



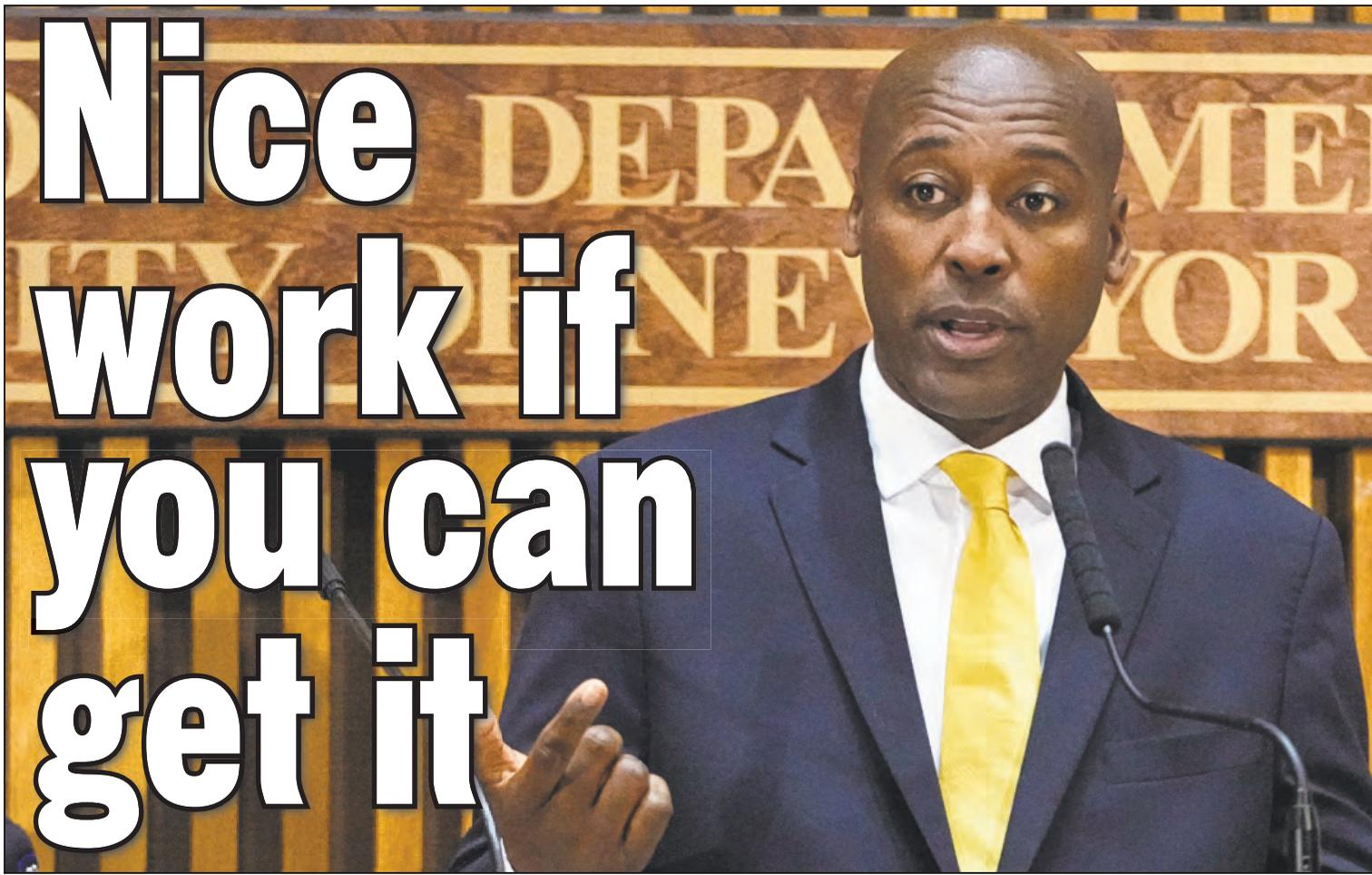
## Subway worker lied about attack and slashed own hands 'to get summer off work'

Transit system cleaner Henry Herring, 54, allegedly lied about being attacked and injured himself in hopes of a long vacation. "My goal was to have the summer off because it was too hot down there," he told investigators.

**PAGE 7**

# LOGO MOTIVE

# Nice work if you can get it



## Mayoral dinner auction dilemma

A charitable organization co-founded by Mayor Adams' brother auctioned off a dinner with Hizzoner during a Hamptons fundraiser over the weekend, raising eyebrows with ethics watchdogs.

But Angels Helpers, a non-profit that provides city youngsters access to arts and culture, said it would be pulling the prize when The Post asked about it on Monday.

It wasn't clear who made the winning bid — of upwards of \$3,500, according to sources with knowledge of the event — for the dinner with the mayor and his brother Bernard Adams.

The sit-down was auctioned off during a Saturday gala held at a sprawling, nearly \$15 million estate in Southampton. Billed as an "enchanted summer night," tickets for the Angels Helpers event ran between \$500 and \$1,000.

Pressed by The Post on whether the nonprofit had cleared the dinner prize with the city's Conflicts of Interest Board, fellow co-founder Alisa Roever called it an "oversight."

She blamed the person holding the event for making a mistake before hanging up.

The legal counsel for the nonprofit, Angelo R. Bisceglie Jr., told The Post Roever wasn't authorized to offer up the dinner for auction and that no money had been exchanged.

"This was a no-no, someone just got excited," he said. *Craig McCarthy*

**JOB CREATION:** Tarik Sheppard (above), who is in Mayor Adams' inner circle, denies that a \$180,000-a-year city role was created for his wife.

## \$180K gig for wife of Eric's NYPD ally

By CRAIG MCCARTHY

The wife of a top NYPD official with close ties to Mayor Adams has quietly been pocketing a six-figure salary in a newly created gig she was appointed to nearly two years ago, The Post has learned.

Jasmine Sheppard was appointed to the \$180,000 a year role of "chief communications strategy officer" at the Department of Youth & Community Development in November 2022, according to her husband's newly filed financial disclosure forms.

City Hall never publicly announced the new position, nor Sheppard's appointment to the role. No job description or listing could be found online.

According to the DYCD's organizational chart, the chief communi-

cations strategy officer manages the chief public information officer.

Sheppard previously worked in corporate communications for the United States Tennis Association, with her name appearing on about a dozen press releases between 2010 and 2020, when she appears to have left the post.

She also has served since 2004 as the "Voice of God" assisting the co-hosts of an annual fundraising gala for the nonprofit Trey Whitfield Foundation, which promotes equal access to educational opportunities.

Her husband,

Tarik Sheppard, who is part of Adams' inner circle along with other police bigwigs, was named NYPD deputy commissioner of public information last August, a role that comes with a salary of around \$240,000 a year.

Jasmine Sheppard's position, an associate commissioner level role, did not exist prior to her hiring, according to records from the DYCD and the Conflicts of Interest Board, which publishes an annual list of public employees with "substantial policy discretion."

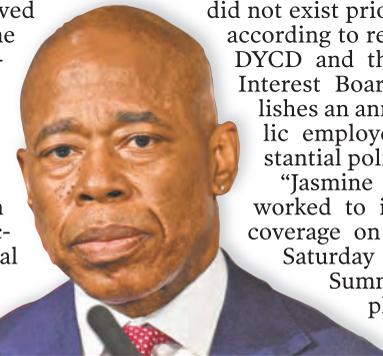
"Jasmine Sheppard has worked to increase media coverage on programs like Saturday Night Lights, Summer Youth Employment Program, and

Summer Rising, expanded the city's public-private partnerships with organizations like the New York Yankees and spearheaded important community events," City Hall spokesperson Liz Garcia said in a statement.

Garcia did not respond to questions about how Sheppard was picked for the post, what its duties entailed or why it was needed.

Reached by phone Monday, Tarik Sheppard denied that the role was created for his wife and claimed "she applied for a position vacated by someone."

"The joke of it is that you guys continuously write stuff and your vetting process is very weak and we continue to show that. I don't care what you write and neither does she," the NYPD official added, before hanging up.



### INSIDE TODAY

**News Columns**

- Paul du Quenoy ..... 4
- Martin Gurri ..... 12

**Gossip**

- Page Six ..... 18-19
- Cindy Adams ..... 21

**Post Opinion p. 29-31**

**Business p. 33-35**

**Fun & Games**

- Su Doku ..... 36
- Crossword ..... 36
- Horoscope ..... 47

**Classifieds p. 37**

**Sports p. 37-57**

- NY Post Action .... 40-41
- Stefan Bondy ..... 45

**Weather p. 47**

**Television p. 58-59**

### LOTTERY

**NEW YORK**

- Midday Nos. Mon.: 108
- Midday Win-4 Mon.: 0666
- Midday Take 5 Mon.: 4, 15, 25, 37, 38
- Evening Nos. Mon.: 343
- Evening Win-4 Mon.: 2060
- Evening Take-5 Mon.: 2, 6, 11, 19, 23
- Pick-10 Mon.: 1, 4, 7, 14, 25, 26, 28, 29, 34, 39, 43, 44, 46, 50, 51, 56, 60, 67, 75, 79
- Cash-4-Life Mon.: 8, 25, 33, 38, 46; Cash Ball: 2
- Powerball Mon.: 29, 42, 44, 51, 54; Powerball: 12;

**Power Play: x2**

**NEW JERSEY**

- Pick-3 Mon.: 574; Fireball: 4
- Pick-4 Mon.: 0529; Fireball: 4
- Cash-5 Xtra Mon.: 7, 14, 20, 29, 42; Xtra: 3
- Pick-6 Mon.: 12, 13, 23, 26, 45, 46; Double Play: 11, 17, 26, 40, 41, 43

**CONNECTICUT**

- Play-3 Mon.: 628; Wild: 9
- Play-4 Mon.: 8480; Wild: 5
- Cash-5 Mon.: 2, 14, 18, 24, 35
- Lucky-for-Life Mon.: 20, 26, 28, 33, 44; Lucky Ball: 9

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# Delightful Daisy's a dock star

"Star Wars" stunner Daisy Ridley comes down to Earth for the September/October Women's Health, stripping to her skivvies for a lakeside chat about swimming in the Black Sea for her film "Young Woman and the Sea." "After the fact, I was like, How did I actually do that?" she said.



# EAU'S A GOOD BOY?



dolcegabbana/instagram

**SENSE OF SMELL:** Dolce & Gabbana's \$100 Fefé fragrance is meant to be sprayed on dogs.

## Dolce dog mist

By CHRIS NESI

Smelling like a dog may soon be a compliment.

Italian fashion brand Dolce & Gabbana is catering to the well-heeled pampered pet crowd with a new "fragrance mist" designed exclusively for dogs.

At \$100 a bottle, Fefé, named for D&G cofounder Domenico Dolce's own pooch, promises a "gentle and delicate" scent made to be gently worked into the fur to give your fragrant Fido "a moment of scented pampering."

The alcohol-free mist comes in a spearmint-colored glass bottle adorned with a 24-karat-gold-plated paw print featuring the Dolce & Gabbana logo.

An included D&G dog collar features the same 24-karat-gold-plated doggie paw from the bottle.

According to D&G, the fragrance combines scents like musk, sandalwood and ylang-ylang for an "olfactory masterpiece" it claims appeals to dogs — though it does advise avoiding the nose area when applying the scent.

The 40-second ad for the new product shows a vari-

ety of well-groomed pups posed on a stool for a photo-shoot, each juxtaposed with a descriptor like "delicate," "authentic" and "enigmatic."

There's a wide variety of similar products on the market, including up-market choices also in the \$100-a-bottle range.

But Fefé is the first to be released by an established purveyor of luxury goods for humans.

According to Forbes, the pet industry has surged in recent years, with 2023 spending reaching an eye-popping \$303 billion, up 16% from 2022.

Although Fefé sounds like a whimsical product, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals told The Guardian that buyers should consider their pup's sensitive noses before slathering them in pricey canine cologne.

"Dogs rely on their sense of smell to communicate and interact with their environment as well as the people and other animals within it. Therefore we advise that strong-scented products such as perfumes or sprays are avoided, especially as some smells can be really unpleasant for dogs," it said.

# BIDENOMICS

Wednesday,  
July 31 close  
**40,861**

# REAL DOW-NER

By JAMES FRANNEY  
and ARIEL ZILBER

## Bloodbath for markets in wake of grim jobs report

Wall Street nose-dived on Monday, as fears of the United States tipping into recession following weak economic data last week rippled through global markets.

The bloodbath began in Japan as the blue-chip Nikkei index saw its biggest one-day rout — plunging 12.4% — since the infamous 1987 Black Monday meltdown.

It soon cascaded

to the US on the heels of Friday's troubling jobs report and rising unemployment, sparking concern that the Federal Reserve was moving too slowly in cutting decades-high interest rates.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged more than 1,033 points,

capping a drop of nearly 10% since hitting a near-record 41,183 last Wednesday afternoon when Fed Chair Jerome Powell hinted that rate cuts were "on the table" for September.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq slid 3.4% as Apple, Nvidia and the other so-called

Magnificent Seven companies that used to be the stars of the stock market continued to wilt.

The mega-cap Mag 7 — which also includes Tesla, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft and Google-parent Alphabet — lost more than \$650 billion in combined market value.

Wall Street's so-called Fear Index jumped to a high of 65.73 before the market opened, up about 42 points from its close on Friday. The VIX pared gains and closed at 38.57, its highest in nearly four years.

"There's no question that last week something was broken [in markets] and it's going to take some time to fix this damage," said Joe Tigay, portfolio manager for Rational Equity Armor Fund.

That fix is in-

Dow Jones Industrial Average

# White House of cards comes tumbling down

**PAUL du QUENOY**



**T**IME has finally caught up with the Biden-Harris administration's disastrous economic policies.

Global markets tumbled on Monday, sparked by sharp declines in leading US indicators, a worse than expected July jobs report and fears that the dollar will weaken in the coming months.

The sum of all fears — a hard recession — is again looming after President Biden squandered his time in office jacking up unproductive government spending, subsidizing key Democratic voting constituencies with costly handouts and gas-lighting the public Soviet-style whenever any negative economic news reared its ugly head.

Since Biden entered office in 2021,

he has overseen annual budget deficits of \$2 trillion a year, thanks in part to his student-loan bailout plan and other giveaways.

The 1.3 million public sector jobs he's added kept unemployment figures artificially low — and with no significant firings or layoffs among government workers, last week's spike in job losses meant they've come almost exclusively in the private sector.

### Facade falls before elex

Biden's irresponsible strategy ballooned the national debt by \$7.9 trillion, boosted inflation and drove up interest rates.

Its obvious political goal was to keep a lid on deeper economic problems while the incumbent president was still campaigning for re-election.

Since Kamala Harris replaced Biden as the Democratic nominee in a backroom sleight of hand last month, hyping that delusion has assumed peak importance.

Now the lie is falling apart. After steadily rising over the past few months, unemployment stands at its highest level in three years, accompanied by a worsening national affordability crisis, rising consumer debt and persisting inflation.

In response to Monday's sell-off, Wall Street's VIX index, which measures market turbulence, spiked to its highest level since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. A prospective interest rate reduction widely expected from the Federal Reserve next month turned out to be a classic case of too little, too late, if it comes at all.

Even as the election campaign gets nastier, most Americans will face November poorer, angrier, deeper in debt, more frustrated and less certain of their futures than in any election since Jimmy Carter — whose fecklessness eerily resembles Joe Biden's — unsuccessfully sought a renewed mandate in 1980.

That's bad news for Harris, whose campaign has advanced no eco-

nomomic policy of any kind, while Biden and most congressional Democrats favor tax hikes, yet more debt-based government spending and no meaningful solution to illegal immigration, which has enduring economic consequences.

### No confidence

Investor confidence is sinking like a stone, with the worst recent losses suffered by leading companies in the tech sector — a longtime engine of American economic growth that seems to be breaking down in a mire of declining profits, flawed products, consumer mistrust and, ironically, a decaying relationship with its traditional allies in the Democratic Party.

No one on Wall Street trusts either the lame duck incumbent or his anointed successor — and, on Nov. 5, she may well discover that most Americans don't, either.

Paul du Quenoy is president of the Palm Beach Freedom Institute.

**RUNAWAY MARKET:** The market plunge comes as Vice President Kamala Harris has secured her place as the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee after President Biden's announcement last month that he was dropping out of the 2024 race.



# FOR WALL STREET

creasingly a call for Powell to convene an emergency Fed meeting to cut rates ahead of their scheduled September sit-down.

"I'm calling for a 75-basis point emergency cut in the Fed funds rate, with another 75-basis point cut indicated for next month at the September meeting," Wharton School professor emeritus of finance Jeremy Siegel told CNBC on Monday morning.

"And that's minimum."

The Fed fund rate has remained between 5.25% and 5.50% since last July.

## 'Emergency' brake

Other experts downplayed the chances of an emergency rate cut happening.

"The Fed could ride in on a white horse to save the day with a big rate cut," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth.

But he added: "Those are usually reserved for emergencies, like COVID, and an unemployment rate of 4.3% doesn't really seem like an emergency."

A cut would ease the pressure on US households and companies by making it cheaper to take out loans and providing an eventual boost to economic

growth.

"Evidence certainly points to a slowing economy. But slowing and slow are two very different points," said Jack Janasiewicz, lead portfolio strategist at Natixis Investment Managers.

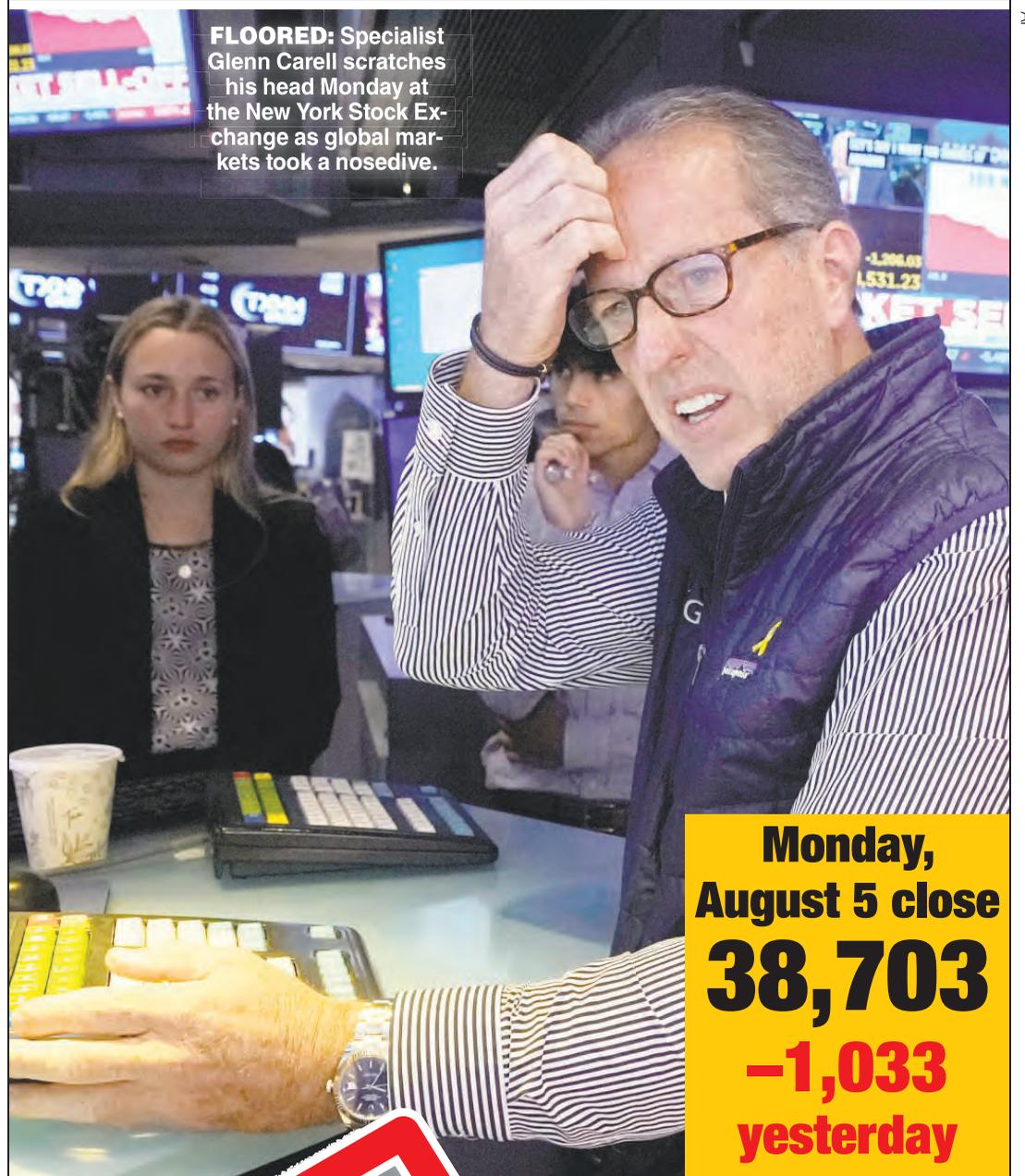
"Lower prices certainly can have a massive psychological effect. But investors need to step back and look at the fundamental story, which still remains decent."

## Political fallout

Whether the Fed moves now or in September, any cut before the presidential election in November will thrust the independent central bank into the middle of the political campaign between Republican former President Donald Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump has previously accused Powell — whom he first nominated to run the Fed — of displaying political favoritism toward the Democratic Party, and suggested he would not reappoint the central banker as chair if he wins in November.

*With Wires*



**FLOORED:** Specialist Glenn Carell scratches his head Monday at the New York Stock Exchange as global markets took a nosedive.

**Monday,  
August 5 close**  
**38,703**  
**-1,033**  
**yesterday**



## 'Kamala Crash' as veep spooks investors: Trump

Former President Donald Trump on Monday labeled the sharp drop in the stock market the "Kamala Crash," linking it to the ascension of Vice President Kamala Harris as the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.

"Of course there is a massive market

downturn. Kamala is even worse than Crooked Joe," Trump, 78, wrote on social media Monday morning — after the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 1,000 points before closing down more than 600 points on Friday.

"Markets will NEVER accept the

Radical Left Lunatic that DESTROYED San Francisco and California, as a whole. Next move, THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF 2024! You can't play games with MARKETS. KAMALA CRASH!!!" Trump added.

*Steven Nelson*

# Hell to dwell here

## Tenants bug out in infested buildings

By NICOLE ROSENTHAL

This landlord's vermin-infested buildings have tenants itching to escape.

Residents of about a dozen buildings owned by the Tran Group are in a state of revolt and even refusing to pay rent — saying they've been living in houses of horrors plagued by rats, house mites, unsafe construction and even a discarded toilet stored in an apartment lobby.

Owner Son "Sonny" Tran and associate Anh Do haven't addressed the complaints in 10 buildings in Manhattan and The Bronx — instead opting to pay fines and keep up business as usual, tenants said.

"Our front door is always broken. The cameras in our building don't work. We have no exterminator here," said Milan Moore, a Lower East Side tenant leader. "I was without any way of cooking for over four months. Rats are running in the basement. This has to stop."

### 'Plague proportions'

Tran properties average 467 open Housing and Preservation Department violations per building, ranging from mold and leaking roofs to missing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms — as well as 12 Department of Buildings violations per building to date, according to city records.

Do earned the No. 88 spot on Public Advocate Jumaane Williams' worst landlord list this year.

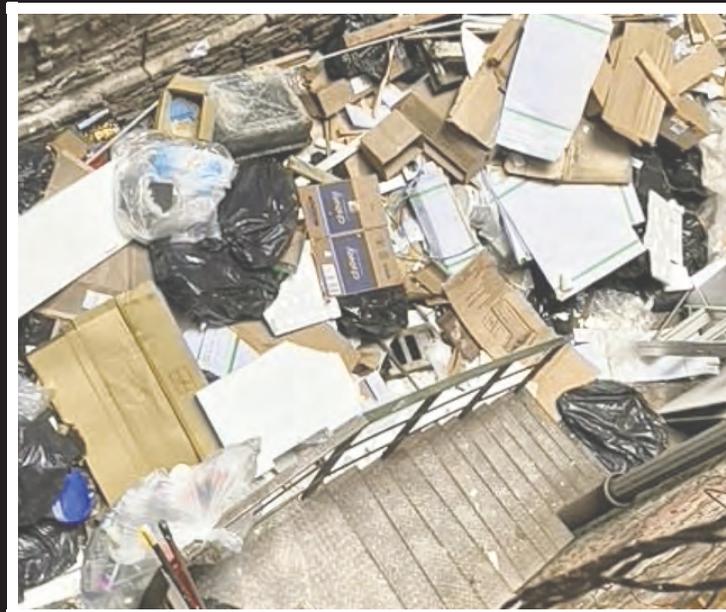
"I'm alarmed at the scale of violations and indifference toward resident well being in many Tran Group buildings," New York City Comptroller Brad Lander said. "I urge Sonny Tran to follow his legal and moral obligations and implore the city to continue closely monitoring these buildings for escalation of enforcement as needed until tenants are living in safe and dignified conditions."

Apart from the city's reports of



Tran Tenant Coalition

**SLUMMING IT:** Members of the Tran Tenant Coalition protest recently over what they say are deplorable conditions at a dozen buildings owned by the Tran Group — including mountains of trash (right) and bedbug infestations (below). Rats run wild, smoke detectors are missing and a toilet was left in a lobby for a week.



construction without a permit, lead dust, structural concerns, asbestos and more, tenants' observations range from the kooky to disgusting.

Among the complaints: a toilet sat for a week in a lobby at the Riverside Studios building at 342 W. 71st St. in April; a gas outage went unresolved for 18 months at the same building; construction dust at 219 E. 5th St. was found to have three times the legal level of lead; and a tenant at 218 Thompson St. reported he was bitten dozens of times by house mites.

Rodent populations at the Greenwich Village building on Thompson Street have grown to "plague proportions," resident

and Tran Tenant Coalition leader William Moye said.

In a lawsuit filed in April, 26 tenants of Riverside Studios admitted to going on a rent strike since November due to the "dangerous living conditions and serious loss of services within the building."

The lawsuit details common areas littered with garbage, broken intercoms, bedbug infestations in community bathrooms, mice and roaches in hallways, defective banisters and fire escapes, as well as an elevator frequently out of commission at the seven-story building.

The landlords' lawyers largely denied the claims and stated the suit "contains legal conclusions to

which no response is required." A judge ordered the violations to be corrected or be subject to a \$50 to \$150 fine per day for each violation.

A spokesperson for the Tran Group couldn't be reached.

### 'Nightmare' conditions

Advocates said the issues affect senior residents as well as over a dozen rent stabilized tenants.

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal said, "For far too long, my constituents and other Tran tenants have been subjected to untenable conditions that most New Yorkers couldn't imagine in their wildest nightmares."

# Pol: Set death for 9/11

A congresswoman whose Brooklyn-Staten Island district was pummeled by 9/11 joined survivors of the terror attack and relatives of other victims Monday to demand the feds finally set a trial date for its alleged mastermind.

Republican Rep. Nicole Malliotakis added that the government must seek the death penalty for accused fiend Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two of his cohorts — after the Pentagon initially OK'd a plea deal that took their potential execution off the table.

"At the end of the day, what we want is for the government to provide justice to the families and those Americans who were killed," said Malliotakis, who was flanked by 9/11 survivors, family members and first responders at "Postcards," Staten Island's Sept. 11 Memorial at North Shore Waterfront Esplanade Park.

"The only way we're going to do that is if we seek the maximum penalty, which is death," she said.

The Republican representative made the pointed remarks days after the shocking news that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin revoked a set of astonishing plea deals that would have spared Mohammed and his co-conspirators the death penalty.

Kevin Sheehan, Steve Janoski

# Lightning hits flight

A Delta plane flying over the Atlantic Ocean was forced to quickly turn around and retreat to Boston following a lightning strike Sunday, the airline and the FAA said.

Delta Flight 112 was headed to Rome from Logan International Airport on Sunday when the flight crew reported a lightning strike following departure, the FAA said.

The aircraft turned around during what was supposed to be a roughly seven-hour flight, Flightradar24 said.

The plane headed back to Logan "out of an abundance of caution after encountering lightning," a Delta spokesperson said in an email.

David Propper



**GEORGE HELMY**

Could replace Menendez.

## Ex-Murphy aide eyed for NJ slot

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy is strongly considering appointing his former chief of staff to replace convicted Sen. Bob Menendez, The Post has learned.

Ex-chief of staff George Helmy is a Murphy confidant who sources said did the governor's iron-fist work behind the scenes — and he could be headed to Washington when Menendez resigns effective Aug. 20.

Murphy has informed some Democratic Party leaders in the Garden State that he's eyeing Helmy — now an executive vice president and external affairs and policy officer at RWJBarnabas Health — to fulfill Menendez's term, which expires at the end of the year.

A Murphy spokesman and Helmy declined to comment. But the governor had high praise last September when it was announced that the chief of staff was leaving his administration.

"I don't know where we would be without George," he'd said. *Carl Campanile*

## Burned body in W'chester

A body was dumped in a shopping cart and torched near a Westchester County bridge early Monday, local authorities said.

First responders were dispatched to the area of the Oak Street Bridge — at the border of Yonkers and Mount Vernon — for a fire around 2 a.m., cops said.

Once the blaze was extinguished, fire and police officials discovered a lifeless body, authorities said.

Initial reports indicated the body was dismembered.

*Amanda Woods*

# MTA worker fakes attack in 'vacay ruse'



**CUT ME A BREAK!** Subway cleaner Henry Herring is seen with bandaged hands after allegedly slashing himself in a bid to escape hellish underground heat for the summer — claiming a phony assailant attacked him.

## HE'S CAUGHT BLED HANDED

By KEVIN SHEEHAN, DORIAN GEIGER AND JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

He tried to take his bosses for a ride.

An MTA subway-system cleaner was apparently so desperate for a vacation he lied about getting slashed on the job — going so far as to cut his own hands to sell the ruse, according to prosecutors.

"My goal was to have the summer off because it was too hot down there," Henry Herring, 54, allegedly told investigators after the hoax was exposed.

Herring, who was hired as a transit cleaner last year and has since been suspended without pay by the MTA, was arrested on a charge of falsely reporting an incident last week.

According to a complaint filed in Queens Criminal Court, Herring told cops from the 107th Pre-

cinct on July 31 that he was attacked at the 179th Street subway station in Jamaica, Queens, shortly after 3 a.m. that morning.

He claimed that he was cleaning a train car when he was "pushed from behind by an unknown male" and that the stranger "swung a cutting instrument" at him, leaving cuts on both of his hands, according to the complaint.

### Platform camera grab

But surveillance video from the station helped to catch Herring red-handed.

"When I went into the room I found something in there to cut myself," he allegedly admitted to cops after being confronted with the video.

"I apologize for wasting everyone's time," he said. "I did not know that there were cameras on the platform."

Herring was arraigned Sunday and released without bail pending a return to court on Oct. 8.

"Assaults on MTA employees are a real issue and the NYPD has made real progress identifying and capturing perpetrators," MTA Communication Director Tim Mitton said in a statement.

"What's alleged in this case is beyond disappointing," Minton said, "pulling resources from investigations of actual crimes while undermining confidence in the safety of the transit system."

Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union had expressed outrage over the "attack" on social media.

"At ~ 3:45 a.m., a member was slashed on both hands defending himself from assault while on duty. He is now recovering at home," the X post signed by union president Richard Davis said. "MTA is failing to protect us. De-

spite crime stats, our safety remains at risk due to erratic behavior throughout the system."

The union declined to comment on Monday.

### Newly paroled

Herring has run afoul of the law before, doing two stints in upstate prisons, according to records.

He served 14 years behind bars on a slew of robbery and weapons charges dating to 2007. He was released in 2021 and came off parole in May after he was hired by the MTA. He also served less than six months on an earlier robbery conviction and was released in January 1990.

Herring could not be reached directly for comment.

Queens Defenders, which is representing Herring, said it does not comment on open cases.

## Paraguay swimmer evicted from Oly Vill.

# Dog 'vaults' into action

## Helps calm gymnasts

By BROOKE STEINBERG

Meet the 2024 Paris Olympics' MVP: Most Valuable Puppy.

Beacon, a 4-year-old golden retriever, has played an important role in this year's Olympics as a therapy dog for Team USA's Gymnastics team.

The pup has accompanied the team made up of Olympic supaw-stars, including Simon Biles, Suni Lee, Jordan Chiles, Jade Carey and Hezly Rivera, and with Beacon by their side, the weight of mental health comes a little easier.

During trials, the team's "Goodest Boy" was always on call — sometimes even putting in 15-hour days, ESPN reported.

USA Gymnastics' first-ever therapy dog "senses people's stress and knows how to soothe



**BEAMING:** US therapy dog Beacon (above) with gymnast Suni Lee and (left) with Lee and other members of the US gymnastics team.

them," his owner, Tracey Callahan Molnar, told USA Today.

As a former gymnast herself, Molnar, 65, has a pretty good sense of which team member could use some love.

"I watch the women and if they're animated when they see him, I'll walk toward them," Molnar told ESPN, adding that she is mindful that interacting with Beacon might not come naturally or be as soothing for

those who didn't grow up with dogs.

The organization's only part-time, four-legged staff member knows to respond to any team member in need whether or not he's called by name.

"He will turn on a dime without seeing who it is," Molnar said. "He picks up on the stress and will pull to that person immediately."

"They absorb the stress of the people they're relieving the stress off of," she said. "So even though he might be lying still for two hours, he's wiped out afterwards."

According to Molnar, "Petting a dog, or even watching someone pet a dog, can lower blood pressure and anxiety, help increase the feel-good hormones serotonin and dopamine and lower cortisol levels."

"We all need a certain amount [of cortisol]," she said of the stress hormone. "But too much isn't healthy."

In fact, a study by researchers at the University of Washington found that "petting an animal for 10 minutes can help reduce levels of cortisol, the body's stress hormone, as well as focus on the present moment."

bsteinberg@nypost.com

**CITY OF ♥:** Payton Otterdahl missed a shot put medal, but gave Maddy Nilles some hardware of her own in a Paris proposal.



Payton Otterdahl will never forget his time in Paris.

The American shot putter got engaged to his girlfriend, Maddy Nilles, proposing next to the Eiffel Tower Sunday during the 2024 Olympics.

"Meanwhile, in the City of Love ... I love you forever, Maddy Nilles!" Otterdahl wrote on Instagram with a series of photos.

# Shot puts a ring on it

The sweet snaps show Otterdahl, 28, getting down on one knee, the couple kissing and Otterdahl putting a ring on Nilles' finger.

Nilles reposted the photos on her Instagram story. "Je vous aime (I LOVE YOU)," she wrote.

Nilles, an assistant track and field coach at Nebraska, was a thrower at North Dakota State, where Otterdahl also competed in the shot put.

Otterdahl just competed in his second Olym-

pic Games, finishing fourth in the men's shot put final on Saturday with a throw of 22.03 me-



pers after he placed 10th in Tokyo three years ago.

Teammates Ryan Crouser and Joe Kovacs won gold and silver, respectively, while Jamaica's Rajindra Campbell took bronze.

"Fourth in the world! It stings to have been so close to earning a medal for the USA, but I am proud nonetheless," Otterdahl, a Rosemount, Minn., native, wrote on Instagram after Saturday's event. "The furthest Olympic 4th place ever. Congratulations to my fellow competitors. It's always an honor competing among such great men. Thank you to my friends, family, and coach for the support this year. It means the world to me." Justin Tasch

Kirby Lee-USA TODAY Sports



# for 'skimpy' outfits & Disneyland side trip

# THE FRENCH KISS-OFF



By JENNA LEMONCELLI

Paraguayan swimmer Luana Alonso might have had too much fun during the Paris Olympics.

The 20-year-old butterfly specialist was asked to leave the Olympic Village for creating an inappropriate environment — which was reportedly tied to a trip to Disneyland Paris that angered Paraguayan Olympic officials and for wearing skimpy outfits instead of team clothing.

Alonso documented her theme-park visit with photos on Instagram after she failed to advance out of her heat and into the women's 100-meter butterfly semifinals on July 27.

## Champagne & mouse ears

She modeled a pair of Mickey Mouse ears in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle in a few snapshots, while another featured two champagne flutes toasting at the park.

The drinking age in France is 18. The photos were posted July 29 to her Instagram account, where she has just shy of 600,000 followers.

Paraguayan media reported that Alonso chose a tourist destination over supporting her teammates,

which upset the South American nation's Olympic leadership.

A Daily Mail report also said Alonso became a distraction to competitors with her "skimpy clothing and socializing with other athletes."

She checked into a hotel in Paris and visited high-end stores and restaurants after she was asked to leave the Olympic Village, the report said.

"Her presence is creating an inappropriate atmosphere within Team Paraguay," Larissa

Schaerer, the head of the Paraguayan Olympic Committee, said in a statement to The Sun on Monday.

"We thank her for proceeding as instructed, as it was of her own free will that she did not spend the night in the Athletes' Village."

Alonso had reportedly been staying in the Olympic Village despite not qualifying in her event, which is allowed. She also announced her retirement from the sport on social media after the race.

The former Virginia Tech student appeared to be back in the US on Monday when she posted a photo of an American flag to Instagram.

"Pony up," she wrote with a peace



Instagram

sign emoji over another snapshot of a statue of horses.

Alonso has yet to address the situation.

It's difficult to know everything that goes on at the Olympic Village, which spans parts of three cities — Saint-Denis, Saint Ouen and L'Île-Saint-Denis — and houses 14,250 athletes.

The rules in the Village also differ depending on the host country — and teams can follow their own guidelines.

Athletes are required to uphold social media guidelines

at the Paris Olympics.

"Athletes staying in the Olympic Village are also required to respect the protected atmosphere and privacy of the Olympic Village and are not allowed to report on the activities of other residents, unless they have obtained such other persons' consent beforehand," the guidelines state.

"Please note that it is forbidden to take photos or to record audio or video in restricted areas, including but not limited to the medical areas or doping control station."

Team USA follows a no-alcohol policy in the Olympic Village in order to respect athletes who are still competing in the latter half of the games.



**AU REVOIR:** Luana Alonso didn't make the 100m butterfly final but had fun on Instagram (near left) before organizers found out about her Disneyland Paris visit (inset).

# Double subway push



## 2 tourists hurt, menace busted

**DANGER:** Suspect Ebony Butts is in custody after allegedly shoving two female Mexican tourists onto the tracks (one of whom is aided by EMS, inset).

By LARRY CELONA,  
JOE MARINO,  
AMANDA WOODS  
and ZOE HUSSAIN

An unhinged woman with a lengthy rap sheet violently shoved two female Mexican tourists onto the tracks in a Manhattan subway station early Monday, the NYPD and sources charged.

