

Steak lovers, beware: Beef prices may continue to rise

With inventory at its lowest in 70 years, a look at cattle's role in Oklahoma's history. **In Money**

Broadway show feels like it 'was written about me'

"Illinoise" all-dance musical resonates with fans who have gone to see it numerous times. **In Life**

Mahomes speaks candidly about salary

Despite recent quarterback megadeals, Chief' star player says he's not sweating his future or financial outlook. **In Sports**

DENNY MEDLEY/USA TODAY SPORTS



Biden urges a Supreme Court overhaul

President Joe Biden greets Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts as Biden arrives to the House of Representatives in March for his third State of the Union address. SHAWN THEW/POOL VIA USA TODAY NETWORK



Proposal for term limits, ethics code unlikely to fly

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden called for major changes to the Supreme Court on Monday, including a constitutional amendment that would limit immunity for presidents, impose term limits for justices and stipulate an enforceable code of ethics.

In an op-ed in The Washington Post, Biden said “no one is above the law.”

“Not the president of the United States,” he wrote. “Not a justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. No one.”

Of note: Biden did not call for expanding the Supreme Court – a proposal that is popular among progressives as a way of counteracting the current conservative supermajority.

In July, the Supreme Court ruled that presidents cannot be prosecuted for “official acts” during their time in office. The court’s ruling stemmed from a case concerning former President Donald

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Cartel VIP was lured, kidnapped, lawyer says

Betrayal leads to arrest of key drug kingpin

Lauren Villagran and Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

SANTA TERESA, N.M. – Two “VIPs” were set to arrive at a sleepy airport in the desert near the U.S.-Mexico border.

That’s all airport manager Bill Provance knew Thursday before the twin-engine plane touched down and law enforcement swarmed the tarmac. The “VIPs” turned out to be Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada, one of the world’s most elusive and dangerous drug kingpins, and Joaquin Guzman Lopez, the son of Zambada’s partner-in-crime, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman.

“I went out to see what was going on,” said Provance, manager of the Doña Ana County International Jetport. The federal agents gave him a vague response. “They said, ‘We’ve got VIPs coming in.’”

Former law enforcement officials involved in the decadeslong hunt for Zambada say his arrest Thursday is as monumental as the 2016 capture of “El Chapo” Guzman given his role as the chief strategic thinker of what is universally considered to be the world’s most powerful organized crime organization.

But Zambada’s arrest is also shaping up to be a story of epic betrayal by one of Chapo’s sons, one key player told USA TODAY – and a direct result of their business strategy to flood the U.S. with deadly fentanyl over the past decade. That galvanized the U.S. government to launch a scorched-earth campaign to go after them.

Media reports initially suggested the two were arrested in El Paso, Texas, and speculated that Guzman Lopez tricked Zambada into going for a plane ride to look at real estate on the Mexico side of the border before crossing into the United States. But law enforcement actually took the men into custody on the tarmac of this small airport in New Mexico where El Paso’s wealthiest residents keep their private planes.

And late Saturday, criminal defense lawyer Frank Perez of Dallas told USA TODAY that his client, Zambada, did not get on the Beechcraft plane of his own accord, but as part of a deal by the son of El Chapo to negotiate a better plea agreement with U.S. authorities

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ROARING AT 150



Cheryl Thome feeds an Amur tiger at the Philadelphia Zoo on July 10. At top, a zebra stands in the zoo's African Plains exhibit next to a fence with a chalk writing referencing the zoo's anniversary. The zoo, which is the oldest in the United States, turned 150 this month. PHOTOS BY DANIELLA HEMINGHAUS/USA TODAY NETWORK

Philadelphia Zoo, USA’s oldest, finding ways to flourish; others are thriving, too

Phaedra Trethan
USA TODAY

PHILADELPHIA – It was Day 7 with 90-plus degree temperatures in Philadelphia, and a lot of the animals were moving a bit more languidly, but Shareef Parker’s sons, Michael and Dallas, ages 4 and 5 respectively, didn’t seem to mind.

“Snakes,” answered Michael when asked his favorite animal. “And monkeys.” Dallas, Parker said, was partial to the lions and other big cats.

With eight children ranging in age from 1 to 15, Parker said his family’s membership at the Philadelphia Zoo, which celebrates its 150th anniversary

this month, comes in handy often: He can pick up and take whichever kids want to go, make a quick drive from their home in nearby Montgomery County and stay as long as the kids want; the family does so at least a few times a year.

Tony Vickers’ 2-year-old daughter, Noelle, sat in her stroller, watching a red-footed tortoise, one of the zoo’s “ambassador animals,” make its way (slowly, of course) toward a water dish.

“We’re members,” said Vickers, a Kentucky native who lives in Philadelphia. “We practically live here. Sometimes we come twice a week. It’s close to

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‘Strong is beautiful’: Olympians champion female body positivity

Lindsay Schnell USA TODAY

PARIS – Ilona Maher and Chase Jackson know they don’t have the body type most people think of when they hear the word “Olympian.” And they’re fine with that – because they’re determined to change the stereotype.

Maher, a social media star and member of the U.S. women’s rugby team, checks in at a muscular 5-foot-10, 200 pounds. Jackson, an American shot putter, is also a stacked 5-foot-10. That’s probably not the visual someone has of a Team USA star. The women in Olympics ads are often sleek, with long, lean legs, blond hair and an acceptable amount of muscles, no more.

In other words, they look like almost every other piece of media that women worldwide consume, especially in America: one of impossible standards.

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OLYMPICS 2024

‘Very surreal’: Huske gets her golden moment



ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Torri Huske, driven by a near miss in Tokyo, wins gold in the 100-meter butterfly in Paris. She edged out teammate and world-record holder Gretchen Walsh, who took silver. **More Olympics coverage, 1C**

Shipwreck found ‘loaded’ with Champagne

Diver: ‘We realized this was a kind of treasure’

Mike Snider
USA TODAY

Divers have discovered a 19th century shipwreck off the coast of Sweden well-stocked with booze, including about 100 bottles of Champagne.

The Polish diving group Baltictech, which routinely scours the Baltic Sea for shipwrecks, found a 19th century sailing ship just south of Sweden, outside Polish territorial waters, diving team leader Tomasz Stachura said in a report on the Baltictech site.

The team almost sailed by, he said. “One of the wrecks on the sonar was barely scratching and looked like a fishing boat,” Stachura said.

Despite having already done one dive that day, divers Marek Cacaj and Pawel Truszynski “showed a lot of determination and said they would do a quick dive,” Stachura said. When the two remained under for almost two hours, “we already knew that there was something very interesting on the bottom,” he said.

Divers found the ship “in very good condition, loaded to the sides with Champagne, wine, mineral water and porcelain,” Stachura said. “We certainly saw more than 100 bottles of Champagne and baskets of mineral water in clay bottles.”

Because of the crates of bottles, he said, it appeared as if the ship’s cargo had a party as a destination. “We realized that this was a kind of treasure,” Stachura told The New York Times.

He saw bubbles coming from what appeared to be Champagne bottles. “It came to me that, perhaps, they are drinkable.”

The divers have since learned that the boat could have been destined for Tsar Alexander II, who ruled in Russia from 1855 to 1881. “The Champagne could then come from the renowned Louis Roederer label, which since 1876 has been producing a special, twice as sweet Champagne destined for the imperial court,” Baltictech posted Friday on its Instagram account.

Beyond the Champagne, the roughly 100 sealed bottles of mineral water also got the divers’ attention. “In those days, mineral water was treated almost like medicine and only found its way to royal tables,” Stachura said in the report. “Its value was so precious that transports were escorted by the police.”

The German company that produced the water, Selters, is still in business. “Thanks to the shape of the stamp and with historians’ help, we know that our



Off the coast of Sweden, divers discovered a 19th century shipwreck stocked with Champagne, mineral water and wine, suggesting it may have wrecked en route to a party. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BALTICTECH



The Baltictech crew of Polish divers who found a 19th century shipwreck off the coast of Sweden.

shipment was produced between 1850-1867,” Stachura said. “Interestingly, the pottery factory into which the water was bottled also exists, and we are in contact with them to find out more details.”

Future explorations of the shipwreck are planned. Baltictech is working with Södertörn University in Sweden and Johan Rönnby, a maritime archaeologist and professor at the university, who is the head of MARIS (Maritime Archaeology Research Institute) and in charge of all underwater research in Sweden.

“We have guidelines on how to proceed now and be able to explore the wreck together in the future,” Stachura said.

Wine was also found in an even older discovery, a 3,300-year-old shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Israel, the Israel Antiquities Authority reported in June.

Contributing: Claire Thornton

Zoos

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home, it’s easy to get in and out, and the staff is always friendly.”

America’s first zoo, which opened its doors to the public on July 1, 1874, has endured through two world wars, the Great Depression, political and social upheaval and not one but two global pandemics.

But as it marks a century and a half, the Philadelphia Zoo – like others across the nation – has been finding unique ways to engage visitors and adapt to evolving demographics, climate change, rising costs and post-pandemic challenges.

Zoos across US find new footprint

The best zoos “have a high degree of trust and favorability in their communities,” said Dan Ashe, president and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which accredits facilities in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere.

“Philadelphia is a great example of a place where they take to heart the importance of being part of the community – making sure the community is a part of the zoo and the zoo is not something that’s an enclave within their community,” Ashe said. “People see (zoos and aquariums) as valuable assets, trusted sources of information and so they enjoy a high degree of trust.”

There are 134 accredited zoos (and nine facilities that include zoos and aquariums) in the U.S., according to the AZA. The organization offers accreditation at least every five years. There are 213 zoos, aquariums and related facilities in the U.S. spread across 46 states and the District of Columbia.

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are home to more than 780,000 animals and more than 8,600 species, including 800-plus species that are vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered or extinct in the wild, the organization says.

Their economic impact is significant: In 2018, the most recent year surveyed, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums brought more than \$22.5 billion to the U.S. economy, supporting more than 198,000 full-time jobs and serving more than 183 million visitors nationally.

All of the AZA’s member zoos and aquariums – which Ashe called “the cream of the crop,” accredited by an organization he described as “the gold standard worldwide” – struggled during the pandemic, forced to close and lose millions in revenue, even as they need-



An Ankole-Watusi, called the “cattle of kings,” eats while visitors learn about the species at the Philadelphia Zoo. PHOTOS BY DANIELLA HEMINGHAUS/USA TODAY NETWORK

ed to continue to care for the animals and pay essential employees.

Ninety-six percent of AZA’s member organizations, which include institutions public and private, large and small, for-profit and nonprofit, were closed for an average of six months, Ashe said, and some closed for as long as 14 months.

“It was a very difficult period of time,” he said. “But they received generous support from the government,” including tax credits, Shuttered Venues Operator Grant funds, Paycheck Protection Program money and money earmarked for institutions caring for endangered species.

Now, Ashe said, “Our members are doing quite well. ... When the public came back, they *really* came back.”

The first zoo, in ‘a land of firsts’

Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman took over as Philadelphia Zoo’s president and CEO in October after leading the St. Louis Zoo’s new WildCare Park, a 425-acre safari park and conservation center near where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers meet, set to open in 2027.

She wanted to learn as much as she could about Philadelphia, which she called “a land of firsts.”

“That has really informed my thinking about what the next phase is and how to level up. (The zoo) is part of being a Philadelphian, and they deserve the very best,” she said.

Philadelphia Zoo has a sterling reputation, said Mogerman, who also worked at Shedd Aquarium and Brookfield Zoo, both in Chicago.



The Philadelphia Zoo says it was the first zoo to keep their flamingos, which get their pink color from their diet in the wild, from turning white by adding carrot juice to their food.

With a background in conservation biology, Mogerman was drawn to Philadelphia Zoo’s history of scientific innovations: It was among the first zoos to have an animal laboratory and to study zoonotic diseases, animal nutrition and wildlife conservation.

Its Zoo360 system of trails serves a dual purpose: Animals, from prowling big cats to bouncing pint-size lemurs, can navigate through a set of above-ground trails, offering enrichment for species used to wide ranges – and a way for visitors to get a closer (and still safe) view of animals on the move. That system has been replicated in more than 70

zoos worldwide, Mogerman said.

“Our work is critically important as advocates for wildlife,” Mogerman said. “I tell people bring the family, come here for a date night, have fun. We as humans have a natural affinity for animals. but as a leader of this organization, I know we need to make sure people are supportive of wildlife.”

While the zoo’s core is young families, they’re not the only demographic it appeals to. Events such as the zoo’s upcoming Summer Ale Festival, evening hours for members, ongoing African Culture Fests and animal spotlight series help further the zoo’s mission, she said: “Come in for the beer and we’ll talk to you about our conservation efforts and how you can act to make a positive impact.”

LumiNature, a wintertime event that features light-based attractions and roaming performers, brings visitors during a time when the zoo, which is open year-round, traditionally saw fewer people.

The zoo is “a microcosm of what’s happening in the world,” she said. “The wild isn’t what it used to be. Our approach to conservation has changed dramatically; we used to parachute into other countries and try to tell them what to do.”

Zoos become part of communities

Now, the zoo’s conservation efforts focus on the communities where they’re working, taking into account local traditions and ways of life, engaging with the people who live there and working to understand how to preserve species and habitats with their help.

In West Philadelphia, where the zoo is bounded by busy thoroughfares and a regional rail line, it means being a good neighbor, hosting community nights during the LumiNature show and throughout the year, offering memberships to nonprofits, engaging with community groups and hosting programs for city teens.

Rachel Metz, the zoo’s vice president of animal well-being and conservation, said 700 million people visit zoos and aquariums worldwide – more than the number who attend professional baseball, football, hockey and basketball games combined.

“We’re not just fun places to visit,” she said. “Without us, some animals might not exist, and that’s an overwhelming thought.”

“You’re looking at them, into the eyes of a tiger or a primate, and your heart is open because they’re beautiful, but you’re open to learning,” Mogerman said. “And that’s our superpower.”

Supreme Court

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Trump. Presidents can still be prosecuted for unofficial criminal behavior.

Biden, a U.S. senator for 36 years, wrote that he had overseen more Supreme Court nominations as senator, vice president and president than anyone living today.

“What is happening now is not normal, and it undermines the public’s confidence in the court’s decisions, including those impacting personal freedoms,” he wrote. “We now stand in a breach.”

None of these legislative proposals, however, have any chance of passing in a divided Congress. The measures would need 60 votes in the Senate to block a Republican filibuster.

Vice President Kamala Harris, who is

running for the Democratic presidential nomination, said in a statement Monday that she supports the proposed changes because the Supreme Court faces a “clear crisis of confidence” from the American people.

“In the course of our Nation’s history, trust in the Supreme Court of the United States has been critical to achieving equal justice under law. President Biden and I strongly believe that the American people must have confidence in the Supreme Court,” she said. “These popular reforms will help to restore confidence in the Court, strengthen our democracy, and ensure no one is above the law.”

A conservative supermajority

The court now has a 6-3 conservative majority after Trump appointed three justices to the court while Biden appointed only one, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

The “No One Is Above the Law Amendment” will state that the Constitution does not confer immunity from federal criminal indictment, trial, conviction or sentencing by virtue of having been president.

Congress approved term limits for the presidency more than 75 years ago, and Biden believes it should do the same for the Supreme Court.

Term limits would help ensure that the court’s membership changes with some regularity and reduce the chance that any single presidency imposes undue influence for generations to come, he says.

Binding code of conduct

Biden supports a system in which the president would appoint a justice every two years to spend 18 years in active service on the court, according to a fact sheet provided by the White House.

A third proposal includes a binding code of conduct for the high court. This would require justices to disclose gifts, refrain from public political activity, and recuse themselves from cases in which they or their spouses have financial or other conflicts of interest.

In July, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., filed articles of impeachment against Supreme Court justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito over accusations of ethics violations and political bias.

Thomas pulled the court into an ethics firestorm last year after it was revealed he had failed to disclose millions of dollars in luxury travel and other gifts from billionaire friends.

“Justice Thomas and Alito’s repeated failure over decades to disclose that they received millions of dollars in gifts from individuals with business before the court is explicitly against the law,” the Bronx Democrat said.

Arrest

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for himself.

“My client neither surrendered nor negotiated any terms with the U.S. government,” Perez said in a statement given exclusively to USA TODAY. “Joaquin Guzman Lopez forcibly kidnapped my client. He was ambushed, thrown to the ground, and handcuffed by six men in military uniforms and Joaquin.”

After that, Perez said, Zambada’s “legs were tied, and a black bag was placed over his head. He was then thrown into the back of a pickup truck and taken to a landing strip. There, he was forced onto a plane, his legs tied to the seat by Joaquin, and brought to the U.S. against his will. The only people on the plane were the pilot, Joaquin and my client.”

In an interview, Perez said Zambada was meeting someone for breakfast and that instead of that person showing up, Guzman Lopez and his aides appeared and assaulted him.

That caught Zambada and his small security detail off guard, and he was tied up, thrown in the back of a pickup truck and driven about 20 minutes away to an airport, where he was put on the plane with Guzmán López, Perez said.

“He was the one who set up the meeting” to get Zambada to come out, Perez said of Guzman Lopez. He said the son of El Chapo then personally tied his father’s longtime partner to the chair of the aircraft so he couldn’t escape.

Jeffrey Lichtman, a lawyer representing Guzman Lopez, had no comment on Perez’s specific claims. “He’s free to employ any defense he sees fit to defend against the charges,” Lichtman told USA TODAY.

Neither Zambada nor Guzman Lopez have been convicted of any crimes in the U.S. and the Justice Department, per policy, says the charges are only allegations and that they are innocent until proven guilty. The DOJ did not immediately return a request for comment.

Flying in from the south

The plane with a royal blue tail flew in from the south and then parked in front of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection building at the airport, according to a local pilot who watched from the tarmac.

It was a hot, clear afternoon. On board the aircraft, Zambada would have been able to see the rusted steel border fence cutting through orange sand below as the plane entered U.S. airspace. Sprawling twin plants lay between the border fence and the airport, warehouses and factories connected to industrial manufacturing in Ciudad Juárez across the border.

The local pilot saw one man, who he later understood to be Guzman Lopez, deplane first.

“He shook all the hands of the law enforcement,” said the pilot, who asked his name be withheld out of fear of retribution by organized crime. The man he later understood to be Zambada “remained on board. Obviously, he came out later and was calmly taken into custody.”

Inside the plane, there were snacks including chips and Gansitos, Mexican vanilla cakes covered in chocolate. There also appeared to be unused plastic zip ties in a convenience store bag.

Many details of the arrest of the two Sinaloa Cartel leaders remain steeped in secrecy.

But already, the case has caused reverberations from Washington to the border and deep into Mexico, where the government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said it was not involved.

‘The brains’ behind the Sinaloa Cartel’s rise and the fentanyl crisis

Current and former federal



Law enforcement wrapped chains on the plane that carried alleged drug kingpin Ismael Zambada to the U.S. on Thursday. OMAR ORNELAS/USA TODAY NETWORK

Justice Department

“The Justice Department will not rest until every single cartel leader, member and associate responsible for poisoning our communities is held accountable.”

Merrick Garland
Attorney general

authorities say Zambada was the brains and the elder Guzman, now locked up in a U.S. federal prison, was the muscle of one of the deadliest worldwide fentanyl trafficking organizations, the Sinaloa Cartel.

“The cartel’s generating billions of dollars from fentanyl and killing hundreds of thousands of Americans is, to me, what ultimately brought these guys down,” said former Drug Enforcement Administration Chief of Operations Ray Donovan, who led the government-wide effort against Sinaloa Cartel until his retirement in April 2023.

“Chapo was more the brawn of the cartel and Mayo was the brains, the methodic business-minded leader who generated the revenues,” Donovan told USA TODAY on Saturday. “The Sinaloa cartel would not be as powerful as it became if not for El Mayo.”

Zambada eluded U.S. and Mexican authorities for decades. Even in the era of cellphone cameras and social media, only one photograph had ever emerged – until Thursday. The Mexican government released a photo provided by the U.S., according to Mexican officials, of Zambada with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a blue polo-style with the word “Boss” embroidered on the chest.

Now that Zambada is in U.S. custody, it is likely to start another bloody power struggle between factions within the cartel, according to Donovan and others familiar with its operations.

“Now that their leader is gone, Ivan Guzman, Chapo’s oldest son, is a young, hard-charging violent leader and he’s going to want to consolidate power,” Donovan said. “And either Mayo’s faction of the cartel is going to fall in line or they’re going to fight.”

A cat-and-mouse hunt for Ismael Zambada as tensions rise

Former federal law enforcement officials familiar with the cat-and-mouse hunt for Zambada in recent decades said he and his family already had been experiencing increasing internal tensions with the Sinaloa Cartel faction led by El Chapo and his sons, especially over the lethal drug fentanyl.

El Mayo, El Chapo and a third man known as El Azul, or Juan José Esparragoza Moreno, launched what is now known as the Sinaloa Cartel after being

brought together by major trafficker Felix Gallardo, who headed the feared Pacific Cartel in the 1980s.

The three branched off from Gallardo and created the Federation, which transformed into the Sinaloa Cartel as it became a global juggernaut that grew, manufactured and sold much of the marijuana, cocaine, heroin and meth-amphetamine headed for the United States.

Zambada was responsible for much of the business growth of the organization, remaining behind the scenes while El Chapo became the public and more violent face of Sinaloa. Zambada, according to Donovan, “was very much about the business, generating revenue” even as El Chapo’s violence made him the stuff of Mexican folklore.

As the fentanyl epidemic reached crisis proportions by 2017, federal law enforcement agencies ramped up their efforts to neutralize those responsible for it. That effort was led by the DEA and its multiagency Special Operations Division nerve center in Chantilly, Virginia, but the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security also played crucial roles, Donovan said.

“We increased the reward money. We put in a whole-of-government approach to trying to go after these guys. A lot more resources and efforts into zeroing in on them,” Donovan said.

Turning up the heat, gaining the cooperation of insiders

One of the first big breaks came in the case of Zambada’s son, Jesús Vicente Zambada Niebla, or “El Vicentillo”, who was arrested in Mexico City in 2009. Eager to minimize his time in U.S. prisons, he began cooperating with authorities and testified against fellow members of the Sinaloa Cartel.

The younger Zambada testified against El Chapo at the historic trial in New York that led to his conviction and long prison sentence, said Derek Maltz, the former head of DEA’s Special Operations Division.

In recent years, as U.S. law enforcement agents continued to hunt for El Vicentillo’s father, they also focused intensively on the Chapitos, the sons of El Chapo who inherited much of the control of the Sinaloa Cartel empire from their father – including the U.S.-bound fentanyl trafficking business.

Another big break came with the capture of one of the Chapitos, Ovidio Guzmán. He was initially arrested by Mexican authorities in 2019 but later released after heavily armed Sinaloa gunmen engaged in violent clashes with Mexican authorities. Once captured again in 2023 and extradited to the United States to face trial, he too allegedly began cooperating.

And as U.S. law enforcement authorities continued to extract information and intelligence from his brother Ovidio, they also ramped up back-channel negotiations with Guzmán López, The New York Times reported, citing three people familiar with his situation.

“It’s very clear, based on my knowledge and experience, that they were developing a plan to get not only the kid, Joaquin Junior, to surrender, as part of Ovidio’s good faith cooperation with the government, but then you have Joaquin Junior down there also figuring that I can come up with a plan to take Mayo down too,” Maltz told USA TODAY.

The lure of a potential deal: ‘It wasn’t expected at all’

Officials at the FBI and Department of Homeland Security declined to comment when reached by USA TODAY about the circumstances of what led to the Thursday arrests, and Attorney General Merrick Garland did not mention them in his videotaped statement on the case.

“Both men are facing multiple charges in the United States for leading the cartel’s criminal operations, including its deadly drug manufacturing and trafficking networks,” Garland said before vowing to continue to go after their associates who continue to traffic metric tons worth of the lethal synthetic opioid across the southern border. “The Justice Department will not rest until every single cartel leader, member and associate responsible for poisoning our communities is held accountable.”

But two current and two former U.S. officials familiar with the situation told Reuters – which first reported the arrests – that Guzman Lopez planned to give himself up upon landing and duped Zambada into getting on the plane under the pretense of looking at real estate in northern Mexico near the border.

Guzman Lopez had engaged in lengthy surrender talks with U.S. authorities, as is often the case in these protracted efforts to capture them, Reuters said, but authorities were not hopeful that El Chapo’s son actually would surrender. They were caught unaware when Guzman Lopez sent a last-minute message saying he would be flying to the U.S. airport, Reuters reported, and bringing the infamous Zambada with him.

“El Mayo was the cherry on top,” one U.S. official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the arrests, told Reuters. “It wasn’t expected at all.”

That set off a mad scramble as U.S. agents from the FBI and DHS investigative arm, Homeland Security Investigations or HSI, raced to the scene just in time for the tiny Beechcraft King Air plane to land on the runway Thursday afternoon.

Provance, the airport manager watched the scene through the floor-to-ceiling windows of his corner office. “The plane landed, and that was it.”

There was no gunfight, no drama and no resistance.

Law enforcement officers wrapped a chain around the propeller, and the plane remained parked in the same spot on the tarmac for more than 24 hours before it was ferried into a hangar.

Border residents, curious about the notorious Mexican drug lord, parked at the county’s War Eagles Air Museum. They walked up to a chain link fence for a glimpse of the plane Zambada came in on.

Contributing: Omar Ornelas, El Paso Times

Gunman seen 90 minutes before shooting

Texts show SWAT sniper spotted Crooks earlier

John Bacon
USA TODAY

Members of a local SWAT team at the scene the day former President Donald Trump was shot spoke out for the first time Monday, citing communication failures with the Secret Service but acknowledging that “we all failed that day.”

“I remember standing in the parking lot talking to one of the guys” after the July 13 shooting, Mike Priolo, a member of the Beaver County, Pennsylvania, SWAT team, said on ABC’s “Good Morning America.” “We just became part of history. And not in a good way.”

Also Monday, ABC News reported obtaining text messages indicating that would-be gunman Thomas Matthew

Crooks drew the attention of a sniper more than 90 minutes before the shooting began on the grounds of the Butler Farm Show. That is more than a half-hour earlier than previously reported.

A sniper leaving the area where local SWAT members assembled texted the others that he saw Crooks “sitting to the direct right on a picnic table about 50 yards from the exit.” He also texted that Crooks saw him leave the area with a rifle “so he knows you guys are up there.”

About an hour before the shooting, sniper team member Gregory Nicol told “GMA “Good Morning America” he saw Crooks take a rangefinder from his pocket. Though rangefinders were not banned, Nicol took Crooks’ photo and warned of a suspicious presence.

“He was looking up and down the building,” Nicols said. “It just seemed out of place.”

Crooks opened fire shortly after 6 p.m., killing rally attendee Corey Com-

peratore, 50, wounding Trump in the ear and critically injuring two other men. A Secret Service sniper on another roof fatally shot Crooks, authorities say.

“I think we all failed that day,” Priolo said. “People died. If there was anything we could have done to stop that, we should have.”

Meeting with Secret Service did not take place

The Secret Service, responsible for security that day, typically is supported by local law enforcement. Jason Woods, team leader for Beaver County’s Emergency Services Unit and SWAT sniper section, told “Good Morning America” his team was supposed to meet with the Secret Service before the event.

“That was probably a pivotal point, where I started thinking things were wrong because (the meeting) never happened,” Woods said. “We had no

communication ... not until after the shooting.”

Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle took responsibility for the security breakdown and resigned.

Trump to cooperate with shooting investigation

Trump has agreed to sit for a standard interview “consistent with any victim interview we do,” Kevin Rojek, the special agent in charge of the FBI’s Pittsburgh field office, said during a media briefing. Rojek said the FBI wants Trump’s perspective of what happened.

FBI officials said they had yet to identify a motive for Crooks, the gunman. But they said he had conducted online searches into previous mass shooting events, improvised explosive devices and the attempted assassination of the Slovakian prime minister in May.

Contributing: Reuters

More than 100 wildfires burn across United States

Thousands of firefighters battle blaze in California

Claire Thornton
USA TODAY

Wildfires continued to tear across parts of the western U.S. on Monday, including one of the large blazes in California history.

Dangerous fire weather notices, known as red flag warnings, and air quality alerts were in place in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Oregon, urging residents to prepare for gusty winds and low humidity that “can lead to rapid growth and very high intensity of any new or existing fires,” the National Weather Service said.

As of Sunday, 103 large fires were being targeted by firefighters across the U.S., according to the National Inter-agency Fire Center.



The massive Park Fire continued on Friday to have explosive growth after being sparked on Wednesday in the Chico area. The fire raced north through forestland fueled by bone dry conditions that have resulted from California’s extreme hot weather in July. The blaze jumped Highway 36 near Paynes Creek on Friday evening. HUNG T. VU/SPECIAL TO THE REDDING RECORD SEARCHLIGHT

agency Fire Center.

Thousands of firefighters responded over the weekend to the Park Fire in California, which started Wednesday after authorities say a man pushed a burning car into a gully in Chico and then fled. Ronnie Stout, 42, accused of starting the Park Fire, which has grown to become the largest in the state this year, was due in court Monday, according to a Butte County District Attorney news release.

Live footage of the wildfire on California’s Department of Forestry and Fire Protection website Monday showed flames glowing atop hillsides, creating

multiple streams of dense gray smoke near Colby Mountain in Tuolumne County.

State officials said Sunday night that the fire is 12% contained and burning more than 360,000 acres near Paradise, California, a town that saw severe damage from wildfires in 2018.

A handful of other fires in California are together burning more than 82,000 acres, state officials said. A blaze called the Borel Fire is “expected to be, once again, very extreme,” the state’s Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said late Sunday.

Destruction from the Borel Fire in-

cludes the historic mining town of Havilah, California, where gold was discovered in the 1860s. By the early 1900s, the lucrative deposits were depleted and Havilah became a ghost town, according to the Palm Springs Desert Sun, part of the USA TODAY Network.

Havilah, except for a handful of structures, from the northern edge to the Walker Basin is a complete loss, officials reported, according to the Desert Sun.

In Oregon, where officials say lightning has sparked fires, the body of a missing airplane pilot was found Friday after his plane went down while battling a fire.

In northeast Oregon, state officials said Sunday more fire responders are being sent to tackle blazes near the town of Wallowa, where five fires converged over the weekend, the Wallowa County Chieftain reported.

“The team is being ordered in anticipation of unfavorable weather in the area later in the week,” the Oregon Department of Forestry said on their Facebook page Sunday night.

Smoke outlooks across five counties in eastern Oregon said “unhealthy” air conditions are expected to persist Tuesday, after a weak cold front moves through the area, according to the U.S. Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program.

“You do get concerned that it will get worse, that the smoke will get worse, because at some point it does get really unhealthy to be outside,” said Fouts.

Contributing: James Ward, Desert Sun

Body positivity

Continued from Page 1A

What if there was another way, though?

Over the next few weeks, Maher and Jackson will perform on a stage that lifts their niche sports to something more appreciated by the world. Their hope isn’t just to medal in their events and draw new fans but to also elevate the conversation about women’s bodies.

“I always want to get people into rugby. I think it’s the best sport in the world,” said Maher, who helped the U.S. women to a 2-0 record in rugby pool play Sunday.

“But I also just want to get girls and boys to play any sport, because I think sport has the power to change lives and to show what your body is capable of – it’s not just there to be objectified and looked at.”

The journey to body acceptance

For Jackson, a former high school sprinter who won the 2012 New Mexico state title in 100 meters, it took time to understand that “strong is beautiful.”

“When I was younger, you know, hovering over all the boys in my grade, like I was not the delicate dancer,” Jackson said. “It was hard. When people say something like ‘You look strong as an ox!’ It’s like: ‘I’m 12. can you not say that?’ ”

Her journey to body acceptance didn’t happen overnight.

“It took a lot of time to be confident going out there (to the shot put ring) and wearing what I want,” Jackson said. “We grow up and we’re shown this one body, and if that’s not yours, you’re going to feel upset. I think it became important to me to talk about because I want people to know there’s not only one way to look like an athlete. There’s not only



U.S. shot putter Chase Jackson says her confidence did not come easily. “I want people to know there’s not only one way to look like an athlete,” she says. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

one way to be beautiful. That’s a really important message.”

Both have made an effort to share that message with social media followers. Maher is particularly active online, having amassed more than 2.7 million followers on TikTok and Instagram combined. Her social media took off in Tokyo, when sequestered athletes had to think outside the box to communicate with fans as COVID-19 forced the exclusion of spectators.

‘America’s Sweetheart’

Her profile has exploded and crossed into mainstream culture – she jokingly dubbed herself “America’s Sweetheart,” though it might not actually be far from the truth – in part because of how much her theme of body positivity infiltrates every post. Her words have resonated with young women in particular. That’s intentional.



“Sport has the power to change lives and to show what your body is capable of,” says U.S. women’s rugby star and social media personality Ilona Maher. ROBERT DEUTSCH/USA TODAY SPORTS

“I’ll say one positive message and then next one down as they’re scrolling (social media) is something that brings them back to the old ways of what beauty was,” Maher said. “So for me it’s important to keep saying what I believe and having these young girls see it.”

Naya Tapper, one Maher’s rugby teammates, echoed Maher’s plea for more women and body types in all sports, emphasizing the need for diversity. She said for her, tennis star Serena Williams always left an impression.

“She was the first person to put in my head that muscles are a beautiful thing for women,” Tapper said.

‘I’m girly, and I like being girly’

But it’s not just about what these athletes are saying. It’s what they’re showing off, too.

On TikTok last week, Maher modeled Olympic bikinis. She posted specifically

about how “all body types can be Olympians” and has shown the body diversity throughout the Olympic Village in many of her videos.

Meanwhile, Jackson, who will throw in shot put qualifying on Aug. 8, loves for people to know that “I’m girly, and I like being girly.” She demonstrates this every time she competes, wearing a noticeable amount of makeup and getting especially artistic when it comes to eye makeup. (Like so many women across the world, she has learned tricks of the trade via YouTube tutorials.)

A suitcase for her makeup

Jackson travels with so many products they require their own separate suitcase. She keeps her eye out for brands endorsed by drag queens because that makeup knows how to stay put when the wearer is performing in hot, sweaty environments.

“I like makeup, and in 2022 it developed into something like, ‘Why not show that?’ ” she said. “It became really important to me to advocate for creativity and showing girls you don’t have to just be rough and tumble to make people respect you as an athlete. You can be feminine if you want.”

She said that for years, throwers in particular have been covered in a veil of masculinity. She wants people, especially girls who might be interested in the sport, to know that’s not the only option.

She hears from those girls sometimes. They send her messages on Twitter and Instagram, showing her the new products they bought or the makeup technique they learned from her. One of those comments, she said, can erase hundreds of negative comments.

Her biggest takeaway from those messages: The other girls hear her. They want her, and Maher, and anyone else willing to buck traditional beauty ideas, to keep talking.



Rochester police are investigating a Sunday evening incident in Maplewood Park that killed two. It was not immediately clear what led to the shooting or how many people fired shots. TINA MACINTYRE-YEE/USA TODAY NETWORK

Shooting in upstate New York park leaves 2 dead, 5 injured

Victoria E. Freile and Christopher Cann
USA TODAY NETWORK

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – A second person has died following a mass shooting that broke out at a city park in upstate New York Sunday evening, officials announced at a news conference Monday.

The gunfire erupted around 6:20 p.m. in Maplewood Park, where hundreds of people were gathered for a barbecue, said Rochester Police Chief David Smith. Seven people were hit by gunfire and taken to nearby hospitals.

Tyasia Manning, a 25-year-old city employee, died from her injuries on Sunday. Several hours later, 34-year-old Phylcia Council succumbed to her injuries, Smith said. The five other victims suffered non-life-threatening injuries, which Rochester Mayor Malik Evans described as “life-altering.”

It was not immediately clear what led up to the shooting or how many people fired shots. Smith said at “some point” during the barbecue, “rounds were fired from multiple weapons.” He called on witnesses to come forward with information.

“There were hundreds of people at this barbecue, and therefore, there are hundreds of people who have potential information to help us solve this crime,” Smith said. “Once again, I am asking our community to step up and help to hold those who shot into a crowd, kill-

ing two women, accountable for their cowardly actions.”

Sunday’s incident is the second mass shooting in Rochester this year. On June 23, six people were shot overnight at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park after an argument broke out and led at least one person to shoot into a crowd. The victims, who ranged in age from 17 to 33, all survived. The incident led the mayor to impose an 8 p.m. park curfew.

Smith told reporters on Monday that he could not say whether the shooters attended the barbecue or came from outside. Police have not said how many rounds were fired or how many people are believed to have fired weapons.

The barbecue was publicly advertised on flyers, but the event did not require permits, Smith said. He told reporters that city police “had been by a few times” throughout the day in response to complaints about cars on the grass, but the gathering was otherwise in compliance, he said. Law enforcement also monitored the event using nearby surveillance cameras.

There have been at least 314 mass shootings in the U.S. this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive, which defines a mass shooting as an incident in which at least four people are injured or killed, not including the shooter.

Christopher Cann reports for USA TODAY and Victoria E. Freile reports for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Is Tropical Storm Debby forming in the Atlantic?

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

After a three-week lull in activity, the tropical Atlantic Ocean is showing signs of coming alive, forecasters from the National Hurricane Center warned Monday.

An area of disturbed weather has formed in the central Atlantic Ocean, and forecasters said “a tropical depression could form later this week while the system is in the vicinity of the Greater Antilles or the Bahamas.”

If its winds reach 39 mph, the system would receive the name Tropical Storm Debby, and it would be the fourth named storm of what’s predicted to be an extremely active 2024 Atlantic hurricane season.

Storm activity ramps up in August

August is typically “go” time for hurricanes in the Atlantic. “We are approaching the point of the season (August) where we tend to see more (tropical waves) take hold and organize into tropical depressions, storms and even hurricanes under the right conditions,” AccuWeather lead hurricane expert Alex DaSilva said.

Jill Trepanier, an associate professor at Louisiana State University, told USA TODAY that “the August-September zone of the Atlantic season is the most active period. We’re kind of moving into that space where it’s most likely, out of the entire time, for us to see more of them develop.”

Overall, August, September and October are usually considered the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season, according to Weather.com. This is because water temperatures are often at their warmest, wind shear is at its lowest and humidity has increased across the basin, all of which contribute to hurricane formation.

Where will Debby go? Could it hit the U.S.?

It’s still early to try to determine

what impact the tropical wave might have on the United States. The computer models that meteorologists use to forecast hurricane strength and intensity do not agree on the system’s future.

“If a system does form midweek, there are an array of possibilities from a blob of moisture to a potential threat,” said Fox Weather hurricane specialist Bryan Norcross in his Hurricane Intel column. “Possible paths range from east of Florida to a track into the Gulf of Mexico to dying over the mountainous islands. Obviously, there are a number of steps to watch for with this system.”

Forecasters at the National Weather Service Melbourne (Florida) office said there is still a lot of uncertainty yet over the system that’s still far out to sea. Their best advice is to watch it closely over the week and have your emergency supplies and plan ready. Potential time for impact if the system hits Florida could be as early as late Saturday but could be early next week if it slows down.

Beryl was a deadly, explosive start to season

The current system in the Atlantic comes after a lull in tropical activity in the Atlantic. The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season began with an explosive start when Beryl made landfall on Grenada on July 1 as a Category 4 hurricane before it weakened to a Category 1 and slammed the Texas coast the following week, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Beryl killed dozens of people and left millions powerless, mainly in Texas. It also fueled a ferocious tornado outbreak across several states.

In May, NOAA predicted an 85% chance of an above-normal season. The agency forecast 17 to 25 total named storms, with eight to 13 becoming hurricanes. NOAA will come out with a revised hurricane forecast next week.

Contributing: Thao Nguyen, USA TODAY; Cheryl McCloud and Kimberly Miller, USA TODAY Network



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Olympians overcome ACL injuries

Women athletes share heartbreak, show heart

Alexa Juliana Ard
USA TODAY

When Angel City Football Club’s Jun Endo moved to get away from a defender at a preseason training camp in February, her left cleat got stuck in the grass, but her knee kept turning.

“It was very painful,” Endo later told USA TODAY. She had injured other parts of her knee in the past, but she knew this time was different.

Endo started playing soccer when she was 2 years old and had dreamed of playing in the Olympics almost as long. She competed for Japan in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, where her team finished eighth out of 12. She was looking forward to redemption for her country in 2024.

But MRI results in February showed she had torn her ACL, one of four ligaments that holds the knee together. It attaches to the top of the shinbone (tibia) to the bottom of the thighbone (femur) in the knee.

The 24-year-old was in for a long year. She underwent surgery for the first time and faced a nine-to-12-month recovery, foiling her chance at a second Olympic run and forcing her to miss the entire 2024 season with Los Angeles’ Angel City.

Hundreds of thousands of ACL reconstructions are performed each year in the United States, according to the National Library of Medicine.

At least 14 athletes, mostly women and half of them female soccer players, have been sidelined from the Paris Olympics because of it.

Various studies have shown female athletes are at a higher risk of injuring their ACL compared with male athletes, including a statistical survey by the National Collegiate Athletic Association that found risk was up to eight times higher for females.

A common injury and a long road back

A 23-player squad can expect to see three ACL injuries over four years, according to a study by the Union of European Football Associations. In less than six months between November 2023 and April 2024, Australia’s national women’s team lost Sam Kerr, Amy Sayer and Holly McNamara. Kerr’s most recent ACL injury is a career second. Her first happened in her other leg and forced her to miss the 2012 London Olympics.

This year, WNBA rookie Cameron Brink injured her ACL a month before she was going to make her Olympic debut on the U.S. women’s basketball 3x3 team. She was replaced by Los Angeles Sparks teammate Dearica Hamby.

Research published in 2020 in the Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy, concluded that athletes who return to sport before nine months have a higher risk of sustaining another ACL injury.

Just a few weeks before the Paris Olympics, Kawhi Leonard of the L.A. Clippers was replaced on Team USA after USA Basketball, the Clippers and Leonard’s representation decided it would be best if he didn’t play in the 2024 Paris Olympics. The 33-year-old reported inflammation in his right knee, the same knee that he tore his ACL in 2021 and tissue called the meniscus in 2023.

The day before leaving Team USA in Las Vegas, Leonard told USA TODAY his advice to others dealing with this injury: “Make sure you don’t skip days on your rehab, stay patient, and that’s all you can do. Whatever happens, happens. Don’t leave no regrets throughout your rehab. Make sure you take care of yourself.”

For Endo, soccer is her identity, and living without it has proved challenging both physically and mentally. She had her surgery in California, thousands of miles from her home and family and had to relearn how to walk by regaining range of motion, reactivating her quad and rebuilding the muscle lost from surgery in her left leg.

The strain of it all led her to another first: meeting with a clinical psychologist.

Researchers have found that patients can suffer mental health challenges like depression after ACL surgery, with one study reporting 42% of patients were diagnosed with depression after ACL reconstruction.

Holly Silvers-Granelli, a physical therapist who was part of the research group that developed the Prevent Injury, Enhance Performance program and FIFA 11+ warm up program for injury prevention, said half of healing from ACL



Kia Nurse of the Phoenix Mercury is helped off the court after a leg injury during the first half in Game Four of the 2021 WNBA semifinals against the Las Vegas Aces at Footprint Center in Phoenix. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, shown in April, was replaced just before the Paris Olympics out of concern for his knee and meniscus that he had hurt before. “Don’t skip days on your rehab,” he said, advising others. JEROME MIRON/USA TODAY SPORTS

injury is physical – rebuilding biomechanics and strength, and the other half is psychological. “The brain is a critical component to the return to training,” said Silvers-Granelli, who explained that if the brain is “preoccupied” with the injury, then it could potentially increase secondary injury risk.

An epidemic in women’s sports

Jo Hannafin who has been a team physician for professional sports teams and at the Olympics, said the ACL is important for controlling rotation of the knee.

“Any time you plant and turn what keeps your knee from coming apart when you twist is your ACL, and that’s the reason why that ligament is so commonly injured in planting and pivoting sports and activities,” said Hannafin, who retired from clinical practice as an orthopedic surgeon in 2021 and serves as the vice chair of the Institutional Review Board at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

In Hannafin’s 31 years as an orthopedic surgeon, she said she performed 10 to 12 ACL surgeries a month, calling the injury an “epidemic” in women’s sports. She suffered the injury herself, which inspired her career as an orthopedic surgeon. Three years after she tore her left ACL, she competed in the 1984 World Championships for rowing.

Experts have suggested multiple reasons why girls and women injure their ACL more than boys and men, including anatomy, hormones and even genetics.

“Research has shown that women have wider hips, which can affect their knee joint alignment when they’re landing, and they tend to land in a more upright position, which puts their knees in a straighter position, and they engage their core less,” said Christy Collins, president of the Datalyst Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention. “And we’ve also seen in previous studies that elasticity of collagen in the knee can change during the menstrual cycle.”

Options for surgery

There are different ways to reconstruct an ACL. Hannafin’s was sown back together in a procedure called a primary repair. Although hers remained intact, she said this method has fallen out of favor after studies showed increasing failure rates over time.

Other options for ACL reconstruction



At a pre-season training camp for the Angel City FC, Jun Endo tore her ACL, ending a chance for a second run in the Olympics for Japan and sidelining her for the rest of the season with the Los Angeles football club. SANDY HOOPER/USA TODAY

include autograft or allograft. An autograft uses the patient’s own tissue, taken from elsewhere in their body, typically their patellar tendon, quad or hamstring. Endo’s ACL was reconstructed using part of her quad tendon.

An allograft is tissue from a deceased donor.

Autografts are usually the graft of choice for young people, generally those under 40, because the risk of reinjury is lower than with allografts. The use of quadriceps tendon have gained popularity because there’s less risk of donor-site morbidity, such as general pain, discomfort or decreased function like loss of range of motion.

A newer technique called the Bridge-Enhanced ACL Repair (BEAR) uses an implant to help a torn ACL heal itself by bridging the gap between the torn ends of the ligament. Although Hannafin thinks BEAR could be a great option, she still thinks more long-term studies are needed.

Making a comeback

When WNBA star and Olympian Kia Nurse wakes up in the morning, she knows her right knee is not like the other. Some days it’s sorer after practice or stiffer after traveling than her other knee.

She tore her ACL while playing for the Phoenix Mercury after planting her right foot on a layup attempt in the first 40 seconds of a playoff game against the Las Vegas Aces on Oct. 6, 2021. She fell to the ground in agony, clutching her right knee, before being picked up and assisted off the court. MRI results showed she also had two small meniscus tears, which is cartilage in the knee that acts as a shock absorber.

Nurse spoke with USA TODAY about her ACL injury just days before watching Los Angeles Sparks teammate Cameron Brink injure her ACL on June 18 in a similar way – a noncontact fall to the ground while driving to the basket.

Nurse decided to have part of her quad tendon used to reconstruct her ACL.

She received plenty of advice heading into her long recovery, including from former NBA player Jarrett Jack, who underwent ACL surgery as a player in 2016.

“He said every day is your game day,” Nurse said. “And that kind of stuck with me because every day that you’re in ACL rehab, like you don’t get to play games. So at the end of each day, what did you accomplish?”

Early in rehab sometimes that meant

something as simple as extending her leg and bringing it back in.

“It’s really boring and it’s not something you want to do for three sets, but you do it and you kind of treat that like it’s your game and then you’ve accomplished something that day,” she said.

