	89/72/t	42	Indianapolis, IN	84/67/t	59	Oshkosh, WI	77/63/t	35
Cherry Hill, NJ	90/74/t	39	Iowa City, IA	83/66/pc	56	Palm Beach, FL	89/82/t	34
Cincinnati, OH	85/67/t	72	Ithaca, NY	80/65/t	48	Palm Springs, CA	114/88/s	80
Clarksville, TN	83/70/t	60	Jackson, MS	83/73/t	39	Panama City, FL	91/78/t	30
Coldwater, MI	82/63/t	52	Jackson, TN	79/72/t	64	Peoria, IL	86/68/t	62
Columbus, OH	84/68/t	51	Jacksonville, FL	93/75/t	48	Pensacola, FL	89/76/t	36
Corning, NY	82/63/t	41	Jacksonville, NC	88/77/t	47	Peoria, IL	85/67/t	62
Corpus Christi, TX	88/77/t	45	Kent, OH	83/65/t	47	Petersburg, VA	86/74/t	37
Daytona Beach, FL	91/76/t	36	Kewanee, IL	84/65/t	54	Phoenix, AZ	112/93/s	88
Deming, NM	90/67/pc	53	Keyser, WV	88/68/t	37	Port Huron, MI	83/65/t	44
De Ridder, LA	82/73/t	29	Kinston, NC	90/75/t	40	Portsmouth, NH	76/65/r	48
Des Moines, IA	84/68/t	51	Knoxville, TN	83/70/t	48	Poughkeepsie, NY	83/68/t	44
Detroit, MI	83/66/t	64	Lafayette, IN	84/65/t	58	Providence, RI	78/68/c	33
Devils Lake, ND	77/61/pc	116	Lafayette, LA	84/75/t	33	Pueblo, CO	90/58/pc	86
Dover, NH	76/65/r	40	Lakeland, FL	93/75/t	34	Quincy, MA	76/67/r	45
El Paso, TX	92/71/s	57	Lansing, MI	84/66/t	53	Redding, CA	112/80/pc	47
Elmira, NY	82/64/t	44	Las Cruces, NM	90/68/pc	58	Reno, NV	100/70/s	76
Erie, PA	80/69/t	53	Lebanon, PA	89/71/t	47	Ravenna, OH	84/65/t	46
Eugene, OR	87/52/s	28	Leesburg, FL	93/76/t	39	Richmond, IN	84/64/t	62

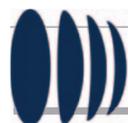
Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W		Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W		Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W
Acapulco	89/77/t	89/78/t	Cape Town	60/51/sh	59/44/c	La Paz	59/27/s	60/28/s
Addis Ababa	70/56/sh	72/56/r	Caracas	89/77/t	88/77/t	Lagos	83/76/r	83/75/r
Algiers	88/66/s	93/66/s	Casablanca	98/71/s	103/71/pc	Lima	67/59/c	66/58/c
Amman	94/72/s	91/73/s	Colombo	88/80/t	88/80/t	Lisbon	95/68/s	96/66/s
Amsterdam	70/59/sh	70/57/s	Copenhagen	70/60/c	72/57/pc	London	75/59/c	77/60/pc
Ankara	97/67/s	92/64/s	Damascus	103/70/pc	102/70/pc	Madrid	104/71/s	106/71/s
Asuncion	86/65/pc	88/62/pc	Dublin	68/56/pc	68/60/c	Manila	83/79/r	84/80/r
Athens	98/80/s	96/79/s	Geneva	82/60/pc	80/57/pc	Mexico City	75/58/r	75/58/r
Auckland	60/51/sh	60/52/pc	Guatemala City	82/61/t	80/63/pc	Milan	91/72/t	92/72/pc
Baghdad	115/92/s	114/92/s	Hanoi	86/77/t	86/79/c	Mombasa	85/71/c	85/70/s
Bangkok	91/81/t	91/80/t	Harare	82/49/s	81/50/s	Montevideo	72/60/c	72/49/r
Beijing	101/82/pc	94/73/t	Havana	93/76/s	92/75/t	Montreal	82/64/pc	83/68/t
Beirut	91/80/s	90/81/s	Helsinki	72/64/s	71/64/pc	Moscow	76/55/r	80/60/s
Belgrade	90/67/s	82/64/t	Hong Kong	93/83/t	94/84/r	Nairobi	75/53/pc	76/55/c
Berlin	82/62/pc	75/54/r	Jakarta	90/76/s	90/75/sh	New Delhi	95/83/t	93/82/t
Bogota	65/47/r	68/48/c	Jerusalem	90/70/s	88/70/s	Panama City	85/76/t	87/76/t
Brussels	72/58/r	74/56/sh	Johannesburg	72/47/s	69/40/s	Paris	78/57/sh	79/59/pc
Bucharest	92/68/pc	91/67/pc	Kabul	94/69/s	95/70/s	Port-au-Prince	96/76/t	98/76/pc
Budapest	86/65/pc	84/62/t	Khartoum	98/79/c	96/81/t	Rio de Janeiro	75/63/s	77/64/pc
Buenos Aires	64/59/pc	65/49/sh	Kyiv	83/65/s	81/62/pc	Riyadh	112/90/s	112/90/pc
Cairo	100/80/s	99/82/s	Kingston	92/81/pc	91/82/c	Rome	91/71/s	92/72/s

Denotes possible travel delays Tuesday

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



WEST BANK

Pressure from below

The International Court of Justice released a legal opinion declaring Israeli policies and practices in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem as unlawful, a non-binding decision that could impact Israel's international standing and add pressure on the country to agree to a Palestinian state, Axios reported.

The case began early last year when the world court was tasked by the United Nations General Assembly to determine whether Israeli occupation of the territories amounted to annexation.

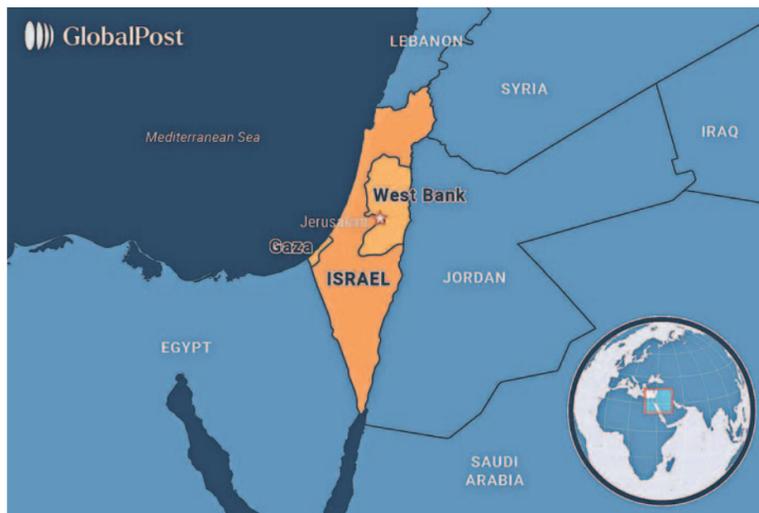
Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Six-Day War. The international community considers these areas as occupied territories and most Western nations deem the Israeli settlements built in these areas to be illegal, according to the Associated Press.

In Friday's advisory opinion, the ICJ found that Israeli settlements and presence in the occupied West Bank are in violation of international law: It said that the policies to expand settlements and exploit natural resources in the territory amount to "annexation."

It ordered Israel to end the construction of settlements and remove existing ones, as well as evacuate Jewish settlers from the territories.

The court's opinion also said Israeli law and actions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem violated the Convention against Racial Discrimination. It added that Israel must provide reparations to Palestinians damaged by Israeli policies and practices, while calling on all countries to consider Israel's presence in the West Bank as illegal.

The court stated that the U.N. General Assembly and the U.N. Security Council should contemplate additional measures, based on its advisory opinion, to bring an end to the Israeli occupation.



While the opinion is non-binding and unlikely to lead to any policy change, it could impact Israel's international reputation and domestic politics. It has also sparked fears that it will encourage some Western nations to impose sanctions against settlers, entities that operate in the settlements and the Israeli government. The US government has imposed sanctions on some settlers and is currently considering expanding those to right-wing ministers in the cabinet.

Israel's governing coalition, made up of ultra-conservative and pro-settler parties, criticized the ICJ for being "detached from the reality of the Middle East."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned it for distorting historical truth and legality.

The legal opinion comes as Israel and Hamas continue fighting in the Gaza Strip, which has exacerbated the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian enclave and prompted international condemnation against Netanyahu's cabinet.

The conflict began on Oct. 7 when Hamas and its allies launched a surprise attack in southern Israel, killing around 1,200 people and taking around 240 others hostages. Israel responded by launching strikes and a ground invasion in the enclave that has displaced hundreds of thousands

and killed more than 38,000 people, according to health officials in Hamas-controlled Gaza.

Last week, Human Rights Watch described Hamas's October attack as a planned "systematic" assault against civilians, the Washington Post wrote. The organization released a report Wednesday condemning deliberate attacks on civilians, the use of human shields, and cruel treatment as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, observers noted that the ICJ's opinion could prompt calls for a Palestinian state and revive proposals for a two-state solution, which Israel has thus far ruled out, but is being pushed to do so by its allies, including the United States.

Before the court's decision, the Israeli parliament voted 68-9 against establishing a Palestinian state, saying its creation will "pose an existential danger to the State of Israel," NBC News noted.

A Pew Research Center poll found that in March and early April, only 26% of Israelis believed peaceful co-existence with an independent Palestinian state was possible, down from 35% before the Oct. 7 assault.

The research center highlighted that this marked a significant decline from 2013 when around half of Israelis supported a two-state solution.

DISCOVERIES

Here was Spartacus

The story of Spartacus, the slave-turned-gadiator who fought against the Roman Republic, is immortalized in the Kirk Douglas movie of the same name.

Now, history buffs can visit one of the sites where the rebel commander and his men clashed with Roman forces more than 2,000 years ago.

Archaeologists recently discovered an ancient stone wall in a forest in Italy's southern Calabria region. They used advanced ground-penetrating radar, laser scanning and soil core sampling to study the site and understand its purpose.

Covered in moss and stretching around 1.7 miles in length, the researchers determined that the wall was a fossa and agger – or ditch and mound – defensive system, which was a typical fortification method used by the Roman army.

They suggested that the wall was built by Roman general Marcus Licinius Crassus in 71 B.C. to entrap Spartacus and his forces. The fortification's construction was also referenced in historical sources, such as "The Life of Crassus" by Greek philosopher and historian Plutarch.

Spartacus is known for leading the Third Servile War between 73 B.C. and 71 B.C., according to National Geographic.

Daily Chatter is now Global Post

You may notice that our world news partner has changed its name from Daily Chatter to Global Post. This change reflects the company's expansion to form a new parent, GlobalPost Media Corporation, which includes the daily world report that provides the news you've been enjoying here. Please be assured that the coverage on this page will remain the same – only the name is new.

Bangladesh PM blames opposition for violence

Says curfew will remain until improvement seen

Mohammad Ponir Hossain and Ruma Paul and Sam Jahan
REUTERS

DHAKA – Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina blamed her political opponents for deadly violence that swept the country during recent student-led protests against quotas in government jobs, stating on Monday that a curfew would be lifted when the situation improved.

Her comments came a day after the South Asian country's top court agreed to scrap most quotas in a ruling on Sunday, following days of clashes between protesters and security forces that prompted the government to shut down internet services, impose a curfew and deploy the army.

Hospital data showed at least 147 people were killed in one of the worst outbreaks of violence in recent years.

Hasina, 76, won a fourth-straight term in power in January in a national election boycotted by the main opposition party.

"When arson terrorism started, the protesting students said they were not involved in it," Hasina said in an address to business leaders in the capital Dhaka, her first comments since her government ordered a curfew late on Friday.

"We were forced to impose a curfew to protect the lives and property of the citizens. I never wanted it," she said. "We will lift the curfew whenever the situation gets better."

Hasina blamed the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami party and its student wing for the violence that started last week.

The parties did not immediately respond to requests for comment but critics, including the BNP, have previously accused Hasina of authoritarianism, human rights violations and crackdowns on free speech and dissent – charges her government denies.

The streets appeared calm in Dhaka on Monday, a day after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of an appeal from the government against a lower court



Bangladesh army personnel stand guard near the parliament house in Dhaka on Monday. MUNIR UZ ZAMAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A man walks Monday on a partially damaged footbridge set on fire after violence erupted following protests by students against government job quotas in Dhaka. MOHAMMAD PONIR HOSSAIN/REUTERS

order and directed that 93% of government jobs should be open to candidates on merit.

The ruling scaled down quotas in state jobs previously reserved for groups including families of freedom fighters, women and so-called disadvantaged groups, cutting it to 7% from

56%.

Experts have blamed the unrest on stagnant job growth in the private sector and high rates of youth unemployment that have made government jobs, with their regular wage hikes and other privileges, more attractive.

'48-hour ultimatum'

Late on Sunday, protesters gave the government 48 hours to meet a string of new demands, but most appeared to be obeying the curfew on Monday in cities that had seen regular demonstrations after a high court in June reinstated the old quotas.

Thousands were injured in protests that turned violent last week, as security forces fired tear gas, rubber bullets and sound grenades to scatter the demonstrators.

Tanks were seen stationed at several places in Dhaka on Monday, while armed security patrols directed the few motorists who ventured out. There were no reports of violence in the country, officials said.

The new demands from protesters included a public apology from Hasina

for the violence, restoration of internet connections and reopening of campuses.

The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement also called for the resignation of some ministers and university officials and the dismissal of police officers deployed in the areas where students were killed.

"We are giving an ultimatum to the government to fulfill our eight-point demand within 48 hours," one of the Movement's leaders, Hasnat Abdullah, told reporters.

He did not say what would happen if the government did not meet the demands. The government did not immediately comment.

Dhaka police said they had arrested 516 people for involvement in "destructive attacks." Police spokesperson Faruq Hossain said three policemen were killed in the violence and more than 1,000 injured.

"Normalcy will return within one or two days," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters. The government issued a notification that extended a public holiday declared over the last two days to Tuesday.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Investors return to megacap stocks

Mattel soars after buyer interest reported

David French
REUTERS

Wall Street's three benchmarks ended higher on Monday as investors returned to megacap growth stocks, helping both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite recover from their worst weekly performance since April.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was also back in positive territory, breaking a two-session skid since hitting an all-time closing high last Wednesday.

Megacaps Alphabet, Meta Platforms and Tesla all advanced between 2.2% and 5.1% after being major drags on the market last week.

Nvidia also rose 4.8% after Reuters reported the artificial intelligence chip leader was working on a version of its new flagship AI chips for the China market that would be compliant with current U.S. export controls.

The Information Technology index climbed 2%, topping sectoral gainers and snapping a four-day losing streak.

"We think this move today probably has more to do with a rebound from the selling that occurred last week than anything else," said Jason Pride, chief of investment strategy & research at Glenmede.

Chief among the other factors on traders' minds was a reexamination of the state of the presidential race after President Joe Biden announced his withdrawal and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris' candidacy for the November election on Sunday.

Biden's exit could prompt investors to unwind trades on bets that a victory for Republican Donald Trump would increase U.S. fiscal and inflationary pressures. But some analysts said markets could benefit from an increased chance of a divided government under the next administration.

Online betting site PredictIt showed pricing for a victory by the former president slipped 4 cents to 60 cents, while climbing 12 cents for a Harris win to 39 cents.

Trump-linked stocks were mixed on Monday, with Trump Media & Technology Group dropping 0.8%, while software firm Phunware gained 4%.

Having digested the news of Biden's withdrawal, investors will now be looking for answers to key questions including who will join Harris on the Democratic presidential ticket and to what degree, if any, the vice president will deviate from the platform which Biden was headlining.