Ebony Butts, 42, was arrested after pushing the women, ages 27 and 28, off the northbound F platform at the Delancey Street/Essex Street station — an unprovoked attack that prompted bystanders to spring into action to help, according to cops.

At least one good Samaritan, Joe Avivia, 36, a tourist himself on a weekend trip from Texas, told The Post that he and others helped pull the women up from the tracks.

“It was surreal,” he said. “You hear stories of people getting pushed, but it actually happening in front of your eyes is different.

“I was like, ‘Whoa, what’s going on?’ It all happened so fast.”

The unprovoked attack un-

folded just after 2:15 a.m. inside the Lower East Side station, where the two women stood on an otherwise mostly empty platform near Avivia, who was chatting with his friends and family.

As they waited for a train, a suspect — Butts, according to police — suddenly shoved one of the Mexican women onto the tracks, cops said.

### Panicked struggle

Her friend scrambled to help the woman back up onto the platform, only to be also shoved off it by Butts, police said.

Bystanders, including Avivia, rushed to help and pulled the two women safely back onto the platform, police said.

No train was incoming at the time of the incident.

One of the victims was spotted being taken out of the station in a wheelchair, while the other had to be helped up the stairs by first responders, photos taken by The Post show.

The women on vacation from Mexico were taken to Bellevue

Hospital to be treated for minor injuries and released later Monday.

When reached by reporters Monday, the women declined to comment.

Cops already assigned to patrol the station quickly took the barefoot Butts into custody and hauled her away in cuffs.

Butts has since been charged with reckless endangerment and assault.

It wasn’t immediately clear why the suspect, who did not appear to know the two women, targeted the victims.

Sources described Butts, who was taken to Bellevue Hospital for an evaluation, as an emotionally disturbed person.

She has at least nine prior arrests dating back to 1999, records show.

The most recent arrest on her rap sheet was another unprovoked attack where she punched a random 38-year-old woman in the face in Brooklyn in 2016.

MTA boss Janno Lieber, during an unrelated press conference later Monday, stressed the need to boost state funding to help clear

the subway system of mentally-ill people.

“Listen, we have made getting the seriously mentally-ill people out of the subway, a huge priority, in addition to everything that’s being done at the state and the city level,” Lieber said during an unrelated press conference.

“We’re running a special program we call SCOUT, which puts three MTA police officers with a clinician to find the most seriously mentally ill people and to get them into treatment voluntarily, most of the time, but involuntarily if necessary, so we’re gonna keep pushing the governor has given us extra money to expand that program.”

Avivia, who stayed with the two women on the platform as cops arrived, said he took the subway right after the attack.

He has since recounted the ordeal to friends.

“We joked about it, like, ‘Oh, this is the real New York experience,’” he said.

*Additional reporting by Aneeta Bhole, Emily Crane and Matt Troutman*



**WINSTON NGUYEN**  
Teach ‘catfished for kid porn.’

## ‘Perv’ got voluntary treatment

The Brooklyn private school teacher accused of catfishing teens for child porn voluntarily enrolled in a sex-offender treatment program before his July arrest, his lawyer revealed at a probation hearing Monday.

Winston Nguyen — a one-time “Jeopardy!” champion hired to teach at the Saint Ann’s School — narrowly escaped going back behind bars during the Manhattan court hearing over whether he violated his probation in a past conviction for stealing more than \$300,000 from an elderly couple.

“My concern here is the allegations of him preying upon the most vulnerable citizens. First it was the elderly, now it’s children,” Judge Josh Hanshaft said, threatening to jail Nguyen before instead confining him to a Harlem apartment.

His attorney, Frank Rothman, said Nguyen enrolled in the Mustard Seed program for sex offenders two months ago. *Kyle Schnitzer and Matt Troutman*

## ‘Mugger’ shot by jail guard

An off-duty city correction officer shot a teen mugger who snatched his cellphone in broad daylight, cops and sources said Monday.

Ryan Straker, 19, allegedly showed up in a building owned by the 54-year-old officer around noon Sunday on Snediker Avenue in Brownsville, Brooklyn, sources said.

During a violent struggle, the officer’s gun went off and Straker was hit once in the stomach, authorities and sources said. He was in stable condition and has since been charged. *Joe Marino, Amanda Woods and David Propper*

# Alarming news on mornings

Here's a wake-up call!

Nurse Jordan Bruss revealed in a TikTok video why you shouldn't set multiple morning alarms.

"If you're somebody who sets multiple alarms I have bad news. Don't come for me. Just trying to help," Bruss, who goes by the handle @jordan.bruss, said in the clip.

In the 37-second TikTok video, which has more than 10 million views, Bruss explains how the sequence of alarms can be harmful to your health.

"Waking to multiple alarms every morning really disrupts your rapid eye movement (REM) cycle. Frequently this actually causes sleep inertia, increased drowsiness, fatigue, mood swings and it also raises your cortisol levels," the nurse said.

She describes how the ringing alarms trigger a "fight or flight response" every time they go off, which can be deemed stressful to the body.

According to the site Joint Chiropractic, "Over time, a chronic morning 'fight or flight' adrenaline response can cause long-term stress, depression, and cardiovascular problems."

The tensions building in your body from a lack of consistent sleep can also contribute to weight gain.

"Excess cortisol levels make you gain and hang on to weight," Bruss said. "So when the alarm goes off, it's time, get up. You'll look and feel better!"

Taylor Knight

## Bloody land fight in Brazil

Armed men backed by farmers in trucks and tractors attacked Indigenous people reclaiming land in Brazil's farming state of Mato Grosso do Sul over the weekend, injuring at least 10 of them, government officials and a rights group said Monday.

The Ministry of Indigenous Affairs said five of the people injured Saturday were taken to the hospital to be treated for wounds from gunshots and rubber bullets.

It said uncertain laws surrounding land being reclaimed by the Guarani-Kaiowa people fueled the violence.

Reuters



COSMOPOLITAN

Brendan Wittied for Cosmopolitan

## Ashley Park checks in

Move over, Emily. Ashley Park, costar of hit series "Emily in Paris" and Cosmopolitan's fall covergirl — who went right back to shooting season 4 after a scary battle with sepsis — said, "I don't think I'm the most talented, prettiest, any of those things. But I do the best I can, and that work ethic always means a lot. I think I'm super resilient."



# 'ILLEGAL BIAS' AT FORDHAM

## Race-based aid fight

By CARL CAMPANILE

A legal advocacy group has filed a discrimination complaint against Fordham University, claiming the Jesuit school in The Bronx offers race- and ethnicity-based scholarships that favor black and Latino students over white and Asian students in violation of civil rights law.

The Equal Protection Project's complaint highlights several examples, such as Fordham's "Diversity Fund" and "Fordham Scholarship," for which access is restricted to black, Latino or first-generation or lower-income students.

The group also points to the school's Latino Social Work Coalition Scholarship Program, which targets aid to Latino or bilingual students while excluding their black, white and Asian peers.

The different standards based on race and ethnicity that must be met to qualify for financial assistance violate the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the EPP said in the Aug. 4 complaint filed with the US Education Department.

The legality of such "diversity, equity and inclusion" and preference programs is being challenged after the Supreme Court ruled last year that race-based preference criteria in college admissions were unconstitutional.

tional.

"The eligibility requirements for these programs openly discriminate on the basis of race and ethnicity," said EPP founder William A. Jacobson. "After the Supreme Court's 2023 decision . . . it is clear that discriminating on the basis of race to achieve diversity is not lawful. As Chief Justice [John] Roberts wrote in the majority opinion, 'Eliminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it.'"

### 'Treated differently'

Fordham's Diversity Fund, established in 2021 by trustee Valerie Rainford, aims to "ease the burdens of student loans and part-time work that disproportionately affect Black and Latinx," a summary of the program states.

The financial assistance can be used to cover tuition, housing costs or study abroad.

"Students who are not 'of color' (i.e. whites) are eligible only if they are first-generation or lower-income. As a result, two similarly situated students — one of color and one white — who are not first-generation or lower-income are treated differently depending on their race and skin color," EPP said in its complaint.

EPP has filed similar complaints against preferential scholarship and financial aid programs offered by the New York State Education Department, and the State University of New York's Albany and Buffalo campuses.

Fordham spokesman Bob Howe responded, "When [the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights] receives a complaint, they review it and decide, as a threshold matter, whether to proceed. OCR does not pursue every complaint they receive, so it would be very premature to comment."

An Education Department spokesperson said, "The Office for Civil Rights does not confirm complaints."

# Kam's final interviews for No. 2

## Met with top VP hopefuls

By DIANA GLEBOVA

Vice President Kamala Harris met with her top potential running mates Sunday in preparation for announcing her final choice before Tuesday evening.

Harris, 59, had in-person meetings at the Naval Observatory in Washington, DC, with Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, according to multiple reports. She may have met with additional candidates virtually.

The vice president will make her decision public by Tuesday evening, when she is expected to appear with her running mate in Philadelphia on the first stop of a multistate swing.

### Several vetted

Harris has been ruminating on her decision for days. The law firm Covington & Burling finished up its vetting process on her candidates on Thursday.

The firm had vetted a slate of candidates in less than two weeks since President Biden dropped his presidential bid, including Shapiro, Kelly and Walz as

## Time's up, it's Harris

The deadline for Democratic National Committee delegates to send in their votes to elect the Democratic presidential nominee eclipsed at 6 p.m. ET on Monday.

Vice President Kamala Harris was the only candidate who qualified for the virtual roll-call electronic ballot — getting more than the required 300 delegates to back her. The DNC said she

well as Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Shapiro, Kelly and Walz had all canceled events to meet with Harris over the weekend.

It's unclear how Harris will announce her No. 2 — whether it will be at the Pennsylvania rally or in a virtual format like video or text message, as reported by USA Today.

“Kamala Harris is picking her running mate any day now! This moment is historic, and as one of our campaign's most faithful supporters, we want you to play a special part in it,” the campaign said in a registration sheet to receive the announcement by text message. “Add your name to be among the first to learn about Kamala's VP pick when we break the news.”

The Democratic National Committee said Friday that Harris had already received enough delegate support to become the Democratic nominee. The final delegate vote in the virtual roll call was due at 6 p.m. Monday.

already had the majority of delegate support as of Friday afternoon.

Results of the vote were not immediately available Monday evening, but she is the presumed winner.

The virtual roll call began Thursday after the delegates voted to nominate Harris online to get in a nominee before state ballot deadlines.

Diana Glebova



MARTIN GURRI

**H**ELP me out here. Kamala Harris is the Democratic Party's presidential candidate? How on Earth did that happen?

And what about the other guy? You know, the sitting president — Joe Biden? I realize he withdrew from the race in the constitutionally mandated manner, by posting a sullen document on X, the digital platform formerly known as Twitter. That was well done. Biden managed to make Elon Musk happy after all these years.

But why did Joe go? He never said. Actually, he made it clear that he thought his magnificent record in office “merited a second term.”

If that was true, why not put it to the test, allowing those randos we call “the voters” to decide?

Biden had something like 14 million votes in the Democratic primaries. No one else had any. His obvious dottiness wasn't the reason, either. He never owned up to it — and if he had, he'd have to explain how a man too mentally enfeebled to be a presidential candidate could continue to serve as president.

In the debate with Donald Trump that began the slide to oblivion, Biden's empty eyes and zombie-like groaning, we were told, had to be written off as a really bad night.

He said he was quitting the race because saving “our democracy” was more important than “personal ambition.” Now, I happen to agree that Biden retiring permanently to the basement of his Delaware home is a boon to American democracy.

But that was true from Inauguration Day — why did he inflict his personal ambition on us for three and a half years?

### What made Joe drop?

I'm an analyst. I don't prophesy the future but I'm supposed to know why the president of the United States suddenly wakes up one morning and decides to give up his candidacy. So I'm going to run with a conspiracy theory, because why not?

I believe Biden — and his human walker, Dr. Jill, and that Kissingerian strategist, Hunter — all believed he deserved a second term, but were pushed aside by the two kingmakers who secretly run the Democratic Party: George Clooney and The New York Times.

That still doesn't get us to Harris. She's the vice president, not the alternate candidate. If Biden faltered,

AP



**“Kamala Harris, president? Evidently, I have slipped into an alternate dimension of time and space, a region where the laws of probability have been abolished.”**

she would automatically inherit the presidency but not his primary votes or delegates. The Democrats could have opted for an open convention.

They have a strong bench, or so we keep hearing. For example, there's California's Gavin Newsom, whose hair alone should be declared a national monument. There's Hilary Clinton, who keeps banging against the glass ceiling like that annoying moth outside your window. And there are others, like Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, who are the best potential candidates of all because no one outside their immediate family has heard of them.

Instead, almost on a dare, the shakers and breakers of the party settled on the one candidate who has consistently polled more poorly than the president, and who, like Biden, has made an eternal enemy of the English language.

Harris sounds like a kindergarten teacher who has forgotten her lesson — her words scatter and float away like helium balloons into the clouds. In a Washington, DC, rife with impostors and empty suits, hers is a truly authentic lightness of being.

Her abrupt elevation has been called “a coup,” but it wasn't. There were no tanks running over rioting Biden diehards — and the Demo-

# Accidental candidate Kamala a sign of our strange age

crats are entitled to anoint anyone they wish for the candidacy. It's their party, as they say.

But the rapidity of the swap startled many inside the power structure. We know Biden was surprised because he needed a second tweet after the withdrawal announcement, essentially saying "Kamala for, you know, that thing."

We know Harris was surprised because that's her normal state of mind. We know the Democratic presidential campaign, which Harris inherited, was totally befuddled because it set out at once to invent a whole new person to be known, hence-

forth, as "Kamala Harris."

This pure abstinent creature had never been named "immigration czar," had never been ranked "most liberal" in the Senate, had never donated to bail violent criminals or advocated defunding the police.

## Amnesiac candidate

It was telling, I should think, that the campaign preferred a Harris who had never done anything — a Harris that resembled a bout of amnesia, liberated from every memory of the past. Even with the assistance of a supine media, this replacement of

a replacement is unlikely to catch on. If you want a blank slate, go for Whitmer. Harris, alas, is too memorable, in her own unique way.

Americans are eager to learn the political principles that motivate the new candidate. Her handlers, we have seen, would rather she not have any.

Her detractors seem equally divided between portrayals of Kamala the Airhead and Kamala the Communist. The two are not mutually exclusive, of course, but neither gets to the essence of the matter. The ideology espoused by Harris is technically labeled "California," which ac-

demics define as "extreme performative endorsement of the latest thing." It's politics as fashion statement — as might be expected, a pastime of movie stars and the idle rich.

Thus Harris' habitual attitude toward Israel has been condemnation: She boycotted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent speech to Congress, for example, and has made it plain she blames Israel, not Hamas, for the devastation in Gaza. These gestures have failed to influence the Israelis or change a single fact on the ground in Gaza — but it's a cool look for the ruling class.

She's also all in on racial identity, though in her "Karma Chameleon" way she has sometimes chosen to emphasize the Indian ancestry of her mother, sometimes the black roots of her Jamaican father — making her, taken whole, the ideal woman of many colors.

When, in 2020, Joe Biden declared he was looking for someone "of color and/or a different gender" as the chief qualities for his vice president, Harris had all the bases covered.

In the spirit of fashionable segregation, her campaign has organized supporters into groups according to race and sex: "Black Women for Kamala," "White Women for Kamala," "Latinas for Kamala," etc. My favorite category is "White Dudes for Kamala," which met online under the auspices of that rugged exemplar of Caucasian manhood, Pete Buttigieg. The first speaker, apparently, was a black dude.

## Political chameleon

But we shouldn't make too much of this. The latest thing in California is *never* the latest thing for the United States of America.

Harris seems aware of this troubling fact, and has already tiptoed away from previous stands on border funding, a fracking ban and Medicare for All.

I wouldn't be surprised if her next online support group turned out to be "E Pluribus Unum for Kamala" — she's a political chameleon on a journey across a treacherous landscape, non-California America, and she will continue to change colors to blend in with the unfamiliar background.

Whatever one thinks of these unusual tactics, they appear to be effective. Relieved to have a candidate who doesn't drool in

front of the cameras, the Democrats feel reenergized. The media, of course, has already crowned Harris Coconut Queen of the Universe.

The pollsters are talking about a significant bump in her favor, regaining much of the ground the doddering Biden had lost. It's even odds that she will defeat Trump and become our next president. Maybe better, since the power and the glory of American culture, from Harvard to Hollywood, has aimed an immense monophonic Bronx cheer at the heedless Trump.

And here I return to my initial observation: *Kamala Harris*, president? Evidently, I have slipped into an alternate dimension of time and space, a region where the laws of probability have been abolished.

## Personality defect

I put these facts for your consideration.

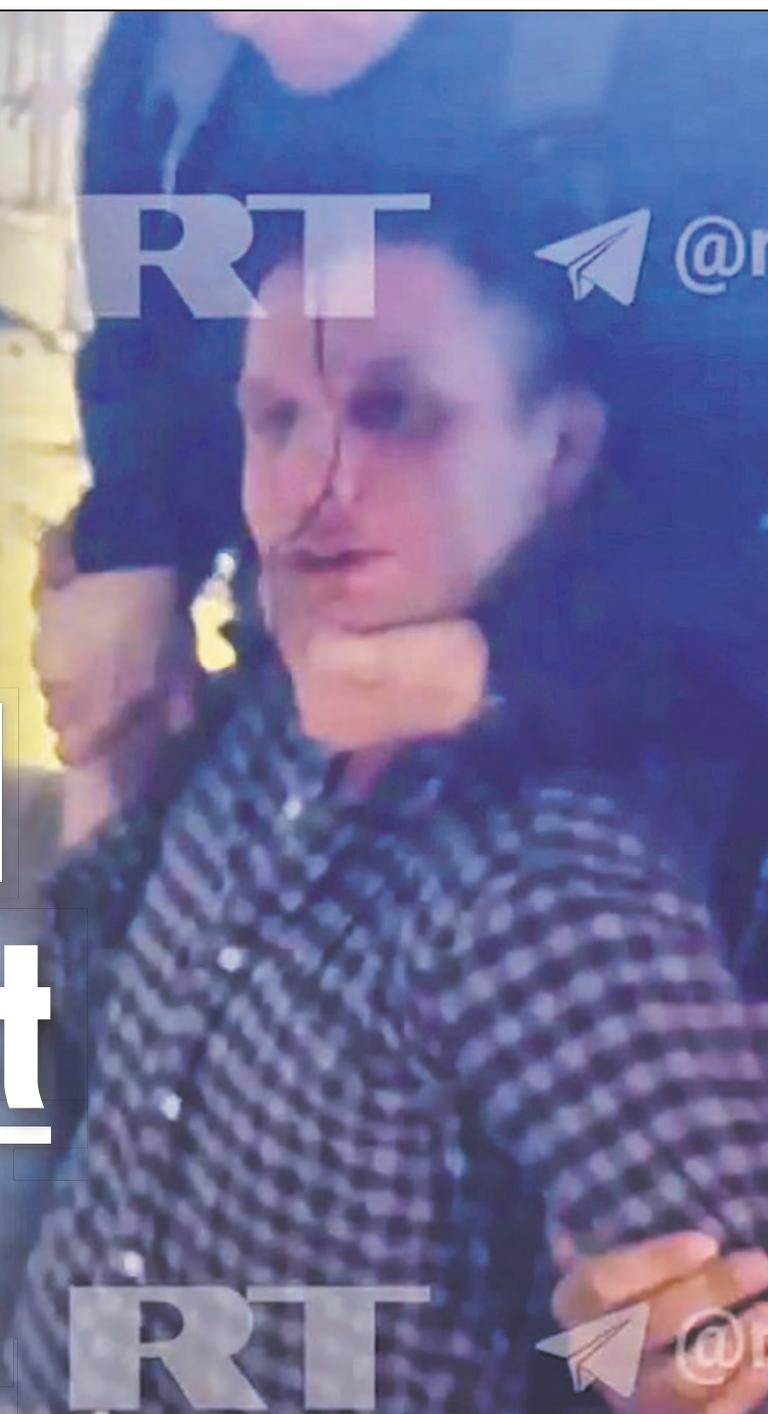
Harris has no personal following. Why should she? She wasn't going anywhere. She has no entourage of trusted experts to enlighten her on the issues — the experts were buzzing around Biden, who was supposed to be the candidate until he wasn't. Her personality, in public, is comical, and in private it hasn't exactly been a magnet to party activists or intellectuals. By all accounts, her staff hate her and go running for the doors at the first opportunity. Her name isn't closely identified with a particular cause or issue.

She's a pretty terrible politician. She underperformed as a vote-getter in deep blue California. She self-detonated before the first primary when, in 2020, she sought the presidential candidacy on her own merits. As might be expected from someone whose words break free of earthly gravity, she's a wretched debater. What Tulsi Gabbard did to her in the 2020 Democratic debates was horrifying to watch — the oratorical equivalent of Bambi versus Godzilla. Her campaign never recovered from the thrashing.

Harris is like that feather in the wind at the end of "Forrest Gump." She's a historical accident.

That, in less than four months, she could be the most powerful human on Earth, decider between war and peace, her manicured fingers flitting casually over the nuclear button, fills me with awe and astonishment over the inscrutable perversity of our age.

# Vid shows '23 takedown of US journo



# Brutal Evan bust revealed

**BEAR  
KNUCKLES:**  
Evan  
Gershkovich is  
arrested last  
year in Russia.

By EMILY CRANE

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was brutally put in a headlock and forced to the ground when he was cuffed by Russia's feared intelligence agents last year, newly released video of his arrest shows.

The journalist, who was finally set free from a Russian prison last week in a historic prisoner-swap deal with Moscow, had been arrested by the plain-clothed FSB intelligence officers on espionage charges in March last year.

The footage of his savage arrest, which was only just published by Russia's RT TV channel, showed an unsuspecting Gershkovich sitting inside a Yekaterinburg restau-

rant in a clandestinely bugged source meeting when the agents suddenly stormed in.

At least one agent could be seen gripping Gershkovich in a tight headlock as the reporter winced and struggled to get to his feet while being put in handcuffs.

## 'Please, be very careful'

The cuffed journalist was then forced to lie on his stomach as an officer pinned him down with his knee before he was hauled out of the restaurant in yet another stranglehold, the video shows.

Just moments before the violent arrest, the video captured Gershkovich discussing the story he was working on with the source.

"The only thing I ask you, please, be very careful because this is classified information," the source said in the audio recording published by the Russian outlet.

"We won't write that we have even seen the documents," Gershkovich is said to have responded, adding he'd attribute anything to an "anonymous source."

The Moscow-based journalist, who at the time was reporting on the Wagner mercenary group, ended up being arrested on espionage charges.

The FSB later accused him of collecting information for the CIA — the first allegation of spying leveled against a US reporter since the Cold War.

Gershkovich, the US govern-

ment and his employer all repeatedly — and strenuously — denied the allegations but he was convicted and sentenced to 16 years in prison.

The clip of his arrest emerged just days after Gershkovich, now 32, finally stepped back on US soil for the first time last Thursday after 16 months behind bars.

Gershkovich was among the slew of prisoners freed as part of the largest multicountry prisoner swap since the Cold War.

He was greeted by President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris when he touched down at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland before being reunited with his loved ones.

*ecrane@nypost.com*

# Qns. wild for new pet site

Queens has finally gone to the dogs — and cats.

The borough opened its first public animal shelter last month — 24 years after plans for it were first set in motion — as abandoned pets continue to overwhelm the city's already packed system.

The latest site of the city-run nonprofit Animal Care Centers of NYC at Flushing and Woodward avenues in Ridgewood can house up to 72 dogs and 110 cats, plus rabbits and guinea pigs.

In addition to the typical denizens, at least one rooster and a hamster are already calling the Ridgewood location home, too, a staffer told The Post.

The locals don't seem to mind their new neighbors. In fact, some residents say they've been eagerly awaiting the site, which will eventually open a vet clinic.

"I used to have to take my dog far away for a checkup, and now I can just go across the street," said Janette Rodriguez, 60, a retired school aide, to The Post on Monday. "I haven't taken her for a checkup since COVID. Now this is gonna be my new place."

The 50,000-square-foot shelter includes a retractable glass roof, open-air rooftop dog run, roaming area for cats and animal housing across three stories.

*Nicole Rosenthal*

# Jordan war on drugs

Jordan said it had foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs into the country from Syria on Monday, according to the state news agency Petra.

Quoting a military source, Petra said several smugglers were injured in clashes with security forces before retreating back into Syrian territory. The amount of the seized drugs was not disclosed.

War-ravaged Syria has become the region's main site for the mass production of the addictive amphetamine-type stimulant known as captagon, with Jordan a key transit route to the oil-rich Gulf states, Western anti-narcotics officials say.

*Reuters*

# Pelosi's Joe backstab a historic betrayal

**PIERS  
MORGAN  
UNCENSORED**



**N**ANCY Pelosi has what we British would call a “brass neck.”

It's a saying that alludes to someone so thick-skinned it makes them utterly impervious to any sense of shame for their self-interested or hypocritical actions.

It's an open secret in Washington that Pelosi just did to Joe Biden what Marcus Brutus did to Julius Caesar.

Of course, she didn't actually kill him. But she did kill off his political career.

And she did it in a manner so ruthless that I'm told on reliable authority, Biden will never forgive her for it.

Following the president's humiliating debate debacle with Donald Trump, Pelosi appointed herself chief assassin, albeit one who continued to support him publicly whilst knifing him in the back behind the scenes.

As Politico reported on July 17, quoting one of her allies: “The speaker does not want to call on him to resign, but she will do everything in her power to make sure it happens.”

And that's exactly what she did, until Biden finally fell on the sword she'd

placed in front of him.

“Nancy made clear that they could do this the easy way or the hard way,” the media was told afterward, sounding like Michael Corleone in “Godfather II.”

So Joe Biden was forced to quit his dream job, the one he had fought so ardently to get his whole political life, and the one he never had any desire or intention of voluntarily letting go.

## The biggest loser

By backing out of the 2024 race, just four months before the election, and six months before the end of his first term of presidency, Biden instantly entered the pantheon of biggest-ever presidential losers.

In the process, he also became a global laughingstock, an object of ridicule, mockery and embarrassment, which reportedly left him feeling utterly crushed.

Yet on Sunday, there was his assassin, Nancy Pelosi, popping up on CBS News “Sunday Morning” to call for him to be added to Mount Rushmore, the great American stone shrine to democracy which features 60-foot faces of four truly great American presidents — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

“Such a consequential president of the United States, a Mount Rushmore kind of president of the United States,” Pelosi sighed about

Biden to interviewer Lesley Stahl, who was so startled she retorted incredulously: “Are you really saying that he belongs up there on Mount Rushmore? Lincoln and Joe Biden?”

“But you got Teddy Roosevelt up there, and he's wonderful,” Pelosi insisted. “I don't say take him down, but you can add Biden.”

Like I said, she's got a brass neck.

In fact, it would be hard to think of any female politician in American political history whose neck is made of a stronger metaphorical alloy of copper and zinc.

But she's also got a forked tongue.

“No, I wasn't a leader of any pressure party,” she lied when Stahl asked if she'd led the plot to topple Biden. “Well, let me say things that I didn't do. I didn't call one person. I did not call one person. I could always say to him, ‘I never killed anybody.’”

I laughed out loud when she said that.

## Nancy in denial

Even if you take her at her word, which I don't, this was akin to hearing the aforementioned Michael Corleone saying he never killed his Mafia mob boss rivals.

Technically, he didn't, he just got his people to kill them while he attended the Catholic baptism of his godchild praising God and renouncing “Satan and all his works.”

Pelosi continued: “What I'm saying is, I had confidence that the president would make the proper choice for our country, whatever that would be, and I said that whatever that is, we'll go with.”

This, as everyone

knows, including Biden, is bull.

As was Pelosi's claim that she never noticed any decline in the president's abilities.

“No,” she replied, emphatically and unambiguously.

Really, Nancy? Then why did you force him out?

The whole reason for your plot to get rid of him was his physical and cognitive decline laid bare so obviously in that debate!

Perhaps the creepiest moment of a breathtakingly disingenuous interview came when Pelosi smirked after being asked how Biden feels about her now and replied: “He knows I love him very much.”

Er, no, he doesn't.

What Biden really knows is that one of his closest friends in politics, someone he'd known and worked with for 40 years, and who, like him, is a devout Roman Catholic who carries rosary beads in her pocket, pounced on him in his most vulnerable moment and devoured him like a ravenously jackal feasting on the still-twitching carcass of an elderly bison.

And in that moment, Nancy Pelosi revealed who she really is: a ruthless, conniving, mercilessly disloyal female version of Marcus Brutus.

“Et tu, Brute?” Caesar was said — by Shakespeare, at least — to have remarked as his great friend led a rampaging group of senators to stick a large knife into him.

There is no record, yet, of what Biden said as he realized his own game was up.

But it wouldn't surprise me, given their shared knowledge of Latin phraseology from their faith, if it was

“Et tu, Nancy?”

# Nan won't take credit for switch

House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi confirmed that she spoke with President Biden and fielded calls from worried Democrats, many of whom were disgruntled about their 2024 election odds, before he quit the race.

Pelosi (inset), one of the most influential Democrats in Congress, denied in a Monday interview on ABC News' “Good Morning America” that she “was burning up the airways” to push Biden out — right before divulging that she spoke to him after “people called me.”

“It was always about him,” the former House speaker claimed. “And why I said I didn't make calls, because people said I was burning up the airways. No, I wasn't.”

“The only person that I spoke to about this was the president. Other people called me about what their views were about it,” she added. “I rarely even returned a call, much less initiated one.”



Josh Christenson

**GIVEN THE  
BUM'S 'RUSH'**

## ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

# IDF drone takes out Hez devil

By RONNY REYES

Israeli forces killed a commander of Hezbollah's elite Radwan unit in a drone strike over southern Lebanon on Monday, officials say.

Video of the attack shows the moment the Israel Defense Forces drone focuses on the car carrying Ali Jamal al-Din Jawad (inset) on a dirt road in the village of Aabba, with a missile fired within seconds to blow up the vehicle.

The car erupts into fire and smoke, leaving only debris in its wake as the blast manages to avoid the vehicles driving in front of Jawad's.

The IDF touted his death as a "significant blow" to Hezbollah's abilities to carry out more attacks on northern Israel after drone strikes from the terror group Monday morning.

One of the attacks left two IDF soldiers wounded and caused a blaze in northern Israel, while another was intercepted by Israel's aerial

defense system.

Along with the strike that killed Jawad, the IDF also deployed fighter jets that destroyed a Hezbollah facility in Kafr Kila.

Hezbollah confirmed Jawad's death shortly after.

The terror group has lost nearly 400 operatives since it began attacking Israel on

Oct. 8 in solidarity with Hamas, which Israel has been at war with since its massacre targeting the Jewish state Oct. 7.

Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate against Israel for the death of a senior

commander last week, with the threat compounding after Iran promised to do the same over the assassination in Tehran of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh.

The near-daily skirmishes between the IDF and Hezbollah have left tens of thousands of civilians displaced in northern Israel and southern Lebanon, with no signs of when the residents can return home as fears continue to grow over the start of a multifront war.



# UN ADMITS WORKERS' OCT. 7 TIES

## Nefarious 9 crew 'may have' aided terror attack

By RONNY REYES

The United Nations admitted Monday that nine employees of its agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, "may have been involved" in Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 terrorist attack on Israel.

The UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services said its probe into 19 UNRWA staffers accused of aiding in the massacre found that nearly half of them likely played an active role in the horror, which left more than 1,200 people dead and another 250 kidnapped.

"For nine people, the evidence

was sufficient to conclude that they may have been involved in the seventh of October attacks," UN rep Farhan Haq said.

"For us, any participation in the attacks is a tremendous betrayal of the sort of work that we are supposed to be doing on behalf of the Palestinian people," Haq said.

### 'All will be terminated'

The suspected terror collaborators, all of whom are men, will be fired, the agency said — without identifying the suspects or detailing what atrocities they may have

participated in.

Israeli authorities in February identified a UNRWA social worker, Faisal Ali Musalam Naami, as among the agency's employees who participated in the rampage.

Israel claimed at the time that the worker was caught on video carrying the body of an Israeli soldier into his car and driving away with it that day.

Embattled UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini, who previously slammed the US and other nations who halted donations to the humanitarian group after the allegations against its em-

## Hostages in limbo

Mideast cease-fire and hostage talks have been indefinitely halted until Iran decides its response to the assassination of a Hamas ally and selects a replacement for the terrorist, who was a key negotiator, officials say.

The talks in Qatar over an American-backed deal to free the roughly 120 Israeli hostages remaining in Gaza won't resume until it's clear

how Iran and its terrorist proxies will retaliate against Israel for the assassination of Hamas' top political chief and negotiator, Ismail Haniyeh, officials familiar with the tense negotiations told The Times of Israel on Monday.

Iran has vowed to directly strike Israel for allegedly orchestrating the assassination. Ronny Reyes

x@YWNReporter



**CAUGHT IN THE ACT:**  
A UNRWA social worker (right) is caught on Oct. 7 surveillance video carrying the body of a slain Israeli soldier into his car before driving off.



employees first surfaced, agreed to boot the nine employees cited in the UN report.

"I have decided that in the case of these remaining nine staff members, they cannot work for UNRWA," Lazzarini said in a statement. "All contracts of these staff members will be terminated."

The UN opened the investigation into its own organization after Israel handed over documents alleging that at least 12 UNRWA employees were involved in the Oct. 7 terrorist attack.

Some of those employees were described as teachers and social workers — and included an Arabic instructor who was revealed to be a Hamas military commander that helped slaughter Kibbutz Be'eri.

### 'Aided and abetted'

UNRWA has remained under public scrutiny over its alleged ties with Hamas and the terror group Palestinian Islamic Jihad after Israel alleged that around 1,200 of the group's staffers had some links with terrorists.

UNRWA was also named in a federal lawsuit filed in Manhattan in January alleging that the group "aided and abetted" the Oct. 7 terror attack by sending \$1 billion to Hamas that was meant to aid Gazans but instead was used to smuggle weapons and explosives.

The allegations facing the agency have since shaken the world's confidence in its ability to provide aid for the nearly 2 million Palestinian refugees caught in the middle of the Israel-Hamas war.

reyes@nypost.com

## Rocket attack jolts base in western Iraq



**OMINOUS:** A smoke cloud is seen rising over the Al Asad air base Monday in western Anbar, Iraq.

## 'Several' US wounded

A rocket attack against a military base in Iraq on Monday has left a number of US personnel injured, a report said.

US officials said "several" Americans were injured in the attack against Al Asad air base in western Iraq, Reuters reported.

"Base personnel are conducting a post-attack damage assessment," one US official said.

At least one of the two Katyusha rockets fired at US forces reportedly landed inside the base.

The attack comes as the US and Israel brace for retaliation from Iran and its proxies over the deaths of two top Hamas and Hezbollah officials last week.

Meanwhile, President Biden held a frantic closed-door powwow with his top national-security advisers Monday as the Mideast war threatened to explode — and the US warned afterward it is set "to defend our forces."

During the meeting, Biden, 81, and Vice President Kamala Harris, 59, were informed that the timing of an expected attack on Israel by Iran and Hezbollah remains unclear, as is what the strike could look like, US officials told Axios.

The guidance provided to Biden and Harris is seemingly at odds with what Secretary of

State Antony Blinken told his counterparts from the G7 countries on Sunday, when he warned foreign ministers that Iran and Hezbollah could launch an attack on the Jewish state within 48 hours.

US intelligence now suggests that strikes from Hezbollah, Iran and its proxy groups could come in two different waves, according to the outlet.

Biden and Harris were reportedly told in the Situation Room that it remains unknown which group will strike first and how significant that attack could be.

A US official described Iran and Hezbollah's plans for retaliation against Israel as a "work in progress," according to Axios, but the Pentagon expects attacks against US troops in the Middle East by Iran-backed groups to ramp up in the coming days.

That preceded the rocket attack at the air base in Iraq.

Biden had talked by phone earlier in the day with Jordan's King Abdullah about the dire situation.

The moves came as Israel's foreign minister, Israel Katz, said he was told, via Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó, that "Iran has informed us that it intends to attack Israel."

Steven Nelson and Kate Sheehy

# J.Lo 'furious' over breakup

## Page Six

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## Country strong

**BOBBY Graham**, Condé Nast's executive director of international fashion and luxury, and former Esquire style director **Matthew Marden** tied the knot at LionRock Farm Saturday, we hear. Guests spotted at the chic shindig in Sharon, Conn., included **Bevy Smith**, fashion designer **Brian Atwood**, "Triple Frontier" director **J.C. Chandor**, playwright **Tina Satter**, former "OscarPRGirl" **Erika Bearman**, "Pose" producer **Erica Kay**, Total Management whiz **Justinian Kfoury** and de facto mayor of the West Village **Bonnie Morrison**. After guests enjoyed wedding cakes in four flavors — coconut, chocolate, lemon and carrot — they danced to '80s classics in a barn turned bumping disco.



## Hawke swoops in

**LEVON Hawke** (above) — the son of **Uma Thurman** and **Ethan Hawke** — is making his theater directing debut with "Picture Day." The production is the first full-length play from Quick & Dirty Theatre Company, founded last year by artistic director **Booth McGowan**. The show — also written by Levon — opens Sept. 20 at Coffey Street Studio in Red Hook. The Brown grad, 22, whose older sister is actress **Maya Hawke**, has starred in projects including "Blink Twice," directed by **Zoë Kravitz**.

**JENNIFER Lopez** is "furious" and "humiliated" over her split from **Ben Affleck**, says a source, who also tells Page Six that the "Gone Girl" star is holding off on filing for divorce to spare her more embarrassment.

"She's furious," said the source. "He has humiliated her. He was the one who initiated getting back together."

Lopez, 55, and Affleck, 51, rekindled their relationship in July 2021 and married the next year. They famously dated decades ago before calling off their September 2003 wedding days before they were set to exchange vows.

"He's humiliated her because she made a big deal that he's the love of her life," explained

the source. "They just had two weddings two years ago. This is some kind of a record. They're not young kids."

The pair eloped in Las Vegas in July 2022, and had another wedding celebration at Affleck's home in Georgia the next month.

This February, Lopez released an album for the first time in 10 years and an accompanying Prime documentary inspired by their relationship, "The Greatest Love Story Never Told," which heavily featured her new husband. "She is a romantic," said our source.

J.Lo is also upset because "there are five kids involved in this," said the source. "She knew they were going to blend families. She has not fully

accepted it is over." She has twins from her previous marriage to **Marc Anthony**, while Affleck has three kids with ex-wife **Jennifer Garner**.

We hear that Affleck has not filed for divorce because he's "very protective" of Lopez and doesn't want to further humiliate her.

Affleck just purchased a \$20.5 million Pacific Palisades, Calif., home after his marital residence with Lopez was put on the market.