After 11 months of physical therapy six days a week, Nurse was cleared to return to playing basketball. She competed in the World Championships for Team Canada in 2022, which finished in fourth place. She ranked second on the team in scoring with 11 points per game.

“The first year, though, physically, it felt pretty good, mentally was kind of like the biggest hurdle of kind of feeling like you didn’t really feel like yourself,” Nurse said of her 2023 WNBA season where she averaged 6 points and 20 minutes per game. She had averaged 10, 12 and 14 points in nearly 30 minutes per game in 2019, 2020 and 2021, respectively.

In 2024, Nurse was traded to the Los Angeles Sparks, and the 28-year-old said this season has been a flip of the switch for her, averaging 8 points per game halfway through the season. Her training is different than it was prior to her injury, and she also works with a nutritionist to maintain a diet that reduces inflammation.

“I can’t just go on the court anymore like I used to when I was younger,” she said. “I’m very intentional about activation and mobility and in terms of what I need to activate prior to a game.”

Injury prevention can help but not solve the problem

Injury prevention programs, like FIFA 11+ warm up, have been shown to reduce the risk of ACL injury. “Neuromuscular training really improves lower body strength and control, so they can change that speed and direction safely,” Collins said.

Hannafin also noted that jump-landing training can be highly effective for ACL injury prevention. Neuromuscular training programs have been found to reduce a first ACL injury by between 44% and 73%.

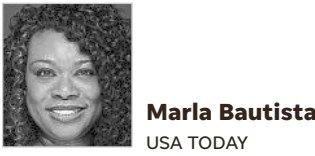
But when it comes to sports that see high rates of ACL injuries like basketball and soccer, “ultimately, injuries are going to happen to everybody, even if they’re very well trained, because it’s a sport that requires aggressive cutting and pivoting,” Hannafin said.

While Endo is expected to return to soccer next season with Angel City, Nurse is competing in her third Olympics, her first with this new ACL.

OPINION

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Black women are refusing to remain silent



In a society rife with misinformation about affirmative action, lingering systemic racism and the dismantling of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, Vice President Kamala Harris has risen through the ranks of American politics and is now the likely Democratic nominee for president.

Her remarkable achievements stand as a powerful testament to resilience, shattering stereotypes and forging a path for all women of color to follow.

This election season is unlike any other I've witnessed as a millennial Black woman. There is a notable increase in Black women unapologetically taking up spaces where we belong. We are unshrinking ourselves, having the hard conversations and taking a public stance with our beliefs.

And we won't back down.

Breaking fundraising record for Kamala Harris' campaign

This has been a historic time in politics. Harris' campaign garnered more than \$80 million within 24 hours of President Joe Biden abandoning his reelection effort on July 21, breaking a political fundraising record for the largest single-day total.

That same night, more than 44,000 Black people, most of them women, joined a Zoom call organized by Win With Black Women in support of Harris' presidential run. More than \$1.5 million



Members of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, one of nine historically Black fraternities and sororities, listen as Vice President Kamala Harris addresses their convention last Wednesday in Indianapolis. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

was raised in just three hours during the online call.

Black women are fired up and ready to take our place on America's main stage. But this shouldn't come as a surprise; Black women add value to everything we align with.

Black women are done with the conversations where we are called unqualified and DEI hires. The persistent misinformation surrounding affirmative action needs to stop.

This narrative is not only misleading but also damaging, as it discounts the systemic barriers that affirmative action sought to address. Critics who portray affirmative action as an undeserved advantage undermine the achievements

of those who benefit from these policies.

Systemic racism remains a largely unseen barrier, influencing every aspect of Black women's lives. From education and employment to health care and housing, racial biases have continually prohibited Black women's access to the same basic rights many others take for granted.

Despite these challenges, Black women continue to succeed. In academia, we are earning advanced degrees at higher rates than before. We are well respected thought leaders and changemakers, and we are a force in driving diversity and innovation. Even with systemic limitations, Black women are relentless in our pursuit of excellence.

Efforts against DEI programs are a threat to Black women

The recent push to dismantle DEI initiatives poses a new threat to the progress made in promoting diversity and inclusion. DEI programs have been instrumental in creating more equitable environments, fostering a sense of belonging and providing support systems for all marginalized groups.

As some entities move to roll back these initiatives, Black women find ourselves at the forefront of the fight to preserve and advance DEI efforts.

The stories of Black women who have triumphed against these odds are both inspiring and instructive. The work of Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, a leading scientist in the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, is a powerful reminder of the impact that Black women can have when given the opportunity.

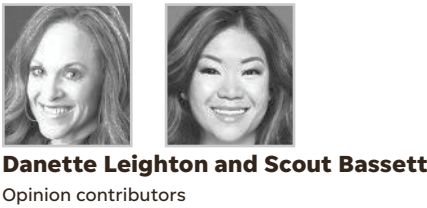
Other influential Black women – such as former first lady Michelle Obama, media mogul Oprah Winfrey, Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson and superstar Beyoncé Knowles-Carter – have proved that our nation's commitment to DEI has driven business successes and demonstrated the value of diverse perspectives.

As we celebrate leaders like Harris, we recognize that the accomplishments of Black women are a beacon of hope and a call to action. The progress we symbolize must be protected and advanced through continued advocacy, education and policy reform.

Before affirmative action and DEI initiatives can be eliminated, we must ensure equality.

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

Gender equality wins gold in Paris, but work remains



Women athletes have come a long way since the 1900 Paris Olympics, where they were first allowed to compete on the world's greatest sport stage. They accounted for only 2.2% of all competitors then. Starting Friday, in the same city, women athletes were expected to have the same number of participants as the men. The 50-50 split means that this will be the first-ever Olympics to reach gender parity.

Reaching this significant milestone is no small feat, and it has taken investment at all levels of the sports ecosystem to achieve.

Tuning into the Summer Games and seeing women fiercely compete for podium positions is witnessing the impact of Title IX play out in live action. It is no surprise that since the landmark law's passage in 1972, we have seen women's participation at the Games grow steadily, as generations of athletes continue to benefit from its 37 words that changed the trajectory of women's sports across the globe.

How Title IX helps move Olympics toward equality

Research by our Women's Sports Foundation has shown that 1,000 athletes (women and men) from more than 100 countries who competed in the 2020 Tokyo Games attended American colleges and universities. The same research also found that Canada's entire women's soccer roster that competed in the last Summer Games had attended American institutions.

Title IX's impact on the Olympics has moved the needle forward on parity, and a few strategic moves by the International Olympic Committee also are helping close the gender gap.

In 2018, the IOC approved a Gender Equality Review Project that specifically called out the need to work with international sports federations to reach 50% women athlete participation, which was a goal echoed in the Olympic Agenda 2020+5.



Sprinter Scout Bassett, president of the Women's Sports Foundation, competes at the U.S. Paralympic Team trials July 20 in Miramar, Fla. ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

We were delighted to see these moves because setting goals allows governing bodies to pave a pathway to progress for girls and women in sport.

Let us be clear, the 2024 Summer Olympics reaching gender parity is an extraordinary accomplishment, but it should not overshadow the persistent inequities still at play for women throughout the Games, particularly for para-athletes and coaches.

Although there have been notable strides toward parity in the Paralympics, women athletes continually lag behind their Olympic counterparts. During the 2020 Tokyo Games, women

athlete participation compared with men hovered around 42%, while women in the Olympics neared 48%.

It is disappointing that four years later, women athlete participation in the Paralympics is expected to remain stagnant. Unlike the IOC, the International Paralympic Committee has not set clear goals on how to achieve equality among athletes, and its program overview for Paris shows that women athlete participation will stay put at 42%.

The importance of investing in and actively promoting women athletes with disabilities is critical and cannot be overstated. Staggering data shows that

90% of women with disabilities are not active in sport, and boys with disabilities consistently participate in sport at higher rates than girls with disabilities.

Inequality remains in Paralympics and coaching roles in general

Observing women athletes compete on a global platform, such as the Paralympics, can help encourage girls and women with disabilities to come off the sidelines and experience the lifelong benefits of sport participation.

Further, the state of play for women in coaching roles throughout the Olympics and Paralympics is woefully lagging. In Tokyo, only 13% of coaches were women. As for the U.S. roster, the percentage is only slightly higher at 21.1%. Of the five Paralympic team sports in which the U.S. women competed, all five were coached by men.

This trend mirrors what is being seen throughout collegiate sports, where there has been a drastic decline of women in head coaching roles – an unfortunate trend in America following the passage of Title IX as men saw the profitability of coaching women's sports and over time secured the majority of coaching positions.

Growing the pipeline for women coaches at all levels is vital to ensuring that women make it onto the Olympic Games' coaching rosters. Gender bias is a systemic issue in collegiate women's sports and among collegiate women coaches; 80% believe it is easier for men to secure high-level coaching jobs, salary increases and multiyear contracts.

Sports is one of the most powerful ways to advance women in society because girls who play go on to become women who lead. To the millions of Americans expected to tune into the Paris Games, there is more that you can do besides cheer.

It is estimated that it will take more than a century for women to achieve equality with men throughout society. But we can help speed up the clock by addressing the inequities on the field of play, in the front office and beyond, and find tangible ways to invest in the ever-evolving world of women's sports.

Danette Leighton is CEO of the Women's Sports Foundation. Scout Bassett, president of the Women's Sports Foundation, is a Paralympic track and field athlete.

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MONEYLINE



PROVIDED BY DISNEY CONSUMER PRODUCTS

YOU CAN DRESS FOR HALLOWEEN, DISNEY STYLE

It’s not too early to start thinking about Halloween costumes: Disney is opening the vault on its 2024 Halloween shop, revealing hundreds of Halloween costumes and accessories for the season including new princess costumes and others inspired by characters from “Inside Out 2,” “Descendants: The Rise of Red,” and characters from Marvel and Star Wars films and TV series. All the goodies went on sale Monday at DisneyStore.com. If your kids are hooked on the Disney+ and Disney Jr. series “Bluey,” they can dress up as the star of the show. The Bluey costume (\$44.99) has a jumpsuit, headpiece and detachable tail. Or your princess can assume the guise of characters such as Aurora, Cinderella, Tiana, and more (\$49.99; tiara, wand, jewelry set, and shoes sold separately). For a Star Wars heroine, there’s Princess Leia and Rey (\$54.99 each, shoes not included). Adults can choose princesses, Evil Queen Deluxe (\$64.99), Maleficent Deluxe (\$64.99) and Ursula Prestige (\$129.99) among others.

2 CARNIVAL CRUISE CREW ARRESTED FOR CHILD PORN

Two Carnival Cruise Line crew members were arrested on child pornography charges this month. Law enforcement found what appeared to be child sexual abuse material on Reza Heta Pratama’s phone and laptop during a July 18 search after he disembarked Carnival Valor in New Orleans. He was told to leave after being fired because of sexual harassment complaints from co-workers, according to an arrest affidavit. Pratama told law enforcement that he got child pornography from groups on Telegram. Days earlier, law enforcement also found child sexual abuse material on Abdhul Rouvoof Shaik’s WhatsApp account when he disembarked Carnival Liberty on July 14. Shaik said “his ‘friend’ put him in a ‘group’ that involves children having sex,” according to an affidavit.

UNITED FLIGHT DIVERTED FOR A ‘MEDICAL ISSUE’

A United Airlines flight from Houston to Boston diverted to Northern Virginia on Sunday “after a customer experienced a medical issue,” according to United. The airline did not disclose the nature of the illness on flight 2477, but a radio traffic recording shared by flight tracking company RadarBox suggests there may have been a biohazard on board. United said the Boeing 737-800 got a “deep clean” and departed at 5:17 p.m. ET.



By 1950, the Oklahoma National Stockyards had become a major exchange for stocker and feeder cattle, and it’s not the only stockyard in the Oklahoma City metro area. NATHAN J. FISH/THE OKLAHOMAN

Oklahoma’s longtime industry could fare well as prices increase

BEEF BOOM

Richard Mize The Oklahoman | USA TODAY NETWORK

Cattle bosses on the Great Western Trail were dreamers, and the rangy longhorns they drove from Texas through Oklahoma on the way to Kansas and Nebraska fetched fortunes, but they probably never imagined this future for Indian Territory 150 years later: The humble beef cow is the mother of Oklahoma agriculture. ● Markets for cows and calves – and stockers, feeders, even old, worn-out bulls – are on a roll. Oklahoma beef cattle on the hoof were worth about \$3.3 billion in January 2022, the most recent estimates, more than hogs and pigs, broilers, hay, winter wheat, cotton, corn and soybeans.

Nationally, with the cattle inventory at its lowest level in more than 70 years, beef prices are through the barn roof.

Consumers feel it from the fast-food drive-thru to the steak house to the supermarket meat case – and there’s no relief in sight. This year started with the lowest U.S. cattle inventory since 1951 and the smallest calf crop since 1948, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

High retail prices for beef in stores and restaurants haven’t put a dent in consumer demand, however, specialists say.

Drought and high feed costs have state cattle raisers selling more calf producers – cows and heifers – than usual. The supply of cattle in feed yards, the last stop before slaughter, started 2024 strong, with sufficient inventory for meat packers, according to Oklahoma Farm Report.

Fewer cattle ready for purchase in feed yards, as well as lower numbers further up the supply chain, will have meat packers competing for cattle, “which should lead to higher prices for cattle feeders, especially in the second half of 2024 ... this could send beef prices to record levels in 2024 and 2025, as we hit the supply bottom of the current cattle cycle,” Oklahoma Farm Report said.



Weston Givens works to rope a calf at the family ranch, Davison & Sons Cattle Co., at Arnett, Okla.

PROVIDED BY WESTON AND RUTH ANN GIVENS

Northwest Oklahoma rancher: Times are good but not great

So, is it a good time to be an Oklahoma rancher?

“It is. Profitability is really good for anyone that’s got some management skills,” said Weston Givens, co-owner of Davison & Sons Cattle Co. in Arnett, about 150 miles northwest of Oklahoma

See CATTLE, Page 2B

Ready for next solar eclipse? You can sail to it in 2026

Nathan Diller USA TODAY

The 2026 total solar eclipse won’t be visible from the U.S., but Holland America Line will make chasing it down easy.

The cruise line is offering three itineraries that will put ships in the path of totality, including one round-trip from Boston. The sailings are part of a wider range of Celestial Cruises centered on astronomical phenomena.

“After the excitement and success around our 2024 eclipse cruises, we knew our guests were looking for additional opportunities to get a front-row seat for some of the world’s most special natural spectacles,” Beth Bodenstetter, Holland America’s chief commercial officer, said in a news release. “Our team has put together a lineup of cruises that not

only deliver on that front, but also give guests in-depth exploration of exciting destinations and the premium onboard experience for which we’re known.”

The line’s 1,964-guest Zuiderdam ship will depart on the 35-day Voyage of the Vikings: Solar Eclipse on July 18, 2026, from Boston.

That will be followed by a 28-day Scandinavian Solar Eclipse with Greenland and Scotland aboard Nieuw Statendam – guests can choose to sail round trip from either Dover, England, or Rotterdam, the Netherlands – starting July 25, and the 13-day Mediterranean Solar Eclipse with Barcelona Overnight on Aug. 9 from Lisbon, Portugal, to Piraeus, Greece, aboard Oosterdam.

Nieuw Statendam and Oosterdam can accommodate 2,666 and 1,964 guests, respectively.

Where will the cruises sail?

● The Voyage of the Vikings will sail from New England to Canada before making its way to Europe, stopping in destinations like Greenland, the Netherlands, Ireland and Iceland. Zuiderdam will arrive in position for the eclipse viewing off the country’s western coast before making its way back stateside. The itinerary also features overnight stays in Reykjavik and Rotterdam.

● Along with Greenland and Scotland, guests on the Scandinavian Solar Eclipse cruise will visit ports including Norway, Iceland and more, viewing the eclipse off Iceland’s northwest coast. The itinerary also includes an overnight stay in South Queensferry near Edinburgh.

● On the Mediterranean itinerary, passengers will explore Spain, France, It-

aly and Montenegro.

Guests will watch the eclipse from off the Spanish coast, between Barcelona – where the ship will also stay overnight – and Alicante.

Cruise ships not only offer guests panoramic views of an eclipse but can take guests directly to a prime location – and move as needed.

The 2026 eclipse cruises also will feature scientific specialists, lectures and other themed activities.

How much will eclipse cruises cost?

Pricing info was not yet available, but the cruises will open for booking on Wednesday. Members of Holland America’s Mariner Society loyalty program who book by Oct. 29 can get up to \$400 in onboard credit per cabin.

Cattle

Continued from Page 1B

City, with his wife, Ruth Ann, and in-laws, Charles and Sherry Nichols. Ruth Ann Givens’ great-grandfather, George Davison, founded the ranch in 1908.

It now keeps a commercial herd of about 1,200 cows, producing an annual Angus-Hereford crossbred calf crop on 40,000 acres of native grass around Arnett. About 92% to 93% of the ranch’s cows have a calf every year. The national average is about 75%. The operation is vertically integrated, owning calves from birth to grazing grass (sometimes a winter wheat pasture near Orlando, Oklahoma) through the feed yard until sold to a packer.

Givens, 52, a former president of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association, knows the business up and down the supply chain. Times are good, he said, but not great.

Givens said it’s important for ranchers to “keep contact with the consumer” during times of stress, whether good or bad for business. For example, Oklahoma cattle raisers reached out during the COVID-19 chaos that hit meatpacking plants and their communities in 2020-21 by promoting ranches that sold meat directly to the public, he said.

Now, with the worst of the pandemic behind them, “Prices for everything are high,” Givens said, referring to what it takes to feed and care for cattle, “and the general cost of living is high. But I don’t think anybody’s going to be crying the blues about how hard things are now.”

With historic beef prices likely ahead, and beef history behind us this 150th anniversary of the Great Western Trail – the last of Oklahoma’s historic cattle trails – here is a look at how the beef cattle business evolved in Oklahoma and how it works in 2024.

Trail of Tears included livestock: Oldest cattle facts for Oklahoma

For all cowboy lore and legend, it wasn’t Texans who brought the first cattle to, and through, what is now Oklahoma.

Cattle came here on the Trail of Tears in the 1830s, when the Five Tribes – Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole – were removed from the southeastern United States and resettled in Indian Territory. For their part, the Cherokee Nation-owned 1839 Cherokee Meat Co. now keeps a herd of 200 cattle, plus 250 bison, and has a meat processing facility and retail shop in Tahlequah.

“In addition to bringing large herds of livestock with them, they also practiced a system of communal land ownership that favored open-range grazing,” Jim Hoy writes of the state cattle industry in the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture. “This in turn led to increased herd sizes because until the California gold rush of the 1850s, there was no readily available market for their cattle.”

In the 1840s and 1850s, some cattle were being herded north from Texas through Indian Territory, in addition to the tribes’ herds. By 1861 and the Civil War, the Cherokee Nation alone had nearly 250,000 head of cattle. “Unfortunately,” Hoy wrote, “the havoc of the war and the depredations of cattle thieves” cost the Five Tribes about 300,000 head by the end of the war in 1865.

Then came the Texans, in earnest, by the drove.

Three separate cattle trails crossed Indian Territory, present Oklahoma

The Chisholm Trail gets the most attention, and, in its day, it was considered to be “one of the wonders of the Western world,” historians say.

“Herds with as many as 10,000 cattle were driven from Texas over the trail to Kansas. The trail acquired its name from trader Jesse Chisholm, a part-Cherokee, who just before the Civil War had built a trading post in what is now western Oklahoma City.”

Before they headed west, cattle drives went east – into eastern Indian Territory, then to the middle, then west.

These were the three cattle trails that crossed what is now Oklahoma in the 1800s, according to the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture:

- East: The Shawnee Trail. Historians say Texas cattle were first driven across eastern Indian Territory to Missouri, following the Shawnee Trail, crossing the Red River near Preston, Texas, into the Choctaw Nation. Drovers pushed herds past Fort Gibson to the Grand River and north into Kansas, then turned them east into Missouri. Another branch of the trail went into Arkansas and north to Missouri. More than 200,000 longhorns went up the Shawnee Trail in 1866. The next year, six states banned cattle drives because of the fear of tick-borne Texas-fever.
- Middle: The Chisholm Trail. “The



Cattle are shown during an auction at the Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City on June 10. NATHAN J. FISH/THE OKLAHOMAN

Chisholm Trail crossed from Texas over into Indian Territory at Red River Station, near present Ringgold, Texas, heading north. ... The western route, primarily for freight and stages ... ran through Concho, Fort Reno, and Kingfisher Stage Station, and then turned northeast. The eastern branch, used primarily for cattle, passed west of present Mustang, crossed through Yukon, and passed to the west of Piedmont. The eastern trail rejoined the western trail at Red Fork Ranch, or Dover Stage Stand, now the town of Dover.”

- West: The Great Western Trail. “In 1874 John T. Lytle blazed a new path beyond the western edge of settlement ... to Fort Robinson, Nebraska. ... It reached the Red River about ten miles north of present Vernon, Texas. Corwin Doan ... opened a trading post on the river in 1878. ... The ford soon became known as Doan’s Crossing. ... The trail then pushed northward ... (passing) along the western edge of the Comanche-Kiowa-Apache Reservation and (entering) the most dangerous section of the route. ... Here the drovers frequently met American Indians who wanted to supplement their meager government rations with fresh beef. ... It remained the most used until the cattle trailing industry ended in the 1890s.”

Meatpacking was Oklahoma City’s first industry; then came the stockyards

In 1910, the industrialization of the beef business had arrived in the still-young city of Oklahoma City. Meatpacking was its first major industry.

“Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce officials wanted to add their city to others that prospered with stockyards,” according to J’Nell L. Pate, writing in the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture. The chamber invited big companies and several agreed to come. They called it Packingtown. The stockyards went up immediately.

“The market soon employed more than 4,000 people, attracted seventeen commission firms, and created a livestock exchange,” Pate wrote. “As occurred at most stockyards, local entrepreneurs constructed a coliseum in 1922 for stock shows, rodeos, and Future Farmers of America events.”

By 1950, the Oklahoma National Stockyards had become a major exchange for stocker and feeder cattle.

Oklahoma City was, and is, well situated for big stockyards, in the middle of the country and just about on the dividing line between cow-calf production on one side, toward the east, and stocking, feeding and finishing on the west – a situation that continues to funnel calves onto Oklahoma grass pastures and winter wheat for grazing to this day.

“By the early 1980s the Oklahoma City stockyards emerged as the nation’s No. 1 cattle market, tallying receipts of a million animals per year,” Pate wrote.

Today, the stockyards, spread across 120 acres with headquarters at 2501 Exchange Ave., bills itself as the “largest stocker-feeder cattle market in the world,” with nine livestock commission companies operating and auctions on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Oklahoma National Stockyards isn’t the only stockyard in the Oklahoma City metro area.

El Reno is the home of OKC West Livestock Market, with cows and bulls sold on Mondays, calves and stockers on Tuesdays, and feeder steers and heifers on Wednesdays.

In addition, across the state, and nearby states, are nearly 100 local stockyards and livestock sale barns, according to the Packers and Stockyards Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service. They include:

- Buffalo Feeders LLC, **Buffalo.**

Quick hits

Oklahoma Panhandle has some, not all, of state’s cattle feed yards

Where do cattle in Oklahoma go to finish before slaughter? Most go to feed yards, mostly around Amarillo, Texas, to get a high-energy diet, grow fast, add muscle and meat and optimize fat. Feed yards are members of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association trade group. Oklahoma has eight of the 98 member yards:

‘Backgrounding’ feedlots prep cattle for finishing at regular feed yards

Some cattle first go to “backgrounding” feedlots, where they’re “straightened out” after long hauls, sorted, acclimated and socialized before heading to intensive feeding in a regular feed yard.

Cattle are many, meat packers are few for Oklahoma-grown beef

Where do Oklahoma cattle go to slaughter? Some farms and ranches slaughter, package, and market their own beef, and there are small meat packing companies, but most wind up at one of three major companies with five regional packing plants.

- Alfadale Stock Farm LLC, **El Reno.**
- CRI Feeders of Guymon LLC, **Guymon.**
- Champion Feeders, **Guymon** (based in Hereford, Texas).
- Champion Feeders, **Hooker.**
- Cow Creek Feeders LLC, **Keyes.**
- Cimarron Feeders, **Texhoma.**
- Xcel Feedyard LLC, **Watonga.**
- Abernathy Cattle Co., **Altus.**
- CK Land and Cattle LLC, **Fay.**
- 3M&H Land & Cattle LLC, **Gage.**
- Power Plus Feeders, **Hobart.**
- Freeman Feedlot Inc., **Texhoma.**
- Tyson Fresh Meats, two plants in **Amarillo.** Headquarters: Springdale, Arkansas.
- JBS, **Cactus, Texas.** (Retail brands include Swift and Pilgrim’s.) Headquarters: Greeley, Colorado.
- National Beef Packing Co. LLC, **Dodge City, Kansas, and Liberal, Kansas.** (Retail brands include Black Canyon Angus Beef and Certified Hereford Beef.) Headquarters: Kansas City, Missouri.

Oklahoma cattle appeared in the earliest moo-vies

The cattle business in Oklahoma has been important for so long that filmmakers even before Hollywood were documenting it. It helped that the birth of movies coincided with the last days of the territorial frontier, which hung on just about until statehood in 1907.



Roy Rogers and Dale Evans gather for a 1952 photo. PROVIDED BY THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“Early shorts, made by the Edison Co., focused on real cowboys and Indians doing the sorts of things audiences had enjoyed in Wild West shows,” according to William Hagen, in the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture.

In 1904, three films, running no more than 90 seconds, were created for Kinetoscope or nickelodeon programs, with titles tied to the era. The shorts were filmed near Bliss (Old Bliss), Oklahoma Territory:

- “Driving Cattle To Pasture”
- “Cowboys and Indians Fording River in a Wagon”
- “A Brush Between Cowboys and Indians”

‘The Farmer and the Cowman should be friends’

Movie makers soon turned more to outlaws and oil booms in telling Oklahoma stories, but the business and sagas of ranching, especially the passing of the open range, also continued to be featured, as Hagen describes:

“ ‘The Oklahoma Kid’ (1939), starring Humphrey Bogart and Jimmy Cagney as unlikely cowboys, joins William S. Hart’s ‘Tumbleweeds’ (1925), both versions of ‘Cimarron’ (1931, 1960), and even ‘Oklahoma!’ (1955) in portraying the process and conflicts associated with the closing of the frontier, ending the free-range livelihood of many cowboys.”

“Oklahoma!” set the closing of the range and the advent of fencing and farming to music with “The Farmer and the Cowman.”

“The farmer and the cowman should be friends, Oh, the farmer and the cowman should be friends. One man likes to push a plough, the other likes to chase a cow, But that’s no reason why they can’t be friends.”

Cattle and pop culture: ‘Home in Oklahoma’ with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans

Perhaps the clearest picture of Oklahoma cattle ranching crossing paths with popular entertainment was a 1946 movie, “Home in Oklahoma,” filmed at the Flying “L” Ranch in Davis and starring Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Its world premieres were in Ada and Ardmore.

It featured three pieces of music celebrating ranch life in the state: “Everlasting Hills of Oklahoma,” “Home in Oklahoma” and “Hereford Heaven,” the last one written by Gov. Roy J. Turner, a renowned Hereford breeder, and performed and recorded by the Flying L Ranch Quartet. Turner and a partner ran a 9,600-acre ranch near Sulphur that they called “Hereford Heaven,” also a popular nickname for southern Oklahoma cattle country in general, especially Murray County.

Singing cowboy legacies in Oklahoma

Rogers wasn’t the only singing movie cowboy to earn Oklahomans admiration. In 1941, the town of Berwyn, about 25 miles south of Davis, changed its name to Gene Autry.

The star had bought a spread at the edge of town in 1939 and named it the Flying “A” Ranch. Autry joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and sold the ranch at the start of World War II.

But Rogers and Evans tied a ribbon on Oklahoma’s cattle history and cowboy heritage by tying the knot: They got married in Davis at the Flying “L” Ranch on New Year’s Eve in 1947.

Latest cattle facts for Oklahoma

- *Note: The data was collected in 2022*, when most of the Southern Plains was drought-stricken.
- Beef inventory and cattle operations are declining, but the average herd size is increasing: 46% of people in Oklahoma who own cattle own fewer than 20 head; 75% of state cattle raisers own fewer than 50 head.
- “Smaller producers are growing beef for their own consumption or for show animals, student projects or for a hobby. On the other hand, consolidated operations are multigenerational family farms with large herds. We’re seeing less middle-sized cattle herds because making the profit margin is difficult,” said Amy Hagerman, OSU Extension ag policy specialist.
- The average age of an Oklahoma farmer-rancher (all, not just cattle producers) is the late 50s – older in the Panhandle and younger in central and western Oklahoma.
- “The average producer age has been trending up slightly or fairly flat for several census years, but the number of new and beginning producers replacing older ones or working alongside them in northwest and western Oklahoma is surprising,” Hagerman said. “It’s encouraging to see younger producers, especially in parts of the state with larger operations. That might be an indicator that people are returning to the farm.”

ASK HUMAN RESOURCES

Not all job promotions come with pay hike



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: My department recently combined with one from another company after a merger. In the re-alignment, I received a promotion. However, it did not come with a raise. Is this normal? – Joe

Answer: Congratulations on your accomplishment and new role! You may be surprised to hear that receiving a promotion without a pay increase is not uncommon. These kinds of promotions have been dubbed “dry promotions.” There could be several reasons for receiving a dry promotion, including budget constraints, the overall financial performance of your employer, or your employer’s intent to assess your ability to perform in your new role before ultimately giving you a raise. There are, however, actions that you can take to address your concerns respectfully.

Start by researching relevant salary ranges. Are comparable positions paying more than what you’re making now?

A solid understanding of the market rate for your role will provide a solid foundation for your discussion; if your salary is below market, that information will be valuable in negotiating a pay increase. Remember to look externally and internally. Ask your HR team for salary ranges for your previous and new positions. Keep in mind that in a merger, employers often reevaluate and adjust salary ranges.

Next, plan a civil and professional conversation with your manager or Human Resources department. Ask why the promotion did not come with a pay increase. Understanding their rationale can help frame your response. Inquire if a pay hike could be considered in the future and, if so, when you can revisit the conversation. Set a specific date for a follow-up meeting to review your performance and potential for a raise.

In addition, assess the long-term benefits of the promotion. Even without an immediate pay increase, the new role can enhance your resume, increase your visibility within the company and position you for future advancement. The experience and skills you gain can also make you a more attractive candidate for higher-paying positions within your current company or elsewhere.

Finally, you can explore alternative compensation. If an immediate pay raise is not an option, consider negotiating for other benefits to improve your overall compensation package. Additional paid time off or schedule flexibility can provide significant value and im-

prove job satisfaction. Consider asking for support in furthering your education or training. Professional development opportunities can benefit both you and the company in the long run.

Being inquisitive, transparent and prepared will help you address your concerns and demonstrate your commitment to your professional and personal growth. Regardless of the immediate outcome, handling this situation professionally will serve you well in your career.

I recently took an entry-level job in a logistics warehouse. The training we received was minimal, especially when it comes to safety. Our work area has some large machinery, and we often use sharp tools and handle heavy items and hazardous materials. Is my employer required to provide a particular level of safety training for our work? How do I know if we’re adequately prepped? – Natalie

It must feel unsettling not to feel confident in the level of safety-related training you received. Under the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Act, workers have a right to a safe workplace. Preserving workplace safety is lawful and smart business.

OSHA directs employers to provide “employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to (their employees).” Employers can be fined for violations if a recognized, serious hazard exists, and they haven’t tak-

en reasonable steps such as documented training to prevent or decrease the likelihood of the hazard.

OSHA may require your employer to provide specific safety training, depending on several factors. Warehouses, including logistics warehouses, are not explicitly required to provide safety-related training, but there may be training requirements for employees who work with and around various types of hazardous materials and equipment. In addition, there may be state and local OSHA laws with training requirements.

If there are no specific laws requiring an employer to provide safety training to their employees, it’s still in the best interests of all to be properly trained to work with any equipment, tools and hazardous materials in the workplace.

Always bring any unsafe working conditions to your employer’s attention. If your employer doesn’t respond, or you continue to feel unsafe, you can report the conditions to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which enforces the standards outlined in the Act and defends employees from retaliation for taking such actions.

Ultimately, proper safety training benefits everyone in the workplace. When employees are well-trained, the risk of accidents and injuries decreases, leading to a safer, more productive work environment. Employees who feel safe and confident in their roles will likely be more engaged and satisfied with their jobs. Best of luck in your new role!



On Travel
Christopher Elliott
USA TODAY

Why are airlines being so nice to you?

Airlines are shedding fees, giving away free stuff and being extra-nice to their customers. Has the world gone mad?

“That’s what I’ve been asking myself,” said Gail Clark, who complained to American Airlines after a recent flight delay and received a lightning-fast response, including a personal apology and 7,500 frequent flyer miles deposited to her account.

Clark, a retired CEO from Bluffton, South Carolina, said she’s used to foot-dragging and canned apologies. She said something felt wrong.

Sébastien Long has seen it with Southwest Airlines. The flight attendants keep pouring him free drinks whenever something is less than perfect on the plane. And when they do, they dismiss it in their Southwest way, with an, “Oh, I forgot to charge you, and we’re about to land.”

“Honestly, it’s almost *too* nice,” said Long, who runs an apartment rental company in Houston. “I feel like someone’s going to get in trouble for not charging me.”

The niceness is contagious.

Last month, Spirit Airlines eliminated its unpopular flight change and cancellation fees. Frontier Airlines did the same. JetBlue announced that all customers – even those with a “basic” economy class ticket – will get a free carry-on bag in addition to one small personal item.

“After the pandemic and the bad press the airline industry was getting this past spring, it seems natural that they would put more emphasis on smoothing nerves and garnering more trust from passengers,” said Anthony Radchenko, CEO of AirAdvisor.

Why airlines say they’re being nice

The biggest changes by far are the low-fare carriers like Spirit and Frontier removing their fees.

Frontier CEO Barry Biffle said the airline made the change because of its promise to “make travel with Frontier as flexible and worry-free as possible.”

“We understand that plans can change, and we want to ensure that when they do, our passengers can adjust their bookings without the stress of additional fees,” Biffle said in a prepared statement.

Spirit’s chief commercial officer,



ILLUSTRATION BY AREN ELLIOTT/FOR USA TODAY

Matt Klein, said in a news release that the airline wanted to change the game by offering “unparalleled flexibility and peace of mind.”

“It’s just the beginning of our pursuit to make affordable travel easier and more seamless than ever,” he said.

But they left out a very important detail. This spring, the government announced a new rule that requires airlines to tell consumers upfront if they charge fees for changes or cancellations. And that regulation would have made their fares look more complicated and probably led to fewer bookings.

“The airline industry had to be forced by legislation and regulation to do the right thing,” said Bill McGee, a senior fellow for aviation at the American Economic Liberties Project.

Another possible reason: We complained last year. A lot.

The Department of Transportation last week reported that airline complaints for 2023 were the highest ever, except for the pandemic year of 2020. The agency received 96,853 grievances about air travel, compared with 86,240 in calendar year 2022. The government hasn’t released any numbers for this year yet.

But it’s not just regulation, fed by an almost constant stream of passenger complaints. There are other reasons behind the change in customer service attitudes.

What’s really going on with ‘nice’ airlines?

When it comes to airlines, things have changed since the pandemic – in a good way.

“Market dynamics have shifted,” explained Jason Block, CEO of WorldVia

Travel Group. “Airlines are looking for ways to attract and retain customers in a more competitive environment.”

One way of doing that is by taking better care of their customers instead of taking them for granted.

Airlines also are seeing an opportunity to distinguish themselves from the competition, according to Andy Palacios, a vice president at App in the Air, an app for frequent air travelers.

“Customers have had many negative experiences with airlines, from poor customer support to hidden fees and unsatisfactory onboard experiences,” he said. “They’re trying to win back some of that business and appeal to customers who previously avoided them.”

Which airlines are the nicest?

It’s difficult to say which airlines are trying the hardest to woo their passengers with better service.

- As a group, the “low-cost” carriers like Spirit and Frontier have generated some positive buzz recently – mostly because of their new relaxed rules.

- There have also been reports of legacy airlines like American, Delta and United going the extra mile for customers.

- And, of course, there’s always Southwest, which has a legendary reputation for customer service to live up to.

Here’s the thing: The reports of great service are sporadic. Amid the steady stream of complaints I receive as a consumer advocate, I’ve been getting surprise reports of truly outstanding, pre-deregulation-level customer service. But it’s hard to predict when it will happen – or which airline will deliver it.

Can the nice airlines last?

Don’t get used to the niceness. Because even if it lasts – and it probably won’t – there’s a price to pay.

“There’s no free lunch here,” said Mike Taylor, J.D. Power’s resident airline expert. For every dropped fee, and indeed for every nicety airlines add, you should expect to pay a higher fare. (Just maybe not yet. As the Department of Transportation recently noted, airfares are down 6% over the past year, and they are below pre-pandemic prices.)

But ultimately, airlines have a corporate culture, shaped over the past four decades, that does not favor customers. And for most domestic airlines, it’s one that thinks of passengers as self-loading cargo, as walking dollar signs, to be manipulated with addictive loyalty programs and squeezed for every fee it can legally charge. “I don’t think it will last forever,” said Radchenko, of AirAdvisor, noting that customer service moves in cycles, and we’re just in a brief phase that happens to benefit passengers.

Real change will come only when airlines start thinking of their passengers as people who should be served with dignity, regardless of loyalty status.

And, unfortunately, the only way that will ever happen is if airline passengers start to prioritize service over cheap fares.

Christopher Elliott is an author, consumer advocate and journalist. He founded Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps solve consumer problems. He publishes Elliott Confidential, a travel newsletter, and the Elliott Report, a news site about customer service. If you need help with a consumer problem, you can reach him here or email him at chris@elliott.org.

50★States

ALABAMA **Montgomery:** The Montgomery Humane Society has closed its dog adoptions after an outbreak of dog influenza infected the canines. The illness has spread to all adoptable dogs and some puppies, said Lea Turbert, the humane society’s marketing manager.

ALASKA **Juneau:** Bartlett Regional Hospital closed its crisis care program for adolescents, which opened eight months ago, due to a lack of funding and staff, KTOO reported.

ARIZONA **Phoenix:** A Phoenix man has been arrested and charged after surveillance video shows him committing bestiality on his mother’s horse.

ARKANSAS **Little Rock:** Officials said an inmate at the Arkansas Department of Corrections Varner Unit in Lincoln County has died after getting electrocuted while working maintenance and installing lights, KATV reported.

CALIFORNIA **Visalia:** Three San Joaquin Valley men are facing a combined 26 charges of allegedly stealing high-performance “muscle” vehicles from across California and then bragging about the thefts on social media accounts. The men – ranging in age from 19 to 23 years old – were arrested in Visalia and Hanford by state and local police on suspicion of conspiracy, operating a chop shop, auto theft, possessing stolen goods, and various firearms charges.

COLORADO **Denver:** Traffic fatalities involving pedestrians were down 24% and overall traffic fatalities were down 9% for the first half of 2024 compared to the same time period in 2023, according to the Colorado Department of Transportation.

CONNECTICUT **Norwich:** The charges against Dr. Ravi Prakash, the Norwich-based pediatrician charged with sexually assaulting his patient, have been dropped. Theresa Ferryman, lead prosecutor for sexual assault cases in New London County, determined in New London Superior Court that it was impossible to prove Prakash’s actions were for sexual gratification or humiliation.

DELAWARE **Slaughter Beach:** A retired Baltimore fireboat and a World War II-era tugboat were added to an artificial reef off the coast of Delaware. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control’s Reef Site II is also known as the Redbird Reef because it’s home to over 700 New York City “Redbird” subway cars.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **Washington:** Officials said an investigation is underway after a man was fatally shot, DC News Now reported.

FLORIDA **Jacksonville:** The city is pumping more money than ever into University of Florida Health Jacksonville while it stabilizes its shaky finances. Mayor Donna Deegan is proposing \$56 million as a subsidy for UF Health Jacksonville’s daily operating expenses, up from \$40 million this year and double what the city’s contribution was just five years ago. Her budget proposal adds another \$38 million next year for building improvements.

GEORGIA **Atlanta:** There’s a rare alliance at work at the state and national level: U.S. Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Osoff have teamed up with U.S. Rep. Rick Allen and Marjorie Taylor Greene to make the Ocmulgee Mounds the first National Park and Preserve in Georgia. Their names are among more than a dozen attached to the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve Establishment Act which was being discussed by a committee on energy and natural resources as of May 15.

HAWAII **Honolulu:** The city has begun its \$1.25 million project to repair the retaining wall near Shark’s Cove at Pupukea Beach, Hawaii News Now reported.

IDAHO **Stanley:** Fire officials said the fire near Stanley which has burned nearly 2,600 acres was caused by humans, Idaho Press reported.

ILLINOIS **Springfield:** A result of years of negotiations among environmental groups and labor and business interests, Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation creating new regulations on carbon capture and sequestration.

INDIANA **South Bend:** The city could eventually welcome trains back to its downtown after officials approved the purchase of the historic Union Station at the Thursday Redevelopment Commission meeting.

HIGHLIGHT: NEW HAMPSHIRE



The Coast Guard’s Eagle makes its way along the Piscataqua River for the 2024 Sail Portsmouth tall ships festival. RICK DUMONT/SPECIAL TO USA TODAY NETWORK

Portsmouth: The Coast Guard’s Eagle sailed majestically into Portsmouth on a postcard-perfect morning Friday, to the firing of cannon and the cheers of the crowds lining the banks and bridge of the Piscataqua River. The Eagle was accompanied by dozens of boats from the Thomas Lighton filled to the brim with passengers to family boats flying the American flag in the 2024 Sail Portsmouth tall ships festival’s Parade of Sail. The festival’s other two tall ship stars – the two-masted schooner Ernestina-Morrissey and the three-masted schooner Denis Sullivan – followed the Eagle up the Piscataqua River.

IOWA **Iowa City:** Cambus is going electric. The Federal Transportation Administration awarded the University of Iowa’s free bus service \$16.4 million in federal funding to purchase six new battery-electric buses which will help phase out old, diesel-powered vehicles. The buses are expected to arrive in 2026.

KANSAS **Iola:** Kansas’ new state park already has “crystal clear blue water” and miles of trails, and it is now closer to having more amenities. Kansas lawmakers last year created Lehigh Portland State Park in Iola. Now, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is working on infrastructure improvements around the 138-acre lake on a nearly 360-acre property.

KENTUCKY **Louisville:** Churchill Downs, the famed Louisville-based horseracing company known for hosting the Kentucky Derby, has announced a new \$90 million project to be completed ahead of the 151st Kentucky Derby next year.

LOUISIANA **Winnsboro:** The Louisiana Department of Health’s Office of Public Health has confirmed four human cases of West Nile neuroinvasive disease in Winnsboro.

MAINE **Trenton:** A plane that left a New Jersey airport Thursday crashed in Maine a few hours later, killing two people, according to officials.

MARYLAND **Towson:** The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Coalition of Organized Retail Employees reached a tentative agreement with tech giant Apple over improvement in work-life balance, pay raises and job security. Workers at the Towson Apple retail store will vote on the tentative agreement on Aug. 6.

MASSACHUSETTS **Nantucket:** A manufacturing problem appears to be the reason for the catastrophic break of a turbine blade in the Vineyard Wind offshore project that caused the giant blade to fold over and pieces to break off into the ocean, according to an executive with the blade’s manufacturing company, GE Vernova.

MICHIGAN **Brighton:** A new spot in downtown Brighton just got musical. Brighton teen Sienna Dietze painted and donated a public piano for all to use. It’s installed under the pavilion next to Brighton City Hall and the Imagination Station.

MINNESOTA **Waite Park:** A 38-year-old man died after being pinned under a crane in Waite Park, according to a Waite Park Police release.

MISSISSIPPI **Jackson:** A former research scientist and drug company CEO in Florida, whose work on a nasal spray to treat concussions was at one time touted across the nation, pleaded guilty in federal court to wire fraud in connection with the Mississippi welfare scandal.

MISSOURI **Columbia:** An affordable housing facility named for the first Black resident commissioner on the Columbia Housing Authority board, Marvin Kinney, has officially broken ground in Columbia. He also was the first resident commissioner in the U.S.

MONTANA **Helena:** Montana is one of 20 states petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to block new climate change-oriented emissions standards from taking effect, Montana Free Press reported.

NEBRASKA **Lincoln:** The Nebraska Supreme Court denied a challenge to the state’s abortion restrictions and gender-affirming care in a ruling released Friday. This decision comes over a year after the Nebraska Legislature passed a piece of legislation that rolled out a 12-week abortion ban and created restrictions on gender-affirming care for transgender minors in the state.

NEVADA **Carson City:** Robert F. Kennedy Jr. qualified to be on Nevada’s ballot as a presidential candidate by submitting enough verified signatures in support of his campaign.

NEW JERSEY **Trenton:** Work to rebuild Old Mine Road, the 250-year old route through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, is on schedule, with the road expected to reopen to the public in late August, according to an update from park officials.

NEW MEXICO **Las Cruces:** New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham took questions related to public safety for six hours at the Las Cruces Convention Center on Thursday. Lujan Grisham said she expected to see about 200 people at the event, but over 500 southern New Mexicans, along with state legislators and local government officials filled two ballrooms.

NEW YORK **Albany:** New York’s school system is one of the best nationwide, according to a study released by WalletHub. The Empire State came in eighth compared to all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the study’s ranking states, which took into account 32 benchmarks including performance, funding, dropout rate and safety.

NORTH CAROLINA **Fayetteville:** A nearly \$1 billion titanium plant bringing hundreds of high-paying jobs will be built in Cumberland County, the Fayetteville-Cumberland Economic Development Corporation announced.

NORTH DAKOTA **Bismarck:** Attorney General Drew Wrigley announced the North Dakota Lottery contributed nearly \$10 million to the state government for fiscal year 2024, Bismarck Tribune reported.

OHIO **Lake Township:** The Environmental Protection Agency said its contractors will be using large drilling equipment to sample groundwater for signs of a chemical known as 1, 4-dioxane near the Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund site.

OKLAHOMA **Hochatown:** A state lawmaker said he wants to evaluate, yet again, the options available to state officials to expand the highway in the small southeastern Oklahoma town of Hochatown.

OREGON **Portland:** The massive, \$2.15 billion terminal expansion at Portland International Airport has been underway since 2017 and will open to travelers on Aug. 14. A key feature? Wood. And lots of it, with 3.5 million board feet in the roof alone.

PENNSYLVANIA **Lebanon:** State Rep. John Schlegel announced that the Commonwealth Financing Authority has approved more than \$2 million for the city of Lebanon, on behalf of Second Sail Development, LLC, for the redevelopment of the Lebanon Steel Works, a former Bethlehem Steel site along Lincoln Avenue.

RHODE ISLAND **Providence:** The Rhode Island Department of Health has issued an overdose spike alert for Providence because of an increase in non-fatal opioid overdoses. From July 18 to Wednesday, there were 22 reports of people in Providence receiving emergency department or medical services care for suspected overdoses, the state health department said.