This element of uncertainty is present alongside traders' angst over quarterly earnings, including from two of the so-called Magnificent Seven companies – Alphabet and Tesla – on deck this week.

The results will test whether the recent rally in top-tier high-momentum stocks is tenable and if a move to underperforming sectors will continue.

"We're seeing the market begin to price in a little bit of a faster set of rate cuts, and that is leading to a bit of a shift in leadership to favor smaller-cap stocks and to deviate from the focus on the largest tech companies," said Glenmede's Pride.

"Obviously today looks a little bit different to that, but it's still a trend in the background."

The S&P 500 gained 59.41 points, or 1.08%, at 5,564.41 points, while the Nasdaq Composite climbed 280.63 points, or 1.58%, to 18,007.57. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 127.91 points, or 0.32%, to 40,415.44.

Cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike slumped 13.5%, extending losses after a software update from the company sparked Friday's global tech outage.

Delta Air Lines dropped 3.5% after canceling over 600 flights as it struggled to restore operations after the outage.

Verizon Communications fell 6.1% after a second-quarter revenue miss.

Mattel Inc jumped 15.1% after Reuters reported the toy maker had been approached by buyout firm L Catterton with an acquisition offer.

Volume on U.S. exchanges was 10.95 billion shares, compared with the 11.37 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.

Google scraps its plan to remove cookies from Chrome

Yuvraj Malik and Jeffrey Dastin
REUTERS

Google is planning to keep third-party cookies in its Chrome browser, it said on Monday, after years of pledging to phase out the tiny packets of code meant to track users on the internet.

The major reversal follows concerns from advertisers – the company's biggest source of income – saying the loss of cookies in the world's most popular browser will limit their ability to collect information for personalizing ads, making them dependent on Google's user databases.

The UK's Competition and Markets Authority had also scrutinized Google's plan over concerns it would impede competition in digital advertising.

"Instead of deprecating third-party cookies, we would introduce a new experience in Chrome that lets people make an informed choice that applies across their web browsing, and they'd

be able to adjust that choice at any time," Anthony Chavez, vice president of the Google-backed Privacy Sandbox initiative, said in a blog post.

Since 2019, the Alphabet unit has been working on the Privacy Sandbox initiative aimed at enhancing online privacy while supporting digital businesses, with a key goal being the phase-out of third-party cookies.

Cookies are packets of information that allow websites and advertisers to identify individual web surfers and track their browsing habits, but they can also be used for surveillance.

In the European Union, the use of cookies is governed by the General Data Protection Regulation, which stipulates that publishers secure explicit consent from users to store their cookies.

Chavez said Google was working with regulators such as the UK's CMA and Information Commissioner's Office as well as publishers and privacy

"We would introduce a new experience in Chrome that lets people make an informed choice that applies across their web browsing."

Anthony Chavez
Vice president of the Privacy Sandbox initiative

groups on the new approach, while continuing to invest in the Privacy Sandbox program.

The announcement drew mixed reactions.

"Advertising stakeholders will no longer have to prepare to quit third-party cookies cold turkey," eMarketer analyst Evelyn Mitchell-Wolf said in a statement.

Lena Cohen, staff technologist at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said cookies can lead to consumer harm, for instance predatory ads that target vulnerable groups.

ANALYSIS

As president, Biden has pushed aggressive economic agenda

Impact may be felt long after his tenure ends

Howard Schneider
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden may not have gotten much credit politically for the thousands of grants and public investments his administration showered across the country, with airport or road projects in places like South Carolina and Wyoming unlikely to dent former President Donald Trump's locked-in status in those deeply conservative states.

It may take years, moreover, to reveal whether what Biden attempted – jump-starting a post-carbon energy transition, reshoring tech production, spreading the wealth to less-prosperous cities, and rebuilding degraded infrastructure – will pay off as his supporters argue in higher productivity, more-secure supply chains, and as a down payment on addressing climate change.

Critics would say the Democratic president ran up the deficit, picked winners in place of private markets, overstepped on issues like student loan forgiveness and anti-trust enforcement, and stoked inflation.

Yet as Biden bowed out of his reelection bid on Sunday, neither supporters nor opponents doubted his ambition to be an economically transformative president by pressing a playbook of progressive economic ideas gestating since the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

Biden didn't wade into the more aggressive and controversial tax ideas some Democrats have pushed to redistribute wealth and income, though that informed ideas like boosting Internal Revenue Service collection efforts.

But he did bring back what used to be called "industrial policy," rebranded it as supply-side economics with a liberal tilt, and tried to tackle problems he felt were either strategic – the need to boost domestic semiconductor production – or moral – underwriting child care and student loans.

Biden's program was "big, dramatic," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program and an advocate of the president's focus on seeding technology investment in areas that have fallen behind economically.

"Biden was able to break through a decade or more of gridlock, 'small ball,' and skepticism about government to go big with a major experiment with investment – in technology, green energy, and infrastructure," Muro said. "Running through it all has been a compelling design focus on places and inclusion" to spread the benefits of innovation beyond traditional hubs like San Francisco and Boston.

'Not legacy-defining'

It was also expensive as well expansive, arguably exacerbating an outbreak of inflation in 2022, was more skeptical of globalization than the vision of Biden's Democratic predecessors, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, and embraced a broad view of the federal government's role.



President Joe Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which included incentives for green energy production and electric vehicles, into law on Nov. 15, 2021. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS FILE

Over a consequential first two years, Biden pushed four major pieces of economic legislation through Congress.

One pillar of that program, the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill in 2021, was "very reasonable, the type of things you could imagine previous presidents doing," said Michael Strain, a resident scholar and director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute.

But "that was not legacy-defining. What the president wanted to do was be the next (Franklin Delano Roosevelt), the next Lyndon Johnson," Strain said, referring to the Democratic presidents who introduced the New Deal and Great Society programs that greatly expanded government's economic footprint in the 1930s and '60s.

At its worst, Strain said he regarded Biden's spending as "reckless," with government debt now equal to 6% of national economic output, the sort of hole usually seen during a recession. Strain also frowned on "silly gimmicks like student debt forgiveness" that have expanded the border of federal help for increasingly middle-class families.

It is hardly the dark travesty painted by Trump, who is seeking to win back the White House after losing the 2020 election to Biden. The unemployment rate under Biden had its longest run below 4% since the 1960s, lasting more than two years.

'Making a difference'

In fact Biden and Trump arguably share one important economic trait: The use of deficit spending to keep growth above trend.

Trump relied on a standing Republican playbook of tax cuts that were not offset with spending reductions, while Biden's was something of a new approach for Democrats.

Biden, as Obama's vice president, had a ringside seat for the Democratic president's efforts to counter the 2007-2009 financial crisis with programs now considered too tepid.

The recovery from that deep recession was slow and scarring. The lesson seemed clear: When a crisis hits, the response should be fast and large.

That was the logic behind Biden's first major economic bill, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. Enacted less than two months after Biden's Jan. 20, 2021 inauguration, it extended many of the stimulus, unemployment and other payments rolled out by Trump at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the recovery effort from the health crisis extended past the end of Trump's term and was largely carried out with bipartisan support, the net result was an unemployment rate that returned to the mid-4% range in about 18 months after the pandemic-triggered recession. By contrast, it took more than seven years to reach that level of joblessness after the financial crisis – a turgid recovery that was particularly tough for blue-collar America and which helped fuel Trump's rise.

Subsequent bills included the bipartisan infrastructure plan, money to boost U.S. semiconductor chip production, and the Inflation Reduction Act, perhaps Biden's most controversial initiative for including incentives for green energy production and electric vehicles in a bill ostensibly to address rising prices.

Some of those programs might well be reversed if Trump wins the Nov. 5 election.

But much of what Biden set in motion is likely to endure, said Mark Zandi, the chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

The country got through the pandemic with less economic damage than feared, and if the cost of that was inflation, the alternative could have been far more painful in terms of chronic unemployment and lost production, Zandi said. Likewise, the investment in infrastructure and chip production is largely out the door.

It isn't on the scale of what Roosevelt did to address the Great Depression, Zandi said, but it mattered.

"I view it as expansive, large, making a difference, but in the context of traditional macroeconomic policy, not as transformative or changing the playing field," he said. "We are on the same playing field. He just played with bigger players and more muscle."

Delta CEO expects more flight delays

On Monday, airline canceled 800-plus flights

Rajesh Kumar Singh
and David Shepardson
REUTERS

Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian on Monday said it will take the U.S. carrier another couple of days before its operations recover from a global cyber outage that snarled flights around the world.

The Atlanta-based carrier has been hit hard by the outage. It has canceled more than 4,000 flights since Friday, stranding thousands of customers across the country.

By contrast, disruptions at other major U.S. carriers had largely subsided.

On Monday, Delta had canceled more than 800 flights, or about 21% of the scheduled total as of 3:30 p.m. EDT, according to data from FlightAware. It accounted for about half of total flight cancellations.

A software update by global cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike triggered system problems for Microsoft customers, including many airlines, on Friday.

In a video message to employees on Monday, Bastian and Chief Information Officer Rahul Samant provided an update on the situation.

Bastian said the company is working around the clock to get its operation back on track, but it will take another couple of days before the worst is over.

"Today will be a better day than yesterday and hopefully Tuesday and Wednesday will be that much better again," he said.

The company's shares closed down about 3.5% at \$43.83.

About 60% of most critical applications that Delta uses are Microsoft Win-



Delta Airlines canceled more than 800 flights across the U.S. on Monday, bringing the total number of cancellations since Friday to more than 4,000.
JESSICA MCGOWAN/GETTY IMAGES

dows based, and were rendered inoperable early on Friday following CrowdStrike's faulty Windows update, the airline said.

Delta's IT teams required to manually repair and reboot each of the affected systems, with additional time needed for applications to synchronize and start communicating with each other.

But its crew tracker application – which ensures all flights have a full crew in the right place at the right time – is requiring the most time and manual support to synchronize, Delta said.

"Everything except that critical system is up and running," Samant said. "And that is what we're working on feverishly."

Customer complaints

Delta is widely respected for running a reliable operation. Analysts say its on-time performance in terms of arrivals and departures has helped the airline cement its position as a premium airline.

The issue has left customers fuming. Many complained that they had to wait hours for assistance as the airline's help-lines were overwhelmed. Some were forced to rent cars to drive hundreds of miles, while others said they would have to wait days for new flights.

"I was very disappointed in the way Delta handled this," Bob Pearlman wrote on LinkedIn. He had booked

About 60% of most critical applications that Delta uses are Microsoft Windows based, and were rendered inoperable early on Friday following CrowdStrike's faulty Windows update, the airline said.

a flight from Honolulu to Salt Lake City.

Bastian said the outage hit the airline on "the busiest travel weekend of the summer," limiting its re-accommodation capabilities.

The company said its crews are fully staffed and ready to serve our customers.

In a staff memo seen by Reuters, Delta said it is "doing everything possible" to bring stability to its staffing. It has boosted incentive pay for pilots and flight attendants.

"The single biggest thing you can do to help at this point is to pick up trips in any base," it said in the memo, a request for crew to volunteer for extra trips.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said Sunday his office had received hundreds of complaints about Delta's customer service and asked the airline to provide prompt refunds, free rebooking and timely reimbursements to customers.



Donna Massey mourns the loss of her daughter, Sonya, who was shot and killed by a sheriff's deputy on July 6.
THOMAS J. TURNER/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER FILE

Video of Illinois deputy shooting Black woman sparks outrage

Tyler Clifford
REUTERS

The Illinois State Police released video on Monday of a sheriff's deputy killing a woman in her home this month, revealing details of a shooting that some likened to high-profile cases in which law enforcement has used excessive force on Black Americans.

Sean Grayson, a white deputy who was dismissed from the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office and charged with three counts of first-degree murder last week, fired three shots at the woman, Sonya Massey, according to the indictment. He also faces a charge of aggravated battery and one of official misconduct.

"Sonya's death at the hands of a police officer reminds us that all too often Black Americans face fears for their safety in ways many of the rest of us do not," President Joe Biden said in a statement on Monday.

"I commend the actions taken by the Springfield State's Attorney's office. While we wait for the case to be prosecuted, let us pray to comfort the griev-

ing," he said, calling on lawmakers to pass a stalled police reform bill named after George Floyd, who was choked to death by a white officer in 2020.

Grayson, 30, and the second officer were called to Massey's home in Springfield, about 200 miles outside of Chicago, to investigate a report of a suspected "prowler" on July 6 at 12:50 a.m., according to the indictment.

The video, recorded by cameras worn by the officers, shows Massey, 36, in her kitchen removing a pot of boiling water from the stove at their request. As she was doing so, the accompanying officer, who has not been named, backed out of the kitchen into the living room. He said he wanted to put distance between himself and the boiling water.

Massey then said: "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus," after which Grayson aimed his gun at her and threatened to shoot her in the face.

As Grayson instructed her to drop the pot, Massey said, "I'm sorry" and began to duck. Grayson again instructed her to drop the pot. The second officer then drew his firearm.

During this exchange, Massey made

no apparent verbal threats nor any movement in the officers' direction.

Grayson made two steps toward the kitchen, yelled at her to drop the pot again and began shooting. He then alerted his superiors that he had shot Massey in the face and turned on his body camera. The entire incident was caught on the second officer's camera.

The second deputy began rendering aid to Massey two minutes and six seconds after she was shot.

"It is shocking. I mean, every part of the video," Ben Crump, a prominent civil rights attorney who is representing Massey's family, said at a briefing.

Crump said Massey may have appeared to have mental health issues, but the officer was not justified in using deadly force. The video shows she was neither aggressive nor threatening to the officers, he said.

"Just imagine if there wasn't a video, what the narrative would have been," Crump said.

Grayson's attorney, Daniel Fultz, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The defendant was jailed until his next court date on Aug. 26.

Judge tosses defamation lawsuit against Fox

Mike Scarcella
REUTERS

Fox News Media and its parent Fox Corp won a ruling on Monday dismissing a lawsuit by a former Biden administration official who accused the media giant of defaming her as a proponent of censorship.

Chief U.S. District Judge Colm Connolly in Delaware ruled that Nina Jankowicz, who resigned from her U.S. Department of Homeland Security post in May 2022, could not back up her defamation claims.

Jankowicz sued Fox last year, claiming she was forced to resign from the Disinformation Governance Board as a result of the company's broadcasts. She said Fox had "intentionally trafficked in malicious falsehoods to pad its profits." Fox denied the claims.

Fox News Media said in a statement on Monday that it was pleased with the decision, calling the case "a politically motivated lawsuit aimed at silencing free speech."

Lawyers for Jankowicz said they disagreed with the order and would appeal.

The Disinformation Governance Board quickly drew criticism from conservative critics of President Joe Biden and others after it was formed in 2022. The administration suspended the board's work in May 2022, and it was dissolved later that year.

Connolly's ruling said most of the Fox News statements at issue in the lawsuit were aimed at the board, not at Jankowicz directly. The judge also said viewers would likely have understood the statements at issue to be protected opinion.

"It is undisputed that from the time its existence was announced by DHS, the Disinformation Governance Board was a hypercharged subject of political debate," Connolly wrote.

Connolly also said the board's objective "is fairly characterized as a form of censorship."

Last year, Fox Corp agreed to pay \$787.5 million to settle a defamation lawsuit by Dominion Voting Systems that said Fox News broadcast false claims that the company's voting machines were involved in a conspiracy to rig the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Fox, as part of the settlement, said it acknowledged "the court's rulings finding certain claims about Dominion to be false."

Senator to preside over Netanyahu speech in US

VP Harris to be on road Wednesday

Patricia Zengerle
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The leader of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee will preside over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress on Wednesday, Senate aides said, as Vice President Kamala Harris will be traveling outside Washington.