According to TMZ, they're no longer speaking to each other, which is slowing down the divorce process. Insiders told the outlet that the duo haven't hired lawyers and are having their business managers hash out the details.

Their reps did not comment.



Rihanna tickles our fancy in a scintillating winged feather costume at carnival festivities in her native Barbados.

Charles & Sandy Pitt-Shance King / BACKGRID

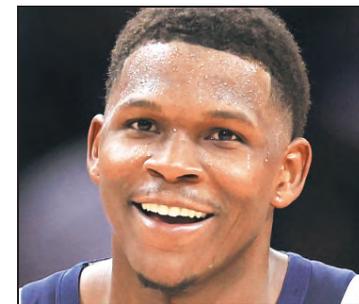
## On the road again

HE got back on the bike! After his horrific cycling injury in the spring, avid biker **Gordon Ramsay** is not only riding again — but helping out his fellow cyclists. Page Six hears the superchef was out on his bike in LA over the weekend when he stopped to help another serious cyclist who had been sidelined with a flat. Just in June, the "Hell's Kitchen" and "Kitchen Nightmares" host said he was "lucky to be alive" after getting into a crash on his road bike in Connecticut. The Brit credited his helmet and the staff at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London with saving him.

## Sightings

**JULIA Stiles** and **Maggie Gyllenhaal** at the Crosby Street Hotel premiere of **Peter Sarsgaard** and **Billy Magnussen's** new movie "Coup!" produced by Phippen Studios' **Molly Connors** and **Jane Sinisi** . . . **Jill Martin**, **Jenne Lombardo**, the Bastion Collections' **Ashley Calandra** and **Melissa Crane-Baker** at a dinner held by Michelin-starred Le Jardinier and Whispering Angel wine at **Jayma Cardoso's** Surf Lodge.

Follow us on X @PageSix



## USA Wolf in Paris

MINNESOTA Timberwolves star and Team USA standout **Anthony Edwards** had a surprise birthday party in Paris on Sunday, sources exclusively tell us. Ant-Man (above) turned 23 yesterday, while the Olympic squad heads to the quarterfinals against Brazil today. Spies said that Edwards' party was at Parisian Italian eatery **Giulia**, and that attendees included members of America's men's and women's basketball and gymnastics teams, plus family members and Timberwolves co-owner **Alex Rodriguez**. A source told us of the scene, "Anthony and A-Rod were hanging out all night." Edwards was a crowd favorite at Saturday's game against Puerto Rico when he broke out a stunning windmill dunk.

## Now that's a grand slam!

**SERENA Williams** called out a Parisian hotel for denying her and her family access to its rooftop restaurant — but the place said it was just booked up. "Yikes @peninsulaparis," the retired athlete yesterday wrote on X. "I've been denied access to rooftop to eat in a empty restaurant of nicer places . . . but never with my kids. Always a first. #Olympic2024. You're Really Gonna Reject Me?!?!" Williams, 42, also included a photo of the Peninsula's sign with her message. Hours after her post, the hotel responded with their own comment — explaining that they were fully booked despite any and all appearances. "Dear Mrs. Williams," the property wrote in response, "please accept our deepest apologies for the disappointment you encountered tonight. Unfortunately, our rooftop bar was indeed fully booked and the only unoccupied tables you saw belonged to our gourmet restaurant, L'Oiseau Blanc, which was fully reserved." Williams is in Paris attending the Olympics with her husband, **Alexis Ohanian**, and daughters **Olympia**, 6, and **Adira**, 11 months. She participated in the opening ceremony's torch relay and appeared alongside fellow celebrated Olympic stars **Rafael Nadal**, **Carl Lewis** and **Nadia Comaneci**. The 23-time Grand Slam champ has won four Olympic gold medals.

# Sandra's dish on Cuomo split

**SANDRA Lee** claims a comment that **Andrew Cuomo** made to her in spring 2019 was the straw that broke the camel's back in their deteriorating relationship. "I was in my kitchen," she tells *Us Weekly* in its upcoming issue. "He said something, and the minute he said it . . . every window and door closed. And that was it." The "Semi-Homemade" chef, 58, refused to elaborate, saying, "He knows what it is; I know what it is." Cuomo told the outlet that he did not see Lee during that time period. They were a couple for 14 years until they announced their breakup in September 2019, four months after *Page Six* revealed that they were living separate lives. Lee admitted to the outlet that the lowest point came much earlier, on her birthday in 2015, shortly after her double mastectomy following a breast cancer diagnosis. "My birthday was a precious day to me, especially that one," she said. "I'm not someone who feels sorry for themselves, but that day was a bit much for me." Lee noted that they did go out to dinner that night, while Cuomo, 66, claimed he cleared his schedule to be there.



John Chapple / Mega

Chef **Sandra Lee** is coming clean about the demise of her relationship with **Andrew Cuomo**. "I was in my kitchen," she tells *Us Weekly* in its latest issue, "and he said something, and the minute he said it, I knew what he'd just said. And every window and door closed. And that was it."

In *Times Square* yesterday, **Cate Blanchett** braves the 90-degree heat in a Canadian tuxedo to tape "GMA."



GC Images

## Board-certified patient

OLLIE-OOPS! Film producer and Hollywood scion **Eric Eisner** was in a bad skateboarding accident last month in LA, breaking his elbow and fracturing his hip. His wife, Alice + Olivia designer **Stacey Bendet**, told us her hubby was skateboarding on ramps in Inglewood, Calif., with friends when one of his pals showed him how to do a trick. Unfortunately, Eisner, the 51-year-old son of Disney mogul **Michael**, did not pull it off, though he did somehow get himself to the hospital. "The craziest part is he got up and drove himself to the emergency room and when he got there, they were like, 'How did you even make it here?'" Bendet told us. He was put in a wheelchair, but we hear he's starting to walk again. His elbow needed nine screws. A day before his accident, one of the couple's daughters fell off a horse and broke her collarbone, and their surgeries were a day apart. "I'm an orthopedic doctor in residence," Bendet figured. Eisner founded the production company Double E Pictures in 2006 and has several film projects currently in the works.

## Singer Cruises past talk

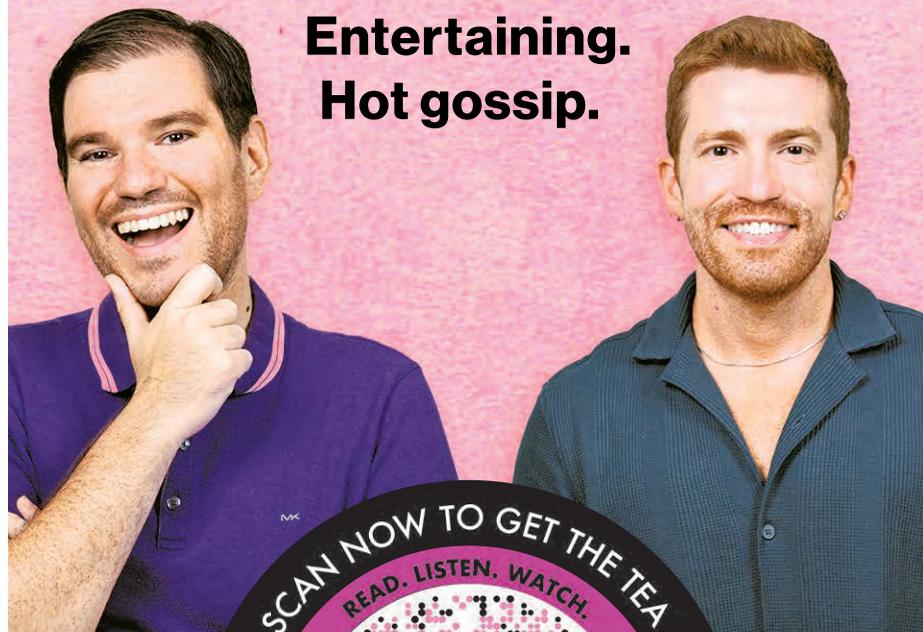
**CHRIS Martin's** protégée, **Victoria Canal**, denied rumors she's dating **Tom Cruise**. "Guys, this is literally bonkers, but apparently the tabloids think I am dating [Cruise]," she wrote yesterday in a lengthy Instagram statement along with a pic of herself holding back laughter, as well as screen grabs of several outlets reporting their alleged romance. Canal, 25, admitted that Cruise, 62, is a "lovely person" but said he's not her boyfriend. The Spanish singer said the actor has been a "respectful and encouraging . . . mentor."

More celebrity photos at  
[nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

Page Six

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LOPEZ**  
President

## AM RADIO FOR EVERY VEHICLE ACT OF 2023

This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue a rule that requires all new passenger motor vehicles to have devices that can access AM broadcast stations installed as standard equipment. (AM broadcast stations are often used to deliver emergency alerts and news and entertainment programming; some newer vehicles do not include AM equipment.)

Specifically, this bill applies to passenger motor vehicles (1) manufactured in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce; and (2) manufactured after the rule's effective date.

The DOT rule must require all such vehicles to have devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations or digital audio AM broadcast stations installed as standard equipment.

Prior to the rule's effective date, manufacturers that do not include devices that can access AM broadcast stations as standard equipment (1) must inform

purchasers of this fact through clear and conspicuous labeling; and (2) may not charge an additional or separate monetary fee, payment, or surcharge for AM broadcast station access.

DOT may assess civil penalties against any manufacturer that fails to comply with the mandate. The Department of Justice may also bring a civil action to enjoin a violation.

Further, the Government Accountability Office must study and report on the dissemination of emergency alerts and warnings to the public, including (1) an assessment of AM broadcast stations relative to other Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) communication technologies, and (2) the integration of new and emerging technologies and communication platforms into the IPAWS framework.

## WE THANK OUR NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY & CONNECTICUT SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES FOR SUPPORTING THIS BILL

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# Diagnosed with a pulse



**Cindy Adams**

NOBODY feels good. Forget happy. Shove even “satisfied.” You can hardly find anyone who feels good.

She can’t walk, he can’t pee, this one doesn’t know what’s wrong but is sure something is. Some out-of-work actor demonstrates what he can no longer do with certain of his parts which is what he used to be able to do with part of those parts.

Days of yore, women-folk schlepped West in a wagon train — and still fed the husband a veal

cutlet — or whatever morsel he wanted to snack on.

Today it’s specialists. One only does left hands. Another just mentions which medic to see in order to wait on line for their disease specialist who is fresh from Boston and temporarily shaking some cash out of a patient’s right hand.

TV commercials are mostly pushy shouting lawyers guaranteeing you’ll get your money — after that tractor who ran over you pays them — or it’s MDs hustling medications. It’s all pills, capsules, doses, emergency rooms, even suggested final resting places. Pros stare into the camera and ask: “So you’re 87 and don’t feel well? Then try XHHFEPGGYGLOCK. Two pills daily and you’ll feel like you’re 78 again.”

You’re automatically being fitted for an MRI, CT scan, ICU bed, ER possibility, X-ray, EKG,

stethoscope thump, ultrasound, cardiac echo treatment — and you only came in to get your 4-pound dog weighed.

When you’ve already booked your Forest Lawn accommodations a specialist will finally grant your appointment. No Tuesdays. That’s his golf day. Not Fridays. That’s his leaving for the weekend day. He’ll see you 7 a.m. on a Thursday. Perfect since the patient lives out-of-state and has to book a hotel room.

Immediately determined on this 7-minute visit is that the patient — who just won a bicycle relay race — needs testing. Like he right away requires X-ray, echocardiogram, heart test, height, weight, pulse, temperature, heart monitor, stethoscope, blood test, radiation, hearing ability, urine culture — and while there he could hit their seventh floor for a manicure.

## A quick treat

IN the hospital? Do *not* have lunch. Food there could trigger a coma. A while back I spent a week in a hospital. Blood transfusions. The whole routine. Some unfamiliar microbe had bitten me. Nobody knew what it was. NY Post editors **Steve Lynch** and **Keith Poole** had already prep’d **Steve Cuozzo** to take over my page since Cuozzo already writes everything else in the paper.

My private VIP room on a special floor was monitored by police. Day 7 a young MD in training arrived unannounced with: “You have to get dressed and get out. Someone paying more money than you booked this room.”

I was saved. And am still here to bitch and moan another day.

ALSO remembering the day I walked into the doctor’s office and his nurse immediately said, “Take off your clothes.” In the adjoining room was a guy with his clothes off. I said, “Ridicu-

lous. I came in here to talk to my physician and they made me take my clothes off.” He said: “What’s the problem? I’m the doctor.”

**Only in New York, kids, only in New York.**



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Viagra - Branded 100mg	16	\$187.37	Xarelto - Branded 20mg	84	\$209.86
Viagra - 200mg	30	\$65.06	Aggrenox - 115mg	30	\$3.70
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Cialis - Branded 10mg	16	\$223.95	Asmanex HFA - 206 mcg	120 MDI	\$45.50
Jardiance - 10mg	60	\$108.43	Neurontin - 300mg	30	\$4.70
Jardiance - Branded 10mg	60	\$172.50	Stromectol - 10mg	10	\$11.80
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# Eagles get top billing

## Overdue national bird bill

By CAITLIN McCORMACK

Better late than feather. The Senate has passed a bill officially designating the bald eagle as America's national bird, a long overdue recognition after more than 200 years of symbolizing the country.

The bill, sponsored by Minnesota Democrat Sen. Amy Klobuchar, passed unanimously, clearing the way for the raptor to take its rightful place as a formal symbol of national pride.

"For more than 240 years, the bald eagle has been synonymous with American values, yet it is still not officially our national bird," Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), one of the bill's cosponsors, said in a press release after the bill passed.

"Today's bipartisan passage brings us one step closer

to solidifying the eagle's place as an enduring symbol of our freedom, and I look forward to seeing this legislation pass the House and signed into law soon."

### Bald move

The push to crown the bird was spearheaded by Preston Cook and Jack E. Davis, two educators and authors specializing in the history of the bald eagle.

The two focused on finding lawmakers from states with some of the largest populations of bald eagles — like Klobuchar's Minnesota, which boasts the nation's second-highest concentration of the bird, only behind Alaska.

When the bald eagle was included on the seal for the nearly independent United States in 1782, its place as one of the na-

tion's most iconic symbols was solidified — but it was never formally ratified as the official bird.

It wasn't even the first animal considered for inclusion — it replaced a plain, white eagle originally slated to appear on the seal, according to the National Museum of American Diplomacy.

As bald-eagle sightings became more and more elusive during the 20th century, intrigue for the majestic bird only grew. They were hunted in excess due to their prestige as a national symbol. In 1940, the Bald Eagle Protection Act banned the killing or selling of them, which helped stabilize their population.

The House is expected to follow suit and pass the legislation.



**FLYING HIGH:** The Senate unanimously passed the bill, with the House set to follow.

The Enquirer



## 2 hurt in Harlem curb hit

Disturbing video shows the moment a pickup truck mounted a Harlem sidewalk and plowed into two pedestrians Monday.

The collision occurred just before 4:50 p.m. on the corner of St. Nicholas Avenue and West 148th Street when the truck driver "failed to navigate the roadway" and ended up careening down the sidewalk, police said.

The pickup struck two men, sending them flying into the roadway, before striking a fire hydrant and UPS truck parked on the street, surveillance video showed.

The two victims were taken to NYC Health and Hospitals Harlem in stable condition. More information about their injuries was not immediately available. No charges had been filed late Monday. *Allie Griffin*

# Eco-harm you wood not guess

We've been barking up the wrong trees.

A study reveals that a majority of the 7 million trees in New York City are emitting "volatile compounds" that do more harm than good for air quality — especially in scorching heat.

"We're all for planting more trees. They bring so many good things," said study co-author Róisín Commamé at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. "But if we're not careful, we could make air quality worse."

The arbors cited include oaks and sweetgums — which produce high volumes of a chemical composition called isoprenes — rooted in the Big Apple more than any other species.

"There is no reason to think that trees don't play a role in what's in the air," said lead author Dandan Wei. "We just didn't have the tools before this to understand."

When isoprenes interact with nitrogen oxide pollution, emitted from cars and building exhaust, the result is a key driver for asthma and chronic bronchitis.

"If we lowered [nitrogen oxides] significantly, trees wouldn't be a problem," said Wei. "We don't want to convey the idea that trees pollute the air. It's the cars."

Alex Mitchell

# US praises Bangladesh

The US government commended Bangladesh's army on Monday for its "restraint" and urged the democratic formation of an interim government after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the South Asian country.

Gen. Waker-uz-Zaman, Bangladesh's army chief, announced Hasina's resignation in a televised address and said an interim government would be formed.

"We commend the Army for the restraint they have showed today," a White House spokesperson said on Monday. The US also urged parties to refrain from violence and restore peace at the earliest.

Reuters

By JEANETTE SETTEMBRE

Hollywood stars have their pick of the trendiest restaurants and priciest delicacies, but what they really want is Red Lobster and Panda Express — with a gourmet twist.

In 2018, "The Office" star B.J. Novak teamed up with former French Laundry chef *chef de cuisine* Timothy Hollingsworth to launch Chain — a series of pop-ups in Los Angeles celebrating and recreating beloved fast food and chain restaurant dishes, from Taco Bell's Crunchwrap to Outback Steakhouse's Bloomin' Onion.

The idea quickly caught fire, gaining celeb fans — such as Vin Diesel, Kiernan Shipka, Mindy Kaling and John Mayer — and spawned a ChainFest food festival in Southern California to much acclaim.

"100 out of 10 — no notes!" New York-based celebrity pastry chef Christina Tosi commented on ChainFest's Instagram.

## Randall's Isle buffet

Now, ChainFest is coming to the Big Apple. The high-low food fest is taking over Randall's Island Park on Sept. 21.

"Taking ChainFest to New York City shows how big this can really be," Chrissy Teigen, who joined the Chain team as a strategic investor in July, told The Post. "Nowhere else in the world can you get gourmet versions of your favorite chain food items."

This past Friday, a preview for the big event was held at Per Se. Although instead of the famed three-Michelin-star Columbus Circle restaurant's usual dishes, such as salmon coronets and foie gras torchons, the bites were inspired by chain restaurants.

Deep-fried, sweet-and-sour chili crunch oyster mushrooms were an homage to Panda Express.

Cheesy biscuits were reminiscent of Red Lobster's Cheddar Bay biscuits, but upgraded with a rich beurre monte sauce.

KFC-like chicken tenders were taken to a new level with a truffle agrodolce and a side of pommes mousseline, a silky smooth, French take on mashed potatoes.

Triple Pickle onion rings riffed on Red Robin's signature fried pickles but also included elegant dollops of crème fraîche and caviar.

Those are just a few of the dishes that will be on hand on Randall's Island. Attendees can expect elevated takes on 15 dishes from establishments including Krispy Kreme, Hot Dog on a Stick, Portillo's and Trader Vic's. Tickets, on sale Friday at ChainFest.com, start at \$100.

Teigen, 38, is so excited to partner with Chain she paid for her own plane ticket to the event, a source told The Post.

She's also angling to bring mascots from each restaurant to Ran-

# NYC's gourmet fast-food fest

# BURGERS 'N' FOIE GRAS



Getty Images



**EATIN' GOOD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD:** "The Office" writer and co-star B.J. Novak helped launch the haute cuisine fast-food pop-up Chain, which is bringing its Red Lobster, KFC and Panda Express-inspired fare to a Randall's Island bash and counts supermodel Chrissy Teigen as a superfan.

dall's Island to give the event a Disney vibe.

## Chrissy ♥ Chuck E.

"When you go to Disneyland you want to see Mickey and Minnie, well at ChainFest I really hope to see these icons," she told The Post. "Pei Pei the Panda, Red from Red Robin and Charles Entertainment Cheese himself.

"I am not even joking; these are true icons in my opinion."

The "Cravings" cookbook author and mom of four was spotted

Friday walking around the Shops at Columbus Circle with Red, who also came to the Per Se event, taking photos with gawking New Yorkers.

She and Red looked downright cozy, but Teigen has a fraught relationship with Red Robin. She unsuccessfully applied for a job there in her youth.

"My sister worked there and I still didn't get it," she quipped at Per Se on Friday. "One of the questions on the application was literally, 'What's your bowling score?' and I still didn't get it."



# RFK JR.'S 'PRANK'

## This would-be prez is a wack animal

**KIRSTEN FLEMING**



**B**RAIN worms and goats and bears, oh my! It's just another day in the wild, wild Robert F. Kennedy Jr. presidential campaign, which has done absolutely nothing to further the scion's political ambitions.

But it has provided a revealing look into Sideshow Bob's dynastic eccentricity and entitlement, with a menagerie of critters as the supporting cast.

Kennedy's bid as an independent has included a worm that ate his brain, a barbecued animal carcass and video of him doing shirtless push-ups — in jeans.

And then there was a press dinner last July, at which the environmental lawyer was meant to acquaint himself with reporters. Instead, host Doug Dechert stole the show when, Page Six reported, he “let rip a loud, prolonged fart” while yelling “I'm farting!”

How auspicious. How dignified. What a way to follow in RFK Sr.'s footsteps.

### Weird but true

And now the latest: Kennedy's confession to Roseanne Barr that he left a dead baby bear in Central Park a decade ago. (You getting all this?)

The admission ended a long-running urban mystery that, when the cub was first discovered in 2014, was widely covered in the media.

That includes a story by a New York Times reporter named Tatiana Schlossberg — the daughter of Kennedy's first cousin Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg.

It's hard to decide which detail is the weirdest.

That Kennedy was on a fal-

conry excursion in the Hudson Valley when a car in front of him ran over the bear?

That he put the dead cub in his van “because I was going to skin the bear and it was very good condition and I was going to put the meat in my refrigerator”?

That he posed for a photo with the dead, bloodied animal, jokily sticking his hand in its toothy grip?

That he forgot he was on his way to Peter Luger for dinner, and then to the airport?

That he decided to dump the bear in Central Park — and stage it with his bicycle, as if a cyclist had hit a bear in Central Park and fled the scene? (“Bears are not going to go through a city,” a skeptical bear expert told the Times in 2014.)

Or maybe what he told Barr, his confessor: “My prints were all over that bike.”

Where was CSI?

Kennedy was getting ahead of the story, which The New Yorker cracked. But this makes you wonder: What other cold cases is he connected to? Hoffa? The Zodiac Killer? Should we ask him some questions about Lola the red-tailed hawk?

### Zoo's on first?

Don't forget, this comes on the heels of a Vanity Fair piece just last month, with a photo of Kennedy about to bite down on a charred animal carcass.

Vanity Fair quoted a veterinarian who said it sure looked like a dog.

“Of course it's not a dog... it's a goat in Patagonia,” RFK Jr. told Chris Cuomo.

“There's two things I wouldn't eat — well, three,” he added. “I wouldn't eat a human, I wouldn't eat a monkey and I wouldn't eat a dog.”

Bears, on the other hand...

And then there's the brain worm. In May, it was reported

that, during a deposition in 2012, Kennedy said doctors believed an abnormality on his brain “was caused by a worm that got into my brain and ate a portion of it and then died.”

In any other campaign year, this guy is all we'd be talking about. But we all have whiplash from the main event, what with the worst presidential debate ever, an assassination attempt on Trump, an infirm Biden dropping out or the race and the ascension of Kamala Harris, who is suddenly queen of the coconut tree because of “vibes.”

The crazy vibes coming from the RFK Jr. camp are strong. They're saying, Kennedy curse — but make it zoological!

### Conspiracies afoot

Emerging from the COVID era, RFK Jr. was branded a conspiracy theorist because of his views on vaccines and mandates. He had been disavowed by his famous family, something that continues to this day. At the time, no one would touch him. Too controversial.

In 2022, he sat down with Megyn Kelly for a two-part interview that Kelly's team rigorously fact-checked, and it broke the ice. I found him both off-putting and intriguing: a product of the Democratic machine, he was willing to befriend people on both sides of the aisle.

But the more he's talked — and the deeper the media has dug — the crazier the stories have become. Who needs oppo research when Kennedy is so willing to shoot himself in the foot?

Still, if you'd like a souvenir for the Camelot resurrection that won't be, his and running mate Nicole Shanahan's campaign was reportedly selling “Kennedy-Shanahan 2024” teddy bears.

Something to remember his noble pursuit.



## Bear-bite photo latest 'absolutely bonkers' twist

By RONNY REYES  
and PRISCILLA DEGREGORY

Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. gleefully posed with the dead bear cub he found and later dumped in Central Park in a graphic photo that emerged Monday.

The harrowing photo, published by The New Yorker magazine, shows Kennedy sitting beside the dead cub in the back of his car in 2014 as he posed with his hand inside the beast's mouth.

Kennedy, now 70, could be seen feigning a pained grimace on his face as he held the cub's head up against him, with the creature's bloody teeth pressed against his hand.

The dead cub's wounds could also be seen in the photograph, as Kennedy claimed that the bear was hit by a woman driving in front of him during an outing in upstate New York.

Referring to the photo op, Kennedy simply said, “Maybe that's where I got my brain worm,” referring to the parasite believed to have eaten part of his brain before dying inside his head decades ago.

The photo was just the latest bonkers twist in Kennedy's quix-

otic presidential bid — over the weekend, he confessed to dumping the dead cub in Central Park as part of a stunt.

### Mystery solved

In an interview with actress Roseanne Barr, the Kennedy scion revealed that he picked up the dead cub with plans to skin the animal and store its meat, but a meeting that day prevented him from carrying out the plan.

Instead, he decided to dump the bear cub in Central Park and stage the scene to make it seem like it was hit and killed by a cyclist — because he thought it would be funny.

The dead animal made headlines at the time after a woman discovered the cub in the park near West 69th Street and West Drive, but its origins became a mystery until Kennedy's confession over the weekend — ahead of The New Yorker publishing a story about the bizarre tale.

The prank prompted an investigation by state Department of Environmental Conservation officials, who concluded through a forensic analysis that the cub died from blunt-force trauma consistent with a high-speed collision, the

# SURE WAS GRIZZLY



**CUB SCOUT:** A photo shows Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in 2014 pretending to be bitten by a dead bear he found — and then dumped in Central Park, which baffled the city at the time (left). It puts his campaign merch (below) in an odd new light.

agency said Monday.

“The investigation was closed later that year due to a lack of sufficient evidence to determine if violations occurred,” the agency said in a statement.

In yet another twist, one of Kennedy’s distant relatives, Tatiana Schlossberg, actually reported on news of the cub corpse in Central Park when she was an intern for The New York Times a decade ago. Schlossberg, the daughter of RFK Jr.’s cousin Caroline Kennedy, said she had “no idea who was responsible for this when I wrote the story.”

## Somehow not a crime

Kennedy’s campaign has been peddling \$32 “KENNEDY SHANAHAN 2024” teddy bears for sale on its website.

Legal experts said it’s unlikely Kennedy will face charges for the weird prank since it’s beyond the statute of limitations for any crime or violation. And, beyond that, no crime in New York law would apply to the independent presidential candidate’s admitted actions.

“If it was a domestic animal, you’re obligated to bury it underground several feet within 72 hours,” explained former Manhattan prosecutor Mark Bederow. “But bears that you find dead, prefer to eat and then stage fake accidents in Central Park, apparently is not covered by the law.”

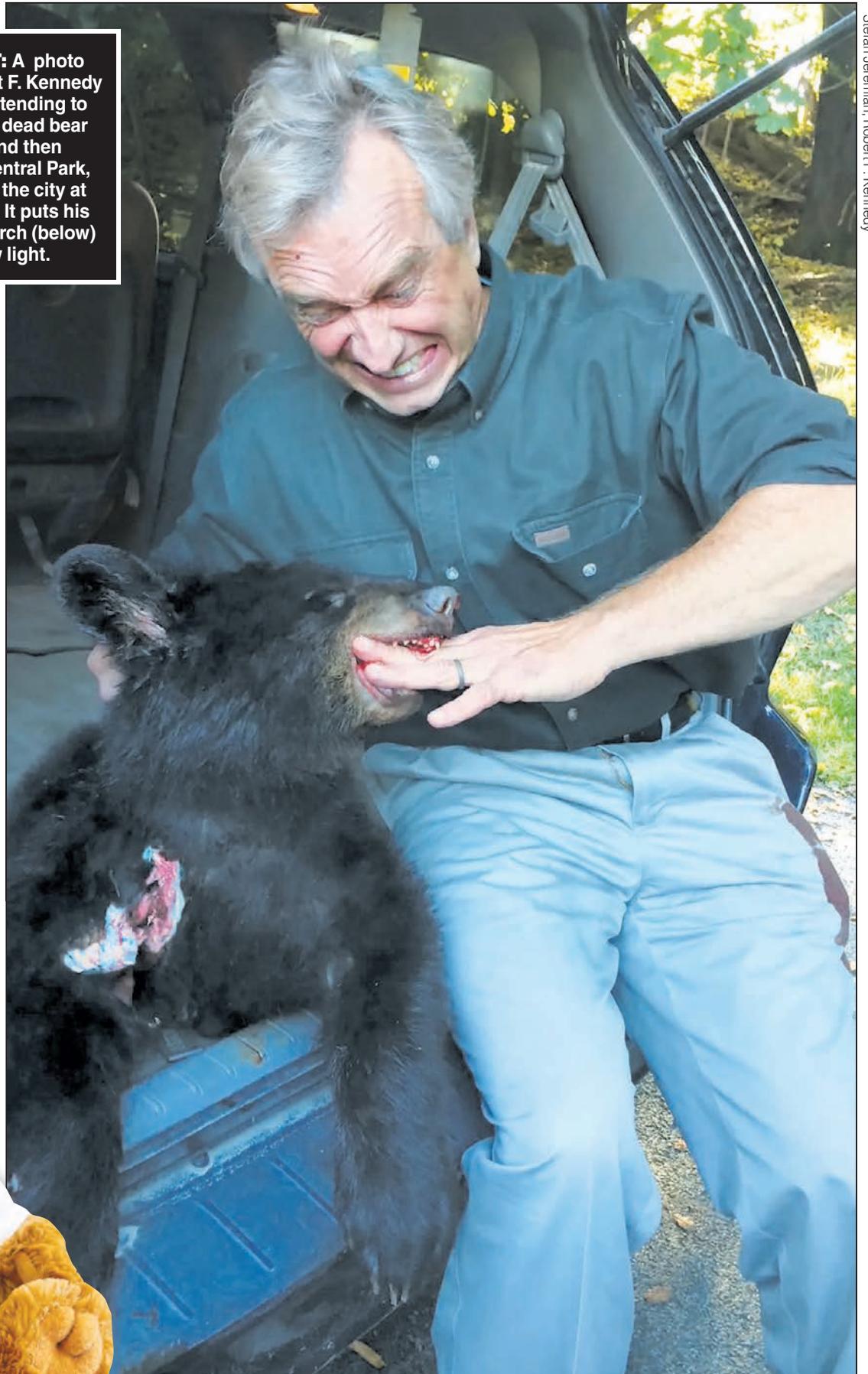
Still, Bederow noted: “That’s absolutely bonkers and he’s guilty of being crazy.”

## He’s in an NY state of doubt

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appeared at the Albany County Courthouse Monday to fight a lawsuit alleging that he falsely claims to live in New York.

The lawsuit was brought by Clear Choice PAC, a super PAC aligned with President Biden that has focused on attacking third-party candidates and seeks to invalidate Kennedy’s New York nominating petition over his residency status.

The complaint alleges that Kennedy has listed a house in Katonah, a wealthy Westchester County hamlet, despite living in Los Angeles since 2014. *Victor Nava*



# Debby turns deadly.

## Fla. boy is killed when tree hits home

By STEVE HELLING

Hurricane Debby has claimed its first known victim, a 13-year-old boy who was killed when a tree fell on his family's mobile home as the powerful storm battered Florida's Gulf Coast.

Deputies were called to the Levy County home at approximately 8 a.m. Monday after receiving reports of a downed tree. The sheriff later confirmed the teen had been "crushed inside the home." He was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with this family as they deal with this tragedy," the Levy County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. "We encourage everyone to use extreme caution as they begin to assess and clean up the damage. Downed powerlines and falling trees are among the many hazards."

### 'First known casualty'

The boy was the first known casualty of Hurricane Debby, though three other people have died in car accidents that may be connected to weather-related limited visibility and slick roads.

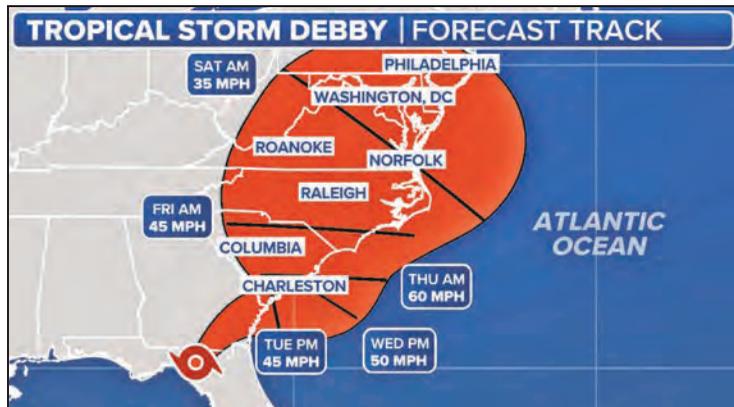
Debby walloped the Gulf Coast's Big Bend Monday morning, approximately 100 miles north of Tampa.

Debby made landfall as a Cate-



Florida Times-Union

**TWISTING IN THE WIND:** The storm hit the Gulf Coast's Big Bend, including Jacksonville's Memorial Park (above).



gory 1 storm near Steinhatchee, a small town in Northern Florida. With sustained winds of 75 MPH, Debby brought heavy rains and flash flooding.

Bands of the massive storm have spread across the state, leaving more than 274,000 customers without power. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has declared a state

of emergency in 61 counties.

Now downgraded to a severe tropical storm, Debby continues to pound Florida as it heads northeast toward Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

In Georgia, the National Weather Service has predicted major flooding on some rivers: the Canoochee River near Claxton, the Ohoopsee River near Reidsville and the Ogeechee River near Eden.

Although those rivers have not yet hit flood stage, authorities warn that their water levels could double as the storm passes through.

Authorities in the path of Hurricane Debby have warned residents to shelter in place until the storm passes.

## Heat kills cop dog left in car

A Missouri police dog has died from heat exhaustion after the air conditioner in the patrol vehicle he had been left in malfunctioned, authorities said.

Vader, a 4-year-old K-9 for the Arnold Police Department in suburban St. Louis, died on Wednesday from heat exhaustion, the department said.

The K-9 handler had left Vader inside a running patrol vehicle that had the air conditioner on, only to later discover the air-conditioning system had malfunctioned, police said.

"Vader was immediately transported to a local veterinarian clinic where he showed signs of improvement," police wrote, adding that after he was transported to a 24-hour clinic, he succumbed to his injuries.

Temperatures last week in the St. Louis suburb were in the 90s with high humidity.

Police said that it's common practice to leave the K-9 partner in an air conditioned patrol car when they are not actively engaged in police work.

"All Arnold Police Department K-9 vehicles are equipped with a system that notifies the handler . . . if the vehicle temperature increases to a certain level," police wrote. "In this instance, the heat alarm system failed."

Isabel Keane, Wires

## Colombia's back at war

Colombia's armed forces have restarted operations against leftist rebel group the National Liberation Army, Defense Minister Iván Velásquez said Monday. The decision to restart military operations comes after a six-month ceasefire between the two sides ended on Saturday.

"There is no ceasefire," Velásquez told journalists. "This means that offensive operations are back on and that is the order of the commander of the military to all forces, and also of the director of the national police."

The country's six-decade conflict has left more than 450,000 dead. Reuters

## Storm blows in \$1M cocaine haul

More than \$1 million worth of cocaine washed up on a beach in the Florida Keys after Hurricane Debby battered the Gulf Coast's Big Bend Monday morning, officials said.

Debby, which made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane early in the morning, carried more than two dozen 70-pound packages

of cocaine ashore as winds topped 80 mph, US Border Patrol said.

"Hurricane Debby blew 25 packages of cocaine (70 lbs.) onto a beach in the Florida Keys," US Border Patrol acting chief patrol Agent Samuel Briggs II said in a social media post.

Briggs shared photos of

the taped-up bricks of cocaine, which featured a glowing red triangular symbol on them.

He said the drugs have a street value that surpasses \$1 million.

A beachgoer discovered the drugs — wrapped inside a trash bag — among seaweed, leaves and other debris that washed up on

the beach, according to photos posted in reply to Briggs' post.

The man contacted authorities and US Border Patrol seized the packages.

Bricks of cocaine and other drugs frequently wash up on southern Florida beaches as smugglers traffic the illegal substances from South America to the US.

In June, a beachgoer scouring a north Florida beach for sea turtle nests instead stumbled upon \$4 million worth of cocaine bricks.

The discovery stunned law enforcement who said it's rare for the drugs to make it as far north as Nassau County.

Allie Griffin



**D'VONTAYE MITCHELL**  
Death ruled a homicide.

## Video of hotel beating horror

Disturbing new video shows a black man being killed while he was pinned down outside a Milwaukee hotel and pleading for his life — footage eerily similar to George Floyd's police custody death in 2020.

D'Vontaye Mitchell, 43, died of asphyxiation during the June 30 scuffle at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee while hotel security and a guest dragged him through the lobby and onto the sidewalk, where he was pinned down and repeatedly punched and kicked, footage from WITI-TV News shows.

Mitchell's death was ruled a homicide by the medical examiner's office Friday, with the cause of death listed as "restraint asphyxia and toxic effects of cocaine and methamphetamine."

The dead man's family is asking for answers.

"We are just fighting for basic, simple justice here," said family attorney William Sutton. "We are not asking for anything different. We are not asking for anything extraordinary."

"A man beaten to death on a sidewalk. Yeah, charges should be issued."

Even in his inebriated state, Mitchell's family contends the force was unnecessary and excessive.

"If he was wrong, he could've went to jail," widow Deasia Harmon told WITI. "I would've felt so much better about that. Not this. It's not fair."

Milwaukee police have referred felony murder charges against four people involved in the fatal scuffle to the district attorney's office, which is still reviewing the case. *Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*

By RYAN KING

Members of the so-called Squad are mobilizing to help Rep. Cori Bush survive election night Tuesday amid polls' warning signs in her bruising primary.

Reps. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) and Summer Lee (D-Pa.) are poised to stump for Bush (D-Mo.) in a virtual rally early Monday evening.

"We have just ONE DAY ahead of us before primary Election Day," Bush posted on Instagram. "Come join Cori & some very special guests on Election Day eve to rally together and get out the vote!"

Michigan Senate hopeful Hill Harper is also slated to partake in the call. Harper is competing against Rep. Elisa Slotkin (D-Mich.), who is favored to win the Wolverine State primary for Democrats Tuesday.