SOUTH CAROLINA **Columbia:** Did you know that The Palmetto State produces the most peaches in the South? Georgia may be famously nicknamed “The Peach State,” but it falls behind South Carolina when it comes to producing the summery stone fruit. South Carolina produces the second-highest number of peaches in the United States, trailing only behind California, where growers supply nearly 76% of the country’s peaches. According to the most recent U.S. Department of Agriculture Data, South Carolina produced about 11% of the country’s peaches, followed by Georgia peaches, which made up nearly 4%.

SOUTH DAKOTA **Pierre:** Gov. Kristi Noem formally requested a major disaster declaration from the Biden administration for 25 counties due to the severe flooding that occurred in eastern South Dakota between June 16 and July 8.

TENNESSEE **Memphis:** Crime in Memphis has continued its downward trajectory compared to last year’s near-record high, Memphis Police Department data presented to the Memphis City Council indicated.

TEXAS **Scurry County:** After being hit by a third major earthquake that was felt around West Texas, the Scurry County judge has issued a disaster declaration. In total, over 60 earthquakes have hit Scurry County in the past seven days, according to Scurry County Judge Dan Hicks.

UTAH **Cedar City:** A 4.5 magnitude earthquake struck near Cedar City Sunday night, according to the United States Geological Survey.

VERMONT **St. Albans:** The city on Saturday held its second annual Church Street Festival in an effort to raise funds to restore historic building, WCAX reported.

VIRGINIA **Petersburg:** Virginia Sen. Mark Warner said he was seeing momentum build behind Vice President Kamala Harris’ run for the White House, and he thinks that one way to keep that momentum going is to make up for potential history being lost after the presidential debate schedule was scuttled earlier this year. “We still owe Virginia State (University) a visit by the vice president or a debate venue, or at least a vice-presidential debate,” Warner said.

WASHINGTON **Kitsap County:** Kitsap County will expand its innovative CARES Program next year through a new state initiative that aims to improve outcomes for unhoused populations and deliver street-level health care.

WEST VIRGINIA **Martinsburg:** The Martinsburg area Catholic community and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are expanding Catholic education in the Eastern Panhandle. High school grade levels will be restored at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

WISCONSIN **Madison:** A new study of Wisconsin lakes found that naturally occurring foam created by churning water could carry high levels of “forever chemicals,” warranting caution. The study, which involved researchers from the University of Wisconsin PFAS Center of Excellence, looked at the levels of PFAS in foam that typically collects along the shores of water bodies, and in the air-water interface, or the very top of the water.

WYOMING **Sweetwater County:** The world’s largest natural soda ash supplier is preparing for a major production project proposed in Sweetwater County, the Casper Star-Tribune reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

HEAVY MEDAL CHAMPS



Americans Torri Huske and Gretchen Walsh embrace after the women's 100-meter butterfly final Sunday. GRACE HOLLARS/USA TODAY SPORTS

Huske rewrites ending, gets golden moment



Christine Brennan
Columnist
USA TODAY

NANTERRE, France – The moment that Torri Huske has never forgotten is now three years old, but it drives her to this day. With 15 meters to go in the 100 butterfly at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021, she was winning. The race was hers.

And then it wasn't. In those last few moments, Huske didn't drop to second. Or third. No, when she touched the wall and turned to see the scoreboard, she was fourth. She was out of the medals, just off the podium, by 1/100th of a second.

"I'm not going to lie, that was devastating," Huske said Sunday at the 2024 Summer Olympics. "It really fueled me and I think that did make me better."

Those three years have gone by quickly, so much so that before she knew it, Huske was touching the wall at

the 50-meter mark of Sunday's 100 butterfly at another Olympic Games, and this time, she wasn't first. Huske was third, 0.21 of a second behind her American teammate and world record holder Gretchen Walsh. She had 50 meters to go to rewrite the ending to her story.

There is nothing more exciting in a swimming race than watching someone reel in the person ahead of them. Spectators and even those watching on TV at home see it happening before the leader fully knows what's going on. There's a momentum to it that makes it feel almost inevitable, even as it still seems impossible.

And so it was for Walsh and Huske, both 21, born less than two months apart, as they churned through the water in lanes 4 and 5, side by side, fighting to the finish. Huske was now right beside Walsh. Here came the wall. Their hands reached for it.

And then ...

"You can kind of see out of the

See HUSKE, Page 2C

Gold repeater Lee Kiefer says All-USA fencing final will inspire 'little girls'

Josh Peter
USA TODAY

PARIS – Lee Kiefer smiled at the thought of what people had just witnessed.

At what she'd just helped deliver Sunday night to Olympic viewers around the world.

It'd been an All-American fencing final, Kiefer and Lauren Scruggs battling in the gold medal match of the women's individual foil competition.

"It was so cool being in a final with Lauren, because we're both about 5-3, 5-4," Kiefer said, referring to their relatively small stature in the world of fencing. "We're both very athletic and we're very creative. And I think that's really cool for the sport, and I think it's going to inspire a lot of little girls."

Kiefer won the match, 15-6, and the gold. Scruggs won the silver. But perhaps there was another victory to evaluate in the years to come.

The little girls.



From left, silver medalist Lauren Scruggs, gold medalist Lee Kiefer and bronze medalist Eleanor Harvey made the podium Sunday in the women's foil fencing competition. ANDREW P. SCOTT/USA TODAY SPORTS

If they're inspired the way Kiefer hopes they are – to try fencing, if not truly pursue it – the impact will cut across a wide spectrum.

See KIEFER, Page 2C

MEN'S GYMNASTICS

USA ends 16-year drought with bronze

Nancy Armour and Tom Schad
USA TODAY

PARIS – For the first time in 16 years, the U.S. men's gymnastics team has won an Olympic medal.

Buoyed by a resurgent performance from national champion Brody Malone, who competed in five of the six events, Team USA held off Great Britain and Ukraine to win bronze at the Paris Olympics. Japan surged to gold in the final rotation, while China took silver.

It's the first time the American men have been on the Olympic podium since 2008, when Jonathan Horton led them to bronze. And ultimately, they finished closer to second-place China (1.3 points off) than they did fourth-place Great Britain (2.2 points).

Stephen Nedoroscik, a pommel horse specialist whose only contribution to the team score came on the very last routine of the night, helped clinch the bronze for Team USA with a solid performance. But every member of the team hit clutch routines, including Paul Juda and Asher Hong on vault and Frederick Richard on high bar.

The Americans finished fifth at each



Frederick Richard reacts after his high bar routine Monday during the men's team final. JAMES LANG/USA TODAY SPORTS

of the previous three Summer Olympics, and they finished fifth again in Saturday's qualifying. The difference on Monday largely revolved around Malone.

Malone, 24, had been expected to qualify for the all-around individual final and perhaps even contend for a medal, but he had a dreadful showing in qualifying – with falls on pommel horse, floor and even high bar, the event in which he won a world championship in 2022. It was such a jarring performance

that some of his teammates later said he apologized to them.

"I know Brody's a dog and a competitor," Hong said. "So I know he's going to come into team finals and full send."

And he did. Malone improved upon or matched his performances on every apparatus, including a significantly better showing on high bar that helped keep the U.S. ahead of its bronze rivals. After falling twice on the apparatus in qualifying, he looked much more comfortable – and stuck the landing – for a score that was nearly two full points higher than his score Saturday.

Hong, Juda and Richard, meanwhile, each competed in four events – each pumping up their teammates, and the crowd, between routines. Chants of "U-S-A!" rang out at Bercy Arena at multiple points over the course of the night.

Although China and Japan were long considered the favorites, the U.S. knew for months that it would benefit from the absence of Russia, which is banned from team competitions at these Olympics because of its invasion of Ukraine.



Jarrett Bell
Columnist
USA TODAY

Mahomes isn't sweating his financial outlook now

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. – No, Patrick Mahomes is not suddenly in a panic over his paycheck.

He knows. Emerging quarterbacks Tua Tagovailoa and Jordan Love struck deals last Friday for massive new contracts that place them in the top five in the NFL for average salary.

Tagovailoa, who led the NFL in passing yards last season, signed a four-year, \$212.4 million extension with the Miami Dolphins that averages \$53.1 million. The Green Bay Packers signed Love to a four-year, \$220 million pact with an average of \$55 million.

See BELL, Page 2C



American Gretchen Walsh swims in the women's 100-meter butterfly during the Paris Olympics. ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Huske

Continued from Page 1C

corner of your eye but you never really know for sure,” Huske said. “I first saw the light by the block.”

The red light in her lane went off 4/100ths of a second before Walsh’s. She turned to see the scoreboard. She had done it. She had won the gold medal. Her time was 55.59 seconds; Walsh’s was 55.63.

“Seeing that was just very surreal,” Huske said afterward. “It’s just very overwhelming when you’ve been dreaming of this moment for so long and then it finally becomes a reality. It’s like I didn’t even know how to process it. I felt like I was hyperventilating a little bit maybe. I feel like my body just had a reaction. I felt like I couldn’t control anything that was going on, it was just all happening so fast.”

Huske’s mouth was open. She looked surprised, shocked and so very happy. She put her hand over her mouth as Walsh, who set the world record in this event just last month at the U.S. Olympic trials, reached across the lane rope to hug her.

“I was definitely nervous before,” Walsh said. “I feel like there was a lot of pressure on me just having gone the world record and the Olympic record

last night. It was definitely a fight to the finish. Seeing the 1-2 up there was amazing. I’m so proud of Torri and so proud of myself.”

It was the first time a country had a gold-silver finish in the women’s 100 butterfly at the Olympics since the old East Germany did it in Seoul in 1988.

Over the past year, Huske has worked particularly hard on the “back half” of her 100 fly, “because that’s been a weaker point in my stroke,” she said. She is known for having the fastest start off the blocks in every race, launching herself into a very quick first 50, then fading a bit at the end, as she did in Tokyo.

“I think I did a good job with that,” Huske said about that final 50, smiling.

While Walsh was one of the stars of last month’s Olympic trials, Huske, a former U.S. record holder who has been taking a gap year from Stanford, was flying under the radar, which turns out to be a very good place to be heading into an Olympics.

But then Huske came to Paris and something started happening. She had the fastest split among the U.S. swimmers in the women’s 4x100 freestyle relay Saturday, helping the Americans win the silver medal.

And then came Sunday and the 100 fly, where she was behind, until she wasn’t.



Lee Kiefer and Lauren Scruggs hug after the women's foil gold medal bout Sunday. YUKIHITO TAGUCHI/USA TODAY SPORTS

Kiefer

Continued from Page 1C

New Yorker finds path

Scruggs became the first Black American woman to win an Olympic medal in individual competition, according to USA Fencing. (Three Black American women won fencing medals in team competition, according to USA Fencing.)

“Fencing has largely, certainly been a non-Black sport,” Scruggs said. “So I hope to inspire young Black girls to get into fencing, so that they can have a place in the sport.”

“I just hope that more people who look like me, girls that look like me, feel they have a place in the sport.”

It was her brother’s fascination with “Star Wars” and light sabers that led Scruggs to fencing, after her mother apparently found an ad for lessons near their home in Queens.

“He actually wanted to quit fencing after a few months,” Scruggs recalled of her brother, “but my mom had already bought all the equipment and it was pretty expensive so she was like, ‘You’re doing it.’”

Turned out he was was pretty good. Turned out Lauren Scruggs was even better.

Training at the Peter Westbrook

Foundation, she developed into one of the top junior fencers in the world. It led her to Harvard, where last year she won an NCAA championship in foil.

Now, she is 21 and owns an Olympic silver medal.

Kentucky offers path

Like Scruggs, Kiefer also has a unique background. Her mother was born in the Philippines and geography created challenges toward attaining fencing greatness.

But fencing runs deep in the family, too. Kiefer’s father, Steve, was a captain of the Duke fencing team.

But geography tested the durability of the sport.

Kiefer was born in Kentucky, a hotbed of basketball, not children wielding fencing blades and yelling, “En garde!”

But Lee Kiefer wasn’t alone. She has an older sister, a younger brother, and the fencing family expanded.

The Kiefers found a fencing school, and Lee Kiefer’s skill and passion grew. It was out there on the strip Sunday night inside the Grand Palais, as the 30-year-old Kiefer dipped and darted against the 21-year-old Scruggs.

Two little girls all grown up, as they competed at the Olympics in a moment of inspiration.

“It’s just sick to see the American flag up there,” Scruggs said. “We love to see that.”

Bell

Continued from Page 1C

“It’s awesome for the game of football,” Mahomes told USA TODAY Sports during an exclusive interview following the Kansas City Chiefs training camp practice on Sunday.

“It’s awesome for the quarterback position, but I think all positions. I know every time a contract comes up, everybody looks at my APY (average per year) and everything like that. I’m doing pretty well myself. For me, it’s just about going out there trying to win football games, trying to make money for my family at the end of the day. I feel like I’m doing a great job of that.”

Still, when considering that APY alongside Mahomes’ three Super Bowl MVPs, something seems off. The star quarterback, who has led the Chiefs to three title triumphs in five years, averages \$45 million on the 10-year, \$450 million deal he signed in 2020.

By at least that APY measure, Mahomes, 28, is grossly underpaid.

I mean, if these guys are averaging well over \$50 million – and according to Spotrac.com, there are 10 quarterbacks, including Joe Burrow (\$55 million), Trevor Lawrence (\$55 million) and Jared Goff (\$53 million) averaging more than the NFL’s best player – what is Mahomes really worth?

You could say the brilliance and Super Bowl rings justify that the eighth-year veteran should average at least \$200 million per year. And maybe you’d still come up short. I mean, by whatever measure, Mahomes – who has never led the Chiefs to anything less than an AFC title game appearance since becoming a starter in 2018, his second year as a pro – has outplayed the contract that was done way back during the pandemic.

Mahomes, though, hardly feels slighted when weighing another essential element of contract value: cash flow. For all of the fluidity with the rankings of average salaries that has come with the new deals on the market, Mahomes still tops the charts when it comes to cash over four years.

According to figures reported by Pro Football Talk, Mahomes’ cash payment for the four-year period extending through the 2027 season will be \$215.6 million, followed by Burrow’s \$213.9 million. For the period from 2023 to 2026, Mahomes’ is \$210.6, followed by Lamar Jackson’s \$208 million.



Patrick Mahomes’ cash payment for the four-year period extending through the 2027 season will be a league-best \$215.6 million, according to Pro Football Talk. DENNY MEDLEY/USA TODAY SPORTS

That’s why Mahomes is not poised to round up his agents, Chris Cabott and Leigh Steinberg, and storm the office of Chiefs owner Clark Hunt while seeking a new deal.

His record-breaking contract is a reminder that total cash and guaranteed money are the best barometers of a contract’s value, given that players – especially non-quarterbacks – oftentimes don’t collect every penny of the contracts that make headlines.

But doesn’t Mahomes feel just a bit underpaid? After all, in chasing a threepeat he is the face of a league that many estimate generates more than \$20 billion per year in revenues.

“Not necessarily,” Mahomes said, alluding to a big-picture approach that another multiple-time Super Bowl MVP winner, Tom Brady, maintained during his heyday.

“I think we do a great job of managing my money, to be able to pay me a lot of money and keep a good team around me. I know we’ve kind of restructured it a couple of times and got the cash flow

up in certain spots and certain years. It’s about having a good dialogue, good communication with the front office, with ownership. We’ve done that here. And as we’ve been able to allow me to be a highly paid guy while at the same time build a great team around me.”

Mahomes, who spoke more candidly about money matters than most players, clearly gets it while speaking contractual peace. His flexibility in reworking his contract has not only bolstered the guaranteed money, but it has also provided the Chiefs the ability to secure long-term deals with other pillars.

In March, the Chiefs signed Chris Jones to a five-year extension worth \$158.75 million that makes him the NFL’s highest-paid defensive tackle, averaging \$31.75 million with \$95 million guaranteed. And Travis Kelce, who signed a two-year, \$34.25 million extension in April, has the highest average salary among NFL tight ends at \$17.125 million.

When Mahomes signed his deal in 2020, it guaranteed more than \$141 mil-

lion. With multiple revisions in form of a restructure or other maneuvers, he not only allowed the Chiefs to clear in the neighborhood of \$50 million in cap room, the guarantees increased to more than \$208 million, according to Spotrac. With a restructure in September 2023, more than \$43 million was converted into his payout for the 2023-2026 league years.

“We do a great job,” Mahomes said, referring to his agents and the Chiefs front office. “When I restructured, kind of moving money around the last time, we talked about a certain year when we were going to go back and do it again.

“It’s about having that plan, that constant communication. And we have that here. I’m happy to see guys going out and getting as much money as possible. That’s awesome for the sport. But here we have a great communication system where I feel like we’ve done the best with what we can do.”

In other words, another monster deal looms for Mahomes, but now is not the time.

Jahmal Harvey gives US renewed gold hope

Tom Schad
USA TODAY

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. – Kim Harvey said she got used to all the phone calls informing her that her son, Jahmal, had gotten into another fight. She remembers driving back and forth, back and forth, back and forth to Flora L. Hendley Elementary School in southeast Washington – never actually witnessing the fights, but always seeing the aftermath.

On one occasion, she recalled, a classmate decided to dry his hands off in the bathroom by shaking water on Jahmal, who was usually one of the smaller kids in his grade.

“I got to the school and there was blood all over,” Kim Harvey said. “But then I saw (Jahmal) walk in. Ain’t nothing wrong with him.”

Perhaps it’s no surprise that same kid, whose mother described his elementary school behavior as “a little rough around the edges,” found a home in the violent world of Olympic boxing.

But it’s not his anger and aggression that have made Jahmal Harvey, now 21, one of most promising young featherweights in the world.

“It was just keeping my cool,” Harvey said in an interview earlier this summer at his training gym, a no-frills garage space next to an auto body shop in an industrial part of Prince George’s County, Maryland.

“Once people would get me out of my character and I would fight with aggression, I was just more liable. ... I was putting myself in a bad position to lose. And I don’t like losing.”

Less than a decade after giving up football to give boxing a try, Harvey arrives at the 2024 Paris Olympics as perhaps the best shot Team USA has to end its unusual Olympic gold medal drought on the men’s side of the sport. While the U.S. has historically been the epicenter of boxing, certainly at the professional level, it has not produced a male Olympic gold medalist since Andre Ward in 2004.

Harvey’s recent results and style, however, give USA Boxing reason to hope. The 5-foot-6, 126-pound fighter doesn’t win many fights by knockout but is technically and tactically sound, capable of switching his stance from orthodox (right-hand dominant) to southpaw (left-hand dominant) midway through a fight as needed. He won gold at two of the most competitive tournaments over the past three years: the 2021 world championships and the 2023 Pan American Games. (U.S. athletes did not compete at the 2023 world championships due to ongoing issues with the sport’s international federation and its ties to Russia.)

“My dream has always been the Olympics,” Harvey said. “To get to the pros, you can weave your way, pick and choose who you want to fight to get your world title. There’s no picking in the Olympic game. You fight the best.”

How Harvey went from football to boxing

It’s an overused cliché, particularly in the world of combat sports, but Har-



Olympic boxer Jahmal Harvey trains at SwiftNation Boxing in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

vey’s mother said it’s true and important to know about her son: “He’s been a fighter his whole life,” she said.

Harvey, who has three siblings, was born about six weeks prematurely and weighed about 4 pounds at birth, his mother said. His lungs weren’t fully developed when he was born, she explained, and he went on to struggle with asthma and allergies as a kid.

He was also on the smaller side, which Kim Harvey thinks might have led other kids to believe they could pick on him – and probably led to some of those elementary school fights.

Growing up, Harvey said his favorite sport was always football, where he primarily played cornerback and running back. His coach, Darrell Davis, likened him to Tyreek Hill – a dynamic, explosive athlete who could get the ball three times in a game and score three touchdowns. But when Harvey was leaving middle school for high school, he saw all of his teammates start to pack on weight while he hovered around 80 or 90 pounds.

Davis recommended that his one-time football player go all-in on a different sport – one in which his size wouldn’t hinder him. And he committed to continue coaching Harvey.

“I knew his potential and I knew his heart,” Davis said. “We didn’t know we were going to get this far. We just kept moving.”

‘I wasn’t scared’

Kim Harvey laughs now when she thinks back on her son’s start in boxing. She said she didn’t know whether or how much Harvey, who was about 12 years old at the time, was training. She just knew that he was being looked after by Davis, a longtime family friend who said he has known Harvey since he was 3 years old. “I’m like, ‘he’s with Darrell, he’s good,’” she said.

Then she got a call from Davis telling her that he had scheduled Harvey’s first fight, at a boxing gym in Palmer Park, Maryland, named after legendary local boxer Sugar Ray Leonard.

After receiving all those calls about Harvey fighting in school, she said, that

2015 bout was the first time she actually saw him fight for herself. And she could tell he was serious.

“I was competitive. I always compete. I wasn’t scared,” Harvey said. “And I liked boxing. I liked the fact that it was something new, to where I wanted to get better at it and perfect the craft of it – not just fight off of pure aggression and anger.”

By the following summer, Harvey was competing in – and winning – the 80-pound weight class at a national boxing tournament in Dallas. Two years later, at 16, he won a youth national title at a USA Boxing event in Salt Lake City.

Harvey said he couldn’t pinpoint a specific moment when his ability in boxing surpassed his talent on the football field, just that it happened over time with boring, repetitive hard work. He would wake up at 5:30 a.m. to run around the neighborhood before going to school. He’d train with Davis at odd hours or on weekends, sparring at times when he could’ve been on vacation or hanging out with friends.

Davis said he also regularly signed his star pupil up for fights against taller kids who were 20 pounds heavier, or otherwise book him bouts that Harvey was expected to lose. And many times, Davis said, he *would* in fact lose – though it would ultimately shine a light on a potential weakness and benefit Harvey in the long run.

“It’s not mathematical stuff to this boxing stuff, like people think it is,” Davis explained. “You train hard. You train beyond your level so when you fight your level, it’s always easy.”

Outlasting a losing streak

Harvey described his fighting style as aggressive but straightforward, revolving around his desire to throw the first punch of every fight and the last one, without letting his emotions derail him along the way. He’s grown accustomed to winning big bouts, like the final at the 2020 national championships, by narrow decisions based largely on grit.

The biggest hiccup in Harvey’s career to date came after he won the 2021 world title, which made him the first U.S.

men’s world champion in 14 years. From April 2022 to February 2023, he lost three fights in a row – a significant skid in a sport where athletes often go several months between competitions.

That rough stretch prompted him to be more diligent at managing and preventing injuries and reevaluate his nutrition plan. He had been struggling to make weight, he said, and found that his vegetarian diet had left his body deficient in a few key vitamins and minerals. “I was eating healthy, but I wasn’t getting that nutrition that I needed,” he said.

In the months leading up to Paris, one of Kim Harvey’s biggest concerns has been how her son will deal with the pressure. “It’s almost like everyone is expecting him to bring home the gold, right?” she said. But he told her, as he’s told everyone else, that he isn’t going to be fazed.

He said he’s enjoying the international travel that elite boxing has provided him – Harvey has already competed on four different continents – and has recently gotten more invested in reading, specifically thriller and mystery books. In late May, he said he was reading “Good Half Gone” by Tarryn Fisher, a thriller about a woman who sees her twin sister get kidnapped.

“It’s actually kind of, like, therapeutic,” he said. “Take your mind off everything.”

Out to get the gold

Regardless of what happens in Paris, Harvey said his current (but not finalized) plan is to turn pro after the Games – just as Olympic silver medalists Duke Ragan, Keyshawn Davis and Richard Torrez Jr. all did following the previous Olympics. He could theoretically return for the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles, but it doesn’t help that the future of Olympic boxing is currently up in the air.

The International Boxing Association, which previously governed the sport, is no longer recognized by the International Olympic Committee because of its close ties and financial reliance upon Russia. The decision has fractured the international landscape in amateur boxing and left the IOC to run the competition at the Paris Games.

“I’m going to get my chance,” Harvey said. “But if these other kids don’t get their chance to go achieve their dream, it’s really going to be detrimental and heartbreaking. So I just hope that they can get everything together and get things straight.”

The fleeting, once-every-four-years aspect of the Olympics is part of what’s made Harvey chase this goal so diligently. He said one of his coaches on the youth national team, Augie Sanchez, once told him there are lots of pros out there in the boxing world – and even a lot of very successful ones. But there aren’t many Olympians. And there are even fewer gold medalists.

“That stuck with me because like I said, I’m competitive and I wanted to go for the hardest goal there is,” Harvey said. “I accomplished (qualifying for) the Olympics. Now all that’s left is to just go get the gold medal.”

MONDAY ROUNDUP

Americans rack up more silver and bronze medals

Grimes, Weyant finish 2-3 in women’s 400 individual medley

Team USA swimmers Katie Grimes and Emma Weyant finished second and third in the women’s 400-meter individual medley Monday on Day 3 of swimming at the Paris Olympics.

Canadian star 17-year-old Summer McIntosh set the pace early and never looked back to take the gold.

In the physically and mentally draining parade of all four strokes, Grimes won the silver medal with a time of 4:33.40, while Weyant won bronze with a 4:34.93 at Paris La Défense Arena. McIntosh won gold in 4:27.71.

This is 22-year-old Weyant’s second Olympic medal in the 400 IM after winning silver at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, but it’s 18-year-old Grimes’ first after she finished fourth in her only event three years ago, the 800-meter freestyle.

— Michelle Martinelli

Skateboarding: Jagger Eaton, Nyjah Huston go 2-3

American skateboarders Jagger Eaton and Nyjah Huston finished second and third in the men’s street finals, earning Team USA a silver and bronze medal.

OLYMPICS MEDAL LEADERS				
Nation	G	S	B	Total
United States	3	8	7	18
France	3	7	3	13
Japan	6	2	3	11
Peoples Republic of China	5	3	2	10
Great Britain	2	5	3	10
Republic of Korea	5	3	1	9
Australia	4	3	0	7
Italy	1	2	3	6
Canada	2	1	2	5
Kazakhstan	1	0	2	3
Brazil	0	1	2	3
Sweden	0	1	2	3
Germany	2	0	0	2
Belgium	1	0	1	2
Republic of Moldova	0	0	2	2
South Africa	0	0	2	2
Azerbaijan	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong, China	1	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Kosovo	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	0	1
Croatia	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Hungary	0	0	1	1
India	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Switzerland	0	0	1	1
Turkiye	0	0	1	1

Japan’s Yuto Horigome won the gold medal, jumping ahead on his final attempt. Horigome also won the gold in Tokyo, while Eaton took bronze.

Tennis: Djokovic beats Nadal in straight sets

Novak Djokovic beat Rafael Nadal 6-1, 6-4 in a second-round men’s tennis matchup at Roland-Garros.

Djokovic made quick work of Nadal in the first games and jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the second. Nadal stormed back to even the set at 4-4, but then Djokovic found his footing to close it out.

Field hockey: US women battle to draw against Spain

The U.S. women’s field hockey team tied Spain 1-1 on Monday to move to 0-1-1 in pool play at the Paris Olympics.

Sophia Gladioux got the Americans on the board first with a goal in the 14th minute, but Spain’s Begona Garcia hit the equalizer six minutes later.

Team USA will take on Australia on Wednesday.

Men’s beach volleyball: Chase Budinger, Miles Evans dominate

PARIS – Chase Budinger and Miles Evans had their work cut out for them. So did the friends and families who came to cheer them on against Youssef Krou and Arnaud Gauthier-Rat, who represented the host country France.

But Budinger and Evans dominated all the way through, winning the best-of-three 21-14 and 21-11.

The Americans were in sync throughout while the French looked disjointed at times. The crowd implored them with an impromptu rendition of the national anthem prior to the second set. It didn’t work.

Budinger, the former NBA player, used his size to be a presence at the net and throw the French tandem off their game. He also rarely swung hard and instead dumped the ball over the jumping block, the ball falling safely in the sand for point after point. His block at the net ended the match and he raised his arms toward the cheering section triumphantly.

— Chris Bumbaca

Rugby: US women fall to France

The U.S. women’s rugby team suffered its first defeat of the Paris Olympics.

The U.S. women’s rugby squad scored the game’s initial try and took a 7-0 lead, but France rallied back in front of their home crowd at Stade de France. France scored 24 unanswered points to take a commanding 24-7 advantage en route to a 31-14 win.

— Tyler Dragon

Durant one of Olympic hoops’ greatest



Jeff Zillgitt
Columnist
USA TODAY

VILLENEUVE-D'ASCOQ, France – Kevin Durant off the bench isn't fair.

Durant making shot after shot after shot – eight consecutive shots to be precise – isn't fair either.

Poor Serbia, looking to upset the U.S. men's basketball team at the Olympics, and here comes Durant, who hadn't played in a game since the Phoenix Suns lost in the first round of the NBA playoffs in April, picking apart Serbia.

Durant missed the five U.S. exhibition games with a sore calf and was just cleared to play after scrimmaging Thursday and practicing Saturday.

Durant scored 21 of his 23 points in the first half and led the U.S. to a 110-84 victory over Serbia, sending a message that with Durant on the court, it's not the same team that almost lost to South Sudan and squeezed by Germany in pre-Olympic tuneups.

"I was tired. I'm not going to lie to you," Durant said. "My lungs were getting used to that heat, the intensity of the game, but it felt good to make some shots. Everybody played their role pretty well tonight. My role was to come in, provide space and shot-making for the team."

It was an impressive U.S. performance. "It's the best game we played so far," LeBron James said. And it was an amazing individual effort from Durant. "KD was phenomenal. It's almost like he never missed a beat or a practice or anything or any game," James said.

KD, the difference-maker. It's always



Kevin Durant, left, celebrating with fellow guard Anthony Edwards after a play in the third quarter Sunday, is seeking a fourth Olympic gold medal with Team USA.
JOHN DAVID MERCER/USA TODAY SPORTS

been that way for the U.S. when Durant plays in international competitions.

"Obviously I coached Kevin for three years, and maybe more than any player I've ever been around, when he comes back from a long absence, you don't notice it," Kerr said. "He's so skilled, and he just looked like he's in midseason form after not playing in a real game for a couple of months."

Durant is trying to become the first America men's basketball player to win four gold medals, and he is already the U.S. men's all-time leading Olympic scorer (458 points). He moved into 11th place on the Olympic list, and he'll move into the top 10 in his next game.

After his performance Sunday – especially considering the circumstances – it's time to ask: Is Kevin Durant the

greatest Olympic basketball player ever?

He's never going to catch Brazil legend Oscar Schmidt's 1,093 Olympic points or Australian star Andrew Gaze's 789 points and may not get to Manu Ginobili's 523 points for fifth place on the all-time Olympic scoring list.

Carmelo Anthony relished the international game, and absent of NBA titles, he enjoyed winning three gold medals.

In 23 Olympic games in 2012, 2016, 2020 and Sunday, Durant, one of basketball's best scorers, has averaged 19.9 points on 54% shooting from the field, including 51.6% on 3-pointers.

To solidify that unofficial title as Olympic men's basketball GOAT, Durant needs another gold medal.

There is belief that the U.S. can lose

in this event even with the number of All-Stars, MVPs and future Basketball Hall of Famers on the roster. But Durant brings a scoring dimension that no one – not James, Steph Curry – can match.

He entered the game with 2:23 remaining in the first quarter and the U.S. trailing 20-14. Fourteen seconds later he made his first 3-pointer, and 95 seconds after that he made another 3. He started the second quarter with a made 2 and his 3-pointer with 8:29 left in the period gave the U.S. a 30-23 lead.

Four shots, 11 points, four minutes.

"Just basketball at the end of the day. So I just try to follow the game plan, be there for my teammates on the defensive end, and when the ball can touch my hand, be aggressive," Durant said.

Yep, that simple.

The final play of the first half encapsulated more than a bucket. The U.S. called timeout with six seconds left, and Kerr designed a play involving Curry, James and Durant – three of the greatest players all time, players who have NBA titles, MVPs and Finals MVPs.

"When you have cerebral guys, we could just execute that without never working on it," James said.

Curry set a baseline screen for Durant, and James inbounded the ball into his shooting pocket. Durant made the fadeaway jumper for a 58-49 halftime lead. That wasn't game over. But it was difficult to see Serbia winning.

Kerr said he isn't sure what he will do with the starting lineup in Wednesday's game against South Sudan. Durant doesn't care.

"I told coach yesterday, whatever he needs from me, whatever he wants to do with my minutes or whatever," Durant said, "I just try to do my best to adapt to that and play my game."

USWNT's Big Three producing big results

Chris Bumbaca
USA TODAY

MARSEILLE, France – The future of the U.S. women's national soccer team, at least when it comes to scoring goals, rests with forwards Mallory Swanson, Sophia Smith and Trinity Rodman.

The Front Three. The Big Three. Whatever they're called, if the trio plays like they did Sunday in the 4-1 victory over Germany, the signs are positive for the USWNT moving forward.

Through two games and six points at the Olympics, Rodman (one), Smith (two) and Swanson (three) have accounted for six of the USA's seven goals.

"You can see, I'm not making many changes to the lineup, because they have to build connections," said coach Emma Hayes, who was much cheerier Sunday than after the Zambia match.

Hayes added: "I think the front three in general were dynamic as hell, really fun to watch. Most importantly they enjoyed themselves."

Swanson scored twice in the opener against Zambia, a 3-0 victory. Then it was Smith's turn to double up against Germany. Rodman has been the tone-setter. She scored the first goal against Zambia and she set up the opening tally against Germany when she drove with the ball to the right side of the box and her perfect cross found Smith's boot.

The best part about that goal, Swanson said, was it proved they can take the work they put in on the training ground directly into their play – not necessarily an easy task as the players adjust to Hayes' preferences.

Hayes said she's still trying to figure out the tendencies of her frontline and that the players are still learning about one another too. Smith, 23, and Swanson, 26, played for the same club while growing up and have chemistry on and off the field.

"Honestly, it's kinda like sisters, but everyone, too," Swanson said. "This group we have right now is special and we're having a lot of fun."

Smith left the game against Zambia early after being banged up and felt fresh Sunday because of that decision.

"I love Soph. She's my type of player," Hayes said. "She gives to the team."

The intricacies of playing the "nine," or center forward, are coming to Smith, Hayes said. The coach enjoys working with her in that respect.

"Because she absorbs it," Hayes said.

The on-field bond between Smith and Swanson went on hold last April 2023 when the latter tore her left patella tendon. A year passed before her return. But over the past few months, a healthy Swanson and Smith have revitalized their pitch connection. The 21-year-old Rodman fits right in.



U.S. players Sophia Smith and Trinity Rodman celebrate a goal Sunday against Germany in a Group B match.
LUISA GONZALEZ/REUTERS

"I feel like we're clicking really well, really fast," Smith said. "This is only like 70% of what we can do. The more games we get together, the more we're going to be playing off each other and just learning each other's tendencies. It's so much fun playing with them."

Rodman said Thursday they have been improving every match they play together. Doing it on the Olympic stage will only help, she said. "I think our connections have been so good," Rodman said.

Rodman added that the nerves heading into her first Olympics, despite playing in last year's World Cup, were real.

"It felt so good, to get that goal was amazing, to get it on that big of a stage was great," Rodman said.

The respective skill sets of the three allow for all to play to their strengths.

Smith can threaten from behind, hold up the ball or hop off the line, Swanson said. Rodman excels in the one-on-one game. Swanson can play in the "pocket" and still also be effective behind the play.

"When you have all of that in your back pocket," Swanson said, "it's super special."

Perhaps it was fitting then that Swanson's goal came on a rebound of a shot from Smith.

"Because she's Mal," said Lynn Williams, who entered as a sub and scored the fourth goal with an assist from Swanson, in response to why the Chicago Red Stars forward has been off to a hot start in France. "I just think that there's a belief within herself. There's a belief within the team that we're going to get the job done. But not just her. I think that collectively we are finding her in great spots and she is making amazing runs and touches and creating for herself but creating for others as well."

"She's obviously an amazing player, and I think amazing players score amazing goals."



Nic Fink tied for second in the men's 100-meter breaststroke final Sunday.
GRACE HOLLARS/USA TODAY SPORTS

USA's Nic Fink wins 100 breaststroke silver

Michelle R. Martinelli
USA TODAY

ANTERRE, France – American breastroker Nic Fink finally won himself an Olympic medal, tying world record holder Adam Peaty of Great Britain for silver in the men's 100-meter final Sunday at Paris La Défense Arena.

In a stunningly close final, Italy's Nicolò Martinenghi finished first with a time of 59.03. Fink and Peaty – the 2016 and 2021 Olympic champion in the event – simultaneously hit the wall with 59.05 swims.

"With Adam, he's a legend in the sport," Fink said. "To share the podium with him, let alone the silver medal, it's an awesome experience. And to see Nicolò there as well, it's really fun."

Fink, a 31-year-old two-time Olympian, advanced to the final ranked fourth, needing to drop a little time from his 59.16 semifinals swim Saturday. He shaved off 0.11 seconds to earn a spot on the Olympic podium in his only individual event in Paris.

"I was putting myself in a position to kind of be there at the 75, at the 80," Fink explained. "Then just close your eyes and just make it home. I think the (qualifying) races were kind of strategic and that I was kind of saving a little bit and putting myself in a position to just advance in the next round."

"Whereas this one, I wanted to put myself in a position to win, and I think it was evident that it was all right there, all really close."

At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, Fink finished fifth in the 200 breaststroke.

Léon Marchand runs away with 400 IM; American wins bronze

French swimmer Léon Marchand nearly brought down Paris La Défense Arena on Sunday night with a standout gold medal-winning performance.

The rowdy venue, abundant with French flags, erupted in celebration after the 22-year-old star won the men's 400-meter individual medley for his first medal of the Paris Olympics, finishing the grueling event with a time of 4:02.95, an Olympic record.

Always in the lead following the start, Marchand totally dominated and won by nearly six seconds.

"I went off very fast, and I wasn't pre-occupied by what was going on around me," Marchand said. "I was focused on my race, my performance. I wanted to put everything into it. At 250 meters, I realized I was well in front, and it was time to go for a (best) time. But an Olympic record is unbelievable."

Marchand was less than a half-second off his 4:02.50 world record time from the 2023 world championships, but that hardly matters when win an Olympic gold medal in your home country. A two-time Olympian, he finished sixth in the event at the Tokyo Games.

American first-time Olympian Carson Foster finished with a bronze medal, 5.71 seconds behind Marchand. Japan's Tomoyuki Matsushita took the silver, 5.67 seconds back.

Foster will have another shot at a medal in the 200-meter IM, but he will likely have to face Marchand again. The pair train together under Bob Bowman with the Texas Longhorns pro group.

Biles will compete in all four team events

Nancy Armour
USA TODAY

PARIS – Simone Biles doesn’t want a break, not when there’s a Olympic gold medal to win.

Biles will do all four events in the women’s gymnastics team finals Tuesday at the Paris Olympics, passing on the chance to get a little bit of rest in a competition that is both lengthy and stressful. This despite tweaking her left calf during qualifying Sunday.

Biles will anchor the U.S. women’s gymnastics team on vault, balance beam and floor exercise and go second-to-last on uneven bars. Jordan Chiles, who got aced out of the all-around final because of the silly two-per-country rule, also will do four events. She’ll lead off on vault, bars and balance beam and will go second on floor exercise.

Suni Lee, the reigning Olympic champion, will anchor the Americans on bars, her signature event, and also do balance beam and floor exercise. Jade Carey will do vault. Hezly Rivera, the



Simone Biles performed on all four apparatuses Sunday during team qualifying. KYLE TERADA/USA TODAY SPORTS

only newcomer on the team, will sit out event finals.

Biles was visibly limping between events Sunday after a flare-up of a calf injury. But she posted a photo that appeared to be from practice Monday, and her mother Nellie said on NBC’s “Today” show that she was doing fine.

Chellsie Memmel, the technical lead

for the U.S. women’s team, said last week it would be up to Biles to decide how many events in team finals she wanted to do. USA Gymnastics is trying to be conscious of both her schedule – she has qualified for four individual finals, including the all-around – and not wanting her to feel as if she has to carry the team.

Biles said last year that someone with USA Gymnastics told her in Tokyo she was the team’s “gold medal token,” which contributed to her anxiety. Biles wound up withdrawing after one event in the team final with a case of “the twisties,” which caused her to lose her sense of where she was in the air.

“I don’t say that to her. Or, ‘You are keeping us all together and we rely on you and you alone,’ ” Memmel said, emphatically. “If (not doing all four) is what she needs to continue to be at her best for the team and for herself, that’s what we’re going to do, because there are still four other members on our team.”

But Biles is looking for redemption in Paris, so much so she powered through

qualifying after tweaking her calf in warmups on floor exercise. Biles briefly left the floor and then had her ankle heavily taped, but she delivered a monster score on floor, did her signature Yurchenko double pike and then finished with a solid uneven bars routine.

The Americans finished with 172.296 points, more than five points ahead of Italy. Though scores start over in team finals, the Americans will begin on vault Tuesday, which should give them a big cushion.

Biles will be doing either the most difficult vault in the world if she does her Yurchenko double pike or the second-hardest vault being done now if she does the Cheng. Carey and Chiles were third and fourth on vault in qualifying, behind reigning Olympic and world champion Rebeca Andrade.

Should the Americans win the team gold, it would be their fourth at the Olympics and third since 2012. It also would give Biles eight Olympic medals, breaking her tie with Shannon Miller for most by a U.S. gymnast.

Brazil’s Andrade among gymnasts to watch this week

Nancy Armour
USA TODAY

PARIS – The U.S. women’s gymnastics team used to joke about a non-Simone Biles division, an acknowledgment that she is so much better than everyone else that no one could beat her.

The same still applies – and then some.

Biles had the top score in Olympics qualifying, her 59.566 almost two points ahead of Brazil’s Rebeca Andrade, who was runner-up to Biles at the 2023 world championships. This despite a flare-up of a calf injury that had Biles limping visibly between events. So as long as Biles is healthy and in a good place mentally, a second Olympic all-around title is hers Thursday night.

It would make her only the third woman, and first since 1968, to win gymnastics’ most prestigious prize twice. Biles also would be the oldest woman to win Olympic gold since 30-year-old Maria Gorokhovskaya in 1952.

“The fact her gymnastics just keeping better the older she gets, it’s a testament to her drive of wanting to be the best,” said Alicia Sacramone Quinn, a silver medalist at the 2008 Olympics who is now the strategic lead for the women’s program.

“I’m so impressed by her,” added Sacramone Quinn, whose 10 medals at the world championships and Olympics made her the most-decorated U.S. gymnast until Biles came along. “Every time she goes, I just joke, ‘Stop being so good at gymnastics! Let everybody else catch up.’ She’s like, ‘Yeah. OK.’ ”

Here’s a look at the best of the rest.

Rebeca Andrade, Brazil

Rebeca Andrade finished second to Biles after qualifying, albeit almost two points behind.

Andrade has been the best gymnast not named Simone Biles since the Tokyo Olympics. She won the all-around title at the 2022 world championships, when Biles was taking a break from gymnastics. She was the silver medalist in 2023 after Biles returned and beat Biles for the world vault title.

She was second to Suni Lee at the Tokyo Olympics and also won the vault title. She has nine medals overall at the world championships, winning five last year. That included a historic silver medal in the team competition, the best finish ever by Brazil’s men or women at either a worlds or Olympics.

Andrade was the first Brazilian woman to win an Olympic medal in gymnastics and Olympic gold. Making her recent success all the more remarkable is that it’s come after three ACL tears.



Brazil’s Rebeca Andrade, shown at the Pan-Am Games, is favored to be on the women’s all-around podium this week. AGUSTIN MARCARIAN/REUTERS

regretting that right about now, given France missed the team final and got no one into any individual event finals.

Manila Esposito, Italy

Manila Esposito finished sixth after qualifying. Esposito is the reigning European champion, edging teammate Alice D’Amato at the meet earlier this spring. She also won golds on balance beam and floor exercise. Esposito was ninth at the 2023 world championships.

Suni Lee, United States

Suni Lee finished third after qualifying. Lee is the reigning Olympic champion, her gold in Tokyo extending a stretch of dominance by the U.S. women that began in 2004. Lee has a full set of medals from Tokyo, winning a silver in the team competition and a bronze on uneven bars.

Lee went to Auburn after Tokyo and competed for two years before a kidney ailment cut her final season short. Lee said she actually has two kidney issues – the second was discovered while the

first was being treated – and they caused swelling so severe there were days she couldn’t even put her grips on. Her training was disrupted for almost a year, and she wasn’t sure if she’d even make it back to the Olympics.

But Lee returned to competition in February and has been making steady progress since, finishing second to Biles at the Olympic trials in July.

Kaylia Nemour, Algeria

Kaylia Nemour finished fifth after qualifying. Though Nemour is best known for her ridiculous difficulty on uneven bars, where she’s the reigning world silver medalist, she’s also very good in the all-around. She is the reigning African champion and was eighth at 2023 worlds.

Nemour was born in France but chose to compete for Algeria, where her father is from, after a dispute with the French federation. Bet officials there are

Alice D’Amato, Italy

Alice D’Amato finished seventh after qualifying. She was runner-up to teammate Manila Esposito at Euros this spring and fifth at the world championships in 2023.

Qiu Qiyuan, China

Qiu Qiyuan was eighth after qualifying. Qiu was fourth in the all-around at the 2023 world championships, her first at the senior level. She also won gold on uneven bars. Qiu was a three-time gold medalist at the 2023 Asian Games, winning in the team competition, all-around and uneven bars.

Jordan Chiles, United States

Chiles should be in the all-around final after finishing fourth in qualifying but won’t be because of the International Gymnastics Federation’s two-per-country rule. She should also be in the vault final but won’t for the same reason.

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BUSINESS & SERVICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Do you struggle with low mood or a lack of energy?

An online research study from Princeton University is looking for participants to try a self-help tool for depression symptoms.

Find out more here or scan the QR code: <https://nivlab.princeton.edu/participate/mood>



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government unit and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Utility, Transport, Golf, and Recreation Vehicles with Related Accessories, Equipment, and Services to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities.

Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada.

A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal <https://propportal.sourcewell-mn.gov>

Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered.

Proposals are due no later than **September 10, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time**, and late proposals will not be considered.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government unit and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Water Treatment Chemicals with Related Supplies, Equipment, and Services to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities.

Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada.

A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal <https://propportal.sourcewell-mn.gov>

Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered.

Proposals are due no later than **September 17, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time**, and late proposals will not be considered.

NOTICE REGARDING RECENT SECURITY INCIDENT

On April 23, 2024, United of Omaha Life Insurance Company (“United of Omaha”) detected unusual activity in one employee’s email account and observed access by an unauthorized party. The access was the result of a phishing campaign targeting United of Omaha employees. United of Omaha immediately began an investigation and hired an outside forensic computer expert to determine the size and scope of the incident. The investigation determined that the unauthorized third party had access to the employee email account between April 21, 2024 and April 23, 2024. Following a thorough review of the email account, on June 28, 2024 United of Omaha discovered that the unauthorized party may have accessed sensitive information. The attack did not compromise the security of any other systems or networks and did not affect United of Omaha’s ability to conduct business.

United of Omaha’s investigation confirmed that no information in the compromised account was emailed out of the account by the unauthorized party. However, the unauthorized party may have been able to view emails or attachments related to United of Omaha’s employer group insurance products. United of Omaha cannot confirm exactly what data was accessed for each individual, but information that may have been accessed includes full name, demographic information (such as address and date of birth), driver’s license number, health insurance policy number, social security number, employment information, and limited health information.