The vice president, who serves as president of the Senate, was scheduled to be in Indiana on Wednesday. An aide said she would meet with Netanyahu separately this week.

Sen. Ben Cardin, the committee's Democratic chairperson, will be presiding, an aide said on Monday. Democratic Sen. Patty Murray, who as president



Cardin

pro tempore normally would preside in the absence of Harris, said she was not attending Netanyahu's address.

"Securing a lasting, mutual ceasefire is of the utmost importance right now, and I will continue to push for one to be reached as soon as possible," Murray said in a statement.

She added that she hoped Netanyahu would use his speech to address how he plans to secure a cease-fire and lasting peace.

Murray is one of a few members of Congress saying they will skip the address. Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, said Netanyahu should not be welcomed into Congress and in a statement harshly criticized his "war machine."

Netanyahu's visit to Washington to address Congress was orchestrated by

the legislature's Republican leaders, who have accused President Joe Biden, a Democrat, of showing insufficient support for Israel, despite the billions of dollars in U.S. assistance sent during its war in Gaza.

The Israeli leader traveled to Washington on Monday, a day after Biden announced he would end his campaign for reelection, making Harris the leading contender to be the Democratic nominee. Former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee for president in the Nov. 5 election, forged a close relationship with Netanyahu during his presidency.

Israel has been criticized internationally over its campaign in Gaza, which Gaza health authorities say has killed almost 39,000 Palestinians, as well as the expansion of settlement building in the occupied West Bank and Jewish settlers' attacks on Palestinians.

Iraq wants to see drawdown of US-led forces in September

Formal end to coalition's work expected in 2025

Timour Azhari and Ahmed Rasheed
REUTERS

BAGHDAD – Iraq wants troops from a U.S.-led military coalition to begin withdrawing in September and to formally end the coalition's work by September 2025, four Iraqi sources said, with some U.S. forces likely to remain in a newly negotiated advisory capacity.

The Iraqi position is being discussed with U.S. officials in Washington this week at a security summit and there is no formal agreement on ending the coalition or any associated timetable yet, the Iraqi sources and U.S. officials said.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Mathew Miller told a news briefing that both sides were meeting in Washington this week to determine how to transition the U.S.-led coalition's mission based on the threat posed by Islamic State, adding he had no further details.

U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq in 2003, toppled former leader Saddam Hussein and then withdrew in 2011, only to return in 2014 to fight Islamic State at the head of the coalition.

The U.S. currently has around 2,500 troops in Iraq at the head of a more than 80-member coalition that was formed in 2014 to repel Islamic State as it raged across Iraq and Syria.

They are housed at three main bases, one in Baghdad, one in western Anbar province and another in the northern Kurdistan region.

It is unclear how many troops would leave under a deal, with Iraqi sources saying they expected most to eventually depart but U.S. officials saying many may remain under a newly negotiated



U.S. soldiers are seen during a handover ceremony of a military base to Iraqi security forces near Baghdad on Aug. 23, 2020. THAIER AL-SUDANI/REUTERS FILE

advise and assist mission.

U.S. officials are keen to have some military footprint in Iraq on a bilateral basis, in part to help support its presence across the border in Syria, where it has around 900 troops.

The issue is highly politicized, with mainly Iran-aligned Iraqi political factions looking to show that they are pushing out the country's one-time occupier again, while U.S. officials want to avoid giving Iraq and its allies a win.

There are also concerns about Islamic State's ability to regroup.

The jihadist group was declared territorially defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in 2019 but still carries out attacks in both countries and is on track to double its attacks in Syria this year compared to 2023, the U.S. military said.

The group and its affiliates have also

in recent months carried out attacks in Iran and Russia, as well as in Oman last week for the first time.

While the coalition's mission is to advise and assist Iraqi forces in the fight against the Islamic State, Western officials say the U.S. and its allies also see its presence in Iraq as a check on Iranian influence.

Washington and Baghdad initiated talks on the future of the coalition in January amid tit-for-tat attacks between Iran-backed Shi'ite Muslim armed groups and U.S. forces sparked by the Israel-Hamas war.

An agreement to draw down the coalition could be a political win for Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, who has been under pressure from Iran-aligned factions to push out U.S. forces.

US envoy to United Nations announces \$60M in Haiti aid

Michelle Nichols and
Daphne Psaedakis
REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS/WASHINGTON – The U.S. envoy to the United Nations announced tens of millions of dollars in aid for Haiti during a visit a month after the first contingent of Kenyan police arrived as part of an international security mission aimed at tackling gang violence.

The \$60 million in humanitarian assistance announced by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield while in Haiti will support the country's people and alleviate suffering caused by gang violence, according to a statement. It will fill critical gaps in nutrition, food security and shelter and improve water and sanitation services, among other support.

The U.S., through the Department of Defense, also will provide a "significant number" of mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles to the international security mission. The State Department also intends to procure additional armored vehicles to assist mission



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield met with the transition council and Prime Minister Garry Conille on Monday.

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/POOL VIA REUTERS

personnel, according to the statement.

Gang wars have displaced more than 578,000 Haitians, while nearly 5 million – almost half the population of 11.7 million – are facing acute hunger, with 1.6 million of those people at risk of starvation, the United Nations says.

Armed gangs, which now control most of the capital Port-au-Prince, have formed a broad alliance while carrying out widespread killings, ransom

kidnappings and sexual violence. The U.N. has said that between January and August 2023, rape cases increased by 49% compared with the same period in 2022.

Some 200 Kenyan police arrived in Haiti late last month as part of the long-delayed multinational security support mission to help national police fight the armed gangs. The full force is set to number over 2,500, but it remains unclear when additional members could arrive and funding has lagged far behind requirements.

The U.N. Security Council authorized the force in October 2023, a year after Haiti's previous government asked for help. The United States has provided some \$300 million for the mission, which is not a U.N. peace-keeping operation.

Thomas-Greenfield during her visit on Monday met with the transition council and Prime Minister Garry Conille. S

he also toured the international security mission's life support area, according to a pool reporter traveling with the ambassador.

IN BRIEF

Senate panel takes step toward possible Menendez expulsion

The U.S. Senate Ethics Committee told Sen. Bob Menendez, who was convicted of corruption last week, that it has taken the first step of a review that could end in his expulsion, the heads of the panel said on Monday.

"The Committee anticipates completing the adjudicatory review promptly," Democratic Chairman Chris Coons and Republican Vice Chairman James Lankford said in the statement.

Menendez has remained defiant in the face of calls for his resignation, including from the governor of New Jersey, his home state, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, after he was convicted on 16 criminal counts including bribery in federal court in New York. Menendez, who has represented New Jersey in the U.S. Senate since 2006, has said he will appeal the verdict.

Menendez and his wife accepted cash, gold bars and car and mortgage payments as bribes from three businessmen in exchange for steering billions of dollars in U.S. aid to Egypt, where one of the businessmen had ties to government officials.

Menendez, a Democrat, is running for reelection as an independent. His party has nominated U.S. Rep. Andy Kim to fill his seat in November.

Hunter Biden's criminal tax trial to begin Sept. 9, judge says

The criminal tax trial for President Joe Biden's son Hunter will begin on Sept. 9, the federal judge presiding over the case said in a filing Monday.

The Department of Justice charged Hunter Biden in December with failing to pay \$1.4 million in taxes between 2016 and 2019, while allegedly spending millions of dollars on drugs, escorts, exotic cars and other big-ticket items.

Hunter Biden has pleaded guilty to the charges. In June, he was convicted by a federal jury in Delaware on separate charges of lying about his illegal drug use to buy a gun. That made him the first child of a sitting U.S. president to be convicted of a crime.

Kentucky man charged with federal hate crime

A Kentucky man was arrested and charged with a federal hate crime for threatening a Palestinian American man with a loaded gun, the U.S. Justice Department said on Monday, in a step welcomed by advocates documenting rising Islamophobia.

The Justice Department said the incident occurred at the end of March, giving no further details. It identified the suspect as Melvin P. Litteral III and the victim only by his initials, O.S.

The indictment also included a weapons charge.

"Melvin P. Litteral III used force or the threat of force to intimidate and interfere with the victim – a Palestinian American man and practicing Muslim identified in the indictment by the initials O.S. – because of O.S.'s race, color, religion and/or national origin, and because O.S. was enjoying the goods, services and facilities of a local restaurant," the Justice Department said.

Other recent alarming U.S. incidents include the fatal October stabbing of a 6-year-old Palestinian-American child in Illinois, the February stabbing of a Palestinian-American man in Texas, the November shooting of three students of Palestinian descent in Vermont and the attempted drowning of a 3-year-old Palestinian-American girl in May.

Canadian police charge 2 men with threatening Trudeau, others

Royal Canadian Mounted Police said on Monday they charged two Alberta men with uttering threats against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other Canadian political leaders.

Police said one person allegedly posted threats on May 10 on social media platform X to kill Trudeau and another posted threats on YouTube on June 7 to kill Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland and New Democratic Party Leader Jagmeet Singh.

A 23-year-old Calgary man was charged with one count of uttering threats and a 67-year-old Edmonton man with three counts of uttering threats. Each is scheduled to appear in court this week.

Following the assassination attempt against U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump earlier this month, Canada's Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc said Canadian security and law enforcement officials were exercising increased vigilance.

Reuters

VP SEEKS NOMINATION

Former AG Holder to vet potential running mates

Involvement likely to reassure Dems

Jeff Mason and Jarrett Renshaw
REUTERS

Former Attorney General Eric Holder and his law firm, Covington & Burling LLP, will conduct vetting of potential running mates for Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign for the U.S. presidency, according to two sources familiar with the matter.

Harris is running for the Democratic presidential nomination after President Joe Biden announced on Sunday he was stepping aside.

A campaign spokesperson for Harris declined to comment.

Holder did not respond to a request for comment.

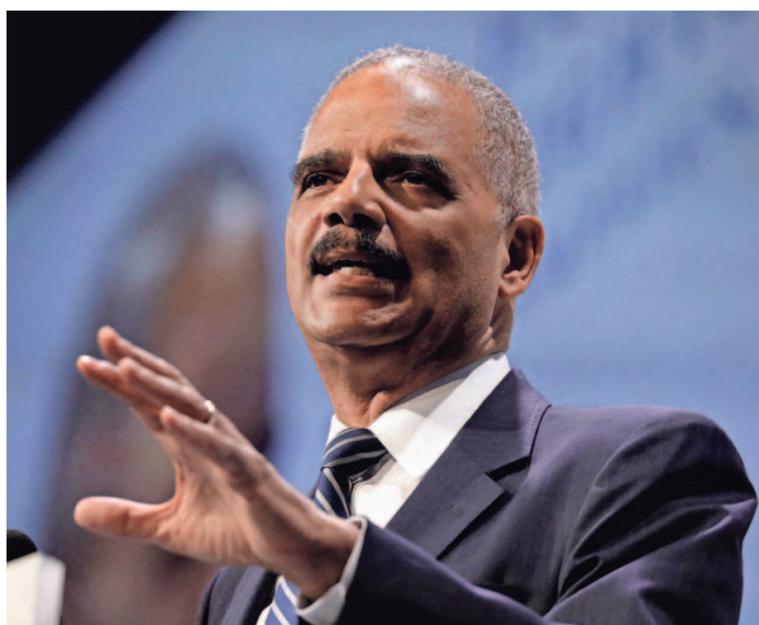
Harris is aiming to wrap up the Democratic nomination in the coming days and the selection of a running mate is one of the most important early decisions she can make.

Biden selected her as his running mate in 2020 and said in his letter announcing his candidacy withdrawal on Sunday that it was the best decision he had made.

Holder served as attorney general for President Barack Obama for six years and was the first African American to hold the country's top law enforcement job.

His involvement in the vetting process may reassure Democrats that a longtime political and legal hand is helping to ensure Harris' pick, should she win the nomination, is free of major conflicts.

Any choice needs also to be suited to



Eric Holder served as attorney general for President Barack Obama for six years and was the first African American to hold the country's top law enforcement job. YURI GRIPAS/REUTERS FILE

help her beat Republican Donald Trump and potentially to assume the presidency some day if she were to triumph in November but then at some point be unable to complete her duties.

Potential names that have been floated as possible running mates for Harris include Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, and North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper.

Holder is a civil rights advocate and chairs the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which works to

oppose Republican gerrymandering — efforts by politicians to redraw voting maps in U.S. states to give their party an advantage.

The group argues that Republicans have used the power of "redistricting" to disenfranchise voters, especially people of color.

Harris is also a voting rights advocate and took on that issue as one of her portfolios when she first became Biden's vice president, but her efforts did not lead to major reforms.

Kremlin cautious in Harris reaction

Russia says it has different priorities

Guy Faulconbridge and Dmitry Antonov
REUTERS

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Monday was cautious about the possibility of Kamala Harris's U.S. presidential candidacy, saying that the vice president had made no discernable contribution to relations with Moscow beyond some unfriendly rhetoric.

U.S. President Biden abandoned his reelection bid on Sunday under growing pressure from his fellow Democrats and endorsed Vice President Harris as the party's candidate to face Republican Donald Trump in the November election.

Asked if Russia was surprised by Biden's move, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that events in the United States over recent years had taught Moscow not to be surprised by anything and that in any case Russia had different priorities.

"In recent years, what has been happening in the United States has taught us not to be surprised by anything," Peskov told reporters.

"We were not very surprised." For Russia, Peskov said, the priority was achieving the goals of what President Vladimir Putin calls the special military operation in Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

The Kremlin was unable to assess what a Harris candidacy would mean for relations because Moscow had so far noticed no contribution at all from Harris to those relations besides some instances of unfriendly rhetoric, Peskov said.

"At the moment, we cannot assess the potential candidacy of Ms. Harris from the point of view of our bilateral relations because so far her contribution to our bilateral relations has not been noticed," Peskov said.

"There were statements that were replete with rhetoric quite unfriendly towards our country, but her actions in relations to bilateral relations come under neither a plus nor a minus sign."

Harris has repeatedly voiced support for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and accused Russia of waging a "barbaric and inhumane" war. Asked if Putin and Harris had ever met or had any contacts, Peskov said: "To be honest, I can't remember a single contact between President Putin and Ms. Harris."

'Bush legs'

Before Biden's exit from the race, Putin said several times that he felt Biden was preferable as the future U.S. president to Donald Trump for Russia, even after Biden cast the Kremlin chief as a "crazy SOB," though some of his remarks have been ambiguous.

Russian state television led news bulletins with the news of Biden leaving the election race and Biden's support for Harris, though it said it was unclear if Harris would earn the Democratic nomination.

On the streets of Moscow, some said that U.S. politics never produced anything good for Russians, other than the supply of U.S. chicken legs as the Soviet Union collapsed.

"What does it matter to us whether it is Harris, Trump, Biden or (George) Bush?" Andrei Popkov, a 52-year-old programmer, told Reuters in the shadow of the Bolshoi Theater in central Moscow.

"Did we ever have anything good other than chicken legs?" he said. The so called "nozhki Busha," or "Bush legs," were supplied to Russia after a deal between Mikhail Gorbachev and George H.W. Bush.

But others expressed guarded hopes that a change of leader in the U.S. could lead to better ties and said that it was time for Biden to leave.

"It is possible to stop the supply of weapons to Ukraine and, perhaps, the war will stop then," said Alla Gorevanova, a 57-year-old. "This is my hope."

Running mate

Continued from Page 1NN

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear



Beshear

Beshear has carved a successful political career in a heavily Republican state that voted for Republican Donald Trump by a margin of more than 25 percentage points in 2020.

He has touted his record of bringing jobs to Kentucky, supporting public education and expanding healthcare access. As governor, he has vetoed legislation banning abortions and gender-affirming care for transgender youth, although the vetoes were overridden by the Republican-dominated legislature.