Looming over the virtual rally is Bowman's defeat at the hands of Westchester County Executive George Latimer back in June.

### Moderate challenge

Latimer mounted a challenge against Bowman from the center and had taken more pro-Israel positions relative to Bowman. Organizations such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) targeted Bowman due to his criticism of the Jewish state.

AIPAC has also taken aim at Bush, shelling out almost \$9 million to unseat the incumbent rep in her fight against local prosecutor Wesley Bell, who has similarly campaigned against her from the center.

Bush has been outspoken against Israel, accusing the US ally of committing genocide against the Palestinians and de-

# LAST-DITCH SQUAD GOAL

## Lefties in Zoom call for flailing anti-Israel Rep. Bush



**BIRDS OF A FEATHER:** Rep. Cori Bush (left) stumps with fellow radical Rep. Rashida Tlaib (right) earlier this year — and is now struggling in her primary campaign to retain her House seat.

crying American support for the war effort against Hamas.

Her campaign has hit back at Bell, accusing him of being too conservative and zeroing in on his past work for a Republican candidate in 2006, Mark Byrne.

Bush's team has particularly noted Byrne's anti-abortion positions.

Some polling has pegged a tight

race between the two. Last month, a Mellman Group survey of 400 voters found Bell ahead with 43% to 42%.

Her seat is in Missouri's 1st Congressional District, which covers much of St. Louis and is one of two spots that Democrats hold in the state's congressional delegation.

"Squad" members across the

country have faced stiff primary challenges this election cycle from comparatively centrist Democrats.

Next week, on Aug. 13, fellow "Squad" Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) will be up for her rematch primary against former Minneapolis City Council member Don Samuels.

*rking@nypost.com*

## House sics FEC on Dem fundraiser org

The GOP-led Committee on House Administration is dialing up the heat on ActBlue, a prominent Democratic fundraising platform.

Chairman Bryan Steil (R-Wis.), whose panel is probing ActBlue for allegations of violating campaign-finance laws, penned a letter to the Federal Election Commission Monday asking it to craft rules that would bolster donor verification.

"Following widespread allegations of fraudulent

donations being reported to the FEC by ActBlue, one of the largest fundraising platforms in the country, this emergency rule-making is necessary to reassure the American people that ActBlue is taking the necessary steps to protect its donors," Steil wrote to the FEC chair and vice chair.

Steil is specifically urging the FEC to enact a new rule that would compel political committees to verify the Card Verification Value (CVV) of credit cards and

address data donors enter.

He also wants the FEC to block political committees from taking donations that come from gift cards and get consent from donors before charging them for routine contributions.

### 'Malicious conduct'

"Illegal and malicious conduct have no place in our elections," Steil said in a statement. "Ensuring all parties are complying with federal election law as we

approach a presidential election is of utmost importance."

Republicans on the panel have claimed that whistleblowers came forward with allegations that ActBlue intentionally did not utilize CVV figures, which lowered the standard for donor verification.

Additionally, the committee claims to have amassed evidence that a sizable chunk of donations are from retirees on a fixed income, and scores of \$2.50

donations have come from the same person. The panel has cautioned that foreign money could be laundered to ActBlue via gift cards and prepaid credit cards.

"Allowing political committees to accept donations from gift cards or other prepaid credit cards promote the appearance and the very real possibility that straw donors are making campaign donations with funds provided by another person," Steil wrote. *Ryan King*

# Secret Serv. big wanted WH coke nixed

# BID TO BLOW UP EVIDENCE

By STEVEN NELSON

WASHINGTON — President Biden's former Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle wanted to destroy cocaine found at the White House last year after a partial DNA hit in a national database — and before a culprit could be identified, according to a new report.

Cheatle was “really pissed off” when the request was rebuffed by subordinates who cited protocols requiring the evidence to be retained for seven years, RealClearPolitics reported.

Two sources told the outlet that Cheatle or someone speaking at her direction called the agency's forensics division vault supervisor Matt White and asked him to dispose of the evidence, saying that Secret Service leadership wanted to close the case.

Three sources connected to the Secret Service told the publication that DNA had been recovered from the half-used dime bag, allowing for a “partial hit” in a national database shortly after the drug was found on July 2, 2023 — two days after a gathering of the Biden family at the executive mansion.

The Secret Service closed its investigation just 11 days after the cocaine was found — without interviewing any potential suspects — giving the impression that the agency wasn't interested in learning the facts behind the embarrassing incident.

## 'Following protocol'

The small bag reportedly was retained following pushback against Cheatle, who had landed her post after a push by First Lady Jill Biden's office and her top aide Anthony Bernal, who serves as an important liaison between the extended Biden family and officials.

White's superior, Secret Service forensics division chief Glenn Dennis, reportedly consulted with

the agency's Uniformed Division and decided not to destroy the cocaine.

“[The] protocol is, whether you act on the [DNA] hit or not, we still have to maintain evidence for a period of up to seven years,” one source told RealClearPolitics. “It became a big to-do.”

“A decision was made not to get rid of the evidence, and it really pissed off Cheatle,” a source told the outlet.

The current whereabouts of the cocaine and any possible future investigative steps are unclear following Cheatle's resignation on July 23 following security failures leading to the assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump.

The cocaine was found at the White House in the downstairs of the West Wing near the Situation Room — in a locker used for cell-phones and other personal items.

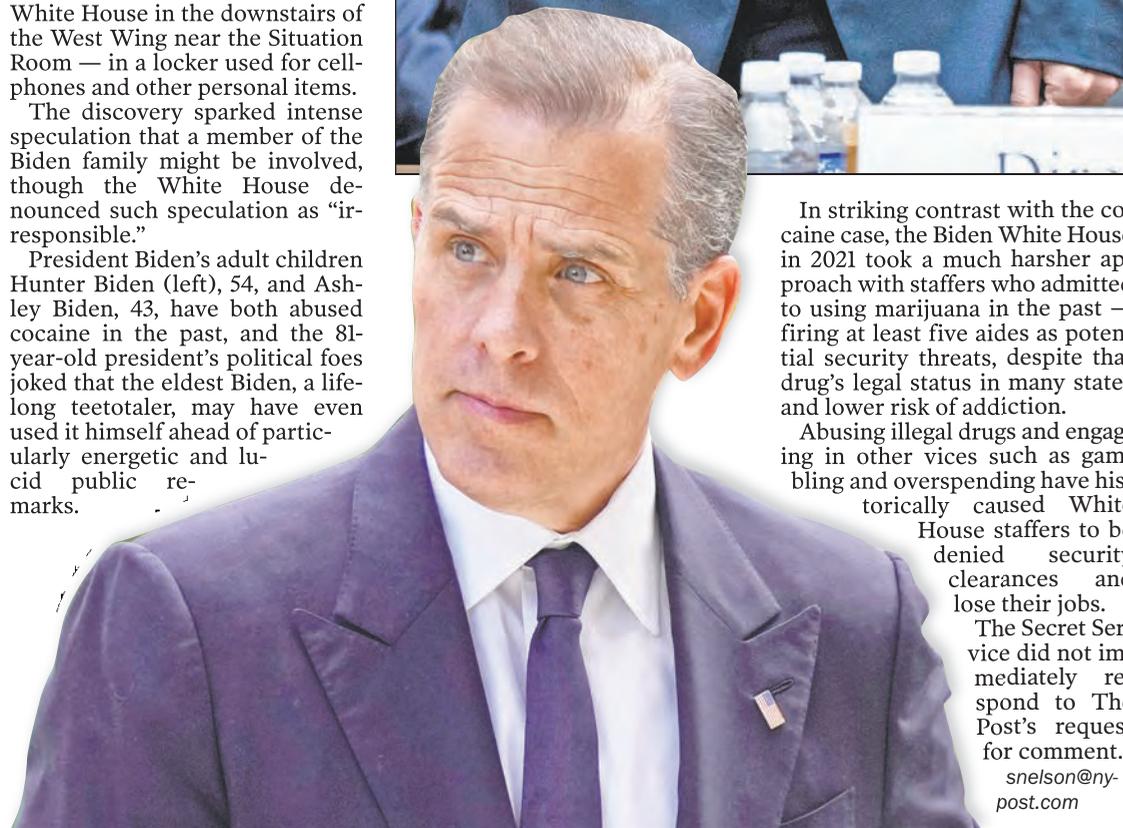
The discovery sparked intense speculation that a member of the Biden family might be involved, though the White House denounced such speculation as “irresponsible.”

President Biden's adult children Hunter Biden (left), 54, and Ashley Biden, 43, have both abused cocaine in the past, and the 81-year-old president's political foes joked that the eldest Biden, a lifelong teetotaler, may have even used it himself ahead of particularly energetic and lucid public remarks.

**CROSSING A LINE:** Kimberly Cheatle allegedly wanted evidence destroyed before the culprit could be found.



ZUMA Press Wire



In striking contrast with the cocaine case, the Biden White House in 2021 took a much harsher approach with staffers who admitted to using marijuana in the past — firing at least five aides as potential security threats, despite that drug's legal status in many states and lower risk of addiction.

Abusing illegal drugs and engaging in other vices such as gambling and overspending have historically caused White

House staffers to be denied security clearances and lose their jobs.

The Secret Service did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment.

snelson@nypost.com

# Hatchet attack at McD's

A hatchet-wielding madman attacked three employees at a Chicago McDonald's on Sunday morning when the cashier refused to give him free food — then he grabbed a cookie and sauntered down the street after the attack.

When the cashier told the man to get lost, he grabbed what cops described as a “hatchet-like object” and turned on the employees, sending three of them to the hospital.

A customer named Moe Cannon told ABC 7 in Chicago that the suspect had asked him for coffee money just before the heinous assault.

“I ended up giving him a dollar and I gave him a Newport,” Cannon told the station. “He had the axe on him. I didn't know what he was going to do. Next thing I know, I see people running out of McDonald's, hollering.”

A few minutes later Cannon watched the man walk out of the restaurant — carrying the now-bloodstained hatchet.

All three victims — an 18-year-old man and two 45-year-old women — are McDonald's employees, restaurant owner Vincent Hale told Fox Business.

The man has yet to be charged. *Steve Janoski*

# Call to end Sudan war

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a call on Monday with Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, reiterated the need for Sudan's military to participate in ceasefire talks this month in Switzerland, the State Department said.

Burhan said in a statement on X that he discussed with Blinken the necessity of addressing the Sudanese government's concerns before starting negotiations.

The Geneva talks, which the Rapid Support Forces agreed to attend, would be the first major attempt in months to mediate between the warring sides to end the 15-month-old war. *Reuters*

# Basement 2.0

## Harris campaign sticks strictly to the script

**T**HE basement campaign has been updated.

Kamala Harris isn't in the cellar of the Naval Observatory campaigning via Zoom calls à la Joe Biden in 2020. No, she's speaking to adoring crowds fired up by pop stars. She's identifying herself with powerful (if somewhat esoteric) cultural trends. She's clapping back against Donald Trump with panache.

Indeed, in one of the great political transformations of our time, she's gone from a sub-par vice president to the second coming of Barack Obama in the space of about two weeks.

Except Obama was a genuine political talent who was glib enough to handle almost anything. He wasn't an intellectual but was a writer with intellectual interests — in another life, he could have been a staffer at the New Yorker instead of president of the United States (would that it had been so).

The people most aware that



**RICH LOWRY**

Kamala isn't truly a new version of Obama are the people around her, who clearly fear putting her in any setting where she isn't reading from a script.

Biden's basement campaign in 2020 kept him from having to go out and build a crowd, but he did interviews. Kamala's teleprompter campaign in 2024 is meant to limit her exposure to keep her from inadvertently bursting the media bubble that's been created around her.

In that, her campaign may resemble the pre-debate Biden approach this year more than his limited stumping in 2020. Biden's 2024 campaign obviously feared putting him out in any setting where he'd be challenged, and when his abysmal debate performance forced them to do so, the additional exposure resulted in predictable disaster.

Kamala's problem isn't messing up names or dates or losing her train of thought — hallmarks of aging. Rather, she often ends up repeating the same (usually banal) thought in slightly different words, so she expresses herself in



Richard Burkhardt/USA Today Network/USA TODAY NETWORK

**Keeping her distance:** Kamala Harris was shielded by Teleprompter sentries at her highly scripted July 30 campaign rally in Atlanta, Georgia.

an endless loop of vacuity.

In one of her few off-script comments since her ascension, she explained last Friday why President Biden should get credit for the prisoner swap:

"This is just extraordinary testament to the importance of having a president who understands the power of diplomacy and understands the strength that rests in understanding the significance of diplomacy and strengthening alliances." That's three "understands," two "diplomacys" and two "strengths" in one sentence.

All that she said is that it's important that Biden understands

planation whatsoever and without generating any significant media static.

If you were them, wouldn't you want to keep it that way?

The campaign will eventually need to do some interviews. Perhaps they will address the criticism that she's being kept from the media with some appearances on MSNBC and with sympathetic influencers.

Then, they can address the further criticism that Kamala is only talking to partisan outlets with a sit-down with a relatively safe journalist who has credibility in the broader media, say, Lesley

**“The people around her . . . clearly fear putting her in any setting where she isn't reading from a script.”**

diplomacy, but she didn't know how to land the plane after stating this simple idea.

Because Kamala hasn't been out there, we don't know in her own words how she feels about the amazing turn of events over the last two weeks, how she plans to lead, or — and this is important — how she explains her multiple changes in position since she last ran for president.

If a presidential candidate flip-flops on one thing during a campaign, it's usually a focus of discussion for weeks. She's done so on about eight things with no ex-

Stahl of "60 Minutes." Besides that, back to the teleprompter!

It's extraordinary that the Democrats had one presidential candidate whom they didn't trust with interviews and have replaced him with another, fresh and younger, candidate whom they also don't trust with interviews.

This is why Trump has to debate Harris: Given the way she has been hiding from the media, a debate (or debates) may have to be one of the main means of trying to expose her.

She's out of the basement, but she's never off script.

# FAST TAKES

## Conservative: Reinventing Kamala

"Can the Democrats and a collaborative media pull off their recasting of Vice President Kamala Harris" into "the holy trinity of Joan of Arc, Harriet Tubman and Margaret Thatcher we have been presented with in the past two weeks?" asks The Wall Street Journal's Gerard Baker. This "may be the most audacious plan a political party has ever undertaken. It requires the effective deployment of the full toolkit of press and social media deception: selective editorial amnesia, gaslighting, memory-holing." Derailing it demands "a focused, disciplined and relentless Republican campaign": "If the election is decided on the issues, on voters' perceptions of the state of the country," she "is surely in as much trouble as Mr. Biden was." But if the GOP bogs down in "pointless assertions about Ms. Harris's racial identity" and other "diversions," then "she may get away with skating past the realities of her past."

## From the left: Big Brother Starmer

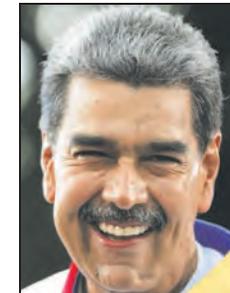
In response to anti-immigrant riots after the killing of three girls in Southport, England, Prime Minister Keir Starmer held a press conference "shocking even by current neo-Orwellian standards," thunders Racket News' Matt Taibbi — "sounding like a starched cross of Dick Cheney and Justin Trudeau" as he laid out "as aggressive a vision of pre-crime enforcement as we've heard from a prominent Western politician" that would "stop people traveling, identify and prevent their patterns of behavior." This "comes in the context of a growing international movement to combine expanded definitions of incitement with 'preventive' enforcement." Oddly, "the press increasingly seems less interested in getting information than egging politicians on." Indeed, "the troubling angle to the Southport story is how heavily authorities and the media emphasized 'disinformation' as the problem."

## From the right: Soft DAs Embolden Rioters

After the July 24 protesters "laid waste to historic monuments outside of Union Station," some "were properly arrested," yet "nearly a dozen have seen their charges dropped," fumes Trey Hammond at City Journal. This, when "the January 6-ers have been prosecuted enthusiastically by federal officials. Why have criminal elements who have called for the death of Jews and the destruction of America, and engaged in similar mayhem, not faced similar penalties?" Prosecutors who "decline to enforce the law" signal "that vandalism and other criminal acts are acceptable," which "emboldens those who would flout our laws."

## Libertarian: Maduro's Black Eye for Uncle Sam

Team Biden's focus on "negotiating sanctions relief for the [Nicolás] Maduro regime in exchange for promises to hold free and fair elections" failed, argues Jorge Jraissati at Reason. He's claimed victory even as "governments around the world" denounce "the election as fraudulent." Now "supporting the democratic aspirations of Venezuelans is crucial for U.S. interests," as "should Maduro remain in power, migration to the United States from Venezuela is expected to surge." Plus, "Maduro's continued rule will also likely increase the presence of U.S. adversaries such as Russia, Iran, and China in the region." Failing to counter Maduro imperils "U.S. national security, economic performance, and diplomatic standing."



**Nicolás Maduro**

## Media watch: Putin Propagandists at VOA

"The dangerous loopholes in security vetting of Voice of America (VOA) talent have finally come to the fore," laments Ted Lipien at The Hill in light of the recent "Russia-West prisoner swap" that released "an alleged Russian spy posing as a VOA freelance journalist." The spy "was a Voice of America freelancer, Pablo González," aka Pavel Rubtsov, "whom Ukraine and Poland had accused of working for Russian military intelligence." When arrested by Poland, "the initial Voice of America news report indicated no association" with Gonzalez. "Why would an American institution, chartered by Congress, hire this obviously unvetted propagandist?" Despite warnings, VOA has "hired even more former Putin media propagandists." And, after several security-related scandals, the US Intelligence Service "revoked" VOA parent US Agency of Global Media's "authority to conduct employee background investigations." — Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

# What the Markets Fear

Donald Trump's not reaching when he calls the stock-market bloodbath a "Kamala crash."

What touched off the panic? One spark: a major whiff in US labor numbers.

The July jobs report showed the US added just 114,000 new jobs in July, well below expectations, and the unemployment rate climbed to a three-year high of 4.3% — after downward revisions for June, May, April and March. In other words, the July number isn't a blip but the flowering of an ugly trend.

That news fanned long-smoldering fears of a US recession, blowing the knees out from whatever exuberance was keeping stocks at historic highs. The bottom's dropping out, with who knows how far to fall?

Plus, Harris is fully on board the war on carbon fuels that will leave the nation unable to power AI computers — the central driver of recent stock-market optimism.

Another part of the story is the massive, debt-fueled Biden-Harris government spending that was keeping the economy in high gear. Democrats have "normalized" \$7 trillion a year in federal outlays — with \$2

trillion of it borrowed — all to keep their core constituencies fat and happy.

That triggered soaring inflation, which obliged the Federal Reserve to spike interest rates, and still makes it risky for the Fed to start easing up, even as it's killing the job market. Even as the little guys, whose wealth isn't concentrated in the markets, have been suffering for years.

That Team Biden has rolled over for every bloodthirsty tyrant from Kabul to Moscow to Tehran to Beijing, yielding wars in Europe and the Middle East — and the prospect of another in East Asia — further undermines the confidence of international markets.

And now Kamala's odds of victory are climbing, which means that with this selloff, the market is likely starting to price in another four years of fundamental frivolousness in the face of life-or-death issues.

Because make no mistake: She and her fellow Dems are all in on this, especially the economic madness driving the nation under.

Voters are going to remember that when they head to the ballot box this November.

# How Progs Are Killing the City

City Councilman Erik Bottcher has finally gotten religion on the corrosive impact of homeless drug addicts colonizing his Midtown West district, but can he manage to evangelize his progressive colleagues on what he rightly calls a "humanitarian crisis"?

The Sunday Post's exclusive on the "West Side zombie zone," plagued by mentally ill, drugged-out fiends, is a reminder of how left-wing nostrums risk rendering the entire city unsafe and unlivable.

Over two weeks, The Post observed homeless, mentally ill and doped-up derelicts shooting up in public near bustling Penn Station. Bottcher complained of "people who have been arrested 50 or 100 times without any meaningful intervention."

Progressives insist that drug users should get "harm reduction" sites to shoot up, that it's wrong to hospitalize the mentally ill against

their will. Yet how is it compassionate to cycle these addicted and tormented people endlessly in and out of hospitals and jails? And render a prime 'hood into a "zombie zone"?

The seriously mentally ill (and far-gone addicts) need to be removed from city streets for their own sake and their fellow New Yorkers'. Yet progressives block Mayor Adams from expanding involuntary removal and hospitalization of street crazies.

Sunday's near-tragedy is where this leads: Ebony Butts, an unhinged woman with at least nine priors dating back to 1999, allegedly shoved two tourists from Mexico onto the tracks at a Manhattan subway station.

If New York is to thrive again, Bottcher needs to convince his fellow colleagues to abandon free needles and get behind the mayor's drive for genuinely humane "tough love" solutions.

# Emhoff's Media Bodyguards

Doug Emhoff's ugly secret matters — not least as yet another example of rank media hypocrisy.

On Saturday, second gentleman Emhoff admitted to cheating on his first wife, leading to their divorce. Worse, it seems his mistress was the kids' nanny, a teacher at their school, who ended up pregnant.

Emhoff and his wife's campaign desperately want no more questions asked. And major media are eager to help: The New York Times put "long-ago affair" in its headline; The Washington Post helpfully pointed out that "the affair ended years before he began dating Vice President Harris."

The double standard is glaring: The press spent years breathlessly covering Donald Trump's alleged 2006 dalliance with Stormy Daniels; no news is too old if it embarrasses

Republicans. Plus, top outlets have been busy polishing Emhoff's image. He did on "Late Night with Steven Colbert" at the end of May, jovially retelling the story of how he met Kamala on a blind date. A July 26 CNN article, "How Doug Emhoff is amplifying his wife's historic presidential bid," called him her "closest confidante and best surrogate."

Sorry: As liberal journalist Mickey Kaus noted on X, "Editors: If it's relevant to the election to profile Emhoff in your publication (typically in an absurdly positive light), this story is relevant too. If readers need to know the good details about him, they should also be told the bad details."

First Ladies usually take on some moral cause; you'd expect a First Gentleman to do the same — but what does the Hollywood lawyer who knocked up the nanny do?

# Kamala's Husband Doug: Cheater and Philanderer

**THE ISSUE:** Kamala Harris' husband Doug Emhoff admitting to cheating on his first wife.



Doug Emhoff

•Vice President Kamala Harris' hubby, Doug Emhoff — what a man ("2nd gent betrayed 1st wife," Aug. 4)!

He impregnated his young nanny and, after his wife found out and divorced him, the nanny got rid of the baby. This shows the moral value of Harris.

And if anyone believes the lies that the media is trying to push about Harris, I have a bridge to sell you. She is a leftist radical, a socialist who wants to stop fracking, keep the border open and raise money to bail out violent criminals.

Nothing will make a difference as to her character — and her husband's affair illuminates that.

**Mindy Rader**  
New City

•I read the article about Harris' husband being a cheater and I wanted to ask: Who cares?

Whether it's the Kennedys, the Trumps or the Clintons, politicians cheat all the time. It's actually anomalous for a contemporary major politician not to have a

cheating scandal tagged on to them.

And besides: Former President Donald Trump has been rocked with rape allegations for decades, in addition to being a serial cheater. So whatever Emhoff is alleged of doing, Trump has probably done worse.

**Richard James**  
Brooklyn

•The cheating husband of Harris is now eyed as the potential new creep in the White House.

He would put former

President Bill Clinton, or even Hunter Biden, to shame.

As Harris' husband is a serial womanizer, he definitely should not be next to pretty, young women in the White House, it seems.

**Will Kitchen**  
Manhattan

•The Republican candidate for president had affairs while married to each of his three wives, was accused of sexual assault by close to 30 women, allegedly hooked up with a porn star and a Playboy playmate, had multiple trips on the plane of a sexual predator of underage girls (Jeffrey Epstein) and faces an \$83.3 million judgment after being found guilty of defaming a woman who accused him of rape.

And yet The Post's headline is about the dalliance of the vice-president's husband during one of his two marriages.

**Richard Rosenthal**  
Manhattan

# Harris' Veep-Pick Problems

**THE ISSUE:** Controversies surrounding potential Democratic vice-presidential nominee Josh Shapiro.

•In 2024, Vice President Harris may pick Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro to be her vice-presidential candidate ("Pa. pol hints: It's Shapiro!" Aug. 3).

But first she has to check in with the anti-Israel politicians in her party, as dozens of Dems skipped Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress.

**Adam Sternglass**  
Elizabeth, NJ

•Shapiro is an anti-Arab charlatan ("Potential Harris VP pick Josh Shapiro on defense over

Israel," Aug. 3).

He served in the murderous IDF, so I don't want to hear a word about his "apology" over his racist op-ed scribbles. If he's picked, I can only pray and hope that Kamala Harris loses — badly.

**Nathan Hollings**  
Wethersfield, Conn.

•Shapiro is no better than New York's Gov. Hochul, as neither of them made an effort to stop the illegal invasion

at the border, which has subsequently made Pennsylvania's major cities rife with crime.

If he did care, why didn't he oust liberal Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner? He is just another liberal, like Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Does Shapiro know that Harris' stepdaughter helped raise \$8 million for Gaza? Of course he does — but couldn't care less.

**JR Cummings**  
Manhattan

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# Biden's New Enemy: Computer Pricing

**P**RESIDENT Biden has blamed everything under the sun — except his own policies — for the 20% rise in prices Americans are now paying for everything from groceries to gasoline to airline tickets to rent.

The White House has pointed fingers at Trump, Vladimir Putin, grocery stores, service stations, greedy corporations . . . and now the latest villain is computer programs.

Almost all of us now use Internet services like Hotels.com and Expedia to find the best deals and lowest prices on everything from jewelry to groceries to travel to used cars. These websites use modern artificial intelligence programs so consumers can hunt down the lowest prices — including a room at a nice hotel in Manhattan for less than \$200.

These real-time price trackers are saving consumers tens of billions of dollars a year on purchases. Now businesses are using the same kinds of computer algorithms to find willing buyers ready to pay the best possible prices for the goods on offer.



**STEPHEN MOORE**

But Biden-Harris regulators are crying foul. The administration is complaining that sellers who use computer algorithms and artificial intelligence programs to match the prices of products and services to the amount that consumers are willing to pay are guilty of a form of price gouging.

The complaints started last month, when Biden's Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission announced an investigation into the software algorithms landlords use to help price out their properties. The regulators were aiming their swords at landlords who dared raise rents more than 5% from one year to the next. Somehow, the FTC thinks that us-

tion that offers a lower price.

Businesses have been using strategies like peak-hour pricing since the beginning of time. Has no one in Washington ever heard of "early bird" menu prices at restaurants? Computer algorithms are just making firms better at calibrating the right price at the right time.

By the way, these algorithms also tell companies when they should lower their prices to increase demand or to dump excess inventory.

Ironically, the government already uses software algorithms all the time — to help price its toll-road charges, for example, or to set prices on Amtrak trains when passenger demand is high. Why is it a

**Has no one in Washington ever heard of 'early bird' menu prices at restaurants?**

ing a computer to set different rents at different times in different locations is a violation of consumer protection laws.

But the FTC has broadened its investigation, it said last month — and is now probing any industry that uses these software algorithms to adjust prices. The regulators charge that artificial intelligence enables companies to engage in "surveillance pricing," attempting to predict how much an individual consumer might be willing to pay based on the consumer's past personal buying habits.

The privacy concern surrounding such a practice is legitimate — but it isn't at the heart of the regulators' complaint. More importantly, the FTC believes that these algorithms allow companies to engage in "dynamic pricing," which enables them to adjust prices during busy periods or when demand suddenly shifts.

This is supposedly hurting consumers. But let's back up and go to a first principle in economics: sellers should be able to charge whatever they want for their products. After all, if you think Exxon is charging too much at the pump, you can always drive to the BP sta-

crime when private businesses do the same?

Dynamic pricing is also a strategy now routinely used by consumers every day, as cell phones turn bargain hunting into an art form. The regulators worry that in some cases — as with landlords — the programs will mean higher prices for customers when supply is low and demand is abnormally high.

But peak-demand pricing can often benefit consumers. If there's only one seat left on an airline flight, businesses should be able to sell it to the highest bidder, ensuring that the consumer who most values that seat on the plane gets it.

Dynamic pricing with near-instantaneous price changes based on real-time supply and demand is economically efficient. It essentially creates an online auctioning system for that final unsold seat on an airline or the last serving of Dover sole at a restaurant. In an auction, the price can go up — or down.

Instant price adjustments benefit consumers and businesses, increasing business profits and total consumer welfare. Why would Biden want to stop it?

Stephen Moore is a co-founder of Unleash Prosperity.



# Deliberately Divisive

**K**AMALA Harris and the media paint Donald Trump and Republicans as radical, but Democrats are the real extremists — and it's getting worse as November approaches.

The left's electoral strategy is predicated on riling up voters with ever-more divisive and destructive ideas. The strategy is risky and perhaps even self-defeating, yet Harris is rushing in that direction. She will likely run the most radical campaign in modern history.

I've spent 30 years conducting and analyzing polls, and like many in my profession, I've concluded that the single most important political development of the 21st century is the migration of white voters to the Republican Party. The GOP can now count on the consistent support of about 60% of white voters, if not more — up from about 50% to 55% previously.

And while demographic changes are slowly lowering whites' share of the electorate, they still represent about 60% of all American voters — meaning Democrats must maintain a strong coalition based on non-white voters to prevail.

The Democratic coalition that emerged in Barack Obama's election in 2008 and remains today centers on four groups: blacks, Hispanics, single women and young voters between the ages of 18 and 29. Since 2008, Republican presidential candidates have never won more than 37% of any of these groups.

To win in 2024, Harris must claim Obama-like levels of support among them all, since her party's erosion among white voters means she's unlikely to gain the 41% of the

white vote that Biden did in 2020. The challenge is to appeal to each part of her coalition.

Since Obama's victories, the Democrats' strategy has been to play to each group's identity, striking often divisive notes to drive turnout. But with every election, Democrats have had to push the envelope to keep the coalition together — especially after Hillary Clinton failed to do so in 2016. Hence the left's radicalization over the past eight years: its current hostility to the police, belief in open borders, support for childhood sex changes and more.

Far from a platform based on principles, the Democratic Party's agenda is impelled by a desperate attempt to keep its coalition ener-

**JOHN TILLMAN**

gized. The job of grievance-peddling now falls to Harris, and she's already tacking further left. Notably, she has immediately backed more student debt cancellation and has stridently defended an expansive approach to abortion access as a means of appealing to young and single women.

Perhaps the only moderation she's shown is her quiet announcement that she no longer wants an immediate ban on fracking — a calculated retreat designed to help her in Pennsylvania. As the campaign progresses, Harris will likely move into more radical territory, perhaps resurfacing her past support for reparations for the de-

scendants of slaves.

Will Donald Trump be similarly extreme? Not even close. Trump's rhetoric is a major departure from political norms, with its heavy emphasis on personal attacks. But policy-wise, he generally talks about supporting the police, expanding opportunity, cutting taxes and other run-of-the-mill Republican priorities.

Trump's relative policy normalcy — and Democrats' increasing ideological extremism — is already drawing new voters to the Republican fold. Polls consistently show him doing better with blacks and Hispanics compared to 2020 and 2016, likely because a growing number are fed up with the left's agenda and its resulting record of failure. Perhaps most crucially, young men have begun a mass migration rightward, threatening a key part of the Democratic coalition.

These defections are already driving Harris' turn toward radical identity politics: Instead of trying to win lost voters back, she's revving up those who remain, hoping they'll turn out in massive numbers.

The result is a great American tragedy. One of our country's two great parties has decided it can't win without pitting people against each other and undermining core principles. The other party projects a unifying message of opportunity and aspiration behind a standard-bearer who resists appeals to the country's better angels.

But it's a message Harris must oppose at all costs for her strategy to work.

John Tillman is CEO of the American Culture Project.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# New \$1 Joint-Injection Pill Puts Surgeons Out Of Work

Studies show active ingredient boosts the same lubricating joint fluid in just days without expensive injections. Relieves joint stiffness. Increases joint mobility and freedom.

Joint sufferers are now using a new inexpensive non-prescription pill called FlexJointPlus instead of popular needle injections.

The developers of this new pill say it delivers the same relief molecule as injections in just days. However, it has some impressive advantages.

First, it's inexpensive and non-prescription. Also, studies show the active ingredient delivers relief to every joint in the body because it enters the bloodstream through the digestive system.

Top doctors have recommended needle injections in the past because they deliver powerful relief. Unfortunately, the shots are painful and expensive. They also only work on the joint being treated.

But initial FlexJointPlus users report greater flexibility and less stiffness in their knees. Hands and shoulders move pain-free for the first time in years. Even neck and lower back pain improve dramatically.

Even upstate New York senior Paul Sansbury says his knee pain has gone from 8 out of 10 to a two after just 7 days, and no longer

needs a cane.

"I needed a left knee replacement, but since using FlexJointPlus, I have less pain. I can walk...I feel much comfort...and I ditched my cane. I am 82 years old," he says.

## BREAKTHROUGH MEDICAL DISCOVERY

Doctors have used joint injections to boost a critical element of the joint called synovial fluid. This lubricating fluid is found between the cartilage and bones of every joint.

Until recently there's been no way to deliver the "relief molecule" needed to boost synovial fluid in the body without a needle.

But now after years of intensive research, scientists have discovered a new pill that not only helps boost synovial fluid in multiple affected joints, but can provide long-lasting relief from pain by actually delivering this molecule through the bloodstream.

Many joint pain sufferers see an increase in flexibility and mobility. Others are able to get back to doing the things they love.

"My left hip joint was so stiff and painful I could barely get to sleep

at night," says Amanda Johnson of Chatham, ON. "but since using FlexJointPlus my pain and stiffness has been relieved, and I am now able to get a good night's rest again."

## SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN RESULTS

A 90 day double-blind clinical study was performed on 160 joint patients suffering with grade 2 or 3 knee osteoarthritis for 1-5 years.

The results were published in the Journal of Arthritis in 2019.

Some participants experienced incredible results, reducing their knee pain and stiffness by 50% in just days.

The data also shows that their joint comfort just kept getting better the entire time they were taking the active ingredient during the clinical study.

"The active ingredient found in FlexJointPlus has extensive scientific support and has been tested in over a dozen well-controlled clinical studies," says Jesse Williams, Chief Developer for FlexJointPlus.

"The results of this study revealed that FlexJointPlus was effective in improving all measured parameters (joint pain, joint stiffness, activities of daily living and overall joint function). No serious adverse reactions were noted in any of the groups," he added.

The combination of quick relief coupled with continuing long-term relief is impressive to say the least.

And while no pill works for everyone, during this clinical trial, every one of the participants that took the active ingredient found in FlexJointPlus reported an improvement in their joint comfort.

## HOW IT BOOSTS JOINT FLUID

"The latest research shows that as we age, the amount of synovial fluid in the joints decreases,"



**NO MORE NEEDLES:** New discovery may help people avoid painful injections like this one. The key joint-relieving molecule in these injections can now be delivered by taking a new low-cost pill called FlexJointPlus.

says Christina Stevens, Medical Researcher for FlexJointPlus.

"Loss of this fluid results in a decrease in cartilage thickness and increase in friction, which can lead to joint degeneration and pain.

And now recent studies have shown the active ingredient found in FlexJointPlus has the unique ability to help boost this lubricating fluid for powerful joint relief," she added.

FlexJointPlus' key ingredient is known as NEM.

Clinical studies show NEM contains 4 key glycosaminoglycans that help boost the production of joint fluid allowing for effortless motion. It not only eases pain in the joints, but it also acts as a powerful lubricant.

"In essence, it can actually 'turn back the clock' on your tired, worn, old joints and help replace them with healthy, flexible, pain-free, new ones," she added.

There have also been no adverse side effects reported with the use of FlexJointPlus.

This is a bonus for joint sufferers who have been taking prescriptions that can cause gastric irritation over time.

This seems to be another reason why the release of this powerful new pill has triggered such a frenzy of sales.

## BACKED BY TOP MEDICAL DOCTORS

"I use FlexJointPlus everyday for my stiff and aching joints. I also have my wife and daughter taking it regularly as well," said Dr. Oozeer, G.P. from Windsor, ON

"One of my patients taking FlexJointPlus has reported a significant decrease in pain when

going up or down stairs, sitting with legs bent for an extended period of time, and even getting up from a seated position," said Dr. Richard Gibson, chiropractor from Windsor, ON.

"Based on my 20 years of experience with joint patients, FlexJointPlus receives my highest recommendation to any person suffering from joint pain and stiffness," said Dr. David Vallance, Rheumatologist from Ann Arbor, MI.

## SPECIAL DISCOUNT SUPPLY AVAILABLE FOR NEXT 48-HOURS

This is the official release of FlexJointPlus in New York. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to any person who calls within the next 48-hours.

A Regional Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try FlexJointPlus.

Starting at 7:00 am today, the order hotline will be open for 48-hours. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE 1-800-537-1341. The company will do the rest.

**IMPORTANT:** Due to FlexJointPlus' recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call, and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

Current supplies of FlexJointPlus are limited. So consumers that don't get through to the order hotline within the next 48-hours will have to wait until more inventory is produced. This could take as long as six weeks.



**PROOF THAT IT WORKS:** Dr. David Vallance was so astounded by the clinical results of FlexJointPlus' active ingredient that he said; "Based on my 20 years of experience with joint patients, FlexJointPlus receives my highest recommendation to any person suffering from joint pain and stiffness."

Dow Jones Indust. Avg.	<b>Down</b> 1,033.99
	<b>38,703.27</b>

# Business

Nasdaq Comp.	<b>Down</b> 576.08
	<b>16,200.08</b>

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Mortgage watch

The financial market upheaval of the last several days may soon offer a silver lining to millions of US households: Mortgage rates look set to fall further, analysts say, but how fast they decline from here is unclear.

### Deal hungry

Shares of Pringles and Pop-Tarts maker Kellanova surged 16% on news candy giant Mars was exploring a potential buyout of the company. Kellanova was spun off from Kellogg last year.

### Meat rebound

Tyson Foods surpassed expectations for third-quarter revenue and profit as meat sales rebounded and low grain prices reduced feed costs for chickens. Shares rose 2.1%.

### Viet penalty

Vietnamese business tycoon Trinh Van Quyet was sentenced to 21 years in prison after he was found guilty of defrauding shareholders of nearly \$150 million by falsely inflating the value of his company, FLC Group.

### Luxe default

CGI, the firm that paid \$375 million to Donald Trump's family firm for the rights to its luxury Washington, DC, hotel, lost the property in a foreclosure auction, about two years after its purchase.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

# MONOPOLY MONEY

## Google gained by breaking antitrust laws: judge

By THOMAS BARRABI

Google violated federal antitrust laws to build a dominant hold over the online search market, a federal judge said in a historic ruling Monday that could have wide-ranging implications for the future of the Internet.