Upon learning of the incident, United of Omaha took a number of steps to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future including changing the employee’s Microsoft account passwords to prevent further access to the email account, hiring independent and industry-leading cybersecurity and data analysis experts to assist in the investigation, reporting the fraudulent domain associated with the attack, and re-training all employees on how to identify and report phishing campaigns. United of Omaha is sending letters by U.S. mail to impacted individuals for whom the company has valid mailing addresses. The letters contain important information about steps individuals can take to help prevent identity theft and fraud. Eligible individuals are being provided free credit monitoring services. Instructions on how to enroll are included in the notification letters mailed to eligible individuals’ last known address.


United of Omaha has established a confidential, toll-free hotline that is staffed with professionals familiar with this incident who can assist with questions and steps to protect against identity theft and fraud. Contact information and additional details about the incident are available at www.MutualofOmaha.com/facts.

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Jhonattan Vegas gets 1st PGA Tour win in 7 years

Cameron Jourdan
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

The last time Jhonattan Vegas won on the PGA Tour, the 3M Open didn't exist. Also in the span between then and now were myriad injuries and wondering whether he would return to the pinnacle. Those questions were answered Sunday. Vegas captured his fourth PGA Tour victory Sunday, claiming the 3M Open at TPC Twin Cities in Blaine, Minnesota, after a 72nd-hole birdie helped him beat Max Greyserman by a shot. Greyserman shot a back-nine 6-under 30 to get to 16 under, but Vegas birdied Nos. 16 and 18 to add another trophy to his case.

“These are the moments that you get up every day and you work hard, you do all the right things, because nothing feels better than this,” Vegas said.

The last time Vegas won was in 2017, claiming the RBC Canadian Open for the second year in a row. His 3M win came in his 299th tour start, and it happened in the midst of a so-so year that saw him make as many cuts (seven) as he missed coming into the week in Minnesota.

After an iffy approach into 18 on the front of the green, Vegas faced a lengthy 96-foot eagle look. But needing a birdie to secure the win, he nestled the lag putt close and then knocked in the birdie putt.

The win vaults Vegas 83 spots in the FedExCup Playoffs points race, from 149 to 66, and most important, inside the top 70. Only the top 70 make the post-season.

For Greyserman, a tour rookie, it was the best finish of his career. He shot 8-under 63 on Sunday to zoom up the leaderboard, and the finish will move him into the top 70 to 63rd.

Jon Rahm earns 1st LIV win

It seems absurd that a player of Jon Rahm's caliber hadn't won since the Masters last year, but that has finally changed.

Rahm won the LIV Golf UK tournament by a shot over teammate Tyrrell Hatton for his first victory since moving to LIV Golf League this season. Hatton bogeyed the final hole, missing a 6-foot par putt that would've forced a playoff.

Rahm hadn't finished worse than T-10 since moving over to LIV. He shot 4-under 67 Sunday to finish at 13 under for the week at JCB Golf and Country Club, besting Hatton, Joaquin Niemann and Cameron Smith by a shot.

On the par-3 17th hole, Rahm three-putted for bogey, falling back into a tie with Hatton. Then Hatton three-putted the 54th hole, opening the door for Rahm.



Jhonattan Vegas won the 3M Open on Sunday for his first PGA Tour victory since 2017.
MATT KROHN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Legion XIII took home the team title, so Hatton also will get a share of the \$3 million the team takes home for the win.

— Cameron Jourdan

Lauren Coughlin wins in 101st LPGA start

Late on Sunday, the cheers on the rowdy par-3 17th rang a little different after Lauren Coughlin hit the shot of the day. Chants of U-S-A filled the air in Calgary, Canada, as Coughlin set up the birdie putt that would forever change her golf career. In her 101st LPGA start, Coughlin stepped into the winner's circle at the CPKC Women's Open.

“I don't even really know how to describe it,” said the 31-year-old journeywoman, who took a \$350,000 first-place prize. “You know, I think I've had people believe in me for a really long time, and I wouldn't be here without their push and love.”

Coughlin, who nearly quit professional golf not long after she started, picked a fine time to have a breakout year. With the Solheim Cup only an hour from her Virginia home, she's now a lock to make the team. An exceptional ball-striker who found something in her putting earlier this spring with a new weapon, Coughlin notched two birdies in her last four holes to hold off a charging Mao Saigo by two strokes.

— Beth Ann Nichols, Golfweek

FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	62	43	.590	—
N.Y. Yankees	62	45	.579	1
Boston	55	49	.529	6½
Tampa Bay	54	52	.509	8½
Toronto	49	56	.467	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	63	42	.600	—
Minnesota	58	46	.558	4½
Kansas City	57	49	.538	6½
Detroit	52	55	.486	12
Chicago	27	81	.250	37½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	55	50	.524	—
Seattle	56	51	.523	1
Texas	51	55	.481	4½
L.A. Angels	46	60	.434	9½
Oakland	44	64	.407	12½

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	65	40	.619	—
Atlanta	56	48	.538	8½
N.Y. Mets	55	50	.524	10
Washington	49	57	.462	16½
Miami	39	67	.368	26½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	60	45	.571	—
St. Louis	54	51	.514	6
Pittsburgh	53	52	.505	7
Chicago	51	56	.477	10
Cincinnati	50	55	.476	10

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	63	44	.589	—
San Diego	57	51	.528	6½
Arizona	55	51	.519	7½
San Francisco	53	55	.491	10½
Colorado	38	69	.355	25

Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay 2, Cincinnati 1
Baltimore 8, San Diego 6
Cleveland 4, Philadelphia 3
Toronto 7, Texas 3
Minnesota 5, Detroit 0
Atlanta 9, N.Y. Mets 2
Seattle 6, Chicago Cubs 3
L.A. Dodgers 8, Houston 2
Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 3
Milwaukee 6, Miami 2
St. Louis 4, Washington 3
San Francisco 5, Colorado 4
L.A. Angels 8, Oakland 6
Pittsburgh 6, Arizona 5
N.Y. Yankees 8, Boston 2

Monday's Games

Toronto at Baltimore
Toronto at Baltimore
Cleveland at Detroit
N.Y. Yankees at Philadelphia
Seattle at Boston
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati
Minnesota at N.Y. Mets
Texas at St. Louis
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox
Pittsburgh at Houston
Atlanta at Milwaukee
Washington at Arizona

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.
Toronto at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.
Miami at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.
Seattle at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Texas at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Seattle at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.
Colorado at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
Washington at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.
Oakland at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Miami at Tampa Bay, 12:10 p.m.
Toronto at Baltimore, 12:35 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Philadelphia, 12:35 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox, 2:10 p.m.
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.
Texas at St. Louis, 2:15 p.m.
Washington at Arizona, 3:40 p.m.
Seattle at Boston, 4:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.



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Colorado at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
Oakland at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.

DEALS

BASEBALL Major League Baseball

ATLANTA BRAVES — P Darius Vines Called Up from Minors. P Jimmy Herget Sent to Minors. BALTIMORE ORIOLES — P Cade Povich Called Up from Minors recalled as 27th roster player. KANSAS CITY ROYALS — P Walter Pennington Traded to Texas Rangers for RHP Michael Lorenzen. P Walter Pennington NTR - Called Up From Minors. P Michael Lorenzen Traded for LHP Walter Pennington. LOS ANGELES DODGERS — P Ricky Vasanaco Traded to Detroit Tigers for cash considerations. PITTSBURGH PIRATES — P Josh Fleming Refused Minor League Assignment - Free Agent. TEXAS RANGERS — P Michael Lorenzen Traded to Kansas City Royals for LHP Walter Pennington. P Walter Pennington Sent to Minors. P Walter Pennington Traded for RHP Michael Lorenzen. TORONTO BLUE JAYS — P Brandon Eisert Called Up from Minors recalled as 27th roster player.

FOOTBALL National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — G Zack Johnson signed. C Brian Allen Placed on IR calf. DETROIT LIONS — T Taylor Decker re-signed Three-year extension (through 2027). MINNESOTA VIKINGS — S Bobby McCain signed. K John Parker Romo cut. NEW YORK GIANTS — S Bobby McCain signed to Minnesota Vikings. TENNESSEE TITANS — G Zack Johnson signed to Cleveland Browns.

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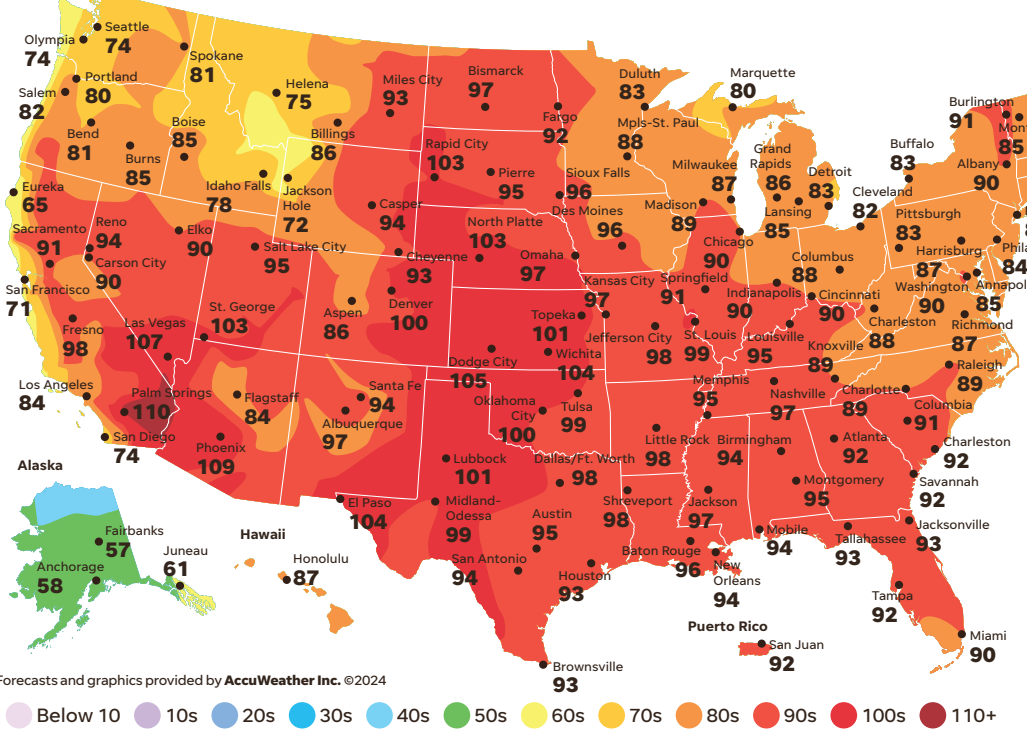
TODAY'S FORECAST

Afternoon and evening thunderstorms in the northern **Plains** and **Midwest** will bring damaging wind gusts, hail, flash flooding and isolated tornadoes today. The **East Coast** will be warm and very humid as thunderstorms rumble from **Florida to Maine**. Repeated rounds of downpours across the **Ohio Valley** may lead to flash flooding, particularly in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Meanwhile, areas of rain and drizzle will slowly taper off across the **Pacific Northwest**.

An area of high pressure over the central **Plains** will promote hot and generally dry weather. In the high terrain of **Arizona** and **New Mexico**, a few spotty afternoon thundershowers may form, some with gusty winds.

The interior **West** will turn cooler and breezy. Areas of low clouds will continue along the **California** coast.

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



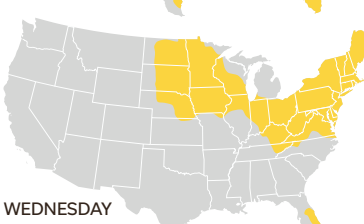
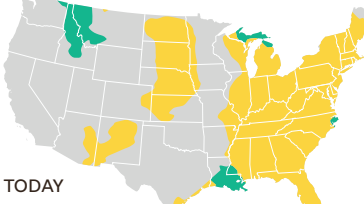
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PRECIPITATION FORECAST

● T-storms ● Rain ● Snow ● Ice/mix



EXTREMES

Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday
● HOTTEST: 100° El Centro, Calif. ● COLDEST: 33° Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

TOP TRAVEL CITIES

Air quality index (AQI)

ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	BOSTON	CHARLOTTE	CHICAGO	DALLAS/FT. WORTH	DENVER	DETROIT	HONOLULU	HOUSTON	LAS VEGAS	LOS ANGELES
TUE ☁ T-storms 92/75	TUE ☁ Stray t-storm 87/72	TUE ☁ Stray t-storm 84/72	TUE ☁ Stray t-storm 89/72	TUE ☁ Warmer 90/73	TUE ☁ Breezy, warm 98/79	TUE ☁ Hot 100/61	TUE ☁ Stray t-storm 83/68	TUE ☁ Showers 87/77	TUE ☁ Humid 93/76	TUE ☁ Sunny 107/80	TUE ☁ Sunny 94/61
WED ☁ Stray t-storm 93/75	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 96/71	WED ☁ T-storms 88/75	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 95/73	WED ☁ Heavy t-storm 87/72	WED ☁ Breezy, warm 99/78	WED ☁ Very warm 97/60	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 89/72	WED ☁ An A.M. shower 88/75	WED ☁ Humid 95/75	WED ☁ Hazy 108/84	WED ☁ Partly sunny 84/63
THU ☁ Stray t-storm 94/75	THU ☁ Hot 98/76	THU ☁ Stray t-storm 88/75	THU ☁ Stray t-storm 97/76	THU ☁ Stray t-storm 88/70	THU ☁ Very warm 100/79	THU ☁ Very warm 96/64	THU ☁ Stray t-storm 89/70	THU ☁ Mostly sunny 87/74	THU ☁ Humid 93/76	THU ☁ Hot 110/87	THU ☁ Mostly sunny 83/63
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate
MIAMI	MPLS-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON
TUE ☁ A.P.M. t-storm 90/81	TUE ☁ Heavy t-storm 88/70	TUE ☁ Shower 94/79	TUE ☁ Stray t-storm 84/73	TUE ☁ T-storms 94/76	TUE ☁ Stray t-storm 84/73	TUE ☁ Sunny, warm 109/90	TUE ☁ Breezy 95/67	TUE ☁ Turning sunny 74/64	TUE ☁ Breezy 71/58	TUE ☁ Morning mist 74/59	TUE ☁ T-storms 90/74
WED ☁ An A.M. shower 93/82	WED ☁ T-storms 88/72	WED ☁ Humid 92/80	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 86/74	WED ☁ T-storms 93/77	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 90/74	WED ☁ Hot 112/91	WED ☁ Hazy sunshine 95/70	WED ☁ Turning sunny 74/65	WED ☁ Breezy 72/59	WED ☁ Clouds, sun 77/58	WED ☁ T-storms 94/76
THU ☁ Stray t-storm 92/81	THU ☁ Stray t-storm 84/69	THU ☁ T-storms 94/79	THU ☁ Mostly sunny 91/76	THU ☁ T-storms 95/75	THU ☁ Hot 94/75	THU ☁ Very warm 109/89	THU ☁ Sunny 99/74	THU ☁ Partly sunny 74/65	THU ☁ Breezy 71/58	THU ☁ Mostly sunny 84/62	THU ☁ Some sun, hot 96/76
AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate

c	Cloudy	f	Fog	l	Ice	r	Rain	sf	Snow/furries	sn	Snow	w	Windy	dr	Drizzle	h	Haze
U.S. CITIES	TODAY	WED	TODAY	WED	TODAY	WED	TODAY	WED	TODAY	WED	TODAY	WED	TODAY	WED	TODAY	WED	TODAY
Akron, Ohio	80/67t	87/68t	Cincinnati	90/70t	89/72t	Hartford, Conn.	87/73t	82/70t	Nags Head, N.C.	84/76pc	86/77t	Sarasota, Fla.	92/76t	92/77t	Scottsdale, Ariz.	107/87s	109/87s
Albany, N.Y.	90/72t	84/70t	Cleveland	82/69t	88/70t	Indianapolis	90/72t	92/74t	Nashville, Tenn.	97/77t	96/75t	Savannah, Ga.	92/75t	94/77t	Shreveport, La.	98/77s	96/75s
Albuquerque, N.M.	97/71t	94/74pc	Colorado Springs	96/65s	95/63pc	Islip, N.Y.	83/73pc	83/72t	Newark, N.J.	97/74t	91/75t	Sioux Falls, S.D.	96/77s	96/78s	Sioux Falls, S.D.	96/77s	92/79t
Allentown, Pa.	81/71t	86/68t	Columbus, Ohio	88/69t	88/72t	Jackson, Miss.	97/76t	96/75pc	New Haven, Conn.	87/74t	85/72t	South Bend, Ind.	86/68t	86/70t	Spokane, Wash.	81/59pc	86/62s
Amarillo, Texas	105/75s	103/75pc	Corpus Christi, Texas	93/79t	93/77w	Jacksonville, Fla.	93/75t	93/74t	Norfolk, Va.	87/76t	95/77t	Springfield, Mo.	96/76pc	96/75s	Springfield, Ill.	91/75t	93/75pc
Anaheim, Calif.	83/61s	84/62s	Dayton, Ohio	88/70t	89/72t	Jefferson City, Mo.	98/79pc	100/77pc	Oakland, Calif.	72/57pc	71/58pc	St. Louis	99/80t	100/82pc	St. Petersburg, Fla.	93/77t	94/78t
Anchorage, Alaska	58/50r	64/54pc	Daytona Beach, Fla.	91/76t	91/76t	Kansas City	97/77s	99/75s	Oklahoma City	100/77s	98/76w	Syracuse, N.Y.	90/72t	82/69t	Tallahassee, Fla.	93/74t	93/75t
Aspen, Colo.	86/46s	83/48s	Des Moines, Iowa	96/75s	98/71t	Key West, Fla.	90/84t	92/84pc	Omaha, Neb.	97/75t	99/72t	Tampa, Fla.	92/78t	91/80t	Tampa, Fla.	92/78t	91/80t
Atlantic City, N.J.	81/73pc	83/73t	Duluth, Minn.	83/66pc	81/65t	Knoxville, Tenn.	89/73t	89/71t	Palm Springs, Calif.	110/81s	112/85s	Toledo, Ohio	85/67t	90/72t	Toledo, Ohio	85/67t	90/72t
Augusta, Ga.	93/73t	93/71t	El Paso, Texas	104/80c	100/79pc	Laredo, Texas	101/79pc	102/77w	Pensacola, Fla.	90/79t	93/78t	Topeka, Kan.	101/78s	103/76t	Topeka, Kan.	101/78s	103/76t
Austin, Texas	95/76pc	97/73s	Fairbanks, Alaska	57/50r	61/49c	Lexington, Ky.	92/71t	92/75t	Pierre, S.D.	95/67t	87/63t	Tucson, Ariz.	100/79t	101/79pc	Tucson, Ariz.	100/79t	101/79pc
Bakersfield, Calif.	97/70s	99/71s	Flagstaff, Ariz.	84/55s	84/56t	Lincoln, Neb.	101/75t	103/72t	Pittsburgh	83/70t	88/71t	Tuvalu, Miss.	96/75t	97/76pc	Tuvalu, Miss.	96/75t	97/76pc
Baton Rouge, La.	96/78pc	95/78pc	Flagstaff, Ariz.	84/55s	84/56t	Little Rock, Ark.	98/77s	97/77s	Portland, Maine	79/67t	77/66t	Tulsa, Okla.	99/80s	101/80s	Tulsa, Okla.	99/80s	101/80s
Billings, Mont.	86/61s	90/63s	Fargo, N.D.	92/71t	90/66t	Long Beach, Calif.	80/63s	82/64s	Portland, Ore.	80/62sh	85/62s	Virginia Beach, Va.	84/76t	90/77t	Virginia Beach, Va.	84/76t	90/77t
Birmingham, Ala.	94/77t	96/76t	Green Bay, Wis.	90/66pc	84/66t	Louisville, Ky.	95/75t	93/78t	Providence, R.I.	82/72t	80/69t	Wichita, Kan.	104/78s	103/77w	Wichita, Kan.	104/78s	103/77w
Bismarck, N.D.	97/65t	85/62t	Fort Myers, Fla.	90/76t	93/75t	Lubbock, Texas	101/75s	103/75pc	Raleigh, N.C.	89/73t	92/75t	Wilmington, Del.	84/73t	92/72t	Wilmington, Del.	84/73t	92/72t
Boise, Idaho	85/62pc	95/67s	Fort Smith, Ark.	100/78s	100/77s	Madison, Wis.	89/70pc	86/69t	Rapid City, S.D.	110/81s	112/85s	Winston-Salem, N.C.	87/71t	94/72t	Winston-Salem, N.C.	87/71t	94/

MLB POWER RANKINGS

Top-ranked teams flop into trade deadline

Gabe Lacques
USA TODAY

Yes, the Philadelphia Phillies remain the top-ranked team in USA TODAY Sports' MLB power rankings. But that's only because every other elite team has been as bad – or worse – as them.

The Phillies had lost eight of 12 games and suffered four series losses in a row going into Monday yet held a nine-game lead in the National League East and a 3½-game lead for the best NL record. You might say the sting was blunted this weekend since they lost two of three to the best team in the American League, the Cleveland Guardians. Yet the Guardians came in on their own 4-8 skid.

The Baltimore Orioles, No. 2 in the AL? They've lost 10 of 15. The New York Yankees, just a game behind them in the East? They are 11-23 since June 15.

It is no way for these juggernauts to go into Tuesday's trade deadline. A look at this week's rankings:

1. Philadelphia Phillies (-)

● Carlos Estévez acquisition means Rob Thomson can play the hot hand in playoff bullpen.

2. Cleveland Guardians (+1)

● Emmanuel Clase now 33 of 36 (91.6%) in save opportunities.

3. Baltimore Orioles (-1)

● Gunnar Henderson with five errors in four games, 16 overall (2nd in MLB).

4. Los Angeles Dodgers (-)

● With young and injury-recovering starters in rotation, bullpen now absolutely gassed.

5. New York Yankees (-)

● Aaron Boone says Jazz Chisholm Jr. (.309 career OBP) will probably hit in middle of the lineup.

6. Milwaukee Brewers

● Devin Williams is back in the bullpen – and the division lead is six games.



Bryce Harper went into Monday 10-for-53 (.189) in July. His Phillies had lost eight of 12 games. NICK WOSIKA/USA TODAY SPORTS

7. Atlanta Braves (-)

● Reynaldo Lopez headed for MRI.

8. Minnesota Twins (+1)

● Bailey Ober's last 7 starts: 1.48 ERA, 0.77 WHIP, 56 strikeouts in 48⅓ innings.

9. Boston Red Sox (-1)

● Hopefully James Paxton isn't their final answer to upgrading the staff.

10. Kansas City Royals (-)

● MVP? Bobby Witt Jr. has 18 homers, 1.107 OPS in last 30 games.

11. Houston Astros (-)

● Weak farm, luxury-tax concerns will make rotation boost challenging.

12. San Diego Padres (+3)

● Since coming off the IL, Xander Bogaerts is 22-for-45 (.489) with 1.169 OPS.

13. Arizona Diamondbacks (+1)

● A.J. Puk strikes out four of first sev-

en batters he faces as a D-back.

14. Seattle Mariners (-1)

● Good news: Tied for first again. Bad news: All done with the White Sox.

15. New York Mets (+1)

● Kodai Senga's likely season-ending calf injury in debut a major blow.

16. St. Louis Cardinals (-4)

● Dropped from 2nd to 5th in WC.

17. Tampa Bay Rays (-)

● Won 9 of 14 since sell-off began.

18. Texas Rangers (+1)

● Seriously, don't let them get hot.

19. Pittsburgh Pirates (-1)

● Rowdy Tellez Watch: .251, .705 OPS. The man is solidly league average.

20. San Francisco Giants (-)

● He's made just 10 starts but Giants

have reached Choose Your Own Adventure (Trade? Keep? Opt out?) phase with Blake Snell.

21. Detroit Tigers (+1)

● Pretty inspiring stretch of nine wins in 15 games to maybe ensure they don't totally blow it up.

22. Cincinnati Reds (+1)

● Their trade-deadline epitaph could read: "9-20 in one-run games."

23. Chicago Cubs (-)

● From lovable losers to streak busters to four years of utterly nondescript product.

24. Toronto Blue Jays (+1)

● The sell-off is a drag, but biggest deal this week is losing prospect Ricky Tiedemann to Tommy John surgery.

25. Washington Nationals (-1)

● MacKenzie Gore struggling in second half, with 15 walks, 1.93 WHIP in his last 20% innings.

26. Los Angeles Angels (-)

● Carlos Estévez brings back a pretty decent return from Phillies.

27. Oakland Athletics (-)

● Literally can't have nice things, not even Mason Miller.

28. Miami Marlins (+1)

● The Jazz Chisholm Era, such as it was, now a historic footnote.

29. Colorado Rockies (-1)

● The plan? Apparently to build around Ryan McMahon, once again untouchable.

30. Chicago White Sox (-)

● Might be next decade by the time they're buyers again.

Deshaun Watson shows he still doesn't get it



Mike Freeman
Columnist
USA TODAY

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson could have just politely not answered the question. Athletes do that all the time. Or he could have answered it in a way that wasn't so ... so ... so *him*. At the very least, Watson could have used the opportunity to show that he finally gets it. Or is trying to. But no. Nope. Nah.

Watson went full Watson, and you should never, ever go full Watson.

What Watson said isn't necessarily a shock but it's a window into who he is as a person. This may not be a problem for the Browns because, in the end, what matters to them is how Watson plays. If they were concerned about Watson the person, they wouldn't have signed him in the first place.

All of this started with a simple question. Watson was asked what he's changed entering this season as opposed to his previous two with Cleveland.

This was his answer: "Honestly, it's really just blocking out all the bull---- outside. Stuff coming in two years, different environment, different team, different all that. So, you come in and your character is being mentioned this way and it kind of flip on you and you're trying to get people to like you or improve. But now it's like, at the end of the day, it's two years in and if you don't like me



Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson stretches with the team during the minicamp in June. JEFF LANGE/AKRON (OHIO) BEACON JOURNAL

or you have your own opinion, it is what it is. ...

"Blocking out all the noise and focusing on me, focusing on what I need to do to be the best Deshaun Watson I can be for myself, for my family and for my teammates."

Read this quote carefully and pay close attention to the "blocking out all the bull----" part of it. It's remarkable, actually. The ultimate meme. Take your pick of which one. Maybe this. It's like someone punching themselves in the

face and then saying: I'm going to block out all the pain of a self-inflicted broken nose and focus on me, the person who punched himself in the face.

What kind of logic is that? More than two dozen women have accused Watson of sexual assault and inappropriate conduct during massage sessions. The NFL suspended him for 11 games. As has been discussed by many people, many times, if you believe all or even most of those women are lying, you are a complete fool.

More important, Watson put himself in those situations. Those were his alleged actions.

What Watson said gets even worse. When asked if it's been difficult to block the outside noise, Watson said: "Of course. My character was being challenged. Like I said, I know who I am. A lot of people never really knew my history or knew who I really was, so they're going based off other people's opinions and whatever other people are saying."

"I'm a person that likes to have people like me and I feel like a lot of people are like that. So, sometimes things in your brain, you've just got to churn and you've got to just be like, 'Forget it.' It is what it is."

Again, it would have been better for him to shut up. It's OK to have an inside voice.

Watson would respond to this criticism by saying he's innocent. That he did nothing wrong. He'd say it's his right to defend himself. But Watson still doesn't understand that for most people who aren't dupes or sycophants, when they see accusations from dozens of women, they believe the women. They don't live in the fantasy world he inhabits. Few people do.

What's clear is that as time passes, Watson is starting to feel more comfortable talking about that moment, and these comments show him, in a way, trying to rewrite that history. But he can't. We all know what Watson is accused of and how many women made those accusations.

Watson can't talk his way out of this. Ever.

14-year-old makes pro debut for Gotham in NWSL

Seth Vertelney
Pro Soccer Wire | USA TODAY NETWORK

Cavan Sullivan's record as the youngest person to debut in a major North American pro sports league lasted less than two weeks.

On Sunday night, McKenna "Mak" Whitham made her debut for NJ/NY Gotham FC at 14 years, 1 day.



Whitham

Whitham came on in the 80th minute against the Washington Spirit in a NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup match, which Gotham won 1-0.

The forward is nearly a full year younger than Sullivan, who was 14 years and 293 days when he came on for the Philadelphia

Union this month.

On Friday, Gotham announced it had signed Whitham to a pro contract, effective Jan. 1.

The NWSL also signed the U.S. youth international to a national team replacement contract, which allowed her to be eligible for Sunday's Summer Cup match.

Whitham has been training with Go-

tham throughout 2024 after joining the club's preseason as a non-roster invitee.

At 13, the forward scored the winning goal for Gotham against Deportivo Cali in a preseason match in Colombia.

In February, Whitham made headlines by signing a name, image and likeness (NIL) deal with Nike, becoming the youngest athlete in any sport to sign an NIL deal with Nike.

Fredette leads way for US men’s 3x3 team

Tom Schad
USA TODAY

A little more than 12 years after he was college basketball’s biggest star, Jimmer Fredette found himself in the back of a vehicle in Kosovo, driven by a man he barely knew, careening deep into the woods of a remote national park.

Let him explain.

Fredette said he and his 3-on-3 basketball teammates were in Kosovo for a tournament but they didn’t have a place to practice. Then they learned about three public courts that were nestled in the middle of a national park – dotted with graffiti, with cracks in the pavement, but otherwise perfectly serviceable. So off they went.

“This guy drove us out there, and we’re like, ‘Listen, we’ll give you \$100 if you stay here to make sure you don’t leave,’” Fredette recalled at a media roundtable earlier this year. “Because if you leave, we can’t get home.”

Fortunately, Fredette continued, the guy didn’t leave. And it all worked out fine.

It’s just one of the wild basketball stories he’s amassed – and unique places he’s seen – over the course of a remarkable but unorthodox career.

Over the past 15 years, Fredette has been the unanimous college basketball player of the year, an NBA lottery pick, a borderline NBA bust, a Chinese Basketball Association legend – and, most recently and perhaps finally, a 2024 Olympian. After effectively retiring from 5-on-5 basketball in 2021, he has found a second home in the niche world of 3-on-3, where he will lead Team USA into its first pool play game Tuesday against Serbia.

“You never know where life is going to take you, right?” Fredette said. “For me, it’s just the way that it worked out. There’s no rhyme or reason for it.”

Fredette’s path to Paris has included pit stops on five continents, with tournaments in a far-flung assortment of places including Mongolia, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates and Santiago, Chile. Between his 3-on-3 travels and professional stints in China and Greece, he figures he’s been to most of the countries in both Asia and Europe.

“We call it passport stamp rich,” he



Jimmer Fredette of the United States drives against Trinidad and Tobago’s Ahkeel Boyd during a 3x3 semifinal at the 2023 Pan-Am Games. IVAN ALVARADO/REUTERS

said with a smile. “We’re stamp rich.”

Most basketball fans will remember Fredette, now 35, from his time in college at BYU. He was not just a consensus All-American but also a transformative shooter, becoming a bit of a cultural phenomenon whose name was recognizable even among casual sports fans. The Sacramento Kings drafted him 10th overall in 2011, in between future NBA All-Stars Kemba Walker and Klay Thompson.

Fredette’s time in the NBA, however, did not go as smoothly as theirs. He spent parts of three seasons in Sacramento before getting cut, then moved on to brief stints with Chicago and New Orleans. By 2015, Fredette had dropped into the NBA’s D-League. And by the end of 2016, he had left the U.S. altogether, signing a contract with the Shanghai Sharks.

“I think I was a little ahead of my time,” Fredette said, when asked about his NBA career. “I was shooting from really long ranges in college, where it wasn’t really like that in the NBA at that point. I came in with that type of skill set, and if I don’t have that type of green light to be able to do that, you’re taking away half of my skill set.”

In China, though, Fredette did have that green light – and he used it. Over his first three seasons with the Sharks, he put up nearly 27 shots per game and averaged more than 37 points, with two games in which he scored 70 or more. Yet after a brief return to the NBA, then to Greece, then back to China during the COVID-19 pandemic, Fredette decided that he wanted to spend more time with his family and focus on a second career in venture capitalism.

And that’s where Fran Fraschilla comes in.

In the spring of 2022, the ESPN analyst and former college basketball coach joined USA Basketball as a senior adviser to the men’s 3x3 basketball program, tasked with helping the program bounce back from its failure to qualify for the Olympics in 2021. He heard that Fredette had stepped away from 5-on-5 basketball and thought 3-on-3 might appeal to him, offering a chance for him to continue playing but with less of a time commitment.

After a two-hour lunch in Denver that summer, Fraschilla said, Fredette was in. “Jimmer is the poster child for USA

3x3,” Fraschilla said in an interview. “He has had a great career. He was available because of his retirement. ... He’s really perfect for the sport.”

To Fraschilla, it wasn’t just that Fredette is “a basketball icon, in many ways,” but also a terrific shooter who’s in great shape – the type of profile that he thought would translate well to the 3-on-3 game, where teams play to 21 with few breaks.

“It’s just such a different game,” Fredette explained. “Obviously faster pace, quick shot clock, you have to be in a different type of shape. It’s not as much vertical, sprinting up and down. It’s more horizontal, quick bursts.”

It’s also a much more physical game, Fredette said – which, as a former high school football player, he enjoyed.

He also found that it gave him the sort of balance he was looking for, allowing him to drop his kids off at school, work out and then shift his focus to the venture capital work in the afternoon. He quickly became a key player for Team USA, helping lead the Americans to a Pan American Games title last year and second-place finish in the 2023 FIBA 3x3 World Cup.

“His talent is such that he’s very much, if not the best player on the 3x3 world tour, he’s probably one of the three best players,” Fraschilla said. “So he gave USA Basketball a tremendous lift.”

In return, 3-on-3 basketball gave Fredette a second crack at an opportunity that he thought had long since passed: the Summer Olympics.

He knows he’s taken an unorthodox path to Paris. And he acknowledged that his life in basketball has not exactly gone according to plan.

Instead of a 15-year career in the NBA, he spent the past year traveling to 15 different countries playing 3-on-3 basketball.

When asked if he envisioned the nomadic lifestyle he now lives, Fredette just said “no” and laughed.

“I’ve had awesome times in my career and I’ve had some tough times in my career – much like many people in their lives, whether it’s in athletics or something else,” he said.

“The biggest thing for me is just once a door closes, another one opens. And being able to go all-in on that door.”

3x3 could bring redemption for Van Lith

Lindsay Schnell
USA TODAY

PARIS – Hailey Van Lith swears that despite what outsiders might think, her last 15 months have not, in fact, been a miserable experience.

Yes, it’s true that Van Lith, one of the top guards in women’s college basketball the last few seasons, has had somewhat of a roller-coaster journey, transferring from Louisville, where she was an All-American, to then defending champion LSU in spring 2023, where she struggled, some would say significantly. She entered the transfer portal again April 4 and landed at TCU for her final season of eligibility.

But before that, Van Lith will try to silence doubters – and maybe boost her own confidence – by helping the American women defend their 3x3 basketball gold medal.

The USA takes on Germany on Tuesday in their first game of pool play.

“This is a great opportunity for me to be around pros, to learn from pros,” Van Lith said, “but at the end of the day, my views on myself are never determined by people outside of me.

“College has been what it’s been for me, but at the end of the day, the Olympics and playing for Team USA is the ultimate experience – and if they think I’m worthy to play for the national team, then that says a lot.”

Then again, maybe she doesn’t need anyone’s validation.

Still, a gold medal never looks bad as part of a jewelry collection.

Van Lith, 22, was the surprise selection for the women’s 3x3 team, a sport that debuted in Tokyo.

She is the only current collegian on the team; the next oldest is 24-year-old Rhyne Howard, the 2022 WNBA Rookie of the Year.

At Louisville for three years, Van Lith was the star of the show, averaging 19.7 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.2 assists as a junior, when she earned honorable mention All-American honors.

Her production dipped significantly at LSU, where she moved to the point guard position full time, averaging 11.6 points and 3.6 assists per game.

At TCU next season she’s likely to move back to her more natural off guard position.

Though she might not admit it, these



Team USA player Hailey Van Lith drives to the basket in the 3x3 showcase during the WNBA All-Star Skills Night. MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

Games could serve as a redemption of sort for Van Lith, who said she never anticipated 3x3 being her basketball calling card.

“I think the first time I played 3x3 I was like 15, so I had no limits on my dreams for myself at that point, I thought I could do anything, I thought I could

make the final 5-on-5 team when I was 18,” she recalled, laughing at her naivete. “I definitely always envisioned myself being an Olympian but I don’t think I knew about 3x3 until the middle of high school.”

She took to the game quickly, helping the U.S. 3x3 win gold at the 2018 Youth

Olympic Games, the 2019 FIBA Under-18 World Cup and most recently the 2023 FIBA 3x3 Women’s World Cup. (She has two other USA Basketball gold medals from previous international youth tournaments.)

Van Lith is no stranger to big-time basketball, and her parents are often along for the ride. They’re here in Paris, too – “they come in strong,” she joked Saturday – and she said seeing them in the stands when she takes the floor to represent her country is likely to bring on the waterworks.

Team USA has a variety of hurdles to clear when it comes to 3x3. The squad is missing Cameron Brink after the WNBA rookie tore her ACL on June 25 and was ruled out for the rest of 2023. Dearica Hamby, a two-time WNBA Sixth Woman of the Year, replaced Brink. Howard has been banged up and missed 10 games with the Atlanta Dream over June and July. And the most experienced player, former Tennessee Lady Vol Cierra Burdick, hasn’t played in the WNBA since 2021.

“Unlike the men, we’ve only been together for like a week and a half,” Burdick joked – except she wasn’t really kidding. This roster of women has never played together. That’s a stark contrast to the USA 3x3 men’s team, which has played together since late 2022 and finished in the top three or better at seven major international tournaments.

Burdick, a seasoned 3x3 veteran, wants to help her teammates adjust.

“My job is to make their job as easy as possible,” Burdick said, gesturing to her teammates.

The 3x3 event is unique because no coaching is allowed, which Van Lith thinks can help create sharper athletes who thrive in pressure-packed moments. This experience could certainly go a long way in helping her get back to the Van Lith of old, a trash-talking fan favorite who loved to hit big shots.

“We can’t have a coach, anytime our coach tries to coach we always get caught, so we’re gonna try to avoid that,” she said, laughing. “It’s a great opportunity for us to learn how to think the game ourselves. A lot of times that’s hard, to make decisions and communicate effectively when we’re tired.

“It’s just another way for us to get better as players, and we’ll embrace that challenge.”

LIFELINE



MARCO BELLO/REUTERS

MAKING WAVES
LADY GAGA’S ROMANCE

Lady Gaga is caught in a good romance. While in Paris for the 2024 Olympic Games, the pop star introduced her partner, tech entrepreneur Michael Polansky, as her fiancé during a conversation with French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal as seen in a TikTok video shared by Attal on Sunday. Polansky, 46, and Gaga, 38, have been romantically linked publicly since New Year’s Eve 2019. Gaga has never been married but she was engaged to actor Taylor Kinney in 2015 and talent agent Christian Carino in 2017.



IT’S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO’S CELEBRATING TODAY

Laurence Fishburne is 63. Joey King is 25. Vivica A. Fox is 60.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY
More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). You have a way with words today! Be playful with your communication. Feeling flirty?

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Confidence is churning within you. Feeling motivated to procure your wants and desires? Get into acquisition mode.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Assert your ideas with confidence. The Gemini moon encourages the expression of your thoughts. What do you have to say?

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Give yourself a pep talk. Positive affirmations have increased power.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Don’t spend the day alone! Even if you try, your phone will buzz repeatedly with acquaintances who want to connect.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Outer success matching up with inner fulfillment? You may feel a big win today. Honor who you are becoming.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Something clicks today. You are in an expansive headspace. Is a big-picture vision coming together?

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Collaboration puts you on the road to accomplishment. Lead a brainstorming session. Ideas are flowing.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Ready to explore together? Mutual expansion is possible. It’s time for a shared adventure!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Cooperation gets the job done. Adopt an adaptable mindset.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It’s a great day for romance! Express yourself. Whether you are single or attached, there’s love in the air.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Taking a mental health day? There doesn’t have to be anything wrong per se to justify a break.

STAGE



“Illinoise” is told through a series of vignettes, as a group of people including Henry (Ricky Ubeda) gather around a campfire and open up about their lives. PROVIDED BY MATTHEW MURPHY

‘It feels like the show was written about me’

This Broadway superfan has seen ‘Illinoise’ 38 times and he’s not done

Patrick Ryan USA TODAY

NEW YORK – If theatergoing was an Olympic sport, then Matthew Dodson would be Michael Phelps. • This year alone, the Manhattanite already has attended 160 performances on and off Broadway. In the past, thanks to rush and lottery ticket options, as well as last-minute deals on SeatGeek, he has racked up head-spinning numbers for such shows as “Company” (50 times), “Shucked” (60 times) and “The Phantom of the Opera” (100-plus visits). • “I love being a cheerleader,” says Dodson, 46, a cybersecurity systems engineer. “One of the amazing things about live theater is that you’re never going to see the same thing twice. It’s different every single night.”



Matthew Dodson, left, Amanda Bohlmann and Em Gardiner are three of the musical’s biggest fans. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MATTHEW DODSON, AMANDA BOHLMANN AND EM GARDINER

This summer, Dodson has pledged his allegiance to “Illinoise,” a 90-minute, dialogue-free dance musical adapted from Sufjan Stevens’ beloved 2005 album. He has seen the show 38 times so far with his husband, Dan, and they plan to make more visits before it closes Aug. 10 at the St. James Theatre.

The stunning new musical, which won best choreography at last month’s Tony Awards, has attracted a small but mighty following of repeat patrons ever since it opened on Broadway in late April. The story follows a young queer man named Henry (Ricky Ubeda) as he learns to move forward from unrequited love and immeasurable loss. Like the show’s lead characters, Dodson lost a

See ILLINOISE, Page 4D

COMIC-CON

‘Alien: Romulus’ actors bond with each other, and with Facehuggers

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

SAN DIEGO – Good news for anyone who’s never had the pleasure of watching frightening Xenomorphs, freaky Facehuggers and ghastly Chestbursters: “Alien: Romiulus” requires no viewing homework to enjoy. “Romulus” (in theaters Aug. 16), the seventh movie in the “Alien” franchise, is set between the first two movies: Ridley Scott’s 1979 original sci-fi horror classic and James Cameron’s action-packed 1986 sequel “Aliens,” both of which starred Sigourney Weaver’s iconic Ripley. “You don’t need to have seen the other ones. If you have, it’s a treat. If you haven’t, then I’m jealous,” writer/director Fede Alvarez said Friday at a

See ROMULUS, Page 4D



Cailee Spaeny stars as Rain Carradine, who runs afoul of Facehuggers and other creepy beasts in “Alien: Romulus.” PROVIDED BY 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

MOVIES

A-listers, family and children: We decode ‘Deadpool & Wolverine’ cameos, spoilers

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

Spoiler alert! We’re discussing important plot points and the ending of “Deadpool & Wolverine” (in theaters now), so beware if you haven’t seen it yet, bub.

Ryan Reynolds’ Deadpool and Hugh Jackman’s Wolverine have made themselves at home in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, bringing F-bombs, so much violence, some of their friends and even a wife.

Director Shawn Levy’s “Deadpool & Wolverine” partners the two frenemies – who were fan-favorite characters from Fox’s superhero films before making their Disney debut in this movie – for a meta mission of multiversal consequence. The Time Variance Authority plucks Deadpool from his world. It gives him a chance to be a real hero alongside the Avengers in Earth-616 (aka “the sacred timeline” of the MCU), even as the Merc With a Mouth learns that his Earth-10005 is about to be no more, thanks to a contraption called the Time Ripper.

Well, that won’t do. Deadpool finds a Wolverine from another Earth where the clawed X-Man failed to be a hero at the right time, and the two go on a cameo-filled, banter-laden mission to save both their worlds.

Let’s dig into all the best spoilers, from who exactly is playing Lady Deadpool to what happens in the obligatory post-credits scene.

What happens at the ending of ‘Deadpool & Wolverine’?

TVA jerk Mr. Paradox (Matthew Macfadyen) sends Deadpool and Wolverine to the Void, a purgatorial wasteland ruled by powerful telepath (and Professor X’s twin sister) Cassandra Nova (Emma Corrin). After a road trip where the two heroes work through some feelings and meet new allies (more on them in a bit), the pair force Cassandra to send them home to Earth-10005. But Cassandra follows them and takes control of the Time Ripper to wipe out every Earth in the multiverse and leave only the Void.

Deadpool and Wolverine risk their lives to thwart Cassandra’s plans by



Blake Lively and her husband Ryan Reynolds attend the “Deadpool & Wolverine” world premiere in New York City. Lively has a cameo in the movie as Lady Deadpool. NOAM GALAI/GETTY IMAGES

sabotaging the Time Ripper, dooming Cassandra and saving Deadpool’s Earth. When Wolverine is told he can’t go back to save his Earth, he stays with Deadpool for the happy ending.

Who has the best cameos? What are Cavill and Evans doing here?

Many, many characters show up in “Deadpool & Wolverine” – and quite a few famous faces. These are the best of the best:

- **Henry Cavill as the Cavillrine!** When Deadpool goes on an Earth-hopping quest to find the right Wolverine, he’s shocked to run into one played by Henry Cavill, an actor many fans want as the new Wolverine after Warner Bros. got rid of him as DC’s Superman. “On behalf of all humanity, this just feels right. We’re going to treat you so much better than those (expletive) down the street,” Deadpool says, just before the Cavillrine growls, “You were just leaving” and punches Deadpool back into his time portal.
- **Chris Evans flames on again as Human Torch!** Soon after they’re sent to the Void, Deadpool comes across a mystery man who looks and sounds a



Chris Evans, who starred as Johnny Storm in 2005’s “Fantastic Four” before he played Captain America in the Marvel movies, reprises his Human Torch role in “Deadpool & Wolverine.” PROVIDED BY 20TH CENTURY FOX

lot like Captain America – the Avenger Deadpool likens to “the superhero equivalent of comfort food.” But instead of Cap yelling “Avengers assemble!” it’s Johnny Storm – Evans’ role in Fox’s 2000s “Fantastic Four” movies – saying “Flame on!” Deadpool is disappointed, they’re captured by Cassandra’s henchmen, and Cassandra ends up murdering

Johnny by ripping off his skin. “Not my favorite Chris,” Deadpool cracks.

- **Blade, Elektra and X-23 are back!** As they’re venturing through the Void, Deadpool and Wolverine come across a bunch of superheroes from past non-Disney Marvel movies: Blade (Wesley Snipes) from the “Blade” trilogy, Elektra (Jennifer Garner) of “Daredevil” and “Elektra” fame, and X-23 (Dafne Keen) from “Logan.” They’re joined by another guy we’ve never seen before: Channing Tatum finally gets to play Gambit, a member of the X-Men that Tatum would have portrayed in a movie that never got made.

So who is Lady Deadpool and is it Taylor Swift?

Because of her closeness with Reynolds and his wife Blake Lively, there were rumors of Taylor Swift making a cameo, perhaps as Dazzler from the X-Men. She’s not in it but Lively is, playing the masked, ponytailed Lady Deadpool. There’s a whole Deadpool Corps that shows up in this movie, including gun-slinging Cowboypool (Matthew McConaughey), the decapitated Headpool (Nathan Fillion) and maskless Nicepool (Reynolds), a helpful and good-natured guy despised by the actual Deadpool.