Beshear endorsed Harris on Monday, saying she could help the country "move on to something better" for America.

Asked if he would consider the vice presidency, he told MSNBC that he loved serving his state but added: "The only way I would consider something other than this current job is if I believed I could further help my people and to help this country."

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg



Buttigieg

Buttigieg built a strong fan base among Democratic voters during his 2020 primary run against both Biden and Harris, winning the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucus.

Seen as a polished defender of Biden policies, Buttigieg later endorsed Biden and was picked to join the incoming administration's Cabinet in 2021. The former South Bend, Indiana, mayor also has deep ties in Michigan, a critical state for Democrats in November.

On Sunday, Buttigieg backed Harris' candidacy, saying "Harris is now the right person to take up the torch, defeat Donald Trump and succeed Joe Biden ... I will do all that I can to help her win."

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper

Cooper has won praise from Democrats for his strong focus on economic development and his ability to win relatively strong approval ratings in a politically competitive state that leans Republican and voted for Trump in both



Cooper

2016 and 2020.

"If you want a nominee who can put Donald Trump's destruction of Roe at center stage, if you want a nominee who actually prosecuted criminals like Donald Trump, and if you want a nominee who can put Trump's age and fitness in the forefront, Kamala Harris is the person," Cooper told MSNBC on Monday, one day after speaking with Harris and announcing his endorsement.

Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly



Kelly

Kelly is well liked among Democratic Party elites for striking a relatively moderate tone in a hotly contested state that traditionally has favored Republicans, but which Biden won in 2020. A former U.S. Navy captain and astronaut, Kelly is also the husband of former Ariz. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was seriously wounded in a 2011 shooting. Gun violence is a major campaign issue for Democrats.

"I couldn't be more confident that Vice President @KamalaHarris is the right person to defeat Donald Trump and lead our country into the future. She has my support for the nomination, and Gabby and I will do everything we can to elect her President of the United States," Kelly wrote in an X post on Sunday, referring to his wife.

"I couldn't be more confident that Vice President @KamalaHarris is the right person to defeat Donald Trump and lead our country into the future. She has my support for the nomination, and Gabby and I will do everything we can to elect her President of the United States," Kelly wrote in an X post on Sunday, referring to his wife.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro



Shapiro

Shapiro took office just last year but is already seen as a rising star for the party nationally. Trained as a lawyer, he served as the state's attorney general, a legal background that is similar to Harris' own as a prosecutor. He has a long history of winning elections against Republicans in a state that Democrats believe they must win to secure the election in November.

Shapiro and Harris spoke on Sunday, according to a source familiar with the matter.

"I've known Kamala Harris for nearly two decades — we've both been prosecutors, we've both stood up for the rule of law, we've both fought for the people and delivered results. Kamala Harris is a patriot worthy of our support," he said in a statement, adding that she would

"perfect our union, protect democracy and advance real freedom."

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker



Pritzker

Pritzker has proven a major force in the party, tapping his own financial resources linked to Hyatt Hotels to help Biden's campaign effort and to stand up the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next month.

While Illinois leans heavily Democratic, neighboring Wisconsin is one of the biggest prizes in the 2024 election.

Endorsing Harris on Monday, Pritzker said the two had spoken and that he felt it was important for the U.S. to elect a woman as president.

"Harris has proven, at every point in her career, that she possesses the skills, strength, and character to lead this country and the vision to better the lives of all Americans ... she represents our party's best chance to defeat Donald Trump," he said.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer



Whitmer

Whitmer has built a strong base in the closely contested state of Michigan, running on a platform of straight talk and kitchen-table issues.

She attracted Biden's attention in 2020, being vetted as a possible running mate before Biden picked Harris. She was a top supporter of and spokesperson for Biden's reelection bid.

A Harris-Whitmer ticket would be the first all-woman ticket for a major U.S. political party — a potential bonus in an election where women's reproductive rights are a top issue, if such a pairing could surmount any sexism.

Whitmer endorsed Harris in a post on X on Monday and said she will serve as co-chair of Harris' campaign. She told CBS affiliate WLNS that she would not take the vice presidential post if offered it, saying "I am not leaving Michigan."

Harris will focus on lowering costs for Michigan voters, "restoring their freedoms, bringing jobs and supply chains back home from overseas, and building an economy that works for working people," Whitmer said in a separate statement.

"We cannot let Donald Trump anywhere near the White House. Let's go!"

VP SEEKS NOMINATION

Hollywood donors drop 'Dembargo'

Celebrities line up behind Harris

Lisa Richwine and Dawn Chmielewski and Danielle Broadway
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — A Hollywood "Dembargo" on political donations has ended, as key fundraisers and celebrities from rapper Cardi B to Oscar winner Jamie Lee Curtis and TV producer Shonda Rhimes endorsed Kamala Harris as the next Democratic nominee for U.S. president.

Relief and excitement spread across Los Angeles, the world's film and television capital and an important source of Democrats' campaign funds, following President Joe Biden's decision to end his reelection campaign on Sunday.

"Lost" producer Damon Lindelof said he had halted what he called a "Dembargo," a call for Hollywood backers to stop donating money to Democrats after Biden's disastrous debate performance in June.

Lindelof, writing on Instagram, said he felt "profound relief, gratitude ... and then, for the first time, genuine EXCITEMENT for the election ahead" after Biden's withdrawal.

"Suffice to say, the DEMBARGO is lifted. And here. We. GOOOOOOOOO!" Lindelof added.

Hollywood often is described as an "ATM for Democrats." A June fundraiser hosted by actors George Clooney and Julia Roberts raised more than \$30 million in what the Biden campaign said was the largest Democratic fundraiser in history.

But after Biden's halting performance at the June 27 presidential debate against Republican candidate Donald Trump, Clooney and others publicly called for the president to end his campaign.

Lindelof did not back a particular Democratic candidate, but others in Hollywood threw their support behind Harris.

"We are all in for Kamala Harris! Started to work on her behalf the moment she announced," Andy Spahn, a Democratic fundraiser in Hollywood and president of consulting firm Gonring, Lin, Spahn, said via email.

'I'm with her'

Disney heiress Abigail Disney, who had called on Biden to drop out, told CNBC she was resuming her donations to Democrats and that she thought Harris would be an excellent candidate.

"I'm with her," actor Bradley Whitford, who played a fictional White House staffer on "The West Wing" TV show, wrote on X, next to a picture of himself with his arm around Harris.

Curtis, recent Oscar winner for "Everything Everywhere All At Once," said she supported Biden's decision to endorse Harris. Singer Barbra Streisand said Harris "will continue Joe Biden's work and will be a great president."

Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, a political analyst and co-host of the podcast "Inside Golden State Politics," said she expected Harris to receive strong financial support from Hollywood. One reason is that her husband, former entertainment lawyer Doug Emhoff, "is very well-liked and respected" in the industry.

"Abbott Elementary" actor Sheryl Lee Ralph posted a photo of herself beside Harris. "When she wins, we win!" Ralph wrote.



"When (Kamala Harris) wins, we win!" actor Sheryl Lee Ralph, left, pictured with Jamie Lee Curtis, wrote. MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS FILE



The Harris campaign aims to secure commitments from a majority of the nearly 4,000 Democratic delegates to next month's Democratic Party convention by Wednesday evening, sources told Reuters. ERIN SCHAFF/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Harris

Continued from Page 1NN

Harris, building Democratic backing for her sudden presidential run, rallied supporters on Monday with a debut campaign speech vowing to go after Republican nominee Donald Trump like the courtroom prosecutor she once was.

"I took on perpetrators of all kinds. Predators who abused women, fraudsters who ripped off consumers, cheaters who broke the rules for their own gain," Harris told campaign workers. "So hear me when I say I know Donald Trump's type. In this campaign, I will proudly, I will proudly put my record against his," said Harris, who was attorney general of California and a U.S. senator before serving as Biden's vice president.

Trump is due to be sentenced in September after having been found guilty of falsifying business records to hide hush money payments to an adult film actor. He also faces criminal charges related to his efforts to overturn Biden's 2020 victory. He falsely claims he lost in 2020 because of election fraud.

Biden, 81, who pulled out of the race on Sunday amid questions about his age and health, called into Harris' campaign event in Wilmington, Delaware. Recovering from COVID-19 at his home in Rehoboth Beach, he sounded hoarse but appreciative of his vice president.

Biden said he thought he had made the right decision by dropping out. The oldest person ever to occupy the Oval Office, Biden said on Sunday he would remain in the presidency until his term ends on Jan. 20, 2025.

Harris, 59, outlined a series of policies she promised to pursue including signing laws to protect abortion rights and ban assault rifles and said she would make rebuilding the middle class the focus of her presidency.

Within minutes of receiving Biden's backing on Sunday, Harris began consolidating Democratic support for her presidential bid, securing commitments from hundreds of convention delegates, announcing a massive fundraising haul and earning endorsements from top party figures.

These included former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who has remained influential since stepping down as the party's leader in the House in 2022. The AFL-CIO labor union federation, which represents 12.5 million workers, said on Monday it had also endorsed Harris for president.

Harris' campaign said it raised \$81 million in the 24 hours following Biden's exit, the most for a single day in the 2024 campaign for either party.

Virtually all of the prominent Democrats who had been seen as potential challengers to Harris have declared support for her, including Govs. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Gavin Newsom of California and Andy Beshear of Kentucky. Whitmer, in a post Monday on X, said she would serve as co-chair of Harris' campaign.

Biden's departure was the latest shock to a White House race that included his disastrous June 27 debate performance against former President Trump and the July 13 near-assassination of Trump by a gunman during a Pennsylvania campaign stop.



President Joe Biden called in Monday as Harris met with her campaign staff in Wilmington, Del. "I watching you, kid," he said. YVES HERMAN/REUTERS FILE

Biden says he will support Harris however he can

President Joe Biden dropped in by conference call as Vice President Kamala Harris met with her full campaign staff Monday evening for the first time since taking the torch from Biden as the likely Democratic presidential nominee

"I watching you, kid. I'm watching you, kid," 81-year-old Biden told Harris, 59, before she delivered remarks to her campaign staff — which was previously Biden's campaign staff — at the campaign's headquarters in Wilmington, Del. "I love ya."

In remarks that lasted about 20 minutes, Harris praised Biden's accomplishments as "unmatched in modern history."

"I know it's been a roller-coaster, and we're all filled with so many mixed emotions about this," Harris said. "I just have to say: I love Joe Biden. I love Joe Biden."

Harris announced that she retained Jen O'Malley Dillon, who served as chair of the Biden campaign, to lead her presidential campaign. She said Biden's campaign manager, Julie Chavez Rodriguez, will remain in her role as well.

Joey Garrison, USA TODAY

Harris lauded Biden for his service to the country. At a White House event to honor college athletes earlier on Monday, she said: "Joe Biden's legacy over the last three years is unmatched in modern history."

Harris will travel on Tuesday to Milwaukee, which last week hosted a Republican National Convention that offered a stark display of Trump's dominance over his party.

New generation

Harris, who is Black and Asian American, would fashion an entirely new dynamic with Trump, 78, offering a vivid generational and cultural contrast.

The Trump campaign has been preparing for her possible rise for weeks,

sources told Reuters. It sent out a detailed critique of her record on immigration and other issues on Monday, accusing her of being more liberal than Biden.

It alleged that Harris favored abolishing the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and decriminalizing border crossings, backed the so-called Green New Deal, supported the administration's electric vehicle mandates and encouraged "defund the police" efforts.

Some of those were positions Harris adopted as an unsuccessful presidential candidate in the 2020 election when she was running on a more liberal agenda than Biden but were not ones that the administration assumed, particularly with regard to border security and law enforcement issues.

Eric Holder, who was U.S. attorney general in the Barack Obama administration, and his law firm Covington & Burling LLP will conduct the vetting of Harris' potential running mates, according to two sources familiar with the matter.

Trump, whose false claims that his 2020 loss to Biden was the result of fraud inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol, on Monday questioned Democrats' right to change candidates.

At a rally Monday for Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, Ohio state Sen. George Lang called for civil war to save the country if Trump didn't win the November election. Lang later said on X that he regretted the remarks. "We should all be mindful of what is said at political events, myself included," he wrote.

Harris is expected to stick largely to Biden's foreign policy playbook on such issues as China, Iran and Ukraine, but could strike a tougher tone with Israel over the Gaza war if she wins the November election.

Most public opinion polls conducted before Biden dropped out did not find that Harris performed better statistically against Trump than Biden had.

Biden has not been seen in public since testing positive for COVID-19. He plans to return to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday and is expected to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday, a U.S. official said Monday.

Contributing: Reuters

VP SEEKS NOMINATION

Opting for unity over chaos, uncertainty

Harris takes torch of Democratic Party

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. – Vice President Kamala Harris effectively locked up the Democratic nomination for president just one day after President Joe Biden's stunning exit from the 2024 election upended the race for the White House.

For three weeks, Biden had remained defiant amid a chorus of Democratic detractors calling for him to step aside following his disastrous June 27 debate performance against former President Donald Trump.

But Biden finally gave in over the weekend, issuing a letter Sunday addressed to Americans saying "it is in the best interest of my party and my country for me to stand down." Harris moved quickly over the next 24 hours to take the torch, securing support across the Democratic Party that makes her nomination close to inevitable.

Why Biden bowed out – no explanation necessary

Biden did not explicitly say in his letter why he ended his campaign, but an explanation wasn't necessary.

His decision followed intense pressure from Democratic leaders – Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.; House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y.; and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. – sounding the alarm privately to him that his path to beat Trump in the general election had vanished and his candidacy threatened to doom Democratic chances in House and Senate races.

Biden had long dismissed polls that showed him losing to Trump. Had the president dug in further, he would have risked inviting Pelosi and others to go public with concerns they had kept private, adding to the 35 congressional Democrats who had already called for Biden to step aside.

While self-isolating at his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, Biden huddled Saturday night with two of his top White House advisers, Steve Ricchetti and Mike Donilon, who supplied the president with his campaign's own polls showing Biden's chances to beat Trump were gone, according to reporting by Politico.

Biden made his decision to exit that night, notified a larger number of top White House aides early Sunday afternoon and posted his withdrawal letter on X at 1:46 p.m. EDT. Biden is expected to give an address later this week.

Harris quickly clears field for Democratic nomination

By Monday morning, Harris quickly coalesced support of the majority of the Democratic Party, likely ending the possibility of a contested Democratic Convention next month.

Biden endorsed Harris minutes after announcing his exit, clearing the way for his pledged delegates in states across the country to shift their support to Harris. Tennessee's 77 Democratic National Committee delegates became the first state to pledge support to



Shortly after Kamala Harris confirmed her intention to seek the Democratic nomination, the Biden campaign headquarters morphed into the Harris campaign headquarters. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

Harris, with other states following suit.

All 50 Democratic state party chairs announced support for Harris. More than 100 Democratic members of Congress did the same – from Biden ally Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., to influential progressive Democrat Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y. Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton endorsed Harris as well.

Most notably, several Democratic governors whose names were once speculated as possible nominees to replace Biden – including Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania – pledged their support for Harris, effectively clearing the field for Harris' nomination.

Some Democrats had pushed for an open convention to pick their new nominee should Biden exit, but Democrats ultimately opted for unity over chaos and uncertainty.

The Democratic National Convention's Rules Committee meets Wednesday to outline a framework to nominate a presidential candidate. The convention is set to begin Aug. 19 in Chicago, but DNC leaders announced Monday that the presidential and vice presidential nominee would be selected via an electronic ballot.

The convention's rules committee plans to meet on Wednesday to go over the process.

Harris takes over Biden campaign funds, staff

Shortly after Harris confirmed her intention to seek the Democratic nomination, the Biden campaign morphed into the Harris campaign.