Washington, DC, federal Judge Amit Mehta sided with the Justice Department, which argued throughout last year's landmark trial that Google relied on anticompetitive payments to the likes of Apple, Samsung and AT&T — including \$26.3 billion in 2021 alone — to ensure its search engine is enabled by default on most smartphones.

Mehta ruled that Google violated Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act in two markets — general search services and general text advertising — finding that the default search-engine deals “are exclusive and have anticompetitive effects.”

“Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly,” Mehta said in a lengthy opinion on the case.

The ruling marked the first time in more than two decades that the DOJ has won an antitrust case against a Big Tech firm — and could upend Google's lucrative digital ad business, which pulls in more than \$300 billion in annual revenue.

A separate trial will be held to determine potential damages.

### Stock plunge

The DOJ has yet to specify what remedies it will seek, though experts have suggested that the court could force Google to stop implementing default deals.

“This victory against Google is a historic win for the American people,” said Attorney General Merrick Garland. “No company — no matter how large or influential — is above the law. The Justice Department will continue to vigorously enforce our antitrust laws.”

Shares of Google parent Alphabet plunged 4.5% in Monday trading amid a broader stock market selloff.

Google plans to appeal the ruling, the company's president of global affairs, Kent Walker, said in a statement.

“This decision recognizes that Google offers the best search engine, but concludes that we



### Default position

Judge Amit Mehta (left) sided with the Justice Department in ruling that Google relied on payments to other giants to lock in its dominance in the online search market, but Google CEO Sundar Pichai (inset) says that his company's product is simply better.

**“Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly.”**

— Judge Amit Mehta

shouldn't be allowed to make it easily available,” Walker said.

Antitrust watchdogs lauded Mehta's decision as a long-overdue crackdown on Google.

“For over a decade, Google bent the entire digital marketplace to its will — resulting in higher prices, less competition, and a degraded internet for everyone,” said Sacha Harworth, executive director of the Tech Oversight Project. “When tech monopolies manipulate our economy, it hurts us all.”

The decision could affect other pending antitrust cases against the company, according to Christine Bartholomew, a professor at University at Buffalo School of Law who specializes in antitrust litigation.

“It's rare to have a Section 2 case go anywhere. They're just hard cases to win,” Bartholomew said. “We don't see the government bring them very often, we certainly don't see them be successful on them very often.”

The DOJ's attorneys argued the payments were critical as Google built a massive 90% share over the online search market, dwarfing distant rivals such as Microsoft and DuckDuckGo.

Google denied wrongdoing, argu-

ing the deals were merely fair compensation.

The 10-week trial featured testimony from an array of prominent witnesses, including Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella — the latter of whom argued that Google's default deals made the concept of user choice “completely bogus” in online search.

### ‘Unseen advantage’

Pichai, along with Google's legal team, argued that the public chooses to use its search engine because it is a better product than those offered by rivals.

Mehta found that default status worked as a “major, largely unseen advantage over its rivals.”

“The default is extremely valuable real estate,” Mehta said. “Because many users simply stick to searching with the default, Google receives billions of queries every day through those access points.”

The judge's ruling is just one of several legal headaches that threaten Google's business empire. A separate DOJ case accusing the company of maintaining an illegal monopoly over online advertising technology is set to proceed to trial this fall.

The DOJ is also pursuing an antitrust case against Apple, while the Federal Trade Commission has pending actions against Meta and Amazon.

Google faced intense scrutiny during the trial over revelations that the company had failed to preserve key evidence by allowing troves of employee chat logs to be deleted despite a court order.

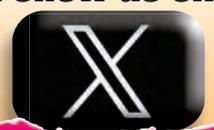
The DOJ asked Mehta to impose sanctions against Google over its implementation of a policy that caused employee messages to be automatically deleted after 24 hours.

Despite blasting Google's actions as “negligent” during closing arguments, Mehta declined to impose sanctions on the company over its conduct — arguing they would “not move the needle on the court's assessment of Google's liability” in the case.

“The court's decision not to sanction Google should not be understood as condoning Google's failure to preserve chat evidence,” Mehta said. “Any company that puts the onus on its employees to identify and preserve relevant evidence does so at its own peril.”

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# CBS News boss' big shakeup

CBS News boss Wendy McMahon on Monday installed a loyal lieutenant to replace controversial executive Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews in a bid to improve morale and revive the faltering network.

Adrienne Roark will take over as president of editorial and news-gathering for CBS News and Stations as part of a wider management shakeup, according to McMahon (right), president and CEO of CBS News and Stations

and CBS Media Ventures.

Roark will assume much of the responsibilities held by Ciprian-Matthews, who was pushed out last month as CBS News president after allegedly resisting McMahon's cost-cutting measures, as The Post reported.

The promotion comes on the heels of last week's announcement that "CBS Evening News" anchor Norah O'Donnell will leave the show following the elections and

that the last-placed news program will get a massive overhaul.

Ciprian-Matthews — who faced accusations of blocking senior investigative reporter Catherine Herridge from aggressively covering the Hunter Biden saga before the award-winning journalist was fired in May — remains at the network through the election as a senior editorial adviser.

Alexandra Steigrad



# Elex fret hurts biz: JPM big

One of the rumored front-runners to eventually succeed JPMorgan boss Jamie Dimon said Monday that uncertainty over who will win the White House could be dampening enthusiasm for megabucks deals.

"Everybody is very interested in talking about the election," Troy Rohrbaugh, the 54-year-old co-CEO of the Wall Street giant's investment bank arm, told Reuters.

"While the equity capital markets are opening up and there are more advisory assignments, the overall market is still not that incredibly robust with lots of IPOs or mergers," he added in the joint interview with fellow investment bank head Jennifer Piepszak, also 54.

Piepszak, another reported front-runner to take over the reins from the 68-year-old Dimon, added that the New York-based firm faced a stiff contest to win business from its rivals amid concerns of a possible economic slowdown.

"The competitive landscape is remarkably intense," she told Reuters.

Another name that has been bandied about in the succession battle is Mary Erdoes, who heads the bank's asset and wealth management division.

She was picked to represent JPMorgan at a private lunch with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee in Paris on July 26, The Post can reveal. James Franey

# Musk X's out Frisco

## To close Bay Area office amid battle with Newsom

By THOMAS BARRABI

Elon Musk reportedly plans to ditch X's San Francisco office — weeks after announcing he will move the social-media company's headquarters to Texas in his clash with California Gov. Gavin Newsom over the state's new controversial student gender-identity law.

In a staff memo on Monday, X CEO Linda Yaccarino said the office closure will occur "over the next few weeks" and described the decision as "the right one for our company in the long term."

"For those based in San Francisco, I know this will impact you all in different ways. Leadership is actively working on plans, including transportation options, for those directly impacted," Yaccarino added in the memo, according to a copy obtained by Fortune.

Last month, Musk announced he would relocate the social-media app's head-

### Outta there

**X boss Elon Musk (right) said he would move company HQ from San Francisco to Texas after Calif. Gov. Gavin Newsom (inset) passed a student gender-identity law. Now he's closing the office entirely.**



quarters to Texas, calling Newsom's decision the "final straw."

The new law blocks school districts from requiring teachers to notify parents about changes in a student's gender identity or

sexual orientation without the child's permission.

Yaccarino said X would transfer operations to new "primary locations" for its Bay Area employees, including an existing office in San Jose, as well as a "new

engineering-focused shared space" in Palo Alto created to house Musk's artificial-intelligence startup xAI.

X didn't respond to a request for comment.

The billionaire also ripped living conditions in

crime-riddled San Francisco while announcing the move.

"Have had enough of dodging gangs of violent drug addicts just to get in and out of the building," Musk wrote on X on July 16.

Separately on Monday, Musk filed a new lawsuit against OpenAI and co-founders Sam Altman and Greg Brockman — just weeks after he dropped a similar lawsuit against the firm behind ChatGPT.

The case filed in California by Musk — who co-founded OpenAI in 2015 but later exited its board due to disagreements over its direction — describes his dispute with Altman and others as a "textbook tale of altruism versus greed."

Musk's lawyers allege OpenAI and its leaders "intentionally courted and deceived" him into bankrolling the startup to the tune of more than \$44 million in its early years.

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# New Chapter 11 for Buca Tighter bldg.-lender rules

Family-style Italian dining chain Buca di Beppo filed for Chapter 11, joining the ranks of restaurant operators driven into bankruptcy by rising costs and cautious consumer spending.

Buca, owned by Planet Hollywood parent Earl Enterprises, on Monday said the move is aimed at facilitating a sale while ensuring the continued operations of 44 core locations.

Restaurant Business magazine last week reported that Buca had closed

13 underperforming restaurants that had been unable to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and other market pressures, shrinking its footprint by more than 20%.

Numerous other restaurant operators have closed locations or sought bankruptcy-court protection in recent months, including Red Lobster and Rubio's Restaurants, operator of the Rubio's Coastal Grill fast-casual restaurant chain. Dow Jones

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are preparing to impose stricter rules for commercial-property lenders and brokers, following a budding regulatory crackdown on fraud in the multitrillion-dollar market.

Lenders would have to independently verify financial information related to borrowers for apartment complexes and other multifamily properties, The Wall Street Journal reported Monday.

Additionally, lenders could face tougher requirements for confirming whether a property borrower has adequate cash and verifying their source of funds.

The new rules might also require lenders to complete due diligence on the appraised value of a property, by evaluating its financial performance, for example, sources said.

Fannie and Freddie declined to comment. Dow Jones

# L'Oréal into Galderma

L'Oréal agreed to buy a minority stake in Swiss skincare company Galderma valued at \$1.85 billion, bolstering its exposure to the fast-growing market for aesthetic injections such as fillers.

The French cosmetics giant highlighted Galderma's position as one of the biggest players in the market for skin-smoothing injections — a category in which the Swiss company's Dysport brand competes with AbbVie's Botox.

Galderma's shares jumped more than 7% on the news. Dow Jones

# HOTEL EATERY COUP

## City cans union edict

By STEVE CUOZZO

the hotels' lobbies.

It won't be last call for many of the city's most popular restaurants and bars after all.

The City Council axed a portion of a bill to regulate hotels that would have doomed scores of top-rated eateries and rooftop bars — heeding outcry from chefs and restaurant owners, as well as a harsh rebuke by The Post.

The flashpoint bill sponsored by Councilmember Julie Menin requires hotels to renew licenses every year and to implement hiring and safety measures long sought by the Hotel & Gaming Trades Council union.

A section of the proposed law — which hotel-industry advocates denounced as a “nuclear bomb” — would have spelled the end of restaurants that are inside hotels but leased to, or managed by, outside companies.

Such so-called “third-party” operations would come under control of the hotels, and their employees would become hotel union members if the dining rooms included “public access” to the rest of the hotel.

Nearly all do — such as Jean-Georges at the Trump International, Daniel Boulud's Le Gratin at the Beekman and Cafe Carmellini at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Several, such as Wolfgang Puck's CUT at the Four Seasons and new Bourbon Steak at the Essex House, even sit in

Tom Colicchio, who runs Temple Court at the Beekman, had blasted the bill on X as “a disaster.”

New York City Hospitality Alliance Executive Director Andrew Rigie warned it would “essentially terminate countless leases and management agreements between third-party food and beverage companies and the hotels in which they operate.”

But after the backlash by the Hospitality Alliance and a New York Post column, Menin acted to spare on-site restaurants from the other provisions.

### Threat recognized

Now, hotel workers covered under the bill “shall not include cooks, stewards, bartenders, servers” and others who “primarily work in food service” — regardless of whether they're “directly employed by the hotel or by another person.”

Rigie said, “After we explained the threat to independently owned restaurants and bars in hotels, and their workers, [Menin] amended it so they will remain open with absolutely no change to the way they have successfully operated for many years.”

Menin told The Post on Monday the threat to restaurants was “an unintended consequence” of the original bill.

scuozzo@nypost.com

## ByteDance's appeal bid

TikTok and parent ByteDance asked a US appeals court Monday to reject the Justice Department's bid to file in secret part of its legal case defending a law to force the divestiture of TikTok's US assets by Jan. 19 or impose a ban.

The DOJ wants court approval “to file more than 15% of its brief and 30% of its evidence in secret,” the companies said.

Reuters



**GEORGE KURTZ**  
CrowdStrike CEO.

## Fliers sue over outage

CrowdStrike's legal troubles from last month's massive global computer outage deepened Monday, as the cybersecurity company was sued by air travelers whose flights were disrupted.

In a proposed class action filed in the Austin, Texas, federal court, three fliers blamed CrowdStrike's negligence in testing and deploying its software for the outage, which also affected banks and hospitals.

The plaintiffs said that as fliers faced delays and cancellations, many spent hundreds of dollars on lodging, meals and alternative travel to reach their destinations, while others missed work or suffered health problems from having to sleep on the airport floor.

They said CrowdStrike should pay compensatory and punitive damages to anyone whose flight was disrupted.

CrowdStrike, headed by CEO George Kurtz, said the lawsuit lacks merit. The company is already facing a shareholder lawsuit.

Reuters

## Execs to tell of air scare

The National Transportation Safety Board said a number of Boeing and Spirit AeroSystems executives will testify at a two-day hearing starting Tuesday about the mid-air blowout of an Alaska Airlines 737 MAX 9 door plug in January.

The hearing will review issues including 737 manufacturing and inspections, safety management and FAA oversight.

Reuters

### Dolan's 'wizardry'



**James Dolan is planning to screen an immersive adaptation of “The Wizard of Oz” at the Las Vegas Sphere, a state-of-the-art, 20,000-seat concert venue with haptic seating. It will cost \$80 million to convert the 102-minute film to an 80-minute, digitally enhanced experience.**

Courtesy: Everett Collection, Wikimedia Commons

# Sphere shoots for oohs & Oz

By JOSH KOSMAN

James Dolan plans to follow the yellow brick road to boost profits at the Las Vegas Sphere, The Post has learned.

The state-of-the-art concert venue, with its unparalleled visuals and haptic seating, is nearing a deal with Warner Bros. Discovery to adapt the 1939 classic “The Wizard of Oz” for a one-of-a-kind immersive experience, sources close to the situation said.

However, the process to convert the 102-minute film into an 80-minute digitally enhanced sensory spectacle for The Sphere won't come cheap.

Sources said the company plans to shell out \$80 million to update the Oscar-winning film starring Judy Garland — which cost \$2.7 million to make before its release in 1939, about \$25 million when

calculating for inflation.

A Sphere analyst said the \$80 million production cost sounds like a lot, but the idea made financial sense.

“They make more money on original content and not the concerts,” the source said.

The Sphere is currently showing “Postcard from Earth,” a 55-minute film by director Darren Aronofsky. It is shown up to three times a day at the 20,000-seat arena, with the cheapest tickets selling for \$114.

It is not clear how much the Sphere will charge for fans to watch the 85-year-old “Oz” on what will basically be a supersized IMAX screen, even with the wicked witch flying across its LED-covered ceiling.

Warner Brothers Discovery will collect roughly 5% of the gross profit, one of the sources said.

The Sphere didn't respond to a request for comment, and Discovery did not return calls.

The focus on movies comes as Dolan continues to hunt for musical acts.

Rock legends The Eagles have a residency at the Sphere slated to run from September through early January.

The Sphere, which cost \$2.3 billion to build, has earned roughly \$100 million since it opened last September, the analyst said.

Sphere's shares are down 13% in the past five trading days from \$44.64 to \$38.25.

The Sphere had been in talks to acquire “The Wizard of Oz” rights since early June, according to Casino.org.

Dolan has made plans to build additional Spheres in countries like South Korea, where it could also show the movie.

jkosman@nypost.com



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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS ORDER OF NOTICE**

NOTICE TO: Brian Constantino, father of a son born on 6/30/13 to Lorrie W formerly of Groton, NY now of parts unknown  
 A petition has been filed seeking: Termination of parental rights of the above named in minor child(ren) The petition whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on: 8/21/2024 at 3:00 p.m. at SCJM 81 Columbia Avenue, Willimantic, CT 06226. Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the: New York Post, a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of: Groton, NY  
 Judge Hon. John L. Carbonneau (Carbonneau, J)  
 Caitlin Bach, Deputy Chief Clerk  
 Date signed: 8/1/2024  
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**DEION SANDERS**

# Report: violence, guns turning Colorado football into 'real-life Grand Theft Auto'

By BRADLEY LOCKER

As the clock winds down to the 2024 college football season, even more attention is focused on Deion Sanders' Colorado team — but for the wrong reasons.

A report from Athlon Sports delved into a purported program culture that allowed violence to run rampant in the Buffaloes locker room.

"It's like a real-life Grand Theft Auto video game," one former player said. "There are many distractions with fights, guns, and money floating around. The environment is unlike any I've come from before."

One specific instance involved safety Shilo Sanders and five-star recruit Cormani McClain getting into a heated altercation late in the 2023 season.

"After the Oregon State game [on Nov. 4], Shilo slapped him several times, which left Cormani screaming 'I'm going to kill you' repeatedly," an anonymous former player said. "After that, you could tell he wasn't mentally there. It's hard when the coaches you trust are calling you derogatory names on the practice field."

McClain, 247 Sports' No. 14 overall recruit in the Class of 2023, played only 277 total snaps in his first year in Boulder before transferring to Florida in a move marred by controversy.

"I feel like I just don't want to play for clicks," McClain said after hitting the portal. "I actually want to be involved with a great leading program that's going to develop players."

Deion then countered by suggesting that McClain's own personal work ethic was inadequate with the Buffs.

"I'm always in prayer for our young men, and I want the best for them. I pray to God that he goes to a program that challenges him, as well as hold him accountable and develop him as a young man," Sanders said.

Athlon also reported on player fights that took place last season between offensive lineman Savion Washington, who is now with Syracuse, and five-star freshman tackle Jordan Seaton, in which Seaton was bullied into "proving his manhood" before scrapping.

Receiver Kaleb Mathis allegedly punched quarterback Colton Allen because of not wanting to repay a gambling debt over \$10,000, according to Athlon.

Colorado's athletic communications did not return a request for comment from The Post about the allegations.

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# AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Baltimore	67	46	.593	—	—	6-4	W-2	34-25	33-21
<b>Yankees</b>	67	46	.593	—	+4½	7-3	W-2	29-24	38-22
Boston	60	51	.541	6	1½	6-4	W-2	27-28	33-23
Tampa Bay	57	54	.514	9	4½	6-4	W-2	30-29	27-25
Toronto	51	61	.455	15½	11	5-5	L-2	26-28	25-33

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	67	45	.598	—	—	6-4	L-3	35-18	32-27
Minnesota	63	48	.568	3½	+1½	7-3	W-5	32-21	31-27
Kansas City	63	51	.553	5	—	6-4	L-1	36-23	27-28
Detroit	53	60	.469	14½	9½	3-7	L-1	26-31	27-29
Chicago	27	88	.235	41½	36½	0-10	L-21	17-40	10-48

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	59	54	.522	—	—	6-4	L-1	33-24	26-30
Houston	57	55	.509	1½	5	4-6	L-3	32-26	25-29
Texas	54	59	.478	5	8½	3-7	W-1	31-25	23-34
Los Angeles	49	63	.438	9½	13	4-6	W-2	26-35	23-28
Oakland	47	67	.412	12½	16	6-4	W-1	28-29	19-38

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Monday

Arizona 7, Cleveland 6, 10 inn.  
 Minnesota 3, Cubs 0  
 Boston 9, Kansas City 5  
 Texas 4, Houston 3, 10 inn.  
 Oakland 5, White Sox 1

## Tuesday

L.A. Angels at Yankees, 7:05  
 Arizona at Cleveland, 6:40  
 Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07  
 Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 7:45  
 Houston at Texas, 8:05

Minnesota at Cubs, 8:05  
 Boston at Kansas City, 8:10  
 White Sox at Oakland, 9:40  
 Detroit at Seattle, 9:40  
**Wednesday**  
 L.A. Angels at Yankees, 7:05  
 Arizona at Cleveland, 1:10  
 Minnesota at Cubs, 2:20  
 Houston at Texas, 2:35  
 White Sox at Oakland, 3:37  
 Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07  
 Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 7:45  
 Boston at Kansas City, 8:10  
 Detroit at Seattle, 9:40

# NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	66	46	.589	—	—	2-8	L-1	38-21	28-25
Atlanta	60	51	.541	5½	—	6-4	L-2	32-23	28-28
<b>Mets</b>	59	53	.527	7	1½	5-5	W-1	30-29	29-24
Washington	51	62	.451	15½	10	4-6	L-1	25-29	26-33
Miami	42	71	.372	24½	19	5-5	L-1	22-35	20-36

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	62	49	.559	—	—	4-6	L-2	31-21	31-28
Pittsburgh	56	55	.505	6	4	5-5	L-1	27-28	29-27
St. Louis	57	56	.504	6	4	4-6	L-2	29-26	28-30
Cincinnati	54	58	.482	8½	6½	5-5	W-1	28-31	26-27
Chicago	55	60	.478	9	7	6-4	L-1	30-27	25-33

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	66	47	.584	—	—	5-5	W-3	35-20	31-27
Arizona	61	52	.540	5	—	8-2	W-2	31-25	30-27
San Diego	61	52	.540	5	—	8-2	W-2	30-29	31-23
San Francisco	57	57	.500	9½	4½	8-2	W-2	33-23	24-34
Colorado	41	72	.363	25	20	3-7	L-2	24-29	17-43

\*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

## Monday

Mets 6, St. Louis 0  
 San Francisco 4, Washington 1  
 Cincinnati 10, Miami 3  
 Arizona 7, Cleveland 6, 10 inn.  
 Minnesota 3, Cubs 0  
 L.A. Dodgers 5, Philadelphia 3

## Tuesday

Mets at Colorado, 8:40  
 Arizona at Cleveland, 6:40  
 Cincinnati at Miami, 6:40  
 San Diego at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
 San Francisco at Washington, 6:45  
 Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:20  
 Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 7:45  
 Minnesota at Cubs, 8:05  
 Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10  
**Wednesday**  
 Mets at Colorado, 8:40  
 Arizona at Cleveland, 1:10  
 Minnesota at Cubs, 2:20  
 Cincinnati at Miami, 6:40  
 San Diego at Pittsburgh, 6:40  
 San Francisco at Washington, 6:45  
 Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:20  
 Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 7:45  
 Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

## POSTSUDOKU

Puzzles on Page 36

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

Solution to Very Easy #6,632

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

Solution to Difficult #6,422

## Mets 6, Cardinals 0

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor ss	4	1	0	0	1	2	.253
Taylor rf	4	0	1	3	0	0	.236
Nimmo lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Martinez dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.262
Alonso 1b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.241
Iglesias 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.331
McNeil 2b	4	2	2	1	0	0	.239
Alvarez c	4	1	2	0	0	1	.263
Bader cf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.271
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Winn ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.278
Pham lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.360
Contreras dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.256
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.230
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.266
Burleson rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.275
Donovan 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Pagés c	3	0	1	0	0	2	.225
Scott cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.081
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	

Mets	010	041	000	—	6	9	1
St. Louis	000	000	000	—	0	6	0

E: Lindor (10), **LOB:** New York 4, St. Louis 7.  
**2B:** Bader 2 (18), Taylor (13), Arenado (16).  
**HR:** McNeil (10), off Armstrong. **RBIs:** Bader (39), Taylor 3 (28), McNeil (37). **SB:** Winn (10). **RISP:** New York 2 for 7; St. Louis 0 for 7. **DP:** New York 1 (Lindor, McNeil, Alonso).  
**Mets** **IP** **H** **R** **ER** **BB** **SO** **NP** **ERA**  
 Manaea, W, 8-4 7.0 6 0 0 0 10 102 3.30  
 Stanek 1.0 0 0 0 1 1 1210.13  
 Díaz 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 14 3.66  
**St. Louis** **IP** **H** **R** **ER** **BB** **SO** **NP** **ERA**  
 Pallante, L, 4-6 4.2 5 5 5 2 2 90 4.43  
 Armstrong 2.1 2 1 1 0 4 26 2.25  
 Liberatore 2.0 2 0 0 0 4 19 5.01

T: 2:22. A: 34,881 (44,494).

## Twins 3, Cubs 0

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Castro ss	3	1	0	0	1	2	.263
Larnach lf	4	0	2	0	1	1	.248
Lewis 3b	3	0	0	1	0	1	.281
Wallner dh	4	1	2	0	0	2	.269
Kepler rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Jeffers c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Santana 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.243
Margot cf	3	1	2	1	0	0	.243
Martin 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.238
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Happ lf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.229
Busch 1b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.257
Paredes 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.111
Bellinger dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.274
Tauchman rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.246
Hoerner 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Swanson ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.224
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.204
Amaya c	2	0	0	0	1	1	.214
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	

Minnesota	001	010	001	—	3	8	0
Chicago	000	000	000	—	0	4	0

**LOB:** Minnesota 4, Chicago 6. **2B:** Santana (22), Wallner 2 (8), Crow-Armstrong (8), Happ (25). **HR:** Margot (4), off Hendricks.  
**RBIs:** Lewis (29), Margot (26). **SB:** Larnach (4). **SF:** Lewis. **RISP:** Minnesota 1 for 4; Chicago 0 for 4. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Swanson, Hoerner, Busch).

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fiesta, W, 2-2 5.0	2	0	0	2	9	82	5.55	
Theilbar, H, 1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	5.34	
Alcala, H, 1.3	1	0	0	0	0	9	1.96	
Duran, H, 5	1	0	0	0	1	15	3.47	
Jax, S, 8-12	1	0	0	0	1	13	2.01	
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>ER</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>NP</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Hendricks, L, 3-10	6.0	5	2	2	1	5	93	6.60
J.López	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	11	0.61
Pearson	2.0	2	1	1	0	2	18	3.38

T: 2:16. A: 35,382 (41,363).

## Giants 4, Nationals 1

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Fitzgerald ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	.314
Canha 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.500
Wade ph-1b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.298
Conforto lf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.232
Chapman 3b	4	1	1	3	0	1	.246
Schmitt 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Encarnacion rf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.308
Bailey c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.253
Luciano dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.293
Yastrzemski cf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.245
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Abrams ss	5	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Yepez 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.317
García 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.290
Ruiz c	3	1	1	0	1	1	.222
Wood lf	3	0	1	1	1	2	.259
Blankenhorn dh	4	0	2	0	0		

## Athletics 5, White Sox 1

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Vargas 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.125
Sosa 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.223
Robert cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.210
Vaughn 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.235
Senzel dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.111
Benintendi lf	3	0	1	1	0	1	.206
Baldwin ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Julks rf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.231
b-Lee ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Robinson c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.133
c-Sheets ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.213
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Cameron rf	2	1	0	0	1	2	.182
a-Butler ph-rf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.248
Andujar lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.295
Rooker dh	2	0	0	0	2	0	.288
Langeliers c	2	0	0	0	2	0	.209
Nevin 1b	2	0	0	1	1	0	.206
Bleday cf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.243
Gelof 2b	2	2	0	0	2	2	.188
Hernaiz 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.178
Schuemann ss	4	0	1	2	0	2	.251
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	

Chicago	000	100	000	—	1	4	0
Oakland	100	201	01x	—	5	4	0

**LOB:** Chicago 4, Oakland 8. **2B:** Vaughn (23), Vargas (1), Bleday (32). **HR:** Butler (13), off Kuhl. **RBIs:** Benintendi (34), Nevin (16), Schuemann 2 (28), Butler (36). **SB:** Julks (4), Gelof (14). **CS:** Hernaiz (1). **SF:** Nevin. **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 6; Oakland 1 for 7.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bush, L, 0-1	4.0	2	3	3	5	3	84	6.75
Anderson	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	20	4.96
Kuhl	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	17	3.63
Shuster	2.0	0	1	1	2	2	32	4.47

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sears, W, 9-8	7.0	3	1	1	1	5	89	4.35
Adams, H, 22	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	20	3.89
Ferguson	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	8	4.55

**T:** 2:15. **A:** 4,971 (46,847).

## AL Leaders

**BATTING:** Witt, Kan, .343; Kwan, Cle, .334; Judge, NY, .322; Guerrero, Tor, .316; J.Soto, NY, .310; Devers, Bos, .307; Altuve, Houston, .301; Y.Alvarez, Houston, .298; Diaz, Houston, .295; Ja.Duran, Bos, .295.

**RUNS:** Witt, Kan, 94; Henderson, Bal, 93; J.Soto, NY, 93; Judge, NY, 87; J.Ramirez, Cle, 84; Ja.Duran, Bos, 78; Devers, Bos, 74; Volpe, NY, 74; Semien, Tex, 72; Garcia, Kan, 69.

**RBIs:** Judge, NY, 103; J.Ramirez, Cle, 94; Rooker, Oak, 81; J.Naylor, Cle, 81; Pasquantino, Kan, 80; Witt, Kan, 80; J.Soto, NY, 78; Perez, Kan, 75; Santander, Bal, 75; Guerrero, Tor, 72.

**HITS:** Witt, Kan, 156; Ja.Duran, Bos, 139; Guerrero, Tor, 136; Altuve, Houston, 135; Henderson, Bal, 129; Judge, NY, 127; J.Soto, NY, 125; J.Ramirez, Cle, 122; Volpe, NY, 122; Y.Alvarez, Houston, 119.

**HOME RUNS:** Judge, NY, 41; Santander, Bal, 32; J.Ramirez, Cle, 29; Henderson, Bal, 29; Rooker, Oak, 28; J.Soto, NY, 28; Devers, Bos, 25; J.Naylor, Cle, 24; Raleigh, Sea, 23; Seager, Tex, 23.

## NL Leaders

**BATTING:** Ohtani, LA, .309; Arraez, SanD, .305; K.Marte, Ari, .300; Ozuna, Atl, .300; Profar, SanD, .300; Bohm, Phi, .295; L.Garcia, Was, .290; B.Reynolds, Pit, .289; Freeman, LA, .287; Merrill, SanD, .283.

**RUNS:** Ohtani, LA, 86; M.Chapman, SanF, 78; K.Marte, Ari, 78; Schwarber, Phi, 75; Lindor, NY, 74; Carroll, Ari, 73; E.De La Cruz, Cin, 73; Ozuna, Atl, 69; Willi.Contreras, Mil, 68; Abrams, Was, 67.

**RBIs:** Ozuna, Atl, 86; Ohtani, LA, 81; K.Marte, Ari, 78; Bohm, Phi, 78; T.Hernández, LA, 73; Profar, SanD, 71; C.Walker, Ari, 71; Adames, Mil, 71; Harper, Phi, 69; Freeman, LA, 67.

**HITS:** Arraez, SanD, 137; Ohtani, LA, 133; Tovar, Col, 129; K.Marte, Ari, 126; Bohm, Phi, 125; Ozuna, Atl, 124; B.Reynolds, Pit, 124; Willi.Contreras, Mil, 119; Profar, SanD, 118; Lindor, NY, 115.

**HOME RUNS:** Ohtani, LA, 34; Ozuna, Atl, 32; K.Marte, Ari, 28; Harper, Phi, 25; T.Hernández, LA, 24; Schwarber, Phi, 23; C.Walker, Ari, 23; Alonso, NY, 23; Lindor, NY, 22; E.De La Cruz, Cin, 20.

## Monday's Olympic Medalists

### ATHLETICS

#### Men's Pole Vault

**GOLD:** Armand Duplantis, Sweden

**SILVER:** Sam Kendricks, United States

**BRONZE:** Emmanouil Karalis, Greece

#### Women's 5000m

**GOLD:** Beatrice Chebet, Kenya

**SILVER:** Sifan Hassan, Netherlands

**BRONZE:** Nadia Battocletti, Italy

#### Women's 800m

**GOLD:** Keely Hodgkinson, Britain

**SILVER:** Tsige Duguma, Ethiopia

**BRONZE:** Mary Moraa, Kenya

#### Women's Discus Throw

**GOLD:** Valarie Allman, United States

**SILVER:** Bin Feng, China

**BRONZE:** Sandra Elkasevic, Croatia

### BADMINTON

#### Men's Singles

**GOLD:** Viktor Axelsen, Denmark

**SILVER:** Kunlavut Vitidsarn, Thailand

**BRONZE:** Zii Jia Lee, Malaysia

#### Women's Singles

**GOLD:** Se Young An, South Korea

**SILVER:** Bing Jiao He, China

**BRONZE:** Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, Indonesia

### 3X3 BASKETBALL

#### Women

**GOLD:** Germany (Marie Reichert, Elisa Mevius, Sonja Greinacher, Svenja Brunckhorst)

**SILVER:** Spain (Vega Gimeno, Sandra Ygueravide, Juana Camilion, Gracia Alonso)

**BRONZE:** United States (Dearica Hamby, Cierra Burdick, Hailey van Lith, Rhayne Howard)

### CANOE SLALOM

#### Men's Kayak Cross

**GOLD:** Finn Butcher, New Zealand

**SILVER:** Joseph Clarke, Britain

**BRONZE:** Noah Hegge, Germany

#### Women's Kayak Cross

**GOLD:** Noemie Fox, Australia

**SILVER:** Angele Hug, France

**BRONZE:** Kimberley Woods, Britain

### CYCLING TRACK

#### Women's Team Sprint

**GOLD:** Britain (Sophie Capewell, Emma Finucane, Katy Marchant)

**SILVER:** New Zealand (Ellesse Andrews, Shaane Fulton, Rebecca Petch)

**BRONZE:** Germany (Lea Friedrich, Pauline Grabosch, Emma Hinze)

### ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

#### Men's Floor Exercise

**GOLD:** Carlos Edriel Yulo, Philippines

**SILVER:** Artem Dolgopyat, Israel

**BRONZE:** Jake Jarman, Britain

#### Men's Horizontal Bar

**GOLD:** Shinnosuke Oka, Japan

**SILVER:** Angel Barajas, Colombia

**BRONZE:** Boheng Zhang, China

**BRONZE:** Chia-Hung Tang, Taiwan

#### Men's Parallel Bars

**GOLD:** Jinyuan Zou, China

**SILVER:** Illia Kovtun, Ukraine

**BRONZE:** Shinnosuke Oka, Japan

## Olympic Men's Basketball

### Tuesday-Quarterinals

Germany vs. Greece, 5 a.m.

Serbia vs. Australia, 7:30 a.m.

Canada vs. France 11 a.m.

**United States** vs. Brazil 2:30 p.m.

### Thursday, August 8

Semifinal 11:30 a.m.

Semifinal 3pm

### Saturday, August 10

Bronze Medal 5 a.m.

Gold Medal 3:30pm

## Olympic Women's Basketball

### Wednesday-Quarterfinals

Serbia vs. Australia, 5 a.m.

Spain vs. Belgium, 8:30 a.m.

Germany vs. France, 12pm

Nigeria vs. **United States** 3:30pm

### Friday, August 9

Semifinal 11:30 a.m.

Semifinal 3pm

### Sunday, August 11

Bronze Medal 5:30 a.m.

Gold Medal 9:30 a.m.

### Men's Pommel Horse

**GOLD:** Rhys Mc Clenaghan, Ireland

**SILVER:** Nariman Kurbanov, Kazakhstan

**BRONZE:** Stephen Nedoroscik, United States

### Women's Balance Beam

**GOLD:** Alice D'Amato, Italy

**SILVER:** Yaqin Zhou, China

**BRONZE:** Manila Esposito, Italy

### Women's Floor Exercise

**GOLD:** Rebeca Andrade, Brazil

**SILVER:** Simone Biles, United States

**BRONZE:** Jordan Chiles, United States

### SHOOTING

#### 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men

**GOLD:** Yuehong Li, China

**SILVER:** Yeongjae Cho, South Korea

**BRONZE:** Xinjie Wang, China

#### Skeet Mixed Team

**GOLD:** Italy (Diana Bacosi, Gabriele Rossetti)

**SILVER:** United States (Austen Jewell Smith, Vincent Hancock)

**BRONZE:** China (Yiting Jiang, Jianlin Lyu)

### TRIATHLON

#### Mixed Relay

**GOLD:** Germany (Tim Hellwig, Lisa Tertsch, Lasse Luehrs, Laura Lindemann)

**SILVER:** United States (Seth Rider, Taylor Spivey, Morgan Pearson, Taylor Knibb)

**BRONZE:** Britain (Alex Yee, Georgia Taylor-Brown, Samuel Dickinson, Beth Potter)

## Olympic Men's Soccer

### Monday Semifinals

Spain 2, Morocco 1

France 3, Egypt 1, AET

### Thursday

#### Bronze Medal

Morocco vs. Egypt, 11 a.m.

#### Gold Medal

Spain vs. France, Noon

## Olympic Women's Soccer Glance

### Tuesday, Semifinals

**United States** vs Germany 12pm

Brazil vs Spain 3pm

### Friday

#### Bronze Medal

TBD vs. TBD, 9 a.m.

### Saturday

#### Gold Medal

TBD vs. TBD, 11 a.m.

## Olympic Men's Volleyball

### Tuesday, Semifinals

Poland 3, Slovenia 1 (25-20, 24-26, 25-19, 25-20)

Italy 3, Japan 2 (25-20, 25-23, 25-27, 24-26, 15-17)

France 3, Germany 2 (18-25, 26-28, 25-20, 25-21, 15-13)

**United States** 3, Brazil 1 (24-26, 30-28, 19-25, 19-25)

### Wednesday Semifinals

Poland vs **United States** 10 a.m.

Italy vs France 2pm

### Friday

Bronze Medal 10 a.m.

### Saturday

Gold Medal 7 a.m.

## Leagues Cup

### Monday

FC Cincinnati 4, **NYCFC** 2

Real Salt Lake at Houston Dynamo, (n)

Leon at Colorado Rapids, (n)

Toluca at Sporting Kansas City, (n)

### Tuesday

Nashville SC at New England Revolution, 7:30pm

### Wednesday- Round of 32

TBD vs. Austin FC, TBD

## Olympic Medals Table

### At Paris, Monday

**180 of 329 total events**

Nation	G	S	B	Total
<b>United States</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>78</b>
China	21	18		

# The POST Line



**MLB**

**Tuesday**

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	\$195-240	Angels
Mets	\$135-160	ROCKIES
Orioles	\$120-140	BLUE JAYS
Astros	OFF	RANGERS
ROYALS	\$120-140	Red Sox
MARINERS	\$175-210	Tigers
ATHLETICS	\$145-170	White Sox
Padres	\$135-160	PIRATES
Reds	OFF	MARLINS
Giants	\$100-120	NATIONALS
BRAVES	\$120-140	Brewers
DODGERS	-105-115	Phillies
GUARDIANS	OFF	D'backs
CARDINALS	\$115-135	Rays
Twins	OFF	CUBS

Home teams in CAPS

**Men's Olympic Basketball**

**Tuesday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
United States	26.5 (185.5)	Brazil
Germany	8.5 (161.5)	Greece
Serbia	7.5 (173.5)	Australia
Canada	7.5 (163.5)	France

**Women's Olympic Basketball**

**Wednesday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
United States	26.5 (167.5)	Nigeria
Australia	7.5 (138.5)	Serbia
Belgium	5.5 (138.5)	Spain
France	5.5 (139.5)	Germany

**NFL Preseason**

**Thursday**

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
GIANTS	3.5 (34.5)	Lions

**Saturday**

Commanders	3 (34.5)	JETS
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**ACTION TOP PLAY**

## USA easy, breezy vs. Brazil

By MARK HARRIS  
actionnetwork.com

After a clean sweep in pool play at the 2024 Paris Olympics, Team USA needs three more wins to take home the gold medal, starting against Brazil on Tuesday.