But that’s not all from the Reynolds/Lively household. Three of their kids have cameos, too: James, 9, is a Screaming Mutant; Inez, 7, is Kidpool; and Olin, 1, whose birth was revealed in February 2023, is Babypool. Also, 4-year-old daughter Betty is credited with the off-screen role of “Hugh Jackman wrangler.”

Is there a post-credits scene in ‘Deadpool & Wolverine’?

Of course, there is, though it’s more of a laugh than a tease to Deadpool and Wolverine’s MCU future. Johnny Storm has been gruesomely killed by Cassandra after Deadpool explains that he said some seriously awful, NSFW stuff about the supervillain not fit to be published by your national newspaper. Deadpool is blamed for making that up, but in the post-credits scene, he goes back to the TVA and shows secret camera footage of Johnny saying all that stuff. “Gotcha,” Deadpool says.

MOVIES

‘Mothers’ Instinct’ chills on both page and screen

Patrick Ryan
USA TODAY

Spoiler alert! We’re discussing major details about the plot and ending of “Mothers’ Instinct” (in select theaters now; available Aug. 13 on video on demand).

Some people would kill to be parents. That’s the deliciously bloody premise of “Mothers’ Instinct,” a suspenseful new thriller in which Anne Hathaway goes toe-to-toe with Jessica Chastain, playing next-door neighbors whose friendship sours after the death of one of their young sons. The twisty period drama has everything we could want in a movie: a pair of Oscar-winning actresses chain-smoking in fabulous wigs, while digging their teeth into a meaty story about grief and revenge.

The movie is based on the 2012 novel “Behind the Hatred” by Belgian author Barbara Abel, although substantial changes have been made in the film adaptation. Here are some of the biggest differences between the book and movie:

The movie changes the character names and the setting

For starters, one of the major differences is that the film is set in a 1960s suburban American neighborhood, while the book takes place just outside Paris in the recent past, with references to watching “SpongeBob SquarePants” and playing Nintendo games. The characters’ names have mostly been changed for the movie as well: Laetitia is now Alice (Chastain), Tiphaine is now Celine (Hathaway).

Max’s tragic fall happens differently in the book

Early in the book, Celine’s son, Max (Baylen D. Bielitz), stays home sick from school. Running a high fever and struggling to cool down, he opens his bedroom window and leans out too far,



Alice (Jessica Chastain, left) surprises Celine (Anne Hathaway) with a birthday party in “Mothers’ Instinct.” PROVIDED BY ALYSSA LONGCHAMP/NEON

leading to his death. But the circumstances around his fall are vastly different in the film: Max is still home ill, but goes out to the balcony to fiddle with a birdhouse in a nearby tree. Walking on top of the railing, he loses his balance and plunges to the ground.

In both versions, Alice is in her backyard next door just before the fall occurs. Unable to get through the large hedge separating the two houses, she runs to the front door of Celine’s home to get help but is sadly too late. Many chapters of the book are devoted to whether Alice could’ve saved Max by breaking his fall, and how she might’ve gotten to him faster had they installed a pathway connecting both yards. Most of the landscaping disagreements have been pruned for the film.

Chastain’s character has a richer backstory

The movie smartly fleshes out the character of Alice. In the book, she loses both her parents in a car accident before meeting her future husband, Simon (Anders Danielsen Lie), who helps her work through the grief. But the film gives a deeper explanation for Alice’s paranoia around Celine, who takes an uneasy interest in Alice’s son, Theo (Ea-

mon Patrick O’Connell), after Max’s death.

As we learn in the movie, Alice feels immense guilt for being the only survivor of the car crash that killed her parents. She suffers from anxiety, is prescribed medication, and quits her journalism career after multiple stays in mental hospitals. As a result, Simon is skeptical when Alice starts lobbing accusations of murder against Celine, wondering if it’s just another psychotic break. The story also becomes more suspenseful for the audience: Is Alice an unreliable narrator, or is she right to fear Celine?

‘Mothers’ Instinct’ ending has major differences from the book

The film’s last 30 minutes make numerous changes from the source material. In the book, Celine is a former pharmacist who now whips up herbal remedies at home – one of which she disguises as Doritos dust, which she uses to try and poison Theo. But in the film, Celine’s husband, Damian (Josh Charles), is the one who works in pharmaceuticals, and Celine instead tries to weaponize Theo’s peanut allergy by feeding him peanut butter cookies.

In the book, Simon also has a long

backstory of being an ex-con and recovering addict. His sponsor, Ernest, becomes Theo’s godfather and is Celine’s first victim. But all of that has been cut from the film: Instead, Celine kills Alice’s mother-in-law (Caroline Lagerfelt), to ensure that Theo has no close relatives who could look after him, should his parents mysteriously die.

Hathaway’s character is strangely more sympathetic

Celine has a slightly higher body count in the movie. In the novel, she and Damian work together to kill both Simon and Alice: stealthily framing both their murders as suicides, and eventually gaining custody of Theo in the book’s final chapter. But Celine works alone in the film: First, she kills Damian in his sleep, making it seem as if he slit his wrists. Taking pity on her, Alice invites the newly widowed Celine to stay at their house. One night, Celine chloroforms both Alice and Simon and stages a gas leak to make their deaths appear like an accident.

The book ends on a sinister note, with a child therapist telling Celine and Damian that Theo is lucky to have them as parents. But the film has a more sentimental finish, with Celine and Theo walking gloomily together on the beach. Tearfully, she reassures her new son that while they may both feel broken inside, together they can help each other heal. With a faint grin, they begin to run and play on the sand before the end credits roll.

For all its high-camp moments – of which there are many – the movie ultimately works better than the book on an emotional level. Hathaway and Chastain both are acutely attuned to the film’s pitch-black humor and Hitchcockian melodrama, and achingly convey their characters’ desperation and resentment. It turns out, there are no limits to a mother’s love.

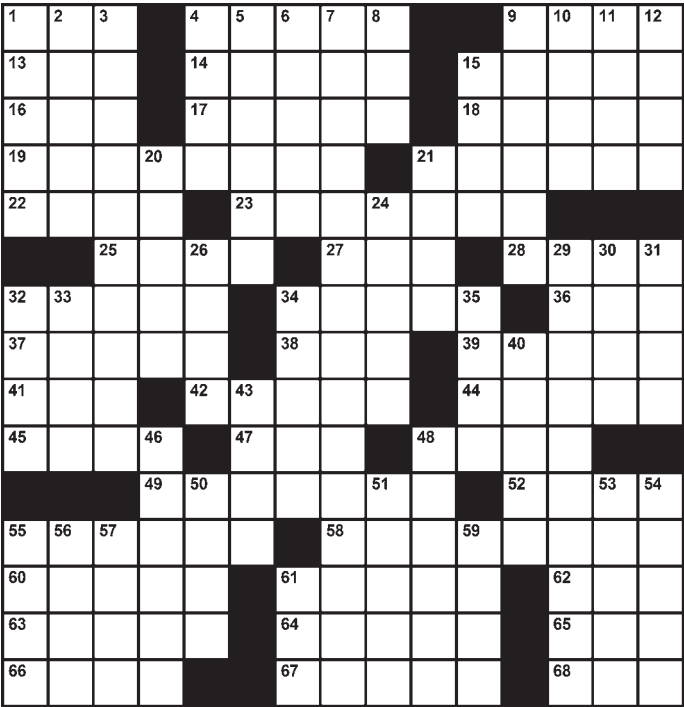
Now, who’s hungry for some peanut butter cookies?

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Amanda Rafkin
BY Wendy L. Brandes

BELLY UP

- ACROSS
- 1 Provide with a new soundtrack
- 4 Category for butter, cheese or milk
- 9 ___ in a blue moon
- 13 Sch. that eliminates the letter “M” from campus before games against Michigan
- 14 Just as planned
- 15 Walk around quietly
- 16 Openly queer
- 17 Attempts
- 18 Stop
- 19 Some punk hairstyles
- 21 Samples a bit of
- 22 Like a snail’s pace
- 23 What returning an ex’s stuff may bring
- 25 Knicks’ crosstown competition
- 27 Rowdy crowd
- 28 Apt rhyme for “snip”
- 32 Deed holder
- 34 Send to a specialist
- 36 Fruity drink suffix
- 37 Crafted a poem
- 38 Actor and director
- 39 Self-congratulatory comment
- 41 ___ Vegas
- 42 “Neptune Frost” star Ngabo
- 44 Epic party
- 45 Erupt, like a geyser
- 47 Unit of corn
- 48 Ray or trout, e.g.
- 49 Person selling houses
- 52 Bowlers’ targets
- 55 Show up to
- 58 Go too far
- 60 More than fear
- 61 Star ___ (spice)
- 62 Need to repay
- 63 Mom’s sisters
- 64 As of
- 65 Org. that reviews clinical trials
- 66 Get along well
- Answers: Call 1-900-988-8300, 99 cents a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-320-4280.



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7/30

- 67 Stand in good ___ (be useful to)
- 68 Pro
- DOWN
- 1 Sedans have four
- 2 Ordinary
- 3 “With a corn cob pipe and a ___, and two eyes made out of coal” (“Frosty the Snowman” lyric)
- 4 Pancake that might accompany aloo masala
- 5 Shenanigans
- 6 Challenge to a poker bluff
- 7 Dismissive phrase encouraging toughness
- 8 Positive response to an invitation
- 9 “Be right there!”
- 10 Cool
- 11 Detective’s assignment
- 12 ___ out a living (gets by)
- 15 “The Lion King” antagonist loosely based on King Claudius
- 20 Robin’s sound
- 21 Word after “test” or “inner”
- 24 Couches
- 26 Evergreen, e.g.
- 29 Brush something aside with humor
- 30 Doing nothing
- 31 Look through a peephole
- 32 Birds associated with wisdom
- 33 Stop filming
- 34 What Hamilton was to Burr
- 35 Rihanna’s nickname
- 40 Speaks hoarsely
- 43 ___ by example
- 46 Headwear for some Greek gods
- 48 Grapefruit-flavored soda
- 50 Concludes
- 51 Sheeplike
- 53 Hairstylist’s creation
- 54 Pickle slice
- 55 Actor Driver
- 56 “That’s extremely accurate”
- 57 Top scores for divers
- 59 Wetland plant
- 61 Donkey
- Monday’s Answer
- ASSIST PASS LUBED
INCH RANT OZONE
DOHA ARIA NOISE
EGOTRIPPING NUT
ODES DOSAGES
ALL FIDO DHL
ROBE NOPE OPRAH
YOUVEGOTMETHERE
ATSEA REMY ACER
RTE DYED CAB
VINYASA TOTE
ARO LEGOTECHNIC
LOTTO ERRS ETTA
UNION NEAT TEEN
ESTEE TOPS ARMS
- 7/29
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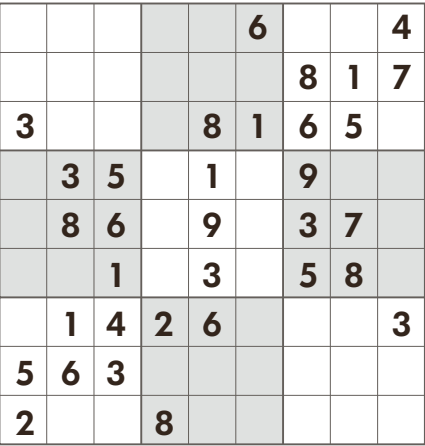
Numbers

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Feedback: feedback@usatoday.com



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



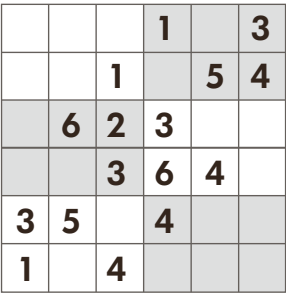
7/30

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION
ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).



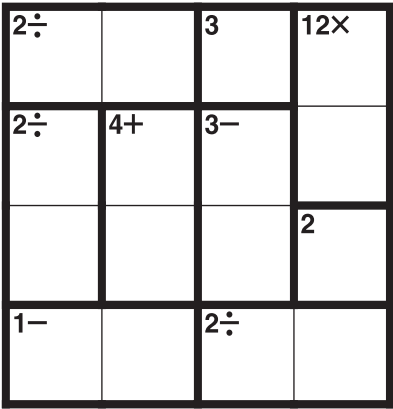
DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

Monday’s Answers

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

7/29

KENKEN



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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.
- YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION
- 2 1- 2÷ 2÷
2 3 4 1
12x 3 4 1 2
3- 2÷ 7+
4 1 2 3
1 2 3 4
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KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo

Difficulty: EXPERT



Solution to Monday’s puzzle

11	2	4	1
9	16	3	13
8	6	5	15
10	12	7	14

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:
Eight four-letter words ending with B
Movie ____
Two gas giants
Two amphibians
Crowe of “Gladiator”

Monday’s answer: TREE FREE KNEE GLEE / MAROON PURPLE YELLOW INDIGO / ROGER MANDY DEMI / GRAND CENTRAL / JAMAICA MALTA

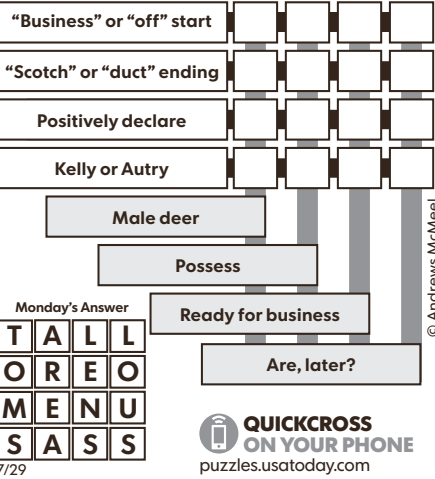
7/30



QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

7/30



UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

7/30

1. AIR
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
- UP
- Clues:
1. It has a hub in Montreal
2. Ginger ale brand
3. Solid carbon dioxide
4. Vanilla _____
5. Philadelphia product
6. Orange snacks
7. Swells
- Monday’s Answer
- LONG / DRIVE
DRIVE / FAST
FAST / FORWARD
FORWARD / PASS
PASS / BY
BY / GEORGE
GEORGE / COSTANZA
- PLAY ONLINE
PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM
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BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

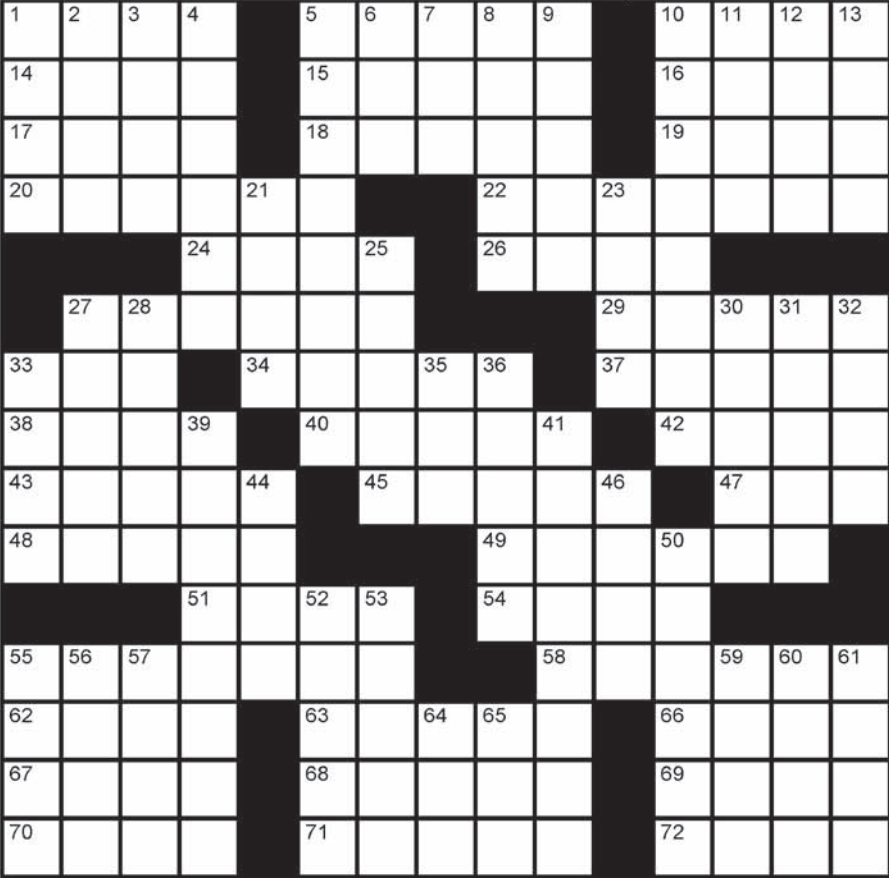
- 1 Grasp
- 5 Ray flower
- 10 Lowers the lights
- 14 Flat-topped hill
- 15 Leather for gloves
- 16 — fixe
- 17 Dye plant
- 18 Aquarium creature
- 19 Angry
- 20 Settle snugly
- 22 Felt a prickly sensation
- 24 Flag maker
- Betsy —
- 26 Permanent mark
- 27 Youthful
- 29 — -Coeur of Montmartre
- 33 Levy
- 34 Water wheel
- 37 Bitter
- 38 Not up and around
- 40 Appear again
- 42 Life of Riley
- 43 Cake part
- 45 French painter
- 47 Grad-to-be
- 48 Pancake
- 49 Times long past
- 51 Colleen
- 54 Take the bus
- 55 Singer — Flack
- 58 Brave
- 62 Send forth
- 63 Suspect’s salvation
- 66 Lab compound
- 67 Actress — Bancroft
- 68 Send payment
- 69 “God’s Little —”
- 70 Hats
- 71 Lacking substance
- 72 Disabled
- DOWN
- 1 Agent (Hyph.)
- 2 Philosopher — Descartes
- 3 Wife of Osiris
- 4 Meager
- 5 Official appraiser
- 6 “Under the Tuscan —”
- 7 Drink for two
- 8 Uses a blue pencil
- 9 Old thing
- 10 Ignominy
- 11 Graven image
- 12 Nothing more than
- 13 Pip
- 21 Beef portion
- 23 Rocket science gp.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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- 25 Tear
- 27 Kid-lit elephant
- 28 Daisy type
- 30 Collide
- 31 “The Sun Also —”
- 32 Perfect place
- 33 Soapstone
- 35 Driving hazard
- 36 Carpentry tool
- 39 Consumes
- 41 Swiftiness
- 44 Raise
- 46 Snack-bar drink
- 50 Breakfast staple
- 52 Look
- 53 Oregon’s capital
- 55 Concrete
- 56 All (Prefix)
- 57 Tie
- 59 Peruvian of times past
- 60 “Cheers” regular
- 61 Joy
- 64 Little devil
- 65 Morsel



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.

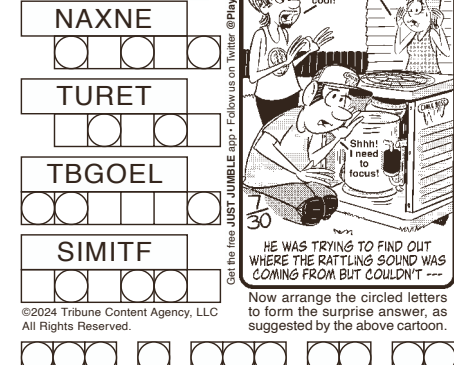
- CLUES
- 1 paddle user in a small craft (7)
- 2 give back money (6)
- 3 tell apart (11)
- 4 confused uproar (6)
- 5 giving up, as one’s rights (7)
- 6 dweller (8)
- 7 cloth for cleaning (7)
- SOLUTIONS

ID	UND	KAY	NGU	ER
REF	NG	DI	TUM	IVI
STI	ENT	ULT	AK	TR
DUS	AG	RES	WA	ISH

Monday’s Answers: 1. PRESIDENT 2. HYBRID 3. GORP 4. HANDMADE 5. SKYDIVING 6. SHEDS 7. NOUNS 7/30

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Yesterday’s Jumbles: RUNNY GLOAT BASKET WINDOW
Answer: The skunk Olympic gymnast was doing well until she — “STUNK” THE LANDING

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

‘Gym bros’ may unwittingly prompt eating disorder

Alyssa Goldberg
USA TODAY

No butter. No food after 6 p.m. Everything must be measured. Every macro recorded. “If you aren’t begging for rest, then you aren’t trying your best.”

These are rules commonly promoted by gym bros today.

They also are tenets that read eerily similar to those posted in toxic corners of the internet in the early 2010s. Those accounts, which took over Tumblr and Pinterest, were banned and denounced for promoting disordered eating. But some say today’s gym bros are sharing similar content and hiding in plain sight – or maybe not even hiding at all.

On TikTok, many fitness fanatics amass followers by sharing their tough-to-achieve physiques and details of their gym journeys. But among the inspiring videos there’s no shortage of clips that promote “clean eating” to an extreme, skipping meals and over-exercising. Experts say this is contributing to a culture of orthorexia, a lesser-known eating disorder that’s quietly plaguing the fitness community.

What is a ‘gym bro’?

“Gym bros” are those who essentially live and breathe the gym. In some cases, their fitness goals can lead to unhealthy behaviors, a pitfall that’s been well-documented.

Rather than aspiring for thigh gaps, men look to bodybuilders online for inspiration, sometimes resorting to dangerous methods to reach hard-to-achieve fitness goals.

Unhealthy behaviors can include eating only “safe foods,” weighing food for weight loss or over-exercising to the point of injury.

What is ‘orthorexia’?

Fitness and healthy eating has many positive benefits on physical and mental health, but when taken to an extreme, people often don’t realize they may be experiencing an under-discussed eating disorder called “orthorexia.”

Orthorexia is an obsession with clean, healthy eating that causes a person to experience guilt and shame if they stray from their rigid diet. Due to its restrictive nature, the disorder shares many of the same physical consequences as anorexia, including malnutrition, heart failure, inattentiveness, lowered sex hormones, kidney failure and even death.

Often, men may not have the information to understand that they’re experiencing an eating disorder, according to therapist and certified eating disorder specialist Sarah Davis.

“Wellness culture shows up in such a toxic way with orthorexia,” Davis says. “In gym bro culture, there’s a lot of that type of language with clean eating. Certain foods are demonized and it’s all about building muscle mass. It’s shown in this way where it’s put on a pedestal.”

Because of the underrepresentation of male eating disorders and cultural acceptance around these toxic



On TikTok, many fitness fanatics amass followers by sharing their tough-to-achieve physiques and details of their gym journeys. But among the inspiring videos, there’s no shortage of clips that promote “clean eating” to an extreme, skipping meals and over-exercising. SAI AUNG MAIN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

behaviors, some men won’t seek help even when they do realize they have a problem.

Body dysmorphia and fitness culture

Health coach and personal trainer Noah Sage Zimmerman, 30, struggled with body dysmorphia for years.

Growing up in Santa Barbara, he was surrounded by “wealthy, good-looking families” and felt pressured to look and eat a certain way to fit in. In high school, he felt his friendships and relationships developed after he lost weight, which built a foundational belief that being fit was the key to being liked.

After college, he began to work with a dietician to address his ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory bowel disease. But his dietitian formerly was a professional bodybuilder, and Zimmerman began taking on bad eating habits under the guise of healthier living.

“I was supposed to eat extremely clean for 90% of the week, and then one meal a week, I got to eat whatever I wanted,” he says. “I just started to go to like, three to five different restaurants for that meal and just eat a disgusting amount of food in one sitting.”

Zimmerman was going to the gym for four to five hours a day to “feed” his eating habits and skipping out on lunch meetings, cocktail hours and networking.

“It wasn’t until three or four years ago that I was like, there’s a problem here,” he says. His relationship with food had become just as bad, if not worse, than during his teenage years.

While binge-eating and over-exercising, Zimmerman’s social life and mental health severely suffered.

“I knew it was bad, because I was not only doing bad things to my body, I was also doing bad things to my brain by robbing myself of life experiences,” he says.

Now, he uses his platform and career to share safer ways to work toward a healthier lifestyle and speaks out on body dysmorphia. Yet on his videos, toxic comments still flooded in. “Stop complaining about standards and build the body you want,” one user wrote. “Body dysmorphia is a lack of mental intelligence, and a lack of mental discipline,” another replied.

On TikTok, some gym bros who post about body dysmorphia paint it as rite of passage in the community.

Steroids, Ozempic and transformation videos

What’s the best way to combat misinformation about gym culture? Zimmerman says it would help if celebrities and influencers disclosed their usage of steroids or weight-loss drugs such as Ozempic.

“A lot of young kids are seeing these people and potentially looking up to them,” he says. “I think we would not have as big of a problem if they were honest with how they achieve their bodies.”

Those weight transformation videos can be harmful, too, experts say. A TikTok search of “trust the bulk” will lead to thousands of transformation videos, with many detailing how they earned a more toned body through binge/purge cycles and excessive exercise.

When regular gymgoers don’t see these same results, body dysmorphia and disordered eating practices can worsen, according to Davis.

How did we get here?

Though women’s beauty standards prioritize smaller bodies, there’s still shame associated with being “too skinny.” But in gym bro culture, these excessive practices are reaffirmed by the body standards for men – there’s no such thing as being “too strong” for a man.

Eating disorder recovery advocate William Hornby says toxic masculinity and media play a crucial role in this mindset.

“Straight men especially tend to blame these beauty ideals on women’s expectations when that is really not true,” Hornby says. “It really (comes from) the performance of masculinity for other men.”

Zimmerman agrees: “Most people that recognize how ripped they are are just other men.”

From the superhero movies men watch to the magazines they read, being “big and strong” is equated with success, admiration and even “saving the world.”

“Open up your phone, watch any type of movie, any type of TV show, you will see examples of unrealistic standards that people are being told to desire,” Zimmerman says. “You’re expecting like, ‘Now that I look a certain way, all these women are going to notice me, just like they do in the movies.’ And it’s not the case at all.”

Addressing the problem

Gym culture is incredibly competitive, and for many it can easily get out of hand. Accounts such as Zimmerman and Hornby’s are helping combat some of these issues.

Davis says there are clear ways to know you have a problem, and spreading that message is key. If you’re missing out on social obligations due to your fitness goals, that’s a good indication things have gotten out-of-hand.

Hornby adds that health should always be the goal, not how you look.

Any extreme measure a person is taking, whether through an eating disorder or in the gym, “isn’t in a pursuit of health,” Hornby says. “It’s in pursuit of an aesthetic. And aesthetics don’t qualify you as better equipped to handle an illness.”

Illinoise

Continued from Page 1D

close friend to bone cancer when he was in his early 20s. And he’s touched by the musical’s portrayal of a gay relationship that is “incredibly beautiful and loving, without stereotype or pretense.”

“In many ways, it feels like the show was written about me,” Dodson says. “I think a lot of people come away with that feeling because it’s so personal and intimate.”

‘Illinoise’ ‘reminds me why I love to dance’

Ask any “Illinoise” fan when the waterworks start, and you’ll probably get a different answer. For Em Gardiner, a restaurant hostess from Chicago, it’s “John Wayne Gacy Jr.,” a haunting ballet about inner demons and fears. And for Amanda Bohlmann, a dancer living in Westchester County, New York, it’s “Casimir Pulaski Day,” which captures the painful rhythms and repetition of chemotherapy.

Having now seen the show five times, “I know the moments when I’m about to start sobbing my eyes out, or when there’s a break in the middle where I can breathe for a second and not be crying,” Bohlmann says with a laugh.

“Casimir” is typically the song “when the dam gets broken,” Ubeda says. “I walk out right after that number ends and I can hear the sniffles. From there, some people weep the entire time. But by the end of the show, it’s a little more of a hopeful or cathartic cry.”

“Illinoise” is directed and choreographed by Justin Peck (“West Side Story”), with a book by Pulitzer Prize winner Jackie Sibblies Drury (“Fairview”). They found inspiration in other dance-driven musicals such as “Movin’ Out” and “Contact,” as well as in “A Chorus Line,” with multiple characters assembled in one place and sharing their unique stories. The project is deeply meaningful to Peck, who lost his mother to cancer when he was young. But the approach was never to spoon-feed the audience or be too literal.

“We wanted to present this mirror to the audience, giving them the space to see what they want to see in it,” Peck says. “The No. 1 thing people say to me is that they sobbed through it, and I think that’s because it lives in the language of dance, which is so visceral. If these characters were speaking or trying to explain how they were feeling, I don’t think it’d have the same effect.”

The show’s breathtaking marriage of movement and storytelling is precisely why “Illinoise” resonates so strongly with Bohlmann, 29.

“I feel like dancers are so underappreciated when it comes to certain Broadway things,” she says. “It’s al-



After “Illinoise,” director Justin Peck hopes that “people are open to experiencing more stories that just happen to be in the language of dance.” JEMAL COUNTESS/GETTY IMAGES

ways about the stars and their big voices, which is amazing. But to have a show that’s centered solely on dancing, it just reminds me why I love to dance. Every time I’m there, I’m like, ‘This is why I do it.’ ”

It has ‘the mark of something really special’

For Stevens’ fans, the show presents a rare opportunity to experience his music live. The Oscar- and Grammy-nominated singer hasn’t toured the U.S. in nearly a decade. He announced last fall that he is relearning to walk after the autoimmune disease Guillain-Barre Syndrome left him immobile.

“This is the closest I’m ever going to get to seeing Sufjan’s music portrayed in a live sense, just because of everything that man has been through,” says Gardiner, 20, who uses she/they pronouns and is pursuing a career in event management. She saw “Illinoise” five times in its pre-Broadway run in Chicago last year, and flew to New York to see it twice more this summer. As a queer person who grew up in Utah, they could relate to Henry moving to a city and finding community.

“I saw myself in that aspect of getting out of a place, finally getting to experience life on your own and discovering yourself through that,” Gardiner says. “That really hit close to home.”

Ubeda says he receives a lot of messages on Instagram, often “from queer kids who feel seen by the show and come back multiple times. To me, that’s the mark of something really special, especially in theater. It reminds me of something like ‘Rent’ that speaks to a generation and a subset of people who maybe feel like theater hasn’t landed on them before.”

The “So You Think You Can Dance” winner always has been drawn to coming-of-age stories. But “it becomes even more special when it’s about the queer experience,” Ubeda says. With each performance of “Illinoise,” “I feel like I’m stepping into my younger self’s shoes. I’m able to learn and give my younger self something different every night through this character.

“I didn’t know what it was going to be when I signed on, and it ended up being more fruitful and healing than I ever imagined.”

Romulus

Continued from Page 1D

“Romulus” presentation at Comic-Con, the pop-culture convention at the San Diego Convention Center.

The latest “Alien” centers on a group of young colonizers (played by Cailee Spaeny, David Jonsson, Archie Renaux, Isabela Merced, Spike Fearn and Aileen Wu) who happen upon an abandoned space station, investigate the place and find it full of murderous extraterrestrial creatures.

Spaeny said Alvarez has “such a grasp of the language of horror. He knows the franchise like the back of his hand and there’s so much care.”

Alvarez wanted to bring back the psychosexual weirdness of the early “Alien” movies and explore something the others haven’t: a strong connection among the characters. “It’s really about being someone’s sibling. Would you die for a brother or a sister, or would you be a coward?”

The filmmaker chose “fresh faces” for his cast, “people you didn’t associate with another character,” and developed a suspenseful vibe throughout the movie about what would happen to them.

“When you watch the first movie, you have no idea Sigourney would survive,” Alvarez said. “This, you don’t know who’s going to die.”

That’s why Alvarez filmed the movie chronologically, so when someone “died” it was emotional, and the remaining cast would have to say goodbye to that actor. “We could all go through that story,” he said.

Watching movies such as “Alien” “shapes your tastes and habits, even though the first one’s a bit before my time,” said Jonsson, who plays the android Andy. Playing a synthetic (or “artificial person”), “it’s an amazing challenge as a young actor, taking on a role that’s been painted so many times. Fede let me wipe it clean and make it my own.”

Alvarez showcased some new – and seriously gory – clips for the Comic-Con audience, including a nasty bit with a Chestbuster. He tried to use as physical effects as much as possible in “Romulus,” and carried them over to the presentation, where Facehuggers skittered about the stage.

The best advice on how to escape one of those beasties? “Don’t be stupid about it. Just run,” Fearn said.

Jonsson had sort of a run-in with one on the set. In the movie, his character does some “very cool” things, including hoisting a Facehugger up by the tail and tossing him out of harm’s way. Filming one scene, Jonsson requested “the big boy” and threw the prop, but “it whipped back around and detached my retina,” he said. “We finished the day, I went and got a couple of stitches, and it was fun.”

INSIDE
Republicans seek new lines of attack as they prepare to take on Harris, 7NN

MADURO WIN QUESTIONED



A demonstrator runs away from tear gas Monday during a protest against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas, Venezuela, a day after the country's presidential election. Protests erupted in parts of Caracas on Monday against the reelection victory claimed by Maduro. YURI CORTEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Venezuela opposition says its victory is irreversible

Mariela Nava, Mircely Guanipa and Vivian Sequera
REUTERS

CARACAS, Venezuela – Venezuela opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said on Monday that the country's opposition has 73.2% of the voting tallies from Sunday's election, allowing it to prove election results it says give it a victory.

Separately, an opposition adviser, one of six living in the Argentine embassy since warrants were issued for their arrests, said on social media that security forces were trying to enter the building.

"Right now, DAET officials are trying to storm the residence of Argentina's embassy in Caracas where the six asylum seekers from Maria Corina Machado and Edmundo Gonzalez's campaign are," Pedro Urruchurtu said in a post on X.

Protesters gathered in towns and cities across Venezuela on Monday after President Nicolas Maduro claimed victory in a tense weekend election, despite growing evidence of a resounding win for the opposition.

During the afternoon crowds appeared in urban streets, as well as outside national electoral authority offices across Venezuela.

The CNE said just after midnight that Maduro had won a third term with 51% of the vote, a result that would extend a quarter-century of socialist rule. Later it proclaimed Maduro president for 2025 to 2031, adding he had won "the majority of valid votes."

But governments in Washington and elsewhere cast

See VENEZUELA, Page 6NN



A man reads a newspaper Monday in Caracas, Venezuela, a day after the country's presidential election. President Nicolas Maduro was declared the winner of the election, but the opposition and key regional neighbors immediately rejected the official results. RAUL ARBOLEDA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Biden administration officials, briefing reporters about the vote on condition of anonymity, accused the government of "electoral manipulation."

Israel: Avoid all-out conflict

Netanyahu has vowed retaliation for attack

Maayan Lubell and Maya Gebeily
REUTERS

JERUSALEM – Israel wants to hurt Hezbollah but not drag the Middle East into all-out war, two Israeli officials said on Monday, as Lebanon braced for retaliation after a rocket strike that killed 12 children and teenagers in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Two other Israeli officials said Israel was preparing for the possibility of a few days of fighting following Saturday's rocket strike at a sports field in a Druze town that it blamed on the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah.

Hezbollah has denied any connection with the incident.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said any Israeli attack on Lebanon would have "serious consequences" for Israel, Iranian state media quoted him on Monday as telling French President Emmanuel Macron in a phone call. Pezeshkian did not elaborate.

All four Israeli officials, who included a senior defense official and a diplomatic source, spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity and gave no further information about Israel's plans for retaliation.

"The estimation is that the response will not lead to an all-out war," said the diplomatic source. "That would not be in our interest at this point."

In a statement issued by his office on Monday after he visited Majdal Shams, the site of Saturday's attack, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "The state of Israel will not and cannot let this pass. Our response will come and it will be harsh."

Both Israel and heavily armed Hezbollah have appeared at pains to avoid a full-scale war since they began trading blows in October.

But Saturday's incident has increased concerns that the months of cross-border hostilities could spiral into a broader, more destructive war.

An Israeli drone strike killed two Hezbollah fighters in south Lebanon on Monday as well as three other people including an infant, sources said. They were the first fatalities in Lebanon since Saturday's incident.

The Israeli military said its air defenses downed a drone that crossed from Lebanon into the Western Galilee area on Monday.

'Limited' response flagged

Israel's security Cabinet has authorized Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to decide on the manner and timing of a response to Saturday's strike.

See ISRAEL, Page 8NN

High court reforms need bipartisan boost to pass

Biden seeks term limits, binding code of conduct

Andrea Shalal
REUTERS

AUSTIN, Texas – President Joe Biden on Monday proposed sweeping changes to the U.S. Supreme Court that he said were needed to rein in a conservative-led court that was being weaponized to undermine established civil rights principles and protections.

Biden said he would work with Congress to enact a series of reforms, including term limits and a binding code of conduct, but immediate opposition

voiced by Republicans in Congress means the proposals have little chance of enactment.

"We need these reforms to restore trust in the court," Biden said in a speech marking the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 at the presidential library of former President Lyndon B. Johnson in Austin, Texas.

Biden called on Congress to pass binding and enforceable rules that would require the justices to disclose gifts, refrain from public political activity, and recuse themselves from cases in which they or their spouses have financial or other conflicts of interest. He also urged the adoption of an 18-year term limit for the justices, who currently

serve life tenures.

"I believe the best structure is the 18-year term limit. That would ensure that the country does not have what it has now – an extreme court ... that has been weaponized by those seeking to carry out an extreme agenda for decades to come," Biden said.

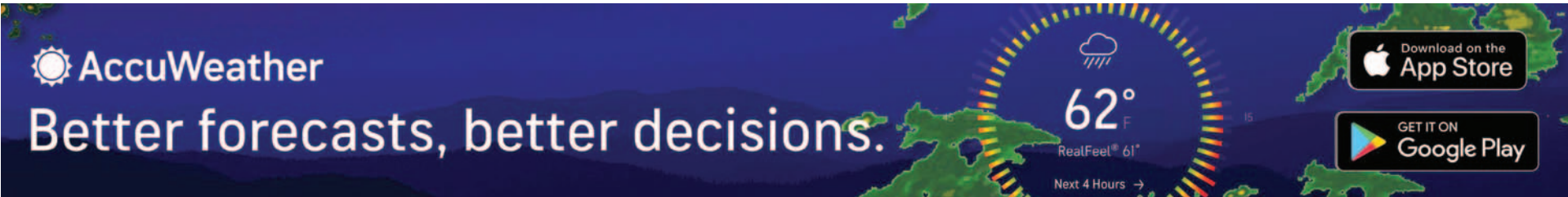
Most OECD countries either have term limits or a mandatory retirement age, or both, for judges serving on their top court.

Biden last week ended his reelection bid and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic candidate to face former President Donald Trump,

See COURT, Page 7NN



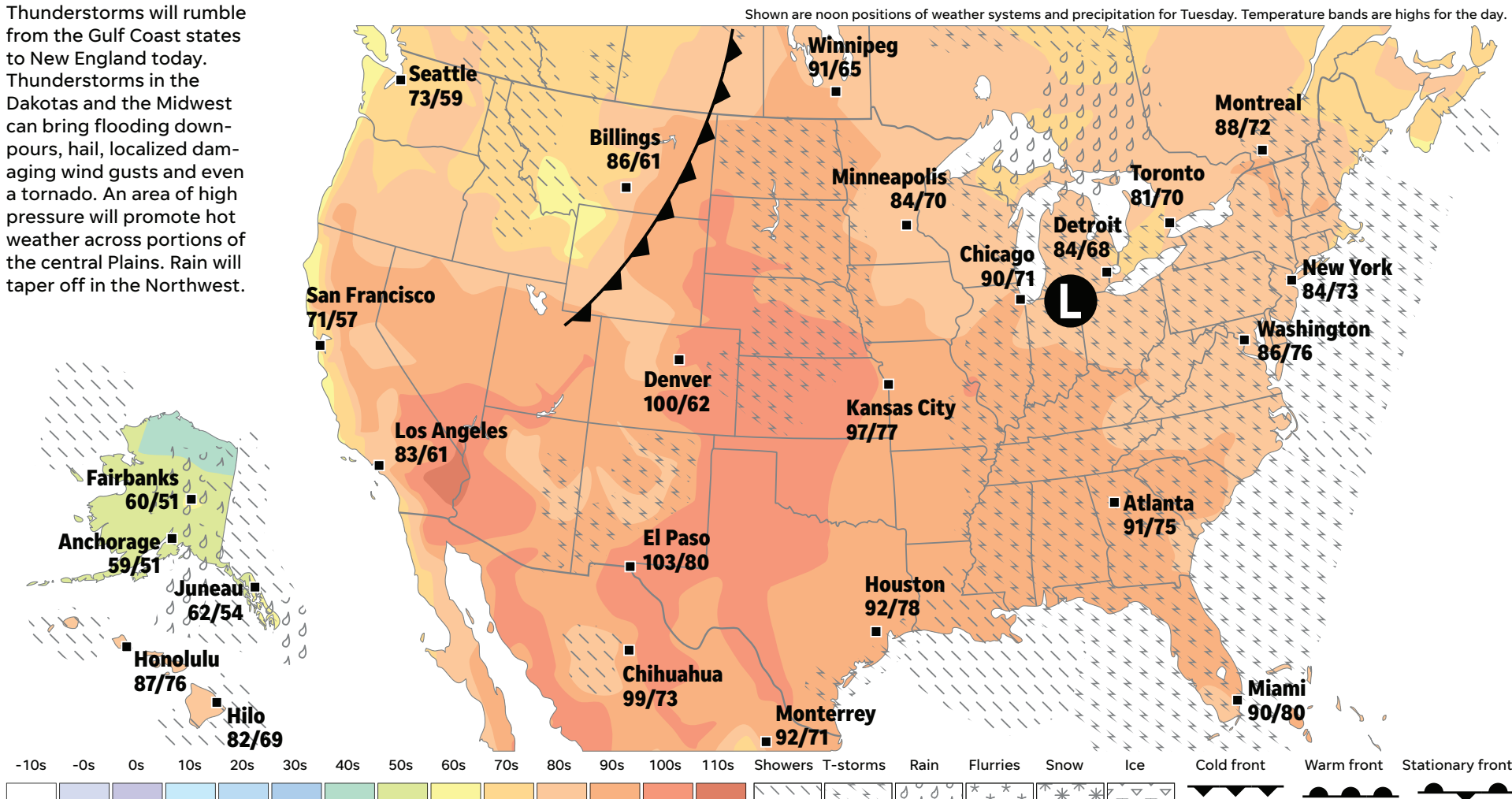
Since the court in 2020 reached a 6-3 conservative majority, cemented with President Donald Trump's three appointees, it has moved American law rightward. MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE FILE



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Thunderstorms will rumble from the Gulf Coast states to New England today. Thunderstorms in the Dakotas and the Midwest can bring flooding down-pours, hail, localized damaging wind gusts and even a tornado. An area of high pressure will promote hot weather across portions of the central Plains. Rain will taper off in the Northwest.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.



MONDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 111 at Blythe, CA
Low: 32 at Mammoth Lakes, CA
Precip: 2.16" at East Hampton, NY

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High: 119 at Omidiyeh, Iran
Low: 9 at Maquinchao, Argentina
Precip: 7.46" at Vaikse Maarja, Estonia

TODAY IN HISTORY

Giant hailstones pelted Fort Collins, Colo., on July 30, 1979. Baseball-sized hail battered cars, golf ball-sized hail clubbed houses and grapefruit-sized hail left a sour taste for residents.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What is the driest major city in the world?