What was previously known as the Biden for President campaign filed a notice with the Federal Election Commission changing its name to Harris for President, making Harris' presidential bid official.

This procedural transition was significant because it enabled the Harris campaign to take over Biden's campaign account and the \$240 million it reported having in the bank at the end of June.

The ability to seamlessly transition campaigns is one strategic advantage Harris held over other potential Democratic nominees.

In remarks Monday at the Harris campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware, the vice president praised Biden's accomplishments as "unmatched in modern history."

"I know it's been a roller-coaster, and we're all filled with so many mixed emotions about this," Harris said. "I just have to say: I love Joe Biden. I love Joe Biden."

In addition to the transfer of campaign funds, Harris was able to inherit the Biden campaign's organization. Many former Biden campaign staffers immediately assumed the same roles working now for Harris. Biden's former campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon and campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez held an all-staff campaign call Sunday to inform them they were all now working for Harris, according to a source familiar with the meeting.

Harris lifted by historic fundraising haul after Biden exit

After Biden dropped out, Harris raised massive amounts of campaign cash online to make up for fundraising that slowed precipitously after Biden's disastrous debate performance.

In all, the Harris campaign announced it raised \$81 million in its first 24 hours from 880,000 individual donors – 60% of whom made their first donations of the election cycle.

The fundraising haul marked "the highest 24-hour raise of any candidate in history," the campaign said.

Democrats appear to be clearly motivated by a fresh face. The deluge of donations reflects a re-energized base of Democratic voters, who have indicated in poll after poll they had deep concerns with Biden's age and ability to effectively serve another four years.

The rush of financial contributions was desperately needed after Biden's fundraising dropped significantly while he faced growing calls from Democrats to end his campaign bid.

New electoral strategy against Trump

With Biden as the nominee, Democrats' path to 270 electoral votes to beat Trump started to narrow: It appeared increasingly likely that Biden would

have to rely on sweeping the three so-called "blue wall" states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

But Harris could be positioned to make stronger plays in southern and western battleground states where Biden was struggling.

Polling had showed Biden losing considerable ground in three other battleground states he won in 2020 – Georgia, Arizona and Nevada – as well as a fourth state that Democrats hope to flip blue, North Carolina.

Biden's slide in these states was in part from underperforming among Black, Latino and young voters – three key constituencies in the Democratic coalition – compared to the 2020 election.

Many observers believe Harris has a chance to improve on Biden's performance with all three of these demographics, expanding the paths to victory and changing the electoral strategy against Trump.

"All year, Biden's least implausible path to 270 ran through the Rust Belt trio rather than the Sun Belt trio," Dave Wasserman, election analysts with the nonpartisan Cook Political Reporter, wrote on X: "I suspect Harris's path is more evenly distributed across the 'core six' (battleground states) owing to more upside than Biden among young/non-white voters."

Trump still leading in polls

If eventually nominated as the Democratic nominee, Harris still heads into the general election the underdog against Trump, at least for now.

While Biden's approval rating in office has typically hovered around 40%, Harris' job performance has often polled even worse. According to a 538 average of polls, Harris has a disapproval rating of 50.4% in her job as vice president and an approval rating of 38.6%.

Hypothetical polling in a Harris-Trump election has been a mixed bag, with Harris still a wild card.

A Washington Post/ABC News/Ipsos poll conducted July 5-9 found that 49% of registered voters would choose Harris while 47% would choose Trump in an election matchup. The same poll found Biden and Trump tied at 46% apiece.

But a recent poll from NBC News found Trump leading Harris 47%-45% in a possible matchup, while a recent Fox News poll found Trump leading Harris 49% to 48%.

Harris has some obvious liabilities the Trump campaign has already sought to exploit. Harris has a reputation of being more liberal and hails from San Francisco. She served as Biden's czar overseeing the influx of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, an issue the Trump campaign has attacked relentlessly. And her previous run for the Democratic nomination in 2020 was a flop, with Harris dropping out of the race before voting got underway.

Republicans have also signaled they will accuse Harris of helping to "cover up" Biden's mental decline over the past four years.

"Not only would Harris be a disaster in the White House, but she also helped Biden cover up his declining health while in office, which destroys her credibility," Michael Whatley and Lara Trump, co-chairs of the Republican National Committee, said in a statement.

Internet

Continued from Page 1NN

president adopted the album's lime green aesthetic for her "Kamala HQ" account.

Charli XCX was acknowledging something that had already taken off online, where viral memes were featuring video clips of Harris dancing and joking against Charli XCX tracks.

Brat, the singer has explained, is "that girl who is a little messy and likes to party and like maybe says some like dumb things sometimes, who like feels herself but then also like maybe has a breakdown... It's brat, you're brat, that's brat."

Her tweet on Sunday sent the trend soaring, a phenomenon that could help Harris' outreach to younger voters that could play a pivotal role in the Nov. 5 election.

That contrasts not only with 78-year-old Republican rival Donald Trump, but with Harris' 81-year-old boss, President Joe Biden, who quit the race at the



Vice President Kamala Harris dances with Kirk Franklin during a Juneteenth concert hosted by President Joe Biden at the White House on June 10.

LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS FILE

weekend and endorsed his vice president, who is 59, as his replacement at the top of the Democratic ticket.

A spokesperson for Charli XCX declined a request for an interview.

The "brat" trend joins another Harris viral meme – audio from a 2023 speech that was pilloried before by critics, but is now embraced by Gen Z as a sort of existential philosophy.

"You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?" Harris asks in the speech,

quoting what her mother used to say, before laughing and then growing serious. "You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you."

The internet hive mind has adopted a coconut emoji as an unofficial campaign symbol for Harris. TikTokers have used sound from the "coconut tree" speech in at least 3,000 videos, according to TikTok.

Harris' membership in Alpha Kappa

Alpha – the first Black Greek-letter sorority – at Howard University in Washington, D.C., is also sparking viral engagement online.

"Listening to the opposition knowing we have 22,190,813 members in the D9 abt (sic) to vote for Kamala!" says one video on TikTok featuring two women, one of which is in the AKA colors of pink and green. D9 refers to a group of nine historically Black fraternities and sororities.

To be sure, Harris has her share of haters online. Critics have pushed clips aimed at portraying her in a negative light, including compilations of her boisterous laugh, after Trump himself referred to her as "Laffin' Kamala."

Younger voters, who overwhelmingly vote Democratic, had so far been unenthusiastic about a presidential race between Biden and Trump.

"It's very hard to understand Gen Z unless you're Gen Z," said Chris Mowrey, a Democratic social media influencer with 340,000 TikTok followers.

Internet moments can translate to the ballot box, Mowrey added: "Young voters vote significantly more based on just personality and, like, vibes."

SPORTS **EXTRA**

MLB



Tigers starting pitcher Tarik Skubal throws a pitch during the first inning against the Guardians at Progressive Field in Cleveland on Monday. KEN BLAZE/USA TODAY SPORTS

TIGER'S ROAR

Tarik Skubal surrendered a season-high 10 hits but only one run over seven innings and the surging Detroit Tigers earned an 8-2 road win over the scuffling Cleveland Guardians on Monday night. Skubal (11-3), a Cy Young Award contender, wasn't totally sharp but stranded nine Guardians, yielding one walk and striking out six. **ROUNDUP, PAGE 4NS**

NBA

WBD matches Amazon's bid for TV rights

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

TNT Sports may not be out of the NBA broadcast game yet.

Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD), TNT's parent company, announced Monday it had matched one of the offers from the latest round of NBA television rights negotiations. Several reports indicated that TNT matched the bid of newcomer Amazon, estimated to be 11 years for \$1.8 billion per year.

The NBA received proposals from NBC and Amazon earlier this month. ABC/ESPN, owned by Disney, would retain the "A package," which includes the NBA Finals. The "B package" would go to NBC and Amazon planned to have the "C package" stream on Prime Video. The NBA Board of Governors approved the deals, worth a combined \$76 billion, last week. Turner, a long-time NBA partner known for the studio show "Inside the NBA," is now trying to get back in on the action.

"In an effort to continue our longstanding partnership, during both exclusive and non-exclusive negotiation periods, we acted in good faith to present strong bids that were fair to both parties," TNT Sports said in a statement. "Regrettably, the league notified us of its intention to accept other offers for the games in our current rights package, leaving us to proceed under the matching rights provision, which is an integral part of our current agreement and the rights we have paid for under it.

"We have reviewed the offers and matched one of them. This will allow fans to keep enjoying our unparalleled coverage, including the best live game productions in the industry and our iconic studio shows and talent, while building on our proven 40-year commitment for many more years.

The statement, which the NBA has yet to comment on, finished by leaving the ball in the league's court.

"Our matching paperwork was submitted to the league today. We look forward to the NBA executing our new contract."

WBD is currently paying \$1.4 billion per season on a nine-year deal that expires after the 2024-25 season.



Charles Barkley is a major part of TNT's 'Inside the NBA.'

KEVIN JAIRAJ/USA TODAY SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

LeBron rescues Team USA in win against Germany

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

LeBron James came up clutch for Team USA with 20 points and the two biggest buckets of the game in a 92-88 win over Germany in London on Monday.

James played savior again on a catch-and-shoot 3 from the right wing to boost the Team USA edge to 90-86, then isolated in a one-on-four situation working through four defenders to find room for a soft lay-in right of the basket to push his point total to 20 and put Germany in a 92-86 hole with less than a minute to play.

Germany led 71-68 at the end of three quarters and the game was tied at 75 with 6:07 left in the fourth quarter.

Franz Wagner led Germany with 18 points and Dennis Schroder, who heard MVP chants from the sellout crowd, had 13 points and 10 assists.

The United States went 5-0 in the exhibition schedule and begins pool play in the Paris Games on Sunday against Serbia.

Wagner challenged James at the rim with just over two minutes to go and drew a foul.

He made two free throws to cut the lead to three points and Dennis Schroder's lob made it a one-point game before James drained the 3.

After a rescue mission that included the game-winner to sink South Sudan in a 101-100 exhibition win on Saturday, James made 8 of his 11 shot attempts, including a double-clutch reverse slam for the first basket of the game by either team. He added six rebounds and four assists.

Joel Embiid had 15 points, eight rebounds and five assists for Team USA.

See USA, Page 2NS



LeBron James will be the flag-bearer for Team USA at the Olympics' opening ceremony. HENRY BROWNE/GETTY IMAGES

SOCCER



Inter Miami forwards Luis Suarez, left, and Lionel Messi, right, arrive for a game against St. Louis City SC on June 1. NATHAN RAY SEEBECK/USA TODAY SPORTS

Messi, Suarez out of MLS All-Star Game

Safid Deen
USA TODAY

Two of the biggest stars in Major League Soccer won't be at the league's All-Star Game this week.

Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez will both miss their first MLS All-Star Game on Wednesday due to injury, Inter Miami announced in a statement Monday.

Messi has been dealing with a right ankle injury he suffered during the Copa America final for champion Argentina, while Suarez will miss the match due to knee discomfort after his Copa America run with third-place Uruguay.

Messi, Suarez, midfielder Sergio Busquets and leftback Jordi Alba were each voted in by fans for the MLS All-Star game. Now, only Busquets and Alba will represent the club at MLS All-Star week in Columbus, Ohio.

"Leo Messi will miss the All-Star Game due to an ankle injury, while Luis Suárez, who recently returned from international duty after over 40 days away from the Club, will miss the All-Star Game due to knee discomfort," the club said in a statement.

"And their availability for Saturday's Leagues Cup match will be assessed based on their daily recovery process."

Inter Miami returns to action Saturday, hosting LIGA MX side Puebla in their first Leagues Cup match at Chase Stadium. They will also face Tigres UANL in Houston on Aug. 3 during the tournament, which Inter Miami won last year.

Messi has been considered week to week with his right ankle ligament injury he's been nursing with a walking boot. He did not play in two Inter Miami victories in the last week.

Suarez was able to play in both matches, wins against Toronto and Chicago, after playing extensively in Uruguay's third-place win over Canada during Copa America. Suarez scored the game-tying goal to force a penalty shootout and scored the winning penalty kick in his last major international match for Uruguay, but played sparingly during most of the tournament.

Inter Miami enters the MLS All-Star break with the best record (16 wins, five draws, four losses), and 53 points atop the Eastern Conference standings.

NHL

Blue Jackets hire Evason as head coach

Brian Hedger
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

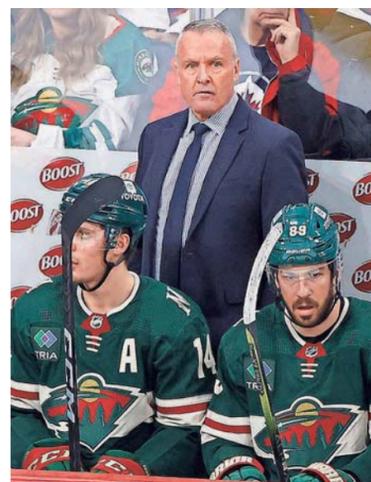
The Columbus Blue Jackets have settled on a new head coach.

Dean Evason will run the Jackets' bench after agreeing to a multi-year contract Monday to fill a void created by the June 17 firing of Pascal Vincent. Specific terms of the deal were not made public. Not counting interims, the 59-year old Evason becomes the 11th coach in the franchise's 24-year history.

"Dean Evason brings to coaching what he brought as a player — passion, hard work and tenacity — and I couldn't be happier that he will serve as the next head coach of the Columbus Blue Jackets," Don Waddell, the team's president/general manager, said in a statement. "He has spent well over two decades in this league as a player, assistant coach and head coach and I believe that experience, combined with the outstanding person he is, will allow Dean to get the best out of our players and put us in a position to succeed as a team."

Evason steps into the role after veteran Todd McLellan removed himself from the search process earlier this month. Evason doesn't have as much experience as an NHL head coach as McLellan, but handled that role with the Minnesota Wild for five years before he was fired in November. Evason went 147-77-27 in 251 games with the Wild, including four trips to the playoffs.

"I am incredibly proud and honored to be named the head coach of the Columbus Blue Jackets and appreciate very much the opportunity that Don, the (majority owner) McConnell family and (Blue Jackets president) Mike Priest have extended to me," Evason said in a statement. "There is a great core and a lot of young talent on this team. I am really looking forward to working with this group and helping us become a team that plays extremely



Dean Evason was fired by Minnesota last season amid a seven-game winless skid.

JAMES CAREY LAUDER/USA TODAY SPORTS

hard and competes at the highest level."

McLellan was the leading candidate for almost three weeks. The other finalist the Blue Jackets considered was Jay Woodcroft, a former McLellan assistant and former head coach of the Edmonton Oilers prior to his firing last season. Evason and Woodcroft visited Columbus last week to meet with Blue Jackets brass prior to the team making this decision.

Evason had a year left with Minnesota on a contract that paid almost \$2 million. Evason was fired along with assistant Bob Wood last season amid a seven-game winless skid and 16-game stretch in which the Wild won just three games.

Evason originally took over in Minnesota for Bruce Boudreau late in the COVID-19 shortened 2019-20 season.

His postseason record is 8-15, but Evason's .639 points percentage in the regular season ranks fifth among active NHL coaches with at least 250 games coached.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ACC commissioner vows to protect league amid suits

Derrian Carter
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Atlantic Coast Conference's litigation with Clemson and Florida State has taken its toll on commissioner Jim Phillips.

So much so, Phillips presented a more forceful tone during his commissioner's forum at the ACC Football Kickoff on Monday. He called the respective lawsuits "extremely damaging, disruptive and incredibly harmful" to the conference and stated each member school "willingly" signed the grant-of-rights agreements and "eagerly" agreed to the league's current TV contract.