The Brazilians look to be the worst team left after going 1-2 in pool play by only beating Japan in Group B, and they enter as a +26.5-point underdog.

Team USA is well-positioned to cover the large spread with three lopsided

pool-play wins against Serbia (110-84), South Sudan (103-86) and Puerto Rico (104-83). While the average margin of victory has "only" been 21.3 points, LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Anthony Davis and Anthony Edwards are all playing at the top of their games and the team looks ready to hit its stride with a shortened rotation and a sharper focus.

**THE PLAY:** Team USA -26.5 (-106, FanDuel).

Mark Harris handicaps basketball for Action Network.

### Pitching Form

		Game time	2024			'24 vs OPP			CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA	
Angels	Daniel (R)		1-2	4.91	1-3	—	—	—	0-2	14.0	7.71	
Yankees	Gil (R)	7:05pm	11-5	3.20	14-7	1-0	1.50	1-0	2-0	16.1	2.76	
Mets	Severino (R)		7-4	3.93	11-10	—	—	—	1-1	14.0	5.14	
Rockies	Freeland (L)	8:40pm	3-4	5.64	6-5	—	—	2-1	2-1	17.0	4.76	
Orioles	G. Rodriguez (R)		13-4	3.86	14-6	2-0	2.95	2-1	2-0	17.0	3.71	
Blue Jays	Bassitt (R)	7:07pm	8-10	4.02	8-14	0-1	11.25	3-3	0-3	15.2	7.47	
Astros	Valdez (L)		10-5	3.56	12-7	—	—	7-5	2-0	18.0	3.00	
Rangers	Mahle (R)	8:05pm	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	
Red Sox	Bello (R)		10-5	5.13	13-7	1-0	4.42	1-0	0-0	17.1	4.35	
Royals	Lugo (R)	8:10pm	13-5	2.57	14-9	0-1	9.00	0-2	2-1	23.1	3.09	
Tigers	Montero (R)		1-5	6.18	3-4	—	—	—	0-3	17.1	7.27	
Mariners	Castillo (R)	9:40pm	9-10	3.43	11-12	—	—	0-3	1-1	19.0	2.84	
White Sox	Cannon (R)		1-5	4.11	3-8	—	—	—	0-2	19.0	3.32	
Athletics	Stripling (R)	9:40pm	2-10	5.64	3-10	—	—	3-0	1-2	15.0	7.20	
Padres	Cease (R)		11-8	3.42	14-9	—	—	1-0	3-0	21.2	0.42	
Pirates	Falter (L)	6:40pm	5-7	3.95	8-10	—	—	0-0	2-1	12.1	3.65	
Reds	Lodolo (L)		8-4	3.99	11-6	0-0	4.28	1-0	0-1	18.2	6.75	
Marlins	Meyer (R)	6:40pm	2-1	3.81	3-2	—	—	—	1-1	15.0	4.80	
Giants	Birdsong (R)		3-0	2.97	4-2	—	—	—	2-0	16.0	1.69	
Nationals	Gore (L)	6:45pm	6-9	4.54	10-12	—	—	2-1	0-1	12.1	8.76	
Brewers	Rea (R)		9-3	3.59	13-5	0-0	3.52	1-0	0-1	15.1	5.36	
Braves	Elder (R)	7:20pm	2-4	5.67	4-5	—	—	2-0	1-1	16.1	5.51	
Phillies	Sánchez (L)		7-7	3.36	10-11	1-0	3.00	1-0	0-3	17.1	5.71	
Dodgers	Kershaw (L)	10:10pm	0-1	5.97	1-1	—	—	4-6	0-1	7.2	5.87	
D'backs	E. Rodriguez (L)		—	—	—	—	—	6-0	—	—	—	
Guardians	Lively (R)	6:40pm	10-6	3.42	12-7	—	—	0-2	2-1	17.1	2.60	
Rays	Springs (L)		0-0	4.91	1-0	—	—	0-0	0-0	3.2	4.91	
Cardinals	Gray (R)	7:45pm	10-6	3.72	12-8	—	—	4-6	1-1	19.0	6.16	
Twins	López (R)		10-7	4.65	13-9	—	—	1-2	2-0	20.0	2.25	
Cubs	Imanaga (L)	8:05pm	8-2	3.09	16-4	—	—	—	0-0	19.1	3.72	

\* REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

### SPORTS SHORTS

#### MLB: Chisox's epic skid hits 21

The White Sox lost their 21st straight game, tying American League record with a 5-1 defeat to the Athletics on Monday night in Oakland, Calif., as **Max Schuemann** hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the fourth inning.

Chicago is on the longest losing streak since the 1988 Baltimore Orioles lost 21 in a row. The NL record since 1900 is held by the 1961 Phillies, who lost 23 straight.

● In Los Angeles, **Freddie Freeman** returned to the Dodgers lineup for their 5-3 win over the Phillies after missing eight games to be with his ailing 3-year-old son, who is out of danger after a serious medical diagnosis.

● In Miami, **Elly De La Cruz** became the youngest Cincinnati player with four extra-base hits in a game since at least 1901 and the Reds overcame **Jesús Sánchez's** 480-foot home run, the longest in the major leagues this season, in a 10-3 win over the Marlins.

● In Cleveland, **Eugenio Suárez** singled off All-Star closer **Emmanuel Clase** in the 10th inning to score automatic runner **Corbin Carroll**, lifting the Diamondbacks to a 7-6 victory over the Guardians.

● In Kansas City, Mo., **James Paxton** pitched six solid innings, **Masataka Yoshida** tied his career high with four of Boston's 18 hits and the Red Sox beat the Royals, 9-5.

#### NFL: Record contract for K Butker

Chiefs kicker **Harrison Butker**, who made the game-winning field goal in Kansas City's Super Bowl victory two years ago, has agreed to a four-year contract extension that makes him the highest-paid kicker in the NFL. ESPN reported that Butker is receiving a \$25.6 million extension that includes \$17.75 million guaranteed.

● Chargers coach **Jim Harbaugh** said he has no reason to apologize and continued to deny having any knowledge of the impermissible-scouting operation that triggered an NCAA investigation of his Michigan program during its championship run last year.

● Seahawks quarterback **Geno Smith** returned to practice after missing a few days with knee and hip issues.

#### ETC.: Georgia tops coaches poll

Georgia will open the season ranked No. 1 in the preseason USA Today Coaches Poll a year after having its two-year run as national champion end. The Bulldogs received 46 of the 55 first-place votes from college football coaches in the poll released on Monday. Preseason No. 2 Ohio State got seven No. 1 votes, followed by Oregon, Texas and Alabama.

● A rebuilt statue of **Jackie Robinson** in bronze was welcomed home in Wichita, Kan., by Little League players and former MLB All-Stars, just over six months after the original was destroyed by thieves.

### STITCHES

## Forecast in STL: Sonny, Gray

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. admitted to dumping a dead bear cub in Central Park in 2014, but no one has come forward yet about who left the dead carcass on the south side of Chicago. The White Sox lost their 21st straight game Monday. Why? Say it with me. Because Stitches didn't pick against them!

Nancy Pelosi, rumored to be a player in pushing President Joe Biden out the door, now wants Biden's bust to be added to Mount Rushmore. Biden in turn wants a statue of Pelosi to be placed near the geyser at Yellowstone National Park, which will be renamed, "Old Unfaithful."

After rehabbing from Tommy John surgery with the Durham Bulls, Jeffrey Springs, with a little help from Crash Davis, is back with the Rays. Springs was sprung after giving up two runs in 3 2/3 innings in his first start back. The Cards' Sonny Gray gave up two runs over seven innings and struck out nine Cubs. Play \$50 on the Cards.

-\$

Good game. Ketel Marte, Gabriel Moreno and Joc Pederson homered, and Arizona outlasted Cleveland, 7-6. Winner. Down -728 kevincostners.

stitches@nypost.com

## Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY

	TODAY August 6	WED Aug. 7	THU Aug. 8	FRI Aug. 9	SAT Aug. 10	SUN Aug. 11	MON Aug. 12
	Los Angeles Angels 7:05 YES WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	LAA 7:05 Prime Video WFAN	LAA 7:05 YES WFAN	Texas 7:05 YES WFAN	Texas 1:05 YES WFAN	Texas 1:35 YES WFAN	White Sox 8:10 YES WFAN
	Colorado 8:40 SNY WCBS 880 AM	Col. 8:40 SNY WCBS	Col. 3:10 SNY WCBS	Sea. 10:10 SNY WCBS	Sea. 9:40 PIX11 WCBS	Sea. 7:10 ESPN WCBS	NO GAME
	Exhibition- Thursday Detroit 7:00 TV- Channel 5 Radio- WFAN 101.9 FM						
	Exhibition- Saturday Washington Noon TV- Channel 2 Radio- 104.3 FM						
	Olympic Break: Next Game- Thursday, August 15 Los Angeles 9:00 ESPN						

Saturday, Aug. 24	Saturday, Aug. 24	Tuesday
Charlotte FC 7:30 Apple TV+	Chicago 7:30 Apple TV+	Angel City 5:00 CBSN

## Today's Sports on the Air

<b>MLB</b>	7 p.m.	Brewers at Braves	TBS
	7:05 p.m.	Angels at Yankees	YES, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
	8:40 p.m.	Mets at Rockies	SNY, WCBS (880 AM)
	10 p.m.	Phillies at Dodgers	MLBN
<b>Soccer</b>	5 p.m.	NWSL/Liga MX Summer Cup Semifinal: NJ/ NY Gotham FC vs. Angel City	CBSSN
	7 p.m.	Club Friendly: Chelsea vs. Real Madrid	ESPN2
	9 p.m.	NWSL/Liga MX Summer Cup Semifinal: Kansas City Current vs. North Carolina Courage	CBSSN
<b>Tennis</b>	11 a.m.	ATP/WTA National Bank Open- Early Rounds	Tennis
	1 p.m.	ATP/WTA National Bank Open- Early Rounds	MSG
<b>Little League World Series</b>	11 a.m.	Mid-Atlantic Semifinal: TBD	ESPN
	1 p.m.	Great Lakes Semifinal: TBD	ESPN
	3 p.m.	Southeast Final: TBD	ESPN
	5 p.m.	West Semifinal: TBD	ESPN
	7 p.m.	Southwest Final: TBD	ESPN
	9 p.m.	Mountain Semifinal: TBD	ESPN2
<b>Little League Softball</b>	4 p.m.	World Series: TBD	ESPN

## Olympics TV Schedule, Page 43

## SUMMER OLYMPICS

### Women's golf favorites

NAME	ODDS	NAME	ODDS
Nelly Korda (U.S.)	+450	Celine Boutier (France)	18/1
Attaya Thitikul (Thailand)	+850	Hyo-Joo Kim (S. Korea)	20/1
Lilia Vu (U.S.)	+900	Minjee Lee (Australia)	20/1
Jin Young Ko (S. Korea)	11/1	Ruoning Yin (China)	20/1
Brooke Henderson (Can.)	14/1	Hannah Green (Australia)	22/1
Linn Grant (Sweden)	16/1	Charley Hull (G. Britain)	25/1
Miyu Yamashita (Japan)	16/1	Leona Maguire (Ireland)	25/1
Rose Zhang (U.S.)	16/1	Xiyu Lin (China)	25/1

## ODDS & ENDS

### SUMMER OLYMPICS Tuesday, men's basketball quarters USA vs. Brazil

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
USA	-10000
Brazil	16/1
1ST-HALF SPREAD	ODDS
USA -14.5	-120
Brazil +14.5	-120
1ST-HALF TOTAL	ODDS
Over 93.5	-110
Under 93.5	-135
1ST-HALF MONEYLINE	ODDS
USA	-5000
Brazil	+850
POINTS	O/U
LeBron James (USA)	14.5
Bruno Cabocio (Brazil)	14.5
Kevin Durant (USA)	14.5
Anthony Edwards (USA)	13.5
Stephen Curry (USA)	12.5
Leonardo Meindl (Brazil)	10.5
TO SCORE 20+ POINTS	ODDS
LeBron James	+260
Kevin Durant	+260
Stephen Curry	+600
Bruno Cabocio	+260

### France vs. Canada

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
France	+240
Canada	-300

### Women's soccer semifinals USA vs. Germany

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
USA	-110
Draw	+240
Germany	+300
TO ADVANCE	ODDS
USA	-225
Germany	+160

### Brazil vs. Spain

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Brazil	+450
Draw	+300
Spain	-185
TO ADVANCE	ODDS
Brazil	+250
Spain	-275

### Track and field Women's 200m gold medal

RUNNER	ODDS
Gabrielle Thomas (USA)	-250
Julien Alfred (Saint Lucia)	+195
Favour Ofilili (Nigeria)	50/1
Brittany Brown (USA)	50/1
McKenzie Long (USA)	120/1
Darryll Neita (Great Britain)	120/1
Dina Asher-Smith (Great Britain)	160/1
Jessika Gbai (Ivory Coast)	230/1

## ACTION BET SMART

# These Irish might be the Rile' deal

By JACOB WAYNE  
actionnetwork.com

Since taking over at Notre Dame in 2021, Marcus Freeman has compiled a 19-8 record, including bowl game wins in each of the last two seasons. However, the Irish hired Freeman to usher in a new era of championship contention, and the team has yet to ascend to that stratosphere.

With a projected win total of 10.5, the Irish are priced at 18/1 to win the national championship on FanDuel, placing them eighth on the odds board.

Let's break down Notre Dame's roster and schedule to find out if this can be a breakthrough season in South Bend:

### Offensive outlook

Mike Denbrock takes over as offensive coordinator after leading Jayden Daniels to a Heisman trophy last season at LSU, and he'll hope for similar success with Duke transfer Riley Leonard.

Leonard was limited to seven games last season due to an ankle injury, and the senior quarterback suffered a setback in the spring that required a second surgery. His health is pivotal to Notre Dame's season.

Charles Jagusah was expected to step in at left tackle and replace All-American Joe Alt. However, Jagusah is reportedly out for the season with a torn right pectoral muscle. Now only four of the team's top eight players in offensive line snaps will return.

Jeremiyah Love has big shoes to fill in trying to replace Audric Estime as the lead back. Notre Dame has struggled to find consistent production from its wide receivers in the Freeman era, but Leonard should benefit from the return of tight end Mitchell Evans.

### Defensive outlook

The Irish, who ranked seventh in points per game allowed last year, return some key contributors. Coordinator Al Golden is also back for his third season in South Bend.

With the return of defensive backs Benjamin Morrison and Xavier Watts, the Irish are expected to have one of the nation's best secondaries. However, Morrison had shoulder surgery in March and might not be ready for Week 1.

Notre Dame lost two seasoned veteran linebackers, Marist Liufau and JD Bertrand, and they'll need sophomore Drayk Bowen to step up in his new role. The return of Jack Kiser helps provide leadership to the second level.

Howard Cross III should be one of the top returning nose tackles in the country. Duke transfer R.J. Oben bolsters the line next to him.

### 2024 schedule

Notre Dame starts the season at Texas A&M in a game with a fun storyline, as new Aggies coach Mike Elko was Leonard's coach at Duke.

The Irish should pad their record against MAC teams Northern Illinois and Miami (Ohio). Road trips against Navy and Army should also see the Irish as double-digit favorites. Games at Purdue and Georgia Tech shouldn't be overlooked entirely, but it would be a significant upset for Notre Dame to lose either.

FanDuel has spreads posted for three other Notre Dame games — home against Louisville (-9.5) and Florida State (-4.5) and on the road against USC (-3.5).

### Final verdict

I have more questions than answers about Notre Dame's roster. Can Leonard and Morrison get and stay healthy? With Jagusah out, can anyone adequately protect Leonard's blind side?

And can anyone in the wide receiver room finally step up for this team?

Yet, the schedule gives the Irish plenty of opportunities to rack up wins — they're projected favorites in all but one game, and that's a Week 1 pick 'em against a team with a new head coach.

The Irish are competing for one of seven at-large bids in the new-look College Football Playoff, and 10 wins should be enough to get them into the field. Rather than pay the -205 juice on FanDuel for Notre Dame to win 10-plus games, I'll take the slightly better number on the Irish to make the CFP.

**Recommendation:** Notre Dame to make CFP (-170, FanDuel).

Jacob Wayne analyzes college football for Action Network.

### Riley Leonard



Getty Images

# 2024 SUMMER OLYMPICS

PARIS  JULY 26-AUG. 11



## ATHLETE OF THE DAY

**KEELY HODGKINSON**  
Great Britain, Track & Field

The 22-year-old Hodgkinson cruised to victory in the 800 meters in 1:56.72., becoming the third British woman to win Olympic 800 gold, joining Anne Packer at the 1964 Tokyo Games and Kelly Holmes in Athens in 2004.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1** Second, separating gold from bronze in the triathlon team event as Germany took the title in 1 hour, 25 minutes, 39 seconds — just ahead of the U.S. and Britain. Team USA's Taylor Knibb nipped Britain for the silver.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"We could have just laid down and not even been competing this far, but we stayed together, we stayed the course and we made something happen from very little."**

— Rhyne Howard, after the U.S. took bronze in women's 3x3 basketball. They started 0-3 in pool play.

## MEDAL TRACKER



Country	G	S	B	Tot
United States	20	30	28	78
China	21	18	14	53
France	12	16	18	46
Great Britain	12	13	17	42
Australia	13	11	8	32
South Korea	11	8	7	26
Japan	10	5	11	26
Italy	9	10	7	26
Netherlands	7	6	4	17
Canada	5	4	8	17

Complete medal count, Page 39

INSIDE THE RINGS



## PHOTOS OF THE DAY

### SEALED WITH A KISS

Armand Duplantis — the Louisiana born and raised pole vaulter who competes for Sweden — celebrates with girlfriend Desiré Inglander after setting the pole vault world record for a ninth time. Duplantis cleared 6.25 meters (20 feet, 6 inches). American Sam Kendricks took the silver.

Photos by Reuters; Getty Images



# NBC announcer explains gaffe on his 100m call

Staff and wire reports

NBC broadcaster Leigh Diffey said his eyes deceived him when he announced the wrong winner of the men's 100-meter final at the Paris Olympics on Sunday.

Team USA sprinter Noah Lyles secured gold with a time of 9.784 seconds — and beat Jamaica's Kishane Thompson (9.789 seconds) by just five thousandths of a second.

"The men's 100 was epic & closest of all time! My eyes & instinct told me Kishane Thompson won," Diffey wrote Monday on social media. "Obviously, that wasn't the case. I shouldn't have been so bold to call it, but I genuinely thought he won. I got it wrong. I am thrilled for @Lyles-Noah as his story only gets bigger!"

Diffey excitedly conveyed on the broadcast that the race was extremely close. "There's an Olympic gold medal waiting for somebody! Who wants it the most?" he said. "... This is close! Jamaica's gonna do it! Kishane Thompson is a gold medalist!"

A photo finish showed Thompson's white track shoe touch the finish line first. However, Lyles was declared the winner, as slow motion video and an aerial snapshot determined his torso crossed the finish line first.

The first athlete whose torso reaches the finish line is the winner, per track and field rules.

**Lyles breezes through 200 heat**

Lyles had no problem in his opening 200-meter heat. It was a 20.19-second, no-drama romp around the curve that was routine. So, nothing like his photo finish .005-second victory in the 100 on Sunday night.

Lyles beat defending Olympic champion Andre De Grasse of Canada in his heat of the 200 by .11 seconds.

Lyles is trying to become the first man to double since Usain Bolt did it for the third time at

the Rio Games in 2016. Carl Lewis is the last U.S. man to pull it off in the 100-200, back in 1984 in Los Angeles.

Also advancing in the 200 were Americans Erriyon Knighton (20.00) and Kenny Bednarek, who ran 19.97 and could very well be Lyles' biggest challenger for the final on Thursday.

## U.S. has mixed results in beach volleyball

Two U.S. teams fell on the sand at Eiffel Tower Stadium, with Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss losing to Canada in the women's quarterfinals a few hours after Chase Budinger and Miles Evans lost to Norway in the men's.

Only Miles Partain and Andy Benesh advanced on the day, joining Kelly Cheng and Sara Hughes in the elite eight.

Kloth and Nuss are ranked No. 2 in the world, and Nuss said she was "definitely a little heartbroken."

## Spain reaches second straight Olympic soccer final

Juanlu Sanchez came off the bench to lift Spain into a record-equaling fifth Olympic men's soccer final. Sanchez scored in the 85th minute at Stade de Marseille to seal a 2-1 win over Morocco.

Morocco led 1-0 at halftime after the tournament's leading scorer Soufiane Rahimi converted a penalty in the 37th minute.

Spain evened the score in the 65th after Fermin Lopez showed quick feet in the box and fired a left-footed shot low in the bottom corner. It was the Barcelona midfielder's fourth goal of the tournament and over-exuberant celebrations earned him a yellow card after kicking the corner flag and breaking it in two.

On Friday, Spain will take on France, which rallied to beat Egypt, 3-1, as Jean-Philippe Mateta scored twice, in a match that will ensure the first European gold medalist in 32 years.



## TODAY'S CAN'T-MISS EVENTS



1

### TRACK & FIELD WOMEN'S 200m FINAL (1:35 p.m., NBC)

**Gabby Thomas**, with the top time in both the heats and the semifinal, could be the woman to beat. She won bronze in Tokyo and silver at the 2023 world championships. Reigning world champ Shericka Jackson is injured.



2

### MEN'S BASKETBALL QUARTERFINAL, U.S. vs. Brazil (3:30 p.m., USA Network): **Anthony Edwards** scored

26 points in 17 minutes in USA's final pool play game, a blowout of Puerto Rico, and will look to stay hot as the U.S. continues its quest for a fifth straight gold medal.



3

### WOMEN'S SOCCER SEMIFINAL U.S. vs. Germany (Noon, USA Network): **Trinity Rodman's** goal in extra time lifted the U.S. over Japan in the quarterfinals.

Outscoring foes 10-2 through four games, the USWNT is two wins from erasing its 2023 World Cup early exit with a gold.

## DAY 11: COMPLETE TV SCHEDULE (\*live)

NBC	
9-10:15 a.m.	Diving: Women's Platform Final*
10:15-11 a.m.	Equestrian: Individual Jumping Final
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Volleyball: Women's Quarterfinal*
1:35-3:45 p.m.	Track & Field: Evening Session* (Men's 400m Semifinals, Women's Hammer Throw Final, Women's 400m Hurdles Semifinals, Men's Long Jump Final, Men's 1500m Final, Women's Steeplechase Final, Women's 200m Final)
4-5 p.m.	Beach Volleyball: Quarterfinal*
5-6 p.m.	Women's Water Polo: Quarterfinal
8-11 p.m.	<b>Primetime in Paris</b> Track & Field: Finals Diving: Women's Platform Finals Skateboarding: Women's Park Final
11:35 p.m.-1 a.m.	Sport Climbing: Qualifying

USA NETWORK	
7-8 a.m.	Sport Climbing: Men's Speed Qualifying*
8-8:30 a.m.	Wrestling: Qualifying Rounds
8:30-10:15 a.m.	Basketball: Men's Quarterfinal, Serbia vs. Australia*
10:15-11:45 a.m.	Volleyball: Women's Quarterfinal, Brazil vs. Dominican Republic
11:45 a.m.-12 p.m.	Soccer: Pregame
12-2 p.m.	Soccer: Women's Semifinal, U.S. vs. Germany*
2:15-3:15 p.m.	Beach Volleyball: Quarterfinal
3:15-3:30 p.m.	Basketball: Pregame
3:30-5:15 p.m.	Basketball: Men's Quarterfinal, U.S. vs. Brazil*
5:15-6 p.m.	Wrestling: Finals
6-8 p.m.	Women's Volleyball: Quarterfinal
8-9 p.m.	Field Hockey: Men's Semifinal
9-10 p.m.	Handball: Women's Quarterfinal
10-10:30 p.m.	Boxing: Final and Semifinals
10:30-11:30 p.m.	Women's Beach Volleyball: Quarterfinal*
11:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.	Men's Basketball: Quarterfinal*

USA NETWORK	
1:30-2 a.m. (Wed.)	Track & Field: Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay*
2-4:30 a.m. (Wed.)	Track & Field: Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay*
4:30-7:05 a.m. (Wed.)	Track & Field: Morning Session*

E!	
7-8:30 a.m.	Equestrian: Individual Jumping Final
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Skateboarding: Women's Park Qualifying*
9:30-10 a.m.	Sport Climbing: Women's Boulder Semifinal
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Table Tennis: Women's Team, U.S. vs. Germany
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Skateboarding: Women's Park Final*

12:15-1:45 p.m.	Basketball: Men's Quarterfinal, France vs. Canada*
1:45-2:30 p.m.	Sport Climbing: Men's speed qualifications
2:30-3:45 p.m.	Water Polo: Women's Quarterfinal, Australia vs. Greece
3:45-5 p.m.	Soccer: Women's Semifinal, Brazil vs. Spain*
5-6 p.m.	Artistic Swimming: Team Free Routine
4-6 a.m. (Wed.)	Diving: Men's Springboard Semifinal*
6-6:30 a.m. (Wed.)	Sport Climbing: Men's Lead Semifinal
6:35-7 a.m. (Wed.)	Sport Climbing: Women's Speed Final*

PEACOCK/DIGITAL	
5-7:30 a.m.	Wrestling: Qualifying Rounds*
6 a.m.-1 p.m.	Sailing: Day 10: Finals*
12:15-3:25 p.m.	Wrestling: Finals*

PARIS EXTRA 1	
4 a.m.-5 p.m.	Basketball, Skateboarding, Field Hockey, Artistic Swimming and More

PARIS EXTRA 2	
4 a.m.-5 p.m.	Equestrian, Canoeing, Cycling, Table Tennis and More

# Biles cements legacy with another silver

By MOLLIE WALKER

It was not a golden sweep for Simone Biles in Paris. Not even a medal sweep.

The superstar gymnast from Springs, Texas, still told a story of perseverance and restoration with her performance at the 2024 Olympic Games. She also personified the trials and tribulations of pursuing greatness by adding four more medals — three gold — to her legacy over the last eight days.

It's to be seen whether Biles intends to compete in a fourth Olympics, in 2028 in Los Angeles, but the 27-year-old did make a decisive statement when asked what there was left for her to do.

"Nothing, relax," she quipped with a smile on Peacock's broadcast after securing a silver medal in one of her final two events Monday to give her 11 for her career.

The 4-foot-8 tumbler — who had won the individual all-around title and helped the U.S. win the women's team title at these Games — fell during her beam routine in her first event of the day to miss the podium for the first time at Bercy Arena.

Finishing with a score of 13.100, Biles lost out on her chance to tie Russian Larisa Latynina's all-time Olympic gold medal record by a female gymnast.

Biles' fall opened the door for Italy's Alice D'Amato, who won her country's first ever Olympic gold medal in women's gymnastics with a score of 14.366.

Biles was the fourth gymnast to fall off the beam Monday, a trend that seemingly stressed each athlete as it happened more and more.

Fellow American Suni Lee, who was outspoken about her desire to win beam, also slipped off to relegate her to the same score as Biles to tie for fifth place.

"I'm so sad about my beam routine," Lee said afterward. "But I gave it my all, so that's OK."

To cap her time in Paris, however, Biles bounced back to the podium with a silver-medal finish in the floor final.

These games appeared extra fulfilling after what happened last time in Tokyo in 2021.

"I accomplished way more than my wildest dreams, not just at this Olympics, but in the sport," Biles told reporters in Paris. "So I can't be mad at the performances. ... Competing then walking away with four medals. I'm not mad about it."

A bout with the "twisties," which causes a gymnast to lose their sense of where they are in the air, derailed Biles her previous time on an Olympic stage. It then led to her taking a two-year hiatus from competitive gymnastics.

Despite experiencing some issues during warmups, Biles posted a score of 14.133 on the floor after landing out of bounds twice. It wasn't enough to beat out Brazil's Rebeca Andrade, who tumbled to her first gold medal of the games — and second of her career — with a score of 14.166.

"I have so much respect for her," Biles said of Andrade, who trailed her closely in all of the events until this one. "She always keeps me on my toes, so it's always an honor every time I get to go compete with her."

Both Biles and Jordan Chiles, who took the bronze after an appeal changed her score and moved her from sixth to third, got on one knee and hailed Andrade during the medal award ceremony.

If this is the end of an era for Biles, the most decorated American gymnast has made a significant mark on the sport with 41 world and Olympic medals.

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# R-E-S-P-



**WE SALUTE YOU:** Americans Simone Biles (left) and Jordan Chiles salute Rebeca Andrade after the Brazilian won gold in the floor exercise. Biles and Chiles still walked away with six combined medals in these Games. Getty Images (2)



By MOLLIE WALKER

## Bronze awarded to Chiles

A single inquiry fulfilled one athlete's dreams and produced another's nightmare in the final event of women's artistic gymnastics at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

American Jordan Chiles was in sixth place when she finished the floor exercise, but Team USA's inquiry led officials to change her

score, propelling the 23-year-old onto the podium for a bronze medal Monday at Bercy Arena.

As the score was reviewed, Romania's Ana Barbosu began to celebrate what she thought was her bronze medal by holding

her country's flag aloft.

The inquiry was reviewed and approved, taking the lead of Chiles' routine from a C-start value to a D, which upped her score. She went from a 13.666 to a 13.766, giving her the edge over Barbosu and fellow Romanian

Sabrina Maneca-Voinea, who both tallied scores of 13.700.

Looking up in disbelief, Barbosu dropped her flag when she realized Chiles had surpassed her after the score change. The 18-year-old Barbosu had to be con-



## E-C-T



## after floor score flipflop

soled while she walked away from the floor with tears dripping down her face.

Making it even more brutal for Barbosa: the third-place finish would have given Romania its lone gymnastics medal

from the competition.

Chiles, though, was overjoyed after winning the first individual medal of her Olympic career.

"This is just a dream come true," Chiles said on the Peacock broadcast. "It's my first time ever in an event fi-

nal. Like we said, it was a redemption tour, and I just wanted to come out and do the best that I could. So this medal means everything.

"First event final, first event medal. Oh my gosh, I have no words, but I'm very proud of myself."

## U.S. hoops dominance validates development

**Y**OU'VE heard it a few times, I'm sure. You've heard about how the European model is supposedly so much better at developing basketball players with ball movement and defense and fundamentals and whatever other nonsense is out there.

You've heard about the toxic AAU model in the United States and how it breeds selfishness and narcissism and iso ball.

You've heard about the international takeover of the game, an idea the NBA likes to push because more nations intrigued by the sport means more potential revenue.

Yet here we are in 2024 — over three decades since the original Dream Team — and the global sport of basketball, second to only soccer in worldwide popularity, remains utterly dominated by the U.S.

There's nothing like it in major team sports. Between our women and men's teams, USA Basketball has swept gold at the last four Olympics. To compare, four different teams won the last five Olympic titles in hockey; six different nations won the last six FIFA World Cups; three different teams won the last five World Baseball Classics.

"The whole thing about the system is crap," Jim Boeheim, the legendary Syracuse coach and former Team USA assistant, told The Post. "Our kids get developed. Criticize it or not, AAU develops players. You have to play good or get your [butt] kicked in AAU. The cream comes to the top."

Boeheim provided a caveat, both true and relevant, that the U.S. isn't totally indestructible. Stuff happens. The three-time Olympic champion as an assistant noted that his 2008 Redeem Team, led by Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, edged Spain by only two points in the Olympic final.

But there's a reason Team USA is 26.5-point favorites in Tuesday's quarterfinal against Brazil. I'm already penciling in the Americans for the gold medal game despite our supposedly inferior development system. Group C was so easy that coach Steve Kerr allowed himself to massage egos by playing a balanced 10-man rotation. Nobody logged more than 27 minutes in the opening three contests.

And almost all of Kerr's players, with a couple exceptions, followed the familiar U.S. pipeline of AAU to prep school to NCAA to pros. It is proven at identifying and fostering the very best talents.

This subject prompted a phone call to Sonny Vaccaro, now 85 and always eager to discuss basketball. If you don't recall,

Vaccaro was the Nike executive who founded ABCD Camp, the longtime be-all, end-all of summer basketball exposure and recruiting. Vaccaro was the first to mold grassroots basketball with big sneaker corporation money, attracting, among many others, LeBron, Kobe, Tracy McGrady, Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Garnett, Jason Kidd and Derrick Rose.

To truly open a nation's talent pool, the sport has to be available to everybody, regardless of income level. Vaccaro understood the pay-to-play model was too exclusive.

So he found a way to build Nike's brand — then later the brands of Adidas and Reebok, which both also sponsored the ABCD Camp — while providing free exposure and perks for youth players. It's a model now mimicked, es-

calated, legitimized and celebrated, most notably with NIL payments but also in leagues such as Overtime Elite.

In his heyday, Vaccaro was ostracized as seedy and a stain on the integrity of amateur basketball, much like the NIL system today.

"There was a stigma to doing it," Vaccaro told The Post. "Because some people — specifically the NCAA — criticized."

Regardless of the reputation, the system worked. Basketball potential rarely slips through the cracks in the U.S. And that's evident every four years at the Olympics.

"Today, we're identifying players when they're 10 years old," former USA Basketball director Jerry Colangelo told The Post. "It's a pretty sophisticated system here. There's a whole bunch of people on the street corners, in the gym, the Summer League stuff is over the top. So there's a plethora of players. And they keep coming."

As Colangelo noted, there are natural advantages for the U.S. The pool of players is much larger than the European or South American nations. Our speed and athleticism tend to overwhelm international competition.

It's a recipe for dominance that Boeheim only sees really threatened by an emerging underdog.

"When it comes to developing players, we've done the best. We have the best players," Boeheim said. "I will say that athletically and size-wise, Africa is the next frontier. It's already going that way. That's where I see something big happening. The NBA is developing academies over there. Kids still don't have sneakers in some of these countries. But they're getting them. And I think that will be the change — it may take 20 years probably, but I think it will come."

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Stefan Bondy

# 2024 SUMMER OLYMPICS

PARIS  JULY 26-AUG. 11

By HOWIE KUSSOY

He is always there, offering words every father should relay.

Salif Mane knows what is coming, what his father will say before every competition — he is proud, he is praying, he believes the best is ahead.

Then, the voicemail ends.

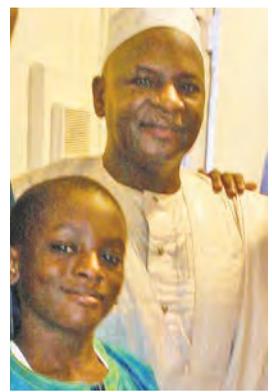
His father, Thierno, a longtime Rockefeller Center restaurant worker, died four years ago, one of the city's early victims of COVID-19.

His schedule never allowed him to see his son — who would become an All-American triple jumper at Fairleigh Dickinson — in action. But he will be at the Olympics in Paris, sharing what his son needs to hear.

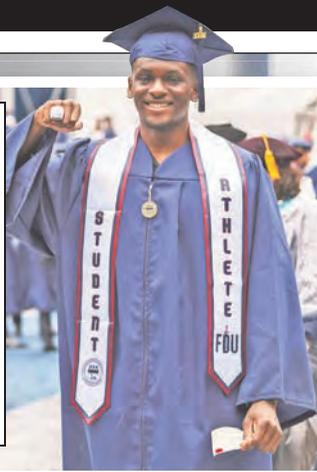
"It's a comforting thing for me," Mane said. "Right before they take you out to jump, I listen to it and then I pray and I head out. ... My dad was a hard-working man. His focus was always on family. Every time I listen to it, it reminds me to stay focused and remember the end goal, to provide for my family. This is what you're doing it for. You're doing it for your family. You're doing it for your father."

Mane is a child of The Bronx, the eldest of three children of Senegalese immigrants, who lives a dream because his parents did first, leaving home for a land where anything seemed attainable, where his father spent more than two decades washing dishes and his mother, Fatou Seye, runs a hair-braiding business in their adopted borough.

On June 30, Mane, 22, secured a ticket to the Games with the top mark in the



**FOR HIM:** Salif Mane's father, Thierno, died in 2020 of COVID-19, but he hasn't left the Bronx native's thoughts. The All-American from Fairleigh Dickinson will compete in the triple jump Wednesday. FDU (3)



## Years after father's sudden death, Bronx native has triple jump in sights and father's words at heart

# 'HE'S WITH ME'

U.S. Olympic Trials, his personal best (17.52 meters or 57.48 feet) topping every American triple jumper since 2020. He is the third men's athlete to win an NCAA triple jump title in the same year as winning the Olympic Trials and a potential contender to medal during the event (Wednesday) in Paris.

"[My mother] couldn't sleep the night before," Mane said. "She's been crying. She's been going through a lot of emotions."

Mane began training at the New York Armory, at 14,

but couldn't draw Division I interest while competing at Taft High School. He began his collegiate career at Lincoln University of Missouri.

"I don't know why I wasn't getting recruited, but it didn't bug me at all," said Mane, who earned a degree in civil engineering and is returning to Fairleigh Dickinson to pursue a master's degree in leadership and management. "I knew my path was a bit different. D-II to an Olympian is very different."

Near the conclusion of Mane's first year at college

— and the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic — his father developed a cough that sent him to the hospital. He had no apparent underlying condition. His health had appeared in great shape, previously allowing him to spend early mornings running and biking with his son.

After his father's sudden death, Mane transferred to a school nine miles from his family's apartment off 172nd Street and Sheridan Avenue.

"It all happened in like one week ... it's kind of hard [to process]," Mane said of

his father's death. "It was very important for me to come back with my family because it was a very hard time for us. My little sister was very young, about 5, and my brother was in the 10th grade. I had to stay close to them and my mom needed help."

Mane began listening to the voicemails — which his father left before competitions a few months prior to his death — when he returned to the track, conducting much of his Olympic training at nearby Teaneck High School because

Fairleigh Dickinson lacked an outdoor facility. He's listened to the recordings before every competition since his father's death.

Mane recently was honored by throwing out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium. Now, he travels to Europe for the first time, awaiting the opportunity his parents made possible.