A: Cairo, Egypt, averages only 1 inch of rain each year

NATIONAL CITIES TUESDAY

	High/low/W	Air Quality
● Aberdeen, SD	94/70/t	51
● Abilene, TX	101/77/s	38
● Accomac, VA	82/72/t	57
● Adrian, MI	86/66/t	41
● Akron, OH	79/68/t	39
● Alamogordo, NM	102/72/pc	51
● Alexandria, VA	85/74/t	70
● Alliance, OH	78/67/t	38
● Amarillo, TX	104/75/s	50
● Ames, IA	89/71/t	44
● Anderson, SC	93/72/t	34
● Appleton, WI	87/69/pc	42
● Asheville, NC	86/68/t	39
● Ashland, OH	82/68/t	44
● Athens, GA	93/72/t	37
● Augusta, GA	92/72/t	40
● Austin, TX	95/77/pc	59
● Bartlesville, OK	100/78/s	40
● Battle Creek, MI	86/67/t	33
● Bedford, IN	91/71/t	47
● Binghamton, NY	81/67/t	60
● Bluffton, SC	89/77/t	46
● Bremerton, WA	72/56/sh	26
● Brockton, MA	87/72/t	43
● Brownwood, TX	100/75/s	51
● Burlington, IA	89/72/pc	55
● Burlington, NC	86/70/t	41
● Burlington, VT	89/73/t	38
● Cambridge, OH	84/67/t	41
● Camdenton, MO	96/76/pc	40
● Canandaigua, NY	86/69/t	58
● Canton, OH	79/68/t	47
● Carlsbad, NM	103/76/s	71
● Chambersburg, PA	85/70/t	64
● Cherry Hill, NJ	83/73/t	56
● Cincinnati, OH	88/71/t	36
● Clarksville, TN	97/78/t	51
● Coldwater, MI	86/66/t	38
● Columbus, OH	87/70/t	47
● Corning, NY	86/69/t	57
● Corpus Christi, TX	93/80/t	69
● Daytona Beach, FL	91/75/t	48
● Deming, NM	99/74/t	59
● DeRidder, LA	93/75/pc	51
● Des Moines, IA	93/74/t	56
● Detroit, MI	84/68/t	39
● Devils Lake, ND	89/67/t	57
● Dover, NH	86/69/t	41
● El Paso, TX	103/80/c	65
● Elmira, NY	86/70/t	59
● Erie, PA	79/72/t	52
● Eugene, OR	83/58/pc	24

	High/low/W	Air Quality
● Evansville, IN	94/76/t	44
● Fall River, MA	84/72/t	38
● Farmington, NM	95/60/s	59
● Fayetteville, NC	90/73/t	46
● Fond du Lac, WI	90/70/pc	39
● Fort Myers, FL	90/77/t	36
● Fort Smith, AR	99/78/s	38
● Framingham, MA	88/71/t	40
● Freeport, IL	86/68/pc	51
● Fremont, OH	86/69/t	44
● Fort Collins, CO	100/61/pc	85
● Gadsden, AL	92/72/t	44
● Gainesville, FL	91/71/t	44
● Galesburg, IL	88/69/pc	59
● Gastonia, NC	90/69/t	36
● Glen Rose, TX	99/77/s	44
● Gonzales, LA	94/77/c	48
● Great Falls, MT	76/54/pc	87
● Green Bay, WI	90/68/pc	42
● Greenville, SC	92/70/t	36
● Hackensack, NJ	86/73/t	59
● Hagerstown, MD	85/71/t	63
● Hattiesburg, MS	97/77/t	36
● Henderson, KY	94/75/t	44
● Hendersonville, NC	86/66/t	37
● Herkimer, NY	89/70/t	56
● Hillsdale, MI	86/65/t	37
● Holland, MI	81/68/t	34
● Hornell, NY	84/68/t	56
● Houma, LA	94/77/c	45
● Howell, MI	84/65/t	34
● Hutchinson, KS	105/77/s	44
● Hyannis, MA	82/72/t	39
● Indianapolis, IN	90/72/t	39
● Iowa City, IA	86/72/t	58
● Ithaca, NY	83/69/t	60
● Jackson, MS	97/76/t	33
● Jackson, TN	96/77/t	38
● Jacksonville, FL	93/75/t	58
● Jacksonville, NC	86/74/t	35
● Kent, OH	78/67/t	47
● Kewanee, IL	88/69/pc	58
● Keyser, WV	84/69/t	46
● Kingston, NC	90/74/t	40
● Knoxville, TN	89/72/t	38
● Lafayette, IN	88/71/t	40
● Lafayette, LA	93/78/pc	50
● Lakeland, FL	93/76/t	43
● Lansing, MI	86/66/t	36
● Las Cruces, NM	101/75/c	61
● Lebanon, PA	84/72/t	66
● Leesburg, FL	93/76/t	45

	High/low/W	Air Quality
● Levittown, PA	84/73/t	55
● Lincoln, IL	91/72/t	46
● Louisville, KY	94/75/t	53
● Lubbock, TX	100/75/s	52
● Manitowoc, WI	85/69/t	47
● Mansfield, OH	82/69/t	42
● Marshall, NC	84/65/t	31
● Marshfield, WI	85/65/pc	51
● Massillon, OH	80/68/t	45
● McLean, VA	84/73/t	67
● Melbourne, FL	90/77/t	40
● Memphis, TN	94/77/t	40
● Middletown, NY	82/70/t	54
● Milford, MA	85/70/t	38
● Milwaukee, WI	87/71/pc	53
● Monroe, MI	84/67/t	37
● Monroe, LA	96/77/pc	35
● Montgomery, AL	95/75/t	34
● Muncie, IN	88/70/t	40
● Murfreesboro, TN	93/74/t	41
● Naples, FL	90/77/t	38
● Nashville, TN	96/77/t	54
● Neptune, NJ	82/73/pc	55
● New Bedford, MA	85/72/t	38
● New Bern, NC	88/75/t	39
● New Philadelphia, OH	81/67/t	41
● Newark, OH	85/67/t	51
● Newton, NJ	82/71/t	54
● New York, NY	84/73/t	58
● Norwich, CT	83/72/t	39
● Ocala, FL	91/73/t	43
● Oklahoma City, OK	100/77/s	38
● Opelousas, LA	92/76/pc	48
● Oshkosh, WI	89/70/pc	51
● Palm Beach, FL	88/80/t	46
● Palm Springs, CA	109/81/s	69
● Panama City, FL	91/79/t	33
● Pekin, IL	91/73/t	53
● Pensacola, FL	89/78/t	34
● Peoria, IL	90/73/t	54
● Petersburg, VA	85/72/t	38
● Phoenix, AZ	109/90/s	74
● Port Huron, MI	79/65/t	30
● Portsmouth, NH	86/70/c	46
● Poughkeepsie, NY	88/72/t	57
● Providence, RI	82/72/t	36
● Pueblo, CO	103/64/s	59
● Quincy, MA	87/72/t	54
● Redding, CA	97/68/s	50
● Reno, NV	93/61/s	69
● Ravenna, OH	78/67/t	45
● Richmond, IN	87/69/t	49

	High/low/W	Air Quality
● Rochester, NY	86/69/t	61
● Rockford, IL	85/69/pc	64
● Ruidoso, NM	86/61/pc	57
● Salem, OR	82/59/pc	27
● Salina, KS	106/79/s	53
● Salinas, CA	73/58/pc	36
● Salisbury, MD	84/73/t	62
● San Angelo, TX	100/77/pc	44
● Sarasota, FL	89/77/t	40
● Savannah, GA	92/75/t	46
● Sheboygan, WI	86/69/t	45
● Shelby, NC	89/69/t	35
● Sherman, TX	100/78/s	41
● Shreveport, LA	97/77/t	40
● Silver City, NM	93/69/t	57
● Sioux Falls, SD	93/73/t	69
● Somerset, PA	78/66/t	56
● Somerville, NJ	84/72/t	64
● South Bend, IN	86/69/t	36
● Spartanburg, SC	90/69/t	38
● Springfield, IL	92/74/t	39
● Springfield, MO	95/76/pc	44
● St. Augustine, FL	89/75/t	58
● St. Cloud, MN	85/67/t	70
● St. George, UT	103/72/s	62
● Staunton, VA	82/66/t	42
● Stevens Point, WI	88/65/pc	54
● Stockton, CA	92/59/s	42
● Stroudsburg, PA	80/69/t	62
● Stuart, FL	90/76/t	45
● Sturgis, MI	85/67/t	37
● Tallahassee, FL	92/76/t	33
● Thibodaux, LA	93/77/pc	47
● Topeka, KS	102/80/s	60
● Tuscaloosa, AL	83/74/t	35
● Utica, NY	88/69/t	59
● Ventura, CA	68/57/s	38
● Victorville, CA	97/60/s	79
● Vineland, NJ	84/72/t	55
● Visalia, CA	96/64/s	70
● Washington, DC	86/76/t	76
● Watertown, SD	89/70/t	51
● Wausau, WI	86/65/pc	50
● Waynesboro, PA	85/70/t	64
● White Plains, NY	84/72/t	61
● Wichita Falls, TX	103/78/s	36
● Wilmington, NC	89/77/t	40
● Wisconsin Rapids, WI	87/66/pc	52
● Wooster, OH	81/67/t	36
● Worcester, MA	83/70/t	36
● York, PA	86/74/t	64

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
● Acapulco	90/75/t	91/76/pc
● Addis Ababa	69/55/sh	69/56/sh
● Algiers	98/70/s	98/75/s
● Amman	92/72/s	94/75/s
● Amsterdam	83/63/pc	80/62/pc
● Ankara	92/63/s	86/62/s
● Asuncion	72/59/pc	83/69/pc
● Athens	96/78/s	92/75/s
● Auckland	61/52/r	61/46/sh
● Baghdad	113/88/pc	115/87/pc
● Bangkok	90/80/t	91/79/t
● Beijing	82/75/pc	91/76/pc
● Beirut	91/79/s	90/79/s
● Belgrade	85/60/s	89/63/s
● Berlin	81/58/s	85/61/pc
● Bogota	66/49/c	64/47/sh
● Brussels	87/64/s	82/64/sh
● Bucharest	89/60/s	90/61/s
● Budapest	85/56/pc	89/58/pc
● Buenos Aires	57/50/pc	62/59/pc
● Cairo	98/81/s	99/80/s

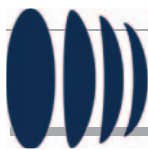
	Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W
● Cape Town	60/42/s	60/43/s
● Caracas	91/76/t	92/76/t
● Casablanca	88/70/s	90/72/s
● Colombo	88/81/t	87/81/t
● Copenhagen	74/58/pc	71/56/pc
● Damascus	101/69/s	102/68/s
● Dublin	68/52/c	67/57/s
● Geneva	92/68/c	92/68/t
● Guatemala City	78/62/t	79/62/pc
● Hanoi	87/79/r	88/79/t
● Harare	80/51/s	80/50/s
● Havana	92/74/s	93/77/t
● Helsinki	74/60/sh	70/59/sh
● Hong Kong	84/80/t	88/82/t
● Jakarta	92/74/c	92/75/s
● Jerusalem	88/69/s	91/72/s
● Johannesburg	67/40/pc	67/44/s
● Kabul	98/70/s	100/71/s
● Khartoum	98/79/pc	91/77/pc
● Kyiv	74/60/r	79/59/s
● Kingston	92/80/pc	93/81/pc

	Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W
● La Paz	59/30/pc	60/28/s
● Lagos	84/76/r	83/75/r
● Lima	66/59/pc	67/60/pc
● Lisbon	83/67/s	85/66/s
● London	87/64/s	85/63/pc
● Madrid	101/72/s	101/67/s
● Manila	89/79/t	90/79/t
● Mexico City	75/56/sh	75/56/pc
● Milan	92/74/s	94/74/pc
● Mombasa	86/70/sh	86/71/pc
● Montevideo	57/43/pc	67/57/pc
● Montreal	88/72/t	80/70/t
● Moscow	69/57/sh	68/58/sh
● Nairobi	73/57/sh	73/52/pc
● New Delhi	99/86/t	93/81/t
● Panama City	88/76/t	86/75/r
● Paris	95/71/t	88/69/t
● Port-au-Prince	93/77/t	96/74/t
● Rio de Janeiro	72/67/sh	74/67/sh
● Riyadh	110/90/pc	113/89/pc
● Rome	94/70/s	92/71/s

	Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W
● San Jose	82/67/t	79/68/r
● San Salvador	88/68/t	88/69/pc
● Santiago	66/47/c	61/46/c
● Sao Paulo	61/56/r	72/57/pc
● Sarajevo	84/53/s	91/53/s
● Shanghai	99/84/pc	102/85/s
● Singapore	93/82/pc	93/81/pc
● Stockholm	75/55/s	68/52/sh
● Sydney	60/49/sh	60/50/sh
● Taipei	95/78/t	94/78/t
● Tegucigalpa	82/67/t	83/66/t
● Tehran	97/84/s	103/85/s
● Tokyo	97/82/c	92/81/pc
● Toronto	81/70/t	89/69/pc
● Tunis	98/73/s	98/75/s
● Vancouver	70/61/pc	73/61/s
● Vienna	84/57/pc	91/64/pc
● Warsaw	80/56/pc	81/57/pc
● Yerevan	84/63/s	85/63/s
● Zagreb	84/57/s	89/61/s
● Zurich	91/64/pc	90/65/t

● 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.



LATIN AMERICA

Influence in Americas

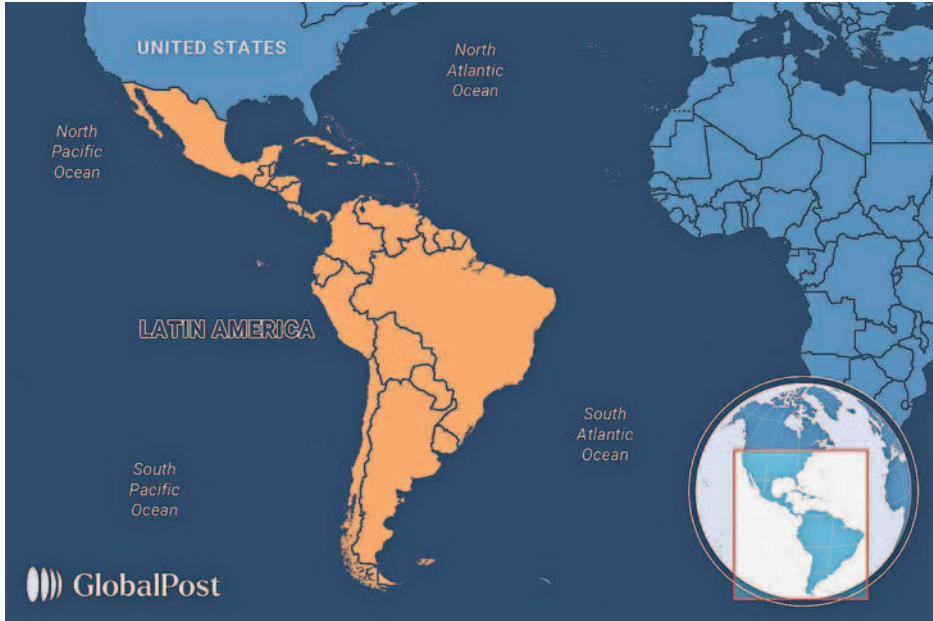
Gen. Laura Richardson, who oversees U.S. military operations in Latin America, recently told the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado that the U.S. needs a new approach to counter Russian and Chinese – especially Chinese – influence in the region.

Richardson called on U.S. policy-makers to launch an economic aid program for Latin America akin to the Marshall Plan for Europe that was implemented after World War II, reported bne IntelliNews. This program should be designed, Richardson said, to match Russia and China's closer trade and diplomatic ties in "America's backyard."

Richardson's view was also nuanced. While she said Russia's operations in Cuba, Venezuela, and elsewhere are important, she believes China especially is a new, major player whose entrance is already driving changes in trade and diplomacy in the region.

In a recent story in the Economist describing China's expanding influence in Latin America, for example, the writer led with a description of the new 20,000-foot-long breakwater for the new port under construction in Chancay on the Pacific Coast of Peru. The Chinese company Cosco built the port around 40 miles north of the capital of Lima. Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to attend the facility's inauguration in November.

The U.S., alarmed by the Peruvian port venture, is now competing with China to develop Punta Arenas, a Chilean port that could serve as a perfect stop for ships sailing in growing trading networks traversing the southern hemisphere, according to Americas Quarterly. Low water levels in the Panama Canal, Middle Eastern wars and radical militants and pirates targeting shipping lanes have increased merchant traffic in the Strait of Magellan by 83% compared with 2021.



CANADA

Getting a scolding

Canada's supreme court ruled this week that treaties signed more than 170 years ago between British colonial settlers and Indigenous groups have not been honored by successive Canadian governments, depriving First Nations of fair compensation for resource revenue, the Washington Post reported.

The case centers on the Robinson Treaties signed in 1850 between the Crown and the Anishinaabe people of Lake Huron and Lake Superior – more than a decade before Canada confederated.

The agreements included an annual payment with a clause for potential increases if land resources produced sufficient revenue. During the proceedings, the Canadian government said that it owed the Indigenous groups \$1.3 billion, but economist Joseph Stiglitz – who was called to testify – estimated the figure to be around \$90 billion.

In its Friday ruling, the court chided Canada's "longstanding and egregious" breach of the treaties, highlighting the Crown's unreliability and lack of trustworthiness as a

treaty partner.

The top court found that the treaty's beneficiaries have continued to receive an annual payment of less than \$3 per person since 1875, an amount deemed "shocking" and a "mockery" of the treaty's intended promise.

It ordered the Canadian government to negotiate compensation owed to the Anishinaabe people, who, it said, have been left in poverty because of broken pledges.

The court emphasized that historical treaties must be interpreted considering both their wording and the historical and cultural context, reflecting how each party would have understood the agreements at the time.

Observers explained that the verdict could significantly impact how resource revenues, such as from mining and forestry, are shared with Indigenous communities and influence the role of courts in reconciliation efforts between First Nations and the Canadian government.

Indigenous groups welcomed the decision with representatives hoping for future community benefits.

The ruling does not award an immediate settlement but mandates a six-month period for Ontario to propose a new settlement.

DISCOVERIES

Hunting for 1st ancestor

There weren't always billions of humans and trillions of plants, animals and fungi thriving on Earth, which implies that going far enough up the genealogical tree, one could find the ancestor of all living things.

The search for what scientists call the "last universal common ancestor" (LUCA) has been the subject of debate among researchers over what it was, and when it emerged.

Now, a team of scientists from the University of Bristol has established that the LUCA could be at least 4.2 billion years old, thus appearing at the very early stages of our planet's existence – Earth was formed 4.5 billion years ago.

"We did not expect the LUCA to be so old, within just hundreds of millions of years of Earth's formation," said study co-author Sandra Alvarez-Carretero.

Back then, Earth was still a toxic environment. Oxygen only emerged 3 billion years ago, but life was already possible before that.

The LUCA gave us and our Earth-mates the same amino acids to build proteins, the same energy currency, ATP, and the fact of using DNA to store information.

Carretero and her colleagues counted the number of mutations in species to determine when our more recent ancestors diverged from the LUCA.

"(The) LUCA was a complex organism, not too different from modern prokaryotes," said co-author Davide Pisani. It also had an early immune system to combat viruses.

The LUCA, in fact, evolved in an environment full of life: Its waste could have fed other lifeforms.

This "demonstrates just how quickly an ecosystem was established on early Earth," said co-author Philip Donoghue. "This suggests that life may be flourishing on Earth-like biospheres elsewhere in the Universe."

World forests failed to curb emissions

Study: Record highs dried out vegetation

Jake Spring
REUTERS

SAO PAULO – Forests and other land ecosystems failed to curb climate change in 2023 as intense drought in the Amazon rainforest and record wildfires in Canada hampered their natural ability to absorb carbon dioxide, according to a study presented on Monday.

That means a record amount of carbon dioxide entered Earth's atmosphere last year, further feeding global warming, the researchers said.

Plant life helps to slow climate change by taking in huge amounts of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas driving global warming. Forests and other land ecosystems on average absorb nearly a third of annual emissions from fossil fuels, industry and other human causes.

But in 2023, that carbon sink collapsed, according to study co-author Philippe Ciais of the Laboratory for Climate and Environmental Sciences, a French research organization.

"The sink is a pump, and we are pumping less carbon from the atmosphere into the land," Ciais said in an interview. "Suddenly the pump is choking, and it's pumping less."

As a result, the growth rate of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere jumped 86% in 2023 compared to 2022, the researchers said.

Scientists at Tsinghua University in China, the University of Exeter in England and LSCE led the research into what caused the shift. Their study was presented at the International Carbon Dioxide Conference in Manaus, Brazil.

A major driver was record high temperatures globally that dried out vegetation in the Amazon and other rainforests, preventing them from taking up more carbon while also fueling record fires in Canada, the study found.

"Imagine your plants at home: If you don't water them, they're not very productive, they don't grow, they don't take up carbon," said Stephen Sitch, a study co-author and carbon expert at the Uni-



Flames reach upward along the edge of a wildfire near Mistissini, Quebec, in June 2023.

CPL. MARC-ANDRE LECLERC/CANADIAN FORCES/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

versity of Exeter.

"Put that on a big scale like the Amazon forest," Sitch told Reuters on the sidelines of the conference

The study is still in the process of peer review with an academic journal, but three scientists who were not involved in the research told Reuters that its conclusions were sound.

They said that dips in land carbon sinks tend to happen in years affected by the El Nino climate phenomenon, like 2023. But the record high temperatures being driven by climate change made last year's dip particularly extreme.

Also, the consequences of the dip are more severe than in the past because humans are now causing the emission of more carbon dioxide than ever before.

The scientists cautioned that Earth's carbon sink varies widely year to year, and a single year alone will not spell

doom. But it would be alarming if what was observed in 2023 becomes a trend, they added.

"This is a warning," said Richard Birdsey of Woodwell Climate Research Center in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, who was not involved in the study. "There's a good chance that years like 2023 are going to be more common."

The less carbon the land ecosystems absorb, the less fossil fuels the world can burn before humankind blows past global climate targets, said Anthony Walker, an ecosystem modeler at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who was not involved in the study.

"We cannot count on ecosystems to bail us out in the future," said Trevor Keenan, an ecosystem scientist at University of California, Berkeley, who was not involved in the study.



A drone view shows the Rio Branco river, which has been affected by drought, in Boa Vista, Brazil, on March 1. BRUNO KELLY/REUTERS FILE

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Trading choppy as economic data looms

Sinead Carew and Ankika Biswas
REUTERS

The S&P 500 closed barely higher after Monday’s choppy trading session as investors held their breath ahead of a raft of big technology company earnings, a Federal Reserve policy decision on interest-rate cuts and key U.S. labor data, all due this week. Quarterly reports from market heavyweights such as Microsoft and Apple, Meta and Amazon.com this week will offer clues on whether technology stocks are vulnerable or can extend their recent rallies.

Investors are hoping the Fed will end its meeting on Wednesday with a signal that it is preparing for a September rate cut in its policy verdict.

On Friday investors will closely monitor the July non-farm payrolls report for signs of possible weakening in the labor market.

“Understandably we’re wavering,” said Mona Mahajan, principal and senior investment strategist at Edward Jones, pointing to the upcoming catalysts and Wall Street’s Friday advance.

“Markets are largely in wait-and-see mode. We have big economic news this week, both the Fed meeting Wednesday and the jobs report on Friday. We also have huge earnings reports coming out of mega cap technology,” she said.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 49.41 points, or 0.12% at 40,539.93 while the S&P 500 rose 4.44 points, or 0.08%, to 5,463.54. The Nasdaq Composite advanced 12.32 points, or 0.07%, to 17,370.20.

pected to benefit from a low-interest-rate environment.

“A lot of investors are keen to see whether the recent rotation we’ve been seeing in the markets has legs, or does mega cap technology really kind of shine through in its earnings reports,” Mahajan added.

However, the small-cap Russell 2000 lost 1% after three straight weeks of gains.

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Among the S&P 500’s 11 major industry sector indexes, consumer discretionary was the benchmark’s biggest boost with the sector’s biggest contribution from Tesla as the electric vehicle maker’s stock rallied after Morgan Stanley added it to its “top pick” U.S. autos’ list.

The biggest percentage decliner among the major sectors was energy, which lost 0.9% as oil prices fell.

McDonald’s shares closed up 3.7% after it said its \$5-meal deal, launched late in June, was popular among customers shying away from higher-price items. As a result the fast food giant reported a surprise drop in sales, its first in 13 quarters.

Abbott Laboratories shares pared earlier losses to close down 0.4% after a jury ordered the company to pay \$495 million in damages in a trial that found its formula for premature infants had caused a dangerous illness.

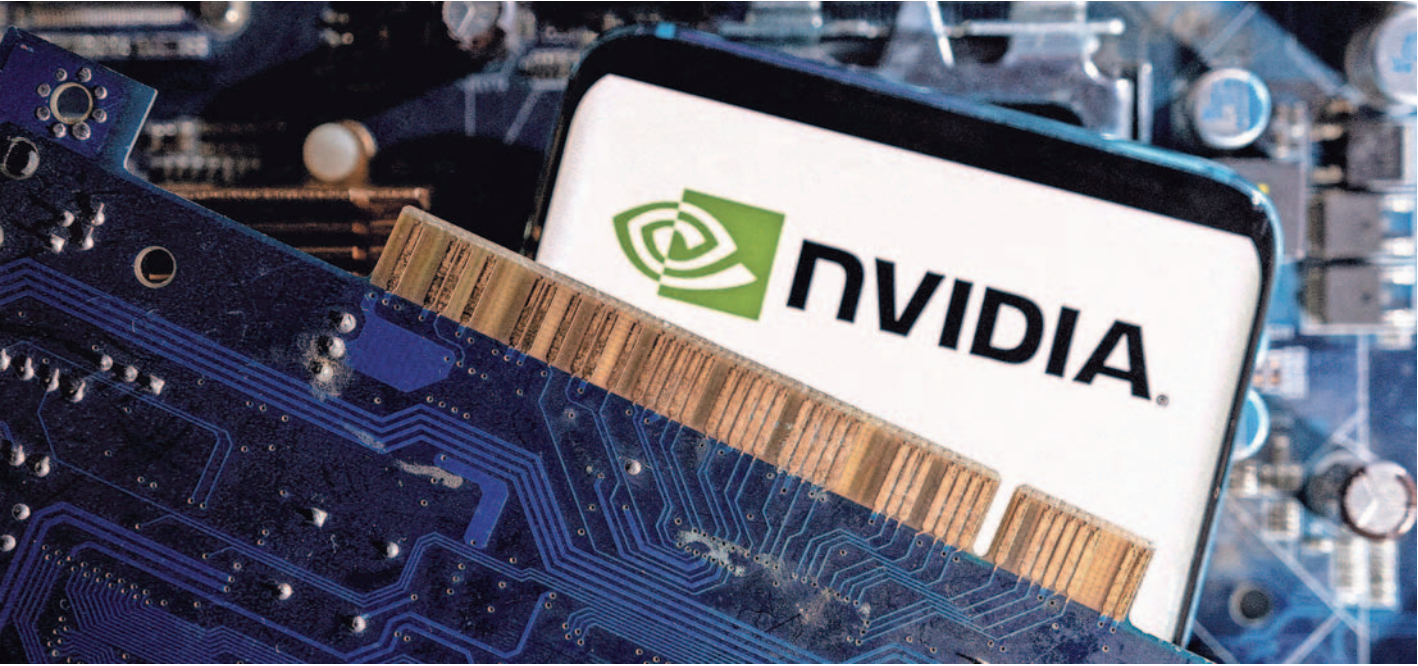
Crypto stock trading was also choppy with Coinbase Global closing down more than 3% while Riot Platforms and Marathon Digital finished down more than 5% after jump early in the day when bitcoin prices hit seven-week highs.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 1.24-to-1 ratio on the NYSE where there were 268 new highs and 47 new lows.

On the Nasdaq, 1,485 stocks rose and 2,731 fell as declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 1.84-to-1 ratio. The S&P 500 posted 35 new 52-week highs and two new lows. The Nasdaq Composite recorded 120 new highs and 80 new lows.

On U.S. exchanges 9.96 billion shares changed hands compared with the 11.16 billion moving average for the last 20 sessions.

ANALYSIS



Market participants were happy to pay up for tech and growth stocks for most of 2024, as excitement over the business potential of artificial intelligence spurred rallies in companies such as chipmaker Nvidia, whose shares are up nearly 130% this year. DADO RUVIC/ILLUSTRATION/REUTERS FILE

US stock turbulence highlights Big Tech company valuations

Investors growing wary of richly valued firms

Lewis Krauskopf
REUTERS

NEW YORK – A bruising selloff in U.S. stocks is putting a sharper focus on valuations of the tech names such as Nvidia and Microsoft that have driven markets higher for most of this year.

Despite a recent pullback, the S&P 500 tech sector is trading at 29.5 times 12-month earnings estimates, near a two-decade high reached earlier this month. The overall market is also elevated historically, with the benchmark S&P 500 index trading at 20.7 times forward estimates, compared to its long-term average of 15.7, data from LSEG Datastream showed.

“Markets today are pretty expensive to us at a broad level,” said Philip Straehl, chief investment officer, Americas, at Morningstar Wealth.

“That just creates some opportunity for disappointment,” he said, pointing to high market expectations of a soft landing for the U.S. economy and for individual company performances.

Market participants were happy to pay up for tech and growth stocks for most of 2024, as excitement over the business potential of artificial intelligence spurred rallies in companies such as chipmaker Nvidia, whose shares are up nearly 130% this year.

Recent market action shows investors becoming more wary of richly valued stocks. Earnings results from Tesla and Alphabet staggered stocks earlier this week, dealing the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite their biggest daily losses since 2022 on Wednesday. Both indexes remain solidly higher in 2024, up 14.5% and 15.6%, respectively, despite sharp declines since mid-July.

Results from megacaps Amazon, Apple, Microsoft and Facebook parent Meta Platforms are due in the coming week, raising the stakes for investors who piled into large tech and tech-related shares.

Elevated valuations could also lead investors to unload stocks if markets face turbulence from other sources, including changes in expectations the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates in coming months and political risk from an already-dramatic presidential race.

U.S. companies overall face lofty financial expectations, with S&P 500 earnings expected to have climbed 12.1% in the second quarter from a year earlier, according to LSEG IBES. With 206 companies posting results so far, 78.6% reported profits above analyst expectations, in line with the beat rate of the past four quarters.

“The market’s going to be looking for pretty stellar results, given how much valuation re-rating has happened,” said Matthew Miskin, co-chief investment strategist at John Hancock Investment Management.

Many investors will focus on the tech sector and the so-called Magnificent Seven megacaps that are heavily weighted in the S&P 500 and Nasdaq. An example of the market’s recent mood shift was reflected in the reaction to Alphabet’s earnings: the company’s shares slumped 8% over the past three sessions, as investors grew concerned that investments in AI infrastructure would squeeze margins, even though revenues topped expectations.

“The bar is pretty high for those tech stocks,” said Chuck Carlson, chief executive officer at Horizon Investment Services. “People really still need to be wowed. And if you’re not wowing, then you’re kind of vulnerable to a sell-off.”

The spotlight will shine on Apple and Microsoft, the two biggest U.S. compa-

nies by market capitalization, both valued at over \$3 trillion.

Apple is trading at 30 times earnings estimates, well above its five-year average of 25.5 and 10-year average of 19.6, according to LSEG Datastream. At 31 times, Microsoft is above its five-year average P/E of 29 and 10-year average of nearly 25.

Some say lofty valuations support the case for a rotation trade that has seen investors liquidate large-cap tech stocks and move into small caps, value stocks and other areas that had produced tepid returns for most of the year.

Since July 10, the small-cap Russell 2000 is up 10% while the S&P 500 has dropped 3%.

“We think investors will continue to rotate away from expensive tech names as (earnings) growth returns elsewhere,” analysts at Oxford Economics said in a note on Friday.

To be sure, not all tech and megacap stocks may seem expensive, particularly after the recent market slide. Meta Platforms, for example, is trading at 20.6 times forward estimates, compared to its 10-year average of 25.

More broadly, valuations remain far lower than the early 2000s, around the dot-com bubble, when the tech sector’s P/E ratio reached 48 times.

At the same time, better-than-expected results could bolster the case for tech stocks’ elevated valuations and give investors a much-needed confidence boost.

Analysts at UBS Global Wealth Management noted on Thursday that S&P 500 earnings growth is on pace for its biggest rise in over two years. They expect the S&P 500 to end the year at 5,900, some 8% above current levels.

“Investors should be prepared for periodic market dips,” the UBS analysts said. “However, we continue to expect the S&P 500 to recover.”

McDonald’s sales decline globally for the first time in over 3 years

Savyata Mishra
REUTERS

McDonald’s reported a surprise drop in sales worldwide on Monday, its first decline in 13 quarters, as deal-seeking consumers shy away from higher-priced menu items, including Big Macs.

Persistent inflation has forced lower-income consumers to shift to more affordable food options at home. That has led fast food chains such as McDonald’s, Burger King, Wendy’s and Taco Bell to lean on value meals to spark customer traffic.

McDonald’s shares, which are down 15% this year, rose nearly 4% after company executives said the \$5 meal deal launched late in June sold above expectations. They said the company was working with franchisees in a bid to extend it beyond August.

The company, which stuck to its 2024 forecast for operating margin of mid-to-high 40% range, said it would be more selective with price increases to protect profitability.

“Even though things are soft now, they should be getting better in the back half of the year ... with better value on the menu,” said Brian Mulberry, client portfolio manager at Zacks Investment Management.

Global comparable sales fell 1% in

the second quarter, compared with expectations of a 0.5% increase. Overall revenue rose 1%.

CEO Chris Kempczinski said there is a lot more deal-thinking from consumers who have become “very discriminating.” “Consumer sentiment in most of our major markets remains low,” he said.

McDonald’s results dovetail with comments last week from Coca-Cola CEO James Quincey, who said there had been “some softness in away-from-home channels” in North America, an indication of fewer people eating out.

“The biggest hit for McDonald’s is the low-income consumer has really cut back on visits and that is more than offsetting the typical trade down McD normally sees in tougher economic times,” said Edward Jones analyst Brian Yarbrough.

U.S. comparable sales fell 0.7% in the quarter ended June 30, compared with a 10.3% jump a year ago. Sales in international markets, which made up nearly half its 2023 revenue, dropped 1.1%, driven by weakness in France.

A slower-than-expected recovery in China and the Middle East conflict hurt the performance of McDonald’s business segment where restaurants are operated by its local partners, as sales declined 1.3% compared with a 14%



Fast-food giant McDonald’s has vowed to win back consumers with better value offerings after it reported a rare sales decline that the company partly attributed to an exodus of inflation-weary low-income consumers. ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/ AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

jump a year earlier.

Companies like McDonald’s and Starbucks have also suffered from consumer boycotts linked to the Gaza war, which hit their sales in the Middle East markets.

McDonald’s, however, stuck to its capital expenditure budget of up to \$2.7 billion, with more than half of that earmarked for new restaurants in the U.S. and international markets.

It earned \$2.97 per share on an adjusted basis in the second quarter, missing expectations of \$3.07.

Poll: Central banks likely to cut rates

More experts predicting strong economic growth

Hari Kishan
REUTERS

BENGALURU, India – Optimism about global growth prospects this year and next is building among hundreds of economists polled by Reuters, with risks still tilted toward higher inflation even as they cling on to their forecasts for interest rate cuts.

While most major central banks were successful last year in taming skyrocketing inflation rates with rapid rate hikes, a resilient global economy with strong employment and wage growth has kept alive risks of price pressures surging again.

In all, a 56% majority of economists – 114 of 202 who responded to a question about inflation in the global poll covering nearly 50 top economies taken July 8-25 – said it was more likely to be higher than they forecast for the remainder of the year than lower. So too with rates.

The global economy was forecast to grow 3.1% this year and next, an upgrade from the 2.9% and 3.0% forecast in an April poll and roughly in line with the International Monetary Fund’s latest prediction.

But even with that upgrade, many central banks are still expected to cut rates at least twice by the end of the year.

“I think the big story here is that growth globally has managed to keep grinding ahead ... the global economy has managed to hang in there in the face of a lot of stresses and strains and of course the major tightening cycle of the past two years,” Douglas Porter, chief economist at BMO Capital Markets, said.

“It’s still growing a little faster than 3% despite a wide variety of challenges ... Our call is for growth to hang in there in the neighborhood of 3% through the second half.”

That optimism stands in contrast to worries earlier this year whether the U.S. economy would be able to absorb such an aggressive season of monetary tightening without a downturn, even though concerns about the No. 2



Workers assemble a car July 4 inside BYD's first electric vehicle factory in Southeast Asia, a fast-growing regional EV market where it has become the dominant player, in Rayong, Thailand. CHALINEE THIRASUPA/REUTERS FILE

“We don’t expect as big a boost to inflation this time around ... But the threat of higher core goods inflation could reduce the offset to sticky services inflation and slow rate cuts.”

James Rossiter
Head of global macro strategy at TD Securities

economy, China, remain.

Growth rates for 24 of the 48 top economies surveyed were upgraded from three months ago, with 13 of those from developed economies, where there had been concerns about flagging

demand, and the remaining 11 in emerging ones.

Eighteen economies saw a downgrade and six were left unchanged.

Still, among major central banks, economists expect the Federal Reserve and the Bank of England to cut rates twice this year, and the European Central Bank three, the survey showed.

Forecasters have held to a more consistent view than financial traders and investors. Aggressive market pricing for rate cuts at the start of the year retreated from six Fed cuts, down to one or two recently, and is now back to three.

With growth holding up for now, inflation still will mostly dictate how low interest rates can go and when. Even now a good majority of central banks – 19 of 27 with an inflation target – were not expected to meet it by

end-2024.

“Risks are building ... in global core goods prices, where shipping costs are nearing 2021-2022 highs,” said James Rossiter, head of global macro strategy at TD Securities.

“We don’t expect as big a boost to inflation this time around ... But the threat of higher core goods inflation could reduce the offset to sticky services inflation and slow rate cuts.”

Asked which component of core inflation will be the most sticky for the remainder of 2024, a majority – 56 of 104 who responded to that question – said services, followed by 30 choosing shelter and rents. The remaining 18 cited others.

A 60% majority, 131 of 220, said interest rates by the end of the year were more likely to be higher than they currently forecast instead of lower.



Mitsubishi Motors is 34% owned by Nissan and part of a longstanding alliance with Nissan and Renault. EDGAR SU/REUTERS FILE

Reports: Mitsubishi to join auto partnership

Stocks surge amid news of Honda-Nissan deal

REUTERS

TOKYO – Shares in Mitsubishi Motors surged on Monday following media reports that the Japanese automaker is in talks to join Nissan’s and Honda’s planned strategic partnership.

Nissan and Honda said in March they were looking at collaborating on electric vehicle components and artificial intelligence in automotive software platforms, though they are not planning a capital tie-up.

Representatives for the three automakers declined to comment. Shares in Mitsubishi Motors climbed 6.3% in early afternoon trade. Nissan’s stock rose 2.8% and Honda’s gained 2.6%.

The planned partnership underscores the increasing pressure on automakers to work together to cut down on the massive costs involved in developing new technology as well as the two

camp that the Japanese auto industry is dividing itself into.

In the other camp, Toyota Motor works with its partners: Suzuki, Subaru and Mazda.

Mitsubishi Motors is 34% owned by Nissan and part of a longstanding alliance with Nissan and Renault.

Its participation in the planned partnership with Honda would be a natural progression given Nissan’s stake in the company, analysts at Goldman Sachs wrote in a note to clients.

“We believe the most important area in this reported tie-up is software,” they wrote, adding that all three companies could benefit from pursuing economies of scale.

Nissan, Renault and Mitsubishi Motors last year agreed to restructure their alliance, aiming for a downsized but more pragmatic and agile partnership.

As part of that, Nissan and Mitsubishi Motors will invest as much as \$651 million and \$216 million respectively in Renault’s electric vehicle business Ampere.

Oil prices decline by more than \$1 a barrel

Mideast tensions spark concerns by investors

Laila Kearney
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Oil prices fell by more than \$1 a barrel on Monday after Israeli officials said they wanted to avoid dragging the Middle East into an all-out war while responding to a deadly rocket strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights over the weekend.

Brent futures for September delivery shed \$1.39 to \$79.74 a barrel, a 1.7% loss, by 11:17 a.m. EDT. U.S. crude sank \$1.40 to \$75.76 per barrel, a 1.8 percent drop.

Two Israeli officials told Reuters on Monday that Israel wanted to hurt the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah, which the country blames for the Saturday attack that killed 12 children and teenagers, without sparking a nationwide conflict.

“That implies that a Gaza cease-fire might not be too far off in the future,” said Bob Yawger, energy futures director at Mizuho in New York.

On Sunday, Israel’s security Cabinet authorized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government to decide on the “manner and timing” of a response to the attack at a football field.

Israel vowed retaliation in Lebanon against Iran-backed Hezbollah, which denied responsibility for the attack. Israeli jets hit targets in southern Lebanon on Sunday.

The tensions sparked investor concerns about the potential impact on crude output from the world’s largest oil-producing region, but so far output has not been affected.

“Despite renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the lack of any supply disruptions limits any positive price reaction,” said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

“Oil demand concerns, driven by weak Chinese economic data, is another factor not helping oil prices at present.”

Brent and WTI benchmarks lost 1.8% and 3.7% respectively last week on



An oil pump jack is seen in a field on June 28 in Nolan, Texas. Mideast tensions sparked investor concerns about the potential impact on crude output from the world’s largest oil-producing region, but so far output has not been affected. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

Markets are also keeping a watch on oil producer Venezuela after the country’s electoral authority said that President Nicolas Maduro had won a third term despite multiple exit polls pointing to an opposition win.

sagging Chinese demand and hopes of a Gaza ceasefire agreement.

Data released this month showed that China’s total fuel oil imports dropped 11% in the first half of 2024, raising concerns about the wider demand outlook in the world’s biggest crude importer.

Prices also fell at the end of last week on news that the huge Dangote oil refinery in Nigeria is reselling cargoes of U.S. and Nigerian crude after technical problems at the plant.

Meanwhile, markets are keeping a watch on oil producer Venezuela after the country’s electoral authority said that President Nicolas Maduro had won a third term with 51% of the vote despite multiple exit polls pointing to an opposition win.

The U.S. had previously said it would “calibrate” its sanctions policy toward Venezuela depending on how the election unfolds in the OPEC member nation.

World leaders react to Venezuela’s election results

REUTERS

Leaders across the Americas and beyond reacted to the Venezuelan electoral authority’s announcement just after midnight on Monday that President Nicolas Maduro had won a third term in office, despite multiple exit polls that pointed to an opposition win.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken

“We have serious concerns that the result announced does not reflect the will or the votes of the Venezuelan people.”

Brazil Foreign Relations Ministry

“The Brazilian government hails the peaceful nature of yesterday’s election in Venezuela and is closely monitoring the counting process... It awaits the publication by the national electoral council of data broken down by polling stations, an essential step towards transparency, credibility and legitimacy.”

Chilean President Gabriel Boric

“Maduro’s regime must understand that the results are hard to believe. The international community and especially the Venezuelan people, including the millions of Venezuelans in exile, demand total transparency... From Chile we will not recognize any result that is not verifiable.”



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

“We’re going to wait until they finish counting the votes ... If the electoral authority confirms this trend, we will recognize the government elected by the people of Venezuela, because that is democracy.”

Ecuadoran President Daniel Noboa

“Throughout the region, there are politicians trying to cling to power and trying to take peace away from our citizens. That is what we face, that is the danger of the dictatorship, and today we are witnessing how one more of them tries to take hope away from millions of Venezuelans.”



Argentinian President Javier Milei

“Not even (Maduro) believes the electoral scam he is celebrating. Neither does the Argentine Republic.

“We do not recognize fraud, we call on the international community to unite to restore the rule of law in Venezuela,

and we remind the Venezuelan people that the doors of our country are open to every man who chooses to live in freedom.”

El Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele

“What we saw yesterday in Venezuela has no other name than fraud. An ‘election’ where the official result has no relation to reality. Something obvious to anyone.”

Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino

“We are putting diplomatic relations on hold until a complete review of the voting records and of the voting computer system is carried out.”

EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell

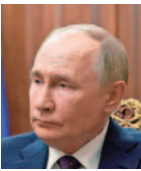
“The people of Venezuela voted on the future of their country peacefully and in large numbers. Their will must be respected. Ensuring full transparency in the electoral process, including detailed counting of votes and access to voting records at polling stations, is vital.”

Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo

“After maintaining permanent contact with all political actors involved in the presidential elections ... we consider it essential that the voices of all sectors be heard. It is important to clear any doubts about the results ...We call for the total vote count, its verification and independent audit to be carried out as soon as possible.”

Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou

“It was an open secret. They were going to ‘win’ regardless of the actual results. ... You cannot recognize a triumph if you can’t trust the forms and mechanisms used to achieve it.”



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Putin

“Russian-Venezuelan relations have the character of a strategic partnership. I am confident that your activities at the head of state will continue to contribute to their progressive development in all directions. ... Remember that you are always a welcome guest on Russian soil.”



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel

Diaz-Canel

“Nicolas Maduro, my brother, your victory, which is that of the Bolivarian and Chavista people, has cleanly and unequivocally defeated the pro-imperialist opposition. They also defeated the regional, interventionist and Monroist right. The people spoke and the Revolution won.”

Peruvian Foreign Minister Javier Gonzalez-Olaechea

“I condemn completely all the irregularities with the intention of fraud committed by the Venezuelan government. Peru will not accept the violation of the popular will of the Venezuelan people. “The Peruvian ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been immediately recalled for consultations.”

Guatemalan President Bernardo Arevalo

“We receive the results announced by the CNE with many doubts. This is why electoral observation mission reports are essential, and today more than ever, must defend Venezuelans’ votes.”

Costa Rican presidency

“The Government of Costa Rica categorically rejects the proclamation of Nicolas Maduro as president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which we consider to be fraudulent.”

Honduran President Xiomara Castro

“Our special congratulations and Democratic, Socialist and Revolutionary greetings to President Nicolas Maduro and the brave people of Venezuela for their unobjectionable triumph, which reaffirms their sovereignty and the historical legacy of Commander Hugo Chavez.”

Bolivian President Luis Arce

“We have closely followed this democratic festival and we welcome the fact that the will of the Venezuelan people at the polls has been respected. We want to ratify our willingness to continue strengthening our ties of friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.”

Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares

“The democratic will of the Venezuelan people must be respected with the presentation of the minutes of all the polling stations to guarantee fully verifiable results.”

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega

“Saluting the great victory... To you, Nicolas President, to (Maduro’s wife) Cilia, to the PSUV (United Socialist Party of Venezuela), to the youth, and all Venezuelan families, our tribute and greetings, in honor, glory and for more victories.”

IN BRIEF

FBI: Suspected Trump gunman spotted before rally shooting

WASHINGTON – Police noticed the Pennsylvania man who tried to assassinate Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump more than an hour before the July 13 shooting and took a photo to share with other law enforcement officers, an FBI official said on Monday.

“The shooter was identified by law enforcement as a suspicious person,” Kevin Rojek, the special agent in charge of the FBI’s Pittsburgh field office, told reporters at a briefing on the agency’s investigation into the assassination attempt.

He said a local officer took a photo of gunman Thomas Crooks and sent it to other law enforcement officials at the scene of Trump’s Pennsylvania rally that day.

Some 30 minutes later, Rojek said, SWAT team operators saw Crooks using a rangefinder and browsing news sites.

UK authorities say 2 children killed in ‘ferocious’ knife attack

LONDON – Two children were stabbed to death at a Taylor Swift-themed event in northwest England, and a 17-year-old male suspect was arrested, police said on Monday.

He was held on suspicion of murder and attempted murder. Nine other children were wounded, six of them critically, and two adults were in a critical condition.

“We believe that the adults who were injured were bravely trying to protect the children,” said Chief Constable Serena Kennedy from Merseyside Police.

She said emergency services arriving at the scene found “multiple people, many of whom were children, had been subjected to a ferocious attack and had suffered serious injuries.”

An advertisement posted online described the event as a yoga and dance workshop for children ages 6-11.

Iowa starts enforcing 6-week abortion ban after court ruling

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa enforced a ban on abortions after six weeks of pregnancy on Monday, becoming the 22nd state to impose broad restrictions on ending pregnancies since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned federal abortion rights in 2022.

Iowa’s state Supreme Court ruled against a challenge by Planned Parenthood last month to stop enforcement of the law, which bans abortion before many patients know they are pregnant, while allowing exceptions for rape cases, medical emergencies, and fatal fetal anomalies.

The law was passed in a special legislative session in 2023, after the state Supreme Court failed to revive a separate 2018 abortion ban.

Reuters

Venezuela

Continued from Page 1NN

doubt on the results and called for a full tabulation of votes.

Independent exit polls pointed to a landslide win for the opposition following enthusiastic shows of support for its presidential candidate Gonzalez and opposition leader Machado on the campaign trail.

Gonzalez said at the same press conference as Machado that the opposition triumph was irreversible.

Governments in Washington and elsewhere cast doubt on the official results and called for a full tabulation of votes.

Independent exit polls pointed to a landslide win for the opposition following enthusiastic shows of support for its presidential candidate Gonzalez and opposition leader Machado on the campaign trail.

“We’re fed up with this, we want freedom, we want to be free for our children,” motorcycle taxi driver Fernando Mejia, 41, told Reuters as he marched in the city of Maracay with his family.

The street protests followed earlier “cacerolazo” demonstrations – a traditional Latin American protest in which people bang pots and pans - in neighborhoods throughout the country. Many of those marching had taken their pots with them.

In the Caracas neighborhood of El Valle, police fired tear gas in a bid to disperse protesters.

In Coro, the capital of Falcon state,

protesters tore down a statue depicting late president Hugo Chavez, Maduro’s mentor. Earlier, there were scuffles between opposition and government supporters at polling sites in Caracas and other places.

Gonzalez won 70%, said Machado, who has been barred from holding public office in a decision she says is unfair.

Rules were violated on polling day, the opposition said, citing its witnesses being prevented from attending counts, among other issues.

The Carter Center, which sent observers to Venezuela for the vote, called on the electoral authority to immediately publish the results by polling station.

The electoral authority is meant to be an independent body but the opposition says it acts as an arm of Maduro’s government.

Gonzalez has not called for supporters to take to the streets and has warned against violence, even as reports trickled in of arrests and intimidation of his supporters.

Many Venezuelan voters despaired at news of another six-year term for Maduro, who has presided over an economic collapse, the migration of about a third of the population, and a sharp deterioration in diplomatic relations, crowned by sanctions imposed by the United States, the European Union and others which have crippled an already struggling oil industry.

“Maduro yesterday shattered my greatest dream, to see my only daughter again, who went to Argentina three years ago,” said retiree Dalia Romero, 59, in Maracaibo. “I stayed here alone with breast cancer so that she could work

there and send me money for treatment.”

“Now I know that I’m going to die alone without seeing her again,” she said through tears.

International reaction

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington had serious concerns that the official results did not reflect the votes of the people.

Biden administration officials, briefing reporters about the vote on condition of anonymity, accused the government of “electoral manipulation.” They did not announce any new punitive measures but left open the door to additional sanctions.

Brazil and the European Union also called for transparency over polling data, while Russia, Cuba, Honduras and Bolivia cheered Maduro’s alleged victory.

Caracas and Washington have had an adversarial relationship dating back to the era of left-wing populist Chavez.