When asked about his tone, Phillips said: "Forceful moments deserve forceful support and leadership. ... This is a really important time for the conference. Either you believe in what has been signed or you don't. We are going to do everything we can to protect and to fight (for) the league. ...

"This conference is bigger than any one school, or schools."

Clemson and FSU sued the ACC over their grant-of-rights agreements, which was the first legal step to departing the conference. The league filed its lawsuit against Florida State on Dec. 21 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, knowing that the school had to vote before litigating. Florida State sued the ACC the following day in Leon County, Florida.

Clemson filed their initial complaint against the ACC in Pickens County, South Carolina, on March 19. The ACC responded a day later with its countersuit in Mecklenburg County. Neither school has announced it is leaving the conference, and each case will continue as all four motions to dismiss were denied.

"With ongoing legal cases, there are limits to what I can say, but I can state we will fight to protect the ACC and our



ACC commissioner Jim Phillips speaks to the media during ACC Football Kickoff on Monday.

JIM DEDMON/USA TODAY SPORTS

members for as long as it takes," Phillips said.

While the lawsuits have been a thorn in the ACC's side, Phillips said they haven't altered the league's working relationship with both schools. He informed his team to compartmentalize the issues, separating the legal side from the on-field activities to ensure athletes have the "best experience possible."

"We've had six months of disruption," Phillips said. "I think we've handled it incredibly well. ... But I will tell you there isn't a day that doesn't go by that I don't spend some time on the legal cases."

Florida State football coach Mike Norvell and three Seminole players participated in ACC Football Kickoff on Monday. Clemson coach Dabo Swinney and four Tiger players will take the stage on Thursday.

Derrian Carter covers Clemson athletics for The Greenville News and the USA TODAY Network. Email him at dcarter@gannett.com and follow him on X, formerly known as Twitter, @DerrianCarter00



LeBron James had 20 points in a 92-88 win over Germany in London on Monday.

CHRISTOPHER PIKE/GETTY IMAGES

USA

Continued from Page 1NS

Flag bearer

James will be the flag-bearer for Team USA at the 2024 Summer Olympics' opening ceremony in Paris on Friday.

The NBA superstar's fellow Olympians selected the two-time gold medalist to carry the Stars and Stripes.

James, 39, is the first men's basketball player to receive the honor. Women's hoops stars Sue Bird (2020) and Dawn Staley (2004) previously carried the flag.

"It's an incredible honor to represent the United States on this global stage, especially in a moment that can bring the whole world together," James said in a statement from London, where Team USA will play its final pre-Olympic exhibition game Monday against Germany.

"For a kid from Akron, this responsibility means everything to not only myself, but to my family, all the kids in my

hometown, my teammates, fellow Olympians and so many people across the country with big aspirations. Sports have the power to bring us all together, and I'm proud to be a part of this important moment."

James is competing in his fourth Summer Games after winning gold in Beijing in 2008 and London in 2012 and a bronze in Athens in 2004.

Fellow Team USA member Stephen Curry nominated the NBA's all-time leading scorer for the honor.

"We are thrilled to announce LeBron James as one of two flag bearers who will lead Team USA in the Opening Ceremony, and officially open the Paris 2024 Games," U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee CEO Sarah Hirshland said in a statement. "Being selected by your teammates to carry the flag is a tremendous honor — and a testament to LeBron's passion for Team USA and his dedication to his sport. We will watch with great pride as the flag bearers lead our athletes who are about to embark on a remarkable journey together."

Team USA will announce a woman flag-bearer on Tuesday.

NFL

Packers' Love holding out of practice

Ryan Wood

Green Bay Press-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY – Two days before training camp, Jordan Love informed the Green Bay Packers he will not participate on the field until an agreement is reached on his contract extension.

Love was a full participant through the entirety of the Packers' offseason program, taking reps with the starting offense. The start of training camp is structured no differently with practices that are not padded, but Love's agent informed the team Saturday night the quarterback will be sidelined until a deal is struck.

General manager Brian Gutekunst said he is "optimistic" an extension will be signed in the next couple of days.



Packers quarterback Jordan Love won't participate in practice until a contract extension is reached.

USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

"We're working really hard to get that done," Gutekunst said. "I think it's really important for us. At the same time, the thing that I have confidence in is that we

both want the same thing. We want Jordan here for a long time, give him that stability for our group as well.

"These are big deals. It takes time. They're not as easy as some people think."

Gutekunst said he understood Love's decision to hold out until an extension is reached, though he emphasized the importance for the Packers to have their quarterback on the field in training camp.

Love reported to camp last week and will continue participating in all off-field portions of training camp. His absence on the field leaves the Packers with two quarterbacks for reps: 2023 fifth-round draft pick Sean Clifford and seventh-round rookie Michael Pratt. The two young passers are vying for the

backup job behind Love this fall.

Gutekunst made clear the delay is no indication of how the Packers view Love, calling him the team's "franchise quarterback." The quarterback he expects to lead the Packers not only this season, but in their long-term future.

"We're very down the road as far as we know he's our franchise quarterback and we're ready to move forward," Gutekunst said. "It's not like we're trying to make that decision. But at the same time, we want to put the best team around him that we can. There's certainly the structure of it so that we can do what we need to do for our football team moving forward, not only this year but for years to come.

"This is just part of it, not unexpected. We'll work to get it done, and hopefully he won't miss too much time."

Brown makes Bengals' intentions clear on Chase

Kelsey Conway

Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cincinnati Bengals owner Mike Brown made it clear the franchise intends to do everything they can to keep Pro Bowl wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase playing with quarterback Joe Burrow for the foreseeable future.

Chase, 24, is entering his fourth season with the Bengals and is eligible for a contract extension. The former Offensive Rookie of the Year is expected to top the wide receiver market when he signs his next deal. Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson became the highest paid non-quarterback in the NFL this spring when he signed a four-year deal worth \$140 million that includes \$110 million guaranteed.

"I'm gonna be pleased if it gets done so we retain his rights out into the future," Brown said on Monday. "The earlier the better. But he's a great player, and we know what he means to the team. He and his agent have an idea about that too. Then, what others get paid seems to impact what he wants to get paid. There are all kinds of issues that play into this. It's not easy to resolve, but our intention is to keep Ja'Marr Chase."

The Bengals paying Burrow was the first domino to fall in Cincinnati's plans for the long term. Burrow has been fully cleared for contact, coach Zac Taylor told media Monday morning.

Chase is priority No. 2, according to Brown. When Chase and Burrow are healthy, they've proved to be one of the most dynamic duos in the NFL. If the Bengals are eventually able to get a deal done with Chase, they could have the highest paid quarterback and wide receiver on an annual basis.

Justin Jefferson contract sets Ja'Marr Chase baseline

With Jefferson's deal now done, Chase and his representation have their starting point. What happens in the negotiations with the Bengals will be interesting to follow as Cincinnati typically doesn't hand out contracts with guarantees of that magnitude. Burrow was



Team owner Mike Brown takes questions from reporters during the annual Cincinnati Bengals season kickoff luncheon at Paycor Stadium in downtown Cincinnati on Monday. SAM GREENE/CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

an outlier in that regard when the Bengals gave him \$219 million in guaranteed money when he signed is five-year extension worth a total of \$275 million.

Brown said the Bengals will give their best efforts to being able to give Chase the contract he deserves. Whether the two sides agree on that number will be the one of the biggest storylines to follow in the league over the next year. Fortunately for the Bengals, by picking up Chase's fifth-year option, they have him under contract for at least two more seasons. After that if both sides are still unable to come to an agreement, Cincinnati could place the franchise tag on Chase ahead of the 2026 season.

The Bengals hope it doesn't get to that point though and they know they have time to work on it with Chase and his agent Rocky Arceneaux of Alliance

Sports Management.

"Well, we're going to try hard," Brown said. "If you were listing our guys, one-two, you just did it, and he knows that. We know it, but it has to get done. We have both this year and next year where we have rights to Ja,Marr, so maybe it'll take longer than we wish, I wish it were done, but I understand why it isn't, and it's part of the NFL of today."

Ja'Marr Chase missed voluntary workouts

Chase stayed away from the team for the first time in his career for the voluntary offseason program. He did report for mandatory minicamp but didn't participate in any team drills. It's unclear at the moment because Chase declined to speak to the media upon request during

minicamp if his absence this offseason was due to contract reasons.

Taylor was asked about Chase's absence this offseason and declined to get into any details but did explain why they decided to be cautious with him during the three-day minicamp.

"When someone's not been here, you don't want to rush him into things, but he clearly has done a great job this off-season," Taylor said in early June. "Really happy to get him back in the building. He was in all the meetings, did all the walkthroughs and all that stuff and then did a great job mentoring some of the other players as he was out there during practice. So, I thought we got what we needed out of him."

In three seasons with the Bengals, Chase has caught 268 passes for 3,717 yards and 29 touchdowns.

NOTEBOOK

Rodgers on minicamp absence: 'Two OTA days'

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers said it's "deceiving" to assert that he missed the team's mandatory minicamp last month since it fell within the voluntary "OTA schedule."

He made the remarks on Barstool's "Pardon My Take" podcast published Monday morning. They marked his first public comments since taking an unexcused absence from the mandatory two-day minicamp to instead take a trip to Egypt. At the time, Rodgers' absence was chalked up to a prior commitment.

"They can arbitrarily put a tag on whatever week of OTAs they want and say, 'This is the minicamp week,' which makes it somehow more mandatory than the other weeks," Rodgers said on the podcast. "But it was an OTA schedule. That's how words can be a little deceiving from time to time. They can make a story out of the fact that I missed minicamp, but it was really two OTA

days, but (I) came to the first 10."

Minicamp is still a mandatory event, per the collective bargaining agreement.

"I'm sure I'll get fined for that," said Rodgers, 40.

Jets training camp begins Wednesday in Florham Park, N.J.

A four-time NFL MVP, Rodgers followed a celebrated tenure with the Green Bay Packers by playing just four snaps before suffering an Achilles injury during his debut with the Jets on Sept. 11, 2023.

Rodgers passed for 59,055 yards, 475 touchdowns and 105 interceptions in 230 games (223 starts) for the Packers from 2005-22, compiling a record of 147-75-1. He made 10 Pro Bowls and guided Green Bay to a Super Bowl XLV victory against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Briefly

Denver Broncos guard Quinn Meinerz

signed a four-year extension worth a reported \$80 million on Monday. ESPN and NFL Network reported the value of the deal last week. Per ESPN, the deal includes \$45 million guaranteed. Meinerz, 25, is now under contract through the 2028 season. In three seasons with the Broncos, the 25-year-old Meinerz has played in 45 games, making 39 starts.

He was a third-round pick (98th overall) by Denver in the 2021 draft. Denver's training camp starts Friday. ...

Minnesota Vikings tight end T.J. Hockenson is ahead of schedule in his recovery from surgery to repair MCL and ACL tears suffered on Christmas Eve. The 27-year-old Hockenson, who reported to training camp on Sunday, will begin on the physically unable to perform list, Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell said Monday. The Vikings signed former Packers and Bears tight end Robert Tonyan in free agency and start training camp with eight players

on the depth chart at the position. The team's leading receiver in 2023, Hockenson had 95 receptions for 960 yards and five touchdowns last season – thriving despite a revolving door at quarterback for Minnesota – before the season-ending injury against his former team on Dec. 24. Hockenson was acquired from the Lions in 2022. ...

Leaving Las Vegas for an on-the-road training camp atmosphere took the Raiders to Los Angeles, where the NFL rules regarding "exclusive home territory" for teams in the market will prohibit fans from attending practices. The Raiders would be in violation of the NFL rule protecting a geographic perimeter for the two teams whose home market is Los Angeles – the AFC West rival Chargers and Rams – if they permitted public access or invited local media to training camp. Owner Mark Davis told ESPN the Rams and Chargers enforced the restrictions, and there are no established paths to overturn the exclusivity clause.

MLB

MONDAY'S ROUNDUP

Skubal, Tigers handle Guardians

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Tarik Skubal surrendered a season-high 10 hits but only one run over seven innings, rookie Justyn-Henry Malloy clubbed an early two-run homer and the surging Detroit Tigers earned an 8-2 road win over the scuffling Cleveland Guardians on Monday night.

Matt Vierling and Mark Canha each added three hits and Colt Keith homered in the ninth for the Tigers, who have won 11 of 14.

Tyler Freeman had three hits for the American League Central-leading Guardians, who have totaled three runs during a three-game skid that's come at home. Carlos Carrasco (3-8) allowed six runs and nine hits over 5½ innings as Cleveland fell to 8-14 since June 26.

Yankees 9, Rays 1

Carlos Rodon pitched seven dominating innings and the New York Yankees tied a season high by hitting five homers to beat the visiting Tampa Bay Rays for a split of the four-game series.

Rodon (10-7) entered with an 0-5 record and a 9.67 ERA in his previous six starts but allowed two hits and two walks and struck out 10 while matching his longest outing of the season. He did not allow a hit until Jose Siri homered into the right field seats with one out in the fifth.

Austin Wells (3-for-5) and Anthony Volpe hit back-to-back homers off Zack Littell (3-7). DJ LeMahieu also homered to snap an 0-for-18 slump and Juan Soto (3-for-5, four RBIs) went deep in the seventh inning and eighth innings. Oswaldo Cabrera added a two-run single for the Yankees, who collected 15 hits.

Pirates 2, Cardinals 1

Nick Gonzales hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, and Pirates starting pitcher Mitch Keller was effective through seven to help Pittsburgh earn a win over the visiting St. Louis Cardinals.

Gonzales knocked a one-out sinker from reliever John King (3-2) into right field to drive in Bryan Reynolds, who hit a leadoff single and advanced to second on a wild pitch.

Nolan Gorman homered and Paul Goldschmidt had two hits for the Cardinals, whose two-game winning streak ended.

Mets 6, Marlins 4

Francisco Lindor homered twice and Jeff McNeil also went deep while driving in three runs as the visiting New York Mets salvaged a split of their four-game series with the Miami Marlins.

New York starter David Peterson (5-0) worked around constant traffic to earn the win, scattering six hits and two runs in five innings. He walked four and fanned four. Three relievers took care of the rest, with Edwin Diaz bagging his 12th save of the season despite allowing a run in the ninth.

Marlins starting pitcher Yonny Chirinos (0-2) absorbed the loss after yielding five runs on nine hits in five innings, walking four and striking out four. New York finished with 11 hits off four Miami pitchers after managing a total of only seven runs in the series' first three games.

Reds 4, Braves 1

Hunter Greene received some rare run support and pitched the visiting Cincinnati Reds to a win over the Atlanta Braves in the opener of their three-game series.

Greene (7-4) pitched seven innings and allowed only two hits, three walks and seven strikeouts. It was his fifth scoreless appearance of the season. Greene has allowed a combined two runs in his last four starts, a stretch of 24½ innings.

Atlanta starter Reynaldo Lopez (7-4) pitched six innings and allowed a season-high four runs on seven hits, two walks and five strikeouts. His ERA rose from a league-leading 1.88 to 2.12.

Cubs 3, Brewers 1

Ian Happ homered to help the Chicago Cubs to a win against the visiting Milwaukee Brewers in the opener of their three-game series.

Michael Busch had two hits and an RBI and Dansby Swanson also had two hits for the Cubs, who are 2-2 since the All-Star break.

Brewers rookie right-hander Tobias



Tigers third baseman Matt Vierling (8) slides into second with a double as Guardians shortstop Brayan Rocchio (4) is late with the tag during the seventh inning at Progressive Field. KEN BLAZE/USA TODAY SPORTS



Pirates center fielder Jack Suwinski (65) steals second base as Cardinals shortstop MASN Winn (0) attempts a tag during the fourth inning at PNC Park. CHARLES LECLAIRE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Myers (6-4) allowed three runs (two earned) and six hits in 5½ innings. He struck out six and walked two.