He will not wonder what his father would have said.

"I feel like he's with me," Mane said. "There's no nervousness. I'm not scared. There's just excitement."

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## Thrown into discus, Allman grabs another gold

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Valarie Allman took her place atop the discus world yet again.

The American captured her second consecutive gold medal in discus on Monday after taking home the gold three years earlier in Tokyo during the 2020 Olympics. She bested the world's top female discus athletes with a throw of 69.50 meters on her fourth throw, which gave her plenty of space between the

eventual silver medalist, Bin Feng of China, and bronze winner, Sandra Elkasevi of Croatia.

She became the first American woman to win two gold medals in the event.

Allman's four non-foul throws all surpassed Feng's best throw during the competition.

"I am on cloud nine. I am so happy and grateful for how the competition played out," Allman told Irish broadcaster RTE Sport. "The discus is such a

strong field right now, until it was all done I didn't let myself believe it was going to be true. To walk away as champion, I can't believe it."

Her second-best throw of the day was her final one, when she was able to launch it 69.21 meters, which secured the gold and sent her leaping into the arms of her coach Zebulon Sion.

Back in Allman's hometown of Longmont, Colo., a watch party had been organized at her alma

mater, Silver Springs High School. Her former track and field coaches and fans watched with bated breath over every one of the 29-year-old's throws.

Allman's start to track and field has become a bit of an Olympic legend.

She originally dreamed of becoming a dancer, but took up track and field at the encouragement of her older brother in her freshman year of high school. After trying several events, she

gave discus a chance because Allman wanted to take part in the annual spaghetti dinner that the throwing team had.

But to receive an invite, she had to try any of the throwing events leading her to give discus a try.

"It was the best spaghetti I ever had," Allman said during a visit back to Silver Springs High in 2023, according to the Longmont Leader.

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**DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM**

**♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)**

If you need to get over some sort of emotional upset the best way is to throw yourself into your work so your mind is kept occupied. Come this time tomorrow you will no longer see it as a problem, just a memory that can be allowed to fade.

**♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)**

The pace of change in the world is such that if you don't try to keep up with it you will soon get left far behind. What occurs today will encourage you to get to grips with a new theory or technique that will soon become everyday knowledge.

**♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)**

Everything seems to be going your way at the moment but there is one cloud on the horizon in that someone you are close to emotionally is feeling low and it worries you a lot. Find out why they seem so vulnerable, then find ways to

help them.

**♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)**

What you see and hear on your travels today will encourage you to ditch the limitations you have imposed on yourself so you can raise your sights and do something magical. You don't know what you are capable of until you try - so try!

**♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)**

Money may not be everything but you do need to take into account how much a new hobby or project is likely to cost you. Or do you rake in so much cash that you can afford to throw it around like confetti? Probably not.

**♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)**

A situation that looks bleak today will look a lot better by

the end of the week, so try not to dwell on it and focus instead on activities that bring a smile to your face. Reject negativity and adopt a more positive outlook on life.

**♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)**

The harder you try to bring happiness into the life of a friend or loved one the more they seem to wallow in despair. Take the hint and let them get on with it. They will come to their senses eventually, when the time is right.

**♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)**

Your outlook on life may make perfect sense to you but others just don't seem to "get it", most likely because they are unable to elevate their thinking to a level where ideas of "good" and "bad" don't have to be opposites. It's

their loss.

**♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)**

You may think that bending the truth a little in pursuit of an ideal is no big thing but someone in a position of power could take it as an indication that you are not to be trusted. Honesty is always the best policy, whatever the consequences.

**♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)**

You may want your life to stay exactly as it is but deep down you know that isn't going to happen. There are some major changes taking place in the world around you at the moment and some of those changes are going to affect you.

**♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)**

Keep telling yourself that your current situation is nowhere as bad as some people say it is, and keep doing those things you know to be right. No matter what might occur over the next few days it will work itself out for the best in the end.

**♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)**

Don't get angry or upset if a friend refuses to support what you are proposing to do. Just because it is the right thing for you does not mean it will be the right thing for them and they have every right to follow a different path.

**BIRTHDAY TUESDAY**

There will be times this year when events appear to conspire against you but in reality it is just the universe giving you hints that you need to try harder to reach those life goals you are supposed to be striving for. They are still very much within reach.

## Post Weather Report

AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

<p><b>Tuesday</b></p> <p><b>Today:</b> A couple of showers and a heavy t-storm. High 81 to 87.</p> <p><b>Tonight:</b> Heavy t-storms. Low 63 to 69.</p> <p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p>Mostly cloudy. High 75 to 81.</p> <p><b>Evening</b></p> <p>A few showers. Low 64 to 70.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>Tomorrow:</b> Cloudy and cooler with a shower or two. High 69 to 75.</p> <p><b>Tomorrow night:</b> A shower and t-storm early. Low 62 to 68.</p> <p><b>Friday</b></p> <p>Showers/t-storms. High 73 to 79.</p> <p><b>Evening</b></p> <p>Wind and rain. Low 66 to 72.</p>
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Peekskill 82/65  
White Plains 81/66  
Garden City 86/68  
JFK 87/70  
Sandy Hook 85/71  
Asbury Park 86/71  
Manasquan 85/72  
Toms River 92/72  
Long Beach 85/72  
Atlantic City 90/72  
Ocean City 84/71

Stamford 83/67  
Huntington 85/69  
Deer Park 86/69  
Long Beach 84/69

Bridgeport 82/68  
Riverhead 84/67  
Southampton 82/67  
Montauk 83/68

Sussex 83/64  
Paterson 87/67  
Newark 89/70  
La G 84/67

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2024

**Sun and Moon**

Sunrise today ..... 5:57 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 8:05 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 7:54 a.m.  
Moonset today ..... 9:24 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 26	Sep 2

**Almanac**

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

**Temperature**  
High: 90, Low: 73, Mean: 82

**Departure from Normal**  
Yesterday: +4 degrees

**Precipitation**  
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 1.42", Year: 31.30", Normal year to date: 29.23"

**Cooling Degree days yesterday** ..... 17  
**Total for the month (normal)** ..... 86 (61)  
**Total since Jan. 1 (normal)** ..... 966 (762)  
**Last year to date** ..... 747  
**Heat Index (at noon yest.)** ..... 88  
**UV Index (for Tue.)** ..... 4 (Moderate)  
**Humidity (at noon)** ..... 38%

**AIR QUALITY**  
**Pollen:** Low Predominant pollen: Weeds  
**AQI rating:** (for Tue.) ..... Moderate

**Tuesday, August 6, 2024**

Seattle 76/58  
San Francisco 72/54  
Los Angeles 95/67  
Denver 94/68  
El Paso 99/78  
Houston 99/77  
Chicago 74/64  
Detroit 71/59  
New York 84/67  
Washington 96/76  
Atlanta 91/74  
Miami 90/79

Billings 94/61  
Minneapolis 76/60  
Kansas City 82/63

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

Legend:  
Showers, T-storms, Rain, Flurries, Snow, Ice, Fronts (Cold, Warm, Stationary)

**New York Tides**

	TODAY	TOMORROW
High Tide for	1st 2nd	1st 2nd
Coney Island	9:51a 9:56p	10:32a 10:34p
Fire Island	9:45a 10:06p	10:24a 10:42p
Hempstead	1:17a 1:43p	1:45a 2:08p
Huntington	1:08a 1:34p	1:44a 2:07p
Jones Inlet	9:35a 9:40p	10:16a 10:18p
Montauk Point	11:01a 11:20p	11:47a ---
Port Washington	1:27a 1:53p	1:51a 2:12p
Sandy Hook	9:55a 10:00p	10:36a 10:38p

**Regional cities**

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	76/61/c	77/57/c
Danbury	80/65/t	71/61/sh
Glens Falls	73/57/c	75/53/pc
Gr Barrington	76/60/c	73/55/c
Kingston	79/62/t	73/59/c
Liberty	77/60/t	70/56/pc
Monticello	79/61/t	71/56/c
Newburgh	80/63/t	73/59/sh
Poughkeepsie	80/63/t	73/58/c
Saratoga Springs	74/59/c	76/57/c
Stroudsburg	87/64/t	70/61/sh
Torrington	75/62/c	70/57/r
Syracuse	76/59/sh	79/58/pc

**World cities**

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	91/76/s	92/77/s
Baghdad	113/86/pc	113/90/s
Beijing	92/75/t	87/72/t
Berlin	79/59/pc	86/65/pc
Cairo	97/79/s	98/79/s
Dublin	66/54/pc	66/54/pc
Geneva	89/63/s	86/63/t
Hong Kong	93/85/t	92/84/t
Jerusalem	88/66/s	89/68/s
Kabul	94/61/s	93/64/s
London	74/56/sh	71/56/pc
Madrid	100/72/s	100/73/s
Mexico City	75/58/sh	74/55/sh
Montreal	74/58/pc	76/57/pc
Moscow	73/60/t	74/58/r
Paris	85/63/s	79/58/pc
Rio de Janeiro	82/70/s	84/72/s
Rome	90/72/s	91/72/s
Sydney	64/45/pc	65/44/s
Tokyo	95/80/t	93/79/sh



# 'GOAT' HERDERS

## O-line building chemistry to protect legend Rodgers

By ETHAN SEARS

John Simpson hasn't been around Aaron Rodgers for long, but the left guard already knows what responsibility comes with protecting the man around whom the Jets are building their hopes and dreams.

"He the GOAT," Simpson said after the Jets practiced on Monday. "It's that little extra, you gotta do your job. You gotta keep him upright and do our best every day. Having a guy like that, that's gonna switch the snap count, that's gonna do different things behind the line, you just gotta be locked in on whatever he says. Cause he's gonna run the show."

While it wasn't anyone's fault that Rodgers fell the wrong way on the MetLife Stadium turf and tore his Achilles four snaps into last season, it was of note that the Jets offensive line struggled throughout camp and for much of the regular season. It's no coincidence that Joe Tippmann and Alijah Vera-Tucker mark the only returnees of a five-man unit that also includes Simpson, Tyron Smith and Morgan Moses.

And while bad snaps have been a persistent issue through camp along with injuries preventing the top five from spending much time together on the practice field, Simpson said the line is building chemistry, at speed.

"I think we're ahead of a lot of other places as far as us gelling together with all the new guys in the room," he said. "You're always trying to get closer and closer as a unit so we can just fully trust each other when we go out there for that first game."

The 26-year-old from Charleston, S.C. started his career with the Raiders before playing

last season in Baltimore, alongside Moses. The Jets signed him to a two-year, \$12 million deal this offseason, with \$6 million in guaranteed money.

"John, surprisingly — and I don't want to criticize him. This is not a criticism. He is much quicker-footed than we anticipated," coach Robert Saleh said last week. "In turn, we knew he was quick-footed, we knew he was athletic, but his ability to get to the second level, redirect off combination blocks and maintain balance and clean footwork and pad level is really, really cool and makes him a guy that we're all really happy with and really excited to continue to work with."

Simpson, in turn, is thrilled to be in camp playing next to Smith — one of the best left tackles of the past decade — and regularly taking reps against Quinnen Williams.

"It's a fight every day," he said of going against Williams. "Every snap, every play, just trying to put my best foot forward and compete against a guy like that. I think he's gonna make me better and I'm trying my best to make him better."

As for Moses, Simpson said he benefited from the veteran's mentorship when they were together with the Ravens.

"He's another guy that's been in the league for a long time, he knows what he's talking about,"

Simpson said. "That's one of those guys I sit back and listen to, listen to him talk and try to take things from him, too. It's my fifth year, but I'm trying to learn day in and day out, trying to get better. So that's one of those guys I look at like a big brother."

That all sounds great. But of course it doesn't matter until Rodgers has played 17 games — and hopefully more than that — to complete a season for the Jets. The groundwork is being laid.

"It's coming along, coming along," Simpson said of the offensive line. "We got new pieces here and there. It usually takes some time before everyone gels and fully trusts each other. I feel like we're going in the right direction."

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Bill Kostroun (2)



**UPWARD TRAJECTORY:** After a rookie season in which he made no starts in 2022, Jermaine Johnson started 17 times and had 7.5 sacks to go along with 16 quarterback hits in 2023. The Florida State product is embracing the responsibilities that go along with being a team leader as he enters his third season.

Bill Kostroun

By ETHAN SEARS

Haason Reddick's holdout is getting costly — both in monetary terms and, potentially, in terms of playing time.

Jets coach Robert Saleh didn't answer whether the defensive end's training camp absence, which reached 11 days on Monday, might eventually impact his role or playing

## Reddick holdout

### JETS NOTES

time, painting it as a wait-and-see situation.

"I don't know," Saleh said. "Cause there's examples of players like Aaron Donald, Chris Jones a couple years ago didn't

show up until Week 1. They did just fine."

Pointedly, Will McDonald — who is getting snaps that would otherwise go to Reddick on the edge — picked up a sack during Monday's practice.

Reddick's overall fine is up to at least \$550,000, as

# Preparing for takeoff

FROM THE moment he was selected by the Jets in the first round of the 2022 NFL Draft, Jermaine Johnson has burned to do for the Jets what he did in his final year of college at Florida State.

Lead.

It's taken a little bit of time, but the Jets edge rusher appears to have arrived at that place: As a team leader.

If you listen to what Mike Norvell, Johnson's coach at Florida State, told The Post the day after he was drafted, it all makes more sense now.

"When he came here, we talked and I told him I didn't want this to be just a place for him to improve his draft status, that it was an opportunity to make an impact," Norvell said. "He embraced that. He wanted to make a difference."

Those words from Norvell have resonated as Johnson has begun to build his NFL career and what the Jets hope is a legacy as a game-wrecking force on their formidable front seven.

Johnson wasn't in a position to lead his rookie year, during which his snap count wasn't high, which kept his production down. In 14 games, he made no starts, and recorded just 2 ½ sacks, three tackles for loss and five quarterback hits.

"My rookie year wasn't the best, because I felt — and still feel the same way — that I can go out on the field and change games," Johnson said Monday after practice. "But that's all right. God's timing is the best timing. It's

## Jets edge rusher Johnson aims to build on breakout '23 with maturity, leadership



Mark Cannizzaro

worked out the way it was supposed to, and I'm just happy I am where I am."

The jump from 2022 to last season was dramatic. It included 17 starts, 7 ½ sacks, 11 tackles for loss, 16 quarterback hits, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and an INT returned for a TD (more on that in a moment).

That jump in playing time and production has emboldened Johnson to do what he believes he does well, which is lead.

"I'm just a big guy on you've got to earn your keep and your role on the team through what you do," Johnson said.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers, a coach on the field on offense (and sometimes even on defense), is the unquestioned leader of the team.

Linebacker C.J. Mosley is the veteran leader on the defense, but Mosley is a quiet, lead-by-example leader, not the vocal type.

This is where Johnson fills a void, and he embraces it.

"I felt like I had a decent year last year and there are some guys that are looking to me a little more as a leader," he said. "It's my job. It's my duty for them. I definitely take that as an honor."

Mature words for a 25-year-

### TRAINING DAY

#### STEAL-Y RESOLVE

Jamien Sherwood made the play of the day, intercepting Aaron Rodgers when the quarterback tried to go over the middle into traffic, coming down with the ball after it was initially tipped into the air.

#### OFF THE MARK

The offense generally struggled throughout, with Rodgers missing a deep ball and most of his completed passes being for short gains. Andrew Peasley, who's competing for a third-string quarterback job, had a particularly rough practice, throwing a pair of interceptable passes that badly missed the target.

#### CAUGHT MY EYE

While Olu Fashanu has exclusively worked on the left during camp, Robert Saleh said he anticipates Fashanu getting time on the right side,

as well. That would bolster the Jets' depth, should they need to use Fashanu as a swing tackle at some point.

#### RODGERS REPORT

On a rough day for the offense, Rodgers was 4-for-8, throwing an interception and taking an unofficial sack. Center Joe Tippmann continued to be less than perfect in snapping the ball to Rodgers as well, a trend throughout camp.

#### INJURY REPORT

Left tackle Tyron Smith missed a second straight practice with lower extremity tightness. Michael Carter II (ankle) didn't practice. Receiver Irv Charles limped off after a collision late in practice.

— Ethan Sears

old in his third NFL season.

One of the players Johnson is helping is second-year edge rusher Will McDonald, who, like Johnson in his rookie year, had limited snaps and production (three sacks, a forced fumble, four tackles for loss, and five quarterback hits).

Like Johnson was as a rookie, McDonald is a raw, untapped talent.

"One of the things I tell him is, 'Don't compare yourself to me. You're your own man. You're running your own race,'" Johnson said. "We're two different players. Will is running his race and he's running it very well. He understands his time is coming. That's one of the things I say to him all the time: 'Your time is coming. Just make sure you're ready.'"

## giving McDonald extra reps in training camp

he's docked \$50,000 daily. It could approach \$1 million if the Jets impose a bonus forfeiture on top of that, which Saleh has said he expects they'll do.

The Jets offered Reddick an extension that would have increased his salary from \$14.25 million this

season before completing the deal that brought him to New York, The Post's Brian Costello reported. Reddick declined.

The Pro Bowl edge rusher notched 11 sacks last season with the Eagles, but has yet to take the field with the Jets.

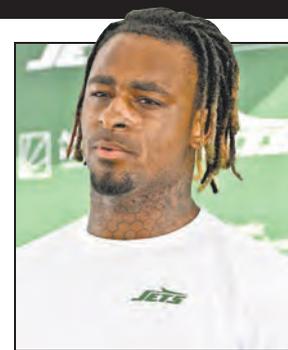
"I guess it doesn't matter what I thought at the time," said Saleh, when asked if he ever thought Haason's holdout would be a possibility. "Reality is he's not here, but there are a bunch of guys who are, who are working their tails off. Will McDonald is

getting a lot of reps that he otherwise wouldn't have gotten. He's improving every day."

The Jets' policy is not to negotiate with a player who is not in camp, which means they will not talk to Reddick until he shows up.

So at least for now, the standoff continues.

➤ Saleh said the Jets have yet to decide how much the first team will feature in the preseason opener against the Commanders on Saturday, if at all.



WILL McDONALD

# DJ wants to play in preseason

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Daniel Jones is ready to put his surgically repaired ACL through a final test if the Giants want.

After the first of what will be two joint practices against the Lions, Jones was asked if he would like to play in Thursday's preseason opener as a way to test his knee against a live pass rush. Head coach Brian Daboll deferred the decision until later in the week.

"Yeah, I'd like to play," Jones said. "At the end of the day, that's coach's decision and I'll do whatever Dabes' thinks."

Jones played just one possession in the preseason last year, when there were no injury questions.

## GIANTS NOTES

"I think we try to make practice as game-like as possible and get real game-speed reps in practice to make sure you're ready to go," Jones said. "Regardless of what Dabes decides this coming game, I'll be ready to go when given the chance."

Jones hasn't looked tentative, taking every 11-on-11 rep of practice so far. And he didn't look hesitant Monday, when he was in the fray during a fight.

"I always think it's valuable to get game reps," Jones said. "My knee feels good. I've tested it and done everything that I need to do to make sure it's ready to go."

Daboll indicated that his mind is not made up on whether Jones will play in any of the preseason games, including Aug. 17 against the Texans and Aug. 24 against the Jets (when there is a chance Aaron Rodgers plays, coming back from his torn Achilles).

► Lions head coach **Dan Campbell** was a tight ends coach under Daboll when he was offensive coordinator for the 2011 Dolphins.

"He is one of the smartest football minds I've been around," Campbell said. "Talk about thinking fast. He tested us as a staff. I learned a ton of football around him. And he evolved. What he was doing in Buffalo is not what we were doing [in Miami]. That's what he's done here and will do here. You don't do what you did [going to the playoffs in 2022] without being able to coach."

Campbell also called Daboll a "chameleon" for the tendency for his weight to fluctuate.

► Giants luminaries **Tom Coughlin**, **Michael Strahan**, **Shaun O'Hara** and **Victor Cruz** were on the sidelines for the barometer-type practice.



**IN YOUR FACE!** Giants rookie Dru Phillips (No. 22) takes a hand to the face from Lions defensive tackle David Bada (No. 61) during a fight at a joint practice on Monday.

Noah K. Murray

# Danny Dimes shows no hesitation to 'stand

**I**T IS going to be a battle for Daniel Jones, as far as building a future with the Giants beyond this season.

If Monday morning were any indication, Mr. Jones is going to stand in and take his swings.

He is going to fight for it. That is a good thing. For the 27-year old quarterback. For an offense that is going to have to scrape to prove it is no longer an inept unit. For a team that is going to have to scratch and claw to win games and convince a legion of naysayers that they can amount to something this season.

There was Jones, failing to abide

by the standard operating procedure adopted by most quarterbacks, getting in the middle of a fracas in the second team period of a feisty and overheated joint practice with the Lions at the Giants' training camp facility. After a running play to Devin Singletary, veteran center Greg Van Roten was knocked to the ground and was prevented from getting up off the grass by Lions defensive line-

man Kyle Peko. Guard Jon Runyan Jr. saw what was going down and moved in. Jones refused to back away, let the big guys duke it out. Jones stood tall and nailed the Detroit player with a shove that was anything but playful.

Soon enough, quarterbacks coach Shea Tierney was on the field to usher Jones away.

"A situation happens like that, you try to stand up for your guys,"

Jones said afterward.

Sure, Jones at 6-foot-5 and a muscular 230 pounds will never get sand kicked in his face on the beach. But he does hit the field in a red "non-contact" jersey — traditional quarterback garb — and that usually means the wearer steers clear when an altercation erupts.

"I don't think it should," Jones said. "He's my teammate, and just like he would stick up for me, I'm going to stick up for him."

It is easy to see why Jones, despite all that has gone wrong in his five years with the Giants, is so popular among his teammates. He



Paul Schwartz

# Young cornerbacks, safeties show fight in Giants' joint practice

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

The Giants' young cornerbacks and safeties had each other's backs when all hell broke loose.

Now they have to come together to stop passes from flying over their heads, like happened in allowing three explosive plays.

In a throwback practice against the Lions that was dripping with intensity, physicality and trash talk, the rebuilding Giants refused to be bullied Monday by the Super Bowl hopefuls during three sideline-emptying fights and a handful of other after-the-whistle skirmishes.

"Seeing guys handling each other's business, it goes back to adrenaline and knowing we are not backing down to anybody," safety Dane Belton said. "No matter what happened last year, we're coming to play."

Belton and the rest of the secondary of Jason Pinnock, Deonte Banks, Cor'Dale Flott and Dru Phillips — all 25-and-under starters in the NFL's youngest secondary — as well as versatile supersubs Nick McCloud and Isaiah Simmons drew the difficult assignment of facing one of the league's most explosive offenses, led by \$212 million quarterback Jared Goff and First-Team All-Pro receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown.

"You can't run from it," McCloud said. "If you don't embrace it, it means you are not prepared."

Tensions boiled over quickly after St. Brown caught a pass against Phillips' tight coverage. Belton knocked the ball out of St. Brown's hand just as the whistle blew. St. Brown responded by shoving Belton in the facemask and Jameson Williams jumped in to shove Phillips in the back, which

led to a full scrum and punches exchanged.

"I was trying to finish a play and I feel like he wasn't down, so I'm trying to get the ball out," Belton said. "Everyone talks about [creating] turnovers, you've got to do things like that. People who know me, I'm not a big fighter after the play. I hate getting penalties because that leads to losing, and I love winning."

McCloud tussled with 6-foot-5, 335-pound All-Pro left tackle Penei Sewell.

"I wasn't necessarily going after the biggest guy," McCloud said. "They hit Dru and I feel like that was uncalled for. It doesn't matter how big you are, I'm just trying to protect my guy. It's nothing more than that."

The rookie third-round pick Phillips was warned by veterans to expect tempers to flare in joint practices on a hot day. The Lions jumped the Giants on the first day of practices last year.

"It was a really good rep by me, so I kind of expected him to get mad," Phillips said. "I'm a rookie, so I would think I just did my job well, maybe he just didn't like it. At the end of the day, we're just out there competing."

Phillips, who is in line to start in the slot, was at the center of a couple altercations.

"[Tuesday] I just need to be more disciplined," Phillips said. "I shouldn't let myself get away from it like that. It's kind of embarrassing, but be more disciplined, focus on play and just get back to doing what we do."

It was an early preview of how offenses might attack the defensive coordinator Shane Bowen's

# WON'T 'BACK DOWN

scheme this season. A menacing pass rush led by Dexter Lawrence, Brian Burns and Kayvon Thibodeaux could be neutralized if an opponent builds a big early lead through big plays downfield.

Goff hit three long touchdowns when Daurice Fountain exploited a blown coverage in seven-on-seven, speedster Jameson Williams left Flott in the dust as he crossed the field and then waved goodbye on his way into the end zone and Williams struck again from 20 yards out on a miscommunication between Banks and Belton.

"It's still early, but it's not early. We're right around the corner from the season," Belton said. "There are some things we have to get in the film room and talk about. That goes to the difference in defenses from year-to-year."

The starting defense made its

share of plays underneath, including an interception by linebacker Bobby Okereke, pass breakups by Pinnock and Simmons, a well-timed disruption by Belton and three straight forced incompletions in the red zone at the end of practice.

"When you look back at practice today, it shows that we compete and can make plays against whoever," Belton said. "We're nasty, we're dogs and we want to put it all on tape."

Burns left the field feeling confident that the "sticky" secondary is up for challenges like Tuesday's rematch with the Lions.

"That's just growing pains. We can clean that up on the tape," Burns said. "But it's our job to make their life a little easier, put as much pressure on the quarterback as we can because we can. I think they're going to bounce back. I like that group."

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TRAINING DAY 

## GOOD DIMES

Daniel Jones connected on intermediate-to-deep shots to **Jalin Hyatt**, **Darius Slayton**, **Theo Johnson** and almost another to **Malik Nabers** near the front pylon that was ruled out of bounds but might be worth a replay review. On the other field, **Bobby Okereke** intercepted Jared Goff in a 7-on-7 drill.

## SECONDARY SCHOOLED

The starting secondary allowed three big-play touchdowns in three different drills: A miscommunication left Daurice Fountain wide open on the second play of 7-on-7s, Jameson Williams taunted **Cor'Dale Flott** after walking into the end zone on a cross-field route in 11-on-11s and Williams snuck between **Deonte Banks** and **Dane Belton** for a first-play touchdown in the red-zone period.

## CAUGHT MY EYE

Fiery **Brian Daboll** made his (justified) return after a mostly cool-headed training camp. The Giants head coach exploded on a Lions defensive lineman who swiped at Jones' hand just as he released a pass.

## INJURY REPORT

WR **Bryce Ford-Wheaton** (knee) and DT **D.J. Davidson** (lower leg) returned to practice. C **John Michael Schmitz** (shoulder), TE **Lawrence Cager** (hamstring) and TE **Jack Stoll** (concussion) did not practice.

— Ryan Dunleavy

# up' for teammates, get in middle of fracas with Lions

is one of them. Newcomers quickly come to realize that the starting quarterback also happens to be the most dedicated player in the building.

"Man, that's what it is," Singletary, in his first summer with the Giants, said of Jones getting in the middle of a squabble. "You got to have your brother's back out there, that's what we're all about."

Another player new to the Giants, outside linebacker **Brian Burns**, was off on an adjacent field going against the Lions offense — there were plenty of fireworks over there, as well — when Jones entered the fray. He was surprised

but not shocked.

"Oh, Lord. Daniel got jiggy with it," Burns said. "Daniel was out there with it? Yeah. I'm going to need him to back up. Let his O-Line handle that. But Daniel, he's a competitor, man. He's a fighter. So, I don't expect anything less from him. But I don't need him in that. I don't need him to get hit. Keep him healthy."

By all accounts, Brian Daboll in a pre-practice team meeting hit a nerve and lit a fire, exhorting his players to come out and compete at a high level and not take anything from the Lions. Remember, these two teams held joint prac-

tices last year in Allen Park, Mich., and the Giants were completely dominated in the first session.

"He definitely brought the juice," Singletary said. "You always can feel his energy but he was definitely juiced up."

It was not a call to fight, but it was a call to arms.

"He just wants us to stick to what we are," tight end Daniel Beltinger said. "He has this mantra of being a dawg. He wants us to go out there and be dawgs and compete like dawgs."

It is no wonder a few coaches unveiled black T-shirts emblazoned with D.A.W.G. (Discipline, Attitude,

Will and Grit) across the front.

Pushing and shoving and jawing is easy. Jones and the offense needed to show that the rebuilt line and the new weapons, featuring rookie Malik Nabers, could make plays against the Lions, a team that fell just short in 2023 of making the Super Bowl.

Jones on the first pass in the first 11-on-11 hit Darius Slayton on a crossing route. Jones found rookie tight end Theo Johnson for a substantial gain. A screen to Singletary was sharply executed. Nabers went at safety Ifeatu Melifonwu and hauled in a pass in the right corner of the end zone, but the of-

ficial ruled Nabers' left foot came down on the line. Nabers next beat cornerback Carlton Davis on the right sideline.

Daboll erupted when defensive lineman Levi Onwuzurike hit Jones' hand on a pass, causing the ball to flutter up into the air. Getting this close to the quarterback is frowned upon, and Daboll let the Lions player have it with an angry admonishment.

"I appreciate it," Jones said of Daboll coming to his defense.

On the next play, Jones went at a Lions defensive lineman with a well-placed shove. The fight is on.

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# THE RACE IS ON

## Volpe pumped for playoff push 5 years after NJ state title

**KIDDING AROUND:** Anthony Volpe does a cheer with one of the groups at his ProCamp, hosted Monday at the same Delbarton School that he led to a New Jersey state title five years ago. Volpe's baseball clinic hosted some 400 kid campers at the Morristown high school. Robert Sabo

By DAN MARTIN

Anthony Volpe was back at his alma mater, Delbarton School in his hometown of Morristown on Monday, where the shortstop hosted several hundred players at his first ProCamp.

It was held at Brian E. Fleury Field, the same field where Volpe helped lead Delbarton to a New Jersey state title just over five years ago.

"I was joking with my dad today; it looks a lot smaller than when I played here," Volpe said.

But he's hoping to have similar success this season in The Bronx, where the Yankees continue their homestand Tuesday against the Angels and locked in a tough battle with the Orioles for first place in the AL East.

A year ago, the Yankees were 11 games back of the Orioles in the division and 3 ½ games out of the final AL wild-card spot en route to their worst season in decades.

### YANKEES NOTES

So while Volpe had a solid rookie year, won a Gold Glove at shortstop and hit 21 homers, it wasn't the season he nor the Yankees envisioned when he won the starting job out of spring training.

With about eight weeks left in this regular season, Volpe and the Yankees look to be in much better position to get back to the playoffs, where the 23-year-old would be making his postseason debut.

"Overall, we're excited," Volpe said. "We have really big aspirations."

Asked about those, Volpe said, "Our goal isn't to make the playoffs. It's to win it all. That's the standard. We think about that every day."

Volpe will have to keep up his recent play for that to become a reality.

While much has been made about Volpe's improved produc-

tion since being bumped out of the leadoff spot, his first 10 games following the move were not good.

During that initial stretch, he went just 5-for-37 and his only extra-base hits were a pair of doubles.

The real improvement has come following the All-Star break.

In those 15 games, he's had nine extra-base hits (five homers and four doubles) and has an OPS of 1.026.

"I was just working on some stuff from the offseason," Volpe said of the adjustments he made following his rookie year, when he looked to make more contact. "It was good to take a step back, and a couple of things clicked."

Whether he can avoid another significant dropoff at the plate will go a long way in determining just how deep the Yankees lineup will be behind Aaron Judge and Juan Soto.

Due in part to his continued strong play at short, Volpe ranks third in WAR among Yankees position players, trailing only Judge and Soto, according to Fangraphs.

That's also a product of some disappointing performances from DJ LeMahieu, Alex Verdugo and Gleyber Torres, as well as more injuries to Giancarlo Stanton and Anthony Rizzo.

► **Spencer Jones**, the Double-A Somerset outfielder the Yankees refused to trade at the deadline, was named Eastern League Player of the Week on Monday.

► **Oswald Peraza**, once in the mix for a utility role with the Yankees before a shoulder injury in the spring, has been excellent in recent weeks at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. He had just a .597 OPS through June 27, but an OPS of .882 since then.

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## Taylor makes 'genius' out of Mendoza

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Tyrone Taylor, an ostensible fourth outfielder, thought his surprising ascension up the Mets lineup, all the way to No. 2, was "cool."

It does not sound as if it will last, but it was cool while it lasted.

Taylor, a player whose on-field performance seems much more impressive than his .236 average and .679 OPS, immediately made manager Carlos Mendoza look smart in Taylor's first time batting in between Francisco Lindor and Brandon Nimmo.

### METS NOTES

Pete Alonso was sent down to No. 5 in a move partly motivated by the matchup against righty Andre Pallante, partly by Alonso's struggles and partly by Taylor's bat.

The No. 2 spot in the order came up in the fifth inning, when the Mets held a narrow, 2-0 lead and had loaded the bases with one out.

"I already had hit a couple ground balls to third base," Taylor said after the 6-0 win over the Cardinals at Busch Stadium. "I knew I had Nimmo hitting behind me, a really good hitter, so I was really trying to put the ball in the air."

Taylor got a 1-2 sinker across the plate and volleyed it down the right-field line. By the time he eased into second base, he had collected his 26th, 27th and 28th RBIs of the season with a bases-clearing double that essentially ended the game.

"The game called on Tyrone to step up in that situation," Harrison Bader said. "Mendy looks like a genius in that. I think he picked the right guy for the job in that given situation."

► A day after smashing a foul ball off his ankle, **Mark Vientos** was on the bench.

The everyday third baseman watched his ankle swell up Sunday, when he remained in the game, but took a seat Monday as **Jose Iglesias**, who went 1-for-4, played third.

"He's better today," Mendoza said of Vientos, who Mendoza said was available off the bench but was not used.

► **Jesse Winker**, acquired to hit righties, took a seat against Pallante. Winker, who is being eased into the outfield after serving as a DH with the Nationals, played the previous two games in the outfield.

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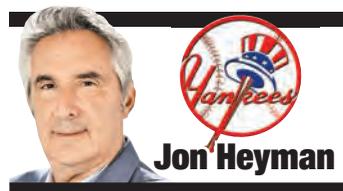
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# JAZZ ODYSSEY

**J**AZZ, as in pizzazz, turns out to be exactly the right guy. Jazz Chisholm Jr. brings style, energy and athleticism to a conventional, veteran-heavy Yankees clubhouse, not to mention a necessary offensive jolt to a lineup that was degenerating into an overburdened two-man crew.



Jon Heyman

Brian Cashman and Co.'s deadline assignment was no easy task: In a deep sellers market, they simply had to acquire an infielder who hits, an asset in especially short supply among nine teams terrible enough to surrender in a set-up where mediocrity contends. Chisholm wasn't the most obvious one, either, as he was manning center field in Miami when the call came.

The Yankees needed imagination, or at least solid sources. Chisholm was telling friends he wanted to go back on the dirt. And if you knew him one bit — and like many a New Yorker, the Yankees have deep ties to South Florida — you knew he'd love it here.

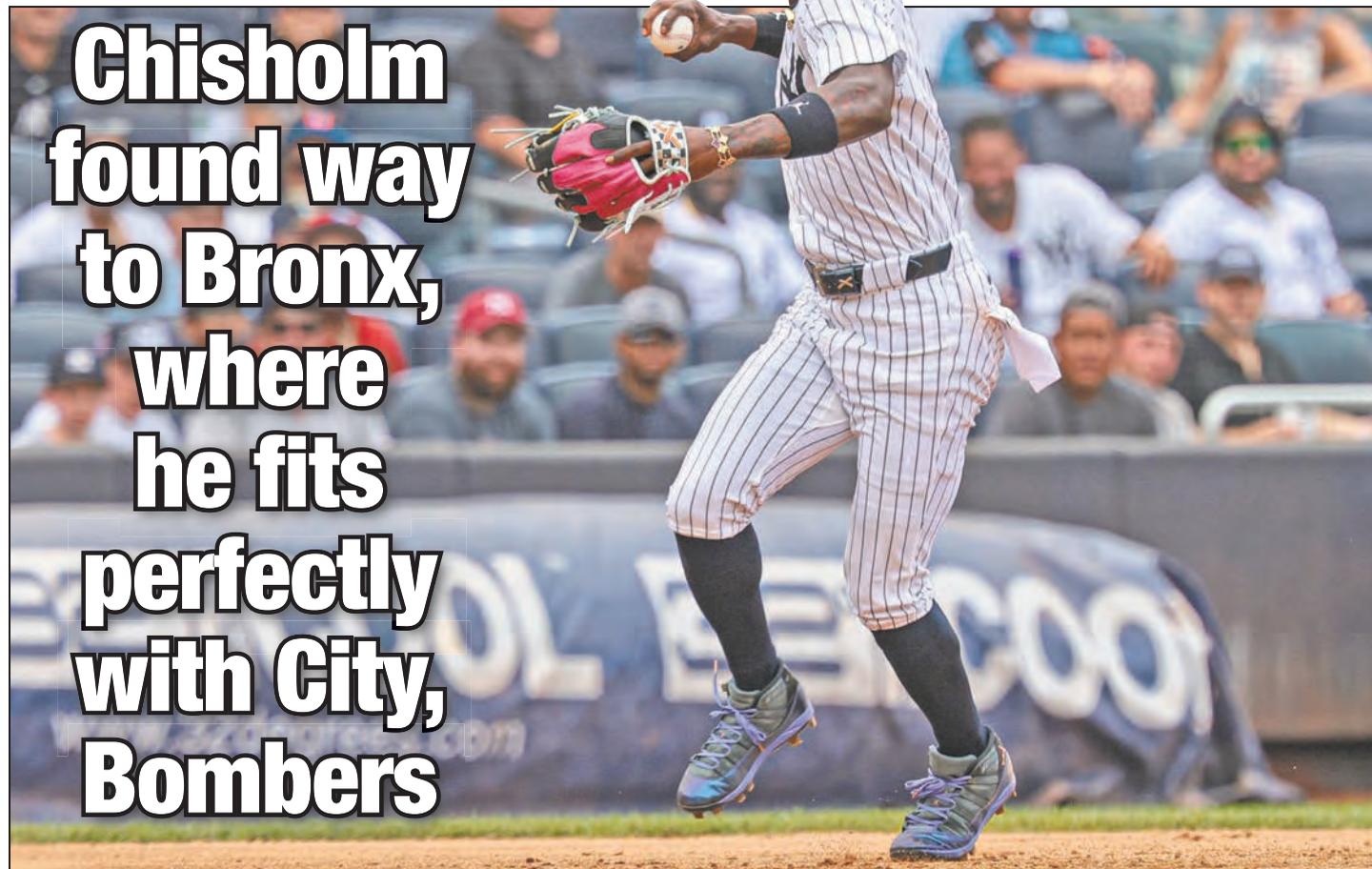
Jazz is perfect. By all accounts and that perpetual smile, he loves the attention, the notoriety and the fans — yes, the very things missing in Miami.