Maduro – a 61-year-old former bus driver and foreign minister – took office on Chavez’s death in 2013 and his 2018 reelection is considered fraudulent by the United States and others, who call him a dictator.

Venezuela’s bonds and those of state oil firm PDVSA fell deeper into distressed territory on Monday.

Cutting the cake

Maduro early on Monday reiterated his campaign assertion that Venezuela’s electoral system is transparent.

He will sign a decree on Monday to hold a “great national dialogue,” he said as he celebrated with supporters before cutting a birthday cake for Chavez, who would have turned 70 on Sunday.

Venezuela’s attorney general Tarek Saab said the results had been delayed by an attack on the electoral system from North Macedonia. He did not offer any evidence or any other details.

Edison Research, which conducts high-profile election polling in the United States and other countries, published an exit poll showing Gonzalez, a 74-year-old ex-diplomat known for his calm demeanor, had won 65% of the vote, while Maduro won 31%.

“The official results are silly,” Edison’s Executive Vice President Rob Farbmman told Reuters in an email, saying it stood by the results of its survey.

Edison’s exit poll was conducted nationwide with preliminary data from 6,846 voters interviewed at 100 polling locations.

Local firm Meganalisis said its own exit poll indicated a 65% vote for Gonzalez and just under 14% for Maduro.

The opposition and poll observers had raised questions ahead of the vote as to whether it would be fair, saying decisions by electoral authorities and the arrests of opposition staff were meant to create obstacles.

Last week, Machado had called on the country’s military to uphold the results of the vote.

But Venezuela’s military has long supported Maduro and there have been no public signs that leaders of the armed forces were breaking from the government.

GOP grapples with how to take on Harris

Some say racism, sexism could overshadow policy

Helen Coster, Alexandra Ulmer and David Morgan
REUTERS

Republican nominee Donald Trump has called her “crazy,” “nuts” and “dumb as a rock.” Republicans in Congress disparage her as a diversity hire. Right-wing activists and trolls have smeared her online with racist, sexist and sexualized barbs.

The attacks on Kamala Harris, the first woman and first Black and South Asian person to serve as U.S. vice president, have intensified in the days since she consolidated support to become Democrats’ likely presidential nominee.

The demeaning racist and sexist attacks threaten to distract from the Republican Party’s concerted effort to focus on Harris’ policies. Trump allies, including some members of the “Black Americans for Trump” coalition, warn that disparaging Harris could hurt him in his outreach to Black voters, a crucial demographic in the Nov. 5 presidential election.

In interviews with nine Republican lawmakers and 11 Black Republican women who back Trump, eight said personal attacks on Harris should be avoided. While guarded in their comments and emphasizing their continued support for Trump, several expressed worry over the tenor of the attacks and whether the onslaught could harm Republicans at the ballot box.

“I think there is a way to critique her without going underneath her clothes,” said P Rae Easley, a Black conservative radio show host in Chicago and a member of the “Black Americans for Trump” coalition, a loosely organized group of Black allies backing Trump.

Several members of Congress echoed her sentiments.

“I’m going to oppose Vice President Harris because of what she’s done, not who she is,” said Rep. Dusty Johnson, who chairs the 75-member Republican Main Street Caucus. “Some of this ugliness is unbecoming of a great country.”

Others said the attacks on Harris’ personal life were no different than Democrats attacking Trump over his personal and family life.

“Going after Kamala Harris as a ‘DEI hire’ is breathtakingly stupid,” said Republican pollster Whit Ayres, who has worked on campaigns for Sen. Marco Rubio, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and others. “It’s going to backfire,” Ayres said, adding that Harris had an “incredible array of far left-wing policies” that could be targeted.

DEI stands for “diversity, equity and inclusion” initiatives aimed at increasing representation of women and people of color in the workforce to address longstanding inequities and discrimination. The term “DEI hire” is now used to suggest a person is not qualified for their role and has been chosen on the basis of their race or gender.

Ayres said the disparaging rhetoric would alienate women and “anyone who isn’t far-right.”

The Trump campaign did not directly respond to questions about whether it had discussed trying to tone down personal attacks on Harris.

The former president has a history of attacking political opponents, including other Black women in power such as Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who is prosecuting his election interference case in Georgia, and U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, the judge



In interviews with nine Republican lawmakers and 11 Black Republican women who back Trump, eight said personal attacks on Vice President Kamala Harris should be avoided.
NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

assigned to the federal case against him for attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

At a rally in North Carolina on Wednesday, Trump did not go after Harris on gender or racial grounds. Instead, he painted a potential Harris presidency in apocalyptic terms.

“She is a radical left lunatic who will destroy our country,” Trump said.

Trump spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said voters would reject Harris not because of her race and gender, but because of her failed policies.

A spokesperson for Harris, whose nascent campaign has generated a groundswell of grassroots fundraising and activism, said she is staying focused on her work.

“These attacks are backfiring and even Republicans know it,” said Sarafina Chitika.

Online attacks against Harris were ramping up even before Biden dropped out on Sunday, according to researchers and a Reuters review of posts on the social media platform X, although exact data is hard to come by.

Some of the recent posts refer to sexual acts and speak of Harris’ past relationships in lewd terms. Others disparage her for not having biological children, echoing a comment Trump running mate JD Vance made in 2021, when he criticized Harris and other Democrats as “a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives.”

Harris has two stepchildren with her husband, lawyer Doug Emhoff. His ex-wife last week called such attacks “baseless” and described Harris as a “loving, nurturing, fiercely protective” co-parent.

Disinformation researchers say the online attacks do not appear to be coming from a specific epicenter and are now so prevalent that most accounts are merely “amplifiers” of already-existing narratives.

U.S. Rep. Michael Cloud, a member of the ultraconservative House Freedom Caucus, defended Republicans who have disparaged Harris as a “DEI hire.”

Biden has not called Harris a “DEI hire.” At a campaign appearance with Harris in May, he spoke of the values of DEI and having a diverse administration. “And it starts at the top with the vice president,” Biden said.

Easley, the radio show host, said she suggested to Trump campaign officials they engage Black allies more to counter Harris “without the veil of racism being attached to it.”

Other Trump allies warned that his attacks could alienate some voters.

“I am hoping that his advisers will encourage Trump to pull it back,” said Camilla Moore, chair of the Georgia Black Republican Council. “Because it could hurt in the long run.”

Some House Democrats not yet backing Harris

Those in swing districts want to see her platform

Richard Cowan and Bo Erickson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Vice President Kamala Harris’ move to the top of the Democratic ticket injected new life into her party’s flailing campaign against Republican Donald Trump, but some lawmakers whose support she will need if she wins are keeping her at arm’s length.

In the 35 competitive races that will determine control of the 435-seat U.S. House of Representatives in the Nov. 5 election, 12 Democratic incumbents or challengers so far have held off endorsing Harris.

They are presenting themselves as independent decision-makers focused on their constituents rather than national politics, distancing themselves from a candidate that Republicans tie to the Biden administration’s record on immigration and inflation.

“Our choice in leaders should never be a knee-jerk decision driven solely by party loyalty,” said Rep. Jared Golden of Maine, one of the 12, who said he wanted to see what policies Harris would propose that might help citizens of his district, before deciding whether to support her.

Golden was also one of six House Democrats who voted last week in support of a Republican resolution condemning President Joe Biden’s administration – and Harris specifically – over the administration’s handling of migrants crossing the southern border with Mexico. They hailed from Alaska, Colorado, Maine, North Carolina, Texas and Washington state.

Just one of those states – North Carolina – is expected to be competitive in the November election. But all six districts will play an important role in determining control of the House.

Republicans currently have a narrow 220-212 majority and if Democrats win control of the House, they could either help drive Harris’ agenda forward if she wins or serve as a bulwark against former President Trump if he prevails.

Golden and the other Democrats who joined in voting for the Republican resolution stand in a distinct minority within the Democratic ranks in Congress.

The broader Democratic Party has rallied quickly behind Harris since Biden abandoned his reelection bid and endorsed her on July 21.

Harris’ campaign said it swept up more than \$200 million in campaign donations and signed up 170,000 volunteers in the first week.

“Her background as a prosecutor is something that really appeals to people who are concerned about rising crime,” said Rep. Hillary Scholten, whose Michigan district is one of the 35 most competitive post-primary races.

“They’re concerned about law and order and that’s something that, you know, I’m really hearing from people that is appealing to them,” Scholten said. “I’m talking about people who have literally never voted for a Democrat except for me.”

Scholten, who had publicly called on Biden to end his campaign, said she has campaigned in her district alongside Harris, adding, “We invite her back.”

Scholten was one of 41 House women who joined former Speaker Nancy



Vice President Kamala Harris’ campaign said it swept up more than \$200 million in campaign donations and signed up 170,000 volunteers in the first week. STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/POOL VIA REUTERS, FILE

Pelosi, D-Calif., last week to endorse Harris’ candidacy.

Holding off on endorsements

Colorado Democrat Adam Frisch, who is seeking the seat currently held by firebrand Republican Lauren Boebert, is among the challengers whose success would be critical to the party capturing a majority in the House.

He has not endorsed Harris and like most candidates in competitive districts, is seeking to highlight his independence on policy issues. He was one of the first Democratic candidates to call for Biden to end his campaign.

“Working Colorado families are fed up with career politicians who aren’t focused on the issues that matter to them, and both parties are at fault,” said Frisch, who will face Republican Jeff Hurd in November as Boebert runs in a more conservative district.

Biden, 81, decided to end his campaign under pressure from Democrats, including 36 in Congress who publicly urged him to do so, saying they feared he would hurt their electoral prospects in the House and Senate.

Candidates in closely contested districts have reason to keep their distance from their party’s presidential nominees, said Larry Sabato, head of the University of Virginia’s Center for Politics.

“It took some in-party pushing and hard feelings to get Biden out. So now they’re supposed to play nice and treat their struggle to keep a House seat in tough territory as patty-cake? No way,” Sabato added.

Need for support

Democrats face a more difficult path to a majority in the Senate, where one in three seats are up for grabs and they must defend seats in strongly Republican states including Montana, Ohio and West Virginia.

Supporters say Harris has brought new energy into the race after Biden struggled and ultimately failed to overcome serious concerns about his age and mental acuity.

She has also excited many Democrats by more forcefully advocating for abortion rights and going after Trump over his criminal convictions in a hush-money trial in New York as well as charges he faces in other cases.

Rep. Abigail Spanberger, whose Virginia seat is also on the most-competitive list, said her office was already receiving calls from constituents asking how to get tickets to a potential Harris inauguration.

“There’s excitement and so that excitement translates on the ground,” said Spanberger, who is now running for governor of Virginia.

Court

Continued from Page 1NN

the Republican nominee, in the Nov. 5 presidential election.

Earlier in his presidency, Biden convened a commission to study Supreme Court changes. He has appointed one of the nine justices, liberal Ketanji Brown Jackson.

On Monday, he also proposed a constitutional amendment to eliminate broad presidential immunity recognized in a July 1 Supreme Court ruling involving former President Donald Trump, warning that the ruling set a dangerous precedent that could see grave abuses in the future.

Harris, a former prosecutor and California attorney general, said in a statement on Monday that “in our democracy, no one should be above the law. So we must also ensure that no former president has immunity for crimes committed while in the White House.”

The top congressional Republican, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., called Biden’s proposals an effort to “delegitimize the court,” and said the changes would not be considered by the chamber, which his party controls.

“This dangerous gambit of the Biden-Harris administration is dead on arrival in the House,” Johnson said in a statement.

The Republican National Committee called the proposals part of a scheme to pack the Supreme Court with “far-left, radical judges.”

Asked about Johnson’s comments, Biden quipped to reporters that Johnson’s thinking was dead on arrival and said he would figure out a way to get the reforms passed.

Since the court in 2020 reached a 6-3 conservative majority, cemented with Trump’s three appointees, it has moved American law rightward.

In its immunity ruling, the court decided that Trump, in a federal criminal case involving his efforts to reverse his 2020 election loss, cannot be prosecuted

for actions that were within his constitutional powers as president.

The court in recent years also has ended its recognition of a constitutional right to abortion, expanded gun rights, and rejected race-conscious collegiate admissions, as well as blocking Biden’s agenda on immigration, student loans, COVID vaccine mandates and climate change.

New code of conduct

Unlike other members of the federal judiciary, Supreme Court justices have no binding ethics code. Disclosure laws require them to report outside income and certain gifts, though food and other “personal hospitality” such as lodging at an individual’s residence are generally exempted.

The court in November adopted its first code of conduct after revelations about Justice Clarence Thomas accepting undisclosed travel from a wealthy benefactor. Justice Samuel Alito also has faced criticism from Democrats af-

ter reports that flags associated with Trump’s bid to undo his 2020 loss flew outside his homes in Virginia and New Jersey. Alito has said his wife flew the flags.

Critics have called the new code of conduct insufficient because it lets justices decide for themselves whether to recuse from cases and provides no enforcement mechanism.

Legislation would be required to impose term limits and an ethics code, and it is unlikely to pass Congress, with Democrats controlling the Senate and Republicans the House.

The constitutional amendment proposed by Biden to make clear that having served as president does not guarantee a person immunity from federal criminal indictment, trial, conviction or sentencing would be even more difficult to enact.

It would require two-thirds support in the House and Senate or a convention called by two-thirds of the states, and then ratification by 38 of the 50 state legislatures.



Elders and mourners pray by the coffin of Guevara Ibrahim, 11, killed in a reported strike from Lebanon two days earlier, during his funeral Monday in the Druze town of Majdal Shams in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. Ibrahim was initially reported missing but was later confirmed dead. JALAA MAREY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Druze in shock as war hits home

Ammar Awad and Suleiman Al-Khalidi
REUTERS

For many of the Druze community in the Golan Heights mourning 12 youngsters killed in a missile strike at the weekend, the carnage came as a shock despite the months of daily rocket fire and airstrikes between Israel and southern Lebanon.

Even when the rockets were flying elsewhere, the community felt largely safe, said Raya Fakher Aldeen, a resident of Majdal Shams, the Druze village where children and teenagers were playing football when the missile landed on Saturday.

“It was a shock because not once in the last nine months, even when the sirens were sounding, did we feel we were being targeted,” she said.

Israel has accused the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah of carrying out the strike and on Monday, during a visit to Majdal Shams, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised a “harsh response”.

Hezbollah denies killing the youngsters but said it had launched strikes on what it said were military targets in nearby areas of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

As members of an Arab minority straddling Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and the Golan Heights, the Druze, who practise a form of Islam, occupy a special niche in the complicated politics of the region.

Unlike most Israeli Palestinians, many Druze in Israel serve in the military and police, including during the war in Gaza, and some have reached high rank.

But in the Golan Heights, an area seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed by Israel in a move not generally recognised internationally, many still identify as Syrians and refuse Israeli citizenship.

The ambiguity of the Druze position was reflected in the resolutely non-political funeral. Thousands mourned in Majdal Shams on Sunday but there was no sign of either Israeli or Syrian flags and political talk was largely absent.

“Many Druze feel angry and do not want to be fuel in this war for any side,” said Fakher Aldeen.

The standoff between Israel and Hezbollah, which began soon after the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, has forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanese border, but has so far

stopped short of the full-scale war that many now fear.

Sultan Abu Jabal, 62, who works and lives in Majdal and lost a granddaughter in the attack, denounced what he said was a “crazy war.”

“They are all innocent people. Why is it my problem if there are troubles between Hezbollah and Israel?”

No escaping regional politics

However the politics of the region is inescapable and though the youngsters killed in the strike do not appear to have held Israeli citizenship, Israeli officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant have embraced them as their own.

“A Jewish child murdered on the Gaza border on Oct. 7 and a Druze child murdered on the Golan Heights are the same. These are our children,” Gallant said during a visit to Majdal Shams.

On the other side of the dividing line, Lebanese Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, a former Hezbollah opponent who has since reconciled with the movement, told Al Jazeera television the Israeli claim that Hezbollah fired the rocket was a fabrication.

On the Syrian side, Druze Sheikh Yousef al-Jarbou offered prayers for the dead and accused Israel of “committing daily massacres” in a speech published by Syrian state media, accompanied by a photo showing Syrian and Druze flags behind him and a photo of President Bashar al-Assad, a Hezbollah ally.

“The incident is being exploited by all sides,” said Lubna Al Bassit, an anti-Assad activist in Sweida, the Druze capital of Syria, who reflects the views of Druze who blame Iran and Hezbollah.

“There’s rivalry. Who is the real voice of the Druze community – is it the Israeli Druze who are integrated in Israel and serve in the army, or is it the Lebanese who have been taking a stance against Israel, specifically Jumblatt who is a historic leader of the Druze,” said Mohamad Hage Ali of the Carnegie Middle East Center.

As Lebanon braces for strikes that are expected to be much heavier than those seen so far in the war, the Druze of Majdal Shams are left to wait.

“We hope this war will end and this massacre will be the last one in this devastating war,” said Sheikh Salim Abu Jabal.

New mass exodus hits central Gaza

Hamas says Israel stalls on truce negotiations

Nidal al-Mughrabi and Ramadan Abed
REUTERS

CAIRO – Thousands of Palestinians fled a community in the central Gaza Strip on Monday in the face of new Israeli evacuation orders, worsening the humanitarian plight in an area already inundated with displaced people fleeing an assault in the south.

Islamist group Hamas accused Israel of blocking a cease-fire, saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government had inserted new conditions into a longstanding truce proposal at the latest talks, conducted through international mediators.

Israeli forces, which have now captured nearly the entire Gaza Strip in nearly 10 months of war, have spent the last several weeks launching major operations in areas where they had previously claimed to have uprooted Hamas fighters.

Hundreds of thousands of people have converged on Deir al-Balah, a small city in the center of the enclave that is the only major area yet to be stormed, many forced there by fighting in the ruins of Khan Younis further south since last week.

In its latest assault, Israel ordered residents on Sunday to flee Al-Bureij, just northeast of Deir.

“What is left? Deir? Deir is full of people. Everyone is in Deir. All of Gaza. Where should people go?” Aya Mansour told Reuters in Deir after fleeing from Bureij.

The Israeli military said fighter jets hit 35 targets across the Gaza Strip over the past day as troops battled fighters in Khan Younis and Rafah, close to the border with Egypt. The armed wings of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad said fierce gunbattles have been ongoing in those two areas as well as in the suburb of Tel Al-Hawa in Gaza City further north.

Palestinian medical officials said at least eight people were killed in an Israeli airstrike earlier in Khan Younis.

In the latest sign of a worsening public health emergency, the Gaza Health Ministry declared a polio epidemic, following the detection of the virus in sewage samples. On Sunday, the military issued new evacuation orders to some districts in Bureij, forcing thousands to leave before the army blew up several houses.

Some families used donkey carts and rickshaws to carry whatever belongings remained. Many walked for several miles on foot to reach Deir or al-Zawayda town to the west.

Philippe Lazzarini, head of UNRWA, the United Nations relief agency for Palestinians, said only 14% of the Gaza Strip had not been placed under evacuation orders by the Israeli military. People have been forced to evacuate repeatedly, often with only a few hours notice.

Cease-fire talks

Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has faced weekly demonstrations from Israelis demanding a cease-fire to bring back more than 100 hostages still held in Gaza, there has



Ismail Al-Kahlout, 60, carries a container to a tent home set up on the rubble of his house, which was destroyed by the Israeli army last December in the Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, on Monday. OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

been little visible progress in talks brokered by Qatar and Egypt.

Negotiations are set to continue after Israeli officials returned from the latest round in Rome on Sunday. Washington, which sponsors the talks, has repeatedly said a deal is close; the latest talks are over a proposal President Joe Biden unveiled back in May.

But Hamas said the latest Israeli response included new conditions.

“It is clear from what the mediators conveyed that Netanyahu has returned to his strategy of procrastination, evasion, and avoiding reaching an agreement by setting new conditions and demands,” Hamas said in a statement on Monday.

Aya Mohammad, 30, a Gaza City resident sheltering in Deir, said Gazans were losing hope in a truce: “It is all lies. I think I will die here. No one knows who is going to die first here.”

The Gaza Health Ministry said the detection of polio, long since eradicated in the enclave, “poses a health threat to the people of Gaza, to neighboring countries, and a setback to global efforts to end polio.”

According to the World Health Organization, polio is endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but 35 countries are still listed as subject to outbreaks, including Gaza’s neighbour Egypt, and any country risks the return of the disease if an outbreak goes unchecked. Israel said last week it was offering polio vaccines to troops deployed in Gaza.

The limited access to water has worsened health complications from poor sanitation. Many displaced people were suffering from skin diseases, and children are afflicted by fevers, continuous weeping, and declining to eat or be breastfed, said Hussam Abu Safiyah, the director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza.

The war began with an assault on southern Israel by Hamas-led fighters who killed 1,200 people and captured around 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Since then Israeli forces have killed more than 39,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, according to health authorities there who do not distinguish between combatants and civilians but say more than half of the dead are women or children. Israel, which has lost around 330 soldiers in Gaza, says a third of those it has killed are fighters.

Hamas has demanded a path to an end to the war in Gaza as a condition for its agreement to a ceasefire. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said repeatedly the conflict will stop only once Hamas is defeated.

Israel

Continued from Page 1NN

Gallant reaffirmed, in comments to U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Monday, that “Iranian proxy Hezbollah” would be held responsible for the rocket strike.

Israel’s Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper quoted unidentified officials as saying the response would be “limited but significant”.

The report said options ranged from a limited attack on infrastructure, including bridges, power plants and ports, to hitting Hezbollah arms depots or targeting Hezbollah commanders.

Exacerbated by the Gaza conflict, hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah have been their worst since they went to war in 2006.

Hezbollah, an ally of Palestinian militant group Hamas, has said its attacks on Israel have aimed to support the Palestinians and indicated it will only cease fire when Israel’s offensive on Gaza stops.

The conflict at the Israel-Lebanon border has forced tens of thousands of



Israeli firefighters work Monday to put out a fire caused by a projectile that was fired from Lebanon amid cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, near Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel. AVI OHAYON/REUTERS

people to leave their homes on both sides.

While Washington has also blamed Hezbollah for the rocket strike and defended Israel’s right to respond, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a phone call with Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Monday, emphasized the importance of preventing escalation of the conflict, the U.S. State Department said.

They discussed efforts to reach a diplomatic solution to allow displaced people to return home.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby also said the Golan incident should not affect ongoing negotiations on a ceasefire and release of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in south Lebanon said it had intensified

contacts with Israel and Lebanese authorities to dial down tensions. “Nobody wants to start a wider conflict, but a miscalculation could trigger one. There is still space for a diplomatic solution,” spokesperson Andrea Tenenti said.

Flights at Beirut’s international airport have been canceled or delayed. Jordan’s flag carrier Royal Jordanian has suspended flights to Beirut on Monday and Tuesday, Jordanian TV reported, citing a statement from the airline.

Hezbollah has denied firing the rocket that killed the youngsters. It said on Saturday it had fired a missile against a military target on the Golan.

Israel seized the border region from Syria after the 1967 war and has since annexed it in a move not generally recognised internationally, although the U.S. considers it part of Israel.

Since October, Israeli strikes have killed around 350 Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon and more than 100 civilians, according to security and medical sources and a Reuters tally of Hezbollah death notifications.

Israel says 23 civilians and at least 17 soldiers have been killed in Hezbollah attacks since October.

SPORTS **EXTRA**

2024 PARIS SUMMER OLYMPICS



From left: Frederick Richard, Asher Hong, Brody Malone, and Stephen Nedoroscik celebrate after winning bronze during the men's gymnastics team final at Bercy Arena. JAMES LANG/USA TODAY SPORTS

BACK ON THE PODIUM

US men win bronze in gymnastics team final

Nancy Armour and Tom Schad
USA TODAY

PARIS – For the first time in 16 years, the U.S. men's gymnastics team has won an Olympic medal.

Buoyed by a resurgent performance from national champion Brody Malone, who competed in five of the six events, Team USA held off Great Britain and Ukraine to win bronze at the 2024 Olympics. Japan surged to gold in the final rotation, while China took silver.

"I can't even describe it," said Brett McClure, a silver medalist with the U.S. men in 2004 and now the team's high-performance director. "I was rooting for them the whole way, every single routine just kept getting better and better and better."

It's the first time the American men have been on the Olympic podium since 2008, when Jonathan Horton led them to bronze. And ultimately, they finished

See **BRONZE**, Page 7NS



Saki Hayashi of Japan drives against Diana Taurasi of the United States. BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS

US women defeat Japan

America Hernandez and Angelica Medina
REUTERS

PARIS – The United States romped to a resounding 102-76 victory over Japan in the women's basketball tournament at the Pierre Mauroy stadium on Monday, demonstrating that the defending champions are positioned to make a strong push for their eighth consecutive Olympic gold medal.

In their Group C opener, the Americans took to the court with all the firepower of Breanna Stewart and A'ja Wilson, who combined to pour in 46 points, and under the leadership of captain Diana Taurasi, who is making her sixth Games appearance in Paris.

Taurasi, 42, said she was happy to be back in Lille, where she often played in the city during her time in the Euro-League Women, and said that more

See **BASKETBALL**, Page 7NS

Cardinals, Dodgers get stretch-run help

Bob Nightengale
USA TODAY

The St. Louis Cardinals get their veteran starter and outfielder for their play-off run, the Los Angeles Dodgers get their utility infielder and veteran reliever for their World Series championship run, and the Chicago White Sox get an infielder and valued prospects for the future.

Just like that, a rare three-way trade was consummated Monday with the Dodgers still trying to make more moves before MLB's 6 p.m. ET trade deadline

on Tuesday, two officials with direct knowledge told USA TODAY Sports on the condition of anonymity since the deal had yet to be announced.

The Cardinals, who have been seeking another starter for months, land White Sox No. 2 starter Erick Fedde and White Sox outfielder Tommy Pham, who was originally drafted by St. Louis in 2006. The Dodgers get Cardinals utilityman Tommy Edman, who has not played yet this season because of wrist surgery and a sprained ankle, along with struggling reliever Michael Kopecch. And the White Sox get Dodgers in-

fielder Miguel Vargas and L.A. prospects Alexander Albertus and Jeral Perez.

What trade means for Cardinals, Dodgers, White Sox

The trade should provide an immediate impact for the Cardinals, who can slot Fedde into the middle of their rotation. Fedde (7-4, 3.11 ERA) has struck out 108 batters in 121 2/3 innings, and is under contract next season as well for \$7.5 million. This is the fifth time Pham has

See **TRADE**, Page 3NS



After pitching last season in Korea, right-hander Erick Fedde made a triumphant return to the majors with the White Sox and is having the best season of his career at age 31. RAYMOND CARLIN III/USA TODAY SPORTS

NFL

Bears QB Williams pushing to play in Canton

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

No. 1 pick Caleb Williams wants to be on the field when the Chicago Bears kick off the preseason Thursday night in Canton, Ohio, as part of the Hall of Fame weekend festivities.

Before Chicago’s legendary return specialist Devin Hester is enshrined along with the 2024 Hall of Fame class on Saturday, the Bears and Houston Texans tee it up for the first game of the NFL’s exhibition schedule.

“I would love to get out there and play,” he said. “It’s pretty awesome to get out there at Canton.”

Head coach Matt Eberflus said the Bears would share more details about playing time and preseason plans in general on Tuesday before traveling to Ohio. Before camp began, Eberflus said the Bears reviewed the playing time protocol for the 2023 rookie quarterback class – including Texans No. 2 pick C.J. Stroud, the NFL’s Offensive Rookie of the Year last season – and determined the ideal range of total snaps for Williams would be 45-65 plays.

The Bears named Williams their starter before minicamp and naturally would have concern over exposing Williams to injury. On the flipside, the rookie wants the repetitions.

“I always think there’s more pros than cons, if anything, especially for a young guy like myself,” Williams said. “Reps are always paramount for a young guy like myself.”

Texans coach DeMeco Ryans said Monday that “anytime we line up, it’s real,” before adding he wasn’t sure if Stroud would be on the field at all



Bears quarterback Caleb Williams throws a pass during training camp at Halas Hall. DAVID BANKS/USA TODAY SPORTS

Thursday night.

“We’ll see,” Ryans said.

Ryans spent extra time discussing the significance of the weekend for the Texans’ franchise. Wide receiver Andre Johnson, like Hester a University of Miami product, will be the first Hall of Famer in team history.

“Andre Johnson going into the Hall of Fame – it means everything to our organization,” said Ryans. “Every person that’s worked in this organization, every player who’s strapped it up and put on that Texans jersey: Andre is representing everyone. And there’s no better guy than Andre to be the first Houston Tex-

an going in as a Hall of Famer. Definitely deserving of it. He’s always been the best player in any field that he’s stepped on and he has been a great man in the community, great leader as well. So, Andre is – we’re happy to be there to support Andre and wouldn’t want to do it for any other guy.”

Travis Kelce happy in ‘sanctuary’ of Chiefs camp

Jarrett Bell USA TODAY

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. – After an offseason filled with glitz and glamour of touring with his ultra-famous girlfriend, Taylor Swift, there’s no place quite like an Andy Reid training camp for Travis Kelce to kick back into pure football mode.

“This is my sanctuary,” the Kansas City Chiefs star tight end said after Saturday’s padded practice at Missouri Western State University.

“St. Joe, Year 12. That means I’ve spent just about an entire year of my life up here in the dorms. Everybody may say that is pretty grueling, but I enjoy it. There’s something about this place to get you ready every single year and I’m not going to lie, I got pretty excited as

the time started counting down to get out here and get this thing rolling.”

Reid runs one of the NFL’s most physically demanding training camps, which include the signature marathon drives that test endurance and greeted the Chiefs when they conducted their first full-pads session on Friday.

Kelce, 34, has come to appreciate such an approach – and there’s no argument about the results that include three Super Bowl triumphs in the past five seasons and the challenge facing the Chiefs this season to become the first three-peat Super Bowl winner.

“This is where it all starts,” Kelce said. “This is where you find out what you’re made of, how you sharpen the iron, how your guys practice, your practice habits,

the attention to detail. And nobody does it better than Coach Reid.”

Kelce knows. As he advances in age, the wear-and-tear of his demanding occupation is undeniable. Sure, he was at his best when it mattered the most last season, dominating during the stretch run with 32 catches for 355 yards with three TDs during the four-game postseason. Yet after missing the season opener in 2023 with a bruised knee, he posted his fewest TDs (five) since 2019 and went into the playoffs with a six-game scoring drought.

“Last year was pretty taxing on my body,” he said. “I’ve had more snaps than a lot of guys, if not everybody in the NFL over the past five, six years, and I’m very prideful of that. But I know it has

taken a toll on my body.

“So, it’s just making sure my body’s getting that rest and that ability to train harder, but able to withstand an entire 17- to 20-game season.”

Kelce said he still relies on an extensive support staff of personal trainers and other experts, maintaining that little has changed with an approach that has enabled him to become one of the best tight ends in NFL history.

“Over every single season you find ways to get better at what works for you, what doesn’t, and you just want to amp it up every single year so that you keep finding ways to kind of climb that staircase of success. I would say I’m doing some things differently but nothing really in the grand scheme of things.”

NOTEBOOK

Texans DE Autry suspended 6 games for PEDs

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Houston Texans defensive end Denico Autry has been suspended six games for violating the NFL’s policy against the use of performance enhancing drugs.

Autry, 34, who signed a two-year deal worth \$20 million with the Texans in March, released a statement asserting that he took a medication that, unbeknownst to him, contained a banned substance.

“It was important to me that the NFL know that I did not intentionally or even knowingly ingest a banned substance. I understand, however, that under the NFL’s policies, ultimate responsibility for what enters my body rests with me,” he wrote.

“To that end, while I intend to explore legal options ... I have accepted the NFL’s punishment of a six-game suspension.”

Autry had a career-best 11.5 sacks last season for the Tennessee Titans and also had a career high 50 tackles in 17 games (14 starts). In 142 games (89 starts) over 10 seasons with the Oakland Raiders (2014-17), Indianapolis Colts (2018-20) and Titans, he has 59 sacks and 310 tackles.

Autry was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Raiders in 2014.

Rodgers looking for ‘two more years’ with Jets

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers says he would still like to have “two great years” with the New York Jets.

That was the initial plan when the four-time NFL MVP joined the Jets in



Defensive end Denico Autry signed a two-year deal worth \$20 million with the Texans in March. DENNY SIMMONS/NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

April 2023 after 18 seasons in Green Bay.

An Achilles injury four snaps into the 2023 season delayed that two-year plan, but did not delete it altogether.

“I would say there was a lot of sentiment that last year wasn’t a great year for me,” Rodgers, 40, told reporters at training camp in Florham Park, N.J. “I’d like to still have two great years.”

Rodgers signed a three-year contract for \$112.5 million with the Jets in July 2023.

Judon exits practice after heated talks with Pats’ brass

Unhappy with his current contract situation, New England Patriots outside

linebacker Matthew Judon had an animated conversation with head coach Jerod Mayo and Patriots’ front-office members while not participating in practice on Monday.

Judon had been a full participant in four previous practices before sitting out the team’s first full-pads practice at training camp.

He told reporters at camp on July 24 that he wanted to upgrade his contract, which will pay him a base salary of \$6.5 million in the final year of a four-year, \$56 million deal.

“Honestly, it’s tough going into the last year of the deal. You kind of look at everybody around the league and in the building, and you see them getting deals done and worked out, and it’s tough to not be envious or jealous and stuff like that,” Judon said that day.

“But I have to focus on myself. I’m happy for those guys. As much as everybody wants to see me stay around here for a long time, it’s really not up to me. You have to ask those guys who are making those decisions.”

On Monday, Mayo approached Judon, who was watching practice from the sidelines, and spoke briefly before the linebacker replied and left the field.

Judon also engaged in talks with executive vice president of player personnel Eliot Wolf and director of player personnel Matt Groh.

In eight seasons, Judon has 369 tackles, 66½ sacks, 165 quarterback hits, nine forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries in 114 games (82 starts) with the Baltimore Ravens (2016-20) and Patriots (2021-2024).

Report: Colts DE Ebukam out for season

Indianapolis Colts defensive end Samson Ebukam will miss the season with a torn Achilles, NFL Network reported Monday.

The 29-year-old veteran sustained the injury during a training camp practice on Sunday, per the report.

Ebukam recorded a career-high 9.5 sacks and started all 17 games in his first season with the Colts in 2023. He signed a three-year, \$24 million contract in March 2023 and carries a \$7.935 million cap hit in 2024, per Spotrac.

He has tallied 33 sacks, 69 quarterback hits, 281 tackles and 11 forced fumbles in 113 games (78 starts) with the Los Angeles Rams (2017-20), San Francisco 49ers (2021-22) and Colts. The Rams drafted the Nigerian international in the fourth round in 2017.

Bucs LT Wirfs sits out team drills

Tampa Bay three-time Pro Bowl tackle Tristan Wirfs is sitting out team drills during training camp while waiting to strike a new deal with the Buccaneers.

Wirfs participated in individual sessions Monday but sat out 11-on-11 drills, limiting his practice as part of his “sit-in” while the sides negotiate an extension.

“Obviously, it would have been nice for it to be done already but that’s part of the business that I’m still learning about,” Wirfs told reporters Monday. “It’s all been good. I was here all offseason training. I like it here.”

MLB

MLB NOTEBOOK

Mariners get veteran Turner from Blue Jays

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

The Seattle Mariners acquired designated hitter/corner infielder Justin Turner from the Toronto Blue Jays for minor league outfielder RJ Schreck on Monday.

Turner, 39, brings a veteran presence with vast postseason experience, including a World Series championship with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2020.

“Justin has been one of the most productive corner infield bats in the league for over a decade,” Mariners general manager Justin Hollander said in a statement. “With his track record at the plate and extensive experience in the postseason, he is a valuable addition to both our lineup and clubhouse.”

The two-time All-Star is batting .257 this season, including Monday when he singled in his lone at-bat against the host Baltimore Orioles and later was replaced in the batting order by Addison Barger.

Turner has six home runs and 31 RBIs in 90 games in his first season with Toronto, who signed him as a free agent to a one-year, \$13 million deal.

For his career, he has hit .286 with 193 homers and 790 RBIs in 1,629 games for the Orioles (2009-10), New York Mets (2010-13), Dodgers (2014-22), Boston Red Sox (2023) and Blue Jays.

Turner has batted .270 with 13 homers, 42 RBIs, a .370 on-base percentage and an .830 OPS in 86 postseason games from 2014-22.

Schreck, who turned 24 on July 12, was a ninth-round pick by the Mariners in the 2023 MLB Draft out of Vanderbilt. Ranked as Seattle’s No. 29 prospect by MLB Pipeline, he hit .250 with 21 doubles, 12 home runs and 45 RBIs in 86 games this season between the Mariners’ high Class-A and Double-A affiliates.

Brewers add Montas from Reds

The Milwaukee Brewers bolstered their rotation on Monday, acquiring right-hander Frankie Montas from the Cincinnati Reds, according to multiple media reports.

Milwaukee reportedly sent right-hander Jakob Junis and outfielder Joey Wiemer in the deal.

Montas, 31, is 4-8 with a 5.01 ERA through 19 starts this year. He has 78 strikeouts and 41 walks in 93 1/3 innings.

His numbers were more impressive before his three most recent starts, in which he went 0-2 with a 9.00 ERA.

Montas is heading to his fifth major league team, having debuted with the White Sox in 2015. He owns a 41-43 career record with a 4.05 ERA in 149 games (118 starts) with Chicago, the Oakland A’s, the New York Yankees and Cincinnati.

Junis, 31, made 10 appearance this year in his lone season with Milwaukee, nine of them out of the bullpen. He went 4-0 with one save and a 2.42 ERA.

In his career with the Kansas City Royals, San Francisco Giants and Milwaukee, he has a 42-45 record with two saves and a 4.56 ERA in 178 games (111 starts).

Wiemer, 25, has been in the minors since late May after going 4-for-26 (.154) and no RBIs in 19 games for the Brewers this year. He broke into the majors with Milwaukee last year, when he batted .204 with 13 homers and 42 RBIs in 132 games.

Wiemer is batting .242 with three homers and 21 RBIs in 53 games for Triple-A Nashville.

Reports: Blue Jays deal Kikuchi to Astros

The Houston Astros are acquiring left-hander Yusei Kikuchi from the Toronto Blue Jays, multiple media outlets reported Monday night.

Toronto reportedly will receive right-hander Jake Bloss, outfielder Joey Loperfido and minor league infielder Will Wagner.

Bloss was scratched from his scheduled start against the Pittsburgh Pirates



Blue Jays first baseman Justin Turner bats against the Orioles during the first inning on Monday at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. He was later traded to Seattle. REGGIE HILDRED/USA TODAY SPORTS

on Monday before news of the trade broke. Fellow right-hander Tayler Scott got the nod instead.

Kikuchi, 33, went 4-9 with a 4.75 ERA across 22 starts with the Blue Jays this season.

In six major league seasons with the Seattle Mariners (2019-21) and Toronto (2022-24), Kikuchi has gone 36-46 with a 4.72 ERA in 156 appearances (144 starts).

Bloss, 23, was Houston’s No. 9 prospect, according to MLB Pipeline. He is in his rookie season and was 0-1 with a 6.94 ERA in three starts for the Astros, one in June and two in July.

Loperfido, a 25-year-old rookie, hit .236 with two home runs and 16 RBIs in 38 games for Houston this season.

Wagner, 26, has spent this year with Triple-A Sugar Land, where he compiled a .307 batting average to go along with five homers and 41 RBIs in 70 games.

Guardians acquire OF Thomas from Nationals

The Washington Nationals dealt outfielder Lane Thomas to the Cleveland Guardians in exchange for three prospects on Monday.

Cleveland sent left-hander Alex Clemmey and infielders Rafael Ramirez Jr. and Jose Tena to Washington to acquire the sixth-year right fielder, who is under club control through next season.

Thomas, 28, is batting .253 with eight home runs, 40 RBIs and a career-high 28 stolen bases through 77 games for the Nationals this season. He’s batted .251 for his career between the St. Louis Cardinals (2019-21) and Washington (2021-24), with 65 homers, 95 doubles and 220 RBIs.

Clemmey, 19, was a second-round selection by Cleveland in the 2023 MLB Draft currently pitching at the Class-A level. He was ranked No. 8 in the Guardians’ farm system by MLB Pipeline.

Ramirez, also 19, was the Guardians’ 22nd-ranked prospect per MLB Pipeline. He is also playing Class-A ball in 2024, his highest level so far.

Tena, 23, has appeared in three games for the Guardians this season and gone 0-for-4 at the plate.

He has two doubles and three RBIs in 21 career MLB games dating back to 2023. Tena is batting .298 with 17 homers, 63 RBIs and 14 stolen bases in 90 games with Triple-A Columbus this year.

Royals acquire Lorenzen

The Kansas City Royals acquired

right-hander Michael Lorenzen from the Texas Rangers on Monday in exchange for left-hander Walter Pennington.

Lorenzen, 32, is 5-6 with a 3.81 ERA in 19 games (18 starts) in his first season with the Rangers.

An All-Star last season, Lorenzen threw a no-hitter for Philadelphia against Washington on Aug. 9, 2023. He signed a one-year, \$4.5 million deal with Texas on March 22.

Lorenzen is 45-44 with a 4.08 ERA and 15 saves in 361 games (87 starts) with the Cincinnati Reds (2015-21), Los Angeles Angels (2022), Detroit Tigers (2023), Phillies (2023) and Rangers.

Pennington, 26, made his major league debut for the Royals on July 5 at Colorado and retired both batters he faced with one strikeout.

Since joining the Kansas City organization in 2021, he is 22-11 with a 3.54 ERA in 147 games (four starts) in the minor leagues. Pennington has struck out 255 batters and walked 100 in 241 1/3 innings.

Reds acquire France

The Cincinnati Reds acquired first baseman Ty France from the Seattle Mariners on Monday in exchange for minor league catcher Andruw Salcedo.

The Reds also received cash considerations in the deal.

France, 30, was designated for assignment last week after batting .223 with eight homers and 31 RBIs in 88 games for the Mariners this season.

An All-Star in 2022, France is a career .264 hitter with 69 home runs and 292 RBIs in 650 games with the San Diego Padres (2019-20) and Mariners.

Salcedo, 21, hails from Colombia and signed with the Reds in 2019. He is batting .188 in seven games this season at Class A Daytona.

Red Sox trade for Priester

The Boston Red Sox added another pitcher to their major league staff, acquiring Pittsburgh Pirates right-hander Quinn Priester in exchange for minor league infielder Nick Yorke on Monday.

Priester, 23, is 2-6 with a 5.04 ERA over 44 1/3 innings in 10 games (six starts) this season, with 31 strikeouts and 13 walks.

In 20 career games (14 starts), the Pirates’ 2019 first-round pick is 5-9 with a 6.46 ERA spanning 94 2/3 innings, with 67 strikeouts and 40 walks.

Yorke, 22, ranked as the Red Sox’s No. 6 prospect by MLB Pipeline, was their first-round pick in the 2020 draft. In 83

games this season between Double-A Portland and Triple-A Worcester, he hit .278 (89-for-320) with 16 doubles, 10 home runs, 14 stolen bases and 46 RBIs.

“Nick has been a strong offensive performer and versatile defender in the minor leagues,” Pirates general manager Ben Cherington said of Yorke, who will report to Triple-A Indianapolis. “We are excited to add him to our upper-level position player group.”

Dodgers get Rosario from Rays

The Los Angeles Dodgers acquired infielder/outfielder Amed Rosario from the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday for minor league right-hander Michael Flynn.

Rosario finished the 2023 season with the Dodgers after being acquired from the Cleveland Guardians for right-hander Noah Syndergaard and cash. He batted .256 with three homers and 18 RBIs in 48 games for Los Angeles last year.

Rosario, 28, was batting .307 with two homers and 26 RBIs in 76 games with the Rays this season. In his career, he has a .275 average with 62 homers and 360 RBIs in 915 games with the New York Mets (2017-20), Guardians (2021-23), Dodgers (2023) and Rays (2024).

Flynn, who turns 28 on Aug. 7, was 2-1 with a 4.95 ERA in 28 relief appearances at Triple-A Oklahoma City and also tossed six scoreless innings for Double-A Tulsa early in the season. He was in his first season in the Los Angeles farm system.

The Dodgers opened up a 40-man roster spot for Rosario by designating left-hander Ryan Yarbrough for assignment. Yarbrough was 4-2 with a 3.74 ERA in 32 appearances out of the bullpen in his first season with Colorado. He is 6-4 this year with nine saves (also a career high) and a 4.74 ERA.

Peralta, 23, has played in the Pirates’ farm system since 2018. He is 4-0 with a 0.91 ERA in 26 relief appearances between High-A and Double-A this year.

Pirates add Beeks in deal with Rockies

The red-hot Pittsburgh Pirates acquired left-handed pitcher Jalen Beeks from the Colorado Rockies in exchange for minor league left-hander Luis Peralta on Monday. Beeks, 31, appeared in a career-high 45 games out of the bullpen in his first season with Colorado. He is 6-4 this year with nine saves (also a career high) and a 4.74 ERA.

Peralta, 23, has played in the Pirates’ farm system since 2018. He is 4-0 with a 0.91 ERA in 26 relief appearances between High-A and Double-A this year.

Trade

Continued from Page 1NS

been traded, and the third time Cardinals special assistant Chaim Bloom has acquired him. Bloom traded for Pham as the GM with the Red Sox in 2022 and as

vice president of the Rays in 2018.

The Dodgers badly needed another infielder with third baseman Max Muncy, shortstop Miguel Rojas and infielder Mookie Betts all on the injured list. Edman is currently rehabbing at Class AA and should be joining the Dodgers in mid-August. Kopech, a former starter, has struggled in the closer’s role with

the White Sox, going 2-8 with a 4.74 ERA and 1.351 WHIP (walks and hits per inning), but he throws 100 mph and has 59 strikeouts in 43 2/3 innings.

The White Sox are shedding salary and looking for the future.

They are 27-81 and on pace to finish with the worst record in MLB history. They received the Dodgers’ 16th- and

18th-best prospects, according to Baseball America.

The White Sox are still are shopping at least five players, including ace Garrett Crochet. They have had trade talks with 15 teams about Crochet, including the Dodgers and New York Yankees.

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MLB

MONDAY'S ROUNDUP

Judge, Chisholm power Yankees

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Major league home run leader Aaron Judge and Yankees newcomer Jazz Chisholm Jr. each hit two homers and drove in three runs as New York demolished the host Philadelphia Phillies 14-4 on Monday.

Ben Rice and Anthony Volpe added a homer and single apiece for the Yankees, who took the opener of a three-game series for their third victory in a row. Austin Wells hit a two-run triple while Juan Soto doubled twice, singled and knocked in three runs. Yankees starter Luis Gil (11-5) lasted 5½ innings and allowed three runs on five hits with eight strikeouts and three walks.

Brandon Marsh hit a home run, single and drove in two runs for the Phillies, who fell to 3-7 since the All-Star break. Bryson Stott added two hits, and Kyle Schwarber drew three walks. Phillies starter Zack Wheeler (10-5) gave up seven runs on seven hits with six strikeouts and three walks in five innings.

Guardians 8, Tigers 4

Jose Ramirez homered twice and drove in three runs as the visiting Cleveland Guardians rolled past the Detroit Tigers.

Ramirez added an RBI double and scored three runs for the American League Central leaders. Bo Naylor hit a three-run home run and Josh Naylor supplied two hits, two runs and an RBI.