Royals 10, Diamondbacks 4

Bobby Witt Jr. collected three hits for the fourth consecutive game, leading the Kansas City Royals to a win over the visiting Arizona Diamondbacks.

Witt tripled in the first inning, doubled in the third and blasted a three-run homer in the fourth.

Cole Ragans earned the win, tossing six innings while allowing three runs on six hits with two walks and five strikeouts.

Rangers 4, White Sox 3, 10 innings

After back-to-back intentional walks loaded the bases, Wyatt Langford lined a walk-off RBI single to left in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the Texas Rangers a victory over the Chicago White Sox in Arlington, Texas.

Langford also stepped up for Texas in the ninth, doubling with one out, stealing third and scoring on Jonah Heim's two-out single to forge a 3-3 tie.

Paul DeJong had put Chicago up 3-2 in the top of the frame, blasting a solo shot to left.

Twins 7, Phillies 2

Manuel Margot went 2-for-5 with two RBIs and the Minnesota Twins pulled away for a win over the Philadelphia Phillies in Minneapolis.

Carlos Santana finished 2-for-4 with an RBI double for the Twins, who won the series opener after losing two straight games against the Milwaukee Brewers upon returning from the All-Star break. Minnesota's Willi Castro also drove in two runs, while Max Kepler collected two hits and an RBI.

Bryce Harper socked a two-run homer to lead the Philadelphia offense, which was limited to four hits.

Athletics 4, Astros 0

Hogan Harris matched his career high with seven strikeouts, Miguel Andujar and JJ Bleday stroked consecutive RBI doubles during a three-run third inning and the host Oakland Athletics opened a three-game series against the Houston Astros with a victory.

A second-year major-leaguer making his 15th career start, Harris (2-3) shut out the Astros on seven hits over a season-best 6½ innings. He walked two.

Astros starter Spencer Arrighetti (4-8) matched zeroes with Harris until a big third inning by the Athletics that began with Max Schuemann's one-out single out of the No. 9 spot in the lineup.

Rockies 9, Red Sox 8, 12 innings

Ezequiel Tovar singled with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 12th inning, Sam Hilliard hit a two-run homer in the 10th and the Colorado Rockies beat the Boston Red Sox in Denver.

Tovar finished with three singles, his sixth straight multi-hit game, to give Colorado its fourth win in five games.

Jamie Westbrook and Connor Wong homered, Tyler O'Neill had three hits and Romy Gonzalez had two hits for the Red Sox, who have lost four straight.

Angels 3, Mariners 1

Jo Adell's run-scoring single with two outs in the top of the ninth inning broke a tie as the Los Angeles Angels rallied for a victory against the host Seattle Mariners.

Taylor Ward went 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI for the Angels, who won their second game in a row and prevented the Mariners from regaining sole possession of first place in the American League West.

The Mariners wasted a strong start by Bryce Miller, who pitched seven scoreless innings. The right-hander allowed three hits, didn't walk a batter and struck out five.

Dodgers 3, Giants 2

Teoscar Hernandez drove in all three Dodgers runs, including a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning, as Los Angeles increased its post All-Star break winning streak to four games with a victory over the visiting San Francisco Giants.

Hernandez added a solo home run in the fourth inning while Dodgers rookie right-hander River Ryan pitched into the sixth inning of his major league debut.

Tyler Fitzgerald extended his home run streak to four consecutive games for the Giants, while left-hander Blake Snell gave up two runs over six innings in his third consecutive scoreless start since returning from a groin injury.

MLB

MONDAY'S BOX SCORES

L.A. Dodgers 3, San Francisco 2
SF000 100 100 - 2 5 0
LAD000 101 01x - 3 6 0

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	Avg.
Soler dh	3	1	2	0	0	1	1	.225
Wade Jr. 1b	3	1	2	0	1	1	311	.311
Ramos cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	287	.287
Bailey c	3	0	2	0	1	0	278	.278
Conforto lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	227	.227
b-Matos ph-1f	2	0	0	0	0	2	217	.217
Chapman 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	232	.232
Yastrzemski rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	241	.241
Fitzgerald ss	3	1	1	1	1	1	272	.272
Wisely 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	272	.272
Totals	31	2	5	1	5	10		

L.A. Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	Avg.
Ohtani dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	313	.313
Smith c	3	0	0	0	1	0	268	.268
Freeman 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0	290	.290
Hernandez rf-1f	4	1	3	3	0	0	268	.268
Pages cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	252	.252
Vargas lf	2	0	1	0	0	0	246	.246
a-Heyward ph-1f	1	0	0	0	0	0	203	.203
Taylor 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	159	.159
Lux 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	222	.222
Hernandez ss	3	1	1	0	0	0	196	.196
Totals	29	3	6	3	6			

a-grounded out for Vargas in 7th. b-struck out for Conforto in 6th.
2B: Hernandez (7). **HR:** Fitzgerald (5), Hernandez (21). **RBI:** Fitzgerald (11), Hernandez (3) (67). **CS:** Ohtani (4). **SB:** Bailey (3), Chapman (11). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 5 (Bailey, Matos, Chapman, Yastrzemski 2), L.A. Dodgers 2 (Pages, Lux). **RISP:** L.A. Dodgers 2 for 6.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Snell	6.0	4	2	2	2	4	83	5.83
Walker	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	17	2.36
Miller L, 3-3	0.2	1	1	1	1	1	16	3.43
Rodriguez	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	7	4.07
L.A. Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ryan	5.1	4	1	0	3	2	73	0.00
Vesia	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	10	1.23
Yarbrough BS, 2	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	16	3.74
Treinen W, 4-2	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	20	2.10
Hudson S, 7	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	19	1.52

Inherited runners: Rodriguez 2-1, Vesia 2-2. **WP:** Snell. **Umpires:** HP-Merzell, 1B-Scheurwater, 2B-Carlson, 3B-Metz. T: 2:26. A: 49,576 (56,000).

L.A. Angels 3, Seattle 1

LAA	000	000	012	3	4	0
Seattle	100	000	000	1	4	1

L.A. Angels	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Rendon 3b	4	0	1	0	1	0	.241
Schauerl 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.242
Guillorme 2b	0	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Ward lf	3	0	2	1	0	0	.230
Calhoun dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.255
O'Hoppe c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.277
Moniak cf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.206
Drury 2b-1b	3	1	0	0	1	1	.168
Neto ss	3	1	0	0	1	0	.257
Adell rf	3	1	1	1	1	0	.199
Totals	30	3	4	2	4	7	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Crawford ss	0	1	0	0	0	0	.204
Raley 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Robles cf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.400
Polanco 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.202
Raleigh c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.210
Garver dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.168
Moore 1b-ss	4	0	0	0	0	4	.208
Haninger rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.206
Rojas 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.241
Clase lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.195
Totals	31	1	4	1	14		

E: Robles. **2B:** Ward (18). **RBI:** Ward (45), Adell (46), Raleigh (62). **SB:** Rendon (4), O'Hoppe (2), Adell (13). **SP:** Ward. **Runners left in scoring position:** L.A. Angels 4 (Rendon, Calhoun 2, Neto), Seattle 3 (Polanco, Garver, Moore). **RISP:** L.A. Angels 1 for 7, Seattle 1 for 6.

L.A. Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Anderson	5.2	3	1	1	1	8	96	2.91
Crouse	0.1	0	0	0	1	5	188	3.38
Strickland	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	3.30
Garcia W, 5-1	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	19	3.89
Estevez S, 19	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.45
Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miller	7.0	3	0	0	0	5	94	3.41
Stank H, 15	0.1	1	1	1	1	1	15	4.38
Munoz BS, 3	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.35
Thornton L, 3-2	1.0	1	2	1	2	1	23	3.97

Inherited runners: Crouse 2-2, Munoz 2-1. **HBP:** O'Hoppe 2, Crawford. **WP:** Garcia. **Umpires:** HP-Estabrook, 1B-Bacchus, 2B-Diaz, 3B-Gibson. T: 2:38. A: 22,528 (47,480).

Colorado 9, Boston 8 (12)

Bos. ..	000	040	010	202	-	8	13	1
Colo. 004	000	100	100	101	-	9	15	0

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Blackmon dh	6	1	2	2	1	2	.253
Tovar ss	7	1	3	1	0	1	.280
Doyle cf	6	1	2	1	0	1	.279
Toglia 1b	5	0	1	1	1	1	.197
Rodgers 2b	5	2	1	0	1	0	.261
Cave rf	5	2	1	1	1	0	.258
Stallin c	4	1	1	1	1	0	.265
Hilliard lf	4	1	1	1	1	0	.250
Castillo 3b	5	1	2	0	1	1	.136
Totals	48	9	15	9	7		

a-grounded out for Westbrock in 7th. b-grounded into a double play for Gonzalez in 11th. c-ran for Smith in 10th. d-doubled for Refsnyder in 10th.
E: O'Neill. **2B:** Smith (12), O'Neill (13), Gonzalez (6), Doyle (17), Stallings (10), Schunk (1). **3B:** Duran (11). **HR:** Wong (9), Westbrock (2), Blackmon (7), Hilliard (3). **RBI:** Refsnyder (22), Smith (29), Abreu (30), Wong (33), Devers (62), Westbrock (3) (7), Blackmon (2) (34), Tovar (47), Doyle (46), Toglia (35), Cave (22), Stallings (20), Hilliard (2) (5). **CS:** Cave (2). **SB:** Toglia (4). **SP:** Devers. S. Hilliard. **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 5 (Gonzalez 2, Rafaela 3), Colorado 6 (Doyle, Toglia, Rodgers 2, Hilliard, Schunk). **RISP:** Duran, Gonzalez, McGuire. **DP:** Boston 1, Colorado 3.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Houck	6.0	10	4	3	2	9	271	2.71
Winkowski	1.0	2	1	1	0	25	332	3.32
Booser	1.0	0	0	0	0	8	273	2.73
Kelly	2.0	1	2	1	0	3	26	2.09
Weissert	1.0	0	0	0	1	13	430	4.30
Horn L, 0-1BS, 1	0.2	1	2	1	2	1	0	3.00
Anderson	0.0	1	0	0	0	2	450	4.50
Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gomber	5.2	6	4	4	1	5	101	4.70
Lambert	0.1	0	0	0	0	5	540	5.40
Mears	1.0	0	0	0	1	18	556	5.56
Beeks BS, 7	1.0	3	1	1	0	9	474	4.74
Vodnik	2.0	2	2	1	0	1	27	3.88
Lawrence W, 3-3	2.0	1	1	0	0	1	20	5.54

Inherited runners: Anderson 3-2, Lambert 1-1. **HBP:** Yoshida. **IBB:** Winkowski (3), Weissert (4), Horn 2 (2). **Balk:** Kelly (1). **Umpires:** HP-Wegner, 1B-Vondrak, 2B-Rehak, 3B-Dreckman. T: 3:26. A: 35,261 (46,897).

Oakland 4, Houston 0

Houston	000	000	000	-	0	8	1
Oakland	000	100	00x	-	4	8	1

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.306
Bregman 3b	4	0	1	0	1	0	.255
Alvarez dh	3	0	1	0	1	2	.301
Diaz c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.277
Pena ss	4	0	2	0	0	0	.236
Meyers cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.275
Dubon lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.275
Diaz 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.239
a-Singleton ph	1	0	0	0	0	2	.235
McCormick rf	2	0	0	0	1	2	.204
Totals	32	0	8	0	9		

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Butler rf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.303
Andujar lf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.238
Bleday cf	4	0	3	1	0	0	.238
Rooker dh	4	0	0	0	1	2	.290
Langleyers c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.210
Brown 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.191
Gelof 2b	2	1	0	0	1	0	.197
Harris 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.160
Schuenemann ss	3	0	2	0	0	1	.260
Totals	31	4	8	3	4		

a-grounded out for Diaz in 9th.
E: Dubon, Schueman. **2B:** Alvarez (23), Andujar (11), Bleday (29). **RBI:** Andujar (25), Bleday (36), Schueman (26). **SB:** Gelof (12). **S:** Dubon. **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 6 (Bregman, Diaz, Meyers 2, McCormick 2), Oakland 2 (Andujar, Langleyers). **RISP:** Oakland 1 for 6, Oakland 3 for 7. **GIDP:** Bregman, Meyers 2, Langleyers. **DP:** Houston 1, Oakland 3.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti L, 4-8	6.0	7	4	4	1	3	94	6.55
King	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1.93

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Robert Jr. cf	5	0	2	0	0	3	232	2.32
Benintendi lf	5	0	0	0	0	3	199	1.99
Pham rf	5	1	1	1	0	2	269	2.69
Vaughn 1b	4	2	0	0	2	236	2.36	
Sheets dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	225	2.25
DeJong 3b	4	1	1	0	1	2	222	2.22
Lopez ss	1	0	0	0	3	1	239	2.39
Baldwin 2b	4	0	1	0	1	1	143	1.43
Lee c	4	0	0	0	0	2	213	2.13
Totals	36	3	7	3	3	17		

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Semien 2b	5	1	1	0	1	2	.241
Seager ss	4	0	0	0	1	2	.262



Bobby Witt Jr. of the Kansas City Royals hits a three-run home run in the fourth inning against the Arizona Diamondbacks at Kauffman Stadium on Monday in Kansas City, Mo. ED ZURGA/GETTY IMAGES



Rockies left fielder Sam Hilliard hits a two-run home run in the 10th inning against the Red Sox at Coors Field. ISAIAH J. DOWNING/USA TODAY SPORTS

Montero	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	4.71
Oakland	6.2	7	0	0	2	7	63	2.98
Harris W, 2-3	0.1	0	0	0	1	9	446	4.46
Adams	1.0	0	0	0	1	17	3.89	3.89
Erezy	1.0	0	0	0	0	11	2.21	2.21
Miller	1.0	0	0	0	0	11	2.21	

SCOREBOARD



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MLB

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	60	39	.606	-
N.Y. Yankees	60	42	.588	1½
Boston	53	46	.535	7
Tampa Bay	50	50	.500	10½
Toronto	45	54	.455	15
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	59	40	.596	-
Minnesota	55	44	.556	4
Kansas City	56	45	.554	4
Detroit	50	51	.495	10
Chicago	27	75	.265	33½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	52	48	.520	-
Seattle	53	49	.520	-
Texas	48	52	.480	4
L.A. Angels	43	57	.430	9
Oakland	40	62	.392	13
National League				
East Division				

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	63	37	.630	-
Atlanta	54	45	.545	8½
N.Y. Mets	51	48	.515	11½
Washington	47	53	.470	16
Miami	35	65	.350	28
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	57	43	.570	-
St. Louis	52	48	.520	5
Pittsburgh	51	49	.510	6
Chicago	49	53	.480	9
Cincinnati	48	53	.475	9½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	60	41	.594	-
San Diego	52	50	.510	8½
Arizona	51	50	.505	9
San Francisco	48	53	.475	12
Colorado	37	64	.366	23

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
Seattle 6, Houston 4
L.A. Dodgers 9, Boston 6

Monday's Scores

N.Y. Yankees 9, Tampa Bay 1
Detroit 8, Cleveland 2
N.Y. Mets 6, Miami 4
Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 1
Cincinnati 4, Atlanta 1
Minnesota 7, Philadelphia 1
Chicago Cubs 3, Milwaukee 1
Texas 4, Chicago White Sox 3
Kansas City 10, Arizona 4
Colorado 9, Boston 8
Oakland 4, Houston 0
L.A. Angels 3, Seattle 1
L.A. Dodgers 3, San Francisco 2

Tuesday's Games

Detroit (TBD) at Cleveland (Curry 0-2), 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 (TBD), 6:45 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Quintana 4-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 10-5), 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (TBD) at Toronto (Berrios 8-7), 7:07 p.m.
Cincinnati (TBD) at Atlanta (Sale 13-3), 7:20 p.m.
Philadelphia (Wheeler 10-4) at Minnesota (Woods Richardson 3-1), 7:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rea 9-3) at Chicago Cubs (Tailon 7-4), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Crocket 6-6) at Texas (Gray 4-4), 8:05 p.m.
Arizona (TBD) at Kansas City (Marsh 7-6), 8:10 p.m.
Boston (Criswell 3-4) at Colorado (Marquez 0-0), 8:40 p.m.
Houston (Bloss 0-0) at Oakland (Bido 1-1), 9:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Soriano 5-7) at Seattle (Gilbert 6-5), 9:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Hicks 4-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Knack 1-2), 10:10 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Cincinnati (Montas 4-8) at Atlanta (TBD), 12:20 p.m.
St. Louis (TBD) at Pittsburgh (Perez 1-5), 12:35 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 11-4) at Minnesota (TBD), 1:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 2-4), 2:20 p.m.
Boston (Pivetta 4-6) at Colorado (Quattrif 6-7), 3:10 p.m.
Houston (Brown 8-6) at Oakland (Sears

7-7), 3:37 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Canning 3-10) at Seattle (Castillo 8-10), 3:40 p.m.
Detroit (Faherty 7-5) at Cleveland (Bibee 8-4), 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore (TBD) at Miami (Cabrera 1-3), 6:40 p.m.
San Diego (Waldron 5-9) at Washington (Parker 5-5), 6:45 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Manaea 6-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Cole 3-1), 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Eflin 5-7) at Toronto (Rodriguez 1-3), 7:07 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-9) at Texas (Eovaldi 6-4), 8:05 p.m.
Arizona (Nelson 7-6) at Kansas City (Wacha 7-6), 8:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Ray) at L.A. Dodgers (Glasnow 8-5), 10:10 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	16	4	5	53	56	39
Cincinnati	15	7	3	48	44	33
Columbus	12	4	7	43	47	22
NY Red Bulls	10	4	11	41	42	31
NY 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	49
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	6	10	9	26	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

Wednesday, July 24

MLS All-Stars vs. Liga MX All-Stars at Columbus, 8 p.m.