"He likes the lights," Yankees great Don Mattingly, his longtime Marlins manager and now a Jays coach, told *The Post*. "He's fearless."

Jazz was the right guy because he was practically the only guy to get.

The Yankees sent highly regarded catching prospect Agustin Ramirez and two other kids away for Chisholm (Yankees people love Ramirez's bat, but weren't certain he has a position). But before they did that (and in a couple cases after, too), they checked on four other infielders. Unfortunately, the Angels love Luis Rengifo, the Reds love Jonathan India more and the Rays likely didn't relish trading Isaac Paredes or Yandy Diaz in division. Of that

## Chisholm found way to Bronx, where he fits perfectly with City, Bombers



quartet, only Paredes, a uniformly pull hitter who didn't fit Yankee Stadium — all 67 of his Rays homers went to left field — was traded. And he's no Jazz.

Chisholm, just 26, is the guy. The shortstop-second baseman-center fielder is embracing third base here, and what's more, he's playing it magnificently. Although he'd never before performed there, he said he imagined himself as "a little [Manny] Machado" or a "little A-Rod." So it's no coincidence he's wearing Alex Rodriguez's old No. 13 here.

The Yankees checked on Chisholm with their hitting coach (and former Marlins bench coach) James Rowson, plus Yankees icons Mattingly and former Marlins honcho Derek Jeter. I did my own due diligence and came up with almost all praise.

"Jazz works. He just needs someone to make him run balls

out and make smart decisions on the bases," my own Jazzophile from Florida said. "Jazz is flashy. Sometimes people take flashy as not working — not true here."

Jazz is the right guy because they needed the bat, and he swings left-handed. Two "good hitters," in Yankee-turned-Met Luis Severino's famous words, can't cut it forever. And now, just a week into Chisholm's pinstriped tenure, thanks to his 1.064 OPS after two two-homer games, plus a return to form by multiple hold-over starters, the Yankees have emerged from their six-week slide and are already back atop MLB's offensive stat sheet with 5.16 runs per game.

Aaron Judge and Juan Soto can no longer feel alone in the lineup.

Meantime, Jazz fits perfectly. When you saw him in Miami, you'd see the flash, the bling and you'd hear about the feud with

Marlins veteran Miguel Rojas, who staged a typical new school vs. even newer school standoff over apparel and attitude.

A couple Marlins people say some vets treated him like a rookie, and he resisted. Mattingly only says both sides had good intentions, but everyone agrees it didn't work. Chisholm eventually announced on "The Pivot" podcast that he was brought "down" by a de facto captain (presumably Rojas) who "sucked." That won't happen with the Yankees, whose captain is the great Judge, who definitely doesn't suck.

Jazz is the right guy because he comes with a great outlook. He understands his place and didn't dispute that his turn as 2023 cover guy of "MLB: The Show" (not to be confused with *The Post* podcast of the same name) came a bit early. Past MVPs Bryce Harper, Shohei Ohtani and Judge are more

typical choices. Greatness may arrive, but it's still on the horizon.

"We all think I have the potential to be MVP, especially with the game and skillset I have. Hopefully, I can get consistent enough to earn that title," Chisholm said, maturely.

Now that he's moved 1,200 miles north into the glare of the spotlight, his chances improve. He said he liked Miami (what's not to like?), but he surely considers this a lucky stroke. The crowds are bigger, the tradition richer and the urgency palpable. It's all up his alley.

"I'm loving it here," Chisholm said.

Believe me, Jazz, they are loving you here.

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# What will it take for Yanks to win?

By DAN MARTIN

Don't look now, but only the Dodgers have a better chance of winning the World Series than the Yankees this season.

At least, that's according to Fangraphs, which a year ago at this time had the Braves as runaway favorites to win it all last October, only to see 104-win Atlanta flame out in the NLDS against the 90-win Phillies.

The playoffs can be like that, but the Yankees have at least put themselves in the mix, having won seven of their last eight games since the ugly loss in Boston on July 26.

At that point, Baltimore was considered the favorite to win the AL East, but improved play and a relatively easy schedule have worked in the Yankees' favor. Now, the Yankees have a 58.9 percent chance of winning the division, compared to Baltimore's 40.3 percent.

And with the Angels coming to The Bronx on Tuesday, followed by the Rangers — who don't look like a threat to challenge for a second straight World Series title — and then trips to face the historically bad White Sox and then Detroit, the Yankees are in the midst of a 15-game stretch in which they don't play a team over .500.

Besides doing what they are supposed to do against rotten competition, what else has to go right for the Yankees to hold off the Orioles to win the AL East and be a real threat in the post-season?

**Aaron Judge and Juan Soto have to stay healthy:** As the Yankees desperately look for protection for Judge, who got the Barry Bonds treatment — or, as Aaron Boone called it, the Aaron Judge treatment — from Toronto

this past weekend, they continue to be very reliant on their two stars. Judge's toe injury a year ago ended any hopes of a second half comeback and this year, Soto has been playing with a bruised right hand that he aggravated Sunday. The Yankees still haven't found ideal bookends for Soto hitting second and Judge third, and if they don't, Judge will likely see even fewer pitches.

**Gerrit Cole has to be an ace:**

The Yankees breathed a collective sigh of relief Sunday after Cole's solid outing against Toronto, following his scratch in Philadelphia. But Cole still hasn't approached the effectiveness — let alone dominance — he showed over the past six seasons. He's giving up more hits and home runs than at any point during that stretch and isn't getting as many strikeouts.

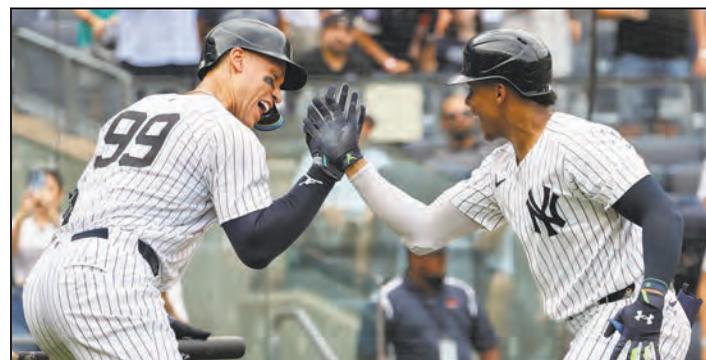
**Can Gleyber Torres and/or DJ LeMahieu bounce back:**

Torres had a good bounce-back year last season and LeMahieu had a decent second half. Both seem like a long time ago, as they continue to struggle. It remains to be seen what kind of impact, if any, Aaron Boone's in-game benching of Torres has and LeMahieu has had a solid week at the plate after months of looking lost.

**Can Clay Holmes straighten himself out:** He's got six blown saves in his last 17 appearances after blowing just three in his first 30 games. Opposing batters have an .820 OPS against the closer over that same 17-game span, compared to a .581 OPS in those opening 30 games.

The Yankees continue to say he's pitching into tough luck and many of the advanced metrics back that up, but the results have not been good of late.

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**BUBBLE WRAP:** The Yankees need Aaron Judge and Juan Soto to stay healthy if they're going to stand a chance in the playoffs. Robert Sabo

**MUSIC MAN:** After a tumultuous tenure with the Marlins, Jazz Chisholm Jr. has been a perfect fit with the Yankees. He brings a flashy style to the bright lights of New York City, but has proved selfless, playing out of position at third base since being acquired.

Jason Szenes;  
USA Today Sports

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## INJURY REPORT

■ **Juan Soto** said his bruised right hand is OK after he banged it on second base sliding on Sunday.

■ **Aaron Boone** said there is no timeline for **Jose Trevino's** return from a strained quad.

■ **Ian Hamilton** is set to throw a bullpen session Tuesday in his comeback from a strained lat that's sidelined him since June.



## vs. Angels

Tuesday, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

### RHP Luis Gil



**2024 stats:**  
11-5, 3.20 ERA

**Career vs. LAA:**  
1-0, 1.13 ERA

**Last start:**  
July 29 at PHI;  
5.1 IP, 5 H, 3 ER

### PITCH BREAKDOWN

**50%** Fastball    **28%** Changeup    **22%** Slider

### RHP Davis Daniel



**2024 stats:**  
1-2, 4.91 ERA

**Career vs. NYY:**  
First start

**Last start:**  
July 31 vs. COL;  
5.0 IP, 5 H, 1 ER

### PITCH BREAKDOWN

**47%** Fastball    **25%** Slider    **20%** Changeup

### UP NEXT

**WEDNESDAY:** vs. Angels, 7:05 p.m., Amazon, WFAN  
LHP Nestor Cortes

vs. RHP Carson Fulmer

**THURSDAY:** vs. Angels, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN

RHP Marcus Stroman

vs. LHP Tyler Anderson

Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

# PUNCH CARDS

## Manaea fans 10 in gem as Mets beat up on St. Louis

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Somewhat lost in the build-up to a rarity — a one-off, makeup game crammed into an already packed road trip for the Mets — was the importance of the novelty.

<b>METS</b>	6	<b>Boxscore</b> Page 38
<b>CARDINALS</b>	0	

Carlos Mendoza's group entered play 1½ games back in the fight for the last National League wild card, a battle in which the Cardinals are also trying to hang around. With one big inning and, more notably, one more big start from Sean Manaea, the Mets put a dent in one challenger's hopes.

Behind Manaea, the Mets bounced back from a series loss in Anaheim with what technically is a one-game sweep, a 6-0 victory at Busch Stadium on Monday in which the Mets could have looked tired and instead looked inspired.

For Game Four of a 10-games-in-10-days trip that spans over 8,000 miles, the Mets left California, spent the day in Missouri and were set to jet back west to Colorado.

"I think we all are in consensus that we wouldn't want it any other way," said Harrison Bader, whose RBI double in the fifth inning provided insurance. "It's like a thing in baseball, we always say: Nobody cares. The game doesn't care. The game doesn't have feelings about what you're going through, whatever is happening off the field,



**WHAT A DAY!** Pete Alonso scores on a wild pitch during the second inning of the Mets' 6-0 win over the Cardinals. Harrison Bader (right) reacts after hitting a double, his second of the game, during the ninth inning. Sean Manaea (inset) allowed six hits and struck out 10 over seven scoreless innings.

your travel schedule, the heat, all these things. If no one cares, why should we?"

"So we put our head down, we prepare the exact same way. We accept the challenge with grace."

There could have been bickering on a sweltering, Midwestern afternoon — a game played partly in the shadows that make hitting that much harder — but there isn't much complaining these days from the Mets dugout when Manaea is on the mound.

The lefty threw seven more shut-out innings for the Mets (59-53), upping his streak to 14 in his past

two starts, and was at his best when he needed to be.

Manaea was not perfect on a day he allowed six hits, but he was perfect when the Cardinals (57-56) threatened. St. Louis batters went 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position against Manaea, who typically saved his 10 strikeouts for when they would come in handy. In back-to-back outings, Manaea has punched out double-digit batters, the first Mets lefty to do so since Sid Fernandez had a three-game streak in 1992.

"I think he found a rhythm here where every pitch is working for

him," Mendoza said.

Manaea danced into and out of trouble. In the third inning, the Cardinals put two on with two outs for Willson Contreras, who got ahead 3-1 in the count. Manaea responded with an outside-corner slider and a 95.7-mph fastball that Contreras swung through, Manaea pounding his glove as he walked off the mound as a tone was set.

In the fourth, the Cardinals put two more on base for Pedro Pages, who went to a knee whiffing on a good sweeper. In the fifth, it was Masyn Winn who reached second base with two outs before Contreras

sent a drive to deep right, where Tyrone Taylor made a nice leaping catch against the wall for another Houdini act.

"I wouldn't say 'different gear,'" Manaea said, explaining how he raised his game at big moments. "Just confidence in my fastball and slider."

At a time when there are plenty of questions surrounding the Mets rotation — Kodai Senga likely will be out for at least the regular season, Luis Severino's velocity was down in his most recent outing and Jose Quintana was not crisp Sunday — Manaea has stepped up into a front-of-the-rotation type of pitcher.

Ryne Stanek and Edwin Diaz finished off the Mets' fourth shutout this season and received more help from the offense than they needed.

The Mets scored first accidentally — Pete Alonso scoring from third on a wild pitch in the second inning — before the runs came more purposely. An eight-batter, four-run fifth inning, keyed by a Taylor bases-clearing double, broke the game open, before Jeff McNeil's solo shot added breathing room in the sixth.

The Mets might not feel great physically, but they could board their plane in good spirits.

"Our job is to continue to win baseball games," Mendoza said, "regardless of the circumstances."

msanchez@nypost.com

## Reeling Alonso hits below cleanup for 1st time since '20

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Pete Alonso found himself in a strange spot Monday — and not just at Busch Stadium, where the Mets made up a rained-out game from May in a one-day sojourn to Missouri as part of a hectic road trip.

Alonso, who has lived in the cleanup hole and had stops at Nos. 2 and 3 over the past few seasons, was bumped down to No. 5 for the first time in nearly four years.

Manager Carlos Mendoza wrote off lowering his slumping slugger in the order as a possible aberration created by Cardinals righty starter Andre Pallante, who has been far worse against righty hitters this season, and righty-hitting Tyrone Taylor hammering righty pitching this year. Thus, Taylor — a quality player but generally a fourth outfielder on the Mets — batted second, below Francisco Lindor and above Brandon Nimmo and J.D. Martinez, and came through with a

bases-clearing double in the fifth inning.

"Just wanted to give the lineup a different look today," Mendoza said before the 6-0 win and before the club will face southpaw Kyle Freeland in Colorado on Tuesday. "Maybe [Tuesday] we're facing a lefty, and Pete's back there in the four hole."

Yet, the move — even if it lasts just one day — was significant enough to warrant a conversation with Alonso both on the team plane Sunday night and in the man-

ager's office Monday.

Alonso took the development well.

"I want to win," said Alonso, who had not batted below fourth in a starting lineup since Sept. 26, 2020. "And I trust him to run out the best lineup every single day."

Mendoza believed the best lineup involved one of the faces of the club, a four-time All-Star and a player who entered play tied with Aaron Judge for the majors' most home runs (215) since 2019, in a less-premium slot.

Alonso has picked a poor time for a down season. After going 1-for-3 with a single (he was thrown out trying to stretch it into a double) and a walk while batting fifth, the 29-year-old carries a .790 OPS — his career mark was .870 entering this season — and is 3-for-20 in his past six games, lowering his average to .241.

His power has been present (23 home runs in his first 112 games), but not to the same degree as past seasons, having smoked 46 last year. Alonso looked on

the bright side.

"I'm on pace for close to 40 homers," said Alonso, whose 162-game pace was about 33.5. "I was an All-Star this year. So I think to beat myself up or be frustrated, there's really no use.

"I'm really excited for the end of the year, where we get to play winning baseball. ... I'm happy with what I've accomplished this year so far, and I think that there's definitely going to be some opportunities that I'm looking forward to capitalizing on."

# A nice win to have for a team pushing for playoff position

**Y**OU GET these sometimes. They sneak up on you. They aren't must-wins, because if you're playing must-win baseball games in August, you honestly don't have much of a baseball season on your hands.

So the Mets weren't facing a must-win early Monday evening, as they touched down in eastern Missouri on the always-popular Anaheim-to-St. Louis-to-Denver itinerary that would get most self-respecting travel agents fired. It wasn't a gotta-have-it game against the Cardinals lifting off in the late-afternoon shadows.

It was a sure-might-want-to-win. It was a sort-of-would-really-like-to-have-it.

The fact that they won 6-0 was nice, though hardly a huge needle-mover with 50 games left in the schedule. It only draws them even at 2-2 on this 10-game, four-city trip. It only allows them to keep shooting par in the daily parlor game of stick-and-move among the six or so candidates for the National League's three wild-card slots. It did clinch the season series over the Cardinals if it comes to that for the Mets, so that's nice.

Still. This felt sneaky important. The Mets just lost two out of three to an Angels team that looked every bit as bad as its record and still gave the Mets fits. They have all these road games in August. And road trips can become funny things — 1-3 can become 1-7 and then 2-8 in a hurry, no matter that three of the games are against the lowly Rockies.

As we saw over the weekend, there's really not a great team in the major leagues right now, certainly not one that stands out. The Marlins, who just completed a yard sale at the trade deadline, went into Atlanta and took two out of three from the Braves. The Rockies gave the Padres all they could handle. The Cubs, left for dead in the middle of last week, took three out of four from the Cardinals at Wrigley this weekend.

Not long ago, the Phillies and Yankees seemed on a collision course for the World Series with 110 wins or so apiece — unless the Orioles got in the way. Then the Yankees spent six weeks in an offensive coma and the Phillies spent their own six weeks in clown-shoe hell. The Orioles started losing every night. The Yanks seem to have righted themselves nicely and the Phillies won in Seattle on Sunday and the Orioles won the final two games in Cleveland. But while they're

still the three teams to beat, it's beginning to look more and more like a wide-open October awaits for whom-ever the 12 playoff teams wind up being.

So this road trip is a tricky path for the Mets. And so Monday, while not exactly essential in and of itself, was a quintessential test for a team still trying to convince the rest of the league that they're as good as their last two months or so.

Mets manager Carlos Mendoza surely acted that way, shaking up his lineup. Pete Alonso, hitting a hard-to-fathom .198 with runners in scoring position, was dropped to fifth, a switch the batting order has been crying out for for weeks. Brandon Nimmo was dropped from two to three and J.D. Martinez from three to four, and Tyrone Taylor was installed in the two

hole and delivered the game's biggest hit, a bases-clearing double that gave the Mets a five-run lead.

"It's great when it works," Mendoza said, "but it's baseball. Sometimes it'll work and sometimes

it doesn't. This was nice. We'll take it game by game. I don't think you'll see him in the two-hole tomorrow, but that's baseball too."

What's also great for this team is when Sean Manaea cruises through seven strong innings; he now has allowed no runs, and has 21 strikeouts and one walk for his last two games and 14 innings.

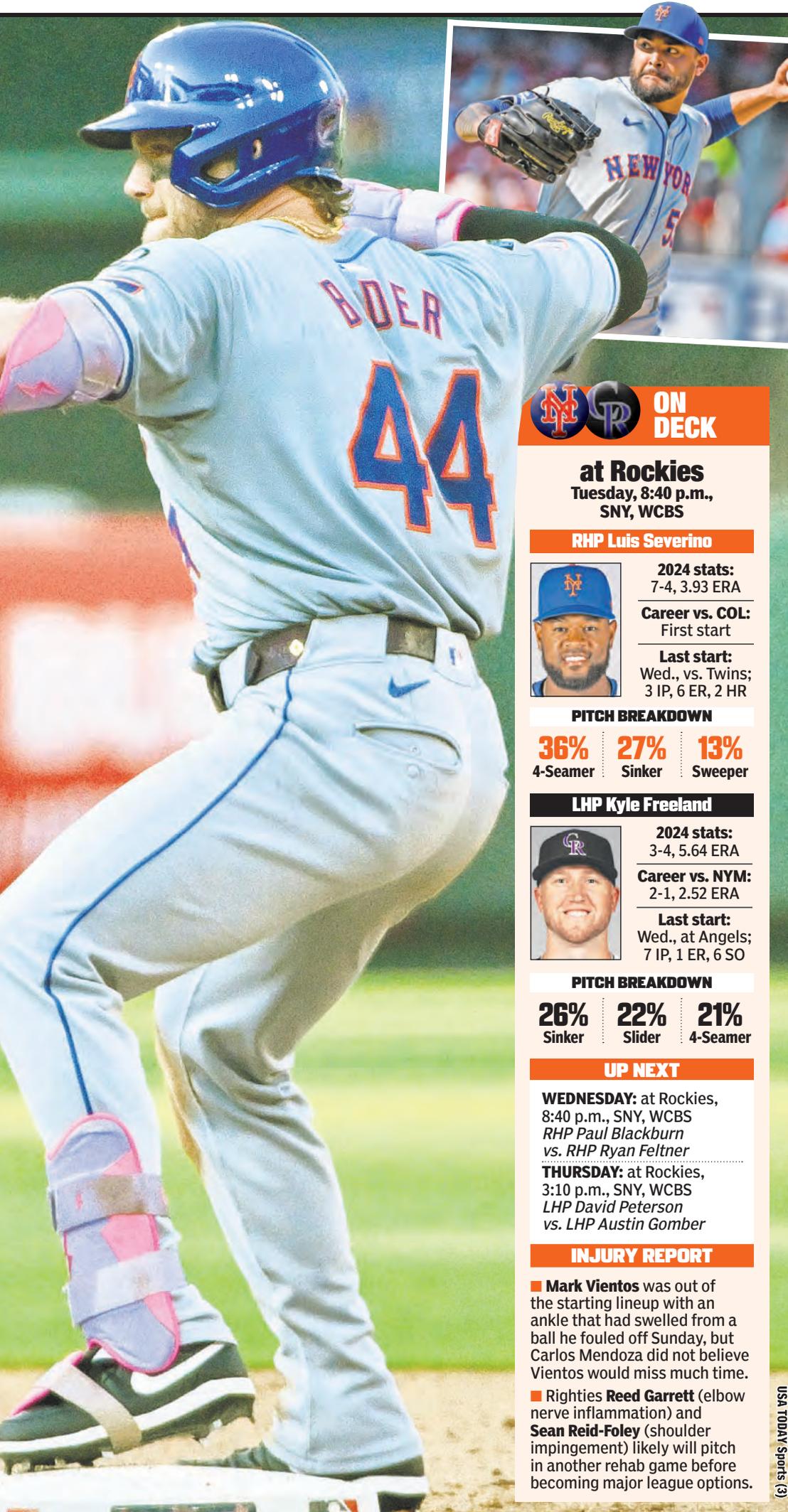
"He was nasty," Taylor said.

Manaea was nasty and Taylor was clutch and the Mets won and were able to get on the plane for Denver knowing that at worst they'd arrive exactly where they'd started the day, and 2-2 on a trip that's now 40 percent in the books. There are still 50 games to go. There are still those five other teams, and maybe one or two more, grappling for those three playoff slots, a year after two wild-card teams met in the World Series, in a baseball season when the old New York Lottery slogan — "you gotta be in it to win it" — has never seemed more relevant.

You can't win a playoff spot this early in August. But you sure can lose one. Every now and again you get one of these: a sure-might-want-to-win, a sort-of-would-really-like-to-have-it. Put it on the left side of the hyphen. Get back on the plane. Fifty games to go.

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**Mets notes / Page 52**



## at Rockies

Tuesday, 8:40 p.m.,  
SNY, WCBS

### RHP Luis Severino



**2024 stats:**  
7-4, 3.93 ERA

**Career vs. COL:**  
First start

**Last start:**  
Wed., vs. Twins;  
3 IP, 6 ER, 2 HR

### PITCH BREAKDOWN

**36%** 4-Seamer  
**27%** Sinker  
**13%** Sweeper

### LHP Kyle Freeland



**2024 stats:**  
3-4, 5.64 ERA

**Career vs. NYM:**  
2-1, 2.52 ERA

**Last start:**  
Wed., at Angels;  
7 IP, 1 ER, 6 SO

### PITCH BREAKDOWN

**26%** Sinker  
**22%** Slider  
**21%** 4-Seamer

### UP NEXT

**WEDNESDAY:** at Rockies,  
8:40 p.m., SNY, WCBS  
RHP Paul Blackburn  
vs. RHP Ryan Feltner

**THURSDAY:** at Rockies,  
3:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS  
LHP David Peterson  
vs. LHP Austin Gomber

### INJURY REPORT

■ **Mark Vientos** was out of the starting lineup with an ankle that had swelled from a ball he fouled off Sunday, but Carlos Mendoza did not believe Vientos would miss much time.

■ **Righties Reed Garrett** (elbow nerve inflammation) and **Sean Reid-Foley** (shoulder impingement) likely will pitch in another rehab game before becoming major league options.



**MOLLY MOVES ON** “SNL” cast member Molly Kearney (left) has announced that they are leaving NBC’s long-running sketch series after two seasons. They stated on their Instagram “Reflecting on the amazing 2 seasons I got on this show, it was such a dream come true.”



**CASTING CITADEL** Emmy nominee Matt Berry (left) and “Ferrari” actor Gabriel Leone will be joining the cast of Prime Video’s “Citadel” for its second season. The first season of international spy series debuted in April 2023, with season 2 set to air in October of 2024.

# TV Tuesday



## Heating up

According to Variety, two-time Emmy winner Bobby Cannavale (above) is set to guest star in Netflix’s upcoming series “Man on Fire.” Based on the novel of the same name, this show is about a Special Forces mercenary (Yahya Abdul-Mahteen II) who has been suffering from PTSD, but still feels the call of his intense career.



## A loss of Lando

Disney has shelved “Star Wars: Lando,” a series that would have focused on Lando Calrissian, played by Donald Glover (above). Justin Simien, who was in charge of developing the project, told Collider, “Yeah, there was a Bible, there was concept art, there were scripts, but it just wasn’t meant to be.”

# GO WEST

By SAMANTHA NUNGESSER

**F**or better or worse, West Wilson surely made a name for himself on the most recent season of “Summer House.” After starting Season 8 as everyone’s favorite quirky new guy, he was ultimately hit with backlash for the way he ended his relationship with Ciara Miller. Luckily for Wilson, the heat has finally died down — and while Bravo has not officially confirmed whether he’s returning for “Summer House” Season 9, he was recently photographed with the rest of the cast (Miller, included) at an event where Kyle Cooke was DJing.

The sports journalist — who sat down for a Zoom interview with DECIDER to promote his new partnership with Captain Morgan Sliced — said reconnecting with his castmates after the tense Season 8 reunion felt “pretty natural.” “What I learned about reunions is it’s kind of a good way to air things out and then start fresh — just like in real life,” he said. “Once you finally get things off your chest, you feel a lot better and can kind of move forward easier. I’m not really good at holding onto stuff and good at confrontation so I think it was always going to be open arms for me.”

While he was chastised by both Miller and fellow “Summer House” cast member Paige DeSorbo at the reunion, Wilson could always count on co-star Jesse Solomon to be there for him. For

those who don’t know, the duo joined “Summer House” in the same season and quickly struck up a bromance.

“We have the best time together. I’m seeing him today for beer. He’s a goofy guy and we just giggle all the time together,” Wilson said, telling DECIDER that he would “love” to have a spin-off show with Solomon as long as producers didn’t make them “hate each other.”



On the professional front, Wilson has been keeping busy with his full-time job at Complex Networks as well as his Captain Morgan Sliced campaign, which is offering lucky fans a chance to win a trip to one of three places in the U.S. curated by the reality star, who has famously visited all 50 states.

DECIDER got to talk to Wilson his time on “Summer House,” his iconic bodega content on TikTok, and more. Check out the full interview below.

**DECIDER: When you told your friends in “Summer House” that you’ve been to all 50 states, did you ever expect that it would lead to a business venture like this?**

WEST WILSON: No. Well, what’s funny about the tidbit on the show was that I think it got its clout because I said it before Jesse told his cancer story. And then I made a joke after being like, “Dude, imagine if I had to tell that after — that I’d been to most of the states and then he had his cancer story.” So no, it

was a funny bit, obviously, but I know it. I mean, it’s awesome because people bring it up all the time. So yeah, I’m glad it made the cut.

**You’re also a budding TikTok influencer! Did you expect your bodega content to take off like it has?**

No. I think the first one I did, it was like 10 a.m. and I just posted it and people loved it. Like everyone has gone in tired to their bodega to get a coconut water and a bacon, egg, and cheese and I just have leaned into that a little bit and people love it. People bring that up to me all the time, too, randomly. So it’s the little things that you’d never expect that people like, which is probably good.

**I want to talk a little bit about “Summer House.” Last season, you were everyone’s fan-favorite, although you did face some criticism after the reunion. How are you doing now?**

Good. No one’s ever really ready for anything like that [backlash]. I think it would be a mistake to go through something like that and not try to reflect and take away something and learn from it and grow from it.

But amidst all the negative feedback I got, you always have like a percentage of people who are like, “Don’t worry, the Bravo audience is like this and it’ll go away super quick.” And it actually, I don’t know, I feel like I woke up a week later and it just stopped. So, yeah, it was just a bottleneck on fire for a little bit and everything’s cool now.

*This interview has been condensed for space. To read more, visit [decider.com/west](https://www.decider.com/west)*

West Wilson (left) is one of Bravo’s big breakout stars of 2024

‘Summer House’ star West Wilson on his show’s rocky reunion, and what’s next

### What's on Tonight



### ADVENTURE

**Ice Age: The Meltdown:** 3:30 p.m. on FREFRM. Ray Romano, John Leguizamo. The ice age is coming to an end, so everybody is on a journey to higher ground.



### ACTION

**Bad Boys:** 8 p.m. on AMC. Martin Lawrence, Will Smith. Two hip detectives protect a witness to a murder, while investigating a case of stolen narcotics.



### DRAMA

**Titanic:** 10:30 p.m. on PARMT. Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet. An aristocrat falls in love with a kind but poor artist aboard the Titanic.

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2	WCBS	2	2	2	CBS News Norah	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	FBI: No One Left Behind (R)	FBI: International: Magpie (R)	FBI: Most Wanted: Powderfinger (R)	CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Late Show		
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Olympic Zone	2024 Paris Olympics: Primetime Taped.		News 4 New York at 11	Paris 2024: Late Night			
5	WNYW	5	5	5	Family Feud (R)	Extra (R)	TMZ (R)	Beat Shazam: Million Dollar Mommas! (R)	The Quiz with Balls: Football Frenzy (R)	The 10 O'Clock News	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)		
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Celebrity Family Feud: Fat Joe vs Gabriel	Judge Steve Harvey: A Whole Other Kind Of	What Would You Do? (R)	News	(11:35) Kimmel Live		
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Dish Nation (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Chicago Fire: An Officer with Grit	Chicago Fire: The Missing Piece	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	TMZ Live		
11	WPIX	11	11	11	PIX11 Evening News	Sports Nightly	The Big Bang Theory	The Conners	The Conners	The Conners	The Conners	PIX11 News at Ten	Seinfeld: The Switch	Seinfeld: The Pool Guy
13	WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Gods of Tennis: Martina Navratilova		Frontline: Biden's Decision		Amanpour and Company		
21	WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News Report	Boniface	(7:45) Murder Mysteries	(8:45) Silent Witness	The Boleyns: A: Desire	Cemeteries	Outside (R)	BBC News		
25	WNYE	25	22	25	Report	TBA	Science	History Presents On NYLife		New York Secrets NY	To Be Announced			
31	WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) Fire	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire: Category 5	Chicago Fire: Spartacus	Chicago Fire: Let It Burn	Chicago Fire				
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	La rosa de Guadalupe	Golpe de suerte	Marea de pasiones	Gloria Trevi: Ellas soy yo	Noticias	Noticiero			
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	La Isla Desafío Extremo	(7:58) La Isla Desafío Extremo: Part 2	El Conde: Amor y honor		Noticiero	Noticias			
55	WLNY	55	10	10	Queens	Man	Man	News 8pm	48 Hours: Operation	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	
A&E	46	46	181	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor
AMC	54	43	231	(5:00) Enemy of the State (1998) R ★★★	Bad Boys (1995, Action) Martin Lawrence. R ★★★½		Bad Boys II (2003) Martin Lawrence. ★★★½		Next Day Air (2009) R ★★★½		Bones: Convection			
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		M. Blackson (R)	Next Day Air (2009) R ★★★½				
BBCAM	71	101	189	Bones	Bones: Conspiracy		Bones: Lance to Heart		Bones: Purging Pundit	Bones: Geek in Guck		Bones: Convection		
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives	Watch What	Real Housewives (R)		Housewives	
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	Shark Tank: Tank LIVE!		Shark Tank		
CNN	78	25	100	Situation	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan	CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live		
COM	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	(8:20) The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Daily Show	Mike Judge	
DIS	49	31	250	(6:10) Coco (2017, Adventure) PG ★★★½	Descendants (2015, Family) Dove Cameron. NR ★★★½		ZOMBIES		ZOMBIES	Raven Home	Raven Home			
DSC	66	27	120	Dead. Ctch	Deadliest Catch (R)		Deadliest Catch		Eye of Storm: Hurricane	(10:01) Contraband: Sea		(11:01) Contraband (R)		
E!	24	51	196	Sex & City	Sex & City	Gone Girl (2014, Thriller) Ben Affleck. R ★★★	E! News		Sex & City					
ESPN	28	36	70	Little League	Little League World Series: Teams TBA Live.		In the Arena: Ep. 4		The Ultimate		Sports Live.			
ESPN2	29	35	74	Sports Live.	Soccer Champions Tour Live.		Little League Baseball: Teams TBA Live.		In the Arena: Ep. 4					
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		Legends & Lies: Patriots		Legends & Lies: Patriots		Legends & Lies: Patriots			
FNC	44	26	118	Sp. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity	Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night		
FOOD	50	97	164	Chopped	Chopped: Martha Rules		Chopped: Not an Option		Bobby's Triple Threat	Alex vs America (R)		Chopped: Pleasures (R)		
FREFRM	38	49	199	(5:30) Onward	(2020) ★★★½	Ratatouille (2007, Comedy) Patton Oswalt. G ★★★½	Sasha Reid		The 700 Club (R)					
FS1	400	99	83	Speak Live.	Harvick's	Leagues Cup Soccer Live.	The American Rodeo: Contender Final Replay.		Rodeo					
FX	10	40	53	Fast Five	Fast & Furious 6 (2013, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★★½		The Fast and the Furious (2001, Action) Paul Walker.							
HALL	191	240	Maldives	As Luck Would Have It (2021)		Matching Hearts (2020, Romance) Taylor Cole. ★★★½		Golden		Golden				
HGTV	64	98	165	Love It (R)	Love It or List It (R)		100 Day Dream Home (R)		100 Day Dream Home (R)		Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)		
HIST	40	47	128	UnXplained	UnBelievable (R)		UnBelievable: Strange (R)		(9:02) UnBelievable (R)		(11:05) UnBelievable (R)			
ID	23	171	123	The Tapes	The Murder Tapes (R)		Body Cam (R)		High Speed Chase		Late Night	Late Night	Body Cam (R)	
LIFE	62	45	140	Castle	Castle: Greater Good		Castle: That '70s Show		Castle: Law & Boarder		(10:03) Castle: Veritas		Castle: Better or Worse	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Hillbillies	Acres	Hogan	Hogan	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	Club 30: Connie Britton	ATP Tennis: National Bank Open: First Round Replay.		Brockmire		Brockmire					
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(6:00) Fght Sprt Boxng	Fight Sports: ONE 3		United Fight		Fght Sprt Boxng					
MSNBC	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The ReidOut		All in with Chris Hayes		Alex Wagner Tonight		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour	
MTV	20	53	210	Love & Hip	Love & Hip Hop Atlanta		Love & Hip Hop Atlanta		The Surreal Life: Villa of		Love & Hip Hop Atlanta		The Surreal Life	
NATGEO	65	162	121	Protection	Port Protection Alaska (R)		Port Protection Alaska (R)		Life Below Zero (R)		Life Below Zero (R)			
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Trolls World Tour (2020, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG		Friends		Friends		Friends		Friends	
OWN	173	180	145	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil: Nanny Tell All:		Deadline: Tamron Hall		Deadline: Tamron Hall		Deadline: Tamron Hall		Deadline: Tamron Hall	
PARMT	36	56	54	Men	Men	Men	Movie	Titanic (1997) Leonardo DiCaprio. ★★★½						
SNY	26	60	77	Amazin'	He's Keith Hernandez		Pre Game		MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Colorado Rockies from Coors Field. Live.		Post Game			
SYFY	17	48	180	Resident Evil: The Final Chapter (2017)	WWE NXT: Great American Bash: Week Two		(10:08) 12 Rounds (2009, Thriller) John Cena. ★★							
TBS	8	39	52	Pre-Game	MLB Baseball: Milwaukee Brewers at Atlanta Braves from Truist Park. Live.		Post-Game		Bleacher Report		Family			
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) Bombshell (1933, Comedy) ★★★½	Platinum Blonde (1931) Loretta Young.		(9:45) Hell's Angels (1930, Drama) Ben Lyon, James Hall. NR ★★★½							
TLC	52	28	139	Fat Life (R)	My Fat Fab Life (R)		My Big Fat Fabulous Life		My Big Fat Fabulous Life		Welcome to Plathville		Unexpected (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(4:57) Star Wars: The Rise of (2019) ★★★	To Be Announced									
TVLAND	85	34	241	(6:24) Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens			
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) Paris 2024	Paris 2024		Paris 2024		Paris 2024		Paris 2024			
VH1	19	52	217	Hip Hop (R)	Love & Hip Hop (R)		Love & Hip Hop (R)		Love & Hip Hop (R)		Love & Hip Hop (R)			
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) 9-1-1	9-1-1: Boston		9-1-1: Fear-o-Phobia		9-1-1: Dumb Luck		9-1-1: FOMO		9-1-1: May Day	
YES	53	89	76	Pregame	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Los Angeles Angels. Live.									
HBO	511	301	400	E. Taylor	The Social Network (2010, Drama) Jesse Eisenberg.		Hard Knocks '24: Bears		(9:58) Of the Dragon (R)		(11:11) Hard Knocks '24			
MAX	531	371	420	(6:15) Get Shorty (1995, Comedy) R ★★★	White Men Can't Jump (1992) Wesley Snipes. R ★★★		(9:56) The Family (2013, Comedy) R ★★★½		Hotel R					
MGM Plus	595	395	The Truman Show (1998) Jim Carrey.	Snack Shack (2024, Comedy) Conor Sherry. R		Barbershop (2002, Comedy) Ice Cube.		Barbershop						
PARSHO	551	321	365	Untouch. R	Heat (1995, Crime) Al Pacino. R ★★★½		Training Day (2001, Drama) Denzel Washington. ★★★½							

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# MANAEA MOWS DOWN CARDS

SURGING LEFT-HANDER WHIFFS 10 IN SEVEN SHUTOUT INNINGS / P. 56-57

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024

NEW YORK POST



# The Sports In Times Square

NY Post: Noah K. Murray



# FIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

Jones shows he won't back down in any situation

Daniel Jones looks ready to lead the Giants into battle. Running the offense efficiently in a joint practice with the Lions, Jones turned heads when he got involved in a skirmish — shoving Detroit's defensive lineman Kyle Peko — instead of staying out of harm's way. **SCHWARTZ / P. 50-51**



## MAKING SWEET MUSIC

HOW JAZZ LANDED AS A PERFECT FIT IN BRONX

HEYMAN P. 54-55