Wenceel Perez hit a two-run homer for the Tigers. Dillon Dingler, making his major league debut, had a run-scoring double.

Reds 7, Cubs 1

TJ Friedl belted a three-run homer and Will Benson added a two-run shot to lead the Cincinnati Reds to a win over the visiting Chicago Cubs.

In the eighth, Cincinnati's Jeimer Candelario connected for his 17th homer of the season, a solo shot, against his former team. Tempers flared after reliever Nate Pearson drilled Tyler Stephenson in the head with a 96-mph sinker on the next pitch. Pearson and Cubs manager Craig Counsell were ejected.

Sam Moll, Justin Wilson and Lucas Sims each threw a scoreless inning of relief before Michael Busch homered off Buck Farmer in the ninth.

Red Sox 14, Mariners 7

Masataka Yoshida hit a two-run home run to highlight a seven-run third inning that carried the Boston Red Sox to a victory over the visiting Seattle Mariners in the opener of a three-game series.

Yoshida's home run, his fifth of the season, was one of eight hits in the inning, five of which went for extra bases. Yoshida had three hits in the game, including a two-run single in a three-run fourth that gave the Red Sox a 10-1 lead.

Seattle starting pitcher Logan Gilbert (6-7) allowed seven runs on seven hits in 2½ innings. Gilbert entered the game with a 2.72 ERA.

Mets 15, Twins 2

Pete Alonso homered to lead off a six-run fourth-inning outburst by the host New York Mets, who rolled to a win over the Minnesota Twins in the opener of a three-game interleague series.

Eight starters had at least one hit and one RBI apiece for the Mets, who later added five- and four-run innings while snapping a two-game losing streak and improving to 16-9 this month.

Twins starter Simeon Woods Richardson (3-2) opened with three scoreless innings before Alonso homered on his second pitch of the fourth.

Brewers 8, Braves 3

Willy Adames hit a three-run home run to help power the Milwaukee Brewers to a comeback victory over the visiting Atlanta Braves in the opener of the three-game series.

Rookie Jackson Chourio had a two-run homer and Rhys Hoskins added a solo shot for Milwaukee. Hoby Milner (4-1) got the win in relief.

Marcell Ozuna, Orlando Arcia and Sean Murphy hit solo homers to account for the Braves' three runs.

Rangers 6, Cardinals 3

Nathaniel Lowe hit a two-run homer



Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge (99) watches his home run against the Phillies during the first inning at Citizens Bank Park. ERIC HARTLINE/USA TODAY SPORTS



Pirates starting pitcher Paul Skenes delivers a pitch during the second inning against the Astros at Minute Maid Park. TROY TAORMINA/USA TODAY SPORTS

and scored twice to lead the Texas Rangers past the host St. Louis Cardinals.

Starting pitcher Nathan Eovaldi (8-4) allowed three runs on six hits in six-plus innings as the Rangers snapped a three-game losing streak. Eovaldi didn't issue a walk and struck out two.

Matt Carpenter hit a two-run homer for the Cardinals, who have lost 10 of their past 16 games.

Pirates 5, Astros 3

Michael A. Taylor clubbed a tiebreaking three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning to help the visiting Pittsburgh Pirates cap a victory over the Houston Astros.

Pirates closer David Bednar issued a bases-loaded walk to Yordan Alvarez with two outs in the ninth but notched his 19th save by retiring Yainer Diaz on an infield popup.

Pirates right-hander Paul Skenes delivered a quality start, but the Astros made the rookie star labor over the second half of his six-inning stint. Skenes allowed two runs (one earned) on five hits and three walks with six strikeouts. It marked his eighth consecutive start allowing two runs or fewer.

Royals 8, White Sox 5

Bobby Witt Jr. went 4-for-5 and drilled a go-ahead grand slam in the eighth inning as the visiting Kansas City Royals defeated the White Sox, sending Chicago to a single-season franchise-record 15th straight loss.

Kansas City erupted for six runs in the eighth, sending nine batters to the plate against White Sox relievers Steven Wilson and John Brebbia.

Luis Robert Jr. had three hits, Andrew Vaughn homered and starter Chris Flexen pitched six sharp innings for the

White Sox, who were up 5-2 after seven innings.

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 5
Blue Jays 8, Orioles 4

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. smacked a homer and two run-producing doubles as the Toronto Blue Jays forged a doubleheader split, defeating the host Baltimore Orioles 8-4 in the nightcap.

Guerrero broke a fourth-inning tie with his first double of the night, and the Blue Jays led the rest of the way on a long day at the ballpark. The second game was delayed for about 90 minutes because of inclement weather.

Baltimore won the opener 11-5, but the Orioles haven't swept a doubleheader in eight years. That's a span of 26 twinbills without coming out with a sweep (13 times swept, 13 splits).

Blue Jays starter Bowden Francis (4-2) returned from Triple-A Buffalo and notched the victory. He worked 5½ innings, giving up three runs on six hits. He walked one and struck out two.

Colton Cowser and Jordan Westburg homered for the Orioles, who were aiming to build a three-game winning streak. Cowser hit Francis' third pitch of the game deep to right-center to draw Baltimore even at 1-1.

In Game 1, Zach Eflin made a strong first impression with his new team by taking a shutout into the fifth inning.

Anthony Santander hit a two-run home run, Ryan Mountcastle had a solo shot to go with a run-scoring single, Jordan Westburg collected three doubles and drove in two runs and Ramon Urias also was credited with a pair of RBIs.

Eflin (6-7) was acquired last week in a trade with the Tampa Bay Rays.

MLB

MONDAY'S BOX SCORES

Arizona 9, Washington 8												
Washington	510		002		000							
- 8 15 0												
Arizona.....	000		110		115		- 9		14		0	
Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Abrams ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.256					
Yepetz 1b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.364					
Ramirez dh	4	2	2	2	1	0	.333					
Wood lf	3	1	1	1	2	1	.239					
Ruiz c	5	1	2	0	0	0	.220					
Call rf	3	1	2	3	2	0	.368					
Vargas 2b	5	0	2	0	0	0	.269					
Young cf	5	0	2	0	0	1	.254					
Lipscomb 3b	5	1	1	0	0	1	.217					
Totals	39	8	15	8	5	4						
Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Marte 2b	5	1	3	3	0	1	.299					
Moreno c	5	1	1	0	0	0	.253					
Gurriel Jr. lf	4	2	2	0	1	0	.269					
Walker 1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.254					
Newman 1b	3	0	2	1	0	0	.274					
a-Carroll ph	1	1	1	2	0	0	.214					
Grichuk dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.072					
b-Pederson ph-dh	1	0	1	1	0	0	.280					
McCarthy rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.280					
Suarez 3b	3	2	1	0	1	1	.219					
Thomas cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.197					
Perdomo ss	4	1	2	2	0	1	.253					
Totals	37	9	14	9	3	4						

a-homered for Newman in 9th. b-singled for Grichuk in 8th.

2B: Abrams (22), Ramirez (3), Ruiz (10), Newman (15), Suarez (16). **3B:** Thomas (1). **HR:** Call (1), Marte (24), Carroll (8). **RBI:** Ramirez 2 (15), Wood (16), Ruiz 2 (35), Call 3 (4), Marte 3 (7), Newman (22), Carroll 2 (38), Pederson (44), Perdomo 2 (14). **CS:** Young (6). **SB:** Abrams (20). **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 4 (Ruiz, Vargas 2, Lipscomb), Arizona 2 (McCarthy, Suarez). **RISP:** Washington 7 for 11, Arizona 4 for 10. **GIDP:** Lipscomb, Moreno, Grichuk. **DP:** Washington 2, Arizona 1.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Parker	5.0	4	2	2	2	3	74	4.31
Barnes	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	3.59
Ferrer	1.0	1	1	1	1	19	2.71	
Law	0.1	2	1	1	0	0	18	3.27
Garcia	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	1	4.26
Finnegan L, 2-5	0.1	5	5	5	0	0	28	3.48
Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Montgomery	4.0	9	6	6	3	1	78	6.51
Castro	2.0	5	2	2	2	0	41	5.93
Ceconi	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	31	5.96
Mantiply W, 5-2	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	11	4.08

Inherited runners: Garcia 2-1. **HBP:** Abrams. **Umpires:** HP-Wills, 1B-Fairchild, 2B-Ballou, 3B-Walsh. T: 3:00. A: 18,790 (48,405).

Pittsburgh 5, Houston 3												
Pittsburgh.....	000	001	013	-	5	6	3					
Houston.....	000	020	001	-	3	9	0					
Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Palacios rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.230					
Taylor cf	3	1	2	3	0	0	.209					
Reynolds lf	4	0	1	0	1	2	.288					
Cruz ss	4	0	1	1	0	2	.253					
Teller 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.248					
Bart dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.237					
Hayes 3b	2	1	0	0	2	0	.239					
Bae cf-rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.188					
Joe rf	2	0	0	0	1	2	.237					
Triolo 2b	3	2	1	0	1	0	.199					
Grandal c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.184					
Totals	33	5	6	5	5	11						
Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Altuve 2b	4	0	2	1	1	0	.311					
Bregman 3b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.254					
Alvarez lf	4	0	2	1	1	0	.299					
a-McCormick pr	4	0	0	0	0	2	.208					
Diaz dh	5	0	1	0	0	2	.287					
Pena ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	.279					
Singleton 1b	2	1	1	0	1	1	.234					
b-Dubon ph-lb	1	0	0	0	0	1	.271					
Meyers cf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.236					
Caratini c	3	1	2	0	0	0	.270					
Cabbage rf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.225					
Totals	33	3	9	2	6	8						

a-ran for Alvarez in 9th. b-struck out for Singleton in 8th.

E: Hayes, Cruz, Skenes. **2B:** Cruz (22), Triolo (6), Diaz (18). **HR:** Taylor (3), Grandal (4). **RBI:** Taylor 3 (17), Cruz (54), Grandal (18), Alvarez (47), Alvarez (55). **SB:** Taylor (4), Reynolds (6), Hayes (10), Triolo (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 5 (Cruz 2, Bart 2, Joe), Houston 6 (Alvarez, Diaz 2, Pena, Dubon, Meyers). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 2 for 8, Houston 2 for 10. **GIDP:** Alvarez, Meyers. **DP:** Pittsburgh 2.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes	6.0	5	2	1	3	6	101	1.90
Mlodzinski	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	8	3.18
Chapman W, 4-4	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	15	3.63
Bednar S, 19	1.0	2	1	1	2	0	20	4.95
Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Scott	3.0	0	0	0	0	4	35	1.37
Ort	2.2	2	1	1	0	1	26	1.59
Abreu H, 25	1.1	1	0	0	1	3	30	2.75
Presly BS, 6	1.0	2	1	1	2	15	3.54	
Hader L, 4-6	1.0	1	3	3	2	2	30	4.11

Inherited runners: Abreu 1-1. **HBP:** Caratini. **WP:** Skenes. **Balk:** Hader (1). **Umpires:** HP-Tichenor, 1B-Jones, 2B-Ceja, 3B-Gonzalez. T: 2:51. A: 40,522 (41,168).

Kansas City 8, Chicago White Sox 5												
Kansas City.....	001	100	060	-	8	15	0					
CWS.....	100	012	100	-	5	11	2					
Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Massey 2b	4	1	0	0	1	1	.249					
Witt Jr. ss	5	2	4	4	0	0	.347					
Pasquantino 1b	5	0	2	0	0	1	.261					
Perez c	5	0	2	1	0	0	.276					
Renfroe rf	4	1	1	1	1	1	.234					
Melendez lf	5	1	2	1	0	1	.197					
Fermin dh	5	0	1	0	0	0	.291					
Garcia 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.221					
Isbel cf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.235					
a-Hampson ph-cf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.253					
c-Frazier ph	0	1	0	0	0	0	.197					
Blanco cf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.236					
Totals	40	8	15	8	2	5						
Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Lopez ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.237					
Vaughn 1b	4	1	1	1	1	1	.234					
Robert Jr. cf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.221					
Sheets rf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.220					
Fletcher rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.173					
Jimenez dh	4	1	2	0	0	0	.240					
Benintendi lf	4	1	1	1	1	1	.199					
Baldwin lf	4	0	0	0	2	1	.194					
DeJong 3b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.228					
Robinson c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.182					
b-Julks ph	1	0	0	0	1	0	.236					
Totals	35	5	11	5	1	6						

a-struck out for Isbel in 7th. b-grounded out for Robinson in 9th. c-was hit by a pitch for Hampson in 8th.

E: Benintendi, Robinson. **2B:** Witt Jr. (30), Pasquantino (24), Garcia (18), Robert Jr. (11), Jimenez (9), Benintendi (10). **HR:** Witt Jr. (19), Renfroe (11), Melendez (12), Vaughn (12). **RBI:** Witt Jr. 4 (75), Perez (7), Renfroe (41), Melendez (30), Isbel (28), Vaughn (46), Robert Jr. (25), Sheets (31), Benintendi (29), DeJong (41). **CS:** Benintendi (2). **SB:** Garcia (24), Robert Jr. (14). **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 6 (Perez, Renfroe 2, Fermin, Isbel 2), Chicago 4 (Lopez, Sheets 2, Benintendi). **RISP:** Kansas City 3 for 12, Chicago 4 for 9. **GIDP:** Perez, Lopez, Vaughn, Robinson. **DP:** Kansas City 3, Chicago 1.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Marsh	4.2	6	2	2	1	3	69	4.71
Zerpa	0.2	3	2	2	0	2	14	3.40
Stratton W, 3-3	1.2	2	1	1	0	1	20	4.60
Smith H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	10	140	4.41
McArthur S, 18	1.0	0	0	0	0	10	10	5.31
Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Flexen	6.0	9	2	2	0	2	97	5.13
Wanks H, 7	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	18	3.16
Birns H, 9	0.2	3	3	3	0	22	383	4.83
Brebbia L, 0-6 BS, 3	0.1	1	3	3	1	20	571	5.71
Peralta	1.0	1	3	3	1	0	19	2.57

OLYMPICS

SWIMMING

Murphy keeps medal streak alive in 100 back

Michelle R. Martinelli and
Gentry Estes
USA TODAY

NANTERRE, France — Ryan Murphy is three-for-three when it comes to Olympic medals in the men’s 100-meter backstroke after winning bronze in Monday night’s final at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

So, obviously, he was smiling after the medal presentation while taking a victory lap around the pool deck at Paris La Défense Arena with Italian gold medalist Thomas Ceccon and Chinese silver medalist Xu Jiayu.

But as the 29-year-old American turned toward his family, his smile grew even bigger, and he started to laugh. It was more than simply seeing his wife, Bridget Konttinen, after his bronze medal-winning swim.

“When I was walking back around, Bridget was holding up a sign, and it said, ‘Ryan, it’s a girl!’ ” Murphy explained later. “So I’m having a baby girl in January, so that was Bridget’s gender reveal to me.”

He, of course, knew they were expecting, but the sign was a surprise.

“We honestly both thought it was going to be a boy, and everyone we were talking to thought it was going to be a boy,” he said. “So that’s really, really exciting.”

“And I think we’re only a couple of weeks behind Trevor Lawrence, too,” the Florida native and Jacksonville Jaguars fan joked.

In a tight 100 backstroke race that was really anyone’s to win, Murphy finished with a time of 52.39 behind Ceccon’s 52-flat and Xu’s 52.32. All eight finalists’ finished within .84 seconds of each other.

Murphy — a three-time Olympian and now seven-time medalist — started off strong and was in second at the 50-meter mark behind Xu before surging to the lead on the back half. But he lost a little steam in the final few meters and was out-touched.

“What I’ve really improved on over the years is being able to frame things really quickly,” Murphy said. “So immediately, you hit the wall, you’re hoping to win. And that was obviously my initial notion. [It’s], ‘Yeah, I want to win.’

“But getting third behind Thomas and Xu — they’re both really, really talented guys. They’ve been really good at this sport for a long time. They deal well with pressure. So being third in the world behind them, no, I’m really not disappointed in that.”

Despite the close finish, Murphy’s 100 backstroke Olympic record of 51.85 from the 2016 Rio Olympics remained intact, along with Ceccon’s 51.60 world record from 2022.

Entering the Paris Games with six medals, four gold, Murphy was the 2016 Olympic champion in the 100 and 200 backstroke at the Rio Olympics. Three years ago at the Tokyo Games, he won a



Ryan Murphy gets his bronze medal in the men’s 100-meter backstroke during the Paris Olympics at Paris La Défense Arena. ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

bronze and silver medal in those respective events. He also was part of the gold medal-winning men’s medley relay teams in Rio and Tokyo.

Murphy has one more individual event; he will swim the 200 backstroke — prelims are Wednesday with the final Thursday — at the Paris Olympics. He’ll also likely be part of Team USA’s men’s 4x100-meter medley relay and have a shot at more Olympic hardware with that final scheduled for Aug. 4.

When asked if he’s dedicating his latest Olympic medal to his unborn daughter, Murphy had an easy answer: “Absolutely. Everything is going to be dedicated to that little girl.”

Hobson barely misses gold in 200 freestyle ‘dogfight’

The United States wins so many swimming medals in each Olympics, a bronze medal can feel like a drop in the bucket compared to the others. But there’s nothing like your first medal.

Luke Hobson, 21, got a taste of that Monday night at La Defense Arena. He lost, barely. But he won big, too. Hobson was beaten by only 0.07 seconds in a thrilling and youthful 200-meter freestyle final, finishing third behind 19-year-old gold medalist David Popovici of Romania and 21-year-old silver medalist Matthew Richards of Great Britain.

“It was a pure dogfight,” Popovici said. “We all fought until the last stroke with every last atom in our bodies. To-

day this was the result. It could have just as easily been the other way around. This is just the start. We’re going to have our chances to race again.”

How close was this race throughout? After the first 50 meters, Hobson was in last place.

Less than a second, however, separated him from the leader. Gradually, Hobson gained ground, going from seventh to fourth, and then in the final 50, it was anyone’s gold to grab.

Looked for a flash like Hobson might win it, too.

Nonetheless, Hobson was pleased when he looked at the scoreboard to see he’d touched just behind Popovici and only 0.02 behind Richards.

“The field from what I could tell was all bunched together pretty tight,” said Hobson, a 12-time All-American at the University of Texas who hails from Reno, Nevada. “So I kind of thought to myself, ‘Just be patient. Wait to strike.’ Coming home the last 50, I think we were all giving it all we had. Years of hard work go into this, and I think a lot of that paid off for me in the last 50. ...

“In a race as tight as that, just happy to end up on the podium.”

There could be more in this Olympics for Hobson, who is expected to swim in the 4x200 relay.

“I was expecting to be within striking distance of the podium,” he said. “... Really happy I got my first medal. Just a feeling of excitement. I’m super happy with it.”

American women pile up more medals

Team USA swimmers Katie Grimes and Emma Weyant finished second and third in the women’s 400-meter individual medley Monday night on Day 3 of swimming at the Paris Olympics. And Canadian star 17-year-old Summer McIntosh set the pace early and never looked back to take the gold.

In the physically and mentally draining parade of all four strokes, Grimes won the silver medal with a time of 4:33.40, while Weyant won bronze with a 4:34.93 at Paris La Défense Arena. McIntosh won gold with a time of 4:27.71.

This is 22-year-old Weyant’s second Olympic medal in the 400 IM after winning silver at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, but it’s 18-year-old Grimes’ first after she finished fourth in her only event three years ago, the 800-meter freestyle.

Weyant and Grimes qualified first and second, respectively, in Monday morning’s prelims ahead of McIntosh, but given how taxing the race is, it’s reasonable to assume they were all doing just enough to make it to finals.

While Weyant’s Paris Olympics are over after her lone event, Grimes still has the 1,500-meter freestyle, which begins Tuesday, and the open water 10K marathon swim in the Seine River — set for August 8, if the water is clean enough.

FENCING

Crowd embraces Kharlan, who wins medal for Ukraine

Josh Peter
USA TODAY

PARIS — The Ukrainian fencer wept. And she beamed.

And she basked in cheers of her countrymen Monday night during the women’s individual saber competition at the Paris Olympics.

Olga Kharlan won a bronze medal. But make no mistake, it was a golden moment.

She gave Ukraine its first Olympic medal of the Paris Games — and first since Russia invaded her country almost 2½ years ago — in a stirring 15-14 victory over Sebin Choi of South Korea.

“I’m really happy, and, you know, sad at the same time,” Kharlan told reporters later, “because my country goes through this moment, the war.”

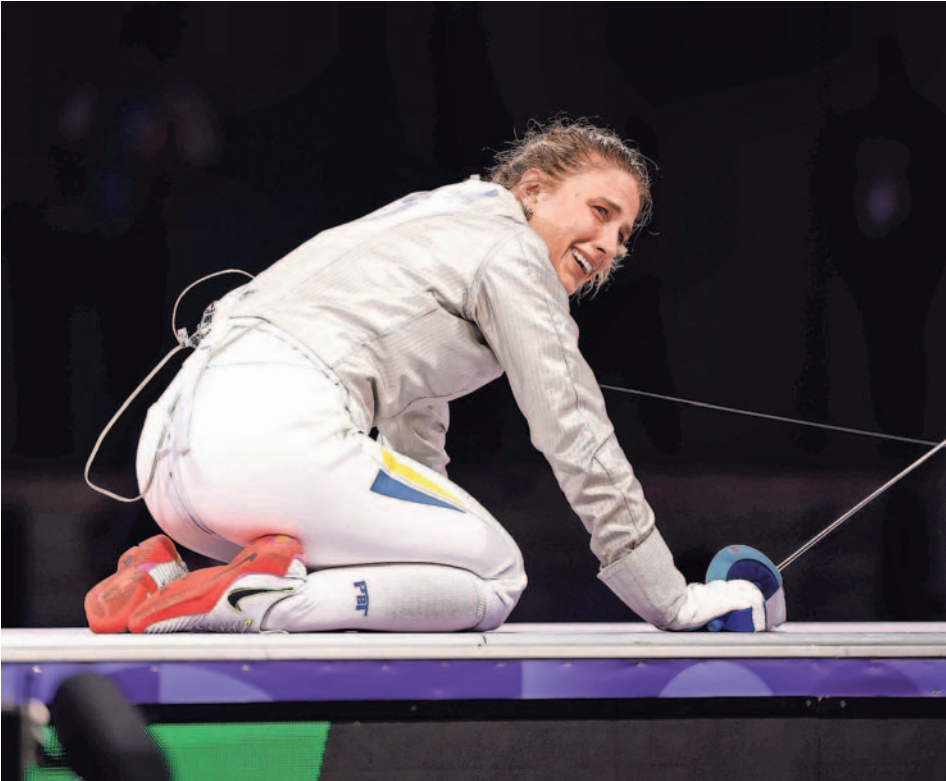
On the fencing strip inside the cavernous Grand Palais, Kharlan, 33, at one point looked destined for defeat.

She trailed 12-7. But as Kharlan began to lose ground and hope, the crowd — which included a large contingent of Ukrainians — came alive with cheers and then chants.

“Ol-ga! Ol-ga!”

Then Kharlan came alive.

One point after another, she climbed back into the bout. The crowd grew louder. Kharlan fought harder.



Olga Kharlan defeats Sebin Choi in a women’s sabre bronze medal bout during the Paris Olympics. YUKIHITO TAGUCHI/USA TODAY SPORTS

She stormed all the way back and, when the referee signaled the final, clinching point was hers, Kharlan

dropped to her knees.

She sobbed. She kissed the strip. And then she greeted a procession of

countrymen and countrywomen who came down from the stands to embrace her.

It was not just Ukrainians cheering in a crowd that included Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee. In the semifinals, pitted against France’s Sara Balzer, the French rooted for their own in Balzer’s 15-7 victory over Kharlan.

But in the bronze medal bout, as Kharlan fell deeper into a hole against Choi, the crowd appeared determined to help lift the Ukrainian back into the contest.

“All the public cheered,” she said later, “and it helped.”

Those who know nothing about fencing may have heard about Kharlan in February. She was disqualified at the world championships for refusing to shake the hand of a Russian opponent after winning the match.

But Monday was more about triumph than statements.

Kharlan is a five-time Olympian, and now she has a fifth medal. There is a gold, a silver and two other bronze.

But the medal from these Olympics, Kharlan said, is different.

“All the sacrifices, all the tragic moments,” she said, referring to 2½ years of war. “It’s special because it’s for my country.”

OLYMPICS

SKATEBOARDING

Americans pick up 2 medals

Dan Wolken
USA TODAY

PARIS — For a few moments Monday, both Jagger Eaton and Nyjah Huston thought they had the gold medal half-way around their neck. They ended up with silver and bronze, respectively, when Japan’s Yuto Horigome put down a mind-blowing trick on his last attempt to sweep past the field and win the title for a second straight Olympics.

But skateboarding isn’t your normal Olympic sport. Competitors root for each other. They inspire each other. Breaking a boundary is as good as winning a medal. So in that sense, Eaton and Huston will leave Paris with an even bigger reward: The two American stars can say they were part of the greatest final in the history of competitive skateboarding.

“I would say not only were gnarly tricks done, but the energy between the crowd and so many things we were just feeding off it,” said Eaton, who improved on his bronze from Tokyo three years ago. “That crowd, with everybody killing it, it felt like a bunch of friends having an amazing day at skateboarding. Yeah, there was a lot on the line. But it was just so fun I was grateful to be out there.”

But there was also drama and tension. For the 29-year-old Huston, one of the most decorated skateboarders in history with 12 X Games gold medals and six World Championship golds, it was undeniable.

In Tokyo, where skateboard made its Olympic debut, Huston flopped as the big favorite and finished seventh. Now here he was in Paris, executing big, bold tricks and earning scores that put him in first place with three attempts to go.

He was in a position where his score could only improve – and he had one more big surprise up his sleeve just in



American Jagger Eaton competes in the men's street skateboarding final at the Paris Olympics at La Concorde 3 in Paris. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

case he needed it. On any other day, the score he’d already banked probably would have been good enough to win.

“That feeling of sitting up there, especially being in first place and seeing everyone have a couple more tries, it is a feeling I can’t even describe,” Huston said. “Nerves beyond being able to describe it.”

Then, on the fourth out of five attempts, Huston watched Eaton one-up him with a nollie-270-nose blunt – “it’s never been done in competition, and I’ve barely done it myself,” Eaton said – and raised his arms as he saved a wobbly landing.

When the score came in at a massive

95.25, Eaton had turned the tables. Suddenly he was in front in the cumulative total, 281.04 to 279.38, with Huston having just one attempt to try and replace his lowest counted score.

“I thought I won,” Eaton said.

Neither of them could have expected what came next – though maybe they should have.

Horigome, who had failed to land three straight tricks heading to his final attempt, was not having his best day. He needed something huge just to get onto the podium. Instead, he trumped them both with his own 270 that the judges gave a 97.08. It was one of the highest scores ever in a skateboard competi-

tion, and he leapt past both of them into first place.

“Yuta is a savage,” Eaton said. “There’s no other way to put it.”

“Insane,” Huston said. “Insane.”

Both Americans had one more opportunity. Eaton’s problem, though, was that he’d already played his cards. In skateboarding, you can’t repeat a trick you’ve already landed, so the strategy of doing his best trick on the fourth run rather than the fifth and final run left him without much chance to improve.

“I could sit here and be so bummed, but I did the best I wanted to do, the best I could and I gave 100 percent through this whole journey,” he said. “It happens. I’m sitting here with a silver medal. We’ve got two USA on the podium. I’m fine.

“The level of competition was unbelievable. It was arguably the greatest final in skateboarding history.”

Huston did have something still in the bag for his final trick: A “switch heel crooked grind” that he’d executed in some other competitions on smaller obstacles. But this was the Olympics at an unfamiliar venue – a totally different situation than he’d faced.

“Man, it’s a hard one to put down in that moment,” Huston said.

Still, Huston leaves with a medal, a little bit of redemption for his stunningly poor performance in Tokyo and motivation to come back in four years when the Olympics will be in Los Angeles where he makes his home.

“It’s a mixture of feelings because I was close to getting that gold and I’m truly mad at myself for just not putting that last trick down because I know it’s something I can do,” he said. “But skateboarding is all about having fun because it’s the best thing on earth, the funnest thing on earth.”

Follow Dan Wolken on social media @DanWolken

Basketball

Continued from Page 1NS

and more athletes like herself are reaching a stage of long term in their careers.

“The world of sports has changed a lot and we have many opportunities to improve ourselves physically, how to

train and more, that’s why we see examples like Rudy (Fernandez) or Lebron (James) and Rafael (Nadal),” Taurasi said.

“Its happening in all sports and it’s one thing that will continue with the next generation.”

The Japanese, however, showed that they can also dance around the court, capitalizing on seven three-point bas-

kets in the first half by Rui Machida and Mai Yamamoto. At just 5-foot, 7-inches (1.62 m) tall, they proved they can still be dangerous and daring.

Hosts France pulled off a major upset in Group C, after overcoming a first-quarter deficit to beat Canada 75-54.

Fifth-ranked Canada withered under a rally by the seventh-ranked hosts, scoring just two points in the second

quarter – the fewest points ever scored by any team in a single quarter at the Olympics, men or women.

On a day of surprises, favoured Belgium got their Olympic bid off to a bad start, losing 83-69 to debutantes Germany in Group B.

The second shock of the Group B came when Nigeria beat Australia 75-62.

Bronze

Continued from Page 1NS

closer to second-place China (1.3 points off) than they did fourth-place Great Britain (2.2 points).

Stephen Nedoroscik, a pommel horse specialist whose only contribution to the team score came on the very last routine of the night, helped clinch the bronze for Team USA with a solid performance. But every member of the team hit clutch routines, including Paul Juda and Asher Hong on vault and Frederick Richard on high bar.

“Stephen was in the hardest seat of the entire competition, being last up on the last event, knowing that if you hit a routine, you’re probably going to medal,” McClure said. “And he did it.”

The Americans finished fifth at each of the previous three Summer Olympics, and they finished fifth again in Saturday’s qualifying. The difference on Monday largely revolved around Malone.

Malone, 24, had been expected to qualify for the all-around individual final and perhaps even contend for a medal, but he had a dreadful showing in qualifying – with falls on pommel horse, floor and even high bar, the event in which he won a world championship in 2022.

It was such a jarring performance that some of his teammates later said he apologized to them afterwards.

“I know Brody’s a dog and a competitor,” Hong said. “So I know he’s going to come into team finals and full send.”

And he did. Malone improved upon or matched his performances on every apparatus, including a significantly better showing on high bar that helped keep the U.S. ahead of its bronze rivals. After falling twice on the apparatus in qualifying, he looked much more comfortable – and stuck the landing – for a



Paul Juda performs on the vault during the men’s team final at Bercy Arena in Paris. JAMES LANG/USA TODAY SPORTS

score that was nearly two full points higher than his score Saturday.

“They went out and they did their job,” said Sam Mikulak, a three-time Olympian who now coaches Malone and Nedoroscik. “They went 18 for 18 ... the part we’re most proud of is they didn’t count any falls. They showed heart. They showed heart. They enjoyed every step of it.

Hong, Juda and Richard, meanwhile, each competed in four events – each pumping up their teammates, and the

crowd, between routines. Chants of “U-S-A!” rang out at Bercy Arena at multiple points over the course of the night.

“Once we got to pommel horse, that’s when it became real,” said Syque Caesar, who also coaches Malone and Nedoroscik. “We started crunching numbers and we’re like, ‘Just stay on this horse and we can do this.’”

Although China and Japan were long considered the favorites, the U.S. knew for months that it would benefit from the absence of Russia, which is banned

from team competitions at these Olympics because of its invasion of Ukraine. The Americans knew the bronze medal was there for the taking. And they took it.

“We’re trending or trending in the right direction,” McClure said. “Obviously Japan and China are still in another category ... This is gonna be motivating. Extremely motivating. So, tonight, celebrate like you know we did something we haven’t done in so long, since 2008.

SCOREBOARD



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All times Eastern

MLB

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	63	44	.589	—
N.Y. Yankees	63	45	.583	½
Boston	56	49	.533	6
Tampa Bay	54	52	.509	8½
Toronto	50	57	.467	13

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	64	42	.604	—
Minnesota	58	47	.552	5½
Kansas City	58	49	.542	6½
Detroit	52	56	.481	13
Chicago	27	82	.248	38½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	55	51	.519	—
Seattle	56	52	.519	—
Texas	52	55	.486	3½
L.A. Angels	46	60	.434	9
Oakland	44	64	.407	12

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	65	41	.613	—
Atlanta	56	49	.533	8½
N.Y. Mets	56	50	.528	9
Washington	49	58	.458	16½
Miami	39	67	.368	26

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	61	45	.575	—
St. Louis	54	52	.509	7
Pittsburgh	54	52	.509	7
Cincinnati	51	55	.481	10
Chicago	51	57	.472	11

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	63	44	.589	—
San Diego	57	51	.528	6½
Arizona	56	51	.523	7
San Francisco	53	55	.491	10½
Colorado	38	69	.355	25

Sunday's Scores				
Tampa Bay 2, Cincinnati 1				
Baltimore 8, San Diego 6				
Cleveland 4, Philadelphia 3				
Toronto 7, Texas 3				
Minnesota 5, Detroit 0				
Atlanta 9, N.Y. Mets 2				
Seattle 6, Chicago White Sox 3				
L.A. Dodgers 6, Houston 2				
Chicago Cubs 7, Kansas City 3				
Milwaukee 6, Miami 2				
St. Louis 4, Washington 3				
San Francisco 5, Colorado 4				
L.A. Angels 8, Oakland 6				
Pittsburgh 6, Arizona 5				
N.Y. Yankees 8, Boston 2				

Monday's Scores				
Baltimore 11, Toronto 5				
Toronto 8, Baltimore 4				
Cleveland 8, Detroit 4				
N.Y. Yankees 14, Philadelphia 4				
Boston 14, Seattle 7				
Cincinnati 7, Chicago Cubs 1				
N.Y. Mets 15, Minnesota 2				
Texas 6, St. Louis 3				
Kansas City 8, Chicago White Sox 5				
Pittsburgh 5, Houston 3				
Milwaukee 8, Atlanta 3				
Arizona 9, Washington 8				

Tuesday's Games				
Cleveland (Williams 0-3) at Detroit (TBD), 1:10 p.m.				
Toronto (Bassitt 8-9) at Baltimore (Burnes 10-4), 6:35 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 3-2) at Philadelphia (Nola 11-4), 6:40 p.m.				
Miami (Cabrera 1-3) at Tampa Bay (TBD), 6:50 p.m.				
Seattle (Castillo 8-10) at Boston (Pivetta 4-7), 7:10 p.m.				
Chicago (Steele 2-4) at Cincinnati (TBD), 7:10 p.m.				
Minnesota (TBD) at N.Y. Mets (Manaea 6-4), 7:10 p.m.				
Texas (Scherzer 2-3) at St. Louis (Lynn 5-4), 7:45 p.m.				
Kansas City (Wacha 7-6) at Chicago (Cannon 1-5), 8:10 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Perez 2-5) at Houston (Brown 9-6), 8:10 p.m.				
Atlanta (Sale 13-3) at Milwaukee (TBD), 8:10 p.m.				
Colorado (TBD) at L.A. Angels (Canning 3-10), 9:38 p.m.				
Washington (Corbin 2-10) at Arizona (Nelson 7-6), 9:40 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Glasnow 8-6) at San Diego (Waldron 6-9), 9:40 p.m.				
Oakland (Sears 7-8) at San Francisco (Ray 1-0), 9:45 p.m.				

OLYMPICS

Medal Leaders Through July 29				
Nation	G	S	B	Total
United States	3	8	9	20
France	5	7	3	15
Japan	6	2	4	12
PR of China	5	5	2	12
Great Britain	2	5	3	10
Australia	5	4	0	9
Republic of Korea	5	3	1	9
Italy	2	3	3	8
Canada	2	1	2	5
Hong Kong, China	2	0	1	3
Kazakhstan	1	0	2	3
South Africa	1	0	2	3
Brazil	1	0	2	3
Sweden	0	1	2	3
Germany	2	0	0	2
Belgium	1	0	1	2
Moldova	0	0	2	2
Azerbaijan	1	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1
Fiji	0	0	1	1

Kosovo	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	0	1
Croatia	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Hungary	0	0	1	1
India	0	0	1	1
Ireland	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Switzerland	0	0	1	1
Türkiye	0	0	1	1
Ukraine	0	0	1	1

July 29 Results

Basketball	
Women's Group Phase: Nigeria 75, Australia 62	
Women's Group Phase: Germany 83, Belgium 69	
Women's Group Phase: France 75, Canada 54	
Women's Group Phase: United States 102, Japan 76	

Beach Volleyball	
Men's Preliminary Phase - Pool A: COTTAFAVA/NICOLAI 2, NICOLAIDIS/CARRACHER 0	
Men's Preliminary Phase - Pool F: BOERMANS/DE GROOT 2, HERRERA/GAVIRA 0	
Women's Preliminary Phase - Pool B: XUE/X.X.XIA 2, BANSLEY/BUKOVEC 0	
Women's Preliminary Phase - Pool F: HUBERLI/BRUNNER 2, ALVAREZ M/MORENO 0	
Women's Preliminary Phase - Pool D: MELISSA/BRANDIE 2, POLETTI/MICHELLE 0	

Men's Preliminary Phase - Pool F: EVANS/BUDINGER 2, KROU/GAUTHIER-RAT 0	
Women's Preliminary Phase - Pool D: ESMEE/ZOE 2, TINA/ANASTASIJA 0	
Men's Preliminary Phase - Pool A: CHERIF/AHMED 2, AHMAN/HELLVIG 1	
Women's Preliminary Phase - Pool F: PLACETTE/RICHARD 2, LUDWIG/LIPPMANN 0	
Women's Preliminary Phase - Pool B: NUSS/KLOTH 2, MARIAFE/CLANCY 0	

Field Hockey

Men's Pool B: Australia 2, Ireland 1	
Women's Pool A: China 5, Japan 0	
Men's Pool B: Argentina 1, India 1	
Women's Pool B: Spain 1, United States 1	
Women's Pool B: Australia 4, Great Britain 0	
Women's Pool B: Argentina 4, South Africa 2	
Women's Pool A: Netherlands 2, Germany 1	
Women's Pool A: Belgium 5, France 0	

Handball

Men's Preliminary Round Group A: Germany 37, Japan 26	
Men's Preliminary Round Group A: Slovenia 31, Croatia 29	
Men's Preliminary Round Group B: Denmark 30, Egypt 27	
Men's Preliminary Round Group A: Sweden 29, Spain 26	
Men's Preliminary Round Group B: Norway 27, France 22	
Men's Preliminary Round Group B: Hungary 35, Argentina 25	

Judo

Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Tohar BUTBUL 10, Messaoud Redouane DRIS 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Kristine JIMENEZ 10, Muna DAHOUK 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Arthur MARGELIDON 1, Behruz KHUJAZODA 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Marica PERISIC 10, Manita SHRESTHA PRADHAN 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Igor WANDTKE 10, Roldeney de OLIVEIRA 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: LIEN Chen-Ling 10, Mariama KOROMA 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Manuel LOMBARDO 10, Adam STODOLSKI 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Mariana ESTEVES 10, Maria ESCANO 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Masayuki TERADA 11, Philippe Abel METELLUS 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: FUNAKUBO Haruka 1, Veronica TONIOLO 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Akil GJAKOVA 10, Daniel CARGNIN 0	
Men -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Daria BILODID 10, Nera TIEBWA 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Samuel GASSNER 10, Hasan BAYAN 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Timna NELSON LEVY 1, Kaja KAJZER 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Mark HRISTOV 10, Alexandre HOUSSEIN 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Enkhriilen LKHAGVATOGOO 10, Nora GJAKOVA 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Joan-Benjamin GABA 10, Lasha SHAVDATUASHVILI 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Pauline STARKE 11, Julie BEURSKENS 1	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Andrew Thomas MLOGU 10, William TAI TIN 1	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Mayra PARDAYEVA 10, CAI Qi 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Erdenebayar BATZAYA 1, Nils STUMP 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Eteri LIPARTELIANI 10, Lele NAIRNE 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Salvador CASES ROCA 10, Faye NJIE 0	
Men -57 kg Elimination Round of 32: Shukurjon AMINOVA 10, Zouleiha Abzetta DABONNE 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Murodjon YULDOSHEV 10, Daniyar SHAMSHAYEV 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 16: Christa DEGUCHI 10, Kristine JIMENEZ 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 32: Adil OSMANOV 10, Jack YONEZUKA 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 16: Marica PERISIC 1, LIEN Chen-Ling 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 16: Hidayat HEYDAROV 10, Tohar BUTBUL 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 16: Sarah Leonie CYSIQUE 10, Mariana ESTEVES 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 16: Arthur MARGELIDON 10, Igor WANDTKE 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 16: FUNAKUBO Haruka 10, Daria BILODID 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 16: Manuel LOMBARDO 1, Masayuki TERADA 0	

Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 16: HUH Mimi 10, Timna NELSON LEVY 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 16: Akil GJAKOVA 10, Samuel GASSNER 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 16: Enkhriilen LKHAGVATOGOO 11, Pauline STARKE 1	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 16: HASHIMOTO Soichi 1, Mark HRISTOV 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 16: Rafaela SILVA 10, Mayra PARDAYEVA 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 16: Joan-Benjamin GABA 10, Andrew Thomas MLOGU 0	
Women -57 kg Elimination Round of 16: Eteri LIPARTELIANI 1, Shukurjon AMINOVA 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 16: Erdenebayar BATZAYA 1, Salvador CASES ROCA 0	
Women -57 kg Quarterfinal: Christa DEGUCHI 1, Marica PERISIC 0	
Men -73 kg Elimination Round of 16: Adil OSMANOV 10, Murodjon YULDOSHEV 0	
Women -57 kg Quarterfinal: Sarah Leonie CYSIQUE 10, FUNAKUBO Haruka 0	
Men -73 kg Quarterfinal: Hidayat HEYDAROV 10, Arthur MARGELIDON 0	
Women -57 kg Quarterfinal: HUH Mimi 1, Enkhriilen LKHAGVATOGOO 0	
Men -73 kg Quarterfinal: Akil GJAKOVA 10, Manuel LOMBARDO 0	
Women -57 kg Quarterfinal: Rafaela SILVA 10, Eteri LIPARTELIANI 0	
Men -73 kg Quarterfinal: Joan-Benjamin GABA 10, HASHIMOTO Soichi 0	
Men -73 kg Quarterfinal: Adil OSMANOV 10, Erdenebayar BATZAYA 0	
Women -57 kg Repechage contest: FUNAKUBO Haruka 10, Marica PERISIC 0	
Women -57 kg Repechage contest: Eteri LIPARTELIANI 10, Enkhriilen LKHAGVATOGOO 0	
Women -57 kg Semifinal of Table B: HUH Mimi 1, Rafaela SILVA 0	

Women -57 kg Semifinal of Table A: Christa DEGUCHI 10, Sarah Leonie CYSIQUE 0	
Men -73 kg Repechage contest: Manuel LOMBARDO 10, Arthur MARGELIDON 0	
Men -73 kg Repechage contest: HASHIMOTO Soichi 10, Erdenebayar BATZAYA 0	
Men -73 kg Semifinal of Table B: Joan-Benjamin GABA 11, Adil OSMANOV 0	
Men -73 kg Semifinal of Table A: Hidayat HEYDAROV 1, Akil GJAKOVA 0	
Women -57 kg Contest for Bronze Medal A: FUNAKUBO Haruka 10, Rafaela SILVA 0	
Women -57 kg Contest for Bronze Medal B: Sarah Leonie CYSIQUE 11, Eteri LIPARTELIANI 0	
Women -57 kg Final: Christa DEGUCHI 10, HUH Mimi 0	
Men -73 kg Contest for Bronze Medal A: Adil OSMANOV 10, Manuel LOMBARDO 0	
Men -73 kg Contest for Bronze Medal B: HASHIMOTO Soichi 1, Akil GJAKOVA 0	
Men -73 kg Final: Hidayat HEYDAROV 10, Joan-Benjamin GABA 0	

Rugby Sevens

Women's Pool B: Great Britain 26, South Africa 17	
Women's Pool B: Australia 19, Ireland 14	
Women's Pool C: Japan 39, Brazil 12	
Women's Pool C: France 31, United States 14	
Women's Pool A: Canada 26, China 17	
Women's Pool A: New Zealand 38, Fiji 7	
Women's Placing 9-12: Japan 15, South Africa 12	
Women's Placing 9-12: Brazil 28, Fiji 22	
Women's Quarter-final: New Zealand 55, China 5	
Women's Quarter-final: United States 17, Great Britain 7	
Women's Quarter-final: Canada 19, France 14	
Women's Quarter-final: Australia 40, Ireland 7	

Swimming

Women's 400m Individual Medley Final	
1. Sumner McIntosh, Canada, 4:27.71 points.	
2. Katie Grimes, United States, 4:33.40.	
3. Emma Weyant, United States, 4:34.93.	
4. Freya Constance Colbert, Great Britain, 4:35.67.	
5. Ella Ramsay, Australia, 4:38.01.	
6. Mio Narita, Japan, 4:38.83.	
7. Katie Shanahan, Great Britain, 4:40.17.	
8. Ellen Walsh, Ireland, 4:40.70.	

Men's 200m Freestyle Final

1. David Popovici, Romania, 1:44.72 points.	
2. Matthew Richards, Great Britain, 1:44.74.	
3. Luke Hobson, United States, 1:44.79.	
4. Duncan Scott, Great Britain, 1:44.87.	
5. Lukas Maertens, Germany, 1:45.46.	
6. Danas Rapsys, Lithuania, 1:45.46.	
7. Maximilian Giuliani, Australia, 1:45.57.	
8. Katsuhiko Matsumoto, Japan, 1:46.26.	

Men's 100m Backstroke Final

1. Thomas Ceccon, Italy, 52.00 points.	
2. Jiayu Xu, China, 52.32.	
3. Ryan Murphy, United States, 52.39.	
4. Apostolos Christou, Greece, 52.41.	
5. Pieter Coetzee, South Africa, 52.58.	
6. Hugo Gonzalez de Oliveira, Spain, 52.73.	
7. Yohann Ndoye-Brouard, France, 52.77.	
8. Oliver Morgan, Great Britain, 52.84.	

Women's 100m Breaststroke Final

1. Tatjana Smith, South Africa, 1:05.28 points.	
2. Qianting Tang, China, 1:05.54.	
3. Mona Mc Sharry, Ireland, 1:05.59.	
4. Benedetta Pilato, Italy, 1:05.60.	
5. Lilly King, United States, 1:05.60.	
6. Angharad Evans, Great Britain, 1:05.85.	
7. Eneli Jefimova, Estonia, 1:06.50.	
8. Alina Zmushka, AIN, 1:06.54.	

Women's 200m Freestyle Final

1. Mollie O'Callaghan, Australia, 1:53.27 points (OR).	
2. Ariarne Titmus, Australia, 1:53.81.	
3. Siobhan Bernadette Haughey, Hong Kong, China, 1:54.55.	
4. Mary-Sophie Harvey, Canada, 1:55.29.	
5. Xunjuan Yang, China, 1:55.38.	
6. Barbora Seemanova, Czechia, 1:55.47.	
7. Erika Fairweather, New Zealand, 1:55.59.	
8. Claire Weinstein, United States, 1:56.60.	

Table Tennis