GOLF

PGA Money Leaders Through July 22

1. Scottie Scheffler, \$27,696,858.
2. Xander Schauffele, \$12,767,160.
3. Rory McIlroy, \$10,353,190.
4. Wyndham Clark, \$9,912,305.
5. Ludvig Aberg, \$8,149,523.
6. Sahithi Theegala, \$7,881,210.
7. Collin Morikawa, \$7,827,777.
8. Hideki Matsuyama, \$7,597,331.
9. Patrick Cantlay, \$5,406,237.
14. Matthieu Pavon, \$5,032,808.
15. Tony Finau, \$4,881,060.
16. Akshay Bhatia, \$4,842,490.
17. Brian Harman, \$4,829,023.
18. Robert MacIntyre, \$4,710,146.
19. Christiaan Bezuidenhout, \$4,651,538.
20. Tom Hoge, \$4,188,593.
21. Justin Thomas, \$4,153,341.
22. Tom Kim, \$4,077,718.
23. Sepp Straka, \$4,062,901.
24. Russell Henley, \$4,016,969.
25. Adam Hadwin, \$3,836,448.
26. Will Zalatoris, \$3,790,799.
27. Davis Thompson, \$3,762,242.
28. Cameron Young, \$3,758,346.
29. Tommy Fleetwood, \$3,704,908.
30. Sam Burns, \$3,680,980.

31. Stephan Jaeger, \$3,669,034.
32. Jason Day, \$3,573,685.
33. Taylor Pendrith, \$3,572,893.
34. Max Homa, \$3,569,566.
35. Corey Conners, \$3,484,572.
36. J.T. Poston, \$3,468,670.
37. Si Woo Kim, \$3,427,483.
38. Thomas Detry, \$3,415,469.
39. Matt Fitzpatrick, \$3,230,225.
40. Denny McCarthy, \$3,156,124.
41. Cam Davis, \$3,135,234.
42. Keegan Bradley, \$3,133,530.
43. Nick Taylor, \$3,093,045.
44. Jake Knapp, \$3,012,213.
45. Austin Eckroat, \$2,925,155.
46. Aaron Rai, \$2,736,990.
47. Harris English, \$2,736,950.
48. Alex Noren, \$2,690,543.
49. Viktor Hovland, \$2,679,227.
50. Adam Scott, \$2,662,306.
51. Billy Horschel, \$2,595,533.
52. Jordan Spieth, \$2,567,374.
53. Mackenzie Hughes, \$2,557,374.
56. Ben Griffin, \$2,494,782.
56. Grayson Murray, \$2,471,532.
57. Peter Malnati, \$2,467,368.
58. Luke List, \$2,444,305.
59. Erik van Rooyen, \$2,405,949.
60. Patrick Rodgers, \$2,378,482.
61. Min Woo Lee, \$2,344,226.
62. Victor Moore, \$2,316,051.
63. David Riley, \$2,061,309.
64. Mark Hubbard, \$2,033,030.
65. Maverick McNealy, \$2,016,021.
66. Brendon Todd, \$2,000,600.
67. Emiliano Grillo, \$1,952,469.
68. Victor Perez, \$1,902,132.
69. Seamus Power, \$1,897,379.
70. Lee Hodges, \$1,799,907.
71. Adam Schenk, \$1,789,247.
72. Lucas Glover, \$1,765,831.
73. Andrew Putnam, \$1,729,344.
74. Nicolai Hojgaard, \$1,701,716.
75. Ben Kohles, \$1,617,384.
76. Kevin Yu, \$1,596,211.
77. Keith Mitchell, \$1,586,067.
78. Kurt Kitayama, \$1,561,323.
79. Adam Svensson, \$1,520,975.
80. C.T. Pan, \$1,469,714.
81. Andrew Novak, \$1,448,140.
82. Justin Rose, \$1,439,683.
83. Charley Hoffman, \$1,372,726.
84. Beau Hossler, \$1,329,849.
85. Doug Ghim, \$1,297,581.
86. Nick Dunlap, \$1,255,825.
87. Brice Garnett, \$1,246,838.
88. Sami Vainmaki, \$1,241,489.
89. Chandler Phillips, \$1,233,697.
90. Harry Hall, \$1,218,820.
91. Nate Lashley, \$1,214,355.
92. Tyrrell Hatton, \$1,191,868.
93. Sam Stevens, \$1,190,430.
94. Justin Lower, \$1,187,618.
95. Rickie Fowler, \$1,146,676.
96. Max Greyserman, \$1,113,128.
97. Taylor Montgomery, \$1,111,790.
98. Chan Kim, \$1,109,986.
99. Joel Dahmen, \$1,089,223.
100. David Skinnis, \$1,039,126.

LPGA Tour Schedule

May 9-12 - Cognizant Founders Cup (Yuka Saso)
May 16-19 - Mizuho Americas Open (Nelly Korda)
May 30-June 2 - U.S. Women's Open (Yuka Saso)
June 7-9 - ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer (Linnea Strom)
June 13-16 - Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give (Lilia Vu)
June 20-23 - KPMG Women's PGA Championship (Amy Yang)
June 27-30 - Dow Championship ()
July 11-14 - The Amundi Evian Championship (Ayaka Furue)
July 18-21 - Dana Open (Chanettee Wannasena)
July 25-28 - CPKC Women's Open
Aug. 1-4 - Portland Classic, Portland, Ore.
Aug. 14-18 - Trust Golf Women's Scottish Open
Aug. 22-25 - AIG Women's Open, Fife,

Scotland
Aug. 29-Sept. 1 - FM Global Championship, Norton, Mass.
Sept. 13-15 - The Solheim Cup, Gainesville, Va.
Sept. 19-22 - Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G, Maineville, Ohio
Sept. 27-29 - Walmart NW Arkansas Championship Presented by P&G, Arkansas, Ark.
Oct. 10-13 - Buick LPGA Shanghai, Shanghai, China PR
Oct. 17-20 - BMW Ladies Championship, Gangnam-gu, Korea Republic
Oct. 23-27 - LPGA Maybank Championship, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Oct. 31-Nov. 3 - TOTO Japan Classic, Otsu City, Japan
Nov. 6-9 - LOTTE Championship, Ewa Beach, Hawaii
Nov. 14-17 - The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican, Belleair, Fla.
Nov. 21-24 - CME Group Tour Championship, Naples, Fla.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Brickyard 400 Presented by PPG Indianapolis Motor Speedway Sunday

- (5) Kyle Larson, Hendrick Motorsports, 167 laps, 49 points.
- (1) Tyler Reddick, 23XI Racing, 167, 46.
- (7) Ryan Blaney, Team Penske, 167, 49.
- (18) Christopher Bell, Joe Gibbs Racing, 167, 35.
- (17) Bubba Wallace, 23XI Racing, 167, 42.
- (24) Todd Gilliland, Front Row Motorsports, 167, 31.
- (38) Austin Cindric, Team Penske, 167, 30.
- (25) Daniel Suárez, Trackhouse Racing, 167, 29.
- (21) Noah Gragson, Stewart-Haas Racing, 167, 29.
- (3) Chase Elliott, Hendrick Motorsports, 167, 36.
- (19) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, JTG Daugherty Racing, 167, 32.
- (30) Carson Hovevar, Spire Motorsports, 167, 25.
- (11) Austin Dillon, Richard Childress Racing, 167, 26.
- (19) Corey LaJoie, Spire Motorsports, 167, 23.
- (28) Ross Chastain, Trackhouse Racing, 167, 22.
- (8) Michael McDowell, Front Row Motorsports, 167, 24.
- (27) Zane Smith, Spire Motorsports, 167, 20.
- (36) Cody Ware, Rick Ware Racing, 167, 19.
- (22) Ty Dillon, Richard Childress Racing, 167, 0.
- (35) Justin Haley, Rick Ware Racing, 167, 17.
- (26) Brad Keselowski, RFK Racing, 167, 16.
- (23) Chris Buescher, RFK Racing, 167, 15.
- (6) Ty Gibbs, Joe Gibbs Racing, 167, 17.
- (20) Chase Briscoe, Stewart-Haas Racing, 167, 14.
- (34) Kyle Busch, Richard Childress Racing, 166, 12.
- (31) Ryan Preece, Stewart-Haas Racing, 165, Accident 11.
- (14) Martin Truex Jr, Joe Gibbs Racing, 165, 13.
- (29) Erik Jones, Legacy Motor Club, 165, 9.
- (10) John H. Nemechek, Legacy Motor Club, 161, Accident 14.
- (32) Daniel Hemric, Kaulig Racing, 161, Accident 7.
- (13) Alex Bowman, Hendrick Motorsports, 161, Accident 10.
- (2) Denny Hamlin, Joe Gibbs Racing, 161, Accident 23.
- (33) Jimmie Johnson, Legacy Motor Club, 110, Accident 4.

TRANSACTIONS

Monday's Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

ATLANTA BRAVES - LF Whit Merrifield Signed as Free Agent one-year contract. Nacho Alvarez Jr. Purchased From Minors. 2B Ozzie Albies Placed on 10-Day IL. Fractured left wrist. LF Forrest Wall Designated for Assignment. LF Eli White Sent to Minors.
CHICAGO CUBS - P Julian Merryweather Removed From 60-Day IL Strained right shoulder. P Julian Merryweather Recalled From Minors Rehab. P Luke Little Transferred to 60-Day IL Strained left lat-out for season. P Hunter Bight Sent to Minors.
COLORADO ROCKIES - P German Marquez Placed on 15-Day IL Right elbow inflammation. P Noah Davis Called Up from Minors.
HOUSTON ASTROS - C Victor Caratini Removed From 10-Day IL Left hip flexor strain. C Victor Caratini Recalled From Minors Rehab. C Cesar Salazar Sent to Minors. SS Aledmys Diaz Purchased From Minors. 3B Grae Kessinger Sent to Minors. DH David Hensley Designated for Assignment.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Jose Quijada Removed From 60-Day IL Recovery from left elbow surgery. Jose Quijada Recalled From Minors Rehab. P Adam Cimber Designated for Assignment. P Adam Cimber Removed From 15-Day IL Right shoulder inflammation. P Jack Kochanowicz Sent to Minors.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS - River Ryan Purchased From Minors. P James Paxton Designated for Assignment.
NEW YORK METS - C Logan Porter Sent to Minors. C Logan Porter Signed as Free Agent one-year contract. P Cole Sulser Designated for Assignment.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES - LF David Dahl Signed to a Minor League Contract.
SEATTLE MARINERS - Jason Vosler Purchased From Minors.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS - CB Tre Swilling cut. CB Daryl Worley re-signed/unrestricted free agent.
CINCINNATI BENGALS - T Amarius Mims signed/draft choice Four-year contract (fifth-year option).
HOUSTON TEXANS - WR Jared Wayne cut. RB Cam Akers signed/unrestricted free agent.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS - G Ike Boettger signed to Detroit Lions.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS - WR Kevin Austin Jr. signed to New Orleans Saints.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS - S Tyree Gillespie signed. S Trey Dean cut.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS - RB Cam Akers signed/unrestricted free agent to Houston Texans.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
DALLAS STARS - RW Joe Pavelski Retired. NEW JERSEY DEVILS - D Santeri Hatakka Re-Signed One-year, two-way contract. UTAH HOCKEY CLUB - C Cole Beaudoin Signed Three-year, entry-level contract.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Siniakova survives scare in Prague

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

No. 2 seed Katerina Siniakova survived a first-round scare on Monday at the Livesport Prague Open in her native Czech Republic. Siniakova outlasted American qualifier Louisa Chirico, ranked No. 228 in the world, for 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 victory in 2 hours and 26 minutes.

She offset her seven aces with seven double faults but saved eight of 12 break points. Czech countrywoman and No. 1 seed Linda Noskova had no such trouble in a 6-3, 6-2 win over Katarina Zavatska of Ukraine.

Also advancing to the second round were Poland's No. 4 seed Magda Linette and No. 6 Magdalena Frech, while lucky loser Kathinka von Deichmann of Liechtenstein upset No. 8 Anna Karolína Schmiedlova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-4.

UniCredit Iasi Open

American qualifier Varvara Lepchenko rallied for a 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 upset of sixth-seeded Italian Martina Trevisan in the opening round in Iasi, Romania.

Lepchenko took advantage of 12 double faults and broke Trevisan's serve 11 times in a marathon match that lasted 3 hours and 8 minutes. Lepchenko trailed 4-3 in the second set and 2-1 in the third.

No. 3 seed Jaqueline Cristian of Romania defeated Italy's Nuria Brancaccio 6-2, 6-4. Fifth-seeded Elina Avanesyan cruised 6-1, 6-2 over Spain's Leyre Romero Gormaz. France's Chloe Paquet knocked out No. 7 Maria Lourdes Carle of Argentina, while No. 8 Anna Bondar of Hungary was a 6-3, 6-1 winner over Belgian Marie Benoît.

Men

Atlanta Open

Fifth-seeded Alejandro Davidovich Fokina delivered 30 winners while recording a 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory over France's Arthur Cazaux in the opening round.

Davidovich Fokina had an 11-8 edge in aces and saved all five break points he faced while advancing. Cazaux 16 unforced errors, two fewer than Davidovich Fokina, to go with 15 winners.



Katerina Siniakova survived a first-round scare on Monday at the Livesport Prague Open. INAKI ESNAOLA/GETTY IMAGES

Belgium's David Goffin moved on with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Denis Shapovalov of Canada, and Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka notched a 7-6 (4), 6-3 win over Zachary Svajda.